

## President's Corner Volunteers are needed – urgently!



By Josh Lindsay

On Page 7 of this issue there's an item about volunteer positions that the neighborhood association is looking to fill.

Please take some time to look through it

A good number of people have "retired" from their volunteer positions, and we've been slow to pick up the slack.

Your neighborhood officers are such a laid-back, relaxed group that we have not resorted to a mandatory draft or roaming press gangs to enlist help for those positions.

Well, laid-back and relaxed no more. We've set a goal to fill all those positions this year.

I know now that it's not going to happen with a polite "Would you be so kind as to volunteer" request in the newsletter.

Nope. If we don't get people volunteering to help, I'll just have to employ (gulp) The Direct Ask: You there, in the back, trying to sit lower in your chair, I see you!

Have a look at some of the volunteer positions needed and you'll probably see something you would like to do anyway, such as gardening, being social, and walking while drinking wine.

Seriously. These are the sorts of things we are looking for volunteers to do. Go find the item and then get in touch – before we have to come find you ourselves!

All the best.

Josh Lindsay president@mistletoeheights.org 2238 Mistletoe Blvd.

## A time when Mistletoe Heights had moonshine, livestock and streetcars



Dr. Arvel Ponton, the father of the letter writer

By Jim Peipert In the 1920s and '30s, Mistletoe Heights was still a young neighborhood, pushing into the surrounding countryside. It had horses, cows and goats, as well as two illicit stills, both of which blew up.

Neighborhood kids spent time after school fishing for crawdads in the stream by the railroad tracks, blocks of ice were delivered by horse-drawn wagon, and street cars trundled along Forest Park Boulevard. Those reminiscences were

provided by Dr. Arvel R. Ponton in a letter written on July 29, 1988, in Alpine in West Texas, where Dr. Ponton then lived.

The letter was addressed to a "Mr. Chappell," who at the time lived at 1210 Mistletoe Drive, an address that no longer exists. Dr. Ponton grew up at 1208 Mistletoe Drive, the home now owned by Bruce and Lisa Lowry.

Dr. Ponton's letter has seen some limited circulation in neighborhood emails, and the full text can be found on the Mistletoe Heights website, under "Our history."

But we felt that the letter, with its vivid recollections of Mistletoe Heights as it was 80 to 90 years ago, deserved broader attention in the newsletter.

Continued on Page 4



A lot is going on at our neighborhood school, Lily B. Clayton Elementary.

See story on Page 3

## Join the Mistletoe Heights email list

To subscribe to the Mistletoe Heights Residents mailing list, go to mistletoeheights.org, click on "Email list" and look for "Subscribing to Residents." Enter your name and email address, and then click "Subscribe." Note: You may need to add residents-bounces@mistletoeheights.org to your address book

to receive emails. If you have questions or concerns, contact moderator@mistletoeheights.org.

Check out our website: mistletoeheights.org

Friend us on Facebook: facebook.com/mistletoeheights

## **Get connected**

Get connected. Be more engaged. Please share with us your experiences of good will in the neighborhood to newsletter@mistletoeheights.org and write me at president@mistletoeheights.org. Here are some ways to find out what's going on in the neighborhood.

Josh Lindsay, MHA president



Facebook Chat Room www.facebook.com/groups/mhneighbors NextDoor page www.mistletoeheights.nextdoor.com Webpage www.mistletoeheights.org/contacts

## Mark your calendars!



Tuesday, Feb. 21, 7 to 8:30 p.m. – Mistletoe Heights neighborhood meeting at the home of Jeff Davis, 2325 Mistletoe Drive.



## Dates to remember at Lily B. Clayton

#### In observance of American Heart Month:

Thursday, Feb. 2, in the library, 11:30 to 12:30 p.m., free hands-only CPR and AED (automated external defibrillator) training for kids, neighbors and the community.

#### Did you know?

- Ninety percent of sudden cardiac arrests (SCA) happen at home.
- There is a survival window of only five minutes for a victim of sudden cardiac arrest. They need CPR and an AED within five minutes.
- Sudden cardiac arrest is the No. 1 cause of death on school property.
- Sudden cardiac arrest takes the life of one student every three days
- Most victims never exhibit a sign or symptom until SCA occurs.

