Rockwall County News

Volume Number 30 • Issue Number 5 • USPS 002-495 • Thursday, February 4, 2016 • Single Copy Price 75 Cents • Copyright 2016 Rockwall County News

Williams Middle School students extend UIL academic championship streak

Iliams Middle School students, for the 11th straight , captured the 7th and 8th grade district UIL academic chapionships as well as the overall championship at a Jan. 22 co petition conducted at the First United Methodist Church, Recwall.

idents competed in a variety of contests, including Dictionary Sk's, Spelling, Science, Math, Speaking Skills and Writing, rding to a school news release.

idents earning points in the competition included:

rt (7th grade) - Diane Tran, first place; Abigail Coin, second; A sa Dearing, second; and Gabrial Martinson, fourth

Art (8th grade) - Megan Fernandez, first place; Meredith los, third place; Rhianna Swift, fourth place

lalculator Applications (7th grade) – Landry Simmons, fourth; Bilen Wills, fifth; Carson Sagraves, sixth place lalculator Applications (8th grade) – Eden Kim, fourth place;

h Ferguson, fifth place; Celia Straight, sixth place Dictionary Skills (7th grade) – Mekinna Knight, second place;

Con Sagraves, fifth place; Avlyn Ndonga, sixth place Dictionary Skills (8th grade) - Andre Daniel, first place;

Meleine Hunt, third place; Ella Laurence, fourth place Editorial Writing (7th grade) - Kaitlyn Niesen, first place;

ia Cade, second place; Manning Biggerstaff, third place Editorial Writing (8th grade) - Matthew Barlow, first place; Kayla Williams, third place; Delaina Temple, fifth place Listening (7th grade) - Kaitlyn Niesen, first place; Marybeth

nilton, third place; Elijah Hicks, fifth Listening (8th grade) - Madeleine Hunt, first; Kendra Small, and place; and Madeline Owen, sixth

Maps, Graphs & Charts (7th grade) - Brianna Kearns, second e; Marybeth Hamilton, fifth place

RHS

Maps, Graphs & Charts (8th grade) - Ben Vazquez, first place; ie Rose, second; Kavya Venugopalan, third place

Mathematics (7th grade) - Parker Gage, second place; Khailinh i, fourth place; Trinity Misak, fifth

Mathematics (8th grade) - Eden Kim, first place; Kavya ugopalan, second place; Dasha Coulman, third place

Modern Oratory (7th grade) - Joseph Halkuff, first place; dall Klaver, second place; Mekina Knight, fourth place

Modern Oratory (8th grade) – Caleb Gregory, first place; John

es, sixth place Number Sense (7th grade) – Seth Choi, first place; Braden

ls, second place; Caden Williams, third

Number Sense (8th grade) - Eden Kim, first place; Muthani nau, second place; Celia Straight, third place

Dral Reading (7th grade) - Hope Wilding, first place; Mekinna

ght, second place; Hayley Dopkins, third place Dral Reading (8th grade) – Shelby Wright, second place; Susie

son, fifth place; Hayes Hill, sixth Number Sense (7th grade) - Seth Choi, first place; Braden

ls, second place; Caden Williams, third place Number Sense (8th grade) - Eden Kim, first place; Muthani

nau, second; Celia Straight, third place Ready Writing (7th grade) – Jordan Wilson, first place; Jaden

agal, second; Camira Fomunong, fourth

Ready Writing (8th grade) – Andre Daniel, first place; Meagan eeler, second place

Science (7th grade) - Jordan Wilson, first place; Jaden Dougal, ond; Zachary Flowers, fifth place

Science (8th grade) - Kendra Small, first place; Hector Murillo, ond place: Kennedy Anderson, third

Social Studies (7th grade) - Tabitha Bauer, first place; Diana m, second place

Social Studies (8th grade) - Eric Roca, first place; Valerie

land, sixth place Spelling (7th grade) - Trinity Misak, second place; Mary I milton, third place; Elijah Hicks, sixth place

Spelling (8th grade) - Andre Daniel, first place; Dasha ılman, second place; Connor Stasak, third place.

University scholastic honors

Three students on ASU Dean's List

lates for Precind Prec the of the peace hift semester at Angelo State University, according to a news release 30 p.m.; the publish the San Angelo university. onorees included Courtney L. Aguayo, Abigale Faust and Bailey

be eligible for the Dean's List, students must be enrolled fulltime SU and maintain a 3.25 or better grade-point average on a 4-point

Asa Burke earns faculty honors

sa Burke of Rockwall earned faculty honors for the fall semester he Georgia Institute of Technology, according to a news release in the Atlanta, Georgia, university.

his designation is awarded to undergraduate students who have a

academic average for the semester. Locals named to Dean's Honor Roll

wo local residents were included in the list of top scholars egnized on the Southwestern College Dean's Honor Roll following fall semester, according to a news release from the Winfield, sas, university.

onorees included Kennedy Connor and Madison Deaton, both of

kwall.

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ill-time students who earned grade-point average of at least 3.70 4-point scale were eligible for the recognition.



For the 11th straight year, Williams Middle School students captured the 7th and 8th grade UIL championships, as well as the overall district championship win, on Jan. 22 at the district contest. Pictured, from the left, are eighth grade students Celia Straight and Madeleine Hunt and seventh grade student Landry Simmons showing off their 7th and 8th grade championship trophies, as well as the overall UIL championship trophy. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



During the City Council of Royse City meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 26, Jeff Stapleton, chief of police, awarded Amy Dial with the Officer of the Year Award. The presentation honored Dial for "exceptional service to the community." She serves as school resource officer at Royse City Middle School. Also recognized for 10 years of service with the department was Sgt. William Rushing, who was not in attendance.

Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/Rockwall County News

tonight to focus on hazard mitigation plan for county

Public meeting

Rockwall County will host a public meeting from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. today, Thursday, Feb. 4, to gather public input for a county-wide hazard mitigation plan. The meeting will take place at the Rockwall County Sheriff's Office, 972 T.L. Townsend Drive, in Rockwall.

The purpose of the public meeting is to provide a project overview from H2O Partners Inc., consultant to the project, and solicit information from citizens. Public input will help the project team analyze potential hazards affecting residents and recommend possible actions to reduce their impact.

The goal of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is to minimize or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from known hazards by identifying and implementing cost-effective mitigation actions. Mitigation is defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as sustained actions taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards and their effects.

RISD sets Feb. 5 special session

The Rockwall Independent School District will meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 5, in Room 600 of the Rockwall Administration/ Education Center, 1050 Williams St., in Rockwall.

Trustees will meet in executive session for consultation with the board's attorney, according to the published agenda. Potential items of discussion include pending or contemplated litigation; a settlement offer, or a matter in which the duty of the attorney of the District conflicts with the chapter authorizing the executive session.

Also noted on the agenda is discussion of the superintendent

Any action taken will be taken in open session. The agenda indicates that the board may consider or take action regarding the selection and approval of a superintendent search firm.

