



SHERRI WILLIAMS REALTOR®

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KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

News from Austin's Award Winning Top Producing Realtor!

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Five of the 10 fastest growing cities in the country between 2011 and 2012 were in Texas, according to the new figures from the US Census Bureau. New York is way out in front in terms of added population, but Houston is second with San Antonio and Austin fourth and fifth.

The numbers moving into the state from elsewhere in the US and from abroad far outstrip every other American state. Why?

Jobs, cost of living, home prices and low taxes are all reasons why people are moving into the state.

Texas likes to proclaim itself as an unpretentious, down-to-earth place where people are easy to get along with. As John Steinbeck wrote: *“Texas has a tight cohesiveness perhaps stronger than any other section of America.”*

All this doesn't just bring new arrivals – native Texans aren't leaving the state either. Texas is the “stickiest” state in the country, according to the latest figures from the Pew Research Center, which suggests that more than three-quarters of adults born in Texas still live here. (Alaska is the least)



Origin of Jack-O-Lantern

Pumpkins are commonly carved into decorative lanterns called jack-o'-

lanterns for the Halloween season in North America. Throughout Britain and Ireland, there is a long tradition of carving lanterns from vegetables, particularly the turnip, mangelwurzel, or swede. The turnip has traditionally been used in Ireland and Scotland at Halloween, but immigrants to North America used the native pumpkin, which are both readily available and much larger – making them easier to carve than turnips.

In the United States, the carved pumpkin was first associated with the harvest season in general, long before it became an emblem of Halloween.



I hope that all of you had a wonderful Summer. If you had a special vacation please share your photos with me.

This photo is from my birthday vacation at Sea World.

“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.”

- Albert Camus

A boss asked one of his employees, 'Do you believe in life after death?'

'Yes, sir,' replied the new employee.

'I thought you would,' said the boss.

'Yesterday after you left to go to your brother's funeral, he stopped by to see you.'

Around Town

Featuring Pictures of Austin. Feel free to e-mail me your local pictures if you would like to share them in my newsletter.



Would you consider posting an online review of my services?

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The Legend of "Stingy Jack"

People have been making jack-o'-lanterns at Halloween for centuries. The practice originated from an Irish myth about a man nicknamed "Stingy Jack." According to the story, Stingy Jack invited the Devil to have a drink with him. True to his name, Stingy Jack didn't want to pay for his drink, so he convinced the Devil to turn himself into a coin that Jack could use to buy their drinks. Jack decided to keep the money and put it into his pocket next to a silver cross, which prevented the Devil from changing back into his original form. Jack eventually freed the Devil, under the condition that he would not bother Jack for one year and that, should Jack die, he would not claim his soul.

Throughout the years Jack continued to play tricks on the Devil. As the legend goes, after Jack died God would not allow him. The Devil, upset by the trick Jack had played on him and keeping his word not to claim his soul, would not allow Jack into hell. He sent Jack off into the dark night with only a burning coal to light his way. Jack put the coal into a carved-out turnip and has been roaming the Earth with ever since. The Irish began to refer to this ghostly figure as "Jack of the Lantern," and then, simply "Jack O'Lantern."

"Just when the caterpillar thought the world was over it became a butterfly."

- Proverb