



# Rockwall County News

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Mailed Subscribers in North Texas Counties of Collin, Dallas, Hunt, Kaufman and Rockwall

## Royse City resident turns 103 on Christmas Day

By Julie Jean Coppedge

The following proclamation, signed by Royse City Mayor Jerrell Baley, was recently presented to a longtime resident of Royse City: Proclamation to all to whom presents shall come: Whereas Christine Crowell Davison will be honored by family and friends on the occasion of her 103rd birthday on the 25th day of December 2013, and whereas Christine is a beloved citizen of the City of Royse City, Texas, and whereas Christine's life tells Royse City citizens that life can be very rewarding and fulfilling; and now, therefore by the virtue of the authority vested

in me as mayor of the City of Royse City, I do hereby deem it an honor and pleasure to extend this proclamation to Christine Crowell Davison on the occasion of her 103rd birthday, with sincere congratulations and best wishes."

Christine Davison's parents were Robert (Bob) and Mattie (Dowell) Crowell. Her father was born on Dec. 6, 1874, in Salisbury, N.C. At the age of 18, he ran away from home, catching a train to Texas. He settled in Rockwall with his mother's family, the Underwoods. Shortly thereafter, his family moved to Texas and settled in Fate.

Christine Davison's mother, Mattie Dowell, was born on Nov. 17,

1877. She and Bob Crowell married in 1890.

The Crowells settled on a large farm one mile south of Fate. The farm was owned by a widow living in Rockwall. Eventually they bought their own farm in Hunt County near Burrow, Texas. The couple had 11 children. They all lived into their 90s.

Christine Crowell married Rip Davison. They had two boys, Joel and Danny. Joel Davison lives in Royse City and Danny Davison lives in College Station. Rip Davison died in 1978.

I've not know many people born on Christmas Day and none who lived to be 103 years old. Congratulations, Christine. You are truly special.



Christine Crowell Davison of Royse City celebrated her 103rd birthday on Christmas Day. Mayor Jerrell Baley presented her with a proclamation declaring Dec. 25, 2013, as Christine Crowell Davison Day in Royse City. Looking on is her son, Joel Davison. Another photo shows the honoree in her younger days. (Courtesy photos/Rockwall County News)

## CASA seeks volunteers, plans information sessions

Lone Star CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocate) is recruiting volunteers to assist abused and/or neglected children in finding safe, permanent homes and better lives.

Volunteers need not be lawyers or social workers, according to a CASA news release.

"We welcome volunteers from all cultures, professions and educational backgrounds," the release states. "We are looking for people with a desire to help abused children."

Volunteers, after completing 30 hours of new volunteer training, review case records, research information, prepare court reports, make recommendations to the court and advocate in court. Each year, a volunteer must complete 12 hours of training.

Information sessions about CASA and its need for volunteers are scheduled as follows:

- Jan. 6 - 5:30 p.m., Kaufman County Courthouse, 100 W. Mulberry St., Kaufman
- Jan. 7 - 6:30 p.m., Terrell Chamber of Commerce, 1314 W. Moore Ave., Terrell
- Jan. 9 - 6:30 p.m., ReMax/Forney Business Center, 205 E. Hwy. 80, Forney
- Jan. 13 - 6:30 p.m., CASA Rockwall, 108 Kenway, Rockwall

Lone Star CASA advocates for children in Rockwall and Kaufman counties.

For more details, call 972-772-5858 or email vickie@lonestarcasa.org.

## Convicted Rowlett man fights for right to due process, defend self on appeal ... freedom

by Timothy W. Burnett

On March 28, 2013, David Carl Swingle of Rowlett appealed to the 5th District Court of Appeals an adjudication of guilt for third-degree felony possession of the controlled substance methamphetamine, one to four grams.

The 382nd District Court sentenced Swingle to three years' imprisonment on March 19, with Judge Brett Hall presiding.

Rockwall County Assistant district attorney Craig Stoddart represented the State of Texas in the case.

On Oct. 22, 5th District Court Justice Lana Myers denied Swingle's motion to dismiss counsel and proceed with his pro se appellate brief.

Rockwall attorney Greg Gray was appointed to represent Swingle.

On Dec. 17, the 5th District Court issued a notice setting the hearing for 1 p.m. Feb. 18, 2014, in Liberty Hall, Rockwall County Courthouse.

The notice states, "The panel hearing the case will consist of Justices Bridges, O'Neil and Brown."

### Case history

The case began with a routine patrol in Elgin B. Robertson Park by Texas Department of Public Safety troopers Stephen Nichols and Lance Amos. Robertson Park is located south from the intersection of Interstate 30 and Dalrock Road in Rowlett between Dallas County and Rockwall County.

Nichols subsequently arrested the defendant after a search of his car.

The late Louis Conradt Jr. initially handled the case in the 439th District Court in Rockwall County with Judge David Rakow presiding. Conradt served as chief assistant district attorney under then Rockwall County District Attorney Galen Ray Sumrow.

Swingle was indicted by the Rockwall County Grand Jury on Jan. 11, 2006.

The court appointed Attorney Keith Wheeler to represent Swingle.

The defendant filed a motion to suppress evidence because he did not agree with the police report, which indicated the evidence was in "plain view."

The suppression hearing took place on April 11, 2006, in the 382nd District Court with Judge Brett Hall presiding and Conradt as district attorney.

On April 12, 2006, the court denied suppression of evidence.

Swingle explained that between October 2006 and June 2008, the

382nd District Court held "three due diligence hearings, then classified the case 'inactive.'"

Unhappy with legal representation, Swingle dismissed Wheeler and entered a not guilty plea.

According to Swingle, following a number of hearings during which he felt pressured into a guilty plea bargain, he hired attorney Frank Jackson of Dallas.

Swingle followed Jackson's advice to plead guilty with right to appeal in June of 2006.

"Out of distrust for the judicial system, Swingle defied the court's order, fled the county as a fugitive from Oct. 9, 2006, until his arrest and return on Nov. 8, 2012. A warrant was issued for his arrest Oct. 12, 2006. During the six years as a fugitive, Swingle sent the court and district attorney numerous email messages reminding them of alleged due process of law violations committed in the case.

On Jan. 2, 2013, the state filed an amended motion to adjudicate.

The court sentenced Swingle to three years on March 19.

During the time period of 2006 to 2008, the Rockwall County District Attorney's office was the subject of multiple criminal investigations.

On November 5, 2006, Conradt allegedly killed himself during a police raid on his Kaufman County home. The circumstances surrounding the police raid raised questions of whether he was deprived of due process of law. The raid is also addressed in The Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology ("Catch" and Release: Procedural Unfairness on Primetime Television and the perceived Legitimacy of the Law, 2010, Volume 100, No. 2).

Later in 2007, Sumrow was indicted for felony Forgery Financial Instrument, Theft of Property (third degree felony), tampering with government records, and abuse of official capacity (second degree felony).

On appeal for the conviction of theft by a public servant with a sentence of 15 years confinement, the Fifth District Court of Appeals affirmed the lower court's decision in May 5, 2010. Sumrow was represented by Keith and James Wheeler, and Stephen Cooper.

(Continued on Page 7)

## Rockwall County News Briefs

### Lowered flags honor Buffington

City of Rockwall Mayor David Sweet ordered that the flags at all city facilities be lowered to half-staff as a sign of respect following the recent death of former Rockwall City Council member Sam Buffington. Buffington served on the council for three two-year terms from 1995 to 2001, according to the Dec. 26 city news release. Additionally, Buffington served the Rockwall County Democratic Party as a precinct chair in Precinct 3, according to information provided by the party's county chairperson.

### City of Rockwall offices to close for holiday

City of Rockwall offices will be closed Jan. 1 for the observance of New Year's Day, according to a city news release.

### Rockwall County TEA Party to meet

The Rockwall County TEA Party will meet from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Jan. 2 at Soulman's Bar-B-Que, Rockwall. Meet in the private dining room to learn about health insurance and ObamaCare from insurance professional Randy Smith of Mission Risk Insurance, Carrollton; get there early to go through the serving line. A Q&A session is planned. The organization meets the first Thursday of each month at the barbecue eatery. For more information email rockwall.conservative@gmail.com.

### Christmas tree drop-off site still available

City of Rockwall residents can drop off their live Christmas trees at the Tuttle Sports Complex parking lot at 1550 Airport Rd. through Jan. 6. All ornaments, lights and stands should be removed from trees prior to drop off.

### RFA program's new classes to begin Jan. 6

The Reading for Adults Literacy Program offers free educational classes, including English as a Second Language (ESL); GED Studies and Preparation; U.S. Citizenship Preparation; and Adult Literacy Studies. With an enrollment of 300 students, RFA has convenient class schedules, including weekday mornings and select evening

(Continued on Page 3)

## Three Rockwall City Council seats to be filled

The positions on the Rockwall City Council will be filled in the 2014 municipal election, according to the City of Rockwall's January newsletter.

