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Rockwall County News

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Elections Administrator, city officials, neglect to publish required election notices

by Timothy W. Burnett

During the late afternoon hours of Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017, Rockwall County Elections Administrator Chris Lynch rejected the Rockwall County News offer to publish required notices related to Testing of Automatic Tabulation Equipment, Registration, Early Voting, and Election Day schedules, for the May 6, 2017 general election.

On Wed., March 1, the Administrator sent a follow-up message stating that he made the decision to use a newspaper entitled, "Banner." To date, the Administrator has not provided the complete name of the selected newspaper, and has not responded to inquiries for an explanation of how he confirmed whether the selected newspaper was legally qualified to publish required notices for Rockwall County.

The RCN is waiting for the Administrator to fill a Public Information Act request for documents, legal advisements received from the District Attorney's office, and any communications showing whether the Department Head was influenced by a higher ranking official.

Because the rejection message came after the classifieds page was completed and ready to send to the press, the RCN followed through with publishing the required election notices in the Thursday, March 2, 2017 edition.

Tear sheets with invoices were sent to Rockwall County Auditor Lisa Constant. The package included assertions that the Rockwall County News meets the statutory criteria to be selected for publication of the required election notices.

RCN Publisher Tim Burnett asked the County Auditor to determine whether payment to an out-of-county newspaper for publication of the required notices would constitute illegal use of tax dollars.

The package provided to the Auditor also included the USPS Form 3607 Mailing Transaction Receipt for postal delivery of the March 2, 2017 edition of the Rockwall County News. The postal form includes data such as the Second Class Periodical Permit number and the physical address of newspaper publication located at 107 W. Bourn Street, Rockwall, Texas.

The Administrator's last minute decision came shortly after Burnett inquired about whether the Elections Administrator was the "controlling authority" responsible for bringing all municipalities in Rockwall County into compliance with state law related to elections.

The inquiry was prompted by a history of negligence by the City Secretaries and Managers of all five cities in Rockwall County, related publication of the required election notices under Election code Title 1 Introductory Provisions, Chapter 4 Notice of Election, Sections 4.001, 4.002 and 4.003 (c).

All City Managers in Rockwall County have received a legal package proving the RCN continues to maintain the standards for legal qualification to publish each required notice.

The city officials have demonstrated intent to neglect publication of the required election notices in accordance with state law.

Burnett noted a significant conflict between the officials' actions and Texas Government Code Sections 2051.044 and 2051.048, which narrowly limits selection to newspapers that hold a USPS Second Class Periodical Permit and are published in the respective city, or published in the county where the city is located.

"There is some doubt as to whether the required notices will be published in accordance with state law," said Burnett. "Thus bringing into question the legality of the general election."

The Administrator made a similar last-minute decision during a 2016 local election, thus establishing an apparent pattern of conduct over a one-year period.

Burnett is researching to ascertain whether the county and city officials, in their Official Capacities, willfully and knowingly engaged in unlawful conduct by impairing the Right of the people to be duly notified of the election in accordance with state law; disenfranchising the voters and candidates of Rockwall County; and depriving the Rockwall County News of its Privilege to be selected for publication of the required election notices; and whether the above mentioned unlawful conduct occurred with anticipation of financially giving a competitive advantage to presently selected out-of-county newspapers, over the one pure-local county newspaper.

Lynch has referred all inquiries from the RCN to the "County Attorney" Grant Brenna, Assistant District Attorney.

The below Texas codes are provided as a benefit to the readers.

Election Code Title 8, Chapter 127 Processing Electronic Voting System Results, Subchapter D Testing Tabulating Equipment, Section 127.096 Conduct of First Test, "The custodian of the automatic tabulating equipment shall publish notice of the date, hour, and place of the test conducted under Section 127.093 (b) in a newspaper, as provided by general law for official publications by political subdivisions, at least 48 hours before the date of the test."

Texas Gov. Code Section 2051.046 Notice of County, "A notice of a county shall be published in a newspaper published in the county that will publish the notice at or below the legal rate."

Related to the city units, Texas Election Code Title 1 Introductory Provisions, Chapter 4 Notice of Election, Sections 4.001, 4.002 and 4.003 (c).

Section 4.003 Method of Giving Notice, "(a) Except as provided by subsection (c), notice of an election must be given by any one or more of the following methods:

by publishing the notice at least once...
in a newspaper published in the territory that is covered by the election and is in the jurisdiction of the authority responsible for giving the notice; or
in a newspaper of general circulation in the territory if none is published in the jurisdiction of the authority responsible for giving the notice.

(c) In addition to any other notice given, notice of an election ordered by a commissioners court or by an authority of a city or school district must be given by the method prescribed by Subsection (a) (1).

Texas Gov. Code Section 2051.048 Notice of Other Political Subdivision

(a) This section applies only to a political subdivision other than a county or a conservation and reclamation district under Section 2051.047.

(b) 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.

(c) 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:

(1) is published in the county in which the political subdivision is located; and

(2) will charge the legal rate or a lower rate.

(d) 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.



RHHS theatre team places 1st at UIL contest

The Heath Hawks Theater Co., representing Rockwall-Heath High School, captured first place in the UIL One Act Play contest on Thursday, March 9, at Robert E. Lee High School in Tyler. The group advanced to the bi-district contest at John Horn High School on Wednesday, March 23. Pictured are, first row, from the left, Jenae Glanton (director), Gracie Palmore, Jacob Turner, Allie Magee, Sydney Turbeville, Alex Chandler, Rebecca Hundley, Anne-Marie Thacker, Ryan Lee, Jackie Vu and Lizzie Gutierrez and, at back, Jason Grigsby (technical director), Anais Martinez, Lauren Robertson, Abby Thompson, Caroline Edwards, Dylan Lippincott, David Campbell, Mason Cross, Liam McGregor, Makenzie Eddins, Chloe Hail and Kathleen Couch. Vu won Outstanding Tech Award and Eddins and McGregor was recognized as All-Star Cast members.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

University scholastic honors

Boles named to President's List

Seth Boles of Rockwall was named to the President's List at Kennesaw State University at Kennesaw, Georgia, according to a university news release.

