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Rockwall County News

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Unveiling ceremony introduces Rock Wall at Historical Museum

by Timothy W. Burnett

The Rockwall County Historical Foundation hosted an unveiling ceremony of the reconstructed Rock Wall at the Museum located on Washington Street next to Harry Myers Park in Rockwall.

Special guests in attendance were Patsy Stodghill and her son-in-law Stacy Parks representing the Stodghill Family; and Bonnie Wellman of Bryan, Texas, representing the B.F. Boydston Family.

Speakers for the event were Foundation President Dennis Vierling, Mayor Jim Pruitt and County Judge David Sweet. Jerl Welch provided harmonica music, and Budd Pierce recited Cowboy Poetry.

The Rockwall High School Marching Band Drum Line performed during the ceremony while standing between the Museum and the Rock Wall display. A drum roll could be heard at the time unveiling. Performing during the event were RHS Drum Line members Parker Bassett, Logan Brewer, Tyler Clemmer, Blake Collins, Jonah King, James Matthews, Joshua McMahon, Nick Messick, Jacob Poncinie, Sawyer Scott, William Shockley and Nick Siciliano. The group was led by Assistant Director Russell Lancaster. According to Foundation Vice President Carolyn Francisco, the reconstructed Rock Wall project began to take shape shortly after the death of Sheri Stodghill Fowler Parks in January 2015, as a way to honor her love and passion for "all things Rockwall".

The Stodghill family donated the rocks from the farm of W. W. Stodghill, who is pictured in 1979 on the Memorial Plaque with the reconstructed Rock Wall.

Upon further inquiry, Francisco explained that, "Yes, these are the same rocks!"

She said they are "reportedly some of the largest one's ever unearthed," and clarified that "nothing was done to the rocks to make them look smooth or cleaned up. They are as they were removed from the section of the wall donated by the family and as carefully as possible reconstructed in the same manner."

Rob Kimmelman The Patient Gardener, and architect Ross Ramsay, were in charge of this portion of the project.

Francisco explained that, "since the origin of the wall is still being debated, the Texas Historical Commission accepts findings that the wall is a natural formation, no archeological permission was required to move the rocks to another location."

According to the Foundation, the known history of the Rock Wall began with its discover in 1852 by Benjamin Boydston, Terry Utley Wade, and William Clay Stevenson. In 1874, Geologist Richard Burleson performed the first geological examination of the exposed sections, and concluded they were "igneous occurrences."

Based on the historical time line, the majority consensus among geologists and laymen were that the rock wall is part of a natural rock formation. Agreeing with the natural formation theory were Geologists Burleson, Robert Hill, Brooks Ellwood; Professors R.S. Hyer (Physics, Southern Methodist University), and Kenneth Schaar (University of Texas at Arlington); Smithsonian Institute representatives L.W. Stephenson and J.W. Fewkes; and writer Sidney Paige ("The Rock Wall of Rockwall, Texas," Science Magazine).

The time line revealed that in 2013, the History Channel's Scott Wolter excavated the wall on property north of Rockwall, with the assistance of Kevin Richeson. During the project, John Geissman of the University of Texas in Dallas "did core sampling and magnetization testing, concluding the wall is a natural occurrence."

Favoring the man-made theory were Architect John Lindsey and Archeologist County Byron de Prorok.

The City of Rockwall, and Rockwall County were named for the rock formation.

Both Rockwall County and the City of Rockwall funds were granted to make for the project.

City of Fate denies disannexation petition

During the Monday, April 3, 2017, regular meeting of the City of Fate, Inc., council members voted to deny a disannexation petition, filed February 20, 2017, by property owner George Nicholas Abdou of Rowlett.

The disannexation petition cited Texas Local Government Code Section 43.056(b)(5), and stated that the section "requires that waste water [sanitary sewer] facility be provided within four and one-half years following the effective date of the annexation ordinance."

The petition concludes, "since the annexation ordinance was adopted April 18, 2011, more than four and one-half years have elapsed, but the City has failed to provide waste water services to the subject property."

Authority to disannex from the municipality is cited under the provisions of Section 43-141 of the Local Government Code.

It was confirmed that required notice of Ordinance No. 0-1173 was published in accordance with state law in the April 22, 2011 edition of the Rockwall County News.

The property owner's notice of disannexation petition was not published in a newspaper published in Rockwall County.

Documents provided by City Secretary Vicky Raduechel reveal that the city allowed the property owner to publish notice in a newspaper published in a different county other than Rockwall County, thus bringing into question the legality of the petition.

The documents included the publisher's affidavit indicating the notice was published by a publication company located in Montgomery, Alabama, and its subsidiary publication company located in Greenville, Hunt County, Texas.

During the regular meeting, City Attorney Brenda McDonald advised the council to recess into a closed meeting for legal advice regarding the disannexation petition submitted by Abdou.

(Continued on Page 2)



Patsy Stodghill of Dallas, proudly stands by the reconstructed Rock Wall, Sunday, May 7, 2017, during the Rockwall County Historical Foundation's unveiling ceremony at the Historical Museum on Washington Street in Rockwall. Patsy represented the family of W.W. Stodghill during the ceremony. The Stodghill family has owned the land where the special rock formations naturally exist. The Stodghill family donated the rocks from the farm of the late W.W. Stodghill. Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News



Participating in the Rockwall County Historical Foundation's Rock Wall unveiling ceremony, Sunday, May 7, 2017, at the Historical Museum, are (left to right) Current RCHF President, Dennis Vierling; past presidents Jan Self and Carolyn Francisco; Patsy Stodghill and Stacy Parks representing the Stodghill family; past presidents Leigh Plagens and Carolyn Duckworth. Shown behind the group is the reconstructed Rock Wall with stones from the original formation donated to the Foundation. Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

Local LULAC organizes, names slate of officers

Latinos in Rockwall celebrated Cinco de Mayo in the old town square on Friday, May 5, with mariachi music and folklorico dancing by students from Dobbs Elementary School.

The celebration helped mark the formation of Rockwall LULAC, the first LULAC council in Rockwall County.

With concerns about legislation in Austin and Washington, D.C., Rockwall Latinos are eager to express their opinions and muster their support for reforms that protect and help the Latino community, according to a news release from the new organization.

"We are especially concerned about recent state and national legislation that might undermine the advances in our country's civil rights laws and unfairly target Latinos with unconstitutional restrictions on their liberty," Rockwall LULAC president Sol Villasana said, according to the release. "We are also concerned with voting rights issues and want to see more Latinos involved in local elections."

Other Rockwall LULAC officers for 2017 are Dr. Leonardo R.

Ledezma, vice president; Ericka Ledferd, secretary; and Maria Eva Flores, treasurer and parliamentarian, according to the news release.

Readers may obtain more information by contacting Villasana at 214.334.7349 or svillasana@whitewiggins.com.

Rockwall County News Briefs

Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive set Saturday

The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive will take place Saturday, May 13. To participate, leave bags of nonperishable food items near your mailbox prior to regular mail service. Letter carriers will pick up the bags and, with the help of retired postal employees and volunteers, will deliver the items to local food agencies.



(Continued on Page 2)

Unofficial tabulated results for municipal elections released, 3 unseated in Heath

The Rockwall County Elections Office released the Unofficial Tabulated results from the May 6, 2017 City of Rockwall "general elections." The official results will be published after the ballots are counted, votes tallied, ballots registered, and returns prepared, in accordance with Texas Election Code Chapter 65 related to counting of votes; and after the authorities have canvassed the returns and determined the official results, in accordance with Chapter 67, Election Code. Results by municipality are as follows:

Rockwall

- Mayor - Jim Pruitt (incumbent unopposed), 1481 votes.
- Place 1 - Bennie Daniels, 892; Enid Reyes, 760; Bree McClesky, 199. [Replaces former councilmember David White]
- Place 3 - Kevin Fowler (incumbent), 1214; Daniel Janik, 519; Adan Tovar, 193.
- Place 5 - Dana Macalik, 865; Scott Milder (incumbent), 706; Christine Hanna, 420.