Three seats filled by Councilmen Jim Pruitt, Place 2, Dennis Lewis, Place 3, and Mike Townsend, Place 6, will be filled in the election.

According to the newsletter, all three incumbents have indicated they will not be running for re-election.

Candidate filing for the election will open Jan. 29; the last day to file is Feb. 28.

Candidate information packets will be available online at the city's website, rockwall.com, the week of Jan. 6. Packets also will be available at the city secretary's office on the third floor of City Hall.

## Rockwall water, garbage rates to climb in January

Water and garbage customers of the City of Rockwall will see rate increases this month, according to the city's monthly newsletter.

Water rates will increase approximately 10 percent to cover a 9.36 percent hike in the rate charged by the city's water supplier, the North Dallas Municipal Water District. Residential water bills will increase from \$12 more per month based on average consumption, according to the newsletter.

The new rates will be reflected on February water bills for water used in January.

The increase was approved by the Rockwall City Council in December.

Also, a rate increase of 21 cents per month for residential customers was approved by the city following a request from its garbage and recycling collection provider, Republic Waste Services. The new rate will go into effect in January and will be reflected in February utility bills, according to the newsletter.



This life-size nativity scene can be found on Racheal Drive in Heath. At back, viewers will see a Santa sitting and reading a Bible.

Photo by Brittany Williams/Rockwall County News





# Standing on the shoulders of giants?



## Brittany Williams

Musings of a 20-something ...

by Brittany Williams  
rcn.brittany@yahoo.com

Over the last couple of weeks, I have taken advantage of the holidays to catch up on some TV and free up some space on the DVR.

In doing so, I found a recent episode of "America Unearthed" on The History Channel titled The Great Wall of Texas.

Growing up in the area, I knew that there was a rock wall under Rockwall and I had heard all kinds of theories. I even had friends that claimed they had some of it in their back yard.

There were rumors of seven foot tall giants and an entire other civilization that was here before your modern Rockwallian. A lost race if you will.

In 1854, the town of Rockwall took its name from what local residents, who had been living there since 1852, believed to be a prehistoric stone wall which surrounded the town. While digging wells, they found large

sections of rock that seemed to be manmade. Several layers of buried rock were piled on top of each other that seemed to form irregular bricks and what looked to be mortar.

In case you don't want the surprise ending of the episode to be spoiled, you should go ahead and stop reading now.

Ok, so you're still reading. Good. Are you ready for this?

The wall was not built by giants.

On the show, geologist and "America Unearthed" host Scott Wolter and John Guzman, a paleo-magnetic dater from University of Texas worked their geologic magic and found that it, in fact was not built by giants of old but by a force of nature.

Wolter believes that the wall is a sand dyke, or a seam in the sediment filled in with sand and other materials compounded by pressure created by the earth.

So maybe our bubbles have been burst, but that's ok. Either way, it's a part of our history as a town.

And by golly, we should embrace it.

How many other towns do you know of that can say their town named after an underground rock wall?

None. That's how many.

So, let us take on our history and enjoy, celebrate and honor our history.

Look at it this way, not only do we have a rock wall, but we live in Texas.

The greatest state of them all.

Hands down.



Fourth grade students at Cullins-Lake Pointe Elementary recently participated in reading the Newbery Award-winning "The One and Only Ivan." Participants included Hunter Walker, Payton Brott, Brighton Riley, Allyson Verret, Jake Flaherty, Cade Glascock, Clara Williamson and Kennedy Baker.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



This is one of several dangerous sections of the Erby Campbell Construction Project on I-30 in Royse City. The photo shows the two westbound lanes of the service road just past McDonalds (not pictured, but on the right). Drivers wishing to get onto the interstate must take the left lane as the sign indicates, and the danger comes when the two lanes of traffic are coming over the underpass at FM 548 and down the hill into traffic trying to merge onto the interstate. This leaves oncoming vehicles little time to get into the flow of traffic. Where the automobile is seen in this photo is where the service road splits. Traffic in the right-hand lane will continue one way on the service road until Fate Exit FM 551, then the driver may choose to continue on the service road or enter the interstate. Travelers are advised to read and obey all the traffic signs, especially the speed limit signs, not only to the interstate but on the service roads as well.

Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/Rockwall County News

## Births



John-Mark Preston Hass



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Ava Nelson (right) with her son Jim

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Jason and Claudia Hass Rockwall are proud to announce the birth of their son, John-Mark Preston Hass, at 7:45 a.m. on Dec. 16, 2013, at Children's Hospital of Medical City Dallas.

The infant weighed 8 pounds 10 ounces and was 20.9 inches at birth.

He was welcomed home by his mother, sister, Isabella Grace Hass.

Maternal grandparents are N. Cabrera de Rojas of Boca Raton, Fla. Paternal grandparents are Preston and Linda Hass of Rockwall, Texas. The infant's aunt is Lisa Van Bibber of Tarpon Springs, Fla.

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## Rockwall County Obituaries

### Lois M. Burson

Services for Lois M. Burson, Rowlett were conducted at 2 p.m. Dec. 30, 2013, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall. Burial followed in the Rest Haven Memorial Park.

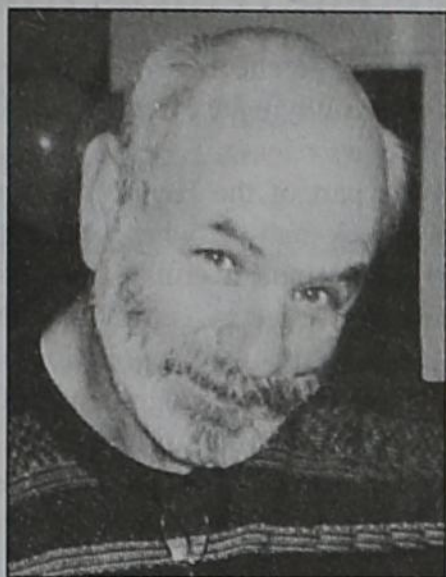


She died Dec. 25, 2013, in Rockwall, Texas. She was born April 10, 1921, in McCurtain, Oklahoma, to Alfred Peter Daniels and Mae (Derryberry) Daniels. She was a homemaker and attended Heart Fellowship in Rowlett. Survivors include her children, Green and her husband, Wendell, of Rockwall, Wendell and his wife, Janet, of Riverside, Calif., and Dwight Burson of Central Point, Oregon; her grandchildren, Wendy Ann, Chad, Timmy, Jonell, Jackie Jr., Brandon, Matthew, Shawn, Tyronne; 20 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and six nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Jimmie; a son, Jack Burson; and a sister, Leota Neal.

### Don Hutchison

Services for Don Hutchison, 59, Rockwall were conducted at 2 p.m. Dec. 17, 2013, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall with Pastor Rick Donaho officiating. Graveside services with military honors, including a casket salute, were conducted at 2 p.m. Dec. 18 in the Rest Haven Memorial Park.



He died Dec. 12 following a long illness with cancer. He was born Aug. 11, 1954, in Flint, Michigan, to Donna Mae (Stiff) Hutchison. He served in the U.S. Army and retired after 20 years of honorable service. He then launched a roofing company, where he employed friends and family, and later worked as a Realtor. His motherly and grandfatherly love never wavered and was shown through his actions of love and support, always guiding and cheering on his girls and grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife of 39 years, Bork Suk Hutchison, and daughters, Natasha Michelle Miller, and her husband, Jason, and Anne Sue Davenport and her husband, Randall, all of Rockwall; grandchildren, to whom he will always be 'Poopaw,' Ethan Davenport, Hailey Miller, Jacob Miller, Madison Davenport and Kaylyn Davenport; his sisters, Sandra Winslow, Debra Galant and her husband, Rick, and Jean Lewis and her husband, David; his son, Dennis Kennelly, and his wife, Jonna; his mother-in-law, Mrs. Cha Park; and his nieces and nephews, Christine, Erica, Jenny, Jeremy, Andrea and Patrick.

He was preceded in death by his mother; a brother, Clyde Hutchison; a sister, Teresa Osborne; and his grandparents, Dorothy and Ralph

### Patsy D. May

Services for Patsy D. May, 72, of Rockwall were conducted at 2 p.m. Dec. 28, 2013, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel with Pastor Rick Donaho officiating. Burial followed in the Rest Haven Memorial Park.



She died Dec. 25 in Dallas. Born July 3, 1941, in Gracemont, Okla., to Harold Eugene and Wanda Merle (Rider) Catlin, she had been a resident of Rockwall since 1990. She was a homemaker and loving wife, mother and grandmother. Survivors include her husband of 52 years, M.J. May; two daughters, Catherine Parsons and Linda May; and her grandchildren, Erik Parsons and his wife, Sunny, Ian Parsons and Alexander Parsons.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Cotton and Wanda Catlin.

