

Rockwall County News

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Vivian Brown, president of the Royse City Chamber's board of directors, and executive director Julia Bryant are shown providing Margie Verhagen with a check for \$865 for Meals on Wheels of Rockwall County. The money was raised through a wreath auction at the chamber's December member luncheon. The wreath auction has become an annual event and donated to a different charitable cause each year.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Rockwall to host Jan. 7 hearing on city charter

The Charter Commission of the City of Rockwall will host a public hearing Jan. 7 to gather input regarding proposed charter amendments, according to a recent city news release.

The hearing will begin at 6 p.m. in the council chambers of the Rockwall City Hall, 385 S. Goliad, in Rockwall.

The public is invited to "attend and participate in expressing opinions and concerns of the proposed charter amendments," according to the news release.

A copy of the proposed charter amendments is available for review at the city's website at rockwall.com/meetings (scroll to the bottom right corner of the page to view).

No more WWII vets to serve in House, Senate

For the first time in 70 years there'll be not a single veteran of World War II sitting in the House of Representatives or in the Senate when 114th Congress convenes on Jan. 3, according to a recent news release from the Association of Mature American Citizens.

Michigan's John Dingell, who is 88 years old, and 91-year-old Ralph Hall of Texas' 4th District, a Rockwall County native, are the last of the Greatest Generation to serve.

Dingell, a Democrat, enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1944 when he turned 18 and rose to the rank of second lieutenant. He was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1955 and holds the distinction of being the longest serving member of Congress.

Navy lieutenant Hall, a Republican, joined in 1942 and was an aircraft carrier pilot. He was elected to the House in 1980 and has held his seat for 17 terms.

"World War II, as awful as it was, broke down tons of barriers," said veterans' advocate Seth Lynn, director of the independent Veterans Campaign. Those who served, he said, developed a "camaraderie that lasted for the rest of their lives."

Representative Hall said the bond held firm among members of Congress who served in the Great War.

"When we differed on the issues, we respected each other and chose to respectfully disagree," he said in the news release. "That was part of our military training and experience."

Swearing-in ceremony set Jan. 1 at courthouse

The swearing-in ceremony for Rockwall County officials will be conducted at 10 a.m. Jan. 1 at the Historical Courthouse.

According to a news release issued Monday morning, the ceremony will take place in the courtroom on the third floor.

Inclement weather may impact the morning's activities; however, the ceremony should go on as scheduled, according to the news release.

The gyms are packed anyway, just be a peacock



Brittany Williams Musings of a 20-something ...

by Brittany Williams
rcn.brittany@yahoo.com

If you're looking for that "New Year, New You" message, you should go ahead and turn the page now.

I get the whole January 1 thing, I do.

I just don't see the point.

Look at it this way, next week, the gyms will be packed and you won't be able to get your beloved treadmill looking over the lake with a view of the TV too so you can get your soaps in for the day too.

Let's take a little history lesson.

The ancient Babylonians made promises to their gods at the start of each year that they would return borrowed objects and pay their debts.

The Romans began each year by making promises to the god Janus, for whom the month of January is named.

In the Medieval era, the knights took the "peacock vow", in which they would place their hands on a live or roasted peacock and recommitt themselves, for the next 12 months, to the ideals of chivalry.

For me, this one makes the most sense.

Usually resolutions are basically self oriented. Lose 10 pounds in 10 days. Get organized, that sort of thing.

What I thought was interesting about this Medieval tradition though

is it was a vow to stay with an ideal that would affect not only them, but those around them.

Anyone know where I can find a this colorfully feathered bird?

According to Wikipedia, A New Year's resolution is a secular tradition, most common in the Western Hemisphere but also found in the Eastern Hemisphere, in which a person makes a promise to do an act of self-improvement or something slightly nice, such as opening doors for people beginning from New Year's Day.

Just something "slightly nice"? Opening doors for people? I expected more from you, Wikipedia. I'm disappointed.

According to the same article, a 2007 study by Richard Wiseman from the University of Bristol involving 3,000 people showed that 88% of those who set New Year resolutions fail, despite the fact that 52% of the study's participants were confident of success at the beginning. Men achieved their goal 22% more often when they set small goals on their way to the desired end result or "big goal". Women, however, succeeded 10% more when they made their goals public and got support from their friends.

So, setting "stepping stones" for men and sitting around gossiping and supporting each other for women. Got it. Simple enough.

But seriously, do we really need to wait for a new year to start making changes?

If, say, in July you decide that you want to change something. Don't just sit around and talk about it, or tell your friend that you think you need to do this or that. Just do it (Thanks Nike).

More than likely, by the following January, you will have forgotten that you said it or even thought it.

Now, go out there and find you a peacock. Maybe get a spare in case you need it at some point later in the year. Just a thought.



Members of the Rockwall Area Retired Teachers Association met Dec. 8. The Amy Parks Elementary School Choir provided entertainment. Pictured above are the meeting's hostesses: Gloria Daniels, Joan Wells, Linda Harris and Nancy Barnett.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



There will be no Rockwall Habitat for Humanity work day on Feb. 27, but volunteers will be needed from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 3. Pictured above is the current project, located at 309 Emma Jane at the corner of Emma Jane and Davy Crockett behind the Sonic at Ridge Road and Goliad. Progress has been made, and project coordinators hope to begin laying brick soon. For more details visit rockwallhabitat.org.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Rockwall County News Briefs

County library to close for holidays

The Rockwall County Library will be closed Jan. 1 for New Year's Day, according to a recent news release. Other county offices also will follow this schedule in observance of the holidays.

Rockwall garbage, recycling schedules shifted

Republic Waste will modify its collection schedule to accommodate Christmas and New Year holiday schedules. Normal garbage and recycling scheduled for Jan. 1 will be pushed back one day to Jan. 2; customers regularly scheduled for Friday collection will be pushed back to Saturday. Contact the City of Rockwall Utilities at 972-771-7736 for more information.

Habitat volunteers to resume work Jan. 3

Work on the local Habitat for Humanity project, located at 309 Emma Jane (at the corner of Davy Crockett and Emma Jane) will resume Jan.

3. For updates on the build or suggestions concerning other ways to help out, visit rockwallhabitat.org.

Democratic Men plan Jan. 3 meeting

The Democratic Men's Group of Rockwall County will conduct its next luncheon meeting beginning at noon Jan. 3 at Luigi's Italian Restaurant, 2002 S. Goliad St., Rockwall. The group meets on the first Saturday of each month at various local restaurants to discuss local, state and national current events and politics. Open-minded, progressive men who are concerned about the future of Texas and Rockwall County are encouraged to attend. This month's guest speaker will be Michael Handley, political director for the Collin County Democratic Party.

WordPress class set in Royse City

The Royse City Chamber of Commerce will offer a 10-class course on the use of WordPress beginning Jan. 8 at the Holiday Inn Express in Royse City. The course will run from January through April. The first class will run from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Fee will be \$500 for non-chamber members and \$250 for chamber members. Registration, which

is required, may be made by calling 972-636-5000 or emailing info@roysecitychamber.com.

