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Rockwall County News

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Lakeside AMBUCS hosts annual AmTryke giveaway

Millie Jean Coppedge
 Lakeside AMBUCS (American Business Clubs) presented nine special-needs children with therapeutic AmTrykes at a presentation conducted from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 3, at the Pearl Tower, 2701 Sunset Ridge, in Rockwall.
 AMBUCS is a charitable nonprofit service organization with a goal of creating mobility and independence for people with disabilities. The organization provides AmTrykes for children, adults and teens with disabilities. These AmTrykes provide movement, exercise, therapy, rehabilitation and freedom and are built specially to meet the need of each particular individual.
 AMBUCS was founded in 1922 and has given away between 75,000 AmTrykes each year since 1996. The organization conducts fundraisers to help provide these services and be able to offer scholarships to disabled persons.
 Lakeside AMBUCS meets at 6 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month at the Cotton Patch Cafe in Rockwall. Members of Lakeside AMBUCS are from the Lake Ray Hubbard area, but anyone is encouraged to attend.
 Those interested in finding out more about the Lakeside AMBUCS or who wish to donate to the scholarship fund or the AmTrykes may contact Mike Oswalt at 972-285-7900.



Five-year-old Angelia Vu was one of nine special-needs children accompanied by their families on Thursday, March 3, who were presented with AmTrykes, each built to meet the specific physical challenges of the recipient. Pictured with Angelia is her father, Joseph Vu. Not pictured is her mother, My Nguyen. The Lakeside AMBUCS (American Business Clubs) presented the children with the bikes free of charge during the gifting event.
 Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/Rockwall County News.

Local resident to host KLFIF 570am talk show

Saturday, March 12, 2016, Rockwall County resident, Leah Belding, began hosting a radio talk show on KLFIF 570am.
 "The Leah Belding Show" is an All Talk program that focuses on politics with evangelism. The show airs 11pm thru midnight CST, every Sat. night.
 According to Ms. Belding, the show will address highly charged topics such as abortion, education, border patrol, immigration, etc.
 Listeners are encouraged to call 888-787-5543 with questions and comments.



University scholastic honors

Palmerduca, Lacy earn Dean's Award
 Lacy Palmerduca and Brienne Lacy of Rockwall were tapped to receive the Dean's Award for academic excellence at Colgate University for the fall 2015 semester, according to a news release from the Hamilton, New York, university.
 Palmerduca, a physics major and graduate of The Fulton School, Lacy, a neuroscience major and Rockwall-Heath High graduate, earned a 3.30 or higher term average to receive the award, according to the release.
 Palmerduca is a member of the Class of 2017, according to the release. Lacy is a member of the Class of 2018.

Sister's Closet open, ribbon cutting planned
 Sister's Closet, a resale shop that raises funds for Women in Prison programs through donations and sales, now is open at 1350 E. Singleton St., Rockwall.
 Individuals who have clothes, furniture, accessories or collectibles for good repair can contact WIN at 972-772-3000 to arrange for pick-up of tax-deductible donations. Donations also may be dropped off at the shop's business hours.
 Sister's Closet is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays. A ribbon cutting for the boutique will be conducted at 1:20 p.m. on Friday, April 5.
 For more details about WIN, visit wintexas.org.

Rockwall city secretary earns state certification

Rockwall's city secretary, Kristy Cole, recently graduated from the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program, according to a news release from the City of Rockwall.
 The Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program is a professional development program administered through the University of North Texas. As part of the program, students must complete more than 200 hours of individual study, which includes submission of written work and successfully passing four examinations. Course content covers topics such as municipal finance, municipal law, election law, public economics, public administration, human resource management, public and media relations, communications, office administration, and municipal court administration. Each student is also required to attend eight seminars related to the course material, which equals more than 100 hours of additional instruction.
 Cole was lauded for her achievement by Mayor Jim Pruitt and City Council members at a council session earlier this month.
 "It was an honor to be recognized by Mayor Pruitt and the council for this milestone achievement," Cole said in the release. "I thoroughly enjoy the work I do for the City of Rockwall and our citizens, and I look forward to the future with gratitude and enthusiasm."
 Cole, who has worked for the City of Rockwall for nearly 13 years, has served as city secretary for eight years.



RHS alumnus, Kilgore College Homecoming Queen

Alexandra Bridges, a 2014 graduate of Rockwall High and daughter of Judge David and Sandy Bridges of Rockwall, was selected 2015-2016 Homecoming Queen at Kilgore College in Kilgore. Nominated by the Kilgore College Ranger Ambassadors, Bridges is a second-year member of the Ranger Ambassadors and was selected as Most Outstanding Freshman in May of 2015. The Ranger Ambassadors are students selected and coordinated by the Office of Admissions and Registrar to promote college enrollment throughout the local high schools and assist with on- and off-campus events. Bridges also is a member of the Kilgore College Ranger Marching and Concert Band, where she is a percussionist, and she has performed as the feature baton twirler for the past two years. In 2015, Bridges was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society. She will graduate in May with Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees.
 Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Rockwall County News Briefs

