

Rockwall County News

Issue 24

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By Subscription

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

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Elections make decisions in city, school district elections

lection Day, se City and ool districts

early voting period. In fact, early voters numbered 1,580 and accounted for the bulk of individuals casting ballots.

The following is an overview of election results provided by local election officials late Saturday evening:

Rockwall ISD Board of Trustees

- Place 1 – Tony Fisk, 625 votes, 30.12 percent; Chris Cuny, 1,450 votes, 59.88 percent
- Place 2 – Earl Milner, 324 votes, 16.17 percent; Russ Childers, 1,459 votes, 72.80

percent; Norman Quintero, 221 votes, 11.03 percent

- Place 3 – Craig Zurek, 1,685 votes

City of Royse City City Council

- Mayor – William J. Archer, 46 votes, 8.91 percent; Connie

Goodwin, 163 votes, 31.59 percent; Jerrell Baley, 307 votes, 59.50 percent

- Place 1 – Xavier Cortez, 81 votes, 16.53 percent; Brooks M. Williams, 192 votes, 39.18 percent; Janet Nichol, 217 votes, 44.29 percent

- Place 3 – Bill Bell, 399 votes

- Place 5 – James Branch, 252 votes, 55.38 percent; Mark Plemmons, 203 votes, 44.62 percent

City of Heath City Council

- Place 1 – Robert (Bob) Hille, 550 votes
- Place 2 – Karen Lewis, 549 votes

- Place 4 – Steve McKimney, 545 votes

- Place 6 – John Koerner, 133 votes, 17.97 percent; Rich Krause, 340 votes, 45.95 percent; Tommy Goodson, 267 votes, 36.08 percent

City of Fate City Council

- Place 1 – Kerry Wiemolky, 237 votes, 66.61 percent; Autumn Lobinsky, 154 votes, 39.39 percent

- Place 3 – Forest Murley, 256 votes, 63.37 percent; Wilbur “Willie” Williams, 148 votes, 36.63 percent

- Place 5 – K.C. Erwin, 217 votes, 54.94 percent; Ryan Pfuhl, 117 votes, 29.62 percent; Brad Bianucci, 51 votes, 15.44 percent

- Place 6 – David Hill, 131 votes, 32.43 percent; Tammy Ryan, 273 votes, 67.57 percent

City of McLendon-Chisholm City Council

- Place 1 – Jess Lovell, 215 votes, 65.55 percent; Beverly Stubbens, 113 votes, 34.45 percent

- Place 3 – Patrick Short, 166 votes, 50.15 percent; Jerry P. Moss, 165 votes, 49.35 percent

- Place 5 – James S. Parnell, 95 votes, 32.34 percent; Gary L. Moody, 205 votes, 57.55 percent

Springer Elementary Concert in the Park May 26

Springer Elementary proudly presents “A Concert in the Park: An Evening of the Beatles.” at 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 26 at the Harry Myers Park Amphitheatre.

Together with the sixth grade Guitar Ensemble, students in the first through fourth grades will sing many favorite smash hits from the Fab Four, The Beatles.

So join Spring Stallions for a little Twist and Shout, Yellow Submarine, Hard Days Night and more chart toppers.

Admission is free. For more information, contact the school at 972-772-7160.

The students summed up their trip to Austin as “an awesome experience.”

Following their testimony, Rep. Larry Phillips said the problem with plastic bags has “now come full circle.” Plastic bags were said to have been the answer to saving trees that were being cut down for the production of paper bags.

“We thought we were solving a real problem back then, and now look at the results,” he said. “It is very important that all of us look at the long-term effects of our decisions before we decide something is the solution for a current problem.”

Anchia said he hopes the bill, if enacted, helps curtail the problem of plastic bag pollution in Texas.

“Ireland put a tax on plastic bags, and they have decreased usage by 94 percent,” he said. “We want to do the same here in Texas. These two fifth graders’ project touched on exactly why this bill must get passed. This is their future we are trying to change.”

School research project results in students testifying before legislators

A pair of Nebbie Williams Elementary School students testified before members of the Texas House of Representatives’ Ways and Means Committee at the State Capitol on Earth Day.

Clara Morris, 10, and John Mike Guthrie, 11, testified as part of the committee’s exploration of a proposed bill, HB 1361, which involves taxing plastic bags.

The students conducted a research project on the harmful impacts of plastic bags on the environment and testified to support a bill introduced by Rep. Rafael Anchia (D-Dallas) to mandate a 25-cent tax on every transaction that utilizes plastic bags.

The purpose of HB 1361 is to decrease the consumption of plastic bags in Texas. The proposal calls for a portion of the tax monies collected to be returned to the retailer, with the remainder going to help fund municipal recycling programs.

The students’ research project began when Nebbie Williams teacher Jan Shewmaker asked her students to research a topic involving a real-world program. Morris said she felt “very passionate” about finding a solution to the use of environmentally harmful plastic bags, and when she shared her project idea with Guthrie, the two decided to tackle the research together.

Shewmaker read about Anchia’s bill in the newspaper and contact his office in the hope her students could interview the legislator as part of their project. Anchia, however, had another idea. He asked the two to travel to Austin to testify about their findings.

