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Rockwall County News

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Scarlett Weimer (4) of McLendon-Chisholm enjoys the 'ride of her life', Saturday, June 10, 2017, during the Rockwall Country Fair on the grounds of the Rockwall County Courthouse. She is the daughter of Christina Weimer (not pictured).

Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

University scholastic honors

Locals recognized as BU honor students

More than a dozen local residents were among the 3,700 Baylor University students named to the Dean's Academic Honor Roll for the spring semester, according to a news release from the Waco university.

Honorees included Wesley S. Scivetti of Fate; Sarah M. Lopez, Hailey Elizabeth Platz, Courtney A. Sosnowski and Spencer Davis Sosnowski of Heath; and Tori Celeste Ewing of Roysse City.

Rockwall honorees included David J. Alderman, Brennen E. Bassett, Brandon R. Blase, Jade L. Brown, Anabel Glynn Burke, Meghan Renee Clements, Cathleen Cheyenne Conrad, Alexis Rae Greenhill, Alexa Briel Hein, Taylor Rae Lemons, Christian Daniel Mackin, Nathan Sheeder Mateer, Dillon T. Stokes, Malcolm Duane Williams and Dylan Thomas Wooten.

To be named to the Dean's List a student must be an undergraduate with a minimum grade-point average of 3.7 while enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester hours, according to the news release.

Pop makes Dean's List

A local resident was among students named to the spring Dean's List at LeTourneau University, according to a news release from the Longview university.

Caroline Pop of Rockwall, a sophomore mathematics major, was named to the Dean's List.

The Dean's List recognizes students who have achieved a grade-point average between 3.50 and 3.99 for the semester.

MacGilvary tapped for President's List

Morgan MacGilvary of Rockwall was named to the President's List for the spring semester at Mercer University, according to a news release from the Macon, Georgia, university.

MacGilvary is a senior in the Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics.

Heath approves conflict with Sublease Program

According to the minutes of the City of Heath, Inc. regular meeting, held May 9, 2017, the council unanimously voted on a measure that was in conflict with Section VII Subleased Take Area of the Sublease Program with the City of Dallas related to the Lake Ray Hubbard Take Area.

Attending the meeting were Mayor Brian Berry, Kelson Elam, Rich Krause, Kevin Lamberth, John Main, Frank New, Paul Ruffo and Brent Weaver.

Director of Community Development, Robert LaCroix explained that the applicants Anthony and Virginia Seely requested permission to construct a "four foot wrought iron fence" in the "Take Line Area" on leased property associated with their home.

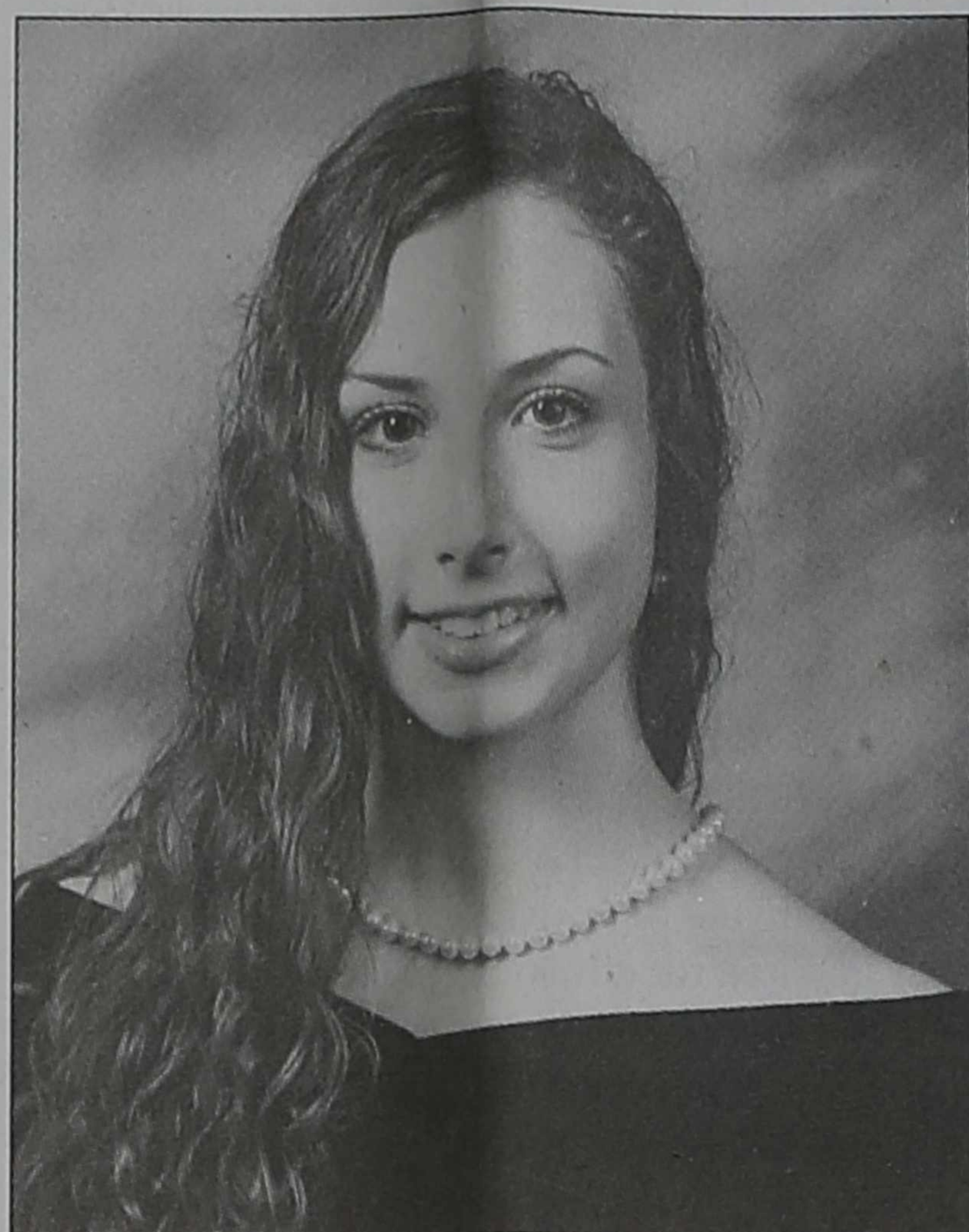
LaCroix clarified that the fence would extend from the property to the shoreline of Lake Ray Hubbard. Approval would be conditional upon the inclusion of a gate that would provide access for public safety, public services and utility personnel.