- Local Democrats plan caucus, convention**
 The Rockwall County Democratic Party will conduct its precinct caucus and county convention on Saturday, March 19, at Marine Cain Middle School. Registration will run from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.; the meeting will begin at 10 a.m. This event will replace the organization's regular monthly breakfast. For more details visit rockwalldems.com. To be a delegate at the state convention, register at txdemocrats.org.
- VNA to host free grief support group**
 Every Thursday starting March 24 through April 21, VNA will host a five-week grief support group - Sharing the Journey: Coping with Grief from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The sessions, open to members of the community grieving the death of a loved one, will be conducted at the VNA East Texas Branch offices at 874 Ed Hall Drive, Kaufman. Each session builds upon the previous one; attendees are encouraged to attend all five for maximum benefit. Reservations are required. Contact VNA's Kevin Moore at 972-962-7500 or moorek@vnatexas.org for more information.
- Soroptimists plan March 24 fundraiser**
 The Rockwall Soroptimists will host a Painting with a Purpose fundraiser from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 24, at Painting with a Twist, Rockwall. Cost will be \$35; proceeds will help support the Child Advocacy Center at the Soroptimist House. Seating is limited. Visit paintingwithatwist.com/events/viewevent.aspx to sign up.
- Rockwall's Got Talent auditions scheduled**
 Auditions for Rockwall's Got Talent will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 26 at the Rockwall Community Playhouse, 609 E. Rusk (two blocks off the square in downtown Rockwall). Semi-finals are scheduled for April 8; finals will be April 15. For more details visit rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org.



Friends of the Rockwall Library will have its next program at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 12, at the Community Room of the Library, 1215 E. Yellow Jacket Lane. Linda and Larry Petty, a singer-and-accompanist duo, will entertain with "So You Wanted a Little Broadway?" show. Linda Petty is pictured above. An optional \$20 lunch by Zach's Catering may be ordered with a reservation made no later than seven days in advance. Email Leigh Plagens at cplagens65@aol.com or call 972-771-8976 by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5. Unless reservation is cancelled by the deadline, payment will be required.
 Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

There is no fear in love.
 But perfect love casts out fear.
 1John 4:18

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On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett
Christian rights ... Part 2

Continuing with the subject of true spiritual rights, we turn to Romans 10:14-15, "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?"

People have the inherent right to call on the name of the Lord, believe that God raised Jesus from the dead, hear the truth about how Jesus was raised from the dead, preach the truth, and move on a calling to preach the truth.

Then, it is summed up with, as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things."

1 Cor. 12:7-10 reveals nine ways to benefit from the spiritual right to manifest holy spirit: word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues.

The manifestation of the spirit is given to every person who has been filled with holy spirit.

We have the right to the fruit of the spirit, which is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. It cannot be removed from us.

RCISD to host session for special needs families

The Royse City Independent School District's Special Education Department will host an informational seminar for families of special needs children on March 31 at the Royse City Administration Building, 810 Old Greenville Rd., Royse City.

The session, according to the RCISD website, will include information on:

- simple ABCs of the SSI and Social Security System
- how to obtain and protect SSI, despite a \$2,000 asset limit
- importance of transitions – a third-party prospective
- what a will and a trust is not the complete solution
- ins and outs of guardianship
- how to maintain control of your child's future, both today and tomorrow

The seminar, Life Planning for Families of Special Needs, is designed to help provide the best and latest information to family and friends about what families of special needs children must do to provide for their loved ones and their family member with a secure future.

With more than 33 years of experience, the Life Planning for Families of Special Needs team has been helping families plan for the future.

Christian details Easter day schedule
The first Christian Church Rockwall (Disciples of Christ) will host an Easter sunrise service beginning at 7 a.m. on Sunday, March 27. The service will offer an eastern view.

Following the sunrise service will be an 8:45 a.m. worship service; a brunch/Easter egg hunt; and 11 a.m. worship.

The church is located at 3375 Ridge Rd., Rockwall, approximately 1.5 miles south of I-30.

a secure, comfortable and meaningful life for special needs family members, according to the RCISD website. This presentation focuses on topics and issues families have indicated they need to be dealing with today, but just don't know how to get started.

Seating will be limited, so call to reserve a spot for the workshop. Call Cheryl Summers at 972-636-9514 and request child care if needed.

Holy Trinity outlines Easter service plans

Holy Trinity by the Lake Episcopal Church, which serves residents of Heath, Rockwall and Forney, announced its plans for Holy Week in a news release distributed this week.

On Saturday and Sunday, March 19 and 20, the church will host its Palm Sunday services. The Saturday service will begin at 5 p.m., while Sunday services are set for 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

On Thursday, March 24, a Maundy Thursday Eucharist, all-night vigil and labyrinth walk are planned. Activities will begin at 7 p.m.

At noon and at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 25, Good Friday services are scheduled.

An Easter vigil will begin at 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 26.

An Easter service will begin at 8:15 a.m. on Sunday, March 27, followed by an Easter egg hunt at 9:30 a.m. and another Easter service at 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HEATH • 224 Smirl Drive
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROCKWALL • 610 Goliad St.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROYSE CITY • 900 Pullen Street

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1524 Smirl Dr., Heath

First Presbyterian Church of Rockwall
Feel the love. Be the love.
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1 John 4:16
Looking for a warm, welcoming family of faith that is dedicated to embodying God's love in Rockwall and beyond? Then join us this Sunday at First Presbyterian Church, located at 602 White Hills Dr., under the water tower and across from the entrance to Walmart.

Sunday School starts at 9:45 a.m. with worship led by Pastor Cheryl Taylor at 11 a.m. For more information, call 972-771-5702, or check out our website at www.firstpresrockwall.org

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602 White Hills Dr., Rockwall

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

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AA Meetings

Rockwall, 7 days a week, Big Book Group, 213 Rusk St., 972-722-6366.

