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Rockwall County News

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Ribbon cut to officially open redesigned FM 740

by Kathy Williams

Rockwall County residents have been familiarizing themselves with newly widened and redesigned FM 740 roadway since construction was completed in November 2012, but the official ribbon cutting on the two-lane road took place on Friday, Jan. 18, 2013.

The result of a \$100 million bond package passed by county voters in November 2012, the road runs from Horizon Road in Rockwall to the Smirl Drive intersection in Heath. New traffic lights at heavily travelled intersections will help move residents in and out of housing developments and landscaping will be planted in the spring to top off the project.

The ceremony was led by Rockwall County Commissioner Lorne Liechty, a leader in the push to improve Rockwall's two-lane county roads to wider thoroughfares that can handle the increased traffic of a growing community.

In opening remarks, Grinnan thanked all those who worked countless hours to get this done. It's not often that a roadway is considered special, but truly this one is. There are thousands of residents south of here, there's a major high school, there are businesses, and it's bounded by a lake. So this roadway was very important to us to get it improved."

On hand to offer his congratulations was Congressman Ralph Hall. Grinnan was honored to be in the smallest county in Texas and said, "It's the greatest when we work together. I'm proud of Heath, proud of the judges and commissioners, and we have the best school system in the area."

Also on hand was newly elected Rep. Scott Turner. Turner presented a congratulatory message from the State of Texas recognizing the future paved improved road will have on the area.

Rockwall County Judge Jerry Hogan reminded those in attendance that the road projects came to pass.

He said back in early 2000s, Rockwall County commissioners recognized the need for road improvements but at that time, the state didn't have funding available. The commissioners banded together with cities within the county and formed the Rockwall County Road Consortium. Members include mayors, city managers, administrators and staff from Rockwall, Rowlett, McLendon-Chisholm, Fate, Heath and Royse City.

The task was to come together and develop a master transportation plan for Rockwall County," Hogan said. "Not only were they going to develop the plan but they were going to develop the priorities of how roads would be installed in the county."

Once the master plan was in place, Hogan said the consortium presented the plan to the State. The county said it would contribute to the building the roads, "and for every dollar we put in, you put in a little bit more." Hogan said that currently, for every dollar the county is contributing, the state is putting in a little over \$2.

Hogan said the county currently has a master transportation plan that is \$530 million, and the consortium has an additional \$200 million it is debating on prioritizing.

Some are looking at a \$750 million master transportation plan for this area. We are going to the state, not with our hat in hand, but we're going to look, we're willing to contribute so that our city and our citizens have better transportation," Hogan said.

The FM 740 project is actually the second bond project to be completed, Hogan said, with the John King Blvd. loop being the first.

Hogan said there are currently about \$125 million worth of road projects at all funded and in construction or are obligated to start construction. There are several projects that are scheduled for completion in 2016 and Hogan said residents will see lots of construction in several areas around the county going forward.

At the ceremony, Rockwall Mayor David Sweet said the new roadway "is one of the most important economic engines into the community, not just from a retail standpoint, but of course for the medical corridor."

Tex Health Presbyterian Hospital Rockwall, Arbor House of Rockwall Assisted Living Center, the soon-to-be-opened Broadmoor Medical Lodge, and numerous doctor's offices and clinics are within a one-block throw to the east from the newly widened intersection at Horizon Road and FM 740 in a rapidly developing medical district.

Heath Mayor Lorne Liechty offered a special thanks to the citizens of Rockwall and Rockwall for putting up with "the little inconveniences we've had to live with the last two or three years."

Liechty said working with people who have a common goal has helped make the project easier and will benefit the City of Heath as it continues to grow.

"This is great for the City of Rockwall and for the City of Heath,



(Above) Congressman Ralph Hall (center) had the honor of cutting the ribbon to formally open the newly reconstructed FM 740 roadway in Rockwall. Construction was completed on the project in November 2012. Also on hand to celebrate with Hall were city council members from all county cities, county commissioners, construction and engineering personnel, city staff, community leaders and area residents. The widened roadway runs from Horizon Road to Smirl Drive/FM 1140 in Heath. Photo by Kathy Williams/Rockwall County News



(Left) City of Heath Mayor Lorne Liechty speaks during ribbon cutting ceremony to formally open the newly reconstructed FM 740 roadway in Rockwall. Photo by Kathy Williams/Rockwall County News

Rockwall County News Briefs

Rockwall seeks focus group participants

The City of Rockwall's Parks & Recreation Department is seeking residents interested in participating in focus groups designed to aid the department's evaluation of its marketing efforts. Groups are set to run from noon to 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Jan. 31 at the Harry Myers Community Center; 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 8 at the Center for individuals ages 55 and older; and from noon to 2 p.m. Feb. 13 at the Harry Myers Community Center. To participate call 972-772-6468 or email aainsworth@rockwall.com.

ARC blood drive set Feb. 2

The American Red Cross will conduct a local blood drive from noon to 6 p.m. Feb. 2 at Lowe's, 851 N. Steger Town Drive, in Rockwall. To donate, call 1-800-RED CROSS (773-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org to make an appointment or for more information. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of ID will be required at check-in. Individuals must be 17, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in generally good health to donate.

Citizens Police Academy accepting applications

Applications now are being accepted for the Rockwall Police Department's Citizens Police Academy, according to a recent news release. The academy will run Feb. 12 through May 7, with sessions set to run from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. each Tuesday. Application deadline is Feb. 4. For more information call 972-771-7765 or visit rockwallpolice.org.