RSVP: Adrienne Grant, agrant@remglobal.com or 817-688-1766.

#### Lily B. Clayton Kindergarten Round-Up:

Thursday, Feb. 9, 1:30 to 3 p.m.

For all incoming kindergarteners (fall 2017) and their families. Meet the faculty and current parents, register your little one and tour the school. Fun-filled time for the little ones in the library while parents attend a meeting upstairs.

More info: Adrienne Grant 817-688-1766.

#### Lily B. Clayton Spring Auction:



Saturday, April 22

Whether or not you have a Lily B. student in your household, you still play a very important role in the life of the school.

This is your neighborhood. Every year, families try to relocate to this area with hopes that their children can attend this amazing school.

You are all invited to attend the Lily B. Spring

Auction, where you can see our tax dollars at work, the spirit and dedication at the school, as well as meet new friends!

Thank you in advance for supporting your neighbors, and your neighborhood as a whole.

Tickets will be on sale March 6. However, you may go online to sponsor the event, donate money or an item at any time. https://501auctions.com/lilybauction2017/

For more information, contact: Beth Thurman and Katherine Ridenour Lily B. Clayton PTA, auction co-chairs 817.875.4080 / 817.371.5669 auction@lilybclayton.org

### Successful Coat Drive

Thanks to Mistletoe Heights, we helped some students at De Zavala Elementary School to keep a little bit warmer during the recent cold snap!

De Zavala has a "Wall of Goodness," to which Mistletoe Heights residents donated a total of 11 adult and four children's coats.

The school staff hangs donated coats on a wall. Anyone who needs a coat, whether a child or an adult (or larger teen), can pick up any garment that fits.

So, once again, and to borrow our "giving slogan" at work, a big "Thanks to Mistletoe Heights for doin' good."

-- Ellen Rubinson

Jeri Jo Blackmon

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## Recalling a time when Mistletoe Heights had moonshine stills, livestock and streetcars

Continued from Page 1



1208 Mistletoe Drive

Dr. Ponton wrote that he set down his reminiscences at the urging of his daughter, Berry Crowley, and that he wanted to share them with Mr. Chappell.

"My family moved from Lubbock to Ft. Worth in 1919," Dr. Ponton wrote. "My father had built Lubbock Memorial Hospital (now Methodist Hospital) which he sold before moving.

"We lived in a small house down the hill towards the river while the big house was being built...

"Growing up there in Mistletoe Heights in the '20s and '30s was, in retrospect, an idyllic time despite the Depression. I remember spending a lot of time listening to the radio – 'Amos and Andy' was one of my favorites.

"I always looked forward to the arrival of the ice man and his wagon because he would give me a chip of ice and let me pet his horse. My mother would put a card in the window to tell him how many pounds of ice we needed.

"The neighborhood," Dr. Ponton went on, "was considerably more rural in the those days and we had horses, cows and goats down by the river.

"We also had a duck pond, a small track for sulky racing and a fishing pier out over the river. Most of this was washed away in one of the Trinity's more violent floods.

"We had a black couple who lived in the little house which is the garage now. He did all the heavy work around the house and drove the car for us. His wife did the cooking.

"I remember it was a treat to eat with them because she would fix opossum (captured while plundering our garbage can) and would let me sop my bread in the grease – something strictly forbidden at my mother's table."

Dr. Ponton wrote that some of his boyhood pastimes in Mistletoe Heights, besides crawdad fishing, were "riding bicycles, playing football in the vacant lot, playing marbles on the Klars' tennis court and staging wars with rubber band

guns. My biggest financial move was calling on the neighbors to sell the *Saturday Evening Post* out of my little red wagon."

Judging from a map that Dr. Ponton drew at the end of his letter, the vacant lot he referred to was on the west side of Mistletoe Drive directly across from its intersection with Mistletoe Boulevard.

The Klars' tennis court, according to the map, was on Mistletoe Boulevard in the middle of the block between Mistletoe Drive and Clara Street, on the north side of the boulevard.

The map also shows the streetcar tracks along Forest Park Boulevard.

As a boy, Dr. Ponton witnessed the Great Depression and the Prohibition era.

"I remember helping my father make bathtub gin – really made in the bathtub – with alcohol he was able to bring home from the hospital.