- Fate
 - Place 2 - Lance Megyesi (incumbent), 154; Martha Huffman, 134.
 - Place 3 - Blake Buchanan, 164; Henry Tatangang, 100; Blake Overton, 49.

McLendon-Chisholm

- Place 1 - Adrienne Balkom (unopposed), 104 votes. [Replaces former councilmember Gary Lovell]
- Place 3 - Scott Turnbull, 99; Rhonda Davis, 47. [Replaces former councilmember Patrick Short]
- Place 5 - Jim Herren (incumbent unopposed), 104. Proposition to increase Sales Tax - For, 79; Against, 68.

Heath

- Place 1 - Frank New, 1458 votes; Kevin Lambreth (incumbent), 577.
- Place 2 - Paul Ruffo, 1505; John Main (incumbent), 508.
- Place 4 - Brent Weaver, 1473; Barry Brooks (incumbent), 553.
- Place 6 - Rich Krause (incumbent), 1377; Garrett Bothun, 656.

Fate city council tackles disannexation petition ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Mayor Lorne Megyesi followed the attorney's advice and recessed the meeting at 6:08 p.m., for a closed meeting.

Following adjournment of the closed meeting, the council received a staff report and presentation by City Manager Michael Kovacs related to the disannexation petition.

The mayor, council and attorney did not provide the content of the attorney's legal advice to the council.

Kovacs presented an extensive report that included 23 slides. In short, the City Manager admitted that the City had not provided the sanitary sewer services, but did provide various other services as required by state law.

Kovacs concluded that the "request for disannexation by Buddy Abdou for RCAD parcel 66049 be denied. The City is fully complying with the Municipal Service Plan adopted in the annexation ordinance for this property. General Fund services were provided to the property as evidenced by the new paved road, the public safety calls for service, and the planning documents and other work that the City has produced over the last 6 years."

He finished with, "Fiscally irresponsible extensions of the sewer system, something the applicant appears to be saying they are entitled to, would cause rate increases that would put our already high sewer bills into unsustainable levels for working families."

Based on a review of the petition, the language does not suggest that Abdou indicated an "entitlement" to "fiscally irresponsible extensions of the sewer system." Instead, the petition indicates that the city did not meet the statutory requirement for annexation by offering sanitary sewer services.

Following a brief presentation by Michael Coker, representing the petitioner, Mayor Megyesi launched a cross-examination of Coker with questions that suggested the mayor did not understand the petition. According to the meeting minutes, the mayor began by seeking clarification as to whether the petitioner was "only concerned about the sanitary sewer system." Coker replied that the petition "is to disannex our property because you have failed to provide sanitary sewer service, in accordance with state law, within 4 1/2 years."

The mayor followed up with the question, "so this has nothing to do with any other municipal services? Coker replied, "no sir."

The mayor asked for clarification as to whether police, fire and EMS services are all fine. Coker explained that the County provided police, fire and EMS services prior to the annexation, and reiterated that the petition was not "saying the City has not provided those services."

The mayor then asked about "solid waste" services, to which Coker replied, "we are not requesting disannexation for anything other than the fact that the city has failed to provide sanitary sewer service."

The mayor changed the direction of focus by asking, with regards to the sanitary sewer service, are you saying the service plan that was part of the annexation ordinance was inadequate or failed to meet the statutory requirements? Coker replied that the service plan adopted by the council fails to comply with state law and asked the mayor to restate the question.

Megyesi restated the question, to which Coker replied, "yes." Coker did not redirect Megyesi back to the failure of the city to comply with state law that requires the municipality to not only include the sanitary sewer stipulation in the service plan, but additionally requires the city to provide sanitary sewer services within the same time period.

Following Megyesi's cross-examination, Council member Jon Thatcher expressed his judgement on the matter by moving to deny the Disannexation Petition submitted by George Nicholas Abdou.

Thatcher's reason was "based on the lack of evidence presented by the applicant as to any findings that the City has failed to abide by the service plan." He did not clarify whether the petitioner bore the burden of proving whether the city did not provide the services.

Council member Thatcher currently serves as City Attorney for the City of Forney.

Upon a second by council member David Billings, the council unanimously approved the motion.

As of Monday, May 8, the city has not received notice of civil action from the petitioner, as provided for by state law regarding disannexation.

- In other business, the council:
 - approved the consent agenda, including the minutes of the March 20, 2017 meeting, and Resolution R-1434, authorizing the City manager to execute a development agreement pertaining to the tract of land located at 4595 E. FM 552.
 - Approved Ordinance O-1622 amending Chapter 1, "General Provisions," requiring no permits, license or privilege to be issued if debts or obligations are owed to the city.

University Scholastics News

Galvez tapped for scholarship

Aryana Galvez of Rockwall received a scholarship during the Scholarship Day competition, April 22, at McMurry University in Abilene.

Scholarship Day awards are among the highest academic recognitions made by McMurry to entering freshman students, according to a university news release. The awards are based on academic achievement and the promise of continued academic excellence. Awards provide an annual stipend of at least \$8,000 and are renewable for up to eight semesters of full-time study.

Area News Briefs

Veterans BBQ, open house set May 27 in Nevada

The Memorial Weekend Veterans BBQ and Open House, Military Heritage, will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, May 27, at 20798 CR 590 in Nevada, Texas. Admission will be free. Military vehicles and equipment displays are planned, and all food and beverages will be provided free of charge to veterans and military service members. For more details visit militaryheritagecollection@yahoo.com.

Regional News Briefs

The Ladonia Rodeo Association announced its 13th Annual Rodeo starting 7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 13, 2017, at the Eastman Arena located on FM 64 at CR 3360 in Ladonia, Texas. Events will include the Kids Calf Scramble, Wild Cow Milking, Double Mugging, Branding, sorting and Ranch Bronc Riding. Dance will feature the band, Southern Cross. For more information call 903-450-5231 or 903-456-6465.

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There is no fear in love. But perfect love casts out fear. 1John 4:18



Rockwall Community Playhouse board members singing "Bohemian Rhapsody" by Queen are (from left) Gene Fields and Ashley Reeves. The performance was to announce the upcoming show, "We Will Rock You."

Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

RCP announces 2017-18 shows

The Rockwall Community Playhouse announced its 2017-18 season, Saturday, May 6, 2017, on the patio at Rockwall Athletic Club.

The event honored and entertained season ticket holders with a mixture of games including: charades, Pictionary, hangman, and Name That Tune.

Participants were rewarded with prizes when they guessed the upcoming shows.

