

Rockwall County News

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"Highlighters" DI team launches 'Covered in Love' project

Miss... ay Vernon Elementary School 3rd grade Destination Imagination team presents a Friday December 20, to Kathryn Hall of Rockwall. "The Highlighters" team made be personally provided in coordination with the Rockwall County Meals on Wheels. Participating in the presentation are (back row left to right) Brooke Elliott, Kayla Scott, Laura Waggoner, Kathryn Hall and Allison Phillips. Not pictured is student MaKayla according to the team's Donation Letter, "we decided to participate in a challenge called 'Love' whereas we make warm blankets for these community members in an effort to warm this winter season." Miss Hall shared enjoyable stories with the children about Hall's Father, Floyd Kimbrell, served as Rockwall County Constable, and later served 1 police chief for 40 years. Her Mother was Lilly Smith Kimbrell. Hall also spoke of other's Father, Taylor Smith, built the first Free Methodist Church, which is currently Alamo street. Miss Hall has lived in Rockwall for a lifetime. Co-managers of the DI parents Alisha Elliott and Angie Waggoner.

Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News



The simple and peaceful Christmas display can be seen on Keswick Court in Heath. Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News



East... Avenue in Rockwall is the location of this colorful Christmas light display. Photo by Brittany Williams/Rockwall County News

City of Fate lauded for swift response to ice storm

by Millie Jean Coppedge

On Dec. 16, the Fate City Council met at 5 p.m. rather than the normally scheduled 6 p.m. to complete its executive session before the regular council meeting.

At the Dec. 2 council meeting the executive session met regarding "legal advice regarding the Texas Open Meetings Act and annexations" and "to discuss or deliberate regarding commercial or financial information that the city had received from a business prospect that the city seeks to have locate, stay or expand in or near the territory of the City of Fate and with which the city is conducting economic development negotiations." The council returned to regular session with a "no action" response on both discussion points.

During this week's meeting, the council continued with the same executive agenda and added a new item, "Section 551.074-Personnel regarding the city manager." Again, the council returned back to the regular session with a "no action" response on all three discussion points.

During the citizens' comments portion of the meeting, Steve Herrmann spoke.

"I've been pretty rough on you (the council) the last couple of meetings, but today I just want to thank the council for getting all the debris from the ice storm cleaned up all over town," he said. Herrmann praised the council, Brian Griffith, the director of the Department of Public Safety

and his department, along with others involved who pitched in immediately to help out wherever there was a need.

Fate was especially hard hit by the fallen trees and debris, power lines down, transformers blown

(Continued on Page 2)



Broken trees were found throughout the Fate during the weekend ice event that crippled many Rockwall County homes and businesses. The above tree was found peeled like a banana north of I-30 on Highway 551.

Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

Potter elected president of BGCA professional group

The Boys & Girls Club of Rockwall County's current president & CEO, Misti Potter, recently was elected president of The Professional Association for Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

TPA is a national voice for all professionals who make the BGCA their career of choice. Currently, more than 52,000 employees stand on the front lines in neighborhoods throughout the world working to ensure youth graduate from high school with a plan for their future, live healthy lifestyles and develop a strong moral compass, according to a BGCA news release.

Potter began her service to TPA at a local chapter level 16 years ago while working in Alabama at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Limestone County. During her time in the BGCA movement she has remained connected to professionals throughout the country by taking leadership roles as secretary and president of the Alabama Chapter, initiating the establishment of a new chapter in Memphis, Tenn., and working with the CEO from the BGC of Hood County, Jeff Bates and the CEO of the BGC of Northeast Texas, Jenny Smith-Krueger to establish the Northeast Chapter of TPA.

Potter joined the National TPA Board of Directors in 2005 after she received the Southeast Region Professional of the Year award, followed by the 2005 National Boys & Girls Clubs Professional of the Year award. Upon joining the National Board, she set a goal to one day serve as the president,

making her only the third female president in more than 60 years.

Over the span of the past eight years Potter strategically engaged in the functions of the association and has emceed several regional and national awards ceremonies and has chaired numerous committees. She has worked closely with BGCA leaders to establish joint partnerships and committees in mentoring and career coaching, as well as the most recent launching of the Executive Coaching program that matches seasoned professionals with professionals throughout the country to bring all Boys & Girls Clubs to the highest level of operation for kids.

