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Rockwall County News

Page Number 25 Issue Number 8 USPS 002-495 Friday, February 25, 2011 Single Copy Price 75 Cents Copyright 2011 Rockwall County News

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Demographics, new testing interest Royse City ISD board

Education funding cuts almost certainly on the legislative horizon, Royse City ISD board members were especially interested in their contractedographer's 2010 fourth quarter report at the Feb. 14 regular meeting. Not a crystal ball, the report helps the district plan for future enrollment, whether up or down from current numbers.

Ken Gardiner of Templeton Demographics summarized the big picture this way: the Texas economy is emerging from the recession with a population growth across the state. New housing, which dropped 1 per cent in 2010, will continue to struggle due to tight mortgage regulations and consumer confidence. The Dallas-Fort Worth outlook, however, is strong, with continued job growth.

Local implications

What does this mean for Royse City schools? The Templeton study indicates overall student numbers and new home completions are likely to decline in 2011, but the new housing market in Royse City ISD should rebound in the year. Templeton projects that new home closings should come in at over 200 in 2011.

Current district enrollment stands at 4,529 students, indicating a growth of 4.3 per cent.

Annual enrollment growth may not exceed 200 students for five to seven years, Gardiner said. But Royse City ISD is positioned for an increase of 750 students by 2015 when enrollment should surpass 5,000 students. Templeton demographics is forecasting 8.2 per cent growth with an 1,162 increase in enrollment, for a projected 2020 enrollment of 6,532.

Current projections during the next five years are predicated on existing vacant lots in Royse City. There are currently 6,000 vacant developed lots of which must be built on to reach anticipated enrollment during the next six through 10, Gardiner said.

Templeton predicts that new growth in RCISD will continue to transition from east as Spring Meadow subdivision builds out. Large primary grades are to drive growth in RCISD. First graders outnumber twelfth graders by 100 students, but large class sizes in the primary levels will eventually be attributed to retention at all grades.

New student assessments

Trustees also heard a report from Chandra Caffee about district implementation of the STAAR/EOC test that will replace the TAKS test statewide in the next year.

"It is complicated but it is an understatement," Superintendent Randy Wardlaw told trustees as he introduced Caffee, who, he said, would "try to replicate it for us."

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Lake Pointe Medical Center donated \$500 to the Rockwall Sheriff's Posse for the purchase of new digital radios. Accepting a check from J. Eric Evans, CEO of Lake Pointe Medical Center and Jeff Patterson, COO of LPMC, were Rockwall Sheriff's Posse members Jim Wardlaw (center) and Dr. Ken Alford astride Poco.

Photo by Kathy Williams/Rockwall County News

Rockwall Sheriff's Posse begins capital campaign for new radios

The Rockwall Sheriff's Posse has begun a capital campaign to buy approximately 20 digital radios to replace its current inventory of analog radios that are roughly 15 years old.

The cost of each radio is approximately \$1,500.

The campaign is also part of a national effort to equip police, fire, EMS and other emergency departments with digital radios, allowing the different agencies to talk to each other. The change was encouraged in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York City where it was found the various emergency responders could not communicate with each other using digital radios.

The deadline to make the digital switch is 2012.

According to Dr. Ken Alford, a member of the Rockwall Sheriff's Posse, the Rockwall police and fire departments already have digital radios.

"We (the Posse) can be in sight of the police or fire department and not be able to communicate with them," he said. "We have to call our dispatch to call their dispatch to relay a message."

The Posse is most visible during the Rockwall ISD football season when it assists in the stadium parking lots with security, Alford said, or when it participates in local parades. But the Posse is active all year, visiting elementary

schools and educating the public about the function and history of the Posse in Texas.

Alford also said the Posse is more importantly a first responder group, assisting at accidents and other emergencies or with searches that require riders on horseback.

"We are on call to the sheriff; he calls and we respond," Alford said.

The Rockwall Sheriff's Posse will also heed the call of neighboring agencies needing assistance. The Posse took part in a missing person search last weekend in Mineral Wells.

Residents wishing to donate to the radio campaign can give the full amount for the purchase of one radio, or can donate one half or one quarter of the cost. Any amount donated towards the purchase of the radios is appreciated, Alford said.

Alford said the Rockwall Sheriff's Posse will celebrate its 20th anniversary this June and donors will be invited to the bar-b-que celebration as a thank you for their support. More information about the anniversary celebration will be released by the Posse as the details are decided in the coming weeks.

For more information about the Rockwall Sheriff's Posse or the radio campaign, contact Alford at drkenalford@sbcglobal.net.

Rockwall ISD approves RIF in face of budget deficit

With education revenue cuts from the State of Texas between \$15 million and \$23.8 million, the Rockwall ISD Board of Trustees approved a Reduction in Force (RIF) it hopes can save the district \$1.8 million for the school year.

The RIF would exempt campus administration and support personnel. Affected would be administration and support staff, including central administration departments and programs.

The board also approved a \$1,000 early resignation incentive for full time teachers, librarians and counselors who are under Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code. The first 25 eligible employees who submit their paperwork letter of resignation before 5 p.m. March 1 will receive the incentive.

ISD CFO Mike Singleton told the board in a Feb. 9 special meeting the projected Texas deficit for the biennium could be as high as \$26 billion. Education funding is estimated to be reduced by \$9.3 billion and \$9.8

Rockwall ISD Superintendent Jeff Bailey said, "These conversations are the conversations we particularly enjoy having, when you start talking about actually cutting payroll, staff members. How that impacts classrooms and students is not something that we're in favor of for public schools. But it's put us all in a position where we're going to have to address these issues in the next few months for us to be able to pass a budget in July."

Among the many reasons for the budget shortfall, including declining property values and growth across the state which brings more students and pressure in the classroom, is the coming loss of federal stimulus money the state of Texas received in 2009 and figured into funding formulas.

Rockwall ISD faces the loss of several programs funded for the last two years by those monies. IDEA-B Formula and IDEA-B Preschool are both

(Continued on Page 6)



Members of the Rockwall Women's League met at the home of Cindy Bledsoe on Feb. 11. Preparations for the upcoming All You Need is Love-themed Charity Ball and a presentation by speaker Steve Blow were part of the meeting, as was the welcoming of new league members. Pictured from the left they are Tracy Brunk, Barb Kellam, Kelly Bly, Janet Bowyer, Krista Sitterle, Amy Gillentine, Christy Kirk and Cindy Roses. For information on the ball or membership in the league contact Susan Langdon, president, at 972-722-1344.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

RHHS student attacked by dog on campus

The Heath Police Department is looking for the owner of a dog that attacked two members of the Rockwall-Heath High School track team last Thursday, Feb. 17, at the school. One of the girls received a bite to her leg. The second student was scared but uninjured.

The owner of the Border Collie-type dog left the scene with her pet without checking on the condition of the girls or letting anyone know if the dog had had its shots.

The 14-year old freshman student spent more than five hours in the emergency room for her injury but did not require stitches. X-rays were taken to see if one of the dog's teeth had broken off in her leg. It had not.

Since the condition of the dog is unknown, the student is now taking a series of rabies shots.

Security cameras at the school show a mid-size burgundy SUV driven by an older woman driving off with the dog. Witnesses said the lady was walking at the school with her dog and had been seen exercising there before.

On the day of the attack, witnesses said the dog was not on a leash and ran towards the track from between several cars. The victims attempted to run away as the dog ran towards them.

Anyone with information regarding the incident should contact the Heath Police Department at 972-961-4900.

It's All About Rockwall County



8 50282 00300 4



“Healthy enough for a heart attack.”

When she first had her heart attack at age 38, she had no signs. Becky Drake had little reason to suspect she was having a heart attack. She was active, was not overweight and worked out.

Heart disease is a silent killer. Being active and healthy might not be enough. Individuals can become more prone to develop heart disease based on their family history.

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Celebrating Heritage Christian Academy student Asa Burke's naming as a National Merit Scholarship Program Finalist are (left to right) HCA Secondary Principal Robert Huckabee, Asa Burke, HCA College Counselor Jodi Benavidez and HCA Headmaster Dr. Ron Taylor. Courtesy photo/ Rockwall County News

HCA's Asa Burke named as National Merit Finalist

Asa Burke, a senior at Heritage Christian Academy in Rockwall, has been named a National Merit Scholarship Program Finalist. Burke has attended HCA since his K4 year. In addition to Burke's academic accomplishments, he is also a leader on campus with the High School Praise Team, drama production, fine arts program, varsity football captain and the recipient of many other athletic achievements. Burke has been accepted to several colleges and will major in mechanical engineering. There are approximately 15,000 Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, representing less than one percent of high school graduating seniors.

Rockwall Women's League annual charity ball
march 26, 2011

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Silent/Live Auction and Seated Dinner

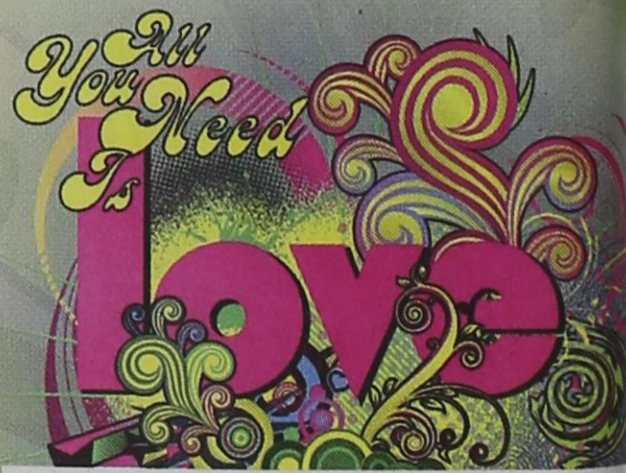
Individual Tickets: \$150

To purchase tickets, contact Jami Frisby:

jami.frisby@swst.com

Or Visit rockwallwomensleague.org

**Jami Frisby
2011 Ball Chair
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Resident Pat Mills with her granddaughter Jennifer Wright (standing) and great-granddaughter Shelby Wright.



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Relay For Life slated April 30

Mary Tucker gratefully remember. Fight back. This is the motto of the American Cancer Society's nationwide event, Relay For Life, which brings together more than 3 million people every year to celebrate the lives of those who have been touched by cancer, to remember loved ones who have died of cancer, and to empower individuals and communities to fight back against a disease that takes so much.

Contributions to Relay have funded:

- Forty researchers who have gone on to win the Nobel Prize
- Development of the bone marrow transplant
- Discovery of the breast cancer gene
- Discovery of a cure for childhood leukemia
- Identification of smoking as a cause of lung cancer
- Development of the use of Tamoxifen to reduce the risk of breast cancer
- Development of monoclonal antibodies to treat breast cancer and lymphoma.

Additionally, the ACS provides a toll-

free number - 1-800-ACS-2345 - for cancer information and services. The number is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Also, millions of visitors go to cancer.org each year to access clinical trial information, the latest updates and news on cancer, listings of local programs and services, and information in several languages. The ACS also sponsors the Great American Smokeout and QUILTline.

For more information about becoming a part of the Rockwall County Relay For Life, visit relayforlife.org/rockwalltx.

Relay For Life began in May 1985 when Dr. Govin Klatt took the first step in a 24-hour marathon around a Tacoma, Washington track to raise \$27,000 for the American Cancer Society. The following year, 340 supporters joined him and Relay For Life was born.

Relay For Life is a 24-hour event that is created to run 24 hours a day. Cancer never sleeps and cancer is battling the disease 24 hours a day.

