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Rockwall County News

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RISD's superintendent, Bailey, to retire Aug. 31

Last week, Jeff Bailey, Rockwall Independent School District superintendent, announced plans to retire from his position effective Aug. 31, according to a district news release.

"After thoughtful consideration and discussion with my family, I know that now is the right time for me to start a new chapter in my life," Bailey said in a news release. "It is bittersweet to announce my retirement from an exceptional district. It has been a sincere pleasure to serve as your superintendent of schools for the past six years. I have come to respect the can-do spirit that typifies people in Rockwall ISD as well as a genuine concern for one another."

Bailey's career in education spans 37 years as a teacher, coach, high school assistant principal, high school principal, director of human resources, area superintendent and deputy superintendent in the Plano Independent School District and deputy superintendent and superintendent in the Rockwall ISD. Under his leadership as superintendent, the RISD has achieved



Jeff Bailey
Rockwall ISD Superintendent

strong academic performance with all schools receiving the highest state rating; recent passage of a \$258 million bond referendum; fiscal fund balance along with numerous financial accountability awards for transparency while reducing the tax rate; and establishing the International Baccalaureate program at both Rockwall High and Rockwall Heath High schools, with the first graduating class of IB students this spring.

"Words cannot express our gratitude to Mr. Bailey for his outstanding leadership in our district," Linda Mitchell Duran, RISD School Board president, said. "Through times good and bad, Mr. Bailey has maintained integrity and kept students at the center of his decisions. He has guided our district to great heights and has set us on a path of continued future success and excellence. We will miss Mr. Bailey's wise guidance and leadership, but wish him a wonderful and blessed retirement."

"I want to thank our teachers, staff and administrators for their dedication as educational professionals as they inspire, encourage

and prepare our students for the future," Bailey said in the release. "I also want to thank the Rockwall ISD school board for having the confidence in me to hire me as superintendent in 2009-2010. I will look back on the last seven years with fond memories and appreciate the lasting friendships I've been blessed to develop during my time here. God bless this community as well as the students and staff members of Rockwall ISD."

Moving forward, the Board of Trustees will begin the process of securing a search firm to hire a new superintendent, according to the release. The process will include community, teacher, staff and administrative input.

Trustees plan to have a new superintendent named by late spring, according to the news release.

Rockwall Area Chamber recognizes 2016 directors

The Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center announced its 2016 Board of Directors in a news release issued Monday afternoon.

David Mallard will serve as the board's chair, supported by Brett Lee, chair-elect; Mike Mishler, past chair; Robin Fowler, treasurer; and Robin Chouteau, secretary. These five individuals comprise the 2016 Executive Board.

Rounding out the Board of Directors are Adolfo Benavides, Charles Cecil, Mike Conway, Sheila Hair, Lance Holmes, Shane Lewis, Brian Llewellyn, Katy Miller, Timothy Nichols, Larry Parks, Richard Redig, Kirk Riggs, Scott Self, Sylvia Sotelo-Kidd, Stewart Storms and Cindy Tayem.

The chamber, founded in 1929, was created to foster a sense of community and provide its members with the "tools and contacts for success," according to the news release. It is comprised of more than 900 local businesses and offers educational and networking programs to its members.

For more details about the chamber, call 972-771-5733 or visit rockwallchamber.org.

RFA training program to be offered Jan. 23

The Rockwall County Library's literacy program, Reading for Adults, will host a training session for new tutors from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 23, in the library's Literacy Center, 1215 E. Yellow Jacket Lane, Rockwall.

The RFA has served Rockwall County for more than 15 years, providing free educational classes (English as a Second Language, GED, Citizenship, and Adult Literacy) to adults in the community.

Tutors are local volunteers from varying career sectors. Tutors must be 19 or older; teaching experience is not required, but attending a training session is.

The Jan. 23 session will include a lunch break; each participant should bring a sack lunch.

For more details call 972-204-7705.

Rockwall County News Briefs

RCHF annual meeting set tonight

The annual meeting of the Rockwall County Historical Foundation will begin at 6:30 p.m. today, Thursday, Jan. 14, in the Rockwall County Library's Community Room. Members of the Pullen family will be on hand as the group hears a pre-recorded oral history of the Pullen farmstead - from the initial land purchase to its love by the current generation. The organization's 2016 officers and board members also will be introduced.

Hope Mobile in Rockwall on Jan. 15

The Spay Neuter Network's 45-foot hospital bus will be in Rockwall on Jan. 15, the second Friday of the month, in the I-30 Wal-Mart parking lot. Surgeries will be performed on site. Low-cost surgery packages are available and walk-up vaccinations will be offered at reduced prices from 10 a.m. to noon. Call 972-472-3500 for appointments. Upcoming dates: Feb. 12, March 11. Posted by Rockwall PAWS, a local 501c3 that funds the treatment of heartworm-positive Rockwall shelter dogs (rockwallpaws.com, rockwallpaws@att.net).

Local Democrats plan Jan. 16 meeting

The Rockwall County Democratic Party will conduct its monthly breakfast meeting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 16, at the Harry Myers Community Center, 815 E. Washington, Rockwall.

City of Rockwall offices to be closed Jan. 18

City of Rockwall offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 18, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, according to a city news release. Republic Services will run on its normal collection schedule. The City Council meeting set for Jan. 18 has been rescheduled for 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 19, at 385 S. Goliad St.

RHHS Elective Fair scheduled

The Rockwall-Heath High School Elective Fair and Registration Presentation is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 20. The event will begin with a 6:30 p.m. parent meeting in the PAC, with information about the registration process, course offerings and an overview about the Career and Technology, Dual Credit, AP and IB programs. From 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. there will be an elective showcase event with more details from teachers, sponsors and students about the many courses, clubs and programs offered at RHHS. For more details, call 972-772-2474.

RHS to host Elective Fair on Jan. 21

The Rockwall High Elective Fair will run from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 21. Following a short registration presentation in the PAC, parents and students are invited to come browse the tables in the hallways to learn more about the programs offered at the school. For more details call 972-771-7339.

(Continued on Page 2)

University scholastic honors

Mills, White named to Harding Dean's List

Two Rockwall residents were among the more than 1,300 students named to the Harding University Dean's List for the fall semester, according to a news release from the Searcy, Arkansas, university.

Honorees included Peyton Mills, a communication sciences and disorders major, and Julie White, a journalism major.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must carry 12 or more hours with a 3.65 or higher grade-point average with no completions.

Atwell named to SAU Dean's List

Ashton Atwell of Roysie City earned a spot on the Dean's List at Southern Arkansas University, according to a news release from the Magnolia, Arkansas, university.

Atwell, a senior, is an exercise science major and one of 442 students named to the Dean's List.

To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must complete 12 or more semester hours and attain a grade-point average of 3.50 or higher, according to the news release.

Candidate packets available for RISD trustee election

The 2016 Rockwall Independent School District Board of Trustees election will be on Saturday, May 7. Three-year terms to be filled include Place 4, presently held by Jon Bailey, and Place 5, presently held by Jim White.

Candidate application packets may be obtained during regular business hours -- Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. -- in the superintendent's office at

the Rockwall ISD Administration/ Education Center, 1050 Williams St., Rockwall.

Candidates may file for a place on the ballot beginning Wednesday, Jan. 20, at the Administration/Education Center. The deadline to file is 5 p.m., Friday, Feb. 19.

For more information, contact the RISD at 972-771-0605.



Students at Springer Elementary participated in a spelling bee last week to determine the district-level qualifier. Sixth grade student Roxi Day, front row, at left, will represent the school at the next level. Also pictured are other spelling bee participants, including, from the left, next to Day, Sophie Alvarenga, Melissa Mejia, Alexa Kelly, Micah Perez and Leah Mabratu. At back are Daniel Malphurs, Reed Bryant, Gabe Jackson, Ryan Bostik, Logan Kuntz, David Granger and Luke Purdon.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Constable Parks seeks re-election, Precinct 4

Constable Randy Earl Parks announced plans to run for re-election as an unopposed candidate for Precinct 4 Rockwall County, in the March 1, 2016 Republican Party Primary Election.

Parks explained that his goal was to continue providing "dedicated, professional, unbiased public safety, and to serve civil papers and warrants in a professional manner."

He also intends to "back up all police agencies in Rockwall County."

Parks was awarded the Constable of the Year Award for the State of Texas from the Texas Justice of the Peace and Constables Association of Texas for the year of 2014-2015.