### Ben Russell Young

A private service will be conducted for Ben Russell Young, 84, of Rockwall. The Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel will be in charge of arrangements.



He died Dec. 23, 2013. Born Aug. 5, 1929, in Baird to Raymond and Annice (Day) Young, he worked for Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. from 1951 to 1981 when he retired in Sweetwater. Following his retirement he successfully operated a small business until he moved to Rockwall to be closer to his children and grandchildren. He was an avid golfer, hunter, fisherman and gardener. He loved all sports.

Survivors include his wife, Doris (Rodgers) Young of Rockwall; two sons, Phil Young and his wife, Kathy, of Rockwall and Duff Young and his wife, Miriam, of Dripping Springs; seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; his brother, Pete Young of Texarkana; and his sister, Alice East of Richmond, Va.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers Raymond, Arthur, Bill and John; and his sisters Tootsie and Frankie.

## 4-H Teen Leadership Retreat set Jan. 10-12

Texas 4-H members ages 13-19 will have an opportunity to hone their leadership skills during several 4-H programs at the 2014 Teen Leadership Retreat Jan. 10-12 at the Texas 4-H Conference Center at Lake Brownwood.

"The Teen Leadership Retreat will have 4-H volunteers, 4-H specialists and college professors conducting hands-on educational workshops with 4-H members from throughout the state," said Mark Carroll, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service 4-H and youth specialist and conference center program director. "This year's program will focus on increasing knowledge and skills in five 4-H project areas — entomology, fashion, consumer decision making, dance and wildlife habitat."

Carroll said the retreat provides a "state level leadership experience" for attendees, allowing them to explore new or revised projects and curricula resources and return to implement them in their counties.

The retreat will begin with registration from 7-9 p.m. Jan. 10, followed by a general orientation, adult chaperone meeting, dance and vespers.

Jan. 11 activities start at 7:30 a.m., and include a flag ceremony, breakfast and opening assembly. Much of the day will be devoted to concurrent sessions related to the five featured programming areas, along with team activities and an evening dance.

Jan. 12 activities will begin at 7:30 a.m. with a flag ceremony and breakfast, followed by cleaning out the dorms prior to departure at 10 a.m.

Carroll said while this is a learning retreat, the main ingredient for the weekend is "a sense of fun."

To register, go to the center's website, [texas4hcenter.tamu.edu](http://texas4hcenter.tamu.edu). Registration is \$115 for youth and \$80 for adults, which includes two nights lodging, four meals, snacks and all program supplies. The deadline for registration is Dec. 31.

Each county is requested to provide adult chaperones for the weekend. If there is no chaperone, one will be provided for an additional \$90 fee.

For more information, contact Carroll at 325-784-5482, [jmcarroll@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:jmcarroll@ag.tamu.edu).

## Brides Against Breast Cancer event Jan. 17-18

The national nonprofit agency Brides Against Breast Cancer will host a charity wedding gown sale and bridal show, its Nationwide Tour of Gowns, Jan. 17-18 at the Omni Dallas Hotel at Park West, 1590 LBJ Freeway, in Dallas.

The event will feature hundreds of "new and lovingly worn designer and couture wedding gowns" ranging from \$99 to \$3,900, in all styles and sizes ranging from 4 to 18. The area's top wedding vendors will be on hand, and several giveaways are planned.

Brides Against Breast Cancer will contribute \$2 million to help people impacted by cancer.

The VIP Unveiling of the Gowns Reception will run from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Jan. 17. The reception will include "light bites, signature beverages," entertainment and giveaways. Those attending can browse, try on and purchase selections from the large inventory of gowns prior to general admission on the following day. Admission to the reception will cost \$25, which will be a tax-deductible donation.

The general admission event will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 18. Wedding gowns appropriate for any theme or budget will be featured, and layaway will be available with up to 12-month payment terms. Cash, checks, credit and debit cards will be accepted. Admission will cost \$7, which will be a tax-deductible donation.

For more details, visit [bridesagainstabreastcancer.org/upcoming-shows-2014/dallas-bridal-show-january-2014](http://bridesagainstabreastcancer.org/upcoming-shows-2014/dallas-bridal-show-january-2014).

To donate a gown and receive a tax deduction, visit the website.

## Rockwall County News

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## Rockwall County News Briefs

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classes. Tutors are local volunteers (no experience required; free training is provided) and there is no fee for program classes. There is a small fee for books. For more details or to become a tutor, call 972-204-7705.

### CASA volunteer info sessions scheduled

Lone Star CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocate) volunteers are needed, and information sessions about the organization and its volunteers are scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Jan. 6, Kaufman Courthouse; 6:30 p.m. Jan. 7, Terrell Chamber; 6:30 p.m. Jan. 9, ReMax/Forney Business Center, Forney; and 6:30 p.m. CASA Rockwall Office. Volunteers assist in securing safe, permanent homes for abused and/or neglected children. Volunteers from all cultures, professions and educational backgrounds are needed. For details call 972-772-5858 or email [vickie@lonestarcasa.org](mailto:vickie@lonestarcasa.org).

### 4-H to host pet care program

Many families bring pets into their homes during the holiday season without having any understanding about proper care or training. The Rockwall County 4-H Club will host a short-term pet care project for families with children ages 8/third grade to 18 who received a pet for Christmas. The first meeting will run 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Jan. 14 at the Rockwall County Extension Office, 915 Whitmore St., Suite B, Rockwall. Sequential meetings will follow on the next three Tuesdays. Cost is \$40; pre-registration with payment is required by Jan. 6. Call 972-204-7660 to pre-register.

(Continued on Page 5)

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**Ask Dr. Danette**

by Danette McNew, D.D.S.

**ORAL HEALTH LINKED WITH HPV INFECTION**

Recent research suggests that people with human papilloma virus (HPV) infections have a three-fold greater risk of developing esophageal cancer. More recently, researchers also found that people with poor oral health had a 56% increase in the risk of HPV infection of the mouth and throat. Therefore, while esophageal cancer is also linked to risk factors such as smoking, excessive drinking, poor diet, and chronic acid reflux, oral health is another modifiable risk factor. With this in mind, smokers may want to cut out smoking, cut back on drinking, and seek medical help for dealing with chronic acid reflux as well as step up their efforts to improve their oral health in order to cut their oral/esophageal cancer risk.

People with poor oral health are possibly more likely to have an oral HPV infection. Is it time for a professional dental checkup? At McNEW DENTAL, we want you to receive the highest quality of complete, affordable dental care. Because looking good and feeling good are important to us all, it is wise to maintain a healthy and attractive smile throughout life. We're located at 1300 E. Ralph Hall Pkwy., Suite 114, where our aim is to provide individual attention and care to every patient so that we can learn about their special needs. Call 469/338-4603 to schedule an appointment. "Smiles are contagious and best when shared"

P.S. HPV can be prevented in both men and women through the HPV vaccine.

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## Royse City Police Blotter

Dec. 20-26

**Friday, 20 Dec.:** Alarm, 3100 block Overstreet Lane; Criminal mischief, 1400 block Primrose Lane; Criminal mischief, 1500 block Kelly Drive; Theft, 1700 block Kelly Lane; Medical assistance, 400 block Sandy Lane; 911 hang up, 300 block N. Erby Campbell Boulevard; Suspicious vehicle, Intersection of Audobon Lane and Maverick Lane; Fire concern, 900 block E. I-30 NSR; Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound from the 73-mile marker; Suspicious vehicle, Area of Epps Road; Driving while license invalid arrest, 600 block S. Erby Campbell Boulevard

**Saturday, 21 Dec.:** Alarm, 2300 block E. I-30 NSR; Medical assistance, 700 block Meadowdale Drive; Accident, I-30 westbound near 79-mile marker; Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound from the 74-mile marker; Suspicious person, 1300 block Whispering Glen; Driving while license invalid arrest, 100 block E. I-30 SSR; Criminal mischief, 1600 block Nevers Drive

**Sunday, 22 Dec.:** Disturbance, 300 block N. Erby Campbell Boulevard; Theft, 100 block W. I-30 SSR; Disturbance, 900 block Joe Bailey Street; Medical assistance, 100 block E. I-30 NSR; Alarm, 1600 block Nevers Drive; Reckless driver, Area of FM 548; Alarm, 900 block Industrial Drive; Assault, 300 block N. Erby Campbell Boulevard; Burglary of residence, 300 block N. Erby Campbell Boulevard

**Monday, 23 Dec.:** Theft, 300 block N. Erby Campbell Boulevard; Medical assistance, 300 block N. Elm Street; Criminal mischief, 800 block Orchid Boulevard; Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound from the 77-mile marker; Suspicious vehicle, Area of Oak Grove Lane; Criminal mischief, 100 block E. Old Greenville Road; Theft, 1600 block Nevers Drive; Public intoxication arrest, Intersection of Rustic Meadows Drive.

