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Rockwall County News

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Rockwall County News



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A team of volunteers with Operation Elevation (wearing red shirts) assist in clean-up efforts, Tuesday Dec. 29, 2015, at the intersection of Linda Vista Drive and Luna Drive (just west of Dalrock Road) in Rowlett, following the Sat. Dec. 26 tornadoes that destroyed many homes in Garland and Rowlett. Under the direction of Elevate Life Church in Frisco, Texas, the team arrived on the scene, Sun. Dec. 27, and began to assist the home-owners. According to the church's website, another team will arrive later in the week to assist in clean-up and serve where needed. Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

Rowlett church punched by "EF3" tornado, responds with relief effort

Mrs. Nelson was in the church building where he pastors, when the evening of Saturday Dec. 26, 2015, he felt a tornado hitting the back of the building that faces south.

In The City, located at 6005 Dalrock Road in Rowlett, is the path of a tornado that blasted the south wall of the main building.

After the tornado continued in its north-easterly path, Nelson led in patching up damaged areas and preparing for relief efforts in the next day (Sunday).

On Monday, the church began receiving donations, including food, toiletries, mattresses, blankets, and other necessities, to prepare for building repairs.

Church volunteers went to the damaged areas with supplies, and the word about what was available at the church.

The church connected with several churches in Rockwall, Sachse, and other cities.

Notable organizations working with the church in the effort included Reconciliation Outreach, Cross Roads Church, Oasis Church, New Horizon Church, Corner Stone Church, Stillwater (Waterview), The Mount (off Highway 66 in Garland) and Gale Fields Recreation Center located off of Dairy Road.

The church's efforts were also closely united with the Red Cross and The Pantry (Salvation Army), the City of Rowlett. According to Pastor Nelson, the church will also be a location for affected people to apply for federal vouchers.

The Volunteer Coordinators are church members Kristian and Monika Baker.

Soon after Church In The City was hit, another member of the same church was at work in the Tom Thumb Shopping Center, watching the same tornado bear down on different nearby businesses.

Charis Gilbert, of Rowlett, said that around 7:00 p.m., the ground

began to vibrate under her feet and the business's windows shook hard as she and others watched the tornado briefly stop its forward motion. She described how the tornado was lit up by electric sparks from power lines.

Ms. Gilbert said she and co-workers calmly escorted customers to a safe place in the building.

According to her story, as the tornado continued past the church building, it appeared extremely big and seemed to be moving straight toward her location. Looking back on the event, she questions the "EF3" categorization, and believes it was closer to EF4.

She was unsure if the tornado hopped over the shopping center or skirted around it, but she described how it began to move in a semicircular-like motion, then continued forward motion toward the housing development just behind the Tom Thumb Shopping Center.

In her estimation, the tornado took about 3 minutes to pass.

The City of Rockwall is providing assistance after Rowlett sustained a direct hit from a large tornado on Saturday, Dec. 26, at about 7 p.m. Significant damage occurred in a large area, but the most seriously damaged areas were in the southeastern quadrant of the city, according to information by Rowlett city officials.

The National Weather Service has classified the tornado that struck Rowlett as an EF3, according to a City of Rockwall news release.

Rockwall Police and the Rockwall Fire Department provided assistance immediately after the tornado struck, and the police department continued to provide assistance over the weekend, according to a Rockwall news release.

As of Monday evening, Rowlett emergency services personnel and related agencies were winding down their efforts. Property assessments have been completed by the Texas Task Force Team and the Citizens Emergency Response Teams.

"We are cautiously optimistic that there are no other residents trapped or injured," the news release, which contained information



Church In The City member, Antony Artega Smith Jr. assists by carrying donated items into the church gym, Tuesday, Dec. 29, on Dalrock Road in Rowlett, during the church's tornado relief efforts. Artega works as an Assistant Coach at Texas A&M Commerce and works with church youth basketball skills in the Team First program. Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

(Continued on Page 2)

Rockwall County News Briefs

Today is deadline for plan input

Rockwall County is seeking public input on a Hazard Mitigation Action Plan being developed to address natural hazards that affect the county. FEMA defines mitigation as "sustained actions taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards and their effects." To participate in the survey, visit surveymonkey.com/r/rockwallcountyHMAP or, for Spanish, surveymonkey.com/r/condado_de_rockwall by Dec. 31.