Christmas tree drop-off set in R'wall

City of Rockwall residents can drop off their live Christmas trees at the parking lot of the Tuttle Sports Complex, 1550 Airport Road, until Jan. 11. All ornaments, lights and stands should be removed from the trees prior to drop off.

RISD to meet Jan. 12

The Rockwall ISD Board of Trustees will meet at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 12 at the Administration Building, 1050 Williams St., Rockwall.

HCA plans Jan 14 open house

The Heritage Christian Academy will host an open house for prospective families beginning at 9 a.m. Jan. 14. Parents can meet

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Area News Briefs

White House holiday is focus of Bush Center exhibit

The George W. Bush Presidential Center, 2943 SMU Boulevard in Dallas, is debuting All Creatures Great and Small: Christmas at the White House 2002. Open to the public through Jan. 13, the exhibition will give visitors a look at the White House holiday celebrations of 2002. For more details visit <http://www.bushcenter.org/plan-your-visit/special-exhibits>.

Clay shoot to benefit SpiritHorse Therapeutic Center

The nonprofit SpiritHorse Therapeutic Center in Corinth is currently signing up shooters and sponsors for a May 16 sporting clay shoot to be conducted at Beaumont Ranch in Grandview. Incentive prizes will be awarded to the first five teams that sign up. The center's goal is "to assist individuals with special needs in reaching their full potential through interaction with horses." To sign up to participate, serve as a sponsor or volunteer, email jennifer@spirithorsetherapy.com.

Want more copies of the Rockwall County News? Purchase at the following locations

- Rockwall - Krogers, Scotties Exxon, Walmart, Walmart Neighborhood, Gateway Shell (Hwy 276), Downtown on the square (coin rack).
- Royse City - Tiger Mart, Main Street (coin rack), Royse City Chamber of Commerce (coin rack).
- Fate - Fate Grocery Store.

Ask Dr. Danette

by Danette McNew, D.D.S.



ALL FOR ONE, ONE FOR ALL

When the gap left by missing teeth is bordered by healthy teeth, a "partial denture" provides an affordable solution. This type of prosthetic usually consists of replacement teeth attached to gum-colored plastic bases, which connect to surrounding teeth with either metal clasps or devices known as "precision attachments." These are generally more esthetic than metal clasps and are nearly invisible. As is the case with complete dentures, partial dentures are removable. Patients receive thorough instruction on how partial dentures should be inserted and removed. They should fit easily into place and never be forced. Over time, it may be necessary to adjust the fit of partial dentures, which can be accomplished during a regular office visit.

The importance of an attractive smile should not be underestimated. Everyone deserves to look beautiful. Your personal satisfaction with your oral health and appearance is important. At McNEW DENTAL, we are a highly qualified and experienced team of professionals - and we're here to help you make the most of your smile. Please call 469/338-4603 to schedule an appointment. We're located at 1300 E. Ralph Hall Pkwy., Suite 114, where we are proud of our staff - a staff dedicated to helping you look and feel better. "Smiles are contagious and best when shared"

P.S. It is important to clean dentures daily since they are susceptible to becoming coated with plaque, which poses a threat to gums and remaining natural teeth.

www.mcnewdental.com



Rockwall Chamber welcomes Painting with a Twist

The Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce recently hosted a ribbon cutting Sat. Dec. 6, for Painting with a Twist, Rockwall's newest entertainment venue.

Looking for a fun night out? Unleash your creative side with Painting with a Twist, located at 513 E. Interstate 30 in Rockwall.

It's a great place to have fun with friends, or meet new ones; relax - just let your hair down and be you; or simply discover your inner artist. Bring your favorite bottle of wine or beverage, and paint along with their artist to create your own work of art that you will take home at the end of the evening.

Painting with a Twist provides all painting supplies and artist instructions. No art experience is needed. With a brush in one hand, your wine in the other, and surrounded by friends - come enjoy a rare opportunity to unplug and unwind. Simply be ready to have a good time!

Two hour classes are offered for \$35 and three hour classes for \$45. Select Family Friendly classes offered for \$25. Open classes are fun for you and a friend or groups.

They offer private parties for groups of 10 or more, and they offer gift cards in store and online.

Follow them on Facebook to hear about studio events, get sneak previews of new art and their monthly calendar, participate in promotions exclusive to Facebook fans, and more!

Submitted by the Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce.

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- Andrews is in TX
- large exhibition
- early Mineral Wells attractions
- TXism: "smart as a full of owls"
- TXism: "dog lie"
- TX cosmetics queen, Mary Kay
- maybe the best LB UT has ever had
- strikeout letters for TX Nolan Ryan
- TXism: "burn some leather" (run)
- in Shelby Co. on 84
- heavy rain
- this Wilson was in TV "Pinocchio" with TX Sandy Duncan
- TXism: "suits me to a fare - well"
- College Station university letters
- compulsive shopper
- Rodriguez who played SS for the Rangers (2000-03)
- award won by 34-across in 2003
- chili accompaniment
- TXism: "camps out in the corner" (religious)
- TX King Vidor directed " in the Sun"
- Herald was shut down in 1991
- moisten meat
- TX Kenny sang " I Can Make It on My Own"
- TX Tanya sang "Some Love"
- TX-based " Lay"
- Navy junior CO (abbr.)
- "Sea State Park"
- TXism: " his feelings on his sleeve" (sensitive)
- Rodeo Historical
- TX Clay Allison was a gun
- TX Henley co-wrote "The Long"
- lyric poem
- TXism: "a piece" (distant)
- TXism: " that like an armadillo needs an interstate"
- TX Tommy Sands' 1969 war film: " but the Brave"
- this Adams discovered dinosaur tracks near Glen Rose (init.)
- TX Pride's "All Offer You"
- specimen
- TXism: "end" (handle)
- this Darrin got 2 rings with Cowboys (init.)
- home of the Eden Bulldogs (abbr.)
- TXism: "throw some leather horse"
- in Liberty Co. on 90
- molds, decays
- Margaret Hunt Hill book: "H.L. Hunt - My Father"
- milk products
- these immigrants played a large part in early TX history
- rotten kid
- TXism: "chicken" (little money)
- hot dog
- unprocessed oil
- TXism: "take a off" (sit)
- awake at midnight?(2 wds.)
- this TX Larry started country goup with brothers
- "sins of the"
- TX ZZ Top album: "Hombres"

DOWN

- wealthy western suburb of Austin
- newspaper in Pleasanton, TX
- TX bestselling author Judith McNaught
- TX Brent Spiner was in 1997 comedy "Out"
- Coach Tom Landry on the sideline?
- rope circle
- ambulance technician (abbr.)
- "Gig Aggies!"
- a snake skin for costly cowboy boots

Mary Margaret (Matthews) Dodd

Graveside services for Mary Margaret (Matthews) Dodd, 71, of Rockwall were conducted at 2 p.m. Dec. 28, 2014, in the Rockwall Memorial Cemetery with Pastor Rick Donaho officiating. The Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

She died Dec. 24. Born March 6, 1943, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Hugh and Pauline Matthews, she was a 1961 graduate of Beaumont High School. She was a loving mother and grandmother and a member of the First Baptist Church of Rockwall.