Zebra mussels found in Sherman-area lake

Zebra mussels have been found in Lake Dean Gilbert in the city of Sherman's Pecan Grove Park, according to a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department news release.

Lake Dean Gilbert is a 45-acre lake and its fishery is managed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Inland Fisheries Division as a Community Fishing Lake. There is no boat ramp at the lake, but small boats, kayaks and canoes can be launched from shore. The lake is not used as a water supply, and water from it eventually flows back into the Red River, which also has zebra mussels.

"We want to remind people using Lake Dean Gilbert to take precautions so that zebra mussels don't spread to any other water bodies," said Brian Van Zee, TPWD Inland Fisheries regional director. "If you're fishing on the lake, drain all water from your bait buckets before leaving. If you keep fish caught from the lake, put them on ice. If you're kayaking or canoeing on the lake, drain all the water from your boat and let it dry completely before taking it to another lake."

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Rockwall County Obituaries

Charles E. Case

Memorial services for Charles E. Case, 60, of Rockwall will be conducted at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 14, 2016, in the new sanctuary at the First United Methodist Church, 1200 E. Yellow Jacket Lane, Rockwall, with the Rev. Jenna Morrison officiating. The Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

He died Jan. 9.

Born Dec. 9, 1955, in Dallas to Theodore Elwood and Anna Belle (Cameron) Case, he was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Rockwall and worked for AT&T as a manager in the customer service department.

He had lived in Rockwall for 20 years.

Survivors include his sister, Vicki Hofert, and her husband, Robert; his nieces and nephews, Heather Brown and her husband, Kelly, Robert Schwen and his wife, Holly, and Lane Lease and his wife, Hilda; four grandnieces and one grandnephew; his stepchildren, Robert and Robert; his brothers, Ben Case and Mel Case; and his beagle, E.J.

His wife, Bonnie Vollbeer, preceded him in death.



Graveside services for Rose Smith, 80, of Rockwall were conducted at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2016, in the Rockwall Memorial Cemetery, followed by a 12:30 p.m. memorial service at the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rowlett Chapel with Pastor Rick Donaho officiating.

She died Jan. 8.

Born March 9, 1935, in Lafayette, Indiana, to John E. and Florence (Weisbecker) Korty, she was a nurse for many years. She enjoyed traveling and trivia and was very well read. She lived life to the fullest and derived much joy from time spent with her family and friends.

Survivors include her daughter, Arianne Feldman, and her husband, Ed; a son, Neale Smith, and his wife, Stephanie; her grandchildren, Britnee and Mason Lantz, Brett Feldman, Brook Feldman, Donovan Smith and Maci Smith; her sisters, Madeline Brossart, Virginia Ciota and Dorothy Heimann; and a brother, William Korty.

Her husband, Donald Leo Smith, preceded her in death.

The family has suggested memorials may be made to the American Heart Association, heart.org.



James Elton Spiegel

Services for James Elton Spiegel, 77, were conducted at 2 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 8, 2016, at The Lakes Assembly in Rockwall with the Rev. Rick DuBose and Pastor David Spiegel officiating. The Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

He died Jan. 5.

Born May 30, 1938, in Decatur, Alabama, to Elton and Evelyn Spiegel, he was a Quinlan resident for three years and lived in Greenville for 10 years. He was a devout Christian and member of The Lakes Assembly in Rockwall.

An electronics technician in the communications industry, he was gentle and sweet soul with a witty sense of humor. Prior to her death he traveled with his wife to every Wal-Mart in North Texas as he showcased vitamins. He was a godly man, very giving, and loved family and adored his grandchildren.

Survivors include his sons, David Spiegel, and his wife, Kim, and Darrell Spiegel, and his wife, Sherry; his grandchildren, Stephen Hurst and her husband, Cody, Steven Spiegel, Derrik Spiegel, Dan Spiegel and Gabriel Spiegel; his great-grandson, Bryson Hurst; and his brother, Don Spiegel, and his wife, Carole.

His parents and his wife, Janice Shelton Spiegel, preceded him in death.



Soda jerks, fountains bring back memories



MILLIE JEAN COPPEDGE

Reminiscing Royse City

by Millie Jean Coppedge/Rockwall County News

A soda fountain in a drug store during the late 1800s up through the 1960s or so – today's younger generation probably wouldn't know what it was. Drug stores now are called pharmacies, and the idea of a soda fountain brings up sweet memories for those of us who remember them.

In 1898, Frank Houser built the Frank Houser Drug store in Royse City. In 1940, Jim Blakeway bought the establishment and called it the Palmer Drug Store. In 1971, the store closed. It is thought that during this span of years, several other people besides Houser and Blakeway

owned or ran the drug store, but at this time, no documentation is available to substantiate this fact.

The store sat for 73 years at 141 Main Street at the corner of An and Main Street across from what is now the Main Street Cafe and Grill. The food was served at a counter and patrons sat on either freestanding wooden stools or revolving metal stools attached to the floor, and equipped with padded seats. There were also little round wrought-iron tables with wrought-iron chairs where people could sit if they didn't want to sit at the counter.

The people who worked behind the counter serving the drinks and food were called soda jerks. The term came about by the swinging jerking motion of the fountain heads that held the carbonated water. The server would grab a round knob on the top of the machine and pull it forward, which released the soda into the glass over the ice cream. The sodas were made in tall, heavy glasses by first putting flavored sweet syrups into the bottom of the glass, then a scoop or two of ice cream, finished off by filling the glass with the carbonated water. The soda was consumed using a special tall soda spoon through a straw.

Ice-cold Coca-Cola was the most popular carbonated drink sold at soda fountains during the soda fountain era. It was first introduced in the United States in 1886, more than 130 years ago.

One could purchase ice cream, which came in several flavors, and was served in a glass dish or could select ice cream floats, which were a couple of scoops of any flavor of ice cream with coke poured over the top to make a frothy, yummy topping. Banana splits were a special dessert often made with three scoops of ice cream and various syrups and condiments such as cherries and pecans on top. Besides the famous cherry Coke, which was served in a frosted glass, one could also enjoy vanilla Cokes, chocolate sodas, strawberry sundae or an orange whip. The orange whip was a non-alcoholic carbonated orange soda, which was highly advertised and bought by many customers at a cost of 10.

Many soda fountains also served hamburgers, and one could get a hot dog and a bottled Coca-Cola for just 15.

The drug store's soda fountain was not only to purchase drinks and food, but was often the social gathering place for the town's people.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The photo and information for this story were provided by Deloris Cross Ballard, docent of the Zaner Robison Historical Museum.)



The Frank Houser Drug Store was built by Frank Houser in 1898. Although it changed names and owners, it remained the same location for 73 years until 1971.
Photo courtesy of Zaner Robison Historical Museum/Rockwall County News

RISD schedules Jan. 29 Relief Day for Rowlett

Friday, Jan. 29, has been declared Rockwall ISD Relief Day for Rowlett.

T-shirts bearing the slogan "Rise Together" are currently available for purchase at Rockwall Sports Center, 579 E. I-30, in Rockwall; no online sales will be offered, according to the school district's website. Cost is \$10 per T-shirt and sales will continue through Thursday, Jan. 28.

All proceeds from the shirt sales will benefit the Rowlett Tornado Relief Fund, according to the website.

A check presentation is scheduled for the Rockwall vs. Rowlett basketball game on Friday, Feb. 2.

A goal of \$20,000 has been set for this fundraiser, according to the website.

RISD staff and students are being encouraged to wear their Rise Together T-shirts on Friday, Jan. 29.