With a sincere passion and drive to help all professionals develop their skills and expand their support network, Potter served as the secretary and vice president of the TPA Board the past four years in preparation for her term as president. For the next two years she will work with a committed Board of Boys & Girls Club CEOs, BGCA and other Club

leaders from across the country to move TPA to unprecedented heights. Standing on five Pillars of Support, TPA will continue to and expand upon building pride in the profession by providing networking opportunities, scholarships, mentoring and career coaching, awards and recognition, and support of training and professional development.

In addition to her commitment to serving as the president of TPA, she is equally dedicated to the strategic growth and impact of the Boys & Girls Club of Rockwall County as she and the local Board of Directors launched an aggressive campaign to build a new complex and serve more kids more often. Because of the local efforts and accomplishments in serving Rockwall County youth, Potter was recognized as the 2013 Southwest Region Rookie of the Year, which is given to a first time CEO and selected by BGCA leadership.

Personally, Potter has been married for 17 years to her husband, Alan. She is a devoted "baseball mom" to her 12-year-old son, Nathan, and a passionate "Lego Castle Engineer" to her 3-year-old son Jackson.



Misti Potter

Rockwall County News Briefs

Library to close for holidays

The Rockwall County Library will be closed Dec. 24-25 for the Christmas holiday and Dec. 31 in observance of New Year's Day.

Christmas tree drop-off site determined

City of Rockwall residents can drop off their live Christmas trees at the Tuttle Sports Complex parking lot at 1550 Airport Rd. Dec. 26 through Jan. 6. All ornaments, lights and stands should be removed from trees prior to drop-off.

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A Christmas story 1954: Two gifts under the tree



MILLIE JEAN COPPEDGE
Reminiscing
Royse City

by Millie Jean Coppedge

About 4 years before my Christmas story begins, our house and the one next to ours caught fire as our neighbor's 16 year old son was burning trash in a big barrel between our about daylight on a Sunday morning. Both our houses quickly burned totally to the ground and we lost everything we had. Even though we lived in a tiny town of less than 300 people, it was like living in the country. There were no fire stations or fire trucks. There was no city water. Everyone had well water. When something caught fire, it just had to burn.

The other family quickly left town as soon as the fire was over and no one ever saw them again.

My paternal grandparents gave us 5 acres of their land. On a pre-arranged weekend soon after the fire, the entire town turned out and built us a house, somewhat like the Amish families do, helping each other. To the best of my recollection, we did not know they were even coming.

It was only a shell by Sunday night, but it was home. The sawmill had donated lumber, stores donated nails, shingles,—all the things needed to put the house together. The town took up clothes, household goods, furniture, and any other things that someone who has nothing needs.

The women in the community cooked food and brought to feed those working on the house. The house was very cold in the winter as there was no insulation for the walls, the inside was not sheet rocked/finished out, and the plank floors let the cold draft come through. We did eventually get a linoleum rug in the living room. The only heat we had was a tiny heater in the living room and the cook stove in the kitchen. During the winters, we lived mostly in the living room and shut off the rest of the house, in order to stay warm.

Now for the Christmas story

Christmas was coming in about 2 weeks. My little brother Bruce was 4 and I was 8. My name is Millie Jean. We lived in the county on a farm and didn't have much money. Most mothers back then didn't work. They stayed home and took care of the family and worked in the gardens or fields. We had both. In the fields we grew things like cotton and peanuts. In the garden we grew just about anything one can eat. Now you may think we were rich, but back then it was just survival. We grew our own food and sold some for extra money. We had a couple of pigs for meat, a cow or two for milk, butter and meat, and chickens for the eggs and milk for cooking and drinking. We got our water from the well, that the men in town helped us dig.

Early one morning, Daddy walked into the woods behind our house,

cut down a cedar tree and drug it home. He fixed it a special way so that it would set inside a can of water to keep it alive and put corner of the living room. Mother took some cotton we had grown in the field and made a bed to lay our presents on under the tree. It wasn't very clean looking, but we thought it looked great.