Survivors include her children, Jill Farley and her husband, Dennis, of Rockwall, Ashley Van Zandt and her husband, Robert, of Montgomery, Texas, and David Dodd of Dallas; and four grandchildren, Bennett, Brent, Tyler and Shelby.

Her husband, Lavon C. Dodd Jr, preceded her in death.

Harold Wesley 'Wes' Jones

A memorial service for Harold Wesley "Wes" Jones, 88, was conducted at 11 a.m. Dec. 29, 2014, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel with Pastors Lamont and Irene Hearn officiating.

He died Dec. 25. Born May 9, 1926, in Birmingham, Iowa, to John and Eva (Rudolph) Jones, he was a loving husband, father and grandfather. A locksmith by trade, he was a resident of Quinlan for more than 30 years.

Survivors include his wife, Judith "Gail" (King) Jones; three children, Jennifer Baker, Valerie Sutton and Nathan Baker; and nine grandchildren, Tiffany Brower, Alexandria Clem, Chase McDonald, Molly McDonald, Marshall Baker, Emily Clem, Logan Baker, Dalton Baker and Madison Campbell.



Lizzie Mae Reed Purdy

Services for Lizzie Mae Reed Purdy, 86, of Marshall, Texas, were conducted at 1 p.m. Dec. 28, 2014, in the chapel at Sullivan's Funeral Home in Marshall with Chaplain Dale Purdy officiating. Burial followed in the Algoma Cemetery.

She died Dec. 24 surrounded by family members.

Born in Upshur County on June 20, 1928, she had worked in several places through the years, including the Ore City Café, Blue Buckle Overall Factory and the Thikol Chemical Corp. in Karnack from which she retired. She had been a resident of Marshall since 1956.

Survivors include her daughters, Millie Jean Coppedge of Roys City and Lenda Marie Reeves and her husband, Larry, of Marshall; daughter-in-law, Dorothy Coppedge of Ore City; her daughters, Linda Sue Buchanan and her husband, Jim, of Liberty Hill, and Ellen Woodan and her husband, Burl, of Tyler; her sons, John Steven Curry of Marshall and Dale Purdy and wife, Carrol, of Tyler; 24 grandchildren; and 4 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Alfred and Lillie Mae Reed her husbands, Clyde Curry and Oscar Marshall Purdy; a son, Bruce Olen Coppedge; a sister, Bonnie Jean Willeford; and two brothers, William Hayward Reed and Hollis Don Reed.

Pallbearers were Donald Franklin Pearce Jr., Bruce Olen Coppedge Jr, Johnny Willeford, Donald Willeford, Larry Lewis and David Purdy.

The family would like to thank Patricia Lewis, Pamela King, Julie Seals and Angelica (Mar-c) Norris, who made sure she was surrounded with love. The family also appreciates the love and kindness shown by the staff of Oakwood House Assisted Living in Marshall, Marshall Manor in Marshall, the Good Shepherd Medical Center in Marshall, The Waterton Plaza in Tyler and Grace Hospice of Tyler and extend special thanks to her primary physician, Dr. Jill Barbolla of Marshall who coordinated her care for many years.

In lieu of flowers, the family has suggested memorials may be made to Grace Hospice, 1820 Shiloh Road, Suite 1103, Tyler, Texas 75703 or Oakwood Assisted Living, 2907 Victory Drive, Marshall, Texas 75671



Rockwall County News Briefs

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staff, ask questions and tour facilities. For more information, visit hearockwall.org or call 972-772-3003.

Region 10 ESC to offer Edcamp Jan. 24

Edcamp Rockwall, a professional, participant-driven learning experience for educators, will run from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Jan. 24 at Rockwall High School. The event is being coordinated by the Region 10 Education Service Center. Registration is free. For more information, visit edcamprockwall.wikispaces.com.

Tree drop-off available to Rockwall residents

Residents of the City of Rockwall can drop off their Christmas trees at the Tuttle Sports Complex parking lot until Jan. 11, according to a city news release.

The complex is located at 1550 Airport Road.

Trees should be stripped of all ornaments, lights and stands prior to drop-off.

Cecil, Atwell tapped for SAU Dean's List

Allie Cecil of Rockwall and Ashton Atwell of Royse City were among Southern Arkansas University students named to the Dean's List for the fall semester, according to a university news release.

To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must complete 12 or more semester hours and attain a grade-point average of 3.50 or higher.

A total of 474 students qualified for the honor list during the fall semester, according to the release.

Cecil is a junior physical education, wellness and leisure major.

Atwell, also a junior, is majoring in exercise science.

SAU is located in Magnolia, Arkansas.

Wood, Hurd listed on fall Dean's List

Parker D. Wood of Heath and Robert W. Hurd II of Rockwall were named to the Dean's List at William Jewell College for the 2014 fall semester, according to a news release from the Liberty, Missouri, college.

To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must earn at least a 3.5 grade-point average while carrying 14 or more semester hours.

Wood is a sophomore business administration major.

Hurd, also a business administration major, is classified as a junior.

Parham receives psychology degree

Leigh Ann Parham, a native of Rockwall, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences degree in psychology from Dallas Baptist University during its winter commencement exercises, according to a university news release.

Parham was among the 501 graduates receiving degrees during the ceremony. Of those graduating, 260 received bachelor's degrees, 208 earned master's degrees, seven earned doctoral degrees, six received associate's degrees and 20 earned accelerated bachelor's and master's degrees.

County library to offer basic computing classes

The Rockwall County Library will offer basic computing classes in coming weeks.

The library's Basics 1 class will include learning to use a mouse to navigate, as well as hardware and software basics. It is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Jan. 9.

The Basics 2 class will cover the desktop, Windows 7 and browsing the Internet. It is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Feb. 6 and should only be attended by those who are mouse-proficient. To determine which class to attend, take the tutorial at pblibrary.org/mousing/mousercise.htm.

Each class will run approximately 75 minutes.

Anyone interested in attending one of these classes should call the library at 972-204-7770 or drop by the second floor to sign up.

RCP plans auditions for 'Wizard of Oz'

The Rockwall Community Playhouse will conduct auditions for upcoming performances of the "Wizard of Oz" March 14-15 at the playhouse, located at 609 E. Rusk, Rockwall.

Auditions will begin at 1 p.m. on both days.