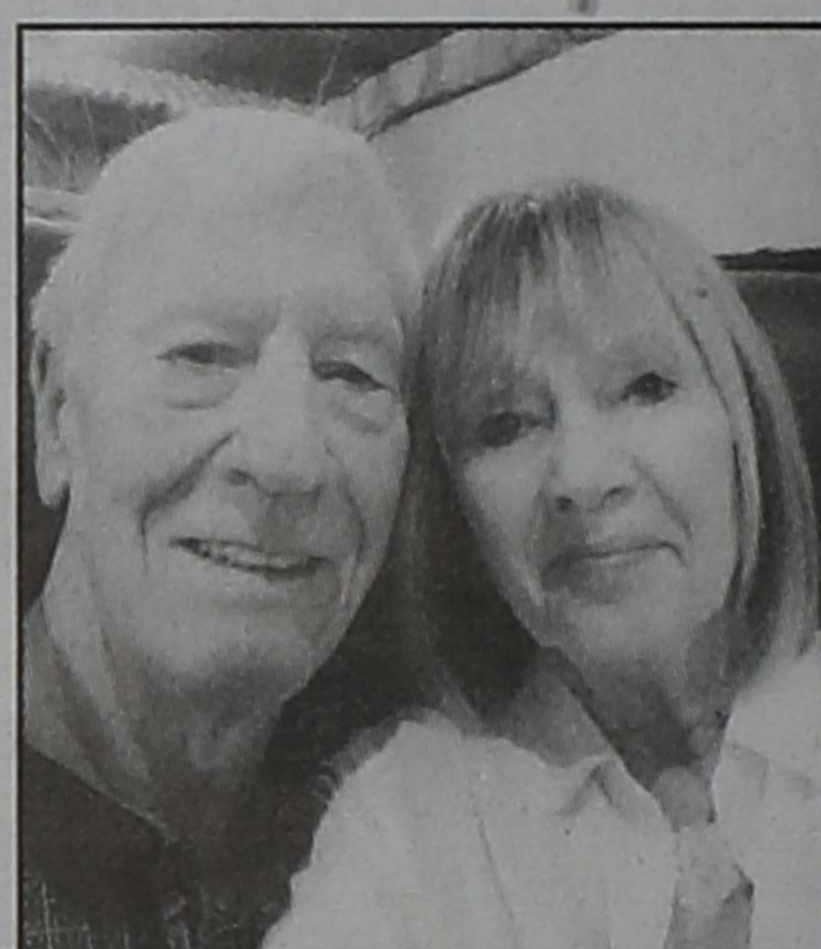
The announced shows included, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," "A Christmas Carol," "She Loves Me," "Anne of Green Gables," and "Lend Me a Tenor."

The RCP will also stage the children's show "James & the Giant Peach," and the teen show, "We Will Rock You."

Davidsons celebrating 60th wedding anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. John Shipley Davidson will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary with a family get-together in Austin.

John Shipley Davison and Marilee Hollis were married April 19, 1957, in the First United Methodist Church in Crandall. Both were 1956 graduates of Crandall High School. He went on to earn a B.S.M. degree in chemistry from SMU.



John and Marilee Davidson

In 1979 the couple returned to the Dallas area and chose to settle in his birthplace, Rockwall, where they were active in the community for the next 22 years. Their two youngest children, Todd and Jennifer, graduated from high school in Rockwall.

During their 60 years of marriage the two have enjoyed travels to several states and foreign countries.

Following his retirement after 45 years with the Sherwin Williams Co., the couple retired to their Kaufman County farm where her family has farmed since 1905 and raised Red Angus cattle.

The family gathering to celebrate the Davidsons' 60th anniversary will include sons Brad of Crandall; Russ and wife, Shelly, of Nolliday; Todd and wife, Meg, of Austin; and daughter, Jennifer, and husband, John Elzeer, of Gotha, Florida; grandchildren Olivia, R.J. and Anna Grace of UT, Emma and twins John Scott and Lily of Austin and Lauren, Regan, John David and William of Florida.

The couple said their "favorite treasures are the friends they have made over the years and their blessings from their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

The Davidsons, both 80 years old, are members of the Lovers Lane United Methodist Church in Dallas.

Rockwall County News Briefs

(Continued from Page 1)

Celebrate Older Americans Day May 18

Meals on Wheels Senior Services of Rockwall County will host an Older Americans Day celebration, Age Out Loud, beginning at 1 p.m. on Thursday, May 18, at the Rockwall County Library, 1215 Yellow Jacket Lane, Rockwall. Each May, Rockwall County organizations, the five city mayors, city government and individuals nominate outstanding seniors (or those who serve them) to receive awards for making a difference in the community at large. For more details or to nominate a senior call 972-771-9514.

Vendors sought for Country Fair in June

The Rockwall Soroptimists are accepting applications for vendors for their fourth annual Country Fair from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, June 10, at the Rockwall County Courthouse, 1111 E. Yellow Jacket Lane. Admission will be free to the public. Live music, dancing, vendors, food, a kid zone, rides and vintage games are planned. Sign-ups will be first-come, first-served and sponsorships also are available. Proceeds will fund the Soroptimists' ongoing projects benefitting women and children, including the Children's Advocacy Center of Rockwall. For more details or to sign up visit rockwallcountryfair.com.

(Continued on Page 4)

Rockwall County Entertainment

Chef's Tasting Event to benefit H-Hands

Rockwall County Helping Hands will host its Chef Tasting Event on Thursday, May 11, at the Culpepper Steak House in Rockwall. The event will include food, fun and live music. Each participating chef (representing Occasions at Stone River, Opa! Greek Taverna, Dodie's Cajun Cafe and Culpepper Steak House) will present items for all attendees to taste and vote on. Tickets will be purchased online at rockwallhelpinghands.com/taste.

'Pillow Talk' opens at RCP

The Rockwall Community Playhouse will stage its production of "Pillow Talk" May 12-14, 19-21 and 26-28. Friday and Saturday performances will begin at 8 p.m., with Sunday matinees set at 2 p.m. Tickets are available for online purchase at rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org, by calling 972-722-3399 or at the box office 30 minutes prior to showtime. The RCP is located at 609 E. Rusk, two blocks off the square in downtown Rockwall.

(Continued on Page 4)

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1 in Abilene: Dyess Air Force

5 TXism: "hot as ... of mesquite coals"

6 TXism: "your poison"

7 TXism for "against"

8 all Southwest flights are ... smoking

9 Cowboy false start: ... play

16 TX O. Henry book set in TX: ... in Santone"

18 TX JoBeth film: "Adam: His Song"

21 singing sister of TX Tanya: ... Costa

22 Mayberry's town drunk

23 TX Ann Richards was chairwoman of this in 1992 (abbr.)

24 Port ... TX

30 this Texan sang "Cow-Cow Boogie"

34 when repeated, a British "adios"

35 Rockets drafted in 1993: Marcelo

36 electrical measure

37 TXism: "delight" (milk)

39 "The eyes of ... you"

43 pouring pitchers

44 Dallas & Houston

45 TX Ginger film: "Shall ... Dance"

46 reverence & respect

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
Copyright 2017 by Orbison Bros.

17 this island was hit in 1900 by U.S. deadliest hurricane

19 came in

20 wound reminders

24 TXism: "he sits tall the saddle"

25 TXism: "can't still for that"

26 TX Strat's "in the Hole Band"

27 TXism: "packed like cows in a ..."

28 John Steinbeck's TX-born wife

38 ... ville, TX

40 TXism: "I ... to"

41 Joe Barton is U.S. ... from TX 6th congressional dist.

42 the horse shoe

43 the stake gets a point

48 North Sea feeder

50 TX cuisine: "of Texas"

51 "one" south of the border

56 TXism: "wrangler" (writer)

57 two queens and two kings

DOWN

1 long fruit

2 TXism: "bones" (skinnny)

3 seat of Gaines County

4 this Concho County town's newspaper is the "Echo"

9 TX cooler (abbr.)

10 TXism: "brave enough to eat in a cafe"

11 "Do ... others..."

12 TXism: "so many you couldn't ... em with a stick"

13 absorbent paper

14 Rangers sports-caster Nadel (init.)

15 bad bomb

17 this island was hit in 1900 by U.S. deadliest hurricane

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20 wound reminders

24 TXism: "he sits tall the saddle"

25 TXism: "can't still for that"

26 TX Strat's "in the Hole Band"

27 TXism: "packed like cows in a ..."

28 John Steinbeck's TX-born wife

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On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

Did it really happen?