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 TX Bob Willis line: "___, take it away Leon"</p> <p>5 East TX reptile, slangily</p> <p>6 another day to watch the Cowboys (abbr.)</p> <p>7 TXism: "I broke I couldn't change my mind"</p> <p>8 oil additive</p> <p>9 TXism: "a winner never quits and a ___ never wins"</p> <p>16 TX Kick ___ Indians</p> <p>17 TXism: "make hay while the ___"</p> <p>19 TX Garner book: "How Are ___ Noddies?"</p> <p>21 get more queso on the chip?</p> <p>22 the latest (3 wds.)</p> <p>27 TXism: "___ in the bag"</p> <p>28 civilian aircraft manufacturer</p> <p>29 put the steak back on the grill?</p> <p>30 really not fresh? (2 wds.)</p> <p>32 TX Hagman's role on "Dallas"</p> <p>33 TXism: "he's gettin' ___ his britches"</p> <p>36 Wynonna sang ___ the Light"</p> <p>37 TX Holly sang "Peggy ___"</p> <p>38 TXism "dark as a ___ black cats"</p>	<p>39 those "agin" it</p> <p>41 abrupt evolutionary changes</p> <p>44 TX Autry's "That Silver-Haired Daddy of ___"</p> <p>45 TXism: "fall vine, ___ watermelon"</p> <p>46 TXism: "he's a ___ in my side"</p> <p>47 TXism: "blister ___" (handle)</p> <p>48 boxing up</p> <p>51 TXism: "gave ___ dose of his own medicine"</p> <p>52 anger</p> <p>53 ___ Rio, TX</p> <p>54 "right fast" jet</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 TX Shelley Duvall film (77)</p> <p>13 cowboy bolos</p> <p>14 TXism: "tie up the loose ___"</p> <p>15 Mav's Dirk is careful not to ___ his ankle</p> <p>16 panhandle city gliders on TX lakes: "jet ___"</p> <p>17 extra tires</p> <p>20 in Grand Prairie: "Ripley's Believe ___ Not"</p> <p>21 first cattle brand recorded in TX</p> <p>23 Gulf shrimp catcher</p> <p>24 Boerne's Cibolo Wilderness Trail has 3 ___ systems</p> <p>25 defeats soundly</p> <p>26 50s, 60s teen idol</p> <p>28 applaud</p> <p>31 African deadly snakes</p> <p>34 TXism: "he couldn't ___ elected Fiddler General of Texas"</p> <p>35 TX bumper snicker: "___ Wurth, I Luv Yew"</p> <p>37 LBJ's last words: "___ Mike ___ immediately!"</p> <p>40 TX Roy Orbison could ___ with a 3 or 4-octave range</p> <p>42 charged atom</p> <p>43 ornamental flowers</p> <p>49 melt or fuse ores</p> <p>50 state where TX Buddy Holly died</p>
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University Scholastics Degrees

Two earn degrees at Angelo State

Two local residents – Courtney L. Aguayo and Bart C. Rosebure – were among students who received degrees during the 2015 fall commencement exercises conducted Dec. 12 at Angelo State University, according to a news release from the San Angelo university.

Both are Rockwall residents. Aguayo earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, while Rosebure received a Master of Security Studies, according to the release.

Whitson accepted to McMurry

Claud Whitson of Rockwall has been accepted to McMurry University for the spring semester, according to a university news release. McMurry University is located

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RFA training program to be offered

The Rockwall County Library's literacy program, Reading for Adults, will host a training session for new tutors from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 23, in the library's Literacy Center, 1215 Yellow Jacket Lane, Rockwall. Tutors must be 19 or older; teaching experience is not required, but attending a training session is. The session will include a lunch break; each participant should bring sack lunch. For more details call 972-204-7705.

Senior class meeting for RHS parents slated

A meeting of the parents of Rockwall High's Class of 2016 will begin at 7 p.m. on Jan. 25 at the school. The meeting will provide parents with the opportunity to learn more about After-Prom and to volunteer. Parents should attend or contact debby.schmucker@rockwallisd.org or tonya.chapman@rockwallisd.org to find out how they can participate.

Rockwall ISD to offer Jan. 30 Edcamp

The Rockwall ISD will offer a professional learning experience for educators, Edcamp, from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 30, at Utey Middle School. This participant-driven event will allow participants to pick what they will learn about, talk with fellow educators and learn about ideas that can be applicable in the classroom. Registration is free at eventbrite.com/edcamp-rockwall. Tickets-19556993494. Seating is limited. Follow @EdcampRockwall on Twitter for more details.

Friends of the Library plan meeting

The next meeting of the Friends of the Library will begin at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 9, in the Library Community Room, first floor, 1215 E. Yellow Jacket Lane, Rockwall. The program will be All That's New at the Diamond in Dallas from The Arboretum, information about the upcoming Dallas Blooms Festival, by George Russett. An optional \$20 lunch may be ordered with a reservation made no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 2, by calling Leigh Plagens, 972-771-8976 or emailing cplagens65@aol.com. Unless a reservation cancelled by the deadline, payment is required.

Democratic Men to meet Feb. 6

The Democratic Men's Group of Rockwall County will meet on Saturday, Feb. 6, at The Mellow Mushroom, 550 I-30 Frontage Road, Rockwall. The group meets for lunch at noon on the first Saturday of each month at various local restaurants. Open-minded, progressive men concerned about the future of Texas and Rockwall County are invited to attend.

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Be kind one to another with tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.
Ephesians 4:23

Rockwall ISD announces Jan. 19 regular meeting

The Rockwall ISD Board of Trustees are scheduled to meet, 6:00 p.m., Tue. Jan. 19, 2015 at the Rockwall Administration Center, Room 600, in Rockwall.

The Trustees will start by convening to executive session to discuss the search for a Superintendent. Current Superintendent Jeff Bailey announced plans to retire on Aug. 31, 2016.

The executive session also include discussion about a potential site for a school generally located in Heath, Texas.

The Consent Agenda will include consideration to approve resolutions adding Bryon Bryant, Director of Accounting, Budget and Software as an Authorized Representative and Signer on Rockwall ISD Investment Accounts at TexPool and Lone Star Investment, and to consider approval of resolution designating Bryant as Investment Officer for the ISD.

The Trustees will consider the approval of a proposed real estate contract between the ISD and the City of Heath for the District's purchase of 15 acres of land owned by the city, for a future school site.

Also highlighting the meeting will be the consideration of all matters related to the issuance and sale of the District's Unlimited Tax School Building Bonds, Series 2016.

On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

Truly declaring the Lord is spoken by the Holy Ghost ...

Acts 2:21 and Romans 10:12-14 include repeated references to calling upon the name of the Lord, which is unto salvation.

Additionally, Romans 10:9-10 refers to confessing with the mouth the Lord Jesus as being unto salvation.

This is extremely important. The repetition in different areas reveals that God's word is screaming for our attention on this matter.

If calling upon the name of the Lord and confessing with the mouth are both unto salvation, then it logically stands to reason that both refer to the same thing. God's word is not ambiguous, and must absolutely refer to one thing that results in the new birth and salvation.

1 Corinthians 1:2, Acts 2:4 and Romans 10:9-10 shows us that the saints are people who have believed with their hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead unto righteousness which is to be filled with Holy Spirit and sanctified.

The Holy Spirit is referred to in 1 Corinthians 10:3 in the context of -- wait -- wait -- here it comes -- confessing with the mouth the Lord Jesus. God's word is so perfect. It fits together with mathematic precision. It says, "Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed: and no man can say that Jesus is Lord, but by the Holy Ghost." Now read 1 Cor. 14.

ROCKWALL COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

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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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301 Bourn, Rockwall
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116 Kenway, Rockwall