The city staff recommended approval of the request.

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Saluting the RCHS Class of 2017 Valedictorians and Salutatorians



Darrah Merillat
Valedictorian
Roysse City High School
Class of 2017

Darrah Merillat excelled while at Roysse City High School. Her complete list of accomplishments is too long to attempt to list. She participated in Student Council, the National Honor Society, Speech and Debate, was the Founder of the Senior Advisory Board, Varsity Athletic Track, UIL Academics (Literary Criticism, Math, Social Studies, Science, Ready Writing, and Current Issues and Events) and held a number of positions of leadership in clubs and organizations, and community service and volunteer work all her years at Roysse City ISD.

She plans to attend the University of Texas at Dallas or Southern Methodist University to pursue a degree in biomedical engineering. Darrah is the daughter of Jim and Andrea Merillat.

Courtesy Photo/Rockwall County News



Emily Nolan
Salutatorian
Roysse City High School
Class of 2017

Emily Nolan-Salutatorian for Roysse City High School-Class of 2017

Emil attended Browning Elementary, Fort Elementary, Ruth Cherry Intermediate School, Roysse City Middle School and Roysse City High School. She participated in academic, art, athletic and music extracurricular activities. Band, On Stage Band, Friends of Rachel, Crime Stoppers, Our Lady of the Lake Youth Group, GT Camp Volunteer are just a few of the leadership roles and camp activities in which she excelled. She plans to attend Texas A & M University in College Station to pursue a degree in education and a career in teaching. Her parents are Jason and Elizabeth Nolan.

Courtesy Photo/Rockwall County News



Tamara and Rick Dirkse stay close to their recent property acquisition, the Historic Bailey House, as the crew of H.D. Snow & Sons prepare to move the house from its long-time location of 301 N. Goliad, to a plot of land next to the Rockwall County Historical Museum located at Harry Myers Park in Rockwall. Also participating in the donation agreement was previous owner Beth Noe of Rockwall Trinity Real Estate (not pictured). The Dirkse's plan to open a business offering tax and financial services. H.D. Snow & Sons, of Saginaw (Fort Worth), was in charge of the historical house moving project. The company is also known for the television series "Texas Flip N' Move," which began in 2015 to the present.

Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News





Cody Ritter, a Royse City High School student, was recognized during the Monday, June 5, Royse City Independent School District board meeting. He was honored for advancing to the Business Professionals of America national contest in Orlando, Florida. He competed in advanced spreadsheet applications. Pictured with Ritter is his teacher, Marie Adamson, who was his sponsor. She teaches Business Information Management at RCHS. Ritter's parents are Amy and Chad Ritter.
Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/Rockwall County News

RISD hosting children's Summer Meal Program

The Rockwall Independent School District's Child Nutrition Department is sponsoring a Summer Meal Program.

The federally funded program is provides children with meals during the summer months. This year the program will operate at Dobbs Elementary, 101 S. Clark St. Meals are free to all children 18 years and younger. No fees, forms to fill out or parent identification are required, according to a school district news release.

Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. weekdays through July 28. No lunch will be served on July 4, which is Independence Day.

For more information about the Summer Meal Program, visit SummerFood.org or contact the RISD Child Nutrition Department at 972-771-8201.

Rockwall High student earns Merit Scholarship

A Rockwall High School student has been tapped as the recipient of a college-sponsored Merit Scholarship, according to a recent news release from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Jamie Hall of Rockwall was named recipient of a National Merit Southern Methodist University Scholarship, according to the news release.

Hall listed her probable career field as biology.

College-sponsored Merit Scholarship winners are a part of the group of about 7,500 high school seniors who will receive National Merit Scholarships for college undergraduate study worth more than \$32 million, according to the release.

Anaya completes basic training

U.S. Air Force Airman Carlos Anaya graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, according to a military news release.

Anaya completed an eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Anaya is a 2016 graduate of Rockwall-Heath High School.

City of Heath votes to over-ride Take Line Area Sublease Program ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Mayor Brian Berry opened the respective public hearing. Required notice for the public hearing was not published in accordance with Texas Gov. Code Section 2051.048, requiring publication of notice in a newspaper published either in the city or in the county where the city is located.

The minutes indicate that Ginny Jackson and Roy Heath spoke in support of the request.

Newly elected councilmember, Frank New, moved to approve the conditional use permit for the placement of a four foot wrought iron

fence over the Take Line Area. Upon a second by Councilmember Paul Ruffo, the request passed unanimously.

According to the Sublease Program for the City of Heath and the City of Dallas, "Take Line Area" is part of the incorporated city limits of Dallas, and is commonly the rear property line of an adjacent property-owner's property. The Take Area is defined as the land owned by the City of Dallas between the Take Line and the normal lake pool elevation of 435.5 mean sea level.

According to the City of Dallas, the Take Line is part of the Lake Ray Hubbard Takeline Overlay District. This zoning district is meant to serve as one implementation tool for the Lake Ray Hubbard Master Plan, adopted by the City of Dallas; the Lake Ray Hubbard Interlocal Agreement as approved by municipalities comprising the Lake Cities Coalition and the City of Dallas.

On November 4, 2004, the City of Heath entered into an Interlocal Agreement and Lease with the City of Dallas, for lease of the Take Area from the City of Dallas. The agreement included the subsequent sublease of certain portions of the Take Area to adjacent residential property owners.

According to Section VII Subsection D of the Heath Sublease Program, "Portions of the Take Area adjacent to public streets, such as the portion of the Take Area adjacent to Scenic Drive in the Antigua Bay subdivision and to Windward Trail in the cove Ridge Estates Subdivision will not be eligible for sublease."

LaCroix did not inform the city council about whether Section VII Subsection D applied to the property in question.

It is unknown at this time when the City of Dallas voted on the issue, or whether Dallas will take legal action against the City of Heath.

The minutes do not indicate whether the City of Heath received legal advice from the City Attorney on the matter.

