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Rockwall County News

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Firefighters contain fire in north Rockwall

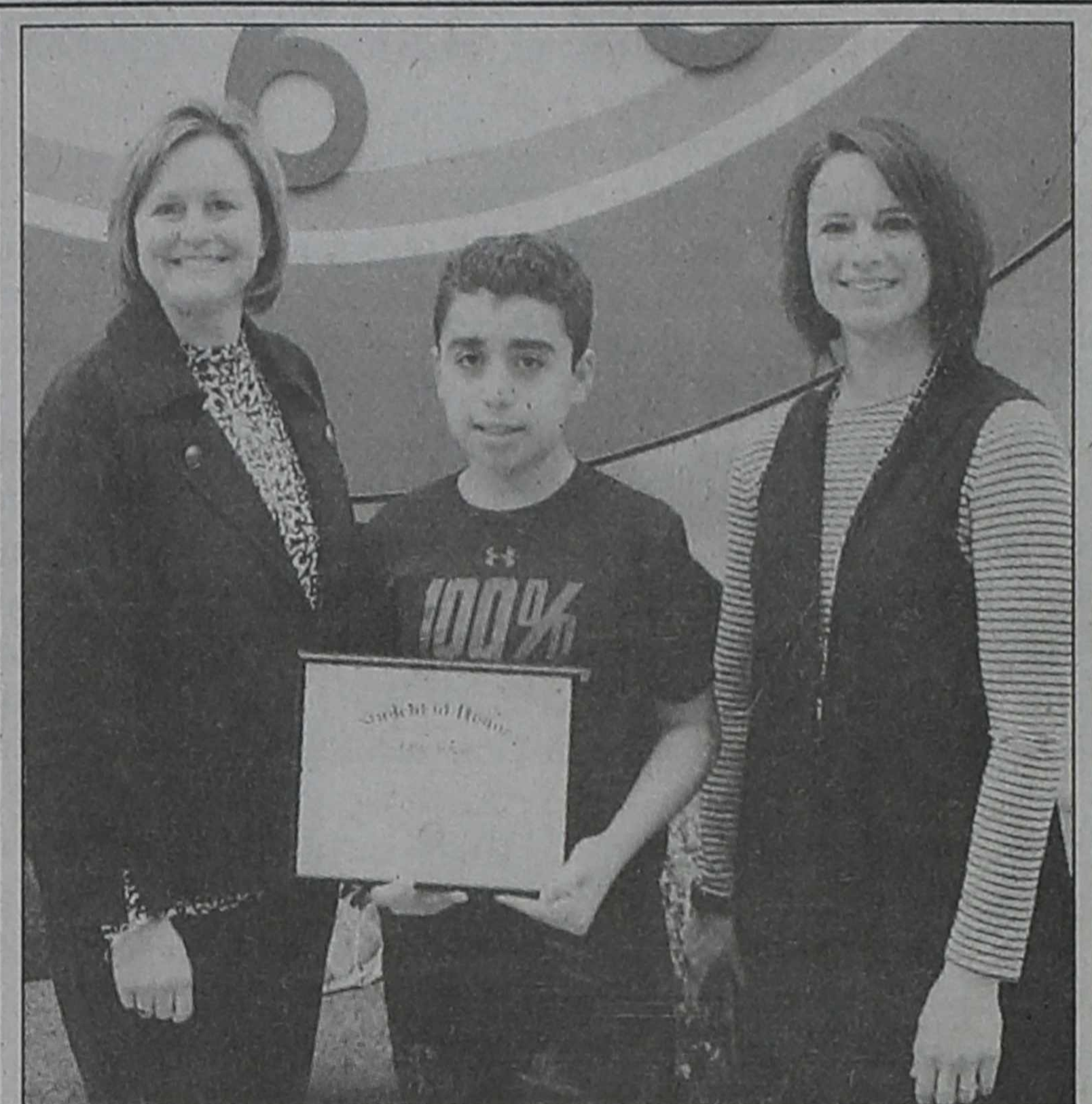
Rockwall Fire Department responded to a call Tuesday, Jan. 31, about a grass fire located on a tract of land within the city limits near the Rockwall/Collin County line.

The call was dispatched at approximately 4:10 p.m. and fire trucks arrived at the scene at about 4:24 p.m., according to a news release from the City of Rockwall. The Rockwall Fire Department responded with a tanker truck, two brush trucks and a total of 22 Rockwall firefighters, including eight full-time paid employees, one part-time paid driver and 13 volunteers. The Royse City Fire Department responded with two brush trucks and Fate Department of Public Safety responded with one brush truck.

Firefighters protected a residence located just north of the

Rockwall/Collin County line; however, the grass fire did spread into Collin County before being brought under control. The Rockwall Fire Department was on the scene initially until about 6:40 p.m. and returned to extinguish remaining embers, which were reported at about 10 p.m. All units departed the scene by about 11:50 p.m.

Simultaneously, and unrelated to this incident, a fire in an outbuilding occurred in Collin County about four miles north of the grass fire. This fire was located outside of the Rockwall Fire Department's response district. The Nevada Volunteer Fire Department responded to this fire, which was contained to the outbuilding, and despite its efforts the structure was destroyed, according to the release. No other structures were involved in this fire.



Luis Rico from Springer Elementary recently was recognized as a Student of Honor by the Rotary Club of Rockwall. Pictured with the honoree are, at left, Principal Sara Reeves and Assistant Principal Kelli Crossland.
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Citizen confronts city about approved permit

The City of Rockwall, Inc. representatives met 6:00 p.m., Mon. Feb. 6, 2017 for a regular meeting and work session. The session involved a review and explanation about Specific Use Permits.

Representatives attending the meeting were Mayor Jim Pruitt, Mayor Pro Tem Mike Townsend, John Hohenschelt, Dennis Lewis, Scott Milder, David White and Kevin Fowler.

During the meeting, the council held an appointed discussion with Mike and Judy Dowdy related to concerns about the permitting construction of a split rail fence at 1200 Bayshore Drive. Council members spent approximately 35 minutes discussing whether the city was wrong for sending a notice to the couple that the newly installed fence was in violation of an ordinance.

Ms. Dowdy spoke to the council and described how she followed all the proper procedures for application. She said they initially

applied for the permit during June of 2016, and their application was later approved and the package they received included the permit.

Dowdy further explained that the approval package included a clear photo of the proposed fence which showed wire mesh on the fence. The city's later notice was that the wire mesh was in violation of an ordinance.

Council member White expressed deep concerns about the city being held liable for the mistakes of the officials. City Attorney Frank Garza explained the staff brought the matter back to the city for direction about the additional barrier on the fence, and the city approved the variance.

Fowler said he approved what he thought was a traditional split rail fence. He asked Dowdy if they could make the wire barrier less visible.

(Continued on Page 2)

University scholastic honors

Burke earns faculty honors

Asa Burke of Rockwall earned the distinction of Faculty Honors for the fall semester at the Georgia Institute of Technology, according to a news release from the Atlanta university.

The designation is awarded to undergraduate students who have earned a 4.0 academic average for the semester.

Cox named to President's List

Rylie Cox of Rockwall, a freshman majoring in marketing, was named to the President's List at Coastal Carolina University for the fall semester, according to a news release from the Conway, South Carolina, university.

To qualify for the President's List, a student must earn a 4.0 grade-point average and be enrolled full time.

Frazee receives Chancellor's Award

Brandon Frazee of Rockwall recently received the University of Wisconsin-Stout Chancellor's Award for the fall semester, according to a university news release.

The award is presented to students who have a grade-point average of 3.5 or above.

Frazee is pursuing a bachelor's degree in health, wellness and fitness, according to the release.

Hiles named to APU Dean's List

Jacob Hiles of Rockwall was named to the Academic Dean's List at Azusa Pacific University following the fall semester, according to a news release from the Azusa, California, university.

Hiles, an English major, was recognized for having a 3.5 or better grade-point average.

A total of 2,176 students were recognized on the Dean's List, according to the release.

Wood tapped for WJC Dean's List

Parker Wood of Heath was named to the Dean's List at William Jewell College for the fall semester, according to a news release from the Liberty, Missouri, college.

Wood was a senior business administration major in the fall semester.

To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must earn at least a 3.7 grade-point average while carrying 14 or more semester hours, according to the release.

Locals take academic honors at SHSU

Several local residents were among students listed on the Dean's List of Academic Honors at Sam Houston State University, according to a news release from the Huntsville university.

Named to the Dean's List were Amy Prentice of Heath and Rockwall residents Terry Ball, Olivia Cummings, Taylor Mead, Alissa Powell, Dahlia Rizk and Zachery Windell.

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must achieve a grade-point average of at least 3.5 out of a perfect 4.0 in all work attempted while enrolled in at least 12 semester hours, according to the release.

Prentice, Ball, Cummings, Mead and Windell also were named to the President's List of Academic Honors for achieving GPAs of 4.0 in the fall semester, according to the release.

Burke earns degree from Georgia Tech

Asa Burke of Rockwall recently received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

Burke was among approximately 3,200 undergraduate and graduate students receiving degrees during Georgia Tech's commencement exercises conducted Dec. 16-17 at the McCamish Pavilion, according to a news release from the university.



Showing favorite books during the recent Bluebonnet Challenge at Cullins Lake Pointe Elementary are (from left) Kaylee Fitzhugh, Katelyn Bui and Zoey Massey. The Cullins librarian, Gabby Brown, recently challenged students to read Bluebonnet Award-nominated books. Students were challenged to read five books and write a summary of each one. Students who participated voted on their favorite Bluebonnet Book at a special breakfast with Brown.
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Rockwall County News Briefs

Newcomers & Friends to meet Feb. 9

The Rockwall County Newcomers & Friends will meet at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 9, at Occasions at Stone River in Royse City. Luncheon reservations must be made by Jan. 30. Call Becky at 712-202-6916 or Cathy at 972-400-9934. This is a social organization for women who live in Rockwall County; new residents and women who have lived in the county for many years are welcome.

RCP plans 'Wedding Singer' auditions

The Rockwall Community Playhouse will host auditions for its upcoming production of "The Wedding Singer" beginning at 1 p.m. on Feb. 11. Dance auditions will be at 3 p.m. Auditions will continue at 7 p.m. on Feb. 12, with dance auditions set for 8 p.m. Performances will be conducted March 24-26 and 31 and April 1-2 and 7-9. For more details visit rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org or call 972-722-3399.