Al-Anon Meetings

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

Al-Anon Garland

Meetings Monday & Friday, 8 p.m. at 2206 South Jupiter St., Suite 130, Garland.

Sons of the American Revolution East Fork-Trinity Chapter meets 6:00 p.m., second Thursday each month, 4881 Bass Pro Dr. Garland, Texas. Guests & family welcome. <http://www.txssar.org/> EastForkTrinity.

Rockwall County Kiwanis Club Meets every Tuesday at noon at the Rockwall Wedding Chapel, 203 S. Fannin. For more information call 972-772-6001

Senior Services

If you are interested in delivering weekday meals to homebound seniors in Rockwall County, we will be holding volunteer training

sessions the second Wednesday each month at 1 p.m. Please call 972-771-9514 for location.

24 Hour Help Line for substance & mental health counseling. 800-662-4357.

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

Last Puzzle Solution

3-17-2016 S-1263

Everyone is invited to attend the "SAVING AMERICA THROUGH PRAYER" event, on the second Sunday of each month, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at Heritage Christian Academy - 1408 S. Goliad St., Rockwall, Texas. The free event will include guest speakers. This is not church affiliated, and is open to everyone interested. For more information contact Mike Kennedy (972) 998-2680 or Kenneth Shores (214) 334-1206 or Jerry Minx (972) 896-7081

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Legal Notices

In compliance with Tex. Occ. Code Ch.2303.151 notice is hereby given on abandoned vehicle **2001 HYUNDAI TRAILER** Vin **3H3412531T14415** towed from **JONES LONG SALLE 1000 N 28TH AVE IRVING, TX**. Now located at Dallas Towboys VSF Lic 0628232, 291 National Dr. Rockwall, TX 75032, vehicle may be claimed by owner/lienholder upon receipt of storage and tow fees accrued to which are **\$2236.59** and increase **\$37.88** daily until 45 days at which time all rights ownership shall be forfeited of said vehicle which will be sold at a public auction if not claimed on or before **MARCH 31, 2016**.

In compliance with Tex. Occ. Code Ch.2303.151 notice is hereby given on abandoned vehicle **2001 HYUNDAI TRAILER** Vin **3H3412531T14415** towed from **JONES LONG SALLE 1000 N 28TH AVE IRVING, TX**. Now located at Dallas Towboys VSF Lic 0628232, 291 National Dr. Rockwall, TX 75032, vehicle may be claimed by owner/lienholder upon receipt of storage and tow fees accrued to which are **\$2236.59** and increase **\$37.88** daily until 45 days at which time all rights ownership shall be forfeited of said vehicle which will be sold at a public auction if not claimed on or before **MARCH 31, 2016**.

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Rockwall County Sheriff's Office

February Report

Calls for service - 625
Incidents/investigations:
• Burglary/breaking & entering - 2
• Shoplifting - 1
• Theft from motor vehicle - 1
• All other larceny - 3
• Impersonation - 4
• Destruction/damage/vandalism of property - 2
• Drug/narcotic violations - 8
• Drug equipment violations - 7
• Weapon law violations - 2
• Driving under the influence - 4
• Liquor law violations - 3
• Runaway - 1
• Trespass of real property - 1
• All other offenses - 95
• Total offenses - 134; total incidents - 94

Arrests:
• Shoplifting - 1
• Impersonation - 1
• Destruction/damage/vandalism of property - 1
• Drug/narcotic violations - 8
• Drug equipment violations - 4
• Weapon law violations - 1
• Driving under the influence - 5
• Trespass of real property - 1
• All other offenses - 117
• Total charges - 139; total arrests - 69

Accidents:
• Total accidents - 7
Criminal papers:
• Affidavit for surety to go off bond (1716) - 13
• Affidavit for surety to go off bond (1719) - 2
• Bench warrant - 1
• Bond forfeiture - 19
• Failure to appear for court - 66
• Insufficient bond - 2
• Motion to adjudicate guilt - 8
• Motion to revoke probation - 20
• Probable cause - 3
• Traffic - 291
• Warrant - 54
• Total criminal papers served - 335; total criminal papers - 479

Civil papers:
• Citation - 25
• Criminal subpoena - 1
• Notice to show cause - 2
• Precept to service - 1
• Subpoena/deuces tecum civil - 1
• Summons - 2
• Total civil papers served - 25; total civil papers - 40

Submit Legal Notices 972-722-3099 or email to rcn.advertising@yahoo.com

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

Rockwall County invites the following:

Request for Proposal to provide Inmate Phone Services to the Rockwall County Jail

Specifications are on file in the Rockwall County Auditor's office, 1111 East Yellowjacket Ln., Ste. 202, Rockwall, Texas 75087 and also on the Rockwall County website: www.rockwallcountytexas.com.

Sealed submittals shall be marked on the outside "16-06-007 County Jail Inmate Phone Services" to Lisa Constant Wylie, Rockwall County Auditor, 1111 East Yellowjacket Ln., Ste. 202, Rockwall, Texas 75087. The deadline for submission is Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at 10:00 AM Central Time.

