

Rockwall County News

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Heath city council approves traffic light at busy intersection

Anna Matejka
 leaning heavily toward constructing a roundabout to manage the intersection of farm-to-market roads 740, 549 and 550, the Heath City Council did an about-face and voted to end the installation of a traffic light to Texas Department of Transportation.

Change came after TXDoT engineers reported the results of a study and showed council members simulations of three options, a roundabout, a two-lane roundabout and a traffic light with turn lanes on the west-bound side of FM 740.

Originally, the idea of a roundabout was promoted by Mayor John E. when it appeared to be a less expensive solution to the traffic problem, he said.

Council members also believed a roundabout could be safer by eliminating left-hand turns and greener because cars would idle less. According to TXDoT engineers, each of the three options would cost about the same, but the light would likely clear traffic more efficiently and each would have a comparable impact on surrounding

TXDoT engineers also asked council members to consider whether the intersection would be part of a network of signal lights saying, "I don't want to build a circle if you have signals all around."

All council members expressed a liking for the roundabout, but all but Lorne Liechty and Julianna Zurek voted to recommend a traffic light to TXDoT.

The preference of the council will be taken "heavily into consideration," the project will still go through a public-meeting phase. Construction on the intersection would likely not begin for three months.

Linking of each of the three intersection options are available on the website of Heath Web site: heathtx.com.

McLendon-Chisholm City Council eyes service options for Koch property

Anna Matejka
 At its last November meeting, the McLendon-Chisholm City Council directed staff members to develop a report reflecting options for pursuing the provision of water and sewer service to the Koch property.

Mayor Mike Donegan has been an advocate for the city entering the water and sewer business, urging council members to take the "best path" of doing the work of setting up that business over the long term.

The best path is you control what happens inside your city," Donegan said.

One option not being overlooked by the council is "keeping the community small, managing what it has and hoping for a minimal amount of problems," but that isn't a likely outcome.

Whether or not, we already have developer's agreements that will bring a population of 20,000 into the city limits we have now," Donegan said. "At some point, a city has to say, 'I'm a city and these are the services I'm going to provide.'"

Another realized option the city and developers might consider is partnering with the cities of Fate and Royce City for sewer service at Sabine Creek wastewater treatment plant.

Council members expressed interest in conducting workshops to explore the vision for the city and draft a model for how the municipality would enter the water business. The workshop could be completed within the month.

The Koch property is more than 1,200 acres currently in the city's territorial jurisdiction on its northeast side. The city may ask developers to purchase water rights and provide other infrastructure as a condition of annexation.



Students from Dorris Jones Elementary recently donated 379 stuffed animals to the Presbyterian Hospital of Rockwall emergency room. Monday's donation ceremony was hosted by the PTA. Recognized for donating the highest number of stuffed animals, at 97, were members of Kelly Henry's fifth grade class with Presbyterian Hospital emergency room staff members (back row, left to right) Jessica Rea, Tami Hawkins, students Furhan Baker, Caleb Wess, Raven Rayson, Francesca Salluzzo, Octavio Garcia, Arelia Ayala, Noah Sewell, Francine Collins (teacher assistant), Kelly Henry, Angela Marcellus (principal) and Jennifer McQuiddy; (middle row) hospital staff Fred Gordon, students MacKenzie Camp, Devin Miller, Nathan Curry, Cami Usanga and Chase Butler; and (front row) Amya Bee, Dakota Cherry, Komal Karelia, Kayla Halbert, Jared Tucker and Kaitlyn Cozma.

Staff photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

Sinclair will not seek re-election to county post

Bill Sinclair, county treasurer, announced this week in a news release that he will not seek re-election to a second term.

Last month marked the third year since his election by local voters. Sinclair was appointed in May 2006 by county commissioners to complete the term of then-Treasurer Sheree Jones, who had resigned.

"Since I was enjoying retirement at the time I accepted the appointment, I am looking forward to returning to that status upon completion of my term in December 2010," he said.

"The office of county treasurer is the people's representative for the financial affairs of the county. I have found it to be extremely important that the holder of this office have financial and account-



(Continued on Page 2)



Friends of Downtown Joysse Musser, Carol Crow, Claudette Hatfield, Barbara Coleson and Patt Buttgen are shown decorating the Downtown Square in Rockwall to support area shops during the Christmas season. Not pictured are Bethany Golden, Main Street manager, and Linda Ferguson.

Photo courtesy of Carol Crow/Rockwall County News



Southern Junction owners Paul Morelan and Charles Houk donated nearly 300 toys to the Rockwall County Sheriff's Office this week after the toys were collected during a toy drive concert featuring Vince Vance and the Valiants at Southern Junction. Assisting with the coordination of the toy drive was the Hilton Bella Hotel. On hand for the donation were, at back, from the left, Houk; Karen Coughlin, Hilton Bella Hotel manager; and Morelan; and, at front, Sheriff Harold Eavenson and Chief Deputy David Goelden. Deputies will deliver the toys to families they know are in need; remaining toys will be donated to Helping Hands and Lake Point Church.

Staff photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News



Competing in Race #10 of the Chandlers Landing Fall Sunday Series, held on November 15, are boats "Blowout" (left) and "Silver Wings" (right). The 1:00 p.m. race was a course from Rockwall to Sunnyvale and back for a total of 8.52 nautical miles. "Silver Wings", a Capri 25, is owned and single-handed skippered by David MacDonald, out of Bayview Marina. Silver Wings placed 4th in the race. Owned and skippered by Paul Weathers, out of Chandlers Marina Blowout (a J24), finished 6th in the race. "Blowout" crew are Weathers, Paul Weathers Jr., grandson Bryson Weathers, and Jeff Higgins.

Photo courtesy of Dan Malik/Rockwall County News

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 by calling the ch
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 n. at 972-771-3430
 ncheath.org.

State poetry group gives award to Heath native

Heath native Pat Stodghill was awarded the Hilton Ross Greer Outstanding Service Award Nov. 14 by the Poetry Society of Texas. The award recognizes an individual who has supported the Poetry Society through volunteer efforts, sponsorship of monetary awards and encouragement of poets.

Stodghill was honored for her cumulative years of service to the society. The award was presented by past PST president and chairman of the Hilton Ross Greer Award Committee, Budd Powell Mahan. "This year the award goes to one of the most active and influential members from the 1960s to the 1990s," said Mahan at the 53rd Annual Poetry Society of Texas Awards Banquet. "Pat Stodghill has won every major award and held just about every office in both PST and the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. The only award she has not received is the Hilton Ross Greer Award, and I am happy to rectify that today."

Stodghill's awards and offices include being the first winner of the PST Nortex Book Prize for her volume of poems "Mirrored Images," first winner of the William E. Bard Memorial Book Prize for her volume of poems "Kaleidoscope Pieces," tenth president of the PST and the first woman to hold the office, 19th president of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies and Poet Laureate of Texas, 1978-1979.

Stodghill, who served as president of the Poetry Society of Texas for five successive terms, has been published in more than 75 anthologies and publications and her poems have won dozens of awards. Stodghill attended Rockwall High School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from North Texas State University, Denton, and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Texas at Austin. She taught English at W.T. White High School in Dallas prior to becoming a member of the faculty at Rockwall High School in 1981. She taught in Rockwall for 19 years and has conducted created writing workshops, including courses at Southern Methodist University. She has given poetry readings and lectured at numerous colleges and poetry conferences in Texas as well as many other states including Arkansas, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, Tennessee and Washington, D.C.