City of Rockwall announces holiday schedule

City of Rockwall offices will be closed on Friday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Year's Day. Garbage and recycling collection will be moved to Saturday, Jan. 2.

(Continued on Page 2)



Opinions

What are the chances for peace in 2016

Billions were spent not long ago overthrowing an elected government in Ukraine and provoking Russia. A new Cold War is a bonanza for the military industrial complex, the pro-war think tanks, and the politicians. NATO is on the move in eastern Europe, placing heavy weapons right on Russia's border and then blaming the Russians when they complain about the rising militarism. NATO military exercises on Russia's border have increased and become more confrontational.

In the Middle East, more billions have been spent attempting to overthrow the secular government of Syria over the past five years. The big winners in this grand scheme have been the Islamist extremists, who are funded directly and indirectly by the US and its allies. NATO is planning to go back into Libya, an admission that its 2011 "liberation" of that country has been a disaster.

In Asia, the US empire challenges and provokes China, sending military ships and aircraft into territory China claims in the South China Sea. How much will they continue to escalate before China gets fed up?

The more money sent to the Pentagon and other parts of the Washington war apparatus, the more danger we are in.

Meanwhile, almost all of the presidential candidates promise more military spending and more war if they are elected. Did no one tell them we are broke and making enemies fast with our interventions? Do they think Fed-created money will really continue to fuel the US empire indefinitely?

What are the prospects for a u-turn toward peace and prosperity in 2016? We must be realistic. Presently the numbers are not on our side. But the good news is we do not need a majority to succeed in our fight for peace and liberty. We need only a dedicated and uncompromising critical mass to make great headway.

What can we do to work for peace in 2016? First we must tune out the lying propaganda served up by the US mainstream media. We must educate ourselves so that we can help educate others. We can be sure to tune in and support alternative sources of news and analysis like the Ron Paul Liberty Report, LewRockwell.com, Antiwar.com, and many others. We can tell others about the wealth of truth available to those who seek and question. We must not compromise and never accept the lesser of two evils.

If the people demand peace, the politicians will follow. Let's demand peace in 2016!

Be an informed electorate and Grand Jury

TWC's over-expanding enforcement of the Unemployment Compensation Act is in direct violation of:

Texas Constitution Article 1, Section 16

No bill of attainder, ex post facto law, retroactive law, or any law impairing the obligation of contracts, shall be made.

The act of forcing any business and natural person to purchase any kind of insurance for others, who render services, constitutes "impairing obligation of contracts."

The exception is for Federal Instrumentalities engaged in statutory "employment" on the soil of Texas. See Tx. Labor Code Section 201.101 & 26 U.S.C. 3306 (c) (g) and (j)(1 & 2).

Rockwall County Classified Advertising

(Continued from Page 4)

Legal Notices

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
COLUMBIA COUNTY
SUMMONS

Real Estate Mortgage Foreclosure
Case No: 15 CV 343
Honorable Alan White
Case Code: 30404

Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae"), a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America

PO. Box 2008
Grand Rapids, MI 49501
Plaintiff

Vs.

David E. Aussicker
204 Summit Ridge Drive
Rockwall, TX 75087

Tresa D. Aussicker
W6109 Ridge Road
Pardeeville, WI 53954

Unknown Spouse of David E. Aussicker
204 Summit Ridge Drive
Rockwall, TX 75087

Unknown Spouse of Tresa D. Aussicker
W6109 Ridge Road
Pardeeville, WI 53954
Defendants

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

To the following party named as defendant herein: David E. Aussicker and the Unknown Spouse of David E. Aussicker.