**Tuesday, 24 Dec.:** Alarm, 200 block Brookhaven Circle; Alarm, 2300 block E. I-30 NSR; Disturbance, 700 block Oak Grove Lane; Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound from the 79-mile marker; Accident, 1600 block Preston Drive; Two Rockwall County Sheriff's Office warrants arrest, 700 block Preston Drive

**Wednesday, 25 Dec.:** Medical assistance, 200 block Texoma Court; Reckless driver, Area of Hwy 66; Accident, I-30 westbound from the 77-mile marker; Medical assistance, 900 block W. I-30 SSR; Harassment, 1600 block Leslie Drive; Noise disturbance, 1000 block Oak Grove Lane; Theft, 300 block W. Lamar Street; Welfare concern, 800 block E. I-30 NSR; Public intoxication arrest, 200 block S. Elm Street; Rockwall Police Department/ Rockwall County Sheriff's Office/ Dallas County Sheriff's Office warrants arrest, 100 block W. I-30 SSR

**Thursday, 26 Dec.:** Noise disturbance, 700 block Oak Grove Lane; Fire concern, Area of FM 548; Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound from the 76-mile marker; Medical assistance, 1600 block Kelly Lane; Accident, 100 block N. Josephine Street; Suspicious vehicle, Area of Houston Street; Driving while license invalid arrest, I-30 westbound near exit 77A

## Rockwall County Entertainment

### RHHS to stage "Grease"

Rockwall-Heath High School will present the musical "Grease" Jan. 1 at the Performing Arts Center, 801 Laurence, in Heath. Tickets are available at the box office; cost is \$10 for students, \$12 for general admission. Heath's mayor, Lorne Liechty, and Rockwall's mayor, David Mett, will make special cameos.

### Daddy/Daughter Dance tickets available

Tickets to the annual Daddy/Daughter Dance, organized by the Rockwall Parks & Rec Department, are on sale at The Center. The event will run from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Jan. 25 at The Hilton Bella Harbor. Cost is \$9 per daddy/daughter couple or \$45 for Rockwall residents; each additional child will cost \$15. Ticket availability is limited and pre-arrangement required. For details call 972-771-7740 or visit [rockwallparks.com](http://rockwallparks.com).

### Senior Citizen Prom scheduled Jan. 26

Senior Citizen Prom will run from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 26 at the Cherry Intermediate School cafeteria. Refreshments will be served. The event will be sponsored by the Thoughtful Thinking Things of the SD Destination Imagination program.



# On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

## Mary's meekness and humility ...

The story of Mary is such a beautiful account of meekness and humility. It starts in Luke 1:26.

About six months after her cousin Elizabeth conceived the prophet John, God sent his angel Gabriel to Mary who was espoused to Joseph. Both were of the family line of King David.

The King James Bible refers to Mary as a "virgin." This word was translated from an ancient Greek word that meant "young woman."

Contrary to popular belief, Mary later sealed her marriage with Joseph in that special way that which can result in children. She did not conceive a child because she was carrying Jesus. This means that she would not have been a "virgin", as the term is understood today, when Jesus was born.

The angel told her she was highly favored in God's eyes and that she would conceive a son. He told her what his name would be, and that he would inherit the throne of David, would reign over Israel forever.

After explaining how she would conceive, he said, "for with God nothing is impossible." When God gives His word it does not fall void of power.

Mary meekly replied, "behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it unto me according to thy word."

She and Joseph were great examples for Jesus to learn from. For during his darkest hour of pray he asked God to let the cup pass by him, and finished by meekly saying, "not my will be done, but let Your will be done."

# Helping aging parents with personal finances, technology

Use of technology among senior citizens continues to skyrocket, but many older Americans have difficulty using technological tools for financial matters, preferring instead the same methods they have always used.

"Most of us are comfortable using computers or smart phones to check balances and deposit checks, but this technology is a huge shift for seniors," said Mike Sullivan, chief education officer for Take Charge America, a national non-profit credit-counseling agency. "They often feel more secure depositing a paper check and checking account balances at their local branch, so the transition to the Internet can be difficult."

Sullivan offers tips for addressing five common financial challenges seniors face today:

**Real-Time Banking:** Twenty years ago, consumers could write a check and then go to the bank and cover it with a deposit. Today, checks are often used like debit cards and funds are deducted immediately. Additionally, deposits can be held for up to seven days depending on the source and amount. This makes it difficult to budget, especially on a fixed income. Help your parents understand the rules of banking today while also acquainting them with the benefits of using the Internet. Online banking provides an added convenience, particularly for older adults with physical limitations, as they can handle most banking activities without leaving home.

**Fraud:** Seniors are frequent victims of fraud perpetrated through email, telemarketing and the mail. Discuss potential red flags with your

parents, such as promises of easy money, demands they act immediately or requests for personal information.

**Online Apps:** Digital options like mobile-only coupons, Internet comparison-shopping and bill-paying apps require technologies that are always senior-friendly. Your parents may prefer their traditional methods at times – clipping coupons from the newspaper or writing a check to the cable company – but they may also be interested in using apps or sites that help them find Internet-only deals, provide product reviews or otherwise enhance the consumer experience.

**Gifts and investments:** Seniors citizens, more than other groups, are known for purchasing savings bonds and stock certificates. However, stocks and bonds are no longer available in paper form. If your parent wants to purchase stock certificates or bonds, help them navigate purchase online, understanding this process may force them out of their comfort zones.

**Paperless:** Many transactions leave no paper trail – and no means filing paper away for easy future access. Seniors who are long accustomed to filing paper copies of important financial documents are no longer receiving Social Security checks in the mail, as payments are now direct-deposited into their accounts. There is no copy to file, and no way to be sure the money was deposited without going online or visiting a bank. This, too, may push your elderly parents out of their comfort zone so it's important they're familiar with their bank's online system for viewing account information.

For more financial tips, visit [takechargeamerica.org](http://takechargeamerica.org).

## Ferelle returns from semester in Greece

Linda Ferelle of Roysse City recently returned from a three-month semester studying at Harding University in Greece, according to a university news release.

As part of the HUG curriculum, she spent the semester immersed in Greek culture where students had the opportunity to experience a Mediterranean cruise and visit historical sites in the Peloponnese, Northern Greece, Turkey and Israel. Students resided in Porto Rotonda, cultivating new relationships with fellow students.

Students in the program had a full course load available to them taught by visiting Harding professors. Classes encouraged exploration and interaction among the Greek people.

*Let the peace from God rule in your hearts to the whole world, also you are called in one body ... Colossians 3:15*

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 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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 Psalm 150:6

"A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul."  
 Proverbs 18:7

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 Sunday School starts at 9:45 a.m., with worship led by Pastor Cheryl Taylor at 11 a.m. For more information, call 972-771-5702, or check out our website at [www.firstpresrockwall.org](http://www.firstpresrockwall.org)



# Rockwall County Classified Advertising

## Meetings

**Al-Anon Meetings**  
Call for information and locations in Dallas area, 214-363-0461.

**AA Meetings**  
Rockwall, 7 days a week, Big Book Group, 213 Rusk St., 972-72-666.

## Services & Repairs

**Arranged Transportation to DFW Airport**  
National Affiliation  
Call - 214-803-5464

**Al-Anon Garland**  
Meetings Monday & Friday, 8 p.m. at 2206 South Jupiter St., Suite 130, Garland.

**Rockwall County Kiwanis Club**  
Meets every Tuesday at noon at the Rockwall Wedding Chapel, and we recently added an evening

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meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., also 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.

The Rockwall County News is accepting bids to contract for sports coverage of Rockwall High School. Submit bid with resume to rnsports.burnett@gmail.com.

The Rockwall County News is accepting bids to contract for sports coverage of Rockwall-Heath High School. Submit bid with resume to rnsports.burnett@gmail.com.

The Rockwall County News is accepting bids to contract for sports coverage of Royse City High School. Submit bid with resume to rnsports.burnett@gmail.com.

**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.

**Services and Repairs**  
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**Cemetery plots for Sale**  
Single cemetery plot for sale at Rest Haven. 214-538-0869.