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203 N. Arch St., Royse City
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) of Rockwall
3375 Ridge Road
CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH OF CHRIST
FM 740 one block S. of Laurence Dr., Heath
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corner of Front & Bell streets, Royse City
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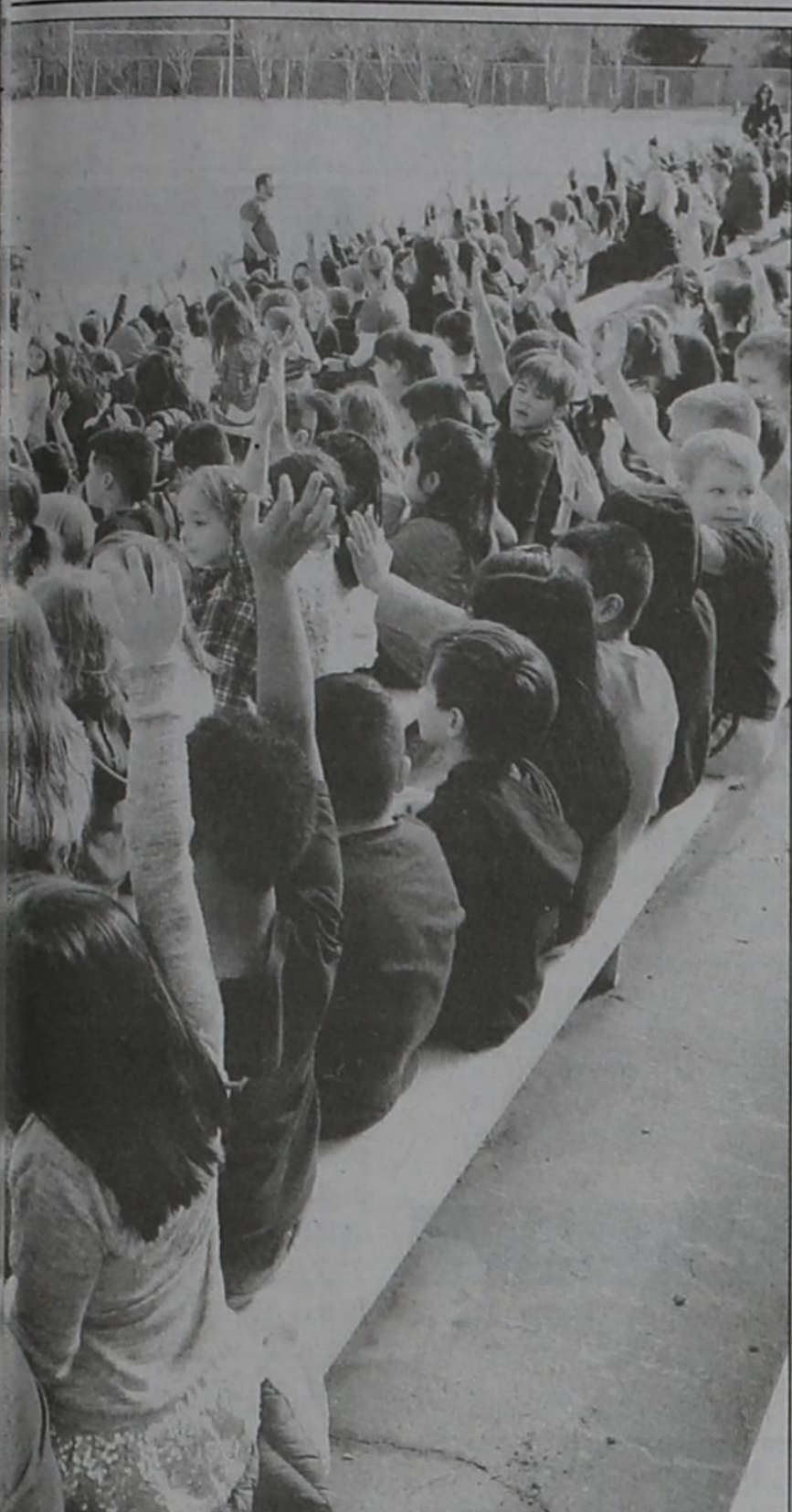
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All Howard Dobbs Elementary students gathered Thursday, Jan. 8, to celebrate the accomplishments during the school's second nine-weeks term. The Super Leader assembly is a tradition in which every student gets to showcase his or her accomplishments -- from perfect attendance to wonderful worker -- by wearing their "spirit sticks."

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF THE ESTATE OF DONALD E. MILLER, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of DONALD E. MILLER, Deceased, were granted to the undersigned on October 1, 2015, in Cause No. PR 15-111, by the Probate Court of Rockwall County. All persons having claims against this Estate are hereby required to present the same to ALMA ANNETTE MILLER, Independent Executrix, within the time and in the manner prescribed by law by addressing the claim to WILLIAM J. ROBERTS at 777 East 15th St., Plano, TX 75074.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF THE ESTATE OF THOMAS PRICE SKEETER, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Thomas Price Skeeters, Deceased, were granted to the undersigned on the 22nd day of October, 2015, by the County Court at Law of Rockwall County, Texas. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same to William R. Skeeters within the time prescribed by law. My post office address is 1177 Valleydale, Dallas, Texas 75222. William R. Skeeters, Independent Executor of the Estate of Thomas Price Skeeters, Deceased, Cause No. PR 15-130.

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Royse City Police Blotter, Jan. 1-7

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- Saturday, 02 Jan.: Alarm, 200 block E. Main Street; Alarm, 800 block E. Old Greenville Road; Suspicious person, Area of Lakes Drive
- Sunday, 03 Jan.: Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound near the 74-mile marker; Noise disturbance, 200 block Adams Street
- Monday, 04 Jan.: Noise disturbance, Area of Northwood Lane
- Tuesday, 05 Jan.: Medical assistance, 800 block E. I-30 NSR; Welfare concern, Area of I-30 NSR and FM 2642; Reckless driver, I-30 near the 74-mile marker; 911 hang up, 400 block W. I-30 NSR;

Assault, 1500 block Hafner Drive; Alarm, 200 block E. Main Street
• Wednesday, 06 Jan.: Accident, Area of N. Erby Campbell Boulevard and Main Street; Medical assistance, 1700 block Sams Circle; Noise disturbance, 2600 block Spencer Circle; Suspicious person, Area of Evergreen Street; Accident, Area of I-30 NSR and FM 35; Theft, 400 block W. I-30 NSR; Accident, 200 block Rowdy Drive; Reckless driver, Eastbound on Hwy 66; Accident, 100 block W. I-30 NSR; Alarm, 200 block N. Erby Campbell Boulevard; Accident, Area of Erby Campbell Boulevard
• Thursday, 07 Jan.: Suspicious vehicle, 100 block W. I-30 NSR; Accident, Westbound near the 400 block W. I-30 NSR; Suspicious person, I-30 SSR and Lamar Street; Theft, 100 block E. I-30 SSR; Accident, Area of I-30 NSR and FM 548; Reckless driver, I-30 westbound near the 77-mile marker; Disturbance, 700 block Meadowdale Drive; Disturbance, 1500 block Hardy Drive; Reckless driver, Eastbound on FM 2642; Noise disturbance, 900 block Loganwood Drive; Suspicious person, Area of Meadowdale Drive; Smith County Sheriff's Office warrant arrest, 400 block W. I-30 NSR; Rockwall County Sheriff's Office/Royse City Police Department warrants arrest, Area of Meadowdale Drive

Girl Scout cookies available Friday

The Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas will kick off the 2016 Cookie Program on Friday, Jan. 15, through Feb. 28, according to a GSNEXTX news release.

Community service through Project Troop to Troop has become a cornerstone of the Girl Scout Cookie Program. It encourages members of the community to buy Girl Scout cookies for donation to military personnel at home and abroad. This year, Project Troop to Troop

Rockwall County Entertainment

'Cinderella' staged by RHHS students

Rockwall-Heath High School's Theatre Department will stage its musical, Rogers & Hammerstein's "Cinderella," at the Performing Arts Center, 801 Laurence Dr., in Heath at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 14, 15 and 16. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$10 for students, senior citizens and children. For each adult ticket purchased, one child will be admitted free of charge. Tickets may be purchased 30 minutes prior to show time. Photos also may be taken with Cinderella and the prince at each show's completion.

Tickets available for Daddy/Daughter Dance

A Daddy/Daughter Dance, sponsored by the Rockwall Parks & Recreation Department, will run from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 23, at The Hilton Bella Harbor. Each participating girl will receive a flower at the end of the evening. Light refreshments will be served. Cost is \$99 or \$65 for Rockwall residents (\$25 for each additional child). A limited number of tickets are available; pre-registration is required. For more details visit rockwall.com/parks.

Wine & Dine benefit set for R'wall PAWS

Rockwall PAWS will host an evening of "FUNraising" beginning at 6 p.m. on Jan. 30 at the Rockwall Golf and Athletic Club, 2600 Champions Drive, in Rockwall. The event will include a dinner with wine, silent and live auctions, a raffle and a cash bar. Reservations should be made by Jan. 25. Tickets cost \$55 each. Checks may be mailed to Rockwall PAWS, P.O. Box 44, Rockwall 75087 or purchased through the organization's Facebook page. Contact Cathy at 214-532-4407 or cathy.bedsale@heartoftexasahs.com.

(Continued on page 6)

cookies will be transported to Fort Hood, the USO and the American Red Cross. Girl Scout Cookies will also go to local veterans' organizations and wounded soldiers.

In 2015, Project Troop to Troop in northeast Texas donated more than 80,000 packages of Girl Scout cookies.

Last year's two new flavors, Rah-Rah Raisins and Toffee-Tastic gluten-free cookies, will stay in the lineup and be sold alongside Girl Scout classics Thin Mints, Tagalongs, Samoas, Trefoils, Do-Si-Dos and Savannah Smiles.

Cookies can be purchased for \$4 a box and Toffee-Tastic cookies sell for \$5.

In 2015, GSNEXTX sold 3.1 million boxes of cookies.

Girl Scout cookie fans can expect to see Girl Scouts participating in individual sales and at cookie booths in their area beginning Jan. 15. Customers can find nearby cookie booths by downloading the Cookie Finder app. The app is available for iPhone and Android by searching GS COOKIES in your phone's app store. Customers can search for sale locations by zip code and share with friends on social media.