Royse City Chamber Networking B'fasts slated

The 2013 schedule for the Royse City Chamber of Commerce's Networking Breakfasts have been scheduled. Events will be conducted twice monthly, except for December, at the Holiday Inn Express, 1001 Pullen St., or The Well. The first event this year is set for 8 a.m. Feb. 20 at the Holiday Inn Express; cost will be \$4 for the breakfast/coffee bar. Participants are welcome to distribute business cards, brochures, coupons, etc. Those interested in speaking at one of the events should contact the chamber.

Spring Break Art Camp scheduled

The City of Rockwall's Parks & Rec Department will host a Spring Break Art Camp from 2 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. March 11-14 at the Harry Myers Community Center. Eight spring-themed landscapes will be offered under the guidance of a professional, certified instructor. Participants will learn fine art techniques using five different media - oil, acrylic and watercolor, oil pastel and charcoal. All supplies are provided. Cost is \$119 for Rockwall residents, \$179 for non-residents. For more information call 972-771-7740.

Fundraiser, craft show planned in RC

The 4th Annual Battle of the Bulldogs Fundraiser & Craft Show will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 23 at the Royse City HS Royce Swiney Fundraiser, craft show planned in Royse City

The 4th Annual Battle of the Bulldogs Fundraiser & Craft Show will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 23 at the Royse City HS Royce Swiney Indoor Facility, 700 S. FM 2642. The event, sponsored by Royse City Softball, will include a car show, rag ball tournament, cow patty bingo, silent auction, and jail and bail. Special visits by the Easter bunny also will be offered, with photos available with the bunny from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost for an indoor booth is \$50. For more details visit rcisd.org/rchs and click on the Battle of Bulldogs link.

Easter egg hunt set at park

The City of Rockwall's Parks & Recreation Department-sponsored Easter egg hunt will be held at the Royce Swiney Indoor Facility, 700 S. FM 2642, on Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information call 972-771-7740.

primarily because it allows ingress and egress and allows our citizens to move quickly to and from their homes, but also because it will serve as an engine for economic development in the community of Heath," Liechty said.

On hand to celebrate the culmination of the project were Rockwall County Judge Jerry Hogan; Rockwall County Commissioners; Rockwall Mayor David Sweet; Heath Mayor Lorne Liechty; mayors, city council members, city managers, and city staff and administrators from the Cities of Fate, Royse City, Rowlett, and McLendon-Chisholm; officials from TxDOT, Huit-Zollars Engineering and Ed Bell Construction Company; Rockwall Economic Development Corporation; Rockwall Chamber of Commerce; Innovative Transportation Solutions, Inc.; Rockwall County Sheriff Harold Eavenson; officers from area police departments, and area residents.

Grinnan also made special mention of former city council members and county commissioners who worked to make the road projects possible.

The Rockwall County Road Consortium meets once a month at the historic courthouse in downtown Rockwall. For dates and meeting times, visit the Rockwall County web site at www.rockwallcountytexas.com.

Loans available for counties due to drought

by Kathy Williams

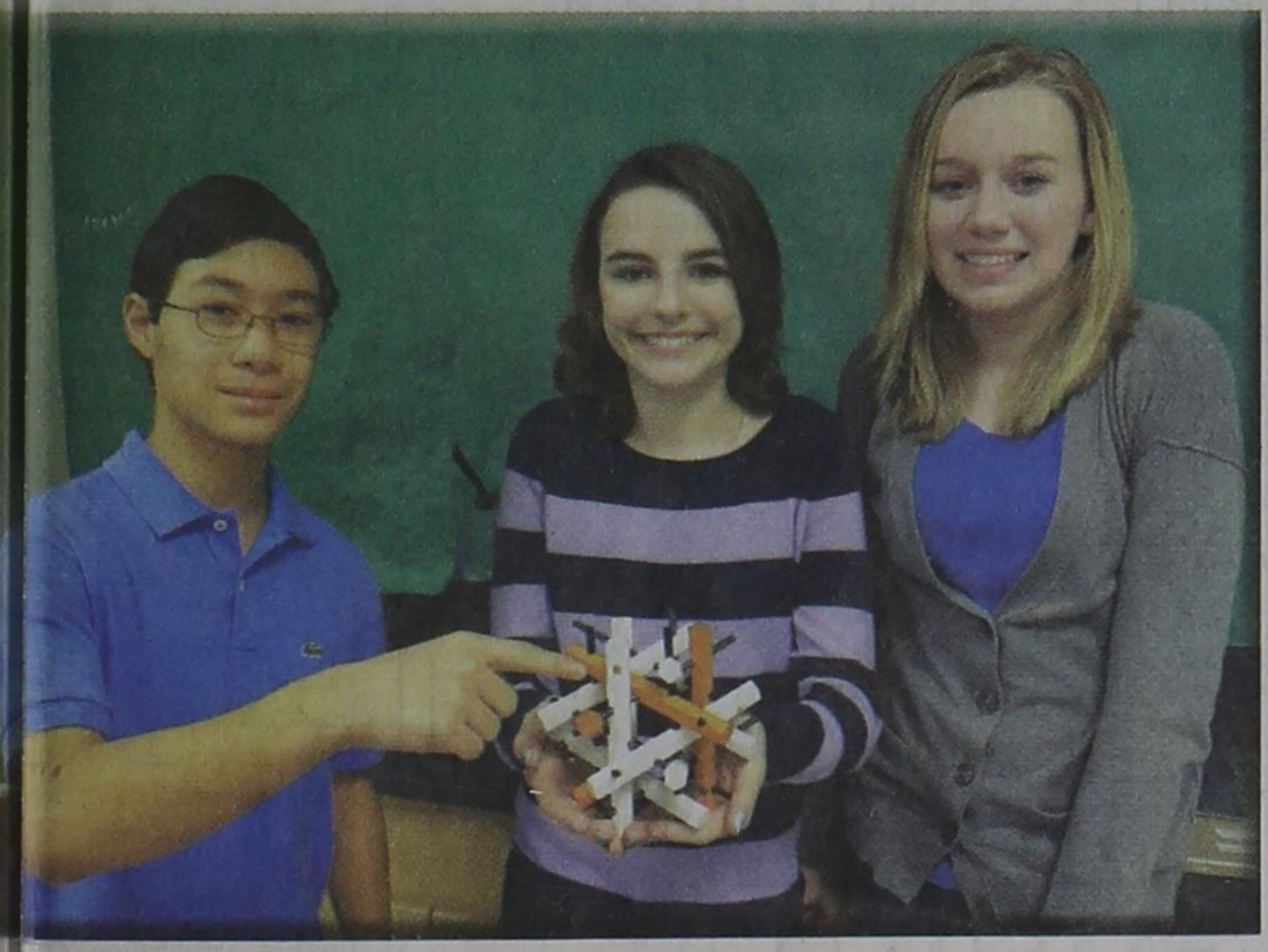
Agricultural producers are now eligible for low interest emergency loans since the USDA Texas Farm Service Agency (FSA) declared 207 counties in Texas, including Rockwall County, as disaster areas due to continuing drought and heat conditions.