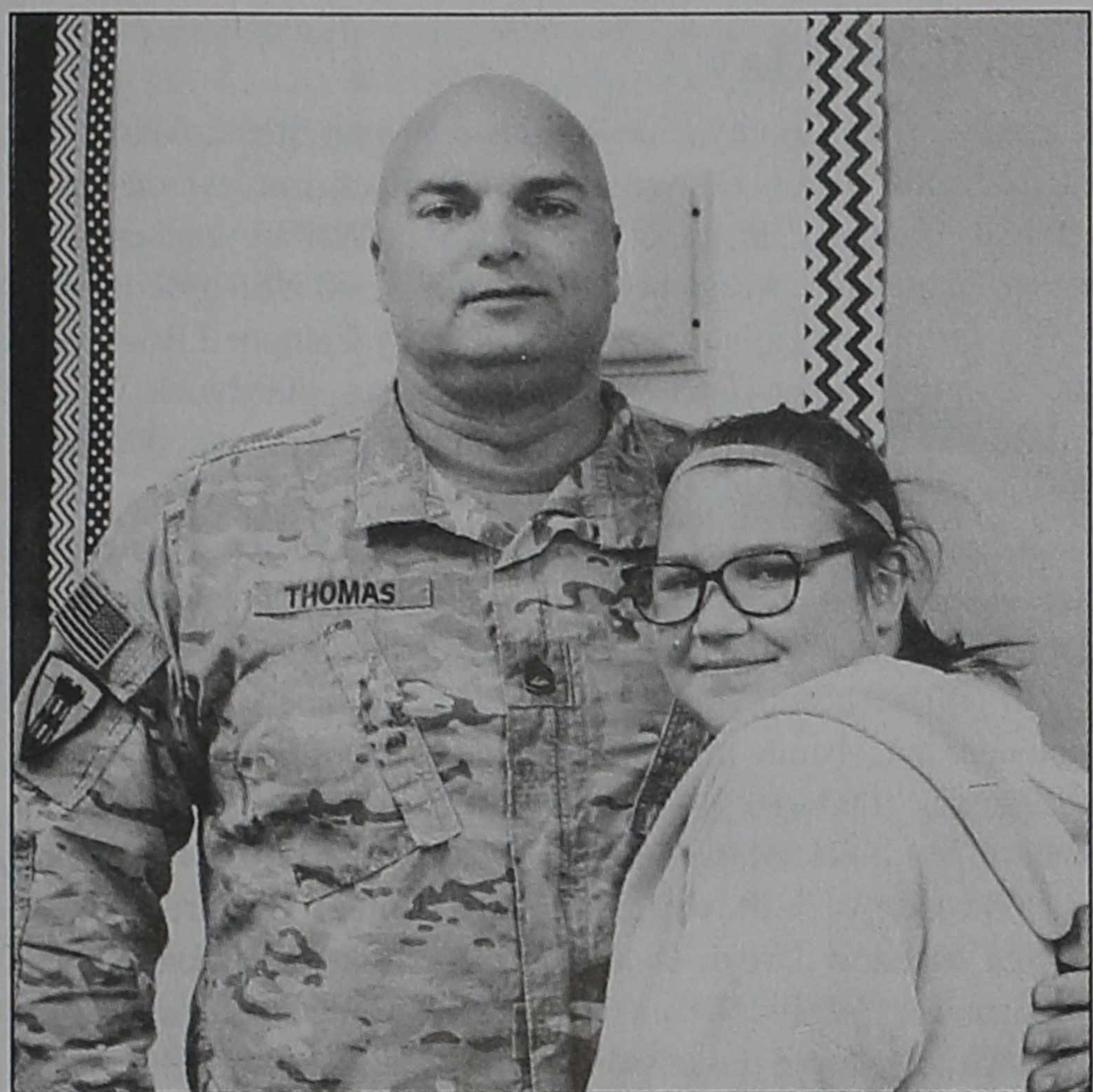
The Bible is packed with accounts of the words and works of God the Creator, that are dated throughout time and by different people over the years. God was and is able to give His word to people by the holy spirit, and His words have been fulfilled.

God is so closely tied with the historical events compiled in the Bible, that He absolutely cannot be extracted from the accounts as truth, without reducing the whole Bible to mere fiction.

This is extremely important when considering the ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus, along with his relationship with God the Creator.

According to Paul's letter to the Roman believers, it is with the heart that people believe God raised Jesus from the dead, which is unto righteousness (Romans 10:9-10). It can be said that believing with the heart that God raised Jesus from the dead is unto being filled with holy spirit which is righteousness.

According to 1 Peter 2:21-25, Jesus the living Messiah and Son of God suffered for us, and left us an example, that we may be able to follow in his steps. When Jesus was reviled, he did not revile back; while suffering, he did not threaten others; "but committed himself to Him that judges righteously." During his suffering, Jesus knew without doubt that his Father was the highest judge, and carried greater weight of legal authority than the people who sat in judgment and punishment against him.



Ruth Cherry Elementary student reunited with military family

As the door opened to Lexi Burrows' fifth grade classroom at Ruth Cherry Intermediate School in Royse City on Thursday, May 4, all the students were busy with their class work. All eyes focused on the door when it walked James Thomas, Army sergeant 1st Class E7. Burrows, her back was to the door, turned around to see her uncle, who has been serving in Afghanistan, Jordan and Syria. She immediately ran to hug him. He had not been home in more than a year. Thomas is Burrows' mother's brother. Thomas will deploy again in six months. Faculty members and Principal Richard Pense were a part of the surprise.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

God bore witness to the truth, and raised His son from the dead, and made him to sit at His right hand of all power and authority as His first-born son.

Now, people can trust God the Father in the name of the Lord Jesus the living Messiah, who sits with the highest authority given to him by his Father; such authority as one that reigns over the most powerful people on earth.

Yet, his day of judgment will not come until a time appointed by the Father. This day is known as the Day of the Lord, during which the Lord Jesus will ascend from the sky to the earth, battle with the mighty rulers of the world, and execute final judgment.

Peter's letter continues, "who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes you were healed. For you were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."

The Bible includes extremely important information about the overall condition of mankind. The hard truth? All of mankind have been under the bondage of death. The best people can do is live a full and rewarding life, and pass down knowledge, wisdom, love, care, land, property, wealth, etc, to the next generation.

God in heaven provided the absolute perfect solution for this predicament - the death and resurrection of His son Jesus, along with the essential condition that people believe with their hearts that God raised his son from the dead, resulting in righteousness.

Jesus did his Father's will, and gave himself as the final and true Passover Lamb for all of mankind. Jesus was God's purchase price as payment to recover all of mankind from the eternal clutches of the Devil or Lucifer. Without this payment, there would be no hope of a true future resurrection of the just and the unjust.

Therefore, it's important to consider whether the Pre-Old Testament, Old Testament, Gospel accounts, Acts, Epistle letters and Revelations are true. Please note that the possibility of missing writings and bad translations do not nullify the truth and reduce the whole to mere fiction or falsity.

It is often argued that the Gospel and early Church accounts, with

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letters, are so far away in history, that no person can truly prove they occurred at all. Yet, the same people will agree to the reign of Caesar in Rome.

Most Biblical scholars and students refer to the writings of a Jewish historian named Flavius Josephus, whose writings included Antiquities of the Jews, War of the Jews, Against Apion, and Discourse to the Greeks Concerning Hades.

The following passage is found in Josephus' Antiquities of the Jews, "Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was the Christ, and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men among us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day; as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians so named from him are not extinct at this day" (Jewish Antiquities, 18.3.3).

This Jewish historian, born 37 A.D., believed that Jesus was the Messiah from God.

It may help to understand the extreme importance for such historians to follow precise and exact research methods and logical reasoning when coming to conclusions.

Furthermore, it is highly probable that Jewish historians were under pressure to maintain the lie that Jesus' dead body was stolen by his disciples. Remember that the Jewish leaders paid the Roman guards to lie about what happened while guarding Jesus' tomb.

Josephus was only one generation separated from the events surrounding Jesus' death and resurrection, so his conclusion would have threatened to spoil the Jewish misinformation campaign.

Thus, with the potential pressures to stay silent, Josephus officially concluded that Jesus was the Christ, the true Messiah from God; and further concluded that Jesus was resurrected and seen by many

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HEATH

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CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Landmark Fellowship Church

www.landmarkfellowship.org

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602 White Hills Dr., Rockwall

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ROCKWALL WARD

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Psalm 150:6

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

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Mission Statement

It is the mission of this newspaper to promote the rights of individuals, guided by the principles so eloquently described in the American Declaration of Independence. The right of life, liberty and ownership of property are the cornerstones of our freedom. The sole purpose of government is to enhance our liberty and freedom. Therefore, we hold every elected and appointed agent of government accountable to that standard.