You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The Complaint, which is also served upon you, states the nature and basis of the legal action. Within 40 days after **December 24th 2015**, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in Chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the complaint. The Court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the Court, whose address is:

Columbia County Clerk of Circuit Court
400 Dewitt Street
PO Box 587
Portage, WI 53901-0587

And to James Peterman/J Peterman Legal Group Ltd., plaintiff's attorney, whose address is:
J Peterman Legal Group Ltd.
165 Bishops Way, Suite 100
Brookfield, WI 53005

You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper answer within 40 days, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

Dated this 11th day of December, 2015

James M. Peterman/J Peterman Legal Group Ltd.
State Bar No. 1016476
165 Bishops Way, Suite 100
Brookfield, WI 53005
262-790-5719

J Peterman Legal Group Ltd. is the creditor's attorney and is attempting to collect a debt on its behalf.

Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
TS#: FEI # 1075.00094 12/24/15, 12/31/15, 1/07/16

More than one trillion dollars goes up in smoke. More accurately, it is stolen from the middle classes and shipped off to the one percent. I am talking about the massive yearly bill to the US empire. Washington's warmongers have sold the lie that the military budget has been reduced, not actual spending.

More than one trillion dollars taken from us is spent to keep us safe, despite what politicians say. In fact, it actually makes us less safe and more vulnerable to a terrorist attack thanks to resentment over interventions and to the blowback it produces.

Money is spent to maintain existing conflicts and to create new areas of conflict overseas that in turn demands for more military spending. It is an endless cycle of theft and deceit.

The fear of terrorism is destroying our freedom

By Ebeling

Rockwall County Liberty Foundation

As the year just closing, 2015, has been full of events that continue to dominate the news, including tensions on the streets of American cities, growing fears about terrorist attacks on the United States, and one of the most fear-focused presidential campaign seasons in living memory,

all there is one underlying thread that is not always given the attention it deserves: the political straightjacketing and threatened loss of individual liberty.

Race relations may not be what they were, say, fifty or sixty years ago, but it remains a source of divisions and conflicts still abound in the interactions between people of differing racial and ethnic backgrounds in the U.S.

Legacies of Collectivism of cultural, social and economic history dies hard, and this is true not only for the United States but around the world. For thousands of years people everywhere lived their lives in often tightly knit collective groups with narrow definitions of group identity.

Of freeing ourselves of many aspects of these tribal and collective identities is a relatively recent phenomenon. It is really only about three or four hundred years old in terms of having a manifested impact on society. And it started in only one corner of the world, in parts of Western Europe, where the philosophical and political individualism slowly began to take hold.

The individual came to be seen as the central character of human existence, and not the feudal estate, the church, or the nation-state. The individual before this was viewed as someone whose role, or existence, was as an entity to work, obey, sacrifice, and if necessary die for the collective to which he belonged. His interests were considered subservient to and always in potential conflict with the interests of the collective good.

Individualism, Individual Rights, and the Free Society emerging philosophy of individual rights turned collectivism on its head. The premise of this philosophy, of course, captured in the American Declaration of Independence, when it spoke of the "unalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

For a group was not seen as an ethereal entity with an existence separate from and independent of the individuals who made up some society. Society slowly came to be seen as the short-hand summary of the interconnected associations and relationships of individual human beings as they went about their peaceful, honest and productive everyday activities of attempting to improve their own lives and the lives of others than may care about.

Individuals always appreciate the radicalness of this idea. The individual is not the property, the slave, or the sacrificial animal of a group that may do virtually anything it likes with him when it serves the "higher purposes" and "needs" of that group. He owns himself. He lives for himself. He finds meaning, value and happiness for himself.

(Continued in the Thurs. Jan. 7, 2016 edition)

Rockwall County AA rating ...

(Continued from Page 4)

As a result of easier access to the MSA, which in turn, has spurred further residential and attendant retail/commercial development. Fitch believes it is feasible that this TAV trend can be sustained in the near-term. Various residential and retail/commercial projects underway throughout the county, which management's projections of 3 percent to 4 percent TAV annual gains over the near term.

