

# Happy Thanksgiving

## Our Holiday Schedule

The Rockwall County News office will be closed Thursday through Sunday, November 26-29. The office reopens on Monday, November 30 with normal deadlines for Friday editions.

The annual Merry Christmas edition will be delivered Wednesday, December 23, with a 5 p.m. Friday, December 18 deadline.

# Rockwall County News

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Helpin Hands Assistance and Referral Director Sherry Hamm sorts food items in preparation for distribution for the Thanksgiving day.

Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

## Be thankful for what you've got ...

Rochell Elementary fourth grade student Jacob Hranicky of Rockwall recently penned a poignant paper as part of a classroom assignment, and his underlying message is one that many wrestle to remember: Be thankful for what you've got.

The paper, "The Important Thing About Jacob," was submitted to the Rockwall County News by Jacob's father, Brady Hranicky. Brady Hranicky's e-mail message to the editor was as follows: "I am sending this letter my son write in school in hopes that you would be so kind as to publish such an awesome letter from a fourth grader. This is something every parent hopes to hear from their kids."

Brady Hranicky went on to suggest that his son's teachers over the years - Melissa Peralez, kindergarten; Tomi Staut, first grade; Barbara Felder, second grade; Linda Blocker, third grade; and Marie Cooper and Christine Unlusoy, fourth grade - receive credit for their role in the writing.

Jacob's piece follows:

"The important thing about me is that I am me.

"I love to ride bikes, play outside and play sports.

"I've got a family and my family loves me.

"I live in the USA.

"I've got good food to eat.

"I am very special.

"I get to go to school and get smart, and I have good teachers, too.

"I have a roof over my head, I have a room, a bed, a bathtub, a shower, a sink to wash my hands, a toilet, a TV and a computer.

"I have a God, I have a Savior and I get to go to church.

"I have the privilege to stand up and walk on both feet, and I can hear and see.

"But the most important thing about me is that I am me."

## City of Heath honors executive director of Rockwall Helping Hands

City of Heath Mayor John Ratcliffe honored Margo Nielsen, executive director of Rockwall Helping Hands, for her 20 years of service to Rockwall County residents during a Community Appreciation evening hosted November 14 by Heath Salon and Spa.

The event was a finale to a weeklong schedule of activities presented by Heath Salon and Spa that raised more than \$9,000 for the Helping Hands Medical Facility.

"Margo Nielsen joined Helping Hands in 1989 and has since provided creative leadership, overseeing the growth of the agency from three to thirty employees with a current annual budget of \$1,800,000," said Mayor Ratcliffe as he presented Nielsen with a proclamation declaring November 14 as "Margo Nielsen Day" in the City of Heath.

Rockwall County has experienced tremendous growth during Nielsen's tenure, and she has courageously and consistently inspired the community to care for neighbors in need, Ratcliffe said.

Nielsen has led Helping Hands, its staff and volunteers in improving its facilities and providing services through the Thrift Stores, Health Center, Assistance and Referrals and the Food Pantry.

Mayor Ratcliffe noted that Nielsen's name has become synonymous with the mission of Helping Hands: "helping the dependent become independent; helping the needy to improve the quality of their lives; helping individuals and families to find supportive resources; and helping the advantaged to find meaningful ways to serve."



(From left) Heath Mayor John Ratcliffe, Rockwall Helping Hands Executive Director Margo Nielsen and Juana French, owner of Heath Salon and Spa.

Photo Courtesy of City of Heath/Rockwall County News

## Sometimes all it takes is a boost ... a helping hand

udy Evans  
ometimes, all it takes is a boost - a helping hand - to get people through rough places on the road of life and back on track. It's what Rockwall County Helping Hands has done for more than 40 years. Residents come to the non-profit critical assistance agency seeking temporary relief with rent and/or utility payments, household items, clothing and/or health care. Helping Hands is their first line of defense against economic downturns. When problems are caused by job loss, family illness or other circumstances that were unavoidable - problems that can be solved by getting help from the other side. If they have mountains to climb, Helping Hands provides referrals to other agencies that can help. Tracy (not her real name) was a young mother that had lost custody of her five children. When she was referred to Helping Hands for help, she had worked hard to overcome her drug addiction and restart her life. Her future seemed very hopeless...I really believed I would not be able to receive help due to my circumstances," she wrote in a letter to the agency. "I was wrong. I was welcomed with a kind smile and a listening ear. I told my story and walked out of Helping Hands with my clothes, hope and new friends..." When she got temporary custody of her children, Helping Hands was there to provide some furniture for her home and get her back on track. Helping Hands referred me for many classes to help me be a better person and mother for my children and also helped me with job training," she explained. When the court granted Tracy permanent custody of her children, the very first people she shared her joy with was her friends at Helping Hands. While there are others like Tracy, clients are varied - but they all share the struggle and need for basic necessities. Their needs, of course, are greater during the holiday season - the Thanksgiving Season. The holidays bring out the best in most people. It's a time when we stop and count our blessings - a time when they take a look at themselves and realize how fortunate they are," said Margo Nielsen, the agency's executive director. "But it is probably one of the worst times for low income families that are struggling just to get by each day."

All it takes is money and compassion

As you enjoy your bountiful Thanksgiving dinner this week, be assured that the needy families that registered with Helping Hands were provided baskets of holiday food. The agency will also be there for them at Christmas with holiday food baskets and toys. Last year Helping Hands provided three new toys to 800 needy families.

When they are sick, the Health Center of Helping Hands is there to make them feel better. It offers low cost quality health care for everyone and a sliding scale fee for low-income residents. If necessary, referrals are made to specialists.

When they are cold and need blankets or warm clothes, those are provided by the Thrift Stores of Helping Hands.

When they are hungry, they are provided sacks of groceries from the Food Pantry.

And, when they need a shoulder to cry on, the caring staff and volunteers are there to listen to their problems, offer a suggestion about possible solutions or provide them with a referral to another organization.

(Continued on Page 2)



Helping Hands volunteer Jack Pines separates canned foods in preparation for Thanksgiving holiday distribution to the needy.

Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

## Davis to perform with All-State Orchestra

Emily Davis, a Rockwall-Heath High School band member, will travel to San Antonio in February to perform with the Texas All-State Orchestra at the Texas Music Educators Association Clinic and Convention.

The performance is set for Feb. 13 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center.

Davis was selected through a competitive process conducted across the state at district, region and area levels. A student of Ron Neal and Ron Houston, she plays at school under the direction of Benny Davis, a member of the TMEA.

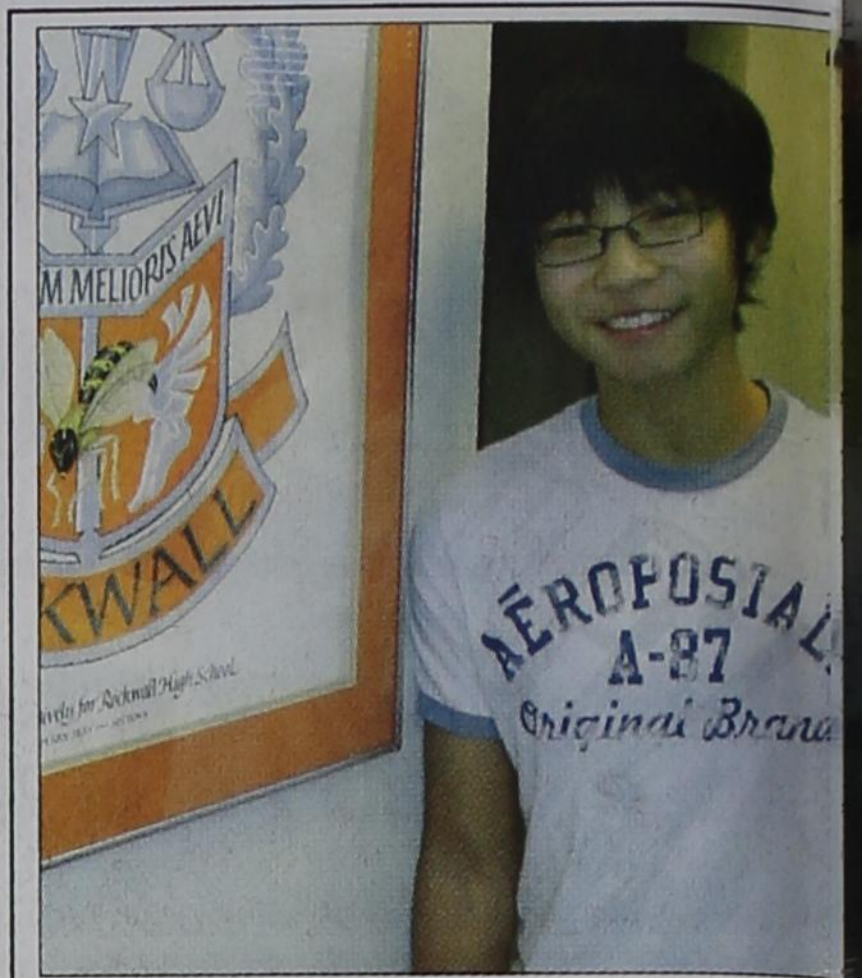
More than 55,000 students participated in the competition, with only 220 selected to perform in the All-State Orchestra.

This is Davis' fourth time to perform as a member of the TMEA All-State organization.

Davis is the daughter of Benny Davis, director of bands at Rockwall-Heath High, and Tracy Davis, orchestra program coordinator for the Rockwall Independent School District.



Emily Davis



Eugene Kim

## Rockwall High's Eugene Kim selected for All-State Orchestra

Eugene Kim, sophomore student at Rockwall High School named to the Texas All-State Philharmonic Orchestra 2010. Kim is a Rockwall resident and son of James and Melissa Kim. A student of the cello, Kim has been performing with the Greater I. Philharmonic Orchestra and has also begun to study piano with piano teacher Michele McDonald.

The Texas All-State Band, Orchestra, and Choir will be presented on Feb. 13, 2010 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio for the Texas Music Educator's Clinic and Conference. The event will include more than 25,000 music educators from Texas, other states, and international guests, as well as the families and friends of the young performers.

Raymond Harvey will be the conductor of the Philharmonic Orchestra. Harvey has garnered critical acclaim on symphony stages throughout the United States. Now in his ninth season as the Music Director, Harvey was previously music director for the Springfield Symphony in Massachusetts and the Fresno Philharmonic in California.

When asked what he plans to do after high school, Kim said he most likely study in one of the medical fields and minor in music.

Submitted by Karen Thomas, Rockwall High School Choir Director  
County News



Members of the Rockwall County Master Gardener club turned the County Courthouse into a Christmas wonderland full of festive garland and red ribbons, brightly lit trees with colorful glass ornaments and even tempting packages under the trees to begin the holiday season. At the Thursday, Nov. 19 decorating session, Amy Marks (on ladder) places ornaments up high while Janet Rowe and Barbara Ruble (left to right) spruce up the decorations down below.

Staff Photo by Kathy Williams/Rockwall County News

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**Rockwall County News**

**"My Favorite Christmas Memory ..."**

You fill in the rest, tell us your favorite Christmas memory, please no more than 100 words.

We'll publish your "Favorite Christmas Memory" in our big Christmas Eve special edition, December 23, 2009.

Email to rcn.news@yahoo.com, please use Christmas Memory in the subject line.  
Deadline: December 11, 2009

**Rockwall County News**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

## Helping Hands

(Continued from Page 1)

The generous donations of the Rockwall community allow Helping Hands to do this good work. But never in the agency's history, has the

need been so great.