Friends of the Library luncheon set Feb. 14

The February Friends of the Rockwall Library luncheon will begin at 11 a.m. on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, in the library's Community Room, 1215 E. Yellow Jacket Lane. Speaker will be Jill Rumbley Beam, an event management professional and seniors recreation programmer for the Rowlett Parks & Rec Department. Her topic will be You're Not Getting Older, You're Getting Better. Lunch reservations are required, but lunch is optional. Lunch cost is \$20 and may be ordered by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 7, by contacting Leigh Plagens at cplagens65@aol.com or 972-771-8976. Payment will be required unless cancelled by deadline.

Democratic Party breakfast set Feb. 18

The Rockwall County Democratic Party Breakfast will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Harry Myers Community Center, 815 E. Washington, St., Rockwall. Anyone interested in the organization is welcome. Discussions are informative and lively. Participants who attended a recent Democratic training event in Dallas will report on what they learned. Tracy Inlow, assistant coordinator in the county elections office, will be on hand to train deputy voter registrars. Register for DVR training by Feb. 13 by emailing rockwalldemocrats@gmail.com.

Early release set for RISD schools

The Rockwall ISD will observe early releases from schools on Feb. 22. Elementary students will be dismissed at noon; secondary school students will be released at 1 p.m., according to the district's website. Students will return to classes on Feb. 23.

ARC plans Feb. 26 blood drive in Rockwall

The American Red Cross will conduct a blood drive from noon to 6 p.m. on Feb. 26 at Half Price Books Rockwall, 959 I-30. To make an appointment to give blood, download the Red Cross



(Continued on Page 3)



Members of the Rockwall County Special Olympic Basketball teams performed at halftime of the Rockwall High girls' basketball game at the high school on Friday, Feb. 3. Participating athletes, at front, were Scott Wendt, Cole Randolph and Lenard Davis; second row, Herb Ellis, Matt Bendorf, Jared Withrow, Heather Reynolds and Clint Brockway; and, at back, coach Sherri Bendorf, coach Terry Randolph, coach Rose Antony, coach Del Wendt, Michael Cooper and Daniel Hettinger.
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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Jerry Lynn Klutts

Services for Jerry Lynn Klutts, 72, a lifelong resident of McLendon-Chisholm, were conducted at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 26, 2017, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel with Pastor Rick Donaho officiating. Burial followed in the Chisholm Cemetery in Rockwall.



He died Jan. 21. Born May 30, 1944, to Hilbert Opha and Veta Jane (Parsons) Klutts, he was born and raised in McLendon-Chisholm and was a fourth-generation resident of the Klutts family farm. He was a member of the Chisholm Baptist Church.

He worked for U.S. Steel for 20 years and as an aircraft mechanic at American Eagle for 20 years. He served as city marshal for McLendon-Chisholm for seven years, was a Rockwall County constable for 10 years and was a McLendon-Chisholm city council member at the time of his death.

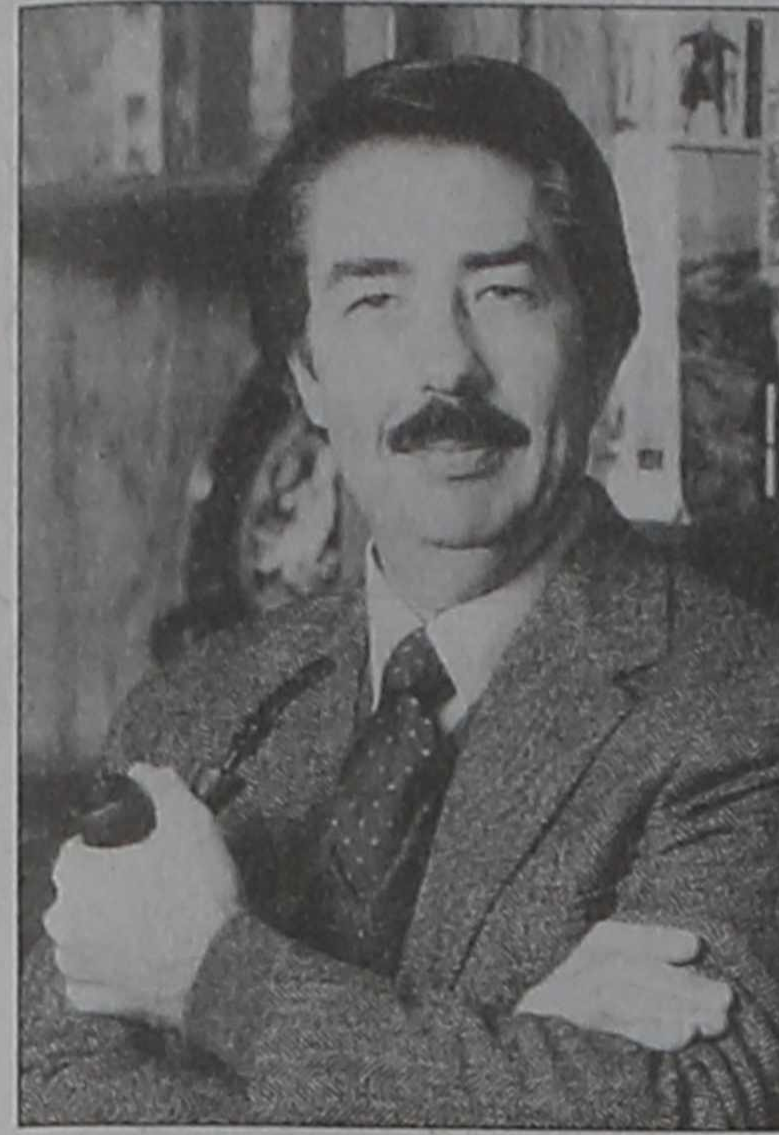
Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Rita (Robinson) Klutts; his son, Stephen Ray Klutts; his daughters, Sherri Ann Klutts, Katherine Leigh Kennedy and her husband, Troy, and Tammie Richardson and her husband, Rodney; his grandchildren, Jay Shallow, Julia Shallow, Jenna Shallow, Rex Kennedy, Cy Kennedy, Ava Kennedy, Leah Hill, Janice Forsythe and her husband, Mike, Jerry Carnes, Kelly Killingsworth and her husband, Tim, and Benjamin Brown; and eight great-grandchildren.

His parents and one daughter, Laura Ann Hill, preceded him in death.

The family has suggested that memorials may be made to the Chisholm Cemetery through Margaret O'Conner, treasurer, 353 League Rd., Rockwall, TX 75032.

Norman Gene Prothro

Norman Gene Prothro was born December 22, 1937, in Udall, Kansas, the second of three sons born to Elmer Owen and Gladys Gearhart Prothro. Norman attended grade school in Udall. His family moved to Wichita, Kansas in January 1951. Norman graduated from Wichita East High School in May of 1955. In February of 1956, Norman received the Silver Scout Award, the highest rank in Explorer Scouts.



On January 5, 1959, Norman married Alise Leonard. Norman and Alise have three children, daughter Pamela, and sons Lance and Shawn.

Norman Prothro was a lifelong retailer - merchant, operator and owner. He started his career with the Mart Stores in Wichita, Kansas, at the early age of 19. He eventually left Kansas in 1960 for a better opportunity in Texas for a store called Levines Department Store. At Levines, he managed stores, supervised stores and then moved to the corporate office as Vice President of Merchandising. Then in 1977, he had the opportunity to buy two Levines stores - in Pleasant Grove and Mesquite. Norman and his sons, Lance and Shawn, and son-in-law Damon King and many longtime valuable employees successfully ran the family business and later added a Garland location. One way to describe Norman is with words he used to describe one of his early mentors - "he was very smart, shrewd and an ethical person."

Norman and his wife, Alise, were almost 30-year residents of Heath, Texas. He was passionate about his family and treasured the holidays when the family gathered at their house. "Papa" and "Nana" made extraordinary efforts to support their children and grandchildren in their many activities and special occasions. He was a lifelong Cowboys fan. Norman enjoyed playing golf - especially in the many charity golf tournaments Levines sponsored and recruited others to support. Among his many civic activities, he was a longtime board member at the Southeast Dallas Chamber of Commerce and past chairman, a longtime board member of Methodist Health System and past chairman of Southeastern Methodist Hospital. He was committed to giving back - both in presents and presence - to the communities from which the family made their living.

Surviving Norman Prothro are his wife, Alise Leonard Prothro of Rockwall, Texas; children Pamela King and her husband Damon of Plano, Lance Prothro and his wife Rhonda of Rockwall, and Shawn Prothro of Garland; grandchildren Lauren King Saatkamp and her husband Joseph Saatkamp, Taylor Prothro, Christina Prothro, Rachelle Roberts and Brad Roberts and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews and extended family. Norman Prothro was preceded in death by his parents Gladys and Elmer Prothro, brothers Owen and Grant Prothro, sister LaVaun Trussell.

In addition to or in lieu of flowers, contributions are encouraged to charities, especially two of Norman's longtime passions - the Southeast Dallas Chamber of Commerce Communities Fund and Methodist Health System Foundation.

The Prothro Family would also like to thank Grace Hospice for their compassionate care during Norman's final days.

Rockwall City Council ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Hohenshelt told the Dowdy's that if the council passes the exemption, it would be "whipped over it for the next" several years. He was concerned about everybody else coming to the city for similar fence exemptions. He was extremely concerned about having to make sure the city staff complies with the ordinance in future cases.

Milder admitted to bringing the issue before the council because he drives by the Dowdy's house every day, and noticed the outside barrier on the fence. He said he did not think it met the intent of their fencing ordinance.

Mayor Pruitt expressed legal concerns about what the city did to influence the situation.

Upon further inquiry, it was verified that the city issued the permit to the applicant after approval by the council; next the contractor applied for a permit, which included the welded barrier. The city rejected the contractor's permit. Ms. Dowdy responded that the contractor said the permit was pulled because the city treated the matter as if the barrier would be a chain-linked fence, and she brought to their attention that it involved another barrier, which she said was accepted by the city staff.