Morris and Guthrie presented their findings in a presentation before several members of the House. The chairman of committee, Rep. Rene Oliveira, said the two were the “best lobbyists he’s seen in a long time.”



Williams Elementary students Clara Morris, 10, and John Mike Guthrie, 11, recently testified before the Texas House of Representatives’ Ways and Means Committee at the State Capitol in Austin, which deals with the taxing of plastic bags. After completing a research project on the impacts the bags have on the environment, the duo testified to support a bill designed to reduce plastic bag use in Texas.



High School National Honor Society students participated in the annual Relay For Life event at Cain Middle School on May 1. Pictured at front, from the left, are Alex Phillips, Kim McKenzie (co-sponsor), Emily Green, Samantha Cornell, Timothy Shelley and Gregg Fox. Shown at back are JuAune Burgess, Michael McBee, Josh Stewart, Michael Colacechi, Will Calderon and Will Edmonds. The event marked the third year student volunteers lit the luminarias for the event.



Local Woldbeat/Reggae band “Watusi” performed last Thursday for the Concert on the Lake series held at the Harbor Theater next to Lake Ray Hubbard. Band members are (left to right) Domino Derrick on guitar (from Chicago), Bongo Percussion (from Trinidad), Lyrix Roberts on drums (hidden at back, from St. Croix Virgin Islands), Jimi Towry on keyboards (Rockwall), Calvin Sexton on trombone (Birmingham, Alabama), Ras Andre on percussion (from Jamaica and currently in Rockwall), Lee Mitchell on Saxophone (from Birmingham, AL). Band leader and owner Jimi Towry has lived in Rockwall since 1989. Watusi is owned by Watusi Productions, which has been based in Rockwall for 15 years. More information about the group, visit online at www.watusiproductions.com.

by Tim Burnett

Marathon Walk/Run to benefit local ministries ‘House of Love’

On Saturday, May 16, This is Your Season Ministries will host a 5K/10K walk-run marathon at Harry Myers Park to benefit their transition home for women and children, the Beloved Wisdom Home of Love. The race begins at 8:30 a.m. and will last until 12 p.m. All proceeds will support the operating costs of the transition home.

“We have a heart and vision to minister to women and their children, who are in desperate need for the love and peace of God in their lives,” reads the ministry’s mission statement. “God daily brings us hurting and confused women who have found themselves in seemingly hopeless situations. Some women are abandoned, rejected, abused, depressed, fearful, and struggling with finances or with addictions. Yet, our solution is always the same which is to lead them to know, trust, and obey their loving heavenly Father.”

Individuals or organizations can support This is Your Season Ministries by becoming a marathon participant, a marathon sponsor, or a financial donor. “With the help of local churches and businesses in the Rockwall community, we’ve been able to reach more people and meet their needs,” said Lisa Evans, a spokesperson for the benefit run. “This not-so-ordinary ministry does extraordinary things,” she added.

(Continued on Page 2)

News Briefs

Graduates eligible for free RCN subscription

Each Class of 2009 graduate of a Rockwall County high school is eligible to receive a free one-year subscription to his/her hometown newspaper – the Rockwall County News – as a congratulatory gift. Just e-mail name, mailing address, phone number and school name to rcn.news@yahoo.com to get a subscription started.

Fund established to aid Brake family

A fund has been established at Bank of American under the name of The Michelle Brake Assistance Fund to receive donations for Brake and her two daughters. The family lost their Rockwall home and belongings in an April 24 house fire. Monetary contributions may be made at any Bank of America branch. Brake's ex-husband, Ken Brake, is assisting in the effort and may be contacted at 214-717-9781. She can be reached at 214-794-6892.

Red Cross benefit set today

The local American Red Cross chapter will benefit from a fund-raising event today at Culver's. From 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on that date, 10 percent of sales will be earmarked for the ARC. Rockwall Fire Department members will be at the restaurant with their firetrucks, and raffles will be conducted.

Blood drive set today at RCHS

An American Red Cross blood drive will run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday at the Roysie City High School Black Box Theatre. To schedule an appointment, contact Ms. Cornelius at 972-636-9991.

RCHS play in state-level contest

The Roysie City High School's one-act play will advance to the state-level competition with its production of "The White Rose" on Friday in the Hogg Auditorium at the University of Texas. Anyone interested in attending the contest should contact the RCHS front office.

'Beethoven' to be screened at park

The movie "Beethoven" will be screened at Harry Myers Park as part of the Family Fun Fridays/Movie in the Park weekly event hosted by the Rockwall Parks & Rec Department. Activities begin at 7:30 p.m.; the movie at 9 p.m. Families should bring snacks, blankets or lawn chairs and a FM radio to hear the movie.

'Night at the Opera' planned

The Lakeside Civic Chorus will sponsor an event that will unite four accomplished singers – Jennifer Sanchez, Barbara LeMay, John Hines and Bryce Westervelt – in "A Night at the Opera" beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday at the Our Savior Lutheran Church in Rockwall. Tickets will cost \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students.