Rockwall County reserves the right to accept or reject any and all submittals.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT

Rockwall County
Lisa Constant Wylie
Rockwall County Auditor

Royse City Police Blotter

March 4-10

- Friday, 4 March:** Suspicious person, 300 block N. Erby Campbell Boulevard; Suspicious vehicle, 1700 block Sam's Circle; Suspicious vehicle, 100 block W. I-30 SSR; Suspicious vehicle, I-30 SSR and Old Greenville Road; Alarm, 500 block Tripp Trail; Disturbance, 100 block E. Main Street; Assault, 600 block E. I-30 NSR; Accident, Area of FM 35 and Woodland Creek; Welfare concern, I-30 westbound near the 74-mile marker; Welfare concern, 1000 block Live Oak Street; Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound near the 74-mile marker; Welfare concern, 300 block N. Houston Street; Suspicious person, Area of Josephine Street; Criminal mischief, 3200 block Spruce Street; Dallas Police Departments warrants arrest, 400 block W. I-30 NSR; Driving while license invalid arrest, Area of Hwy 66 and Houston Street
- Saturday, 5 March:** Public intoxication arrest, 3100 block Overstreet Lane; Medical assistance, 400 block Rowdy Drive; Alarm, 100 block May Street; Noise disturbance, 1600 block Sam's Circle; Medical assistance, 1200 block Tyler Court; Accident, I-30 eastbound near the 79-mile marker; Welfare concern, I-30 NSR near the 79-mile marker; Fate Police Department warrants arrest, 3200 block Spruce Street; Public intoxication arrest, Area of Circle Lane and Kelly Drive; Medical assistance, 400 block W. I-30 NSR; Alarm, 1700 block Ranch Road; Medical assistance, 200 block W. I-30 NSR; Welfare concern, 300 block N. Erby Campbell Boulevard; Suspicious vehicle, 1000 block Live Oak Street; Noise disturbance, Area of Overstreet Lane
- Sunday, 6 March:** Noise disturbance, 1500 block Hardy Drive; Medical assistance, 300 block N. Erby Campbell Boulevard; Alarm, 500 block Dyann Drive; Alarm, 200 block N. Erby Campbell Boulevard; Alarm, 700 block Mackenzi Drive; Medical assistance, 1600 block Ranch Road; Suspicious person, 700 block Valley Court; Suspicious person, 1500 block Kelly Lane; Suspicious person, 1200 block Logan Drive; Suspicious person, 400 block W. I-30; Suspicious person, Area of Center Street; Suspicious person, 1100 block Live Oak Street
- Monday, 7 March:** Suspicious person, Area of Taylor Drive and Overstreet Lane; Suspicious vehicle, 700 block FM 2642; Noise disturbance, 800 block Meadowdale Drive; Suspicious person, Area of Cookston Lane and Sandy Lane
- Tuesday, 8 March:** Noise disturbance, 200 block Charles Street; Suspicious vehicle, 100 block E. Old Greenville Road; Accident, I-30 westbound near exit 77B; Welfare concern, 1500 block Lorena Drive; City ordinance violation, Area of Center Street and Plum Street; 911 hang up, 100 block Singleton Drive; Medical assistance, 200 block Rowdy Drive
- Wednesday, 9 March:** Welfare concern, 100 block E. I-30 NSR; Suspicious vehicle, 100 block E. Old Greenville Road; Accident, 800 block E. I-30 NSR; Alarm, 300 block Pin Oak Lane; Alarm, 1600 block Bob Drive; 911 hang up, 400 block W. I-30 NSR; Alarm, 2300 block E. I-30 NSR; Welfare concern, 1400 block N. Houston Street; Suspicious person, 1100 block W. I-30 SSR; Medical assistance, 300 block Rustic Meadows Drive; Noise disturbance, 3500 block Spruce Street; Alarm, 3400 block Spruce Street
- Thursday, 10 March:** Suspicious vehicle, 200 block W. I-30 NSR; Reckless driver, I-30 westbound near the 80-mile marker; Disturbance, 200 block Nacona Court; Suspicious vehicle, 600 block Skelton Street; Welfare concern, I-30 NSR and FM 2642.

Rockwall County News Briefs

(Continued from page 2)

One American Soldier is May 13 lecture topic

The May installation of the Sheri Stodghill Lecture Series, presented by the Rockwall County Historical Foundation and the Rockwall County Historical Commission, will focus on an encore recorded presentation focusing on the service and capture of Weldon Mellody, World War II soldier from Royse City, as shared by his daughter-in-law, JoNell Mellody. The May 13 event will run from noon to 1 p.m. in the third floor in the historic downtown courthouse.

Vendors sought for June 4 Country Fair

The Rockwall Soroptimists are accepting applications for booth and food vendors for their third annual Country Fair on Saturday, June 4. The event, which will include live music, a kid zone, rides, vintage games, a car show and a live auction, will run from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Rockwall County Courthouse, 1111 E. Yellow Jacket Lane. Admission will be free. Tickets will be sold for vintage game play, rides and beverage purchases. Check out the Soroptimists' website, rockwallcountryfair.com, for further details. Proceeds will fund the Soroptimists' ongoing projects benefiting women and children, including the new Children's Advocacy Center of Rockwall at the Soroptimist House.

Lecture to focus on Flight of our Fathers

The Sept. 9 installation of the Sheri Stodghill Lecture Series presented by the Rockwall County Historical Foundation and the Rockwall County Historical Commission from noon to 1 p.m. in the third floor in the historic downtown courthouse. The topic will be the history of the No. 1 British flight training school in Terrell. Commander Joe M. Hood, USN (Ret.), will share the story of how the largest facility of its kind was used to train more than 2,000 British and American pilots between 1941 and 1945.