• Crosswords: Page 2 • On God's Word: Page 3 • Classifieds: Page 4 • Opinions: Pages 5 & 6

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Rockwall County News Briefs

Republican Women to host candidate forum

The Rockwall County Republican Women will host a local candidates forum beginning at 10 a.m. on Feb. 6. Doors will open at 9:30 a.m. Elections to be represented in the forum include District 33 state representative; Rockwall County sheriff; Rockwall County commissioner, Precinct 1; and Precinct 3 justice of the peace.

Democratic Men to meet Feb. 6

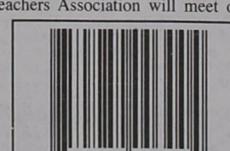
The Democratic Men's Group of Rockwall County will meet on Saturday, Feb. 6, at The Mellow Mushroom, 550 I-30 Frontage Rd., Rockwall. The group meets for lunch at noon on the first Saturday of each month at various restaurants. Open-minded, progressive men concerned about the future of Texas and Rockwall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

RARTA plans Feb. 8 meeting

The Rockwall Area Retired Teachers Association will meet on

Monday, Feb. 8, at the Rockwall ISD Administration Building, 1050 Williams, in Board Room #600. The meeting will begin at 1:45 p.m.; come at 1:15 p.m. for refreshments.

(Continued on Page 2)



James 'Jimmy' Franklin Blakeley Jr.

Services for James "Jimmy" Franklin Blakeley Jr., 59, of Royse City, previously of Longview, were conducted at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel with Pastor Phillip Jones officiating. The Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

He died Jan. 27.

Born Jan. 26, 1957, in Longview to James Franklin Sr. and Dorothy I. (Aaron) Blakeley, he began his

career as a doughnut shop owner, opening his first Jimmy's Donuts in Longview. He then worked as a truck driver for Stevens Transport for about 10 years before opening a Jimmy Donuts in downtown Royse

A 12-year resident of Royse City, he was a Christian who enjoyed drag racing and being around and working on cars.

Survivors include his wife of almost 22 years, Debbie Blakeley; his children, Jennie Jones and her husband, Kyle, Gretchen Delgado and her husband, Jon, Casee Johnson and her husband, David, Justin Martin and Paige Blakeley; his mother, Dorothy Blakeley; his sisters, Dee Hunt and her husband, Bobby, and Suzie Watson and her husband, Stan; his brothers, Ronnie Blakeley and his wife, Bobbie, and Steve Blakeley and his wife, Carol; and five grandchildren, as well as a host of other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his father.

The family has suggested that as an alternative to flowers, donations may be made to the Paige Blakeley College Fund at Guaranty Bank and Trust.

University Scholastics Degrees

Three locals receive Midwestern degrees

Three local residents were among the 415 undergraduate and graduate students awarded degrees in December from Midwestern State University, according to a news release from the Wichita Falls

Degree recipients included Erika Anderson Abmas of Rockwall, who received a bachelor's degree in respiratory care, graduating magna cum laude. To graduate magna cum laude, a student must have a grade-point average of 3.7-3.89.

Also receiving degrees were Crystal Raychelle Johnson of Rockwall, who earned a bachelor's degree in nursing, and Theresa Gail Cline of Royse City, who received a bachelor's degree in social work.

Ross graduates from LeTourneau

Felicia Ross of Fate was among students graduating from LeTourneau University in Longview following the fall semester, according to a university news release.

Ross received a bachelor's degree in business administration.

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Ask Dr. Danette

by Danette McNew, D.D.S.



Despite the gains provided by fluoridated water, tooth decay is the leading chronic childhood illness in the United States. The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research reports that 42% of U.S. children aged 2-11 have primary-tooth decay, and 21% of children

NEW REASON BEHIND CHILDHOOD TOOTH DECAY?

aged 6-11 have tooth decay in their permanent teeth. While this high incidence of tooth decay among young children can partially be explained by poor dental hygiene and high consumption of sugary foods and drinks, new research suggests that chronic stress during pregnancy may raise the risk of tooth decay in a woman's children. While a direct relationship has not been found, improving a pregnant woman's quality of life may lead to improved health of her children's

All children need early and regular dental care. During well-child visits the doctor will check your child's dental health. A visit to a dentist is recommended within 6 months of when your child's first tooth comes in but no later than your child's first birthday. At McNEW DENTAL, we're currently accepting new patients and welcome your call at 972.771.2213 to schedule an appointment for superior dental care. We're located at 1300 E. Ralph Hall Pkwy., Suite 114.

P.S. The research mentioned above, which involved an analysis of data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, also found that children who were not breast-fed were also more likely to have tooth decay.

www.mcnewdental.com

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Bob J. Calhoun

Private graveside services for Bob J. Calhoun, 78, of Rockwall will be conducted in the Rest Haven Memorial Park. The Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

He died Jan. 30, 2016.

Born Dec. 11, 1937, in Wichita Falls to John Orvon Calhoun and Eleanor Louise (Short) Calhoun, he was owner of Medical Aids-Rentals and Sales, a medical supply company.

Survivors include his brother, Ron Calhoun, and his wife, Marilyn, of Austin, and several nieces. nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Nancy Calhoun, on April 24, 2015.

Ila J. Cullins

Services for Ila J. Cullins will be conducted at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 4, 2016, in the First Baptist Church of Heath with Pastor Paul Jacobs officiating. The Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

She died Monday, Feb. 1. Born in Clarendon on Oct. 14,

1931, to Jess and Jewel Phares, she graduated from Savoy High School and attended secretarial school in Dallas. She married Douglas Cullins in 1960 and made her home in Rockwall the following year.

After her daughters were older, she worked for Rockwall County and Andrews Ford. She cherished her family and the simple things in life, often commenting about how fortunate and thankful she was.

She was a devoted wife and mother who supported, respected and loved unconditionally. She was a woman of faith, believing in the power and strength of Christ's love and the peace that awaited her after her death. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Heath and the Wild Bunch Sunday school class. Survivors include her daughters, Dana K. Macalik, and her husband,

Jeff, Saundra Holland and Terri Ferguson and her husband, Jimmy; her grandsons, Justin Holland and his wife, Nelly, Robert Miller and his wife, Katy, Austin Miller and Trey Ferguson and his fiancée, Kaylee Seymour; her step-grandchildren, Julie and Eric Macalik; her great-granddaughters, Wiley Beth and Emma Cullins Holland; and a great-grandson on the way, Robert Lance Miller.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 2001; her parents; and a son-in-law, Lance Holland.

The family has suggested that as an alternative to flowers, donations may be made to the First Baptist Church of Heath, 224 Smirl Dr., Heath, TX 75032 or Rockwall Meals on Wheels Senior Services of Rockwall County, 950 Williams St., Bldg. C, Rockwall, TX 75087.

Structure fire reported at Rockwall auto dealership

The Rockwall Fire Department responded to a structure fire at an area business on Jan. 27, according to a city news release.

Employees at a local auto dealership reported a fire had started inside its paint and body shop.

The call came in just after 6 p.m., according to the release.