White reiterated his opinion that there was no specific prohibition that they did anything wrong. He said, "The fact the we didn't notice it, or staff didn't notice until November - that's irrelevant." He clarified that the couple came to council for "location" variance for a front yard fence, and not for height or material variance. White emphasized that the council approved the location. He brought out that the language of the ordinance does not say that the fence "shall be" designed a certain way, but "such as," and thus does not constitute a violation. He turned around and made a motion to approve a variance allowing for the welded wire

Mayor Pruitt engaged White in a legal debate over the language of the ordinance by asking whether White thinks people can build any kind of fence based on the location variance language, to which White answered in the affirmative. Pruitt then broke from the subject and asked White if he would approve an ordinance regulating the type of fence, to which White answered in the negative.

The motion for exemption passed 4-2, with Pruitt and Lewis casting the opposing votes.

The council members assembled for a closed meeting to discuss:

- Economic Development incentives, procedures and possible projects pursuant to Texas Local Government Code 551.087.
• Appeal to the Public Utility Commission filed by the cities of Garland, Mesquite, Plano and Richardson against the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) related to water rates. The agenda asserted its authority to hold a closed meeting about an appeal that does not include the City of Rockwall as a party, pursuant to Local Gov. Code Section 551.071.
• Consultation with Attorney related to a claim for reimbursement by a developer for lift station improvements, pursuant to Section 551.071.
• Appointments to municipal the Planning and Zoning Committee and the Fire Department Pension Board, pursuant to Section 551.074.
• The lease of real property/land in the vicinity of the downtown area pursuant to Section 551.072.

After reconvening from the closed meeting, Kevin Fowler was approved to serve on the Fire Department Pension Board; approved Eric Choate to serve on the Planning and Zoning Committee. The council approved the consent agenda, which included:

- The minutes of the Jan. 17, 2017 regular city council meeting.
• Ordinance Z2016-045 request from Randall Noe of Rockwall Rental Properties, LP for a Specific Use Permit allowing a long-term residential hotel in a Commercial District to be located north of the intersection of Greencrest Boulevard and the IH-30 Frontage road. The long-term hotel will be built near Rockwall High School that is located on Yellowjacket lane and borders on Greencrest.
• Authorize the City Manager Richard Crowley to execute a contract with EvoquaWater Technologies to install a chemical injection system at the Fontana and Timber Creek Lift Stations to eliminate effluent odors. The annual amount of \$30,879 would be funded by the Wastewater Operations Budget.
• Resolution calling a General Election to be held on Sat., May 6, 2017 for council positions Place 1, Place 3, and Place 5.
• Joint agreement with Rockwall ISD and the Rockwall County Elections Administrator for services related to the May 6 election.
• Ordinance establishing the speed limit along FM 550 to 50 miles per hour between mile post 9.8630 and 10.5130 (first reading). The council members and Mayor did not seek the City Attorney's advice on whether the state-created municipal corporation was authorized to establish a criminal offense and/or penalty for violation of a provision of the Transportation Code that is not designated as a criminal offense with penalties.

Part of the action items, the council:

- Approved upon second reading the request by Sarah Williamson of Kimley-Horn and Associates on behalf of Stone Creek SF and Stone Creek Balance for a PD Development Planned grocery store on 7.46 acres located at the northeast corner of the intersection of E. Quail Run Road and N. Goliad Street. Fowler cast the opposing vote.
• Approved Ordinance Z2016-044 on second reading, a request by Robert Miklos of Miklos Law on behalf of Hacienda Car Was for a Specific Use Permit allowing a carwash within the Scenic Overlay District on 2.008 acres of land located south of the intersection of W. Yellowjacket Lane and Ridge Road.

It is unknown whether any adversely affected parties to the SUP will file legal action against the city for non-publication of the required notice in a newspaper that is published in Rockwall (See Texas Gov. Code 2051.048(b)).

- Approved on second reading SP2016-034 request from Stone creek SF & Stone Creek Balance for variances to the material requirements stipulated by the Unified Development Code associated with an approved PD site plan for a grocery located at the northeast corner of the intersection of E. Quail Run and N. Goliad Street. The council approved violation of the Unified Development Code. Townsend cast the opposing vote.
• Approved SP2017-007 request from Tim Denker of Steger Dunhill for a variance to the secondary material requirements stipulated by the Unified Development Code related to an approved amended site plan for an existing building located at 920 Steger Towne Drive. The council approved violation of the Unified Development Code. The proposal relates to the building of an Academy Sports Authority store.

The meeting adjourned at about 8:40 p.m.

Rockwall County News Briefs

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blood drive donor app, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-73302767). Everyone who donated by Feb. 26 is eligible to receive a \$5 amazon.com gift card via email.

Rockwall's Got Talent registration ends Feb. 28

Registration is underway for Rockwall's Got Talent, sponsored by the Rockwall Community Playhouse. Prizes include \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second and \$250 for third. Auditions will be Saturday, March 4, by appointment only. Schedule at rockwallcommunityplayhouse@gmail.com or call 972-722-3399. Registration fee is \$20 per person. Deadline for entries is Feb. 28. Semi-finals are set for 7 p.m. on Friday, March 10; finals will take place at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 24. Tickets will cost \$10. Auditions and performances will be conducted at Utley Middle School's cafeteria, 1201 T.L. Townsend Drive, Rockwall.

RISD spring break schedule outlined

The Rockwall ISD will be closed March 13-17 for spring break, according to the district's website. All school and offices will be closed. Staff and students will return to campuses on Monday, March 20.

Area Entertainment

Guitar Festival set Feb. 10-12 in Plano

The Collin College Music Department and Guitar Studies will host the Fifth Annual Collin College Guitar Festival Feb. 10-12 at the Spring Creek Campus Living Legends Conference Center, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano. A faculty concert will be offered at 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 10; admission will be free for Collin students, \$15 for general admission. A free student concert is set for 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12. For more details visit the Collin College Guitar Group on Facebook or email fvera@collin.edu.

Light Crust Doughboys, Pickett to perform

An evening with the Light Crust Doughboys and Mayor Stan Pickett will begin at 7 p.m. on Feb. 11 in Mesquite. The performance will take place at the Mesquite Art Center, 1527 N. Galloway Ave. Tickets cost \$10 and may be purchased at mesquiteartscenter.yapsody.com/event/index/58423/the-light-crust-doughboys.

Collin College offers free interactive workshops

Collin College's Dignity Initiative will host a free, open-to-the-public, interactive workshop focusing on the physical, emotional and spiritual effects of trauma and techniques to support healthy growth and wellness. Workshops will run from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the following sites: Thursday, Feb. 16, Spring Creek Campus Living Legends Conference Center, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano; Thursday, Feb. 23, Preston Ridge Campus Conference Center, Section E, 9700 Wade Blvd., Frisco; and Tuesday, Feb. 28, Central Park Campus Conference Center, Section A, 2200 W. University Drive, McKinney. For more details visit collin.edu/community/dignity.

Rockwall city council meeting, Jan. 17, 2017 ...

(Continued from the Feb. 2, 2017 edition of Rockwall County News)

Also during the Appointments portion of the meeting, Leslie Milder of "Our House," requested an amendment to the city's Sign Ordinance related to "on premise traffic signs."

She explained that a sign she posted showed people what parking entry to use for the business. Because the sign included a business logo, the City sent a letter alleging violation of an advertising sign ordinance. Ms. Milder clarified her intentions were not to advertise the business.

It was explained that signs are not in violation when they simply include an address without business logo. The mayor directed staff to bring back a sign ordinance amendment.

Suntex Marinas was unanimously approved to make certain infrastructure improvements within Chandlers Marina. The lease agreement with Suntex Marinas was extended until year 2041. According to a memorandum from Parks and Recreation manager Any Hesser, the extension would provide the ability to finance capital improvement projects for a longer period of time.

Suntex presented a proposal to the Park Board with the following capital improvement plan changes:

- Redevelop H Dock which currently includes 52 uncovered slips; and
• Adding a bulkhead wall to contain approximately 12,500 yards of dredge material on site.

The council was divided on whether to approve a Specific Use Permit for hacienda Car Wash within the Scenic Overlay District located south of the intersection of West Yellow Jacket Lane and Ridge Road.

The council was challenged with the consideration that continued granting of SUPs might undercut the purpose of the Scenic Overlay District.

White moved for approval with an amendment to include screening and no expiration date on the SUP. Hohenshelt, Fowler and Pruitt cast the dissenting votes.

Be sure to shop with our advertisers, and tell 'em you saw it in the County News!

Crossword puzzle titled 'TEXAS CROSSWORD' by Charley & Guy Orbison. Includes clues for Across and Down, and a grid with numbers 1-61.

Advertisement for Friends of the Rockwall Library. Photo of Rose Mary Rumbley. Text: Friends of the Rockwall Library will host an Afternoon with Friends Spring Fling Tea with Hats from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 27, at the library's Community Room, 1215 Yellow Jacket Lane. Speaker will be Rose Mary Rumbley, pictured above, who will speak on The Ides of March. Cost will be \$25; prepaid reservations should be made to Pat Calhoun at pat2792@att.net or call 214-738-7547. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Advertisement for Rockwall County News. Text: Want more copies of the Rockwall County News? Purchase at the following locations: Rockwall - Krogers, Scotties Exxon, Walmart, Chevron (Ridge Rd. & I-30), Gateway Shell (Hwy 276), downtown on the square between Texas Traditions and The Fatted Calf, on the square between the office of William L. Lofland (Attorney at Law) and The Book Club Cafe • Rowlett - Walmart Neighborhood (Dalrock and Hwy 66) • Royse City - Tiger Mart, Main Street (coin rack), Walmart • Fate - Fate Grocery Store.

On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

The Magi reach their destination with great joy ... Matthew, Part 7

After King Herod heard about the Magi's arrival and search for the "King of the Jews," he called together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, and ordered them to explain where the Christ should be born (See Matthew 2:4). The term "Christ" is more accurately translated "Messiah."

The subject of Jesus' birth is in essence about the birth of the Messiah from God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth.

King Herod basically began a series of decisions and events that was tantamount to declaring war on the Creator, by attempting to snuff out the life of the Creator's "only begotten son" of the time.