All roles are available, including:

- Dorothy Gale - age 12-15, naïve and innocent
- Aunt Em - Dorothy's aunt, gentle, good and loving (also plays Glinda, the Good Witch of the North)
- Uncle Henry - Emerald City guard, Dorothy's uncle. An older man in his 50s, a sentimental pushover.
- Hunk - Scarecrow; a farmhand who doesn't have a brain. A man aged late teens to 40s.
- Hickory - Tin Woodsman; a farmhand who doesn't have a heart. A man aged late teens to 40s.
- Zeke - Cowardly Lion; a farmhand who doesn't have any courage. A man aged late teens to 40s.
- Miss Almira Gulch - A busybody spinster, the queen of mean. Loves monkeys (also plays Elphaba, the Wicked Witch of the West)
- Professor Chester Marvel - Wonderful Wizard of Oz; a con artist and fraud. Doesn't know how to fly balloons. A man aged 30-60.
- Children and chorus roles: Children's roles as Munchkins, Poppies/Snowflakes and Osians

Adult male and female chorus roles as Winkies, flying monkeys, Jitterbugs, Osians, Oz citizens, three crows and three trees

For more information, visit rockwallcommunityplayhouse.com or call 972-722-3399.

Rockwall County Entertainment

RSM Puttin' on the Ritz event set Dec. 31

Rockwall Summer Musicals will host a New Year's Eve gala, Puttin' on the Ritz, on Dec. 31 at the Woodcreek Clubhouse, 100 Woodcreek Blvd., Rockwall. The event will cost \$100 per person and include a chef-prepared tenderloin dinner with two complimentary spirits; performances by RSM performers; a silent auction; dancing; a photo booth; and a midnight champagne toast. Cocktail service will begin at 7:30 p.m., with dinner to follow at 8 p.m. Seating is limited. Purchase tickets at rockwallsummermusicals.org.

Casey Donahew Band to perform

The Casey Donahew Band will perform at a New Year's Eve Bash set Dec. 31 beginning at about 10:30 p.m., after local favorite Big Gus & Swampadelic performs at 8:30 p.m. For more information call 972-771-2418 or visit tickets.onlivemedia.com/event/3895015.

Tickets available for Daddy/Daughter Dance

The Rockwall Parks & Rec department is planning its annual Daddy/Daughter Dance, which will run from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Jan. 31 at the Hilton Bella Harbor. Tickets, which will cost \$55 per resident couple, are on sale at The Center. Pre-registration is required.

Invite your friends and family to Call 972-722-3099 for their new subscription to Rockwall County News! It's only \$40 per year. Mailed to homes by USPS

Opinions

Schools don't teach kids to read

Phyllis Schlafly

High school English teacher at Rosemount High School in Minnesota, which was called a "top-ranked school" by the Minnesota Department of Education, given the Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award by the U.S. Department of Education and ranked a top school in the nation for 2014 by Newsweek Magazine, wrote a shocking letter alerting parents and the public that her school juniors can't read. Her letter, published by the Minnesota Tribune on Dec. 4, was eloquent, so I quote it verbatim. We are in the midst of one of the greatest literacy crises ever encountered, and we are fighting an uphill battle. Every day I experience firsthand what it means to be illiterate in a high school classroom. Average students with average abilities can fervently text, but they cannot read. I have said some of her students just sleep away an assigned unit. Others resort to depression or aggression. She gave them a not very difficult test, but they couldn't read the test. When she assigns her students a book to read, they often don't even try to read it. Ask them why and they say, "It's boring." She wrote this translates into "It's too hard to read." The teacher appeals to parents and the public, saying, "I need your help." Don't count on the shift to Common Core to teach school kids to read. Common Core will change the assigned stories and books, but won't change the fact that elementary school kids are only taught to memorize a few dozen "sight," mostly one-syllable, words, not taught phonics in order to sound out the syllables and then the bigger words in high school and college assignments. Students are not assigned or motivated to read whole books.

In the name of "close reading," they are given short so-called "informational" excerpts to read over and over in class, almost until they are memorized. You don't find the students going to the library to take out and read the classics, and students don't acquire the vocabulary necessary to do college work.

Limited reading skill means that what the students read is tightly controlled. Common Core has rewritten the history of America's founding to present James Madison, Thomas Jefferson and other Founders to fit the leftwing narrative of gender, race, class and ethnicity, and students have neither motivation nor skill to seek out the true history of the Founders.

Common Core does, however, find space for stories that many parents find morally objectionable, such as "The Bluest Eye" by Toni Morrison.

The change from teaching school children to read by phonics and replacing phonics with the so-called "whole word" or "look-say" method was fully debunked in the landmark book "Why Johnny Can't Read" by Rudolph Flesch in 1955. Unfortunately, the truth had no impact on public schools, which stuck with the new method because it was part of "progressive" education. It was brought to Teachers College at Columbia University with a \$3 million grant from John D. Rockefeller Jr., who then sent four of his five sons to be educated by Dewey's progressive ideas.

Publishers responded eagerly to the opportunity to sell new books to all elementary schools, and the "Dick and Jane" series seemed much more attractive than the widely used McGuffey readers. Reading suddenly appeared to become easy because the Whole Word method teaches the child to guess at the words from pictures, to memorize a

few dozen one-syllable words that are used over and over again, and to substitute words that fit the context.

The "Dick and Jane" books were full of color pictures and only a couple of short sentences on every page. A typical page showed Dick and Jane on a seesaw. The kids could easily "read" the two sentences below: "See Dick up. See Jane down."

Nelson Rockefeller, who became governor of New York and ran three times for U.S. president, described his reading handicap in *The Reading Teacher* in March 1972: "I am a prime example of one who has had to struggle with the handicap of being a poor reader while serving in public office."

Rockefeller hired expensive speechwriters, but he said that many times he threw away the speech and told the audience he was just going to give his "spontaneous thoughts." He confessed that the real reason was that he could not do an adequate job of reading the speech prepared for him.

If parents want their children to be good readers, parents will have to do the teaching as I did with my six children. When the book I used was allowed to go out of print and its publisher went out of business, I wrote "First Reader" to teach phonics to my grandchildren at ages 5 or 6 (now available at FirstReader.com) and "Turbo Reader" for kids over age 8 (available at TurboReader.com).

Phyllis Schlafly is a lawyer, conservative political analyst and author of two new books just published this year: "Who Killed the American Family" (WND) and the 50th Anniversary edition of "A Choice Not An Echo" (Regnery). She can be contacted by e-mail at phyllis@eagleforum.org.

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Credit card reject

Jill Pertler

It was a simple trip to the grocery store. Something I could probably do in my sleep. Pick up a few items, hit the checkout line and bag up my goods. I'd even remembered my coupons. It was a good day. I didn't even bring my purse because I have a new trendy phone case that has a nearly invisible compartment to hold a driver's license or one credit card. I snapped open the case, feeling smart and sleek. A hipster and handed the checkout lady my plastic. I didn't give a second thought. I had no idea my day was about to change. I swiped the card through the swipecy machine. Twice. I hardly noticed because I was thinking about the meatballs I planned to make for supper using extra jumbo pack of ground beef that was on sale in my cart. The lady with my card frowned and picked up her phone to call someone over to the register. I figured the machine was jammed or something. A second clerk came and stood by the lady with my card. Together they stared at the computer screen, which I could not see. Behind me, people were starting to pile up in line. First one man, then another. Then a young mom with a couple squirming kids. The second store employee shook her head and said, "We'll have to call the manager."

