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Rockwall County News

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'Hug a GI' Day ...

Hug a GI Day, observed on Friday, March 4, was a big day for Gene Allen, left, who retired from the Army with 25 years of military service. Allen is Tri-County Veterans Honor Guard Commander and past commander for the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans. He and his wife, Juanita, shared hugs, special moments and some tears with the residents at Liberty Heights in Rockwall. Pictured with Allen is resident Art Hendon, right, who served in the Coast Guard. Although not a federal holiday, and one many aren't aware of, this day has been celebrated since 1996. Along with Veteran's Day, Memorial Day and the Fourth of July, this day is to honor the sacrifices and service of the armed forces of the United States, past and present.

Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/Rockwall County News



Area high school students awarded by DAR

Seven high school seniors received awards from the Rock Wall Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution on Feb. 28. Margaret Davidson, DAR Scholarship Committee chair, is pictured with recipients, from the left, Zenia Jones, Royse City High School, Addie Louise Barch, Wylie High School, Kayley Parke Hernandez, Heritage Christian Academy, Sage M. Wells, Rockwall-Heath High School, Jade L. Brown, Rockwall High School, and Myra Leilani Castillo, North Forney High School, DAR essay winner submitted to state. Leslie Valdelamar of Terrell High School was unable to attend the event.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

University scholastic honors

Local students feted at SHSU

Several local students were tapped for honors at Sam Houston State University following the fall semester, according to news releases from the Huntsville university.

Students named to the President's List, which recognizes full-time graduate students who achieve a perfect 4.0 grade-point average, included Gregory Daniells of Royse City, a criminal justice major. Rockwall residents Sarah Bigham, accounting, Taylor Mead, psychology, Miguel Morales, music, and Juan Vargas, finance.

Students named to the Dean's List, which recognizes full-time graduate students who achieve at least a 3.5 grade-point average out of a possible 4.0 during a regular semester, included Nathan Ledbetter, a fashion merchandising major from Heath; Gregory Daniells, a criminal justice major from Royse City; and Rockwall residents Bigham, Mead, Morales, Alissa Powell, mass communications, Dalia Rizk, criminal justice, Jessica Saunders, criminal justice, and Vargas.

Rockwall ISD observing School Breakfast Week

Rockwall Independent School District campuses are observing National School Breakfast Week, a weeklong celebration aimed at increasing awareness of the School Breakfast Program among students and parents, March 14-18, according to a recent news release.

National School Breakfast Week was launched in 1989 to raise awareness of the availability of the School Breakfast Program to all children and to promote the links between eating a good breakfast, academic achievement and healthy lifestyles. The 2016 National School Breakfast Week theme, Wake Up & Start Fresh with a Healthy Breakfast, reminds everyone that a healthy school breakfast sets students up for a day of learning and academic success.

Every school day, the Rockwall ISD's breakfast program offers students a breakfast that they need to get set for a busy school day. Every school breakfast served meets federal nutrition standards limiting fat, calories and sodium.

Springer students take wins at UIL competition

Springer Elementary students earned a number of wins at the UIL competition conducted Saturday, Feb. 20.

Winning students, according to a news release from the school, included:

- Reading Writing (coach Christina Lee) – Sophia Alvarenga, fifth (fourth grade); Lindsey Thompson, fourth place (fifth grade)
- Oral Reading (coaches Rachael Taylor and Susie Kinney) – Logan Kuntz, third place (fifth grade); Hanna Mitchell, fifth place (sixth grade)
- Number Sense (coach Barbara Wood) – Cody Bostik, fifth place (fifth grade)

- Maps, Graphs & Charts (coaches Becky Riemenschneider and Rebekah Hawkins) – Peyton Wingfield, fifth place (fifth grade)
- Storytelling (coaches Stacey Hawkins and Anna Winkley) – Sean Linscott, fifth place (third grade)
- Chess (coach Jenny Kaup) – Brandon Mendoza, second place, Zachary Musson, fourth place, and Sam Eisenbise, sixth place (second/third grades); David Granger, sixth place, and Carter Eisenbise, first place (fourth/fifth grade)
- Chess Tournament – Reilly Lundberg, second place (fourth/fifth grades); Eli Deen, first place (sixth grade).



