

Rockwall County News local ownership announced this week

W. Burnett, manager of Texas Media Enterprises, L.L.C., announced the purchase of the Rockwall County News from Publishing, Inc., opening a new chapter in the life of the newspaper. The change in ownership became effective June 26. Burnett will serve as publisher and editor, with Timothy W. assisting. The weekly newspaper's office is located at 107 in Rockwall. Burnett father-and-son team comes to Rockwall from the

West Texas city of Post, where it served in similar capacities at another weekly, The Post Dispatch.

"We are dedicated to publishing a community newspaper packed with news you won't find anywhere else," Wes Burnett emphasizes. "We are stewards of your newspaper, and we are determined to serve our readers and advertisers with interesting and informative local news, photography and features. We'll keep you informed, entertained and challenged."

Tim Burnett arrives in Rockwall with an accomplished photo-

graphic portfolio.

"Tim is an outstanding news and feature photographer, and we are greatly pleased he has agreed to join us in this exciting opportunity," Wes Burnett said.

"In a city this dynamic, we'll need lots of help," Wes Burnett said. "We encourage our readers to submit news items and photographs. Tim will coordinate local news and sports photography. We also seek community and sports correspondents interested in broadening our news coverage."

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Rockwall County News

Volume 22, Issue 27

USPS 2495

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Newsstand Price 50¢

Friday, July 4, 2008

Local city governments aim for historic preservation of downtowns

Marcus Bunk

Downtown isn't always uptown, but with a little help, the old can go on a rebound – and that's exactly what a few local governments are trying to do.

Cities in Rockwall and Royse City are making historical preservation a priority through the state's Main Street Program, a fund-levy designed to revitalize downtown areas in culturally rich cities. The idea is to supplement local budgets with funding for preservation projects – a stark contrast to the development-minded policies of most modern municipalities.

"Downtown, historically, used to be where everything happened in a community, and was the center of a town's identity. Over the years, that changed, and we'll probably never be able to go back to that," said Debra Farst, executive director for the Texas Main Street Program, at a recent Rockwall City Council meeting. "And in cities in Texas, Rockwall runs the risk of losing that identity because of the massive amount of growth headed your way."

These changes are as apparent here as anywhere else. Rockwall is the third-fastest growing county in the nation and the fastest in Texas, and Interstate 30 has provided the lifeblood of the communities for decades. As it expanded, the towns began to lose their infrastructure, and the county courthouse became too far from the open spaces surrounding it became too tempting. Now, downtown areas see only a fraction of the government

funding and attention received by the more populous suburbs – which is exactly what the Main Street program hopes to combat.

By training a local supervisor and providing funding for proven initiatives, the Main Street program can draw attention and tourists to areas that provide local charm and specialized businesses beyond the reach of most "big box" retailers. It isn't a "pot of gold," Farst said, but its programs can help level the playing field between new developments and historical districts that would otherwise have a hard time competing.

In Rockwall, which is in the middle of an expansive application process, the potential program means something to the streets and businesses encircling the old Rockwall County Courthouse. In Royse City, which became a member last January, the zone means something to the bulk of Main Street and the old courts building. And Main Street programs mean something similar for the 88 other Texas communities that belong to the program – and their businesses.

Working out of a 60- or 70-year-old building presents a variety of challenges. Roofs collapse, bricks begin to decay and there is hardly any space for billboards or advertisements. Parking an SUV in a space designed for horse-drawn carriages also requires special dedication, as just about any Rockwall resident can attest.

But for those vendors that do remain there, the benefits can outweigh the isolation and maintenance woes. Downtowns have a character that generic developments lack, the architecture is designed for walking rather than driving and most visitors prefer local and historic businesses every chance they get.

The trick is to draw them there, through promotions and preservation campaigns that the vendors themselves typically cannot afford. The Main Street Program, they say, is one way to accomplish just that.

"People don't come to Rockwall to shop in the big box stores, they have those in their own town. They're looking for uniqueness, and they're looking for charm," said Janice Hill, owner of Texas Traditions, across the street from the County Courthouse. "At times, I think about moving because of the parking problems. But then I take a walk around the square and remember why I wouldn't want to be anywhere else."



Downtown Rockwall includes the active Courthouse (left) with a variety of professional offices, shops and restaurants. Staff photo by Tim Burnett



Downtown Royse City is lined with brightly colored flower displays. Staff photo by Tim Burnett

News Briefs

Lunch Bunch

Rockwall County Republican Lunch Bunch will meet at 11:30 a.m. July 2 at 1Luigi's Italian Cafe. The cost is \$10 which includes lunch, beverage, tax and tip. Pay at the door. Reservations are not required. This is an informal social gathering and is open to all area Republicans. For information call Leon Tuttle at 972-771-6874.

Rockwall County Library

The Rockwall County Library will be closed for the 4th July on Friday and Saturday, July 4-5. The library will reopen on Monday, July 7 at 10 a.m.

Library Closing

The present Rockwall County Library will be closed as of Monday, July 21 and will open in the new location on Sept. 8.

Summer Reading Club

Registration for the summer reading clubs for children, teens and adults is still under way. The clubs will run through July 11. Prizes are available for all clubs.

Teen Percussion Party

Professional drummer Mark Shelton will entertain the Rockwall County Library Teens with several different percussion instruments followed by a jam session on July 11. Pizza and prizes inlows.

Lady Hawks BB Camp

The Rockwall-Heath Lady Hawks and coach Donna Walker will be holding a summer camp July 14-17 for girls in grades 4-9. The cost is \$80 and will include a camp t-shirt and basketball. For more information, please call Donna Walker (903) 826-3416.

Soccer Tryouts

Soccer tryouts for Texas pride FC, Girls U13 Select Soccer will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., July 7-13. Open practice will be offered from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. June 23-26. For more information, visit their Web site at www.leaguelineup.com.

Shoes for Kids

Shoes for Kids is holding a fundraiser from 5 to 9 p.m. June 26 at Joe Willy's. A percentage of the sales from that night will be used to raise money for underprivileged children in the Rockwall and Royse City school districts.

Library Closing

The Rockwall County Library will be closing the present facility on July 21. The library will reopen on Sept. 8 at 1215 E. Yellowjacket Lane.

PARD Activities

Registrations are currently being taken for youth and adult programs offered by the Rockwall Parks and Recreation Department. (972) 771-7740 or register for a program by stopping by The Center, 108 E. Washington or mailing the registration form in the Fun Guide to 108 E. Washington, Rockwall, 75087.

Meals On Wheels

Meals on Wheels needs volunteers. They have added a new route and due to the rapid population growth, have more seniors to serve. The programs have never had a waiting list and they hope to be able to help the elder community with the assistance of volunteers. 972-771-9514.

Preschool Moms

Mothers of Preschoolers at First Baptist Church in Rockwall meets twice a month Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Membership is open to all mothers with children through kindergarten. Membership based on child-care availability. 972-771-8459 or visit www.mops.org.

(Continued on Page 2)



Lakeshore Church was host to the sixth annual Freedom Fest last Sunday evening. The event included lots of fun and games for children of all ages. Staff photo by Tim Burnett

Rockwall City Council gears up for 2009 budget

by Marcus Funk

The Rockwall City Council has made progress toward finalizing next year's budget, but the latest steps are small compared to the leaps and bounds planned later this month.

On Monday night, the council met with the Budget Committee to review plans for the full-fledged financial plan and discuss a handful of issues that could shape the final proposal. The meet-

ing was brief, especially by Rockwall standards, and foreshadows a much larger process and at least one marathon session in the coming weeks.

"The executive session lasted about an hour and a half, but the meeting itself only lasted about 15 minutes," said Rockwall Mayor Pro Tem Cliff Sevier. "The budget process goes on for a couple of months, and there's an all-day workshop about it coming up soon."

Monday's meeting was the latest in a series of consultations about the budget. The groups met in late June to discuss expectations and plans for the process itself, which is a usual ordeal for cities across the state. It is also a major annual event for both the state and federal government, and it occupies a significant amount of time whenever the Legislature or Congress is in session.

Like the higher-profile legislators, the hope among city members is that planning meetings early in the process will reduce the likelihood of miscommunication or confusion when the budget is dissected, piece by piece, during the intensive work required by state law.

Sevier said those hearings will begin soon. The next meeting on Monday will focus on regular business - but after that, the summer will be devoted to the budget process. The sessions will be open to the public.

Sigrid Jackson receives DAR Americanism Medal

Sigrid Jackson, of Rockwall, recently received the DAR Americanism Medal award from The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Captin Molly Corbin Chapter.



Sigrid Jackson

Jackson is a real estate professional in the Rockwall office of Coldwell-Banker Residential Brokerage-Dallas/Fort Worth and resides in Rockwall.

According to DAR, the Americanism Medal is given to adults, naturalized American Citizens, having displayed the requisite qualification of trustworthiness, service, leadership and patriotism.

The DAR is a nonprofit volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history and securing America's future through better education for children.

Private Grant Tuma completes Marine Corps boot camp

Private Grant Austin Tuma, 20, of Rockwall graduated from United States Marine Corps boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego on June 27, 2008.

Specialty school at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Tuma is the son of Jim and Jill Tuma of Rockwall.

Private Tuma successfully completed 13 weeks of intensive basic training at MCRD San Diego and Camp Pendleton as one of 55 recruits in Train Platoon 104.

Following ten days of home leave, Tuma will report to Camp Pendleton for one month of Military Combat Training followed by Military Occupation Specialist school at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Tuma is the son of Jim and Jill Tuma of Rockwall.

Private Grant Austin Tuma

News Briefs

(Continued from Page 1)

Community Prayer

True Worshipers Christian Ministries will meet for a community prayer and Bible study Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at 2830 Tangleglenn Drive. 972-722-2634.

DAR

DAR meets on the first Saturday of every month from October through May. If interested in membership, please call Laverne Ketcherside, Royse City 972-635-6626; Faye Heil, Rockwall 972-771-3033; or Pat Brown, Terrell 972-563-5559.

Gold Cards

Gold Cards are available to Royse City ISD residents who are 65 or older. The cards allow free admission to all home athletic events. Call or visit the Royse City ISD administration Office to pick up your card. 972-636-2413.

First Presbyterian Church

First Presbyterian Church of Rockwall located at 602 White Hills (by Wal-Mart) has new summer hours with worship from 9:45-10:45 a.m. followed by fellowship from 10:45 to 11:15 a.m. and Sunday School from 11:15 to noon.

Patriot PAWS

Individuals can make a donation to Patriot PAWS by joining the Tom Thumb Good Neighbor program. A percentage of each purchase will be donated to the organization. Card holders also are eligible for 10 cents off per gallon on gas for every \$50 spent at the store.

Fireworks in the Park

The Josephine VFD would like to invite the public to its annual Fireworks In The Park Fundraiser. The event begins at 4 p.m. June 28. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for kids under 12 for all you can eat brisket and all the trimmings. For information on craft booths, call Julie Brooks at 214 347-296. For information on the pageant, call Melissa Peralez at 214 437-932. The event also will feature games, crafts, raffle and a live band (Clay Potter). Bring a lawn chair.




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FAMILY VISION CENTER



Ribbon cutting ceremonies were recently held for Family Vision Center, 3002 Horizon Road, Rockwall • 972-722-1000. Family Vision Center provides vision assessment, fitting glasses and contact lenses, and diagnosing eye disorders.

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Ribbon cutting ceremonies were recently held for Riding Club Road Mini Storage, 2416 Riding Club Road, Rockwall. They provide you with a clean, ready-to-rent unit with helpful advice to ensure that you are completely satisfied.

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Ribbon cutting ceremonies were recently held for Texas Back Institute, 1005 Ralph Hall Parkway, Rockwall • 972-772-8767. Texas Back Institute is one of the largest freestanding spine specialty clinic in the United States. They have world-renowned surgeons and conservative care specialists, state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment services and customized patient care that encourage non-surgical alternatives.