I was beginning to take notice.

The manager came over and the three store employees stared at the screen, which I still could not see, but was beginning to wish I could. They were frowning. I was trying not to. The people in line had grown to a small crowd inconvenienced by my credit card mishap.

After about five infinitely long seconds, the manager spoke up. "Your card's been rejected," she said in a voice loud enough for people as far back as the produce section to hear.

I was perplexed, but this was hugely outweighed by embarrassment at having my card rejected within ear and eyeshot of a standing-room-only grocery store crowd. I wanted to shout, "I have excellent credit. There's been a mistake here!"

Instead, I offered to call the credit card company. I figured I could clear up this pesky little mess in no time.

The manager, all no-nonsense, escorted me to the courtesy counter where I could make the call. No need to further inconvenience the real shoppers who had legitimate means to pay for their food. I wanted to crawl in a hole or curl up in the fetal position and make myself invisible. Instead, I dialed the 1-800 number and spoke to a chipper lady named Jess in Ohio. I explained my situation and Jess listened politely. Then her perky voice said, "We sent out new cards to that account."

"My husband got one," I acknowledged.

"Yours was sent a day after his," she said. "When he activated his new card, yours became invalid."

I looked at my cart full of bagged - albeit unpaid for - food. I asked Jess what she thought I should do and how I should pay for my groceries. After a cheerful and enthusiastic apology about my unfortunate circumstances, which she totally understood, but which she was sadly and regrettably unable to do anything to remedy, she came up with her first (and only) useful suggestion. If I called my husband, he could provide the new secret code numbers from the back of his card and the transaction would be successful and complete.

Thank goodness (thank goodness, thank goodness!) my husband picked up after the second ring. He had his card, gave me the numbers and I was free to take my food to my car. I don't have to tell you I practically ran. And the next time I go to the store, one thing's for certain. I'm bringing cash.

Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright and author. She welcomes having readers follow her column on the Slices of Life page on Facebook.

Power of the people over local governments

Timothy W. Burnett

An increasing number of Americans and Texans are expressing anger and discontent with all levels of government. The Federal government has an out-of-control spending problem; attempts to force the people and businesses to purchase products such as health insurance and unemployment insurance; sends troops into little conditions around the world for questionable reasons. The State governments are slightly closer to home; yet copy many of the Federal government's tactics. This is largely because the State governments feed from the Federal trough by enforcing Federal Acts. Examples include the Texas Transportation Code, Labor Code and Health and Safety Code.

Being closer to home, the people have the ability influence the State government to a degree over the Federal government. This may come as a shock, but the local governments have proven to be puppets for the State and Federal governments. The good news is the people have great deal more power to influence the direction of existence of local governments.

Visit the website of any municipality in Texas, or any other state, and read through some of the ordinances. The people are free to actually read the local city ordinances, as well as state and federal laws.

One common thread running through most ordinances is the close connection with International Code. Yes - you read it correctly - International Code. Another common thread is that all ordinance-making authority falls under State law. Each ordinance must find authority under State law. This includes enforcement authority.

An extremely disturbing common thread includes numerous ordinances that are in direct violation of State law. Alas, the most obvious includes the mal-enforcement of local ordinances and state laws by fire, police and sheriff departments, with the enabling assistance of the courts and prosecutors.

International Codes at local level

Many Texas city governments are passing fire codes. But not just fire codes - International Fire Codes. Okay, what's the harm in passing fire codes? They're simply suggestive recommendations for fire prevention. They serve as way for insurance companies to certify that insurance customers are taking proper preventative measures. Policy holders may pay lower prices if they pass local fire code inspections.

Building codes are often borrowed from national and international codes. What's the harm in including building codes? They are a good and efficient way for people to show their insurance companies and customers that the buildings are built safely. It's good for business.

Traffic codes are offered as a courtesy to people traveling within the city limits to prevent accidents. When people apply the codes, they are able to get from one point to another in an efficient and orderly manner.

Enforcement of non-criminal offense

A problem arises when local government units attempt to enforce codes as criminal offenses. In some cases, the ordinances include

language that designates them as punishable criminal offenses. Other ordinances do not include such language. Most of the ordinances that include such designations do not find authority under State law to include designation of criminal offenses.

What does it mean to designate?

The actual language, or text, of the ordinance may include a statement that violation would be a class A, B, or C criminal offense. Most traffic ordinances are enforced as if they were Class C criminal offenses, punishable by fine only.

Speeding

One highly charged example is the "speeding" ordinance. It is commonly believed that "speeding" is wrong. Therefore, enforcement of speeding signs is welcomed. Yet, the Texas statute related to speeding does NOT designate a violation of a posted speed limit as a criminal offense.

Why would the legislature leave this out? The legislature recognizes its lack of authority to regulate the right of the traveling public to use discretionary authority while traveling on the roads and highways of Texas. It falls under Common Law right. By the way, Texas is a Common Law state.

It's important to understand that no ordinance is authorized to be designated as a criminal offense unless the related State law includes such designation. Conversely, ordinances that fall under State law and do not include a criminal offense, are not enforceable.

That's right - some codes and ordinances are NOT enforceable. They are instead provided as a courtesy for the people to apply at their own discretion under Common Law.

All local government units and districts are required under State law to give due notification to the local people of actions. This extremely important matter falls under the right of the people to due process of law.

Publication of legal notice

Giving due notification was important enough to be regulated by law. Yes - State law actually regulates the procedures that local governments are required to obey where it pertains to duly notifying the people of actions.

In Rockwall County alone, all five cities have voted to impair the right of the people to be duly notified of each city action in accordance with State law. In a recent display of disobedience, the cities of Rockwall and McLendon-Chisholm recently voted to stop publishing legal notices in accordance with State law. The two cities joined the cities of Heath, Fate and Royse City in the statutory violations.

Furthermore, the representatives of each city has repeatedly violated state law by not publishing each required legal notice in accordance with State law.

"Teen curfew"

The City of Rockwall has continued to pass an ongoing "teen curfew." What is a curfew? In essence, a curfew is nothing less than Marshal Law. No doubt, Rockwall is not alone. Many cities throughout Texas have voted to violate the people's right to move

about the communities during any time of the day or night.

In all the above examples, the local officers engage in the mal-enforcement of the respective codes and ordinances. Local officers range from fire code marshals, fire chiefs, police officers, sheriff deputies, city managers, etc. In some cases, the constables join in. Each officer is required to give an Oath of Office and hold a Certificate of Commission for the related positions. The Oath of Office is a legal joinder between the individual officer and the people.