A slow economy has caused a 40 percent increase in the number of clients seeking assistance. The difference the staff and volunteers notice is that clients are not just low-income families, but also those with that is very difficult to manage, almost as hard as turning away because of limited resources. Because, while the economy is in a recession, the agency's client numbers, it is also cutting programs.

"We want to provide what they need. It's so hard to get down that are in a tight situation, but our resources are limited," said Sherry Hamm, Executive Director of Assistance and Referral.

Money doesn't stretch as far as it needs to now, she said, and volunteers are providing with food to help offset the expenses. In turn, Food Pantries are full one day thanks to a large number of food drives, but empty the next day due to client numbers.

"There may never be enough money to fund all the needs," Hamm explained, "but we are making a huge impact in Rockwall County. We do make a difference. You can see it in the eyes of our clients. It's so hard to get one down, but seeing it in their eyes, those we do help - it's priceless."

The need is great - it's greater.

The rewards of helping comes with a simple "thank you" from a client; or when a client makes a donation as a volunteer; or when a grateful mother gives new toys for her children. Christmas. It comes from that generous community, partnered with Helping Hands, make life easier for our clients in crisis.

A simple note of thanks from an elderly couple said it best. "Thank heaven for the people who help us. My husband and I are on social security and it's hard to make ends meet. It is such a relief to know Helping Hands is there," the couple noted that the ladies at Helping Hands are the most gracious they know."

A very Happy Thanksgiving Merry Christmas and a New Year from Rockwall Helping Hands - you need.

To make a donation or for information about Helping Hands, please call 972-771-HELP. Judy Evans is a Public Relations Consultant in Rockwall.

**Say You See It In "The County"**



## Dorothy Pryor

Using a cane, Dorothy left the center in just five weeks -- three weeks earlier than expected. Today she is fully mobile and enjoys a full life.

"I'm fine now," she says. "I can do most things. I can't walk very far, but every day is a little bit better. It's just going to take some time."

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Matt Burg, Head of School at The Fulton School, reacts to a close call during his time in the dunk booth at last Friday's school carnival. Students, teachers, parents and siblings enjoyed ring toss, bounce houses, football throw, basketball shooting, carnival snacks and more at the annual fall event.

Staff Photo by Kathy Williams/Rockwall County News

## Could Someone You Know Benefit from Assisted Living?

"I really love Summer Ridge and have lived here almost 7 years. One of the nicest things about it is the wonderful staff. I definitely get great assistance and I enjoy everyone. I especially love the musical events and our chocolate cream pie --- the best!

Helen Mitchell

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Helen Mitchell (seated) with her daughter Linda Duran.

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cast of the Rockwall Community Playhouse holiday offering, "The Best Christmas Pageant" prepares for a Nov. 27 opening night. Tickets are available for the family-friendly show by calling the Playhouse or visiting the website at www.rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org.  
Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

## Rockwall Community Playhouse presents 'The Best Christmas Pageant'

for the Rockwall Playhouse holiday offering, "The Best Christmas Pageant" are still available for the family-friendly show by calling RCP at 972-722-3099. Tickets are \$15 for Adults and \$12 for students and children 62+. Performances are Nov. 27 through Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. The play is directed by Stacey Hatten with assistance director Stacey Hatten.

### "Nunsense"

With auditions complete and the cast set, tickets for "Nunsense" will go on sale beginning Jan. 18, 2010 at the Playhouse. Opening night is Feb. 5.

### Rockwall's Got Talent

Just one of the many events celebrating the upcoming 15th anniversary of the Rockwall Community Playhouse, "Rockwall's Got Talent" will showcase the best talent the county has to offer. Groups or single acts are welcome. An audition workshop will be held at 10 a.m.,

Saturday, Dec. 12 at the Playhouse. Auditions will be Jan. 3 and Jan 10, 2010 by appointment. A \$20 entry fee will also be charged. Show dates are semi-finals at 7 p.m., Jan. 15, and finals at 7 p.m., Jan. 16, at Utley Middle School. Visit the RCP website at rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org for more information and to view a youtube video for the event. Warm up those voices and sign up today for your chance to



Williams Middle School 8th grader Tori Jones with her parents, Roger and Barbara Alexander, both of whom served in the military. Tori's father, Marc Alexander, is currently serving in the U.S. Marine Corps in North Carolina and was unable to attend the school's Nov. 11 Veteran's Day ceremony.  
Courtesy of Stacey Hatten/Rockwall County News

## Heroes of War' honored at Williams Middle School

Williams Middle School students and honored guests were treated to a Veterans Day breakfast reception honoring their military service. Breakfast was provided by members of the Williams MS National Junior Honor Society.

work long hard hours and experience things that will affect their lives forever. Some lose each other, some lose themselves. They do this with their heads held high and with pride in their hearts, for serving this great country. Thank a veteran today!

Williams Middle School students and honored guests were treated to a Veterans Day breakfast reception honoring their military service. Breakfast was provided by members of the Williams MS National Junior Honor Society.

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Enjoying the beauty and comfort at Arbor House are (standing, left to right) Lee Hamilton, Jo Lee, Executive Director Steven Lee, Director of Life Enrichment Diane Holliman, Bernice Rodgers, (seated) Fern Woodall and Virginia Vaughn.



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# News Briefs

## Library closed for T'giving

The Rockwall County Library will be closed for the Thanksgiving holidays on Thursday and Friday. The facility will reopen at 10 a.m. Saturday.

## Heath holiday schedule told

In celebration of Thanksgiving, the municipal offices for the City of Heath will be closed on Thursday and Friday. Trash and recyclables will be collected on residents' regular pick-up days during the holiday week.

## RC Lions plan help for Head Start

The Roysse City Lions Club is accepting donations to help with the Dec. 4 Winter Wonderland Party for Roysse City Head Start students at Anita Scott Elementary. Seventeen children and their families are expected to participate. Sponsors are needed to provide pizza, cake and decorations, as well as children's gifts (clothing, toys and stocking stuffers for youths ages 3-5 are suggested). Anyone interested in contributing should notify Andrea Chandler at 214-287-1656 or e-mail [achandler@eliteprintmanagement.com](mailto:achandler@eliteprintmanagement.com). Deadline for donations is Friday.

## Toy Drive Concert set at Southern Junction

Southern Junction, Platinum 96.7 FM and the Hilton Bella Harbor will present Vince Vance & the Valiants in a special Toy Drive Concert Saturday. Vance and the Valiantettes will be at the Hilton at 10 a.m. to collect toys for underprivileged Rockwall County children. For every donation of a new, unwrapped toy the donor will receive a discount coupon to see Vance in concert at Southern Junction. Toys also may be brought to Southern Junction that night for the discount. Toys will be distributed by the sheriff's office to local families in need.

## BGC to benefit from gift wrapping for tips

The Boys & Girls Club of Rockwall will benefit from a volunteer gift wrapping for tips event set to run from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday at the Bass Pro Shop, 5001 Bass Pro Drive, Garland. Volunteers will be ages 18 and older.

## Tree of Hope program offered at PetSmart

Feral Friends will display the Tree of Hope on adoption weekends at PetSmart locations in Richardson and Rowlett from Saturday through Jan. 2. This is an opportunity to provide much-needed gifts or monetary donations for a cat or kitten or the foster program. Stop by and select a Pet Angel. Visit [feralfriends.org](http://feralfriends.org) and click on donation info (choose Tree of Hope). All donations are tax-deductible.

## Gingerbread Junction entries due Monday

The Rockwall County Master Gardeners are inviting local residents, businesses and groups to construct gingerbread houses and participate in Gingerbread Junction, the first event of its kind in the county. Village shops, houses, schools and other gingerbread buildings will be accepted at the Rockwall County Extension Office until Monday. The structures will remain on display at the Rockwall County Discovery Garden Dec. 5 through Jan. 8. On Dec. 5, gingerbread cookies, cider and hot chocolate will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to mark the grand opening. Visit [rockmga.org](http://rockmga.org) for more details.

## Newcomers plan holiday luncheon

The Rockwall Newcomers Club's holiday luncheon meeting will take place Dec. 10 and will feature "A Christmas Fantasy" by the Broadway Babies, a group of fifth and sixth grade students. Reservations for the meeting should be made by Monday by calling Kitty Colquhoun at 972-722-5569. The meeting will take place at Occasions at Stone River, 1250 FM 2453, Roysse City.

## Daddy/Daughter Dance tickets available Tuesday

Tickets to the 12th Annual Daddy/Daughter Dance will go on sale Dec. 1. The event, hosted by the Rockwall Parks and Recreation Department, will run from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Jan. 30 at the Hilton Bella Harbor. Cost is \$45 per resident couple, \$10 per additional child, and \$67 for non-resident couple, \$10 per additional child. Cost includes photo by a professional photographer, so come dressed to impress. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Spots are limited. Call 972-771-7740.

## Brown Bag Lecture planned

The Rockwall County Historical Foundation will offer its final Brown Bag Lecture of 2009 at the Historic Courthouse at noon Tuesday. The

(Continued on Page 5)



On hand at Lake Pointe Medical Center to receive an award from J.D. Power and Associates were (left to right) Debbie Moeller, RN, BSN – CNO – Lake Pointe Medical Center; Sue Knight, RN, IBCLC; Pam Willems, Unit Secretary, Women's Services; Susan Alexander, PCT; Julie Milam, RN – Clinical Coordinator; Whitney Owen, RN; Dawn Phillips, RNC, BSN – Director of Women's Services; Carolyn Jackson, CEO, Lake Pointe Medical Center; Mayor John Harper, City of Rowlett; Fran Evans, RNC-OB; Amy Hammes, RN; Laura Donham, OB and Wendy Board, RN.

Photo Courtesy of Lake Pointe Medical Center/Rockwall County News



The Dorris A. Jones Elementary School Student Council recently participated in two community service events around the school. On Wednesday, Nov. 4, the officers and representatives from the fifth and sixth grades collected trash along a stretch of Hwy. 276, their adopted highway, between John King Boulevard and Trail Glen. Those Student Council members were (from left to right) Tyler Gunn, Octavio Garcia, Braedon Kilgore, Jada Washington, Soledad Vazquez, Destiny Grace, McKenzie Bryant, Megan Wheelock, Isabelle Barsoum, Briann Pitt and Morgan Carmichael. On Thursday, Nov. 5, the Jones Student Council distributed flyers advertising the first Watch D.O.G.S. Tailgate and Chili Cook-Off. Students walked through the neighborhood surrounding the school placing flyers on doors of the homes. Members of the Jones Student Council for 2009-2010 are Fernando Salinas, Zion Robinson, Kason Hill, Collette Curtis, Macie Hurst, Sarah Phillips, Tyler Gunn, Braedon Kilgore, Megan Wheelock, Soledad Vazquez, Parker Humphrey, Morgan Talley, YounHee Kim, Morgan Carmichael, Destiny Grace, Briann Pitt, Isabelle Barsoum, McKenzie Bryant, Jada Washington and Octavio Garcia.

Courtesy Photo/Rockwall County News

## What we did in 'One Day'

October 10, 2009 was one great day for Texas 4-H and our community, as the first ever "One Day 4-H" service project took place with 4-H members from across the state taking the time to make a difference in their communities. Thirty-five Rockwall County 4-H members and leaders from four clubs braved the soggy conditions and contributed to the community service project at the Rockwall County Discovery Garden. 4-H members assisted the Rockwall County Master Gardeners during the first ever plant and seed swap. 4-H'ers also participated in a fall garden cleanup. Summer annual plants and weeds were cleaned out of the different garden areas preparing the garden for winter. Adults and youth worked side by side and made a big impact in the garden in just three hours.

