



The Wheel

The Transportation Club of Houston Newsletter



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TCH Fall Golf Outing

The TCH Board extends its thanks to all who participated in our highly successful 2004 Fall Golf Classic. The tournament was held at the beautiful Longwood Golf Club in Cypress Texas; the course was in great condition and the weather was perfect for a day of golf with friends and colleagues.

Special thanks to Deborah Butler, Matt Stoker, and the entire Golf Committee for a great program – and to our volunteers Cynthia, Cindy, and Jerry for all your help in making this event so enjoyable.

We ask our members to please patronize our GOLD, SILVER, and BRONZE tournament sponsors as shown in the Advertising area of our website.

Thanks to Landmark Chevrolet for our "Hole in One" Grand Prize and all those who made a door prize donation.

Thanks to Eurohub and Advantage Logistics Solutions, LLC for sponsoring refreshments.

Congratulations to our winning foursomes and the winners of our "Longest Drive" and "Closest to the Pin" contests.

Pictures of event participants can be found at www.transclubhou.org. We are already looking forward to our 2005 TCH Spring Golf Classic on Thursday, April 7th 2005. See you there!

THE STATE OF MEDICINE

Dale Crawford

I walked into Houston Northwest Medical Center Friday morning at 8:00 P.M. At 10:00 A.M. I was in the operating room getting a stint in the heart, the renal artery. At 12:30 P.M. I was in the recovery room, 1:30 P.M. in a room, at 3:00 I could sit up, 6:00 P.M. I could stand up and at 3:00 P.M. Sunday I was released.

Is this the age of modern medicine and miracles?



Members, please remember that The Transportation Club of Houston website is pleased to offer an area of our site to post job openings for its' member companies. A new page for resumes for those seeking work is now online. If you have a listing for this area, please contact the TCH Executive Secretary. This page can be found at:

<http://www.transclubhou.org/Employment.htm>

Saying Goodbye to Little Joe

by: Summer Camp

This Thursday, I attended the funeral of an 18 year old little boy named Joe. He lived across the street from us here in Friendswood and was Weston's best friend for many years. I always called him my "second son". He was over here almost every day and night for a lot of years. About two years ago I noticed that Joe had stopped coming over, so I asked Weston why Joe never came over any more and he told me that Joe had started drinking, doing drugs and hanging with the wrong crowd so Weston quit hanging with him. Weston and some of his friends tried to tell Joe that it was wrong to do the things that he was doing and that he needed to quit hanging around with the kids that were doing drugs but he just wouldn't listen.

You may have heard on the news that last Saturday at around 3am three teenage friends were arguing over a ten dollar debt and one of the kids was stabbed and died. The teen that died was my little second son. The three kids were all from Friendswood so the community here is all in shock. Joe's Dad asked me to share this story in hopes that maybe something good would come out of all of this. He is hoping that maybe other kids will learn from this and not turn to drugs and alcohol.

The three friends had been out on the town drinking and while headed home, two of them began arguing about the ten dollars. They pulled the car over and two of them started to fight. A kid named Matt pulled out a knife and stabbed his friend Will in the arm. Joe was sitting in the car and at this point got out and tried to stop the fight. Matt stabbed Joe in the stomach. Joe died in the ambulance on the way to Ben Taub Hospital. Joe's Dad told me that Joe had been really trying hard over the last three weeks to change his life and had gotten off the drugs and had been making real progress.

It was very sad at the funeral to see so many teens there in various emotional states. Weston and I walked up to Joe's casket together and it was so hard to see my little Joe lying there and my son beside me with tears running down his cheeks.

Matt is in jail. Will (who was stabbed in the arm) was at the funeral. Weston overheard Will and some other kids saying that after it got dark, they were going to go get a bunch of alcohol and go out to Joe's grave and get drunk. They said they would have one for their friend Joe. Weston was so shocked. He couldn't understand how they could be so

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I'm dreaming of a 'brown' Christmas

NEW YORK -- United Parcel Service Inc. announced Nov. 9 that it plans to hire nearly 70,000 temporary workers and add more than 7,000 vehicles to take care of 2004 Christmas delivery demand.