What are possible remedies?

This article began by comparing federal, state and local governments.

The people carry the greatest amount of influence over the local governments.

Municipal Charters include details about how the people may remove any ordinance, resolution, and elected official by petition. This powerful tool has been used in many cities. If enough people in a city decide they prefer to be free under Common Law to not be punished and fined for non-compliance to building/fire/traffic/health/safety codes, they have the power to remove the ordinances and codes, or to amend them by removing any language that creates a punishment for non-compliance.

The people have the power to remove any elected official by petition.

The people have the power to dissolve the municipal governments by petition.

The people have the power to inform the Grand Jury of government officers who have engaged in unlawful conduct.

Such conduct is not limited to simply stealing money from the government. It may include mal-enforcement of ordinances and codes that are not designated as criminal offenses; placing people under custodial arrest for non-criminal offenses (commonly recognized as the traffic "stop"); failure to publish each required legal notice in accordance with State law; punishing business and property owners for not passing fire/building code inspections; executing forced building/fire/safety/health code inspections.

The Grand Jury is the people's powerful judicial tool for controlling their governments. The Grand Jury has the authority to indict government officers for Abuse of Official Capacity and Official Oppression.

The Travis County Grand Jury recently sounded a loud alarm across Texas when it indicted the highest officer of the state for Abuse of Official Capacity.

Instead of burning energy on trying to change state and federal governments, the people can get more done by changing local governments. Be an informed Electorate, Jury and Grand Jury. Actively use the people's power of petition. It's our government.

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Rockwall countywide plan aims to keep green in growth

In preparation for growth, the Rockwall County Commissioners Court recently contracted with the consulting team of VERDUNITY and WRT for an Open Space Master Plan (OSMP) that will consolidate plans from each of the cities into a countywide master plan and implementation guide, according to a Rockwall County Open Space Alliance news release issued Monday.

The project kicks off the week of Jan. 19 with a public meeting from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Jan. 22 in the Jury Room of the Rockwall County Courthouse, 1111 East Yellow Jacket Lane, Rockwall. In addition to the public meeting and focus groups, citizens, local businesses and other interested parties will be able to comment and make input throughout the process using online surveys, social media and various websites.

According to experts, one of the critical components of a fiscally and environmentally resilient community is the strategic placement of engaging public spaces connected by safe, walkable networks of trails, bike paths and natural areas. Studies are showing these types of environments elevate and maintain surrounding property values, and support the types of businesses and living environments that today's young professionals, suburban families and senior citizens are seeking.

Upon completion the county and cities will use the OSMP as a guide to designate open spaces and identify corridors for future recreational areas and trail connections, according to the news release. This will be a valuable tool for planners as land inside and outside city boundaries develops.

The Rockwall County Open Space Alliance is the driving force behind this project. Formed in 2012, RCOSA was created to lead an open space planning and preservation initiative.

"We bring all the cities together for discussions and planning to ensure that parks, open spaces, greenways, and trails connect across city boundaries," a RCOSA spokesman said in the news release.

The group also wants to preserve quality storm water corridors and explore the need for a major preserve/public amenity that could potentially be developed in the future and be available to all Rockwall County citizens.

The OSMP will consolidate the existing and proposed plans from each of the cities into a countywide master plan that can be utilized as a guide by the county and individual cities to preserve and protect natural systems and designate open spaces and corridors for future recreational considerations and trail connections throughout the county.

"While other communities in North Texas are spending significant dollars to acquire more park land and retrofit existing development with open space and trails, Rockwall County has a unique opportunity to leverage its natural assets and open space into new development in a manner that positions each of our communities for a long-term, fiscally sustainable future, while continuing to preserve the natural environment and quality of life residents and businesses have come to expect," said Kevin Shepherd, principal of VERDUNITY.



More than 100 women attended a December luncheon hosted at Occasions in Royse City and were entertained by Linda and Larry Petty, who performed Christmas carols for members and guests of the Rockwall Newcomers and Friends Club's holiday gathering. For more details about the organization, visit its website: newcomersrock.com.
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Silver Club meeting scheduled Jan. 23 at RISD admin building

The Rockwall Independent School District offers senior citizens the opportunity to be a part of the school district through the Silver Jacket/Silver Hawk Club.

The club engages senior community members in the district in a variety of ways. The next opportunity is a meeting set for 9 a.m. Jan. 23 at the Rockwall ISD Administration Building, 1050 Williams St. Rockwall.

The topic of the meeting is Managing Money and Building Schools.

Upcoming meetings are set for 9 a.m. on Feb. 20, Teaching Kids to Make Positive Choices, and March 20, Education Foundation and Career and Technology Courses.


Campus bus tours are another way the district hopes to connect seniors with the school district. All tours start and end at the Rockwall ISD Administration Building and end no later than 2 p.m.; each includes a free lunch. Space constraints limit the number of club members who can participate in each tour.

Upcoming tours include:

- Jan. 23 – Stevenson Elementary and Dobbs Elementary
- Feb. 20 – Shannon Elementary and Utley Middle School
- March 20 – Hays Elementary and Rockwall High School

All tours begin at 10 a.m. To RSVP to attend a meeting or participate in a bus tour, contact April Guest, communications specialist, at april.guest@rockwallisd.org or call 972-771-0605.

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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

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

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

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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

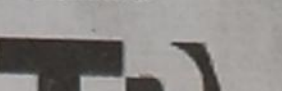


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It is the mission of this newspaper to promote the rights of individuals, guided by the principles so eloquently described in the American Declaration of Independence. The right of life, liberty and ownership of property are the cornerstones of our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



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Meetings

Alcoholics Anonymous, 24 hour helpline, 800-503-8602.

AA Meetings

Rockwall, 7 days a week, Big Group, 213 Rusk St., 972-722-3366.

Al-Anon Meetings

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

Al-Anon Garland

Meetings Monday & Friday, 8:00 a.m. at 2206 South Jupiter St., Suite 113 Garland.

Society of the American Revolution Eastern Fork-Trinity Chapter meets 6:30 p.m., second Thursday each month. 4881 Bass Pro Dr. Garland, Texas. Guests & family welcome. <http://www.txssar.org/> Eastern Fork-Trinity.

Rockwall County Kiwanis Club Meetings every Tuesday at noon at the Rockwall Wedding Chapel, and we recently added an evening meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., also at the Rockwall Wedding Chapel, 203 S. Fannin. For more information call 972-772-6060.

Senior Services

If you are interested in delivering weekday meals to homebound seniors in Rockwall County, we will be holding volunteer training sessions the second Wednesday each month at 1 p.m. Please call 972-771-9595 for location.

