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Rockwall County News

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Rockwall County News
Missing issues for 2016.
We do not have our archives
do not include 1/2/2016 issue.

TDCAA presents Lone Star Prosecutor Award

The team of investigators, support staff and prosecutors who tried a capital murder case against Eric Williams, who killed three people in Kaufman County in 2014 (including two county prosecutors) and sentenced to death, were honored with an award from the Texas District and County Attorneys Association at a ceremony in Dallas last week.

The Lone Star Prosecutor Award recognizes prosecutors and prosecutor office personnel whose tireless work advances justice in their communities. In honoring the prosecution team in the case of Texas v. Eric Williams, TDCAA lauds those who spent many months securing justice and ended a very dark time for Texas prosecutors and staffs.

TDCAA's Board of Directors and our Nominations Committee are proud to recognize the efforts of the lead lawyers, Bill Wirsky and Toby Shook," said Rob Kepple, TDCAA executive director, "but Bill and Toby's insistence, we are recognizing the entire team who worked on the capital murder case of Eric Williams. This year's award acknowledges that a successful prosecution is the work of three vital parts of a prosecutor office: the attorneys, investigators and support staff. It took a team of 12 to secure justice for the murders of Mark Sease, Mike McClelland, and Cynthia McClelland."

It was just a massive undertaking," said Wirsky, now a prosecutor in Collin County. "We had almost 25 terabytes of information collected during the investigation, and there's no way to house, digest and get it out for discovery without a huge team behind you. That's why so many people stepped up and helped us, why so many people played such a valuable role. The whole case exemplified the best in Texas prosecution where everybody pitches in and we help one another."

The award recipients include: Myles Brissette, former prosecutor in Tarrant County; Kenda Culpepper, criminal district attorney in Rockwall County, whose jurisdiction the trial was moved because of publicity; Tom D'Amore, former prosecutor in Dallas County; Danny Nutt, investigator in the Tarrant County DA's Office; Mark Porter, investigator in the Tarrant County DA's Office; John Rolater, chief appellate prosecutor in Collin County; Damita Sangermano, prosecutor in Rockwall County; Toby Shook, special prosecutor and former prosecutor in Dallas County; Jerri Sims, assistant U.S. attorney in the Northern District of Texas; and a former prosecutor in Dallas County.

Lisa Smith, appellate prosecutor in Dallas County; Rhona Wedderien, trial art coordinator in Tarrant County; and Bill Wirsky, special prosecutor and current prosecutor in Collin County.

Collaborating as a team is something Shook said he appreciates and values. Once a longtime felony prosecutor in Dallas County — and only two-time winner of the Lone Star Prosecutor Award — he's been in private practice at Shook & Gunter for nearly a decade.

What I enjoyed about the Williams case was having the team effort in the prosecution," he said. "That's something I miss from the DA's office. When you're in private practice, the most collaboration you get is with one other attorney. But in this case it was a team effort, and working with a team of professionals is satisfying and a lot of fun."

(Continued on Page 2)

University scholastic honors

Carney named to Dean's Honor Roll

Victoria Carney of Rockwall was named to the Fall 2015 Dean's Honor Roll at Oklahoma City University, according to a news release from the Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, university.

Dean's Honor Roll status is awarded to students who successfully complete a minimum of 12 credit hours while maintaining a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher.

Local students feted at Baylor University

More than a dozen local residents were among the 3,500 Baylor University students named to the Dean's Academic Honor Roll for the fall semester, according to a news release from the Waco university. Honorees include, from Heath, Caitlyn Beth Holstead, Halley Elizabeth Platz, Richard Burke Seggerman, Courtney A. Sosnowski and Spencer Davis Sosnowski; from Rockwall, Cathleen Cheyenne Conrad, Ashley Kathleen Faris, Alexis Rae Greenhill, Alexa Brielstein, Taylor Rae Lemons, Christian Daniel Mackin, De'Andra Kristine Maxwell, Taylor Ashlyn Neely, Patrick Sam Ntchobo, Andrea Cecilia Pujol, Caitlin Mackenzie Rainey, Lori C. Scott and Shelby Lee Striegel; and Brandy Parks from Royse City.