The FSA Acting Executive Director James B. Douglass made the declaration on Jan. 9, 2013. Under a new designation system, producers with operations in any of the 157 primary disaster counties or 50 contiguous disaster counties are eligible to apply for the loans, according to a press release.

Producers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000. The current emergency loan interest rate is 2.25 percent.

The streamlined disaster designation process issues a drought disaster declaration when a county has experienced a drought intensity value of at least a D2 (severe drought) level for eight consecutive weeks based on the U.S. Drought

(Continued on Page 2)



Brandon Gan, Abigail White and Meredith Cooper competed against other Williams Middle School students for the honor of representing the school in the Dallas Regional Challenge of the Young Chemist competition set for Feb. 16. The students will compete against students from Dallas area schools for the opportunity to advance to the state-level competition.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Library's Friends group plan Feb. 12 meeting

The Friends of the Rockwall County Library will meet at 11 a.m. Feb. 12 in the library's Community Room. Following the election of officers for the 2013-2014 year, members and guests will be entertained by Leslie Buie and Nancy Beaty.

Buie and Beaty will read excerpts from the Pulitzer Prize-nominated play "Love Letters" by A.R. Gurney. The play chronicles the 50-year relationship between Melissa and Andy through their love letters.

Beaty's love for the written word developed at an early age.

"Some of my fondest childhood memories center around libraries and books," said Beaty, a former Friends president and member of the Library Capital Campaign Committee.

Buie, an active storyteller and Toastmaster,

has, along with his wife, Jane, been active in the Friends organization for many years.

Friends of the Library meets six times a year, and all meetings, with the exception of the Christmas luncheon, are conducted in the library's Community Room. The group works to promote the interest and welfare of the library. Profits from the organization's various fundraising events supplement the county's library budget, paying for special children's programming, adult literacy programs, subscriptions and other items.

Meetings begin at 11 a.m. Visitors are invited; however, reservations are required for all and must be received for the upcoming meeting by Feb. 5. Contact Leigh Plagens at 972-771-8976 or cplagens65@aol.com to make a reservation or cancel prior reservations.



Nancy Beaty and Leslie Buie will read excerpts of the play "Love Letters" by A.R. Gurney at the 11 a.m. Feb. 12 meeting of the Friends of the Rockwall County Library.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Nineteen locals make Baylor honors list

Nineteen local students were among the more than 3,300 Baylor University students named to the Dean's Academic Honor List for the fall semester, according to a university news release.

Honorees from Heath included Brandon Taylor Barbico, Tyler Forbes Kirwan, Kristi K. Kneeder and Brendan Michael Mackin.

Rockwall students recognized included Amy Madeleine Adams, Gregory Chandler Fox, Betie Tizita Geremew, Aaron Albert Lee Houston, Roxanne April Lamarre, Rachel Joy Liebrum, Joy D'Anna Macaluso, Gage Mitchell Mayborn, Courtney Renee Murphy, Erika Pineas, Andrea Cecilia Pujol, Lori C. Scott, Jordan Carlee Smith, Michael Brock Sterry and Christina Nicole Walther.

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must be an undergraduate with a minimum grade-point average of 3.7 while enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester hours.

Canzoneri, Miller wed in Greenville

Catherine Jeannette Canzoneri and Joshua Garret Miller were married Dec. 22, 2012, at Crosspoint Fellowship in Greenville.

Elder Kevin Tibboel performed the double-ring ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of David and Carrie Canzoneri.

The groom is the son of Suzanne Miller of Dallas and Michael Ruth Miller of Rockwall.

Following the ceremony, a reception was conducted at the church. The bride is a graduate of Texas A&M University-Commerce.

The groom attends Texas A&M University-Commerce, where he is majoring in vocal and piano music performance.

After a honeymoon in Boston, the newlyweds are at home in Greenville.



Mrs. Joshua Miller

Water district conducting system-wide chlorine maintenance

by Kathy Williams

The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) has scheduled a free chlorine maintenance that will be conducted on the NTMWD Wylie water transmission system and customers' distribution systems from Jan. 14, 2013 to Feb. 11, 2013.

This includes water used by Rockwall County residents and outlying areas.

