

# LINKS

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Volume 19, Issue 6

“The Little Green Paper”

March 20, 2018

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## Get Ready to Set Your Clock Forward One Hour This Sunday



On Sunday, March 11, we Oklahomans will set our clocks forward an hour, as daylight saving time (sometimes erroneously called daylight savings time) begins and we can bask in an extra hour of daylight.

The main purpose of Daylight Saving Time (called "Summer Time" in many places in the world) is to make better use of daylight. We change our clocks during the summer months to move an hour of daylight from the morning to the evening. Countries have different change dates.

These spring and fall clock changes continue a long tradition started by the New Zealand scientist George Vernon Hudson and British builder William Willett. In 1895, Hudson presented a

paper to the Wellington Philosophical Society, proposing a 2-hour shift forward in October and a 2-hour shift back in March. In 1905, independently from Hudson, British builder William Willett suggested setting the clocks ahead 20 minutes on each of the 4 Sundays in April, and switching them back by the same amount on each of the 4 Sundays in September, a total of 8 time switches per year. William Willett led the first campaign to implement daylight saving time.

### First Used in Canada in 1908

While Germany and Austria were the first *countries* to use DST in

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1916, it is a little-known fact that a few hundred Canadians beat the German Empire by 8 years. On July 1, 1908, the residents of Port Arthur, Ontario, today's Clock Changes in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada in 1908, turned their clocks forward by 1 hour to start the world's first DST period.

Other locations in Canada soon followed suit. On April 23, 1914, Regina in Saskatchewan implemented DST. The cities of Winnipeg and Brandon in Manitoba did so on April 24, 1916. According to the April 3, 1916, edition of the Manitoba Free Press, Daylight Saving Time in Regina “proved so popular that bylaw now brings it into effect automatically”.

## First Daylight Saving Bill

Willett's Daylight Saving plan caught the attention of the British Member of Parliament Robert Pearce who introduced a bill to the House of Commons in February 1908. The first Daylight Saving Bill was drafted in 1909, presented to Parliament several times and examined by a select committee. However, the idea was opposed by many, especially farmers, so the bill was never made into a law.

Willett died in 1915, the year before the United Kingdom started using DST in May 1916. It is not known if he was aware that his idea had become a reality 7 years prior to his death in a small town in Ontario.

## Benjamin Frankin, the Father of DST?

Many sources also credit Benjamin Franklin with being the first to suggest seasonal time change. However, the idea voiced by the American inventor and politician in 1784 can hardly be described as fundamental for the development of modern DST. After all, it did not even involve turning the clocks. In a letter to the editor of the Journal of Paris, which was entitled “An Economical Project for Diminishing the Cost of Light”, Franklin simply suggested that Parisians could economize candle usage by getting people out of bed earlier in the morning. What's more: Franklin meant it as a joke.

## An Ancient Idea

Although modern DST has only been used for about 100 years, ancient civilizations are known to have engaged in comparable practices thousands of years ago. For example, the Roman water clocks used different scales for different months of the year to adjust the daily schedules to the An Ancient Idea

Although modern DST has only been used for about 100 years, ancient civilizations are known to have engaged in comparable practices thousands of years ago. For example, the Roman water clocks used different scales for different months of the year to adjust the daily schedules to the solar time.

## Daylight Saving Today

Daylight Saving Time is now used in over 70 countries worldwide and affects over 1 billion people every year. The beginning and end dates vary from one country to another.

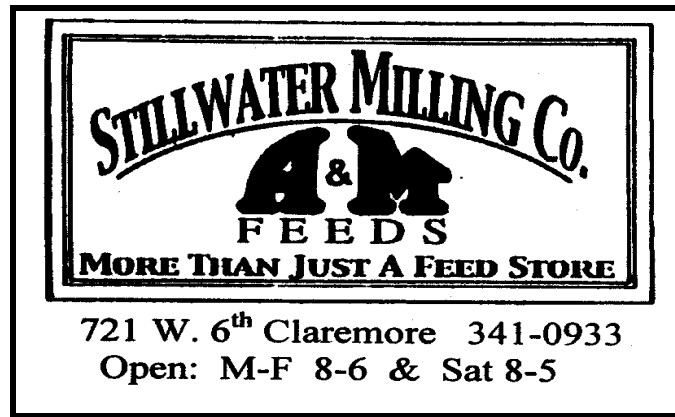
DATA MASTER: Doug Stone

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## SHIITAKE MUSHROOMS IN WINE



### INGREDIENTS

One loaf baguette, sliced into  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch thick pieces and toasted to golden brown on both sides.  
 8 ounces shiitake mushrooms, sliced thin with stems  
 3 TBSP butter  
 3 TBSP chopped shallots  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup dry white wine (I use the pinot grigio, but a chardonnay or any dry white wine will work)  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup heavy cream  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp kosher salt  
 $\frac{1}{8}$  tsp freshly cracked black pepper  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp crushed dried tarragon leaves (optional)  
 Additional kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper to taste


Author: Homa  
 Recipe type: Appetizer  
 Serves: 3-4

SOURCE: Persian Mama  
 Website: <https://persianmama.com/shiitake-mushrooms-in-wine-cream-sauce/>

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Wash and pat dry the mushrooms (I'm not in the "do not wash your mushrooms" group). Slice the stems and caps  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch thick
  2. All the sauteing for this recipe will be done over medium heat.
  3. Heat butter in a medium nonstick skillet. Add the chopped shallots and saute for 2 minutes, or until translucent.
  4. Add the mushrooms to the skillet. Stir and saute for about 7 minutes, or until light golden brown on both sides.
  5. Add  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup white wine and saute for another 1 minute, until it is reduced (most of the wine will be cooked off with only 1-2 TBSP liquid in the skillet).
  6. Add the heavy cream, crushed dried tarragon leaves, salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Stir to combine and cook until thickened, about 2 minutes.
- Serve immediately with toasted baguette croutons.

Data Master: Tino Hensley



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## 5 Amazing World War II Stories That Deserve to Be Movies



Made up of only women, the 588th Night Bomber Regiment was trained for bombing missions behind German lines, flying 1920s-era planes built of wood and canvas with no radio or radar, their bombs held to the wings by wire. This construction gave the planes the advantage of flying below radar and surprising the enemy in the dead of night.

Flying 15 to 18 missions per night (each!), their planes often returned, “riddled with bullets,” according to Nadezhda (Nadia) Popova. Enlisting at only 19 years old, Nadia’s motive was revenge: for her brother killed on the front, her home taken over by German soldiers, and her town destroyed by German aircrafts. When shot down in the North Caucasus in July 1942, she met another shot down pilot who would become her husband when the war was over. Lt. Col. Popova flew 852 missions and was shot down several times in the freezing cold. She was lucky though; she watched several of her friends’ burning planes fall from the sky.

The regiment, unofficially known as “Stalin’s Fal-

cons,” were given a much more chilling moniker by the Germans: *Nachthexen*, or “The Night Witches.” Sounds like the perfect name for a thriller, doesn’t it?

**Hanns Scharff: The Gentle Interrogator.**

Hanns Scharff was not meant to be part of the German army. He lived in South Africa with his family, but was drafted when visiting Germany when the war broke out. His wife convinced a general to put him with interpreters instead of front lines, but through a series of mistakes and coincidences, he became the lead interrogator for the Allied pilots felled in France and Germany. Having seen a prisoner abused when he was an assistant, he vowed against doing the same. Instead, his technique was unique in using kindness and friendly conversation to extract information.

Scharff’s success in using kindness to get what he wanted has been recently studied and compared to other interrogation techniques. It’s been found that not only does one tend to

get more information and more accurate information from the prisoner; the prisoner is often unaware of how much information they've given away. Imagine a movie that explored this unique approach rather than 24's techniques.

After the war, Scharff divorced and moved to the United States, marrying an American and finding success in a new career as a mosaic artist. One of his works appears in the Magic Kingdom Castle at Disney World.

#### Major Charity Adams vs. The Buzz Bomb.

The American 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion was the only all-female all-black army corps overseas in WWII. Their journey started off with a bang: a Buzz Bomb was their welcoming committee upon their arrival in London in February 1945. The battalion was especially loyal to their leader, Major Charity Adams. A visiting American general, displeased upon inspection that the Major's whole unit was not present, threatened to replace her with a white lieutenant.

"Over my dead body," she answered. Her battalion agreed: if he intended to court-martial her, he'd have to court-martial all of them. He apologized immediately.

Their work wasn't finished after the war—they were sent to Rouen, France, to move letters around continental Europe. The welcome they received in Europe lay in stark contrast to their treatment back home: the French people applauded them as they paraded through Paris, and they received first-class treatment at the luxurious hotel they were put in. African-American soldiers greeted them upon their arrival and helped them unload, unpack, and even made their beds for them, leaving cards with their names and units on the pillows.

#### The Ghost Army.

The 23rd Headquarters Special Troop soldier unit, also known as "The Ghost Army," used fakery and misinformation to deceive the enemy throughout the European theatre. Full of artists, illustrators, and radio and sound guys plucked from New York and Philadelphia art schools in January 1944, the 1,100 man unit often pretended to be much larger groups with the use of 500-pound speakers that could be heard at a 15-mile radius. They sent fake radio transmissions to distract from actual missions and deployed handmade blow-up tanks and fake observation planes to round out their schemes. They marked their tanks with chalk and sewed on fake patches to pretend to be other units and hide from enemy spies.

Prevented from talking about their experience before the reports became declassified, the majority of the American army was unaware of their existence until former soldier and then-illustrator Arthur Shilstone wrote about it in 1985. While the PBS broadcast a documentary on the group in 2013, the surreal story is ripe for a movie treatment.

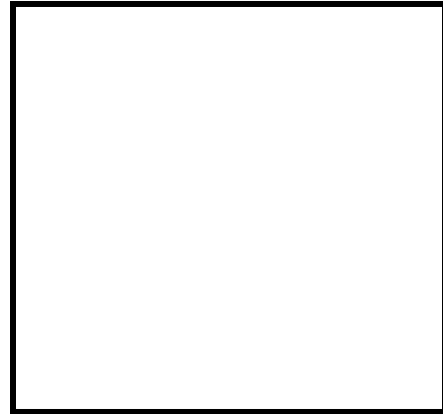
#### \_\_\_ Vera Atkins: The Ruthless Interrogator. \_\_\_

Vera Atkins placed 400 agents out to the field, training them for months, teaching them the ropes and accounting for every detail of their new identities. So when the war ended in 1945 with over 100 agents unaccounted for, she made it her personal mission to solve the stories of these missing women herself. She muscled her way into officially joining the British War Crimes Commission. She was known for her ruthless interrogation skills: she notes in one report that she had the commandment of Auschwitz admitting to his horrible crimes before lunch. Atkins was part of several such investigations, but she

also used the information to forward her search for her spies. Carved names on jail-cell walls, sketches from a former Vogue sketch artist who'd survived multiple concentration camps, intercepted letters: all were recorded and used as part of her investigation.

When she returned to the United States, she focused on publicizing and memorializing her forgotten agents, so much so that she appears briefly in some of the movies made of their lives. But Atkins was a secretive woman, and no movie has yet been made about her incredible tenacity and loyalty to these agents.

Data Master: Karen Deffenbaugh





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# Getting to know the Lutherans

## Fellowship Blessings

Driving down the road, I saw a large billboard one day. “Relationship, Not Religion” it said. This is common in our world today. People will claim to have a personal relationship with Christ, and they don’t need to go to church.

First, I want to thank God and let those people know I’m genuinely happy that they believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ – each soul saved is worth the celebration of angels in heaven. But I’ll ask them not to leave it at that.

Gathering together in fellowship to worship Jesus is not a new thing, and it’s not something to be ignored or forgotten. We’re encouraged in Scripture to continue meeting and gathering together, because of the benefits such gathering provides. Hebrews 10:24-25 informs us, “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

If you are not currently part of a church family, I ask you today to give it thoughtful consideration. While there are certainly blessings for you in your personal relationship with Jesus, you’re missing out on blessings that God is waiting to grant you through the fellowship of believers. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer once wrote, “One who returns to the Christian family fellowship after fighting the battle of the day brings with him the blessing of his aloneness, but he himself receives anew the blessing of the fellowship.”