Students at Springer Elementary earned several wins in the Feb. 20 UIL competition. Pictured, from left to right, are Springer winners Peyton Wingfield, Hannah Mitchell, Cody Bostik, David Granger, Eli Deen, Lindsey Thompson and Carter Eisenbise and, at front, Reilly Lundberg, Zachary Musson, Logan Kuntz, Sam Eisenbise, Brandon Mendoza and Sean Linscott.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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Linda Smith, Daughters of the American Revolution member, presented the Rock Wall Chapter's American History Essay Award to Isabella Schmukai, Heritage Christian Academy student, on Feb. 28. Schmukai's essay described life in the early American colonies and the hardships the colonists faced due to increased taxation.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Daughters of the American Revolution member Sandra Solomon presented the Community Service Award to Lt. Colonel Gene Allen, U.S. Army (Ret.) on Feb. 28. Through his leadership, the Tri County Veterans Honor Guard was born. Allen received the Community Service Award for his hours of voluntary time in support of the military veteran.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Rockwall County News Briefs

Spay/neuter mobile hospital scheduled

The Spay Neuter Network's hospital bus, in the I-30 Wal-Mart parking lot, offers surgery performed on site the second Friday of every month. Next (Continued on Page 2)



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On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

Christian political activism in America ... Rights

Last week we named a number of natural rights that are annotated in the American Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights of the Constitution.

Do not be frustrated if they are not found. The only rights found were life and liberty. A study of the Epistles will reveal a distinction between natural life and liberty, and true spiritual based life and liberty.

Let's search the scriptures for inherent rights that are truly endowed in people by the Creator.

All people have the right to be filled with holy spirit upon believing that the Creator raised Jesus from the dead (see Romans 10:9-10, Acts 2:4).

Praying to the Creator is an inherent right from the same Creator. The powerful name of our Lord Jesus the Christ bears the Power of Attorney for the Creator's beloved saints and children to come before His throne.



Timmy DiCappo, a student at Cullins Elementary, is shown casting his ballot in the mock elections conducted on Super Tuesday at the school.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Luke Miller, a seventh grade student at J.W. Williams Middle School in Rockwall and son of Daniel and Carla Miller, is one of the semifinalists eligible to compete in the 2016 Texas National Geographic State Bee.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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Let the peace from God rule in your hearts, to the which also you are called in one body, and be thankful ... Colossians 3:15

Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord. Psalm 150:6

That if you will confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10: 9-10

Have I not commanded you; be strong and of a good courage. Be not afraid, neither be dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

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

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding;

In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy path; Proverbs 3:6

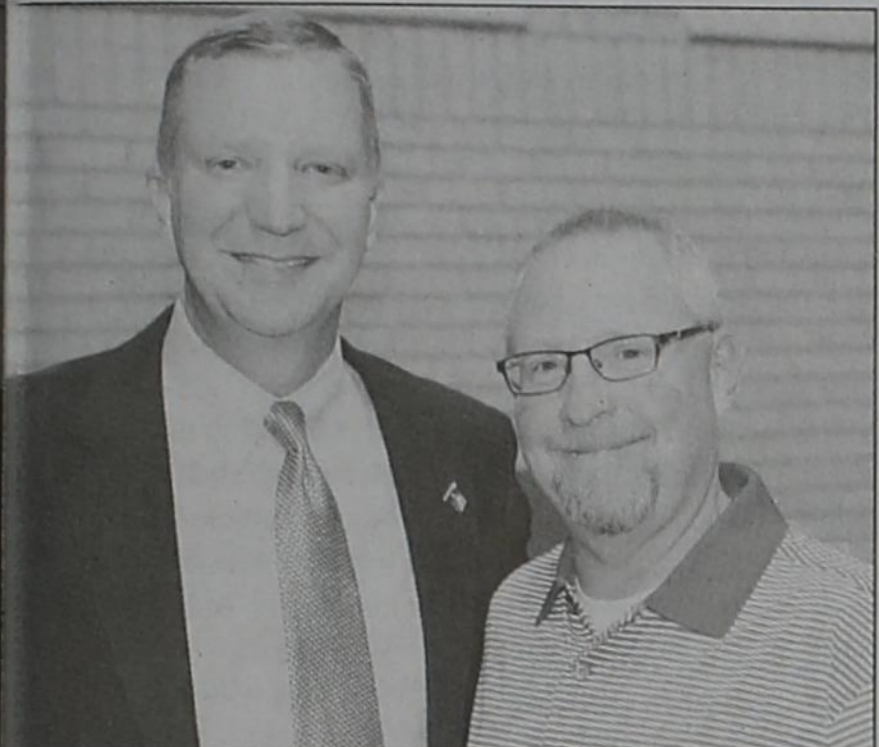
Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known ... Proverbs 3:6