Rachel's Rally rescheduled for May 20

The Rockwall ISD's Rachel's Rally event has been rescheduled for May 20 "to provide a safe and healthy atmosphere for our students, staff and community," according to a district news release. Everyone is invited to the community-wide celebration at 7 p.m. at Lake Pointe Church in Rockwall. For more details visit rockwallisd.com.

'Mulching for Dummies' class slated

A "Mulching for Dummies" class, sponsored by the Rockwall Parks & Rec Department, will run from 9:30 a.m. to noon on May 23 at the Harry Myers Community Center. The class will be taught by Sara Beckelman, a master composter registered with the state. Cost will be \$10 for residents, \$15 for non-residents. For more information call 972-771-7740.

Trip to Clymer Meadows set

The Rockwall Parks & Rec Department is planning a trip to Clymer Meadows, one of the largest and most diverse remnants of the Blackland Prairie and one of the most scenic areas in North Central Texas, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 23. The prairie provides habitat for a number of bird species. Cost is \$7 for residents, \$11 for non-residents. Participants will depart The Center at 11 a.m.; those interested in following in their own vehicles are welcome to do so.

4 Paws for Ability Benefit Golf Tournament

"Chandler-Man's Best Friend 4 Paws for Ability" Golf Tournament will be held Saturday, May 16 from 3 to 7:30 p.m. at Stone River Golf Club in Roysie City. Proceeds from the event will be used to provide a service dog for a local five year old non-verbal autistic boy. For more information on 4 Paws for Ability and Chandler-Man's Best friend visit the web site 4pawsforability.org.

RHHS plans Drama Camp

The Rockwall-Heath High School Theatre Arts Department will host its third annual Drama Camp from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 22-26, with a final showcase performance set for 2 p.m. June 26 in the RHHS Black Box Theatre. Students entering grades 1-8 this fall are eligible to participate. Cost is \$125 per camper, \$100 for each additional child in the same family. Enrollment limited to the first 30 participants. For more information call Leigh Reid at 469-698-2600 or e-mail lwesley@rockwallisd.org. Registration is due by May 29.

Founders Day Festival set May 30

The 6th Annual Founders Day Festival will begin at 10 a.m. May 30 in Rockwall's historic downtown square. The celebration will include vendor booths, children's activities, food and day-long entertainment. A sundown concert will begin at 6:45 p.m. Admission will be free. For more information call 972-771-7740.

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Bonnie Hardick and Missy O'Connell look through scrapbooks dedicated to the history of Rush Creek Yacht Club as they plan the 40th Anniversary celebration scheduled for May 23-24.
Photo Courtesy of Kathy Irwin

Rush Creek Yacht Club celebrates 40 years in May

Rush Creek Yacht Club is celebrating its 40th year by honoring its founding members with the First Annual Founders Weekend Celebration on Memorial Day Weekend.

The weekend will kick off with an informal welcome reception Friday night when competitors may register for the celebration regatta. A two-day open regatta will be held on Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24, with both keelboats and dinghies participating.

Saturday night's celebration will start with cocktails at 5:30 p.m., buffet dinner at 6 p.m. and the "History of RCYC and the Founders" presentation at 6:30 p.m. The end to the evening will be live music by the Blandelles for dancing on the deck under the stars.

Lunch will follow Sunday morning races, with trophy presentations on the deck, followed by music by Red Reynolds.

During the month of May, scrapbooks from the early years will be on display for viewing in the Commodore's Room. Digital frames in the clubhouse will also display some of the old photos. Guest books will be available for members and guests to provide their memories and sea stories.

Event organizers are Bonnie Hardick and Missy O'Connell, with Brian Morgan handling the racing side of the weekend. Regatta details and online registration can be found on the club's website at www.rcyc.org.

Contact Lisa Blankenship at Rush Creek Yacht Club, 972-771-6500, for more information.

Rush Creek Yacht Club was founded in 1969 by sailors from White Rock Lake in Dallas who wanted to move to the new Lake Ray Hubbard. John Sellon found the land and Jim

Anderson and Bob Chilton headed up the financing and organizing process. A group of members, aka the "Faithful 50," guaranteed \$5,000 each, for a total of \$250,000, to buy the land and build the clubhouse.

At the first organizational meeting on Nov. 4, 1969, the first proposed name was Dallas Olympic Yacht Club. Opposition from the U.S. Olympic Committee resulted in the current name, Rush Creek Yacht Club. The new club opened its doors with 52 charter members.

The original fleets were CS-cows, M20, Lightnings, Y-flyers, Flying Scots, Solings and a Keel/Handicap fleet. The first annual meeting was held on Dec. 14, 1970, at which Commodore Bob Chilton was elected and Jim Craig introduced the concept of the Rush Creek Education Fund to support the club's junior and education activities.



Deep in discussion are Michelle Tausin of Rockwall County Helping Hands and, from left, Helping Hands board member Greg Tudor, Lifetime Wealth Management, P.C. President Jason Potts and, holding his Helping Hands Thrift Store purchase, Dr. John Gonino. They were admiring the new Helping Hands memorial garden during the agency's recent Business After Hours event.
Photo Courtesy of Helping Hands

Stingerettes reschedule spring show for May 16

Due to recent concerns over the transmission of the H1N1, or Swine, Flu, the UIL called for the cancellation or postponement of athletic and arts events and classroom field trips.