Relay For Life is an essential part of the Relay. Survivors kick off the event by walking the first lap as a symbol of their courage and in celebration of their survival.

Each night, hundreds of luminaria are dedicated to loved ones line the track. The candles burn throughout the event to remind participants of the importance of their contributions.

Luminaria Ceremony often is the Ceremony of Hope. It is a ceremony for participants to remember those who have been lost to cancer, support those who currently have cancer and those who have fought cancer in the past. Lining the walking path with luminaria bags, the ceremony provides an opportunity for people to work together and find hope.

Luminaria Ceremony originated in 1987 when Seattle was preparing for its first Relay For Life. They had been fighting for the event, but feared the day of the event that lights would not work. One of the organizers suggested lining the track with luminaria bags to enable participants to see the track as they walked or ran. Then, the ceremony has grown in popularity and has become an integral part of Relay For Life events throughout the country.

During Relay, teams of eight to 15 people walk the track in shifts. The goal is to have someone on the track at all times during the overnight event.

Team members seek sponsors who donate money to the ACS. Every dollar raised goes toward fighting cancer. Contributions to Relay help fight cancer in five ways: research, education, advocacy and patient services.

The ACS funds more than \$120 billion in cancer research each year.

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Another Builder Model Sells, Only One Left!!



Many of the custom homes in Hidden Creek feature a beautiful stone and brick exteriors. This builder model at 1205 Northwood had been reduced from \$179,900 to \$155,900.

Caruth Builders is quickly closing out their 2010 model homes in the master planned community of Hidden Creek Estates in Royse City. Another model home sold Tuesday to a family that currently lives in Rockwall. According to the builder's representative, "the family had been looking at the particular home for over a month. They were already infatuated with the home because it was so much more home for the money than they could find in Rockwall. When Caruth Builders announced the 2010 model close out sale with the huge price reductions, it went from infatuation to love... and a contract. It was just too good of a deal to pass up."

One more model home is available in Hidden Creek at 1205 Northwood Lane. The home has approx 1700 square feet of living area and has a 2 car garage. The home was originally priced at \$179,900, but has been reduced to \$155,900 for a quick sale. The house has 3 bedrooms with two bathrooms. The family room is large and has a beautiful gas fireplace with full mantle and custom trim. The dining room is large and open to allow plenty of space for entertaining and family gatherings. The kitchen features custom built oak cabinets, upgraded hardware, smudge proof stainless appliances, gas range, stone-look counters and breakfast bar. The custom cabinets throughout the home were built by the same cabinet maker who is renowned for his custom cabinets in many of the million dollar homes throughout the Dallas area.

The master suite is luxurious with walk in closets, dressing area and separate tiled shower and soaking tub. The split bedroom arrangement also has comfortably sized secondary bedrooms.

The covered patio is perfect for those evening cookouts, the fenced back yard has a full automatic sprinkler system, sod, gutters plus an oversized rear drive. The home will be open 1:00 to 5:00pm Saturday and Sunday or call Christina at 972-636-9300 or email her at Christina@whittledevelopmentinc.com.

Lots on the Water Now Available for Sale in Royse City



Whittle Development has opened up 20 select pond and creek lots for sale in Hidden Creek Estates in Royse City. Louretta Moukhtar, the manager of Hidden Creek, said "These are the premium lots that were originally committed to a couple of the builders in the community. However, the lending environment has made it difficult for builders to get financing for speculative home building lately. Therefore, we are now offering these home sites for sale to individuals who want to build a custom home now or hold the lot to build later. Moukhtar added, "The interesting thing is that the first lots to sell in Phase One a few years ago were the lots on the small lake that is part of the City Park. In fact, we had builders literally in a bidding war trying to get those lots. Homebuilders know that homes that are built on lots that are on water of any kind sell faster. In the home building industry the fact that the home site is unique generally causes the house to sell for more money and increase the profit for the builder. Moukhtar added excitedly, "The great news is that we now have lots available along the small lake in Phase Two. We also have lots available along the tree lined creek that borders the property that are just beautiful."

Rob Whittle, the developer of Hidden Creek Estates, stated "We had to battle thru several years of bureaucratic red tape with FEMA to preserve the majestic trees that tower along the creek banks. It would have certainly been easier to take the recommendation to simply bulldoze the trees, dig a deep channel to allow the water to flow, and called it a day. However, once you walk that wooded area for a few hours and hike up and down the banks of that old creek you soon realize what a marvel of nature that area is. It is one of those unique spectacular properties that make you feel like you are a thousand miles from civilization. It is one of those areas that is especially great for kids to just go play and explore all afternoon and never get bored. As a parent, you can turn off the kid's video games, say 'go outside and play' and your children will actually thank you at the end of the day. And you can say the same thing the next day because there is always something more to explore. So not only do these lots on the lake and the creek create a potentially good financial investment, but create a quality of life for the family that is hard to match any where."

Bank financing is available for those who want to purchase a lot and build later. The down payment is 15 percent which can be as little as \$7,000.00. The average monthly payment on the lot is approximately \$300. The great thing is that the entire down payment and all of the monthly principal payments that a person pays can be used as equity in the new home when they decide to build their home. This is a fabulous way to build equity while waiting to start a new home.

It only takes a few minutes of driving the Hidden Creek neighborhood to see why so many professionals have chosen the community. The lots are wider than in many neighborhoods. That allows the architects to create a beautiful front elevation. In addition to the lots being wider, most of the lots have rear entry garages. That fact allows the architect to enhance the front beauty of the home with unique stone and brick detail instead of half of the front of the house being a big double garage door. There are multiple architectural styles prevalent in the neighborhood. The architectural mix is prevalent in many of Whittle's communities and keeps the community from being dated in a few years.

Hidden Creek Estates is the premier master planned community in Royse City. It features a large community pool and clubhouse. Lighted tennis courts are part of the club complex. A fenced children's playground is a gathering place for moms and small children. The teenagers and families enjoy the sand volleyball court. Soccer fields are located along the tree lined creek. A fishing pond is located near the clubhouse and a wonderful place for Dad to take the kids after work or on a Saturday afternoon.

The Homeowners Board of Directors and the management team work diligently together to create the most family friendly neighborhood imaginable. Special events are offered throughout the year. Weekly gatherings for game night, Bible study, and summer volleyball leagues are the norm. Annual events like the Easter Egg Hunt, July 4th festivities, October Halloween carnival and the Christmas festival are enjoyed by the residents of all ages.

Christina Reeves, the Director of the community said, "Not only do I work here, my husband Greg and our children live here. We previously lived in the Dallas area and I was working here at Hidden Creek. Once I experienced the wonderful sense of community here in Royse City, we made the decision to move to Hidden Creek. We absolutely love it! Our teenage daughter spends lots of time at the pool with her friends. Our son is thriving in the Royse City School District and has made a lot of friends quickly. The teachers in the school system genuinely care about the kids and you can see the positive difference it makes."

Whittle, said, "Hidden Creek is one of the most beautiful, secluded, tree covered communities you will ever see. However, all of those trees and creeks and seclusion make it tough to find the first time you visit. You don't necessarily need a compass and map, but you need to follow the directions closely to find the community. When we first started the community I thought our motto should be, "Hidden Creek - Hard to find, but worth the search." When so many families started buying in the community our sales team changed it to "Hidden Creek - where families thrive." Whittle said, "As it turned out, both slogans are appropriate. Families do absolutely love the community and take advantage of all of the fabulous amenities. And it is still really hard to find nestled behind all of those majestic tree lines and creeks and ponds."

To view the new lots, call Hidden Creek Estates at 972-6936-9300, or Loretta at 469-853-2318, or Christina at 214-621-3506 or e-mail Christina@whittledevelopmentinc.com. To visit Hidden Creek Estates, take I-30 east to the Royse City exit FM 548. Turn left and go to Main Street (St Hwy 66). Turn right and continue east approx 1 mile to FM 1777. Turn left on FM 1777 about 400 yards to the entrance of Hidden Creek Estates. www.myhiddencreek.com.

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Rockwall County Obituaries

Wanda Fitzgerald Cooper

Services for Wanda Fitzgerald Cooper, 71, of Rockwall will be conducted in Odessa. Visitation was conducted from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 20, 2011, at the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel.

She died Feb. 19.
Born Oct. 11, 1939, in Greenville to Walter and Lillie (Carlile) Landers, she worked in the real estate industry.

Survivors include her daughters, Tina Copeland, Sheila Bell and her hus-

band, Keith, of Odessa and Sonja Bolin of Midland; her son, Mark Meadows and his wife, Kim, of Midland; her sister, Barbara Choate and her husband, Buddy, of Campbell; her grandchildren, Jennifer McHaney and her husband, Donovan, Christopher Bell, Kaylee Goldsmith, Amanda Windle and her husband, Max, Brett Meadows and his wife, Trish, and Hunter Meadows; and five great-grandchildren.

The family has suggested memorials may be made to Vista Care Hospice.

Clifford Cornelius

Services for Clifford Cornelius, 80, of Rockwall were conducted at 2 p.m. Feb. 20, 2011, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel with Terry Parrish and John Smith officiating. Burial followed in the Rest Haven Memorial Park.

He died Feb. 17.
Born April 2, 1930, in Rockwall to Ollie Clifford Cornelius and Bertie Jewel (Hobbs) Cornelius, he married Jeanette Fain on July 3, 1948, and was a U.S. Postal Service mail carrier, general manager of Rockwall Pargas and a farmer. He had been a member of the East Trinity Masonic Lodge No. 157 since 1956.

Survivors include his wife, Jeanette Cornelius of Rockwall; his daughters, Kathy Darst of Rockwall, Patty Griffin and her husband, Tim, of Rockwall and Twila Gill and her husband, Jim, of Sulphur Springs; his grandchildren, Susan Miller of Rockwall, Nicole Griffin of Edgewood, Colby Griffin of Dallas, Heather Watson and her husband, Eric, of Fort Worth and Michael Bryan Manning of Rockwall; and his great-granddaughters, Layne Miller and Kylie Manning, both of Rockwall.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two grandchildren; two sisters; and a brother.

Billie Nell Herrington

Services for Billie Nell Herrington, 80, of Heath were conducted at 2 p.m. Feb. 23, 2011, in the First Baptist Church, 224 Smirl, in Heath with Dr. Paul Jacobs officiating. Burial followed in the Heath Cemetery under the direction of the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel.

She died Feb. 20.
Born Jan. 20, 1931, in Cade, Okla., to William Penn Coker and Mary Nell (Ivey) Coker, she was raised by F.L. "Tom" Pendergrass. She owned a ceramics shop, enjoyed making all types of arts and crafts and working puzzles. She was an accomplished seamstress.

Survivors include her daughter, Angela Massey and her husband, Wayne, of Rockwall; her grandsons, Bryan Massey and his wife, Greta, of Decatur, Kevin Massey and his wife, Amy, of Caddo Mills and Greg Massey and his wife, Regina, of Caddo Mills; her great-grandchildren, Kaitlin, Heather, Emily, Colby and Jessalyn; her sisters, Jence Sanders and her husband, Moe, of Canton, Sharon Lambert and her husband, Gene, of Durant, Okla., and Judy Pendergrass of Boswell, Okla.; her brothers, Dudley Pendergrass and his wife, Beverly, of Canton and Gary Pendergrass and his wife, JoDean, of Sulphur Springs; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Edward Herrington; her parents, Mary Nell Pendergrass and F.L. "Tom" Pendergrass.

Mack Huffaker

Services for Mack Huffaker were conducted at 11 a.m. Feb. 19, 2011, in the First United Methodist Church in Rockwall with Dr. Joe Pool officiating. Burial followed in the Rest Haven Memorial Park.