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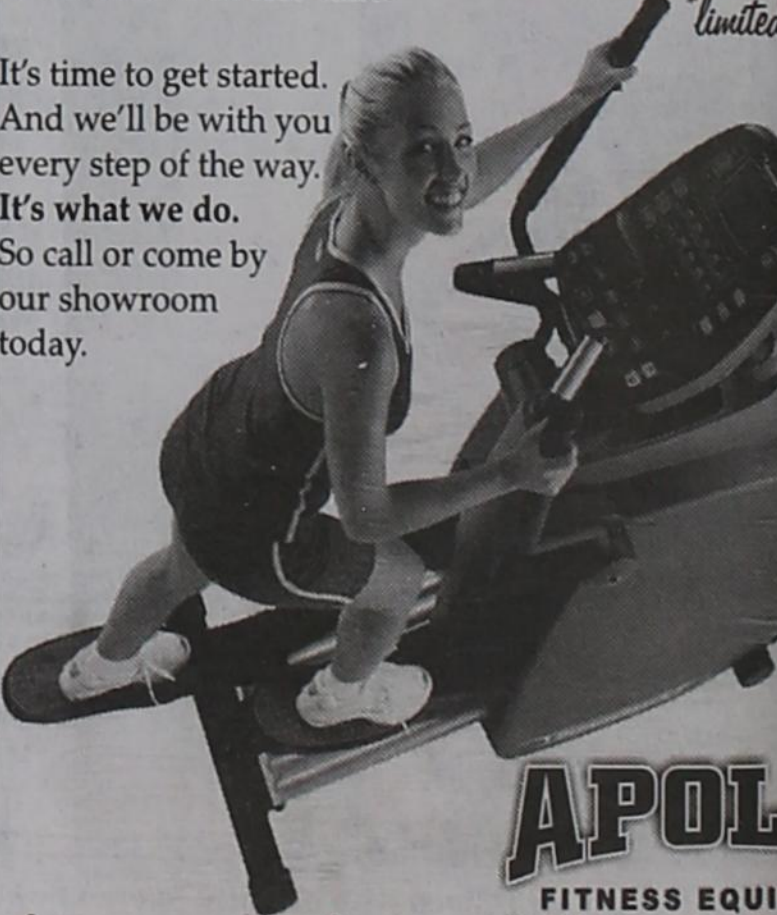
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King (center) congratulates Wesley W. Burnett (left of King) following official transfer of ownership of the Rockwall News from MET Publishing Inc. to Texas Media Enterprises, LLC. Joining in the June 26, 2008 ceremony were Publishing Inc.'s Don Jones (left), Tim Burnett, Terrell Tribune Publisher Bill Jordan (right of King) and Tribune Managing Director Jeff Jordan (right).
by Alison Walker, Terrell Daily Tribune

Rockwall County News under new ownership...

(Continued from page 1)

King said he believes "the future is very bright for the county and for the Rockwall County News, and we are expanding our coverage and publication frequency as the needs. Our job is to satisfy the needs of our readers and the community."

King, who moved to North Texas, the publisher was born in Bonham and spent his youthful summers with family in Fannin County, Ga. Wes Burnett recalls that home was always in his heart. "I always called Ladonia her home, and our close ties in this area sealed that into our hearts and minds."

Wes Burnett of Giber and Helen Juanita Ladonia, Wes Burnett graduated from Brownsville High School in 1959; attended Texas A&M two years; married Patsie R. Burnett in Bryan on June 10, 1961; joined the U.S. Air Force in 1962 and served as an information specialist and flight instructor until the summer of 1972.

Wes Burnett's newspaper career at the Bryan Daily Eagle, Burnett worked as a base newspaper editor at several Air Force assignments. He returned to civilian occupation as an advertising manager with Harte Hanks Newspapers in Bryan and Houston.

Wes Burnett spent a short stint in New Iberia, La., Burnett joined two other publishers in forming a small newspaper group, serving as publisher of the Sonora (The Devil's River News), Stephenville (The Star), Dublin (The Dublin Progress) and in Ballinger (The Ledger). He and his wife, Pat, purchased The Post in Rockwall in 1982.

Wes Burnett said, "but when God gave us the opportunity to live and work in Rockwall, and we already knew what a dynamic city this is, there was no doubt in our minds that this was the right thing to do."

"This is my belief... that God has called us to this place, to serve him and praise him," Wes Burnett said. "Before our friend Rollie Hyde first called in January 2007 to encourage us on this new chapter in our lives, we had no intention of leaving Post."

But then we came to Rockwall one weekend for a closer look. Other visits through the years were short stops on the way to and from West Texas. That visit in February 2007 opened our eyes, and we could see that God was showing us the way."

Over the past 18 months, Wes Burnett said he asked several people, during visits to Rockwall, to "give me one reason not to move to Rockwall. Everyone who answered that question said something like 'the traffic jams are terrible.'"

"I thought that response was reason enough to make the move," Wes Burnett said. "Then we turned it over to God to put all the pieces together."

Several individuals played a part in finalizing the deal, Wes Burnett said.

"Our special thanks to media broker Rollie Hyde, to MET Publishing, Inc.'s Clyde King and Don Jones and to the very dedicated staff at the Terrell Tribune, especially publisher Bill Jordan for his generous and considerate cooperation."

"We are honored and privileged to be given the opportunity to serve this community," Wes Burnett added, "and we invite you to stop by our office, it's just off Goliad a couple of blocks north of the Ridge Road and Goliad intersection."

The newspaper's phone numbers are 972-722-2099; fax 722-2199 and web site rockwallcountynews.com continues.

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Obama's advantage

by Bill O'Reilly

Right now, the smart money is betting the next president of the United States will be named Obama, and dollars are the primary reason why. As you may have heard, the senator has flip-flopped on public campaign financing and now says he will not accept it, even though he once thought it was a swell idea.

The government set taxpayer-based funding for presidential candidates at \$85 million because, the wisdom went, it would prevent fat cats in the private sector from donating big dollars to influence a potential POTUS. But, like the military, it's voluntary — and Obama is no longer interested in signing up, even though John McCain says he will.

That's because, in his defeat of Hillary Clinton, Obama raised about \$300 million — and his campaign believes he can raise another \$300 million before the vote next November. Of course, that is an astounding amount of cash and puts Obama light years ahead of McCain's paltry \$85 million.

Money might not be able to buy true love, but it can certainly buy TV and radio airtime, an army of mercenary consultants and legions of staff members in every state. Add in the fact that the media generally love Barack Obama, generously giving him positive news coverage, and you can see some dark clouds on the horizon for McCain.

So, it seems like Obama has everything going his way right now. The Bush administration is unpopular, the economy is tanking, and his opponent is 71 years old. Yet, according to Gallup tracking polls this week, Obama and McCain are tied.

As Obama supporter P. Diddy might say: What's up with that? Despite his charisma, his appeal to young Americans and the support of a frenzied liberal media, millions of working-class Americans, primarily white, remain a bit skeptical of the young senator from Illinois. That's what's up, my man.

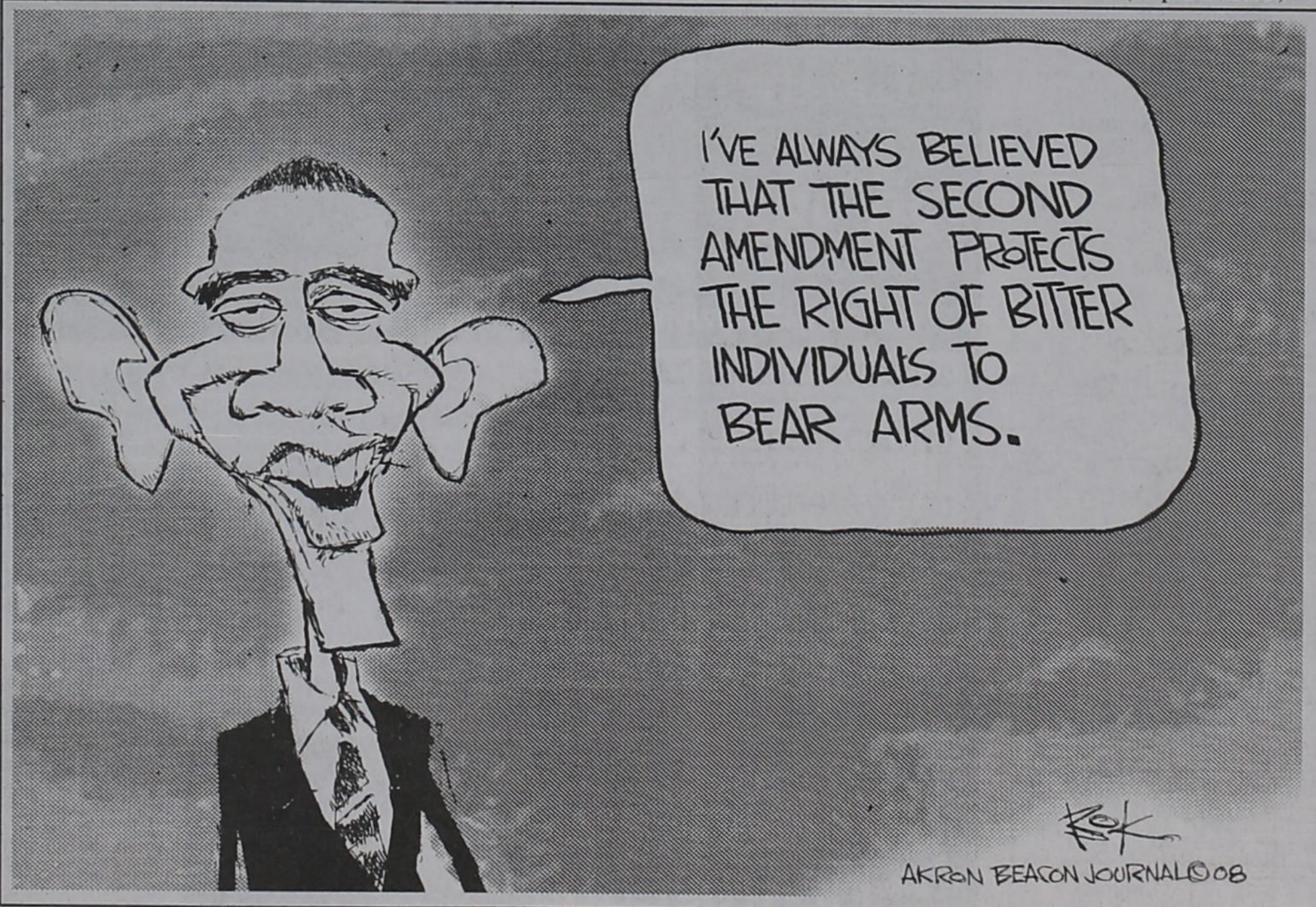
McCain has earned respect by his war service and longtime Senate record. You might not agree with him, but there's no question he has served his country faithfully.

Compared to McCain, Barack Obama is new to national public service — and his record troubles some voters. In a largely traditional country, Obama is considered by the National Journal as the most liberal senator on the Hill. Not a great thing in many precincts.

The world is a very dangerous place, and the next president will be intensely challenged. We are talking life and death, prosperity or decline. Many voters understand the stakes and are keeping their options open.

That, of course, is a good thing. Money and the media should not decide the next election. The wisdom of the regular folks should. Both Obama and McCain would be smart to figure that out.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Who's Looking Out For You?" To find out more about Bill O'Reilly, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com. This column originates on the Web site www.billoreilly.com. COPYRIGHT 2008 BillO'Reilly.com.



Opinions



The ultimate resource

by Walter E. Williams

Why is it that mankind enjoys cell phones, computers and airplanes today but not when King Louis XIV was alive? The necessary physical resources to make cell phones, computers and airplanes have always been around, even when cavemen walked the Earth. There is only one answer to why we enjoy these goodies today and not yesteryear. It's the growth in human knowledge, ingenuity along with specialization and trade that led to the industrialization, coupled with personal liberty and private property rights.

For most of mankind's existence, he has been self-sufficient and spent most of his time simply eking out a living. In pre-industrial societies, and in some places today, the most optimistic scenario for the ordinary person was to be able to eke out enough to meet his physical needs for another day. With the rise of industrialization and development of markets, and the concomitant rise in human productivity that yielded seemingly ceaseless economic progress, it was no longer necessary for mankind to spend his entire day to meet his physical needs. People became able to satisfy these needs with less and less time. This made it possible for more people to have the time to read, become educated in the sciences and liberal arts, gain more knowledge and become more productive. The resulting wealth also enabled them the opportunity to develop spiritually and culturally through attending the arts and participate in other life activities that were formerly within the purview of the rich.