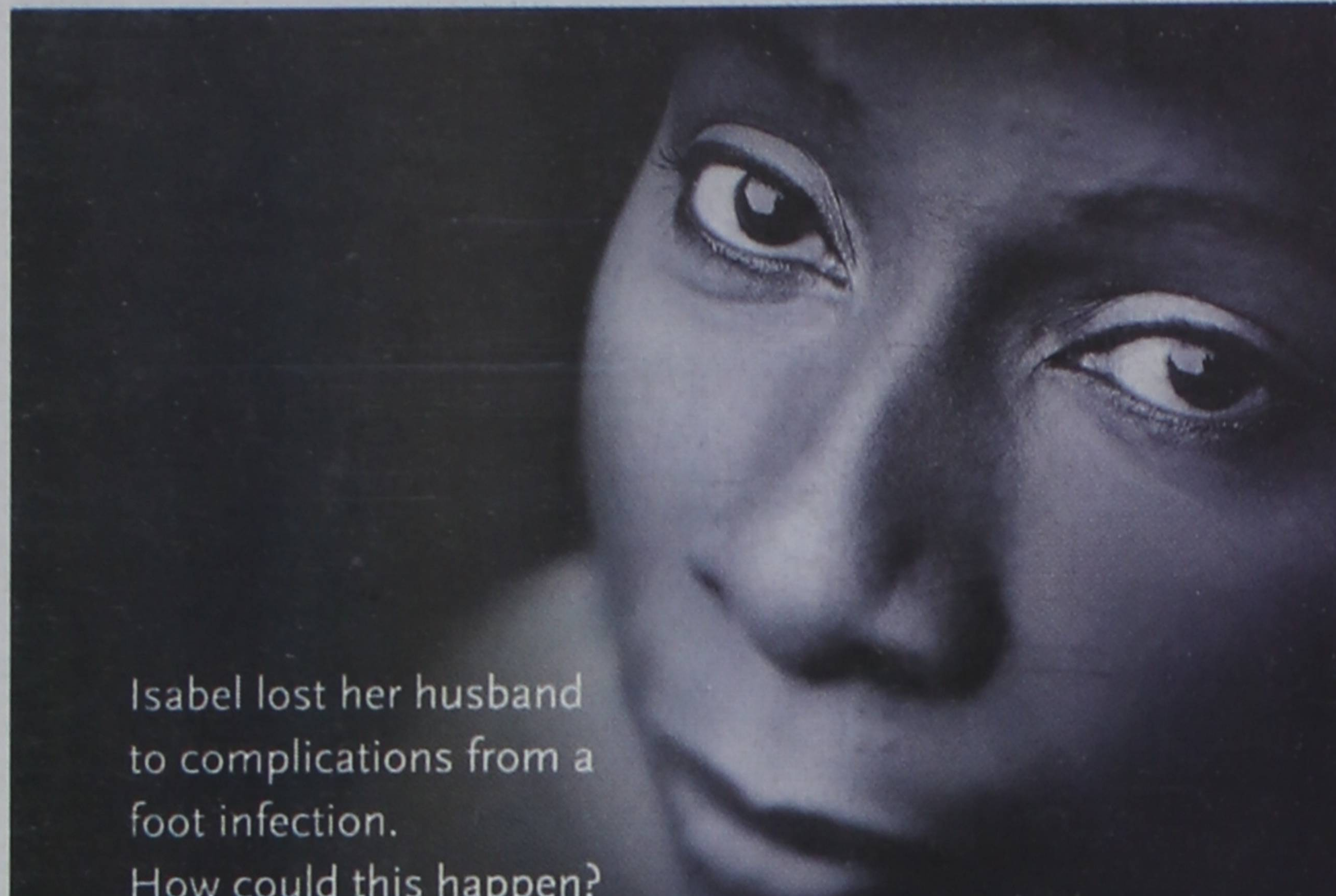
Heath native Pat Stodghill is shown receiving the Poetry Society of Texas Hilton Ross Greer Outstanding Service Award. Making the presentation is Budd Powell Mahan, past president and chairman of the award committee. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Rockwall Fire Department Driver, Tony Raymond, listens to Mayor Bill Cecil (back, left) give the introductions during the dedication ceremony for Fire Station #4 held recently. Pressing to Raymond is his son Blake. Staff photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

Our Holiday Schedule

The Rockwall County News will publish its annual Merry Christmas edition Thursday, December 24, with a 5 p.m. Monday, December 21 deadline. The newspaper office will be closed December 25 through December 27. The New Year's edition will be published Thursday, December 31, with a Monday, December 28 deadline.



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Greg Schneemann, Same Sele, Bailey Panchalk, Sydney Smith and Shelby Spruill, from the left, were just a few of the students at Amy Parks Elementary who participated in the sixth grade's Greek Festival observance on Nov. 24. Serving as the grand finale for the students' study of ancient Greece, the festival incorporated all academic classes, as well as special classes. Olympic sporting competitions were conducted during PE classes; shield painting was undertaken in Art class; and Greek singing and dancing was the focus of Music class. Live performances of Greek dramas and special Greek math lessons also were offered. Greek food also was served.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Sinclair

(Continued from Page 1)

ing knowledge and experience. Sinclair said in the news release. Sinclair pledged to vote would achieve certain goals his term, including the elimination of the backlog of bank rejections and maintenance in a status; to develop written procedures; cross-train the three; achieve timely audits; respond to any and all findings; and improve visible transparency of the office.

"I am pleased to report the office has made significant progress on all of these goals," he said. "Although it took longer than expected, bank reconciliation is now maintained in a current state. This milestone was achieved in 2009. As a result, the county year 2009 audit will commence January 2010, five months earlier than in prior years."

"Most of the office's tasks now been described by procedures. During the following year, the goal is to prepare a diagram showing all tasks formed by the office and indicate the applicable procedure and key information. This will enhance everyone's understanding of the level of work and workload," he said.

"We continue to cross among staff members and have been set for the next year each employee," he said. "Upon appointment to the office, I found over 40 internal reports that required a response some of which had received one or additional notices. In addition to the above-stated goal, problem has been resolved. November, I have logged more than 330 internal audit reports, including the foregoing, with most being clean opinions. I am pleased to state that any with findings generally responded to and within 10 days."

"I have posted financial investment reports, independent audit reports and other information on the Treasurer's web pages to enhance the visibility of the county," he said. "I intend to continue to the information available public during the coming year specifically in the area of financial services. The Web page depicting pending policies in work." The Web page is accessible at rockwallcountytx.com/asp?nid=234.

Sinclair said the county treasurer's post "is a position of trust, integrity and knowledge in finance and accounting by the individual selected by the voters. The office plays an integral and important role in maintaining the record of the county - I do not overemphasize this point. It is an honor to serve the citizens of Rockwall County."



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Rockwall County News



Jack and Lou Smith, pictured above, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Nov. 23. The Smiths have been Rockwall residents for the past 11 years, having moved here from Dallas.
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Happy Birthday Nana
Love,
Jacie and Brooke



Mrs. Jonathan Rush



Dorothy Pryor

Using a cane, Dorothy left the center in just five weeks -- three weeks earlier than expected. Today she is fully mobile and enjoys a full life.

"I'm fine now," she says. "I can do most things. I can't walk very far, but every day is a little bit better. It's just going to take some time."

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Lucile Tate with her son Garvin Tate

Play Study Club

in Wood home

Friday Study Club conducted its monthly meeting Nov. 20 in the home of Billye Wood.

Guestesses for the gathering were June Frawley and Leigh

program was presented by Linda Culpepper, Rockwall criminal district attorney, who thanked the group for their responsibilities. Culpepper has 20 employees, and she handled most of the criminal cases in the county, including felonies and misdemeanors, Child Protective Services mental health commitments, criminal appeals and juvenile peace and bond forfei-

ppor also provided statistics on felony and misdemeanor convictions in Rockwall County for the past year.