The picture of these helpers rolling grass to clean the area is a great example of teamwork exhibited by the 4-H members.

Photo Courtesy of Shelly Spearman, Rockwall County Texas AgriLife Extension Service/Rockwall County News



## Fall Arrivals



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## Library collecting items for food bank

The Rockwall County Library is still collecting food for the Helping Hands Food Pantry.

## Health Center seeks volunteers

The Health Center of Helping Hands is in need of volunteers, including bilingual volunteers, to help answer phones and handle filing. The Health Center offers quality health services to those with Medicaid, Medicare and no insurance coverage or deductibles they cannot afford. Nurse practitioners, along with volunteer doctors, provide time and services. The program is designed not to compete with doctors, but help those who cannot afford routine healthcare. For more details call 972-772-8194.

## Lake Pointe Medical Center feted for maternity services

Lake Pointe Medical Center's Rowlett recently was honored for service excellence by J.D. Power and Associates Hospital Practice.

This recognition of the facility's commitment to provide "an outstanding experience," according to the release.

"In earning this distinction, Lake Pointe Medical Center demonstrated its commitment to service excellence," said Lieberman, senior director of Practice. "Providing excellent maternity services is a consistently positive value placed on the part of their maternity staff."

The distinction was earned by surveying recent patients from Lake Pointe about their perceptions of stay and comparing the national benchmark. Lake Pointe ranked first in the annual Service Performance Index, a telephone-based research on the five key drivers of satisfaction: speed of service, dignity and respect, information and communication and emotional support.

Lake Pointe Medical Center's maternity services received a national benchmark score of 92, the highest score in the industry. The hospital received a score of 92 for the respect and privacy, courtesy of the staff, according to the survey.

The hospital also received a score of 92 relative to the national benchmark, providing quick and efficient service, particularly for the safety of the nurses' rooms.

Nearly 70 percent of surveyed patients would recommend the hospital to a friend or family member if needed. A total of 62 percent said they would return to the facility if needed. A total of 40 percent of patients said they have "much more" confidence in the hospital's most recent stay, according to the survey.

## Kiwanis Club host 40th annual parade

The Kiwanis Club of Rockwall County will host the 40th Annual Rockwall Christmas Parade, 108th Street at 9 a.m. Dec. 28.

Theme for the parade is "Side Christmas." This year's route will begin at the west end of Caruth and proceed east on Kaufman, then east on Clark Street, past the Dobbbs Elementary.

Registration will be accepted by organizations. Applications should be submitted as early as possible. Registration forms and information may be obtained at [rockwallkiwanis.org](http://rockwallkiwanis.org) or by calling 972-722-6001.

## Miller, Shelley continue to lead All-State honorees

Rockwall High School members Josh Miller and Shelley are one step closer to becoming All-State Honor students following their recent performance at the Region III auditions at the High School.

Miller won second place in the Region III, according to RNS choir director Rod Thomas.

"All that stands in the way of the last audition in January is to go against only 14 other schools from two other regions," she wrote.

Alex Dennard, who was also in the eighth-place finish, is not eligible to advance though Thomas said he is a "wonderful showing."

"Around the state there are thousands of young people competing for these positions," he wrote. "Scott, Josh and Alex prepared a lot of repertoire. You will join me in congratulating them..."

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# News Briefs

(Continued from Page 4)

"A Walk Down Memory Lane: Growing Up in Rockwall," are personal stories from those who have called Rockwall home in early days.

### Teen Movie Night set Tuesday

Rockwall County Library's Teen Movie Night will run from 5:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Registration Fling scheduled  
Registration Fling, an opportunity to sign up for the spring offered by the Rockwall Parks & Recreation Department, will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday at The Center, 108 E. Washington. Participants will be on hand for participants to meet, and other activities, including face painting, demonstrations by class instructors and refreshments will be offered.

### 'Tis Christmastime events slated

Rockwall County will host 'Tis Christmastime at the historic county square on the square from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday. Santa will be on hand to listen to children's wishes, along with a professional photographer to snap photographic memories. Horse-drawn carriage rides will be available through Old Town Rockwall, refreshments will be provided and Christmas music will be provided by several local groups. Businesses will be open to accommodate early holiday shopping.

### Republican Lunch Bunch to meet

Rockwall County Republican Lunch Bunch will meet at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at Luigi's Café, Rockwall. Cost is \$10, including lunch, tax and tip; pay at the door. No reservations required. All area residents are welcome to this informal social gathering. For more information call Dalton Kennimer, 972-636-4034.

### Teen writers will meet at library

Rockwall County Library will host the monthly meeting of its Teen Writers Group from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Dec. 2. Participants are encouraged to bring samples of their writing to share with the group.

### RCHS play offered Dec. 3, 4

Rockwall County High School Theatre Company will present its first production of the school year, "You Can't Take It With You," at 7 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Dec. 3 and 4 in the high school's Fine Arts Center. The comedy performance will run for approximately 90 minutes with a single 10-minute intermission. Tickets cost \$2 for students, \$4 for adults.

### Heath Holiday Tour of Homes scheduled

Heath Holiday Tour of Homes will be offered from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Dec. 4 - one day only - as a fundraiser for the RHHS Senior Class and after-prom activities; tour locations TBA. Advance tickets are \$15 apiece through Dec. 3 at Bella's House on Rockwall or at the RHHS front office. Tickets at the door are \$20.

### Canton shopping day set for seniors

Rockwall Parks & Rec Department will organize a day trip to Canton from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 4. Participants can plan on doing shopping at one of the state's best-known outdoor shopping centers. Cost will be \$7 for residents, \$11 for non-Rockwall residents. For details call 972-771-7740 or visit rockwall.com/parks.

### Holiday tree lighting slated in Rockwall

26th annual official holiday tree lighting in Rockwall will be conducted at 7 p.m. Dec. 4 on the lawn of City Hall. Live entertainment, Santa's workshop, cookies and coffee and visits with Santa will be provided. For more details visit rockwall.com/parks.

### Heath tree lighting set Dec. 4

City of Heath will host its Holiday in the Park event beginning at 5 p.m. Dec. 4 in the Towne Center Park Pavilion behind City Hall, 200 E. Elementary school students will perform holiday favorites. Complimentary hot chocolate, wassail and cookies will be served. Canned train rides and visits with Santa also will be offered. Canned donations for Helping Hands will be accepted. For details contact Heather at 972-771-6288 or visit heathtx.com.

### Holiday Ballroom Dance Party planned

Holiday Ballroom Dance Party will run from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 5 at The Center, 108 E. Washington. Light refreshments will be served and prizes will be given away. A mini lesson also will be featured. For more details, contact the Rockwall Parks & Rec Department at 972-771-7740.

### Church group to host Brunch with St. Nicholas

Catholic Mothers Council of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church will host Brunch with St. Nicholas from 9 a.m. to noon Dec. 5 at the church, 1305 Damascus Road, Rockwall, behind Heritage Christian Academy. The event will include a breakfast taco buffet by Chiloso's Bistro; pictures with St. Nick; a dress-up nativity scene; arts and crafts activities; games; prizes; and a silent auction. Proceeds will benefit the parish's children's ministry and vacation Bible school. Tickets are purchased at the door at a cost of \$7 per person (maximum per family - parents and their children). For more details call 214-983-1035.

### Kiwanis to host 40th annual parade

Kiwanis Club of Rockwall County will host the 40th Annual Christmas Parade beginning at 9 a.m. Dec. 5. This year's route begins at the west end of Caruth Drive near the YMCA, proceeding east on SH 205 to Kaufman, then eastward to Clark Street. The parade ends at Dobbs Elementary.

### Cowtown Christmas offered at BGC

Families are invited to come for a Cowtown Christmas at the Boys and Girls Club immediately following the Dec. 5 Rockwall Christmas Parade. The fun event will run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., with Christmas cookie decorating, ornament making, photos with Santa and face painting. Cost will be \$3.

### Photos with Santa Claws offered

Pet owners and their pets are invited to have holiday photos taken at Santa Claws on Dec. 6 and 7 at the PetSmart location in Rockwall and Dec. 19-20 in Richardson. Santa will have photos taken with cats, dogs, hamsters, guinea pigs and "any pet you can bring." Cost is \$10 per photo, with proceeds benefiting PetSmart Charities. Feral Friends is a PetSmart Charities member.



Grace Hartman Elementary first grade students decorated pumpkins as their favorite storybook characters recently to celebrate reading. Pictured above was one of the pumpkins - this was decorated as Junie B. Jones of the children's book series by the same name. Students in other grades voted on their favorite pumpkins using pennies and other spare change. Students in the Hartman KC Club collected and counted the money as a service project. The \$465 raised was contributed to Helping Hands of Rockwall.

## Addison Bryan serves as Texas Scottish Rite Hospital Patient Champion

Contributed by Christy Nutter  
Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children

Two-year old Addison Bryan of Rockwall has been chosen to serve as one of six patient champion for the 2009 MetroPCS Dallas White Rock Marathon, representing Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. The marathon will take place Dec. 13.

Patient Champions are TSRHC patients who expressed an interest in becoming more involved with the hospital and the Dallas White Rock Marathon. Runners can create their own online pledge page in honor of the six patient champions to encourage support from friends and family, with all donations benefiting TSRHC.

Addison has been a patient of Scottish Rite since she was five days old. As a result of a rare genetic disorder that causes her to have multiple dislocations, Addison has been treated for conditions including hand and knee dislocations, clubfoot and hip dysplasia, or dislocated hip. Since her first visit to Scottish Rite, she has had approximately 30 casts and three surgeries.

Despite the challenges, Addison is now able to pull herself up using furniture at home, walk with her walker and play with her older sister, Macie, age 8. On Oct. 28, 2009, Addison took her first steps on her own.

Addison serves as a role model for Macie, who in a class project wrote about wanting to become an orthopedic surgeon so she could help others like TSRHC has helped her little sister.

Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children is one of the nation's leading pediatric centers for the treatment of orthopedic conditions, certain related neurological disorders and learning disorders, such as dyslexia, in children from birth to age 18.

The MetroPCS Dallas White Rock Marathon presented by NexBank features a scenic course that includes a flat and fast 10-mile loop around White Rock Lake and is a qualifying event for the Boston Marathon. Race-day events are capped at 20,000 participants. More than 150,000 spectators line the streets of Dallas to cheer on the runners. Since 1997, the primary beneficiary of weekend events has been Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children.

For more information, visit the official MetroPCS Dallas White Rock Marathon presented by NexBank website at [www.runtherock.com](http://www.runtherock.com).



Addison Bryan

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Olivia Morales is shown picking out a pumpkin at the pumpkin patch at Our Lady of the Lake's Littlest Angels Preschool. In celebration of the fall season, the school's students recently were treated to their own mini pumpkin patch on the church's front lawn.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Mission Possible Kids from the First United Methodist Church of Rockwall recently stocked shelves with items they collected for the Helping Hands Food Pantry. Pictured above are Lauren Gallander and Mikayla Henderson. Helping Hands is a nonprofit critical assistance agency that offers qualifying Rockwall County residents assistance with rent and utility payments, food, household items and referrals. The agency's need for financial donations and nonperishable food items is critical this holiday season. To make a donation or to conduct a food drive, contact Sherry Hamm, 972-771-HELP.