For more information about the Cookie Program, visit texascookie-time.org.

Zebra mussels in Sherman-area lake...

(Continued from page 1)

Adult zebra mussels and their microscopic larvae, called veligers, are both present in the lake. It is illegal to possess or transport them or any other prohibited aquatic invasive species.

A North Texas Municipal Water District pipeline running beneath the lake carries raw water from Lake Texoma, which was the first public water body in Texas to become infested with zebra mussels, to the NTMWD water treatment plant at Wylie. A leak was recently detected in the pipeline and the NTMWD will soon begin efforts to repair the pipe; requiring a partial drawdown of the lake which may help manage the infestation.

"We will be monitoring the zebra mussel population in the lake," Van Zee said. "We are working with the NTMWD and the City of Sherman to explore possible treatment options."

For more information on zebra mussels, visit texasinvasives.org.

Legal Notices

Application has been made for a Private Club Registration Permit and Food and Beverage Certificate for Tamka Private Club, Inc.

Dbu Fuzzy's Taco Shop
At 117 IH 30 West, Royse City, Rockwall County, Texas
Said application made to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code.
Tamer Kadah, Pres/Dir
Lara Rahhal, Sec/Dir
Carol R. Davis, Dir

Rockwall County News Briefs

(Continued from page 2)

Williams is topic of lecture series Feb. 12

Gloria Williams, a legendary local hometown hero, will be Black History Month topic at the Sheri Stodghill Lecture Series presented by the Rockwall County Historical Foundation and Rockwall County Historical Commission from noon to 1 p.m. in the third floor in the historic downtown courthouse on Feb. 12. Williams will share her life story and love of education in a pre-recorded history.

Believe It or Not is March 11 lecture topic

Tall tales of Rockwall County will be the topic 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 March 11.

Texas History in 1861 is topic of April 8 event

To secede or not to secede was the question posed by Gov. Sam Houston (aka Mike Donegan) and Texas Ranger John Salmon "Rip" Ford (aka Jay Webb), which will be explored April 8 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. The presentation will explore the cultural, economic and political issues driving forces during this time period.

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 recording presentation focusing on the service and capture of Weldon Melton, World War II soldier from Royse City, as shared by his daughter-law, JoNell Melody. The May 13 event will run from noon to 1 p.m. in the third floor in the historic downtown courthouse.

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 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, Texas, commanded by Joe M. Hood, USN (Ret.), will share the story of the largest facility of its kind was used to train more than 2,000 British and American pilots between 1941 and 1945.

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Opinions

The state of the nation: A dictatorship without tears

by John W. Whitehead

There will be, in the next generation or so, a pharmacological method of making people love their servitude, and producing dictatorship without tears, so to speak, producing a kind of painless concentration camp for entire societies, so that people will in fact love their liberties taken away from them, but will rather enjoy it, because they will be distracted from any desire to rebel by propaganda brainwashing, or brainwashing enhanced by pharmacological methods. And this seems to be the final revolution."—Aldous Huxley

There's a man who contacts me several times a week to disagree with my assessments of the American police state. According to self-avowed Pollyanna who is tired of hearing "bad news," the country is doing just fine, the government's intentions are honorable, anyone in authority should be blindly obeyed, those individuals who are being arrested, shot and imprisoned must have done something to deserve such treatment, and if you have nothing to hide, you shouldn't care whether the government is spying on you.

In other words, this man trusts the government with his life, his loved ones and his property, and anyone who doesn't feel the same should move elsewhere.

It's tempting to write this man off as dangerously deluded, dangerously naïve, and clueless to the point of civic incompetence. However, he is not alone in his goose-stepping, comfort-loving, TV-schilling, insulated-from-reality devotion to the alternate universe constructed for us by the Corporate State with its government propaganda, pseudo-patriotism and contrived political divisions.

While only 1 in 5 Americans claim to trust the government to do what is right, the majority of the people are not quite ready to ditch the American experiment in liberty. Or at least they're not quite ready to ditch the government with which they have been saddled.

As The Washington Post concludes, "Americans hate government, they like what it does." Indeed, kvetching aside, Americans want a government to keep providing institutionalized comforts such as Social Security, public schools, and unemployment benefits, fighting alleged terrorists and illegal immigrants, defending the nation from domestic and foreign threats, and maintaining the national infrastructure. And it doesn't matter that the government has shown itself to be corrupt, abusive, hostile to citizens who disagree, wasteful and unconcerned about the plight of the average American.

For the moment, Americans are continuing to play by the government's rules. Indeed, Americans may not approve the jobs being done by their elected leaders, and they may have little to say to those same representatives, but they remain committed to

the political process, so much so that they are working themselves into a frenzy over the upcoming presidential election, with contributions to the various candidates nearing \$500 million.

Yet as Barack Obama's tenure in the White House shows, no matter how much hope and change were promised, what we've ended up with is not only more of the same, but something worse: an invasive, authoritarian surveillance state armed and ready to eliminate any opposition.

The state of our nation under Obama has become more bureaucratic, more debt-ridden, more violent, more militarized, more fascist, more lawless, more invasive, more corrupt, more untrustworthy, more mired in war, and more unresponsive to the wishes and needs of the electorate. Most of all, the government, already diabolical and manipulative to the nth degree, has mastered the art of "do what I say and not what I do" hypocrisy.

For example, the government's arsenal is growing. While the Obama administration is working to limit the public's access to guns by pushing for greater gun control, it's doing little to scale back on the federal government's growing arsenal of firepower and militarized equipment.

In fact, it's not just the Department of Defense that's in the business of waging war. Government agencies focused largely on domestic matters continue to spend tens of millions of taxpayer dollars to purchase SWAT and military-style equipment such as body armor, riot helmets and shields, cannon launchers and police firearms and ammunition. The Department of Veterans Affairs spent nearly \$2 million on riot helmets, defender shields, body armor, a "milo return fire cannon system," armored mobile shields, Kevlar blankets, tactical gear and equipment for crowd control. The Food and Drug Administration purchased "ballistic vests and carriers." The Environmental Protection Agency shelled out \$200,000 for body armor. And the Smithsonian Institution procured \$28,000 worth of body armor for its "zoo police and security officers."

The national debt is growing. In fact, it's almost doubled during Obama's time in office to nearly \$20 trillion. Much of this debt is owed to foreign countries such as China, which have come to exert an undue degree of influence on various aspects of the American economy.

Meanwhile, almost half of Americans are struggling to save for emergencies and retirement, 43% can't afford to go more than one month without a paycheck, and 24% have less than \$250 in their bank accounts preceding payday.

On any given night, over half a million people in the U.S. are homeless, and half of them are elderly. In fact, studies indicate that

the homeless are aging faster than the general population in the U.S.

While the U.S. spends more on education than almost any other country, American schools rank 28th in the world, below much poorer countries such as the Czech Republic and Vietnam.

The American police state's payroll is expanding. Despite the fact that violent crime is at a 40-year-low, there are more than 1.1 million persons employed on a full-time basis by state and local law enforcement in this country. That doesn't include the more than 120,000 full-time officers on the federal payroll.

While crime is falling, the number of laws creating new crimes is growing at an alarming rate. Congress creates, on average, more than 50 new criminal laws each year. This adds up to more than 4,500 federal criminal laws and an even greater number of state laws.

The prison population is growing at an alarming rate. Owing largely to overcriminalization, the nation's prison population has quadrupled since 1980 to 2.4 million, which breaks down to more than one out of every 100 American adults behind bars. According to The Washington Post, it costs \$21,000 a year to keep someone in a minimum-security federal prison and \$33,000 a year for a maximum-security federal prison. Those costs are expected to increase 30 percent by 2020. Translation: while the American taxpayer will be forced to shell out more money for its growing prison population, the private prison industry will be making a hefty profit.

The nation's infrastructure—railroads, water pipelines, ports, dams, bridges, airports and roads—is rapidly deteriorating. An estimated \$1.7 trillion will be needed by 2020 to improve surface transportation, but with vital funds being siphoned off by the military industrial complex, there's little relief in sight.

The expense of those endless wars in Afghanistan and Iraq will cost taxpayers \$4 trillion to \$6 trillion. That does not include the cost of military occupations and exercises elsewhere around the globe. Unfortunately, that's money that is not being invested in America, nor is it being used to improve the lives of Americans.