Mother had made a big pot of popcorn and Bruce and I strung it into a long rope with a needle and thread, then strung the rope around and around the tree. We picked up sweet gum balls out of Grandmother's yard, wrapped each one in the wrinkled old aluminum foil Mother had saved from cooking, and put the balls all over the tree, held on with tiny pieces of wire Daddy had cut for us. Then Mother drew a star on a piece of cardboard from an old box from the smokehouse, I cut it out and Bruce and I wrapped it with some more of the foil. Daddy held Bruce in the air and he put the star on top of the tree. Then we wrapped the one string of colored lights around the tree. How pretty our tree was.

Mother and I have been baking cookies and making candy for days. Saturday is Christmas Day. She said that she will bake the last ham hanging in the smokehouse on Friday. We still don't have anything under the tree except for Mother and Daddy's gift from Bruce and me. Last Saturday while we were in town we got Mother a bottle of Evening in Paris Perfume and Daddy some pink nylon socks. Daddy just loves the color pink. I know he will be surprised when he sees them.

Christmas Eve

Well, the ham is baked and the fruit cake is set. I don't like fruitcake at all, but we have it every year at Christmastime. Bruce and I can hardly wait until Santa comes tonight. After supper, we had mugs of hot cocoa with tiny melted marshmallows on top. We listened to some Christmas

programs on the radio and heard some pretty Christmas songs. December 25th Christmas Day, 1954. Bruce and I were up before the sun had even come up. It was still dark outside and it hit the cold plank floor, we were so excited that we didn't realize it was cold it really was. We ran into the living room and strung lights around the tree to see what Santa had brought.

Upon hearing the commotion, Daddy got up and lit the living room while Mother plugged in the tree lights. We ran around the tree to see what Santa had brought.

Bruce had a baby doll in one of the store window displays to town back during the summer and had asked for it for Christmas.

Yes, I know, boys don't play with baby dolls, but that was what he got. Daddy wasn't any older than I was, and he wanted and that was what he got. Daddy wasn't any older than I was, and he wanted and that was what he got. Daddy wasn't any older than I was, and he wanted and that was what he got.

That afternoon, Mother made some clothes for both of us from some of her quilt scraps. She even made bonnets and shoes. Bruce also got a red metal fire truck that makes a loud noise on batteries. I got some play make-up. We each got a yellow draw string filled with hard candy, gum and new dimes.

Sitting beside the tree was an apple crate full of grapes, grapefruits, bananas, different kinds of nuts and two fresh coconuts. The only time during the year we got coconuts was at Christmas. The only time the stores would have them in stock. Daddy picked the two holes out of the coconut eyes. We had a hammer, so then he broke them to pieces with a hammer, so we could eat the meat in it. It would take several days for us to eat all the coconuts.

Mother liked her perfume and put some on right away. It was a small good all day.

Daddy put his pink socks on and he just laughed and said "Look at my pretty pink feet".