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Meetings

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

AA Meetings

Rockwall, 7 days a week, Big Book Group, 213 Rusk St., 972-722-6366.

Al-Anon Meetings

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

Al-Anon Garland

Meetings 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 vol-

unteer 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

Garage Sales

Clearance Sale. All Items must go. Bargains galore. 2410 Brownlee Blvd, Rowlett (In alley). 8-?, Saturday, May 13. No looky-loos.

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Legal Notices

Notice to Bidders

SECTION-00 11 13 NOTICE TO BIDDERS
ROCKWALL COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 8 will receive bids for the construction of **GRADING IMPROVEMENTS FOR WOODCREEK PHASE 8, ROCKWALL COUNTY, TEXAS.** Sealed bids must be delivered to the office of the DISTRICT ENGINEER (Petit Barraza, LLC, 1651 N. Glenville Drive, Suite 212, Richardson, TX 75081) no later than 11:30 AM, Friday, June 2, 2017. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time

and place. Bids received after this time will be returned unopened.

The Developer, The 160 Fate Investment Land, LLC, will be the Payor for the contract for Rockwall County Municipal Utility District No. 8. Plans, specifications and bid documents are available at <http://www.civcastusa.com>. Keyword: 04023-0801. Contract Documents may be downloaded or viewed free of charge at this web site. It is the downloader's responsibility to determine that a complete set of documents, as defined in the Instructions to Bidders are received. Printed copies of the Contract Documents may be purchased at the website

for the cost of printing. The cost for printed Contract Documents is non-refundable. This web site will be updated periodically with addenda, plan holders lists, bid tabulations, additional reports or other information relevant to bidding the Project.

Pre-bid conference for the project will be held at 10:30 AM, Friday, May 19, 2017 at the office of the DISTRICT ENGINEER, and is not mandatory. Bids must be accompanied by a cashier's check or a bid bond from a surety company holding a permit in the State of Texas for an amount equal to 2% of the amount bid. The amount of said cashier's check or bond will be forfeited to

the OWNER and the bank or surety shall be liable to the OWNER for the amount in event the successful bidder fail or refuse to enter into a contract or furnish bonds as hereafter required within ten (10) days after the date of notice of award.

Performance and Payment Bonds are required. The OWNER reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities or irregularities in bidding in case of lack of clarity in stating prices. The OWNER reserves the right to consider the most advantageous construction thereof, or reject the bid.

Rockwall County News legally qualifies for publication of all required notices in Rockwall County as a newspaper of general circulation, under Texas Gov. Code Sections 2051.044, 2051.046, 2051.048.

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5-11-2017

Royse City Police Blotter

April 28-May 4

- Friday, 28 April:** Suspicious vehicle, Area of W. County Line Road and Walnut Street; Alarm, 700 block E. I-30 NSR; Alarm, 2800 block Redwood Street; Disturbance, 1400 block Englewood Drive; Accident, 100 block E. I-30 NSR; Criminal mischief, 300 block Santo Drive; Welfare concern, 400 block W. I-30 NSR; Alarm, 1700 block Fair Oaks Lane; Accident, 100 block W. I-30 NSR; Medical assistance, 1200 block Lost Valley Drive; City ordinance violation, Area of N. Erby Campbell Boulevard; Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound near the 75-mile marker; Two criminal trespasses, 400 block W. I-30 NSR; Suspicious vehicle, Area of Orchid Boulevard; Deliver/Possession of marijuana arrests, 700 block FM 2462; Possession of marijuana arrest, I-30 eastbound near the 75-mile marker
- Saturday, 29 April:** Accident, Area of Epps Road and E. Old Greenville Road; Medical assistance, 600 block Tripp Trail; Suspicious person, 900 block S. Erby Campbell Boulevard; Medical assistance, 400 block W. Gail Street; Welfare concern, 1000 block Oak Grove Lane; Suspicious person, 1500 block Lorena Drive; Accident, 500 block W. I-30 NSR; Alarm, 400 block E. I-30 NSR; Theft, 400 block W. I-30 NSR; Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound near the 74-mile marker; Accident, Area of S. Erby Campbell Boulevard and Skelton Street; Suspicious person, 400 block W. Main Street
- Sunday, 30 April:** Noise disturbance, 2700 block Marsha Lane; Reckless driver, I-30 SSR near the 76-mile marker; Medical assistance, 900 block W. I-30 NSR; Alarm, 1200 block Evergreen Street; Fraudulent card activities, 1300 block High Meadow Drive; Disturbance, 400 block Cookston Lane; Alarm, 500 block W. I-30 NSR; Medical assistance, 1600 block Sams Circle; Alarm, 700 block Loganwood Drive; Suspicious person, 500 block Rowdy Drive; Suspicious person, I-30 SSR near the 76-mile marker; Reckless driver, 100 block W. I-30 SSR; Suspicious person, Area of I-30 SSR and FM 2642; Driving while license invalid arrest, 400 block W. I-30 NSR
- Monday, 1 May:** Alarm, 500 block S. Bell Street; Accident, 500 block E. Hwy 66; Suspicious vehicle, 600 block Dyann Drive; Noise disturbance, Area of Nevers Drive and Santo Drive; Theft, 300 block E. I-30 NSR; Disturbance, 600 block Tripp Trail; Assault arrest, 3400 block Spruce Street; Possession of controlled substance arrest, I-30 eastbound near the 79-mile marker; Theft, Area of FM 2642; Credit/Debit card abuse, 300 block Sandy Lane; Driving while intoxicated arrest, I-30 westbound near the 78-mile marker
- Tuesday, 2 May:** Criminal mischief, 300 block West Creek Drive; Driving while license invalid/Hopkins County Sheriff's Office warrant arrest, 7500 block Hwy 66; Possession of controlled substance arrest, 900 block Joe Bailey Street; Driving while license invalid arrest, Area of FM 548 and Lamar Street; Medical assistance, 200 block Lakes Drive; Accident, 200 block W. I-30 SSR; Suspicious person, 500 block E. I-30 NSR; Suspicious person, Area of Fair Oaks Lane
- Wednesday, 3 May:** Possession of controlled substance/Mesquite Police Department's warrant arrest, Area of FM 548 and Starlight Lane; Criminal mischief, 200 block Santo Drive; Credit/Debit card abuse, 3100 block Overstreet Lane; Suspicious person, 500 block Autumn Trail; Accident, Area of E. Old Greenville Road and Epps Road; Medical assistance, 500 block W. I-30 NSR; Medical assistance, 300 block N. Sorrells Road; Reckless driver, Area of I-30 westbound near FM 2642; Alarm, 2300 block E. I-30 NSR; Reckless driver, 1300 block Hidden Creek Drive; Disturbance, 100 block Cookston Lane; Suspicious person, 500 block New Street
- Thursday, 4 May:** Suspicious person, 1700 block Fair Oaks Lane; Disturbance, 1500 block Hafner Drive; Medical assistance, 6200 block FM 2642; Welfare concern, 900 block W. I-30 SSR; Suspicious vehicle, 400 block Hwy 66; Assault, 300 block West Creek Drive

Smith part of group feted at state contest

Terah Smith of Rockwall was part of a group of six Harding University students recognized for participation in the Donald W. Reynolds Governor's Cup, a statewide business plan competition for graduate and undergraduate students, according to a news release from the Searcy, Arkansas, university.

The team of students, Vitele, participated in the final round of the competition with 35 other teams on March 20 and won the Innovation Award and a \$5,000 cash prize.

Vitele created a biometric vest, which could be worn to simultaneously record EKG information and heart and lung function; take blood pressure; and measure a galvanic skin response to indicate the amount of sweat generation, according to the news release. The information could be uploaded via a wireless link and sent to the physician in an encrypted format to comply with HIPAA laws.