Government incompetence, corruption and lack of accountability continue to result in the loss of vast amounts of money and weapons. A Reuters investigation revealed \$8.5 trillion in "taxpayer money doled out by Congress to the Pentagon since 1996 that has never been accounted for." Then there was the \$500 million in Pentagon weapons, aircraft and equipment (small arms, ammunition, night-vision goggles, patrol boats, vehicles and other supplies) that the U.S. military somehow lost track of.

Rounding out the bad news, many Americans know little to nothing about their rights and the government. Only 31% can name all three branches of the U.S. government, while one in three says that the Bill of Rights guarantees the right to own your own home, while one in four thinks that it guarantees "equal pay for equal work." One in 10 Americans (12%) says the Bill of Rights includes the right to own a pet.

If this brief catalogue of our national woes proves anything at all, it is that the American experiment in liberty has failed, and as political economist Lawrence Hunter warns, it is only a matter of time before people realize it. Writing for Forbes, Hunter notes:

The greatest fear of America's Founding Fathers has been realized: The U.S. Constitution has been unable to thwart the corrosive dynamics of majority-rule democracy, which in turn has mangled the Constitution beyond recognition. The real conclusion of the American Experiment is that democracy ultimately undermines liberty and leads to tyranny and oppression by elected leaders and judges, their cronies and unelected bureaucrats. All of this is done in the name of "the people" and the "general welfare," of course. But in fact, democracy oppresses the very demos in whose name it operates, benefiting string-pullers within the Establishment and rewarding the political constituencies they manage by paying off special interests with everyone else's money forcibly extracted through taxation. The Founding Fathers (especially Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, Adams, Madison, and James Monroe), as well as outside observers of the American Experiment such as Alexis de Tocqueville all feared democracy and dreaded this outcome. But, they let hope and faith in their ingenious constitutional engineering overcome their fear of the democratic state, only to discover they had replaced one tyranny with another.

So are there any real, workable solutions to the emerging American police state?

A second American Revolution will not work. In the first revolution, the colonists were able to dispatch the military occupation and take over the running of the country. However, the Orwellian state is here and it is so pervasive that government agents are watching, curtailing and putting down any resistance before it can get started.

A violent overthrow of the government will not work. Government agents are armed to the teeth and will easily blow away any insurgency when and if necessary.

Politics will not help things along. As history has made clear, the new boss is invariably the same as or worse than the old boss—all controlled by a monied, oligarchic elite.

As I make clear in my book *Battlefield America: The War on the American People*, there is only one feasible solution left to us short of fleeing the country for parts unknown: grassroots activism that strives to reform the government locally and trickles up.

Unfortunately, such a solution requires activism, engagement, vigilance, sacrifice, individualism, community-building, nullification and a communal willingness to reject the federal government's handouts and, when needed, respond with what Martin Luther King Jr. referred to as "militant nonviolent resistance."

That means forgoing Monday night football in order to actively voice your concerns at city council meetings, turning off the television and spending an hour reading your local newspaper (if you still have one that reports local news) from front to back, showing your displeasure by picketing in front of government offices, risking your reputation by speaking up and disagreeing with the majority when necessary, refusing to meekly accept whatever the government dictates, reminding government officials—including law enforcement—that they work for you, and working together with your neighbors to present a united front against an overreaching government.

Unfortunately, we now live in a ubiquitous Orwellian society with all the trappings of Huxley's *A Brave New World*. We have become a society of watchers rather than activists who are distracted by even the clumsiest government attempts at sleight-of-hand.

There are too many Americans who are reasonably content with the status quo and too few Americans willing to tolerate the discomfort of a smaller, more manageable government and a way of life that is less convenient, less entertaining, and less comfortable.

It will be that Huxley was right, and that the final revolution is behind us. Certainly, most Americans seem to have learned to love their prison walls and take comfort in a dictatorship without tears.

Facebook faux pas

by Jill Pertler

Slices of Life

Facebook is an online community and in being such has developed certain (often unwritten) rules that its users follow. While some rules are easy to understand and abide by, certain Facebook situations leave me unsure of what Facebook behavior protocol is called for in response to my scrolling.

Posting photos is a Facebook mainstay. But what do you do when a person posts a photo that is clearly sideways or, worse yet, upside-down? The inverted problem is multiplied 1080 if the post is a video.

Person posting must be aware their image is not aligned with the rest of the world—unless they are standing on their head, which I suppose is a possibility.

If a sideways-posted photo looks particularly interesting, I pull it to my desktop and rotate it myself so it is in its full upright (normal) position. But, even if I like the photo, I don't hit the like button because that would be like promoting bad behavior.

Here's the thing: rotating a photo on Facebook is not only feasible, it's as easy as pressing, well, the rotate button. It's as simple as that. Sigh.

Next in popularity to photo postings are birthday greetings. Each time Facebook tells us who among our friends is experiencing a 24-hour b-day celebration. As a Facebook friend or acquaintance it is our duty to come up with a unique and heartfelt birthday wish for each of our 537 friends. Some days this means coming up with more than one unique and heartfelt message because no two birthday greetings could ever be the same.

When I'm having a noncreative unbirthday-wishing sort of day, I eat myself up for the blasé and boring greeting of, "Happy birthday, insert name here." Surely the person notes my lack of sincerity and enthusiasm. On those days, I am a birthday greeting failure and

do a headstand and look at myself upside-down in the mirror with shame.

Another birthday conundrum occurs when it is your big day. You receive dozens or perhaps hundreds of birthday hellos, wishes, hal-lelujahs and other assorted salutations. What to do? Do you thank each greeter personally by responding to their message with a message of your own? If you choose this route, you are saddled to your Facebook account for a hefty portion of the day, and that doesn't feel like a happy birthday in my world. Instead do you simply like each of the greetings individually, or do you take it one step further and wait until the day after your day and send one generic thank you message to the entire group of greeters? I don't know the correct answer. I'm just posing the question because it's weighed heavy on my mind for some time. Sharing the agony lessens it, somehow.

Finally (you knew it was coming) let's talk politics. Everyone else is. It's okay to have opinions and it's even okay to post about them because I can scroll through rather quickly, or block repeat offenders if I choose.

Trouble (for me) is that not every posting is factual. There are numerous "news" websites that post satire. Satire is not the truth. It uses exaggeration, irony and sarcasm to create humor. There wouldn't be a problem with this, if people understood that not everything on the Internet is true (it's not?) nor is it meant to be. But, many good and trusting Facebook souls don't know that—or choose to look past that—and post and repost and like and comment on satire as though it were the truth. And I cringe a little bit again and wonder why I'm even scrolling—again.

And then I am embarrassed—again. But this time for myself and the things I choose to do and the time I waste scrolling and wondering if the plural of faux pas shouldn't be faux pases. But it isn't. Trust me. I looked it up on the Internet.

Oregon stand-off: Isolated event, or sign of things to come?

by Ron Paul

Ron Paul Institute For Peace and Prosperity

The nation's attention turned to Oregon this week when a group calling itself Citizens for Constitutional Freedom seized control of part of a federal wildlife refuge. The citizens were protesting the harsh sentences given to members of the Hammond ranching family. The Hammonds were accused of allowing fires set on their property to spread onto federal land.

The Hammonds were prosecuted under a federal terrorism statute. This may seem odd, but many prosecutors are stretching the definition of terrorism in order to, as was the case here, apply mandatory minimum sentences or otherwise violate defendants' constitutional rights. The first judge to hear the case refused to grant the government's sentencing request, saying his conscience was shocked by the thought of applying the mandatory minimums to the Hammonds. Fortunately for the government, it was able to appeal the decision to judges whose consciences were not shocked by draconian sentences.

Sadly, but not surprisingly, some progressives who normally support civil liberties have called for the government to use deadly force to end the occupation at the refuge. These progressives are the error image of conservatives who (properly) attack gun control and the PATRIOT Act as tyrannical, yet support the use of police-state tactics against unpopular groups such as Muslims.

Even some libertarians have joined the attacks on the ranchers. These libertarians say ranchers like the Hammonds are "corporate welfare queens" because they graze their cattle on federal lands. However, since the federal government is the largest landholder in many western states, the ranchers may not have other viable alternatives. As the Oregon standoff shows, ranchers hardly have the same type of cozy relationship with the government that is enjoyed

by true corporate welfare queens like military contractors and big banks. Many ranchers actually want control of federally-held land returned to the states or sold to private owners.

Situations like the one in Oregon could become commonplace as the continued failure of Keynesian economics and militaristic foreign policy is used to justify expanding government power. These new power grabs will increase the threats to our personal and economic security. The resulting chaos will cause many more Americans to resist government policies, with some even turning to violence, while the burden of government regulations and taxes will lead to a growing black market. The government will respond by becoming even more authoritarian, which will lead to further unrest.