The annual Rockwall High School Stingerettes Drill Team spring show, titled "Under

Construction," originally scheduled for Friday, May 8 and Saturday, May 9 at Roysie City High School, was postponed for a week and will now take place on Saturday, May 16.

Two high-powered shows will be offered that day at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., still at Roysie City High

School. The team seniors will be recognized and will "hang up their hats" for the last time at the show.

Advance tickets are still available for \$10 from any Stingerette member. Doors will open 30 minutes before the show, with a \$12 at-the-door cost.

Rockwall County News ...now publishing twice weekly

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

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'House' Church

(Continued) As a participant can register for the race to race. Participants encouraged to get friends involve them financial the race as an help the mission yearly operating. A marathon part in the making others in event. Whether donation of go may be needed sponsor can fee her contribution terested in becoming please contact at 972-772-4411.

A financial ply make a mo to the cause for raising funds, the dom Home of L, cial donor, you make monthly a one-time dona

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Prayer Minister National D the community e meetings

Beloved House Provide a safe tra for women and ch restoration to the

Community O nect with other c community to t clothing, and Chr

Covenant Fellowship elementary girls t how to value t with each other a Word of God

Resource Cen a Resource Cent assistance with f locating housing, seling, connecting ment resources an

Missions- Pres minister to the p tual, and emotio the poor, children and to encourage a churches along w tors

This is Your Sea believes that God body of Christ to and do what he has us to do. That o is to "Therefore, disciples of all na

ing them in the n ther and of the S Holy Spirit, and te to obey everything manded." The m to fulfill this com sharing the love of Jesus Christ locally and globally.

To support this participating in Saturd marathon, please c 4411.

Rockwall High invites alumni 13 All-Class Ba

The 59th Annual High School All-Cl will be at 6 p.m., Sat 13 in the Rockwall H cafeteria. Tickets a will be available for Community Bank R wall downtown square National Bank Road at Horizon Bank in Heath.

Tickets can also be online at www.ro schoolalumni.com. For more informa Mary Grace Fraser did the ninth grade female at Scotland Yard. For catering purposes four scoreless inning the game 3-3 in the t count is needed in tickets must be p reservations made p event.

RHS graduating 1939, 1949, 1959, 1989, 1999 and are honored. Be a part Tradition!

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Rockwall County Church News

Baptist Rockwall 'Spring Sing'

Church Rockwall will present its annual "Spring Sing" concert featuring the church's preschool and children's choir at 6 p.m. Sunday, May 17 in the church's Worship Center.

Children ages three through sixth grade lift their voices in song. Cheryl Entrekin, the church's Music Assistant, said the concert is a great program listening to the children sing and play instruments.



Members of the May Rockwall County Historical Foundation were treated to an old-fashioned picnic by past president Jan Self. Jan set the tone for the luncheon with monogrammed linen napkins, her Limoges china, silver flatware, freshly cut roses and recipes from Celia Hays, Katherine An Strain, Jan and Laura Bush. Plans are underway for the annual picnic to be held October 4 at the museum in Harrytown. Pictured are (left to right) Jan Self and Mary Leigh Plagens.

Rockwall County Obituaries

Cameron Paul Calabrese
Cameron Paul Calabrese, 20, of Rockwall was born Saturday, May 9, 2009, in the Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church with the Rev. Monsignor Robert M. Coerver officiating. Burial followed in the Rest Haven Memorial Park.

He was born in 1988, in Southbend, Ind., to Paul and Corinna Calabrese. He was a 2006 graduate of Rockwall High School and attended Highland College. He worked as a waiter in Rockwall. He is survived by his parents and his brother, Colin and Coan Calabrese of Rockwall; his grandmothers, Sharon Calabrese of Indiana Weida of Winamac, Ind.; his grandfather, Aracadio; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins residing in Texas.

Andrew James DeWees
Andrew James DeWees, 89, of Forney was conducting his last rites Saturday, May 9, 2009, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home Chapel with Jerry Griffin officiating. Burial followed in the Parkman Hillcrest Cemetery.

He was born in 1919, in Rockwall to Tom and Sally (Buford) DeWees. He served in the U.S. Army and was employed with Dr Pepper until his retirement. Following his retirement, he worked for Exxon service station, which he owned for 23 years. He was a devoted husband and friend with a great sense of humor. He is survived by his wife, Helen (Barringer) DeWees of Forney; his children and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Idera DeWees; and his brothers, Buford, Joe Ed and Fredrick DeWees.

then, of course, watching the antics of the little ones."

For more information, call the music office at 469-698-2501. FBC Rockwall is located at 610 South Goliad. Preschool care will be provided in the Children's Building."

Picnic of Joy

Joy Lutheran Church Rockwall will host a congregational picnic following the 10:30 a.m., May 24 worship service, and all area residents are invited to attend. There is no charge for the picnic.