Shortly after arriving on scene at the business, located at 2005 S. Goliad St., firefighters worked quickly and contained the blaze in the building's paint booth. They fully extinguished the fire a short time

The remainder of the building sustained some smoke and water

The cause of the fire remains under investigation, according to the news release.

Rockwall OKs formation of Airport Advisory Board

The Rockwall City Council approved the formation of an Airport Advisory Board for the Ralph M. Hall/Rockwall Municipal Airport in January, according to a news release from the municipality.

The Airport Advisory Board will consist of seven members, all of whom must be resident citizens and qualified voters of the city, in accordance with the City of Rockwall's charter. Board members should be representative of the community, including citizens interested in airport-related business and/or aviation.

Board member terms will be for two years with a chairperson and vice-chairperson being elected from among its members. Each of these positions will be for one year, according to the release.

Board members will serve without compensation, and, per city council policy, a maximum of three terms may be served. After six years of

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by Charley & Guy Orbison

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service, board members must sit out for at least one year before the City Council may again consider them for service on this particular board, according to the release.

Meetings will be conducted at least on a quarterly or on an as-needed basis as determined by the chair, the city manager's appointed staff liaison or by direction from the City Council.

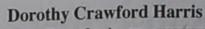
The purpose of the Airport following:

how to use the airport for local and regional economic development opportunities;

· Advise the City Council on how to market the airport to new customers:

· Make recommendations as to how to build a partnership with all stakeholders for a successful airport;

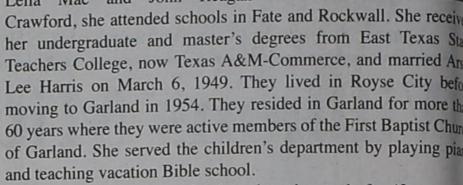
· Undertake direction from the City Council on any other related matters.



Services for Dorothy Crawford Harris, 93, were conducted at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31, 2016, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Jack Schmid of the First Baptist Church of Garland officiating. Burial followed in the Rockwall Memorial Cemetery.

She died Jan. 28.

Born Aug. 14, 1922, in Rockwall County near Fate to cotton farmers Leila Mae and John Reagan



A lifelong elementary school teacher, she taught for 42 years. § began her career in Ennis, taught for eight years in Royse City a completed her last 31 years at Caldwell Elementary in Garland dedicated learner, she was an active member of several teach organizations, including the Garland Retired School Personn Alpha Kappa Delta and Kappa Kappa Iota.

She and her husband traveled extensively throughout the US Europe and Japan. She brought back a children's book from eye country she visited.

During her retirement, she enjoyed her lifelong status as one the Fate Girls, a close group of childhood friends who met, share memories and preserved the history of the community.

Survivors include her twin sister, Doris Crawford Cullins Rockwall; her sister, Katherine Crawford Stevener, and brotherlaw, Lynn Ray Stevener, of Rockwall; her brother, Clyde Frank Crawford, and sister-in-law, Betty Anderson Crawford, of F Worth; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents and brother, James Reagan Crawford.

Terri Rhonda Holt

Memorial services for Terri Rhonda Holt, 51, will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 6, 2016, in the Keystone Church, 1575 Clay Mathis Rd., Mesquite with Pastor Thomas Bedinfield officiating. The Rest Haven Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

She died Sunday, Jan. 17.

Born Feb. 6, 1964, in Dallas to Rodney and Audgrey (Graham) Holt, she lived in Dallas her entire life and was known for her love for her children, grandchildren and family.

Survivors include her mother, Audgrey Holt; three daughter Misty Reeves and her husband, Nathan, Monica Smith and ke husband, James, and Miranda Graves and her husband, Ismael; I grandchildren; a brother, Michael Hayes; her sisters, Lisa Haile Debbie Ragstole, Mary Andralliski and Tina Knott; and a number nieces, nephews and family members.

Her father, Rodney Holt, preceded her in death.

Rockwall County News Brief

(Continued from Page 1)

Valentine's Day cards to be collected for troops

The Rest Haven Funeral Home, as part of the AdoptaPlatoon Valentine's Day 2016 campaign, is collecting Valentine's Day cards to be sent to military troops serving overseas. The cards or be dropped off at the Rockwall location, 2500 SH 66 East, throug Wednesday, Feb. 10, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 8:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m. on Saturday. Cards and letters should include the sentime "We're Proud of our U.S. Troops!" and either a lollipop tied with small red ribbon or a box of valentine candy message hearts. Car will be sent to a platoon from Texas. For more details call Shan Satterwhite at 972-771-8641 or visit resthavenfuneral.com (About Us/Community Events).

Registration for RCP children's workshops set

Registration for the Rockwall Community Playhouse's children spring acting workshops will be conducted in February. Registration for children in grades 1-5 will be at 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 9. Performance will be at 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. on April 17. Registration for student in grades 6-8 will be at 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 11, with performances se for 7 p.m. April 17 and 8 p.m. April 18. The RCP is located at 60 E. Rusk, two blocks off the square in downtown Rockwall. For more details visit rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org.

Williams is topic of lecture series Feb. 12 Gloria Williams, a legendary local hometown hero, will be the

Black History Month topic at the Sheri Stodghill Lecture Sene presented by the Rockwall County Historical Foundation and the Rockwall County Historical Commission from noon to 1 p.m. in the third floor in the historic downtown courthouse on Feb. 12. William will share her life story and love of education in a pre-recorded on

Dems to host primary kickoff Feb. 15

The Democratic Party will kick off the presidential primary election at 7 p.m. on Feb. 15, President's Day, at the Harry Myers Community Center, 815 E. Washington, Rockwall. Local residents are invited come, meet the candidates and celebrate the start of early voting will fellow Democrats. Refreshments will be served.

Chamber, YPR plan Feb. 16 candidate forum The Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce and the Young

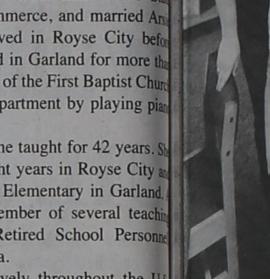
Rockwall County Entertainment

Family craft night at county library The Rockwall County Library will host a Family Night on Tuesda

Feb. 9. The come-and-go event will run from 6:30 p.m. to 7: p.m.; Valentine's Day crafts will be made and refreshments will b served.

'You Can't Take It With You' set at RCP

The Rockwall Community Playhouse, 609 E. Rusk (two blocks of the square in downtown Rockwall) will offer performances of "You Can't Take It With You" on Feb. 12-14, 19-21 and 26-28. Friday an Saturday performances will be at 8 p.m.; the Sunday matinee will be at 2 p.m. For more details visit rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org.



Nicholas Casares winner at Howard D the district round at later this month. He with Casares are Mi Ruth Johnson, prince Courtesy photo/R

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t is the mission of this r guided by the principle Declaration of Independent of property are the cor government is to ent hold every elected and to that standard.