Boles was among nearly 3,000 students honored for academic

excellence for the fall semester.

To achieve the President's List recognition, a student must have satisfactorily completed at least nine semester hours with a term grade-point average of 4.0.



Starbots, one of the robotics teams from Cain Middle School, qualified for the 2017 Vex World Championship set April 19-22 in Louisville, Kentucky. Comprised of four eighth grade students and four seventh graders, the group is the only Rockwall ISD squad to make it to the world-level competition. The Starbots will compete with about 150 other qualifying teams from throughout the world; however, the opportunity comes with financial needs as the school district does not supply funds for team travel and competition in this STEM-related activity. Pictured are, at front, Dan Selle, left, and Cody Clark and, at back, from the left, Alex Shasteen, Adam Johnson, Thomas Pickell, Izzy Baumler, Meredith Almy and Ryan Self.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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



On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

Jesus' example of sonship living ... Part 2

During his last year of life on earth, Jesus demonstrated solid understanding of spiritual and political matters.

Jesus knew the basic common sense rules of evidence and testimony and burden of proof. While facing two mock trials, he stayed silent and allowed the attorneys make fools of themselves with conflicting testimonies from different "witnesses." The final decision of the "high priest" came when Jesus answered the question about who he was. Jesus didn't have to answer, but he did so according to the will of his Father.

While standing before the Governor, Jesus informed Pontius Pilate that he could do nothing without authority from the Father. Jesus knew who he was as God's son, and knew his true spiritual authority that was even higher than Pilate's position.

According to God's word in 1 Peter 2:9, His born-again children are truly counted as a "royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people, who have been called out of darkness and into His marvellous light.

It says in Colossians 1:27, "Even the mystery which has been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints; To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

The new truth which is no longer a hidden mystery is about the power and authority of our Lord Jesus the son of God, that is sealed in the born-again children of God.

It's with this in mind that we continue in 1 Peter chapter 2, "Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles, that whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your goodworks, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation" (verse 12).

The word "conversation" was translated from an ancient word that meant manner of behavior. When considering the "good works," don't forget that Jesus said greater works will they do, because he would be with his Father.

"Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of them that do well."

The word ordinance referred to institutional ordinances of man.

It's extremely important to understand that Jesus had, and continues to maintain highest power and authority above all people and angels. Consider this, God's beloved children have the authority of our Lord Jesus in them, which puts them at higher authority.

Yet, it is God's will that they submit themselves to the kings and lower governor rulers. If the united States of America were conquered and the people were under the rule of a dictator or king, they are still God's beloved children with power and authority to walk by the Holy Ghost and serve God.

During the time of Peter's letter, the political conditions were such that the king was the sovereign who ruled over the people through his governors.

Between 1776 and 1781, the colonies in America overpowered the mighty British military, with the help of the French navy, and established the united States of America. The founders of this country set up a new political system that recognized the people of individual sovereigns. They drafted institutional ordinances of restraints and codes to control their governments, and later drafted the U.S. Constitution which include a Bill of Restraints on the newly formed federal government, also known as "Bill of Rights."

The united States of America was largely established by Christians of different religious persuasions, who decided to make a political system that protected the common law liberties of man and was founded on the spiritual truth of liberty that is in Jesus the living Messiah.

It was understood that the sovereign is the highest authority, and could not be controlled or regulated by those of lower authority in the government. The conditions changed so that 1 Peter 2:13 would apply to the government officials who were also Christians, "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake."

With this change came a temptation to confuse political freedom and liberty with true spiritual freedom and liberty in the Lord.

We can learn from Jesus' sufferings, and not use the true liberty as a cloak or cover of vicious desires for the cause of political liberty.



Reinhardt Elementary sixth grade student Adara Smithey was recognized recently by the Rockwall Noon Rotary Club as its Student of the Week. Pictured from the left are Rockwall County Judge David Sweet, Christopher Smithey, the honoree, Lana Smithey, Anna Smithey and Kelly Emmerson.
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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and lean not unto thine own
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Rockwall County News

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Mission Statement

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



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

Al-Anon Garland

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

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

Rockwall County Kiwanis Club

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

Senior Services

If you are interested in delivering weekday meals to home-

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

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

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

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, The Vault Self Storage located at 1280 E. Ralph Hall Parkway, Rockwall, Texas 75032 will hold a public auction of property to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 10:00 AM, April 14, 2017, at The Vault Self Storage, 1280 E. Ralph Hall Parkway, Rockwall, Texas. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash only. All successful bidders will remove the contents immediately and leave unit clean. A refundable cleanup deposit will be required. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property includes contents of spaces of the following tenant(s):
Jaime Chavez: Household appliances, furniture, exercise equipment & misc. household items.
Stacey R. Battles: Household furniture, misc. household items & boxes.
Contact The Vault Self Storage, 1280 E. Ralph Hall Parkway, Rockwall, Texas 75032, (972) 771-1105.

Notices to Creditors

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Reba Nell Hitt Mendoza, Deceased, were issued on January 4, 2017, under Docket No. PR-15-129, pending in the County Court at Law of Rockwall County, Texas, to Lyndel Ray Tipton, Jr., Executor. Claims may be presented against the estate, addressed as follows:
Representative, Estate of Reba Nell Hitt Mendoza, Deceased c/o L.R. Tipton, Jr. Royse City, Texas 75189
All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated: March 24, 2017
By: Lyndel Ray Tipton, Jr., Executor of the Estate of Reba Nell Hitt Mendoza, Deceased

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE REQUEST

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC ("Oncor") publishes this notice that on March 17, 2017, Oncor filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("Commission") its Petition and Statement of Intent to Change Rates, a copy of which is kept at Oncor's office at 1616 Woodall Rogers Freeway, Dallas, Texas 75202. This notice is being published pursuant to Commission Procedural Rule 22.51(a)(1).