"We hid the finished product in a cabinet covered by a tapestry halfway up the front stairs. A button in the entry alcove would open the cabinet door. Very high tech.

"Prohibition," he wrote, "also accounted for the two stills in the neighborhood – both of which blew up. Depression and hard times accounted for the three men in the neighborhood who did time in prison – early white collar crime."

Among some of Dr. Ponton's other boyhood recollections:

• The streetcar tracks on Forest Park Boulevard "were our favorite target for 'greasing' on Halloween. That was probably our biggest vice growing up."



Historical medallion at 1208 Mistletoe Drive, the home built and first occupied by Dr. Arvel and Faye Ponton

- One of the daughters of the Haltom family (Haltom Jewelers and Haltom City), who lived at 1200 Mistletoe Drive, taught him how to dance the Charleston and the black bottom.
- Among his classmates at Culver Military Academy in Culver, Ind., where he enrolled on a scholarship in 1933, were Tex Moncrief and Amon Carter Jr.

After Culver, Ponton graduated from the Continued on Page 5

#### Continued from Page 4

FORT WORTH, TEXAS, SUNDAY, JULY 10, 1921.

PUBLIC INVITED TO INSPECT

NEW \$250,000 PROTESTANT

HOSPITAL TODAY FROM 2 TO 8

Fort Worth's newest medical instituton, the Protestant Hospital erected by Drs. A. R. Ponton and II. V. Johnson at Ballinger Street and Tennsylvania Avenue at a cost and Tennsylvania Avenue at a cost of the post of the avenue of the peneral reception between the hours of 2 and 8.

Star-Telegram story on the opening of Protestant Hospital in 1921

University of Texas in Austin and then from the university's medical school in Galveston in 1943.

"After an internship at Harris Hospital," Dr. Ponton wrote, "I served

in the Army in Burma as a doctor attached to a regiment of Chinese troops.

"I spent a year walking about 400 miles in the jungle supplied by air drop, and an additional year in India processing troops to go home.

"Back in the States I took a two-year surgical residency in Lubbock and then returned to Ft. Worth were I practiced in the clinic my father had built for 8 years before moving to Alpine in 1957. I sold the clinic to Harris Hospital and it is now the site of their power plant."

As a doctor, Ponton had big shoes to fill.

"My father was a pioneer West Texas surgeon who learned to fly so that he could operate on patients in several towns on the same day," Ponton wrote.

"Because of his interest in aviation I was able to meet Will Rogers, Wiley Post and Frank Hawks, and had the experience of flying in the old Ford Tri-Motor when it first came out.

"I remember eating lunch with Will Rogers at Barney Holland's House (on Forest Park Boulevard) and being amazed as I watched him perform what, to a small boy's mind, was nothing short of a miracle – eating lunch and chewing gum at the same time.

"I was with my father and Mr. W.A. Moncrief on the golf course at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs when they brought word to us that Will Rogers and Wiley Post had been killed in a plane crash in Alaska."

Ponton's father was obviously a prominent resident of Fort Worth.

"My father was head of the shrine in Ft. Worth and I remember him leading parades on his horse," Ponton wrote.

"He built several hospitals in the area, the last of which was Pennsylvania Hospital in Ft. Worth which he had to sell during the Depression. He then built a clinic on Pennsylvania Avenue where he practiced until the time of his death in 1944.

"He had purchased some land near Aledo, Texas, and was out there riding when his horse fell, injuring him seriously. Since antibiotics were not readily available in those days, he died from the resulting infection."

There are more historical tidbits in Dr. Ponton's letter, well worth a read of the full text on the Mistletoe Heights website: www.mistletoeheights.org.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Neighbor Jim Peipert is retired from the Star-Telegram, where he worked for 22 years, as national and foreign editor and then as a member of the editorial board. Before that, he worked more than two decades for The Associated Press as a reporter, editor and foreign correspondent in Chicago, New York, Moscow, London, Johannesburg and Nairobi.