Data Master: Karen Deffenbaugh

<p><b>Messiah Lutheran Church</b>  <b>460 N. Wilson, Vinita, OK.</b>  <b>Sunday School and Bible Class 9:00 a.m.</b>  <b>Worship 10:00 a.m. 918-256-3223</b>  <b>Email: messiahvinita@aol.com</b></p>	<p><b>St. Paul Lutheran Church</b>  <b>Washington and Pine, Fairland, OK.</b>  <b>Sunday School and Bible Class 9:15 a.m.</b>  <b>Worship 10:30 a.m. 918-676-3059</b>  <b>Email: stpaulluthch@aol.com</b></p>
<p><b>Bethlehem Lutheran Church</b>  <b>6911 West 380 Road, Adair, OK 74330</b>  <b>Worship 9:00 a.m. 918-785-2994</b>  <b>Sunday School and Bible Class 10:15 a.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Immanuel Lutheran Church</b>  <b>706 Rockwood Drive, Grove, OK.</b>  <b>Worship 9:30 a.m. 918-786-4585</b>  <b>Website: www.lutheransonline.com/lo/Groveok</b></p>
<p><b>Mt. Olive Lutheran Church</b>  <b>2337 North Main, Miami, OK 74354</b>  <b>Worship 2:00 p.m. (918) 542-4681</b>  <b>Sunday School and Bible Class 3:00 p.m.</b>  <b>Email: mtolive@cablone.net</b></p>	<p><b>Redeemer Lutheran Church</b>  <b>220 N. Seminole, Claremore, OK.</b>  <b>Sunday School and Bible Class 9:00 a.m.</b>  <b>Worship 10:30 a.m. 918-341-1429</b>  <b>Email: rluther@sbcglobal.net – Website www.rlccok.org</b></p>
<p><b><i>Guests are always welcome.</i></b>  <b><i>See you Sunday at worship.</i></b></p>	<p><b>St. John Lutheran Church</b>  <b>607 SE 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Pryor, OK.</b>  <b>Sunday School and Bible Class 9:15 a.m.</b>  <b>Worship 10:30 a.m. 918-825-1926</b>  <b>Email: stjohncpyor@sbcglobal.net - Website: www.stjohncpyor.org</b></p>

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## The Best Houseplants That Basically Anyone Can Keep Alive



Bringing the outdoors in is huge in decor right now, and seemingly everyone I know has a lush indoor garden full of flourishing houseplants. I, on the other hand, have a trickier relationship with the green things I bring into my home. I wouldn't call my thumb black, but it's definitely getting there, and so, sadly, are many of my own plants.

That's why I reached out to some experts to find out which types of houseplants are easiest to keep alive. We're talking low-maintenance wonders that can stand up to your neglect while still bringing a touch of green into your life. Take a look at the list below, then see if any of these gorgeous plants could be a fit in your home.

Note: Some houseplants are toxic to pets. You can see which are safe using the ASPCA's guide.

Here is a summary of the ASPCA's Guide  
**Toxic and Non-Toxic Plants List**  
ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center Phone

**Number: (888) 426-4435**

This list contains plants that have been reported as having systemic effects on animals and/or intense effects on the gastrointestinal tract. Please note that the information contained in our plant lists is not meant to be all-inclusive, but rather a compilation of the most frequently encountered plants.

Also, be advised that the consumption of **any** plant material **may** cause vomiting and gastrointestinal upset for dogs and cats. Plants listed as either non-toxic, or potentially toxic with mild GI upset as their symptoms are not expected to be life-threatening to your pets.

If you believe that your animal is ill or may have ingested a poisonous substance, or if you have any further questions regarding the information contained in this database, contact either your local veterinarian or the APCC 24-hour emergency poison hotline at 1-888-426-4435.

DATA MASTER: Doug Stone

# This Month in History: March

March 24

March 24, 1934 - The Philippine Islands in the South Pacific were granted independence by President Franklin D. Roosevelt after nearly 50 years of American control.

March 24, 1989 - One of the largest oil spills in U.S. history occurred as the oil tanker Exxon Valdez ran aground in Prince William Sound off Alaska, resulting in 11 million gallons of oil leaking into the natural habitat over a stretch of 45 miles.

Birthday - Harry Houdini (1874-1926) was born (as Erik Weisz) in Budapest, Hungary. He came to the U.S. with his family as an infant and lived in New York City. He began as a Coney Island magician, then became a world famous escape artist, known for escaping from chains, handcuffs, straightjackets, locked boxes and milk cans filled with water. He died on Halloween 1926 from a burst appendix and was buried in Queens, NY.

March 25

March 25, 1807 - The British Parliament abolished the slave trade following a long campaign against it by Quakers and others.

March 25, 1911 - A raging fire erupted inside a garment factory in New York City killing 123 young women employed as low-paid seamstresses, along with 23 men. The fast-spreading flames engulfed the 8th and 9th floors of the Triangle Shirtwaist Company in lower Manhattan in just a few minutes. About 50 of the victims had jumped to their deaths rather than perish from the flames. The sensational tragedy spurred national interest concerning the rights of mostly-immigrant women workers of the New York garment industry who labored long hours six or seven days a week in cramped, dangerous conditions for about \$5 weekly pay.

March 26

March 26, 1979 - The Camp David Accord ended 30 years of warfare between Israel and Egypt. Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat signed the treaty of mutual recognition and peace, fostered by U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

March 26, 1992 - Soviet Cosmonaut Serge Krikalev returned to a new country (Russia) after spending 313 days on board the Mir Space Station. During his stay in space, the Soviet Union (USSR) collapsed and became the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Birthday - American playwright Tennessee Williams (1911-1983) was born in Columbus, Mississippi. His works featured Southern settings and include; *The Glass Menagerie*, *Night of the Iguana*, and two Pulitzer Prize winning plays, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

March 27

March 27, 1977 - The worst accident in the history of civil aviation occurred as two Boeing 747 jets collided on the ground in the Canary Islands, resulting in 570 deaths.

March 28

March 28, 1979 - Near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant accident occurred in which uranium in the reactor core overheated due to the failure of a cooling valve. A pressure relief valve then stuck causing the water level to plummet, threatening a catastrophic nuclear meltdown. The accident resulted in the release of radioactive steam into the atmosphere, and created a storm of controversy over the necessity and safety of nuclear power plants.

March 29

March 29, 1979 - In the U.S. Congress, the House Select Committee on Assassinations released its final report regarding the killings of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and Robert Kennedy.

Birthday - John Tyler (1790-1862) the 10th U.S. President was born in Charles City County, Virginia. He became president upon the death of William H. Harrison and served from 1841 to 1845. In 1861, Tyler was elected to the Confederate Congress, but died before being seated.

March 30

March 30, 1981 - Newly elected President Ronald Reagan was shot in the chest while walking toward his limousine in Washington, D.C., following a speech inside a hotel. The president was then rushed into surgery to remove a 22-caliber bullet from his left lung. "I should have ducked," Reagan joked. Three others were also hit including Reagan's Press Secretary, James Brady, who was shot in the forehead but survived. The president soon recovered from the surgery and returned to his duties.

Birthday - Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890) was born in Groot Zundert, Holland. He was a Postimpressionist painter, generally considered the greatest Dutch painter after Rembrandt. During his short (10-year) painting career he produced over 800 oil paintings and 700 drawings, but sold only one during his lifetime. In 1987, the sale of his painting *Irises* brought \$53.9 million, the highest price ever paid for a work of art up to that time. During his life, Van Gogh suffered from despair and bouts of mental illness, at one point cutting off part of his own left ear. He committed suicide in 1890 by gunshot.

March 31

March 31, 1933 - The Civilian Conservation Corps, the CCC, was founded. Unemployed men and youths were organized into quasi-military formations and worked outdoors in national parks and forests.

March 31, 1968 - President Lyndon Johnson made a surprise announcement that he would not seek re-election as a result of the Vietnam conflict.

March 31, 1991 - The Soviet Republic of Georgia, birthplace of Josef Stalin, voted to declare its independence from Soviet Russia, after similar votes by Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia. Following the vote in Georgia, Russian troops were dispatched from Moscow under a state of emergency.

Birthday - Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) was born in Rohrau, Austria. Considered the father of the symphony and the string quartet, his works include 107 symphonies, 50 divertimenti, 84 string quartets, 58 piano sonatas, and 13 masses. Based in Vienna, Mozart was his friend and Beethoven was a pupil.

Birthday - Boxing champion Jack Johnson (1878-1946) was born in Galveston, Texas. He was the first African American to win the heavyweight boxing title.

Data Master: Karen Deffenbaugh



# Press Release

## Representative Chuck Hoskin

### Austin Markham Serves as Page at Oklahoma State Capitol



OKLAHOMA CITY – Each week, high school students from across Oklahoma gather at the state capitol to serve as Pages for the House of Representatives. Austin Markham, a senior at Vinita High School, was selected to serve as a page during the week of Feb. 19 - 22. The pages perform a variety of tasks for the House of Representatives during their week of service and get a firsthand glimpse of the legislative process.

### Chelsea FFA Attends FFA Day at State Capitol



OKLAHOMA CITY – Each week, high school students from across Oklahoma gather at the state capitol to serve as Pages for the House of Representatives. Austin Markham, a senior at Vinita High School, was selected to serve as a page during the week of Feb. 19 - 22. The pages perform a variety of tasks for the House of Representatives during their week of service and get a firsthand glimpse of the legislative process.

### Ketchum FFA Attends FFA Day at State Capitol



OKLAHOMA CITY – Representative Chuck Hoskin (D) Vinita, welcomed students from Ketchum to the State Capitol on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, during the annual FFA at the Capitol Day. FFA Chapters from across Oklahoma gathered at the Capitol to meet with legislators and discuss legislative issues. Pictured along with Representative Hoskin are Ketchum FFA Advisor Hanna Minson and students Madison Chaney, Slayter Brown, Celeste Weeks and Lori McClain.

### Bluejacket FFA Attends FFA Day at State Capitol



OKLAHOMA CITY – Representative Chuck Hoskin (D) Vinita, welcomed students from Bluejacket to the State Capitol on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, during the annual FFA at the Capitol Day. FFA Chapters from across Oklahoma gathered at the Capitol to meet with legislators and discuss legislative issues. Pictured along with Representative Hoskin are Bluejacket FFA Advisor Angie Wall and students Kelsey Wall, Kamryn Seaton, Gauge Poe, Morgan Chaney, Mollie Bassett, Maddie Bassett, Trycen King, Lea Hency, Railey Mauk, Kyle Chapman, Sydnee Martin, Justin Herlan, Dee Dee Satterwhite, Makinsey Sears, Cody McGlasson, Justin Pape, Daetona Mauk, Gabe Satterwhite and Tiffany Ayres.

# Press Release

## Foyil FFA Attends FFA Day at State Capitol



OKLAHOMA CITY – Representative Chuck Hoskin (D) Vinita, welcomed students from Foyil to the State Capitol on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, during the annual FFA at the Capitol Day. FFA Chapters from across Oklahoma gathered at the Capitol to meet with legislators and discuss legislative issues. Pictured along with Representative Hoskin are Foyil FFA Advisor Bryce Bethel and students Morgan Valliere, Savanna Simmons, Kylee Straw and Kendra Pilgrim.

## Pastor Dylan Ward Serves as Chaplain of the Day



OKLAHOMA CITY – Pastor Dylan Ward of Adair, Oklahoma was selected to serve as Chaplain of the Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol on Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and opened the afternoon session of the House of Representatives with a prayer. Pastor Ward is the pastor of Adair Methodist Church and Foyil Methodist Church.

Data Master: Alyssa Hollingsworth

## 62+ Club Is Waiting For You

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Calling all seniors. But, if you don't meet that age criteria you can still come and have fun. The weather is improving and it is time get out move. Langley Public Library is open for an afternoon of fun and social enjoyment. Our 62+ Club offers games, adult coloring and social time with some of the best people around. It is open each Thursday from 1:30 to ? If you would like to meet some great people and play a few games or just relax, grab a snack and visit, we would love to see you each Thursday. For more information contact the Library at 918-782-4461.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LPL

For additional information about the programs and services of the Langley Public Library, visit our website at [www.langleypl.okpls.org](http://www.langleypl.okpls.org) and be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter @BPL. The mission of Langley Public Library is to provide the highest quality library service to our citizens for life-long learning, cultural enrichment, and enjoyment.

Data Master: Tino Hensley

# Animal Homelessness Issues



Animal shelters across the nation are forced to stretch their resources to the brink to accommodate an overwhelming population of homeless and at-risk animals.