Master Gardener Assoc hosts Tour of Gardens May 16

The 2009 Tour of Gardens, sponsored by the Rockwall County Master Gardener Association, is scheduled to take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 16.

This year's tour will spotlight four private gardens with a variety of styles, two local business gardens and the ever growing and changing Rockwall County Discovery Garden.

Tour addresses and a map are printed on the tickets.

Tickets are \$8 and are available from any Master Gardener. They are also available at all Rockwall branches of American National Bank, Calloway's Nursery in Mesquite, Covington's Nursery in Rowlett, Culver's Restaurant in Rockwall, Homesley's in Forney and the Rockwall locations of Land Art, Landscape Source and North Texas Waterscapes.

Tickets may also be purchased from 8-5 (closed 12-1 for lunch), Monday through Friday, at the County Extension Office, located at 1350 East Washington Street in Rockwall.

For more information please call 972-204-7660.



The Mission Possible Kids chapter from the First United Methodist Church of Roysie City recently delivered about 200 "busy bags" made for child visitors of the emergency room of the Presbyterian Hospital of Rockwall. The bags contained items such as coloring pages, games, stickers, crayons, pencils and small toys gathered through church donations and the children. The youths have supported several local charities and organizations, including the community food pantry, the new Roysie City Senior Care & Rehabilitation Center, the international charities of Heifer International, Nothing But Nets and Orphans International. More than 1,700 individuals have been impacted through the MPKids' efforts. Pictured are, at front, Rheagan White, Lily Betz, Logan Johnson, Christina Caviness, Victoria Hayes, Abbie Mayfield, Ellie Weir and Katelyn Dunn. Standing are Logan Weir, Robert Richardson, Sean Richardson, Jeffrey Whitson, Cade Baridon, Ouida Baley and Jamie Cortez. MPKids is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering youths to change the world through helping others. For more information visit mpkids.org.



Third graders at Howard Dobbs Elementary School made a "STATE-ment" with a Parade of U.S. floats. This project culminated their 'Big' research project on the fifty United States. Pictured with their floats are (front left to right) Johnell Johnson, Francia Gonzalez, Barbara Carreon, Brooke Peterson, (back left to right) Alex Anderson, Jonathon Little, Adrian Colunga, Carson Pittman. Third grade teachers are (left to right) Jill Pitts, Beverly Dobbs, Mariemma Cobb and Pamela Hogue. Photo Courtesy of Lisa Costello

Rockwall County Sports

Hawks rally past Highland Park again to run winning streak to 15

Opponent still unknown

Greg Harvey replaced his starter with a freshman pitcher. Hernandez had only pitched 15 innings total all season. The Hawks' flu-delayed district schedule that was down from April 30 to May 7 by the UIL, over fears of an influenza outbreak that originated in Mexico.

Rockwall, Newman Smith (11-3, 19-6) and the Scots (8-6, 20-12) round out the four teams advancing to the postseason from the district.

Charlie Martin led off with a triple and came home on another Bielski run-scoring single to put the Hawks up for good, as it turned out, 4-3.

Connor Lewis then drove in Bielski with a double to make it 5-3 before Drew VerHagen sealed the deal with a two-run single to make it 7-3. The Scots went quietly in the bottom of the eighth to

coin flip will determine playoff seeding. No matter what happens in the Rockwall-Greenville contest, the Hawks will move on to the postseason for the first time in the program's history to face an as yet undetermined opponent from District 9-4A later this week.

The bi-district round, which can be either a one-game-winner take-all or a best two-out-of-three series, must be completed by May 16.

Rockwall, Newman Smith (11-3, 19-6) and the Scots (8-6, 20-12) round out the four teams advancing to the postseason from the district.

"Javon came in in a very tough situation, down 3-2 at Highland Park," Harvey said. "And he just completely shut down Highland Park. This was his first district game and he gave us a big time effort. He gave our bats time to get back in the game."

After Matt Bielski tied the game in the top of the sixth with an RBI-hit, the Hawks strung together four of their six hits total in the eighth to break the game open.

Charlie Martin led off with a triple and came home on another Bielski run-scoring single to put the Hawks up for good, as it turned out, 4-3.

Connor Lewis then drove in Bielski with a double to make it 5-3 before Drew VerHagen sealed the deal with a two-run single to make it 7-3. The Scots went quietly in the bottom of the eighth to

make a winner out of Hernandez (2-0).

Sophomore Nick Peterson unloaded his first home run of the season, an opposite blast in the third. Another bit of good news for the Hawks was the return of starting catcher Drew Benefield, who caught the whole game against the Scots without any ill effects to his previously injured hamstring.

"It (the layoff because of the UIL decision) showed early in the game, our bats were a little slow," Harvey said. "We weren't hitting the way we should. But we woke up and started swinging it the way we needed to and the way we have been. We just keep going. It's getting really special now."

• More Sports on Page 6 •

Rockwall County Letters to the Editor

We encourage the submission of Letters to the Editor. The publishing of letters is at the sole discretion of the editor and may be edited for brevity, grammar and accuracy. Letters which are considered libelous or an attack of an individual's character will be rejected, as well as those promoting political candidates. Letters must be signed and include telephone number or address for verification.