According to a news release from the NTMWD, the free chlorine maintenance does not affect water quality and remains safe for use. During maintenance, consumers who are sensitive to taste and odor changes in drinking water might notice a change. This palatability change does not alter the quality of the drinking water provided to consumers.

Rockwall County News Briefs

(Continued from Page 4)

Easter egg hunt set at park

The City of Rockwall's Parks & Recreation Department-sponsored Easter egg hunt will begin at 10 a.m. March 23 in Harry Myers Park. Special prize eggs will be included in this old-fashioned hunt. A bounce house, games and other fun activities are planned. For more information call 972-771-7740.

'God's Favorite' auditions set

Audition for the Neil Simon comedy "God's Favorite" will begin at 1 p.m. March 23 at the Rockwall Community Playhouse, 609 E. Rusk, in Rockwall. No appointments are needed. "God's Favorite" is a light-hearted piece with a cast of five men and three women. Those planning to audition should bring a resume and headshot and be prepared to read from the script. Aimee Thibodeaux will direct the play.

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Resident Bob Chapman with his daughter Degie during a book signing. Bob is a longtime resident of Emeritus at Summer Ridge Assisted Living and Retirement Community.

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5700	Local and Intern
5800	State Program
5900	Federal Program
6000	Other
6100	Total Revenue

EXPENDITURE

0011	Instruction
0012	Instructional P
0013	Curriculum an
0021	Instructional L
0023	School Leader
0031	Guidance, Co
0033	Health Service
0034	Student (Pupil
0035	Food Services
0036	Co-curricular/
0041	General Admi
0051	Plant Mainten
0052	Security and I
0053	Data Process
0061	Community S
0071	Principal on L
0072	Interest on Lon
0073	Debt Issuance
0093	Payments for
6030	Total Expen
1100	Excess (Deficit
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OTHER FINAN

7911	Capital-Relat
7913	Proceeds from
7915	Transfer In
7916	Premium or D
8911	Transfers Ou
8949	Other Uses
7080	Net Other FI
1200	Net Changes
0100	Fund Balance
3000	Fund Balance

On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

Meek and lowly in heart ... Part 3

Life is filled with opportunities to believe God's word. And there is no greater example for us to learn from than Jesus, who is alive and in heaven.

Peter said, "For even hereunto were you called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow in his steps" (1 Peter 2:21).

He was not talking about being crucified like Jesus. Instead, it meant to follow his example of how he reacted to the suffering. It goes on to say,

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"Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth. Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judges righteously" (verses 22-23).

There is not one person on earth who has never suffered in some way under the hands of natural causes or other people. It may be argued that people can bring the suffering upon themselves because of different decisions.

ASTOUNDINGLY, a study of Jesus' last year will reveal that his final suffering came upon him as a result of his own righteous actions and words. They who suffer for good actions and words can be assured that they are not alone.

Jesus left us an example so that we might learn from him.

In Matthew 11:29 Jesus said, "take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and lowly in heart."

If Jesus gave himself as an example for us, and said to learn from him, then it stands to reason that we need to learn what it means that he was meek and lowly in heart.

In other words, it was with a meek and lowly heart that Jesus did not rail on the people who railed on him; did not revile the people who reviled him; and committed himself to God in heaven who judges righteously.

In Proverbs 16:19 it says, "Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud." To be lowly meant to be poor and afflicted. The affliction could be by natural causes or by other people. To be humble meant to be lowered below another of higher authority and is also used for the physical gesture of lowering oneself close to the ground.

What a fantastic lesson this is! Keep in mind that Proverbs came from King Solomon who was the highest authority figure over God's people.

He had great riches and controlled vast land. Solomon knew that it was a godly thing for even the King to "be of an humble spirit with the lowly or poor and afflicted."

Our Lord Jesus had, and still has the highest and most powerful in earth and in heaven. Even the richest and most powerful families in the world cannot match the name of God's son, Jesus, which is more accurately translated Joshua.

Jesus was truly of an humble spirit with the lowly people.

Isaiah prophesied, "For thus says the high and lofty One that inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones" (Isaiah 57:15).

During his sufferings, Jesus must have completely understood the words from God through Isaiah. It is written, "that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself."

The "lofty One that inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy" dwelt in our Lord Jesus who was truly of a meek and lowly heart. Surely we can safely conclude that God in heaven, Jesus' Father, revived his heart and contrite heart. Did Jesus not commit himself to his Father who is to judge righteously, with the hope of being resurrected from the dead? And behold, God faithfully revived his meek, lowly, poor and afflicted loved one.

With great anxiety, Jesus prayed to God with an honest and meek heart three times asking God to let the cup pass. God sent angels to minister to him, by raising him. After Jesus suffered great affliction under the Jews, Scribes and Pharisees with the help of the Roman governor, God raised him from the dead three days and three nights later.

As we search the scriptures about Jesus' meek and lowly heart as an example for us, let's look for opportunities to learn of him. When we experience those lengthy or brief moments of great affliction, anxiety, grief, we can pour our hearts out to God in prayer as Jesus did; we can revile not others who revile us as Jesus did; we can rail not on others as Jesus did; and we commit ourselves to God in heaven who judges righteously, as Jesus did.

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1 John 4:16

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

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

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'Oliver' to be staged by Rockwall Community Playhouse in February

by Mary Thacker

The cast of "Oliver" has been hard at work on the stage of Rockwall Community Playhouse in preparation for opening night Feb. 8. Rousing tunes like "Oom Pah Pah," "Food, Glorious, Food" and "Consider Yourself" generate boisterous energy, while sentimental favorites "As Long As He Needs Me," "I'd Do Anything" and "Where is Love?" tug on one's heartstrings.