Another important aspect of the accounts relates to God's powerful ability to protect His child from a Roman Governor and his soldiers.

Keep this in mind, when we experience mighty and wicked people rising up to destroy our livelihood and the product of our labor. They may appear powerful and enjoy friendly relations with the most powerful judges and attorneys at the local, state and federal levels; but in truth, they are nothing when compared to the highest and most powerful person, our Lord Jesus the Messiah who has been given all authority and power from his Father the Mighty Creator.

The accounts of Herod's crafty, terrible and gruesome actions are put in contrast with God's powerful abilities. Many people of Israel suffered under the wicked hands of Herod in his quest to destroy the Messiah. With their suffering and weeping came a peaceful hope of everlasting life in the New Jerusalem (also known as Paradise or the New Earth), and trust in the final judgment to be executed by God's beloved son and Messiah.

As it says, "Vengeance is Mine," says the Lord."

The priests and scribes agreed Bethlehem was the place of birth. They quoted from the prophet Micah, "And Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of you shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel" (Micah 5:2).

Herod secretly questioned the Magi concerning the Messiah's birth date. He diligently inquired about when they saw "his star," because they had determined this event to be a sign of his birth date.

It helps to understand that the Magi began their trip after determining the "King of the Jews" was born.

Herod sent the Magi to Bethlehem with a request to let him know when they find the "young child," so he may also come and worship (Matthew 2:7-8). Herod was a crafty King, but the Magi wisely saw through his disguise.

The Magi used the star for navigation to the child. In short, the best candidate for "his star" was probably the planet Jupiter.

Revelations 12:1 reveals the exact position of certain celestial bodies during the birth of Jesus. The woman (Virgo) was bathed with the sun, and the moon was at her feet; and on her head was a crown of 12 stars. A search in an online sky map reveals an exact same picture in the early morning sky over Jerusalem. It occurred September 11, 3 B.C.

The sky map shows the sun over the center of the constellation Virgo, which was positioned just over the eastern horizon. A crescent moon is seen at the feet of Virgo. The sky map also reveals that the planet Venus was over the head of Virgo. The planet Venus is also referred to as "the Bright and Morning Star," and is put for the Lord Jesus who is alive and seated in the heavens with all power and authority given to him from his Father.

The reference to "12 stars" must absolutely refer to the 12 tribes of Israel who will live under the reign of the Lord Jesus for everlasting life in the New Jerusalem.

The sky map reveals another important event that is not mentioned in Revelations 12:1. The planet Jupiter is seen in alignment, or close proximity to the star Regulus, which is at the foot of the constellation Leo (the Lion).

"Regulus" is symbolic of regal or royalty, and Jupiter has been long known as the "King" planet.

The Magi must have seen this event, and concluded that a regal King over the 12 tribes of Israel was born of the woman, and that which was conceived in her was by the highest Creator as symbolized by the sun over the midsection of Virgo.

The Magi were so sure about their conclusions, that they traveled a long distance to give extremely valuable gifts to the child who would be "King of the Jews."

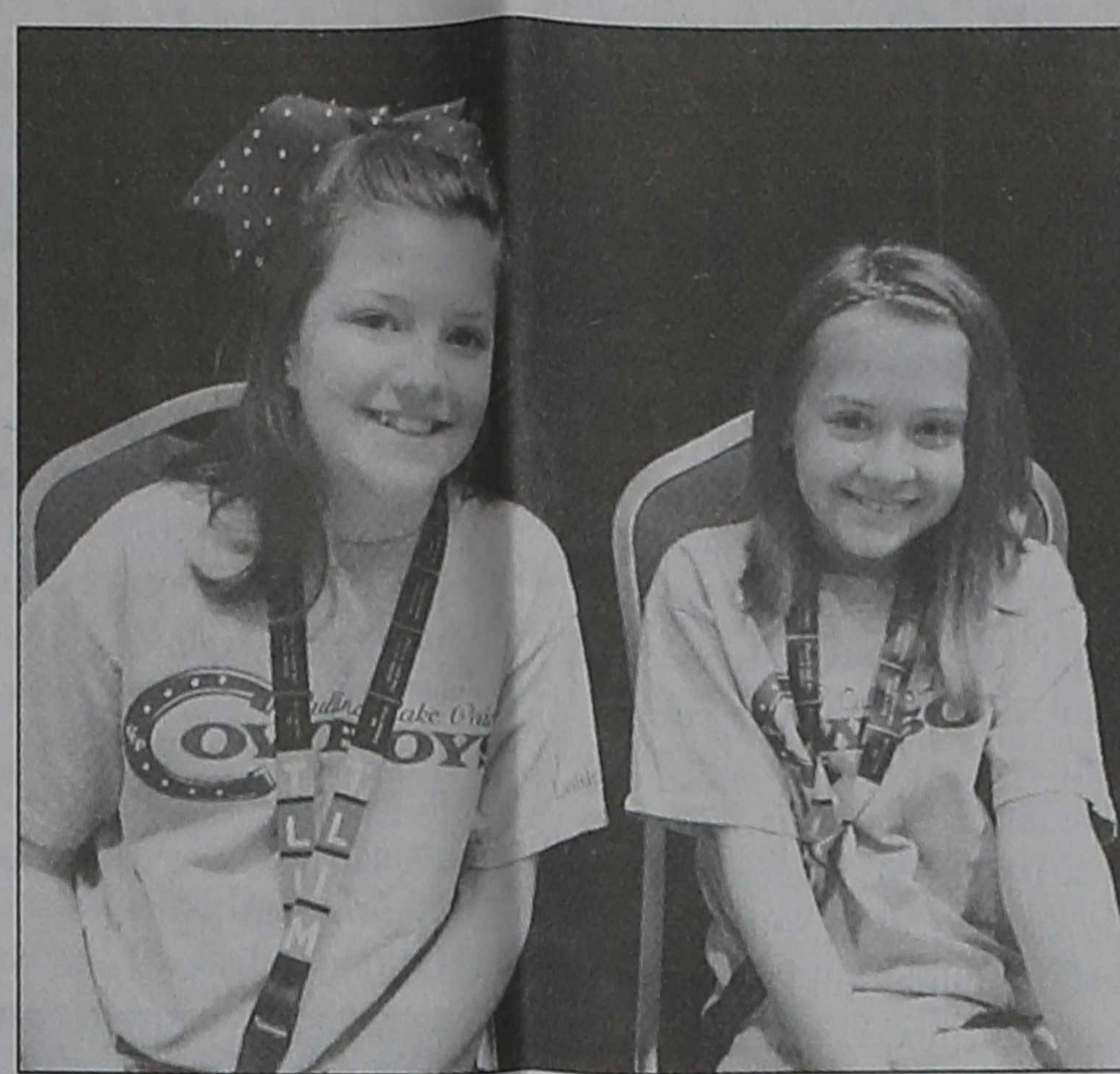
They eventually arrived to the place where Mary and Joseph lived, and found Jesus with his Mother. Based on Herod's inquiry and the sky map, Jesus would have been a toddler, at about two years of age.

The Magi gave them gifts of gold, and frankincense, and myrrh (Matthew 2:9-11).

To this day, frankincense and myrrh are highly valuable essential oils for health of children and adults.

Combined with gold, the family would have been well-financed for their upcoming journey and temporary stay in Egypt.

The gifts were given with hearts of "exceeding great joy."



Recently the Leader In Me Symposium met in Dallas for an annual conference and several Rockwall ISD students were invited to participate. Two students from Dobbs Elementary kicked off the event. Jaxson Stuart and Gabby Mammen were invited to begin the conference and introduce the keynote speaker. Cullins Elementary also had several students participate in the symposium. Reece Wilson and Gia Glaser, pictured above, were selected to be speakers and each spoke about how the Leader In Me has impacted them. Raygen Pruitt and Chelsea Titsworth participated in a student panel. Educators from across the nation asked the students questions about the Leader In Me program and the impact it has had on them. Pruitt said, "I got to tell about about the Leader In Me and how to make their schools better. I would do it again if they asked me to." Cullins Elementary sixth grade student Malachi Varghese introduced keynote speaker Brad Montague, a writer, director and comedian and creator of Kid President, the popular web series featured on Rainn Wilson's Soupancake YouTube channel.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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"Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord."

Psalm 150:6

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding;"

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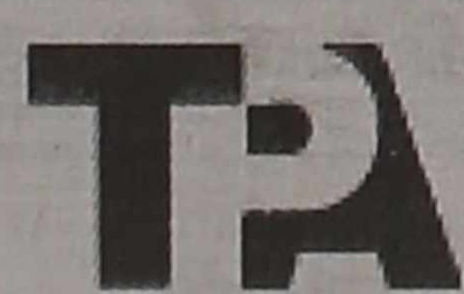
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Alcoholics Anonymous, 24 hour help line, 800-503-8602.

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Call for information and locations in Dallas area, 214-363-0461.

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Monday & Friday, 8 p.m. at 2206 South Jupiter St., Suite 130, Garland.

Sons of the American Revolution East Fork-Trinity Chapter meets 6:00 p.m., second Thursday each month, 4881 Bass Pro Dr. Garland, Texas. Guests & family welcome. <http://www.txssar.org/EastForkTrinity>.

Rockwall County Kiwanis Club Meets every Tuesday at noon at the Rockwall Wedding Chapel, 203 S. Fannin. For more information call 972-772-6001

Senior Services

If you are interested in delivering weekday meals to homebound seniors in Rockwall

County, we will be holding volunteer training sessions the second Wednesday each month at 1 p.m. Please call 972-771-9514 for location.

24 Hour Help Line for substance & mental health counseling. 800-662-4357.

NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness) meets second Saturday monthly. We offer support and education for families and individuals affected by mental disabilities. For more information call the Dallas office at 214-341-7133.