## Keeping Animals in Homes

In communities across the nation, we see recurring issues that prevent willing pet adopters from adopting pets or keeping their adopted animals in their homes. Here are some of the most common reasons that family-pets end up in the shelter system:

### Economic Issues:

Many people don't know that most communities provide subsidized veterinary services for eligible pet parents. Caring for a pet can be costly, and in some instances, cost-prohibitive. Legal and community requirements such as vaccinations and registration fees can cost money, as can services necessary for the pet's wellbeing. Depending on an animal's age or medical issues, things like spay/neuter surgery, x-rays, blood tests or routine vet check-ups can add up. Without taking advantage of subsidized services, the high expense of owning a pet often leads people to relinquish animals to the shelter system; they simply can't afford the cost of care.

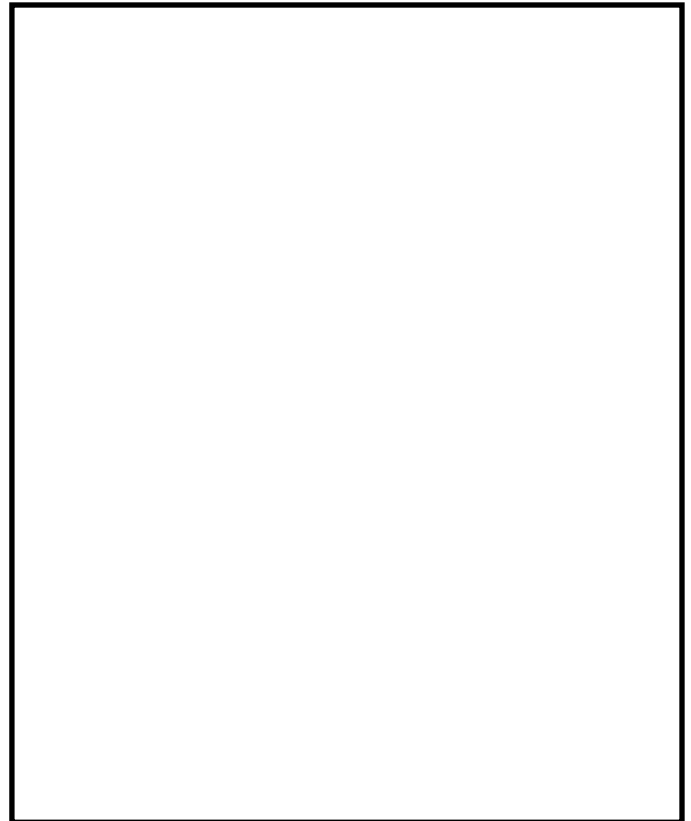
### Behavioral Issues:

Excessive noise, pawing, jumping, energy and destruction are all challenging traits that are common in many pets. With a bit of time and dedication on both the pet and parent's part, these behavioral issues can be trained or managed—however, many pet parents don't know how to go about finding the resources

to fix the problem. The lack of awareness and access to behavioral training are often leading pets back into shelters, and out of loving homes.

### Housing Concerns:

Unfortunately, there are many rental properties or communities that restrict the pets that residents can have. Some areas have weight restrictions, while oth-



ers have breed restrictions which could exclude dogs like pit bulls, Rottweilers and Doberman Pinschers. For pet parents relocating to restrictive housing like this, their only option may be to make the heartbreaking decision to relinquish their pets to local animal shelters. In addition, prospective pet parents who already live in restrictive housing will be limited to certain types of animals when adopting—ultimately putting a strain on the animal shelters in those communities.

#### Shelter Intake & Surrender

One of the largest challenges facing animal welfare organizations today is the sheer number of animals in need of assistance. Every year, approximately 6.5 million companion animals arrive at one of the community animal shelters nationwide.

Although animals enter shelters for a variety of reasons, the majority of shelter populations are comprised of strays, rescues and surrenders:

**Stray animals** are often found on the streets and brought in by Good Samaritans or local law authorities. Unchecked stray populations tend to grow in areas without accessible and affordable spay/neuter services.

**Animals rescued from cruelty** can come from situations like hoarding cases, dog fighting rings and puppy mills. These animals often suffer from trauma and require extra care and rehabilitation.

**Surrendered animals** are animals whose owners can no longer care for them due to financial, behavioral or other unforeseen barriers.

Due to these overwhelming intake rates, shelters often struggle to adopt out all—or even most—of the animals who come through their doors. With so many lives at stake, it's important to understand exactly what we're up against.\*

Of the approximately 6.5 million companion animals who enter shelters nationwide every year, approximately **3.3 million are dogs** and **3.2 million are cats**.

Each year, approximately **1.5 million animals are euthanized** (670,000 dogs and 860,000 cats).

Approximately **3.2 million shelter animals are adopted each year** (1.6 million dogs and 1.6 million cats).

About **710,000 animals** who enter shelters as strays are returned to their owners (620,000 dogs and 90,000 cats).

Of the dogs entering shelters, approximately **48% are adopted and 20% are euthanized**

Of the cats entering shelters, approximately **50%**

#### **are adopted and 27% are euthanized**

About twice as many animals enter shelters as strays compared to the number that are relinquished by their owners.

- Currently, no government institution or animal organization is responsible for tabulating national statistics for the animal protection movement. These are national estimates; the figures may vary from state to state.

DATA MASTER: Nikki Hamilton



# TWO FRIENDS

## Guy de Maupassant

Besieged Paris was in the throes of famine. Even the sparrows on the roofs and the rats in the sewers were growing scarce. People were eating anything they could get.

As Monsieur Morissot, watchmaker by profession and idler for the nonce, was strolling along the boulevard one bright January morning, his hands in his trousers pockets and stomach empty, he suddenly came face to face with an acquaintance—Monsieur Sauvage, a fishing chum.

Before the war broke out Morissot had been in the habit, every Sunday morning, of setting forth with a bamboo rod in his hand and a tin box on his back. He took the Argenteuil train, got out at Colombes, and walked thence to the Ile Marante. The moment he arrived at this place of his dreams he began fishing, and fished till nightfall.

Every Sunday he met in this very spot Monsieur Sauvage, a stout, jolly, little man, a draper in the Rue Notre Dame de Lorette, and also an ardent fisherman. They often spent half the day side by side, rod in hand and feet dangling over the water, and a warm friendship had sprung up between the two.

Some days they did not speak; at other times they chatted; but they understood each other perfectly without the aid of words, having similar tastes and feelings.

In the spring, about ten o'clock in the morning, when the early sun caused a light mist to float on the water and gently warmed the backs of the two enthusiastic anglers, Morissot would occasionally remark to his neighbor:

“My, but it's pleasant here.”

To which the other would reply:

“I can't imagine anything better!”

And these few words sufficed to make them understand and appreciate each other.

In the autumn, toward the close of day, when the setting sun shed a blood-red glow over the western sky, and the reflection of the crimson clouds tinged the whole river with red, brought a glow to the faces

of the two friends, and gilded the trees, whose leaves were already turning at the first chill touch of winter, Monsieur Sauvage would sometimes smile at Morissot, and say:

“What a glorious spectacle!”

And Morissot would answer, without taking his eyes from his float:

“This is much better than the boulevard, isn't it?”

As soon as they recognized each other they shook hands cordially, affected at the thought of meeting under such changed circumstances.

Monsieur Sauvage, with a sigh, murmured:

“These are sad times!”

Morissot shook his head mournfully.

“And such weather! This is the first fine day of the year.”

The sky was, in fact, of a bright, cloudless blue.

They walked along, side by side, reflective and sad.

“And to think of the fishing!” said Morissot. “What good times we used to have!”

“When shall we be able to fish again?” asked Monsieur Sauvage.

They entered a small cafe and took an absinthe together, then resumed their walk along the pavement.

Morissot stopped suddenly.

“Shall we have another absinthe?” he said.

“If you like,” agreed Monsieur Sauvage.

And they entered another wine shop.

They were quite unsteady when they came out, owing to the effect of the alcohol on their empty stomachs. It was a fine, mild day, and a gentle breeze fanned their faces.

The fresh air completed the effect of the alcohol on Monsieur Sauvage. He stopped suddenly, saying:

“Suppose we go there?”

“Where?”

"Fishing."

"But where?"

"Why, to the old place. The French outposts are close to Colombes. I know Colonel Dumoulin, and we shall easily get leave to pass."

Morissot trembled with desire.

"Very well. I agree."

And they separated, to fetch their rods and lines.

An hour later they were walking side by side on the highroad. Presently they reached the villa occupied by the colonel. He smiled at their request, and granted it. They resumed their walk, furnished with a password.

Soon they left the outposts behind them, made their way through deserted Colombes, and found themselves on the outskirts of the small vineyards which border the Seine. It was about eleven o'clock.

Before them lay the village of Argenteuil, apparently lifeless. The heights of Orgement and Sannois dominated the landscape. The great plain, extending as far as Nanterre, was empty, quite empty—a waste of dun-colored soil and bare cherry trees.

Monsieur Sauvage, pointing to the heights, murmured:

"The Prussians are up yonder!"

And the sight of the deserted country filled the two friends with vague misgivings.

The Prussians! They had never seen them as yet, but they had felt their presence in the neighborhood of Paris for months past—ruining France, pillaging, massacring, starving them. And a kind of superstitious terror mingled with the hatred they already felt toward this unknown, victorious nation.

"Suppose we were to meet any of them?" said Morissot.

"We'd offer them some fish," replied Monsieur Sauvage, with that Parisian light-heartedness which nothing can wholly quench.

Still, they hesitated to show themselves in the open country, overawed by the utter silence which reigned around them.

At last Monsieur Sauvage said boldly:

A strip of bare ground remained to be crossed before they could gain the river bank. They ran across this, and, as soon as they were at the water's edge, concealed themselves among the dry reeds.

Morissot placed his ear to the ground, to ascertain, if possible, whether footsteps were coming their way. He heard nothing. They seemed to be utterly alone.

Their confidence was restored, and they began to fish. Before them the deserted Ile Marante hid them from the farther shore. The little restaurant was closed, and looked as if it had been deserted for years.

Monsieur Sauvage caught the first gudgeon, Monsieur Morissot the second, and almost every moment one or other raised his line with a little, glittering, silvery fish wriggling at the end; they were having excellent sport.

They slipped their catch gently into a close-meshed bag lying at their feet; they were filled with joy—the joy of once more indulging in a pastime of which they had long been deprived.

The sun poured its rays on their backs; they no longer heard anything or thought of anything. They ignored the rest of the world; they were fishing.

But suddenly a rumbling sound, which seemed to come from the bowels of the earth, shook the ground beneath them: the cannon were resuming their thunder.

Morissot turned his head and could see toward the left, beyond the banks of the river, the formidable outline of Mont-Valerien, from whose summit arose a white puff of smoke.

The next instant a second puff followed the first, and in a few moments a fresh detonation made the earth tremble.

Others followed, and minute by minute the mountain gave forth its deadly breath and a white puff of smoke, which rose slowly into the peaceful heaven and floated above the summit of the cliff.

Monsieur Sauvage shrugged his shoulders.

"They are at it again!" he said.

Morissot, who was anxiously watching his float bobbing up and down, was suddenly seized with the angry impatience of a peaceful man toward the madmen who were firing thus, and remarked indignantly:

"What fools they are to kill one another like that!"

"They're worse than animals," replied Monsieur Sauvage.

And Morissot, who had just caught a bleak, declared:

"And to think that it will be just the same so long as there are governments!"

“The Republic would not have declared war,” interposed Monsieur Sauvage.

Morissot interrupted him:

“Under a king we have foreign wars; under a republic we have civil war.”

And the two began placidly discussing political problems with the sound common sense of peaceful, matter-of-fact citizens—agreeing on one point: that they would never be free. And Mont-Valerien thundered ceaselessly, demolishing the houses of the French with its cannon balls, grinding lives of men to powder, destroying many a dream, many a cherished hope, many a prospective happiness; ruthlessly causing endless woe and suffering in the hearts of wives, of daughters, of mothers, in other lands.

“Such is life!” declared Monsieur Sauvage.

“Say, rather, such is death!” replied Morissot, laughing.

But they suddenly trembled with alarm at the sound of footsteps behind them, and, turning round, they perceived close at hand four tall, bearded men, dressed after the manner of livery servants and wearing flat caps on their heads. They were covering the two anglers with their rifles.

The rods slipped from their owners' grasp and floated away down the river.

In the space of a few seconds they were seized, bound, thrown into a boat, and taken across to the Ile Marante.

And behind the house they had thought deserted were about a score of German soldiers.