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

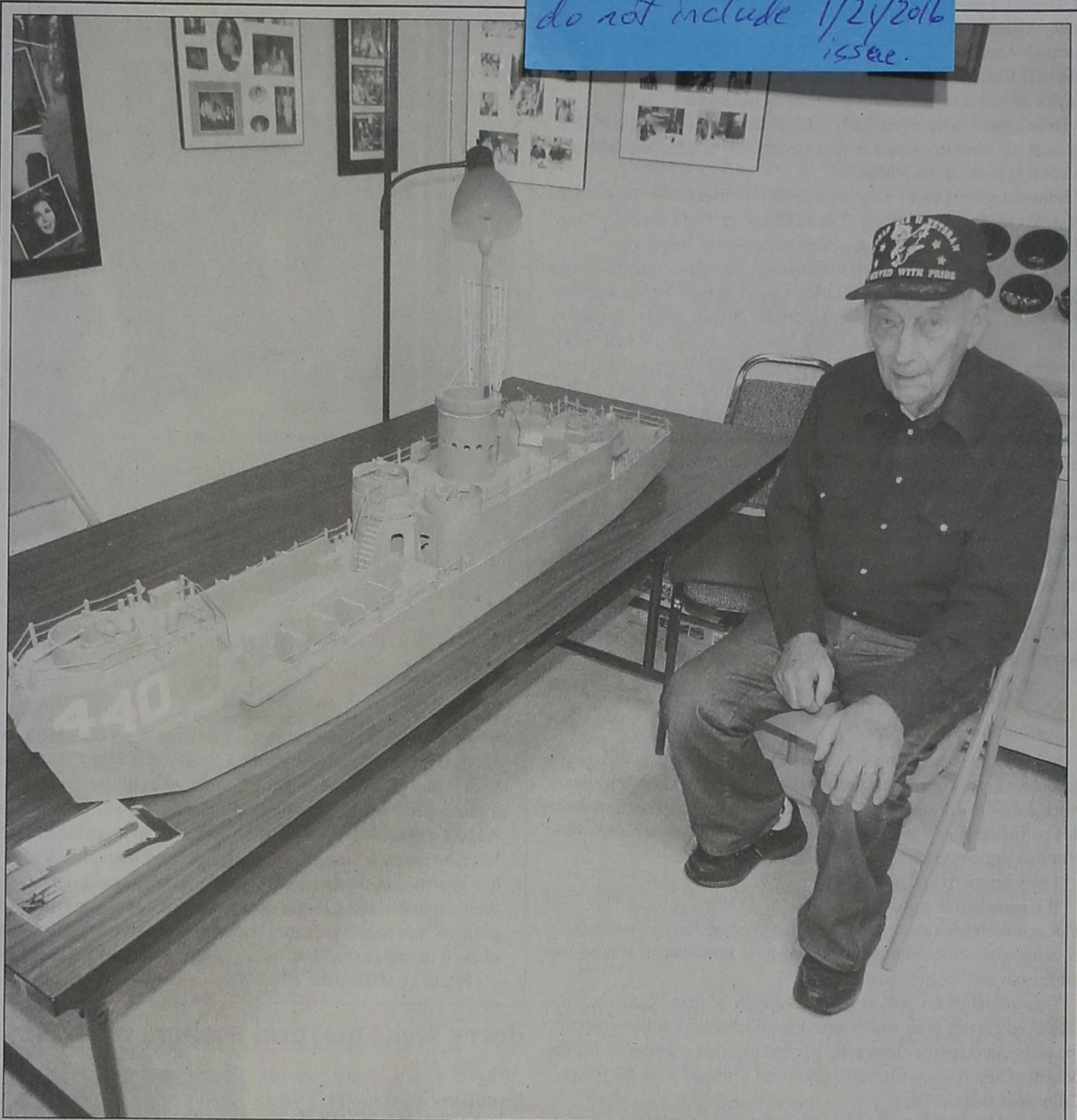
Upcoming RCP shows slated

Several events and auditions are coming up at the Rockwall Community Playhouse, according to a RCP news release issued recently.

Scheduled activities include:

- "You Can't Take It With You" — Performances are set Feb. 12-19, 21 and 26-28; Friday and Saturday performances will be at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinees will be at 2 p.m.
- "Love, Sex & the IRS" — Auditions set for 1 p.m. Feb. 20.
- Children's Spring Acting Workshop registration — Grades 1-5, 3:30 p.m., Feb. 9 (performances set April 17, 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.).
- Children's Spring Acting Workshop registration — Grades 6-8, 3:30 p.m. Feb. 11 (performances set April 17, 7 p.m., and 8 p.m. April 18).
- Rockwall's Got Talent auditions — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 26; semi-finals set April 8 and finals set April 15.