Contrary to the myths we hear about how overpopulation causes poverty, poor health, unemployment, malnutrition and overcrowding, human beings are the most valuable resource and the more of them the better. There is absolutely no relationship between high populations and economic despair. For example, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, formerly Zaire, has a meager population density of 22 people per square kilometer while Hong Kong has a massive population density of 6,571 people per square kilometer. Hong Kong is 300 times more crowded than the Congo. If there were any merit to the population control crowd's hysteria, Hong Kong would be in abject poverty while the Congo flourishes. Yet Hong Kong's annual per capita income is \$28,000 while

the Congo's is \$309, making it the world's poorest country.

What are the chances for the United States to become overpopulated? The population census has us at 304 million. How many more people can we handle? I don't have an answer, but here are a couple of facts that have ways to go before we have to worry about overpopulation. The U.S. has a population of at least 2,500 people, cover less than 1 percent of the U.S.'s 2.3 billion acre land mass. The world's population of 6.3 billion means if the entire world's population were put into the U.S., we would have about a third of an acre. Nobody is talking about population control in the U.S. It is merely to suggest that neither the U.S. nor the world is running out of space.

Population controllers have a Malthusian vision of the world. Mankind's ingenuity has proven the Malthusians dead wrong. Mankind's ingenuity, we can grow increasingly larger quantities of goods and less land. The energy used, per dollar of GDP, has been decreasing again getting more with less, and that applies to most other goods and services.

The greatest threat to mankind's prosperity is government. Zimbabwe's increasing misery. Like our country, Zimbabwe's agriculture sector, so much so it was called the breadbasket of Africa. Today, its people are on the brink of starvation as a result of government intervention. It's the same story in many countries — government intervention and mankind's natural tendency to engage in wealth-producing activities and poverty on overpopulation not only lets governments encourage the enactment of harmful policies.

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

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Barack Obama: The Peace Candidate

by Sheldon Richman

Why would anyone think that presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama is the peace candidate?

True, before President Bush sent an invasion force to Iraq and before Obama was in the Senate, he made a speech saying intervention would be a mistake. But after the invasion, in 2004, he said he wasn't sure how he would have voted when the resolution authorizing Bush to use force to overthrow Saddam Hussein came before the Senate. Since being in the Senate, he has voted to continue the occupation.

That doesn't sound much like a peace candidate, does it? Obama has made speeches and written articles demonstrating his full embrace of the interventionist policy that has characterized the U.S. government's approach to the world for many years.

What's truly frightening is that Obama doesn't seem to realize that U.S. foreign policy has been interventionist. For example, he said, "We cannot afford to be a country of isolationists right now. 9/11 showed us that try as we might to ignore the rest of the world, our enemies will no longer ignore us. And so we need to maintain a strong foreign policy, relentless in pursuing our enemies and hopeful in promoting our values around the world." (Emphasis added.)

In the last hundred years, when have "we" ignored the rest of the world? Administrations have been interfering in Middle Eastern affairs for 50 years. They have been interfering in Latin America even longer. A man who takes a close look with an open mind would know that 9/11 was not a result of U.S. interventionism, not isolationism, which is a smear word for those who oppose invading other countries doesn't mean he opposes cultural relations with them. The great liberals of history (when freedom and minimum government) favored peace and freedom.

Fear of nonintervention is something Obama has expressed. In his August 2007 Foreign Affairs he wrote, "After Iraq, we may be inward. That would be a mistake. The American moment is not to be seized anew. We must bring the war to a responsible end and leadership — military, diplomatic, moral — to confront the world and capitalize on new opportunities."

Those are not the words of peace candidate. Obama has called for the need for the United States to project its power around the world.

He has made it clear that he supports wars that are not strictly defensive. He has expressed admiration for the first President Bush's war against terrorism. "If we use force in situations other than self-defense, we should not to garner the clear support and participation of others — the sharing and support President George H.W. Bush mustered before Operation Desert Storm."

Obama engages in the same fear-mongering that we have got to do with George W. Bush. Obama says, "This century's threats are more dangerous and in some ways more complex than those we have faced in the past. They come from weapons that can kill on a mass scale, from terrorists who respond to alienation or perceived injustice with nihilism. They come from rogue states allied to terrorists and from states that could challenge both America and the international foundation of democracy."

Again, he shows no understanding that it is interventionism, not democracy, that makes Americans targets. He's fallen for the "they hate us because we are free."

Even parts of the U.S. government know that is nonsense. A Defense Science Board put it in 2004, "Muslims do not hate us because we are free, they hate our policies."

And Osama bin Laden himself said that same year, "Contrary to what you hear, we do not hate freedom — let him tell us that we do not attack Sweden?"

With Obama in the White House, we could look forward to military adventures: "We have heard much over the last six years of America's larger purpose in the world is to promote the spread of democracy."

With a peace candidate like that, who needs a warmonger?

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

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Rockwall County Helping Hands Opens new thrift store in Royse City

Rockwall County Helping Hands is pleased to announce the opening of its new Royse City store on July 8, in Royse City at 508C Interstate-

the management of the store will offer a wide selection of merchandise including clothing, household items and décor items and more. Ortiz arrives from Rockwall with 15 years of experience.

"We are so pleased and excited to offer our friends in the Royse City area a more convenient location to shop and experience the great bargains our Thrift Store has to offer every day," East said.

Located in a strip shopping center near the Family Dollar Store on the north side of Interstate-30 service road, the Thrift Store will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Rockwall County Helping Hands awards \$100,000 in scholarships

Rockwall County Helping Hands is a non-profit organization that provides residents short-term assistance in times of crisis. Along with the Thrift Store, the agency offers referral services and a food pantry.

The Health Center at Helping Hands provides healthcare for low-income residents and to people with no health insurance or high insurance deductibles.

Helping Hands accepts financial donations from the community in order to continue assisting people in need. At this time, the Royse City store will not be able to accept donations.

For more information about the new Thrift Store and Helping Hands, the community is invited to call 972-771-HELP.



Rosie Ortiz

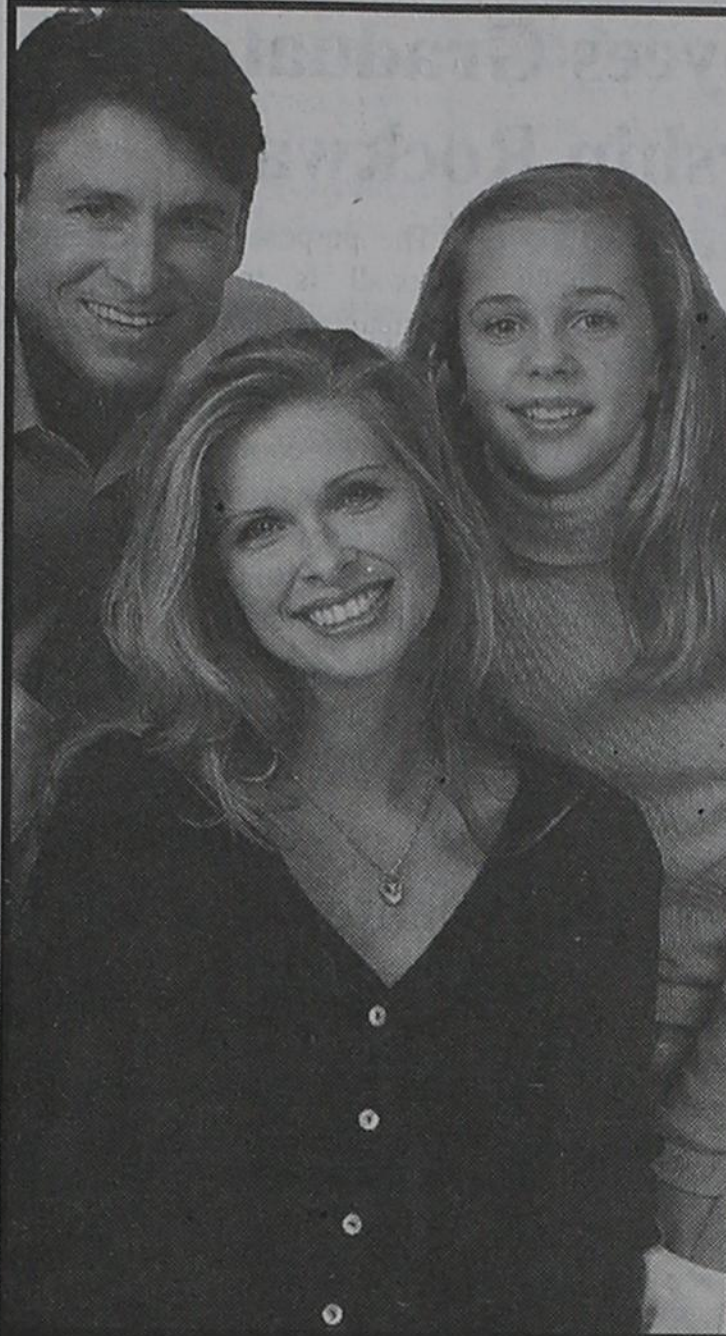
Amy Parks Elementary school hosts May carnival

Amy Parks Elementary in Heath was transformed into an old-time carnival on May 30.

The event included booths for face painting and games of skill, bounce houses, human foosball and a giant Velcro wall. Free snow cones, nachos, popcorn and hot dogs were served, sidelining a silent art auction that featured art works created by each class.

Principal Dan Crawford allowed a handful of lucky students to shave his head, while the assistant principal, Carla Bennett, allowed her hair to be spray painted red, white and blue in celebration of the school's exemplary TAKS scores.

The activities were organized by PTO president Jennifer Hickman as a means of thanking parents for another successful school year.



Danette McNew, D.D.S.

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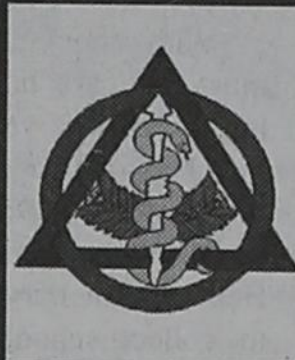
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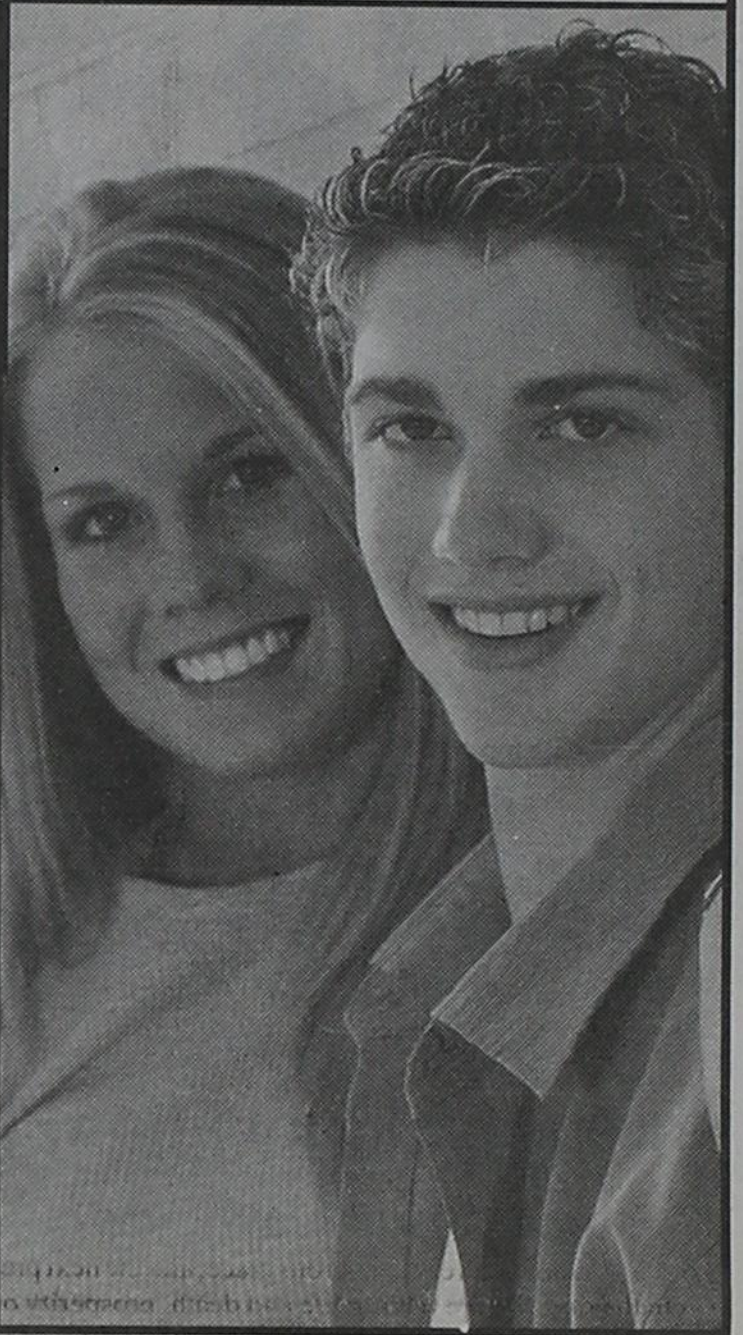


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Rockwall Women's League awards \$100,000 in scholarships

Rockwall Women's League recently hosted a reformation scholarship reformation from Rockwall High, Heath High and Royse City High schools.