Talking Tombstones lecture set Oct. 14

Meddie Bowles (aka Nancy Beaty) will present the circumstances surrounding the trail and murder conviction of her husband in 1949 as part of the Oct. 14 installation of the Sheri Stodghill Lecture Series presented by the Rockwall County Historical Foundation and the Rockwall County Historical Commission from noon to 1 p.m. in the third floor in the historic downtown courthouse.

(Continued on page 6)

Opinions

The futility of representative government in an age of robber barons

John W. Whitehead

Freedom Foundation (fff.org)

That's the way the ruling class operates in any society. They are the lower and the middle classes fighting with each other... different—that's what they're gonna talk about—race, religion, ethnic and national background, jobs, income, education, status, sexuality, anything they can do to keep us fighting with each other, so that they can keep going to the bank!"—Comedian George Carlin

"We the people" have been utterly and completely betrayed. The politicians "we the people" most trusted to look out for our interests, protect our rights, and ensure that the nation does not slip into tyranny have cheated on us, lied to us, swindled us, deceived us, double-crossed us, and sold us to the highest bidder.

Time and again, they have shown in word and deed that their priorities lay elsewhere, that they care nothing about our plight, that they owe us no allegiance, that they are motivated by power and money rather than principle, that they are deaf to our entreaties, that they are part of an elite ruling class that views us as mere cattle, that their partisan bickering is part of an elaborate ruse to keep us divided and distracted, and that their oaths of office to uphold the Constitution mean nothing.

Unbelievably, even in the face of their treachery and lies, the great majority of Americans persist in believing that the politicians have the people's best interests at heart.

Despite the fact that we've been burned before, most Americans continue to allow themselves to be bamboozled into casting their vote for one candidate or another, believing that this time they mean what they say, this time they really care about the citizenry, this time will be different.

Of course, they rarely ever mean what they say, they care about the constituents only to the extent that it advances their political careers, and it never turns out differently. We are as easily discarded the day after the elections as we were wantonly wooed in the months leading up to the big day. Those same politicians who were once so eager to pose for our pictures, smile at our jokes, and glad-hand us for our votes will, upon being elected, retreat behind a massive, impenetrable wall that ensures we are not seen or heard from again—

... until the next election.

... the joke is on us.

I point out in my book *Battlefield America: The War on the American People* all of the caucuses, primaries, nominating

conventions, town hall meetings, rallies, meet and greets, delegates and super-delegates are sophisticated schemes aimed at advancing the illusion of participation culminating in the reassurance ritual of voting.

It's not about Red Republicans or Blue Democrats. It's about Green Donors—i.e. those with money who can afford to pay for access.

Votes might elect politicians, but as a 2014 field experiment by political scientists at Yale University and the University of California, Berkeley, makes clear, it's money that talks.

The experiment went something like this: members of Congress were contacted by constituents requesting meetings about pending public policy issues. As the *Washington Post* reports, "When the attendees were revealed to be 'local campaign donors,' they often gained access to Members of Congress, Legislative Directors, and Chiefs of Staff. But when the attendees were described as only 'local constituents,' they almost never gained this level of access."

Conclusion: money buys access to politicians who are otherwise deaf, dumb and blind to the entreaties of their constituents.

It works the same with every politician and every party.

Indeed, the First Amendment's assurance of a right to petition the government for a redress of grievances has become predicated on how much money you're willing to shell out in order to gain access to your elected and appointed officials.

Then again, money has always played a starring role in American politics.

The spoils system reared its greedy head under Andrew Jackson, who traded jobs in his administration in exchange for campaign contributions. For \$1 million, donors could take part in Warren Harding's poker parties and enjoy a sleepover at the White House. Lyndon Johnson had a President's Club that cost donors \$1000 a year. Nixon was prepared to sell ambassadorships for \$250,000. And Bill Clinton famously allowed top-dollar donors to spend a night in the Lincoln Bedroom at the White House in exchange for roughly \$5.4 million in donations to the Democratic National Committee.

Fast forward to the present day, and a \$500,000 donation might get you invited to a quarterly meeting with Barack Obama. For a mere \$5,000 donation, lobbyists are being given exclusive invitations to join Congressmen and senators for weekend getaways that include wine tastings, fly fishing, skiing, golfing, hunting, spas, seaside cocktail parties and more.

If you're just a lowly citizen with limited cash, however, you're

out of luck.

Try contacting your so-called representatives without paying for the privilege, and see how far that gets you. I can assure you that you won't be given the kinds of access that lobbyists, special interest groups and top donors enjoy.

Having been saddled with a pay-to-play system that provides access only to those with enough cash to grease the wheels of the political machine, average Americans have little to no say in the workings of their government and even less access to their so-called representatives.

Donald Trump, as he has boasted, might be able to buy and sell politicians of all stripes (including Hillary Clinton), but the average American would be hard-pressed to get the kind of access enjoyed by corporate executives, lobbyists and other members of the moneyed elite.

Indeed, members of Congress have to work hard to keep their constituents at a distance—minimizing town-hall meetings, making minimal public appearances while at home in their districts, only appearing at events in controlled settings where they're the only ones talking, and if they must interact with constituents, doing so via telephone town meetings or impromptu visits to local businesses where the chances of being accosted by angry voters are greatly minimized.

And under the Trespass Bill, passed by Congress in 2012 and signed into law by President Obama, if you dare to exercise your First Amendment right to speak freely to a politician, assemble in public near a politician, or petition a government official for a redress of grievances, you risk a fine or a lengthy stay in prison.