Solid Reserves, Liquidity Maintained

The county's financial profile is strong. Roughly 80 percent of general operating revenues come from property taxes and the county continues to maintain a relatively low and stable total tax rate of just under 2.0 TAV as of fiscal 2016, which provides a measure of revenue flexibility to the county. The county has generated surplus operations over the past six fiscal years (fiscals 2009 - 2014). Sizeable reserves for pay-go capital occur periodically. Management has typically maintained reserves well in excess of established policy (no less than four months of annually budgeted spending) that provides the county with significant financial flexibility.

The 2014 unrestricted general fund balance totaled \$18.6 million or nearly 73 percent of spending and liquidity also remained strong at \$20 million in cash and investments, equaling over 90 percent of general operational spending.

Higher than budgeted fiscal 2015 revenue performance in conjunction with management's conservative spending practices are projected to soften the \$5 million drawdown (15 percent of initially budgeted for pay-go capital. Management presently expects a \$2.6 million use of reserves to maintain \$16 million (unaudited) or 50 percent of spending in reserves at fiscal 2015 end. The \$29.3 million 2016 operating budget was adopted as balanced; year-to-date revenue and expenditures remain in line with budget according to management.

Overall Debt High;

Other Long-term Liabilities Moderate

Debt levels remain high at approximately \$6,875 on a per capita basis and 8.3 percent of market value as of fiscal 2014, reflective of the area's rapid growth. Fitch anticipates the overall debt burden will remain elevated from continued, growth-related capital and debt needs of various local governments that are experiencing rapid population gains made over the near to intermediate term.

The amortization of the county's outstanding direct debt is average with 55 percent retired in the next five years. Additional transportation projects are planned in the near-term as the county expects to issue approximately \$10 million of its remaining ULT road bond authorization, although stronger than anticipated gains have allowed the associated anticipated tax rate increase to remain at about half of what was promised voters. In addition, management indicates the county remains on track to begin receiving annual reimbursement from the state (TxDOT) in fiscal 2018 based on previously completed transportation projects. The reimbursement is expected to total no less than \$1 million and subsequently offset the annual debt service (ADS) repayment on the ULT road bonds.

Capital needs appear manageable partially due to the county's use of pay-go capital, including the construction of a new courthouse and a radio inter-operability system in fiscal 2015.

Well-funded Pension

Pension obligations are provided through the Texas County and District Retirement System. The county's funded pension is well above the statewide, agent multi-employer plan was strong, reported at 99 percent as of the most recent December 31, 2013 actuarial valuation date. This is largely a result of management's historical practice of maintaining its funded position with additional lump sum contributions in excess of the annual required contribution (ARC). The county's funded position remained sound at an estimated 89 percent when management adjusted the rate to reflect a more conservative investment rate assumption of 7 percent.

Post-employment benefits (OPEB) are largely associated with retirees' participation in the county's self-insured health care plan and are funded on a pay-go basis. The unfunded liability for the OPEB totaled less than 1 percent of market value. Carrying costs for debt service, pension, and OPEB totaled a moderate 14 percent of governmental spending in fiscal 2014 and they are expected to remain moderate despite rising debt service through fiscal 2018.

Some info available about Sabine Creek shelter, but questions remain

by Millie Jean Coppedge

In August 2014, Ed Walker, owner of the Sabine Creek Ranch in Rockwall County, offered the federal government a temporary home for 300 of the more than 2,000 illegal minors flooding in from the southern border into the United States. Weeks after an approval visit to the camp, at which time it seemed the Walker's camp passed all the federal standards, the government did not follow through in a timely manner, so Walker was forced to withdraw his offer in order to keep his commitments to groups who already had scheduled camp stays.

Walker was pastor of Lake Pointe Church in Rockwall from 1999 until 2011. The more than 250-acre Sabine Creek Ranch hosts summer day camps, a variety of other types of camps for adults and children, and retreats for various organizations.

Now once again, the camp has been selected to house individuals being called "unaccompanied minors" from Central America.

The young people, reportedly ages 12-18, are classified as an "at-risk" population of minors and are reportedly being sent to the ranch to be housed for 21 days until they can either be placed with relatives or sent back to their homeland.