Photo courtesy of Judy Evans/Rockwall County News

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## SUFFERING FROM NECK OR BACK PAIN?

Spine Team Texas will be presenting the latest treatment options for neck and back pain on Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6pm.



Anthony Berg, M.D.  
Anesthesiologist  
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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>

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Spine Team Texas  
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6:00pm

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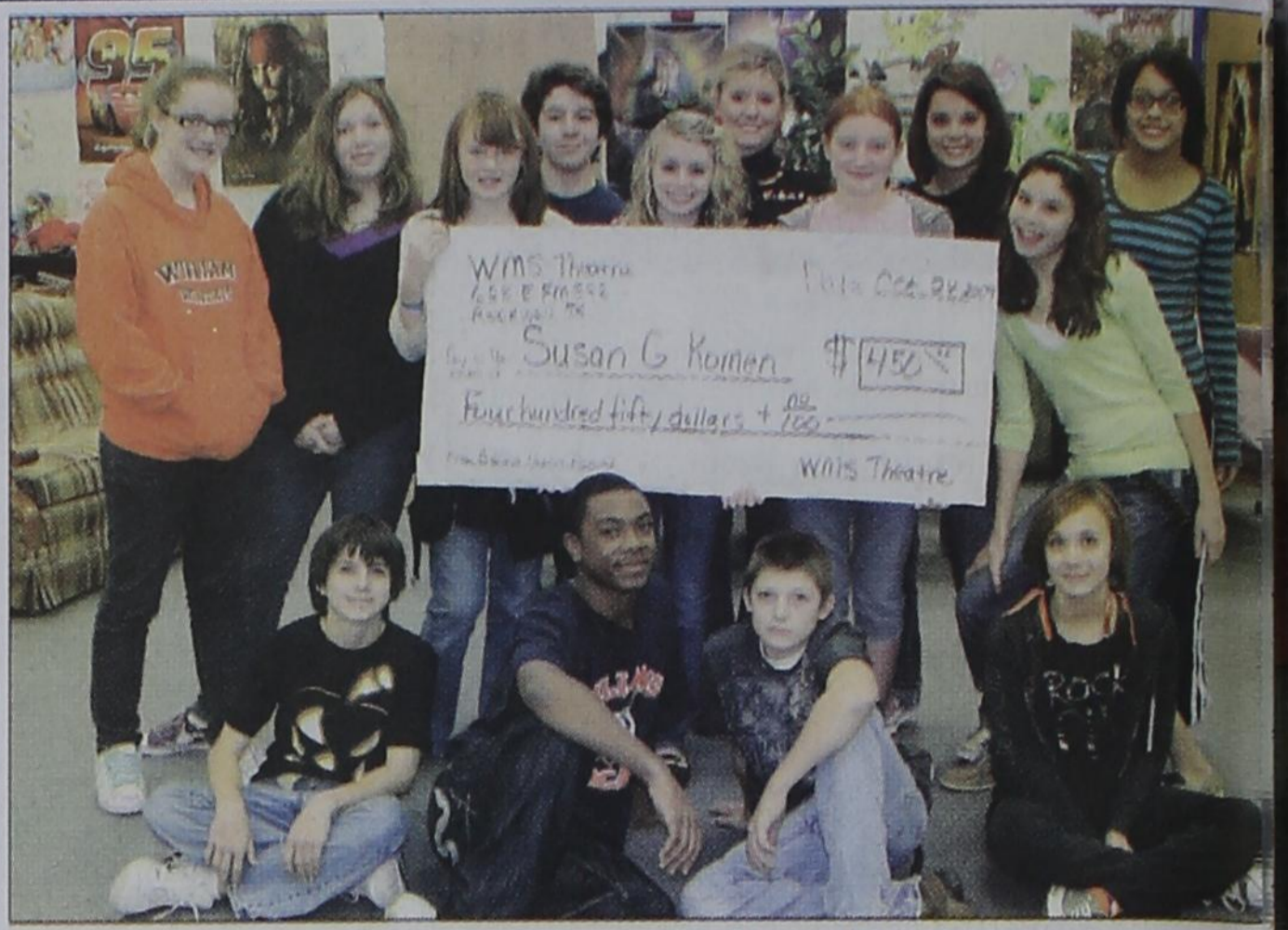


You MUST reserve your spot for a FREE MRI Review or to attend the FREE Seminar at: 972.772.9600, ext. 318  
Please visit: [www.spineteamtexas.com](http://www.spineteamtexas.com) for more information about neck and back pain.



The Rockwall-Heath High School Centerstage production of the dinner theatre production, "Oh My Canada, It Was Murder, Eh?" was performed to a packed house at the school on Oct. 29. Theatersgoers were treated to a great spaghetti dinner and a murder mystery during the fun evening. The actors only received their lines the Wednesday before and performed live that Friday night. Cast and crew members were Melanie Tomic, Server; Tsuki Campbell, Server; Jason Payne, Sound; Alex Cass, Scarlet Ziegfield; Evan Brumbelow, Isaac Worth; Mariam Khan, Olive; Mekel Wright, Jean "C" Apown; Rachel Hilton, Agatha Crabtree; Mike Lossing, Mr. Figgles; Tyler Russell, Clint; Andee Aulbaugh, Charlotte Follie; Kristin Dodgen, Director; Sydney Allen, Marvella Madeline; Jennie Eilts, Popo Buchanan; Sara Woodard, Elmira; Lacy Abercrombie, Daisy Fae; Zane Brown, Nigel Chillings; Dalton Irwin, Shellington Wilson Anderson Hames; Hannah Kennedy, Old Lady Cook and Makynzie Stevens as Blake Libby.

Photo Courtesy of Dawn Cass, Publicity Chair/Rockwall County News



**Drama for a Cause at Williams Middle School**

by Haley Welch, Williams MS Journalism Student

Williams Middle School was very involved in Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October. One of the ways they helped the cause was performing a play. The Theatre II students put on a play called, "The Wore a Dirty Shirt, or Always Wash Your Long Johns Cause it Makes a Lotta Cents," by Tim Kelly. The play was directed by Becky Thompson. The play was performed two nights, Oct. 23 and 24. The second night's proceeds, which totaled \$450, went to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. "It was a really great show," said the viewers the first night. "It was the most professional play I've seen and for such a great cause." The students couldn't have been happier to perform for their peers and their community to help one common cause. Performers were (sitting left to right) Ty Williams, Ramon Harris, Noah Brown, Jordan Nuncio, (standing right) Haley Welch, Michayla Weishuhn, Bri Loden, Sterling Meyers, Hunter Blackwell, theater teacher Becky Thompson, Michelle Watkins, Aimee Johnson, Jessie Moore and Stephanie Castillo. Not pictured is Chadwick.

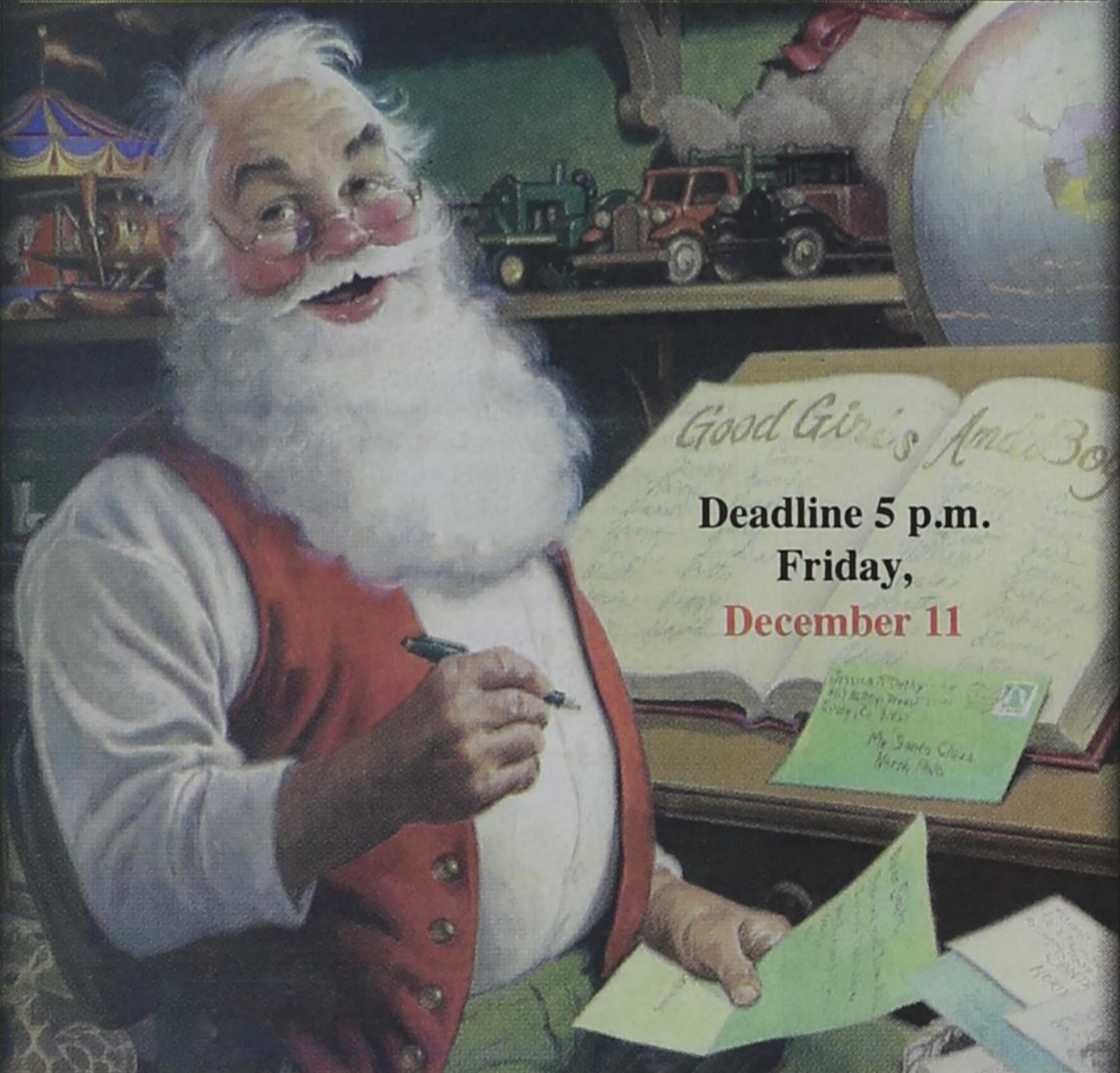
Photo Courtesy of Stacey L. Hatten/Rockwall County News

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Deadline 5 p.m. Friday, December 11

**Rockwall County News**



Amy Parks-Heath fifth grader Emily Miller (center) received a \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond from Luminant Energy for penning the winning essay in the Luminant Scholar essay program. Students from across Texas wrote essays answering the question, "How Can I Help Protect the Environment?" Miller's essay suggested ways to work for a cleaner world today to ensure a healthy future for generations to come. Miller's successful essay also enters her school in the grand prize competition for a \$5,000 award to benefit the school. Helping Miller celebrate her award were (left to right) Rockwall ISD Science Coordinator Scott Townsend, Luminant representative Robert Gentry, ELA Coordinator Rhonda Wasson, parents Kathy and David Miller, Miller's teacher Karen Farris and Amy Parks-Heath Principal Dan Crawford. Miller's classmates also received Luminant t-shirts in honor of her win.