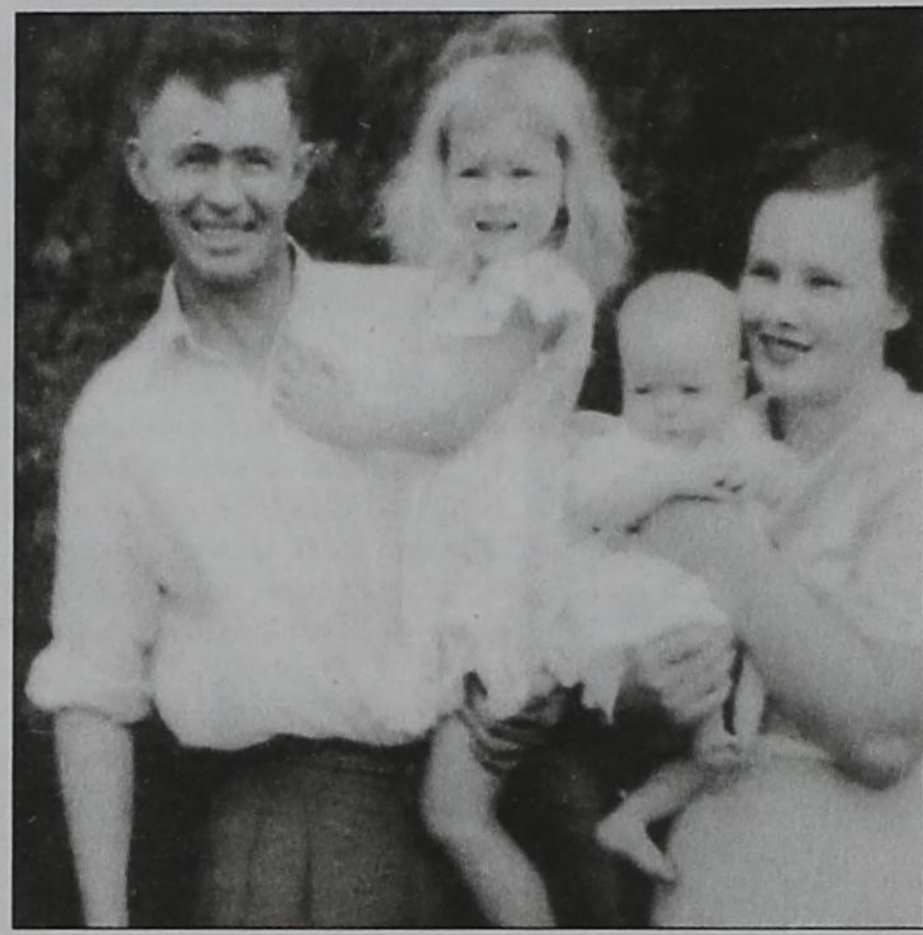
Reflecting on the memories

The bottle of Evening in Paris Perfume only cost a nickel and was one of the cheapest smelling perfumes ever. I loved the pretty dark blue glass bottle that it came in, and after all, we didn't have much money, and we had wonderful memories.

Daddy wore those socks until the toes and heels were worn. After he died in 1985, we found them in one of his drawers. One inside the other, like men folded their socks in those days.

In life, we are constantly making memories with every thing, some of the smallest, seeming inconsequential, trivial and sweetest memories.

Kind actions, a tender touch, or a sweet smile can be remembered after given and can bring joy to one's heart for the rest of their life. Merry Christmas. Touch someone's life. Make a joyful memory for you and for them.



This photo was taken about May of 1950. Shown (from left) are Barney Coppedge holding Millie Jean Coppedge, and mother, Lizzie Mae holding Bruce. The Coppedge family learned early on to treasure the time spent together and the love and happiness each day could bring.

Courtesy Photo/Rockwall County News

City of Fate lauded for swift response to ice storm ...

(Continued from Page 1)

and damage to homes from the ice.

Under the Action Items portion of the agenda, the council voted unanimously, 5-0 (Councilmen Cameron Cowan and Lorne Megyesi were absent from the meeting), on the annexation of 10 properties. This is the last of an ongoing voting processes by the council annexing properties into the city limits of Fate.

During the Mayor's Report agenda, Mayor Bill Broderick thanked the council, staff and all in attendance who have helped out for the many weeks it took to complete all the annexations of property. He said it was a long process and that he appreciated all their time, dedication and hard work.

Broderick also said that one of the DPS officers had gotten out of his vehicle after the ice storm and injured himself from slipping on the ice. The Mayor briefly described the officers injuries during the open public meeting.

It was later learned that the injured DPS Officer Mark Andrew Poindexter II was dismissed from the hospital at 6:30 p.m. during the council meeting.

The information came from an officer who received a call during the meeting about Andrew being dismissed and was at home.

City Councilman and Deputy Pro Tem Michelle Butler also thanked and gave kudos to the staff the DPS, police department and everyone who provided assistance during the ice event.