Professionals of Rockwall will host a candidate forum featuring Advisory Board is to provide candidates in Rockwall County elections from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. recommendations to the City on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at Libery Hall, located in the Rockwall Count Council, according to the release. 47 under the Courthouse, 1111 E. Yellow Jacket Lane. Candidates for Precinct Its responsibilities and duties will Elm? county commissioner, sheriff and Precinct 3 justice of the peace have include, but not be limited to the 48 doubters been invited to participate. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m.; the publi 50 least difficult 51 TXism: "turn · Make recommendations on is invited to attend. over all the cow P-1257 both short-term and long-term patties in Texas" (Continued on Page 4) 52 "to _ is human" strategic planning; 53 road curve 13 stared angrily · Make recommendations on DOWN

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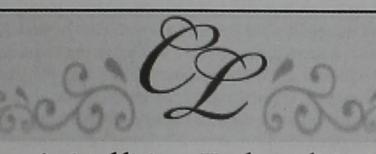
RCP

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Nicholas Casares was named the 2015-2016 spelling bee winner at Howard Dobbs Elementary and will advance to the district round at the Rockwall County Spelling Bee later this month. He is a fourth grade student. Pictured with Casares are Michael Stuart, assistant principal, and Ruth Johnson, principal.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



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

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CASA seeks new volunteers

Lone Star CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is seeking additional volunteers to help area children.

Last year, more than 17,000 children were removed from their homes because of evidence of abuse or neglect. These children were placed in the child welfare system, often far away from friends and family. CASA helps these children find homes as quickly as possible by speaking up on their behalf in court.

Volunteers are everyday members of the community who are appointed by judges and trained to advocate in the best interests of children in foster care. According to a Lone Star CASA news release, a volunteer's primary goal is to "help move the child out fo the temporary foster care system and into a safe, permanent home as quickly as possible."

"If children in foster care don't have a consistent adult to guide them, it's easy for them to get lost in the chaos of the child welfare system," Lucille Bell, executive director of the organization, said. "Our volunteers make sure this doesn't happen by speaking up for these children in court and ensuring that their voices are heard.

"CASA volunteers advocate first and foremost for reunification with the child's immediate family. But when that's not an option, they work to place the child in a loving, adoptive home."

In 2014, more than 46,800 Texas children were in the child welfare system, according to the news release. Roughly half of these children did not have a CASA volunteer. (Continued from Page 6)

Rockwall County News • Thursday, February 4, 2016 Page 3

On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

Christian political activism in America ... Part 1

It is popularly believed that the American Revolution set the precedence for Christians waging war against ruling governments for freedom. But a little over 100 years earlier, well-disciplined English Christians organized a military of commoners that defeated the King of England and shut down parliament.

This was the English Civil War. The Christians were persecuted by the English government on behalf of the nationalized Church of England.

The Chistian commoners were part of a large number of people who rejected many religious cantations and rituals required under the Church of England. They were known as Puritans.

The commoners won two victories over the royal armies.

After about a decade or longer, the next King in line, took control without a fight because the commoners lost organization after the death of their leader, Lord Oliver Cromwell.

The English Civil War very likely set the stage for the American Revolution as a Christian controlled fight for freedom.

The people who voted to Declare Independence, they who passed the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution, did so with the basic understanding that the war would continue from within.

Christian political activism is basically a continuation of the war.

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

"Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord."

Psalm 150:6

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

Romans 10: 9-10

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

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

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

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

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

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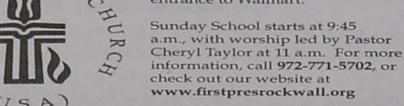
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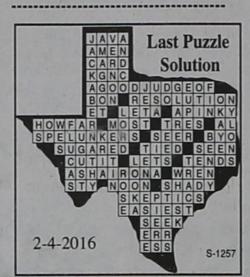
Sons of the American Revolution East Fork-Trinity Chapter meets 6:00 p.m., second Thursday each month. 4881 Bass Pro Dr. Garland, Texas. Guests & family welcome. http://www.txssar.org/ EastForkTrinity.

Rockwall County Kiwanis Club Meets every Tuesday at noon

at the Rockwall Wedding Chapel, 203 S. Fannin. For more information call 972-772-6001

Senior Services

If you are interested in delivering weekday meals to homebound seniors in Rockwall County, we will be holding volunteer training sessions the second Wednesday each month at 1 p.m. Please call 972-771-9514 for location.



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

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

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Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Advantage Storage, which is located At 660 Justin Rd Rockwall, TX 75087 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien online at www.StorageBattles.com. The auction will end on or around 12 p.m. on 2-26-16. Property will be sold to the highest bidder. Deposit for removal and cleanup may be required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of following tenants, with brief description of contents in each space.

James Campbell, Household goods, toys, tools, misc. tubs. Please contact Sarah Thornton at 972-772-3212 for more information.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, The Vault Self Storage located at 1280 E. Ralph Hall Parkway, Rockwall, Texas 75032 will hold a public auction of property to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 10:00 AM, February 19, 2016, at The Vault Self Storage, 1280 E. Ralph Hall Parkway, Rockwall, Texas. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash only. All successful bidders will remove the contents immediately and leave unit clean. A refundable cleanup deposit will be required. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property includes contents of spaces of the following tenant(s):

Wanda G. McMorris: Household goods, small appliances & clothing

Hailee Gregory: Household furniture & boxes

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

Rockwall County

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Rockwall County News Briefs

(Continued from page 2)

Democratic Party to host monthly meeting

The Rockwall County Democratic Party will conduct its monthly breakfast meeting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 20, at the Harry Myers Community Center, 815 E. Washington, Rockwall. A continental breakfast will be served. Interested persons are invited to attend.

RCP auditions for 'Love, Sex & the IRS' set

The Rockwall Community Playhouse, located at 609 E. Rusk two blocks off the square in downtown Rockwall, will conduct auditions for "Love, Sex & the IRS" beginning at 1 p.m. Feb. 20. For more information visit rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org.

Spring Break Rock Camp set March 7-11

The Rockwall Parks & Rec Department has organized a Spring Break Rock Camp that will run March 7-11. Participants will venture to destinations throughout the area, including the Heard Museum, the Texas Skatium/Bowl-o-Rama, Dallas Arboretum, Cowboys Stadium and more. Visit rockwall.com/parks/ index.asp for more details.

Newcomers & Friends to meet in March

Rockwall County Newcomers & Friends will host its March luncheon and program beginning at 10 a.m. on March 10 at Occasions at Stone River in Royse City. Janet Smith from the Arboretum will speak on pollination in a talk entitled "Sex in the Garden." Attend the event by calling Barbara at 972-771-1057 or Cathy at 942-400-9934 or visit newcomersrock.com. RSVP by Feb. 29.

Believe It or Not is March 11 lecture topic

Tall tales of Rockwall County will be the topic at the Sheri Stodghill Lecture Series presented by the Rockwall County Historical Foundation and the Rockwall County Historical Commission from noon to 1 p.m. in the third floor in the historic downtown courthouse on March 11.