Everyone is invited to attend the "SAVING AMERICA THROUGH PRAYER" event, on the second Sunday of each month, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at Rockwall Bible Church located at the corner of Hwy 66 and Zion Circle, west of FM 3549, in Rockwall. The free event will include guest speakers. This is not church affiliated, and is open to everyone interested. For more information contact Mike Kennedy (972) 998-2680 or Kenneth Shores (214) 334-1206 or Jerry Minx (972) 896-7081

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Public Sales

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, The Vault Self Storage located at 1280 E. Ralph Hall Parkway, Rockwall, Texas 75032 will hold a public auction of property to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 10:00 AM, February 17, 2017, at The Vault Self Storage, 1280 E. Ralph Hall Parkway, Rockwall, Texas. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash only. All successful bidders will remove the contents immediately and leave unit clean. A refundable cleanup deposit will be required. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property includes contents of spaces of the following tenant(s): Frank I. Landry: Household furniture, misc. items. Contact The Vault Self Storage, 1280 E. Ralph Hall Parkway, Rockwall, Texas 75032, (972) 771-1105.

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Rockwall County News legally qualifies for publication of required legal notices for all government units located in Rockwall County as a newspaper of general circulation under Texas Government Code Section 2051.044, 2051.045, 2051.046 and 2051.048 (b) and (c). To Submit legal notices call 972-722-3099 or email rcn.advertising@yahoo.com

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The Rockwall County Commissioners Court invites on-line bids to purchase surplus office furnishings/books/shell casings/scrap materials, etc. All office furnishings, books, shell casings and scrap materials will be sold "AS IS" with no warranty written or implied. Additional information may be obtained from the Rockwall County Auditor's office located at 1111 Yellow Jacket Lane, Ste

202, Rockwall, Texas 75087 or by calling Allana Mitchell at (972) 204-6050. The above items will be available for inspection by appointment only. To make an appointment, please call Allana Mitchell in the County Auditor's office at (972)204-6050. Bidding will take place via the internet by logging on to www.govdeals.com. New bidders must register online to bid. Search by zip code 75087, then click on Rockwall County, TX. Bids must be submitted on or

before Friday, February 24, 2017 at the specific times designated on the Govdeals website. Rockwall County reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT Rockwall County, Texas Lisa Constant Wylie Rockwall County Auditor

More Classifieds on Page 5

Required Notices

Rockwall Central Appraisal District Public Notice

One of the easiest ways a homeowner can lower his or her property tax bill in 2017 is to file a homestead exemption. A homestead is generally the house and land used as the owner's principal residence on Jan. 1 of the tax year.

Homestead exemptions reduce the appraised value of your home and, as a result, lower your property taxes. To apply for an exemption on your residence homestead, contact the Rockwall Central Appraisal District at 972-771-2034 or visit our website at www.rockwallcad.com and see the forms section for an online application.

Available homestead exemption include:

- School taxes: All homeowners may receive a \$25,000 homestead exemption for school taxes.
- County taxes: If a county collects a special tax for farm-to-market roads or flood control, a homeowner may receive a \$3,000 homestead exemption for this tax.
- Age and disability exemptions: Individuals 65 or older or disabled as defined by law may qualify for a \$10,000 homestead exemption for school taxes, in addition to the \$25,000 exemption available to all homeowners. Also, any taxing unit may offer a local optional exemption of at least \$3,000 for taxpayers age 65 or older and/or disabled. Older or disabled homeowners do not need to own their homes on Jan. 1 to qualify for the \$10,000 homestead exemption. They qualify as soon as they turn age 65 or become disabled.
- Taxing units may offer a local option exemption based on a percentage of a home's appraised value. Any taxing unit can exempt up to 20 percent of the value of each qualified homestead. No matter what percentage of value the taxing unit adopts, the dollar value of the exemption must be at least \$5,000.
- Partial exemption for disabled veterans: Texas law provides partial exemptions for any property owned by veterans who are disabled, surviving spouses and surviving children of deceased disabled veterans. This includes homesteads donated to disabled veterans by charitable organizations at no cost to the disabled veterans and their surviving spouses. The exemption amount is determined according to the percentage of service-connected disability.
- 100 Percent Residence Homestead Exemption for Disabled Veterans: A disabled veteran who receives 100 percent disability compensation due to a service-connected disability and a rating of 100 percent disabled or of individual unemployability from the United State Department of Veterans Affairs is entitled to an exemption from taxation of the total appraised value of the veteran's residence homestead. Surviving spouses of veterans who qualified for this exemption or who would have qualified for this exemption if it had been in effect at the time of the veteran's death are also eligible with certain restrictions. The residence homestead application must be filed if this exemption is claimed.
- Surviving Spouses of Members of the U.S. Armed Services Killed in Action: The surviving spouse of a member of the U.S. Armed Services who is killed in action is allowed a total (100 percent) property tax exemption on his or her residence homestead if the surviving spouse has not remarried since the death of the armed services member.

For more details on homestead exemption, contact the Rockwall Central Appraisal District at 972-771-2034 or info@rockwallcad.com. The homestead exemption application is available online at www.rockwallcad.com and at comptroller.texas.gov/forms/50-114.pdf.

841 Justin road
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Royse City Police Blotter Jan. 27 – Feb. 2

- **Friday, 27 Jan.:** Suspicious vehicle, 1500 block Sams Circle; Reckless driver, Area of N. Elm Street and W. Church Street; Welfare concern, Area of I-30 near the 79-mile marker; Alarm, 200 block N. Arch Street; Suspicious person, 900 block S. Erby Campbell Boulevard; Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound near the 75-mile marker; Reckless driver, Area of Hwy 66 eastbound; Evading arrest, Area of I-30 SSR and FM 2642; Assault, 1400 block Industrial Drive; Driving while intoxicated arrest, 1100 block N. Houston Street
- **Saturday, 28 Jan.:** Suspicious person, Area of I-30 SSR and Lesli Drive; Suspicious person, 200 block W. I-30 NSR; Noise disturbance, 1600 block Meadowlark Drive; Medical assistance, Area of FM 548 and Welch Road; Medical assistance, 1200 block Tyler Court; Noise disturbance, 200 block West Creek Drive; Reckless driver, Area of I-30 NSR and Elm Street; Assault/Unlawful carry of a weapon/Interfere with emergency call arrest, Area of Lakes Drive and Brazos Court; Driving while license invalid arrest, I-30 westbound near the 75-mile marker; Possession of marijuana/Rockwall County Sheriff's Office warrants arrests
- **Sunday, 29 Jan.:** Disturbance, 700 block Meadowdale Drive; Disturbance, 400 block West Creek Drive; Suspicious vehicle, 500 block Rustic Meadow Drive; Alarm, 3200 block Taylor Drive; Disturbance, 400 block West Creek Drive; Medical assistance, 200 block W. I-30 NSR; Medical assistance, 2600 block Spencer Circle; Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound near the 75-mile marker; Accident, I-30 eastbound near the 79-mile marker; Alarm, 300 block E. County Line Road; Accident, 100 block E. I-30; Suspicious person, 100 block W. Main Street; City ordinance violation, 600 block Live Oak Street; Public intoxication arrest, Area of Lakes Drive and S. FM 548
- **Monday, 30 Jan.:** Alarm, 900 block Meadowdale Drive; Accident, 2300 block E. I-30 SSR; Welfare concern, Area of S. Erby Campbell Boulevard and Hwy 66; Accident, I-30 eastbound near the 76-mile marker; Accident, I-30 eastbound near the 74-mile marker; Criminal mischief, 1400 block Erby Campbell Boulevard; Welfare concern, 400 block E. Lamar Street; City ordinance violation, 400 block W. I-30 NSR; Suspicious vehicle, 1500 block Audrey Drive; Burleson Police Department's warrant arrest, 100 block W. Main Street; Assault arrest, 800 block E. Old Greenville Road
- **Tuesday, 31 Jan.:** Medical assistance, 900 block Walnut Lane; Alarm, 1400 block Primrose Lane; Disturbance, 100 block E. I-30; Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound from the 73-mile marker; Suspicious vehicle, 7000 block W. I-30 NSR
- **Wednesday, 1 Feb.:** Alarm, 900 block Hidden Creek Drive; Medical assistance, 300 block Starlight Lane; Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound near the 79-mile marker; Disturbance, 1200 block Maverick Lane; Driving while license invalid arrest, 1400 block S. Erby Campbell Boulevard
- **Thursday, 2 Feb.:** Suspicious person, Area of FM 35 and FM 2642; Accident, 2800 block FM 35; Welfare concern, 800 block Brookhaven Drive; City ordinance violation, 2800 block Spencer Circle; 911 hang up, 1200 block Maverick Lane; 911 hang up, 100 block I-30 SSR; Driving while license invalid arrest, 900 block E. I-30 SSR; Driving while license invalid arrest, 100 block E. I-30 NSR; Hunt and Rockwall County Sheriff's Offices' warrants arrest, Area of Lakes Drive and FM 548; Possession of drug paraphernalia, 900 block E. I-30 SSR

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Rockwall County News, 107 E. Bourn Street, Rockwall, Texas
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Opinions

Cut, don't reform, taxes

by Ron Paul
RonPaul Institute

Many Americans who have wrestled with a 1040 form, or who have paid someone to prepare their taxes, no doubt cheered the news that Congress will soon resume working on tax reform. However taxpayers should temper their enthusiasm because, even in the unlikely event tax collection is simplified, tax reform will not reduce the American people's tax burden.

Congressional leadership's one nonnegotiable requirement of any tax reform is "revenue neutrality." So any tax reform plan that has any chance of even being considered, much less passed, by Congress must ensure that the federal government does not lose a nickel in tax revenue. Congress's obsession with protecting the government's coffers causes reformers to mix tax cuts with tax increases. Congress's insistence on "offsetting" tax cuts with tax increases creates a political food fight where politicians face off over who should have their taxes raised, who should have their taxes cut, and who should have their taxes stay the same.

One offset currently being discussed is an increased tax on imports. This "border adjustment" tax would benefit export-driven industries at the expense of businesses that rely on imported products. A border adjustment tax would harm consumers who use, and retailers who sell, imported goods. The border adjustment tax is another example of politicians using tax reform to pick winners and losers instead of simply reducing everyone's taxes.

When I was in Congress, I was often told that offsets do not raise taxes, they simply close loopholes. This is merely a game of

semantics: by removing a way for some Americans to lower their taxes, closing a loophole is clearly a tax increase. While some claim loopholes are another way government distorts the market, I agree with the great economist Ludwig von Mises that "capitalism breathes through loopholes."