Oncor's rate filing, based on the system-wide financial results for a 12-month test year ending on December 31, 2016, adjusted for known and measureable changes, supports a net increase in transmission and distribution rates of approximately \$317 million over adjusted test-year revenues, or approximately a 7.5% increase over adjusted test-year revenues of \$4,214.2 million. Test-year revenues have been adjusted to normalize billing units, to remove the revenues associated with Oncor's Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Factor, and to increase test-year revenues to reflect Transmission Cost of Service ("TCOS") and Transmission Cost Recovery Factor ("TCRF") adjustments. TCOS revenue was adjusted to include the September 15, 2016 interim update rates at 2016 Option 2 ERCOT 4CP. TCRF revenue was adjusted to equal the March 1, 2017 TCRF revenue requirement reflected on Line 2, Attachment A of Oncor's petition filed and approved in Docket No. 46616. If approved, the increased rates will be charged to Oncor's direct customers, all retail electric providers ("REPs"), in those portions of Oncor's service area under the original jurisdiction of the Commission. Each such REP is potentially affected by the proposed change. Depending on the REPs' actions, the end-use customer classes of such REPs are potentially affected by the proposed change. In addition, the result could be a change in Oncor's transmission cost of service rates, which would impact all load serving entities in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. Oncor has requested an April 21, 2017 effective date for its proposed rate change.

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings, in Docket No. 46957, Application of Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC for Authority to Change Rates, should notify the Commission as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is 45 days after the date the application was filed with the Commission.

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC

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

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Rockwall County News Briefs

Reveille Sisters to perform at FOL luncheon

The April Friends of the Rockwall Library luncheon will begin at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 11, in the library's Community Room, 1215 E. Yellow Jacket Lane. The program will be Remembering Songs & Memories of the Andrews Sisters by the Reveille Sisters, a locally popular nostalgic trio. Lunch reservations are required, but lunch is optional. Catered by Zach, lunch may be ordered for \$20 on or before 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4, by contacting Leigh Plagens at cplagens65@aol.com. Unless cancelled by deadline, payment is required.

Royse City Police Blotter March 17-23

- **Friday, 17 March:** Alarm, 2100 block Hwy 66; Public intoxication arrest, Area of FM 35 and FM 2642; Alarm, 700 block W. I-30 NSR; Alarm, 100 block E. I-30 SSR; Reckless driver, Area of Hwy 66 and Erby Campbell Boulevard; Accident, 900 block S. Erby Campbell Boulevard; Alarm, 1000 block Hidden Creek Drive; Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound near the 77A exit; City ordinance violation, 300 block Sandy Lane; Burglary of a vehicle, 400 block Rustic Grove Lane; Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound near the 74-mile marker; Accident, 100 block E. I-30 SSR; Burglary of a vehicle, 900 block S. Erby Campbell Boulevard; Public intoxication arrest, Area of County Line Road and Josephine Street; Alarm, 1600 block Brice Drive; Welfare concern, 700 block Steadham Road; Reckless driver, I-30 westbound from the 90-mile marker; Medical assistance, 1500 block Bob Drive; Driving while license invalid arrest, I-30 NSR near the 78-mile marker; Possession of drug paraphernalia, I-30 NSR near FM 2642
- **Saturday, 18 March:** Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound from the 73-mile marker; Curfew violation, Area of Matthew Lane and Peach Street; Noise disturbance, 800 block Cooper Lane; Accident, I-30 westbound near the 78-mile marker; Accident, I-30 NSR near the 77B exit; Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound from the 73-mile marker; Alarm, 500 block W. I-30 NSR; Suspicious vehicle, 900 block Erby Campbell Boulevard; Suspicious vehicle, 1600 block Live Oak Street; Theft, 100 block W. I-30 NSR; Reckless driver, I-30 westbound from the 88-mile marker; Disturbance, 600 block Chestnut Court
- **Sunday, 19 March:** Suspicious vehicle, 900 block S. Erby Campbell Boulevard; Alarm, 900 block S. Erby Campbell Boulevard; Welfare concern, 900 block S. Erby Campbell Boulevard; Alarm, 1000 block Colonial Drive; Noise disturbance, 1100 block Brazos Court; Noise disturbance, 3500 block Spruce Street; Driving while license invalid arrest/Farmers Branch Police Department's warrants arrest, I-30 SSR near FM 35
- **Monday, 20 March:** Alarm, 100 block Main Street; Disturbance, 100 block W. I-30 NSR; Medical assistance, I-30 SSR near FM 2642; Welfare concern, 200 block E. Main Street; Criminal mischief, 300 block Medina Court; Accident, Area of Grand Court; Noise disturbance, 300 block Charles Street; Noise disturbance, 3300 block Overstreet Lane; Possession of drug paraphernalia, I-30 westbound near the 78-mile marker
- **Tuesday, 21 March:** Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound near the 79-mile marker; Disturbance, 300 block E. I-30 SSR; Disturbance, 700 block Cooper Lane; Suspicious person, 200 block E. Main Street; Welfare concern, 300 block Medina Court; Disturbance, 300 block Starlight Lane; Suspicious person, I-30 eastbound near FM 35; Burglary of a residence, 1200 block Tyler Court; 911 hang up, Area of Rustic Meadow Drive; Disturbance, 400 block Rustic Meadow Drive; Welfare concern, 500 block Welch Road; Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound near the 77B exit
- **Wednesday, 22 March:** Reckless driver, I-30 westbound near the 79-mile marker; Accident, 2800 block FM 35; Reckless driver, 2800 block W. FM 35; Medical assistance, 2800 block Spencer Circle; 911 hang up, 2700 block Redwood Street; Welfare concern, 100 block W. Main Street; Noise disturbance, Area of Brice Drive; 911 hang up, 1200 block Tyler Court; Alarm, 1500 block Bulldog Boulevard; Noise disturbance, 600 block Timberhaven Trail
- **Thursday, 23 March:** Suspicious person, I-30 westbound near the 78-mile marker; Suspicious person, 100 block E. I-30 SSR; Alarm, 1200 block Evergreen Street; Accident, Area of E. Main Street and N. Josephine Street; Suspicious person, Area of Lesli Drive and Courtney Drive; Welfare concern, Area of S. FM 548 and Cookston Lane; Alarm, 2900 block Mockingbird Street; Alarm, 900 block Wood Street; City ordinance violation, 300 block Pin Oak Lane; Welfare concern, 5200 block Shaw Drive; Reckless driver, I-30 westbound from the 83-mile marker; Suspicious person, 1700 block Sams Circle; Burglary of a vehicle, 900 block Loganwood Drive; Welfare concern, 400 block Cookston Lane; Disturbance, 700 block Cooper Lane; Disturbance, 300 block Singleton Drive; Possession of marijuana arrest, Area of Erby Campbell Boulevard and Mercantile Road

Republican Lunch Bunch to meet April 5

The Rockwall County Republican Lunch Bunch will meet at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 5, at Luigi's Italian Café, Rockwall. Cost will be \$10 for lunch, beverage, tax and tip; pay at the door for this informal social gathering. No reservations required. Open to all area Republicans. For more details call Dalton Kennimer, 972-636-4034.