In 2014, when Walker was preparing the camp for the illegal

minors, he gave the Rockwall County News a phone interview with information of the upcoming arrival of the young people.

When a call was placed on Dec. 26, however, a prerecorded message from Walker advised callers to go to the camp's website at sabinecreek.com and click on "unaccompanied minors crossing the border" for updates on the minors' arrival and stay. His message states that if the caller needs more information than the site provides to leave a message and he will get back to them as soon as possible.

As of press time, Walker had not returned the RCN's call for more information.

The website stated that attempts to answer a question most asked is how the camp will be paid.

Knowing that the approximately 200 minors would be needing clothes, food and medical care, the site states that the camp will be paid \$60 per person (assuming per day, but not stated). This will cover meals, snacks, night security personnel meals, an extra cook and kitchen crew at time-and-a-half pay, and an extra college crew called in to help.

The site also states, "Some people have heard media reports of the

millions of dollars spent on the temporary shelter and was all coming to the camp."

The BCFS Health and Human Service Emergency Division is a non-profit corporation that responds on federal, state and local governments and businesses in disaster and will be assisting in the cost of housing the

According to the information on Walker's site, the majority of that money to pay their staff, temporary transportation and other costs unrelated to Sabine Creek thankful to full occupancy during this otherwise slow paying staff, utilities, food and other expenses, this income to repair the roof on our dining hall, which has been need with the fall rains we've experienced, and make improvements for our regular camp and retreat guests."

Inquiries to various federal agencies by the Rockwall County revealed a number of discrepancies in information.

The original letter from HHS, and subsequent referred to the "unaccompanied children" as "refugees."

In response to a detailed list of questions, USCIS Policy Officer Arwen Consaul (Homeland Security Department Region), insisted that the unaccompanied children are not but are instead "asylum seekers."

She further clarified, "there have not been any asylum from these unaccompanied minors."

The HHS has not answered the RCN's inquiry into how the federal government will account for the number of people shelter, nor have they demonstrated plans to account for the total number of people, from the point of the border the shelter, and how they will account for and monitor release.

The original number of people going to the Rockwall shelter, quoted by HHS, was approximately 300. Later, it provided to Rockwall County officials changed to approximately people. The federal agencies have not explained the sudden change, and how they accounted for the missing 100 people.

Although the federal government refers to the "unaccompanied" minors, the RCN continues to wait for an inquiry into how the minors made their way from Central America Texas border without being accompanied by third party company, transported them to the Texas border, and what they were heard speaking languages other than Spanish.



The above photo taken by HHS, in the Sabine Creek Ranch facility, reveals the sheltered people are able to pass through the metal fence as shown by the person at far left who was able to squeeze through the fence to retrieve a soccer ball.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Water plan approved for North Central Texas

The Region C Water Planning Group, the group responsible for development of the long-range water plan for North Central Texas, approved the 2016 Region C Water Plan at a public meeting on Nov. 9. The final plan and Region C's prioritization of the nearly 600 recommended water management strategies were subsequently submitted to the Texas Water Development Board, which now begins the process of reviewing plans from regions across Texas and combining them into the 2017 State Water Plan, according to a RCWPG news release.

The RCWPG is one of 16 regional water-planning groups selected by the TWDB to help develop a comprehensive state water plan for Texas through 2070. Each water-planning group is responsible for preparing and adopting a regional plan for its area.

The RCWPG is made up of 22 members representing 12 different interest groups. Region C, as designated by the TWDB, covers all or part of 16 counties in North Central Texas, including Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Fannin, Freestone, Grayson, Henderson (Trinity River Basin portion), Jack, Kaufman, Navarro, Parker, Tarrant, Wise and Rockwall counties.

In 1997, the Texas Legislature enacted Senate Bill 1, comprehensive water legislation that called for the development of a State Water Plan to address Texas' growing water needs. SB 1 outlined a bottom-up, regionally driven planning process and created regional water planning groups across the state. These groups began planning in 1997 and submitted their initial regional water plans, covering needs for the next 50 years, to the TWDB in 2001. The TWDB incorporated those plans into a comprehensive State Water Plan in 2002.