Members brought items and gifts to be delivered to the Terrell Hospital, one of the organizational projects.

McBride,

Rush wed

Nov. 21

ceremony

Michelle McBride of Rockwall and Jonathan Scott Rush of Port, La. were married at 2 p.m. Nov. 21, in the Lakeshore Church in Rockwall.

The ceremony was officiated by Timothy Meister of Rockwall.

Michelle is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene McBride of Port, La. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Rush of Rockwall.

The bride wore an ivory satin gown with beaded and pearl embroidery, a light veil with fingertip with scalloped pearl edge and carried a fresh-cut bouquet of green and purple hydrangea, ranunculus, and ranunculus blooms wrapped in white ribbon.

Michelle McBride, sister of the bride, served as maid of honor. The bridesmaids were Taylor Benson, Samantha Benson, Amber Howard and Katie Sims. Flower girls were Erin and Elizabeth McBride, and the ring bearer was the groom's brother, Ethan and the best man was Clifton Powers and Cody Rush.

Reception and dance were held in the foyer following the ceremony. A honeymoon in the Smokey Mountains, the bride and groom will reside in Dallas.

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Terrell defeats cold-shooting Hawks

by Lary Bump
 If Rockwall-Heath had a shot at defeating Terrell Tuesday night, it was missed.
 The Hawks made just 16 field goals — with nine of those following shots they'd missed — and missed 8 of their 13 foul shots in the fourth quarter.
 The result was a 17-9 edge for the visiting Tigers in the final eight minutes, turning a close boys' basketball game into a 50-40 Terrell victory.
 "We got some good looks. We even had some second and third chances," head coach Justin Morett said of the Hawks' fourth quarter.
 RHHS broke to a 12-4 lead, with Jonathan Fuller putting in offensive rebounds for six of those points. The Tigers then ran off 11 consecutive points for a 15-12 lead 10 seconds into the second quarter. That was the biggest lead they would have in a

back-and-forth game until the fourth quarter.
 It wasn't just the lead that went back and forth, but the play as well. Turnovers were the order of the evening. The Hawks stole the ball 17 times, but gave it up even more often against Terrell's pressure.
 Morett said, "We were a little unfocused and unsettled, but we're going to get there. It was good for us to see this kind of pressure. We've got to do a better job handling the half-court trap. We talked about and expected it."
 "We're going to need to do better against Colleyville Heritage Thursday.
 The Hawks will meet Colleyville at Southlake Carroll Senior High School in the Southlake Shoot-Out against Colleyville Heritage. The Hawks would play Belton or Wylie Friday in the tournament that runs through Saturday.
 Terrell's trap was especially effective in the fourth quarter, preventing Rockwall-Heath from getting the ball inside after Hawks high scorer Demi Leonard took a pass from Fuller for a layup with 5 minutes, 9 seconds to play. That cut the Tigers' lead to 40-36, but from that point they continued to pull away. Game high scorer Darius Simpson scored four of his 28 points on easy layups after THS beat the Hawks' press.
 Morett said, "We started well, but I've got to get them ready to play four quarters, do a better job coaching and preparing for the whole game."
 The bright spot was the offensive rebounding that kept RHHS in the game. Leonard totaled 12 rebounds, and Fuller added nine.
 Morett said, "We talked about crashing the boards." His team obviously listened.
 Before the Terrell game, the Hawks lost at home against Forney 66-58 Monday, Nov. 23, then won at Corsicana the next night 58-42.
 "That game was good for our confidence," Morett said.
 RHHS' defense held Corsicana's Tigers to two points in the first quarter and eight in taking a 29-8 half-time lead.
 Anthony Haake led a 25-point contribution from the Hawks' bench

by scoring a team-high 14. Fuller added 12. Leonard had 10 points to go with 10 rebounds and seven blocked shots.
 Rockwall-Heath's junior varsity will compete in the eight-team JV tournament at Southlake, beginning Friday at 5:30 p.m. against Grapevine at Carroll High School Gym 2. The junior Hawks' second opponent would be the host team or Fort Worth Christian. The junior Hawks defeated Terrell 58-42 Tuesday.
 1st 2nd 3rd 4th Final
 Forney 14 12 21 19 66
 RHHS 19 13 12 14 58
 Forney (3-0): Zac Seaman 17, Jordan Hancock 15, Grant Shaw 13, Jullius Jackson 10, John Morgan 4, Malcolm Fields 4, Patric Youngman 3.
 Rockwall-Heath (0-3): Jonathan Fuller 16, Todd Franza 14, Preston Wynn 6, Zachary Morett 6, Demi Leonard 6, Aaron Gladney 3, Jeramey Anderson 3, Anthony Haake 2, London Dutton 2.

1st 2nd 3rd 4th
 RHHS 11 18 15 14
 Corsic 2 6 17 17
 Rockwall-Heath (1-3):
 Haake 14, Jonathan Fuller 10, Leonard 10, Jeramey Anderson 4, Preston Wynn 4, Zachary Morett 3, Todd Franza 3, Aaron Gladney 3, Wayne Cunningham 1.
 Corsicana (0-3): Antonie 21, Corey Wilson 8, Devin 5, Jack Saipongi 3, Paul B Hunter Denbow 2.
 1st 2nd 3rd 4th
 Terrell 14 9 10 17 2
 RHHS 12 9 10 9 2
 Terrell (4-0): Darius Simpson 15, Jherrod Stiggers 15, Josh Wynn 12, Guy Kennedy 2, Michael M Charly Manlyott 1, Milton 1.
 Rockwall-Heath (1-4):
 Leonard 15, Jonathan Fuller 7, Aaron Gladney 4, Wynn 3, London Dutton 2.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Rockwall County News

"My Favorite Christmas Memory ..."