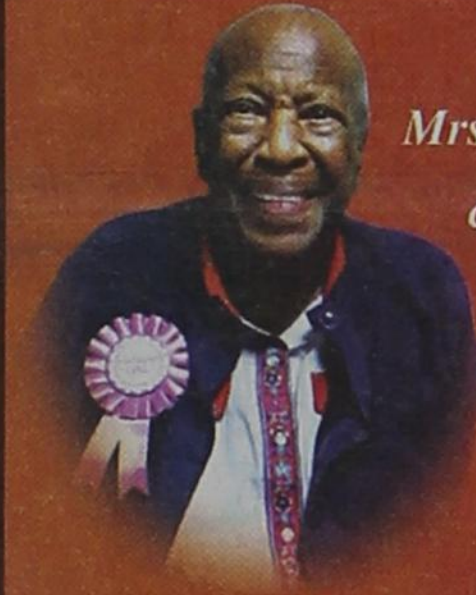
Sheri Garber, mayor pro tem, gave the same words of appreciation to the DPS and the administration. Councilman Steve Skipworth thanked Bobby Clay, director of public works, and his team for all they did to get the city back on its feet.

The next council meeting will be Jan. 6.


Publisher's notes: The Rockwall County News found no records indicating that the City of Fate published the required legal notices, related to annexation of property, in accordance with Texas Government Code Sections 2051.048(c)(1) and 2051.049.


During the public open meeting, Mayor Broderick described the significant injuries suffered by Officer Poindexter.

The Mayor's description of the officer's injuries are not published because DPS Director Brian Griffith expressed concerns that disclosure of the officer's injuries would be in violation of Federal HIPAA laws.



Mrs. Eugenia Lawrence
celebrates her
100th Birthday at
Broadmoor






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Carson Cross, Kaylee Duncan and Tara Schumann above, were part of the second grade students at Vernon Elementary who performed a rocking holiday "Elfs and the Sleigh Riders," Dec. 10 at the school.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



The fifth and sixth grade students at Cullins Elementary won first place in the project category of the First Lego Robotics Competition hosted recently by UTD. Pictured are Jacob Farrell, Chase Crayne, Braden Wills, Sarenyia Samantha Lee, Jaden Dougal, Lauren Colpitts, Joshua and Cody Faaborg.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

One Night 3 Choices

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Rockwall County Obituaries

Barbara A. Schmidt

Barbara A. Schmidt, 73, was born on Dec. 21, 1940, in the Rest Haven Rockwall Chapel. She was a member of the Rest Haven Church in Rockwall.



She was a member of the Rest Haven Church in Rockwall. She was born in Detroit, Mich., in 1940. She was a member of the Rest Haven Church in Rockwall. She was a member of the Rest Haven Church in Rockwall.

Terry Michael Shelton

Terry Michael Shelton, 40, of Rockwall, died on Dec. 23, 2013, at the Rest Haven Funeral Home in Rockwall.



Terry was born in Germany to his mother, Hazel Shelton, and his father, Tim Shelton. He was a member of the Alpha fraternity at Texas A&M-Commerce and High School. He was a member of the Alpha fraternity at Texas A&M-Commerce and High School.

William (W.D.) Vance

Services for William (W.D.) Vance, 91, of Terrell were conducted at 1 p.m. Dec. 21, 2013, in the Rodgers Baptist Church in Garland with Brother Ron Thomas and Brother Travis Gilbert officiating.



He died Dec. 16 in Rockwall. Born Sept. 21, 1922, in Cave City, Ark., to James Anderson Vance and Flora Mae (Carpenter) Vance, he served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Survivors include his wife, Charlotte (Vaughan) Vance of Terrell; his children, Mike Vance of Garland, Diane Thomas and her husband, Joe, of Rowlett, Patty Stuckey and her husband, Bob, of Dennis and Cindy Smith and her husband, Ed, of Rockwall; his stepchildren, Susie Smith of Collinswood, N.J., Daniel Smith and his wife, Fatima, of Elk Grove, Calif., and Timothy Smith and his wife, Jamie, of Springhill, Tenn.; his brothers, John Vance of Rockwall and Tommy Vance and his wife, Judy, of The Woodlands; his grandchildren, Tony, Shane, Trina, Lisa, Erin, Valerie, Joshua, Robert, Jonathan, Jeremy, Jason, Matt and Justin; 22 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Royse City schools receive TMEA grant funding

Davis Elementary, Scott Elementary, Cherry Intermediate and Herndon Intermediate Schools recently were awarded grant funding by the Texas Music Educators Association to purchase educational materials that will help support the delivery of high quality music education to more than 1,800 students. TMEA recently has awarded nearly \$500,000 in grant funding to elementary music programs across the state.