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## Mistletoe Heights Calendar for 2017



EVENT	TIME & LOCATION	DATE
MH Neighborhood Meeting	7 p.m. Location TBD	Tuesday, February 21, 2017
Easter Egg Hunt	10 a.m. Newby Park	Saturday, April 15, 2017
Neighborhood Garage Sale	All day All over our neighborhood	Saturday, April 01, 2017
Spring Movie Night	7 p.m. Newby Park	Friday, May 05, 2017
MH Neighborhood Meeting	7 p.m. Location TBD	Tuesday, May 16, 2017
Fourth Of July Parade	6:30 p.m. Triangle Park	Tuesday, July 04, 2017
MH Neighborhood Meeting	7 p.m. Location TBD	Tuesday, August 15, 2017
Fall Movie Night	7 p.m. Newby Park	Friday, October 06, 2017
Pumpkin Carving Contest	Sunset All over our neighborhood	Monday, October 30, 2017
MH Neighborhood Meeting	7 p.m. Location TBD	Tuesday, November 14, 2017
Bow-Tying Party	2 p.m. The Willis Home, 2237 Irwin St.	Sunday, November 12, 2017
Christmas Party	5 p.m. Location TBD	Sunday, December 03, 2017



## Volunteers needed

We need more volunteers! Help us make this neighborhood better.

Are you new to the neighborhood and would like to get involved? Here are a few great ways, and you will get to meet a lot of interesting neighbors!

Yard of the Month: We need someone to write the Yard of the Month column, a short article describing a noteworthy and good-looking yard, perhaps describing some of the plantings and other garden features. No need to worry about photographs. Jim Peipert will take them for you. This is a job that could be taken on individually or by a couple of friends. Thanks to Bruce Horn, it has been a favorite fixture in the newsletter for the last three years and we hope someone will step up to continue it.

**Historical Preservation Committee:** We are looking for any interested people to join the Historical Preservation Committee. Help us ensure the integrity of the architecture in our community.

**Advertising manager:** We need someone to solicit and manage ads from local businesses. You would work closely with the treasurer. It would require only a few hours a month.

**Social chairperson:** Are you a "people person"? We are looking for someone to help coordinate neighborhood events. Most of them already have established leaders, so it would just be a matter of coordination. Other duties would involve finding locations for members' meetings and the Christmas party and providing snacks, drinks and tableware for such meetings. All costs would be reimbursed.

**Newby Park Gardening Committee**: We need a group of people to work on a rotating basis to care for the plants and flowers in Newby Park. Rosaline Eastepp Takes will provide information about the specific duties involved and will manage the schedule.

Wine and Walk leader: We are looking for a person or family to provide a gathering place and starting point for Wine and Walk. Wine and Walk is a fun, informal gathering of Mistletoe Heights residents, including adults, children, strollers and pets, for a leisurely stroll through the neighborhood for 30 to 45 minutes while sipping our favorite beverages. It usually takes place on Sunday evenings at about 7 p.m. in nice weather. It's a wonderful way to meet new and old neighbors, and all we need is someone's driveway to start from. Hosts do not need to provide refreshments; it's BYOB. Hosts may need to send out a reminder email regarding dates or cancellations.

**Street representatives:** We are looking for street representatives for the 2200 block of Weatherbee Street, the 2100 block of Harrison Avenue, the 2100 block of Morphy Street, and the 2300 block of Mistletoe Avenue. The street reps deliver the newsletter to the individual houses on their respective blocks every other month (February, April, June, August, October, December). The bundle will be delivered to your house for distribution. This job takes only about 15-20 minutes and would be much appreciated.

Contact Chad Jung if you are interested, vicepresident@mistletoheights.com.



## In memoriam



#### Joseph Allen Vories

Joseph passed away on Dec. 3, 2016, at age 19. He was the beloved son of Patty and Andrew and brother to Bridget and Matthew.

Joseph had a very successful academic career at Trinity Valley School and was active in Boy Scouts and soccer. He studied chemical

engineering at the University of Texas in Austin.

Joseph was a unique, loving and inspiring individual who will be dearly missed by family and friends.



#### **James Howard Shaw**

Jim Shaw, longtime former resident of Mistletoe Heights, passed away on Dec. 27, 2016, at age 66.

He is survived by his wife, Carol, four sons and a daughter and 11 grandchildren.

Jim was born on Sept.12, 1950.

He graduated from Paschal High School, Louisiana State University and Texas Tech University Law School. He received his license to practice law in Texas in 1975.