A shaggy-looking giant, who was bestriding a chair and smoking a long clay pipe, addressed them in excellent French with the words:

“Well, gentlemen, have you had good luck with your fishing?”

Then a soldier deposited at the officer's feet the bag full of fish, which he had taken care to bring away. The Prussian smiled.

“Not bad, I see. But we have something else to talk about. Listen to me, and don't be alarmed:

“You must know that, in my eyes, you are two spies sent to reconnoitre me and my movements. Naturally, I capture you and I shoot you. You pretended to be fishing, the better to disguise your real errand. You have fallen into my hands, and must take the consequences.

Such is war.

“But as you came here through the outposts you must have a password for your return. Tell me that password and I will let you go.”

The two friends, pale as death, stood silently side by side, a slight fluttering of the hands alone betraying their emotion.

“No one will ever know,” continued the officer. “You will return peacefully to your homes, and the secret will disappear with you. If you refuse, it means death-instant death. Choose!”

They stood motionless, and did not open their lips.

The Prussian, perfectly calm, went on, with hand outstretched toward the river:

“Just think that in five minutes you will be at the bottom of that water. In five minutes! You have relations, I presume?”

Mont-Valerien still thundered.

The two fishermen remained silent. The German turned and gave an order in his own language. Then he moved his chair a little way off, that he might not be so near the prisoners, and a dozen men stepped forward, rifle in hand, and took up a position, twenty paces off.

“I give you one minute,” said the officer; “not a second longer.”

Then he rose quickly, went over to the two Frenchmen, took Morissot by the arm, led him a short distance off, and said in a low voice:

“Quick! the password! Your friend will know nothing. I will pretend to relent.”

Morissot answered not a word.

Then the Prussian took Monsieur Sauvage aside in like manner, and made him the same proposal.

## END of Part One

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Address: [http://www.gutenberg.org/files/3077/3077-h/3077-h.htm#link2H\\_4\\_0004](http://www.gutenberg.org/files/3077/3077-h/3077-h.htm#link2H_4_0004)

Data Master: Cody Welch

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## Senior Companion Spotlight



Joe Mooney has been with the Senior Companion Volunteer for 8 years. Volunteering fills Joe with a large amount of satisfaction knowing he makes other people happy. The happiest moment of his life was holding his son in the delivery room. Joe's biggest influence was his father who taught him "you don't get anything for nothing" giving Joe a great work and moral ethic influence. He enjoys reading Stephen King, telling stories of his life, and helping others. The best advice Joe could give is "get schooling". Joe Mooney we appreciate all your hard work you do for the community. The SCP is currently seeking both clients and volunteers.

For more information on this program and how it can help an older person in your life, contact the Rogers County Senior Companion Program at the Rogers County Health Department. 918-341-3166.

Data Master: Eric Peachey



This month's volunteer for Ottawa County Senior Champion of Compassion is Tommy Blizzard.

Tommy has been with Senior Companions for nine years and continues to constantly further his bond with the Seniors who he's already had such an impact.. He enjoys spending his free time doing crossword puzzles and word searches. Tommy also enjoys taking long drives to take his mind off of things. He feels that the greatest part of his life was serving in the military during the Vietnam War, where he served for about 14 months before coming back to the states. We appreciate and thank you for your service, and for giving back to the community. For more information about the Senior Companion Volunteer Program, contact the Ottawa County Health Department 918-540-2481

DATA MASTER: Doug Stone

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# March Word Search




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J D P D C N U U A J F O Y I P  
F E T J E S C H Z I C F N N X  
R V B I I T H T R E B W U G Y  
N P N C E Q B X U X I F S S U

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## 5 Volunteer Opps for You & Your Daughter Over Spring Break



There's never enough time to bond with your daughter, and that becomes truer and truer the older she gets. But with spring break coming up, her schedule just might be wide open, making this an ideal moment to plan some quality time. Our recommendation? Volunteer together.

Volunteering is a free and simple way to shake up your day-to-day routine and create a memorable experience. One brand that's all about fostering positive values like volunteering and philanthropy in girls is the tween clothing brand Justice.

We teamed up with Justice, whose mission is "Live Justice," to find five volunteer opportunities that allow girls to live out its mission-based values this spring break, and then we paired each activity with a piece from Justice's spring collection. From tending gardens to visiting nursing homes, our list has something you and your daughter will love.

### Garden at a Local Park

If you want to get creative outdoors, see if your local park has any gardening opportunities or other beautification projects for volunteers. Cities

like Sacramento, California, and New Orleans, Louisiana, offer gardening opportunities like weeding, mulching and trimming in city parks, where kids can work hard, get dirty and feel proud.

### Serve Lunch at a Food Bank

In the U.S., more than 1 in 6 people face hunger, and more than 1 in 5 children are at risk of hunger. Volunteering at your local food bank or a national organization like St. Mary's helps kids understand their good fortune and feel like they're not only spreading positivity but also providing real solutions.

### Become Running Coaches

Does your daughter love to run? Volunteer as a coach or running buddy with Girls on the Run, an organization Justice has partnered with. You two can get active while improving the lives of other girls.

### Visit a Nursing Home

Make plans to visit a nearby nursing home. Whether you're there to chat with residents, do an activity together or assist staff, it's a great way for your

daughter to connect with an older generation and help the local community.

#### Organize a Community Event

If you can't find the perfect activity, why not start it yourself? Organizing a community event will allow your daughter to connect to her community and prove she can do anything. Organize a clothing drive together or a host block party to raise money for charity. She can always recruit some friends to join in and share time with those who matter most.

Data Master: Steve Burdick

## **NOWATA COUNTRY JUBILEE** **SALLY MCCLENDON 918-273-0752**

On Saturday, March 17, 2018, the Nowata Country Jubilee welcomes the very popular Will Clark, as the guest for the night. Will, a vocalist from Collinsville, will be accompanied by the Jubilee's excellent house band, Classic Country. Together, they will provide an evening of good listening and dancing fun. There will be a wide and entertaining repertoire of music to enjoy.

Nowata Country Jubilee in the Jack R. Ellis Memorial Theater, located in downtown Nowata, OK, presents talented, local musicians, every few weeks. The address is 116 N. Maple. The Jubilee supports a scholarship program.

Dancing is encouraged. The dance floor will be ready and there is comfortable theater seating when you want to sit out the songs.

Food is available, if you want to dine or snack. There are deluxe hamburgers, chili dogs, and Frito-chili pies. Homemade desserts are specialties; and there are many other items to choose.

Admission costs \$10.00. Children, under 12, are admitted free when supervised.

Doors open at 6pm; and, the show starts at 7pm. The Jubilee is handicapped-accessible.

Door prizes are drawn at the intermission. There is, also, a drawing for the 50-50 pot.

Parking is free. The Jubilee is smoke-free and alcohol-free.

Data Master: Alyssa Hollingsworth

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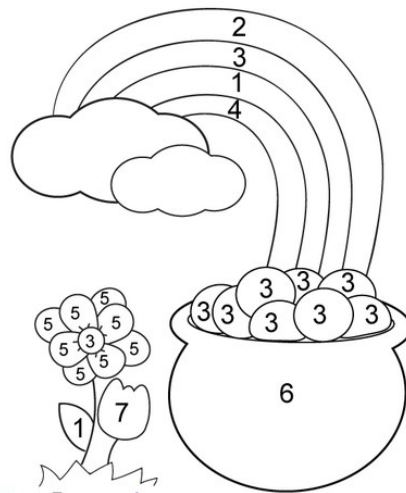


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1 March 2 3 4 5



- 1- green
- 2- red
- 3- yellow
- 4- blue
- 5- purple
- 6- orange
- 7- pink
- 8- black

# Tornado Stories

We received the following letter from Joel Manes, who was living in Wichita Falls, Texas on April 10, 1979. On that day, at least 13 separate tornadoes touched down in the Texas/Oklahoma area, striking Wichita Falls, Vernon, Seymour, and a number of other towns. To date, it is the most damaging tornado in US history. His account is a compelling argument against trying to escape from a tornado by fleeing in a car. This is his story. I was born in Wichita Falls, 3/22/61, and I've seen a few wall clouds and such in my time. Let me tell you about one spring day I'll never forget. In fact, I have recurring nightmares about multiple tornadoes, one just three days ago.

We lived in Iowa Park. The highest point in Wichita County was only three or four blocks from my home. I remember the weather was blustery, then calm, then blustery again. A friend of mine and I climbed on top of this gas station that was on the top of the hill, and watched the clouds going nuts. All the while ambulances and fire trucks were zooming by towards the west. We figured there must be a bad car wreck on highway 287. What we didn't know was that a tornado had just killed 10 people in Vernon. I distinctly remember seeing four different levels of clouds going four different directions at different speeds and of different colors.

I had to leave because my mother and I were due to go see a movie at Parker Square (corner of Kemp and Kell). It was *The China Syndrome*. We got to the movie, no problem, it wasn't raining or anything. Mom went in and I went around back to sneak another cigarette. I was on the east side of the building, hiding behind an air conditioning unit. I walked back around the south corner and side, and on around to the west side where the entrance is. I remember seeing a black cloud off to the southwest. I went inside and sat down away from Mom so she wouldn't smell the cigarettes on me. You know the circular vents in the ceilings of some buildings, the ones with the butterfly closure inside and the pull chain activator? Well, the ceiling vents were opening and closing and my ears were driving me up the wall. There were still advertisements on so I snuck outside for one more cigarette. This time I stood on the south wall just around the corner. As I was standing there the wind was alternating every which way, and I looked south and saw a cloud form and shoot west. I thought "Wow, that was fast!" In a few moments another one formed and shot to my right so I looked southwest and WAMMY!!

There it was, southwest of me, not a nice place to be. These clouds were forming and flying straight towards this big black cloud on the ground. I didn't understand what was happening, but it sure was wild. Put your arms straight out in front of you and level. Notice the distance between your hands, and then swing your arms outward and level twice shoulder width. That's how much of my field of view was filled with the tornado. It was only a mile or a mile and a half wide, but when it is only (or less) than 2 miles away, it is HUGE! I could hear it by now. The little clouds that were shooting towards it were being whipped upwards into the tornado and power lines were sparking and stuff was flying everywhere. This one actually traveled mostly east, but any tornado southwest of you is usually gonna get you in Texas, so I ran in the cinema and yelled "TORNADO!" at the top of my lungs. My mom was 5 foot 2 and over 200 pounds, but she outran everybody except me outta there! She believed the tone of my voice!

We, (not exactly advisable) ran out to the car and hauled butt eastward. The street (Kell), runs east-northeast, and is a di-

vided six lane now, but then it was a divided four lane with street lights about every mile or so. Nobody was stopping for the lights, everybody was going at full throttle and east or north bound. I looked repeatedly in my mirrors and the tornado was **in all three mirrors**. It had a forward ground speed of 70 mph, needless to say we were moving a lot faster.

Once we got out to 287 I was being passed on all sides and I was doing over 80 at times while on Kell and over 100 while on 287. Mom kept watching the tornado and giving driving instructions... She kept asking, demanding we go faster. I looked and at that time we were "pegged out" at 110 (the speedometer limiting peg stopped reading at 110). I'm sure we were at 120+. I kid you not, a traffic jam at over 120+ mph is wild, everybody was flying. I got passed by a pickup that was completely in the median and grass at over 120 mph. Wow!

Mom insisted we needed to turn south and cut away from the tornado, but the exits were full, backed up completely, so we and several others took off across a wheat field dirt track style, and went south. Soon, in less than a mile, the area was like a parking lot, as people had pulled over and stopped. Cars were parked everywhere and every which way, with people standing around and watching the tornado pass to the north of them. One fellow right in front of us was filming it with what was probably a super 8 camera.

By now "it" was just over the armory, and wiping out brand new car lots. This image is burned into my memory. I don't know if it was explosives from the armory or lightning, but this baby was giving a light show extraordinaire!

Sarah Hull (my girlfriend) and her sister were killed in the tornado, crushed by the wall they took shelter against. Many people were killed in their cars as they tried to flee, even some who had parked under an overpass. I was just lucky.

I'm a truckdriver, I get to see a lot of country and I have been in 14 countries and 40 states, and NOTHING has ever been as impressive as that tornado.

Data Master: Cody Welch

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## Up-Coming Events

TOPS #570 We meet 9am to 11am Monday morning at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Miami 2337 N. Main St. "Taking off pounds sensibly!"

TOPS #567 meet every Thursday at 10am 433 N Mississippi in Nowata.