He died Feb. 16 in Rockwall following a brief illness.

Born Nov. 26, 1930, in Wichita Falls, he graduated from Wichita Falls High School and attained the rank of Eagle Scout. In 1952 he received his degree from Midwestern State University. Married for 56 years, he had been an active part of the community for more than 30 years. He worked with 4-H youth, taught at Rockwall High and was an active member of the Rotary Club, member of the First United Methodist Church in Rockwall, he helped with the church office and visited church members when they were hospitalized.

Survivors include his wife, Monti Huffaker; his sister, Anna Mae Wil and her husband, Morris; his daughters, Michele Musser and her husband, James, and Melissa Curran and her husband, Mark; his grandchildren, Cameron Thornton and her husband, Bryan, Katie Cameron Kaufman, her husband, Evan, Emily Cameron Wood and her husband, Ryan, Cameron and his wife, Marriah, Angela Musser, Austin Musser, Jared, son, Lacey Simpson, Collin Simpson, Taylor Mayo and her husband, and Kali Curran; and his great-grandchildren, Mackelvey Thornton, Thornton, Cash Thornton and Carter Wood.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Mack Sr. and Opal Dolly faker, and his brother, Melvin Huffaker.

The family has suggested memorial contributions may be made to building fund at the First United Methodist Church.

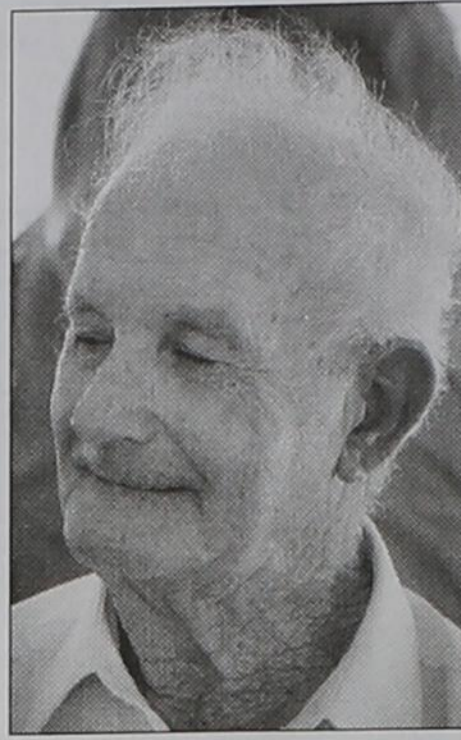
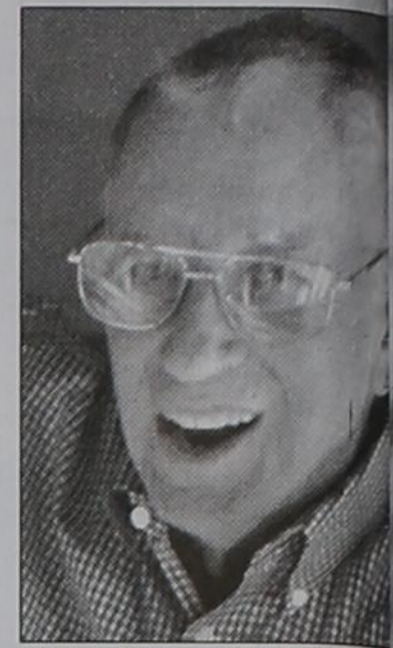
Sandra Jean (Lancaster) McKenzie

Services for Sandra Jean (Lancaster) McKenzie, 72, of Rockwall will be conducted at 10 a.m. Feb. 22, 2011, in the First Baptist Church, M.L. Jones Chapel, 610 S. Goliad, in Rockwall with Jesse Crouch officiating. Burial will be at 3 p.m. in the Laurel Land Cemetery, 7100 Crowley Road, Fort Worth, under the direction of the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel.

She died at her home Feb. 20.

Born July 25, 1938, in Bowie to Wallace "Bud" Littleton Lancaster and Una Rea (Cleveland) Lancaster, she was a homemaker known for her servant's heart and hospitality. A member of the First Baptist Church of Fort Worth, she was involved in many activities that benefited others and was willing to serve family and church. She taught preschool and Sunday school and served on the PTA board. She enjoyed playing, singing, reading and shopping with her grandchildren. She and her husband were long Fort Worth residents prior to moving to Rockwall six years ago to be near their grandchildren.

Survivors include her husband of 52 years, James Rudolph "Randy" M



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Obituaries

(Continued from Page 4)

of Rockwall; her children, W.R. McKenzie, J.D., and his wife, Dr. Kathryn Knight and her husband, David, and Debbie Abbott husband, Dr. Dennis Abbott; her grandchildren, Emily, Meghan and McKenzie, Sarah, Hannah, Lydia, Julia and Martha Knight and James Abbott; her brother, Cleve Lancaster and his wife, Kitty; and her son-in-law, Cecile McKenzie.

She was preceded in death by her parents. Memorial services for James Franklin Wood, 67, of Rockwall were held Feb. 14 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Rest Haven Funeral Home, 1000 Rockwall Road, Rockwall.

James Franklin (Jim) Wood



Mr. Wood, 67, of Rockwall was born June 22, 1943, in Detroit, Mich. He had been a resident of Rockwall since 1960, having graduated from East Texas State University (now Texas A&M Commerce).

He completed several advanced banking courses after college and began his banking career in 1971. His banking career spanned more than 40 years, with more than 20 years as president and CEO of two North Texas area banks. He recently was employed by American National Bank in business development. An active community and civic leader wherever he lived, he served on the board of directors for the Rockwall Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Chamber's Committee, was the chamber's chairman of the board in 2004 and was elected as Director of the Year in 2004; board of directors of the Texas State Extension Service; board member for the Rockwall Youth Fair; served as the organization's treasurer, vice president and president; member of the Rockwall Independent School District Foundation; member for Rockwall Helping Hands; member of the Rockwall Noon Club where he had served as treasurer; and committee member for the Rockwall Art in Public Places. He was elected the Soroptimist Man of the Year in 2003, served as the Rockwall representatives on the board of the Texas Symphony Series in Greenville and was a graduate of Leadership Rockwall.

Survivors include his wife of 22 years, Neva Wood of Rockwall; his mother, Neva Wood of Milan, Tenn.; his brothers, Robert Dale Wood and his wife, Neva, of Montgomery, Ala., and David Lee Wood and his wife, Tammy, of Rockwall, Tenn.; and five nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Franklin Wood, and a sister, Shirley Wood. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718 or cancer.org.

On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

The church of God is not Israel...

A large number of Christians have long embraced the belief that the church is inherently a people of God during the age of the grace of God. This is the reason that the United States foreign policy is partly driven by the desire to protect the nation state of Israel.

Is God's will for the people who are truly of Israel? The answer is found in Romans 10:1, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God is that they might be saved." This is related to the same salvation available to anyone who believes that God raised Jesus from the dead and was filled with holy spirit (Romans 10:9-10), and who spiritually call on the name of the Lord unto salvation (Acts 2:21, Romans 10:9-10, 13).

He continues, "For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and not about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for every one that believes." (Romans 10:2-4).

He was an Israelite with a great zeal to serve God. Out of ignorance, he persecuted and imprisoned many who called upon the name of the Lord (Acts 8). But God grabbed his attention, and he turned to serving in the name of Jesus Christ.

He started out teaching only the Israelites. But they rejected the truth, and he turned to the Gentiles. Peter had already learned that the promise was made to the Gentiles (see Acts chapter 10). The word Gentile referred to people other than the Israelites.

The Israelites who believed became part of the body of Christ. They were the same assembly of believers which included believing Gentiles. This assembly was known as the church of God. 1 Corinthians 12:13 shines the light, "For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free, and all have been made to partake of one spirit. For the body is not one member, but many."

It was a shock this must have been to the whole social structure at that time.

For the Jews were not allowed to enter into Gentiles' homes. Yet Peter turned the church of God, which was a fellowship between His people who were both Jew and Gentile. Paul played a big role in serving the church by bringing the two groups together in fellowship.

Paul's eyes there are three categories of people in the world. They are Jews, Gentiles and the church of God. Check out 1 Corinthians 10:32, "Give no offense, neither to the Jews nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God." People who become members of the church of God are no longer identified as Jew or Gentile, but as members of the church of God.

Plans set for weekend work on Habitat house

Work at the Rockwall Area Habitat for Humanity house at 803 Peter's Colony will continue Saturday if weather cooperates, according to an e-mail from Habitat representatives.

This week's work will include setting the installation of ceiling lights, electrical faceplates and outlets, as well as finishing the hardwood deck board installation. Prep work and leveling in preparation for laying the sod may be needed, as well as the painting of exterior doors and casings. A few touch-up tasks also remain.

Working on the next house, located next door at 801 Peter's Colony, will occur in a week or two. There is a possibility for this week's work according to forecasts, so outdoor work could be impacted. Visit www.habitat.org for the minute update on work

Letter to the Editor

On Feb. 17 my niece, a high school student at Rockwall-Heath High School and a member of the cross-country team, was running through the school parking lot when a border collie-type dog jumped out of a car and attacked and bit her.

The owner of the dog, a woman, called the dog back, but instead of offering help to the child her animal had injured, bundled the dog into her car and drove off.

Because of this callous, selfish excuse for a human, my niece has had to endure a painful series of rabies treatments in addition to the injuries from the bite. This is totally inexcusable behavior. This coward needs to be exposed for the small, selfish person she is and the dog should be removed from her possession as she isn't capable of controlling her animal or taking responsibility for the damage and injuries it causes.

Perhaps if this person sees reports in the paper, she will have the decency to come forward, do the right thing and take responsibility for her animal and her subsequent actions. At least apologize.

Thomas Keenan, Erie, Pa.

Citizen's Fire Academy enrollment under way

The next Rockwall Citizen's Fire Academy will run from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursdays March 24 through April 21, as well as a daylong session on April 23.

Registration for the academy is under way. The free educational program provides an inside look at firefighter training involving structural firefighting and fire prevention, as well as hands-on experience in emergency operations. Participants also will have the opportunity to do a ride-along with firefighters on emergency calls.

Other highlights will include classes on the rescue tools used by firefighters, including hydraulic cutters, spreaders and rams, air bags and air chisels. Participants also will be dressed in bunker gear and allowed to put their skills to the test in a live-burn exercise.

All activities will be overseen by Rockwall firefighters. Classes will meet at Fire Station No. 2, 920 Rockwall Parkway. Participants must be at least 18 years of age.

For more information, contact Billy Termin at 972-772-7770 or e-mail btermin@rockwall.com.

Business expansion could add new jobs

SPR Packaging, an industrial business located at Justin Road and Industrial Drive on almost 11 acres of land, has proposed an expansion project that would add 119,745 square feet to the existing building, according to a City of Rockwall news release.

Plans show 96 people will be employed in the expanded facility.

"SPR Packaging is a national leader in flexible packaging solutions," said Sheri Franza of the Rockwall Economic Development Corporation. "Rockwall is honored to be the home to such a quality organization where service and sustainability are paramount."

The original 56,000-square-foot SPR building was constructed in 2006. The business opened in 2007.

Speed limit changes on SH 205 pending

Pending final approval on Feb. 21 by Rockwall City Council members, the speed limit on SH 205 from the DGNO railroad crossing to just north of Boydston Street will be 40 mph, according to a city news release.

The speed limit will remain 35 mph from Boydston Street to Rusk Street (SH 66).