Nathan Emmis, Andrew Hester, and Jose Zaldivar.

This year's Charity Ball, sporting the theme "A Crown Affair," was the most successful in league history, according to the press release.

In addition to the \$130,000 invested in local students, the Rockwall Women's League also presented \$40,000 in grants to several local charitable organizations this year.

For more information about the league, visit the organization's Web site at rockwallwomensleague.org.

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City of Heath Employees Graduate with 2008 Class of Leadership Rockwall

City of Heath City Secretary Stephanie Galanides and Executive Assistant Alyssa Cumpton are 2008 graduates of the Leadership Rockwall, an educational program made up of local professionals working toward the common objective of building strong and lasting relationships for the benefit of the community.

"We are very proud of this accomplishment," says Heath City Manager Ed Thatcher. "The time and energy that Stephanie and Alyssa invested to participate in Leadership Rockwall is a testament to their dedication to our citizens and a commitment to consistently enhancing their ability to serve the local community."

The purpose of Leadership Rockwall is to educate the participants about Rockwall County history, schools, governments, social and economic issues and community vision. With this awareness, graduates are able to more fully contribute to the growth and quality of life Rockwall County citizens enjoy.

The program includes monthly seminars and workshops focused on developing personal and organizational skills as related to community

Benton named to UN-L dean's list

Corrie Danielle Benton of Royse City was tapped for the Deans' List/Honor Roll for the spring semester at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Benton, a freshman, is a theatre arts major, according to a university press release.

Girl Scouts help Rainbow Room of Rockwall

With school out for Summer, most kids are not even thinking about next year. However, members of Brownie Girl Scout Troops 2003, 8969, and Daisy Troop 8979 from Amy Parks Heath Elementary joined forces to collect school supplies for the Rainbow Room of Rockwall County. Each year the Rainbow Room distributes school supplies to the families who are caring for children in Child Protective Service. The Rainbow Room was in need of supplies for the next school year and the troops from Amy Parks Elementary were glad to step up to help. The girls asked family members and friends if they could make donations and some even used the money they earned from cookie sales to buy supplies.

Participating in the special event were girl scout members Anne Marie Thacker, Summer Eason, Emily Mastronardi, Macy Jackson Abigail Huls, Emma Young, Morgan Carrell, Rylee Gumm, Kaci Boyd, Presleigh Akers, Lauren Zieske, Grace Anderson, Kylee Carrell, Macey Adley, Sydni Maiorino, Karli Blackmon, Bella Sullivan, Madeline Stein, Elise Stein, Sloane Davis, Avery Lovell, Annabelle Huls and Christina Gersch.

concerns. These sessions are a blend of information, problem solving and interactive activities focused on diverse topics and team-building.

"I was a new employee for the City of Heath when I signed up for Leadership," says Cumpton. "This program was a great experience for me to meet a group of wonderful people along with learning about the different cities in Rockwall County and how each city is addressing the opportunities and challenges presented by rapid growth."

In addition to participating in monthly seminars and workshops, each Leadership Rockwall Class is responsible for developing and executing a project designed to benefit the Rockwall County communities.

The Leadership Rockwall Class of 2008 established and raised funds for the Rockwall County Canteen Unit Fund to provide the means for rehydration, rest and refreshment to first responders during extended emergency events and training exercises throughout Rockwall

County.

"Being a part of the Leadership Rockwall journey with people who appreciate and are committed to protecting and promoting our very special community was tremendously gratifying and so much fun," says Galanides, who has served

as City Secretary for years.

"Leadership Rockwall affirmed to me that we can share a common objective and get there faster, easier than those who go it alone," says Cumpton.



City of Heath Executive Assistant Alyssa Cumpton and Heath City Secretary Stephanie Galanides (right) graduated with the 2008 Class of Leadership Rockwall. Photo courtesy City of Heath



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Holding down the eight story hot-air balloon displaying the forty foot tall cross the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod last Sunday across Horizon Road from Our Savior Lutheran Church are Lutheran church members (left to right) Pat Lemons, Jacob Don Rakow.

"Lift High the Cross" mission stops in Rockwall

Lead by crew members Jay and Vicki Mason along with their family, the balloon mission "Lift High the Cross" stopped in Rockwall during their travels throughout the United States.

Logging trips through 43 states, the 2008 Outreach to America Tour is the eleventh year of Lutheran Church mission.

According to Paul Ferguson, Pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Rockwall, the balloon was hosted by the local Church with the help of over 40 members and was meant to spread the message of Jesus.

Although the balloon was unable to fly during the Rockwall visit, it was inflated Sunday for community enjoyment.

Lift High the Cross was part of the Lutheran Church carnival closing the 2008 Vacation Bible School held the week before.

Spring is sprinkler system tune-up time!

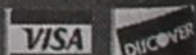
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 I. It's a matter of being meek toward God and His word.
 word heals our broken hearts and bodies. When we start

In God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

For archives of On God's Word visit
geocities.com/christinyou7/love

filling our hearts with God's word, with a passionate love and reverence toward God, our lives will be transformed into ones of victory and joy. Moreover, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead, and made him to sit at His right hand of all authority, we can now live a victoriously more-than-abundant life in the name of Jesus Christ (John 10:10b). We have the living word of God as our instruction manual on how to live that more-than-abundant life. God is the sole authority on this subject.

God meant what He said through His servant Paul, in Romans 8:37, "...in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." We can be super-conquerors in our daily lives through God in heaven who loved us so much that He gave His first-born son that whosoever believes on Him shall not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16 & Romans 8:29). Jesus Christ gave his life with the confidence and trust that His Father would raise him from dead. He did the will of his Father all the way to the end so that we could freely enjoy the spoils of his victory.

Now, God's word is worth our undivided attention. All Christians should be diving into God's word of life. Individually and collectively become faithful Biblical students of God's will as seen in 1Timothy 2:15, "Study to show yourself approved unto God; A workman who needs not to be ashamed, handling the word of truth." "Rightly divide" God's word by not cutting corners. We must and exact in our handling of God's perfect and matchless and important part of rightly dividing God's word is letting it interpret itself. Herein is the big challenge for us to not allow our personal beliefs. But to change our beliefs to fit God's will. It's a matter of being meek toward God and His word. His word heals our broken hearts and bodies. When we start

God meant what He said through His servant Paul, in Romans 8:37, "...in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." We can be super-conquerors in our daily lives through God in heaven who loved us so much that He gave His first-born son that whosoever believes on Him shall not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16 & Romans 8:29). Jesus Christ gave his life with the confidence and trust that His Father would raise him from dead. He did the will of his Father all the way to the end so that we could freely enjoy the spoils of his victory.

grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Taylor.

Pallbearers were Johnny Combs, Ronnie Ebey, Pat Johnson,

Sheriff Eavenson issues statement regarding Sumrow case

(Editor's Note:) The following is a press release issued last week by the Rockwall County sheriff. The release is printed in its entirety:

"While the convictions on former District Attorney Ray Sumrow are on appeal, it is not permissible for me to discuss or comment on the specifics of the case; however, I do want to publicly thank the Collin County District Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Texas Rangers and the officers of Rockwall County Sheriff's Office who worked tirelessly and professionally on this case. The Public Integrity Unit of the Travis County District Attorney's Office assisted us on the initial investigation and was an extremely valuable asset in the investigation.

"The success to this point on this investigation is because of the dedication, expertise and professionalism of those who were involved. The spirit of cooperation of those involved in this investigation was special to observe.

"The citizens of Rockwall County owe a huge debt of gratitude to all these agencies and to the officers of the Sheriff's Office for the outstanding job they did in developing and presenting the facts. I will forever be grateful to all of them."

Sheriff Harold Eavenson
 Rockwall County

Obituaries

Patricia Ann Taylor

Services for Patricia Ann Taylor, 61, of Roysse City were conducted at 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 1, 2008, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Roysse City Chapel with Pastor Les Joslin of Community Baptist Church officiating. Burial followed in the Roysse City Cemetery.

She died Saturday, June 28, at her home.

Born Dec. 17, 1946, in St. Louis, Mo., to Arvin and Jean (Greenley) Edmonds, she worked as an administrative sales assistant. She was devoted to her family and enjoyed time with her grandchildren.

Survivors include her sons, Jeff Rief and wife, Sandra, of Roysse City, Greg Rief and wife, Glenda, of Garland and Danny Taylor and wife, Glenda, of Dallas; one sister, Kay Erb of St. Louis; and seven

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This Page Is Made Possible By These Businesses & Organizations

Summer, specialty programs offered at Rockwall YMCA

Whether the goal is fitness, family time or fun, the Rockwall YMCA is the place to make it happen this summer.

According to the YMCA's Cynda Cottrill, the organization is offering a broad assortment of summer and specialty programs for Y members and community residents alike. The classes, listed below, are designed to serve a variety of ages and needs:

- **Teen Fitness Course** – Open to children ages 10 to 14, this five-day course is designed provide instruction in both cardio and strength-training while teaching safe methods for teens to work out. Upon completion of the course, teens meeting class requirements will be eligible to work out in the Y fitness center under the supervision of a parent (Youth and Family Members only). A \$50 registration fee is due the Friday before sessions begin. Fee includes lessons, workbook and T-shirt.

- **Teen Adventure Camp 2008** – Open to youths ages 12 (entering the seventh grade) through 16, the camp will take place at the Rockwall County YMCA. Weekly activities include field trips and/or overnight campouts, archery, BBs, swimming, sports and team building. Cost (Family Member) is \$140 per week; (Youth Member) \$150 per week; or \$25 for a one-time registration fee. For more information, ask any member of the service staff. See the Web site for a list of weekly trips and/or campouts. (All field trip fees are included in the session fees.)

- **Camp Dakotah** – An action-packed alternative to traditional daycare for children ages 6 to 12. The staff is fully trained in all childcare areas including CPR and first aid. Weekly activities include archery, riflery, crafts, canoeing, sports and swimming at the YMCA.

The camp will include weekly themes, as well as weekly field trips on Fridays. Field trips include Six Flags, Hawaiian Falls, Dallas World Aquarium and three specialty camp weeks. Forms must be notarized and include a copy of child's shot records. Cost is \$112 per week for Family Members; \$122 per week for Youth members. Camp dates run through Aug. 22, from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

See the Web site for a list of field trips and appropriate dress. All field trip fees are included in session fees.

- **YMCA Swim Lesson Skill Levels** -- Classes are offered for infants (6 months old) through adults. Both group and private lessons are available. In addition, aquatic fitness classes are offered on various levels from joint conditioning to deep-water aquacise. A Masters Swimming program is offered. The newest addition to the Aquatics program is Adapted Aquatics, designed to be a private or semi-private lesson for a person of any age and water skills. It is specially modified to cater to any physical or mental disability or need. For various times and fees, see the Web site or call the YMCA.