(Continued on page 6)

Opinions

The rule of thieves

by John W. Whitehead

Future of Freedom Foundation

"The first and most important thing to understand about politics is this: forget Right, Left, Center, socialism, fascism, or democracy. Every government that exists — or ever existed, or ever will exist — is a kleptocracy, meaning 'rule by thieves.' Competing ideologies merely provide different excuses to separate the Productive Class from what they produce. If the taxpayer/voters won't willingly fork over to end poverty, then maybe they'll cough up to fight drugs or terrorism. Conflicting ideologies, as presently constituted, are nothing more than a cover for what's really going on, like the colors of competing gangs."

— Author L. Neil Smith

The American kleptocracy (a government ruled by thieves) continues to suck the American people down a rabbit hole into a parallel universe in which the Constitution is meaningless, the government is all-powerful, and the citizenry is powerless to defend itself against government agents who steal, spy, lie, plunder, kill, abuse and generally inflict mayhem and sow madness on everyone and everything in their sphere.

Case in point: in the same week that Wikileaks dropped its bombshell about the CIA's use of spy tools to subject law-abiding Americans to all manner of government surveillance and hacking—a revelation that caused barely a ripple of concern among the citizenry—the government quietly and with little fanfare continued to wage its devastating, stomach-churning, debilitating war on the American people.

Incredibly, hardly anyone noticed.

This begs the question: if the government is overstepping its authority, abusing its power, and disregarding the rule of law but no one seems to notice—and no one seems to care—does it matter if the government has become a tyrant?

Here's my short answer: when government wrongdoing ceases to matter, America will have ceased to be.

Just consider the devastation wrought in one week in the life of our American kleptocracy:

Stealing from innocent Americans

On Monday, March 6, police were given the go-ahead to keep stealing from Americans who were innocent of any wrongdoing.

In refusing to hear a challenge to Texas' asset forfeiture law, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed Texas police to keep \$201,000 in ill-gotten cash primarily on the basis that the seized cash—the proceeds of a home sale—was being transported on a highway associated with illegal drug trade, despite any proof of illegal activity by the owner. Asset forfeiture laws, which have come under intense scrutiny and criticism in recent years, allow the police to seize property "suspected" of being connected to criminal activity without having to prove the owner of the property is guilty of a criminal offense.

On April 1, 2013, James Leonard was driving with a companion, Nicosa Kane, on U.S. Highway 59 in Texas when the vehicle was stopped by a state police officer for allegedly speeding and following another vehicle too closely. A subsequent search of the vehicle disclosed a safe in the trunk, which Leonard explained belonged to his mother, Lisa Leonard, and contained cash. When the police officer contacted Lisa Leonard, she confirmed that the safe's contents belonged to her, that the contents constituted personal business, and that she would not consent to allowing the officer to open the safe. After police secured a search warrant, the safe was opened and found to contain \$201,000 and a bill of sale for a home in Pennsylvania.

Neither the Leonards nor Kane were found to be in possession of illegal drugs. However, the state initiated civil forfeiture proceedings against the \$201,100 on the ground that it was substantially connected to criminal activity because Highway 59 is reputed to be a drug corridor. At trial, Lisa Leonard testified that the money was being sent to Texas so that she could use it to purchase a home for her son and Kane. Both the trial and appeals courts affirmed the authority of state officials to seize and keep Leonard's funds under the state's asset forfeiture law, basing their ruling on wholly circumstantial evidence and the reputation

of Highway 59. Leonard then asked the U.S. Supreme Court to compel Texas to return her money, given that she was innocent of any crime. In refusing to hear the case on a technicality, the Supreme Court turned its back on justice and allowed the practice of policing for profit to continue.

Public apathy about surveillance state

On Tuesday, March 7, hacked information about the surveillance state was met with a collective shrug by the public, a sign of how indifferent the citizenry has become to living in an electronic concentration camp.

Wikileaks confirmed what we've suspected all along: the government's ability to spy on law-abiding Americans is far more invasive than what we've been told. According to the Wikileaks Vault 7 data dump, government agencies such as the CIA and the NSA have been spying on the citizenry through our smart TVs, listening in on our phone calls, hacking into our computerized devices (including our cars), and compromising our security systems through the use of Trojan horses, spyware and malware.

As this Wikileaks revelation confirms, we now have a fourth branch of government. This fourth branch came into being without any electoral mandate or constitutional referendum, and yet it possesses superpowers, above and beyond those of any other government agency save the military. It is all-knowing, all-seeing and all-powerful. It operates beyond the reach of the president, Congress and the courts, and it marches in lockstep with the corporate elite who really call the shots in Washington, DC.

You might know this branch of government as Surveillance, but I prefer "technotyranny," a term coined by investigative journalist James Bamford to refer to an age of technological tyranny made possible by government secrets, government lies, government spies and their corporate ties. Beware of what you say, what you read, what you write, where you go, and with whom you communicate, because it will all be recorded, stored and used against you eventually, at a time and place of the government's choosing.

Privacy, as we have known it, is dead.

Police shooting unarmed people

On Wednesday, March 8, police were given further incentives to use the "fear for my life" rationale as an excuse for shooting unarmed individuals.

Upon arriving on the scene of a nighttime traffic accident, an Alabama police officer shot a driver exiting his car, mistakenly believing the wallet in his hand to be a gun. From the time the driver stumbled out of his car, waving his wallet in the air, to the time he was shot in the abdomen, only six seconds had elapsed. Although the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals concluded "that a reasonable officer in Hancock's position would have feared for his life," the video footage makes clear that the courts continue to march in lockstep with the police, because no reasonable person would shoot first and ask questions later.