TOPS #506 in Miami Heavenly Winds Worship Center meet every 6pm Monday evening. For more info call Susan Walls at 918-540-0570

Every 4th Saturday of the month Veteran's Support Group: Veterans for Veterans. Have you served in the military? Are you struggling with readjustment? Anxious about the future? Struggling to connect with friends and family? Struggling with school? WE CAN HELP! Free veterans support group at 10am every 4th Saturday of the month. The Landing 502 West Corner Fairland, Ok. For more information call Larry Boyd (918) 541-7592 or Cindy (918) 676-3228.  
8-341-8688

Mar 08, 2018 to Mar 23, 2018 Spring Break at Tenkiller State Park Join park staff at the Driftwood Nature Center for Spring Break at Tenkiller State Park. You'll enjoy a variety of fun, family-friendly activities the park has planned for you and your family. From making a campfire and roasting s'mores to naturalist events and craft workshops, this week off from school is sure to be a blast as you spend it immersed in nature. While you're there, don't forget to explore your surroundings at beautiful Tenkiller State Park. The organized events kick off on Friday, March 9th. Start your morning at 10am by making a fun memento of your stay at Tenkiller State Park. Be sure to show up for Birdsong Bingo at 1pm, followed by the Family Fun Hour at 3pm, featuring a hula hoop and seed-spitting contest, along with a knobby knee race and water bottle rocket launching. Saturday's festivities feature a naturalist scavenger hunt at 10am, followed by a presentation on Oklahoma reptiles at 1pm, wrapping up with s'mores and campfire charades at 6:30pm. Come back on Tuesday for an incredible eagle-watching tour, followed by the Junior Naturalist Challenge on Wednesday at 10am. Meet Sally the Salamander at 1pm, and make "dirt babies" (Tenkiller State Park's version of a Chia Pet) at 2pm. Thursday's festivities will include spring wildflower journaling, followed by t-shirt screen printing at 1pm and an animal track identification program at 3pm. Most events are free, but some—including campfire s'mores, the dirt babies workshop and the animal tracks identifying program—have a

suggested \$1 donation. Tenkiller State Park HCR 68 Box 1095 Vian, OK 74962 Phone: 918-489-5641.

Mar 15, 2018 to Apr 22, 2018 Tulsa Botanic Blooms Enjoy intoxicating fragrances and a kaleidoscope of color when more than 100,000 blossoms usher in spring at Tulsa Botanic Garden. At the annual Tulsa Botanic Blooms festival, guests can meander through one of the largest flower bulb displays in the area, which includes more than 62,000 tulips planted in Art Deco-inspired patterns. Walk through the Tandy Floral Terraces, Children's Discovery Garden and Lakeside Promenade trail, and take in views of hyacinths, daffodils, crocus, redbuds, irises and viburnums growing throughout the garden. Tulsa Botanic Garden 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr Tulsa, OK 74127 Phone: 918-289-0330.

Mar 19, 2018 to Mar 24, 2018 Spring Break at Sequoyah State Park Bring your kids out to Three Forks Nature Center at Sequoyah State Park in Hulbert for a fun, hands-on nature experience this spring break. This five day event is chock full of exciting activities that are sure to engage and entertain kids of all ages. The fun kicks off on Monday with geocaching and kite-flying, followed by a Nature Center scavenger hunt and nature t-shirt printing workshop on Tuesday. (You'll want to bring your own 100% cotton, dark-colored t-shirt to design.) Wednesday's activities are focused on wildlife programs, with craft workshops on Thursday followed by a naturalist hike and nature yoga on Friday. Get your hands dirty on Saturday by making "dirt babies" and bringing an empty milk jug or soda bottle to turn into a small garden during the gardening workshop. You won't want to miss this fun Spring Break event at beautiful Sequoyah State Park. Sequoyah State Park 17131 Park 10 Hulbert, OK 74441 Phone: 918-772-2108 Fax: 918-772-3042

Mar 20, 2018 - Mar 24, 2018 Spring Break in the Garden Bring the kids to the Tulsa Botanic Garden for this special Spring Break in the Garden series. Families can get in touch with nature during daily events like nature-themed storytelling, crafts and hands-on activities. Each day, the kids will explore a new aspect of nature, starting with the spring equinox on Tuesday, demonstrated by a guided nature hike to look for signs of spring. Wednesday's focus will be seeds, including a lesson on growth and a seed mosaic activity. Flowers will be the topic of Thursday's story time, featuring information on important roles that flowers play. On Friday, hear Master Composter Steve Wood speak about composting and soil before meeting his live

worms. To wrap up spring break, on Saturday, families can picnic on the lawn and take a color walk to see how many different colors they can find in the spring blossoms. 918-289-0330 Tulsa Botanic Garden Tulsa, OK 74127.

Mar 24, 2018 Bedouin Dash - Glo & Go 5K Run If you're looking for a late workout and a great time, join in on the Bedouin Dash Glo & Go 5K Run. Starting and ending at the Bedouin Shrine Temple, this event is a fun and invigorating challenge for everyone involved. Competitors will receive a glow-in-the-dark T-shirt with their registration as well as glow sticks for plenty of visibility during the evening run. Don't miss out on this fun race for a good cause. 918-682-2761 Bedouin Shrine Temple Muskogee, OK 74402.

Mar 24, 2018 Tulsa Roughnecks FC vs Real Monarchs SLC Support the Tulsa Roughnecks FC professional soccer team as they take on Real Monarchs SLC at ONEOK Field in Tulsa. Since its reformation in 2015, this historic Tulsa team has taken on an array of worthy opponents, like rival team the OKC Energy FC. Don orange and navy blue gear, and cheer on the Tulsa Roughnecks as they perform fast-paced feats, swiftly passing the soccer ball up the field until it lands in the net. 918-744-5998 ONEOK Field Tulsa, OK 74120.

Mar 24, 2018 Historic Downtown Walking Tour Join local historian Jonita Mullins and Okie Heritage Tours for guided, custom walking tours in and around historic Muskogee. Offering a focus on history, cultural diversity, historical architecture and lovely parks and gardens, Mullins brings over fifteen years of experience to each Historic Downtown Walking Tour. So, lace up your comfortable shoes and don your weather-appropriate clothing for a stroll through one of the most historic downtown areas in Oklahoma. Explore Muskogee to learn about its legacy stretching back to the 1870s, as well as its place as the capital of Indian Territory and the seat of the federal government from 1876 to today. In addition to Muskogee walking tours, Okie Heritage Tours offers seasonal step-on guide services for the Azalea Festival in April and the Garden of Lights Display each December. Custom strolls and caravan drives are also available to help guests embrace the unique past that has helped define this distinctive Oklahoma region. 918-682-0312 Muskogee Civic Center Muskogee, OK 74401.

Mar 24, 2018 Run the Ville Take a run through beautiful Bartlesville at the Run the Ville 10K event. Starting downtown near the corner of SW Frank Phillips Blvd and S Johnstone Ave, the race path will take you through a little more than six miles of scenic Bartlesville. Runners have two options, making this the ideal race for all types of competitors. Either run the entire race on your own or split it half and tackle it with a friend in the 10K relay. Participants receive a shirt and medal for finishing the race. 918-766-2361 Downtown Bartlesville Bartlesville, OK 4003.

Mar 23, 2018 - Mar 24, 2018 Tulsa Bead Market Browse through tables full of jewelry and beads at the Bead Market in Tulsa. This two-day craft show takes over Central Park Hall within the Tulsa Expo Square and fills it with vendors selling a wide variety of products, including antique and estate beads, gemstones, glass, crystals, Bali beads, seed beads, pearls and more. Whether you're looking for items to begin crafting your own wearable art or something you can wear out of the building,

the Bead Market has you covered. 918-744-1113 Tulsa Expo Square Tulsa, OK 4114.

Mar 23, 2018 - Mar 25, 2018 Tulsa Oilers vs. Quad City Mallards Cheer on the Tulsa Oilers as they take on the Quad City Mallards for three consecutive nights at the BOK Center in downtown Tulsa. Get in on the fast-paced hockey action as these two teams compete for control of the puck. Enjoy a snack and a cold beer while cheering on the team as they battle for victory on the ice. 918-632-7825 BOK Center Tulsa, OK 74145.

Mar 21, 2018 ORU Golden Eagles vs Nebraska Cornhuskers Support the ORU Golden Eagles baseball team with tickets to their action-packed games. Grab a snack from the concession stand, and take a seat at the J.L. Johnson Stadium in Tulsa to see the fierce competition unfold. Founded in 1963, the Golden Eagles team has taken on opponents across the country, decked out in Vegas gold, navy blue and white. Watch the Golden Eagles battle the Nebraska Cornhuskers on their home turf this season. 918-495-6000 J.L Johnson Stadium Tulsa, OK 74136.

April 5, 2018 Range & Pasture Herbicide Update Meeting Weed and brush control are typically large expense items for cattlemen as they strive to improve their nature resources (native range and introduced pastures) and enhance cattle production. The meeting is Thursday, April 5th at the north room of the Washington County Fair Building in Dewey (1109 N. Delaware); starts at 6:30 pm. OSU Extension is sponsoring an Herbicide Update Meeting. The program will discuss many of the current herbicides and recommendations for their use for weed and brush control. Speaker will be Brian Pugh, OSU Extension NE District Forage Specialist. All are welcome and there is NO charge. Please RSVP by April 2, 2018 to one of the following OSU Extension Offices: Nowata County 918-273-335, Osage County 918-287-4170 or Washington County 918-534-2216.

April 10, 2018 Ladies Night Out Bunco Arty and Tournament La Kee Kon will be hosting a Ladies Night Out Bunco Arty and Tournament at the Nowata City/County Library, West Room. Doors will open at 6 pm with Bunco Starting at 7 pm. There will be door prizes, snacks and a silent auction. Bring your favorite bottle of wine for sharing! Tickets are \$20, now available from any La Kee kon member and will be sold at the door. Proceeds will benefit Nowata's City-County Library. Nowata County Historical Society and the Nowata Boys and Girls Club. Come enjoy an evening of fund, fellowship and food!

**Source:** [https://www.travelok.com/festivals\\_and\\_events](https://www.travelok.com/festivals_and_events)

**Do You have an event that you would like to share ?**

**Community Links of Chelsea**

**1100 Walnut/PO Box 85**

**Chelsea, OK. 74016**

**Ph: 918-789-2862**

**Fax: 918-789-5296**

Data Master: Nikki Hamilton





# Library News

## CATOOSA PUBLIC LIBRARY

105 E. Oak (918) 266-1684

### Hours:

Monday thru Thursday: 9am to 7pm  
Friday: 9am to 12pm & 1pm to 3pm  
Saturday: 10am to 2pm  
Closed Sunday

## CHELSEA PUBLIC LIBRARY

618 Pine (918) 789-3364

### Hours:

Tuesday: 10:00am to 7:00pm  
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 10:00am to 4:00pm  
Saturday: 9:00am to Noon Closed Sunday & Monday

## CHOUTEAU PUBLIC LIBRARY

PO BOX 353, 111 N McCracken Phone: 918-476-4445

### Hours:

Mon, Wed, Fri – 10AM to 5PM  
Tues, Thur. – 10AM to 3PM  
Closed Saturday & Sunday

## DELAWARE COUNTY LIBRARY

429 S. 9th St. Jay, Oklahoma (918) 253-8521

Web: [www.eodls.lib.ok.us/jay.html](http://www.eodls.lib.ok.us/jay.html)

### Hours:

Mon., Wed., & Fri. 9:00am to 6:00pm  
Tues. & Thurs 9:00am to 8:00pm  
Sat. 9:00am to 1:00pm  
Closed Sundays and Holidays

## GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY

1140 NEO Loop (918) 786-2945

Toll free in the 918 area code: 1-888-291-8150

Fax: (918) 786-5233

### Hours:

Mon., Wed., & Fri.: 8:30am-5:00pm  
Tues. & Thurs.: 8:30am-9:00pm  
Sat. 8:00am-12:00pm  
Closed Sunday

## LANGLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

325 W Osage Ave. (918) 782-4461

### Hours:

Mon.-. 1:00pm to 7:00pm  
Tue.-Fri. 9:00am to 12:00pm  
And 1:00pm to 5:00pm  
Closed Sat. & Sun.