Historical Commission to meet March 11

The Rockwall County Historical Commission will observe its first quarterly meeting of the year at 1 p.m. March 11 at the museum, 901 E. Washington.

Rockwall's Got Talent auditions scheduled

Auditions for Rockwall's Got Talent will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 26 at the Rockwall Community Playhouse, 609 E. Rusk (two blocks off the square in downtown Rockwall). Semi-finals are scheduled for April 8; finals will be April 15. For more details visit rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org.

Texas History in 1861 is topic of April 8 event

To secede or not to secede was the question posed by Gov. Sam Houston (aka Mike Donegan) and Texas Ranger John Salmon "Rip" Ford (aka Jay Webb), which will be explored April 8 at the Sheri Stodghill Lecture Series presented by the Rockwall County Historical Foundation and the Rockwall County Historical Commission from noon to 1 p.m. in the third floor in the historic downtown courthouse. The presentation will explore the cultural, economic and political issues driving forces during this time period.

One American Soldier is May 13 lecture topic

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

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Rockwall CERT posts 1,125 volunteer hours

The Rockwall Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT, delivered a report to the Rockwall City Council last month that indicated its volunteer hours totaled 1,125.

The report showed Rockwall CERT volunteers were involved in a total of 59 events during the calen-vernment) schooling dar year, according to information provided in the city's e-newsletter.

CERT members are groups of active residents who have received training to enable them to "recog- produces a mindset nize, respond to and recover from a major emergency affecting the Rockwall community," according to stroys the love for le the newsletter. A nationally certified FEMA course is used to teach CERT members to perform life-saving functions while awaiting the arrival of professional emergency responders. The course is taught by a certified CERT instructor.

Training topics include disaster preparedness, fire safety, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue operations, terrorism and CERT, animal response, emergency communications, traffic and crowd management, firefighter rehab, hazardous materials, flood, earthquakes, excessive heat, landslides, severe thunderstorms, tornados, winter storms, pandemic influenza, nuclear power plant emergencies, and

The Rockwall CERT was developed in 2005.

Rockwall Area Chamber hosts banquet, distributes awards

The Rockwall Area Chamber & Visitors Center recognized several local residents and businesses | ure presidents to wa on Tuesday, Jan. 26, at the 2016 Annual Awards & Partner Appreciation Banquet.

More than 450 attendees enjoyed steak dinners, dancing and socializing, according to a news release from the chamber.

Winners of the evening for each category include the following:

- Best Practices in Community Involvement Award -- Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Rockwall
 - Best Practices in Customer Service Award -- Chick-fil-A • Emerging Business of the Year Award -- Jerry Welch, The Welch Team - Ebby Halliday Realtors
 - Young Professional of the Year Katy Miller, Lake Pointe Medical Center • Small Business Partner of the Year Award -- English Insurance Group
 - Medium-size Business Partner of the Year Award -- My Computer Guy
 - Corporate Business Partner of the Year Award -- Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Rockwall • Ambassador of the Year Award -- Katy Miller, Lake Pointe Medical Center
 - Board of Director of the Year Award -- Robin Chouteau, Honda Cars of Rockwall
 - Nonprofit Partner of the Year Rockwall County Helping Hands
 - Chamber Partner of the Year Award -- Honda Cars of Rockwall • Spirit of Rockwall Award -- Judge David Sweet, Rockwall County
 - Lifetime Achievement Award -- Scott Self, Sail with Scott
- Rockwall Chamber Milestone partners also were recognized during the awards ceremony for their 10, 20 and 30 years of partnership with the chamber. Those recognized included:
- Ten years of partnership -- Baylor SurgiCare at Heath, Belfioré Salon & Day Spa, Black Tie Entertainment, Boys & Girls Club of Rockwall, Choice Heating & Air Inc., Doigg's Carpet Care Inc. & Restoration, Fish Window Cleaning, Hunt Regional Open Imaging of Rockwall, Keller Williams Realty Rockwall, La Quinta Inn & Suites, Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson LLP, MidSouth Bank, Rockwall Count Master Gardeners Association, Rockwall Women's League and SERVPRO of Rockwall/Rowlett
- Twenty years of partnership -- Heritage Land Bank ACA, Hudson Financial Group, American Homes, Republic Title of Texas and First Presbyterian Church
- Thirty years of partnership KHYI-FM/KXEZ-FM, McDonald's
- Lakeside National Bank and Rockwall County Abstract and Title were awarded Decades of Distinction awards for Lakeside National Bank's 41 years and Rockwall County Abstract and Title's 45 years of partnership.

The 2016 Chamber Board looked on as outgoing board chairman Mike Mishler of Mishler Builders Inc. passed the gavel to the current chair, David Mallard of the Law Offices of David S. Mallard.

"The annual awards and appreciation banquet provides an opportunity to recognize the achievements and attributes of our chamber partners," said Dana K. Macalik, chamber president, in a news release issued by the organization. "Rockwall has an accelerating momentum of economic growth and give. We celebrate the chamber's past success and look forward to things to come in 2016."

y Jacob G. Hornber uture Freedom Found uppose 100 percent o smantling, of the wel ericans today live. W society - that is, on longer grafted onto The chances would be preading the idea of even if the idea of dibertarians would in

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Opinions

Vhy we don't compromise, Part 3

y Jacob G. Hornberger

uture Freedom Foundation

uppose 100 percent of libertarians called for a reform, rather than smantling, of the welfare-warfare state way of life under which ericans today live. What would be the chances of achieving the society — that is, one in which a welfare-warfare state apparatus of longer grafted onto our federal governmental system?

he chances would be virtually nil. That's because no one would preading the idea of abolition. Everyone would be talking about rm.

ven if the idea of abolition were raised from time to time, ibertarians would inevitably say to themselves, "Why do we to consider abolition when libertarians themselves don't call for ition?" After all, if those who have studied the market process ine to call for a free-market way of life, why would we expect rs to do so?

low, let's turn it around. Suppose 100 percent of libertarians realling for abolition, not reform, of the welfare-warfare state aratus. While that doesn't guarantee that people will join us to eve the free society, it definitely increases the odds of success. It's because an increasing number of people would be hearing case for a genuinely free society rather than the case for simply rming the tyranny of the status quo. A certain percentage of those tole who hear the abolitionist message are apt to be attracted to it, the eby increasing the ranks of libertarians.

subscribe to what I call the critical-mass theory for achieving dom. I believe that when the number of people favoring abolition thes a critical mass, the country will experience a monumental toward freedom, much as that which brought the Berlin Wall hing down. Moreover, I'm convinced that that critical mass can ignificantly less than a majority of people in society.

m fact, we sometimes see this phenomenon in corporations in wich a tiny minority of employees wish to shift the philosophy of the firm. They start out with one or two, grow to three or four, and cotinue to find people within the firm who are initially receptive to ard the change and then grow passionate and enthusiastic about it offentimes they reach a critical mass that is significantly less than a ajority of the work force, and suddenly the philosophy of the firm stats.

believe that the same principle applies to achieving freedom in screty. We don't have to convince most Americans of the virtues of a se society; we just need to arrive at a critical mass of people who wit a free society — a critical mass that can be much less than a priority.

f I'm right, then that necessarily means that the more libertarians the are making the pure, principled case for liberty, the greater are odds for achieving liberty. Conversely, the larger the number of ortarians making the case for reform, rather than abolition, the redifficult it is to achieve liberty.