He had a long and successful career in the Office of the Tarrant County District Attorney, in private practice and 41 years in criminal defense.

Jim had a larger-than-life spirit and always fought for those down on their luck or those he felt were being treated unfairly.

## New neighbors, as of February

Meredith and Eric Fogleman 2220 Mistletoe Blvd.

Daughter Abigail, age 14

Courtney and Brett Murphy 1303 Mistletoe Drive Son Jackson, age 14 months

## Support our advertisers

The officers of the Mistletoe Heights Association encourage you to support the businesses that advertise in our newsletter. These organizations pay to be in our newsletter and support our neighborhood. Their business also makes this publication possible. Without them we would not be able to provide printed newsletters to every household in the neighborhood free of charge.

## Thanks to good neighbors!

If you know of any "unsung heroes" who have made contributions to the neighborhood, please contact newsletter@mistletoeheights.org so we can include them in the next newsletter.

Thank you to all who help make our neighborhood better.





Mistletoe Heights, as a "front porch community," would like to welcome all new residents.

If you know of any new neighbors, or if you're a new neighbor, please contact our association president, Josh Lindsay, or our newsletter editor, Mary Ellen Peipert.

They will need your name, address, names of family members, age and gender of children and your contact information.

They will then pass your information on to our incredible duo of ladies, Kathy Jo Rogers and Denise Semple, of the Welcome Basket Committee, who would like to present you with a basket of goodies to welcome you to the neighborhood.

Josh Lindsay president@mistletoeheights.org

Mary Ellen Peipert newsletter@mistletoeheights.org 817-926-4117

## In the city

Municipal elections are scheduled for Saturday, May 6. We will be voting for mayor and City Council members. Among the City Council members seeking re-election is District 9 Councilwoman Ann Zadeh.

Police non-emergency number: 817-335-4222

Crime updates are available to citizens at any time:

fortworthpd.com. Go to crime information, then crime mapping.

Community engagement liaison: For our neighborhood, contact Jacob Browning, 817-392-2045. jacob.browning@fortworthtxas.gov

Link to city online pothole reporting form:

https://cityoffortworth.wufoo.com/forms/pothole.report

Link to code compliance issues and to report graffiti:

fortworthtexas.gov/codecompliance/myFtWorth

Link to garbage related issues:

www.fortworthtexas.gov.

Click on "Garbage and Recycling."



Bulk trash pickup for our neighborhood is the week of the fourth Monday of the month.

Link to report animal issues, control, adoption:

fortworthtexas.gov; or call 817-392-1234.

Link to request permit for garage sale:

Fortworthtexas.gov; or call 817-392-2222.

For travel health information and inoculations, call Tarrant County Public Health Department, Travel Health Services, 1101 S. Main St., Fort Worth, TX 76104.

817-321-4707

Fort Worth leash law:

http://fortworthtexas.gov/animals/laws

Fort Woof Dog Park:

http://fortwoof.org

**Smart phone app:** myFtWorth

## Free classified ads

#### PET PORTRAITS

Holidays are coming! Birthdays, too!! Birthdays too! Portraits of your four-legged family members. Visit my website for examples. www.mkohouthorseportraits.com or call 817-313-1419. Questions welcomed!

#### **TUTOR**

K-3rd grade. Caring, encouraging, experienced (12 years) certified elementary school teacher is offering tutoring this summer. Contact Kathy Jo Rogers at 817.688.0905 or kathyjorogers@sbcglobal.net.

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#### **ESTATE SALE SERVICES**

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Sally Sledge ministers on the harp as a worshiper, psalmist and vocalist. She has recorded two CDs: "Return to Your Rest" and "Cherished Times". She is available to play for home groups, church events, Bible studies, weddings, funerals, dinner parties or any special occasion. For more information and song samples, you may access her web site at www.sallysledge.com.

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Contact Jeri Jo Blackmon at 817-923-4393 or email Jeri Jo@Charter.net. 1408 Mistletoe Drive.