Liberty Creates Order

by Sheldon Richman

David Brooks, the New York Times's resident neoconservative, delights in peddling a false alternative: freedom or social order. His latest column hawking this snake oil comes in the form of advice to the struggling Republican Party: "If the Republicans are going to rebound, they will have to reestablish themselves as the party of civic order." In other words, give up freedom.

I have no wish to defend the Republicans. Heaven knows there's nothing left to defend. In a mere eight years that party embroiled the United States in two murderous invasion-occupations, ushered in a dramatic decline in civil liberty, spat on the decency of Americans by authorizing and applauding torture, bailed out big banks, and spent the country into mind-numbing debt.

But according to Brooks, the Republicans' problem is that all they care about is freedom! "Republicans are so much the party of individualism and freedom these days that they are no longer the party of community and order," he writes. Is he kidding?

Republicans certainly talk about freedom. They just they never get around to actually respecting it. Small-government rhetoric is like a costume they don when they need votes or money.

But back to Brooks's false dichotomy. To create it he has to invent a straw man. He pits "untrammeled freedom and the lone pioneer" against social customs, community, and order.

The flaw in Brooks's argument is that history's most authentic advocates of individual liberty (they weren't Republicans) saw harmony, not conflict, between freedom and community. Freedom, they realized, blossomed within a community, not just because of the benefits bestowed by the division of labor (as important as they are), but because of the rewards of deep human contact. Man's nature as a social animal is not an argument against liberty. Quite the contrary. Liberty, Proudhon said, is the mother, not the daughter, of order.

What real individualists oppose - is coercive community. Here's where Brooks shows either his ignorance or his disingenuousness. I defy him to name an individualist philosopher who extolled the life of the hermit. By nature individuals form communities. They don't need to be coerced. The bedrock laws most people respect - those concerning life, liberty, and property - began as spontaneously evolving reciprocal social customs born of people's desire to engage in material and "spiritual" exchanges with one another.

Brooks writes, "The emphasis on freedom and individual choice may work in the sparsely populated parts of the country. People there naturally want to do whatever they want on their own land. But it doesn't work in the densely populated parts of the country: the cities and suburbs.... People in these areas understand that their lives are profoundly influenced by other people's individual choices."

Brooks is unaware that individualism - once known as liberalism - began in cities. The medieval countryside was steeped in coercive order and tradition. People sought escape to the city because "city air breathes free." In cities, rights evolved to demarcate one person's free sphere from another's. Individualism was never "atomistic."

Brooks complains that those who place great value on the market order, "which is a means, ... are inarticulate about the good life, which is the end." The great individualist philosophers were never inarticulate, but they understood, as Brooks does not, that what constitutes the good life is none of the government's damn business. What rational person would want George W. Bush or Barack Obama or John Boehner or Barney Frank to have any say in the matter?

Brooks asks, "What threatens Americans' efforts to build orderly places to raise their kids? The answers would produce an agenda: the disruption caused by a boom-and-bust economy; the fragility of the American family; the explosion of public and private debt; the wild swings in energy costs; the fraying of the health-care system; the segmentation of society; and the way the ladders of social mobility seem to be dissolving."

Has he no clue that every problem he names has its origins in government interference with freedom, voluntary community, and the market order?

Contrary to Brooks, the problem with Republicans is not their (empty) expressions of individualism. Rather, it's their hypocritical refusal to take their own words seriously.

Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation, author of *Tethered Citizens: Time to Repeal the Welfare State*, and editor of *The Freeman* magazine. Visit his blog "Free Association" at www.sheldonrichman.com.

When Government Plays Doctor

by Congressman Ron Paul

This week, concerns about swine flu have dominated the media and many government officials. While the American people should be made aware of infectious diseases and common sense preventative measures, much of the hysterical reaction from government only serves to remind us how detrimental to your health it can be when government plays doctor.

As a physician, I have yet to see any evidence that justifies the current level of alarm. Influenza typically kills around 36,000 people every year in this country and hospitalizes a couple hundred thousand. So far there are only a handful of confirmed deaths attributable to this strain, and most of those sickened have or will fully recover. Every death is tragic, but I see no reason to deal with this flu outbreak any differently than we typically deal with any other flu season. Instead, government in its infinite wisdom is performing even more invasive screening at airports, closing down schools and sporting events, and causing general panic.

We had a similar outbreak in 1976, with only 1 death from the flu, but mandatory vaccinations killed at least 25 before the program was abandoned.

When government gets involved in healthcare decisions, the cure is so often worse than the illness. And yet, this administration will likely consolidate the government's power over your health with sweeping new reforms that are already being discussed in the Senate.

Government has not improved healthcare, and has not made it cheaper. Quite the opposite; costs have skyrocketed, and quality has gone down in many ways. Gone are the days of the country doctor making house calls, or of voluntarily giving away medical services at charity hospitals. The bureaucratization of healthcare these past 45 years has made things worse. It saddens me as a doctor that physicians are less and less accountable to patients, but more and more accountable to government red tape, insurance companies and attorneys. It seems so perverse to me that important medical decisions that will directly affect the lives of all or nearly all Americans are being hashed out behind closed doors in Washington rather than between doctors and patients.