The RCP is located at 609 E. Rusk, two blocks off the square in downtown Rockwall.



Bob Gwaltney, age 90, of Caddo Mills recently displayed his built-to-scale model of the landing craft gunboat he served on during WW II at the Tri-County Veterans Honor Guard meeting in Royse City. The USS LCI (G) 440 was assigned to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater. He built this model from scratch, using no other model or kit. It took him approximately a month to complete. Gwaltney served in the U.S. Navy as Radioman 2nd Class (serviceman specializing in communication) from 1943-1946. He has compiled a document logging in dates, locations and events of where the gunboat served, which among many other places included several times at Pearl Harbor and the Philippine Islands. He said his log documenting accounts of the war "... is the story of one USS LCI (G) 440 that did its part to achieve a final victory over Japan in the Pacific Theater of War." "JAPAN SURRENDERS" is written in his log on Aug. 15, 1945.

Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/Rockwall County News



The Texas District and County Attorneys Association recently presented its Lone Star Prosecutor Award to 12 recipients. They are, from the left, John Rolater, chief appellate prosecutor in Collin County; Damita Sangermano, prosecutor in Rockwall County; Kenda Culpepper, Rockwall County criminal district attorney, to whose jurisdiction the trial was moved because of publicity; Rob Kepple, TDCAA's executive director; Jerri Sims, assistant U.S. attorney in the Northern District of Texas and former prosecutor in Dallas County; Danny Nutt, investigator in the Tarrant County DA's Office; Rhona Wedderien, trial art coordinator in Tarrant County; Toby Shook, special prosecutor and former prosecutor in Dallas County; Bill Wirsky, special prosecutor and current prosecutor in Collin County; Erleigh Wiley, Kaufman County criminal district attorney and award presenter; Tom D'Amore, former prosecutor in Dallas County; and Myles Brissette, former prosecutor in Tarrant County. Not pictured are Mark Porter, investigator in the Tarrant County DA's Office, and Lisa Smith, appellate prosecutor in Dallas County.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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Rockwall County News Briefs

Newcomers & Friends plan

February gathering

Rockwall County Newcomers & Friends will host its February luncheon and program beginning at 10 a.m. on Feb. 11 at Occasions at Stone River in Royse City.

(Continued on Page 2)



University Scholastics Honors

Local residents recognized at UNT

Many local residents have been recognized for their academic performances in the fall semester at the University of North Texas, according to a news release from the Denton university.

The following students were named to the President's List for the fall semester: Lauren Renee Segura of Fate; Jeremy S. Sanders and Shelton B. Williams of Heath; and Megan L. Burton, Barbara Hernandez, Erika Alaina Mendoza and Katrina Paulette Watson of Roysse City. Also, Dylan Asher, Peyton M. Aston, Diana Marisa Avila, Joshua Taylor Bernal, Gabrielle R. Boyd, Theresa Casillas, Tyler Jesse Cerrato, Priscilla Y. Gonzalez, Janna Lee Griffin, Abbey R. Groom, Lauren Diane Ham, Jasmeet Kaur Janday, Hanna Milica Jelic, Marlena Kay Jordan, Jade Keath, Erik Samuel Ljungholm, Samuel Abram Miramontes, Christopher James Morel, Anthony Michael Ray, Reagan Elizabeth Reeves, Alyssa A. Stephens, Dillon Taylor Stokes and Annie K. Young, all of Rockwall.

To be named to the President's List, undergraduates must complete at least 12 semester hours with a perfect 4.0 grade-point average, according to the news release.

Named to the Dean's List were James B. Beattie of Fate; Brett Wavrusa of Heath; and Haley Brooke Chandler, Zaira Estefany Cruz, Alec Allen Roberson and Kaely Marisa Rollins of Roysse City.