- **SCUBA certification:** Classes are scheduled to take place on Wednesday nights; however, the instructor will work around student schedules. Class is about 30 hours and includes both pool and classroom. Sign up at the front desk if interested. For questions, call Frank Cole, 972-514-9999, or e-mail www.ccdallas@yahoo.com. Cost will be \$225 for Family Members, \$275 for Community Members.

- **Rockwall Riptides Swim Team:** The swim team is a year-round competitive program. School-year workouts are in the afternoon. New swimmers must be at the YMCA minnow level or above and must be able to swim one or more lengths of the pool, depending on age, to be eligible to join the swim team. Open tryouts are held each Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Check out the Riptides Web site at www.rockwallriptides.com for more information.

- **Private/Semi-private lessons:** Personalized one-on-one attention for children and adults, ages 3 years and older. To register for private lessons, go by the member services desk.

- **Pool Rental:** The JER Chilton Aquatic Center can be reserved for pool parties by our Family members. Contact the YMCA at 972-772-9622, ext. 112, for availability. Cost for private party is \$250 for two hours, maximum of 50 people; semi-private, \$150 for two hours. Cost is \$75 each additional hour/maximum of 50.

- **Family Fitness Challenge:** For fami-

lies with children ages six and older, children must be accompanied by parents. A variety of fun and challenging fitness activities are offered both indoors and out.

- **Kid Fit:** The fitness class for children designed specifically for ages 6-12 and taught by a certified personal trainer and group exercise instructor. The class is offered Wednesdays, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the group exercise room of the YMCA.

- **Silversneakers:** Active older adult workout to fun and fitness. Involves exercise with exercise bands and small weights. Designed for the beginning exerciser.

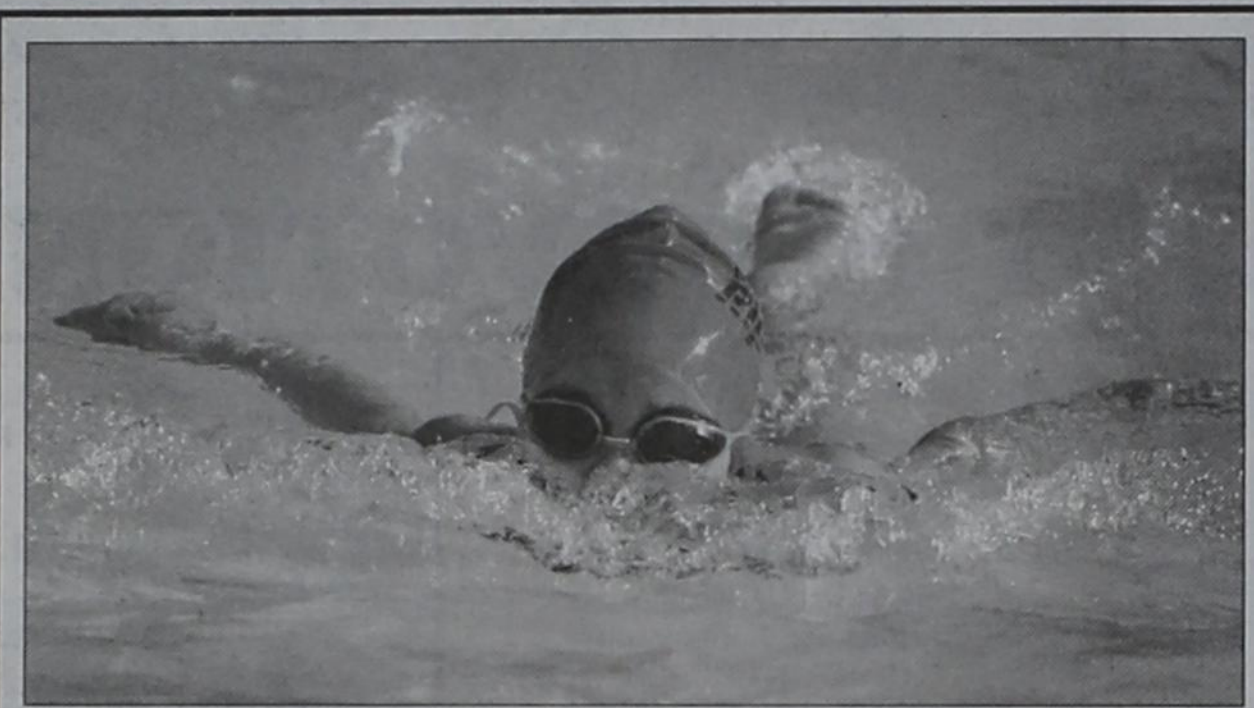
- **Silversneakers Cardio:** More advanced Silversneakers program designed to challenge those who are ready for the next level of cardio exercises.

- **SS Yoga Stretch:** Active older adult workout involving stretching and relaxation exercises.

- **Personal Fitness Program:** The PFP is a structured exercise program that includes YMCA membership and a personal trainer. It is designed to teach individuals how to use exercise properly to ensure commitment to the workout program.

- **Sports Conditioning Camp:** This is a camp for teens ages 14, that will include training in speed, agility, strength, and endurance. This is a great opportunity for athletes to and improve strength and endurance before the start of the season. Registration fee of \$100 is due the Friday before session begins. Camp meets from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. July 14-18. Open to YMCA Family and Teen Members only.

- **Youth Sports registration dates** are July 1- 31, for all youth sports including Small Fry Soccer, Tackle Football, Volleyball and Basketball. Contact the YMCA with any questions regarding the programs throughout the year.



The Rockwall YMCA offers team swimming experience with the Rockwall Riptides swim team. Photo courtesy of Rockwall YMCA



Rockwall YMCA provides various activities to help children achieve physical fitness along with individual and team events.

Texas Sports Under 8 Team Wins Championship during Farmersville Super Series Tournament

The Texas Sports Under 8 Team displayed their core values of character, competency and chemistry to earn the title of First Place Champions in the Super Series National Qualifier Tournament hosted by the City of Farmersville May 31-June 1.

The team players are students from Amy Parks, Nebbie Williams and Grace Hartman Elementary Schools.



The Rockwall and Heath boys are coached by (from left): Guy Wade (head coach); Russ Childers; Loren McCrillis; Ronnie Pruitt; and Todd Troxler. Players are (first row from left): Brandon Troxler; Jake Wade; Ben Anguish; Scott Reed; Palmer Nix; Bennett Lawrence; (second row from left) Kolton Pruitt; Brendan Brooke; Hayden Fichtel; Ben McCrillis; and Justin Childers.



The 2008-2009 Rockwall High School Stingerettes brought home Individual Blue Stingerette and a team trophy for rating "Excellent" in their home performance while at the Dallas City Council Starmakers Officer camp this summer. Pictured are (back row left to right) Director Erin Jackson, 1st Lt. Erin Rapp, Lt. Nicole Barton, Lt. Bethany Lang, Lt. Bianca Kirlin, Lt. Assistant Director Emily Nelson, (front row) Captain Holly Gibson, Lt. Kathryn Blum, Lt. Kassie Armendariz.

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News You Won't Find Anywhere Else



Weston Wilcox, of Rockwall (left) is slated to serve as Freshman Yell Leader next year at A&M in College Station. Wilcox will be one of many Aggie freshman from Rockwall to be recognized at the Annual "Howdy" BBQ on Friday, July 11 at the Buffalo Creek Golf Club in Rockwall. Hosted by the Rockwall County Aggie Moms Club, the event includes a presentation of Yells and stories by the Aggie Yell Leaders about the history of A&M traditions. Photo courtesy of Nancy Belew

Rockwall City Council Organizes HOA Subcommittee

A subcommittee appointed by the Rockwall City Council has been charged with deciding whether the city should adopt provisions regulating homeowners associations.

According to a June 24 press release, the subcommittee's members include Bill Cecil, mayor, and council members Matt Scott and Steve Russo. The group is charged with considering input provided at a recent public hearing on HOAs.

A seven-member citizen's committee will be appointed to work with the mayor and council members on the project.

Public opinion voiced at last month's hearing was "fairly split" on the topic of HOAs, the press release states. Speakers at the hearing included residents of Rockwall, Valley Ranch, Frisco and other

primary HOA-related issues, according to the press release, including rights, code enforcement and closed and/or secret meetings.

Scott, who has sued his HOA, initiated council discussion on the legal authority of HOAs.

The City of Rockwall requires that all new developments have a homeowners association to maintain common areas. HOAs also have the power of foreclosure, according to the press release.

Rockwall cities wrestle with citizen input at public meetings

Public speech is never without a cost, but come this August, it may turn out to be cheaper in the suburbs than the big city.

The Dallas City Council has developed a rapport over the last several years with a number of local residents whose speeches fall somewhere between intelligent insight and indecipherable dribble. Usually, the council opens a meeting to public input, and a band of vocal commentators work their way down to the microphone - to discuss a particular

issue in particular. The same complaints, random accusations and even remote observations have been made during these discussions. It's not an uncommon sight at presentations or seminars in urban areas, but as long as the speaking place at City Hall, it is a practice that the city council has been able to control over.

Several city council members suggested revisions to city procedures that would effectively put an end to the regular routine. The proposed rules would extend the notice period needed to address the agenda, eliminate public commentary from certain meetings and allow the council to cap or restrict debate on a particular issue. Most importantly, it would prevent a guest from speaking at two consecutive meetings.

The new rules would apply to everyone, not just the usual visitors, but the council decided to table the discussion entirely until after the next city break. That way, council members would have more time to deliberate and prepare for a discussion that is likely to be as dynamic as possible.

City Councils in Rockwall County are simply not seeing the same degree of public participation at their meetings, let alone objections from dedicated regulars. Public hearings are a bit different - those are legally separate, and lately, they've been very crowded. But there's no movement to discuss or restrict speech at regular meetings, either in current policies or among plans for the future.

Regular meetings in Rockwall County garner more than a handful of independent visitors. Meetings with agenda items that interest several residents or businesses can draw a crowd, but usually everyone in the chamber is directly connected to one issue or another.

Anyone who does choose to speak can do so without pre-registering or worrying about a scheduling conflict, according to ordinances and policies released by local city secretaries. In Rockwall, time at the beginning of every other meeting is set aside for a public forum, and most other cities usually play it by ear. Like in Dallas, it's generally up to the mayor to call for discussion and recognize speakers.

(Continued on Page 10)

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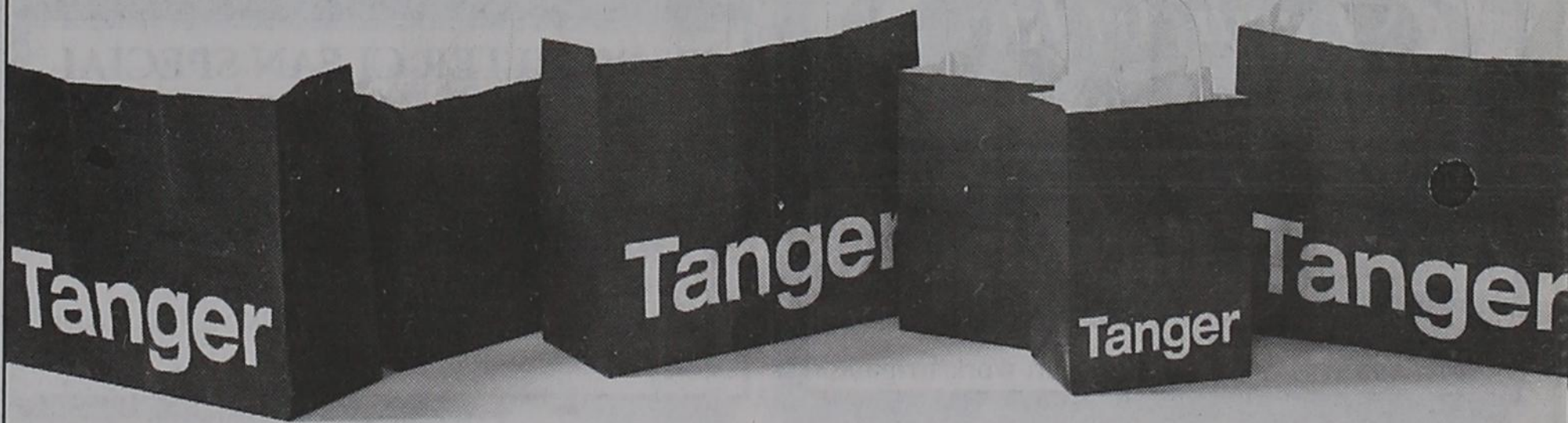
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Heritage Buick Pontiac GMC completes move to Rockwall location from Terrell

Heritage Buick Pontiac GMC owner Robert Bobo believes his business is all about customer service.