The DWRC is an annual contest hosted by the Arkansas Economic Acceleration Foundation that seeks to encourage an entrepreneurial spirit among graduate and undergraduate students that recognizes them for initiative and creativity.

Smith is a biomedical engineering major at the university.



"Pillow Talk," the comedy on which the Doris Day/Rock Hudson movie was based, will open May 12 and run weekends through May 28. Pictured are cast members Michael Harper, Preston Wells, Austin Wells and Erika Nannis. Performances will begin at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and at 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets may be purchased online at rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org; by calling 972-722-3399; or at the box office a half-hour before the show begins. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Rockwall County News Briefs

(Continued from page 2)

Sign-ups underway for RSM Summer Camps

Sign-ups for the Rockwall Summer Musicals 2017 Summer Camps are underway. The "Fiddler on the Roof" Summer Camp will run June 26-30 from 9 a.m. to noon for youths ages 5-7 and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for those ages 8-18. The "Peter Pan" Summer Camp will run Aug. 14-18, from 9 a.m. to noon for youths ages 5-7 and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for those ages 8-18. Registration includes the workshop, a final performance, a ticket and a T-shirt. For more details or to register, visit rockwallsummermusicals.org/season/summer-camps-2017/. Scholarships are available; contact rockwallsummermusicals.org/contact/.

Rockwall County Entertainment

(Continued from page 2)

4th annual Country Fair set June 10

The Rockwall Soroptimist will host its 4th annual Country Fair from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, June 10, at the Rockwall County Courthouse, 111 E. Yellow Jacket Lane. The event will include live music and entertainment, vendors, food trucks, a silent auction, and beer and wine. A kid zone will be featured; kids can ride and play all day with a \$10 wristband. A zip line, bounce houses, petting zoo, rock wall climb, basketball hoops, a maze, a train ride and other activities are planned. Nonprofits will be on hand to provide vintage games at a cost of \$1 a try. Pony rides and a photo booth will be offered. Proceeds will fund the organization's ongoing projects benefitting women and children, including the Children's Advocacy Center. Visit rockwallcountryfair.com for more details.

by Patri Buchanan For two First, served from White Ho and Divided The seco and his first In many Trump is wealth, wh Nixon, bor consumed men ever to Yet the Nixon's w Both to Nixon w Luther Kir street battl Conventio By the f and U.S. Building. Trump's and hostile Both m they collu Nixon's Lyndon Jo collusion

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Opinions

Nixon and Trump, then and now

by Patrick J. Buchanan
Buchanan.org

For two years, this writer has been consumed by two subjects. First, the presidency of Richard Nixon, in whose White House I served from its first day to its last, covered in my new book, "Nixon's White House Wars: The Battles That Made and Broke a President and Divided America Forever."

The second has been the astonishing campaign of Donald Trump and his first 100-plus days as president.

In many ways, the two men could not have been more different. Trump is a showman, a performer, a real estate deal-maker, born to wealth, who revels in the material blessings his success has brought. Nixon, born to poverty, was studious, reserved, steeped in history, consumed with politics and policy, and among the most prepared men ever to assume the presidency.

Yet the "mess" Trump inherited bears striking similarities to Nixon's world in 1969.

Both took office in a nation deeply divided.

Nixon was elected in a year marked by the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy, race riots in 100 cities, and street battles between cops and radicals at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

By the fall of 1969, Nixon had buses surrounding his White House and U.S. Airborne troops in the basement of his Executive Office Building.

Trump's campaign and presidency have also been marked by huge and hostile demonstrations.

Both men had their elections challenged by the toxic charge that they colluded with foreign powers to influence the outcome.

Nixon's aides were accused of conspiring with Saigon to torpedo Lyndon Johnson's Paris peace talks. Trump aides were charged with collusion with Vladimir Putin's Russia to disseminate stolen emails

of the Democratic National Committee. The U.S. establishment, no stranger to the big lie, could not and cannot accept that the nation preferred these outsiders.

Nixon took office with 525,000 troops tied down in Vietnam. Trump inherited Afghanistan, the longest war in U.S. history, and wars in Iraq, Syria, Libya and Yemen.

Nixon pledged to end the Vietnam War with honor and begin an era of negotiations — and did. Trump promised to keep us out of new Mideast wars and to reach an accommodation with Russia.

Nixon and Trump both committed to remake the Supreme Court. Having pledged to select a Southerner, Nixon saw two of them, Judges Clement Haynsworth and Harrold Carswell, savaged by the Senate.

While Nixon was the first president since Zachary Taylor to take office without his party's having won either house of Congress, Trump took office with his party in control of both. Thus, Trump's nominee, Judge Neil Gorsuch, made it.

Probably no two presidents have ever faced such hostility and hatred from the media. After his 1969 "Silent Majority" speech on Vietnam was trashed, Nixon declared war, authorizing an attack on the three networks by Vice President Spiro Agnew.

Trump has not stopped bashing the media since he came down the escalator at Trump Tower to declare his candidacy.

In Trump's first major victory on Capitol Hill, the House voted narrowly to "repeal and replace" Obamacare. Only with a tiebreaking vote by Agnew in August 1969 did Nixon win his first big victory — Senate approval of a strategic missile defense.

Though Nixon had backed every civil rights law of the 1950s and '60s, he was charged with pursuing a racist "Southern strategy" to capture the South from Dixiecrats, whose ilk had ruled it for a century.

Trump was also slandered for running a "racist" campaign.

Trump and Nixon were supported by the same loyalists — "forgotten Americans," "Middle Americans," "blue-collar Democrats" — and opposed and detested by the same enemy, a political-media-intellectual-cultural establishment. And this establishment is as determined to break and bring down Trump as it was to break and bring down Nixon.

Yet though Trump and Nixon ran up similar Electoral College victories, Nixon at the end of 1969 was at 68 percent approval and only 19 percent disapproval. Trump, a third of the way through his first year, is underwater in Gallup.

Nixon's achievements in his first term were extraordinary.

He went to Beijing and opened up Mao Zedong's China to the world, negotiated with Moscow the greatest arms limitation agreement since the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922, and withdrew all U.S. forces from South Vietnam.

He desegregated the South, ended the draft, gave the vote to all 18-year-olds, indexed Social Security against inflation, created the Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, named four justices to the Supreme Court, presided over six moon landings, declared a "war on cancer," proposed a guaranteed annual income, created revenue sharing with the states, took America off the gold standard, and let the dollar float.

He then won a 49-state landslide in 1972, creating a "New Majority," and setting the stage for Republican control of the presidency for 16 of the next 20 years.

But in June 1972, a bungled bugging at the DNC, which Nixon briefly sought to contain and then discussed as the White House tapes were rolling, gave his enemies the sword they needed to run him through.

The same deep state enemies await a similar opening to do to Trump what they did to Nixon. Rely upon it.

Judicial system grossly under-utilized against public officials

by Timothy W. Burnett
Publisher, Rockwall County News

One of the basic political principles applied in the forming of the United States and Texas is restrained government with limited powers as annotated in the constitution and subservient statutes, existing at the will of the free People.

The federal government and constitution was formed after the Articles of Confederation which may continue to silently stand as lawful precedence. The federal government was formed by the states with a constitution that strictly limits its powers.

The states were formed by the people with constitutions that strictly limit their powers.

The local counties, municipalities and other government units exist under the authority of the People and their states.

Municipalities are Corporations created under state laws.

The Counties and Municipalities have their own courts. County courts include the Courts at Law and the Constitutional County Courts. Municipalities have the option of forming Corporation Courts.

Constitutional County Courts have both civil and criminal jurisdiction, and allow for plaintiffs or their representative attorneys to prosecute criminal cases.

County Courts at Law are narrowly limited to statutory law.

The two county courts are distinguished from each other in Texas Gov. Code Chapter 26 Constitutional County Courts.