Staff Photo by Kathy Williams

**Chandlers 'Souper' event to benefit Helping Hands**

All participants in the Dec. 18-20 Rockwall Adult and Junior "Souper" Open at Chandlers Landing Yacht and Tennis Club are being asked to donate cans of soup to the Helping Hands Food Pantry during the agency's holiday food drive. "I selected Helping Hands because a client told me the food pantry was low on soups," said Chris Hill, director of tennis at the club. "We want to help spread the spirit of the season, and we hope this will help. I know the tennis community in Rockwall

will be generous with their donations." To sign up for the USTA-sanctioned tournament, visit chandlerstennis.com or call 972-467-5223. "I am so grateful for this generous community and their support

of Helping Hands," said Nielsen, the agency's executive director. "We appreciate the tennis community for providing nutritious food for our clients and clients during the holidays."

**Heath Holiday Tour of Homes set as RHHS prom fundraiser**

The Heath Holiday Tour of Homes will be offered from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

—one day only, Dec. 4— for the RHHS Senior Prom and after-prom activities.

Tour locations will be closer to the date of the event. Beth Bailey and Janet serving as chairpersons.

Advance tickets may be for \$15 apiece beginning through Dec. 3 at Bell on the square in Rockwall RHHS front office.

Tickets will cost \$20 at

**Fundraiser under way for Throwaway Pones**

Throwaway Pones, a cue organization in Rockwall, is conducting a fundraiser for the purchase of new books for children of all ages. Visit myubam.com/e-hostess.asp?sid=K2280&344&HID=HOS161508 to place an order.

**Harper tapped as district director**

Local resident Debra Harper was elected Texas Republican district director for Senate District 13 at the organization's recent convention.

Harper currently serves as president of the Rockwall Republican Women's Club.

She succeeds Ernestine who has held the district position for the past six years. In addition to Rockwall County, the district includes Kaufman, Mesquite, Rowlett, Fannin County, Delta and Garland.

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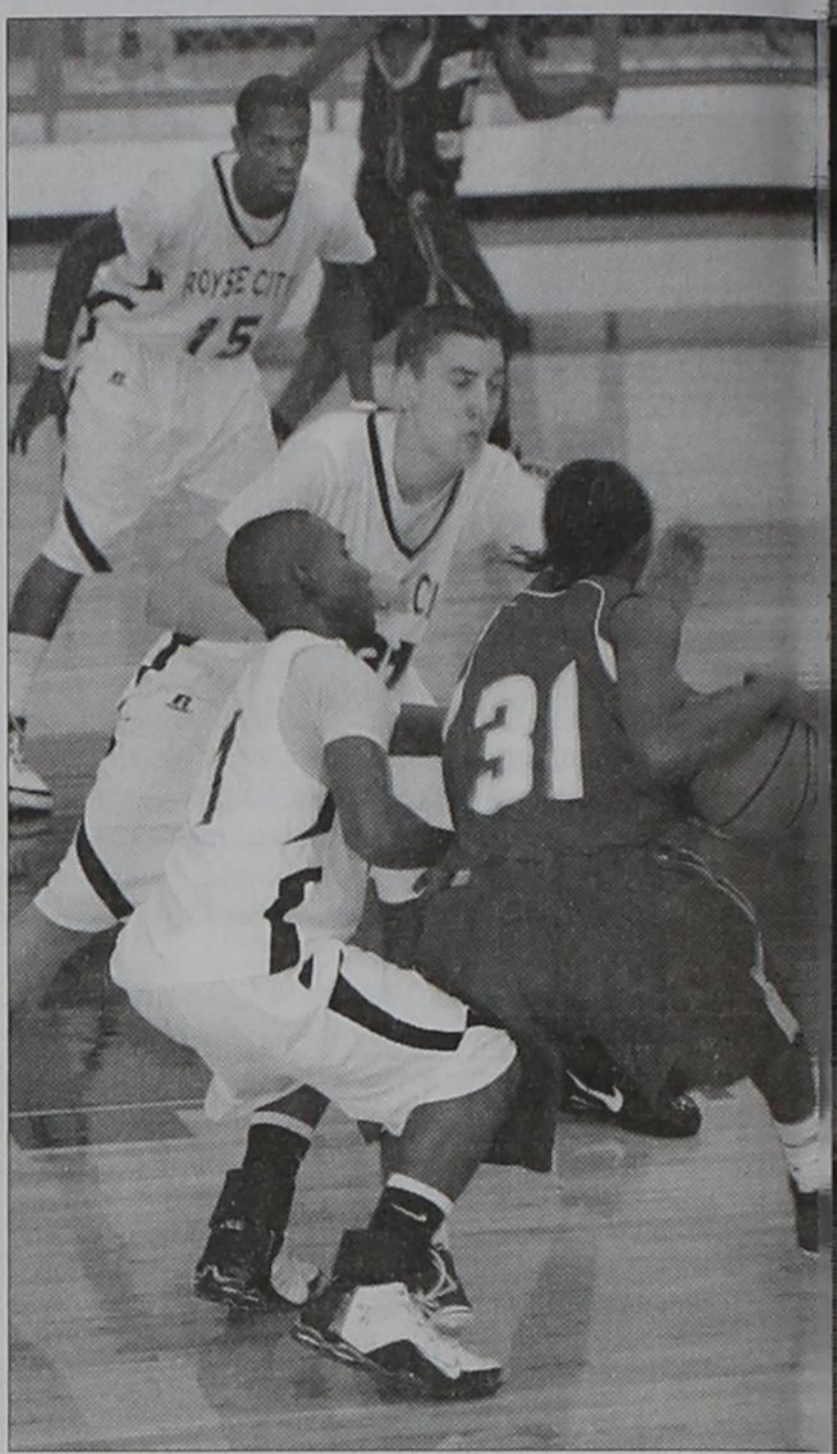
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# Rockwall County Sports

## Lady Hawks rally to salvage win over Ursuline

by Lary Bump  
By the time Rockwall-Heath had played three games in last weekend's Lady Eagle Hoopfest in Allen, head coach Devin Gabbard was relieved to come away with one victory.  
"It's a tough tournament," Gabbard said Friday night after the Lady Hawks (3-2) had rallied to defeat Dallas Ursuline 40-36 in the tournament's Friendship Bracket, for teams that had lost their first two games.  
"We played Denton Ryan (24-9) within 12 points and Coppell, which was a playoff team last year, within three. With the caliber of teams in this tournament, if you win a game you're doing well."  
Both Ursuline and RHHS were considered playoff-caliber teams in pre-season polls. Playing a killer non-district schedule, Ursuline entered the Allen event with a 1-2 record, and seemed on its way to a tournament win against Rockwall-Heath.  
The Bears took an 18-7 lead after a first half during which neither team looked of playoff caliber.  
Gabbard said, "We were tired. It was our fourth game this week. Richardson (Tuesday's opponent) was very physical, and so was Denton Ryan. We were a little sluggish in our second game (Thursday)."  
Against Ursuline, he said, "We weathered the storm. We were not real sharp. To play as sloppy as we did and have the foul trouble that we did, we still won. We can't dig a hole like that and get a win in most games."  
Barely 10 minutes into the game, Ursuline was in a double bonus because Rockwall-Heath had committed 10 fouls. One of the Lady Hawks in foul trouble early was Shanae Lowrance, their leading scorer in all three tournament games. It was she who almost single-handedly dug RHHS out of the hole.  
For a team that scored seven points in the first 16 minutes, Lowrance equaled that total in 56 seconds in the third quarter, pulling Rockwall-Heath within 18-12. She added another basket with just nine seconds more off the clock, but that was because it didn't run between her basket at 7:04 and Ursuline's basket that made the score 20-12. Lowrance scored 10 of her 14 points in the quarter.  
The Lady Hawks' comeback was complete when Brittany Huggett hit a 3-point shot for a 26-25 lead with 1:36 remaining in the third quarter, which ended with Rockwall-Heath ahead 29-23.  
"We changed up the tempo of our defense, and that helped the kids' attitude," Gabbard said.  
The lead grew to eight points, but the Bears rallied after Lowrance fouled out with 51 seconds remaining and RHHS leading 36-30. It didn't help that the Lady Hawks missed 10 of their 18 fourth-quarter foul shots.  
With 31 seconds to play, a 3-point shot pulled Ursuline within a point at 37-36, but Rockwall-Heath made three of six foul shots down the stretch.  
Under new coach Gabbard, who led Huntsville to a playoff berth last season, the Lady Hawks entered the tournament 2-0. Lowrance scored 18 points against Denton Ryan, but sophomore De' Amber White poured in 29 for the Lady Raiders.  
Against Coppell, Katelyn Morris complemented Lowrance's 13 points with 10 of her own, but RHHS lost a close decision.



Royse City Bulldogs' Dajon Avery (11) and Bryan Wyrick (31) stop Conrad ball handler Jeremy Williams (31) from getting to the basket during the game on Tuesday, November 17, at the RCHS gym. Trey Crutchfield (15) is ready to defend against Williams. Staff photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

## Garland routs Rockwall-Heath Hawks 68-31

Rockwall-Heath fell behind 14-4 after one quarter of Friday's boys' basketball game at Garland. After that, things became worse for the Hawks.  
"We weren't the same team that played (Nov. 17)," RHHS head coach Justin Morett said, comparing the team's 46-44 opening loss to Arlington Grace Prep and 68-31 drubbing by the Owls.  
"Garland's plenty good, but we didn't play as well as usual. I didn't think our effort was as good, which is my responsibility."  
The Hawks (0-2) trailed 29-12 at halftime, and 52-16 after three quarters. The Owls (1-1) even outscored Rockwall-Heath in fourth-quarter garbage time.  
"We addressed our problems, and I think we've got it straightened out," Morett said.

RHHS was jumping right back into the fire with games Monday against Forney and Tuesday vs. Corsicana. The Hawks' next game after that would be Tuesday at South Garland. Two days later, they're scheduled to begin play in the Southlake Carroll tournament.  
Against Garland, no Hawk scored more than Jonathon Fuller's 10 points. That shouldn't be the case much longer. Rockwall-Heath should be able to have a balanced, quicker offense.  
"We're trying to press and play a little up tempo," Morett said. "We'll get a lot of people involved. We will not be totally out of control, but we'll make good decisions."  
The coach indicated that RHHS doesn't have great height beyond three big juniors - John Taylor, Warren Matlock and 6'6" Demi Leonard.  
"We're mostly guards. We'll change things up defensively to keep people off guard."

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Rockwall-Heath	4	8	4	15	31
Garland	14	15	23	16	68

RHHS (0-2): Jonathon Fuller 8, Aaron Gladney 6, Preston Wynn 5, London Dutton 4, Zachary Morett 3, Todd Franza 3, Anthony Haake 2.  
Garland (1-1): Derrick Modest 14, Marcus Thompson 12, Rashad Harris 10, Emmanuel Okoroba 8, D.J. Ozigbo 7, Jonathan Walter 6, Tyler Merritt 5, Tra Fountain 4, Billy Jones 2.