Providing an even better service is the primary reason Bobo recently relocated the dealership to Rockwall.

"We want to make our service even better for the customers," said Bobo, whose business previously was located at 1425 W. Moore Ave. in Terrell.

"We don't want to take anything away from the people in Terrell, that's not the point. The idea is, this facility is just not conducive to doing business in this day and age. People expect a lot more than what they are getting from this store and we want to be able to provide that for them."

The new location is on the north U.S. Interstate 30 service road, just west of Kyle Street near the Mickey Florence Athletic Facility in

Rockwall.

"Terrell has been great, there's no question about that," Bobo said. "We are still going to be able to take care of our Terrell customers. We are just going to be in a state-of-the-art location to what we are working out of currently." According to Bobo, the old location, which used to be a boot factory and was landlocked and has limited space.

Bobo also said the new purpose-built facility will have everything under one roof, including the parts, service and sales departments.

"We are operating out of what was originally a boot factory warehouse. It has served its purpose and done very well for us," Bobo said. "In order for us to take care of our customers, I think they need to be [taken care of], we need to be able to get out of a purpose-built facility."

By being alongside I-30, Bobo said the new dealership will have a bigger draw and more visibility.

The new facility has space to carry more new and pre-owned inventory and it's only a 15-to-20-minute ride away from Terrell, according to Bobo.

And considering majority of Heritage's current business is within a 20-mile radius, Bobo said the new location won't be too far to serve its loyal customers.

"We want to be able to provide a nice, new customer friendly atmosphere but still do business the same way we do here," Bobo said.

"We will not be that far so we can still take care of our customers here. We have a lot of loyal customers who we want to take care better than what we are doing now and we need the facility to do that."

Heritage has been in Terrell since 2005 and Bobo said

Speaking limits

(Continued from Page 9)

and like in Dallas, the councils cannot vote or direct actions introduced by an outside speaker.

But that's where the similarities end. In most local cases, a person who walks over to a city council meeting and asks to speak is granted their wish.

"Usually, what we do in Rockwall is allow anyone to address the council at the first meeting of the month," said Rockwall Mayor Cecil. "We can't legally vote on those issues at that meeting, it's something the council could help with, I'll often ask them to look into the issue. That way, everyone is welcome, and everyone gets heard."

Rockwall County News

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The Rockwall-Heath High School Mighty Hawk Band has announced their drum majors for the 2008 - 2009 season. Pictured left to right are Carlos Silva (senior), Amanda White (senior) and Emily Davis (junior). This year's marching show will be "Defy Gravity" which includes selections from the Broadway musical "Wicked."

Photo courtesy of Rockwall ISD



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Something I wonder about ... what if Linus got into a bar fight?

by Marcus Funk



Ever wonder what would happen if Linus from Peanuts got into a bar fight?

I don't have to wonder, I found out this week. It's my laptop. My bloody, bruised and disease-ridden laptop. Like Linus, the shoddy old thing has an uncanny ability to collect dust, bugs, viruses, spyware and other miscellaneous creepy-crawlies wherever it goes, thanks to a gross inability to protect itself. And, like a fellow in a bar fight, it's got gashes, scars and gaping holes to testify for its years of battle.

Of course, my guy still has the upper hand. Linus has his blanket, which helps him troll for diseases like none other, and his parents can't teach him about sanitation because they don't speak English. Or, really, any other discernable language. And the dude in the drunken brawl can try blaming the alcohol, or, if push comes to shove, they can at least make sure he gives as much as he takes.

But can my computer do either? Of course not. Instead, it suffers in quiet indignity while I struggle to do my job.

Let's start with the battle scars, since those are funnier.

For starters, there's no enter key - just a blank, fleshy patch where an enter key used to be. I just have to paw at it whenever I want to complete a sentence or express myself with the written word, which - I'll admit - is pretty much essential these days. It's also got a big crack down the side, and it spent most of my college years without a dash, plus or 'L' key thanks to a vindictive feline.

The plagues, viruses and miscellaneous poxes are also interesting. My personal favorite is one that surfaced a few days ago that's painted thin stripes down my monitor. Frankly, I'm baffled. It's not really doing anything except annoying me, but three single pixel lines have gone as yellow as caution tape, and they're covering up anything I put on the screen. Three aren't a huge deal, I suppose, but if it spreads to the entire monitor, then I'll have a problem.

Oh, and they blink at me. They'll flash on and off every few seconds just to say hello. Now, I'm used to the cursor on a Word document flashing color commentary at me. That, also, comes with being a writer.

"Blink," the cursor says. "Blink, you suck. Blink, you can't write. Blink, this column is boring." But these stripes are a different story. "BLINK, I'm a virus! BLINK, pay attention to me! BLINK, better hope I don't find your for online bank account!"

I'm going to have to throw the book at it this weekend and find a better virus scanner, since the one I have isn't working at all. It's a little unnerving, but I can't say it's surprising. My car is the same way. It's got a big

gash on the side - I got side-swiped by a curb a few years ago, damn thing came out of nowhere - and there's an unrelated crack in the windshield. My friends have become disillusioned, and now refer to the famous "Funkmobile" as that "ugly boat of a car."

That's not to say I'm terribly reckless; that's more to say that the world is getting smaller and dirtier. Linus had no problem carrying a blanket around back in the 1950s, but can you imagine a kid doing that today?

The same goes with the car and the computer. Folks are spending more hours a week in traffic than ever before, and the internet has become an absolute necessity for most Americans. That means more opportunities for fender-benders and virus attacks, and greater potential consequences for the victims. I wouldn't say this age - or today's younger generations - are terribly different from their predecessors, but I would say that an expanding and digitizing environment is going to require extra precautions.

I'll put it another way. Do you remember that old story, where the fellow goes into the doctor and says, "Doc, it hurts when I do this," and the doctor says, "Well don't do that, stupid?" Well, these days, that's not really possible - just not going online or not getting into a car simply aren't options. So instead, the doctor would say something else.

"Well, try to be as safe and as practical as you can - and make those stripes quit blinking at me!"

Crow's Feet Chronicles

The supper club had spirit

by Cindy Baker

Recently I was invited to speak to the Stymies, a group of folks who meet once a month for dinner at the local golf and country club.

Ages ranged from thrifty-plus to plenty-five, and I felt right at home. A stymie refers to an archaic rule in the game of golf prior to 1952, when a player's ball blocked the path of another player's ball, but was more than six inches from it. The offending player's ball was not lifted. Instead, the other player had to attempt to slice or draw the putt around the obstacle.

Often, a player would attempt to chip the ball over the opponent's ball. If the player failed, and his ball impacted that of his opponent's, then the ball would be played as it lay.

The opponent would then have to choose whether to putt from the original location or a new one. Many members of the local Stymie Club could easily have been active golfers when the rule was enforced, and they remain spontaneous, energetic, and frisky today.

The golf team from Cambridge University is called The Stymies. Their colors are dark green, light blue, and red. Team members themselves are renowned for their obscure interpretation of istymie.

During a hearty lunch between rounds, any Stymie (or consenting opponent) who finds himself with more than one drink in front of him is required to polish off the glass containing the largest volume of alcohol. If you happen to have more than one drink in front of you at any point, you are considered to have been istymied. Stymie-ing can occur in multiples. Golf-based hilarity ensues.

I witnessed a stymie during the social hour prior to dinner. Bertha's walker stymied Fred's walker when Fred was heading for the cash bar. Interlocking their two ironsi in the fairway (doorway) didn't put a damper on their senses of humor, though.

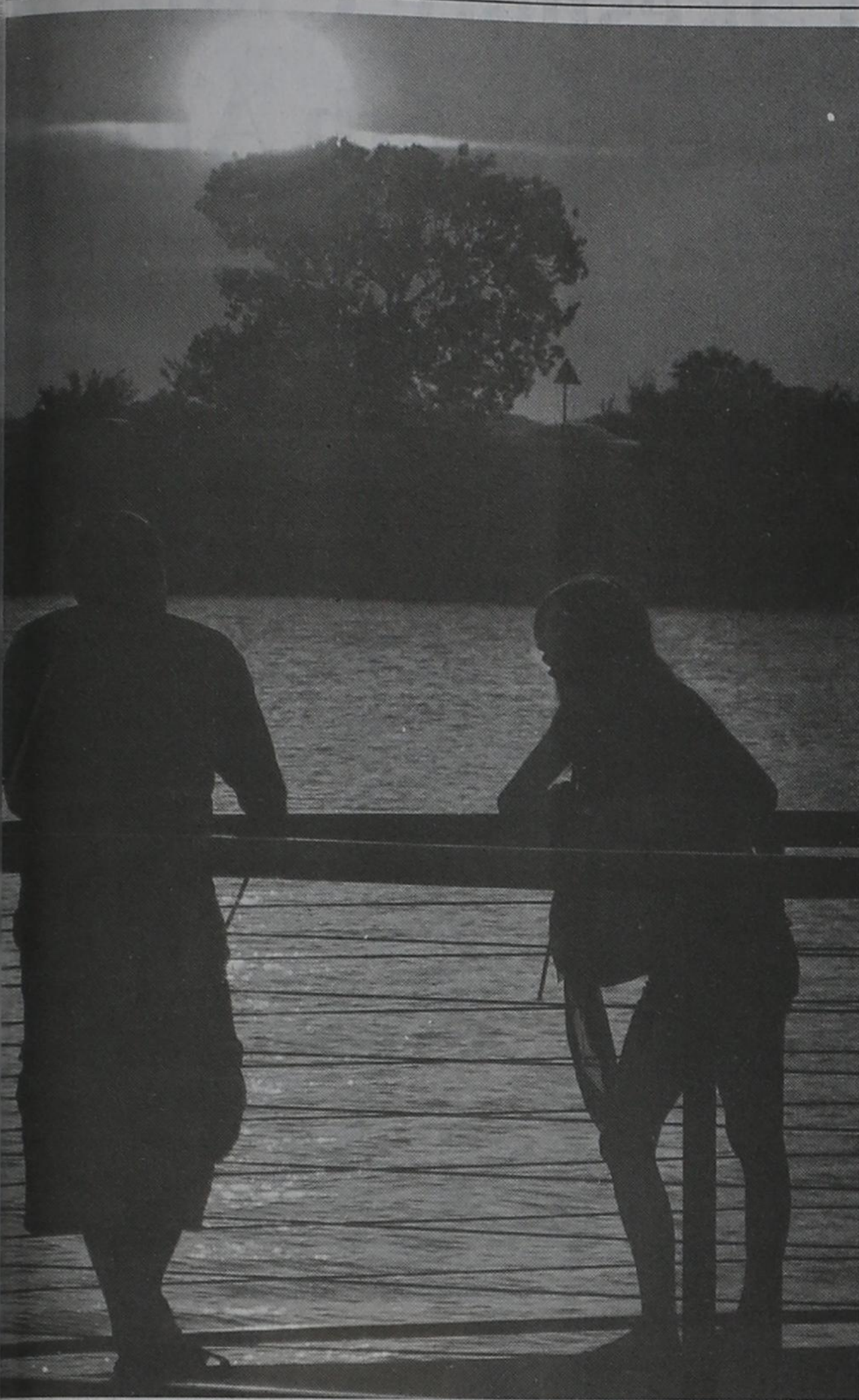
"Unless you intend to follow me home," chirped Bertha to the octogenarian, iweid better separate your over-sized putter from my wind-resistant driver before someone accuses us of taking a tumble in the rough.

Lanny Joe, my cowboy poet, accompanied me to Stymie Club. Since it wasn't a church group where we had to keep things pure or a children-included affair that required wholesome content, we centered on that which is near and dear to us all--underwear.