## Legal Notices

Application has been made for a Beer Retail Dealer's Off-Premise Permit and Wine Only Package Store Permit for Houston's Drive Inn LLC  
Dba Houston's Market  
At 715 W. Rusk, Rockwall, Rockwall, TX  
Said application made to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code.  
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**Last Puzzle Solution**

1-1-2014 S-1148

**Royse City ISD Child Find Policy**

In accordance with Federal Regulations, Individuals with Disabilities Educational Act, Child Find Identification (34CFR section 300.125, 300.451), this is notification that Royse City Independent School District, Located at 810 E. Old Greenville Road, Royse City, TX has a child find system for indentifying, locating and evaluating all children with disabilities, from birth through 21 years of age, residing in the district, including children with disabilities attending private schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, and who are in need of special education and related services.

If you have any questions please call the Special Services office at 972-636-9514.

**NOTICE**

Three positions on the Royse City Independent School District Board of Trustees are subject to election on the General Uniform Election Day of May 10, 2014. Those places are: Place 1, Place 2 and the remaining year of the unexpired term, Place 5. Places 1 and 2 are for a full three year term. Place 5 is for the remaining one year.

Candidates may file for a Place on the May 10, 2014 Uniform General Election Day between January 29, 2014 and February 28, 2014.

Packets containing the documents needed to file for office are available on the above dates during regular business hours at the Ernest Epps Education Service Center, 810 Old Greenville Road, Royse City, Texas.

Candidate Qualifications are:

- U.S. citizen
- 18 years or older at the start date of the term of service
- A qualified voter in the district
- A resident of the district for 6 months before filing deadline
- A resident of the state for 12 months before the filing deadline (or 12 months before the day of the election, in the case of a write-in candidate.)

Persons who wish to vote in the May 10, 2014 election must be registered with the appropriate County-Tax Assessor-Collector no later than April 10, 2014.

**Rockwall County News legally qualifies for publication of required legal notices for all municipalities 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).**

Sec. 2051.048 NOTICE OF OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISION.

- This section applies only to a political subdivision other than a county or a conservation and reclamation district under Section 2051.047.
- A notice of a political subdivision shall be published in a newspaper that is published in the political subdivision and that will publish the notice at or below the legal rate.
- If no newspaper published in the political subdivision will publish the notice at or below the legal rate, the political subdivision shall publish the notice in a newspaper that:
  - is published in the county in which the political subdivision is located; and
  - will charge the legal rate or a lower rate.
- If no newspaper published in the county in which the political subdivision is located will publish the notice at or below the legal rate, the political subdivision shall post the notice at the door of the county courthouse of the county in which the political subdivision is located.

[The term "newspaper" is defined in Section 2051.044]

City Mayors are authorized and trusted by the people to ensure that each act of the respective Cities is executed in accordance with the Texas Constitution and controlling statutes, even in instances where the City Councils pass ordinances and/or resolutions that are in violation of the same laws.

Based on the 'checks and balances' principle, if Cities vote to select a legally unqualified newspaper for publication of required legal notices, then the respective Mayors are authorized and trusted by the people to execute the publication of each required legal notice in accordance with the controlling statutes.

Submit Legal Notices 972-722-3099 or email to rcn.advertising@yahoo.com

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**Rockwall County News Briefs**

(Continued from Page 3)

**Republican Lunch Bunch to meet**  
The Rockwall County Republican Lunch Bunch will meet at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 8 at Luigi's Italian Café, Rockwall. Cost is \$10, which will include lunch, beverage, tax and tip; pay at the door. No reservations required for this informal social gathering open to all area Republicans. For more details call Dalton Kennimer at 972-636-4034.

**'Steel Magnolias' audition slated**  
Auditions for the Rockwall Community Playhouse's staging of "Steel Magnolias," which will be performed in March and April, will take place at 1 p.m. Feb. 15 at the playhouse, located at 609 E. Rusk. For more details visit rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org.

**Auditions set for 'Forever Plaid'**  
Auditions for the Rockwall Community Playhouse's production of "Forever Plaid," which will be staged in May, will take place at 1 p.m. March 29 and at 7 p.m. March 30 at the playhouse, which is located at 609 E. Rusk. For more details visit rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org.

(Continued on Page 7)

**Rockwall County's Newspaper of Record**  
972-722-3099



# Opinions

## Congress must not cede its war power to Israel

by Sheldon Richman  
FFF.org  
Future Freedom Foundation

The American people should know that pending right now in Congress is a bipartisan bill that would virtually commit the United States to go to war against Iran if Israel attacks the Islamic Republic. "The bill outsources any decision about resort to military action to the government of Israel," Columbia University Iran expert Gary Sick wrote to Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) in protest, one of the bill's principal sponsors.

The mind boggles at the thought that Congress would let a foreign government decide when America goes to war, so here is the language:

If the government of Israel is compelled to take military action in legitimate self-defense against Iran's nuclear weapon program, the United States Government should stand with Israel and provide, in accordance with the law of the United States and the constitutional responsibility of Congress to authorize the use of military force, diplomatic, military and economic support to the Government of Israel in its defense of its territory, people and existence.

This section is legally nonbinding, but given the clout of the bill's chief supporter outside of Congress — the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), leader of the pro-Israel lobby — that is a mere formality.

Since AIPAC wants this bill passed, it follows that so does the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who

opposes American negotiations with Iran and has repeatedly threatened to attack the Islamic Republic. Against all evidence, Netanyahu insists the purpose of Iran's nuclear program is to build a weapon with which to attack Israel. Iran says its facilities, which are routinely inspected, are for peaceful civilian purposes: the generation of electricity and the production of medical isotopes.

The bill, whose other principal sponsors are Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL), has a total of 26 Senate cosponsors. If it passes when the Senate reconvenes in January, it could provoke a historic conflict between Congress and President Obama, whose administration is engaged in negotiations with Iran at this time. Aside from declaring that the U.S. government should assist Israel if it attacks Iran, the bill would also impose new economic sanctions on the Iranian people. Obama has asked the Senate not to impose additional sanctions while his administration and five other governments are negotiating with Iran on a permanent settlement of the nuclear issue.

A six-month interim agreement is now in force, one provision of which prohibits new sanctions on Iran. "The [Menendez-Schumer-Kirk] bill allows Obama to waive the new sanctions during the current talks by certifying every 30 days that Iran is complying with the Geneva deal and negotiating in good faith on a final agreement," Ali Gharib writes at Foreign Policy magazine. That would effectively give Congress the power to undermine negotiations. As Iran's foreign minister, Javad Zarif, told Time magazine, if Congress imposes new sanctions, even if they are delayed for six months, "The entire deal is

dead. We do not like to negotiate under duress."

Clearly, the bill is designed to destroy the talks with Iran, which bending over backward to demonstrate that its nuclear program has no military aims.

Netanyahu and Israel's American supporters in and out of Congress loathe the prospect of an American-Iranian rapprochement after years of U.S.-Israeli covert and proxy war against Iran, whose Islamic revolution followed a quarter-century of brutality at the hands of a U.S.-backed monarch. The Israeli government, AIPAC, and Republicans and Democrats who do their bidding in Congress are record opposing any agreement that would leave intact Iran's ability to enrich uranium, even at low levels for peaceful civilian purposes. But insisting that Iran cease all enrichment of uranium is equivalent to obliterating any chance of a peaceful settlement with Iran making war more likely. That's what this bill is all about.

Americans should refuse to let Congress give Israel the power to drag the United States into war. American and Israeli intelligence agencies say repeatedly that Iran has no nuclear-weapons program. Though Iran champions the Palestinians, who live under Israeli occupation, it has not threatened Israel, which, remember, is its nuclear power.

But even if Iran were a threat to Israel, that would not warrant letting any foreign government dictate when we go to war.

## Saudi anger has many faces ...

by Melkulangara Bhadrakumar  
RonPaulInstitute.org

During the past fortnight, Saudi Arabia raised the bar by several notches in its rhetoric to express fury over US regional policies in the Middle East, especially over Syria and Iran. The rhetoric reached a high pitch last week with two key figures in the Saudi regime alternatively lampooning and threatening the Obama administration.

Is this strategic defiance of the US by the Saudi regime sustainable or will turn out to be mere bravado or even a defensive strategy to cover up dark fears? There is every reason to anticipate that it is the expression of an anger with many faces. There is a hint of an American warning appearing on the horizon to the House of Saud that discretion is the better part of valor and the latter is in no position to threaten the White House. The Saudi regime couldn't have missed this subtle message but how it assimilates it will bear watch.

The Saudi rhetoric against the Obama administration during the past fortnight was indeed startling for its unprecedented tone of defiance and saber rattling.

Not only was such a thing impossible during the George W. Bush presidency (because the president's family for three generations had kept close ties with the House of Saud), but such rhetoric has never been the Saudi style. Riyadh always preferred to operate in the subsoil away from prying eyes when it came to the all-important relations with Washington.