- ANGELICAN TRANSFORMATION ANGLICAN CHURCH Meets 10 a.m. Sunday at Heritage Christian Academy ASSEMBLY OF GOD FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD Hwy. 66 E., Rockwall HIGH POINT ASSEMBLY OF GOD 880 S. Erby Campbell, Royse City LAKESHORE CHURCH www.lakeshorechurch.net 5575 Hwy 205 S., Rockwall THE RIVER CHURCH 8601 Liberty Grove, Rowlett BAPTIST BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH 520 E. Washington, Rockwall CENTRAL BAPTIST Hwy. 66, Rockwall CHISHOLM BAPTIST CHURCH 1388 Hwy. 205 S., Rockwall CHRIST CHURCH BAPTIST COMMUNITY 749 Justin Rd., Rockwall ChristChurchRockwall.org COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH Hwy. 276, Royse City DAY SPRING BAPTIST CHURCH 8602 Lakeview Pkwy., Rockwall FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FATE 813 Holiday Dr. (Hwy. 66) FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HEATH • 224 Smirl Drive FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROCKWALL • 610 Goliad St. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROYSE CITY • 900 Pullen Street IGLESIA BAUTISTA INUEVA ESPERANZA 149 Blackland, Royse City GRACE FELLOWSHIP 1408 Damascus Dr., Rockwall LAKE POINTE BAPTIST CHURCH 701 E. I-30, Rockwall LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH 850 Blackland Road, Fate NEW CALDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH 301 Bourn, Rockwall NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH 400 Old Greenville Rd., Royse City TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH 360 Hickory Hill Rd., Royse City OPEN DOOR BAPTIST CHURCH 4830 W. Hwy. 276, Royse City FAITH TEMPLE BAPTIST 11214 FM 1565, Terrell, Tx 75160

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First Presbyterian Church of Rockwall Feel the love. Be the love. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 1 John 4:16 Looking for a warm, welcoming family of faith that is dedicated to embodying God's love in Rockwall and beyond? Then join us this Sunday at First Presbyterian Church, located at 602 White Hills Dr., under the water tower and across from the entrance to Walmart. Sunday School starts at 9:45 a.m., with worship led by Pastor Cheryl Taylor at 11 a.m. For more information, call 972-771-5702, or check out our website at www.firstpresrockwall.org

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Justice Jeff Brown, elected to the Texas Supreme Court in 2013, met with Heritage Christian Academy students recently about the balance of serving God and one's country and how when modeled correctly are the same.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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Opinions

Do we need to 'rebuild the military?'

Ron Paul

Ron Paul Institute (ronpaulinstitute.com)

The Republican presidential debates have become so heated and with insults, it almost seems we are watching a pro wrestling match. There is no civility, and I wonder whether the candidates are about to come to blows. But despite what appears to be total disagreement among them, there is one area where they all agree. They all promise that if elected they will "rebuild the military."

What does "rebuild the military" mean? Has the budget been cut? Have the useless weapons programs like the F-35 finally been taken down? No, the United States still spends more on its military than the next 14 countries combined. And the official military budget is only part of the story. The total spending on the US empire is well over one trillion dollars per year. Under the Obama Administration the military budget is still 41 percent more than it was in 2001, and 50 percent higher than at the peak of the Cold War.