The council approved resolution 170509 Canvassing the Returns and Declaring the results of the general election held May 6, 2017.

Rockwall County Judge David Sweet issued the Oaths of Office to successfully elected council members Frank New (Place One), Paul Ruffo (Place Two), Brent Weaver (Place Four), and Rich Krause (Place Six).

(Continued on Page 6)

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University Scholastics Degrees

Wood receives business degree

Parker Wood graduated from William Jewell College as part of the May 13 commencement exercises on the Liberty, Missouri, campus, according to a news release from the college.

Wood, a Heath resident, graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration and Applied Critical Thought and Inquiry.

Eldridge earns degree from LeTourneau

Sean Eldridge of Rockwall was among the more than 400 graduates who received bachelor's and master's degrees during the spring commencement exercises conducted at LeTourneau University in Longview.

Eldridge received a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering technology, according to a news release from the university.

Shipleigh earns history degree

Michael Grant Shipleigh of Rockwall graduated with a degree in history from James Madison University during May 5 commencement exercises, according to a news release from the Harrisonburg, Virginia, university.

Shipleigh was among more than 4,300 students who received undergraduate, master's, educational specialist and doctoral degrees.

Armstrong earns sociology degree

Jacoby Armstrong of Rockwall graduated from the University of New Hampshire during commencement ceremonies conducted on Saturday, May 20, on the Durham, New Hampshire, campus of the University of New Hampshire.

Armstrong received a bachelor's degree in sociology, according to a university news release.

Rockwall County News Briefs

Democrats plan June 17 breakfast meeting

The Rockwall County Democratic Party will host a breakfast meeting at 9 a.m. on June 17 at the Harry Myers Community Center, 815 E. Washington St. Rockwall County Sheriff Harold Eavenson, Heath DPS Chief Terry Garrett, the Rockwall Police Department deputy chief, an ACLU representative and Sol Villasana, president of the newly formed Rockwall LULAC, will be a part of the panel. The discussion will address how the implementation of SB 4 and the executive order on sanctuary cities is impacting the immigrant community and local law enforcement officials.

Auditions for RCP production slated

Auditions for "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," a Rockwall Community Playhouse production, will take place at 9 a.m. June 17 and 7 p.m. June 18. The RCP is located at 609 E. Rusk, two blocks off the square in downtown Rockwall. Participants should bring music, resume and a headshot and be prepared to sing one upbeat and/or one ballad that depicts vocal range and ability. Bring

(Continued on Page 3)

Friday Study Club holds May meeting in Library

The Friday Study Club held its May 2017 meeting at the Rockwall County Library.

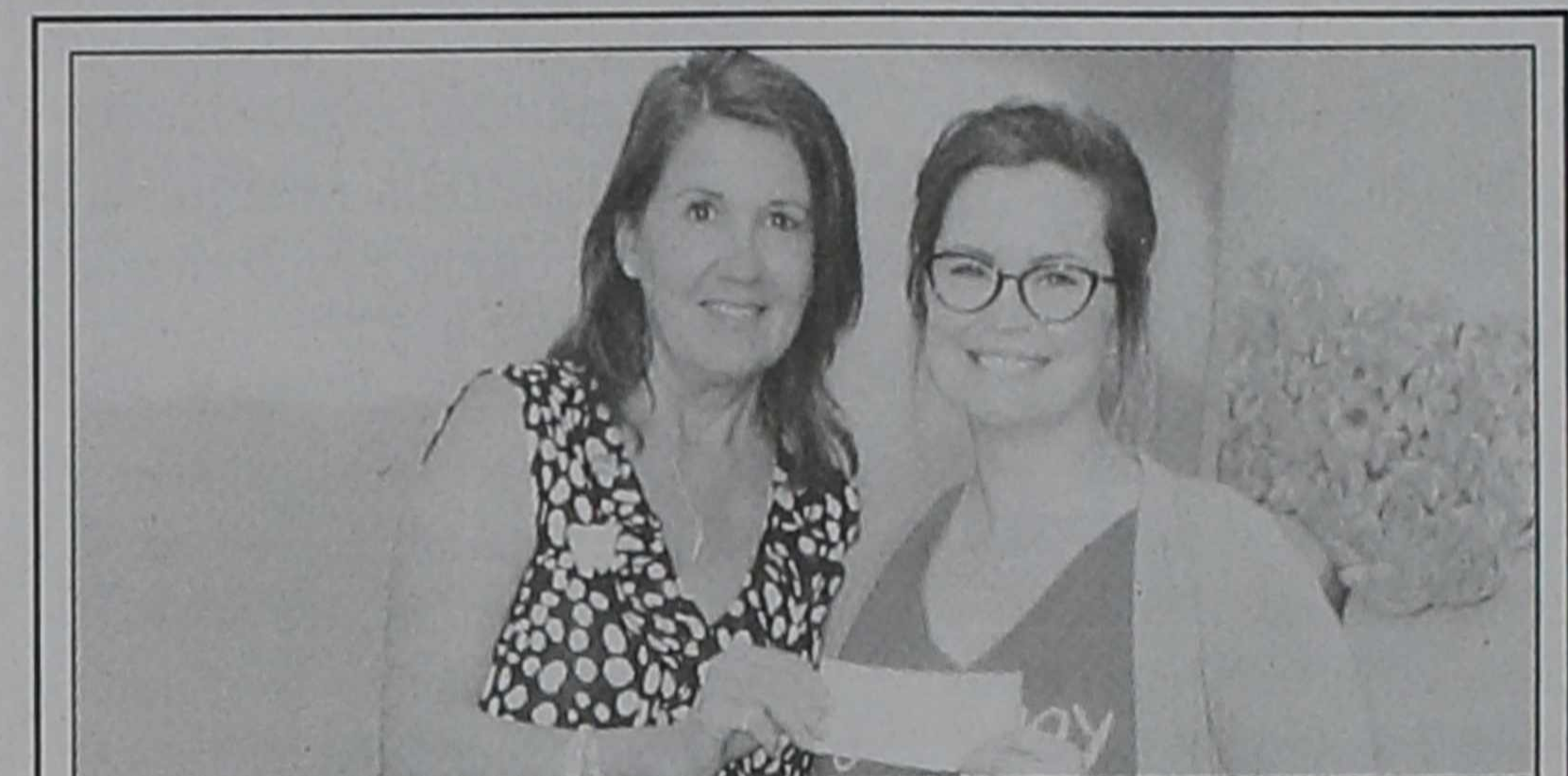
Vice President Peg Pannell Smith presided over the business meeting, and presented a check from the club to the library, as a continuation of its ongoing support of the library. The check was accepted by library representative Stephanie Milberger.