The change was made after a speed study was completed by the Texas Department of Transportation, which establishes speed limits on their roads that correspond to the speeds the "normal and prudent driver" will drive. Their recommendations must be adopted by the city by ordinance.

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Rockwall County News Briefs

RFA tutor training set Feb. 26

A Reading for Adults tutor training session is set for Feb. 26. The program's second semester is under way, with an enrollment of more than 300 adults in ESL, GED, Citizenship Preparation and Adult Literacy Classes. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Gloria Bishop, 972-204-7705.

RHS to host UIL tournament

Rockwall High will host its first Tournament of Service UIL Academic Tournament on Feb. 26. All UIL academic events will be offered, as well as speech and LD debate. Registration is open at joyoftournaments.com.

Celebration tickets still available

Tickets to the Rockwall ISD Education Foundation's Feb. 26 annual Celebration event, "Beyond the Tropical Horizon," are still available at a

Royse City ISD ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Caffee, high school English teacher and AP director, told the board that the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) will focus on readiness for success in subsequent grades or courses and ultimately, for college and career.

In workshops, she said, "We keep hearing 'more rigor'" although the Texas Education Agency hasn't yet finalized their performance standards and will not do so until February 2012. First testing will commence in May 2012, but results will not be available until June 2012.

New rating standards for districts and campuses change from TAKS Exemplary, Recognized, Academically Acceptable, and Academically Unacceptable to simply "Acceptable" and "Unacceptable"

At grades 3 through 8, students will test in math and reading; writing in grades 4 and 7; science in grade 5 and grade 8; and social studies in grade 8.

Testing requirements for graduation will significantly increase, Caffee said. Instead of four hurdles under TAKS (exit tests in math, English language arts, science and social studies), STAAR requires 12 hurdles: Algebra I and II, geometry, biology, chemistry, physics, English I, II, and III, world geography, world history, and U.S. history.

The STAAR and end-of-course (EOC) scores will count for 15 per cent of a student's final grade in the course, and performance levels on certain assessments are linked to a student's graduation plan.

More testing changes

Other changes: English testers will write two essays instead of the one TAKS required. In reading, greater emphasis will be given to critical analysis rather than literal understanding. The tests in grades 3 through 8 will be paper only. STAAR EOC assessments will be offered in both online and paper formats.

TEA is considering limiting the time a student spends taking the STAAR test to better prepare students for timed tests such as SAT, ACT, and AP.

The test designs a new accountability system rather than modifying the current system. STAAR implementation will increase testing days from 25 to 45 days per school year, creating greater security challenges because of the high stakes of EOC assessments and the provision in statute to allow a student to retest an EOC for any reason.

In addition, school districts are required to provide remediation to any student who fails a STAAR assessment.

TEA information says, "Students who pass a course but fail the assessment for that course may require additional instruction in the course even after they are no longer enrolled. Delivering remediation/instruction to students in these instances will present districts with both scheduling and staffing challenges."

Frustrating mandate

Following Caffee's summary, Superintendent Jackson expressed frustration over the TEA changes, which he called "unfunded mandates". Current estimates for district STAAR implementation place costs at \$100,000 for staff training, substitutes to replace educators out of class for training and testing, new supplies and new teaching materials.

"Representative Shapiro calls this 'accountability system' that's been in the works for five years," Hancock said. "They need to back off this and give us a year to get our feet on the ground with this new financial situation. It's going to be very difficult to do this well without the money to prepare and train teachers."

"This has been a topic at every meeting with the commissioner of education. It is going to be a challenge, to say the least. But as dark as it seems, as difficult as it sounds, we will do it. We always do," he said.

"Look at public education. All through the years, all the testing changes they have put us through, every single time most of us have wanted to throw up our hands and say, 'This is too much'. But every time, we step up to the plate. We will get through it, and we will do it because our people take care of business and do what we have to do," Hancock said.

The board heard and saw expressions of appreciation from elementary art and Gifted and Talented students from Scott Elementary. They were accompanied by GT sponsor, Lisa Pogue.

Board contributions noted

GT students from Fort Elementary School along with their sponsor, Mrs. Kelly Margot, showed posters illustrating their international penpal project with students from Israel, Armenia, England, Scotland, Poland and Russia.

The board also watched a short video prepared by RCTV journalism class called a "Salute to the School Board".

In open forum session, Eric Anderson of 6420 Lark Meadow spoke against a proposed annexation of his subdivision into the Royse City school district. No action was taken on the issue during the board meeting.

In action resulting from executive session, the board approved the hiring of Janie Pope as district curriculum director as recommended by administration. The board also acknowledged the resignation of Rebecca Holzbauer as accepted by the superintendent.

Cafeteria report

Food Services director Brenda Sherrill reported a revenue increase of \$58,165.40. Some staff has been reduced by attrition, she said, and each kitchen is above 100 meals per man hour.

Sherrill reported fewer free and reduced lunch applications this year compared to past years, "probably due to having more students on the direct certification list the Texas Department of Agriculture sends the ISD each month," she said.

The high school cafeteria has implemented line barriers to discourage student movement from line to line and nonpayment for food items, Sherrill said. The result has been reduced theft and faster service times. The department is waiting for clarification of new USDA guidelines.

The board learned that two of the district's bad weather days will be made up. RCISD has submitted a waiver with the state for the other two days.

District election

Superintendent Hancock announced that the first day to file for a place on the district ballot was February 14. March 14 is the deadline for filing. The general election will be held May 14. Places 1 and 2 are up for election. Terms have expired for Jerry Richardson and Bobby Summers.

Early voting is May 2 through 10. March 22 is the last day for a candidate to withdraw from the election. If a candidate withdraws or is declared ineligible by this date, his or her name will be omitted from the ballot.

Joint election agreements were adopted with the City of Royse City and the city of Fate. Polling locations will be City Hall, 305 North Arch Street in Royse City and the Community Center, 104 South W. E. Crawford Avenue in Fate. An additional polling location will be open at the Rockwall County Elections Office, 107 East Kaufman Street in Rockwall.

Glenda Denton was named judge and early voting clerk for Royse City Independent School District. She will also facilitate the May 14, 2011 RCISD general election. March 7 through 11 is Public School Week.

cost of \$70 apiece. Cost includes dinner, entertainment and live art auction. The event, designed to honor teachers who have "reached beyond" to educate students, will begin at 6 p.m. at SouthFork Ranch. Tickets must be purchased in advance by calling the EF office at 972-771-0605, ext. 7032.

Flu shots offered until March

The Health Center of Helping Hands has flu vaccine that will be available until March. Prices range from \$14 to \$20. Go by the Health Center, 102 S. First St., or call 972-772-8194 for an appointment.

Shisler to address women's seminar

Dr. Stephanie Shisler, OB/GYN will lead an interactive seminar titled "Hormone Replacement Therapy - Making the Right Choice for You" beginning at 6 p.m. March 1 at the Lake Pointe Imaging Center in Forney, 763 E. State Hwy. 80, Suite 120. Those planning to participate in this free seminar should RSVP to Barbara Quast at 469-698-7824.

Library to be closed March 2

The Rockwall County Library will be closed on March 2 in observance of Texas Independence Day and will reopen at 10 a.m. on March 3.

Republican Lunch Bunch to meet

The Rockwall County Republican Lunch Bunch will meet at 11:30 a.m. March 2 at Luigi's Italian Café in Rockwall. Cost will be \$10, which includes lunch, beverage, tax and tip; pay at the door. No reservations required for this informal social gathering open to all area Republicans. For more details call Dalton Kennimer, 972-636-4034.

RCC meeting scheduled

The Rockwall Computer Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. March 2 at The Center, Rockwall City Place, 108 E. Washington St. Kaaren Mahoney, senior tax adviser with H&R Block, will present the program on federal tax law changes, payroll tax holiday, changed for self-employed, estate taxation, AMT Patch extended and expiring provisions, etc. Anyone interested is invited to attend. For details call Bob Alston, 214-770-1140.

Preschool Association meeting slated

The Rockwall Preschool Association will meet at 9 a.m. March 4 at the Free Methodist Church across from Nebbie Williams Elementary, 315 Dalton Rd., Rockwall. The program will be "Get Your Home and Life Fit." New members are welcome any time. For more information on the group, visit rockwallpreschoolassociation.com.

Museum plans March 4 fundraiser

The Zaner Robison Historical Museum in Royse City will host its annual Tall Tales or True fundraiser at 7 p.m. March 4. Cost for beans, cornbread, desserts and more will be \$10 per person. For more details, call 972-635-7438.

A&M Singing Cadets to perform

The Texas A&M University Singing Cadets will perform at the RHS Performing Arts Center on the Utley campus, 1201 T.L. Townsend Drive in Rockwall, at 7:30 p.m. March 4. Tickets cost \$10. For more details contact vday95@gmail.com or call 972-463-8921.

Bands plan dinner concert, auction

The Rockwall-Heath High, Utley Middle School and Cain Middle School bands will conduct a mega-concert from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. March 5 at the Rockwall-Heath Performing Arts Center. The event will be sidelined by a dinner and silent auction fundraiser. Dinner tickets cost \$10 apiece and must be purchased in advance by e-mailing hoar@netportusa.com.

Sock Hop set March 5

The Rockwall Parks & Rec Department will host a Sock Hop beginning at 7 p.m. March 5 at The Center. The event will include a crazy socks contest and plenty of rock 'n' roll music. Cost will be \$10 per local resident, \$15 for non-resident. For more details call 972-771-7740.

March 11 is next Brown Bag Lecture

The next Rockwall County Historical Foundation's Brown Bag Lecture will be at noon on March 11 in the Historic Courthouse. "Artistic Renderings: Highlights from Rockwall's Creative Side" will be the topic. The program is free and open to the public.

March 12 Quilt Show planned

The Rockwall Parks & Rec Department will host a Quilt Show from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 12 at The Center. Handmade quilts will be displayed. Admission will be free. For information call 972-771-7740.

NAMI support groups to meet

Two free NAMI support groups will meet from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. March 12 at the First United Methodist Church, 1200 E. Yellow Jacket Lane. One group is for individuals with a mental illness (Room 121) and one is for members of their families (Room 123), B Building.

Pet shot, microchip clinic slated

Rockwall Animal Services will host a low-cost shot and microchip clinic from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. March 12 at the Rockwall Animal Adoption Center, 1825 Airport Rd. All dogs must be brought in on leashes; all cats must be in carriers. Pet owners from outside the Rockwall city limits are welcome to participate. For more details call 972-771-7750.

Citizen survey returns needed by March 15

A 2011 Citizen Survey conducted by Raymond Turco & Associates recently was mailed to more than 15,000 City of Rockwall households. These surveys should be filled out and returned by March 15. The survey is designed to give city officials an idea of what improvements need to be made in such areas as city services and police and fire protection while providing insight into what items are most important to residents. Anyone who did not receive a survey should contact Joey Boyd, 972-772-6408, or e-mail jboyd@rockwall.com.

American Legion birthday event planned

Rockwall American Legion Post 117 will host its annual birthday banquet at 12:30 p.m. March 20 at the Rockwall Senior Citizens Center. Congressman Ralph Hall will serve as speaker. The post also will recognize this year's candidates for Girl's and Boy's State. Call Marvin Fleetwood at 972-771-1439 for more information.