By allowing individuals to keep more of their own money, loopholes promote economic efficiency since, as economist Thomas DiLorenzo put it, "private individuals always spend their own money more efficiently than government bureaucrats do." Instead of making the tax system more "efficient" by closing loopholes, Congress should increase both economic efficiency and economic liberty by repealing the income tax and replacing it with nothing.

The revenue loss from ending the income tax should be "offset" with spending cuts. All federal spending, whether financed by taxes or by debt, forcibly removes resources from the private sector. Thus, all government spending is in essence a form of taxation. Therefore, cutting income and other taxes without cutting spending merely replaces one type of taxation with another. Instead of directly paying for big government via income taxes, deficit spending means citizens will be hit with an increase in the inflation tax. This tax, imposed on the people with the Federal Reserve's monetization of debt, is the worst form of tax because it is both hidden and regressive.

Unfortunately, while Congress may make some small cuts in domestic spending, those cuts will be dwarfed by spending increases on infrastructure Keynesianism at home and military Keynesianism abroad. As long as Congress refuses to make serious reductions in

spending, the American people will be subject to the tyranny of the IRS and the Federal Reserve.

The suffering will only get worse when concerns over government debt cause the dollar to lose its status as the world reserve currency. This will lead to a dollar crisis and a major economic meltdown. The only way to avoid this fate is for the people to demand a return to limited government in all areas, sound money, and an end to the income tax.

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(Continued from Page 4)



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Release the Chokehold on America's Energy Sector

by David Williams

President Trump and Republicans in Congress have repeatedly vowed to bolster America's global economic competitiveness. Earlier this week, the House of Representatives made good on that promise.

Lawmakers voted to scrap a rule requiring publicly-traded companies to report all financial transactions with foreign governments concerning the extraction of energy products. In effect, the regulation forces domestic firms to open their books to rival companies abroad — many of which are entirely exempt from the requirement.

Don't be fooled, this is not about transparency or anti corruption. This is about excessive regulation and putting significant tax revenues at risk.

The U.S. energy industry already abides by strict transparency standards that don't compromise America's global competitiveness. It's time for the Senate to join the House in eliminating this rule before it does any more damage to America's energy sector.

Under the rule in question, section 1504 of the Dodd-Frank Act, every company registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission must report any payments made to the federal government or foreign governments regarding oil, natural gas and mineral projects.

Here's the kicker: State-owned oil companies -- including those run by some of the world's most corrupt governments -- are exempt from the rule. They can, however, review the information disclosed by American firms in excruciating detail, including a company's valuation of a given energy resource site. This puts domestic companies at a serious competitive disadvantage.

Indeed, the top sixteen oil companies on the planet aren't subject to the regulation. Government-owned National Oil Companies (NOC) own 75 percent of global oil reserves and directly compete with U.S. companies.

Companies must also disclose the geographic location of their projects, information that could prove useful to terrorists looking to target company facilities.

Rockwall County Letters to the Editor

We encourage the submission of Letters to the Editor. The publishing of letters is at the sole discretion of the editor and may be edited for brevity, grammar and accuracy. Letters which are considered libelous or an attack of an individual's character will be rejected. Letters must be signed and include telephone number or address for verification.

Email rcn.news@yahoo.com
Mail to P.O. Box 819, Rockwall, Texas 75087

The Gun Control Act of 1968 was enhanced in 1993 with the passage of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act. The Brady Act created a list of categories of individuals to whom the sale of firearms is prohibited (18 U.S.C. 922 (d)).

The fourth category covers the mentally ill. The Brady Act states: "It shall be unlawful for any person to sell or otherwise dispose of any firearm or ammunition to any person knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that such person has been adjudicated as a mental defective or has been committed to any mental institution."

After the Sandy Hook massacre, President Obama moved to enforce the Brady Act by directing the Social Security Administration to send records of some beneficiaries with severe mental disabilities to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System. About 75,000 people were found mentally incapable of managing their financial affairs would have been affected.

On Thursday (Feb. 2) the GOP-controlled House voted to overturn the Obama administration directive designed to keep firearms out of the hands of some people deemed mentally ill. The repeal will allow those with severe mental disabilities to have guns.

Congressman John Ratcliffe supported the National Rifle Association position that President Obama's rule infringed upon Second Amendment rights by denying due process. Supporters of the rule argued it was designed to stop mentally ill persons from getting firearms.

In a tweet Ratcliffe stated, "Today's vote against Obama's last minute action to limit Second Amendment rights is a win for Constitution. A tweet of this nature leaves many of his constituents uninformed about the substance of the issue and the effects of his vote."

This is beyond reasonable. Keeping guns out of the hands of those with severe mental disabilities is a good thing. Congressman John Ratcliffe needs to explain his vote to repeal the rule that kept our homes and communities safe.

Judith Matherne
Rockwall

The rule also makes it difficult for American energy firms to negotiate with foreign governments. If a government notices a hefty payment from a U.S.-listed company to another nation in return for drilling rights, it could demand equal or greater compensation from all energy firms in the future.

At the same time, the regulation creates unnecessary administrative costs for businesses and the federal government alike. As Michigan Congressman Bill Huizenga has argued, Section 1504 is "diverting precious resources not only from the SEC, but more importantly resources from American companies that could otherwise be used to create jobs." The SEC itself estimates recurring annual compliance costs at up to \$700 million -- and notes that abiding by the rule for just the first three years required more than 200,000 hours.

Worse yet, section 1504's misguided attempts to increase transparency aren't called for. The U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977 already monitors unlawful payments from private companies to foreign governments.

And the energy industry has repeatedly demonstrated that transparency efforts don't have to compromise American business. Take the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, a global collaboration between energy companies, civil society organizations, and governments. EITI rules, currently applied in 51 countries, regulate all companies within a country, including NOCs. The initiative independently reconciles company payments against government receipts -- which section 1504 fails to do.

Section 1504 undermines the interests of American energy companies, while doing little to improve genuine transparency. The House of Representatives is standing with American businesses and workers on this issue. It's up to the Senate to follow suit.

David Williams is president of the Taxpayers Protection Alliance, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to educating the public on the government's effects on the economy.

Education at a Gallop...

by Dr. Don Newbury

They're mere "blips" on the screen of educational innovation, now in a handful of major cities. Their name sounds like a house number, and youngsters therein are challenged to "dig deep" as a core of teachers--largely volunteers--help children 6-18 express themselves through--of all things--writing.

These store front centers (for want of a better word) are attention-grabbers, front to back. "826," after all, isn't a usual name. The first was San Francisco's 826 Valencia St. It opened in 2002. If passers-by aren't "grabbed" by the numbers, small letters on the sign help. It reads: "independent pirate supply store."

After all, there aren't many such Yellow Page listings there, or any place else....

What goes on at "826s" mostly are projects to hone writing skills. Is it not interesting that such a concept seems to be bubbling again to the top, even if not yet to full boil? (There are actual sales--ie, pirate supplies--with all profits accruing to the non-profit project.)

"826s" are staffed largely by volunteers who realize the importance of written expression. They now have 1,400 such volunteers in San Francisco serving a minimum of one hour weekly.

Simply stated, there is no app for that....

The concept is described as being to education what St. Jude is to hospitals. All children served pay nothing--it's free.

In the past dozen years, "826" centers include NYC (superhero-themed); Ann Arbor, MI (robots), Seattle (space travel supply) and Boston (Bigfoot Research Institute). Similar programs are offered in Great Britain and Dublin, Ireland. Dublin's is called "Fighting Words."

Legal Notices

Rockwall Central Appraisal District Public Notice

If you own tangible personal property that is used to produce income, you must file a rendition with the Rockwall Central Appraisal District by April 15.

A rendition is a report that lists all the taxable property you owned or controlled on Jan. 1 of this year. Property includes inventory and equipment used by a business. Owners do not have to render exempt property, such as church property or an agriculture producer's equipment used for farming.

The appraisal district may use the information submitted in the rendition to set property values.

You can also file a report of decreased value to notify the appraisal district of significant depreciation of your property. For example, if your property was damaged by a storm, floor or fire last year, you should file a report of decreased value. The appraisal district will look at your property before assigning a value.

The last day to file a rendition or report of decreased value is April 15. A 10 percent to 50 percent penalty may be imposed if a rendition is filed late, incomplete or not at all. Property owners who need more time to file their renditions may file a written request with the chief appraiser on or before April 15 to receive an automatic extension to May 15 or the next business day.

For more information about rendering property, deadline extensions, penalties and rendition forms, taxpayers may contact the Rockwall Central Appraisal District at 972-771-2034 or info@rockwallcad.com. Information is also available from the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division's website at comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/.

841 Justin road
Rockwall, TX 75087

Rockwall ISD swimmers advance to State in Austin

The Regional 3-6A Swimming and Diving meet was held Feb. 3-4, at the Rockwall ISD Aquatics Center in Rockwall.

Rockwall-Heath Freshman Alaya Smith took first place in the 100 Yard Breaststroke in a time of 1:03.62. Smith will be seeded second at the UIL State Meet to be held, Fri. and Sat., Feb. 16-17, 2017, in the Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swimming Center at University of Texas in Austin. Seeded first at State will be Kelsey Evans of Houston Cypress Woods with a Regional time of 1:03.49.

The 6A swimming and diving preliminaries will start 10:00 a.m., Fri. Feb. 17.

The finals events will start 10:30 a.m., Sat. Feb. 18.

Rockwall-Heath women's team finished third with 247 points, behind Round Rock's 271 points, and Austin Westlake's 438 first place finish.

The Rockwall women placed fifth with 207 points, and Rockwall-Heath men place fifth with 168 points.

The Rockwall men's team finished eighth with 151 points, under Austin Westlake's 381 first place finish.

Rockwall-Heath HS will be represented in four different events during the State Meet.

The Women's 200 Medley Relay team qualified for third seed with a time of 1:45.44, behind Austin Westlake's second place time of 1:44.22 and The Woodlands time of 1:42.56. The 200 Medley team includes Ashley Conrad (So), Amelia Warren (Fr), Alaya Smith (Fr) and Amber Conrad (Jr).