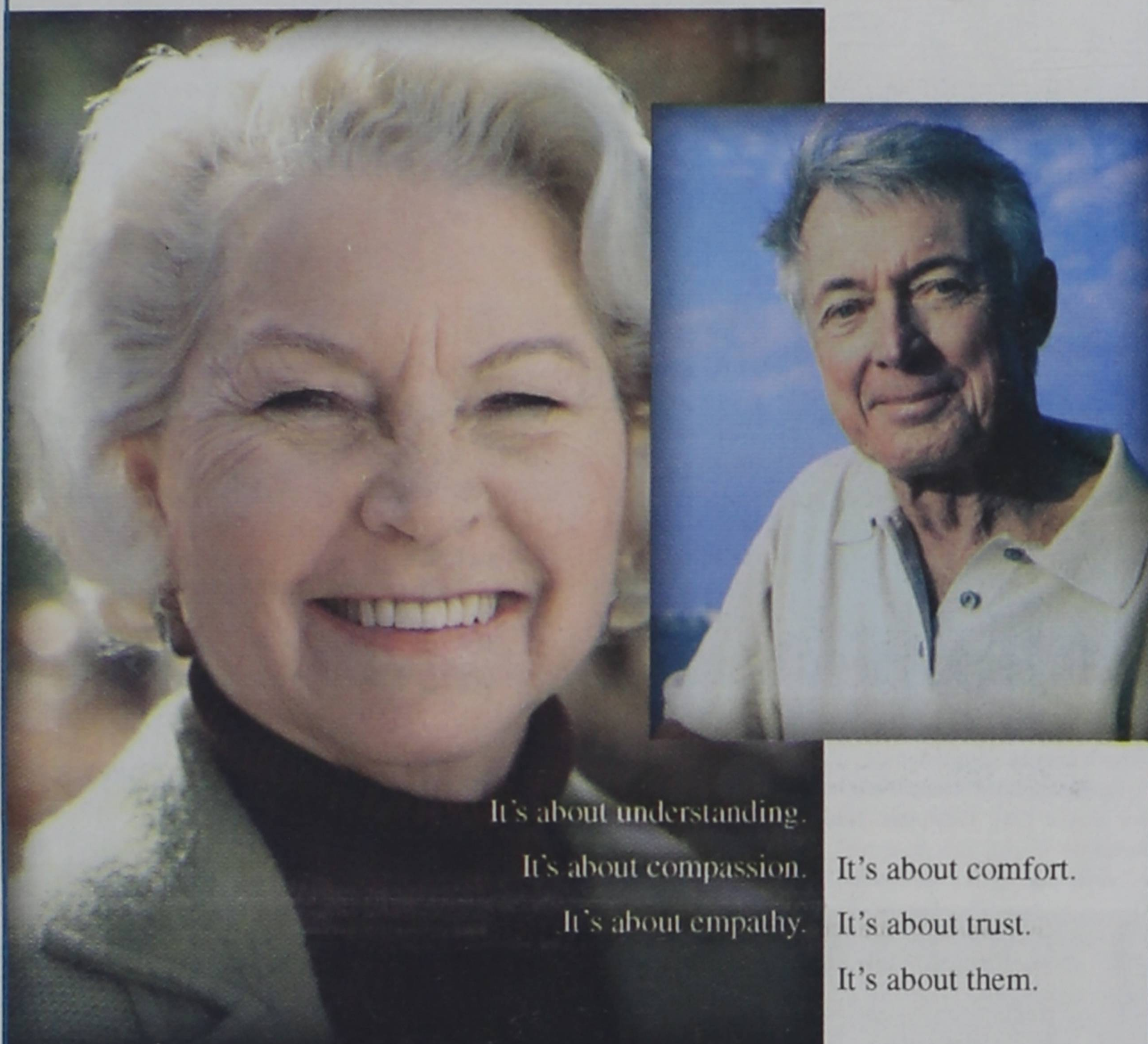
You fill in the rest, tell us your favorite Christmas memory, please no more than 100 words.

We'll publish your "Favorite Christmas Memory" in our big Christmas Eye special edition, December 23, 2009.

Email to rcn.news@yahoo.com, please use Christmas Memory in the subject line.
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Rockwall County News

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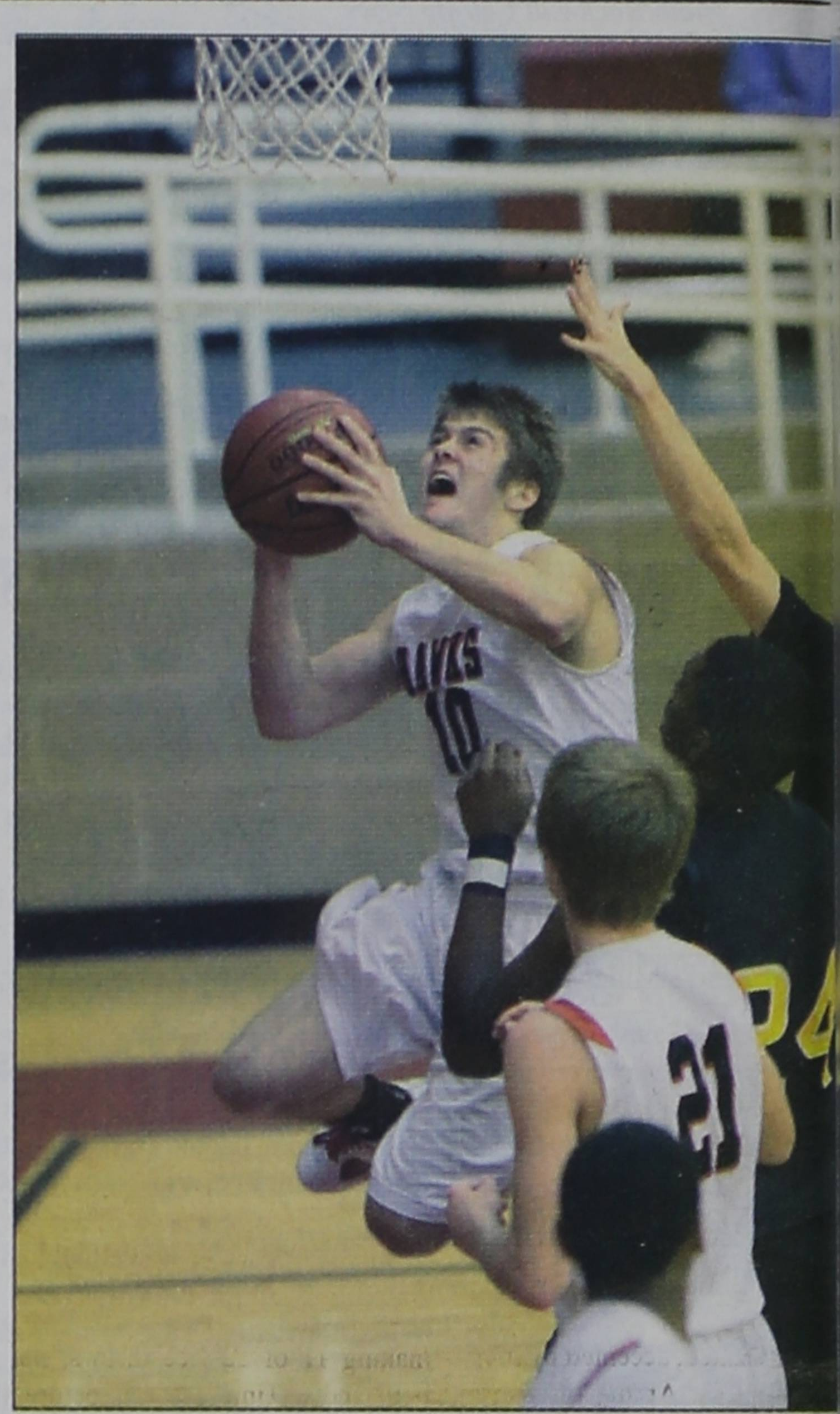
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The Courtyard is a member of the Christian Care Centers family of senior living communities; a Faith-Based, Not-For-Profit Organization.

Lady Hawks win gymnastics meet

Rockwall-Heath placed first among four girls' teams to win a home meet Friday, Nov. 20.
 Lori Williamson was first all-around and in the parallel bars, balance beam and floor exercise to lead the Lady Hawks to a 113.05 score.
 Teammate Ashlee Reese was third all-around — with second place on the bars, third on the floor and sixth on the beam. Megan Hasenyager was eighth all-around and seventh on the floor.
 Other contributors to RHHS' strong showing were Miranda Nelson, third on the beam; Naje' Watkins, fifth in the vault and eighth on the beam, and Regan Allen, seventh on the bars.
 Rockwall-Heath did that without all-around competitor Jade Bowerman. She's nursing an ankle injury, but Lady Hawks head coach Jennifer Bolli said the team hoped to have Bowerman back for Thursday's Hurst L.D. Bell Invitational.
 After the home meet, Bolli said, "this is our second meet, and the girls are starting off strong."