RARTA plans March 21 gathering

The Rockwall Area Retired Teachers Association will observe its next meeting at 1:15 p.m. March 21 in the RISD Administration Complex. All retired school employees and their guests are welcome to attend. County Judge Jerry Hogan will speak on "A Rockwall County Perspective." Royse City to host circus

Rockwall ISD ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Special Education programs which will lose more than a combined \$2.4 million; Title I and Title II, which are compensatory monies, will lose more than a combined \$380,000; and the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, which includes general funds and maintenance and operations funds, will take away \$7.8 million from the district.

"The amount the state is short is to replace this (the stimulus funds)," Singleton said. "It's another piece that is creating the state problem."

In addition to the state funding reductions, the proposed legislative budget would eliminate several grants RISD currently receives, including a \$396,683 Technology Allotment; a \$55,005 Student Success Initiative; \$49,500 for Teacher Mentoring; and \$22,000 for the Texas Advanced Placement Initiative.

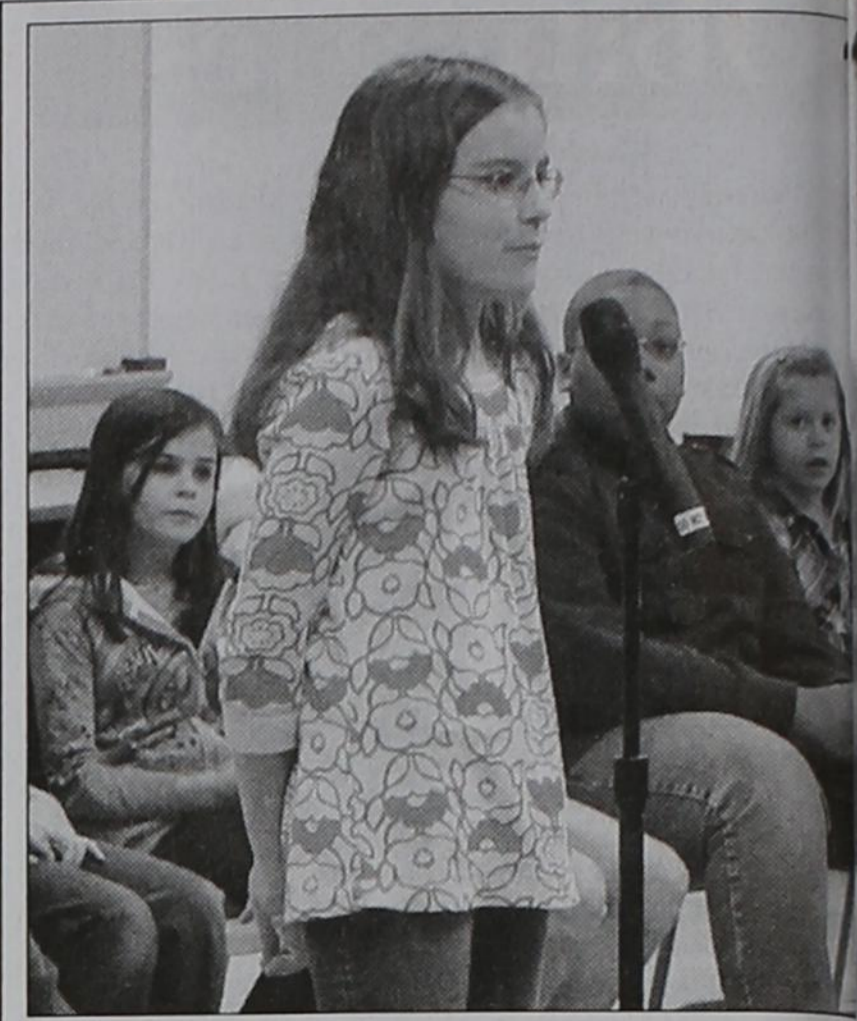
The school district has the option of a tax rate election that would increase the tax rate from the current \$1.04 to \$1.17. The extra 13 pennies could generate revenue of \$6.7 million in additional tax revenue for Rockwall ISD. However, \$600,000 would have to be recaptured and sent to the state.

Another option for the district is to dip into its \$31 million fund balance to balance this year's budget. Going into this school year, the district took measures to trim its deficit from \$7.8 million to \$497,000.

The State of Texas has already said it would not dip into its own \$9 billion rainy day fund to help school districts. It also stated it will not increase funds for district growth. Rockwall ISD currently has just over 14,000 students.

"This is important to us because if we don't get money for an increase in kids, it means we have less money per child throughout the district," Singleton said.

He also said that could change since the House and Senate are being encouraged to reconsider putting the growth factor back into their budgets.



Abigail White, a sixth grade student at Nebbie Williams Elementary, earned the top position at the Rockwall County Spelling Bee on Feb. 8. With the win, White is eligible to compete in the regional spelling competition set for March 26 at the University of Texas at Dallas campus.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

White grabs win at county spelling bee

Nebbie Williams Elementary sixth grade student Abigail White was winner of the Rockwall County Spelling Bee on Feb. 8 and will advance to the regional spelling bee.

Wesley Williams from Maurine Cain Middle School earned the alternate spot in the competition.

The event turned into a great battle of the minds as the two battled 22 rounds of words before a champion finally was determined.

"I am so proud of Abigail for her tremendous accomplishments in ongoing competition," said Superintendent Jeff Bailey. "Her hard work and dedication has really paid off and I wish her the best of luck in the regional competition. This is a testament to her passion for education and a moment for her and her family."

The contest was open to all students in fourth through eighth grade from Rockwall County. Campus winners from Rockwall ISD elementary schools and from HEAR (Home Education Associational Resource Inc) participated in the event.

Additional Rockwall county contestants included Collin Vath from Amanda Rochell Elementary, Kaitlin Rothbaur from Amy Parks Elementary, Katherine Berger from Celia Hays Elementary, Savannah Chatham from Dorris A. Jones Elementary, Brooke Renfro from Dorothy Smith Elementary, Daniel Smith from Doris Cullins-Lakepointe Elementary, Kaleigh Randolph from Grace Hartman Elementary, Hamdia Abd Herman from Utley Middle School, Heidi Blackwell from J.W. Middle School, Eric Jurgensmeyer from Ouida Springer Elementary, Colegrove of the Rockwall HEAR, Michael Jarrett from Sharon St. Elementary and Kelsey Vinci from Virginia Reinhardt Elementary.

The 53rd Annual Dallas Morning News Regional Spelling Bee is set for March 26 at the University of Texas-Dallas campus. The event will be broadcast on WFAA-TV and a broadcast time yet to be determined.

The regional champion will advance to the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

Grand opening set for new fitness trail

The City of Royse City will host a grand opening ceremony and walk for the municipality's newly added fitness trail March 11 at the Hawk Sports Complex at Erby Campbell, between Hwy. 66 and I-30.

The event will begin at 2 p.m.

The six-foot-wide trail connects Walker Hawk and Old Mill Parks and a pedestrian bridge. It will feature benches, trash receptacles and a 16' gazebo.

Construction of the trail was made possible through a recreational grant from Texas Parks & Wildlife. The grant is a 20 percent matching grant awarded to the city in August 2008, with a completion deadline of August 2011. The matching portion is being funded with a grant from the City Economic Development Corporation.

Headland Park & Recreation was contractor for the project. For more information call 972-636-2184 or e-mail khollifield@royse.com.

Aqua Texas' rate hike proposal being eyed by Rockwall Council

The water supplier for Lake Rockwall Estates, Aqua Texas, has submitted documents to the City of Rockwall and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality requesting a water rate increase, according to a 21 city news release.

Since Lake Rockwall Estates was annexed in 2009, the city has attempted to secure the right to serve residents of the subdivision because they pay three times more for water than other city residents.

Before annexation, Aqua Texas had to submit a rate increase request to TCEQ. Because of annexation, Aqua Texas must initially submit a rate increase to the city, which means the Rockwall City Council's decision on the rate request must be appealed to TCEQ.

Since receiving the rate increase request, city staff members have been examining the volumes of documents provided by Aqua Texas. At its Feb. 15 meeting, the council issued a "Show Cause" order requiring Aqua Texas to prove why the rate increase should not be delayed or denied due to lack of specific Lake Rockwall Estates information that wasn't provided.

According to the news release, city officials expect this process will take "a significant amount of time to sort out and get the proper information from Aqua Texas."

In previous rate increase efforts by Aqua Texas when the council did not have a role, the proposed rates were effective while TCEQ considered the rate proposal and made its final decision. This case is different because the council has the authority to make the first decision on the rates and, if effective date, then Aqua Texas could appeal to the TCEQ if it is not satisfied with the council's decision.

Signs recognize name change

New signs on Interstate 30 through the City of Rockwall now recognize the renaming of FM 549 - between I-30 and State Highway 276 - to Corporate Crossing, according to a city news release.

New eastbound and westbound signs will read "Corporate Crossing mile" along with "Corporate Crossing" exit signs for both directions. New street signs were installed on the section of FM 549 north of I-30 and was renamed FM 3549.

The Rockwall City Council has also approved naming FM 3549 Stock Road.

CISD announces plans for Texas Public School Week

Royse City Police Blotter Feb. 11-17

• Friday, 11 February: Driving while intoxicated/Possession of marijuana arrest, 100 block E. I-30; Reckless driver, E. I-30 at the 68 mile marker; Suspicious vehicle, 500 block Cookston Lane

• Saturday, 12 February: Alarm, 1400 block Eagle Point; Welfare check, 1400 block FM 1777

• Sunday, 13 February: City of Fate warrant arrest, 2500 block S. FM 35; Criminal mischief, 100 block W. I-30 NSR; Evading/Tampering with Government record/Failure to identify arrest, Intersection of FM 2642 and I-30 SSR; Medical assistance, 400 block

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E. Main Street

• Monday, 14 February: Medical assistance/Possession of a controlled substance, 900 block Stedham Street; Public intoxication/Reckless damage, 1800 block Fairway Lane; Medical assistance, 300 block Erby Campbell Boulevard

• Wednesday, 16 February: Suspicious activity, 100 block E. Main Street; Accident, 700 block FM 2642; Minor in possession of tobacco, 700 block FM 2642; Medical assistance, 300 block E. I-30

• Thursday, 17 February: Possession of Marijuana/Driving while license invalid arrest, 900 block E. I-30

• Tuesday, 15 February: Alarm, 1500 block W. I-30 SSR; Verbal disturbance, 300 block N. Erby Campbell Boulevard

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Bring this ad in for a FREE DESSERT!

Royse City Independent School District has numerous events planned to mark Texas Public School Week, March 7-11, in the district.

Following is an overview of the events outlined in a recent news release from the school district:

City Middle School – National Junior Honor Society Induction; March 8, parents invited to have lunch with their children and/or visit classrooms.

Erby Intermediate – March 7, parents may join their children; March 8, sixth grade may join their children for March 9, Pastries with Parents, 7:30 a.m. in the cafeteria; Open House and Family Night; March 11, Book Fair.

Parents may bring their children to the school or purchase lunch in the cafeteria.

Erby Intermediate – Parents are invited to come any time during the week for breakfast or lunch with their children.

Erby Elementary – March 8, Open House 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Erby Elementary – March 8, Open House and 4th Grade Living Museum, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.;

March 11, Parent Breakfast, 7:15 a.m. to 8 a.m.

• Vernon Elementary – March 7, first grade families are invited to have lunch with their children; March 8, Fort Worth Opera to perform “Three Billy Goats Gruff” at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., second grade families are invited to have lunch with their children; March 9, Bluebonnet Breakfast in the library, 7:30 a.m. with participating third and fourth grade students; March 10, pre-K and kindergarten families are invited to have lunch with their children; March 11, Pastries for Parents will run from 7:30 a.m. to 8 a.m., with coffee and juice served; also, MMV Western Day and Kindergarten Stick Horse Rodeo are planned, as well as the Jump Rope for Heart Celebration in the gym.