FSC member Leigh Plagens gave a brief history of the club which was founded in 1919 by Rockwall resident, Mrs. H.B. Lofland.

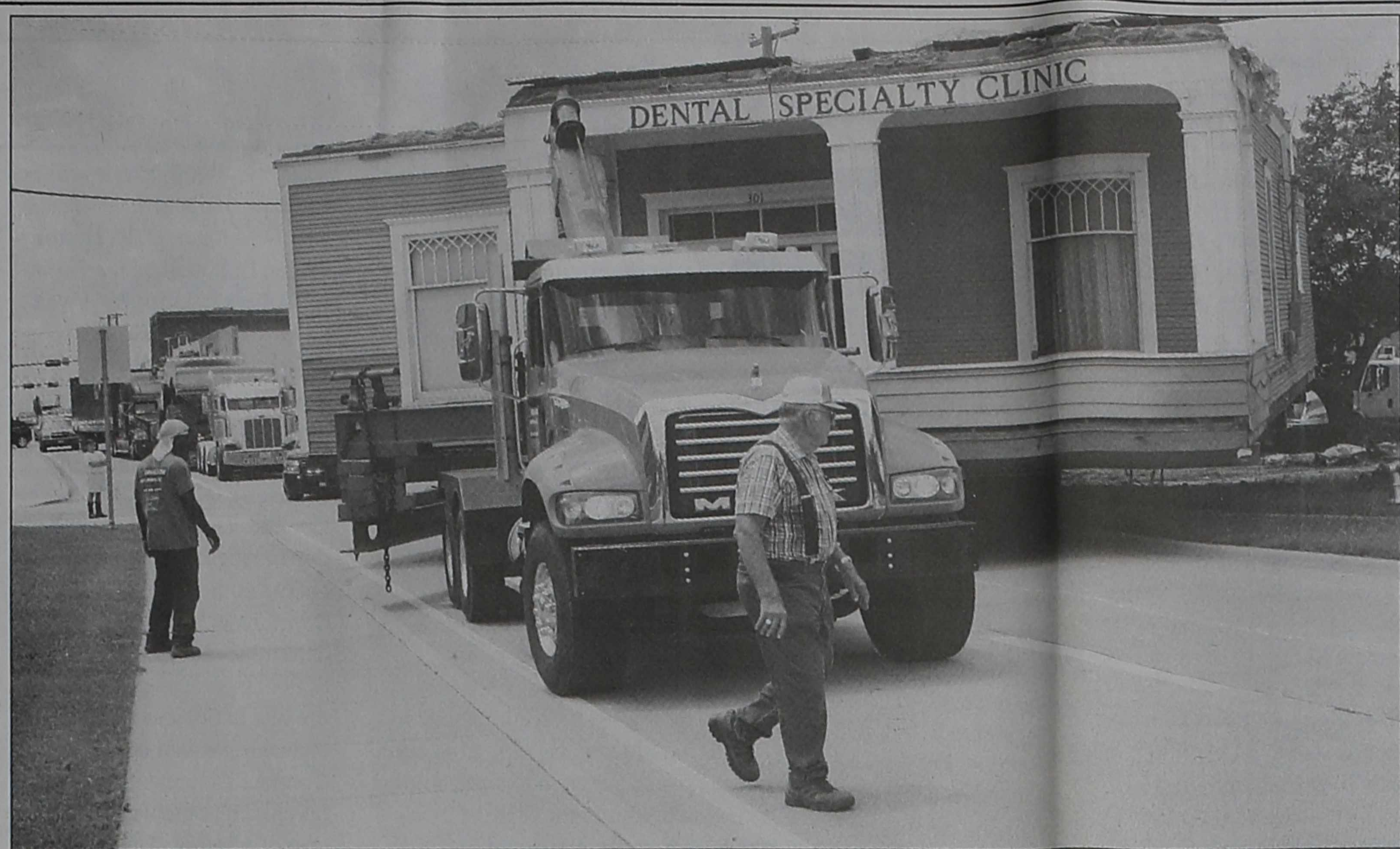
The club is making plans for celebration of its 100 year anniversary in 2019.

Plagens installed the following officers for the club year of 2017-2018: June Bue, President; Smith, 1st VP; Linda Cardwell, 2nd VP; Peggy Atterberry, Recording Secretary; Pat Calhoun, Secretary-Treasurer; Ruth Willis, Reporter; Nancy Hill, Assistant Reporter; June Frawley, Parliamentarian.

Co-hostesses serving refreshments were Sharon Shannon and Mary Vervalin.



Rockwall County Library representative Stephanie Milberger (right) receives a check on behalf of the Library from Friday Study Club President Peg Pannell Smith (left). Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



H.D. Snow (front, center), of H.D. Snow & Sons, coordinates the moving of the Historical Bailey House, Tuesday, June 13, 2017, from 301 N. Goliad Street to a plot of land located at the Rockwall County Historical Museum at Harry Myers Park in Rockwall. The route followed Highway 205 North; John King Blvd; right on Airport Road to the Historical Museum on Washington Street. As of Tuesday evening, the house was on the moving rig and in position over the new spot. Snow's business is also the topic of a television series entitled "Texas Flip N' Move." Snow explained that when recruited for the series, he established restricted stipulations that the show would not include people using "God's name" in vain or show any kind of alcohol. Snow expressed his priority of applying godly principals in his business model.

Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

Rockwall County News Briefs

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your own accompaniment (Bluetooth or audio). You may be asked to do some choreographed movement, so wear appropriate attire. Cold readings will be conducted from the script. For more details call 972-722-3399.

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/.