Fortunately, we still have time to reverse course. The Internet makes it easier than ever to spark the ideas of liberty and grow the liberty movement. Spreading the truth and making sure we can care for ourselves and our families in the event of an economic collapse must be our priorities.

We must help more progressives understand that allowing the government to run the economy not only leads to authoritarianism, it impoverishes the lower classes and enriches the elites. We must also show conservatives that militarism abroad inevitably leads to tyranny at home. We also need to continue exposing how the Federal Reserve feeds the welfare-warfare state while increasing economic instability and income inequality. This week's Senate vote on Audit the Fed is important to our efforts to help the American people learn the full truth about our monetary system.

One thing my years in Washington taught me is that most politicians are followers, not leaders. Therefore we should not waste time and resources trying to educate politicians. Politicians will not support individual liberty and limited government unless and until they are forced to do so by the people.

Legal Notice
 NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF THE ESTATE OF DONALD E. MILLER, Deceased
 I am hereby given that the Last Will and Testament of the Estate of DONALD E. MILLER, Deceased, was granted to the undersigned on October 15, 2015, by the Probate Court of Rockwall County, Texas. All persons having claims against the Estate of DONALD E. MILLER, Deceased, are hereby required to file the same with ALMA L. MILLER, Independent Executrix, at the time and in the manner prescribed by law by filing the claim to AM J. ROBERTS at 1515 St. TX 75074.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF THE ESTATE OF JAS PRICE SKEETER, Deceased
 I am hereby given that the Testamentary upon the Estate of Thomas Price, Deceased, was granted to the undersigned on the 11th day of October, 2015, by the Probate Court at Law, Rockwall County, Texas. All persons having claims against the Estate of Thomas Price, Deceased, are hereby required to file the same with William R. Skeeters, Independent Executor of the Estate of Thomas Price, Deceased, at 1515 St. TX 75074.

Club Registration for Tamka Pri...
 Rockwall County, Texas
 Alcohol Beverage Commissions of the Texas...

News Briefs
 Feb. 12
 Lecture Series, presentation and the Rockwall County Historical Commission for downtown courtroom economic and political...

April 8 event
 posed by Gov. Greg Abbott
 John Salmon "Rancher" April 8 at the Rockwall County Historical Commission for downtown courtroom economic and political...

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Five Rockwall County city governments continue to violate state law in publishing required notices

by Timothy W. Burnett

According to the minutes of the Monday Dec. 21, 2015 regular meeting, the City of Rockwall ended the year with struggles over the question of how to select a newspaper of record.

The language of the Consent Agenda item stated that the action was taken "as annually required by the City's Charter," but neglected to reference a requirement by state law.

According to the packet provided to the council, City Secretary Kristy Cole advised there were no procedures officially in place for selecting a newspaper of record. She further recommended applying the information provided in the proposal letters sent from newspapers during October of 2014.

Rockwall County Sports

RC's All-district football team members named

All-district selections from the Roysse City High School football team were named recently, according to information provided by the school.

First Team All-district Offense team members included Courtland Vance, QB; Brett Martinez, RB; Zach Maley, WR; and Kendal Howerton, OL.

Second Team Offense members were Devante Alexander, TE/FB/H, and Doran Rass, OL.

Named to First Team All-district Defense was Sam Rosenstengle, DT/N.

Three RCHS athletes were named to the Second Team All-district Defense. They included Chance Damron, ILB; Patrick Perry, OLB; and Nathan Giles, corner.

Other honorees included:

- Honorable Mention All-district Offense: Johnny Solis, DE; Alex Gonzalez, ILB; Caleb Hendrix, DL; and Tony Morales, FS
- Honorable Mention All-district Defense: Cooper Abdo, WR; Kiandric Morris, WR; Alfredo Cervantes, OL; and Josh Hessert, OL.

HCA Varsity Eagles & Lady Eagles Are Tournament Champs

Heritage Christian Academy varsity men and women basketball teams were in action, December 28-30, 2015, at the Lakewood Presbyterian Tournament.

Both the Eagles and Lady Eagles earned the championship with wins over Inspired Vision, Newman Academy and tournament host, Lakewood.

In addition to the first place finish, four HCA athletes made the All-Tournament Team, including Britney Migneault and Halee Minter of the women's team, and Brendan Schroepfer and Christian Pettit of the men's team. Minter and Pettit were also named Tournament MVP their brackets.

The HCA varsity men's team was victorious over the GCA Swordsmen on Wednesday Dec. 8, with a 55-41 win.

Led by three juniors scoring double figures, Brock McCarty (17), Christian Pettit (13) and Brendan Schroepfer (11), the Eagle's jumped out to an early 20-15 lead by half, and they finished strong putting up 19 points in the fourth quarter ending on a 13-3 run.

Also chipping in offensively for the Eagles were Josh Henson (5), Brendan Cockroft (5), Micah Cathey (2) and Daniel Rochester (2).

Both teams are set to play on Friday Jan. 15 at McKinney Christian. The Lady Eagles (9-6 overall) will start at 6:00 p.m., and the Eagles (9-5 overall) will start at 7:30 p.m.

Information contributed by Sam Prater.

Rockwall County Entertainment

(Continued from page 4)

RHS Theatre presents 'Spamalot'

The Rockwall High School Theatre Department will present Monty Python's "Spamalot" at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 30 at the RHS Theatre. Tickets cost \$15 each. For more details, call 972-771-7339.

Area News Briefs

Fort Worth Vet Center plans open house

The Fort Worth Vet Center will host an open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 22, at 6620 Westworth Blvd., in Westworth Village. Centers provides readjustment services to veterans including individual, group and family counseling as well as treatment for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), bereavement, and victims of Military Sexual Trauma (MST). The event will be open to the public.

Rubber Stamp, Scrapbook Show set

A Rubber Stamp & Scrapbook Show is set for Jan 23-24 in the Plano Centre, 1000 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano. Participants can learn to make their own greeting cards and scrapbooks. Admission will cost \$7 at the door, which will be good for entry on both days; children under 12 will be admitted free of charge. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the first day and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the show's final day.

Dallas Arboretum offers MLK special

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden will offer \$5 admission to the through Jan. 31. The discount applies only to those purchasing tickets on site at the ticket booth. As guests stroll throughout the garden, they can also watch the horticulture staff plant and prepare the garden for the opening of the renowned Dallas Blooms festival with the theme, The Artistry in Nature, beginning Feb. 27. That date also marks the reopening of the Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden, which has been closed for winterizing and maintenance.

Nature, STEM-based camps offered in Dallas

Registration is open for new nature and STEM-based (science, technology, engineering and math) camps set March 7-18 at the Dallas Arboretum. Organized by grade level, camps are designed based on age and interests and led by Arboretum teachers. Spring break camps are new to the Arboretum. Scheduled events include Growing up WILD! (open to children ages 3-5 with a parent); Nature U! (kindergartners through fourth grade); and Explore-Connect-Create Camps (grades 5-8). For details visit dallasarboretum.org/education/summer-camps or call 214-515-6515.

According to the minutes of the Dec. 21 meeting, "City Manager Rick Crowley explained that the city's Charter calls for an annual designation of an official newspaper of record. Neither the Charter nor state law prescribes the process by which the Council is to do so."

The minutes go on to reveal that the Manager explained different options, but does not include the options he offered. After Crowley's explanation, Councilmember David White "indicated that as long as staff has not been experiencing any issues or concerns with the current newspaper of record (Herald Banner), he sees no problem with the Council designating that paper once again."

No action was taken on the Consent Agenda item, and the issue was not on the agenda for the Jan. 4, 2016 meeting.

In response to the city's 2014 request for proposals from newspapers, the Rockwall County News offered to provide a copy of its U.S.P.S. Form 3526 Annual Statement of Ownership as proof of qualification to publish required notices for the City of Rockwall.

The annual form shows proof that the newspaper holds a U.S.P.S. Periodical Matter Permit (Second Class Permit) as required under Texas Gov. Code 2051.044, and the newspaper is published in an office located in Rockwall as required under Texas Gov. Code 2051.048(b).

The publisher also offered to provide a sworn affidavit alleging qualification under penalty of perjury. The Secretary politely declined his offers.

On Dec. 1, 2014 the city council unanimously voted to name a satellite newspaper published by Herald Banner Publications, Inc. in Greenville, Texas, as its designated newspaper of record.