There is perhaps nothing more valuable to a human being than his or her health, which is why I've always considered the practice of medicine so crucial to our well-being. Any intrusion by government into the privacy and trust between doctor and patient is detrimental to the art of medicine. It distorts the whole dynamic of who the client really is when doctors must answer more to government or insurance companies than to their patients. The best solutions to improving quality and lowering costs of healthcare would be measures that put decisions back into the hands of patients and doctors, where they rightfully belong. I have introduced HR 1495 The Comprehensive Healthcare Reform Act, which promotes health savings accounts and tax deductibility of healthcare costs as an important step in this direction.

The unfortunate reality of this recent health crisis, as with any crisis, is that it presents opportunities that the unscrupulous will take advantage of, while the fearful become more compliant.

Opinions



Fraud in Academia

Walter E. Williams
Parents will come home and present parents with their grades. Parents should do some serious discounting because of inflation. If grade inflation continues, a college bachelor's as much credibility as a high school diploma.

National Association of Scholars, Professor Thomas C. Williams, writes in his article "The Grade Inflation Works." From 1991 to 2007, in public grade point average (GPA) rose, on a four-point scale, private schools, the average GPA climbed from 3.09 to 3.75; whereby now it's a B-plus.

At many of the nation's most prestigious and costliest universities, two-thirds of all letter grades given are A's. In 2007, 50 percent of all grades were either A or A- (up from 22 percent in 1991). The Boston Globe reported that the percentage of seniors graduating with honors has declined from 20 percent to 15 percent. The "laughing stock of the Ivy League," the grades given at the University of Illinois are A's and B's, where F grades used to be banned, only 6 percent of students received a C.

Administrators will tell us that the higher grades merely reflect inflation. Baldersdash! SAT scores have been in decline for four years, a writing or reading, which indicates academic fraud at work. A recent survey of more than 30,000 first-year students found that half spent more hours drinking than studying. Another survey found that students expected B's just for attending class, and 40 percent served a B for completing the assigned reading.

The Lawrence-based Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI) published a national survey titled "Our Fading Heritage: Americans and Their History and Institutions." The survey questions

were not rocket science. Only 21 percent of survey respondents knew that the phrase "government of the people, by the people, for the people" comes from President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Almost 40 percent incorrectly believe the Constitution gives the president the power to declare war. Only 27 percent knew that the Bill of Rights expressly prohibits establishing an official religion for the United States. Remarkably, close to 25 percent of Americans believe that Congress shares its foreign policy powers with the United Nations. Other questions asked included: "Who is the commander-in-chief of the U.S. military?" "Name two countries that were our enemies during World War II." "Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government?" Of the 2,508 nationwide sample of Americans taking ISI's civic literacy test, 71 percent failed; the average score on the test was 49 percent.

Possessing a college degree often does not mean much in terms of basic skills. According to a 2006 Pew Charitable Trusts study, 50 percent of college seniors failed a test that required them to interpret a table about exercise and blood pressure, understand the arguments of newspaper editorials, and compare credit card offers. About 20 percent of college seniors did not have the quantitative skills to estimate if their car had enough gas to get to the gas station. According to a recent National Assessment of Adult Literacy, the percentage of college graduates proficient in prose literacy has declined from 40 percent to 31 percent within the past decade. Employers report that many college graduates lack the basic skills of critical thinking, writing and problem-solving.

The bottom line: To approach truth in grading, parents and employers should lower the average student's grade by one letter, and interpret a C grade as an F.

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

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Redeconstruction of Miss California

freedom of speech lately? If not, consider the plight of Prejean, a student at San Diego Christian College who runner-up in the Miss USA pageant last month. During the part of the competition, Prejean was asked whether every woman should be a lesbian. Smiling brightly, the young woman said: "I believe a marriage should be between a man and a woman. No other way."

That the majority of Americans agree with Prejean, including the United States. Yet since she made that statement as Miss California, she has been persecuted in the media.

Called a guest to call her vile names, and the far-left cast of the cable network has delighted in mocking and demeaning Prejean. The left-wing blogs have been especially vicious, and the pageant is turning against her: She's being investigated for violating rules by giving unapproved interviews. Of course, Prejean is trying to defend herself against media assaults. Her expository with wide implications for all of us. Here is a citizen answering a direct question respectfully and punished for it. You don't get more un-American than that. American Civil Liberties Union on this? That great defender of the First Amendment has been totally silent. Once again, the ACLU displays its hypocrisy as a giant float-balloon in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day