Spay/neuter bus in Rockwall June 27

The spay/neuter hospital bus will be in Rockwall on Tuesday, June 27, in the Wal-Mart parking lot, 782 E. I-30. Kittens and puppies, ages 12 weeks to three months, will be fixed at a cost of \$20 each; must mention this note in the Rockwall County News when making an appointment to get the special price. To make an appointment or for more details call 972-472-3500 or 817-423-5500, spayneuternet.org. Ask about getting older dogs/cats fixed too; prices are affordable. All dogs must be on collar/leash or harness that cannot be slipped; cats must be in secure carriers. Posted by Rockwall PAWS.

Democratic Men to meet July 1

The Democratic Men's Group of Rockwall County will host its next luncheon July 1. The group meets for lunch on the first Saturday of each month at various local restaurants. Open-minded, progressive men concerned about the future of Rockwall County and Texas are invited.

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Opinions

Money on the table

by Richard W. Fulmer

Future of Freedom Foundation

There's an old economists' joke about two university professors who are walking through the school's cafeteria. The first professor, an engineer, points to an empty table and says, "Look, someone left a twenty-dollar bill." The second professor, an economist, replies, "Nonsense. Someone would have already picked it up."

The point of the joke is that, in a free market, explanations of economic activity that assume that obvious profit-making opportunities are being ignored — that is, that money has been "left on the table" — are rarely correct. That is because entrepreneurs tend to react quickly to such opportunities.

For example, a common complaint is that women in the United States are paid only 75 percent of what men are paid for doing the same work. The "money left on the table" in this case is cheap labor. An alert businessman could undersell the competition by hiring only women and paying them, say, 80 cents on the dollar. With labor costs 20 percent below those of the rest of the market, his profits would be substantial. Of course, his high profits would attract other investors, and women's wages would quickly be bid up.

Why hasn't that occurred? According to social critics, the reason

is sexism. However, given the fact that money is rarely left on the table, a more likely possibility is that the initial premise — women are paid less for doing exactly the same work — is incorrect. And, indeed, when we look more closely at the data, a very different picture appears. First, we find that the 75 percent number comes from comparing all women to all men. Next, we learn that the "average" man:

- Works more hours than the "average" woman.
- Stays with the same company longer.
- Takes fewer leaves of absence for child rearing.
- Is more likely to take dangerous or unpleasant work.
- Is more likely to be in a high-paid technical field such as engineering.

Once the data are corrected for those and other differences, the disparity in pay virtually disappears. No money is being left on the table.

Another common example is stores in poor neighborhoods that charge higher prices than do stores in wealthier areas. "Activists" often attribute such differences to racism or greed. Again, however, such explanations assume that money has been left on the table — in this case, profit opportunities in the poorer neighborhoods. If stores

in those areas are making obscene profits thanks to their high prices, then opportunities exist for other entrepreneurs to enter the market and undersell the profiteers. Why doesn't that happen?

Because obscene profits are not being made. Yes, stores charge higher prices in ghettos and barrios, but only because their costs are higher. Losses due to shoplifting, holdups, and arson are much greater in poorer neighborhoods. Insurance premiums are higher as well. When "activists" succeed in passing laws that require stores in those areas to cut their prices, the stores often go out of business. People in the affected neighborhoods must then either travel across town to purchase nutritious food or buy whatever (less nutritious) food is available at whatever businesses remain.

A similar case can be made for the universally despised payday-loan companies that cater mostly to poor customers. Critics point out that such "predatory lenders" may charge annualized interest rates of 300 percent or more for the small loans — usually between \$300 and \$400 — they make to their customers. Here, at least, money must be on the table. Surely, an enterprising person with a little start-up money could charge a "mere" 100 percent a year and clean up.

But, as Thomas Sowell, explains in his book, *Basic Economics*, payday loans aren't made for a year. Rather they're usually made for no more than a few weeks. According to Sowell, "For a two-week loan, payday lenders typically charge \$15 in interest for every \$100 lent." That \$15 must cover the cost of processing the loan and the higher risks inherent in lending to people who have little or no collateral.

After Oregon passed a law limiting annual interest rates to 36 percent, "three-quarters of the hundreds of payday lenders in the state closed down." To so-called consumer advocates, that was little more than good riddance. But it was a big financial headache for people who could no longer obtain \$100 to keep the electricity running or a car from being repossessed, or who might have to pay more than \$15 in late fees to a credit card company.

The observation that the market rarely leaves profit opportunities untapped is a useful tool for evaluating claims of market failure. If a proposed explanation of a given free-market activity implies that people have been ignoring the chance to make large profits for years, then the explanation should be questioned and other possibilities considered.

Fortunately for entrepreneurs, however, sometimes people really do "leave money on the table." Successful entrepreneurs help improve our lives by seeing what others miss: unmet needs, new products, efficiency gains, and better solutions. They're the first to spot that twenty-dollar bill on the cafeteria table, and it's a safe bet that they're not economics professors.

Did Comey violate laws in leaking the Trump memo?

by Jonathon Turley

Ron Paul Institute

JohnTurley.com

One of the most interesting new disclosures today in the Comey hearing was the admission by former FBI Director James Comey that he intentionally used a "friend" on the Columbia law faculty to leak his memos to the media. Comey says that he did so to force the appointment of a Special Counsel. However, those memos could be viewed as a government record and potential evidence in a criminal investigation.

Notably, Columbia Law School Professor Daniel Richman on a faculty webpage reads that he is "currently an adviser to FBI Director James B. Comey." Richman specializes in criminal law and criminal procedure.

The problem is that Comey's description of his use of an FBI computer to create memoranda to file suggests that these are arguably government documents. Comey admitted that he thought he raised the issue with his staff and recognized that they might be needed by the Department or Congress. They read like a type of field 302 form, which are core investigatory documents.

The admission of leaking the memos is problematic given the overall controversy involving leakers undermining the Administration. Indeed, it creates a curious scene of a former director leaking material against the President after the President repeatedly asked him to crack down on leakers.

Besides being subject to Nondisclosure Agreements, Comey falls under federal laws governing the disclosure of classified and nonclassified information. Assuming that the memos were not classified (though it seems odd that it would not be classified even on the confidential level), there is 18 U.S.C. § 641 which makes it a crime to steal, sell, or convey "any record, voucher, money, or thing of value of the United States or of any department or agency thereof."