Rockwall honorees included Mohammed Saleh H. Alsaiegh, Marco Armando Avila, Maeson Lynn Ballou, Gwenlyn Kate Boley, Kenneth B. Clasen, Adam Michael Cope, Arielle Nicole Engle, Cameron Cole Frazier, Selena Yesenia Garcia, Jessica T. Gomez, Randi Gayle Hodges, Sydney Renee Hodges, Christopher Wayne Holcomb, Lindsay E. Hollie, Michael W. Horner, Alana M. Irby, Josey Marie Jagielo, Hollie Marie Kessane, Brittnee Renea Lemmond, Thomas Scott Matthews, Christopher Eric Mount, Thomas Austin Nelson, Grace Otten, Kyndall Michele Randolph, Fernando Resendiz, Logan J. Riggas, Allison Paige Rochier, Holly Anne Romero, Samantha Kate Ruff, Candace L. Schmucker, Caroline P. Sears, Erin Rae Seifert, Jason Snider, Alina Soaita, Kennedy Lanae Thornton, Huy Tran, Payton L. Walker, Brett Wavrusa, Trevor O. Wilkinson, Eric Alexander Woodward and Patrick Mark Worbs.

To be named to the Dean's List, undergraduates must complete at least 12 academic hours with a grade-point average of 3.5 to 3.9, according to the news release.

Lone Star Prosecutor Award ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Both Wirsky and Shook say they are grateful to receive this award because it comes from their peers, from people who know how much work goes into a death-penalty case and who recognize how important this particular trial was because a murderer was targeting those in the criminal justice system.

"I was surprised and humbled by it," Shook said.

"It's meaningful coming from TDCAA," Wirsky said, "because TDCAA members know how hard this type of trial is, how hard it is being gone from our families, and how important it was to the profession that we get it right."

"I am proud of my role in the prosecution of Eric Williams, but I take even greater pride in the amazing collaborative achievement of the prosecution team. Everyone worked together seamlessly for the benefit of all. It was a true team effort and a blueprint for the future," Culpepper said.

"Although the Lone Star Award is a prosecution related award, so much credit also needs to go to law enforcement agencies who worked long hours throughout the pendency of this case," she said, "These included the FBI, ATF, Texas Rangers, DPS, Kaufman County Sheriff David Bynes, Rockwall County Sheriff Harold Eavenson, and so many local agencies."

The award ceremony took place in front of approximately 250 federal, state and local law enforcement personnel, prosecutors and elected officials who attended the North Texas Crime Commission meeting in Dallas.