Talk about self-serving.

Under the guise of protecting government officials from physical attacks, the Trespass Bill, a.k.a. "the Federal Restricted Buildings and Grounds Improvement Act," criminalizes First Amendment activity by making it a federal offense, punishable by up to 10 years in prison, to protest anywhere the Secret Service might be guarding someone.

Mind you, the Secret Service not only protects the president but all past sitting presidents, members of Congress, foreign dignitaries, presidential candidates, and anyone whom the president determines needs protection, but is also in charge of securing National Special Security Events, which include events such as the G8 and NATO summits, the National Conventions of both major parties, and even the Super Bowl.

The law essentially creates a roving bubble zone where the First Amendment is effectively off-limits, thereby putting an end to free speech, political protest and the right to peaceably assemble in all areas where government officials happen to be present. Thus, simply walking by one of these events could make you subject to arrest.

"What that means in practice," as *The Intercept* rightly points out, "is that campaign rallies for Donald Trump, who was granted Secret Service protection in November, and Hillary Clinton, who will be guarded for life as a former first lady, are the very opposite of free speech zones under federal law. (The restrictions also apply to all appearances by former presidents and first ladies, as well as those of two other candidates, Bernie Sanders and Ben Carson, who are currently protected by the service.)"

Consider yourself warned: If you do dare to show up to a Trump or Clinton rally and even appear to be the kind of person who might engage in any kind of protest, lawful or otherwise, you could find yourself quickly dispatched to a "free speech zone" out of sight and sound of the candidates. ("Free speech zones" are government-sanctioned areas located far away from government officials, into which activists and citizens are herded at political rallies and events.) In fact, that's exactly what happened to a group of black students at a recent Trump rally in Georgia. They were escorted by police to "free speech zones" in a field shielded from the venue by a set of tennis courts, or outside a church about a quarter of a mile away.

The message is clear: in an age of robber barons, "we the people" are expected to just shut up and vote.

The powers-that-be want us to be censored, silenced, muzzled, gagged, zoned out, caged in and shut down. They want our speech and activities monitored for any sign of "extremist" activity. They want us to be estranged from each other and kept at a distance from those who are supposed to represent us. They want taxation without representation. They want a government without the consent of the governed.

They want the police state.

The system has been so corrupted and compromised that there are few left in the halls of government who hear or speak for us.

Congress does not represent us. The courts do not advocate for us. The president does not listen to us. And the First Amendment's assurance of the right to speak freely and petition our government for a redress of grievance no longer applies to us.

So if representative government has become an exercise in futility, where does that leave us?

One of the key ingredients in maintaining democratic government is the right of citizens to freely speak their minds to those who represent them. In fact, it is one of the few effective tools we have left to combat government corruption and demand accountability.

If there is to be any hope of righting the wrongs that are being perpetrated against the American people, we must make them—our elected officials—hear us.

But where to begin?

Start by opening up a dialogue within your own community about what's wrong with this country. Stop focusing on the issues that divide, and find common ground with your fellow citizens about issues on which you can agree. Focus less on politics and more on principles. Stop buying into the false and divisive narratives that are being promulgated by political windbags and start thinking and speaking for yourselves.

Once you've found that common ground, whatever it might be, make enough noise at the local level—at your city council meetings, in your local paper, at your school board meetings, in front of your courthouses and police stations—and the message will trickle up. Those in power may not like what they hear, but they will hear you.

Remember, there is power in numbers.

There are 319 million of us in this country. Imagine what we could accomplish if we actually worked together, presented a united front, and spoke with one voice?

The police state wouldn't stand a chance.

Address kennel cough with veterinarian help

Contributed by the Texas A&M Extension Service

Like humans, dogs can experience a noisy, dry cough caused by an irritated throat. However, persistent coughing paired with a fever, or ocular discharge, or loss of voice may be symptoms of a serious condition, such as kennel cough.

Common infectious tracheobronchitis, or kennel cough, can develop in dogs when they inhale bacterial or viral particles into the respiratory tract. Mucus coating the respiratory tract normally protects these infectious particles, but several factors can weaken this protection and expose dogs to viruses and bacteria that may cause kennel cough.

Dr. Brad Bennett, lecturer at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, explained the basics of kennel cough in a recent TAMU news release.

"Kennel cough is a respiratory disease classified by an infection in the throat caused by inhaling bacteria, coming into contact with viruses, or both," Bennett said in the release. "Kennel cough is usually illustrated by inflammation of the trachea, but it can also lead to bronchopneumonia."

Dogs exposed to crowded areas with poor ventilation, such as those found in kennels or animal shelters, are at higher risk for developing kennel cough. Cold temperatures, exposure to cigarette smoke and trail-induced stress can also increase a dog's risk for developing the infection.

The symptoms of kennel cough, including a dry, honking cough, coughing to the point of retching, fever, loss of voice, and ocular or nasal discharge, can be caused by multiple sources, but the most common cause is a bacterium called *Bordetella bronchiseptica*. It is not unusual for dogs that become infected with *Bordetella* to be infected with a virus at the same time.

This combination of bacterial and viral infections weakens the dog's mucosal protection in the respiratory tract against infectious particles, increasing their risk for kennel cough, according to the release.

Although the coughing caused by kennel cough may sound awful, the disease is not considered serious. Bennett recommended vaccinating your dog against *Bordetella* to help prevent respiratory infections from evolving into kennel cough.