The musical is based on Charles Dickens' play "Oliver Twist," the story of a poor orphan who gets mixed up with a gang of thieves led by the wily Fagin and his apprentice, the artful dodger. The original British production, with music and lyrics by Lionel Bart, premiered in the West End in 1960 and opened on Broadway in 1963. The play was made into a film in 1968.

Director Pamela Whittaker has worked as a professional actor in Dallas and Los Angeles, appearing in commercials, film and television. She has directed more than 50 musicals and plays. She started Studio B Performing Arts Theater in Highland Village where she developed a drama curriculum and performance program for children, as well as a community theater.

When asked about her current undertaking she said, "The talent in this cast and crew is a director's dream."

The cast and crew of "Oliver" is made up of nearly 50 members.

Tommy Redfean and Roger Hester have constructed an ambitious multi-level set. Choreographer Kristin DiFrancesco has developed challenging dance routines, and music director Phil Alford is fine-tuning the many musical numbers. Assistant director Monica Phillips, stage manager Christy Brown, assistant stage manager Lauren Alexander and stage hand Nick Claggett are attending to all the details to ensure it is a first-rate production.

Starring as Nancy, Whitney Rosenbalm is a seasoned RCP performer. She was recently seen on stage as Judy in "9 to 5" and as Grace in "Annie." She is joined on stage by her daughter, Maddie, who is playing the strawberry vendor.

Oliver is played by Matt Carew, who although just 12 years of age, has the resume of a veteran. He has appeared in commercials, films and TV shows in addition to his theater work. His sister, Tori, is sharing the stage with him and was last seen at RCP as Beth in "Little Women."

Steve Golin stars as Fagin, while his son, Camryn, plays the artful dodger. Golin made his directorial

debut this December with "Uh-Oh, Here Comes Christmas." His recent acting roles include Franklin Hart in "9 to 5" and Daddy Warbucks in "Annie." Dennis Gullion plays the villain Bill Sykes. He was last seen at RCP in the role of Rooster Hannigan in "Annie." Bet is played by Anne-Marie Thacker, who was previously seen at RCP as Anne "Hairspray" and Amy in "Little Women."

The widow Corney is played by Darci Ramirez. This is her debut on the RCP stage. Her son, Rylan, is one of the orphans. Mr. Burns is played by Dane Hoffman, who appeared at numerous theaters in the Metroplex.

Other cast members include Messick as Charlie, Lindsey White as Charlotte Sowerberry, Ed Hroas as Dr. Grimswig, Al Wall as Brownlow, Lloyd Turney as Sowerberry, Tori Carew as the maid, Steve Niksich as the knife, Mary Thacker as Mrs. Bedwin, Moore as Mrs. Sowerberry and Feldman as Noah.

Orphans include Jahleel and Jappah Vaughn, Olivia Archibald, Iradi, Matthew Kula, Rylan Ra and Paulet Cueller. Hannah M Rachel Whalen, Kenedy Matt Riley and Parker Niksich, Stuart Kate Larman, Isabella Brother, Abby Thompson are pickpockets.

There are also five actors appearing who were a part of RCP's program, which provides opportunity for adults with Down syndrome to experience the joy of onstage. They are Allison E Shannon Harrison, Jack Hopkins, Taylor and Zachary Wincent.

The play will run Feb. 8-10, and 22-24 with 8 p.m. performance Friday and Saturday evening and 2 p.m. Sunday matinee. Tickets can be purchased at rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



The brother-and-sister team of Tori Carew and Matt Carew pictured above play the roles of the milk maid and Oliver in the Rockwall Community Playhouse's upcoming production of "Oliver." The play will run Feb. 8-10, 15-17 and 22-24 with 8 p.m. performances on Friday and Saturday evenings and 2 p.m. Sunday matinees. Tickets can be purchased at rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, The Vault Self Storage located at 1280 E. Ralph Hall Parkway, Rockwall, Texas 75032 will hold a public auction of property to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 10:00 AM, February 7, 2013, at The Vault Self Storage, 1280 E. Ralph Hall Parkway, Rockwall, Texas. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash only. All successful bidders will remove the contents immediately and leave unit clean. A refundable cleanup deposit will be required. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property includes contents of spaces of the following tenant(s):

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- Contact The Vault Self Storage, 1280 E. Ralph Hall Parkway, Rockwall, Texas 75032, (972) 771-1105.

Opinions Germany's Repatriation of Gold

by Jacob G. Hornberger, (fff.org)

Germany has announced that it's going to repatriate 374 metric tons of its gold that it has stored with the Federal Reserve in New York City. While Germany claims that it will continue leave 1200 tons of gold in the United States, this might actually be the start of a full removal of its gold and its return to Germany. In fact, Germany also announced a full repatriation of all 374 metric tons of its gold from France.

Why would Germany do that? It says that the reason is so that it can have plenty of gold reserves available at home in the event of a monetary crisis. The gold would enable Germany to purchase foreign currencies or, actually, most anything else, in the event of a crisis, reflecting, once again, that gold is real money.

But there is another possible reason for Germany's decision: that it doesn't trust the U.S. government. That's, in fact, the reason why countries such as Libya, Venezuela, and Iran repatriated their gold. They were concerned that in a "crisis," the U.S. government would seize it.

Fears of gold confiscation by the U.S. government are not irrational. After all, that's precisely what the U.S. government did to the American people at the outset of Franklin Roosevelt's presidency in 1932. Taking the path of communist and socialist regimes, the Roosevelt administration nationalized all private gold holdings in the country, ordered Americans to deliver their gold to the government, and made

it a felony offense to own gold. Despite clear prohibitions against such action in the Constitution, the federal courts upheld the seizure.