On the face of it, the two things that have infuriated the Saudi regime have been President Obama's apparent resolve to push forward US engagement with Iran, and, secondly, Washington's unmistakable disengagement from the 'regime change' project in Syria. Obama is now openly speaking about the prospect of a final US-Iranian deal over the nuclear issue and authoritative American opinion-makers and officials are increasingly voicing the opinion, including at the recent meeting of the 'Friends of Syria' at London, that it could be in the interests of Syria's stability and the struggle against al-Qaeda — as well as of regional security on the whole — that President Bashar Al-Assad continues to play a leadership role and be a participant in the presidential election that is scheduled to be held next year.

Most certainly, gone are the days when Washington spoke of "all options" being on the table on Iran or of the bottom line in Syria being Bashar's exit from power. This has sunk in well in Riyadh as well as the realization that the Saudi lobby's robust campaigning in Washington and even the implicit threat that Saudi Arabia would cozy up to other big powers as counterweight to the US have failed to impress the Obama administration. Put differently, Saudis are coming up against an altogether new experience, namely, that they no longer wield a veto power over the conduct of the US' Middle Eastern policies that are henceforth to be riveted on the pursuit of American

geo-strategic interests as part of Washington's global strategies. For a regime that placed full faith on the power of money to command and dictate and to navigate the way through the corridors of power in Washington, this is a paradigm shift. And it is not going down well in Riyadh.

This was evident from the highly vitriolic attack on the Obama administration by a leading Saudi prince, Turki-al-Faisal (who is the brother of the incumbent foreign minister Saud al-Faisal and himself a former Saudi intelligence chief and ambassador to Washington) at a recent security conference in Monaco, which was attended by senior European and Arab politicians and business leaders, as well as in his interview with the Wall Street Journal on the sidelines of the conference.

Turki virtually accused the Obama administration of perfidy by working behind Riyadh's back aimed at bringing about the rapprochement with Tehran and alleging that Washington is responsible for "criminal negligence" of the violence in Syria which has claimed 130,000 lives. Turki said, "What was surprising was that the talks that were going forward [between Washington and Tehran] were kept from us [Riyadh]. How can you build trust when you keep secrets from what are supposed to be your closest allies?"

Obviously, the Saudis are livid that the Obama administration not only did not notify Riyadh about the secret talks with Iran until this fall ("when things became substantive"), but it also rubbed salt into the wounded Saudi vanity by initiating these contacts last March in Oman right under the Saudi nose. To be sure, the interim accord with Iran on the nuclear issue that was worked out in Geneva last month has rattled the Saudis and Turki voiced concern that it did not go far enough to ensure Tehran won't develop nuclear bombs. At the back of it all, of course, is the existential angst that the US-Iranian détente would incrementally erode the status of Saudi Arabia as the preeminent ally of Washington in the Middle East.

Equally, the stark differences over Syria have isolated Saudi Arabia internationally and in the region. Two days after Turki spoke, the assault against the Obama administration was carried forward by the Saudi ambassador to the UK and a member of the House of Saud, Mohammed bin Nawaf Abdulaziz al Saud, who in an article in the New York Times last Tuesday virtually threatened that the US policies in both Iran and Syria are a "dangerous gamble" and Saudi Arabia "cannot remain silent, and will not stand idly by." He alleged that the US policies risk the stability of the Middle East and the security of the Arab world. "This means the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has no choice but to become more assertive in international affairs... Saudi Arabia has enormous responsibilities within the region... We will act to fulfill these responsibilities, with or without the support of our Western partners. Nothing is ruled out in our pursuit of sustainable peace and stability in the Arab world."

Most important, the article was fairly explicit that the Saudi support for the extremist Islamist Front in Syria will not only continue but will also be strengthened. "Saudi Arabia will continue on this track for as long as proves necessary," Mohammed bin Nawaf wrote.

However, the big question is how far will the Saudi regime be willing take the hazardous journey on "this track" of

strategic defiance of the US?

For an answer to such a question, we may have to go well beyond Syria and Iran questions and travel in a time machine all the way back to September 2001. Inexplicably, the Obama administration has permitted for the first time two Congressmen — Walter B. Jones (Republican) and Stephen Lynch (Democrat) — to access the redacted pages of the Joint Intelligence Committee Inquiry (JICI) report on the 9/11 attack, which were long believed by the victim loved ones, injured survivors, and the public at large to hold so many answers about the Saudi connection to the attack. After all, fifteen of the 19 hijackers involved in the 9/11 attack were Saudi nationals and there have been sporadic reports that some of them were linked to the Saudi royals and might even have received financial support from the Saudi government as well as from several mysterious money men from Saudi Arabia living in San Diego at that time.

This was how Congressman Jones reacted after reading the highly classified 28 pages of the JICI report: "I was absolutely shocked at what I read. What was so surprising was that those men whom I thought we could trust really disappointed me. I cannot go into it more than that. I had to sign an oath that what I read had to remain confidential. But the information I read disappointed me greatly."

To cut a long story short, in early December Jones and Lynch introduced a resolution that urges President Barack Obama to declassify the 28 pages (which his predecessor had ordered to be classified on the grounds that releasing the pages would "violate national security.")

A cat-and-mouse game seems to have begun involving the White House, Capitol Hill and the domestic public opinion — and the judiciary — and the House of Saud.

For long, there has been speculation that the 28 pages of the JICI Intelligence Committee Inquiry (JICI) report of 2002 portray that Saudi government had at the very least an indirect role in supporting the terrorists responsible for the 9/11 attack.

In fact, former Senator Bob Graham, who chaired the JICI is himself on record that he is convinced that "the Saudi government with question was supporting the hijackers who lived in San Diego." Not all this is no longer a matter of intellectual curiosity or the stuff of idle gossip on the part of the US Congressmen and the American public and the media — and, perhaps, even the judiciary...

By a strange coincidence, last week the US Appeals Court upheld the right of the victims of the 9/11 attacks to pursue their suit filed in 2003 to sue the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on grounds that it provided significant support to the al-Qaeda in advance of the terrorist attacks. Essentially, the ruling is to the effect that placing Saudi Arabia as defendant in the suit is necessary.

Indeed, lawyers in the 9/11 lawsuit have often cited the JICI report to claim Saudi Arabia was the primary source of the al-Qaeda funds but the counter-argument by the lawyers representing the House of Saud has been that the available JICI report showed no evidence either the Saudi government or Saudi officials individually had funded al-Qaeda.

This is exactly where the move in the US Congress to declassify the entire JICI report assumes special significance. Is it a matter of strategic timing on the part of the Congress (and the Administration) or is it a mere case of coincidence that the White House made available the 28 pages of the JICI report for the perusal of two Congressmen on a strictly confidential basis at this point when the Appeals Court was all set to pass judgment on the possible culpability of the Saudi government in the 9/11 attacks?

(To be continued next week)

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by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

- Littlefield is seat of this county
- TX mohair exports to this continent
- Sly Stone wrote song "I \_\_\_ to Take You Higher"
- "Gig '\_\_\_ Aggies!"
- TX Willie's father
- TX had to \_\_\_ Buffalo Bayou to make the Houston Ship Channel
- Galveston beach acquisition (2 wds.)
- TX assets (2 wds.)
- state university in Alpine
- TX has several "Abercrombie & \_\_\_" stores
- TX chili publication: "\_\_\_ Gazette"
- this actress Adams was in '64 film "The Best Man" with TX John Henry Faulk
- in Shelby Co. on 84
- polyester
- J. Frank Dobie wrote the book "A \_\_\_ England"
- northern neighbor (abbr.)
- TXism: "tighter \_\_\_ skin"
- TX George W. has none of these
- great TX actor: Tommy \_\_\_ Jones
- text fixer
- TX State Fair gate count?
- big telephone co.
- TXism: "covered like white \_\_\_"
- "It's good for what \_\_\_ ya"
- Fresnos, TX
- tropical starch
- org. of Mavs, Spurs and Rockets
- entrails
- fancy coffee
- disgusting stuff
- positive or negative atom
- Grand \_\_\_ Opry
- TX Bobby Fuller hit: "I Fought the \_\_\_"
- TXism: "naked \_\_\_ jaybird"
- \_\_\_ Wells, TX
- TX Cristi Conaway was "Ice Princess" in this '92 film
- TXism: "cough \_\_\_" (pay me)
- the "D" and "C" of CDC in Atlanta
- Dallas Freeway: "\_\_\_ Thornton"
- Campo, TX
- "Mexican American Legal \_\_\_ Educational Fund" was founded in TX
- TX Rodney Crowell tune: "Til I \_\_\_ Control Again"
- TXism: "\_\_\_ bien" (good)
- TXism: "short \_\_\_ eyebrow"
- brand of Kokernot Ranch near Alpine
- yellers in Palo Duro Canyon?
- "\_\_\_ rattles, and rolls"
- in San Patricio Co. on hwy 77
- Dallas Co. was probably named after this VP (init.)
- horse morsel
- this Dave sang "Six Days on the Road" (init.)
- TX Bryan Hitt is the drummer for "\_\_\_ Speedwagon"
- mother of TX Ginger Rogers
- barbecued \_\_\_
- TXism: "skinny as a \_\_\_"
- "Cinco de Mayo" general Zaragoza
- TXism: "can't carry \_\_\_ in a bucket"
- boundary river with 32-across
- dull pain in the tooth, head, or heart
- pain medicine
- 19th century phrase: "\_\_\_ Texas"
- shade of color
- "I will have \_\_\_ of that"

**Texas Constitution Article 1, Section 16**

No bill of attainder, ex post facto law, retroactive law, or any law impairing the obligation of contracts, shall be made.