Texas Constitution Article 5 Judicial Powers include "county court" and "commissioners court." Notice it does not include "county court at law," which may have been established by the legislature under the category of "other courts."

Constitutional County Courts are also known as Common Law Courts, and are presided over by none other than the County Judges. Very few counties in Texas offer Constitutional County Courts. The Constitutional County Court Judges basically serve an administrative function and sit on the Commissioners courts.

Wonder why they are called commissioners "courts"?

This body can actually serve as a court.

The Constitutional County Courts are buried and under-utilized venues, that would be available for prosecuting government officials by private plaintiffs, without relying on government attorneys.

In a Constitutional County Court, the defendant has the right to talk about the law in the presence of the jury.

In a County Court at Law, the judge asserts de facto power to instruct the jury about the law, and the defendant is restricted from presenting and talking about the law. The jury is often barred by the judge from reviewing and making determinations about the law.

Where is this article going?

How many times have government officials violated state law, and in some way relayed the message, "sue me?"

They do not blatantly say something like this often. But there are

rare instances where foolish public officials will respond to pressure from the People by out-right saying, "Get an attorney and sue me!"

More often, the message is relayed as silence and non-response. The officials behave as if they anticipate being sued, and thus stay silent and do not respond.

Why can they anticipate being sued? Well — if someone knows they've done wrong, then a law suit may be anticipated.

Sadly, though, they also may measure the ability of the adversely affected party to sue or take any legal action.

For example, if a City Manager is given "authority" by a municipality, to execute a contract with an IT company that does not meet the statutory criteria to be qualified for selection as a vendor for the city; and the only qualified vendor is a large company with an arsenal of attorneys; what would the public official do?

Would he follow through with the city council's "authorization" to violate state law? Or would he inform the council that he would not act on the council's "authorization," and comply with state law.

Keep in mind that the City Manager is the executive official who is responsible for making sure the city is in compliance with state law. If the Manager fails to do so, then that one is found to be in violation of state law. In his official capacity, he may be found to be responsible for depriving the legally qualified IT company of its privilege to be selected to offer the services.

In other words, the qualified company can sue the executive official directly, or file criminal charges under Penal Code Chapter 39.

Do you think the Manager will respond to the qualified company's grievances by saying, "get an attorney and sue me?" Absolutely not. Would that one sit back and stay silent while receiving official notices from the company's arsenal of attorneys? Not a bit.

The judicial system in Texas and the united States exist for the primary reason of holding government officials responsible and accountable for unlawful conduct and illegal actions, which often involve constitutional and statutory violations.

A grossly under-utilized part of the judicial system involves criminal prosecution of public officials. Only in the rare instances of bribery or theft of public money or equipment, do public officials face criminal prosecution.

Most District Attorney offices do not include a Public Officials Division. Dallas County may have such a division.

It is grossly appalling to compare the total number of D.A. prosecution cases involving private People, with the total number of cases involving public officials.

Anyone who compares the actions of public officials with state law, may find a high volume of statutory violations being committed at the local and state level. Most of the violations involve impairment of rights, deprivation of privileges, and/or disenfranchisement of others, all of which go toward Chapter 39 of the Penal Code.

Consider the high volume of criminal cases before Justice of the

Peace and Municipal courts involving private People, mostly related to traffic rules. The counties, cities and states are being heavily enriched by robbing people for basically violating statutes.

Consider the hypocrisy and conflict with law, when the above referenced high volume of cases against private People are compared to the number of criminal cases involving public officials who violate statutes.

The same judicial institutions that haul We the People into their criminal courts for alleged statutory violations, also protect and shield public officials from criminal prosecution.

In addition, most of the accusations against the People involve violations of statutes that are not designated as misdemeanor criminal offenses. In other words, they are prosecuting the People for non-existent criminal offenses!

The united States and Texas have good and useful judicial systems in place. Sadly, they are under-utilized tools for holding public officials accountable and responsible, and are abusively over utilized against the People.

In many cases, they are found to be used for the mal-enforcement of non-existent laws, or mal-enforcement far outside the narrow scope of certain laws.

As the November 2017 election approaches, that is assuming they hold true elections, consider whether the candidates for District Attorney and Judges will set up a system for prosecuting local government officials for statutory violations and related offenses under Texas Penal Code Chapter 39 Official Oppression and Abuse of Official Capacity.

Read Chapter 39 closely, and notice how the Class A misdemeanor offenses involve "impairment of right," depriving of "privilege," disenfranchisement of the people or certain parties, etc. They are not limited to theft of property or bribery.

This one part of the Penal Code is grossly under-utilized, when compared with the high volume of statutory violations being committed by local public officials, which often involve adversely affected parties.

People who are not interested in voting, may be interested in organizing for the purpose of utilizing the judicial system by filing criminal and civil complaints as frequently as the governments and enforcement officers do against the People.

They can learn how to file citations with the courts, just as enforcement officers do against the People.

The People may find that this kind of activism sends a stronger message and brings quicker results than "elections."

The judicial system exists for the People. Pick, from within the People, they who will serve to protect the People from an over-expanding and abusive government, the meek and lowly in heart to serve as District Attorneys and Judges.

When the People are well organized for filing civil and criminal actions, or petitions for removal of officials or ordinances, then the public officials may think twice about violating state law and using their power to abuse others; and may think twice about responding with, "get an attorney, and sue me!"

President Trump: Cancel your Saudi trip ...

by Ron Paul
Ron Paul Institute For Peace and Prosperity

President Trump is about to embark on his first foreign trip, where he will stop in Saudi Arabia, Israel, and the Vatican, before attending a NATO meeting in Brussels and the G-7 summit in Sicily. The media and pundits have loudly wondered why hasn't he gone on a foreign trip sooner. I wonder why go at all?

What does the president hope to achieve with these meetings? This is a president who came into office with promises that we would finally start to mind our own business overseas. In December, he said that the policy of US "intervention and chaos" overseas must come to an end. Instead, he is jumping into a region — the Middle East — that has consumed the presidencies of numerous of his predecessors.

On Saudi Arabia, President Trump has shifted his position from criticism of the Saudi regime to a seemingly warm friendship with Saudi deputy crown prince Mohammad bin Salman. He has approved weapons sales to Saudi Arabia that President Obama had halted due to Saudi human rights abuses, particularly in its horrific war on Yemen.

While visiting Saudi Arabia, one of the most extreme theocracies on earth — where conversion to Christianity can bring the death penalty — President Trump will attend a meeting of Muslim leaders to discuss the threats of terrorism and religious extremism. No, not in Saudi Arabia, but in Iran, where Christianity is legal and thriving!

Perhaps President Trump's flip-flop on Saudi Arabia was inspired by the ten separate Washington, D.C. public relations firms the Kingdom

keeps on the payroll, at a cost of \$1.3 million per month. That kind of money can really grease the policy wheels in Washington.

From there, the US President will travel to Israel. Does he believe he will finally be able to solve the 70 year old Israel-Palestine conflict by negotiating a good deal? If so, he's in for a surprise.

The problem persists partly because we have been meddling in the region for so long. Doing more of the same is pretty unlikely to bring about a different result. How many billions have we spent propping up "allies" and bribing others, and we're no closer to peace now than when we started. Maybe it's time for a new approach. Maybe it's time for the countries in the Middle East to solve their own problems. They have much more incentive to reach some kind of deal in their own neighborhood.

Likewise his attendance at the NATO meeting is not very encouraging to those of us who were pleased to hear candidate Trump speak the truth about the outdated military alliance. We don't need to strong-arm NATO members to spend more money on their own defense. We need to worry about our own defense. Our military empire — of which NATO is an arm — makes us weaker and more vulnerable. Minding our own business and rejecting militarism would make us safer.

Many pundits complain that President Trump spends too much time golfing. I would rather he spend a lot more time golfing and less time trying to solve the rest of the world's problems. We cannot afford to be the policeman or nursemaid to the rest of the world, particularly when we have such a lousy record of success.