Rockwall-Heath's London Dutton (10) drives for a layup during a loss to Forney. Aaron Gladney (21) is in position for rebound, if needed.
 Staff photo by Carl McClung/Rockwall County News

Lady Hawks run winning streak to 3 games

Rockwall-Heath won its two most recent games in very similar fashion on the road, stretching its girls' basketball winning streak to three games.
 The Lady Hawks led 13-7 after one quarter at Prestonwood Christian Monday, Nov. 23, and went on to a 56-39 victory. RHHS had an 11-6 lead after the first quarter Tuesday at South Garland, and rolled over the District 5-10A team 58-37. The game was that close only because the Lady Colonels outscored Rockwall-Heath 20-10 in the fourth quarter.
 During the three-game winning streak, the Lady Hawks have held

their opponents under 40 points each game.
 Shanae Lowrance continued to lead RHHS. She scored game-high 17 points against Prestonwood and 14 at South Garland.
 A diverse supporting cast led by Lyndsey Renta cut out 13 points and Macall Smith had 10 against the Lady Friars. Aly Coughlin scored 10 vs. Garland.
 The Lady Hawks were scheduled to play Bullard Thursday afternoon at either Sulphur Springs or the team that evening in the Win Hoop Fest Tournament. Rockwall-Heath could meet 10-4A Roys in a game Friday in the tournament that runs through Saturday.
 1st 2nd 3rd 4th Final
 RHHS 13 11 15 17 56
 PHS 7 8 10 14 39
 Rockwall-Heath (4-2):
 Lowrance 17, Lyndsey Renta 13, Macall Smith 10, Katelyn McAllister 6, Willette Rankin 6, Brooke Eddy 2.
 Prestonwood Christian
 Marielle Brisbois 15, Taylor 7, Mackenzie McNamara 5, M Johnston 5, Danielle Wells 4, Finkelstein 2, Shelby Cole 1.
 1st 2nd 3rd 4th
 RHHS 11 16 21 10
 S.GHS 6 4 7 20
 Rockwall-Heath (5-2):
 Lowrance 14, Aly Coughlin 10, Macall Smith 8, Lyndsey 6, Brianna Richardson 5, B Eddy 5, Katelyn Morris 4, Br Huggett 3, Meredith Deer Willette Rankin 1.
 South Garland (5-3): Ebony 13, Jasmine Hill 13, Adelia Henderson 2.

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Rockwall County Sports

Bishop Lynch snaps Lady Jackets' win streak

By Bump
Eight of rallies that fell short, Rockwall varsity girls' basketball lost to Bishop Lynch Monday night at Bishop Lynch.

The Lady Jackets' 55-44 was either the second half, and especially the third quarter, Rockwall was out of sync.

Earlier in the evening, Rockwall's junior varsity gave up an 11-point second-half lead when Bishop Lynch went on a 12-0 run for a 27-26 lead early in the fourth quarter.

The varsity played its closest game this season on Monday, Nov. 23, at home in a 50-47 victory over Plano West.

Rockwall led by eight points, 46-38, with 5:41 to play. The Lady Wolves came back and had a chance to tie it when Alexann Yancey went to the foul line with 24.7 seconds remaining.

West had a chance to go ahead when RHS couldn't get the ball inbounds within 5 seconds. Yancey, who scored 24 points, missed a shot in the lane, and Rockwall's Aimee Coleman tied up the ball on the rebound.

Adamson, whose 28 points included making 11 of 12 free throws, put in both shots. Time ran out before the Lady Wolves could try a game-tying 3-point shot.

Alyssa Lang added 10 points and eight rebounds for Rockwall. Plano West played without 6'3" Jacqueline Jeffcoat, who like teammate Yancey has committed to play at the University of Oklahoma.

McDill said, "Especially early in the season, you don't know how a team is going to respond. They showed some real leadership and heart. I'm proud of them. They found a way to win against a good team."

Defense was important to the victory. Yancey scored 15 points in the first half, mostly against a zone defense. In the second half, Coleman was assigned to Yancey at most times.

Other unsung heroes were freshman Morghen Day and junior Bre Castillo off the bench.

McDill said, "You always need people to step up. Like at the end of the game, Morghen drove in and hit that layup (for a 48-44 lead). Bre played some good minutes and had some good rebounds."

Castillo — replacing Vertashia Dean, who was in foul trouble for much of the game — grabbed seven rebounds and added two steals and two assists.

On Saturday, the Lady Jackets took a 24-5 lead after one quarter and went on to a 64-30 victory over visiting Edgewood. Adamson scored a game-high 25 points, and Coleman added 10. Dean bounced back with nine.

1st 2nd 3rd 4th Final
Plano W. 14 9 11 13 47
Rockwall 14 14 12 10 50

Plano West (5-4): Alexann Yancey 24, Carmen Holcomb 5, Rachel Wilson 4, Bridget Dom 4, Paige Womack 3, Mackenzie Boyd 3, Sydney Singleterry 2, Erin Digan 2.

Rockwall (8-1): Peyton Adamson 28, Alyssa Lang 10, Aimee Coleman 4, Kayla Smith 3, Vertashia Dean 3, Morghen Day 2.

1st 2nd 3rd 4th Final
EHS 9 4 10 7 30
RHS 24 20 15 5 64

Edgewood (4-4): Chandler Short 14, Trisha McDaniel 8, S'andra Govan 4, Micaela Brown 4.

Rockwall (9-1): Peyton Adamson 25, Aimee Coleman 10, Vertashia Dean 9, Alyssa Lang 8, Brittany Griffin 6, Caitlin White 2, Kayla Smith 2, Bre Castillo 2.

1st 2nd 3rd 4th Final
RHS 10 6 19 9 44
B. Lynch 18 14 10 13 55

Rockwall (9-2): Peyton Adamson 27, Alyssa Lang 9, Vertashia Dean 4, Kayla Smith 4.

Bishop Lynch (8-4): Alexa Hardick 16, Alex Green 15, Blair Bryce 9, Ashlee Nester 6, Gretchen Gerken 5, Erin Hardick 2, Danyl Bradley 2.