RHHS will also be represented in the Women's 400 Freestyle Relay event with a third place seed time of 3:28.62. The team finished at Regional just under Austin Westlake's 3:28.32 and The Woodlands

first place seed of 3:25.18. The 400 Freestyle Relay team includes Amber Conrad, Skylar Tranberg (Fr), Amelia Warren, and Ashley Conrad.

Amelia Warren also advanced to compete in the Women's 200 IM with a time of 2:05.26 for thirteenth seed.

Amanda Armstrong (Jr) will represent Rockwall High School at the State Meet with a second place seed in the Women's 50 Freestyle. Armstrong advanced with a time of 22.77, just behind Austin Westlake's Emma Wheel 22.62 first place time.

Armstrong also competed at Region in the Women's 200 Medley and 400 Yard Freestyle Relay events.

The 200 Medley team finished in a 1:46.33 third place time, with teammates Janelle Hummingbird (So), Kendall Brown (So), and Emma Hultquist (So).

The 400 Medley team finished third place in 3:34.33, with teammates Armstrong, Hummingbird, Aurelia Incristi (Jr) and Hultquist.

Armstrong also finished third in 100 Freestyle in 50.56 seconds.

Individual results at Regionals

Rockwall

Men's 200 Medley Relay - (9) 1:39.28, Ethan Dupre (Sr), Ronan Passman (Sr), Alexander Cummings (Fr), Joseph Manasco (Sr).

Women's 200 Freestyle - Emma Hultquist (6), 1:50.68

Men's 200 Freestyle - William F. Harbin (So), (11) 1:50.30; Eric B. Harbin (Sr), (14) 1:51.67.

Women's 200 IM - Janelle Hummingbird, (3) 2:06.33; Kendall Brown (So), (10) 2:11.62; Margot Little (Fr), (16) 2:15.96.

Men's 200 IM - Dupre, (6) 1:55.51; Jack Conner (Jr) (14) 2:03.18.

Women's 100 Butterfly - Little, (14) 1:00.91.

Men's 100 Butterfly - Alexander Cummings, (15) 55.27.

Women's 100 Freestyle - Armstrong (3) 50.56; Hultquist (5) 51.82.

Men's 100 Freestyle - Manasco, (12) 48.97.

Women's 500 Freestyle - Hummingbird (8) 5:06.97.

Men's 500 Yard Freestyle - William Harbin, (11) 4:55.06; Thaddeus Pennington (Fr), (16) 5:09.96.

Women's 200 Freestyle Relay - (9) 1:42.12, Aurelia Incristi, Margot Little, Kendall Brown, Kayla Maxwell.

Men's 200 Freestyle Relay - (10) 1:32.55, Ronan Passman, Joseph Manasco, Eric Harbin, Ethan Wu (Fr).

Women's 100 Backstroke - Bailee Bridges (Fr), (16) 1:06.85.

Men's 100 Backstroke - Timothy Schaefer (Jr), (15) 55.88.

Women's 100 Breaststroke - Kendall Brown, (8) 1:08.96.

Men's 100 Breaststroke - Ethan Dupre, (6) 58.60; Ronan Passman, (7) 58.85.

Women's 400 Freestyle Relay - (3) 3:28.83, Amanda Armstrong, Aurelia Incristi, Janelle Hummingbird, Emma Hultquist.

Men's 400 Freestyle Relay - (7) 3:18.49, Ethan Dupre, Ronan Passman, Alexander Cummings, Joseph Manasco.

Rockwall-Heath

Men's 200 Medley Relay - (7) 1:37.84, Logan Graham (Fr), Jamie Warren (Sr), Giovanni Copioli (Jr), Ethan Oliver.

Women's 200 Freestyle - Ashley Conrad, (3) 1:49.62; Skylar Tranberg, (10) 1:55.63.

Men's 200 Freestyle - Logan Graham, (7) 1:45.02; Giovanni Copioli, (9) 1:45.42.

Men's 200 IM - Johann Kuipers, (12) 2:02.65.

Women's 50 Freestyle - Amber Conrad, (3) 23.04.

Men's 50 Freestyle - Ethan Oliver, (10) 22.15.

Men's 100 Butterfly - Jamie Warren, (6) 51.85.

Women's 100 Freestyle - Amber Conrad, (4) 50.78; Alaya Smith, (13) 54.58.

Men's 100 Freestyle - Logan Graham (Fr), (6) 48.39; Ethan Oliver (Jr), (14) 49.61.

Women's 500 Freestyle - Ashley Conrad, (3) 4:53.32; Tranberg, (4) 5:05.83; Amelia Warren, (5) 5:06.15.

Men's 500 Freestyle - Giovanni Copioli (Jr), (4) 4:46.77; William Knox (Fr), (11) 4:56.17.

Women's 200 Freestyle Relay - (8) 1:43.67, Alaya Smith, Isabella Olsen (Fr), MaryClare Oliver (Fr), Skylar Tranberg.

Men's 200 Freestyle Relay - (13) 1:35.23, Justin Wallace, John Papp (Fr), Johann Kuipers (So), David Saxon (So).

Women's 100 Breaststroke - Alaya Smith (Fr), (1) 1:03.62; MaryClare Oliver, (12) 1:09.31.

Men's 100 Breaststroke - Jamie Warren, (4) 58.07; Johann Kuipers, (11) 1:01.68.

HCA athletes sign letters of intent

Heritage Christian Academy student-athletes Reagan Oliver and Conolly Webb, signed letters of intent, Wed. Feb. 1, 2017, to participate in college level athletics.

According to the announcement, Senior Reagan Oliver committed to play Golf at Union University in Jackson, Tennessee.

The Union Bulldogs are a member of the NCAA competing at the Division II level with the Gulf South Conference.

Oliver was awarded a \$36,000 scholarship.

According to the release, Oliver led in District, Regional and State TAPPS Competitions, and finished top 10 in most of the tournaments, including his fifth place finish in the TAPPS 3A State Golf Tournament last spring.

During summer seasons, Oliver participated in both Dallas Junior and Texas Junior Tournaments. He was joined by his parents, Christy and Mike Oliver, HCA Golf Coach Mr. Ed Sherrill, and his swing coach Mr. Lance Patterson of the Dallas Athletic Club.

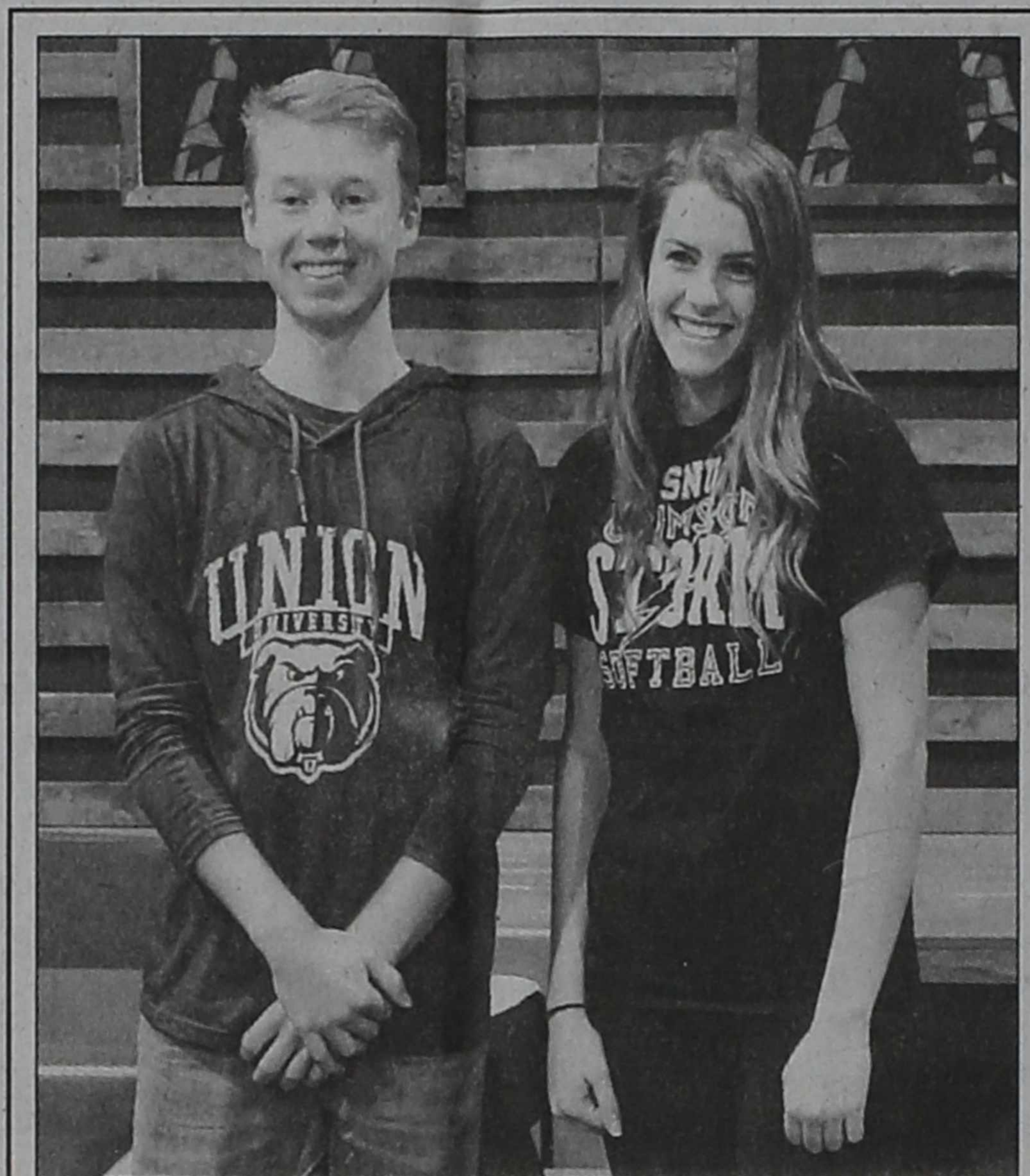
Webb elected to take her talents on the softball diamond to Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Oklahoma.

The Crimson Storm are members of the NCAA competing at the Division II level in the Great American Conference.

She was awarded a \$36,000 scholarship.

While at HCA Webb led HCA to three deep playoff runs. She was selected to 3 All-District Teams, named District MVP twice, and twice selected to the TAPPS All-State Team.