Third and fourth grade families are invited to have lunch with their children. (Parents may bring lunch from outside the school or purchase food in the cafeteria.)

• Fort Elementary – March 7, Texas Pride Day (wear red, white and blue); March 10, Open House from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.; and March 11, Grandparents Day (grandparents are invited to come and eat lunch with their grandchildren).

Last Puzzle Solution

S-996

Royse City to Host Circus

at RedLine Raceway, Caddo Mills

It has been announced that the Royse City Chamber of Commerce, has signed a contract with the Kelly Miller Circus for the exhibition of an all new 2011 show. The circus will roll into town on Thursday March 24, 2011. Everyone is invited to come out and watch the animals being unloaded and fed, and the elephants raising the big top. Activities will begin at 7:30 a.m., and the tent will be raised at 9:00 a.m. Guides will be furnished for school groups and anyone attending.

The traditional “old style” circus will present two performances at 4:30 & 7:30 p.m. Support the Royse City Chamber of Commerce – buy your tickets in advance and save.

The 2011 season promises to be more exciting than ever with many new acts and entertainers to amaze and amuse you. Come out and enjoy a day of fun filled excitement at the circus.

E-mail info@roysecitychamber.com or call 972-636-6000

Opinions

Does the constitution authorize city government to violate individual rights?

Wesley W. Burnett

In our issue (2/18/11) we published a letter from Rockwall City Council member Matt Scott, outlining his belief that the city has the constitutional authority to restrict individual liberty through its ordinance creating power. In receiving that letter in an email, Mr. Scott and I carried on an email exchange which we have posted on our web site (www.rockwalltexasonline.com) and our Facebook page. Mr. Scott suggested we debate the constitutional issues.

In defense of the so-called “Anti-Panhandling” ordinance, Mr. Scott declares that the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gives the state specified authority and police power, and therefore, delegated to local officials.

Mr. Scott challenged Mr. Scott’s declaration by asking a few questions, including whether he believed that the 10th Amendment authorizes the state to restrict individual inherent rights given to us by God (free will), as long as those rights are violated by an individual exercising his or her free will. Mr. Scott was either unable or unwilling to answer that question.

The 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Mr. Scott may be a simple-minded person, but when I read those few words

I see very clearly that the state can do a lot of stuff, but it can not violate the rights defined in the American Declaration of Independence and guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. One of those critical rights is liberty. No matter how powerful the state may be, it is not relieved of its obligation to defend and protect the U.S. Constitution. And it certainly has no authority to delegate violations any of our inherent rights ... Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

Furthermore, Texas has a constitution also, and in the forming of a republic form of government, state government is limited by the authority of the Texas Constitution. Mr. Scott, by his admission, finds no authority in the state constitution for the enactment of the ordinance he introduced, voted for and supports.

The city council member admitted that the purpose of the ordinance is to “stop vagrants” from coming to Rockwall. That is an astonishing admission by an elected government official, and is a flagrant violation of his oath of office.

Additionally, Mr. Scott refused to answer these fairly simple questions:

I originally asked a fairly simple but important question: What part of the constitution (Texas or U.S.) authorizes the city to restrict the right of liberty of an individual, who, in the act of exercising that right, does not violate the rights of anyone else?

How does the “vagrant” on a public right of way violate the rights of any other person?

Is the police power of the state above the “law of the land?”

Will the City of Rockwall adhere to the 4th Amendment requirement for due process against those accused of violating the ordinance.

Do you agree that government’s sole purpose is to secure the rights of individuals (as stated in the Declaration of Independence)?

It is obvious, by his admission of the purpose of the ordinance, and his silence on the critical constitutional questions, that Mr. Scott rejects the principles described in the American Declaration of Independence, as well as the U.S. constitutional provision that government is limited to the authority specified in the constitution.

Apparently he believes state and local governments may operate with impunity from the Constitution under the concept of Plenary Power (not bound by specific, limited authority).

I respectfully submit that Mr. Scott’s position is in direct conflict with his oath of office and that the honorable course of action for him is to initiate action to vacate the “anti-vagrant” ordinance for lack of constitutional authority and submit his resignation as a city council member due to his refusal to abide by the oath he gave.

Government employee unions: bad idea

Andrew Leonie

My uncle, J.L. “Dusty” Rhodes, was a Judge in Alpine, Texas. But before he retired there, he lived and worked in Washington D.C. as a Vice-President of the AFL-CIO when the infamous George Meany was President. During the depression era, my uncle devoted his life to improving and lifting the economic position of common working class people. There was a time when the typical union member was a blue-collar guy working in a factory in the northeast, but no longer. My uncle would be surprised to know that today 51% of all union members are government employees. Nationwide, only about 7% of private sector employees are unionized while almost 40% of all government workers are unionized.

Last week, striking (er...sick) unionized teachers shut down school buses and converged on the Wisconsin State Capital to protest newly enacted Republican Governor Scott Walker’s efforts to balance the state budget by trimming benefits. Wisconsin is not a “right-to-work” state as is California and has endured one of the most burdensome state employee unions in the nation. Gov. Walker is not only seeking to have the state employees, for the first time, pay a share of their retirement and insurance benefits but also seeking to curtail their collective bargaining rights. Similar moves are being made in Arizona, Ohio, Tennessee, New Mexico, Indiana, Nevada, New Jersey and even Michigan.

As a result, and even as necessary, as unions were 50 – 80 years ago, when worker protections in private industry were few, today the real need

for them is in serious doubt. But this has always been especially true for government employee unions. When government employees strike to get higher wages or more benefits, it’s not from private businesses; it’s from us – you and me – the taxpayer. The Heritage Foundation’s James Sherk says, “For government employee union members to get more, your taxes need to go up. So that is what unions now lobby for.” In California and in Oregon, government employee unions are continuing to lobby for increased taxes instead of cutting spending. The bad idea of public employee unions seems obvious.

The biggest outside spender in the last two election cycles was the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. This put it ahead of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and any Republican affiliated groups. In combination with just the Service Employees International Union and the National Education Association over 190 million dollars were directed to elect Democrats committed to raising taxes and/or spending by expanding government and preserving the privileges of unionized public employees.

When Barack Obama ran for president the American Federation of Government Employees endorsed and strongly supported him. As payback, Obama’s new budget proposal dramatically raises federal spending (renamed “investments”) and greatly increases the number of federal employees. Such deficit spending is in reality a tax increase, one that we can no longer afford.

New Jersey Republican Gov. Chris Christie speaking at the American Enterprise Institute last week said, “One of the things the public sector unions don’t understand ... is that they think I’m attacking them. I’m attacking the leadership of the union - because they’re greedy, selfish and self-interested. The members of that union are ill-served by the leadership of that union.” It is also notable that as of this last election cycle, for the first time in American history, the numbers of eligible voters who are paid taxpayer money outnumber those who are not. It is clear that the fox is not only in the henhouse, he has been invited in and invited to take it over. It is past time to kick the fox out, shut the door and repair the fences.

My uncle, though a major union leader, was a very strong American patriot and supporter of capitalism. While he championed fairness in employment, he also saw private industry as the economic engine that built America strong. He and the other labor leaders of the time supported President John F. Kennedy’s reduction in taxes to stimulate the American economy as well as his inaugural challenge; “Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country”. Today the union movement is different – particularly public employee unions. It has been captured by a different spirit. I’m reminded of what Communism founder Karl Marx said; “There is only one sure way to kill capitalism; tax, tax and more tax”.

Andrew Leonie is a lawyer who has lived with his family in Rockwall County for over 20 years. The views expressed are his own.

Rockwall County Letters to the Editor

We encourage the submission of Letters to the Editor. The publishing of letters is at the sole discretion of the editor and may be edited for brevity, grammar and accuracy. Letters which are considered libelous or an attack of an individual’s character will not be published. Letters must be signed and include telephone number or address for verification.

City, county and state officials, judges, clerks violate state law and U.S. Constitution

In 2009 I went to the Rockwall Municipal Court office to pay a traffic ticket to the chief clerk, Debra Waters, and asked her how I was to pay the ticket in light of the Texas State Criminal Procedures Code, article 43.02, which states quite clearly: All recognizances, bail bonds and undertakings of any kind, whereby a party becomes bound to pay money to the State or to a private individual, shall be in full satisfaction of the State and shall be a debt of the State and shall be collected in the same manner as the money of the United States only.

I asked her what was the lawful money of the United States? She said she didn’t know what it was. I asked how was I to pay? She said “dollars.”

I asked her what was a “dollar” and the statute that defined it. She didn’t know. She said I would have to ask the judge.

I was shocked that she didn’t know and wondered how they collect money in Rockwall and don’t even know the laws pertaining to collection of “money.” Well, the fun was just beginning.

At my first hearing who do you think was the associate judge holding the hearing but Clerk Debra Waters, but now in a black robe, which I guess makes her a qualified judge. I asked her to dismiss the case since there was no way for me to lawfully pay the fine. She, of course, denied my motion to dismiss the case and set the trial before Judge Cathy Penn.

Surely, I thought, Judge Penn, being a lawyer, would know the law and have a better understanding.

To no one’s surprise Penn listened patiently to my motion to dismiss and my case and fined me 197 “dollars.” She never would tell me what a “dollar” was and how her fine was in accordance with state law. She forced me under threat of incarceration to post bond in “paper dollars,” which is a clear violation of state law.

I appealed my case to the Rockwall County Court at Law, which will be heard March 3. If anyone cares to discuss my case or ask questions, they may contact me at 972-400-0833 or stevenrothacker@suddenlink.net.

Some other interesting situations came up after Municipal Court. I tried for a mandamus (mandate) at the county court level to force Judge Penn to define the money she was fining me in and how the fine followed state law. Judge Florence didn’t even know what I was talking about and kicked

me down the road. Brian Williams represented the DA’s office and either didn’t know what I was talking about or feigned ignorance. Florence dismissed my request.

I wrote many state officials including Gov. Perry, Attorney General Abbot, State Comptroller Susan Combs, Dewhurst. No one answered my question regarding the definition of the “lawful money” of the United States required by state law.

I even had a visit with Kenda Culpepper, Rockwall DA, on the “lawful money” subject. She was polite after I showed her the history of United States money and how the federal government defrauded the people by illegally converting U.S. money to a paper money standard in violation of the U.S. Constitution, but made no commitment to support my position and no reason not to support it because she said she wanted to get re-elected. What hypocrisy. I have asked Culpepper several times to request the Attorney General Abbot for clarification on this issue, but she has not to my knowledge made that request.

Many friends and even learned attorneys ask me why I waste my time on this issue. Well, inflation is 90 percent caused by the federal government printing press and is a hidden tax on all of us of about 5 percent to 8 percent per year that requires constant pay raises just to keep even that most can’t get and allows the federal government to finance programs they shouldn’t be in because most are unconstitutional and corrupt politicians use these programs to get themselves re-elected. It is interesting to know that a \$100 paper bill was worth less in 1998 than was a \$20 paper bill in the 1960s.

Steve Rothacker, Rockwall

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Help Wanted

Sign Language Interpreter
Paris Junior College is anticipating the need for certified sign language interpreters for students for the Summer semester. Contact Human Resources Office, Paris Junior College, 2400 Clarksville Street, Paris, TX 75460.
903.782.0483 or 903.782.0288 (fax) or email humanresources@parisjc.edu
E.O.E.