Russia, which the neocons claim is the greatest threat to the United States, spends about one-tenth what we do on its military. China, the

other "greatest threat," has a military budget less than 25 percent of ours. Last week the Pentagon announced it is sending a small naval force of US warships to the South China Sea because, as Commander of the US Pacific Command Adm. Harry Harris told the House Armed Services Committee, China is militarizing the area. Yes, China is supposedly militarizing the area around China, so the US is justified in sending its own military to the area. Is that a wise use of the US military?

The US military maintains over 900 bases in 130 countries. It is actively involved in at least seven wars right now, including in Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, and elsewhere. US Special Forces are deployed in 134 countries across the globe. Does that sound like a military that has been gutted?

I do not agree with the presidential candidates, but I do agree that the military needs to be rebuilt. I would rebuild it in a very different way, however. I would not rebuild it according to the demands of the military-industrial complex, which cares far more about getting rich than about protecting our country. I would not rebuild the military so

that it can overthrow more foreign governments who refuse to do the bidding of Washington's neocons. I would not rebuild the military so that it can better protect our wealthy allies in Europe, NATO, Japan, and South Korea. I would not rebuild the military so that it can better occupy countries overseas and help create conditions for blowback here at home.

No. The best way to really "rebuild" the US military would be to stop abusing the military in the first place. The purpose of the US military is to defend the United States. It is not to make the world safe for oil pipelines, or corrupt Gulf monarchies, or NATO, or Israel. Unlike the neocons who are so eager to send our troops to war, I have actually served in the US military. I understand that to keep our military strong we must constrain our foreign policy. We must adopt a policy of non-intervention and a strong defense of this country. The neocons will weaken our country and our military by promoting more war. We need to "rebuild" the military by restoring as its mission the defense of the United States, not of Washington's overseas empire.



MILLIE JEAN COPPEDGE

Reminiscing
Roysce City

Millie Jean Coppedge

The Roysce City News-Times dated Friday, July 15, 1938, ran a story about M.L. Knight, founder of the Knight Funeral Home, noting that the business had been serving the community since early 1924.

When Knight moved from Garland to Roysce City in 1924, he purchased the undertaking establishment from Frank Duff.

The story relates that Glenn Mercer was a part of the business for nine years and Miss Willie Kirby acted as lady attendant for three years.

The funeral home boasted that the latest methods and equipment were used in its work and it owned its own funeral coach and ambulance. The chapel seated 200, with more than half of the funerals being conducted held in the chapel. Knight also allowed the community to use the chapel for various gatherings.

A surprising bit of information from the story says that Knight

Knight Funeral Home was community fixture

Funeral Home was not only "the best and most modern in North Texas, but that its services were offered to the public free of charge." No more information is given as to how the funeral home was able to survive financially if it did not charge for its services.

A quote from the story says, "There was never a great public need more thoughtfully and graciously supplied that is found by the public of this community in the Knight Funeral Home, nor a more accommodating, efficient staff of funeral directors."

An old photo was archived showing the building with the sign on the front that reads Roysce City Funeral Home. It shows the building that is now the Rest Haven Funeral Home located on Main Street.

The photo says the owners of the Roysce City Funeral Home were Mr. and Mrs. T.E. Elliott. A handwritten memo was added to the picture saying that in 1940s M.L. Knight was the owner. The building has been changed very little on the exterior during all those years, with only a little modernization done.

Rockwall participates in SH 205 planning study

Last year the Texas Department of Transportation began the task of planning for improvements of SH 205, which is currently Goliad Street through Rockwall. The scope of this TxDOT planning project is from SH 78 in Lavon to US 80 in Terrell.

Rockwall and all other entities along the route are given the opportunity to participate in this planning project, according to a City of Rockwall news release. The planning project provides an opportunity for the City of Rockwall to support the designation of John King Boulevard as the route through the city for SH 205 as had been envisioned when the roadway was approved by Rockwall voters in 2005.

Rockwall voters approved a bond election in 2005 that financed construction of the 205 Bypass, with more than 70 percent in favor of the proposition. The 205 Bypass, later named John King Boulevard, was built as a four-lane roadway with right-of-way to add two additional interior lanes, according to the release. The roadway now serves as a bypass route for SH 205, but is not officially designated as a state roadway.