Education and vouchers

et's examine some well-known examples where the abolitionrm debate manifests itself, beginning with the critically important of education.

ort to the Rockwa Every libertarian agrees that the government has no legitimate role in he area of education, any more than it has in religion. Public (i.e., nots during the cale government) schooling is an absolute disaster, especially considering what it does to children's minds. Through its system of regimentation, able them to "recognit roduces a mindset of conformity and obedience to authority and minity." according to troys the love for learning that naturally exists in every child. At

the core of the system is coercion — mandatory-attendance laws and school taxes. Public schooling could easily be called an army-lite education.

So what's the solution to this educational morass? The solution is to separate school and state, just as our ancestors separated church and state. Repeal school compulsory-attendance laws and abolish school taxes. End all governmental involvement in education. Achieve a totally free market in education, one in which consumers are sovereign and entrepreneurs are vying for their business in a voluntary, consensual environment.

Unfortunately, however, many libertarians have instead settled for reform. That's what school vouchers are all about. Vouchers enable people to use government-funded certificates to cover tuition expenses in private schools. Voucher proponents justify their position by saying that at least this program helps a certain number of people to escape the ravages of public schooling.

Yet, consider the way that vouchers are funded — through the compulsory method of taxation. The state forcibly takes money from people, many of whom don't have children, and gives it to people in the form of a school voucher. How is that different from taxing everyone to pay for the schooling of those who have children?

In other words, by endorsing vouchers, libertarians necessarily abandon one of the most powerful arguments against public schooling — that it's morally wrong for the state to take money from people to whom it rightly belongs in order to give it to people to whom it does not belong.

Moreover, vouchers expand the number of people who have mindsets of dependency. Once a family begins receiving vouchers, it cannot imagine life without them.

Finally, notice that making the case for vouchers is quite a bit different from making the case for separating school and state. While the voucher proponent, like the freedom advocate, points to the disastrous consequences of public schools, he doesn't induce people to question the role of the state in education. He doesn't talk about the immorality and destructiveness of mandatory-attendance laws and school taxes and the virtues of a genuine free market — that is, a market that is free from government involvement or interference. Instead, his articles and speeches revolve around the merits of school vouchers, which necessarily leave the public schooling system intact while removing some students from it.

Now let's go back to a previous example. Suppose 100 percent of libertarians are calling for school vouchers. What would be the chances of achieving educational liberty? Virtually nil. After all, if libertarians lack faith in educational freedom, why would we expect other people to have faith in a free market in education?

Conversely, if 100 percent of libertarians are calling for educational liberty, then the odds of achieving it increase. More people are likely to see that libertarians have faith in the free-market process and some of them will want to understand the reasoning for such faith.

During FFF's first year of operation, I wrote an essay for our monthly journal, which at that time was called Freedom Daily, entitled "Letting Go of Socialism," which pointed out that school vouchers were nothing more than a way toereform the state's socialist educational system. I said that the only solution to the education morass was a separation of school and state.

Imagine my surprise when Nobel Laureate Milton Friedman criticized my position in a speech that was later reprinted in Liberty magazine under the title, "Say No to Intolerance." Here is what

Congress is writing a blank check for war

y Ron Paul

Ron Paul Institute

While the Washington snowstorm dominated news coverage this week, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell was operating behild the scenes to rush through the Senate what may be the most masternsfer of power from the Legislative to the Executive branch four history. The senior Senator from Kentucky is scheming, along who Sen. Lindsey Graham, to bypass normal Senate procedure to the track legislation to grant the president the authority to wage unlinted war for as long as he or his successors may wish.

The legislation makes the unconstitutional Iraq War authorization 2002 look like a walk in the park. It will allow this president and are presidents to wage war against ISIS without restrictions on e, geographic scope, or the use of ground troops. It is a completely in-ended authorization for the president to use the military as he when the story is a long as he (or she) wishes. Even President Obama has bressed concern over how willing Congress is to hand him unlimited power to wage war.

President Obama has already far surpassed even his predecessor, orge W. Bush, in taking the country to war without even the fig of an authorization. In 2011 the president invaded Libya, overwits government, and oversaw the assassination of its leader, hout even bothering to ask for Congressional approval. Instead of peachment, which he deserved for the disastrous Libya invasion, ingress said nothing. House Republicans only managed to bring subject up when they thought they might gain political points politing the killing of US Ambassador Chris Stevens in Benghazi. It is becoming more clear that Washington plans to expand its war

in the Middle East. Last week the media reported that the US military had taken over an air base in eastern Syria, and Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said that the US would send in the 101st Airborne Division to retake Mosul in Iraq and to attack ISIS headquarters in Raqqa, Syria. Then on Saturday, Vice President Joe Biden said that if the upcoming peace talks in Geneva are not successful, the US is prepared for a massive military intervention in Syria. Such an action would likely place the US military face to face with the Russian military, whose assistance was requested by the Syrian government. In contrast, we must remember that the US military is operating in Syria in violation of international law.

The prospects of such an escalation are not all that far-fetched. At the insistence of Saudi Arabia and with US backing, the representatives of the Syrian opposition at the Geneva peace talks will include members of the Army of Islam, which has fought with al-Qaeda in Syria. Does anyone expect these kinds of people to compromise? Isn't al-Qaeda supposed to be our enemy?

The purpose of the Legislative branch of our government is to restrict the Executive branch's power. The Founders understood that an all-powerful king who could wage war at will was the greatest threat to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That is why they created a people's branch, the Congress, to prevent the emergence of an all-powerful autocrat to drag the country to endless war. Sadly, Congress is surrendering its power to declare war.

Let's be clear: If Senate Majority Leader McConnell succeeds in passing this open-ended war authorization, the US Constitution will be all but a dead letter.

Friedman stated in part:

In the Future of Freedom Foundation's Freedom Daily, for September 1990 — again, a group that is doing good work and is making an impact — Jacob Hornberger wrote, "What is the answer to socialism in public schools? Freedom." Correct. But how do we get from here to there? Is that somebody else's problem? Is that a purely practical problem that we can dismiss? The ultimate goal wewould like to get to is a society in which people are responsible forthemselves and for their children's schooling. And in which you do * not have a governmental system. But am I a statist, as I have been, labeled by a number of libertarians, because some thirty years ago I suggested the use of educational vouchers as a way of easing the transition? Is that, and I quote Hornberger again, "simply a futile," attempt to make socialism work more efficiently"? I don't believe it. I don't believe that you can simply say what the ideal is. This is what I mean by the utopian strand in libertarianism. You cannot simplydescribe the utopian solution, and leave it to somebody else how we get from here to there. That's not only a practical problem. It's a problem of the responsibilities that we have.