While FDR's gold seizure is now just something that Americans learn in history books, it is still one of the most shocking and appalling events in U.S. history. When the country was established, the Constitution made gold coins and silver coins the official money of the American people. Thus, for more than a century Americans use gold and silver coins, not irredeemable paper notes, as their medium of exchange.

Along came the Progressives, who succeeded in converting America to a welfare-warfare state, one in which the role of the federal government became a welfare caretaker for the American people and a brutal policeman for the world. Obviously, the welfare-warfare state would cost a lot of money, expenditures that would be easier to pay for if the government could simply print the money. That's why Roosevelt and his statist cohorts decided to take everyone's gold away and force Americans to use irredeemable paper currency instead.

The Germans know full well that the U.S. government could do the same thing again, especially if the right "crisis" came along, and that, this time, the confiscation could extend to foreign countries that have stored their gold with the Federal Reserve.

No one doubts, of course, that the U.S. government would do such a thing to countries that are not considered to be loyal members of the U.S. Empire, such as Iran and Venezuela, but would it really do such a thing to Germany?

The problem is that one never knows when a country will be converted from friendly ally to unfriendly enemy. In World War II, the Soviet Union was a friend and ally. Once the war was over, the U.S. national-security state quickly converted it to unfriendly

enemy status, setting the Cold War into motion. Iran was a friend of the shah was in power. It is now an enemy of the Empire. Iraq was a friend under Saddam and then became an enemy under Saddam.

While Germany became an ally after it had been an enemy in World War II, there is no way to say with certainty that things will always remain the same. What if Germany were to demand that all U.S. troops leave Germany? What if Germany continues to grow more powerful economically while the United States continues to head toward economic bankruptcy? What happens if the Empire starts to become prosperous, militarized, independent Germany as a renewed third world peace?

Then, all bets are off, and Germany knows that U.S. officials would have no compunctions about using Germany's gold as leverage to impose its will on Germany. "If you want your gold, then do as we say."

What about Americans? Americans remain just as much at risk of gold confiscation as anyone else, if not more so.

As everyone knows, federal spending and borrowing continues unabated, and the federal government's debt continues to soar. If there is a drastic monetary crisis, like the one the Federal Reserve caused in 1929, and if federal officials desperately need money to fund their welfare-warfare-state operations, make no mistake about it: they stop at nothing to get it. The two most likely sources of quick cash (1) by confiscating gold again and (2) by confiscating people's 401(k) retirement accounts, as Argentina did during its monetary crisis. Of course, the government would give people paper notes and bonds in return, as it did in the 1930s. Since U.S. officials would be running inflationary printing presses at full force during such a crisis, the notes and bonds could be called "guaranteed instruments of confiscation."

Thus, Americans would be wise to do what Germany is doing. Do not store your gold under the auspices of the U.S. government. Bring it home and store it there.

His Majesty Obama and the debt ceiling

Part 2

by Wendy McElroy, (fff.org)

Executive authority and a competing Congress

Article 1, section 7 of the Constitution states, "All bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills." (Emphasis added.)

The House's monopoly on raising revenue was intended to be a powerful brake upon the executive. The president can sign executive orders and create executive agencies (like the Department of Education) with administrative policies that regulate the minutiae of society. Without funding, however, the measures and agencies falter. Thus, congressional control of revenue bills is one of the few remaining solid obstacles to the presidency becoming monarchical.

Unfortunately, there is some legal grounding on which Obama could challenge the absolute authority of Congress over revenue bills. Section 4 of the Fourteenth Amendment (1868) reads,

"The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss of or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void."

This is a Reconstruction amendment; that is, it has a specific historical context. It was adopted in the wake of the Civil War (1861-1865) in order to facilitate the reformation of the American South. Section 4 aimed at guaranteeing Union loans while repudiating Confederate debt. Nevertheless, the United States Supreme Court later ruled that the section's language had broader application. In Perry v. U.S. (1935), the majority opinion stated, "While [the Fourteenth Amendment] was undoubtedly inspired by the desire to put beyond question the obligations of the government issued during the Civil War, its language indicates a broader connotation." The court found it to be "confirmatory of a fundamental principle which applies as well to the government bonds in question [in that 1935 case]."

Constitutional attorneys could, however, argue cogently against the presidential use of Section 4. For example, they could point out that the section refers to honoring current debt, not to creating new debt. But during a national emergency, when the president assumes extraordinary powers, Obama's chances of success will be enhanced.

His chances are also enhanced by the current strategy being pursued by top Democrats. In stirring up public debate, the Democrats are engaging in what is called "popular constitutionalism" or "democratic constitutionalism." Although that term is imprecisely defined, an essay entitled "Popular Constitutionalism and Relaxing the Dead Hand: Can the People Be Trusted?" by law professor Todd E. Pettys offers a general sense:

A growing number of constitutional scholars are urging the nation to rethink its commitment to judicial supremacy. Popular constitutionalists argue that the American people, not the courts, hold the ultimate authority to interpret the Constitution's many open-ended provisions whose meanings are reasonably contestable.