A report by the Justice Department on police shootings in Philadelphia, which boasts the fourth largest police department in the country, found that half of the unarmed people shot by police over a seven-year span were "shot because the officer saw something (like a cellphone) or some action (like a person pulling at the waist of their pants) and misidentified it as a threat."

What exactly are we teaching these young officers in the police academy when the slightest thing, whether it be a hand in a pocket, a man running towards them, a flashlight on a keychain, a wallet waved in a hand, or a dehumanizing stare can ignite a strong enough "fear for their safety" to justify doing whatever is deemed necessary to neutralize the threat, even if it means firing on an unarmed person?

Police allows dog to maul innocent homeless man

On Thursday, March 9, police were given even more leeway in how much damage they can inflict on those they serve and the extent to which they can disregard the Constitution.

The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of a police

officer who allowed a police dog to maul a homeless man innocent of any wrongdoing. The case arose in 2010 after a police dog attacked a homeless man near an abandoned house where police were tracking a robbery suspect. The cop refused to call off the dog immediately, despite the man's pleading and the fact that he did not match the description of the robbery suspect. The homeless man suffered deep bites on his hand, arm and thigh, that required a nearly 16-inch skin graft, as well as severe bleeding, bruising, swelling and an arterial blood clot. Incredibly, not only did the court declare that the police officer was protected by qualified immunity, which incentivizes government officials to violate constitutional rights without fear of repercussion, but it had the nerve to suggest that being mauled by a police dog is the equivalent of a lawful Terry stop in which police may stop and hold a person for questioning on the basis of "reasonable suspicion."

SWAT late-night "knock-talk" invitation

Also on March 9, government officials assured the Michigan Supreme Court that there was nothing unlawful, unreasonable or threatening about the prospect of armed police dressed in SWAT gear knocking on doors at 4 a.m. and "asking" homeowners to engage in warrantless "knock-and-talk" sessions. Although government lawyers insist citizens can choose to say no to such heavy-handed requests by police to conduct unwarranted interrogations, if such coercive tactics are allowed, it would give SWAT teams further incentive to further terrorize anyone even remotely—or mistakenly—suspected of wrongdoing without fear of repercussion.

Military illegal wars v. use of Facebook for pornography

On Friday, March 10, the military industrial complex continued to wage war abroad, while government agencies, including members of the military, remained embroiled in controversies over sexual misconduct.

A day after military brass defended the U.S.-led raid in Yemen that killed 10 children and at least six women, Gen. Joseph Votel, the head of U.S. Central Command, informed members of Congress that even more U.S. troops were needed in Afghanistan to combat the Taliban. Some 8400 American troops have been stationed in Afghanistan since the U.S. invaded the country post 9/11. Approximately 400 more Marines are being sent to Syria to aid U.S. forces in their fight against ISIS.

That same day, news reports indicated that members of several branches of the U.S. military, including the Marines, have been using online bulletin boards to either share or solicit nude or explicit photos and videos of women in the military. One Facebook page for Marines, which has nearly 30,000 followers, contained graphic language about how the women photographed, some without their knowledge or consent, should be treated. As the Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR) revealed, "One member of the Facebook group suggested that the service member sneaking the photos should 'take her out back and pound her out.' Others suggested more than vaginal sex: 'And butthole. And throat. And ears. Both of them. Video it though ... for science.'" According to CIR, the photo sharing began less than a month after the first Marine infantry unit was assigned women.

FBI participates in child porn photo sharing

The FBI has also been getting in on the photo-sharing gig, only its agents have been distributing child porn, allegedly in an effort to catch consumers of child porn. Curiously, the Department of Justice has opted to drop its case against a man accused of child pornography rather than be forced to disclose the FBI's tactics for spying on suspected child porn consumers and entrapping them as part of its Operation Pacifier sting. What the case revealed was that for a little while, in its single-minded pursuit of lawbreakers, the FBI became a lawbreaker itself as the largest distributor of child pornography. All told, the FBI uploaded tens of thousands of images of child pornography to the "dark web."

As reporter Bryan Clark points out:

At the intersection of technology and law, we've proven two things as the result of Operation Pacifier: 1. Government bodies have proven their willingness to circumvent — or even break — the law to capture suspected criminals it's not even willing to prosecute. 2. We're living in an age where — to agencies like the FBI — criminals and their victims are less important than the tools used to track them down. It's hard to argue on the side of an alleged pedophile. But in this case, the FBI was the pedophile's equal. It was the agency, you'll recall, that disseminated these images to some 150,000 registered members... this means the FBI perpetrated the same heinous crime it attempted to charge others with, all while securing what could result in zero convictions.

Mind you, this was just one week of shootings, degradation, excessive force, abuse of power and complicity in the American police state. Magnify the impact of these events 52 times over, because they are taking place every week in this country, and you will find yourself weak at the knees.

Somewhere over the course of the past 240-plus years, democracy has given way to kleptocracy, and representative government has been rejected in favor of rule by career politicians, corporations and thieves—individuals and entities with little regard for the rights of American citizens.

This dissolution of that sacred covenant between the citizenry and the government—establishing "we the people" as the masters and the government as the servant—didn't happen overnight. It didn't happen because of one particular incident or one particular president. It is a process, one that began long ago and continues in the present day, aided and abetted by politicians who have mastered the polarizing art of how to "divide and conquer."

Unfortunately, there is no magic spell to transport us back to a place and time where "we the people" weren't merely fodder for a corporate gristmill, operated by government hired hands, whose priorities are money and power.

Our freedoms have become casualties in an all-out war on the American people.

As I make clear in my book *Battlefield America: The War on the American People*, this war is being fought on many fronts, with bullets and tasers, with surveillance cameras and license readers, with intimidation and propaganda, with court rulings and legislation, with the collusion of every bureaucrat on the government's payroll, and most effectively of all, with the complicity of the American people, who continue to allow themselves to be easily manipulated by their politics, distracted by their pastimes, and acclimated to a world in which government corruption is the norm.

How do we stop the hemorrhaging?