Notice something important here: Friedman is saying that, yes, educational liberty — i.e., no more state involvement in education — is the goal. He suggests, though, that vouchers are the way to achieve that goal.

But are they? That raises a question that has long been a subject of controversy and debate within the libertarian movement — the legitimacy of "gradualist" methods for achieving the free society.

Gradualism

In the 1990s, I served three terms on the platform committee of the national Libertarian Party. One of the contentious issues was whether the LP platform should endorse "gradualism." I was opposed to the proposition. For one thing, as I pointed out in part one of this essay, gradualism necessarily entails a period of time in which wrongdoing is being countenanced. It was incumbent on the libertarian, I argued, to stand for an immediate termination of wrongdoing, even if it was politically unlikely that that would suddenly happen.

But what I didn't question was the practical argument for gradualism — the one that Friedman was making with respect to vouchers. That is, I didn't question that gradualist proposals would gradually lead us to freedom. I simply questioned the morality of endorsing wrongdoing during the period of the gradualism.

After 25 years of reflection on the matter, I now realize how wrong I was. The fact is that gradualism is not gradualism. The fact is that vouchers and many other so-called gradualist methods for achieving freedom are nothing more than statist reform proposals, albeit ones endorsed by libertarians and "free-market conservatives." Even worse, by entrenching the state more deeply into areas it should not be involved in, "gradualist" methods don't gradually lead to freedom; they instead obstruct and impede it.

Schools vouchers provide a perfect example. Let's assume that the state decides to adopt a voucher program entailing \$10 million in vouchers. It taxes the citizenry that amount and distributes the vouchers to select families. The families take the vouchers to, say, three private schools in town. Suddenly, those three schools are faced with a shortage of classrooms, teachers, and books. No problem. Each of them now has \$3.3 million, compliments of the state's vouchers. They use that money to construct new school buildings, hire new teachers, and purchase additional textbooks. The next year and every year after that, the schools continue to receive the vouchers and plan for the continued receipt of them.

At the end of five years, let's say that libertarian voucher proponents say, "Okay, everyone, time's up! Our voucher program was intended to gradually bring about the end of all state involvement in education. Five years is a sufficiently long time for such gradualism. Time to terminate the voucher program and to separate school and state."

What are the chances that those three schools are going to enthusiastically join such libertarians? The chances are virtually nonexistent. That's because they, like the families who receive the vouchers, have grown as dependent on the voucher dole as the public-schooling establishment has become on school taxes. They are not about to call for the end of their dole.

In fact, voucher recipients are likely to lash out at the libertarian proponents of vouchers for failing to disclose to people that their ultimate aim with vouchers was to end government involvement in education. You see, voucher proponents learned a long time ago that they could not, as a practical matter, publicly state what Friedman stated in his speech — that school vouchers are a gradualist means of bringing about an end to government involvement in education. They found that if they disclosed that, it was more difficult to induce people to accept their voucher proposals.

Thus, voucher proponents decided to remain silent about their ultimate goal. In fact, many of them got so embroiled trying to get vouchers accepted that they themselves lost sight of what their ultimate goal was. Over time, their arguments for vouchers became couched simply in terms of helping children get into private schools, not as a way to get the public-school system dismantled. In fact, in one of the real perversities that arise from the compromise of principle, today many voucher proponents use as one of their main arguments that the program will improve the public-schooling system through "competition." Every time I see that argument for vouchers, I can't help but wonder whether Milton Friedman is turning over in his grave.

Twenty-four years ago, the city of Milwaukee adopted a school voucher program. Despite the passage of almost a quarter-century, it is clear that the city's school voucher program has not gradually led to the separation of school and state. After all, even the most ardent proponent of gradualism would have to concede that 24 years is more than enough time to constitute "gradual."

Yet, certainly none of the Milwaukee schools that have been receiving the vouchers is calling for the end of vouchers and the end of governmental involvement in education.

Moreover, I don't know of any libertarian voucher proponents who are now telling the people of Milwaukee that the time for vouchers to bring about the end of all government involvement in education has arrived. Instead, libertarian voucher proponents are trying their best to expand vouchers to other parts of the country, thereby making the state even more entrenched into education. That's not advancing freedom. That's expanding statism.

As I stated in my 1990 essay "Letting Go of Socialism," vouchers are nothing more than a statist reform plan, one that happens to be endorsed by reform libertarians and by "free-market conservatives" under the rubric of "choice" or "privatization." The fact is that school vouchers are no different in principle from libertarian and conservative, reform plans for Social Security, Medicare, the Pentagon, the CIA, the NSA, and other aspects of the welfare-warfare state, as we shall see in part 4 of this essay.

Be an informed electorate and Grand Jury

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

Texas Constitution Article 1, Section 16

No bill of attainder, ex post facto law, retroactive law, or any law impairing the obligation of contracts, shall be made. The act of forcing any business and natural person to purchase any kind of insurance for others, who renders services, constitutes impairing obligation of contracts." It's for this reason that Texas never passed an unemployment TAX.

The Texas Workforce Commission exists solely to enforce the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (26 USC 3306 (g) and (j)(1))

A widely recognized problem in Texas and local governments is selective compliance with state law (Texas constitution, public laws, state statutes and subordinate ordinances). Solution: Call on the House and Senate to amend Penal Code Section 39.02 Abuse of Official Capacity to:

- 1. Remove "with intent to harm or defraud another;" and
- 2. Remove "intentionally or knowingly."

Intent of the government officer logically goes to sentencing or punitive damages. The Oaths of Office and Certificates of Commission are evidence of "knowingly."

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Ethan Couch's plea of 'affluenza' a copout

(Opinions continued from page 5)

by Millie Jean Coppedge

One only has to go to a McDonald's, the waiting area of a movie or just about any other place where people congregate to hear what is on people's minds these days.

The absolutely, unbelievable escapade and what many people feel is a miscarriage of justice regarding Ethan Couch and his mother, Tonya, has left the public wondering what has our criminal system come to.

According to the New York Daily News dated Jan. 30, Ethan's father and mother, Fred and Tonya Couch, have criminal records dating back into the 1980s. It seems that the times Fred and Tonya were in trouble with the law they had the attitude that they didn't have to abide with the law and that their money could buy them off any type of prosecution.

So it was no surprise when their son, Ethan, began to exhibit the same attitude in 2012 when he was found intoxicated and behind the wheel of a truck with a young girl inside. The publication states that Ethan was given six months' probation "for possessing and consuming alcohol as a minor and the municipal judge sentenced him to complete an alcohol-awareness course and 12 hours of alcoholrelated community service."

Multi-media reports have stated that the extremely intoxicated Ethan and several of his drunken friends piled into his pickup, driving more than 70 miles an hour in a 40-mile zone of a two-lane road on the night of Saturday, June 15, 2013. He lost control of the truck and hit a group of people who had stopped to help the driver of a disabled

Ethan was reportedly driving with more than three times the legal limit of alcohol; speeding; and had a restricted license dating back to a previous drunken driving offense.