UPS has been used as a barometer of U.S. economic health because it accounts for 6 percent of U.S. gross domestic product, Reuters reported.

The Atlanta-based company, known for its brown delivery trucks, also is adding two dozen large jets to its fleet during the Christmas season.

The company estimates it will handle 340 million packages between Thanksgiving and Christmas, fueled in part by online buyers, Reuters reported.

Stocks of transport companies, including UPS and its rival, FedEx Corp., were reported by Reuters to have "climbed to fresh 52-week highs amid record volumes" driven by economic growth and an upswing in Asian shipping.

-- The Trucker Staff (www.thetrucker.com)

New Kmart-Sears Merger Will Seek Logistic Efficiencies

Kmart and Sears announced that they will merge into the nation's third-largest retailer, with approximately \$55 billion in annual revenues, 2,350 full-line and off-mall stores, and 1,100 specialty retail stores.

Supply chain management was specifically cited in the official press release as one of the areas in which the combined companies could realize operational efficiencies, though no specifics were provided.

Wal-Mart is the nation's largest retailer followed by Home Depot. The Kmart-Sears combination is expected to offer tougher competition for Wal-Mart. According to the Associated Press, many Kmart and Sears suppliers now worry that they will either lose business or be pressed for price concessions to help the new retail giant compete with Wal-mart, which is notorious for the demands made of vendors.

The new company will be known as Sears Holdings and will be headquartered in Hoffman Estates, Ill.

The Transportation Club of Houston is looking for articles for both the website and this newsletter. Transportation topics are preferred.

Easy Cookies

I found an easy recipe for cookies. It said "Put all ingredients in a bowl and beat it. "There must have been something wrong with this recipe because when I got back, everything was the same as when I left.

A Blonde

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Saying Goodbye to Little Joe – continued

stupid when alcohol was part of the reason that Joe was dead and that he sure didn't think Joe would want them to be doing that. He said that those kids were just using it as an excuse to get drunk. I told Weston that I agreed and that I was very proud of him for the decisions that he has made in his life. As Weston was growing up, I used to tell him all the time to be a leader and not a follower. He really took it to heart and has lived his life that way.

Going through the death of my little Joe really woke me up about a lot of things. It made me even more aware of how teenagers really need a lot of attention and guidance. My home has always been the place that the kids come to. Weston has hardly ever spent the night at a friend's house or ever spent much time at their houses at all. I've worked hard to make my house the fun place to come and of course the safe place. It was at times a little frustrating to always be cooking and feeding so many kids but yet I knew it was the right thing to do and I always knew where Weston was (at home and not somewhere else) and who his friends were.

I wanted to share little Joe's story and the other things with you so that we can all be more aware of what things we can do to help our teens out there. Sometimes we get so busy with all the other things in our life that it's easy to lose focus on what is really important...family and friends. Let's all work hard to help our teens. They are faced with many challenges and they need us. I want to be able to see our teens happy and alive!! I pray that I never have to stand at another child's casket and reach out and touch his cold hand and whisper to him that I love him.

Basics, Basics, Basics.

Have you ever watched a really entertaining commercial, the kind that cost six figures to produce, and when the commercial ended, you forgot what the product was, only that it was a funny commercial? Some business people put such an effort into making their business promotions slick and professional that they forget who the intended audience was. In advertising, you have to consider the target market. Who is your prospective customer? What kind of magazines or papers does he/she read? The aim is not to get an immediate order but to build name recognition and a reputation for your company.

Do not waste advertising dollars, advertise smart. Remember Jim Mackingvale, owner of Gallery Furniture. People laughed at his first commercials, but he knew the message he wanted convey to his targeted market - sticking to that point made him a wealthy man.

Source: The Internet

Check out the **Member Info** button on the Website homepage. Here you will find links to: Membership Advantages, Applications for Membership / Renewal, Member Birthdays, New Members, Current Member Company Websites & Member Forum Page.