TMEA executive director Robert Floyd explained that the association's Executive Board allocated \$500,000 in grant funding because they want to support students who are beginning their lifelong love of and participation in music. Floyd emphasized that music teachers who have little to no budget often use their own funds to purchase supplies because they recognize how important music education is in the lives of their students.

Georgia man draws six-year sentence

Less than one hour after retiring to deliberate, a Rockwall County jury returned a verdict of guilty against Clarkesville, Ga., resident Matthew Alan Simmons, 27, on the third-degree felony charge of indecency with a child by exposure, according to a news release from the district attorney's office.

On Dec. 12, the same jury unanimously sentenced Simmons, who was eligible for probation, to six years in the Texas state penitentiary. The maximum range of punishment in the case was 10 years. Jurors heard testimony that Simmons exposed himself to a 12-year-old girl in the toy section of the Rockwall Super Wal-Mart on Feb. 15. When the defendant then attempted to get the child to touch him, the victim refused, left and told her grandfather who was in another part of the store, according to the news release. Upon her report, Wal-Mart employees locked down the store and police located the defendant by identifying him on surveillance tapes.

Rockwall County Entertainment

RHHS to stage "Grease" Rockwall-Heath High School will present the musical "Grease" Jan. 9-11 at the Performing Arts Center, 801 Laurence, in Heath. Tickets are available at the box office; cost is \$10 for students, \$12 for general admission. Heath's mayor, Lorne Liechty, and Rockwall's mayor, David Sweet, will make special cameos. Daddy/Daughter Dance tickets available Tickets to the annual Daddy/Daughter Dance, organized by the Rockwall Parks & Rec Department, are on sale at The Center.

Rockwall County News Briefs

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Storm debris cleanup continues

Republic Waste Service, as of Dec. 18, had collected 235 tons of brush related to the recent winter storm. Crews are continuing the effort six days a week and will do so until all debris is removed; only Christmas Day will be taken off as a holiday. Rockwall does not normally have garbage collection on Wednesdays, so regular schedules will not be affected by the holiday. Debris should be placed at the curb and not in the street, on mailboxes, utility boxes, etc.; local residents are reminded not to block truck access to the debris with vehicles.

TBM not accepting new requests

Shortly after the winter ice storm, the Texas Baptist Men had crews in Rockwall donating time for the cleanup effort. These groups continue to work to clean up storm debris; however, their communications representative has informed the City of Rockwall that the organization is unable to accept new requests for assistance with limb and brush removal.

RFA program's new classes to begin Jan. 6

The Reading for Adults Literacy Program offers free educational classes, including English as a Second Language (ESL); GED Studies and Preparation; U.S. Citizenship Preparation; and Adult Literacy Studies. With an enrollment of 300 students, RFA has convenient class schedules, including weekday mornings and select evening classes. Tutors are local volunteers (no experience required; free training is provided) and there is no fee for program classes. There is a small fee for books. For more details or to become a tutor, call 972-204-7705.

Rockwall's Got Talent auditions set

Auditions for the upcoming Rockwall's Got Talent event will be conducted Jan. 11-12 in the Rockwall Community Playhouse, 609 E. Rusk. Registration costs \$20 per act; deadline is Dec. 30. Semi-finals are set for Jan. 17, with finals on Jan. 24. Tickets to the finals will cost \$10 each and go on sale Jan. 13. Rules and audition applications are available at rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org.

4-H to host pet care program

Many families bring pets into their homes during the holiday season without having any understanding about proper care or training. The Rockwall County 4-H Club will host a short-term pet care project for families with children ages 8/3rd grade to 18 who received a pet for Christmas. The first meeting will run 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Jan. 14 at the Rockwall County Extension Office, 915 Whitmore St., Suite B, Rockwall. Sequential meetings will follow on the next three Tuesdays at the same time. Cost is \$40; pre-registration with payment is required by Jan. 6. Call 972-204-7660 to pre-register. At least one parent/guardian must attend with the young person. Pets cannot attend the first meeting.

Auditions set at RCP for 'Foreigner'

Auditions for the Rockwall Community Playhouse's rendition of "The Foreigner," which will be performed Feb. 7-9, 14-16 and 21-23, will take place at 1 p.m. Dec. 14 at the playhouse, which is located at 609 E. Rusk. For more details visit rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org.