Rockwall County
Letters to the Editor

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Dear Editor:

Congratulations to all of the citizens of Heath who voted overwhelmingly for Brent Weaver, Frank New and Paul Ruffo. We the People went to the polls on May 6 to demonstrate our dismay at the direction our once-beautiful city has been taking for far too long. "Enough is Enough" was the mantra I heard throughout our City when I spoke to citizens and heartily endorsed the New Cleaning Crew that now has replaced much of the Developers' Ole' Guard at Heath City Hall. The New Guard has been given a mandate to change course. And we no longer want hired hands of consultants and agenda'd councilmen steering our ship. New captains are at the helm.....steady, and stay the course.

Joan Ream
Citizen Activist

Lake Highlands shutout sends Lady Jackets to Region 2 tournament

With starting pitcher Hannah Frank on the mound, the Rockwall High School Lady Jackets softball team shutout Lake Highlands 0-11, in a single game Area round playoff series, Friday, May 5, 2017, in Rockwall.

The Lady Jackets will move on to the Region 2 tournament, beginning with the Quarterfinals round against Conroe Oak Ridge, Thursday and Friday 2 of 3 series, at Mumford High School.

Frank allowed only three hits, and forced a ground out to end the game in the fifth inning.

Rockwall put 2 points on the board with a Home Run by Erica Speer off a Lake Highlands error, also driving in Reagan Swindall.

During the second inning, the Lady Jackets scored five runs on singles by Speer, Samantha Bean, and a Home Run by Darryn Welborn.

At the start of the fourth inning, the Jackets had pushed ahead to the game-winning 0-11 lead.

Also logging multiple scores were Frank and Lexi Coward.

Treadway returns from State meet with gold

Tyler Treadway, of Heritage Christian Academy Rockwall won the TAPPS 3A State Track and Field Championship in the 300 Meter Hurdles with a time of 40.91 seconds.

The state meet was held May 5-6 at Baylor University's Clyde Hart Field in Waco.

Treadway also finished second with a time of 15.93 in the 110M Hurdles.

Paden Elliot earned a second place finish with a distance of 126-07 in the Men's Discus Throw event.

Other individual results

Abbie Mayfield, Women's 100 Meter Hurdles, 5th, 18.19; 300M Hurdles, 8, 54.59.

Men 4x200M Relay, 5, 1:36.04, Jacob Smith, Dawson Schoening, Max Mitchell and Brendan Cockroft.

Madison Brown, Women's Triple Jump, 7, 30-11.25; 200M Dash, 9, 28.44.

Isabella Schmukal, Women's Discus Throw, 9, 80-06.

Paden Elliot, Shot Put, 5, 40-00.25.

Baylee Hawkins, Women's Long Jump, 9, 14-02.00.

Yellowjackets advance to Area playoff with 1-11 win over College Park

During the Bi-District round of playoffs, Friday, May 5, 2017, the Rockwall Yellowjackets (Overall 29-5) stormed over College Park 1-11, ending the game in the sixth inning at Rockwall.

Rockwall held a 1-2 lead going into the fifth inning.

During the fourth inning, Jackets pitcher Brooks Helmer stopped College Park from scoring with bases loaded.

Rockwall added 5 points with a Tyler Riebock (Catcher) Home Run Single Run-Batted-In to right field, followed by Triple base hit for a Double RBI, bring the score to 1-7 to end the inning.

During the sixth inning, the Yellowjackets added 4 points to end the game.

After loading the bases with 2 outs, Will Frizzell got a base hit, forcing College Park to decide between prevent a score or tagging Kasen Hill out in a Pickle between second and third base.

It was decided to tag Hill and allow Diego Muniz to score.

On the next play, Helmer nailed a two-base hit for a game ending Double RBI.

Helmer pitched 6 innings, with 1 unearned run and 8 strike outs.

Rockwall will take-on Rowlett (Overall 23-6) for the Area round of playoffs.

Game 1 will be held 7:30 p.m., Thursday, May 11, at Rockwall.

Game 2, 7:30 p.m., Friday, May 12, at Rowlett.

Game 3, 1:00 p.m., Saturday, May 13, at Mesquite Tillery Field (if necessary).

Hawks baseball take Lufkin in strong 2 of 3 Bi-district series

The Rockwall-Heath Hawks (Overall 29-7) shut down Lufkin after a 10-6 loss in game 1 of the Bi-District playoff series, May 4-6, 2017, at Mike Carter Field in Tyler.

With the win, the Hawks are set to take on Dallas Jesuit, May 11-13, with game 1 starting 7:30 p.m., Thursday, at Jesuit.

Game 2 is set for 7:30 p.m., at Heath.

Game 3 will be reserved for 1:00 p.m., Saturday, at Prosper.

Following the game 1 loss, the Hawks came back to defeat Lufkin 10-1 in game 2, and sealed-off the victory with a 22-8 pounding in game 3.

During game 1, Kaden Krowka pitched 4 innings, with 2 Strike Outs and 10 First Strike Pitches.

Chandler Mauldin took the mound throughout game 2, logging 4 SO and 17 FPS. Miller Ladusau knocked in 4 Runs Batted In, and Jake Wade recorded 3 RBIs.

Cole Stillwell stepped up for game 3, to pitch 6 innings, 1 SO and 19 FPS. The 22 points include Luke Greenhill's 4 RBIs, Chris Teufel's 4 RBIs, and Wade's 3 RBIs with 3 Hits. Other hitters included Teufel and Cody Cleveland.

Lady Hawks gymnastics, 4th at state meet

The Rockwall-Heath Lady Hawks Gymnastics team finished the season fourth with a team score of 227.575 at the 2017 THSGCA State Gymnastics Championships, April 28-29, 2017, at Permian High School in Odessa.

According to Coach Jennifer Holden, the team had an "awesome season improving their team score at every meet."

"We started the season on in twelfth placed, but after a season of hard work, team work, sacrifice, sweat, tears, determination, and confidence the girls finished top 4 in the state," said Holden.

Spencer Ware (Sophomore), placed fourth on the Floor event, fifth on Vault, and eighth in All-Around.

Sophomore, Peyton Moody, placed third on the Uneven Bars.

Junior and Co-Captain, Haley Gibson, placed seventh on the Balance Beam.

Sophomore, Bailey Daulong, placed fifth on Vault.

Other performances included Julia Shallow, Corinne Moody, Gillian Rupert, and Tori Mercado.

"With everyone returning next year we hope to have another amazing season!" exclaimed Coach Holden.



Lady Jackets Erica Speer crossed home plate as teammates celebrate following her home run on a Lake Highlands error that also drove in Reagan Swindall, to start the Area round single playoff series with a first inning 0-2 lead, Friday, May 5, 2017, at the Campbell Complex in Rockwall. The Lady Jackets went on to defeat Lake Highlands 0-11 during the sixth inning and advance to the Region 2 tournament.

Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News



Yellowjackets starting Pitcher, Brooks Helmer (25), throws a strike against a College Park batter, Friday, May 5, 2017, during the Bi-District single game playoff series at the Campbell Complex in Rockwall. Shown in the Catcher position is Tyler Riebock (23). Rockwall finished the game with 1-11 win to advance for the Area round playoffs against Rowlett, May 11-13, starting with game 1 at Rockwall.

Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News



The young women pictured above posted a great showing at the district championship track and field meet. Pictured are seventh grade students Ella Novak, second place, long jump, 14'5", fifth place, 200-meter dash, 28.65, and fifth place, 4x100 relay, 54.22; Jazmin Dotson, fourth place, 200-meter dash, 28.22, and fifth place, 4x100 relay, 54.22; Are-Anna Conner, fifth place, 4x100 relay, 54.22; Haylee Mills, fifth place, 4x100 relay, 54.22; and Danielle Gillean, sixth place, shot put, 29'8.5".

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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