## Williamson paces Lady Hawks to second in Lakeview gymnastics

Rockwall-Heath finished among the top five teams in both the girls' and boys' competition at the Lakeview Compulsory Invitational gymnastics meet.  
Led by Lori Williamson's all-around championship and first place on the parallel bars, the Lady Hawks finished second among nine teams Friday, Nov. 13, at Brandenburg Middle School in Garland. RHHS' 112.650 total trailed only Rockwall's 114.700. Williamson totaled 38.650 for four events, including 9.750 on the bars. As a team, Rockwall-Heath also placed first on the bars.  
The previous day, the RHHS boys' team had placed fifth among 12 teams, with Blake Nono fourth all-around among individuals at 55.300. The Hawks totaled 160.900, just 9.7 points behind the first-place host team, Garland Lakeview Centennial, with 170.600.  
For the Lady Hawks, Ashlee Reese finished eighth all-around at 35.800. Other top scorers were Megan Hasenyager, 32nd with 25.650; Naje Watkins, 37th at 18.650, and Miranda Nelson, with 18.400 for 38th place.  
Backing up Nono's performance for Rockwall-Heath's boys were Trevor Newell, 10th at 51.500, and Cody Maupin, 11th with 51.300. Skylar Patrick was 13th at 49.900 and David Parker 15th with 48.300.  
The boys' individual all-around champion was Hurst L.D. Bell's Elijah Holt with 59.400. Holt scored 10.000 in the floor exercise, and also won individual titles in the high bar (9.900), rings and vault.

## Lady Jackets triumph in Lakeview gymnastics

Jenna Jefferey led the Rockwall girls' gymnastics team to the title in the Lakeview Compulsory Invitational Friday, Nov. 13, by placing third all-around.  
Jefferey and teammate Lindsay Loy were among four gymnasts who tied for first place in the floor exercise with 9.750 points. Their performances helped the Lady Jackets to a 114.700 score in the nine-team competition at Brandenburg Middle School in Garland. Rockwall-Heath was second with 112.650.  
Behind Jefferey, the Lady Jackets' lineup was balanced. Loy placed 21st with 29.150 - closely followed by Kailea Coles, 22nd at 29.100; Kara Miller, 24th with 27.450, and Emily Pettett, 26th with 27.250.  
The individual girls' all-around champion was Rockwall-Heath's Lori Williamson with 38.650.  
Rockwall's next competition will be another compulsory event at Thursday's Hurst L.D. Bell Invitational

### High school/middle school schedules

- Heritage Christian Eagles' schedule**  
Monday, Nov. 30 - Varsity girls' basketball: home vs. Nazarene Christian, 6 p.m.  
Varsity boys' basketball: home vs. Nazarene Christian, 7:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, Dec. 1 - Basketball: at Lakewood, middle school, varsity girls and varsity boys, 4:30 p.m.
- Rockwall Christian Warriors' schedule**  
Tuesday, Dec. 1 - Varsity boys' basketball: home vs. Red Oak Life, 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, Dec. 3 - Varsity boys' basketball: at Miller Grove Tournament
- Rockwall Yellowjackets' schedule**  
Saturday, Nov. 28 - Varsity wrestling: at St. Mark's Open, 9 a.m.  
Girls' basketball: home vs. Edgewood, JV 11 a.m. and varsity 12:30 p.m.  
Varsity boys' basketball: vs. Whitehouse at Burger King Classic, Tyler Lee, 8 p.m.  
Monday, Nov. 30 - Girls' basketball: at Bishop Lynch, freshman 4:30 p.m., JV 6 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.  
JV White boys' basketball: at Plano Jasper, 6 p.m.  
Tuesday, Dec. 1 - Boys' basketball: at Plano East, JV 6 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.  
Varsity and JV wrestling: home vs. Dallas Jesuit and Arlington Lamar, 6 p.m.  
Thursday, Dec. 3 - Varsity girls' basketball: vs. North Garland at Garland ISD Coca-Cola Tournament, Sachse, 11:30 a.m.  
Varsity girls' gymnastics: at Bell Invitational, FEW, 5:30 p.m.  
Freshman boys' basketball: vs. Frisco at South Garland Tournament, West Gym, 5:30 p.m.  
Varsity and JV wrestling: home vs. Frisco Centennial, 6 p.m.  
Varsity boys' basketball: at Mabank Tournament  
JV boys' basketball: at Royse City JV Tournament  
JV girls' basketball: at Irving Tournament  
Freshman A girls' basketball: at Denton Guyer Tournament  
Freshman B girls' basketball: at Dallas Skyline Tournament

(Continued on Page 9)

## Royse City Bulldogs hold off Conrad to win opener

Royse City built up a 23-14 halftime lead, then held on to win the boys' basketball game 44-43 Tuesday over Dallas Conrad.  
Playing at home, the Bulldogs trailed 8-6 after the first quarter, scoring Conrad 17-6 in the second quarter. The Chargers came back to 35-32 after three quarters, and came up just short when they outscored 11-9 in the fourth.  
Junior guard Pierre Hayden paced the victory with 18 points.

## Bulldogs fall to 1-1 with loss at Wills Point

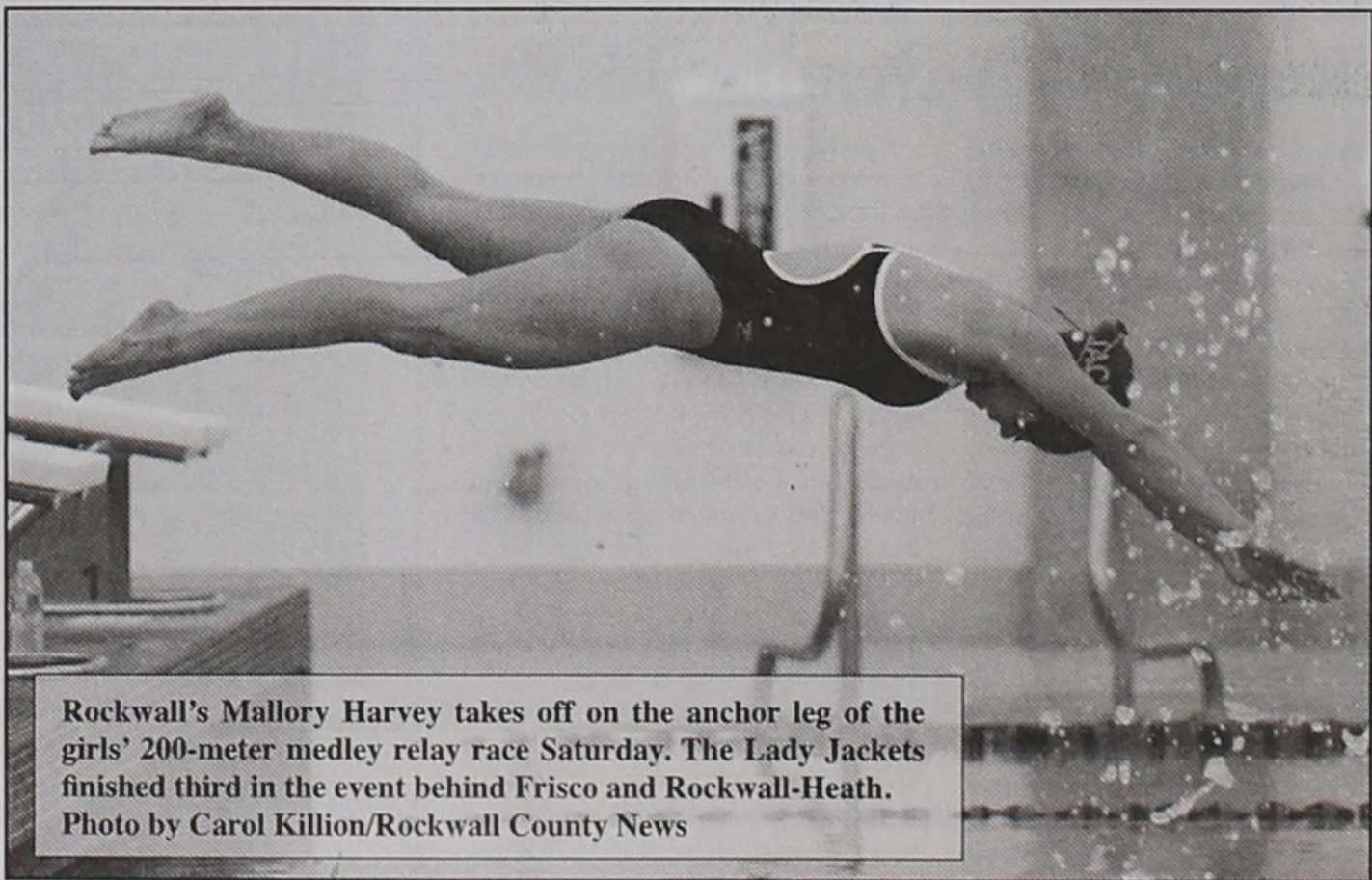
Playing what their coach described as "pretty poor offensively," the City boys' basketball team lost a 12-point decision Friday.  
"We had poor shot selection, but we're learning," said head coach Howerton after the Bulldogs dropped to 1-1.  
"We don't have a lot of experience. We have seniors who played on the bench with varsity, and a lot of juniors who were sophomores in the JV."  
The best Bulldog against Wills Point was 6'1" Trey Crutchfield, who missed some time last season.  
Howerton said, "Trey had a good all-around game for us. He was good on the boards, pretty good defensively. He was really our only bright spot offensively."  
The coach thinks other players will step up around Howerton and Hayden, who led RC with 18 points in its season-opening 44-43 victory over Dallas Conrad.  
"I think our offense will come around. We have some good offensive players - good, solid players who need to learn in games."  
Royse City was scheduled for another game against Kaufman. Their next games will be at Whitesboro Tuesday and in the Southlake Carroll tournament beginning Thursday.

## Johnson, Scott pace Jackets' gymnasts

Robert Johnson and Jeremy Scott finished among the top 10 in the Lakeview Compulsory Invitational boys' gymnastics meet Thursday, Nov. 12.  
Johnson's steady performance in the six events put him in fifth with an all-around score of 55.500. Scott was helped to finish seventh by tying for the top score (9.900) on the pommel horse.  
The Yellowjackets finished at 163.300, just 2.6 points behind the place Saginaw A team. Host Garland Lakeview Centennial won the meet with a 170.600 total.  
Other top scorers for the Jackets were Craig Brannon, 26th with 33.100, Zach Bennett, 30th at 43.600, and Jude McCarthy, 44th with 33.100.  
The individual all-around champion was Hurst L.D. Bell's Elijah Holt with 59.400. Holt scored 10.000 in the floor exercise, and also won titles in the high bar (9.900), rings and vault.  
RHS head coach Cameron Sweny said his team was out two of their top gymnasts, "but still performed well." "We will see how our team compares when we are full strength on Thursday at the Bell Invitational in Hurst."

## RHHS tennis tournament postponed

Rain on Friday, Nov. 20, postponed the Rockwall-Heath tennis tournament scheduled for Saturday. The event, which also was held at Rockwall, has been rescheduled for Friday, Dec. 11.



Rockwall's Mallory Harvey takes off on the anchor leg of the girls' 200-meter medley relay race Saturday. The Lady Jackets finished third in the event behind Frisco and Rockwall-Heath. Photo by Carol Killion/Rockwall County News

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## Message from the President, Presbyterian Hospital of Rockwall

It's hard to believe that it has been almost two years since the opening of Presbyterian Hospital of Rockwall; so much has changed since December 28, 2007. We opened with 110 employees and 89 physicians and today we have over 400 employees and over 300 physicians.

We started with two operating rooms and we are getting ready to open our sixth and seventh ORs. We have already delivered over 1,100 babies, which includes 3 sets of twin girls all in the same day. Several new service lines have opened including outpatient therapy, Your Surgical Weight Loss Solution, which is our bariatric program, and our beautiful Women's Imaging Center, are all located in the medical office building next door to the hospital.