The act of forcing any business and natural person to purchase any kind of insurance for others, who render services, constitutes "impairing obligation of contracts."

One exception are Federal Instrumentalities engaged in statutory "employment" on the soil of Texas.

See Tx. Labor Code Section 201.101 & 26 U.S.C. 3306 (c)(g) and (j)(1 & 2).

Apply the definitions in (j) to the definitions in (c) and (g).

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Rocky Green



# Convicted Rowlett man fights for rights, defence of self on appeal ... freedom

(Continued from Page 1)

## Details of incident

According to the suppression hearing transcripts, at 11:30 p.m. on Oct. 3, 2005, Nichols witnessed Swingle standing on the park grounds, and the cruiser, approached Swingle on foot and asked what he was doing in the park at that time of night.

Nichols testified that while observing inside the car, he did not see Swingle. Swingle said, "It's not right."

Swingle testified he approached the defendant because he looked suspicious and there was a history of criminal activity at the same time. Nichols asked Swingle about any "open containers."

Nichols stood near the front driver door while Swingle was retrieving Swingle's license and an "open container." Swingle testified that while observing inside the car, he did not see Swingle. Swingle said, "It's not right."

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his office and a need to confer with the incarcerated appellant prior to submitting the brief.

On Sept. 12, the 5th District Court denied the appellant's second motion for extension and ordered the trial court to conduct a hearing to determine why appellant's brief had not been filed.

The 382nd District Court then issued the bench warrant. Swingle has remained in the Rockwall County jail.

On Sept. 25, the appellant filed a pro se motion to extend the due date for his brief and another motion to waive counsel.

Swingle also filed a letter stating, "Defendant waived [counsel] and now represents himself pro se. The enclosed correspondence shows good faith effort to get exculpatory evidence admitted within the 75-day window before the motion for new trial was denied by operation of the law."

In an Oct. 2, a letter responding to Swingle's pro se motion to extend, the 5th District Court stated, "Our records show appellant is represented by counsel. On Sept. 12, the court issued an order abating this appeal so that the trial court could make findings of fact regarding why appellant's brief has not been filed. Because appellant is represented by counsel and the appeal is abate, the court will take no action on appellant's pro se motion."

On Oct. 13, Swingle's court appointed attorney filed a third motion to extend the due date for the appellant's brief.

Swingle filed a second motion to waive [counsel] on Oct. 22, indicating that the 382nd District Court's letter to the 5th District Court on Oct. 2 failed to communicate that he moved to waive council prior to the scheduled Oct. 3 hearing during abatement previously ordered by the 5th District Court. He states that he "gave live testimony at the Oct. 3, 2013, hearing ... that he had filed a Motion to Waive council."

His letter cited a U.S. Supreme Court case *Faretta v. California* "which stated an accused has the absolute right under the Federal Constitution to defend himself without any [counsel]."

The letter goes on to say, "Therefore, per *Faretta* and Section 1.051(g) of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Appellant prays the court waive [counsel] and reinstate the pro-se Appellate Brief."

Swingle received the Oct. 22 order from the 5th District Court denying his motion.

"I filed a brief (pro se) and the Appeals Court ordered it stricken. My brief covered many issues the court-appointed attorney's brief failed to mention," said Swingle.

According to the appellant, his pro se brief covered due process of law issues such as "the state's perjury, falsified documents, evidence tampering." The brief also covered the DA's withholding of the "vehicle inventory list."

The list included a kite, which contradicted the Motion to Suppress Evidence Hearing testimony of the arresting officers. According to the MTS transcripts, both officers testified that they did not find a kite.

According to Swingle, "The document is significant for two reasons: This is smoking-gun evidence of police perjury .... Second, the document was withheld by the prosecution, a Brady violation, prosecutor misconduct."

Central to Swingle's pro se case is the Motion to Suppress Evidence Hearing transcript revealing unlawful arrest, search and seizure without probable cause.

The appointed attorney's brief asked the court for acquittal or remand back to the lower court. He limited arguments to the State's lack of due diligence in executing the court's warrant to arrest after Swingle fled the county, and the lower court's decision to deprive Swingle of a sentencing hearing.

"Mr. Gray's only major point in his brief is due diligence. This argument will fail, it only applies to failure to report probation violations. I'm sure a seasoned appellate attorney like Mr. Gray knows this," said Swingle.

Gray's appellate brief includes a description of constitutional violations "under the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, Article 1 Section 9 of the Texas Constitution, and under Article 38.23 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure" under the subheading of Procedural History.

Swingle said that because they were not raised as the Issues Presented," the 5th District Court will not review them for a determination.

With a sigh of hopeful resolve, Swingle said, "Although the Appeals Court opted to strike my pro se brief they can and likely will consider pro se issue because they are fully supported by the record."

## Appellate issues: Appointed attorney v. pro se

Swingle said he "was bench warranted here from TDCT because the court-appointed attorney did not file a timely brief."

Swingle subsequently filed two motions to dismiss counsel and proceed as a pro se appellant, which were denied by the court.

According to the 5th District Court records, the appointed attorney filed a motion for a 30-day extension on July 19 because of a "pre-planned vacation" scheduled to end the day before the brief was due.

The court granted the extension.

On Sept. 10, Swingle's attorney filed a second extension request due to schedule conflicts, significant unanticipated change in staff at



J.W. Williams Middle School hosted its annual Veterans Day assembly on Nov. 11. The event featured informative readings about the meaning of Veterans Day, the history of "Taps" and the Veterans Day Proclamation issued by the U.S. president. The school's honor band, orchestra and choir also performed a variety of patriotic pieces. Ret. Master Sgt. Tracy Gaines was featured speaker for the event. A group of three students presented the World War II veterans quilts that will be given to veterans in thanks for their service. Pictured above, from the left, are quilting students Caroline Barineau, Lauren Baker and Jacqueline Mote with one of the quilts presented during the assembly.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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Third grade students at Doris Cullins Lake Pointe Elementary recently decorated pumpkins. Students voted with pennies to determine the winners of the pumpkin-decorating contest. Pictured above is Denise Gonzalez, a second grade student, and her pumpkin. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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## Rockwall County News Briefs

(Continued from Page 5)

### 'Godspell' auditions set June 7, 8

Auditions for the Rockwall Community Playhouse's Teen Theater production of "Godspell," which will be held in July and August, will begin at 1 p.m. June 7 and 8 at the playhouse, which is located at 609 E. Rusk. For more details, visit [rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org](http://rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org).

## Rockwall County Sports Notes

### Baseball, softball registration underway

Registration for the spring season of Rockwall's baseball and softball leagues is underway. Youths ages 5-14 are eligible; all skill levels can compete. Register online at [rockwall.com/athletics](http://rockwall.com/athletics). For more details call 972-722-6498.

### Fast-pitch softball skills clinic scheduled

The Winter Fast-pitch Softball Skills Clinic, sponsored by the City of Rockwall's Parks & Rec Department, will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 4 at the Leon Tuttle Athletic Complex, 1550 Airport Rd. Participants will learn the fundamentals of softball with former USA Olympic and UT softball player Taylor Hoagland and other softball players and coaches. Participants will receive lunch and softballs autographed by Taylor. Each participant should bring a softball glove, softball bat and batting helmet. Cost is \$65 for Rockwall residents and \$95 for non-residents. Registration includes attendance in the Feb. 25-26 clinic instructed by the RHHS players and coaches. For more details call 972-771-7740 or visit [rockwall.com/athletics](http://rockwall.com/athletics).

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# Fulton wins 1st game against Heritage Christian Academy

by Lary Bump

The Fulton School was ready Saturday for its first boys' basketball matchup against Heritage Christian Academy.

Having lost a late lead and a game in overtime Friday, the Falcons came out quickly against HCA and withstood a third-quarter surge for a 59-32 victory over the Eagles. With it, Fulton took seventh place in the eight-team Mustang Roundup at McKinney Christian Academy.

Each Rockwall County team lost a first-round game Thursday, Dec. 26, against a team that advanced to the championship game.