Start by waking up. Pay attention to what's going on around you. Most of all, think for yourself.

As H. L. Mencken observed:

The most dangerous man to any government is the man who is able to think things out for himself, without regard to the prevailing superstitions and taboos. Almost inevitably he comes to the conclusion that the government he lives under is dishonest, insane and intolerable, and so, if he is romantic, he tries to change it. And even if he is not romantic personally he is very apt to spread discontent among those who are.

Is it a true General Election? Or a fiction?

by Timothy W. Burnett

One of the most popular forms of activism in Texas and the united States is the election. The next most popular form of activism is not voting. Of course, based on voter percentages, it may be argued the non-voters make up the silent majority.

The divide is largely centered around trust and integrity.

One underlying question to consider is whether the people trust the candidates, which goes toward whether the candidates have integrity and discipline. Another question is whether the people trust the elections, which goes toward whether the elections are run by people with integrity and discipline.

Alas, there is another important question to consider -- will there really be a true election. This may seem like a peculiar question to ask, but it drives in the issue of trust, integrity and discipline related to the people who run the elections.

It's been rumored that on May 6, 2017, there will be a General Election for city governments and school districts.

How can people tell whether there will be a true General Election? Why, of course, it's because someone said there would be a General Election, and invited everyone to come on over to vote.

Or is it?

The most common problems that arise in elections directly relate to the question of whether they are true elections -- that being election fraud, vote fraud, and voting/tabulation machine malfunction.

Election fraud often involves vote counts being altered from within the system of voting machines, tabulation machines and the software used to crunch and deliver the data from the same machines.

Guess what? The problems are easily solved by returning to true elections. That's right -- the real McCoy works perfectly.

The way to distinguish a false election from a true election, is by reading the laws that establish General Elections. As representatives of the people, the legislative body passed the Election Code, which constitutes the form and substance of a General Election.

If an election was not run in accordance with the codes, then it can be safely argued that a General Election did not occur. The false or fictional election may follow certain procedures that are mandated by the codes, but in the end, it is just that -- a fictional election.

Let's compare what happens in most elections, with the true General Election.

When the Elections Administrators submits sworn statements of vote counts to the Secretary of State, they do so under penalty of perjury. The certified returns are basically designed to swear under oath that the total number of ballots cast equal the total number of ballots counted, and the total number of votes for each candidate were counted in accordance with state law.

This is the absolute basics of the General Election, and is found in Election Code Chapter 52 Ballot Form, Content, and Preparation,

Section 52.001 Official Ballot, "...the vote in an election is by official ballot."

One way to learn whether a General Election will occur is by asking the Elections Administrator whether the total number of people voting, will equal the total number of ballots cast.

Chapter 52 goes on to clearly describe the official ballot as being a physical piece of paper with certain markings in accordance with state law. It's a clear as a bright sunshining day.

Naturally, the reports for certain special early voting situations will not indicate votes cast on ballots. But all other early voting and election day votes are the official ballot.

Everyone may agree that counting votes is a significantly important part of identifying a General Election. Remember, if it doesn't match state law, then it's not a true General Election, but a fictional one.

Election Code Chapter 65 Counting Votes and Preparing Returns, Section 65.001 Counting Officers, "At each polling place, the ballots shall be counted by one or more teams of election officers assigned by the presiding judge. Each team must consist of two or more election officers."

How many Texas counties comply with Chapter 65 of the Election Code? The chapter goes on to provide detailed procedures to be followed by the counting officers and election judges. Guess what? Each election officer is required to give an Oath of Office. The state law puts a great deal of weight on responsibility and accountability for the election officers and judges.

Coming from the newspaper business, this writer is quite familiar with Election Code Chapter 4 Notice of Election, "Notice of each general and special election shall be given as provided by this chapter."

"This chapter" includes Section 4.003 Method of Giving Notice, (a) Except as provided by Subsection (c), notice of an election must be given by any one of more of the following methods: (1) by publishing the notice at least once ... (A) in a newspaper published in the territory that is covered by the election and is in the jurisdiction of the authority responsible for giving the notice; or (B) in a newspaper of general circulation in a territory that is covered ... if none is published in the jurisdiction ..."

Subsection (c), "In addition to any other notice given, notice of an election ordered by a commissioners court or by an authority of a city or school district must be given by the method prescribed by Subsection (a)(1)" (see above).

Maybe most people can agree that if "Notice" was not given in accordance with Section 4.003, then no Notice was given.

If people are aware that a fictional election will occur, and not a true General Election, then there is no shame in not participating, and/or acknowledging they have been defrauded of a true election.

February/March Ribbon-Cuttings/Grand Openings

- Bracamonte Law Firm, 815 T.L. Townsend Dr., Suite 104
- Pettrissage Massage, 201 Laurence Dr., Suite 103
- On Pointe Properties, 972-588-8800
- Jackson Services Heating & Air Conditioning
- Grass Roots Lawn Services
- Dentist Tree, 921 S. Erby Campbell, Suite 150
- Southern Grace, 130 E. Main St.
- Helping Hands Boutique, 950 Williams St.
- Blue Nail Enterprises LLC

RCHS students take win in TASB video competition

Students from Royse City High School's RCTV program were among the six school groups recently recognized as winners of a student video contest sponsored by the Texas Association of School Boards. The contest was open to all Texas public school students, according to a news release from the Royse City Independent School District. Winners were selected in three categories: elementary, middle school/junior high, and high school. RCHS took first place in the high school division. As a result, the school will receive a \$5,000 prize, according to the release. "We are delighted that students from all over the state creatively demonstrated their enthusiasm for the great things going on in their public

schools. Through our students' voices, the videos do an excellent job of explaining why local schools deserve the support of their communities and appropriate funding from the state," said Charles R. Stafford, TASB president. "Our students help spotlight the many ways Texas public schools excel and underscore why all Texans should be proud to stand up for their public schools." Students were asked to tell what makes their school exceptional, how the school has earned community support, how their school is making a difference in students' lives and future success and what makes Texas public schools the best choice. Steve Vaughn oversees the RCTV program.