Needless to say, the last two years have been quite eventful for us. So much growth and change and yet one thing has remained the same—our desire to provide compassionate healthcare to meet the needs of this great community. We don't just provide a service at Presbyterian Hospital of Rockwall; we provide the highest level of personal service possible in each and every encounter.

I can't put into words the feeling I get when I am out in the community and hear from our neighbors how they brought their son to have tubes put in his ears and they were amazed with the level of service they received. Or the daughter who brought in her elderly mother and loved the food so much, she would sneak bites off her mother's tray.

Then there is the family who brought in their two month old son who had a head injury from a fall. All the parents could say was how unbelievably great the emergency and radiology employees took care of their baby and comforted the entire family in the scariest time of their life. I was touched by the family in ICU who talked about the support and comfort they received as their husband and father was in critical condition and they did not know if he was going to make it.

I also could not forget the young lady on the second floor who told me the staff took such good care of her she didn't want to leave. This doesn't even include the countless letters, emails, and phone calls I have received. There is not a day that goes by that I don't get to hear something wonderful about our hospital and the exceptional care and service we provide to our community.

This hospital is a dream come true for me, but one thing I never knew was how magnificent reality would be. And for that, I would like to publicly thank our employees, physicians, volunteers and most of all the unwavering support from this incredible community. We couldn't do it without you!

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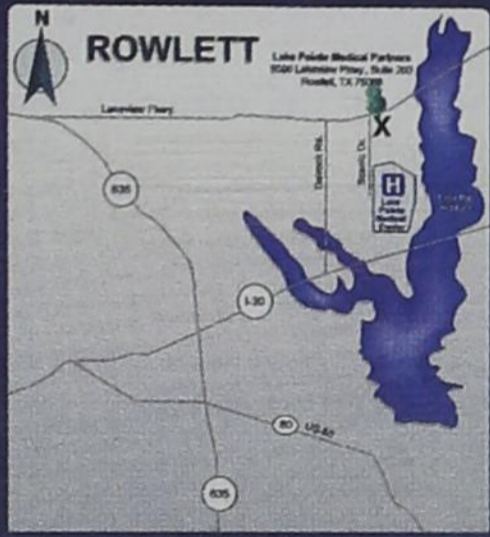
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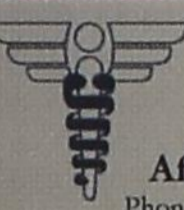
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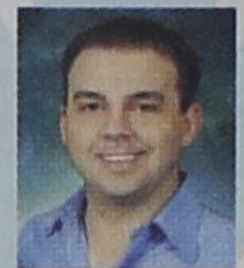
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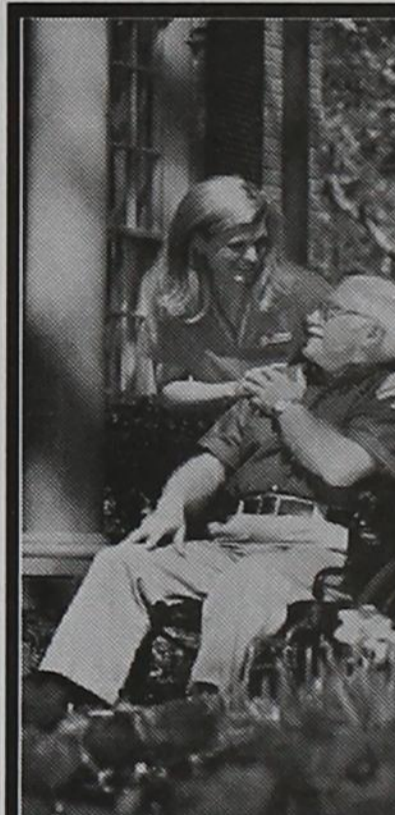


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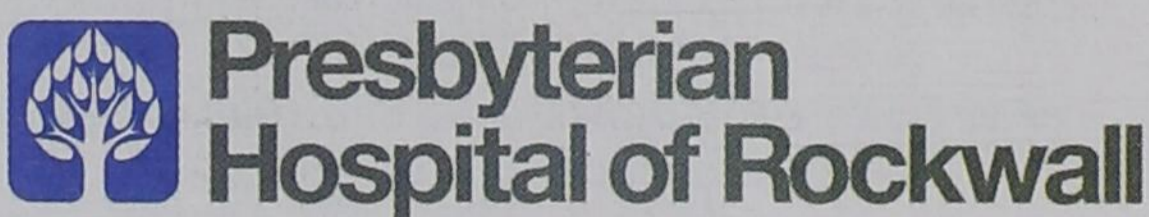


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# On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

...first receive the holy ghost...Acts 10:44-46  
 ...at the scripture related to receiving the holy ghost we now  
 Acts 10-11. Up to this time, only people in the tribes of Israel  
 the holy ghost. Here is the first record of Gentiles doing the  
 ...the rightly divided word teaches us exactly what they did to  
 the holy ghost. In this study it will be seen that the Gentiles did  
 ...same thing as the apostles did in Acts 2:4 and Acts 8:15-17.  
 ...the scene, Peter was staying with a man named Simon in the  
 ...Cappadocia. At the same time a man named Cornelius from Caesarea  
 ...Cornelius was a centurion Roman captain over 100 sold-  
 ...word says he was a devout man who revered God with  
 ...in his home.  
 ...in Joppa, Peter had a routine of meditating and praying on the  
 ...Simon's house. This time God gave him a vision of different  
 ...animals gathered in a blanket. He was very hungry at the time,  
 ...receiving the vision, God said to him, "Rise, Peter kill and eat"  
 ...13).  
 ...God that he would not eat, and that he had never eaten  
 ...that was common and unclean. God replied, "What God has  
 ...call not common." God was telling Peter something that was  
 ...different from what he understood his whole life. God repeated  
 ...times. When God gets our attention about something three  
 ...is completely established.  
 ...Peter was praying when an angel from God came with orders to  
 ...Peter. As a centurion he understood the importance of follow-  
 ...ing, and he did so meekly. He sent his best soldiers who arrived  
 ...at his home, called for Peter and told his story. The next day Peter  
 ...went to Caesarea with the soldiers. When he arrived to Cornelius'  
 ...everybody was ready to hear God's word. This is a great exam-  
 ...ple of how we can approach God's word. Just completely focused, ready to  
 ...go back to study what we learned.  
 ...and Cornelius shared their stories about how God talked to  
 ...them. Peter said, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of  
 ...people (Acts 10:34). This was huge! What did he do next? He taught  
 ...them about Christ. How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with holy spir-  
 ...it and powerful authority. He taught that Jesus did good by healing  
 ...the oppressed of the devil. Peter went on to explain that he and  
 ...others were witnesses to all the things Jesus did in the land of  
 ...Judaea and Jerusalem. Next he taught that Jesus was crucified and on  
 ...the third day and night God raised him up from the dead showing him  
 ...to certain chosen people.  
 ...Peter said, "Through his name whoever believes in him shall rem-  
 ...ission of sins" (Acts 10:43). Does this sound familiar? He said  
 ...the same thing in Acts 2:38. It then says that while he spoke, "the holy  
 ...ghost fell on all them which heard the word."  
 ...we see in Acts 10:44 that the holy ghost "fell on" the Gentiles  
 ...says everybody who came with Peter were astonished.  
 ...were they so astonished? The answer is in verse 46, "For they  
 ...had never spoken with tongues, and magnify God." To dispel any  
 ...doubt to Acts 11:15 where Peter told his story to other believ-  
 ...ers. "And as I began to speak, the holy ghost fell on them,  
 ...as at the beginning." "At the beginning" refers to the time  
 ...the apostles were filled with holy spirit unto remission of sins,  
 ...and received the holy ghost when they began to speak in tongues  
 ...4:31).

# Rockwall County Obituaries

## Kenneth Jacobs

Services for Kenneth Jacobs, 61, of Terrell were conducted at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, 2009, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel. Burial followed in the Rest Haven Memorial Park.

He died Nov. 17.  
 Born July 13, 1948, in Royse City to R.D. and Oza Mae (Hill) Jacobs, he enjoyed spending time with his family and devoted much time in support of his daughter and grandchildren. A member of the Lifetime Fishing Club, he worked as a welder at Continental Manufacturing.

Survivors include his daughter, Stephanie Schniebs of Grand Prairie; his grandchildren, Gavin and Lucy; his brother, Danny Jacobs and his wife, Ruth, of Terrell; and his sisters, Judy Braddy of Garland and Juanita Pettit of Magnolia.

His parents and his brothers, Steve and Norman, preceded him in death.

## John Edward LaDuca

Graveside services for John Edward LaDuca, 58, of Dallas were conducted at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, 2009, in the Rest Haven Memorial Park. The Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

He died Nov. 18.  
 Born Aug. 11, 1951, in Buffalo, N.Y., to Albert Anthony A. and Bradda (Armstrong) LaDuca, he served in the U.S. Air Force as a staff sergeant specialist in Vietnam. He served in the military for six years and later worked as a restaurant consultant.

Survivors include his wife, Theresa (Spain) LaDuca of Dallas; his brothers, Albert LaDuca of Joplin, Mo., and David LaDuca of Jacksonville, Fla.; his sisters, Debbie Wagner and Roger of Kansas City, Mo., and Rosanne Littleton and her husband, Norman, of Joplin; many nieces, nephews and cousins; and his dog, Spike LaDuca.

His parents preceded him in death.

## Rest Haven Funeral Homes prepare for holiday program with Tree of Remembrance

In its 16th year, the Rest Haven "Tree of Remembrance" offers a special way to recognize personal loss and pay tribute to loved ones. A bare Christmas tree will be placed in the foyer at each of the Rest Haven Funeral Homes located in Rockwall, Rowlett and Royse City. Beginning Monday, Nov. 23 through Monday, Dec. 21, area families are invited to stop by one of the locations, personalize an ornament, and place it on the "Tree of Remembrance." Ornaments will be available for personalizing Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Rockwall and

Rowlett locations; and at the Royse City Chapel from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Monday through Friday.

These special commemorative ornaments will adorn the trees in preparation for Rest Haven Funeral Home's annual community-wide holiday music program, "Sounds of the Season." The program will be held at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 8, at the Rockwall Chapel. This year's musical performance will be presented by The Lucky Family, a very talented local family ensemble including sisters Lisa Brown, Tina Luckey, Lynae Mestellar and mom, Sarah Luckey.

There is no charge and the event will be a special holiday outing for the entire family. Rest Haven Funeral Home Rockwall is located at 2500 State Hwy. 66 East, approximately two miles east of downtown Rockwall. Please call 972-771-8641 for more details.

## Joy Lutheran Church receives grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Joy Lutheran Church of Rockwall has received a grant of \$1,000 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. "The grant is to be used to purchase personal healthcare items for residents of Terrell State Hospital," said Carolyn Kuhlman, head of Joy's Outreach & Fellowship Committee.

Kuhlman said Joy members also are sewing large "mumu" dresses for hospital residents. "We will be able to give them close to 30 dresses this year," she said. "We'll be able to make even more if we receive donations of cotton fabric. Donations of 3-4 or more yards of fabric will be most welcome."