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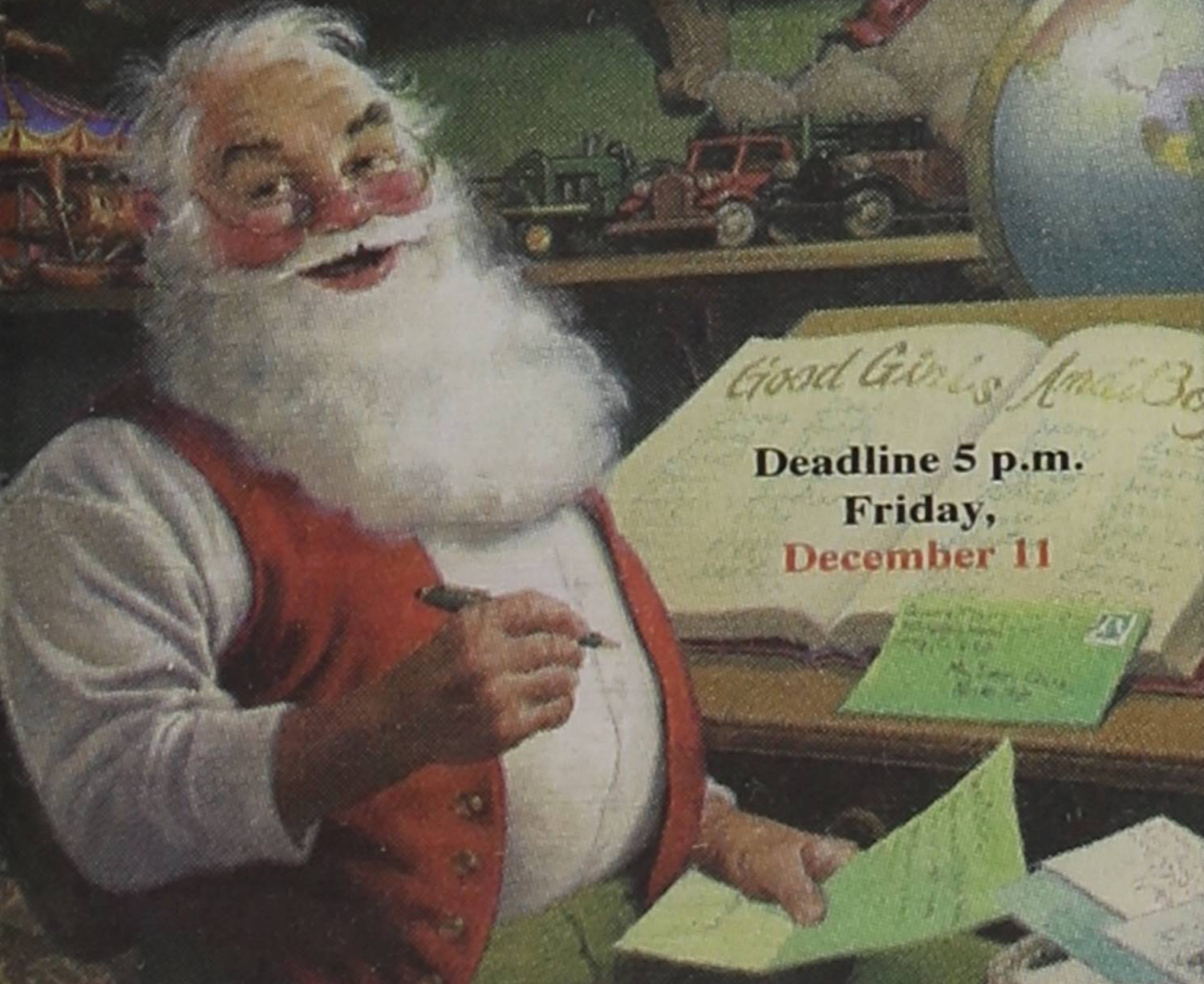
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Rockwall scoring leader Peyton Adamson (22) dribbles past Plano West's Stacy Lee (10).
Staff photo by Roy Heath/Rockwall County News

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Deadline 5 p.m. Friday, December 11
Mail to Rockwall County News, P.O. Box 819, Rockwall, Texas 75087 or drop off at 107 E. Bourn, Rockwall or FAX: 972-722-2199
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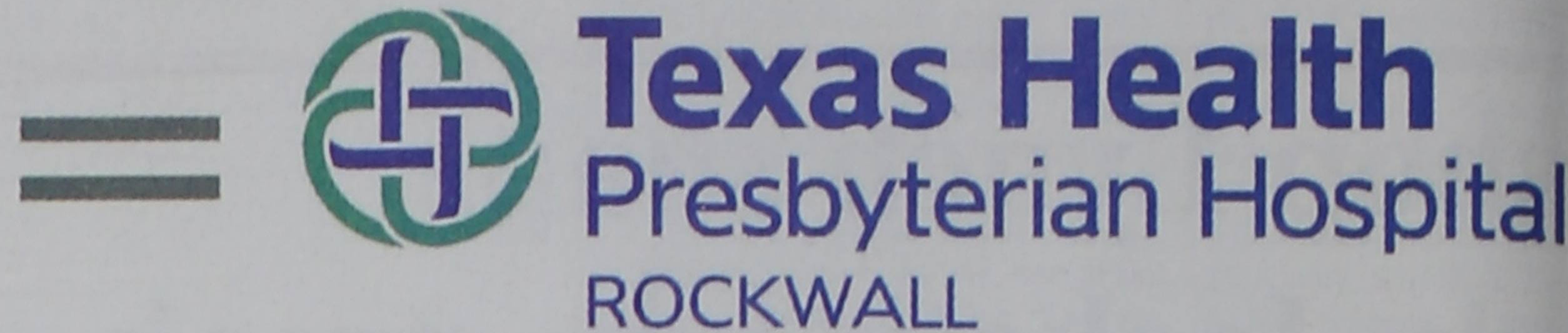
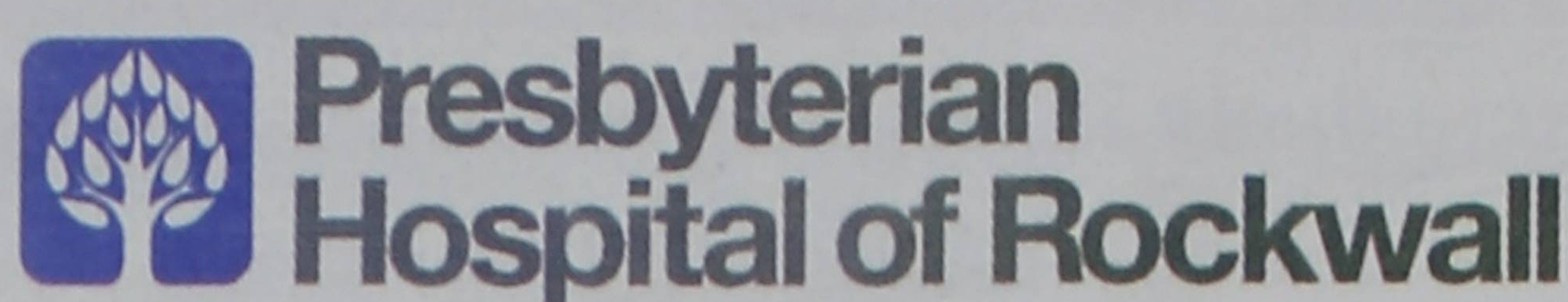
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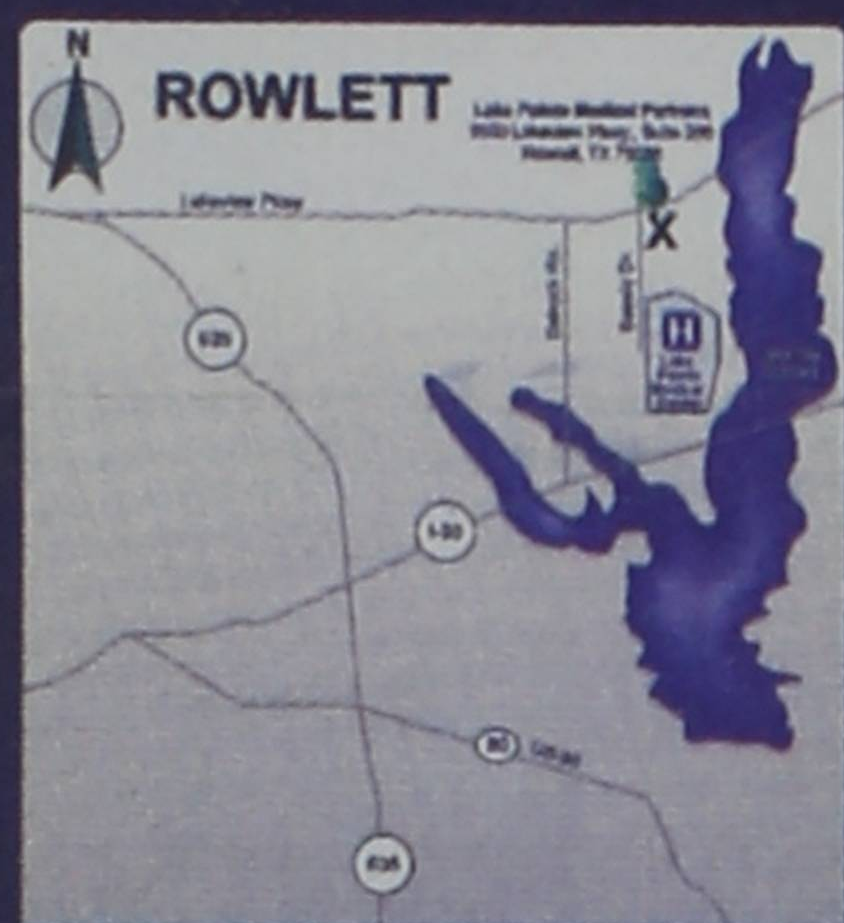


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In Our Opinion

Faithfully Angry

by Bill O'Reilly

It took a while, we're talking decades, but finally some American religious leaders say they are fed up. A few days ago, a faith-based group including Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York issued a scathing indictment of secularism in the USA entitled "The Manhattan Declaration: A Call of Christian Conscience."