There are also ethical and departmental rules against the use of material to damage a former represented person or individual or firm related to prior representation. Lawyers generally ask for clients or employers to release information, particularly when it may be detrimental to the firm or the client or someone associated with your prior representation.

By the way, waking up in the middle of the night (as described by Comey) is not generally the best time to decide to leak damaging memos against a sitting president. There are times when coffee and a full night's sleep (and even conferral with counsel) is recommended. Leaking damaging memos is one of those times. Moreover, if Comey was sure of his right to release the memo, why use a law professor to avoid fingerprints?

I find Comey's admission to be deeply troubling from a professional and ethical standpoint. Would Director Comey have approved such a rule for FBI agents? Thus, an agent can prepare a memo during office hours on an FBI computer about a meeting related to his service . . . but leak that memo to the media. The Justice Department has long defined what constitutes government documents broadly. It is not clear if Comey had the documents reviewed for classification at the confidential level or confirmed that they would be treated as entirely private property. What is clear is that he did not clear the release of the memos with anyone in the government.

Comey's statement of a good motivation does not negate the concerns over his chosen means of a leak. Moreover, the timing of the leak most clearly benefited Comey not the cause of a Special Counsel. It was clear at that time that a Special Counsel was likely. More importantly, Comey clearly understood that these memos would be sought. That leads inevitably to the question of both motivation as well as means.

RHS Class of 2017 Valedictorian speech

by Abigail White

Rockwall High School Class of 2017

Valedictorian

Good evening everyone, my name is Abigail White. I would first like to congratulate all my peers for making it to this momentous occasion. The students of the class of 2017 are truly exceptional. They are kind, thoughtful, and generous, and it's been a privilege to learn with you all for the past four years. It took four years of work and commitment to make it happen, not only from us but from our loved ones as well. Without the love and support of my family I would not be the person I am today. We also owe a lot of gratitude to our teachers for devoting their careers to guiding us and educating us.

Saint Padre Pio said "Pray, hope, and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer." There's a trend of existential dread and anxiety for the future among us graduating today. The pressure to choose a path is intense and it feels like we need to know exactly where we will be in ten years. Well, that's just impossible. Some people might think they have the future all figured out, but the truth is that none of us can know the future and it's foolish to think otherwise. Like the saying goes, "When man plans, God laughs."

Although it seems like a long time ago now, only four years ago we were all freshmen about to start a new chapter of our lives at high school. I think it's fair to say that most of us were nervous, and unsure about what the next few years would bring. We still thought that the halls of RHS would be filled with clearly defined social groups singing about how they're all in it together. We may have even had an idea of which group we would join. In reality of course, it was a lot more complicated than that. People change groups all the time as they discover their interests, and most of the time, there really aren't clearly defined cliques at all. We've come a long way from those first few days at RHS walking on the left side of the hallway and thinking the seniors had their lives totally figured out.

Likewise, the next four years to come will not be as simple as we expect. We will change our minds, meet new people, broaden our horizons, and get lost. Right now, I know a lot of us are planning on going off to college, and there's a lot of pressure to choose a major

RHHS Class of 2017 Valedictorian speech

by Andrew Spletter

Rockwall-Heath High School Class of 2017

Valedictorian

Faculty, family, friends, and fellow graduates of the greatest graduating class in the history of Heath High School, it is my honor to speak before you on this momentous occasion. That being said, please forgive me if I am a little nervous, as my experience with public speaking is limited to a stage of perhaps 30 students in a classroom.

Before I begin my speech, I would like to extend a special thanks to my family, who has always supported me and been there for me, through thick and thin, my teachers, who have always challenged me in my education and pushed me to do my best, and my friends. Upon special request, I would like to thank Riley Myers, my fellow tennis team captain this year, Taylor Wilheight, with whom I endured my first summer job scooping ice cream at Baskin Robbins, and Jared Tucker for his inspiration and words of wisdom.

Seven years ago, when I attended a high school graduation ceremony for the first time and I learned that the valedictorian and salutatorian were supposed to give a speech, I remember thinking to myself, "Man, who wants to sit there and listen to some nerd speak?" Well, seven years later, it turns out that I am that nerd. So, I will try to keep this speech succinct and meaningful.

Today, we are graduating from high school. I could call it an ending of a chapter in our lives, but that would seem too sad and probably wouldn't come across very well. Or I could call it a new beginning, but that would just seem cheesy and cliché. The romantics among us might call it a fresh start as we are sent off to explore the wonders of the world, while others may simply view this as just an ordinary day on which we happen to be graduating. Regardless, we are here. We did it. We started at the bottom, and now it looks like the whole team's here.

Without a doubt, today marks a milestone in our lives. Today, we enter into the next stage of our lives, excited about the opportunities yet to come, yet at the same time anxious about where our lives will take us. We find ourselves in a position that is in some ways similar to our entry into high school, 4 years ago. Then, as young, clueless middle schoolers, we looked in awe at Heath High School, wondering how we would find our way around this new, intimidating school, wondering how we would fit in. Today, though, the questions that we face are a little different. Instead of worrying whether we'll learn to navigate the hallways of the school to make it to our next class on time, or fretting about how we will make ourselves known in such a big school, now we face questions such as "How will I contribute to the world? What will be my purpose?" These, obviously, are very tough questions, questions that can seem daunting and intimidating. However, I believe that you need not worry about such questions so long as you seek one goal: and that is to find your passion. Once you find what you love, everything else will fall into place. According

and decide what we're going to do. It seems like the whole rest of our lives depends on the next couple of years. But like with high school, I know it's not that simple. As long as we continue the journey that we've all begun at RHS of discovering our passions and learning what we would like to devote our time and energy to, I'm confident we can all find where we belong. I'm planning on studying biology, but I know that there's a possibility that that could change, and if it does, everything will be ok. Each step down the path is another step towards figuring out what's right for us. Even mistakes can be learned from, as long as we use them to move forward. We should listen to the wisdom of St. Josemaria Escriva, who said "Conduct yourself well 'now,' without looking back on 'yesterday,' which is really gone, and without worrying about 'tomorrow,' which for you may never come."