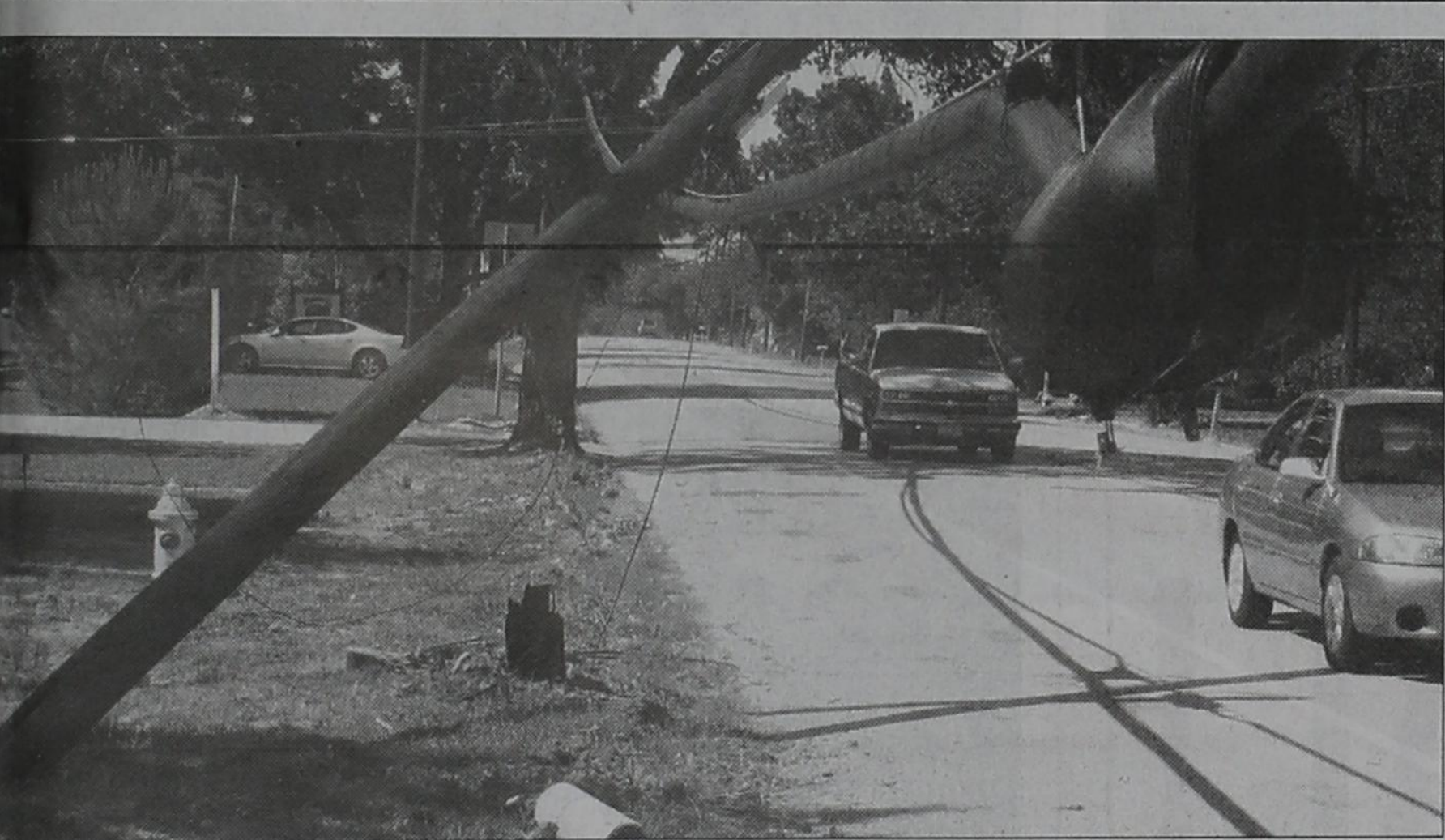
I talked of girdles and thongs, while Lanny recited a poem about a man buying a bra. Lanny spoke of a cowboy using his ten-gallon hat to measure his wife for her bra size. They giggled. I talked of wearing girdles in the 60s. They chuckled. Sure, my tummy went flat I told them, but my chin doubled and my knees inflated. They laughed aloud.

What good was a flat tummy, I asked them, when my teeth were loose? They guffawed. Then I told of shopping for thongs (not flip-flops) and the confusion that resulted. They roared. I ended by comparing thongs to nuclear war and tequila --- They all have great potential for EVIL. They bellowed. Bertha snickered and pointed at Fred.

Yep, Fred was stymied.
cindybaker@cableone.net



There's nothing quite like the sunsets on these lazy summer days. Heath High School student Daniel Lorenzo (left) and Priscilla Sepeda (right) enjoyed the site during a recent visit to the District. Staff Photo by Tim Burnett



Damaged power pole was found on Saturday, June 21 on Goliad north of downtown in Rockwall. An anonymous source reportedly drove by the scene and immediately reported it to authorities. Dennis Bailey of Oncore reported that their Contractor fixed the pole the next Monday afternoon and restored service to four customers who were affected by the damage. Photo by Tim Burnett

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Lakeshore Church observes 6th Annual Freedom Festival

Lakeshore Church in Rockwall conducted its 6th Annual Freedom Festival on Sunday.

Activities were centered around a 5,400-square-foot tent on the church property. The tent was draped with a large U.S. flag, and flags lined the property driveways.

An assortment of games, including waterslides, a piñata competition, a volleyball tournament and a dunking booth operated by Boy Scout Troop 421, were available to participants.

Several of the church's mission groups used the event to do some fundraising. The Mexico Mission Team, led by Nancy

and Nick Nichols, a food booth that featured traditional festival fare including pickles and other items. Nicaraguan Mission, led by Mary and Lori, served brisquet sandwiches, corn-on-the-cob and corn-a-stick. They also had a silent auction, offering artwork, clothing and other items. The weeklong stay at the vacation home. Weible and family.

The fundraiser raised thousands of dollars for the mission project in Nicaragua and Honduras.

Trent Monk Neagle provided entertainment. Monk, a friend of Lakeshore Church, performed "I Do," a song he produced and choreographed with Ben Dobbers.

More than 2,000 people attended this year's event.



The Lakeshore Church sixth annual Freedom Fest included musical entertainment by Monk Trent of recording artist Monk & Neagle. Staff photo by Tim Burnett



Bright and colorfully explosive fireworks topped off last Sunday's Freedom Festival at Lakeshore Church in Rockwall. Staff photo by Tim Burnett

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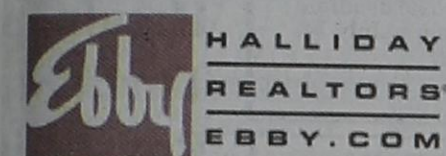
Homes of the Week

Each week Ebby Halliday Realtors at the Rockwall office select our new listings, and the associates vote on "Homes of the Week." This week, agents voted Sharon's 746 Glenhurst, Rockwall and 609 Collins, Fate.



746 Glenhurst \$224,000
609 Collins \$189,900

For more information on this home or any real estate need, call the Rockwall office at (972)771-8163 or visit site at www.ebby.com. Remember Ebby Halliday the First Name in Real Estate for 60 years.



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In the Greenville Area:
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The Director oversees our Christian focused pre-school. Developmentally appropriate teaching and directing experience are required.

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- registration procedures
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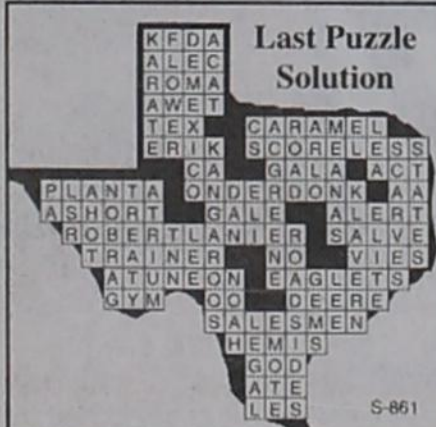
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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF A REQUEST FOR APPROVAL FILED WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC ("Oncor"), a regulated electric transmission and distribution company, wishes to inform you that on May 28, 2008, Oncor filed a Request for Approval of Advanced Metering System Deployment Plan and Advanced Metering System Surcharge with the Public Utility Commission of Texas, a copy of which Request is kept at Oncor's office at 1601 Bryan St., 23rd floor, Dallas, TX 75201.

If approved, the nonbypassable surcharge will go into effect on January 1, 2009. Affected persons include all residential and non-residential customers who are not required by the independent system operator to have an interval data recorder meter. Oncor is requesting a nonbypassable surcharge that, if approved, will be billed to retail electric providers serving residential customers or non-residential customers who are not required by the independent system operator to have an interval data recorder meter in Oncor's service area. Costs to affected retail electric customers will

depend upon whether retail electric providers pass along an approved surcharge to its customers. The surcharge will allow Oncor to recover reasonable and necessary costs incurred in deploying advanced metering systems to such affected customers.

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Public Utility Commission of Texas (commission) as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission at (512) 936-7136. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is July 14, 2008.

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC

ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR BIDS

CITY OF FATE, TEXAS (hereinafter called the OWNER) will receive Sealed Bid Proposals for finish mowing and trimming, until 10:00am July 10, 2008 in person or by mail at 105 E. Fate Main Place, Fate, Rockwall County, Texas 75132 and then publicly opened and read aloud at the City of Fate's Community Building at 104 S. WE Crawford (FM 551). Bids received after the bid opening may be returned to the bidder unopened.

Bid packets are on file at City of Fate City Hall, 105 E. Fate Main Place, Fate, Texas 75132. Bids will be based on finish mowing and trimming of City property including city offices, parks, rights of ways, easements and additional properties as required.

All bidders shall furnish a list of references on their letterhead. The successful bidder must furnish public liability insurance of \$100,000.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive informalities and in case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating proposal prices to adopt such interpretation as may be most advantageous to the Owner.

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APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT AND PRIVATE LATE HOURS CLUB PERMIT FOR SOUTHERN JUNCTION, INC. DBA SOUTHERN JUNCTION, AT 5574 HIGHWAY 276, ROCKWALL, ROCKWALL COUNTY, TEXAS. SAID APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE TO THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CODE. PRESIDENT, RICHARD PAUL MORELAN; SECRETARY, SANDRA LEE MORELAN.

772-4233

Legal Notices

Notice of Public Sale

BTA Self Storage, 4422 SH 276, Rockwall, TX 75032, will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 11:00 a.m. on 7/22/08. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Following tenants: Steven Stanley, Ashleigh J. Wickham, Ricki D. Miles, Casey Vanloon.

NOTICE

The Nevada Water Supply Corporation will be mailing out the 2007 Drinking Water Report on July 1, 2008. Extra copies of the report will be available at the Business Office, located at 108 N. Warren in downtown Nevada. Office Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Nevada Post Office will also have extra copies available.

PUBLIC

RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR PRIVATE CLUB REGISTRATION PERMIT TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION AUSTIN, TEXAS. PIZZA GETTING RESTAURANT CLUB, 561 E. ROCKWALL, 75087. PRESIDENT MARY CONNER SECRETARY MARY CONNER III.

Helping Hands of Thrift Store Royce City

Rockwall County Hands is slated to open a Thrift Store on July 10. City located at 5000

Under the management of Rosie Ortiz, the store will offer a wide selection of goods, home décor, furniture pieces. The store will have 15 years of experience.

"We are thrilled to have Rosie in our new store," said Helping Hands executive director Melody Elmore. "While it is a big change for her, she will be a big asset to the new store," said Elmore.

Helping Hands executive director Melody Elmore said how the new store is a smaller version of the Thrift Store and stocked with merchandise generated to help the community.

"We are so pleased to offer our Royce City area a new location to experience the great Thrift Store has to offer," East said.

Located in a shopping center near the Dollar Store on the west side of Interstate-30, the Thrift Store will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Rockwall County Hands is a non-profit organization that provides short-term assistance to people in crisis. Along with the Thrift Store, the agency offers a food bank and a food pantry.

The Health Center provides low-income residents with health or high insurance coverage.