Ethan, who was born April 11, 1997, and lived in Burleson at the time of the offense was charged with two counts of intoxicated assault and four counts of intoxicated manslaughter. He was given 10 years' probation in juvenile court on four counts of intoxication manslaughter. Four people were killed at the scene, with nine injured, including two who were passengers in Ethan's truck.

He was 16 at the time of the slaughter.

Ethan's attorneys pleaded that the teen should be given probation because he suffered from "affluenza," a term rarely used and known to very few people. The term is defined on the Wikipedia web site as "financially privileged, the inability to understand consequences of one's actions, notably as in the case of Ethan Couch."

Attorneys reportedly argued that Ethan was so extremely overprotected by his parents and they were so rich, giving him anything he wanted, that he didn't understand that he had done something wrong or against the law. During the hearing it surfaced that he was reportedly taught that "wealth buys privilege."

An immediate outrage covered not only the state of Texas, but reached throughout the nation. Ethan had killed four people, wounded nine (one who will never recover due to massive brain trauma), and was only given probation.

But the outrage only grew when Ethan did not show up for his session with his probation officer and a video surfaced of him having a drunken party with his friends, playing beer pong.

Shortly afterwards, Couch and his mother disappeared. They were later located in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

The two have since been brought back to Dallas to await trial. 0 Feb. 19, Ethan will go before the judge to find out if he will stand trial for breaking probation and any other charges in juvenile or adu

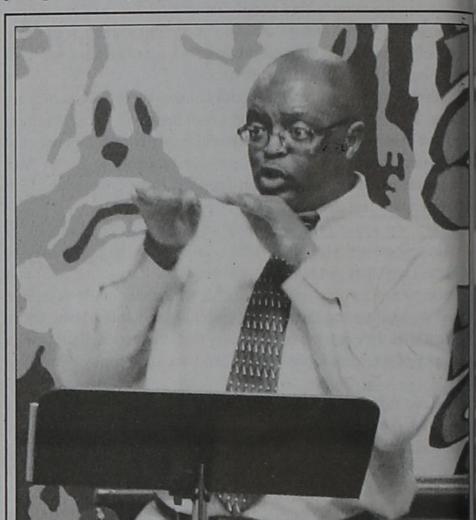
The true reason for this column is as a comparison of justice. At 6:3 p.m. on Jan. 27 in Texas, 35-year-old James Freeman was execute for killing a game warden in a shootout in 2007.

Every life is precious. It is extremely sad and unfortunate the needless pain and suffering the game warden's family and friend must have gone through and will continue to endure because of his death, the trial and now the execution. Their lives are forever changed. My heart goes out to them.

But Ethan Couch killed four people and injured nine, one of whom will never recover. Affluenza is a copout and a way of evading justice.

Thirteen families have had their lives devastated and this will never end for them. Do their lives not count for as much, just because the "rich boy" didn't know he was doing wrong by getting into this true and driving, when his alcohol level was over three times the limit Yes, he had been pampered and indulged all his life, as one can te by reading the prior history from police and court records of h behaviors. But time is up.

Justice must be done for all the families he has destroyed. A ple too our criminal system -- show the citizens of our nation that live matter more than money. Show not just our state, but the nation that Texas takes murder seriously, whether it is done with a gun or pickup. No more probation.



The Tri-County Choral Society met Tuesday, Jan. 12 at the First United Methodist Church in Royse City for its first rehearsal for the choir's spring semester. The mission of the choir, made up of members from Rockwall, Hunt and Collin counties, is to encourage a love of the arts in the community. Isiak Holiday, pictured above, is the interim director for the Tri-County Choir this semester. He also serves as the Royse City High School music director. The choir meets at 7 p.m. each Tuesday evening. Anyone interested in joining may contact Sandy Clinard

at tricountychoral@gmail.com. Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/Rockwall County News



Several students from the Cain Middle School orchestra participated in the Rockwall All-City Orchestra performance on Saturday, Jan. 23. The all-city orchestra is an elite group of musicians selected by audition as the best in Rockwall. Pictured above with are Cain participants, from the left, Ryan Halpin, Zoë Quintanilla, Tyler Burpee, Haden Hollis, Dan Selle, Matthew Price, Kylee Conrad, Patrick Weaver, Brandon Chan, Bailey Morrow and Rachel Hundley. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Rockwall-Heath Lady Hawks Senior Kendall Williams (3) drives by a West Mesquite defender for a basket, Friday Jan. 29, 2016, at the RHHS gym in Heath. The Lady Hawks (12-11 Overall, 7-3 District), defeated West Mesquite 64-53. Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

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CASA seeks new volunteers ...

(Continued from Page 3)

Last year, 66 CASA volunteers served 154 children in the child welfare system in Kaufman and Rockwall counties. As children are removed from their homes, there is a greater need for more volunteers, according to the release.

"Every child deserves to have a safe, permanent and loving home," Bell said. "Make a difference in the life of an abused or neglected child by becoming a CASA volunteer."

The organization's information sessions will take place in late March. Training will begin in May.

more information becomeaCASA.org or lonestarcasa.org or call 972-772-5858.

Area News Briefs

Nature, STEM-based camps offered in Dallas

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

Rockwall County Sheriff's Office January Report

Calls for service - 721

Incidents/investigations:

 Kidnapping/abduction – 1 • Simple assault – 5

Theft from motor vehicle – 2

• All other larceny – 2 Motor vehicle theft – 2

Credit card/ATM fraud -- 1

 Impersonation -- 1 Destruction/damage/vandalism of property – 1

Drug/narcotic violations – 6

 Drug equipment violations – 7 Weapon law violations -- 2

 Driving under the influence – 3 • Drunkenness – 2

Family offenses, nonviolent -- 1

 Liquor law violations – 1 • Runaway -- 1

All other offenses – 144

 Total offenses – 180; total incidents – 144 Arrests:

Simple assault – 2

Drug/narcotic violations – 7

Drug equipment violations – 4

 Weapon law violations -- 1 Driving under the influence – 1

Drunkenness – 2

 All other offenses – 147 Total charges – 164; total arrests – 89

Accidents:

• Total accidents – 16

Criminal papers:

Affidavit for surety to go off bond (1716) – 24

• 1719 -- 2

• Bench warrant – 6 • Bond forfeiture – 35

Failure to appear for court – 15

• Insufficient bond - 1

• Motion to adjudicate guilt - 10 Motion to revoke probation – 30

• Probable cause – 36

• Traffic - 121

• Warrant - 36 • Total criminal papers served - 326; total criminal papers - 316

Civil papers:

• Citation - 19

Criminal subpoena – 9

• Notice to show cause -- 1 Temporary restraining order – 1

Writ of execution –2

Writ of sequestration -- 1

Total civil papers served – 37; total civil papers – 36

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The Rock Wall meeting at the J.E.J Vervalin, chapter m Programs Informati importance of being DAR member Marg dedicated to service Courtesy photo/R

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Rose-Mary Run the Friends of the Bonnet Tea set for 2

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Courtesy photo/R

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