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- TXism: "Sells like corn" at the State Fair
- unpleasant smell
- seat of Jackson Co.
- TXism: "'em up" (evaluate)
- Assoc. for the Spurs, Mavs, & Rockets
- '89 album that was thought to violate TX obscenity law: "_____ As They Wanna Be"
- TX Clint Black's "We Ourselves"
- TXism: "a hard _____ under the porch" (good dog)
- This Ed was "Mingo" on "Daniel Boone" with TX Fess (init.)
- "I'm in the _____ for Love"
- In the '30s, Mineral Wells was a top destination
- sixth most populous city in TX
- arachnid trap (2 wds.)
- NFL designation for some injured players (abbr.)
- soundrel
- animals' feet
- the biggest names (hyphenated word)
- Astro dome had this on 4/9/1965 (2 wds.)
- This Young sang "Hello Walls" ('61)
- dressed for the cold?

DOWN

- TX Kristofferson '74 film: "Alice Live Here Anymore"
- this CF McDowell wore #0 for the Rangers ('85-'88)
- where, Texicans flew the "Come and Take It" flag in 1835
- _____ Hickok Belt" was given to best pro athlete
- "in the year of our Lord" (abbr.)
- TXism: "he's got _____ in his garters" (able)
- symbol for gold
- in Dallas, DART is a _____ of transportation
- devoured a whole dessert? (3 wds.)
- hoppy lager beer
- great left-fielder and first Rangers mgr., Williams
- abbr. for best state in the Union
- guided excursions
- after-death assets
- Haing S. _____ was in '90 film "Vietnam, Texas"
- needed for a disabled car (2 wds.)
- TXism: "_____ he can't hear thunder"
- great TX golfer Kite (init.)
- "si" so. of the border
- TXism: "_____ up" (believed)
- J.R. was shot in the last _____ of '87
- "Dallas" season husband or wife swimmer Esther in '51 film "Texas Carnival" (init.)
- TX intoxication offense (abbr.)
- finger-pointers
- brandin' tools
- "one _____ kind"
- Friday _____ rally
- most TX singers are also this
- TX Strait's "All My _____ Live in Texas"
- house sites
- TX Buddy Holly hit: "Peggy _____"
- TXism: "saddle strawberries"
- _____ under the _____ (cover transaction)

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15 Colton Rashbrook
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16 Mesquite - Norman
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Hawks defeat Rockwall for 1st district win

Lary Bump
 Rockwall-Heath's players knew their first season in 5A boys' basketball would be even tougher than the first years of the school's existence in 1996. They didn't know just how difficult it would be. It wasn't until the sixth game, halfway through the district schedule, for Rockwall to win a 12-5A game. The Hawks shook off Rockwall midway through the first quarter Friday night and went on to a 58-41 victory. On the inside play of Jaylen Veasley, RHS pulled even at 9-9. When Rockwall-Heath sophomore Colton Rashbrook took over. He scored 8 consecutive points, including two 3-point shots that led to a lead the Hawks didn't lose again. They led 20-13 after the first and outscored the Yellowjackets in every other quarter. Rashbrook, who had totaled just 8 points in the previous two games, finished with a game-high 18 points. Teammate Luke Ramirez added 13. Rockwall (10-15, 0-6) was the trio of Veasley, Skyler Simmons and Aaron Maxwell with 12 apiece. Rockwall had entered district play with an 11-9 record, but had the same of running into 12-5A's strongest, most experienced teams out of the box. It didn't help that the Hawks played teams they have been able to beat — such as Tyler Lee, a 64-49 winner over Rockwall a week earlier — on their home court. They saw a furious rally fall short in a 63-59 loss to North Mesquite on Jan. 15. The Stallions led 36-18 at halftime, so RHHS' 24-15 quarter wasn't enough to win. In that game, Jackson Zivney scored 12, Tyler Zivney added 12 and Ramirez put in 10. Rockwall, a 4A playoff team a year ago, expected to be among the 12-5A's best this season. When the Jackets opened the season by winning their first 14 games, that still appeared to be possible. Since then, their two leading scorers have transferred and RHS has lost 11 consecutive games. In the game at Rockwall-Heath, the Jackets fell behind Mesquite 3-9 after one quarter Jan. 15. Maxwell's 21 points weren't enough to overcome a 47 loss.

Sheridan Bee 4, David Broach 4.					
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Longview	9	17	11	18	55
RHS	7	11	4	12	34
Longview — Whittaker 21, Williams 9, Leonard 6, Lynch 6, Anthony 4, Howard 4, Coby 2, Henderson 2, Johnson 1.					
RHS — Skyler Simmons 16, Blake Rhodes 8, Jaylen Veasley 4, Trevor Blum 2, Matt Hopson 2, Aaron Maxwell 2.					
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RHS	10	8	8	11	37
Mesquite	8	21	20	13	62
RHS — Sheridan Bee 10, Skyler Simmons 8, Aaron Maxwell 5, Matt Hopson 4, John Tully 3, Jaylen Veasley 3, David Broach 2, Will Murdoch 2.					

Undefeated Jackets win 2nd soccer tournament

Lary Bump
 Coming off one tournament championship, the Rockwall boys' soccer team had a reasonable expectation of winning its own tournament last weekend. It quickly became clear that Saturday's two opponents weren't about to roll over against the Yellowjackets, who hadn't allowed a goal in this season's first five games. **continued on page 8**