Heritage Christian (2-8) hung in against host MCA before losing 54-39. Fulton (4-3) ran into a buzz saw that was Dallas Christian Home School Athletes of North Texas, which pulled steadily away for a 70-41 victory. CHANT improved to 13-8 by winning.

On Friday, the Falcons led Dallas Home School Athletic Association South after the first quarter, trailed by four points at halftime and took a 55-49 lead into the final quarter. With 5 minutes, 44 seconds to play, Fulton's Brenden Williams made a free throw for its biggest lead at 58-41.

The lead was still four points, 62-58, until HSAA scored with 38 seconds to play. The Blue Angels regained control of the ball and worked it inside for a game-tying basket with 2.4 seconds left, with a foul shot that could have won the game. But it missed, Williams grabbed the rebound and the game went to overtime.

HSAA (6-6) scored the first seven points in overtime to complete and 11-0 run, and won 70-63.

"When you play two freshmen and two sophomores, you've got to live with that," Falcons head coach Josh Johnson said. "We didn't take care of the ball."

Fulton was more careful the ball Saturday against HCA. The Falcons used runs of 6, 6, 12 and 5 consecutive points to take a 21-point lead at 31-10 less than a minute before halftime.

From that point, the Eagles started their own 17-4 run that cut the deficit to 35-27 with 2:34 left in the third quarter. Williams then hit a 3-point shot to start Fulton to nine points in a row to end the quarter.

"I feel we should have been in (the consolation final)," Johnson said. "I still think we were the second-best team in this tournament."

Williams was recognized as a prime-time player, making the All-Tournament team. In the three games, he totaled 80 points, 38 rebounds,

11 blocked shots, seven steals and two assists. He led the Falcons with 23 points, nine rebounds and four blocks against CHANT; 16 rebounds, four steals and four blocks against HSAA, and 35 points, 13 rebounds and three blocks vs. HCA.

Other leaders for Fulton were Todd Treadway with four assists against both CHANT and HSAA and five against the Eagles, Hayden Leverett with three steals against CHANT and Max Mitchell with four steals vs. Heritage Christian.

After their loss to McKinney Christian, the Eagles fell behind early Friday and lost 52-27 to Abundant Life from North Little Rock, Ark. HCA's Ben Migneault scored 10 points off the bench to earn a start Saturday.

Against Fulton, Eli Cates started the Eagles' rally with its first six points. Wyatt French's basket brought them within eight points.

Will McEvoy led HCA with 10 points, despite missing time because he was in foul trouble. French had a team-high four steals.

Rockwall Christian Academy had a big win Friday in the first round of the fourth annual Lake Country Classic at Fort Worth Lake Country Christian. The Warriors downed Denton Calvary 66-57 behind 30 points by Evan Milwee and 25 by Ryan Gafford.

RCA fell to 7-4 later that day with a 69-49 loss to Rio Vista. The Warriors were scheduled to play Arlington The Flint Academy in one of two consolation games Saturday.

Before the tournament, Rockwall Christian had defeated the Dallas Thunder junior varsity 75-35 Dec. 19.

Early games in 2014 will include Fulton hosting Dallas A-Plus Academy Friday, Mineral Wells Community Christian Saturday, Wylie Prep Monday and Dallas Westwood Tuesday at Forney Sports Center. Westwood will be the Falcons' first district opponent. They'll host a 10-team tournament at FSC Jan. 9-11.

HCA will begin its district play with a home game at Rockwall Indoor Sports Expo Friday against Greenville Christian School. The Eagles will be home against McKinney Christian Tuesday, at Dallas Tyler Street Christian Academy Thursday and home vs. Longview Christian Heritage Friday, Jan. 10.

Rockwall Christian's schedule won't resume until Jan. 10 at Greenville Christian.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Heritage	7	10	10	12	39
MC	10	17	13	14	54

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Heritage	7	4	9	7	27
Abundant Life	12	18	12	10	52
Heritage - Ben Migneault 10, Will McEvoy 6, Ethan Burton 4, Pa Smalley 3, Eli Cates 2, Dobbs 2.					
North Little Rock Abundant Life - N/A					

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Fulton	15	8	6	20	41
CHANT	21	12	15	22	70
Fulton - Brenden Williams 23, Max Mitchell 9, Tyler Treadway 4, B Geiger 3, Todd Treadway 2.					

Dallas Christian Homeschool Athletes of North Texas - Cole E 22, Efram Jackson 13, Kasey Fink 8, Jacob DeLaCruz 7, Sam Brine Devontae Jones 6, Jalyn Helms 6, Corey Joss 2.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT
Fulton	12	23	20	7	1
HSAA South	11	28	10	13	8
Fulton - Brenden Williams 22, Todd Treadway 17, Brian Geiger 5, Max Mitchell 5, Tyler Treadway 4.					

Dallas Home School Athletic Association South - Luke Garner 25, Beltran 15, Germany Williams 9, Matthew Jackson 8, Landon Ell Garrett Greene 4, Dallin Thomson 2, N/A 1.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Fulton	16	15	13	15	59
Heritage	6	8	13	5	32

Fulton - Brenden Williams 35, Brian Geiger 8, Max Mitchell 7, Treadway 6, Tyler Treadway 2, Hayden Leverett 1.

Heritage - Will McEvoy 10, Ethan Burton 7, Eli Cates 6, Ben Mign 3, Dobbs 3, Wyatt French 2, Brendan Schroepfer 1.

# Temple downs Lady Eagles with game on the line

The Heritage Christian Academy girls' basketball game came oh, so close to winning the last of three games in last weekend's Mustang Roundup at McKinney Christian Academy.

Playing for seventh place Saturday against Fort Worth Temple Christian, the Lady Eagles (4-8) cut a five-point deficit to one at with 23 seconds to play when freshman Halee Minter put in a rebound.

Grace Dillahunty then stole the ball and drove for a layup, but the ball fell off the rim.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Heritage	2	10	2	21	35
MC	16	17	17	11	61

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Heritage	7	8	4	11	30
Abundant Life	6	14	18	8	46

Heritage - Molli Howard 10, Halee Minter 8, Brittany Fauley 6, Emily Benton 4, Grace Dillahunty 2.

North Little Rock Abundant Life - N/A

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Heritage	5	6	5	10	26
TC	9	3	5	12	29

Heritage - Molli Howard 8, Halee Minter 6, Grace Dillahunty 5, Emily Benton 3, Brittany Fauley 2, N/A 2.

Fort Worth Temple Christian - N/A

With 7 seconds to play, HCA had little choice but to foul Emily Yancey, who already had 13 points and had made 7 of 10 free throws. She made both shots. And when her teammates stole the ball, Temple Christian came away with a 29-26 victory.

Heritage Christian had opened the tournament Thursday with a 61-35 loss to host MCA, which advanced to the championship game.

On Friday, HCA led after the first quarter, but Abundant Life of North Little Rock, Ark., blew by the Lady Eagles to win 46-30.

Molli Howard led the Heritage scoring with 10 points against Abundant Life and 8 vs. Temple Christian. She also had a team-high two assists Saturday.

Other team leaders against Temple were Emily Benton with nine rebounds and Dillahunty with seven steals.

The Lady Eagles will have a schedule to begin the new year. They would begin defense of their district title Friday at Rockwall Indoor Sports Expo at Greenville Christian School. McKinney Christian Tuesday visit Dallas Tyler Street Christian Academy Thursday and play home again Friday, Jan. 10, against Longview Christian Heritage.

The Fulton School (2-0) scheduled to play at Forney Sports Center against Dallas Home School Athletic Association South Friday, Mineral Wells Community Christian Saturday and Wylie Prep Tuesday. The Lady Falcons will host their first tournament, with a six-team field, Jan. 9-11 at FSC.

Rockwall Christian Academy girls (0-5) will be idle until traveling to Greenville Christian for a district game Jan. 10.



Fulton Falcons Senior Brenden Williams (20) stretches for a basket against Dallas Inspired Vision at the Forney Sports Center. Ready to assist at back is Sophomore Brian Geiger (10). Williams finished the game with 28 points which launched his total career points to 1011. Fulton won 59-45.

Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News



Lauren Dulac was recently recognized as first place winner in the Cullins-Lake Pointe fourth grade gingerbread house-decorating contest. Ashtyn Carlson, not pictured, was second place winner. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Kathleen Tyre of the Roysse City Lions Club welcomed Nathan and Catherine-Zumwalt to the wine tasting event conducted recently at the Holiday Inn Express. There was a good turnout of supporters. The proceeds go toward the Texas Lions Camp, which "is a summer camping facility dedicated to serving children from the State of Texas with physical disabilities and Type 1 diabetes." Proceeds also help provide free eye exams and glasses for adults and children who cannot afford the cost. The Lions have various projects throughout the year and support several charities.

Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/Rockwall County News

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