#### MISTLETOE HEIGHTS PET SITTERS

MISTLETOE HEIGHTS PET SITTERS is now booking for your vacation, or any other time. References available on request. Mistletoeheightspetsitters.com or 817-247-2870

#### FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHY BY DIANA BRANDENBERG

At-home mom would love to take your family photos! I will come to you, portrait session or special events. Just call and we'll get those perfect photos for the Christmas card! Call 214-734-9140.

#### Early Childhood Music and Movement

Mistletoe Musikgarten ( www.MistletoeMusik.com) has returned to its roots, right here in our neighborhood. We offer music and movement classes for infants, toddlers, pre-schoolers and kinders. We sing, dance, and play simple instruments in our parent-child classes. Music and movement classes prepare your child for future learning successes. Contact Carol Spencer joyous579@gmail.com ~ 817.927.3240

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### Helpful phone numbers, emails, addresses and websites

#### MHA officers

officers@mistletoeheights.org President Josh Lindsay 817.927.0323 president@mistletoeheights.org Vice President **Chad Jung** 817.291.5849 vicepresident@mistletoeheights.org Secretary Valerie Ewing 817.791.9535 secretary@mistletoeheights.org Treasurer

817.923.4393 Jeri Jo Blackmon treasurer@mistletoeheights.org

**Newsletter Editor** 

Mary Ellen Peipert 817.926.4117 newsletter@mistletoeheights.org

Volunteers

Historic Preservation Committee Roger Ross 817.372.6865 Street Rep Captains Melissa Kohout (East side) 817.313.1419 Rosaline Eastepp Takes 817.207.9750 (West side) Welcome Baskets Kathy Jo Rogers 817.688.0905 Denise Semple 817.733.0404 Advertising Manager advertise@misteltoeheights.org **Newby Park** Vacancy **Email Moderator Richard Yantis** 817.924.2857 Webmaster 214.403.7762 **Scott Ewing** Historian Luke Ellis 817.339.2459 Yard of the Month

Street reps (listed by blocks)

Bruce Horn

East of Forest Park 2200 W. Rosedale South Lysta Haynes 817.675.4163 2200 Irwin Garv Willis 817.924.4000 2100/2200 Mistletoe Blvd. Melissa Kohout 817.313.1419 2100/2200 West Magnolia Colleen Shutt 214.455.9097 2200 Harrison Aaron Torkelson 817.907.5533 2100 Harrison Ave. Vacancy 2100 Mistletoe Ave. Pat Hale 817.924.5263 2200 Mistletoe Ave. Richard & Christi Yantis 817.924.2857

2200 Weatherbee Vacancy 2100 Morphy Vacancy Forest Park Blvd.

Steve McRevnolds 817.926.7955

West of Forest Park

2300 W. Rosedale South Kimberly Helixon 817.927.4641 2300 Irwin

Sue Duvall 817.926.8714 2300/2400 Mistletoe Blvd.

817.924.9666 Lisa Stewart

2300 West Magnolia Susan Pressley 817.923.6061 2300/2400 Harrison

Robert DeVargas 817.923.9393

2300 Mistletoe Ave. Vacancy

2300 Edwin **Grant Pannell** 817.924.0051

1100 Clara

817.526.4339

817.921.2221

817.313.6674

Marc & Kathy Jo Rogers 817.923.3304

1200 Clara

Bryce & Laura Docker bryedocker@ hotmail.com

1100 Buck Kate Herring 1200/1300 Buck

Irene Stemple 817.926.6546

Mistletoe Drive

Meralen & Gerry Tyson 817.926.5909

2300 Mistletoe Drive Chris Fershtand

817.923.8422 Carol Benson 817.921.4000

Neighborhood police officers Robert "Matt" McClellen (West)

817-372-2418

817.923.3843

Josh Caprio (East) 817-858-8609

#### MHA yearly memberships

whatever you can afford. Your dues help pay for this newsletter, the Mistletoe Heights functions. Please make your check payable to Mistletoe Heights Association. Mail to: Jeri Jo Blackmon, 1408 Mistletoe Drive.

#### Free classified ads

ad. Please submit copy by the 15th of the

#### **Editorial policy**

2100/2200 Edwin

2100 Weatherbee

Katrina Pittman

Tanya Dohoney

welcomed. To be published as written, letters must be addressed to the editor, Anonymous letters will not be published. Articles may be submitted for publication. signed or unsigned, subject to approval and

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