During the summers Webb competed for Texas Riot Softball Club. Webb was joined on stage by her parents, Debra and Kirby Webb, select team coach Mr. Manny Segovia of Texas Riot Softball, and grandparents Don and Anne Delp.



Heritage Christian Academy students signing letters of intent to play collegiate athletics are Reagan Oliver (left) to play Golf at Union University in Jackson, Tennessee; and Connolly Webb (right) who signed to play softball at Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Oklahoma. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Morton receives ESU scholarships

Austin Morton of Rockwall received the Dr. Roy and Judy Johansen Football Scholarship and Walter and Elizabeth Butcher Scholarship for the current academic year, according to a news release from Emporia State University.

Morton has started in the Kicker position during the last 3 years, and will start during the 2017-2018 season as a Senior on the team.

More than \$3.5 million in scholarships are awarded to more than 1,700 ESU students each year.

Rockwall High School basketball update ...

The Rockwall High School Lady Jackets took the Mesquite Skeeters 64-36, Fri. Feb. 7, 2017. Leading scorer was Fath Mason-Vestal with 16 points. Mya Culiver dropped 14 points and secured 12 rebounds, Jordan Mathis 13 points and Alena Johnston 11 points. The win put Rockwall a 10-3 in district 11-6A and a second place ranking.

The JV team won 47-15 pushing to 12-0 in district. Madeleine Hunt led the way with 11 points.

Freshman won 47-10. Leading the way was Emma Stelzer with 17 points. They are also 12-0 in district.

Coach Lacie Yankee said the Lady Jackets varsity team battled through the first half against Tyler Lee, but the Lady Raiders appeared to run out of steam for the game-ending 53-42 win for Rockwall.

The win put Rockwall in second place for district. Leading the night was Faith Mason-Vestal with a double-double with 17 points and 11 rebounds. Followed by Jordan Mathis with 12 points and Alena Johnston with 10 points.

JV won 41-34. Scoring for us was Madeleine Hunt with 13 points and Brette Thornton with 11 points. Freshman won 60-11. Scoring was Emma Stelzer with 17 points.

The Rockwall Yellowjackets traveled Friday night to Mesquite continuing district play.

According to Coach Josh Goellner, the varsity lost with 1.9 seconds on a heave that banked in 60-62. With the loss, they fell to 9-2 in District. Andrew Taylor led with 17 points, and Tevin Williams helped with 14 points.

The freshmen B team lost 34-44 and the A team lost 30-46. The JV lost 48-60.

The Rockwall Yellowjackets traveled to Tyler Lee Tuesday night Jan. 31, 2017.

The Varsity continued their win streak with a 72-55 win, moving to 9-1 in District and maintaining first place in district 11-6A. Nine Yellowjackets scored in the game, led by Alec Grandstaff who hit 19 points, Tevin Williams had 14 points, and Jarrod Winston Pendleton added 11 more.

The Freshmen B team lost a close 39-43 game, and the A team lost 42-64.

The JV team dropped their game 53-74.

The Yellowjackets will finish District play against rival Rockwall-Heath, Tues. Feb. 14 at RHHS.

On Jan. 20, the Jackets defeated the Hawks 66-60 in overtime. Both teams took turns finishing quarters on top until Rockwall finished the overtime quarter with 13 points over the Hawks 7 points for the final win.

Soccer update ...

The Rockwall Lady Jackets varsity soccer team stormed the season with an overall 7-1 record, and 4-0 in district.

Rockwall shut out all teams in the win category, including the season opening 3-0 win against Friendswood; College Station 2-0; Clear Lake 6-0; Tyler 8-0; Rockwall-Heath 2-0; Longview 2-0; and Mesquite Horn 4-0.

The team was shut out in a 4-0 loss to Sachse.

The Lady Jackets are coached by Melissa Garcia.

Under the coaching leadership of Troy Williams, the Rockwall Yellowjackets varsity soccer team is approaching the middle of district play with an overall record of 6-3-2, and 3-1 in district.

The six wins were against College Station in a 0-0 tie and 3-4 in a shoot-out; Lakeview Centennial 3-1; Garland 1-0; Tyler 1-1 tie and 3-2 in shoot-out; Rockwall-Heath 3-1; and Mesquite Horn 4-0.

The Jackets finished with a tie against Lake Highlands 1-1, and White 0-0. They fell to Royse City 1-0 in their season opener, and Sulphur Springs 4-1; Longview 0-0 and 4-5 in shoot-out.

The Rockwall-Heath Lady Hawks varsity soccer team are 3-3-1 overall, and 1-2 in district.

The team defeated Royse City 2-1; Naaman Forest 3-0; and Tyler Lee 1-0.

Losses were to Mansfield 4-1; Rockwall 2-0; and North Mesquite 1-0. They finished their season opener with a 0-0 tie against Rowlett. The team is coached by Marco Duran.

The Royse City Lady Bulldogs soccer team has logged 4 wins, 3 losses and 1 tie during regular season. They are 2-1 in district.

The Ladies won games against Community at Nevada, Texas 3-1; Pine Tree in Longview 2-1; Wylie East 1-1; and last Saturday's 4-0 win against North Forney.

Losses included the season opener 2-1 score against Hallsville; Rockwall-Heath 2-1; and Forney 1-0. The team logged a 1-1 tie against Wylie.

The Bulldogs soccer team started their season with a 1-0 win against Rockwall. Other wins included South Garland 2-1; and West Mesquite 2-0.

Losses included Tascosa 2-1; Richardson Pearce 2-0; Forney 1-0; and Wylie East 4-0.

They tied 1-1 against Mesquite Horn.

The team is coached by Jud Marking.

7:00 p.m., Bskb M, Rockwall (H).	7:15 p.m., Scr W, Highland Park (H).
7:00 p.m., Sfb, Wylie (H).	Sat. 2/11
7:15 p.m., Scr W, Mesquite Horn (H).	1:00 p.m., Sfb, Alvarado (H).
7:15 p.m., Scr M, Mesquite Horn at Hanby Std.	Tues. 2/14
Royse City (15-5A)	4:30 p.m., at Sulphur Springs.
Fri. 2/10	7:00 p.m., Bskb M, at Forney.
4:30 p.m., Bsb, at Rockwall.	7:00 p.m., Scr M, Lovejoy (H).
7:00 p.m., Bskb M, West Mesquite (H).	7:15 p.m., Scr W, at Lovejoy.
7:00 p.m., Scr M, at Highland Park.	2/16-18
	Sfb, Sulphur Springs
	Invitational
	Fri. 2/17
	Track, Bulldog Tri-Meet.

Rockwall-Heath basketball update ...

The Rockwall-Heath Hawks varsity basketball team entered their last District game, Tues. Feb. 7, 2017, with an overall record of 17-9, and 7-4 in District.

District play began Dec. 21, 2016 with a 73-54 win over North Mesquite.

To date, the seven wins included an overtime 62-60 finish at Longview; 50-47 at home against Mesquite Horn; 74-43 at home against Tyler Lee; 74-55 win at home against North Mesquite; and 79-60 win against Longview at home.

The four losses were against Tyler 61-58 at home; at Mesquite 56-54; at Rockwall 66-60 in overtime; and at Tyler 78-75.

The Hawks will finish District against rival Rockwall, Tues. Feb. 14, at home.

The Lady Hawks varsity basketball team finished District, Tues. Feb. 7 against Mesquite Horn.

The team was 16-12 overall, and 8-5 District leading up to the Horn game.

Rockwall-Heath's eight district wins included North Mesquite 63-42 at home; Mesquite 49-45 at home; Longview 44-37 at home; at Tyler Lee 51-47; at North Mesquite 64-24; Tyler 59-45 at home; at Mesquite 69-38; at Longview 38-36.

The Lady Hawks face early District losses against Tyler Lee 45-41 at home; and at Rockwall 56-52. They returned from four non-district games to face a 76-46 loss at Tyler; and later an 81-44 loss at Mesquite Horn.

Rockwall County sports schedule

Rockwall (11-6A)	Tues. 2/14
Thurs. 2/9	7:00 p.m., Bskb M, at Rockwall-Heath.
1:00 p.m., Gymnastics Women, Mark Williams Invitational, at Forest E. Watson Center.	7:15 p.m., Scr Women, North Mesquite at WSS.
Fri. 2/10	7:15 p.m., Scr M, North Mesquite at RHS.
8:00 a.m., Tennis, McKinney Varsity Tournament.	Thurs. 2/16
4:30 p.m., Baseball, Royse City (Home)	Softball, BCS Varsity Tournament, at Bryan HS.
7:00 p.m., Basketball Men, John Tyler (H)	Rockwall-Heath (11-6A)
7:15 p.m., Soccer Women, Mesquite at Wilkerson-Sanders Stadium (WSS).	Thurs. 2/9
Sat. 2/11	Gymnastics, Mark Williams Invitational
8:00 a.m., Tennis, McKinney Tournament.	Fri. 2/10
12:00 p.m., Scr M, Mesquite at Hanby Stadium.	7:00 p.m., Bskb M, at Tyler Lee.
12:00 p.m., Softball, Plano and McKinney North, at Plano HS.	7:00 p.m., Sfb, at Rowlett.
Wrestling, District Tournament at Richardson Berkner.	7:15 p.m., Scr W, at Longview.
Mon. 2/13	7:15 p.m., Scr M, Longview (H).
5:00 p.m., Bsb, at Plano East.	Sat. 2/11
	9:00 a.m., Wrestling District at Richardson Berkner.
	12:00 p.m., Bsb.s at Plano.
	Tues. 2/14
	5:00 p.m., Bsb, Jesuit (H).

Rockwall County Sports Notes

Jacket Classic set for Feb. 18

The Jacket Classic Track Meet will start 8:15 a.m., Sat. Feb. 18, 2017 at Wilkerson-Sanders Stadium in Rockwall. Field events are set to begin at 8:15 a.m. The 3200M run begins at 10:00 a.m. Running finals will begin at 1:00 p.m. Participating teams include Rockwall, Rockwall-Heath, Wylie East, Dallas Skyline, Allen, Forney, North Mesquite, North Garland, Cedar Hill and Sachse. Admission for the event will be \$4 for adults, and \$3 for students.

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