Legal Notices

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids addressed to Mr. Chuck Todd, P.E., City Engineer, will be received at the office of the Purchasing Agent, 385 S. Goliad, City Hall, 1st Floor, March 11, until the hour of 3:00 PM, for the following project:

2010 Water Line Replacement Project

The project includes approximately: 2875 LF 12" Class 200 PVC Water Line, 4784 LF 8" Class 200 PVC Water Line, 287 LF 12" Water Line By Bore, 748 LF 8" PVC Water Line By Bore, 247 LF 16" Steel Encasement, 4 Each 12" Gate Valves, 29 Each 8" Gate Valves, 3 Each 6" Gate Valves, 17 Each Fire Hydrant Assemblies, 3643 SF Concrete Sidewalk, and other miscellaneous items.

Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope externally marked- **2010 Water Line Replacement Project**.

Bids will be opened and publicly read in the City Council Chambers at the Rockwall City Hall, 385 S. Goliad. No bids will be open or considered if received after the specified time.

Prequalification is not required. Completion time is **210 Calendar Days**. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any irregularities and/or to accept the bid or bids deemed best for the City.

A 5% Bid Bond is due with the bids. A Performance, Payment, and Maintenance Bond (2-year) is required for this project.

Contractors must conform to the Prevailing Wage Rates as established by the City of Rockwall.

Plans and specifications may be examined Rockwall Engineering Office located at the Rockwall City Hall, 385 S. Goliad, 1st Floor, Rockwall, Texas (phone numbers- 972-771-7746/fax 972-771-7748), and procured at the office of the Engineer, PBS&J, 18383 Preston Rd., Suite 500, Dallas, Texas (phone numbers- 972-588-3120/fax 972-380-2609), at a non-refundable cost of \$50.00, beginning February 25, 2011. Only those Bids received from Contractors who have purchased the plans and specifications for this project from the office of the Engineer and are listed on the Engineer's List Plan Holders, will be opened at the Bid Opening for consideration.

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Garage Sales

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Legal Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Norma Lee Conner, Deceased, were issued on February 18, 2011, in Cause No. PR10-128, pending in the County Court at Law of Rockwall County, Texas, to: Michael L. Conner. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: Maurice G. Walton Attorney at Law 107 E. Pearl St. Granbury, Texas 76048 DATED the 23 day of February, 2011. Maurice G. Walton Attorney for Michael L. Conner State Bar No.: 20826700 107 E. Pearl St. Granbury, Texas 76048 Telephone: (817) 573-8872

STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
439th District Court OF
ROCKWALL COUNTY, TEXAS
CAUSE NO: 1-10-1001
TO: CAMERON RAY MORRISON, 5516 AUSTRALIA COURT, ROCKWALL, TEXAS 75032
You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two (42) days after you were served this, before the Honorable 439th District Court of Rockwall County, Texas, at the Government Center, 1101 Ridge Road, Suite 209, Rockwall, Texas, a default judgment may be taken against you. You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Original Petition, at or before ten 0' clock A.M. of the Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days after the date of issuance of this Citation, on MONDAY, 4TH DAY OF APRIL AT 10:00 A.M. before the Honorable 439th District Court of Rockwall County, Texas at the Government Center, 1101 Ridge Road of said County in Rockwall, Texas. Said Plaintiffs Petition, was filed in said Court on SEPTEMBER 1, 2010, A.D., in this case numbered 1-10-1001 on the docket of said court, and styled, CLOVIS SANFORD V. CAMERON RAY MORRISON. A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: DAMAGES The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates thereof, and make due return as the law directs. ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT AT Office, this the 15th day of February 2011. KAY MCDANIEL, District Clerk Rockwall County, Texas 1101 Ridge Road, Ste. 209 Rockwall, Texas 75087 By: ALVA CARAWAY, Deputy ROCKWALL COUNTY NEWS, 107 E. BOURN AVENUE, P.O. BOX 819, ROCKWALL, TEXAS 75087 (Newspaper) Issued at the request of: Jason Smith 105 E. KAUFMAN ROCKWALL, TX 75087 469.757.0253

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
The Royse City Independent School District will hold a Public Hearing At 7:00 PM, March 7, 2011 Ernest Epps Education Service Center 810 Old Greenville Road Royse City, Texas 75189 The purpose of the Public Hearing will be public presentation and discussion of the District's 2009-2010 Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS), campus performance objectives, violent or criminal incidents, and information received from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for high school. The public is invited to participate and comment during the hearing. Please call 972-636-2413 for further information.

Public Notice
CITY OF ROCKWALL ORDINANCE NO. 11-06 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKWALL, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 15 LICENSES, PERMITS, AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS REGULATIONS, ARTICLE IV PEDDLERS, SOLICITORS AND ITINERANT VENDORS OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROHIBITION OF SOLICITATIONS TO OCCUPANTS OF VEHICLES ON PUBLIC ROADWAYS; TO PROHIBIT SOLICITATION BY COERCION AND SOLICITATION ON PUBLIC PROPERTY; PROHIBITING SLEEPING IN A PUBLIC PLACE; PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY OF FINE NOT TO EXCEED THE SUM OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00) FOR EACH OFFENSE; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. /s/ William R. Cecil, Mayor /s/ Kristy Ashberry, City Secretary 1st Reading: 02-07-11 2nd Reading: 02-21-11 CITY OF ROCKWALL ORDINANCE NO. 11-07 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKWALL, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 16 MOTOR VEHICLES, ARTICLE VI OPERATION, DIVISION 7 BY ALTERING THE PRIMA FACIE SPEED LIMITS ESTABLISHED FOR VEHICLES UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE

TRANSPORTATION CODE, § 545.356, UPON SH-205, SOUTH OF THE DGN0 RAILROAD, TO RUSK, WITHIN THE RATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF ROCKWALL, TEXAS; PROVIDING A PENALTY OF A FINE TO EXCEED THE SUM OF HUNDRED DOLLARS PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. /s/ William R. Cecil, Mayor /s/ Kristy Ashberry, City Secretary 1st Reading: 02-07-11 2nd Reading: 02-21-11

Legal Notice
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
ROCKWALL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Request for: Competitive Sealed Proposals for Student Transportation Services
CSP 11-3.22-124
Proposals received until 2:00 PM on March 22, 2011
The Rockwall Independent District is receiving proposals for its Student Transportation Services CSP documents may be requested from dmacdonald@rockwallisd.org. The District anticipates that the May 2011 board meeting proposals should be received in an envelope to the attention of the Director of Purchasing and marked "CSP number and name." CSP proposals should be received by 2:00 PM on 22, 2011 at the Administration Center located at 1050 Williams Rockwall TX 75087. The Board of Trustees for the Rockwall Independent School District serves the right to reject any bids/proposals and to waive any irregularities, technicalities or infirmities in any bids or the bid process.

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Rockwall County Sports

RHS' Area champs fall to Lincoln again

By Lary Bump
 Several Rockwall Lady Jackets weren't feeling good before their Region II quarterfinal basketball game Tuesday, Feb. 22. They might have felt worse afterward.
 RHS has reached that playoff round in each of the last six seasons, but for the last three hasn't advanced past

it. That was the case again Tuesday, when for the second time in three years Dallas Lincoln eliminated Rockwall from the postseason.
 The 50-47 margin at North Mesquite was much closer than Lincoln's 53-35 victory two years earlier, but it still hurt.
 Head coach Jill McDill said, "We

had a lot of people sick. Six of them missed practice. Morghen (Day) and Hannah (Hughes) had strep, and Ellen (Baker) and Alyssa (Lang) had flu-like symptoms. Some had both."
 "But they fought. I'm proud of how they fought. But you hate to fight and not come away with a win."

Lang, surrounded by Lady Tigers whenever she had the ball, still managed a team-high 16 points, and Hughes added 14.
 The Lady Jackets (30-7) were fighting from behind virtually the entire game. They missed their first five shots, but the defense held the Lady Tigers to just a 4-0 lead. The advantage grew to six points before RHS went on an 8-0 run to take its first lead at 15-13 29 seconds into the second quarter.
 Kayla Smith broke a 15-15 tie with

Rockwall's only 3-point field goal in the game. What followed determined the outcome.
 Lincoln (27-3) scored the game's next 11 points, including 9 in a row by Camesha Turner, for a 26-18 lead.
 McDill said, "We just turned it over too much and gave them too many easy baskets."
 Rockwall had 8 of its 20 turnovers during the second quarter. Turner's last three baskets during that run all finished fast breaks.

Trailing 33-24 after 3 1/2 minutes of the third quarter, the Lady Jackets then fought fire with fire.
 "We were able to press with success, and that's quite a feat of who they are," McDill said.
 The press led to a moderate number of Lincoln turnovers in the second quarter, but it unsettled the Lady Tigers' defense and led to their rushing offense. After making 13 of 24 field attempts in the first half, Lincoln just 4-for-17 in the second half tightened her defense on the Lady Tigers.
 After scoring 14 first-half points, Turner continued to do a job. Hayden, who finished with 11 points.

RHS twice pulled within a couple of points in the fourth quarter, including a 48-47 gap with 49 seconds to play.
 It was 49-47 when Hughes scored from the left side of the court right and put up a shot that fell off the rim with 3 seconds remaining. Another Lincoln foul shot in its lead to 50-47. The missed free throw resulted in a Rockwall rebound. The ball went to Smith mid-court, but her long shot fell in front of the rim.

McDill said, "We battled but it was a one-possession game. We got a couple of good shots but they didn't fall."

"I'm proud of how the girls all season to get 30 wins and a championship, and go three deep in the playoffs."

The Lady Jackets had won a championship with what McDill was their best game of the year Feb. 18. They scored the game 11 points and had a 16-0 run in the final 5 minutes of the second quarter.

Hughes scored a game-high 20 points, including 12 in the second quarter. Those points led Rockwall to a 43-11 halftime lead, the way to a 77-30 victory over Oak Cliff at Mesquite Point.

McDill said, "Hannah was great. The scouting report said we could not let them get easy baskets and we had to stop their fast breaks. For us to run and not let them run an accomplishment."

South Oak Cliff (19-12) — Terry Shaw 14, JeRae Dublin 7, Nakiya King 4, Kellae Marshall 3, Chantel Finch 2.

Rockwall (30-6) — Hannah Hughes 28, Alyssa Lang 19, Ellen Baker 16, Morghen Day 6, Kayla Smith 6, Camesha Turner 6, Lacey Smith 2, Kayla White 1.

Dallas Lincoln (27-3) — Camesha Turner 17, Alisha Washington 11, Breanna Colbert 9, Breanna Hayden 6, Rikell Criner 2, Rikell McWright 1.

RHS (30-7) — Alyssa Lang 16, Hannah Hughes 14, Paige Turner 10, Kayla Smith 7, Mariah Roof 2.



Rockwall Chamber of Commerce members welcomed The Mansions with a Ribbon Cutting ceremony February 16 following the Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon. The luncheon was hosted by Spine Team of Texas. The Mansions is located at 1470 S. John King Blvd.



Alyssa Lang (32) takes a shot in the circle for the Lady Jackets in their recent playoff action.
 Photo by Roy Heath/Rockwall County News



Ross Hudson (seated), RHHS quarterback and son of Randy and Sheila Hudson, signed with Cisco College on National Signing Day, February 2. He is pictured with his father and Cisco College and TCU alum, John F. Booty. Being an eight year NFL veteran, Booty acknowledged that it was Cisco College that gave him an opportunity to fulfill a life long dream of playing football at a higher level.
 Courtesy Photo/Rockwall County News

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Lucile Tate with her son Garvin Tate

Hawks 24th in nation in preseason baseball rankings

Rockwall-Heath's baseball squad didn't go unnoticed last season, is carrying over to preseason rankings this year.