24 Hour Help Line for substance abuse & mental health counseling. 800-644-4357.

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

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Legal Notices

STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS 439th District Court OF ROCKWALL COUNTY, TEXAS CAUSE NO: 8-14-1 TO: CORNELL TROTTER, WHEREVER HE MAY BE FOUND You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two (42) days after you were served this, before

the Honorable 439th District Court of Rockwall County, Texas, at the Rockwall County Courthouse, 1111 E. Yellowjacket Lane, Suite 200, Rockwall, Texas, a default judgment may be taken against you.

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Original Petition, at or before ten o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days after the date of issuance of this Citation, on MONDAY, THE 26TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2015 AT 10:00 A.M. before the Honorable 439th District Court of Rockwall County, Texas at the Rockwall County Courthouse, 1111 E. Yellowjacket Lane of said County in Rockwall, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition, was filed in said Court on DECEMBER 9, 2014, A.D., in this case numbered 8-14-1 on the docket of said court, and styled, THE STATE OF TEXAS VS. \$20,150.00 IN U.S. CURRENCY.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: FORFEITURE & SEIZURE PROP/MONEY The officer executing this writ

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

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT AT Office, this the 9th day of December, 2014.

KAY MCDANIEL, District Clerk Rockwall County, Texas

1111 E. Yellowjacket Lane, Ste. 200 Rockwall, Texas 75087 By: KAREN PETTY, Deputy. ROCKWALL COUNTY NEWS, 107 E. BOURN AVE., ROCKWALL, TX 75087 (Newspaper) Issued at the request of Jeffrey William Shell 1111 E. YELLOWJACKET LANE SUITE 201 ROCKWALL, TEXAS 75087 (972) 204-6800

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, The Vault Self Storage located at **1280 E. Ralph Hall Parkway, Rockwall, Texas 75032** will hold a public auction of property to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 10:00 AM, January 9, 2014, at The Vault Self Storage, 1280 E. Ralph Hall Parkway, Rockwall, Texas. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash only. All successful bidders will remove the contents immediately and leave unit clean. A refundable cleanup deposit will be required. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property includes contents of spaces of the following tenant(s): **Deborah M. Dunford:** Luggage, paintings & small office equipment. Contact The Vault Self Storage, 1280 E. Ralph Hall Parkway, Rockwall, Texas 75032, (972) 771-1105.

NOTICE

Three positions on the Roysse City Independent School District Board of Trustees are subject to election on the General Uniform Election Day of May 9, 2015. Those places are: Place 3, Place 4, and Place 5. Places 3, 4 and 5 are for a full three year term.

Candidates may file for a Place on the May 9, 2015 Uniform General Election Day between January 28, 2015 and February 27, 2015.

Packets containing the documents needed to file for office are available on the above dates during regular business hours at the Ernest Epps Education Service Center, 810 Old Greenville Road, Roysse City, Texas.

Candidate Qualifications are:

- U.S. citizen
- 18 years or older at the start date of the term of service
- A qualified voter in the district
- A resident of the district for 6 months before filing deadline
- A resident of the state for 12 months before the filing deadline (or 12 months before the day of the election, in the case of a write-in candidate.)

Persons who wish to vote in the May 9, 2015 election must be registered with the appropriate County-Tax Assessor-Collector no later than April 9, 2015.

NOTICIA

Tres posiciones en el Tablón de Fideicomisarios para el Distrito Escolar Independiente de Roysse City son sometidos a elección uniforme en el Día de las Elecciones Generales del 9 de Mayo de 2015. Esos lugares son: Posición 3, Posición 4 y Posición 5. Los Posiciones 3, 4 y 5 son por un plazo total de tres años.

Los candidatos podrán presentarse para una Posición el 9 de Mayo de 2015 Día de las Elecciones Uniforme Generales entre el 28 de Enero de 2015 y el 27 de Febrero de 2015.

Los paquetes que contienen los documentos necesarios para solicitar la oficina están disponibles en las fechas antes mencionadas durante los horarios normales de negocio en el Ernest Epps Centro de Servicios de Educación, 810 Old Greenville Road, Roysse City, Texas.

Las Calificaciones del Candidato son:

- Ciudadano de los Estados Unidos
- 18 años o más de edad a la fecha de inicio del periodo de servicio
- Un votante calificado en el distrito
- Un residente del distrito por 6 meses antes de la fecha límite de presentación
- Un residente del estado por un período de 12 meses antes de la fecha límite de presentación (o 12 meses antes del día de la elección, en el caso de un candidato por-escrito)

Las personas que deseen votar en las elecciones del 9 de Mayo de 2015 deben estar registrados en el Asesor de Impuestos del Condado apropiado a más tardar el 9 de Abril de 2015.

Section-00 11 13 NOTICE TO BIDDERS

ROCKWALL COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 6 will receive bids for the construction of **GRADING, WATER AND SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS FOR WOODCREEK PHASE 6A; ROCKWALL COUNTY, TEXAS.** Sealed bids must be delivered to the office of the DISTRICT ENGINEER (Petitt Barraza, LLC, 1651 N. Glenville Drive, Suite 208, Richardson, TX 75081) no later than 11:00 AM, Friday, December 16, 2015. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time and place. Bids received after this time will be returned unopened.

The Developer, D.R. Horton - Texas, Ltd. will be the Payor for the contract for Rockwall County Municipal Utility District No. 6.

Plans, specifications and bid documents are available at <http://www.civcastusa.com>; Keyword: 04021-06A20. Contract Documents may be downloaded or viewed free of charge at this web site. It is the downloader's responsibility to determine that a complete set of documents, as defined in the Instructions to Bidders are received. Printed copies of the Contract Documents may be purchased at the website for the cost of printing. The cost for printed Contract Documents is non-refundable. This web site will be updated periodically with addenda, plan holders lists, bid tabulations, additional reports or other information relevant to bidding the Project.

Pre-bid conference for the project will be held at 11:00 AM, Thursday, January 8, 2015 at the office of the DISTRICT ENGINEER, and is not mandatory.

Bids must be accompanied by a cashier's check or a bid bond from a surety company holding a permit in the State of Texas for an amount equal to 2% of the amount bid. The amount of said cashier's check or bond will be forfeited to the OWNER and the bank or surety shall be liable to the OWNER for the amount in event the successful bidder fail or refuse to enter into a contract or furnish bonds as hereafter required within ten (10) days after the date of notice of award.

Performance, Payment and Maintenance Bonds are required.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities or irregularities in bidding in case of lack of clarity in stating prices. The OWNER reserves the right to consider the most advantageous construction thereof, or reject the bid.

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See below statutes that regulate the procedures for publication of required legal notice by municipalities.

Sec. 2051.048 NOTICE OF OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISION.

- This section applies only to a political subdivision other than a county or a conservation and reclamation district under Section 2051.047.
- A notice of a political subdivision *shall* be published in a newspaper that is published in the political subdivision and that will publish the notice at or below the legal rate.
- If no newspaper published in the political subdivision will publish the notice at or below the legal rate, the political subdivision *shall* publish the notice in a newspaper that: (1) is published in the county in which the political subdivision is located ...