'Steel Magnolias' audition slated

Auditions for the Rockwall Community Playhouse's staging of "Steel Magnolias," which will be performed in March and April, will take place at 1 p.m. Feb. 15 at the playhouse, located at 609 E. Rusk. For more details visit rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org.

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Royse City Police Blotter

- Dec. 19: Assault, 500 block Rosemary Drive; Criminal E. I-30 SSR; Accident, Area of FM 548; Accident, Area of Welfare concern, 1100 block Brazos Court; Suspicious alley Court; Alarm, 800 block E. Old Greenville Road; Intersection of FM 2453 and FM 35; Welfare concern, road; Noise disturbance, 1000 block Oak Grove Lane; block Rosemary Drive; Suspicious vehicle, 400 block Drive; Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound from the 75-less driver, Intersection of Hwy 66 and Erby Campbell less driver, I-30 eastbound from the 77-mile marker ay. Dec.: City ordinance violation, 1600 block Woodlawn 0 block Live Oak Street; Medical assistance, 900 block SR; Intersection of Houston Street and Birch urbance, 1100 block Brazos Court ay, Dec.: Assault, 500 block Peterson Street; Criminal ck W. I-30 SSR; Disturbance, Area of Wood Street; , 2300 block E. I-30 NSR; Suspicious person, 200 block Alarm, 700 block E. Lamar Street; Medical assistance, y Campbell Boulevard; Accident, I-30 westbound near r; Accident, I-30 eastbound near the 79-mile marker; ce, 2 block W. I-30 SSR; Assault, 1600 block Meadowlark ay, Dec.: Rockwall Police Department warrant arrest, 300 -30 S; Assault, 1300 block E. Hwy 66; Driving while license rest; 0 westbound near the 79-mile marker; Reckless driver, on of amar Street and Houston Street; Alarm, 800 block S. oulevard; Alarm, 400 block Cookston Lane; Medical e, 500 block New Street; Welfare concern, 800 block Valley ssault, 300 block W. Hwy 66; Accident, I-30 westbound near ile mter; Reckless driver, I-30 westbound near the 77-mile ay, Dec.: Driving while license invalid arrest, Intersection of and Pen Street; Alarm, 100 block E. Main Street; Disturbance, ck E. I-30 SSR; Threat, 200 block Sandy Lane; Theft, 1300 block 66 neday, Dec.: Assault, 700 block Bulldog Boulevard; Public st, 100 block W. I-30 SSR; Criminal mischief, 200 n St.; Criminal trespass, 600 block E. I-30 NSR; Theft, 600 I-30 R; Accident, I-30 eastbound near the 77-mile marker; f Hwy 66 day, Dec.: Theft, 2300 block E. I-30 NSR; Alarm, 2800 2 disturbance, 200 block N. Erby Campbell Boulevard; 700 block Bulldog Boulevard; Alarm, 500 block Rosemary assistance, 100 block W. I-30 SSR; City ordinance 00 block W. I-30 NSR; Welfare concern, 200 block Lynn uspicious person, 400 block S. Houston Street; Welfare concern, FM 34

Rockwall ISD trustees Jan. 6 special session

Rockwall Independent School District Board of Trustees will special session at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 6 in the RISD Administration/ Room 600, in Rockwall. The focus of the meeting will be a work session, which will discuss budget goals and the board's planning process, meeting's agenda.

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On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

The birth of Jesus Christ ... a chronology

During this time of the year many people are thinking more about the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will take this time to lay out the chronology of events related to his birth.

The chronology comes from Victor Paul Wierwille's book "Jesus Christ Our Promised Seed" (pp. xxi - xxiv), which utilized a great deal of Biblical research as well as other research literature including Ernest Martin's "The Birth of Christ Recalculated." Because of research into astronomical events that occurred before, during and after Jesus' birth, the chronology will include planet and star positions based on the above-mentioned research.

--May, 4 B.C. The angel Gabriel appears to Zacharias while he was serving in the Temple (Luke 1:11).

--June, 4 B.C. Conception of John the Baptist (Luke 1:23-24).