Construction of additional ramps on I-30 at John King Boulevard will be underway to enhance the functional use of John King Boulevard, as an effective bypass route, according to the release.

In 2005, both the city and TxDOT were poised to exchange right-of-way on Goliad Street and the new John King Boulevard, a transaction that would have made Goliad a city street and designated John King as the route for SH 205, according to the release. Whether as a city street or as the designated route for SH 205, traffic projections have long shown the ultimate need for John King Boulevard to be six lanes. Because of changes at TxDOT, the exchange of right-of-way

could not be finalized at that time.

There are several reasons John King Boulevard would be better suited as SH 205. The seven-mile roadway can better accommodate the higher volume of through-traffic than the current route through downtown, according to the news release. With the change, commercial truck traffic through downtown Rockwall would not be eliminated, but it would be reduced. Additionally, a decrease in overall traffic volume through downtown will make it safer for pedestrians.

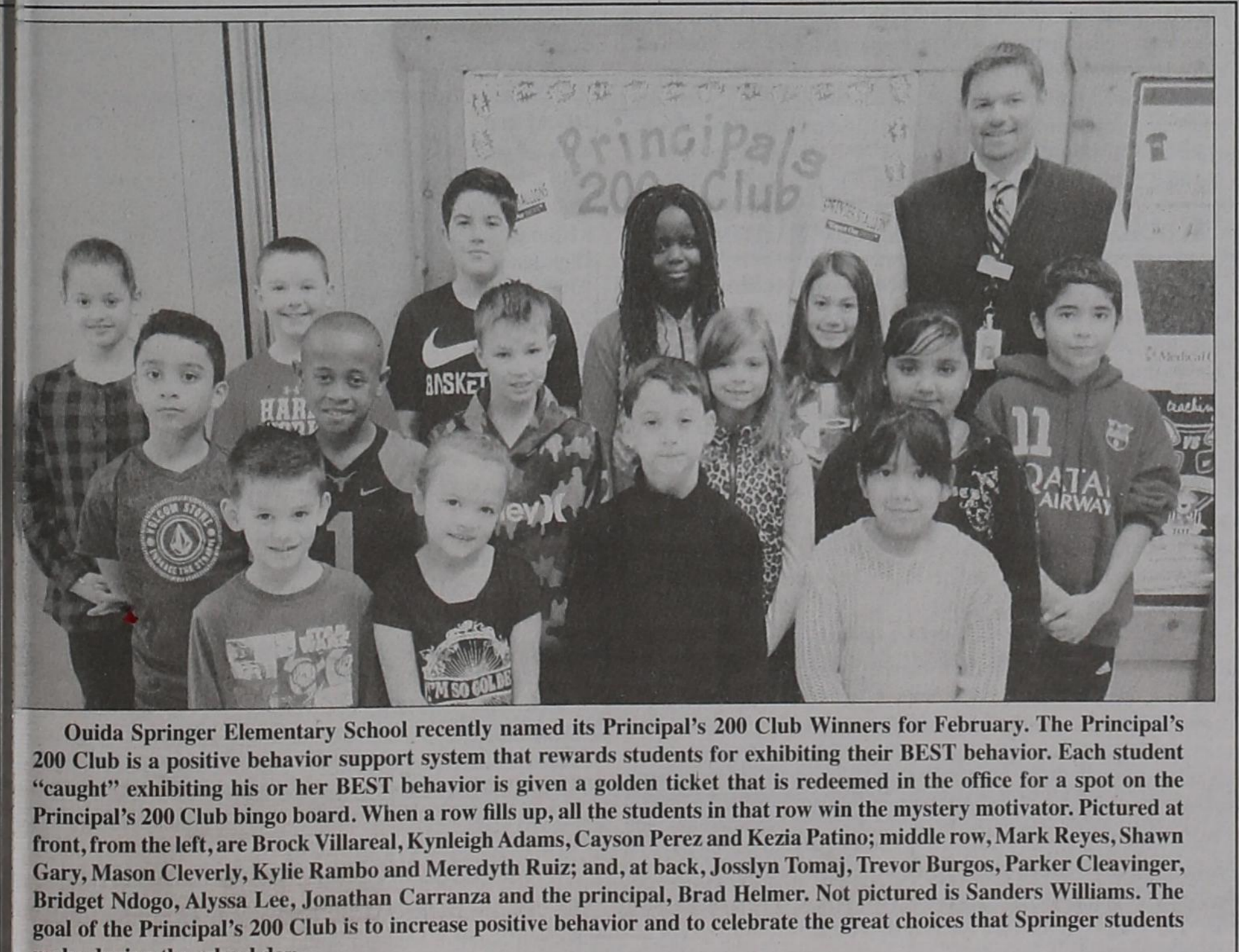
If TxDOT reconstructed the existing route of SH 205, an expansion up to six lanes would negatively impact a significant but as yet undetermined number of homes and businesses north of downtown, because additional right-of-way would be needed for the reconstruction, according to the release. Another option under consideration would have the state constructing a one-way couplet along Goliad Street, which is the existing SH 205 route, and utilizing Alamo Street as the other part of the couplet. This would impact numerous homes and businesses along both city streets.