The document, which includes input from Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox Christians, basically says that Christian values are under siege in America and people of faith need to act aggressively to stem the tide. The declaration goes so far as to encourage civil disobedience and uses Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a model for that.

Why now? Why are some Christian leaders coming out of the sacristy at this point in time?

The declaration gives a strong hint, as abortion is the lead issue. There is no question that the Obama administration and the media in general are ardently pro-choice. No surprise there. But the fact that so many Democrats in Congress are supporting public funding for abortions as part of health care reform has rocked the pro-life world.

The issue is simple: Should a country that values sincere conscience require taxpayers who believe abortion is murder to pay for the life-ending procedure? Obviously, millions of Americans say no.

The intensity of the debate is made crystal clear in the showdown between Rhode Island Bishop Thomas Tobin and Congressman Patrick Kennedy, son of the late Sen. Ted Kennedy. The bishop has ordered the congressman not to receive communion because of his support for abortion rights. Kennedy, like many pro-choice Catholics, falls back on personal belief versus public policy. He says just because he takes a pro-choice position doesn't mean he personally approves of abortion.

The bishop is having none of it.

On my television program, Tobin flat-out said that Kennedy has a moral obligation as a Catholic to fight against abortion. And if he doesn't, his soul is in danger of damnation. Words don't come stronger than that.

It is apparent that some religious leaders are engaging in high-stakes rhetoric, including the condemnation of homosexual marriage. After abortion, gay nuptials dominate the declaration, and once again the language is stark.

The tract states that the drive for same-sex and multiple-partner marriage is diminishing "true" marriage. "Marriage is made possible by the sexual complementarity of man and woman... No one has a civil right to have a non-marital relationship treated as a marriage." The Christian manifesto concludes with a call to arms and, some believe, a direct arrow aimed at the Obama administration: "Unjust laws degrade human beings. ... They lack any power to bind in conscience. (Martin Luther) King's willingness to go to jail, rather than comply with legal injustice, was exemplary and inspiring."

And so, with the stroke of a pen, the Christian writers have turned the tables on those who say gay marriage and unfettered abortion are civil rights and, therefore, should be constitutionally protected. Obviously, there is disagreement on that.

With polls showing that more than 80 percent of Americans believe in God, the question now becomes: Will they rally behind The Manhattan Declaration? So far, the secular media have given it little attention, and that might well continue. But even if the manifesto gets a full airing, are people of faith as upset as some of their leadership with the secularism of America?

At this point, I simply don't know.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Who's Looking Out For You?" To find out more about Bill O'Reilly, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com. This column originates on the Web site www.billoreilly.com.

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Inconsistent Conservatives and Progressives

by Sheldon Richman

Listening to the leading voices of conservatism and progressivism, one gets the feeling they are not quite listening to themselves. On any given day you are likely to hear each side make arguments against the other that fully apply to itself in some area of public policy.

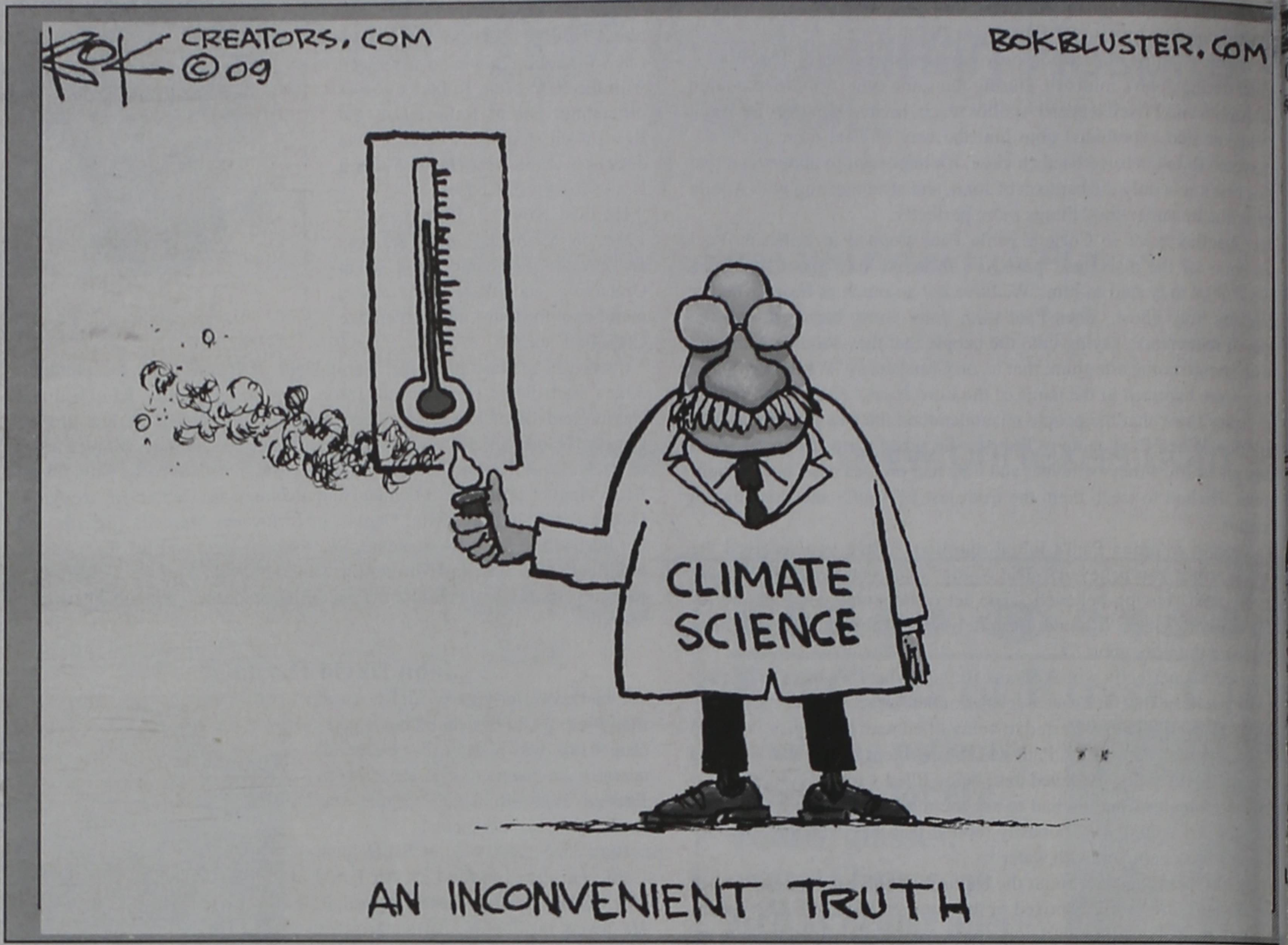
Progressives, for example, tend to be critical (though imperfectly so) of the military side of government. They approach all claims in favor of militarism, invasion, and occupation with a healthy skepticism. To their credit, they understand that government's national-security apparatus is a blunt instrument with a comparative advantage in violence and destruction. Television commentators, such as Keith Olbermann and Rachel Maddow, have expressed disappointment that President Obama has not moved more firmly to reverse the military and intelligence policies of George W. Bush.