The Hawks will go into the season-opening game Thursday ranked 24th in the Collegiate Baseball Easton Sports national high school baseball poll. The Texas High School Coaches Association has ranked fourth among the state's 4A teams.

In addition, the TPX Louisville Slugger All-America first team includes two of the key players from the 2010 RHHS team that won 38 consecutive games and finished the season 39-3.

Third baseman Jovan Hernandez taking a 41-game hitting streak to him to the Waco ISD Tournament. He hits safely in his first game that he would tie the Texas state record. A hit in the second game then would break the record held by former major league pitcher Jeff Granger of Orangefield. Hernandez batted with 11 home runs and 64 runs batted in last season.

Pitcher-first baseman Thompson had a 9-2 pitching record with a 1.52 earned run average, batted .444 with seven homers and 54 RBIs.

Hernandez and Thompson are juniors.

More Local Sports on your favorite web site

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5D kindergartener tops state in Jump Rope for Heart donations

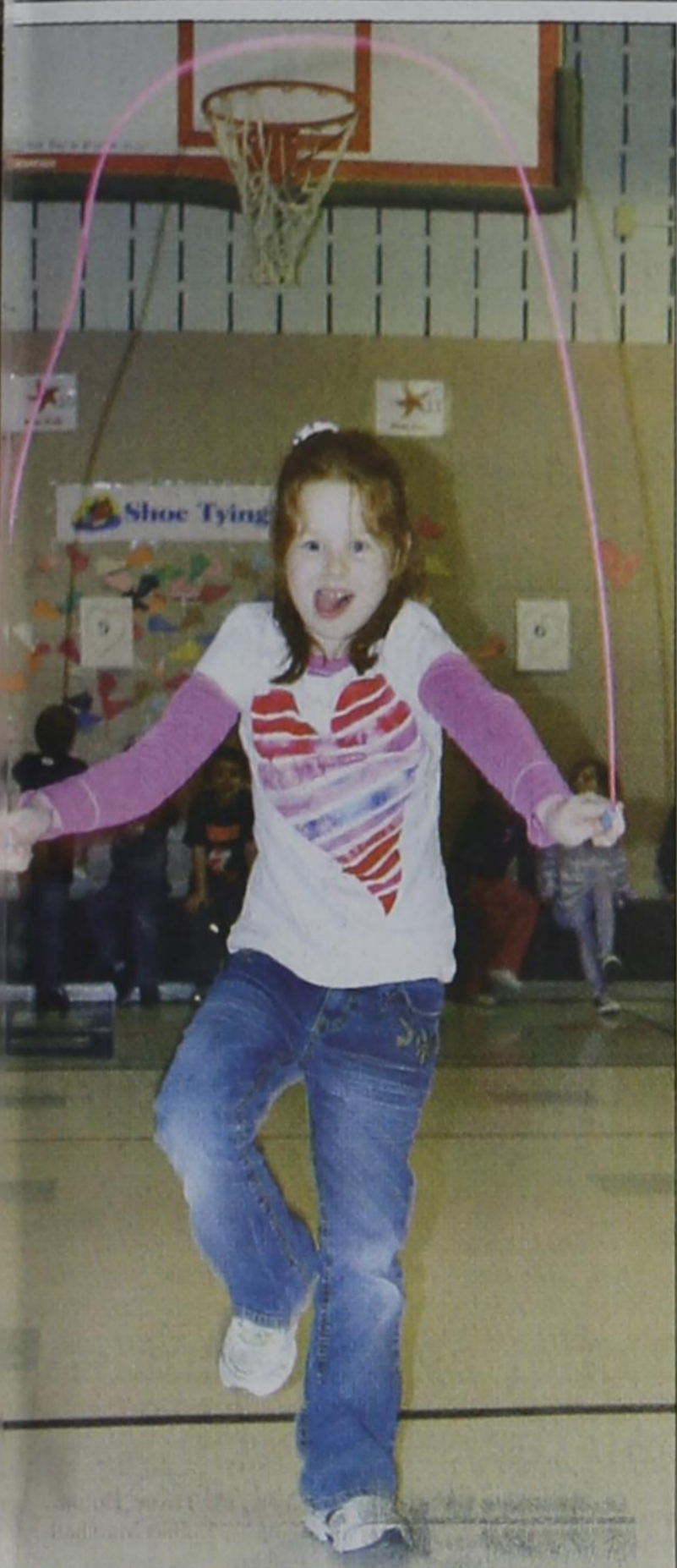
Fowler
ISD
 Ella Turner's father was her American Heart Jump Rope for Heart page, he started with a ment: "Ella wants to help k hearts."
 e has led Ella, a 6-year-old ockwall's Nebbie Williams to become the number ope for Heart fund-raiser number two in the nation. la's desire was simple, the it are far more complicat-rtbreaking.
 inger sister, Colby—a tod-ry red curls and an infec-died from a complex idition called Geleophysic. Although the disease en-a broad array of medical

issues, Ella's basic understanding was that Colby had a sick heart. So when students at Nebbie Williams were told about the annual AHA Jump Rope for Heart event, Ella came home with a big heart and an even bigger idea.
 Neil Turner, Ella's father, remembers Ella's enthusiasm.
 "Daddy, we are going to raise money for people with bad hearts and I want to raise a \$1,000 at least... probably more," said Ella. "They are going to send home information on Thursday and we watched a video and it helps people with bad hearts. They showed some kids that were 6 years old like me that it helps."
 Although Turner was initially cautious about encouraging his daughter's lofty goal, her enthusiasm and her motivation soon put his concerns to rest.

"You don't understand," said Ella. "They help kids with bad hearts. They help kids like Colby."
 In that moment, Ella's father understood completely.
 "It all became very clear very quickly," said Turner. "For Ella, this wasn't just another school activity to be excited about. This was personal. This was about her sister. This was a chance for her to be actively involved in making a difference in another child's life — a child that was facing some difficult challenges, like her little sister did."
 The Jump Rope for Heart event involves students actively seeking donations for the AHA, and Ella began in earnest. Through personal contacts and an AHA donation webpage, she easily met her \$1,000 goal and to date has collected \$4,406.
 On Feb. 11, Ella entered the Nebbie gym carrying a photo of her sister. She took her place with the other kindergartener students who would take turns jumping rope in support of the AHA.
 "The kindergartener students were divided into teams of about four and each team took turns sending out someone to the floor of the gym to jump rope," said Nebbie Principal Karen Aikman. "They had also been previously taught how to lay down the

rope and jump back and forth over it for those who aren't quite proficient at jumping rope. Each child got a chance to jump for a while to fun music."
 In the middle of the class, the jumping stopped and Ella was brought to the front to be acknowledged for her work. On hand to present Ella with a certificate acknowledging her effort were AHA representatives Tonya Bradford, a youth market director, and Susan Elizondo, the Dallas vice president for the youth market. Ella's parents and numerous teachers and administrators also were present.
 "My favorite aspect of the entire thing is that Ella is such a great big sister and this gave her an opportunity to really show it," said Turner. "She doesn't know the kids she is helping, but she has a lot of insight to what they are going through. She has seen these types of struggles from the perspective that no child should have to, but rather than just be sad and mad about it, she has used it as inspiration to help others. It's been a joy to watch."
 Ella's principal agrees.
 "I am so inspired by Ella's kindness and desire to help other people in memory of her sister, Colby," said Aikman. "She set a very large goal of \$1,000 and has more than exceeded that goal. Ella shows us all that with

a little compassion and kindness, we can each make a difference and help others. Ella has the biggest heart a kindergartener can have."



Peace Corps to mark 50 years at Lake Ray Hubbard event

The North Texas Peace Corps Association, an affiliate of the National Peace Corps Association, is inviting all returned Peace Corps volunteers and their families and friends to celebrate the 50 anniversary of the Peace Corps' establishment at an event set for March 1.

An open house will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Ed and Maria Hromatka, 1513 Ridgetop Court, in Rockwall.

The Peace Corps was created on March 1, 1961, with President John F. Kennedy's signature on an executive order. In the 50 years since that time, more than 200,000 volunteers have served in 139 developing countries. Several of those volunteers are residents of the Rockwall area.

The three goals of the Peace Corps include:

- To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women;
- To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the people served; and
- To help promote a better understanding of the peoples served on the part of Americans.

The local March 1 celebration is

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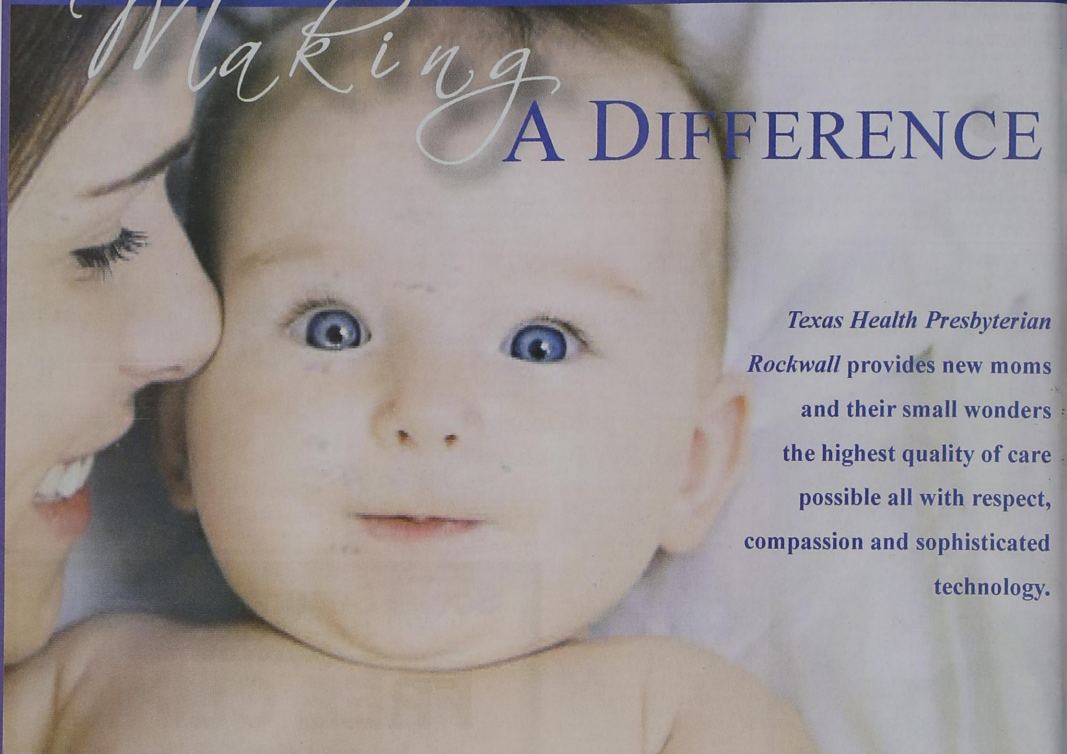
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Lake Pointe Medical Center
from the left
Rice, RN, DNP, Director of
Operations; and
Debra
Photo courtesy of

Lake
by

Lake Pointe Medical Center
by the American
J. Kiger, DNP, Director
and chief nursing
at the event.
Pathway to Excellence
where nurses
The designation
Lake Pointe Medical

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of our nurses, and
nursing officer at La



Kindergarten
celebration, so who
springer kindergarten
courtesy photo/Rock

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