--December, 4 B.C. Gabriel appears to Mary in Nazareth. Jesus Christ is conceived. Mary travels to Judea to see her cousin Elizabeth (Luke 1:26-56).

--March, 3 B.C. Mary returns to Nazareth. John the profit is born to Zacharias and Elizabeth (Luke 1:56-57).

--August, 3 B.C. Jupiter and Venus in conjunction in Leo. The Magi begin noting their observations of the activity of Jupiter, the king planet. Venus is also known as the Bright and Morning Star (see also Revelation 22:16). The Magi were not kings. They traveled as a group much bigger than three people. Conjunction means the two stars are lined up in a way so that a straight line can be drawn through them and to the North Star. Leo symbolizes the lion as spoken by Israel while blessing his son Judah (Genesis 49:9-12).

--September, 3 B.C. Birth of Jesus Christ. First day of the Hebrew month Tishri. The sun was positioned inside of the constellation Virgo with the "moon under her feet" (see also Revelation 12:1). Using an online star map, the date of -3-09-21 06:00 UTC (September 21, 3 B.C.) the sun is covering Virgo after the break of dawn and the moon is at the feet of Virgo.

The angel sent a message to shepherds in the field about the newly born savior and described how to find the baby and what they would see. The shepherds found the baby with Mary and Joseph and then went out to declare what they heard and saw (Luke 2:6-17). The Magi leave for Jerusalem (Matthew 2:1).

During the month of September, the local climate would have been warm and conducive for shepherds to be in the fields with the sheep.

--September 14, 3 B.C. Jupiter and the star Regulus in conjunction in the constellation Leo. Regulus sits at the front foot of Leo. It is known as the Regal star. Jupiter is symbolic of Kingship, and known as the King star.

--February 17, 2 B.C. Jupiter and Regulus in conjunction in Leo.

--May 8, 2 B.C. Jupiter and Regulus in conjunction in Leo.

--June 17, 2 B.C. Jupiter and Venus in conjunction in Leo. After this celestial event. They would have noted the significance of Jupiter. They would have noted the significance of Jupiter. They would have noted the significance of Jupiter. They would have noted the significance of Jupiter.

--December, 2 B.C. Magi arriving in Jerusalem. Jupiter visible over Bethlehem before dawn as the Magi depart for Mary and Jesus flee to Egypt. It's very likely that only a few have noted the significance of Jupiter. They would have noted the significance of Jupiter. They would have noted the significance of Jupiter.

In Matthew 2:9-15 the word "young child" refers to not an infant. Jesus might have been around two years old. Sure gifts from the Magi could have sustained Joseph and Mary through their return from Egypt.

Girl Scouts to kick off program in January

The Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas will launch its program on Jan. 10, according to a news release issued Tuesday. New this year, Girl Scouts will have cookies in hand to sell, deliver and collect money in one easy step.

The GSNETX Cookie Program will run through February. Selling cookies is more than a tradition; the Girl Scout program is an integral part of Girl Scouts' business and career initiative for girls in kindergarten through 12th grade. It helps Girl Scouts develop five key skills: goal-setting, decision-making, money management, people skills and business ethics.

A cornerstone of the Girl Scout Cookie Program is the girls have to raise funds to support educational field trips, activities and service projects. Girl Scouts also donate cookies to service members and women at home.

Project Troop to Troop encourages members of the Girl Scout troop to donate to the U.S. Armed Forces. Cookies are transported to service men and women at home. Local veterans' organizations and wounded soldiers through United Service Organizations and American Red Cross. Also make a \$10 donation towards purchasing cookies for personnel by texting the word "GREEN" to 80888.

(Continued)

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Psalm 150:6

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

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Amy Parks Heath first grade students, pictured above teamed up to provide four shopping carts full of cereal bars to the Helping Hands food pantry to assist with the food distribution. For more information about the food pantry's current needs, visit rockwallhelpinghands.com/currentneeds. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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and a
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Emeritus at Summer Ridge: Celebrating the Christmas spirit are (back row, left to right) Joyce Jackson, Margie Hooker with "Buddy," Barbara Webb, Billie Jean Lynch, (front, seated) Katherine Strain and Steve Karbowski.

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