Fate hosts double ribbon-cutting

by Millie Jean Coppedge

Originally the Friday, March 24, ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the completion of the Interstate 30 overpass projects were set to mark the Royse City Erby Campbell Celebration, followed by the Fate Celebration for the FM 551 project. Both events were scheduled to be near the interstate in a pre-determined gathering place.

But as bad weather was forecast to arrive during the events, it was decided to combine the ceremonies at the new Fate City Hall.

Rockwall County Commissioner David Magness was the emcee and welcomed everyone, including city, county and state representatives. He gave his opening comments, praising both Fate and Royse City for working together to allow the interstate completion to run smoothly.

The director of the Fate Department of Public Safety, Brian Griffith, gave the invocation.

Comments were made by Rockwall County Judge David Sweet; Lorne Megyesi, mayor of Fate; Kenny Campbell, the son of the late Erby Campbell; Janet Nichol, mayor of Royse City; Jeff Bush, TxDOT Rockwall County area engineer; Lorie Grinnan, regional representative for U.S. Congressman John Ratcliff; a staff member for State Senator Bob Hall; and Justin Holland, district director for the state representative.

Sweet gave a big "... heartfelt thank-you to everyone. It is when all the citizens come together to make things happen, that they do," he said. He recognized the past and present mayors of both Fate and Royse City and said this is "truly a day of celebration."

Megyesi acknowledged all who had been a part of the endeavor and expressed how proud he was to see its completion.

The interstate completion has come just in time as the city is growing quickly, Nichol said, with 18 new retail businesses opening in the last 20 months. There are 3,300 lots on the ground and more being platted at this time. Sales taxes have increased 20 percent in this time.

Holland said that more than 1,500 people are moving to Texas every day and said it is important to have the infrastructure ready to accommodate them.

Grinnan presented Magness and Sweet each with a flag that had been flown over the state capital.

Campbell, son of the man for which Erby Campbell Boulevard is named, related a touching story of the kind of man his father was and his dreams for Royse City. He said his father was a devoted, hard-working man and would have been proud to see this completion.

"From the bottom of my wife, Judy's, and my hearts, I want to thank you all for this great accomplishment," he said as he ended his presentation about his father.

The ribbon cuttings took place outside, one for Royse City and one for Fate. As the last ribbon was cut, the rain began to fall.



Kerri Knight's kindergarten class at Springer recently celebrated Read Across America Day by using technology to read with a kindergarten class in Tennessee. Pictured above are the students and their teacher celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday in their own special way, including, at front, Amber Nunerley, Delaney Dickson, Claire McCormick, Ariana Owens and Max Solis; center, Izzie Grueber, Olivia Vitters, Jonathan Bedgood, Librarian: Rachael Cutting, Josiah Garcia, Jackson Long, Drake Purdy, Callie Rodgers and Carter Thomas; and, at back, Zachary Higgins, Sherlyn Rodriguez, William Hardwick, Ava Whitney, Teacher: Kerri Knight, Clifton Eddington, Elijah Martinez, Nader Shalabi, Kenzie Jacoby and Colten Thompson.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Tonight's public hearing to address SH 205 issues

A public hearing scheduled for 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. today will address proposed improvements to SH 205 from U.S. 80 to SH 78, a 24-mile stretch in Rockwall, Kaufman and Collin counties.

The Segment 6 preferred alternative of the SH 205 project in Rockwall County, which is the John King Boulevard Alternative displayed at the July 7 public meeting, will be presented.

The meeting will take place at the First United Methodist Church Rockwall, 1200 E. Yellow Jacket Lane.

Representatives from the Texas Department of Transportation, the City of Rockwall and project consultants will be available to answer questions about the project.

The meeting will be conducted in an informal open house format with no formal presentation, according to a TxDOT news release.

The SH 205 Alternatives Analysis was divided into seven segments. The project would include TxDOT maintaining the existing John King Boulevard, Segment 6, four-lane facility and the future inside widening for an ultimate six-lane facility when warranted by traffic demand, according to the news release. The proposed improvements to Segments 1-4 and 7 of the project include widening the existing two-lane roadway to a four-lane roadway with accommodations made for an ultimate six-

lane facility. Additional ROW is anticipated along existing SH 205 and John King Boulevard.

The project will cost approximately \$200 million and is anticipated to start in phases in 2022 and end in about 2028 – about two years per phase, according to the news release.

Maps depicting the project location and preliminary geometric design will be available for viewing at the public meeting. The information also is on file and available for review at the TxDOT Dallas District Office, 4777 E. Hwy. 80, Mesquite, Texas; the TxDOT Rockwall/Kaufman County Area Office, 2750 S. Washington, Kaufman; TxDOT Collin County Area Office, 2205 S. SH 5, McKinney; City of Terrell City Hall, 201 E. Nash St., Terrell; City of McLendon-Chisholm, 1371 W. FM 550, McLendon-Chisholm; City of Rockwall City Hall, 385 S. Goliad, Rockwall; and the City of Lavon City Hall, 120 School Rd., Lavon.

The information also is available at keepitmovingdallas.com under Upcoming Public Hearing/Meeting.

Written comments from the public regarding the project are requested and will be accepted for 15 days following the meeting. Written comments may be submitted either in person at the public meeting or by mail to the TxDOT Dallas District Office, Attn.: Ms. Nancy Peron, P.E., 4777 E. U.S. Hwy. 80, Mesquite, TX 75150-6643. Written comments must be postmarked on or before Friday, April 14, to be included in the public meeting summary.

Woofstock set Saturday at Harry Myers Dog Park

Woofstock, an event that will feature dog portraits, paw painting, dog races, low-cost vaccinations for dogs, live music and food trucks, will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Harry Myers Dog Park, 815 E. Washington.

Admission to the event will be free. Vaccines will be offered from 10 a.m. to noon. Vets, pet groomers and pet boarders will be on hand to answer questions.

Dogs must be wearing rabies tags to be on site (or owners must have shot records with them), according to a news release about the event.

Rockwall Parks & Recreation will sponsor the event.

Rockwall soccer teams advance to Area round of playoffs

The Rockwall Lady Jackets soccer team stormed over Oak Ridge 6-0 for the Bi-District round of playoffs, Thursday, March 23, 2017 at Palestine.