## MIAMI PUBLIC LIBRARY

200 N. Main (918) 541-2292


### Hours:

Sun. 1:00pm  
Mon., Wed., Thurs., 9:00am to 8:00pm  
Tues., Fri., Sat., 9:00am to 5:00pm

## NOWATA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY

224 S. Pine (918)273-3363 Fax: (918)273-1818

Hours: Mon-Fri 10:30-7:30; Sat 9-2



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**PRYOR PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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**Hours:**

Monday & Thursday: 1:00 PM-9:00 PM  
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 9:00AM-5:00PM

**SALINA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

420 E. Ferry St. (918) 434-8001

**Hours:** Tue. 12pm-7pm, Wed. 12pm-5pm,

Thurs. & Fri. 10am-5pm

Closed Saturday, Sunday & Monday

**TALALA AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

106 W Watova St. (918) 275-4540

**Hours:**

Monday - Friday 2pm to 5pm

Monday and Thursday evening 6pm to 9pm

Saturday 11am to 2pm

**VINITA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

215 W. Illinois (918) 256-2115

**Hours:**

Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri. 11:00am to 6:00pm

Thurs. 11:00am to 7:00pm

Sat. 11:00am to 3:00pm

Closed Sunday

**WILL ROGERS LIBRARY**

1515 N. Florence, Claremore OK (918) 341-1564

**Hours:**

Mon & Tues. 9:30am to 8:00pm

Wed. & Thurs. 9:30am to 6:00pm

Fri. & Sat. 9:30am to 5:00pm

Closed Sunday

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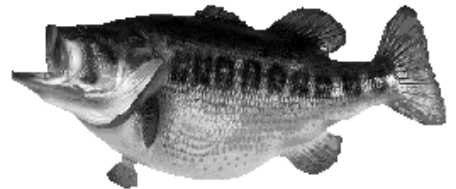
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# How to Have and Keep Good Communication in a Relationship

Having a good communication in a relationship enables couples to understand each other better. This also can help to resolve any problems that may rise in the household. A good communication builds trust and respect for the couples and a bridge that binds them together forever, it also creates affection, caring for each other and be able to understand the other individual feelings. A healthy communication in a relationship plays vital role in maintaining a relationship status strong for the couples and providing a better deep connection with him/her that's unbreakable. What are the key factors for good communication? There are so many many factors one can take or learn in order to have a good communication.

## 1. Listening

Listening is the most important key in having a better communication. I am sure in so many articles or even when you were young your parents use to tell you "listen while I am talking to you." This does not only require you to state your ideas or point onto your spouse but also it requires you to listen to your spouse as well when he/she is speaking. In many cases especially when you are in a heated argument with your spouse you find yourself afraid of not being heard or given a fair chance to speak, this only makes it hard for you to put aside whatever your thoughts in your mind and moves you to interrupt your spouse when he/she speaking not only will that be disrespecting your spouse but it will also make you not be heard at all. It is wiser to make known to your spouse that he/she is being heard when being spoken to and that your attention is fully

dedicated to what he/she is saying in that present moment and you understood each and every word being spoken whether its something that you might not agree to it until given the opportunity to speak. Being able to be the kind of partner who listen deepen your connection as a couple. Tips:

- Show interest in what your spouse is saying to you
  - Avoid interruptions while your spouse is speaking
  - Avoid being judgmental to your partner thoughts
- ## 2. Be Open/ Honest

Being in a relationship comes with so much changes and responsibilities. Two people are being involved who comes with there past experience, history and expectations into the relationship. Making sure that your relationship last long you must be able to open up about your past life and your emotions, opening up yourself to your spouse.

Hiding your feeling might have worked for you while you were single but in a relationship it becomes a barrier for you to have a health relationship that's open and can cost you loosing your spouse. It create distance between couples instead of being closer binding your bond strong.

There are many other keys factors you can learn to help you and your spouse to have a better communication. In this articles I chose only to mention two that are more urgent to consider looking into.

Data Master: Nikki Hamilton

## Community Links Of Chelsea 1100 Walnut Chelsea, OK 74016

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# The Criminal, Underground World of Dog



Dog fighting is a type of blood sport in which dogs are forced to fight one another for the entertainment and/or profit of spectators. Dog fighting is one of the most heinous forms of animal cruelty. Fighting dogs are typically raised in isolation, so they spend most of their lives on short, heavy chains. They are regularly conditioned for fighting through the use of drugs, including anabolic steroids to enhance muscle mass and encourage aggressiveness. Fighting dogs may have their ears cropped and tails docked close to their bodies to minimize the animal's normal body language cues and to limit areas that another dog can grab during a fight. Fighters usually perform this cropping/docking themselves using crude and inhumane techniques.

Although dog fighting is a felony in all 50 states, it continues to occur in every part of the country and in every type of community. Fights can happen in a variety of locations ranging from back alleys to carefully-staged enterprises. Fights typically take place in a 14-20 square-foot pit designed to contain the animals. Fights can last just a few minutes or several hours, and both animals may suffer injuries including puncture wounds, lacerations, blood loss, crushing injuries and broken bones. Although fights are not usually to the death, many dogs succumb to their injuries later, and losing dogs are often discarded, killed or brutally executed as part of the "sport."

Dog fighting is often associated with other forms of criminal activity including illegal gambling and possession of drugs and firearms. By our estimate, there are tens of thousands of dog fighters in the U.S., forcing hundreds of thousands of dogs to train, fight, and suffer every year.

## A Closer Look at Dog Fighting

### What Is Dog Fighting?

Although it is a felony offense in all 50 states, organized dog fighting still takes place in many parts of the country. Historical accounts date as far back as the 1750s, with professional fighting pits proliferating in the 1860s.

As with any other illegal underground activity, it is impossible to determine how many people may be involved in dog fighting. Estimates based on fight reports in underground dog fighting publications, and on animals entering shelters bearing evidence of fighting, suggest that the number of people involved in dog fighting in the U.S. is in the tens of thousands. While organized dog fighting activity seemed to decline in the 1990s, many law enforcement and animal control officials feel that it has rebounded in recent years, with the Internet making it easier than ever for dog fighters to exchange information about animals and fights.

### Why Do People Get Involved in Dog Fighting?

There are many reasons people are drawn to dog fighting. The most basic is greed. Major dog fight raids have

resulted in seizures of more than \$500,000, and it is not unusual for \$20,000 - \$30,000 to change hands in a single fight. Stud fees and the sale of pups from promising bloodlines can also bring in thousands of dollars.

For others, the attraction lies in using the animals as an extension of themselves to fight their battles for them and to demonstrate their strength and prowess. However, when a dog loses, this can cause the owner of the dog to lose not only money, but status, and may lead to brutal actions against the dog.

For others, the appeal simply seems to come from the sadistic enjoyment of a brutal spectacle.

### Which Dogs Are Used in Dog Fighting?

For professional and hobbyist dogfighters, the sale of pups from parents who have won several fights is a major part of their activity. Underground dog fighting publications and websites are commonly used to advertise pups or the availability of breeding stock. Many "street" fighters think they can also make money by breeding and selling dogs, but a great number of these animals are killed or abandoned if they fail to perform. Although there are many breeds of dogs used for fighting worldwide—including the Fila Brasileiro, Dogo Argentino, the Tosa Inu and the Presa Canario—the dog of choice for fighting in the United States is the American Pit Bull Terrier. Occasionally other breeds and mixes are reportedly used in street fights or as "bait" dogs used by some to train fighting dogs.

This does not mean that the pit bull is unsuitable as a family pet. It is important to remember that any dog can behave aggressively, depending on the context, his genetic background and his upbringing and environment. When a dog is treated well, properly trained and thoroughly socialized during puppyhood and matched with the right kind of owner and household, he's likely to develop into a well-behaved companion and cherished member of the family.

### How Are Fighting Dogs Raised and Trained?

Fighting dogs must be kept isolated from other dogs, so they spend most of their lives on short, heavy chains, often just out of reach of other dogs. They are usually unsocialized to other dogs and to most people. However, many professional fighters invest much time and money in conditioning their animals. They are often given quality nutrition and basic veterinary care. The dogs are exercised under controlled conditions, such as on a treadmill.

The conditioning of fighting dogs may also make use of a variety of legal and illegal drugs, including anabolic steroids to enhance muscle mass and encourage aggressiveness. Narcotic drugs may also be used to increase the dogs' aggression, increase reactivity and mask pain or fear during a fight.

Fighting dogs used by all types of fighters may have their ears cropped and tails docked close to their bodies. This serves two purposes: First, it limits the areas of the body that another dog can grab onto in a fight, and second, it makes it more difficult for other dogs to read the animal's mood and intentions through normal body language cues.

Fighters usually perform this cropping/docking themselves using crude and inhumane techniques. This can lead to additional criminal charges related to animal cruelty and/or the illegal practice of veterinary medicine.

**What Happens in a Dog Fight?**

Fights can take place in a variety of locations and at any time. They may be impromptu street fights in a back alley, or carefully planned and staged enterprises in a location specifically designed and maintained for the purpose. Usually the fight takes place in a pit that is between 14 and 20 feet square, with sides that may be made of plywood, hay bales, chain link or anything else that can contain the animals. The flooring may be dirt, wood, carpet or sawdust.

In a more organized fight, the dogs will be weighed to make sure they are approximately the same weight. Handlers will often wash and examine the opponent's dog to remove any toxic substances that may have been placed on the fur in an attempt to deter or harm the opposing dog. At the start of a fight, the dogs are released from opposite corners and usually meet in the middle, wrestling to get a hold on the opponent. If they do, the dogs grab and shake to inflict maximal damage. Handlers are not permitted to touch the dogs except when told to do so by the referee. Fights can last just a few minutes or several hours. Both animals may suffer injuries, including puncture wounds, lacerations, blood loss, crushing injuries and broken bones. Although fights are not usually to the death, many dogs succumb to their injuries later.

Unless they have had a good history of past performance or come from valuable bloodlines, losing dogs are often discarded, killed or simply left with their injuries untreated. If the losing dog is perceived to be a particular embarrassment to the reputation or status of its owner, it may be executed in a particularly brutal fashion as part of the "entertainment."

**What Are the Laws Related to Dog Fighting?**

As of 2008, dog fighting is a felony in all 50 states and in the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In most states, the possession of dogs for the purpose of fighting is also a felony offense. Being a spectator at a dog fight is also illegal in all states. Laws and penalties vary widely by state.

On the federal side, the Animal Welfare Act of 1966 prohibits certain animal fighting-related activities when they have involved more than one state or interstate mail services, including the U.S. Postal Service. In 2007, Congress passed the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act with strong bipartisan support. The Act amended the Animal Welfare Act and provides felony penalties for interstate commerce, import and export relating to commerce in fighting dogs, fighting cocks and cockfighting paraphernalia. Each violation can result in up to three years in jail and a \$250,000 fine.

In 2014, the crucial elements of the Animal Fighting Spectator Prohibition Act were signed into law as part of the Farm Bill. This provision makes attending an animal fight anywhere in the U.S. a federal offense, and imposes additional penalties for bringing a child under 16 to an animal fight.

**If Dog Fighting Is So Widespread, Why Don't More Cases Come to Light?**

Dog fighting is a violent and highly secretive enterprise that is extremely difficult for law enforcement and investigative professionals to infiltrate. A dog fight investigation requires many of the same skills and resources as a major undercover narcotics investigation, and challenges the resources of any agency that seeks to respond to it.

An additional complication is that the evidence likely to be seized in a raid includes the dogs—living creatures who must be taken care of and maintained while the judicial process unfolds. Most prosecutors would be happy to take on every dog fight case they could, but they are limited by the human and animal care resources available to them.

DATA MASTER; Alyssa Hollingsworth

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SECTION 8 HOUSING VOUCHERS ACCEPTED



# All About The Animal Fox

**Foxes** are small-to-medium-sized, omnivorous mammals belonging to several genera of the family Canidae. Foxes have a flattened skull, upright triangular ears, a pointed, slightly upturned snout, and a long bushy tail (or *brush*).

Twelve species belong to the monophyletic group of *Vulpes* genus of "true foxes". Approximately another 25 current or extinct species are always or sometimes called foxes; these foxes



The whiskers on the muzzle, mystacial vibrissae, average 100–110 mm (3.9–4.3 in) long, while the whiskers everywhere else on the head average to be shorter in length. Whiskers (carpal vibrissae) are also on the forelimbs and average 40 mm (1.6 in) long, pointing downward and backward. Other physical characteristics vary according to habitat and adaptive significance.