Let's not waste this important time in our lives worrying about something the future us can take care of. It's time to trust that our teachers have prepared us for what's to come, and to trust ourselves that we can use our talents and our determination to get ourselves where we want to go. Though we all have different talents and interests, and though we will all be off to different places next year, we hold in common our ability to work hard and do the best we can. We've struggled through many tough classes and life experiences together at RHS, and while I hope that everyone has some great memories to look back on, high school was certainly a challenge for us all. Still, this time has allowed us to develop skills that will be applicable no matter where we end up, and character that we can carry with us always.

Before I wrap up, I would like to thank my family for all their love and support and my best friend Meridith Cooper for sticking with me through all the years. I would also like to give a shout out to all my classmates who made school more interesting. I wish all of you the best in life, and as we go forth from our graduation tonight, I hope that you can all remember this as a moment of well-deserved triumph after four years of hard work. Lastly, I'd like to leave you with one final quote, this time from St. Catherine of Siena. "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire." Thank you, JFND!

to a recent Gallup poll, an alarming 70% of Americans are not satisfied with their job. To me, this is an indicator that the majority of Americans have either not found their passion yet or have settled for an occupation in which they do not pursue and expand their passion. In my opinion, one of the biggest threats that faces Americans today is that of complacency. I encourage the class of 2017, then, to stand out from these statistics—to join the 30% of Americans who are in love with what they do. Find your passion, no matter how strange it may seem to other people, and never settle for anything less.

It seems that so many people are constantly in search of this abstract idea that we have labeled "success". When asked to define it and explain why they seek it, though, many people are at a loss. I believe that these are questions truly worth considering, and they are inherently unique to each individual. To me, success is a mindset—a mindset in which there is congruency between one's thoughts, morals, and actions. When I was 11 years old, I was diagnosed with a severe form of OCD. It is a term that is thrown around loosely, often to refer to people's desire to be overly organized or orderly. For me, however, it means that I am often plagued by irrational fears or worries that distract me from my daily life, making it very difficult for me to focus. Although it has certainly brought its fair share of struggles, it has also taught me many valuable lessons. It has helped me, for instance, realize the power of a clear, focused mind—in which one's desires are met by sincere action and unimpeded by doubts or fear. Each person defines success differently, but I believe that it is important to have a clear picture in your mind of whatever you envision as success, as it will drive and encourage you when the going gets tough.

This class is full of talent. There is no question about that. We have students bound for study at top-tier universities, student athletes committed to play for prestigious schools, a state champion in track, musicians and artists that compete around the nation, and we share countless other team and individual achievements through which we will forever leave our mark on Heath High School and from which we will derive our inspiration to push through the challenges yet to come. Every one of us has a special talent that we bring into the world. We leave Heath High School with a lot of potential to go out and do great things, the scope of which we cannot even imagine. Ultimately, though, it is not a question of talent, but rather of how such talent is utilized. In order to make the most out of the talent and potential that we already have, it is important that it be met with steadfast, hard work and unwavering determination. When we combine talent and hard work with whatever it is that we are passionate about, I believe that we find a special meaning to life—a life that we were truly born to live.

With that, I conclude my speech. I could not be more thankful for being blessed with the opportunity to attend high school with all of you these past four years and I wish you all the very best in the years yet to come. Thank you, and go hawks!

Rockwall Country Fair offers shopping and entertainment, \$100K to CAC

Pennant draped tents dotted the grounds of the Rockwall County Courthouse for the 4th annual Rockwall Country Fair fundraiser presented by the Rockwall Soroptimist on Saturday, June 10 in Rockwall.

Soroptimist representative Sue Reeves said the event included 160 vendors, food trucks, a Kid Zone that included a petting zoo, zip line, basketball hoop zone, express train, and bounce houses.

County Judge David Sweet volunteered as emcee and introduced the musical entertainment that included Brandon Bamburg, the High Ridge Riders, Ricky Wright and the Duck Creek Station, Angie Landers, and the Johnny Lyons Band. Sweet even stepped up to the microphone to sing with Johnny Lyons.

Mrs. Texas US Universal, Kimberly Bader, assisted Soroptimist member Lesa Walker in presenting a \$50.00 check to Patti Muggoe. She represented the Rockwall Republicans who won the best country decorated booth.

Holly Lyons, Rockwall Soroptimist President, and Cindy Lindley, Soroptimist South Central Region Governor and Children's Advocacy Center Board Vice President, presented a check for \$100,000.00 to the Children's Advocacy Center for Rockwall County.

The presentation check includes the value of the past year's rent and utilities and a cash donation of \$20,000.00.

Receiving the donation were Kenda Culpepper, Rockwall County District Attorney/President of the CAC Board of Directors, and Patricia Mejia, President and CEO of the Children's Advocacy Center.

The silent auction tent displaying items donated by local supporters was active all day and the highest bidders were announced during the Mexican buffet served to the event sponsors. Beer and wine was also served under the sponsors tent under the name of «The Watering Hole.»

Total amount of proceeds raised were not available as of Tuesday.

Democratic Party to host panel discussion on SB4

According to Rockwall LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) president Sol Villasana, Rockwall County Democratic Party will hold a panel to discuss Senate Bill 4 (SB4), the law recently signed into law by Texas Governor Greg Abbott aimed at so-called "sanctuary cities."

Panelists will be Villasana, Rockwall Chief of Police Kirk Riggs, Rockwall County Sheriff Harold Eaverson, and Texas ACLU representative Joe Swanson.

The free and open event will begin at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, June 17, 2017, at the Harry Myers Park Recreation Center, 815 E. Washington Street in Rockwall.

Villasana will focus on concerns that "there are serious concerns that SB4 will undo decades of building trust between Hispanics and Texas law enforcement agencies, and lead to the wide-scale, unconstitutional profiling of Latinos."

City of Heath regular meeting ...

(continued from page 2)

The official canvass results were as follows:

Place One – Kevin Lamberth, 577 votes; Frank New, 1458.

Place Two – Paul Ruffo, 1505; John Main, 508.

Place Four – Barry Brooks, 553; Brent Weaver, 1473.

Place Six – Rich Krause, 1377; Garrett Bothun, 656.

The required election notice was not published in a newspaper that is published in Rockwall County, as required under Texas Gov. Code Section 2051.048(c).

City Secretary Norma Duncan selected a newspaper published in Dallas County for publication of the notice. City Manager Ed Thatcher released tax dollars as payment to an out-of-county newspaper owner/publisher, under the pretense of publication of required notice.