Rockwall County high school varsity results, Jan. 15-21

Boys' basketball					
Fulton 73, Arlington Flint Academy 66					
Fulton 64, Dallas Inspired Vision 40					
Mesquite Horn 60, Rockwall 47					
North Mesquite 63, Rockwall-Heath 59					
Rockwall Christian Academy 71, Heritage Christian Academy 38					
Rockwall-Heath 58, Rockwall 41					
Tyler East Texas Christian Academy 56, Heritage Christian Academy 40					
Girls' basketball					
Mesquite Horn 41, Rockwall 31					
Rockwall 63, Rockwall-Heath 50					
Rockwall-Heath 67, North Mesquite 43					
Boys' soccer					
Carrollton Newman Smith 3, Rockwall-Heath 1					
Rockwall 6, Dallas Kimball 0					
Rockwall 1, Dallas Conrad 0					
Rockwall 4, Plano John Paul II 2					
Rockwall 1, Sulphur Springs 0					
Rockwall-Heath 3, Dallas Samuell 0					
Rockwall-Heath 2, Plano John Paul II 1					
Sulphur Springs 3, Rockwall-Heath 1					
Girls' soccer					
Carrollton Creekview 3, Rockwall-Heath 0					
Frisco Wakeland 4, Rockwall 0					
Lake Dallas 2, Rockwall-Heath 0					
Plano JV White 1, Rockwall 0					
Rockwall 2, Irving Nimitz 1					
Rockwall 1, Frisco Centennial 0					
Rockwall-Heath 2, Garland 1					
Rockwall-Heath 8, Dallas Thomas Jefferson 0					
Wrestling					
Rockwall 45, Colleyville Heritage 27					
Outback Varsity Wrestling Invitational at Weatherford — Rockwall 182, Midlothian 151, Arlington Martin 150.5, Colleyville Heritage 87.5, Haltom 74					

Mesquite — Alex Cooper 18, Rashard Higgins 14, Davion Keys 9, Codarius Vault 5, Ben Hancock 4, Dejohn Shealy 4, Cameron Brown 3, Tory Gamble 2, A.J. Johnson 2.					
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
North Mesquite	15	13	15	8	51
RHS	12	6	11	6	35
North Mesquite — Ryan Bradley 18, Norman Alexander 11, Drick Whitted 6, Mike Williams 6, Thomas Oberg 4, Marcus Alonzo 2, Leslie Davis 2, Xavier Mack 2.					
RHS — Aaron Maxwell 19, Skyler Simmons 8, John Tully 3, Jaylen Veasley 2, Will Murdoch 1.					

Blackmon named to Dean's List

Michael Blackmon of Rockwall was named to the Dean's List at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette for the fall semester. Eligible students must be enrolled full-time and earn a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher, according to a university news release.

Norris named to Dean's List

Casey Norris, a junior theatre performance major from Rockwall, was among students named to the Dean's List at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn., for the fall semester, according to a university news release.

To be included on the Dean's List, a FHU student must maintain a minimum grade-point average of 3.40 for the semester and full-time status.

Two locals named to ASU Dean's List

Two local residents were among honorees included on the Angelo State University Dean's List for the fall semester, according to a university news release.

Local honorees included Courtney L. Callens of Rockwall and Alysia R. Null of Roysie City.

To be eligible to make the honors list at the San Angelo university, a student must be enrolled full-time at Angelo State and maintain a 3.25 or better grade-point average on a 4.0 scale.

Horton honored at Pepperdine

Mashala Horton of Roysie City was named to the Seaver College Dean's List for the fall semester at Pepperdine University, according to a university news release.

To earn Dean's List honors, a student must be in the upper 10 percent of his/her class and maintain a 3.5 or better grade-point average. Horton is one of only 290 students to receive such an honor.

Taylor lauded at Cornell

Taylor Rothlein of Roysie City was named to the Dean's List at Cornell University, according to a university news release.

Rothlein, a student in the College of Arts & Sciences, was feted for his academic accomplishments in the fall semester.

Locals makes HPU honor rolls

Three local residents were among academic honorees following the fall semester at Howard Payne University in Brownwood.

Molly Blair O'Brien of Rockwall was one of 106 students named to the President's List, according to a university news release.

To attain a place on the President's List, a student must earn a 4.0 grade-point average.

Hannah Marie Strebeck of Roysie City and Blaine Michael Wynn of Rockwall were named to the HPU Dean's List.

Students must earn a 3.65-3.99 GPA to be included on the Dean's List.

Rockwall-Heath Hawks' Hughes, Seales sign letters of intent

Rockwall-Heath baseball players Russell Hughes and Hunter Seales were back in the news together Tuesday on a much happier occasion than when they both made news a year ago. The seniors each signed a letter of intent to continue their baseball careers next year in junior college. Hughes signed with Paris Junior College, and Seales with Navarro College. Last March, the two outfielders were chasing a fly ball when they collided. Hughes left the game with a concussion, and Seales with a broken leg. Hughes missed some time but Seales didn't play again in 2012. Both are preparing to play for RHHS this season.

14th annual Fundraiser, craft show to benefit Roysie City softball

The 14th Annual Battle of the Bulldogs Fundraiser and Craft Show, set for March 23 at the Roysie City High School Royce Swiney Indoor Facility, will benefit the Roysie City High School softball program. The event will include a car show, rag ball tournament, cow patty bingo, a silent auction, and jail and bail. Special visits will be made by the Easter bunny, which will be available for photos between the hours of 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the facility, which is located at 700 S. FM 2642 in Roysie City. The craft show will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with booth set-up beginning at 6:30 a.m. Cost for a 12x12 indoor booth will be \$50. Booth assignments will be made upon check-in. No electricity will be available in booths, and all vendors must provide their own canopies/tents and tables/chairs. Food vendors will be accepted, with the exception of those offering pre-packaged prepared food items. Products offered must be appropriate for inclusion in a family event; the school reserves the right to request removal of any items deemed illegal or in poor taste. For more details or craft show registration forms, visit rcisd.org/rchs and click on the Battle of the Bulldogs. All net proceeds will be used to benefit the Roysie City High School softball program.



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