After two more five-year planning cycles, from 2002-2007 and 2007-2011, the RCWPG and other regional water planning groups are now completing their fourth planning cycle, which will ultimately result in the production of the 2017 State Water Plan by the TWDB.

According to the news release, water planning in North Central Texas is critical to prepare for the contingencies of the future:

- Texas is prone to severe droughts, as witnessed in the 1950s and in very recent years
- The population of Region C is projected to more than double over the next 50 years, from nearly 6.5 million in the year 2010 to over 14.3

million by 2070

• As a result, water demands in dry years will grow tremendously just over 1.5 million acre-feet in 2011, to 2.9 million acre-feet by 2070

• Currently available water supplies for the region are only million acre-feet per year

• Consequently, Region C faces a potential shortage of 1.9 million acre-feet per year by 2070 if new supplies are not developed

If no new supplies are developed, the TWDB calculates that the year of severe drought could have significant, adverse socio-economic impacts on Region C, including:

- Regional income would be reduced by \$34.6 billion
- Regional employment would be reduced by over 373,000 jobs
- Regional population would be reduced by nearly 70,000 people

It is important to note that this socio-economic impact also considers a severe drought occurring in a single year. A drought years long would have an even greater impact on the region.

To meet projected, future shortfalls, Region C's 2016 Water Plan includes recommendations for a variety of water management strategies to be implemented between now and 2070.

Of the water supplies available by 2070 under the plan:

- More than one-third would come from currently available supplies (including surface water and groundwater)
- More than one-quarter would be developed from water conservation and reuse strategies – perhaps the most ambitious conservation effort in the entire state
- About one-fifth would be provided through the development of new reservoirs and run-of-river projects
- The remainder would come from establishing new conservation existing water supply sources

Major new reservoirs recommended in the plan are the Lower d'Arc Creek Reservoir, Lake Columbia, Lake Ralph, Lake Tehuacana and development of Sulphur River Basin supplies, including the Marvin Nichols Reservoir.

Most recently, the TWDB determined that a potential conflict between the draft 2016 plans for Region C and Region D (North Texas), with respect to allocation of Sulphur River Basin supplies, a result of this finding, representatives of the two groups came and jointly negotiated a resolution that was subsequently ratified by the planning groups. Under that agreement, Region C will focus on reallocating flood storage to conservation storage in the existing Wright Patman, with proposed development of the Marvin Nichols Reservoir deferred until the year 2070. Region C also will seek water suppliers for seeking permits for new reservoir development in Region D over the next five years, and will support Region D to request state funding for further study of reservoir alternatives. At the same time, Region D has agreed not to challenge designation of Marvin Nichols Reservoir's unique reservoir site over the next five years. Regions C and D have further committed to work more cooperatively in the next round of regional water planning, to develop a comprehensive beneficial plan for Sulphur River Basin water use.

The total projected cost of implementing the recommended water management strategies in the plan is \$23.8 billion.



A select group of Honors Band students from Williams Middle School performed Christmas carols at Liberty Heights Retirement Center on Sunday, Dec. 6. Pictured at front, from the left, are Korie Rose, Benjamin Branks, Kaitlyn Niesen, Lindy Sachse, Alexis Trail and Benjamin Vazquez. At back are Evan Rohde, Devon Alsbrook, Sean Clements, Garrett Sutherland, Bao-Andrew Nguyen, Alyssa Murphree and Lauren Rohrig. The band was under the direction of Ryan Straten.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Celebrate New Year's with the Best in Rockwall County!

 <p>culpeppersteakhouse.com</p> <p>Reservations 972-771-1001</p> <p>309 I-30 East, Rockwall</p>	 <p>thefattedcalfrestaurant.com</p> <p>Reservations 972-722-3343</p> <p>112 E. Rusk, Rockwall</p>	 <p>theoarhouserestaurant.com</p> <p>Reservations 972-771-9687</p> <p>305 I-30 East, Rockwall</p>
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