It is unknown whether the City Secretary complied with Texas Election Code Section 52.001, requiring that the vote in an election be by "official ballot," and complied with Election Code Chapter 65, which requires the ballots be counted by one or more teams of election officers assigned by the presiding judge," at each polling place.

Rockwall County Elections Administrator Chris Lynch approved the Secretary's non-compliance with state election code. Lynch also failed to publish the required election notice of Testing of Tabulation Equipment, Registration and Voting Locations, in a newspaper that is published in Rockwall County, as restrictively required under Texas Gov. Code Section 2051.046.

It is unknown at this time whether adversely affected parties in the election has filed administrative, civil and/or criminal actions against the public officials who may be found to have knowingly engaged in unlawful conduct by disenfranchising the voters, and impairing the right of the people of Heath and Rockwall County to be duly notified of the general election in accordance with state law under the right of Due Course of Law.

The newly elected council unanimously approved ordinance 170509 amending ordinance 160920A for adoption of a budget for the fiscal year October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017.

The Rockwall County News has confirmed from documents obtained through the Public Information Act, that the required notices of budget were not published in accordance with state law. It is unknown whether any members of the Body Politic of the City of Heath, Inc. will file legal actions with the District Court to block the budget due to non-publication of required notice.

In other business the city council:

- Discussed the purchase of two parcels of land identified as 2440 North FM 740. Thatcher explained the two properties back up to Towne Center Park, and expressed his opinion that the purchase of the properties "would be a good investment for the City of Heath." The Manager did not indicate the purpose for purchasing the property and how it would serve as a good investment.

The council voted in accordance with the Manager's recommendation.

- Approved 4-2 a preliminary plat of Travis Ranch Phase 3, which consisted of 434 residential lots located west of FM 740 within the City of Heath's extra-territorial jurisdiction, with the opposing votes cast by newly elected council members New and Weaver. Applicant was David Booth of D.R. Horton.

- Awarded the construction contract for the Rabbit Ridge-Horizon Road Roadway Project. The council unanimously approved the recommendation by Capital Improvement Program Project Manager, Chuck Todd, to award the contract to Ed Bell Construction Company at \$1,249,110.10. The required notices to bidders were not published in a newspaper that was published in Rockwall County, as required by Texas Gov. Code Section 2051.048(c).

- Approved resolution 170509 authorizing the mayor to execute a professional services agreement for the city's wastewater system modeling. Mayor Berry failed to bring the Secretary and Manager into compliance with state law related to publication of the required notices.

Following the meeting, a reception was held in "Honor of the Newly Elected Council Members."



The Johnny Lyons Band entertains the public and event sponsors as the feature band, Saturday, June 10, 2017, during the 4th Annual Rockwall Country Fair, hosted by Soroptimist International of Rockwall. Lyons is shown with a guitar at back, left. Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News



The music of "With or Without U2" motivates a child into dancing, Thursday, June 8, 2017, during the Harbor District Concert Series, at the Harbor in Rockwall. The series starts at 7:30 p.m., every Thursday, and will last until the July 27 "Escape." Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

Harbor District Concert Series continues through July 27 in Rockwall

People from Rockwall and surrounding area flocked to enjoy and dance to "With or Without U2" Thursday, June 8, 2017, at the City of Rockwall's Harbor District. The City will keep the people entertained with the Concert By The Lake Series that begins 7:30 p.m., every Thursday.

Prior to the June 8 concert, the series included "Burning Sky," "Bad Moon Rising" (Southern Rock), "Coppertones" (Mo'Town), David Whiteman and "Random Axis."

The series will continue June 15 with the group "Mars Hill," performing modern variety of music.

The schedule includes:

- June 22, Local Yoakum (Dwight Yoakum cover).
- June 29, Limelight (party variety).
- July 6, Blaze of Glory (Bon Jovi Tribute).
- July 13, Incognito (variety).
- July 27, Escape, (Journey Tribute).

The series is sponsored by the Rockwall Rubber Duck Regatta and Farmer's Electric Cooperative, along with local auto dealerships, dentistry businesses and restaurants.

All concerts are paid for by the taxpayers of Rockwall, and are free to the public.

Rockwall County Sports Notes

RHS Baseball Camp planned

Rockwall High School will host a Baseball Camp June 19-21 at the Campbell Baseball/Softball Complex, according to information on the school district's website. The camp will run from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. for students going into grades 1-5 and noon to 3 p.m. for students going into grades 6-9. Cost is \$80. For more information or to register, visit the RISD website, click on Athletics and look for information about Summer Camps.

RHS Soccer Camp scheduled

Rockwall High School will host a Soccer Camp from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. June 19-22 at Kyle Field. The camp is open to boys and girls entering grades 1-8. Cost is \$90. For more information or to register, visit the RISD website, click on Athletics and look for information about Summer Camps.

Yellowjackets Golf Camp slated

Rockwall High will host its Yellowjackets Golf Camp June 19-22 at the Rockwall Golf & Athletic Club. Sessions will run from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Cost is \$125. For more information or to register, visit the RISD website, click on Athletics and look for information about Summer Camps.

Y Rock Spring Triathlon set June 25

The Y Rock Spring Triathlon is scheduled for Sunday, June 25. A 5K and 1-mile run also are scheduled. Activities will kick off at 6 a.m. with a practice, followed by the race at 7 a.m. Awards will be presented at 9:30 a.m. The on-road courses will close at 11 a.m. for all participants. Proceeds will benefit the J.E.R. Chilton YMCA. Registration is underway at playtri.com/yrock, where more information and course maps also may be found.

RHS Football Camps slated

The Yellowjackets will host a series of football camps for several student age groups. The camp for students going into kindergarten through sixth grade will run from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. July 31-Aug. 3. The camp for incoming seventh and eighth grade students will run from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. July 31-Aug. 3. The camp for incoming ninth grade students will run from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Aug. 7-11 at the Kyle Practice Field. Cost is \$80 for each of the camps. For more information or to register, visit the RISD website, click on Athletics and look for information about Summer Camps.

Greeting all new residents of Rockwall County and Rowlett with a gift bag to their own front door introducing YOUR business!



Get in the Bag!

Bringing Businesses and Community Together

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