Similarly, the progressives scrutinize every government activity in the national-security area that has any potential to impinge on civil liberties, including those of so-called illegal immigrants. Nothing raises their ire like government surveillance and heavy-handed police activity. They are also the first to protest when government interferes with free speech and the freedom to assemble.

On the other side, conservatives tend to be critical (if imperfectly so) of government interference with people's property and economic activities. A proposal to raise taxes or spending, or a seizure of land under eminent domain, is sure to bring an outcry from that side of the political spectrum. The leading conservative media personalities, such as Rush Limbaugh and Sean Hannity, have been relentless critics of President Obama's effort to have government further control the medical and medical-insurance industries. Not only do they emphasize the huge expense and growing debt that any such overhaul would require; they also argue that our rights to privacy and free choice would inevitably be subordinated to bureaucratic directives.

The problem is that conservatives and progressives fail to see that their arguments can legitimately be applied to government activity across the board, including activities they like. If each side were consistent, it would oppose many things it now favors.

Conservatives, for example, fail to see how their property, privacy, and fiscal concerns apply to national-security policy. The U.S. government cannot assume the role of world policeman



Pretense of knowledge

by Walter E. Williams

The ultimate constraint that we all face is knowledge -- what we know and don't know. The knowledge problem is pervasive and by no means trivial as hinted at by just a few examples. You've purchased a house. Was it the best deal you could have gotten? Was there some other house you could have purchased that 10 years later would not have needed extensive repairs or was in a community with more likeable neighbors and a better environment for your children? What about the person you married? Was there another person who would have made for a more pleasing spouse? Though these are important questions, the most intelligent answer you can give to all of them is: "I don't know."

Since you don't know the answers, who do you think, here on Earth, is likely to know and whom would you like to make these decisions for you -- Nancy Pelosi, Harry Reid, George Bush, a czar appointed by Obama or a committee of Washington bureaucrats? I bet that if these people were to forcibly make housing or marital decisions for us, most would deem it tyranny.

You say, "Williams, Congress is not making such monumental decisions that affect my life." Try this. You are a 22-year-old healthy person. Instead of spending \$3,000 or \$4,000 a year for health insurance, you'd prefer investing that money in equipment to start a landscaping business. Which is the best use of that \$3,000 or \$4,000 a year -- purchasing health insurance or starting up a landscaping business -- and who should decide that question: Nancy Pelosi, Harry Reid, George Bush, czar appointed by Obama or a committee of Washington bureaucrats? How can they possibly know what's the best use of your earnings, particularly in light of the fact that they have no idea of who you are?

Neither you nor the U.S. Congress has the complete knowledge to know exactly what's best for you. The difference is that when individuals make their own trade-offs, say between purchasing

health insurance or investing in a business, they make wiser decisions because it is they who personally bear the costs and benefits of the decisions. You say, "Hold it, Williams, we've got you now! What if that person gets really sick and doesn't have health insurance? Society suffers the burden of taking care of him." To the extent that is a problem, it is not a problem of liberty; it's a problem of congressionally mandated socialism. Let's look at it.

It is not society that bears the burden; it is some flesh and blood American worker who finds his earnings taken by Congress to finance the health needs of another person. There is absolutely no moral case, much less constitutional case, for Congress forcing one American to serve the purposes of another American practice that differs only in degree from slavery, which we all should find morally offensive.

Whether it is health care, education, employment or most of the areas of our lives, I ask you: Who has the capacity to master all the complexity to make choices on behalf of others? Each of us possesses only a tiny percentage of the knowledge that would be necessary to make totally informed decisions in our own lives, much less the lives of others. There is only one reason for the forcible transference of decision-making authority over important areas of our private lives to elite decision-makers in Congress and government bureaucracy: Doing so confers control, power, wealth and revenue to societal elite. What's in the best interests of individual members of society such as a person who'd rather launch a landscaping business than purchase a health insurance policy, ranks low on the elite's list of priorities.

Walter E. Williams is a professor of economics at George Mason University. To find out more about Walter E. Williams and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2009 CREATORS.COM



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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The City of Forney is accepting sealed bids for the Community Development Department Offices remodel project for the City of Forney, Community Development Department. Sealed bids must be submitted and received by 2:00 p.m. on Friday, December 18, 2009 to the Finance Department, 100 East Main Street, Forney, Texas 756126 for a public bid opening. Those interested in bidding on this project may view the specifications at the Community Development Department office. Eligible bidders must obtain a full set of plans from the Community Development Department at 100 West Broad Street Suite D, Forney, Texas, for a non refundable payment of \$50.00 per set beginning immediately. The City of Forney reserves the right to reject any and all bids and act in the best interest of the City

of Forney. For more information, visit the City's web site at www.cityofforney.org or call Noah A. Simon, Director, Community Development Department at 972-564-7386.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF SHIRLEY M. LINN

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the ESTATE OF SHIRLEY M. LINN were issued on November 23, 2009, in Cause No. PR-09-99, pending in the County Court at Law of Rockwall County, Texas, to:

R. CURTIS LINN
The Executor, R. Curtis Linn, has appointed ROY J. MONK, ESQ., Executor's attorney, to accept service of process in all actions or proceedings with respect to this ESTATE OF SHIRLEY M. LINN. In this regard, all claims against the ESTATE OF SHIRLEY M. LINN are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law and addressed as follows:

Roy J. Monk, Esq.
Johnson Jordan Nipper & Monk, P.C.
17300 Dallas Parkway, Suite 2050
Dallas, Texas 75248
DATED this _____ day of November 2009,
R. CURTIS LINN, Executor of the ESTATE OF SHIRLEY M. LINN
By: Roy J. Monk, Esq.
Johnson Jordan Nipper & Monk, P.C.

Attorney for the Estate

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Legal Notices

11-12-09A08:26 RCVD

STATE OF TEXAS

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS County Court At Law (district) OF
ROCKWALL COUNTY, TEXAS

CAUSE NO: 1-09-678

Plaintiff: RICKI MILES, ADDRESS UNKNOWN

Defendant: [Name obscured]

You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If your or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two (42) days after you were served this, before the Honorable County Court At Law (district) of Rockwall County, Texas, at the Government Center, 1101 Ridge Road, Suite 209, Rockwall, Texas, a default judgment may be taken against you.

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Original Petition, at or before ten o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days after the date of issuance of this Citation, on MONDAY, 21ST DAY OF DECEMBER AT 10: 00 A.M. before the Honorable County Court At Law (district) of Rockwall County, Texas at the Government Center, 1101 Ridge Road of said County in Rockwall, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition, was filed in said Court on JULY 7, 2009, A.D., in this case numbered 1-09-678 on the docket of said court, and styled, THE AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK OF TEXAS vs. RICKI MILES AND SHARON MILES.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: SUIT ON NOTE

The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates thereof, and make due return as the law directs.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT AT Office, this the 11th day of November, 2009.

KAY MCDANIEL, District Clerk
Rockwall County, Texas
1101 Ridge Road, Ste. 209
Rockwall, Texas 75087

By: *Alva Caraway* Deputy
ALVA CARAWAY

ROCKWALL COUNTY NEWSPAPER, 107 E. BOURN AVENUE, P.O. BOX 819,
ROCKWALL, TEXAS 75087 (Newspaper)

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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. Government's sole purpose 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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