Scoring were Micah Larkin with an assist by Alana Wickham; Katie Givens on a direct kick; Lauren Baker with assistance of Alana Wickham; Savannah McKenzie; Lauren Baker assisted by Savannah McKenzie; and Micah Larkin assisted by Brooke Patterson.

Keeping Oak Ridge out of the net was Lady Jackets goalkeeper Mickaela Leal

"We were a bit rusty after no game for 12 days, so our game flow was

off; the pace was slower than normal, but we had some good offensive opportunities, and we started to get back into a groove by the end of the game," said Head Coach Melissa Garcia.

The Lady Jackets are set to take-on Garland Naaman Forest, 7:00 p.m., Fri. March 31, for the Area round of playoffs at Naaman Forest.

The Rockwall Yellowjackets soccer team defeated Conroe 2-1, Fri. March 24, at Palestine, for the Bi-District win.

The Jackets will advance to play against Sachse, 7:30 p.m., Fri. March 31, at Wilkerson-Sanders Stadium in Rockwall.

Rockwall County Sports game results

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| <p>Rockwall (District 11-6A)</p> <p>Baseball John Tyler 3/14 (Away) 10-0 (Win). John Tyler 3/17 (Home) 20-0 (W). Rockwall-Heath 3/21 (H) 6-2 (W). Rockwall-Heath 3/24 (A) 14-1 (L).</p> | <p>Softball Mesquite 3/24 (H) 18-3 (W).</p> <p>Soccer women Oak Ridge 3/24 at Palestine 6-0 (W) Bi-District.</p> <p>Soccer men Conroe 3/24 at Palestine 2-1 (W) Bi-district.</p> | <p>North Mesquite 3/10 (H) 6-0 (W). John Tyler 3/14 (A) 16-0 (W). Mesquite 3/21 (H) 13-0 (W). Longview 3/24 (H) 4-2 (L).</p> <p>Royse City (15-5A)</p> <p>Baseball West Mesquite 3/14 (A) 22-1 (W). West Mesquite 3/17 (H) 13-0 (W). Forney 3/21 (H) 10-0 (L). Forney 3/24 (A) 18-0 (L).</p> <p>Softball West Mesquite 3/7 (A) 28-0 (W). Forney 3/10 (H) 11-0 (L). Wylie East 3/14 (A) 14-2 (L). North Forney 3/16 (H) 13-5 (L). Mesquite Poteet 3/21 (A) 9-0 (L). Highland Park 3/24 (A) 13-4 (W).</p> |
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Rockwall County Sports Schedule

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| <p>Rockwall</p> <p>Fri 3/31 Baseball, 7:00 p.m., Longview (Home). Sfb, 7:00 p.m., at John Tyler. Soccer women, 7:00 p.m., Garland Naaman Forest at NF (Area round). Scr men, 7:30 p.m., Sachse at Wilkerson-Sanders Stadium (Area). Tennis, 9:00 a.m., at Rockwall (April Fools Tournament). Track, Mesquite ISD Relays.</p> <p>Tue 4/4 Gymnastics, District meet (2 days). Bsb, 7:00 p.m., Mesquite Horn (H).</p> | <p>Sfb, 7:00 p.m., at RHHS.</p> <p>Thur 4/6 Tennis, 9:00 a.m., at Longview (District Tournament).</p> <p>Rockwall-Heath</p> <p>Fri 3/31 Bsb, 7:00 p.m., at North Mesquite. Sfb, 7:00 p.m., at Tyler Lee. Track, Mesquite ISD Relays.</p> <p>Tue 4/4 Gym, District meet (2 days). Bsb, 7:00 p.m., at John Tyler. Sfb, 7:00 p.m., Rockwall (H).</p> <p>Royse City</p> <p>Fri 3/31 Bsb, 7:30 p.m., Wylie East (H).</p> | <p>Rockwall-Heath (11-6A)</p> <p>Baseball Tyler Lee 3/14/2017 (Home) 7-1 (W). Tyler Lee 3/17 (A) 10-1 (W). Rockwall 3/21 (A) 6-2 (Loss). Rockwall 3/24 (H) 14-1 (W).</p> <p>Softball Tyler Lee 2/28 (H) 14-1 (W). Rockwall 3/7 (A) 3-1 (W).</p> |
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Area Briefs

Dallas Blooms runs through April 9

The largest floral festival in the Southwest, Dallas Blooms, will run at the Dallas Arboretum through April 9. The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens is located on the southeastern shore of White Rock Lake at 9525 Garland Rd., Dallas. It is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Free for members and children ages 2 and younger.

Rockwall County News Briefs

(Continued from Page 4)

RCISD to host pre-K, kinder roundup April 6

The Royse City Independent School District will host its annual kindergarten and pre-kindergarten Roundup from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. April 6 on all elementary school campuses. Children who will be age 5 by Sept. 1 of this year will be eligible to attend kindergarten, a full-day program. Children who will be age 4 by Sept. 1 of this year will be eligible for pre-kindergarten. For more details visit rcisd.org/pre-k-and-kindergarten-round-up.

Breakfast to benefit Reading for Adults

Pancakes, syrup, scrambled eggs and sausage will be on the menu at the all-you-can-eat breakfast benefiting the Rockwall County Reading For Adults Program on Saturday, April 8, at Applebee's, 687 E. I-30, Rockwall. Reading For Adults volunteers and tutors will staff the restaurant for two hours, starting at 8 a.m., greeting and serving customers. Tickets for the breakfast can be purchased at the Literacy Center of the Rockwall County Library or at the door. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 10 and under.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection planned

Rockwall will host its 17th annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 22, at the city's Service Center, 1600 Airport Rd. Items to be accepted include pesticides, paint products, household cleaners, herbicides, motor oil, automotive chemicals, swimming pool products, propane and tires in household quantities. On-site document shredding also will be offered and a vendor also will be on site to take electronic equipment for recycling. Each participating Rockwall resident will need to bring a current utility bill or driver's license to provide proof of residency. For more details visit rockwall.com/documents/news/HHW2017.pdf.

Vendors sought for Country Fair in June

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

Sign-ups underway for RSM Summer Camps

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