(Continued on Page 15)

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Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury
 That "whooshing" sound you hear has nothing to do with the wind. Rather, it is the collective wheeze of school superintendents exhaling at the same time. (Please, no insensitive questions about whether it's hot air!)

These CEO's, and bunches of others in the educational enterprise, figure that foul-ups of the 2007-2008 school year now are in their rearview mirrors.

Such stalwarts are beaten down by end-of-year turbulence that strikes liken to waves beating against the rocks. Most of them fully believe that the law attributed to Edward Murphy--the one explaining that whatever can go wrong, will--still applies. They figure that annually in May, this Murphy guy deputizes additional gremlins, assigning them specific tasks. They are to loosen lug nuts on the wheels of well-greased educational wagons, causing them, of course, to fall off. It is then that veteran educators--often secretly, but sometimes openly--interrupt their weeping with chest-pounding "Why me, Lord?," gestures....

Board members share their pain. Theirs, however, is to set policy. In theory, the school year unfolds according to their written plan. Key word is "theory." Sometimes, best-laid plans turn to mush.

When gremlins are at work, board members may stare directly at the superintendent, asking, "What did they teach you to do in graduate school when you face situations like this?" (Length and glare of gaze usually depend on how many years remain on said superintendent's contract.)

The harried "supe," in so many words, responds: "In graduate school, they taught us NEVER to get into situations like this,"...

Two examples of gremlins at work--180 degrees and about that many miles apart--are Grapevine-Colleyville ISD in the Metroplex and tiny Lueders-Avoca, a consolidated rural school in West Texas.

The former had too many valedictorians, and the latter nary a one. Officials cited commitment to policy in both cases. In Grapevine, the student who finished with the highest GPA in school history completed her pilgrimage in three years. The rules call for four years, so at graduation, there were dual honors--one for the winner who completed the four-year track and the other who finished in three.

Out west, there were just five graduates, but again, rules got in the way, so no valedictory or salutatory speeches were made there on graduation night....

There were some other oddities. In Hermleigh, all seven seniors were males.

And in Abilene, they promoted school attendance in elementary and middle school grades with an end-of-school drawing. There were 48 names in the bucket; that's how many kids missed two days or fewer. The big prize was a \$10,000 certificate toward the purchase of a car. The winner? Fifth-grader Dakota Fortune.

But he was absent from the drawing, choosing baseball practice instead. Luckily, his grandmother/guardian showed up to claim his prize by proxy.

Graduation ceremonies rarely make the Guinness Book of World Records, but one in Fort Worth did.

At North Crowley High School, they were seeing double--and even triple--as 10 sets of twins and one of triplets received diplomas.

Reckon any of them switched places in lines to intentionally

Akin to the military's long-standing tradition of recruits being sent in search of keys to the parade grounds, some schools have similar traditions to ease the pain of end-of-school woes.

One is Forsan, near Big Spring in West Texas. Theirs is a close-knit bunch, and the school is known for academic and athletic excellence.

They laugh at themselves annually when the winners of "Green Apple Awards" are announced....

Often popping up is the name of Bob Fishback, 26-year veteran who is Technology Director.

Much-loved and something of a "do-everything" sort of guy, he's also a fellow of keen wit.

Someone said if he hadn't landed in education, he might have been a circus clown or court jester....

One Friday, he fine-tuned the computer in the office of first-year nurse, Michelle

Couch. Before Fishback hustled off to lunch, a gremlin came along, and sat down by his side.

Bob shook hands with the visitor, then hastened back to the keyboard to send an IFM (instant FAKE message) to teacher Carrie Averette. In effect, he informed her that several students were victims of tick infestation. Just to be safe, the mock-message indicated that ears of kindergarten and first-grade teachers would be inspected the following week. Carrie was asked to show up at 7:30 a.m. Monday in the nurse's office. Monday? She, along with fellow teachers Tracy Newton and Ellie Miller, marched into the nurse's office a few minutes later, demanding to have their ears examined right then. Nurse Couch, of course, didn't know what they were talking about.

Superintendent Randy Johnson gave "Tick or Treat" Green Apple Awards to the trio. With summer at hand, Forsan school folks are certain that Fishback already is plotting more escapades in 2008-2009....

Dr. Newbury is a speaker and author in the Metroplex. He welcomes comments and inquiries. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com Phone: 817-447-3872. Website: www.speakerdoc.com

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Rockwall County Helping Hands is slated to open The Thrift Store on July 8, in Royse City located at 508C Interstate-30.

Under the management of Rosie Ortiz, the store will offer a wide selection of merchandise including clothing, household goods, home décor items and furniture pieces. Ortiz arrives

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ACROSS

- Amarillo TV station
- this Baldwin didn't leave U.S. after George W. election
- in Starr Co. on 83
- TXism: "shaking like ___ dog"
- State Fair sight: "Big ___"
- TX Blue Bell ingredient
- Estrada of "Border Blues" with TX-born Gary Busey got shutout
- Gov. ___ Culberson
- fancy party
- TX Busey '88 film: "___ of Piracy"
- Arbor Day activity: ___ tree
- noted bluebonnet painter, TX Julian Bona h.s. class
- TXism: "feel like I had a long drop on ___ (sore throat)"
- TX Storm who was "Margie" on TV
- TXism: "keeping my eyeballs peeled"
- Houston mayor ('92-'98)
- soothing ointment
- one who works with horses
- TXism: "can a donkey fly?"
- cometes
- TXism: "light enough to pick ___ (good fence)"
- young birds of prey
- site for h.s. B-Ball
- "7" precursor for agent James Bond
- TXism: "heavy as the front end of a John ___"
- product pushers
- Dodge engines
- patriotic song "Bless the USA"
- had some chicken fried steak
- FLDS site in TX: ___ dorado
- maiden name of Houston's wife Margaret ___
- Weatherford h.s. mascot
- to a cowboy, these are bandanas
- Cornyn is a United ___ senator
- Gov. ___ Ferguson
- Sul Ross State was named after this Gov. (init.)
- TXism: "she dropped him like ___ horseshoe"
- TXism: "___ just fact"
- cable TV network before it was Spike
- this Greenwood wrote 59-across
- rest area sites
- TX-born Powers Boothe is VP Daniels on TV "24"
- topaz & opal in TX
- TX-born actor Tommy ___ Jones
- TXism: "eagle" (attorney) portray emotion theatrically



Bright sunflowers enhance the scene as parents and children enjoy the automated water fountains at the Harbor District in Rockwall.
Staff photo by Tim Burnett

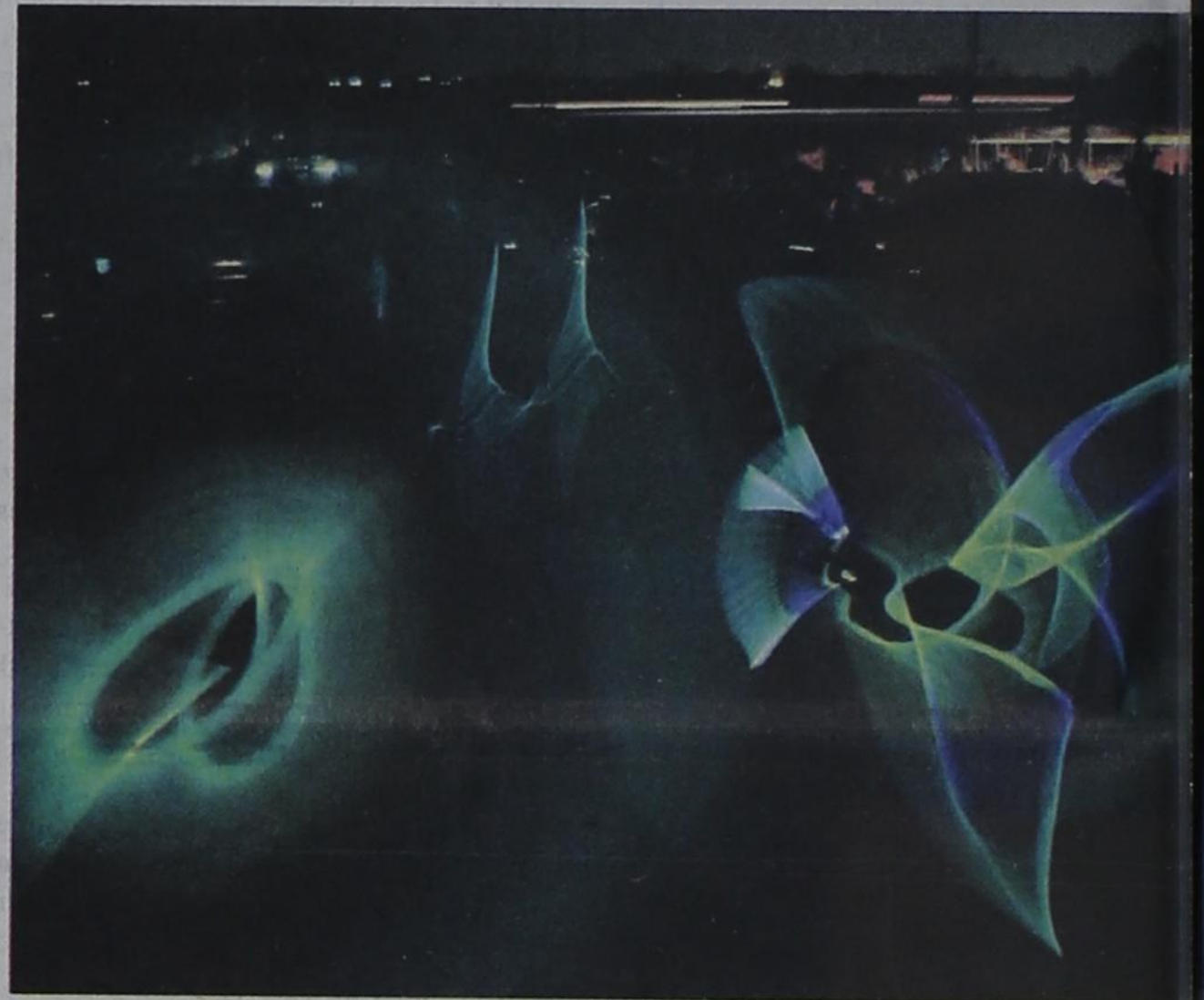


The Harbor District in Rockwall was recently ornamented by children playing in the interactive water fountain.
Staff photo by Tim Burnett



Produce by Rick Cantrell and Ben Dobberstein, last Sunday's fireworks that capped off the Lakeshore Church Freedom Fest dazzled and awed hundreds of people from the area. The show lasted over 22 minutes and featured the 1812 Overture and the National Anthem, along with other musical pieces.

Staff photo by Tim Burnett

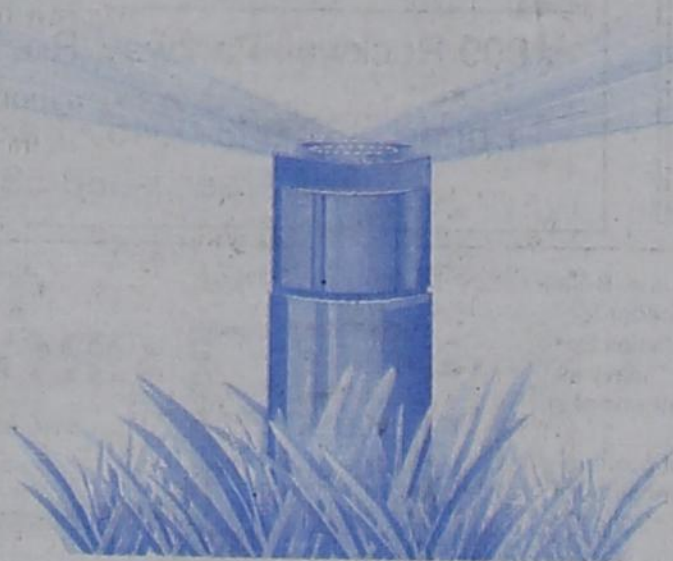


Children enjoy the elaborate visual effects from spinning their glow wands while for the fireworks show to start during last Sunday's Freedom Fest at Lakeshore Church in Rockwall.

Staff photo by Tim Burnett



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