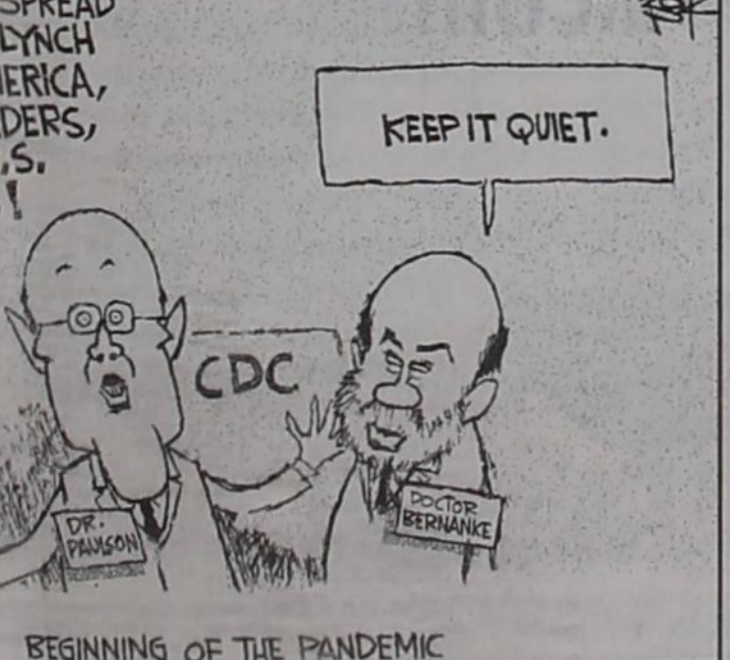
Gay marriage has been defined by some of its supporters as a civil rights issue. Isn't freedom of speech a civil rights issue? Therefore, let's call this Miss California deal exactly what it is -- a gross violation of the spirit of America. If a 21-year-old pageant contestant can be persecuted for uttering an opinion based upon a sincere belief, then all of us are at risk, as well.

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

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Rockwall County Sports
Lady Hawks open bi-district
with 1-0 win over McKinney

Chelsey Eddy extends shutout streak to 33 innings

by Matt McGillen

Although it is often said that the playoffs are the second season, for Chelsey Eddy and the rest of her Lady Hawk teammates, Rockwall-Heath's 1-0 win over McKinney in the opening game of the best-of-three bi-district series looked pretty much like the last few games of District 10-4A regular season: Eddy throwing another shutout and Taylor McLoughlin and Taylor Blair coming up with clutch hits once again.

With Eddy, who improved to 21-6 for the year while allowing just an infield single to run her consecutive streak of scoreless innings to 33, mowing down the seventh-ranked Lady Lions with relative ease, it was simply a matter of time until the sixth-ranked Lady Hawks produced the run she needed.

After getting a runner as far as third in the first, third and fifth innings, Heath finally broke through in the bottom of the seventh.

With two outs, T-Mac collected her third hit of the game, slashing a drive into the gap in left center past a curiously shallow McKinney outfield that she blurred into a triple. Two pitches later, Blair, hammered a ball right back up the middle to score McLoughlin with the game winner.

The Lady Hawks (26-8) were scheduled to play McKinney (24-9-1) at McKinney in the second game at noon May 9. A third game, if necessary, would have been May 11 at Plano East at 7 p.m.

Eddy, a senior righthander, struck out 11, to run her season total to 255, walked two and didn't allow a single ball to be hit out of the infield and has now given up only three hits total during the scoreless streak.

In fact, only one ball was hit even remotely hard, a not-as-hard-as-it-first-looked line drive to third baseman Dakota Whittern for the second out in the top of the seventh.

And the biggest threat by McKinney, who finally got a runner as far as second base in the sixth, was wiped out by Eddy herself when she struck out an attempted bunter and then wheeled to first to complete the play.

The Lady Hawks had a number of opportunities against McKinney's pitcher Gilbert, but they were usually collecting base hits, drawing two walks and one error. Lady Lions hurler, who had her record fall to 20-10, struck out three in the sixth on a squibby first and second, but Hailey Galloway's line drive but couldn't get it back-handed toss out.

McLoughlin finished the game with three strikeouts with a walk while Sarah Deimling was

Sports Notes

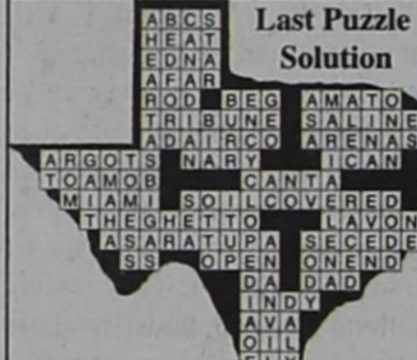
Trip planned to Lake Tawakoni

The Rockwall Parks & Rec Department will host a trip to Lake Tawakoni State Park from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Participants should meet at the Rockwall Community Center at 9 a.m.; those who want to follow in their own cars are welcome to do so. Cost is \$7 for residents, \$11 for non-residents. Cost does not include park entry fee.

Middle schools offer free physicals

Uteley Middle School and Cain Middle School will offer free physicals on May 27 at the Baylor Medical Center of Health Services from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; doors will close at 7:15 p.m. Girls arrive at 5:30 p.m., while boys are asked to arrive at 6:00 p.m. Students who will attend Cain or Uteley are eligible to participate.

Last Puzzle Solution



S-907

See Friday's edition for latest in county sports

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