Fox species differ in fur color, length, and density. Coat colors range from

are either part of the paraphyletic group of the South American foxes, or of the outlying group, which consists of bat-eared fox, gray fox, and island fox. Foxes live on every continent except Antarctica. By far the most common and widespread species of fox is the red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) with about 47 recognized subspecies. The global distribution of foxes, together with their widespread reputation for cunning, has contributed to their prominence in popular culture and folklore in many societies around the world. The hunting of foxes with packs of hounds, long an established pursuit in Europe, especially in the British Isles, was exported by European settlers to various parts of the New World.

The word *fox* comes from Old English, which derived from Proto-Germanic *\*fuhsaz*. This in turn derives from Proto-Indo-European *\*puk-*, meaning 'thick-haired; tail'. Male foxes are known as dogs, tods or reynards, females as vixens, and young as cubs, pups, or kits, though the latter name is not to be confused with a distinct species called kit foxes. A group of foxes is referred to as a skulk, leash, or earth.

Foxes are generally smaller than other members of the family Canidae such as wolves, jackals, and domestic dogs. For example, in the largest species, the red fox, males weigh on average between 4.1 and 8.7 kg (9.0 and 19.2 lb), while the smallest species, the fennec fox, weighs just 0.7 to 1.6 kg (1.5 to 3.5 lb). Fox-like features typically include a triangular face, pointed ears, an elongated rostrum, and a bushy tail. Foxes are digitigrade, and thus, walk on their toes. Unlike most members of the family Canidae, foxes have partially retractable claws. Fox vibrissae, or whiskers, are black.

pearly white to black and white to black flecked with white or grey on the underside. Fennec foxes (and other species of fox adapted to life in the desert, such as kit foxes), for example, have large ears and short fur to aid in keeping the body cool. Arctic foxes, on the other hand, have tiny ears and short limbs as well as thick, insulating fur, which aid in keeping the body warm. Red foxes, by contrast, have a typical auburn pelt, the tail normally ending with white marking. A fox's coat color and texture may vary due to the change in seasons; fox pelts are richer and denser in the colder months and lighter in the warmer months. To get rid of the dense winter coat, foxes moult once a year around April; the process begins from the feet, up the legs, and then along the back. Coat color may also change as the individual ages.

A fox's dentition, like all other canids, is I 3/3, C 1/1, PM 4/4, M 3/2 = 42. (Bat-eared foxes have six extra molars, totaling in 48 teeth.) Foxes have pronounced carnassial pairs, which is characteristic of a carnivore. These pairs consist of the upper premolar and the lower first molar, and work together to shear tough material like flesh. Foxes' canines are pronounced, also characteristic of a carnivore, and are excellent in gripping prey.

The familiar fox that is most common in legend and lore is the red fox, but there are over 30 species of fox living in an amazing variety of environments all over the world. In general, foxes are small members of the dog family, the largest of which is the typical red fox. Most other species are considerably smaller.

The red fox is the most wide-spread carnivore in the world, living in every region of the Northern

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Hemisphere including Central America, and having been introduced by humans to Australia, where they are so successful they are considered a major pest.

The red fox in particular is extremely skilled at adapting to almost any environment. They have succeeded and thrived in close proximity to human beings and there are even some sub-species of red fox that live in heavy urban environments, taking advantage of their naturally nocturnal tendencies. Many other fox species are endangered or threatened, unable to adapt to human encroachment, while the red fox enjoys healthy populations all over the world.

Foxes live in small groups, or alone. They don't have the kind of intense social structure we connect with other canines like the wolf and the dog.

They are solitary hunters even if living in a family group, and they are notorious for killing extra prey and burying it for later. This activity is probably how the "sly" signature got attached to the fox, although, foxes, in general, are very bright, inquisitive and intelligent animals. There are unusual names applied to male and female foxes as well, the male being known as a "reynard" and the female, naturally, a "vixen".

There is no doubt of the beauty of these animals, (they've paid the price being regularly trapped for their fur). and there is no doubt why the term "fox" is often used to describe attractive people too!

#### **What Does The Fox Say?**

The fox says allot, actually. Although they are members of the canine family, fox species don't bark like domestic dogs do.

They have a warning bark of their own that is very short, high-pitched, and usually singular, definitely not a "bow-wow-wow" type sound. They do, however, make an amazing variety of noises- up to 20 different calls it is believed. Fox vocalizations include chilling nighttime "screams", coyote-like howls, whimpers, "snuffing" noises, and a happy call that sounds like a human baby crying. But the most distinct

sound most foxes make is a chuckling type noise called a "gekker". Foxes will gekker when they are fighting or playing. They will also gekker out of excitement and nervousness, and as most foxes are rather nervous creatures, the sound is emitted quite often. A litter of kits play-fighting will roll around gekkering for hours at a time. And a vixen defending her den will gekker an intruder right out of her territory.

#### **Fox Reproduction**

The fox family dynamic is very varied, with some animals forming fairly strong pair bonds, while others are more independent, and live in very loose family structures.

The red fox usually lives in a small family unit with a dominant pair, and two to five other individuals, usually maturing offspring. Similar to wolves, it is generally only the dominant female who will have kits, and the other family members will often assist in the raising of the kits.

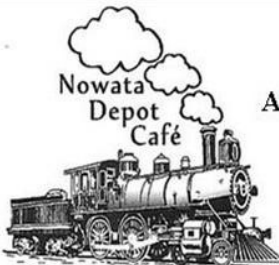
Occasionally, a father fox has been known to rear young on his own, after the demise of the mother. Red foxes and many other fox species dig simple, but roomy dens when the babies are about to be born, and the family will stay close by for up to three months while the young kits grow. The whole family takes care of the kits. The rest of the year, foxes usually live basically out in the open, bedding down by turning in a tight circle to tamp down a little bed for themselves, just as we see domestic dogs do on the living room rug.

As the kits mature, they may leave to form their own family units, usually at about 10 to 18 months, or, sometimes will stay with their parents for life. When youngsters stay on, they often remain subordinate to the parents and help with the raising of the next generations of kits without producing offspring themselves.

#### **SOURCES:**

1) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fox>  
<http://www.animalfactsencyclopedia.com/Fox-facts.html>

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## THE MYSTERY OF SASASSA VALLEY, By A. Conan Doyle

Do I know why Tom Donahue is called "Lucky Tom"? Yes, I do; and that is more than one in ten of those who call him so can say. I have knocked about a deal in my time, and seen some strange sights, but none stranger than the way in which Tom gained that sobriquet, and his fortune with it. For I was with him at the time. Tell it? Oh, certainly; but it is a longish story and a very strange one; so fill up your glass again, and light another cigar, while I try to reel it off. Yes, a very strange one; beats some fairy stories I have heard; but it's true, sir, every word of it. There are men alive at Cape Colony now who'll remember it and confirm what I say. Many a time has the tale been told round the fire in Boers' cabins from Orange state to Griqualand; yes, and out in the bush and at the diamond-fields too.

I'm roughish now, sir; but I was entered at the Middle Temple once, and studied for the bar. Tom—worse luck!—was one of my fellow-students; and a wildish time we had of it, until at last our finances ran short, and we were compelled to give up our so-called studies, and look about for some part of the world where two young fellows with strong arms and sound constitutions might make their mark. In those days the tide of emigration had scarcely begun to set in toward Africa, and so we thought our best chance would be down at Cape Colony. Well,—to make a long story short,—we set sail, and were deposited in Cape Town with less than five pounds in our pockets; and there we parted. We each tried our hands at many things, and had ups and downs; but when, at the end of three years, chance led each of us up-country and we met again, we were, I regret to say, in almost as bad a plight as when we started.

Well, this was not much of a commencement; and very disheartened we were, so disheartened that Tom spoke of going back to England and getting a clerkship. For you see we didn't know that we had played out all our small cards, and that the trumps were going to turn up. No; we thought our "hands" were bad all through. It was a very lonely part of the country that we were in, inhabited by a few scattered farms, whose houses were stockaded and fenced in to defend them against the Kaffirs. Tom Donahue and I had a little hut right out in the bush; but we were known to possess nothing, and to be handy with our revolvers, so we had little to fear. There we waited, doing odd jobs, and hoping that something would turn up. Well, after we had been there about a month something did turn up upon a certain night, something which was the making of both of us; and it's about that night, sir, that I'm going to tell you. I remember it well. The wind was howling past our cabin, and the rain threatened to burst

in our rude window. We had a great wood fire crackling and sputtering on the hearth, by which I was sitting mending a whip, while Tom was lying in his bunk groaning disconsolately at the chance which had led him to such a place.

"Cheer up, Tom—cheer up," said I. "No man ever knows what may be awaiting him."

"Ill luck, ill luck, Jack," he answered. "I always was an unlucky dog. Here have I been three years in this abominable country; and I see lads fresh from England jingling the money in their pockets, while I am as poor as when I landed. Ah, Jack, if you want to keep your head above water, old friend, you must try your fortune away from me."

"Nonsense, Tom; you're down in your luck to-night. But hark! Here's some one coming outside. Dick Wharton, by the tread; he'll rouse you, if any man can."

Even as I spoke the door was flung open, and honest Dick Wharton, with the water pouring from him, stepped in, his hearty red face looming through the haze like a harvest-moon. He shook himself, and after greeting us sat down by the fire to warm himself.

"Where away, Dick, on such a night as this?" said I. "You'll find the rheumatism a worse foe than the Kaffirs, unless you keep more regular hours."

Dick was looking unusually serious, almost frightened, one would say, if one did not know the man. "Had to go," he replied—"had to go. One of Madison's cattle was seen straying down Sasassa Valley, and of course none of our blacks would go down *that* valley at night; and if we had waited till morning, the brute would have been in Kaffirland."

"Why wouldn't they go down Sasassa Valley at night?" asked Tom.

"Kaffirs, I suppose," said I.

"Ghosts," said Dick.

We both laughed.

"I suppose they didn't give such a matter-of-fact fellow as you a sight of their charms?" said Tom, from the bunk.

"Yes," said Dick, seriously, "yes; I saw what the blacks talk about; and I promise you, lads, I don't want ever to see it again."

Tom sat up in his bed. "Nonsense, Dick; you're joking, man! Come, tell us all about it; the legend first, and your own experience afterward. Pass him over the bottle, Jack."

"Well, as to the legend," began Dick. "It seems that the blacks have had it handed down to them that Sasassa Valley is

haunted by a frightful fiend. Hunters and wanderers passing down the defile have seen its glowing eyes under the shadows of the cliff; and the story goes that whoever has chanced to encounter that baleful glare has had his after-life blighted by the malignant power of this creature. Whether that be true or not," continued Dick, ruefully, "I may have an opportunity of judging for myself."

"Go on, Dick—go on," cried Tom. "Let's hear about what you saw."

"Well, I was groping down the valley, looking for that cow of Madison's, and I had, I suppose, got half-way down, where a black craggy cliff juts into the ravine on the right, when I halted to have a pull at my flask. I had my eye fixed at the time upon the projecting cliff I have mentioned, and noticed nothing unusual about it. I then put up my flask and took a step or two forward, when in a moment there burst, apparently from the base of the rock, about eight feet from the ground and a hundred yards from me, a strange, lurid glare, flickering and oscillating, gradually dying away and then reappearing again. No, no; I've seen many a glow-worm and firefly—nothing of that sort. There it was, burning away, and I suppose I gazed at it, trembling in every limb, for fully ten minutes. Then I took a step forward, when instantly it vanished, vanished like a candle blown out. I stepped back again; but it was some time before I could find the exact spot and position from which it was visible. At last, there it was, the weird reddish light, flickering away as before. Then I screwed up my courage, and made for the rock; but the ground was so uneven that it was impossible to steer straight; and though I walked along the whole base of the cliff, I could see nothing. Then I made tracks for home; and I can tell you, boys, that, until you remarked it, I never knew it was raining, the whole way along. But hollo! what's the matter with Tom?"

What indeed? Tom was now sitting with his legs over the side of the bunk, and his whole face betraying excitement so intense as to be almost painful. "The fiend would have two eyes. How many lights did you see, Dick? Speak out!"

"Only one."

"Hurrah!" cried Tom, "that's better." Whereupon he kicked the blankets into the middle of the room, and began pacing up and down with long feverish strides. Suddenly he stopped opposite Dick, and laid his hand upon his shoulder. "I say, Dick, could we get to Sasassa Valley before sunrise?"

"Scarcely," said Dick.

"Well, look here; we are old friends, Dick Wharton, you and I. Now don't you tell any other man what you have told us, for a week. You'll promise that, won't you?"