"Most local veterinarians have vaccines that can aid in the prevention of this disease," Bennett said. "These vaccines may be given intranasal or through a subcutaneous injection depending on the vaccination."

Anyone with a dog that may have kennel cough should contact a veterinarian and keep the dog away from other animals to prevent the spread of the disease. Though it is important to monitor the dog's coughing habits closely, Bennett reminds pet owners that there are many different problems that can cause a pet to cough, including an obstruction in the throat, primary lung disease, parasitism, cardiac

Texas State Parks offer new mobile app

from everyday to getaway this spring with the new Texas State Parks Official Guide mobile app.

The app, which is available for download on the Apple App Store and Google Play, makes it easy for park enthusiasts to find their perfect park based on favorite activities, campsite requirements and preferences from the palm of their hand.

"We're excited to be able to offer this new and free tool to our

customers" said Texas Parks & Wildlife marketing director Darcy Bontempo. "The app makes it easy for people to find the perfect state park getaway."

The mobile app gives visitors access to park descriptions, locations, facility maps, and other essential information from anywhere. It also keeps users up-to-date on full or partial park closures caused by weather or other events, so visitors can keep their getaways happy and safe.

The new app features a filtered search that allows users to sort through the Texas State Park system by location, by facilities and by activities and amenities offered at any of the 95 state parks. Visitors can also create a custom list of their favorite parks, which is a fun way to keep track of the parks they frequent or hope to visit in the future.

- Texas State Parks Official Guide features:
- Facilities and amenities for all 95 Texas State Parks
 - In-app dialing to make reservations or contact a park
 - Downloadable trail maps for offline use
 - Driving directions to parks from current location
 - Photos and videos of parks

"Mobile devices are very much part of our lives these days and with this app, we can help enhance the park experience in more interactive ways," said Brent Leisure, Texas State Parks director. "It brings the outdoor experience into the 21st century by making valuable state park information more accessible than ever before in a very user friendly and easy to use format."

Get more information about the Texas State Parks Official Guide, visit TexasStateParks.org/app.

Invite your friends and family to Call 972-722-3099 for their new subscription to Rockwall County News!

Be an informed electorate and Grand Jury

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

Texas Constitution Article 1, Section 16

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

The act of forcing any business and natural person to purchase any kind of insurance for others, who render services, constitutes "impairing obligation of contracts." The exception is for Federal Instrumentalities engaged in statutory "employment" on the soil of Texas.

See Tx. Labor Code Section 201.101 & 26 U.S.C. 3306 (g) and (j)(1 & 2).

See Texas Penal Code Chapter 39 for criminal offenses related to Official Oppression and Abuse of Official Capacity by government officers.



Kaleigh Jackson, a 17-year-old senior at Roysie City High School, performed for the Roysie City Independent School District Board of Trustees at its Monday, March 7, meeting. She played the clarinet solo piece performed on Jan. 9 at Berkner High School at the Texas Music Educators Association All-Area Band auditions. Jackson is the first student from Roysie City ISD to qualify for the TMEA 5A All-State Symphonic Band.

Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/
Rockwall County News

McGahan named to Circle of Honor

Gerry McGahan of Rockwall recently was inducted into UPS's prestigious Circle of Honor for achieving 25 years of accident-free driving.

Texas boasts 702 active Circle of Honor drivers with a combined 19,870 years of accident-free driving, according to a UPS news release. There are 7,783 UPS drivers in Texas.

Globally, 8,703 active UPS drivers are members of the Circle of Honor.

"My thanks go to all of them for their dedication and focus and for the countless lives they've saved," Craig Wiltz, president of the UPS Red River District, said. "Their attention to detail has kept them safe and has helped improve public safety."

Rockwall County News Briefs

(Continued from Page 4)

Fisher to be recognized at Nov. 10 event

Terry Fisher, the first Rockwall soldier to be killed in World War II, will be recognized by Dick Clark, member of American Legion Post 117, at the Sheri Stodghill Lecture Series presented by the Rockwall County Historical Foundation and the Rockwall County Historical Commission from noon to 1 p.m. in the third floor in the historic downtown courthouse on Nov. 10. The Rockwall post, named for the legendary Fisher, is one of the oldest in the U.S.

Rock Wall to be revisited Dec. 11

The history of the rock wall will be re-examined at the Sheri Stodghill Lecture Series presented by the Rockwall County Historical Foundation and the Rockwall County Historical Commission from noon to 1 p.m. in the third floor in the historic downtown courthouse on Dec. 11. The program also will explore the most recent developments regarding Rockwall's unique underground formation.

Area News Briefs

Free Water Efficient Landscape course set April 2

Texas A&M AgriLife will offer free courses in Water Efficient Landscape in Dallas and Terrell. A course will be offered from 9 a.m. to noon on April 2 at the Dallas Center, Bldg. E auditorium, 17360 Coit Rd., Dallas. In Terrell, the event will be conducted at the same time on April 9 at the City of Terrell Service Center, 400 Industrial Blvd., Terrell. Register online at Dallas.TAMU.edu/courses for either location.



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

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Installation of traffic signal OKed by TxDOT

The Texas Department of Transportation has approved a request made in May for a traffic signal at the intersection of SH 205 and FM 549 west.

Rockwall County Commissioner Dennis Bailey received a letter

this week from TxDOT area engineer Jeffrey Bush concerning the request.