After discussion by the City Council in a number of public meetings, the city has advised TxDOT that the locally preferred route for the state highway through the city is John King Boulevard, according to the news release. This would designate the roadway as SH 205 and Goliad Street would remain open through the city as a local street. Even as a local street, North Goliad will need to be improved, but the control of that street, its ultimate design and the schedule for those improvements would be at the discretion of the city.

TxDOT continues work on the planning project for SH 205; however, no improvements are funded and no timeline has been established for construction.



The calendar pictured above is dated April 1937. Many businesses like hardware stores, grocery stores, sawmills, feed stores and appliance stores gave calendars to their customers. This one was given compliments of Roysce City Funeral Home. The caption on it says to "Call M.L. Knight collect at phone 192 for complete funeral arrangements." This brings back memories of when people made collect calls and phone numbers were just three digits.
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Ouida Springer Elementary School recently named its Principal's 200 Club Winners for February. The Principal's 200 Club is a positive behavior support system that rewards students for exhibiting their BEST behavior. Each student "caught" exhibiting his or her BEST behavior is given a golden ticket that is redeemed in the office for a spot on the Principal's 200 Club bingo board. When a row fills up, all the students in that row win the mystery motivator. Pictured at front, from the left, are Brock Villareal, Kynleigh Adams, Cayson Perez and Kezia Patino; middle row, Mark Reyes, Shawn Gary, Mason Cleverly, Kylie Rambo and Meredyth Ruiz; and, at back, Josslyn Tomaj, Trevor Burgos, Parker Cleavinger, Bridget Ndogo, Alyssa Lee, Jonathan Carranza and the principal, Brad Helmer. Not pictured is Sanders Williams. The goal of the Principal's 200 Club is to increase positive behavior and to celebrate the great choices that Springer students make during the school day.
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Rockwall County News Briefs

(Continued from Page 2)

Rockwall's Got Talent auditions scheduled

Auditions for Rockwall's Got Talent will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 26 at the Rockwall Community Playhouse, 609 E. Rusk (two blocks off the square in downtown Rockwall). Semi-finals are scheduled for April 8; finals will be April 15. For more details visit rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org.

'What's Your Superpower?' focus of conference

The Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce and the Executive Women's Alliance will play host to the What's Your Superpower? Women's Conference & Business Expo on Friday, April 1, at The Castle at Rockwall, 2071 Clem Rd. Ext. The event, which will run from 7:45 a.m. to 3 p.m., will focus on "innovative and effective ways that women can make a mark in all aspects of their lives - from the office to home and their communities." Tickets cost \$89 for Rockwall Chamber partners and \$109 for prospective chamber members. For more details, contact the chamber at 972-771-5733 or visit rockwallchamber.org/events or facebook.com/rockwallchamber.

RWL accepting grant requests from nonprofits

The Rockwall Women's League is accepting grant requests from nonprofit agencies that provide services to Rockwall County. To be considered, organizations must be tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Grant Requests should include program name, program description, program beneficiaries and

(Continued on Page 6)