I could see by the look on Dick's face as he acquiesced that he considered poor Tom to be mad; and indeed I was myself completely mystified by his conduct. I had, however, seen so many proofs of my friend's good sense and quickness of apprehension that I thought it quite possible that Wharton's story had had a meaning in his eyes which I was too obtuse to take in.

All night Tom Donahue was greatly excited, and when Wharton left he begged him to remember his promise, and also elicited from him a description of the exact spot at which he had seen the apparition, as well as the hour at which it appeared. After his departure, which must have been about four in the morning, I turned into my bunk and watched Tom sitting by the fire splicing two sticks together, until I fell asleep. I suppose I must have slept about two hours; but when I awoke Tom was still sitting working away in almost the same position. He had fixed the one stick across the top of the other so as to form a rough T, and was now busy in fitting a smaller stick into the angle between them, by manipulating which, the cross one could be either cocked up or depressed to any extent. He had cut notches, too, in the perpendicular stick, so that, by the aid of the small prop, the cross one could be kept in any position for an indefinite time.

"Look here, Jack!" he cried, when he saw that I was awake. "Come and give me your opinion. Suppose I put this cross-stick pointing

straight at a thing, and arranged this small one so as to keep it so, and left it, I could find that thing again if I wanted it—don't you think I could, Jack—don't you think so?" he continued, nervously, clutching me by the arm.

"Well," I answered, "it would depend on how far off the thing was, and how accurately it was pointed. If it were any distance, I'd cut sights on your cross-stick; then a string tied to the end of it, and held in a plumb-line forward, would lend you pretty near what you wanted. But surely, Tom, you don't intend to localise the ghost in that way?"

"You'll see to-night, old friend—you'll see to-night. I'll carry this to the Sasassa Valley. You get the loan of Madison's crowbar, and come with me; but mind you tell no man where you are going, or what you want it for."

All day Tom was walking up and down the room, or working hard at the apparatus. His eyes were glistening, his cheeks hectic, and he had all the symptoms of high fever. "Heaven grant that Dick's diagnosis be not correct!" I thought, as I returned with the crowbar; and yet, as evening drew near, I found myself imperceptibly sharing the excitement.

About six o'clock Tom sprang to his feet and seized his sticks. "I can stand it no longer, Jack," he cried; "up with your crowbar, and hey for Sasassa Valley! To-night's work, my lad, will either make us or mar us! Take your six-shooter, in case we meet the Kaffirs. I daren't take mine, Jack," he continued, putting his hands upon my shoulders—"I daren't take mine; for if my ill luck sticks to me to-night, I don't know what I might not do with it."

Well, having filled our pockets with provisions, we set out, and, as we took our wearisome way toward the Sasassa Valley, I frequently attempted to elicit from my companion some clue as to his intentions. But his only answer was: "Let us hurry on, Jack. Who knows how many have heard of Wharton's adventure by this time! Let us hurry on, or we may not be first in the field!"

Well, sir, we struggled on through the hills for a matter of ten miles; till at last, after descending a crag, we saw opening out in front of us a ravine so sombre and dark that it might have been the gate of Hades itself; cliffs many hundred feet shut in on every side the gloomy boulder-studded passage which led through the haunted defile into Kaffirland. The moon, rising above the crags, threw into strong relief the rough, irregular pinnacles of rock by which they were topped, while all below was dark as Erebus.

"The Sasassa Valley?" said I.

"Yes," said Tom.

I looked at him. He was calm now; the flush and feverishness had passed away; his actions were deliberate and slow. Yet there was a certain rigidity in his face and glitter in his eye which showed that a crisis had come.



We entered the pass, stumbling along amid the great boulders. Suddenly I heard a short, quick exclamation from Tom. "That's the crag!" he cried, pointing to a great mass looming before us in the darkness. "Now, Jack, for any favour use your eyes! We're about a hundred yards from that cliff, I take it; so you move slowly toward one side and I'll do the same toward the other. When you see anything, stop and call out. Don't take more than twelve inches in a step, and keep your eye fixed on the cliff about eight feet from the ground. Are you ready?"

"Yes." I was even more excited than Tom by this time. What his intention or object was I could not conjecture, beyond that he wanted to examine by daylight the part of the cliff from which the light came. Yet the influence of the romantic situation and my companion's suppressed excitement was so great that I could feel the blood coursing through my veins and count the pulses throbbing at my temples.

"Start!" cried Tom; and we moved off, he to the right, I to the left, each with our eyes fixed intently on the base of the crag. I had moved perhaps twenty feet, when in a moment it burst upon me. Through the growing darkness there shone a small, ruddy, glowing point, the light from which waned and increased, flickered and oscillated, each change producing a more weird effect than the last. The old Kaffir superstition came into my mind, and I felt a cold shudder pass over me. In my excitement I stepped a pace backward, when instantly the light went out, leaving utter darkness in its place; but when I advanced again, there was the ruddy glare glowing from the base of the cliff. "Tom, Tom!" I cried.

"Ay, ay!" I heard him exclaim, as he hurried over toward me.

"There it is—there, up against the cliff!"

Tom was at my elbow. "I see nothing," said he.

"Why, there, there, man, in front of you!" I stepped to the right as I spoke, when the light instantly vanished from my eyes.

But from Tom's ejaculations of delight it was clear that from my former position it was visible to him also. "Jack," he cried, as he turned and wrung my hand—"Jack, you and I can never complain of our luck again. Now heap up a few stones where we are standing. That's right. Now we must fix my sign-post firmly in at the top. There! It would take a strong wind to blow that down; and we only need it to hold out till morning. O Jack, my boy, to think that only yesterday we were talking of becoming clerks, and you saying that no man knew what was awaiting him, too! By Jove, Jack, it would make a good story!"

By this time we had firmly fixed the perpendicular stick in between the two large stones; and Tom bent down and peered along the horizontal one. For fully a quarter of an hour he was alternately raising and depressing it, until at last, with a sigh of satisfaction, he fixed the prop into the angle, and stood up. "Look along, Jack," he said. "You have as straight an eye to take a sight as any man I know of."

I looked along. There beyond the farther sight was the ruddy, scintillating speck, apparently at the end of the stick itself, so accurately had it been adjusted.

"And now, my boy," said Tom, "let's have some supper and a sleep. There's nothing more to be done to-night; but we'll need all our wits and strength to-morrow. Get some sticks and kindle a fire here, and then we'll be able to keep an eye on our signal-post, and see that nothing happens to it during the night."

Well, sir, we kindled a fire, and had supper with the Sasassa demon's eye rolling and glowing in front of us the whole night through. Not always in the same place, though; for after supper, when I glanced along the sights to have another look at it, it was nowhere to be seen. The information did not, however, seem to disturb Tom in any way. He merely remarked, "It's the moon,

not the thing, that has shifted;" and coiling himself up, went to sleep.

By early dawn we were both up, and gazing along our pointer at the cliff; but we could make out nothing save the one dead, monotonous, slaty surface, rougher perhaps at the part we were examining than elsewhere, but otherwise presenting nothing remarkable.

"Now for your idea, Jack!" said Tom Donahue, unwinding a long thin cord from round his waist. "You fasten it, and guide me while I take the other end." So saying, he walked off to the base of the cliff, holding one end of the cord, while I drew the other taut, and wound it round the middle of the horizontal stick, passing it through the sight at the end. By this means I could direct Tom to the right or left, until we had our string stretching from the point of attachment, through the sight, and on to the rock, which it struck about eight feet from the ground. Tom drew a chalk circle of about three feet diameter round the spot, and then called to me to come and join him. "We've managed this business together, Jack," he said, "and we'll find what we are to find, together." The circle he had drawn embraced a part of the rock smoother than the rest, save that about the centre there were a few rough protuberances or knobs. One of these Tom pointed to with a cry of delight. It was a roughish, brownish mass about the size of a man's closed fist, and looking like a bit of dirty glass let into the wall of the cliff. "That's it!" he cried—"that's it!"

"That's what?"

"Why, man, a *diamond*, and such a one as there isn't a monarch in Europe but would envy Tom Donahue the possession of. Up with your crowbar, and we'll soon exorcise the demon of Sasassa Valley!"

I was so astounded that for a moment I stood speechless with surprise, gazing at the treasure which had so unexpectedly fallen into our hands.

"Here, hand me the crowbar," said Tom. "Now, by using this little round knob which projects from the cliff here as a fulcrum, we may be able to lever it off. Yes; there it goes. I never thought it could have come so easily. Now, Jack, the sooner we get back to our hut and then down to Cape Town, the better."

We wrapped up our treasure, and made our way across the hills toward home. On the way, Tom told me how, while a law student in the Middle Temple, he had come upon a dusty pamphlet in the library, by one Jans van Hounym, which told of an experience very similar to ours, which had befallen that worthy Dutchman in the latter part of the seventeenth century, and which resulted in the discovery of a luminous diamond. This tale it was which had come into Tom's head as he listened to honest Dick Wharton's ghost-story, while the means which he had adopted to verify his supposition sprang from his own fertile Irish brain.

## END OF PART ONE

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Burrough Manor  
Carter's IGA  
El Cabrito Mexican Restaurant  
Grand Lake Mental Health  
Heartsworth House  
McSpadden Fast Lube  
Midco Clothes & More  
Sam's Tire  
V & V Drug  
Vinita DHS  
Vinita Post Office  
Vinita Public Library  
Vinita Tag Office  
Wood Shed  
Young's Tire

**Welch**

Happy Cow  
Spinners  
Thomas Funeral Home  
Welch State Bank

**White Oak**

The Rancher Convenience/Deli

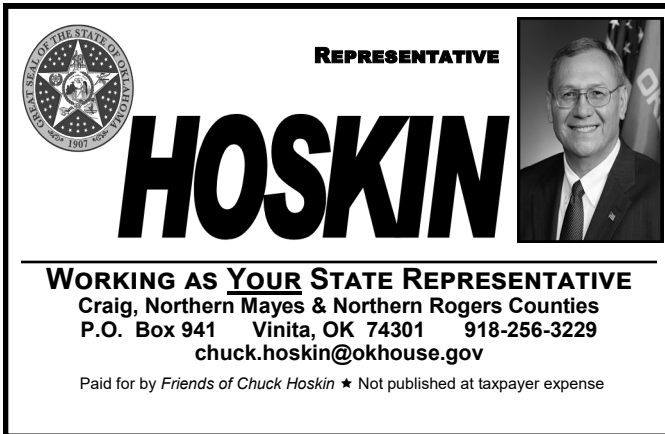
# LINKS

## Information

The Links Paper comes out twice a month, the 5th and the 20th of every month. We offer many different advertising options and have competitive pricing. Should you be interested in placing an ad with us you can contact us at the phone number or the email provided below.

**Deadlines for ad submission:**  
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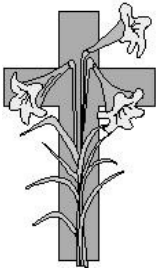


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# JEWELS FROM THE WORD

## ABUNDANCE OF THINGS

One of my New Year's Resolutions this year was to simplify.

Lately I have been trying really hard to get rid of stuff. It is an ongoing battle, a struggle to keep what is necessary and let go of things that I don't need, don't love, that don't fit, and don't make me smile when I look at them.

I have a closet full of clothes, drawers full of stuff, cabinets full, pantry full, linen closet full. I have books and magazines everywhere-- in bookshelves, in the bathroom, on the coffee table. I have 5 sets of dishes, 3 sets still packed away from our move fifteen years ago.

When I unpacked my winter things last fall, most didn't fit, some never did. Most are outdated and a few in need of repair. The struggle right now is to mix and match the clothes I can wear so I can make it through this season without spending money on clothes.

One thing I have had to buy this winter is shoes. A woman must have shoes. I have lots of shoes, some of which don't fit and never have but they are so cute. Some of them need to be discarded but I might wear them in the garden this spring.

Jesus said, "*Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of things he possesses.*" Luke 12:15 NKJV.

My possessions do not determine who I am. My life is more than the name brand of clothing I wear and the kind of purse I carry.

Have you ever thought that hoarding stuff is a form of greed or covetousness? Yes, that was a staggering thought to me too. I guess it is time to start giving more of it away.

No wonder Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive.

DATA MASTER: Steve Burdick

**Lavon Hightower Lewis** Email me at: [llewis2138@sbcglobal.net](mailto:llewis2138@sbcglobal.net) to read more devotionals, go to <http://jewelsfromtheword.com>



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