The city entered into a peculiar arrangement in which Herald Banner Publications agreed to publish all notices in the Roysse City

Herald Banner, with the understanding that the same notices would also be placed in a newspaper known as Rockwall Herald Banner.

The Rockwall County News found no indication that Herald Banner Publications was publishing a newspaper entitled, Rockwall Herald Banner. To this day, all references by the city to notices refer to a newspaper called, Rockwall Herald Banner.

Further inquiry revealed that the Roysse City Herald Banner and its owner Herald Banner Publications, Inc. did not hold a Periodical Matter Permit in the Rockwall or Roysse City Post Offices, and was not published in an office located in Roysse City or Rockwall.

The County News also noted that the city council's approval was based on a proposal letter provided by Herald Banner Publications, Inc. that was not signed, and that alleged the "Rockwall Herald Banner" was published in Rockwall.

The City Secretary verified that no city officer attempted to confirm qualification of the selected newspaper.

Also, during October of 2014, the City of McLendon-Chisholm jumped ahead of Rockwall by leaping out of compliance with state law related to designation of newspaper of record. The McLendon-Chisholm City Council repeated the statutory violation by voting again to publish required notices in an unqualified newspaper published by Herald Banner Publications, Inc. in Greenville.

During the 2014 and 2015 meetings, McLendon-Chisholm councilmember Gary Lovell spoke out against the agenda item, and voted in favor of not violating state law by voting against the ordinance.

The Rockwall County News will monitor the actions of McLendon-Chisholm City government, to determine whether newly appointed City Secretary Stephanie Galanides will bring the city government back into compliance with state law by selecting the one legally qualified newspaper for publication of each required notice.

Former McLendon-Chisholm City Secretary Deborah Sorenson moved into the position formerly held by Roysse City City Secretary Brenda Craft.

During October 2012, the City of Fate followed the lead of Heath and Roysse City by designating the same newspaper that is published in Greenville. Since that time, the Fate city council and appointed officers have executed highly sensitive and massive non-voluntary annexation actions without giving due notification in accordance with state law.

The cities of Heath, Fate and Roysse City have not voted to designate a newspaper of record for the 2015-2016 year period, as required by state law.

The Rockwall County News is investigating to determine whether the various city managers and secretaries are required to comply with state law under their Oaths of Office and Certificates of Commission, in cases where the elected officials vote to authorize the same officials to violate state law.

"One question we must ask is, if the elected and appointed city officials unhesitatingly and blatantly violate state law related a matter as simple, and important, as due notification of government actions to the body politic of people they represent, then what other laws are being violated?" said Rockwall County News Publisher, Tim Burnett.

The City of Roysse City council and officers repeatedly violated state law related to publication of required notice since October of 2002, when it voted to select the newly established Roysse City Herald Banner.

The action of the city resulted in driving Roysse City's last known pure-local newspaper out of business, that being the Roysse City News.

Upon further investigations, it was learned that the city government's selection was in retaliation against the Roysse City News because of certain expository stories that were critical of the city government.

Within two months after the Rockwall County News changed ownership and management on June 28, 2008, the City of Heath took action to reject the only qualified newspaper for required notices. Instead, the City of Heath unanimously voted to approve selection of the Dallas Morning News for its newspaper of record.

According to its proposal letter, the DMN alleged it was qualified to publish legal notices, but did not claim qualification to do so for the City of Heath.

The Rockwall County News verified that the DMN was, and is still published in Dallas County.

The City of Heath continues to select the DMN for publication of each required notice.

Not unlike the other city councils in Rockwall County, the City of Heath quietly disregarded Texas Government Code Section 2051.048(c) which requires the government unit to publish required notices in a newspaper that is published in the county where the city is located.

During 2012, the Rockwall County News filed a Declaratory Judgment action against the Cities of Heath and Roysse City in the 382nd District Court, Judge Brett Hall presiding.

The defendants in the case joined together and moved for dismissal on grounds that because part of the City of Roysse City's boundaries overlap into Hunt County, then it was authorized to use the Roysse City Herald Banner for publication of required notices without using a newspaper that was published in Rockwall County.

Once again, the city attempted to quietly disregard Section 2051.048(c) in all its court filings. The Plaintiff in the case contacted the Secretary of State's office and confirmed that the City of Roysse City is in fact located in Rockwall County. Overlapping boundaries for any city does not change the location of the city government.

The defendants were ultimately awarded dismissal of both the Declaratory Judgment and related claims, on the grounds that the plaintiff did not name officers of the city in its original filing. The court rejected the plaintiff's request to cure the defect by naming officers.

"After the cities of Rockwall and McLendon-Chisholm voted to use tax dollars for illegal publication of notices, times became increasingly tough for us," explained Burnett. "But in the end, it has been truly by the grace of God that the Rockwall County News is still in business."

"No matter how we legally respond to the cities' unlawful action and conduct, it is most important that we humbly let our lovingly compassionate heavenly Father direct our paths in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ," concluded Burnett.

Rockwall County Sports Notes

RC Bulldog Football Awards event set tonight

The Roysse City Independent School District's Bulldog Football Awards Night event will begin at 6:30 p.m. today, Thursday, Jan. 14 in the Roysse City High School cafeteria. Desserts and drinks will be served. The public is encouraged to come out and show support for the 2015 high school football teams.

Rockwall High School varsity soccer District 12-6A schedules

Women

Fri. 1/15, North Mesquite at Memorial Stadium (TBA)

Fri. 1/19, 7:15 p.m., at Prosper

Fri. 1/22, 7:30 p.m., Wylie at RHS

District games

Tue. 1/26, 7:15 p.m., North Garland at RHS

Fri. 1/29, 7:15 p.m., Lakeview at Wilkerson-Sanders Stad. (WSS)

Tue. 2/2, 7:15 p.m., Naaman Forest at RHS

Fri. 2/5, 7:15 p.m., Sachse at RHS

Tue. 2/9, 7:15 p.m., Rowlett at WSS

Fri. 2/12, 7:15 p.m., at Tyler-Lee

Tue. 2/16, 7:15 p.m., Garland at RHS

Fri. 2/19, 7:15 p.m. at North Garland

Tue. 2/23, 7:15 p.m. Lakeview at Rowlett Stadium

Fri. 2/26, 7:15 p.m., at Naaman Forest

Tue. 3/1, 7:15 p.m., at Sachse

Fri. 3/4, 7:15 p.m. at Rowlett

Tue. 3/15, 7:15 p.m. Tyler-Lee at WSS

Fri. 3/18, 7:15 p.m., at Garland Williams Stadium

Men

Thur. 1/14, McKinney North Rockwall Tourney at RHS (TBA)

Fri. 1/15, Roysse City Rockwall Tourney at RHS (TBA)

Tue. 1/19, 7:30 p.m., South Garland at HBJ Stadium

Tue. 1/26, 7:15 p.m. North Garland at WSS

Fri. 1/29, 7:15 p.m. Lakeview at RHS

Tue. 2/2, 7:15 p.m. Naaman Forest at WSS

Fri. 2/5, 7:15 p.m. at Sachse

Tue. 2/9, 7:15 p.m. Rowlett at RHS

Fri. 2/12, 7:15 p.m., at Tyler-Lee

Tue. 2/16, 7:15 p.m., Garland at WSS

See the Rockwall-Heath varsity soccer schedules in next week's Thur. Jan. 21 edition of the Rockwall County News

TxDOT: Make sober ride part of playoff game plans

The Texas Department of Transportation's statewide Plan While You Can campaign is reminding area residents to make sober rides part of their game-watching plans for the upcoming playoff games.

The campaign runs through Sunday, Feb. 7.

"As many Texans will be watching football playoffs leading up to the big game, we strongly urge drivers to plan for a sober ride to attend watch parties," Carol Rawson, TxDOT traffic operations division director, said. "Crashes caused by drinking and driving are 100 percent preventable. Before you drink, make a game plan to get home safely. It's a decision that could save a life."

Drivers under the influence of alcohol can face up to \$17,000 in fines, legal fees, impoundment and other costs.

Visit soberrides.org to find alternatives, such as:

- Calling a taxi or using a transportation app on a smartphone
- Using mass transit
- Asking a sober friend or family member for a ride home
- Spending the night

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 an Unemployment Compensation Insurance plan constitutes "impairing obligation of contracts."

One exception are Federal Instrumentalities engaged in statutory "employment" on the soil of Texas.

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

Apply the definitions in (j) to the definitions in (c) and (g).