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Yellowjacket football honored with top 11-6A selections

by Ryan Garrett

Following their most successful season in 20 years, the Rockwall Yellowjackets came away big in the 11-6A All-District selections, earning several top honors. The undefeated District Champion Jackets finished the season in the regional semifinals with a record of 12-1.

Senior Xavier Castille was named the District MVP with 90 catches on the season for 1,606 yards and 19 touchdowns. He also carried the ball 63 times for 632 yards and seven touchdowns.

Chris Warren, senior running back, was named 11-6A Offensive MVP. As Rockwall's top scorer with 216 points, Warren led the DFW area in the regular season with over 2,000 yards rushing. On the season, Chris had 248 carries for 2,329 yards and 34 rushing touchdowns, along with 178 receiving yards on 12 catches and two touchdowns.

The Rockwall coaching staff was also named the Co-Staff of the Year with the coaches from Rowlett.

Six Rockwall players were named to the All-District first team,

including junior quarterback Will Reed, who was 144-of-229 for 2,447 yards and 33 touchdowns with just four interceptions on the season. All on the first team offense were senior receiver Jay Galloway, 665 yards and 31 receptions, fullback/halfback Luke Termin, senior offensive lineman Holden Harper and Will Morris, and senior kicker Tony Pecora.

Rockwall players added to the first team defense include defensive tackles Kenneth Tobias (junior) and Jaylen Veasley (senior), defensive end Luke Termin, senior linebackers Ty Thomas and Demetre Cook, junior safety James Taylor and junior cornerback Tamba Juanah.

Senior receiver Wyatt Miller and sophomore kick returner Sa Crawford were named second team all-district offense, and defensive end Dante Thomas (senior) and safety Caleb Broach (junior) were added to the second team defense.

Hawks football earns 12-5A All-District

by Ryan Garrett

The Heath Hawks placed a number of players on the 12-5A All-District teams after ending the season as district runners-up with a record of 10-3, 6-1.

On the first team offense, senior running back Rico Henderson led the Hawks with 1,017 yards rushing on 187 carries with 14 touchdowns, and tight end/fullback/half back Chase Peterson led Heath in receiving with 24 catches for 260 yards and two touchdowns.

Senior offensive linemen JJ Niwgewe and Carl Evers also earned selections to the first team offense.

Six Rockwall-Heath seniors were named first team defense, including defensive tackle Denzel Chukwukelu, defensive end Josh Scott, linebackers Cory Wilkerson and Quinten Wooten, cornerback David Richardson and Safety Deshon Elliot.

Added to the all-district second team, Hawks quarterback, who was 103-for-173 for 1,371 yards and 13 touchdowns along with 982 and 15 touchdowns rushing on 133 carries. Senior lineman Tanner Jones also earned a selection to the second team.

Junior defensive end Zachary Dobbins and senior cornerback Lawrence Johnson earned second team defense designations.

On special teams, Omar Shalabi, a senior, earned a first team selection as punter and was selected to the second team as kicker. Senior Wyatt Leath was also added to the second team special teams.

Mark Bielski, Devin Birdsong, Dillion Diffe, Carl Evers, Eric Hurst, Kenneth Mauldin, Sean McCoy, Kennedy Nhem, Omar Shalabi, Garrett Swiney and William Watson all earned Academic All-District recognition.

Williamson, Castille pick up Jacket Backer monthly honor



Seniors Sara Williamson (Lady Jacket basketball) and Xavier Castille (Jacket football) were named the Athletes of the Month for December. Student-athletes are nominated by their respective coaches and then chosen by the Jacket Backers booster club board. Photo by Nancy Goellner/Rockwall County News

Seniors Sara Williamson and Xavier Castille were selected as the Jacket Backer Athletes of the Month for December. Both student athletes were nominated by their respective coaches and chosen by the Backers' board.

During the month of November, Williamson, a senior standout on the Lady Jacket basketball team, was named all-tournament in the Mo Williams Allen Basketball Tournament, leading Rockwall to a sixth-place finish out 32 teams. She averaged 18.6 points in the tournament and shot 32 percent from the free-throw line. Sara averaging 19 points, three assists, four rebounds and four steals per game.

"Sara is a great leader who displays great character on and off the court," coach Kasie Brewer said. "The hard work and heart she plays with motivates and inspires our team to be our best. I am excited to continue to see her grow."

Receiver Xavier Castille had arguably the best month in the history of Rockwall football as he helped lead the Yellowjackets to the region semi-finals and was named the Dallas News High School Hero of the Week for his performance in the playoff win over Dallas Jesuit. In November, Castille had 26 carries for 311 yards and four rushing touchdowns, along with 654 receiving yards on 31 catches and 11 touchdowns.

The Rockwall County Council, Defensively, Xavier hauled in two interceptions.

"Xavier was the heart and soul of our football team this season, and his efforts during the month of November 2014 will be remembered for a long time in the lore of Rockwall football coach Rodney Webb said.



Sixth grade SAGE students from Springer Elementary placed second out of 122 teams in the North Central Texas Region in the sixth, seventh and eighth grade category. Pictured from the left are Steve Cobb, UNT; Krista Searles; Courtney Thompson; Bria Phillips; and Jenny Kaup, SAGE teacher. Each student received a certificate and a \$25 check. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Fifth grade SAGE students from Stevenson Elementary earned first place out of 73 teams competing in the North Central Texas Region for the fourth/fifth grade category. Pictured at front are Ethan Phelps, left, and Glenn Goodwin; second row, Marqelle Fisher, Lorien Britt and Ethan Curtis; and, at back, Steve Cobb from UNT, Mike Pitcher, Stevenson principal, and Julie Byrnes, SAGE teacher. Each student received a certificate and a \$50 check. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Rockwall County Sports Notes

Registration open for boys' baseball


Rockwall boys baseball, 4U-14U, will begin the week of Feb. 23 (draft divisions, 4U-14U, non-draft divisions, 7U-14U). All games will be played at the Leon Tuttle Athletic Complex. Games Select Division will run Mondays through Fridays; Games in the Draft Division will take place on Saturdays. Registration fee is \$99 or \$65 for Rockwall residents. Register at rbsl.org.

Register now for adult slow-pitch softball

Registration is open for adult slow-pitch softball. Men's D-league and co-ed divisions are available. Games will be played on Sunday nights at the Leon Tuttle Athletic Complex; eight-game guarantee. The season will begin March 15. Team fee is \$325. Teams can drop off a check at The Center, 108 E. Washington, or register at rbsl.org.



Joyce Jackson and her Son Charlie Roach



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Rockwall County Sports Notes

Fast-pitch softball registration underway

Registration for girls fast pitch softball is open. Division will range from 6U to 14U, and all games will be played at the Leon Tuttle Athletic Complex in Rockwall. Registration fees are \$99 or \$65 for Rockwall residents. Registration deadline is Jan. 26. To register visit rbsl.org.

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