

♥ Notes

(By Neoma Williams)

I had total knee replacement surgery on June 8. I think I am doing okay. I have developed pains in areas that I didn't have pain before. I walked stiff-legged so long because it hurt to bend my right knee. Now, that I can bend my knee, I am using muscles I hadn't used very well in a long time. At least, that's my diagnosis.

The reason I had the surgery is osteoarthritis, the most common form of arthritis. This causes loss of the cartilage or protective covering at the ends of the bones where the joints are. Without this cartilage, there is pain, stiffness, swelling, etc.

The recovery for this surgery is often said to be three to six months. And, I have had some say that to be as normal as you are going to be, it takes a full year.



I recently was reading a letter to the editor from a Lubbock resident to the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal. I thought it was a thoughtful, well-written letter. The writer notes that marriage (and family) in Scripture have not been as fixed as some say God's nature is. He (Ian Scott-Fleming) writes that polygamy was common in the Old Testament, and yet, we claim today that God insists on marriage between just one man and one woman. (Yes, I know that Christians believe that Jesus came to fulfill the law; thus, the New Testament changes practices common in the Old Testament era.)

Jacob married two sisters; Solomon had 1,000 wives and concubines; Abraham and Jacob had children by their wives' slaves at their wives' insistence.

Republican Mike Huckabee referred to the Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage as "distorting the laws of nature." But, Scott-Fleming notes that in God's world around us, male-on-male and female-on-female sex have been observed in spe-

cies from fruit flies to bonobo chimps. "We see ourselves daily when our dogs play and wrestle in the park."

The ruling isn't going to change the fabric of society, as Scott-Fleming writes. I agree with him. He writes that it will not force his daughter to marry a woman or your son a man. It will provide a dignity that's been lacking if they so choose, and it doesn't threaten my marriage or yours.

Our marriages suffer from much more mundane threats; and, if they fail, it won't be because of the Supreme Court, but because we can't manage our finances or agree how much TV the children should watch or the sum of all the issues that we haven't had the heart to face head-on.

"I expect God will be much less troubled by our baking a cake for a gay wedding than by our hypocrisy of refusing to do so while happily collecting rent from the young unmarried couple in the back apartment."

Voodoo Economics

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administration, the national debt almost tripled, increasing from \$ 997 billion in 1981 to \$2.857 trillion in 1989, according to the Library of Economics and Liberty.

While cutting taxes is not necessarily a bad thing, it is not always the fiscally responsible thing to do. In the case of Texas, lower oil prices and production will result in lower tax collections, which could become a problem in the years to come.

The 84th Texas Legislature approved a \$209 billion budget for 2016 and 2017, which includes more money for public education (although not nearly enough to offset previous cuts), women's and mental health, and border security funding. It also ended some diversions from the State Highway Fund, freeing up

City's Sales Tax Rebates Down From Last Year

The City's sales tax rebate thus far totals \$22,215.65, which is down 8.29% from last year's figure of \$24,226.38.

For May, Hart received \$2,821.45, compared to \$2,916.60, a decrease of 3.26%. This is computed on a sales tax rate of 1.50%; one-half percent goes to the Economic Development Corporation.

Castro County's May payment was \$13,726.63, compared to \$15,870.23, a decrease of 13.50%. For the year, the County's payment is up significantly...\$151,511.32, compared to \$117,112.81, a 28.27% increase.

Hart Days 2015

money for road and bridge construction and maintenance.

Even though the legislature made small investments for our future, it adopted tax relief programs that are fiscally irresponsible. One bill raises the homestead exemption from \$15,000 to \$25,000, and another cuts the state franchise tax. Together, the measure are expected to provide close to \$5 billion in tax cuts over the next two years, or less than \$175 per person.

Although the amount seems insignificant, it is a clear sign of shortsightedness, and the lack of significant divestment in our state's infrastructure and education could have serious consequences down the road. Texas needs to adopt economic policies that have positive results instead of continuing to rely on failed strategies.



Pictured above is a rendition of a new sign for Tom's Corner. The 4x8 sign has been made by Master Graphics in Plainview, owned by Hart's own Agustin and Aurelia Perez, Jr. The Hart Days Committee is financing the new sign. The sign's two sides will depict the two art works pictured above.

Tom's Corner Has Been A Collaborative Effort

By Neoma Williams

About 15 or so years ago, former Hart teacher-resident Ruth Bennett got her junior high students involved in an environmental-friendly project. They planted some trees at Tom's Corner. Later, Jerry Mathis' ag students added more trees and erected the wood rail fence.

The Hart Days Committee purchased the fiberglass Longhorn, which was painted by Jonalyn Jones.

Then, former Hart mayor and longtime Hart resident and supporters, the late Marguerite McLain garnered the donation of an old windmill, which had belonged to the Merritt Family, County pioneers.

Next, Tom McLain, Pct. 1 County Commissioner and longtime Hart resident, volunteered to mow and care for the corner, located at the southeast corner of the intersection of TX194 and FM168. Hart Lions Club installed a marble plaque honoring McLain's volunteer work for the corner. The corner's water and electricity is provided by the City. The property is owned by local residents.

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