"As per your request, a traffic signal study was performed at SH 205 and FM 548 west. Based on this study TxDOT's field investigation we concur with the county's request to install a traffic signal at the location," Bush wrote in the letter. "The traffic signal is currently under design and will be installed as soon as the design is completed. A left-turn lane will also be provided for the northbound to westbound SH 205 to FM 548 turning movement.

This signal not only will enhance traffic movement north and south on SH 205, but also is expected to minimize cut-through traffic in the Chisolm Ranch subdivision, according to Bailey.

"We continue to ask for other enhancements to crossing traffic along SH 205 and ultimately seek widening of SH 205 throughout Rockwall County," Bailey said in a news release issued this week.

Half Associates has been hired by TxDOT to prepare a schematic and drainage report, conduct public meetings and make right-of-way and environmental constraints determinations to widen SH 205 from US 80 to SH 78, according to the release.

Planning on the project began in January. Completion of the project will take approximately 18 months, according to the release.

VNA to host free grief support group

Every Thursday starting March 24 through April 21, VNA will host a five-week grief support group – Sharing the Journey: Coping with Grief.

This free event, which will run from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., is open to members of the community grieving the death of a loved one. Sessions will be conducted at the VNA East Texas Branch offices at 874 Ed Hall Drive, Kaufman.

Sharing the Journey: Coping with Grief provides a supportive environment in which participants are given the opportunity to learn and grow through their grief experience. Each session builds upon the previous one; attendees are encouraged to attend all five sessions for maximum benefit.

VNA bereavement events provide an opportunity for bereaved individuals to meet with others who understand loss and learn more about helping themselves. Helpful resources on grief are also provided at no charge. Reservations are required. Contact VNA's Kevin Moore at 972-962-7500 or moorek@vnatexas.org for more information.

Dallas Arboretum's cherry blossom trees now blooming

One of nature's most beautiful presentations of color is happening now at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. A wave of delicate pink and white cherry blossoms on the Arboretum's 15 cherry blossom trees are bursting open, announcing their annual arrival and ushering in springtime.

"The recent rain and warmer temperatures have enhanced the color and blossoms of the cherry trees as well as the rest of the garden," Dave Forehand, Dallas Arboretum's vice president of gardens, said in a news release.

Today, branches on many cherry trees at the Arboretum are overflowing with thousands of lacy blooms and each tree only blooms once a year. Throughout the world, cherry blossom time runs from late March to early May, depending on the climate and local weather conditions.

Rockwall County Sports Notes

Titans FC forming new Select, Academy teams

Titans Fútbol Club is forming new Select and Academy teams in its East Division. Teams practice two to three times each week throughout the year at the Rise, 2922 S. Goliad Hwy., Rockwall. Teams 06 and 07 practice from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays/Thursdays and 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturdays; teams 02, 03 and 04 practice from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays/Thursdays and from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Saturdays. Open teams: 02/03 Boys (players born between Jan. 1, 2002, to Dec. 31, 2003); 03 Boys (players born in calendar year 2003); 04 Boys (players born in calendar year 2004); 06 Boys (players born in calendar year 2006); and 07 Boys (players born in calendar year 2007). Practice information is available at: Boys 02, 03 and 04, Paige Garcia, manager, at 214-864-2584; Boys 06 and 07, Daniel Smith, manager, at 214-500-6721; or coordinator coach Oscar Rojas, 806-224-8980. For details, visit titansfutbol.com.

Heath details plans for Fun & Fit in the Park

The City of Heath's March 26 Easter Saturday celebration will include the Heart of Heath 5k and an enhanced one-mile Family Run. Specifics include a USATF-certified 5k course with chip-timed start and finish lines; 5k awards for the top three overall plus top three males and females in each age bracket; a one-mile Family Run integrated into the 5k course with awards for the top three boys and girls; long-sleeved Dri-FIT T-shirts for participants; giant-sized games (chess, checkers, Jenga and Connect 4); a kids' Easter craft; complimentary mini fruit smoothies and juice; prize drawings; and appearances by the Easter bunny. Rain or shine, the event will begin in Towne Center Park with an 8 a.m. warm-up. Register online by visiting heathtx.com.

Rockin' R Relays slated April 8

The 7th Annual Rockin' R Relays, sponsored by Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Associates/Dr. Mark Olmstead, will take place April 8 at Wilkerson Sanders Stadium. Field events will begin at 1:30 p.m., 3200 at 4 p.m. and running finals at 6 p.m. Admission will cost \$3 for students, \$4 for adults. Teams from Rockwall, Rockwall-Heath, Carrolton Creekview, Cedar Hill, Forney, Garland, Mesquite Horn, Lake Highlands, Lakeview Centennial, Plano, Naaman Forest, North Garland, North Mesquite, Poteet, Rowlett, Sachse (boys) and Frisco Centennial (girls) will attend.

Glow Run 5K set May 7

The second annual Glow Run 5K for the WIN (Women in Need) will be conducted on Saturday, May 7, at Harry Myers Park's spray park pavilion. Couple, family and group discounts are available. On-site registration will begin at 6 p.m.; the race will begin at dusk. Top finishers will receive awards and a DJ Glow Party will follow the race. To register, visit inershoes5k.itsyourrace.com. Funds raised will benefit WIN, a nonprofit group dedicated to bringing domestic violence out of the dark through the operation of a 24-hour crisis line, crisis intervention, counseling, support group, legal advocacy, and prevention and education programs. For more information, contact Cheryl Bahm at 972-772-3000 or cbahm@wintexas.org.

Join us for Easter Brunch



culpeppersteakhouse.com

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