She said those interested should contact Jo Dieterich at 972-772-5143. For more information contact Kuhlman at 972-722-1323.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a Fortune 500 financial services organization helping approximately 2.6 million members achieve their financial goals and give back to their communities. Thrivent Financial and its affiliates offer a broad range of financial products and services including life insurance, annuities, mutual funds, disability income insurance, bank products and more. As a not-for-profit organization, Thrivent Financial sponsors national outreach programs and activities that support congregations, schools, charitable organizations and individuals in need. The organization's website is www.thrivent.com.

Joy Lutheran Church is a family and community service oriented church located at 302 N. Goliad (Hwy. 205), one block north of the Rockwall County Courthouse. On Sundays, education classes for all ages begin at 9:15 a.m. and worship with communion is at 10:30 a.m. For children four and under, a nursery with an adult attendant is available from 9 a.m. until Noon. Joy's pastor, the Rev. Paul Appel, can be reached at 972-771-4161, and the church's website is www.joylutheranchurch.org.

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 Matthew 7:7

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 First Presbyterian Church of Rockwall is located at 62 White Hills Drive, just north of the intersection of IH 30 and Ridge Road. The congregation, which is dedicated to local and global mission work, is led by pastor Cheryl Taylor. Visitors are invited to attend Sunday school at 10am and worship at 11am. For more information call 972-771-5702.

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 Romans 10: 9-16

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

# In Our Opinion

## Health-Care

### “Reform”: It’s All About Power

by Sheldon Richman

If the politicians who are bent on redesigning the medical and medical-insurance industries really wanted only to curb rising prices and help the uninsured get coverage, they would have zeroed in on the previous government interventions that created those problems. Instead, they are pushing grand schemes to turn our medical decision-making over to bureaucrats. That indicates that the so-called reform campaign is about power.

Medical care is too expensive. Prices for services rise faster than other prices, and there’s reason to believe much of the money is wasted. Expensive medical care equates to expensive insurance, which prices some people out of the market.

This has been called a failure of the free market, but that can’t be: There is no free market. I defy the advocates of government control to name one aspect of medicine or insurance that government doesn’t dominate.

The anti-market system politicians have put in place — as pleasing as it is for the insurance and pharmaceutical industries and organized medicine — harms the public. Yet it would be easy for them to remove the harmful interventions.

For example, they could end the adverse tax treatment of people who buy their own insurance. If your employer buys insurance for you, it’s paid for with pretax dollars. If you buy your own, you pay with after-tax dollars. That’s a hefty penalty. But the price of avoiding that penalty is high: You must cede control over thousands of dollars in cash wages as well as your medical coverage to your employer. You can’t tailor coverage to your own needs. To get a better plan you have to change jobs. That’s just stupid.

The system creates the incentive to overspend on medical services. Since insurance premiums appear to be paid by your employer and since the policy covers routine elective services and tests, you have no reason to shop wisely in the medical marketplace. That’s one reason for the price inflation. Why ask about the price or the necessity of a test if someone else seems to be footing the bill? Doctors know that and will err on the side of more rather than fewer services.

If the politicians really cared about high prices and lack of choice, they would remove the tax penalty. Do those in power even talk about it? No.

State governments make a bad system worse by mandating that “basic” policies cover many services for which most people would not buy insurance if they were explicitly paying the bill, such as acupuncture, hair transplants, contraceptives, and more. These mandates are state-granted privileges for the providers, who would rather lobby for their profits than have to attract willing customers. Every mandate raises the price of insurance and pushes young and low-income people out of the market. Without those mandates, many people would buy low-priced, high-deductible catastrophic insurance. Government creates many of those uninsured the politicians cry their crocodile tears over.

If politicians really cared about high costs and lack of choice, they would neutralize coverage mandates by removing the federal ban on interstate insurance sales. Then a resident of a high-mandate state, such as California, could buy a policy offered in a low-mandate, such as Arizona.

The government forces prices higher in many other ways. Medicare, for example, gives a virtual blank check to its beneficiaries, who have no reason to be cost-conscious about the services they buy. Retirees have gotten far more in benefits than they ever paid in taxes while working. As long as Medicare exists, everyone’s medical services will be artificially expensive. Medicare is doubly offensive: The money is taken from current workers, and when it is spent it bids up the price of medical services for those workers. Considering its \$37 trillion unfunded liability, Medicare is the disaster some people predicted when it was set up in 1965. As long as it exists the medical system will be awry and government will exert control.

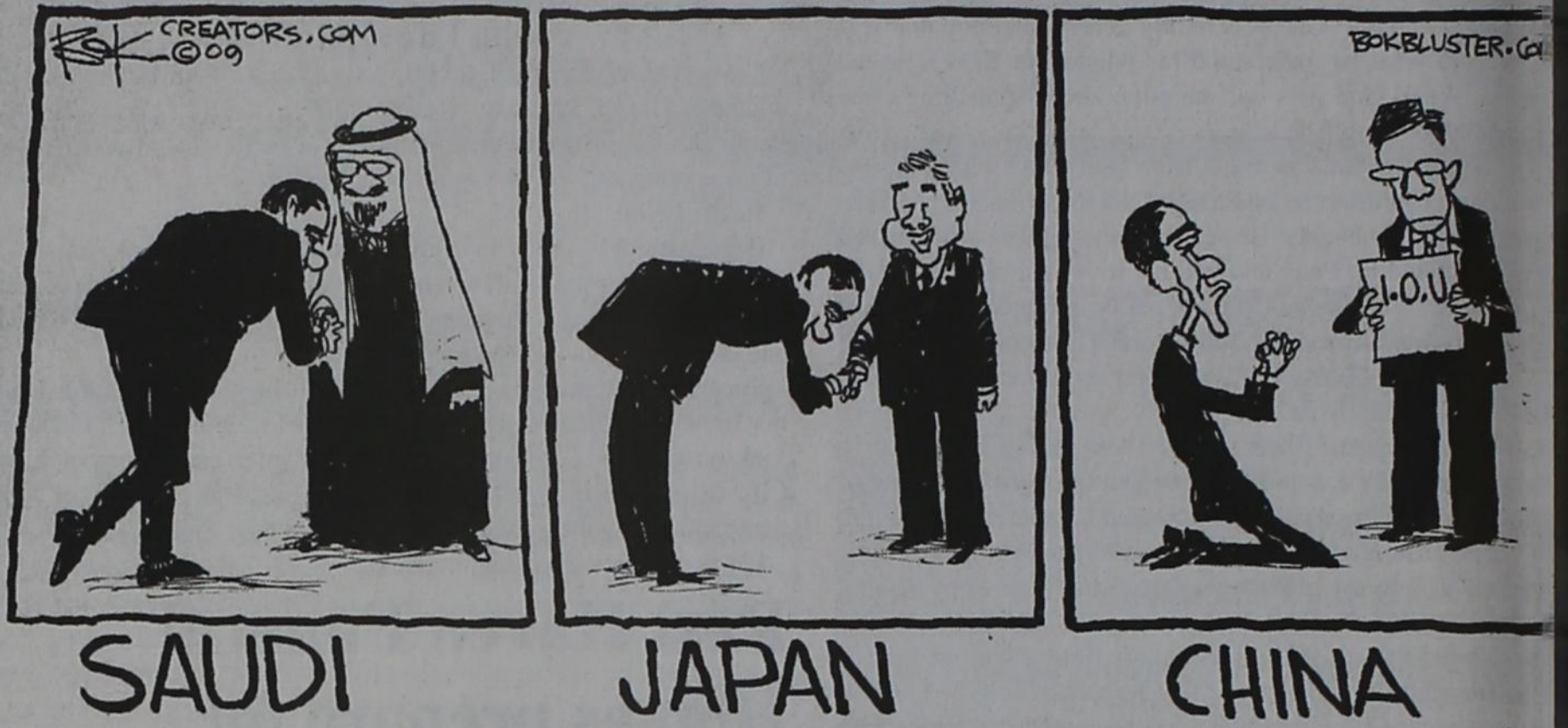
Government also raises medical prices by sponsoring a protectionist medical guild in each state, keeping the number of doctors low and prices and incomes high. Occupational licensing is a conspiracy against the public masquerading as consumer protection.

Yes, we suffer from monopoly and high prices. Government is the reason.

Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation, author of *Tethered Citizens: Time to Repeal the Welfare State*, and editor of *The Freeman* magazine.

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## HOW TO GREET FOREIGN LEADERS



## Excused Horror

by Walter E. Williams

Last Tuesday, I had the pleasurable task of being Master of Ceremonies for the Atlas Economic Research Foundation dinner in Washington, D.C., that celebrated the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Founded in 1981, the Atlas Foundation assists the formation of free market think tanks around the world to spread the ideas of personal liberty, private property rights and limited government. So far, they have been successful in at least 70 countries. Attending the two-day celebration were think-tank representatives from many of these countries, including those from Croatia, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mozambique, South Korea, Russia and Brazil.

Alan Kors, University of Pennsylvania history professor, gave the evening's keynote address. What he revealed about the dereliction and character weakness of academics, intellectuals, media elites and politicians is by no means complimentary, but worse than that, dangerous. Professor Kors said that over the years, he has frequently asked students how many deaths were caused by Joseph Stalin and Mao Tsetung and their successors. Routinely, they gave numbers in the thousands. Kors says that's equivalent to saying the Nazis are responsible for the deaths of just a few hundred Jews. But here's the record: Nazis were responsible for the deaths of 20 million of their own people and those in nations they conquered. Between 1917 and 1983, Stalin and his successors murdered, or were otherwise responsible for the deaths of, 62 million of their own people. Between 1949 and 1987, Mao Tsetung and his successors were responsible for the deaths of 76 million Chinese.

Professor Kors asks why are the horrors of Nazism so well known and widely condemned, but not those of socialism and communism? For decades after World War II, people have hunted down and sought punishment for Nazi murderers. How much hunting down and seeking punishment for Stalinist and Maoist murderers? In Europe, especially Germany, hoisting the swastika-embazoned Nazi flag is a crime. It's acceptable to hoist and march under a flag emblazoned with the former USSR's hammer and sickle. Even in the U.S., it's acceptable to praise mass murderers, as Anita Dunn, President Obama's communications director, did in a commencement address for St. Andrews Episcopal High School at Washington National Cathedral where she said Mao Tsetung was one of her heroes. Whether it's the academic community, the media elite or politicians, there is a great tolerance for the ideas of socialism -- a system that has caused more deaths and human misery than all other systems combined.

Academics, media elites and leftist politicians both in the U.S. and Europe protested the actions and military buildup of President Ronald Reagan and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that led to the fall of the Berlin Wall and ultimately the breakup of the Soviet Union. Recall the leftist hissy fit when Ronald Reagan called the Soviet Union the evil empire and predicted that communism would

wind up on the trash heap of history.

Professor Alan Kors did not say this but the reason why the leftists give the world's most horrible murderers a pass is they sympathize with their socioeconomic goals, which government ownership and/or control over the means of production in the U.S., the call is for government control, through regulation, opposed to ownership. Unfortunately, it matters little what is a Democratically or Republican-controlled Congress at House; the march toward greater government control can just happens at a quicker pace with Democrats in charge.

You say, "Come on, Williams, there will never be the socialist oppression seen elsewhere here!" You might be right. Americans have become very compliant with unconsent and immoral congressional edicts. But what do you think happens if some Americans began to rise up and heed Jefferson's admonition "Whenever the General Government assumes undelegated powers, its acts are unauthorized, and of no force." and decided to disobey unconstitutional congressional edicts?

Walter E. Williams is a professor of economics at Mason University. To find out more about Walter E. Williams and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [creators.com](http://creators.com).

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