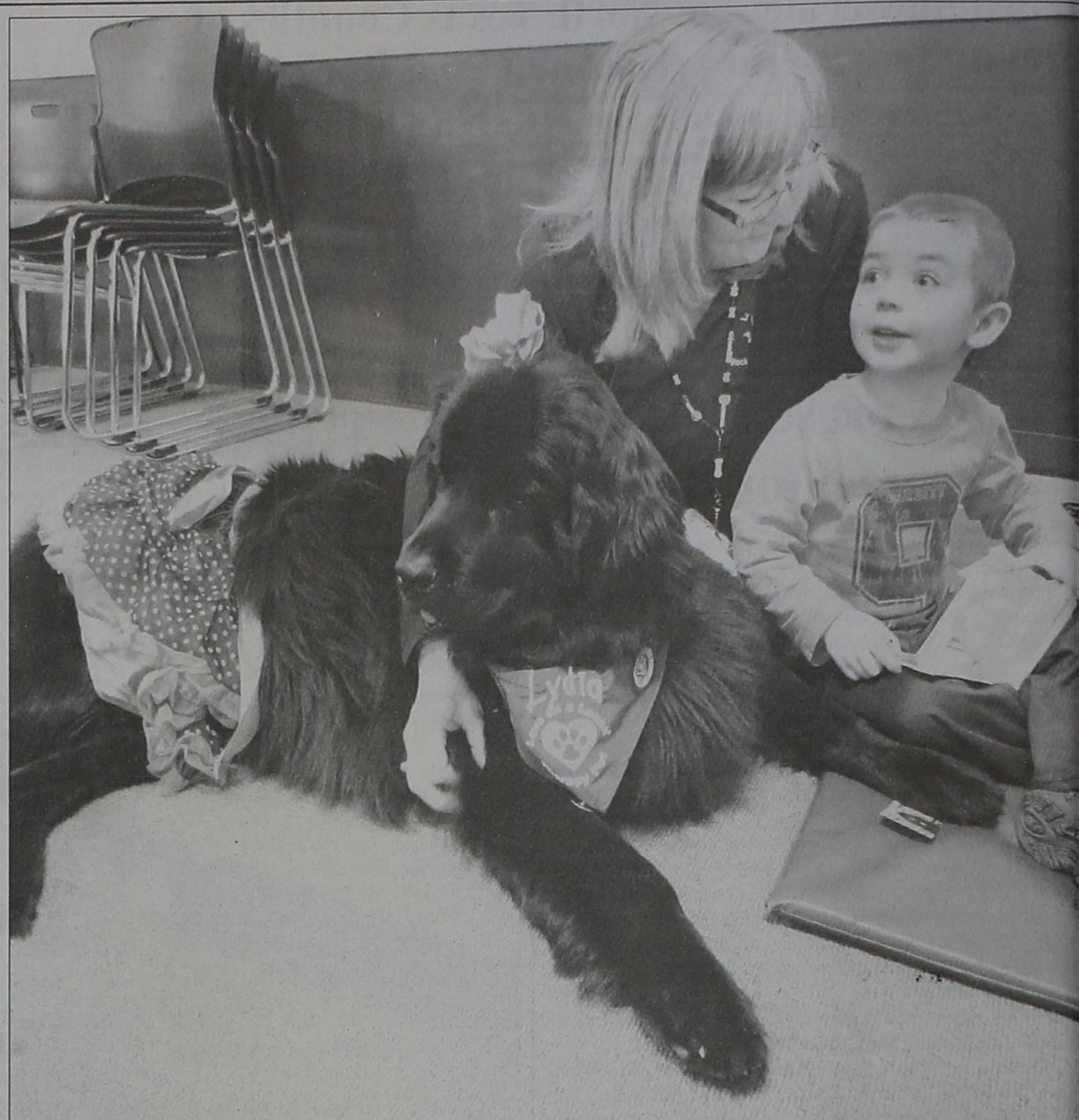
January Ribbon-cuttings/Grand Openings

- Alliance Bank, 3045 N. Goliad, Rockwall
- Dunhill Homes, 212 McCrummen Lane, Heath
- Andy's Pizza, Payless Cleaners, Expert Cuts, 3045 N. Goliad St., Rockwall
- Rockwall Health Center, 2880 Ridge Rd., Rockwall

Want more copies of the Rockwall County News?

Purchase at the following locations

- Rockwall - Krogers, Scotties Exxon, Walmart, Chevron (Ridge Rd. & I-30), Gateway Shell (Hwy 276), Downtown on the square (coin rack).
- Rowlett - Walmart Neighborhood (Dalrock and Hwy 66) • Roysse City - Tiger Mart, Main Street (coin rack), McDonald's (coin rack)
- Fate - Fate Grocery Store.



Four-year-old Lucas Hoscheid was one of several children who took part in the Love on a Leash program Wednesday, Jan. 13, at the C. F. Goodwin Public Library in Roysse City. Pictured with Lucas is Carol Franks and her black Newfoundland, Lydia. The goal of this event is to have the children read to the dogs to encourage the children's love for reading. Lydia was attentive to Lucas's reading until the photo was snapped, when the dog spied a cricket two feet from where she lay. The cricket was removed and Lydia went back to listening to Lucas read about trucks. The Certified Pet Therapy Team from the Love on a Leash Organization, which represents the chapter from Roysse City and Rockwall, also included Amy Rogers and her brown-and-white English Springer, Ghillie. Children were scheduled every 15 minutes with Franks and Rogers to read their favorite books to the dogs. The therapy team visits libraries, nursing homes, assisted-living facilities, schools, hospice patients and any events that encourage pet therapy. The team is at the Goodwin Library the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. Email bar.springers@verizon.net for more information.

Photo by Millie Jean Coppedel/Rockwall County News

Berry seeks mayoral position in Heath

City of Heath Mayor Pro-tem Brian Berry announced last week he has filed as a candidate for the mayoral seat for the City of Heath.

The mayoral position is being vacated by Lorne Liechty.

Berry is serving his second term on the City Council and, according to the news release announcing his candidacy, has been instrumental in many municipal initiatives including the adoption and implementation of the \$20 million Capital Improvement Plan now underway.

"I am excited about the new chapters ahead in our city's future," Berry said in the release. "Residential, quality retail and much-needed infrastructure projects are on the horizon, and I am ready to usher in the new era of Heath."

"With the help of a dedicated city staff and servant council, we will hold the traditions of past leaders close to our hearts and make prudent decisions for the future."

Berry and his wife, Shelley, and their three sons are active members of Lake Pointe Church. Berry's community involvement also has included coaching his boys' sports teams, working on various boards and commissions for the City of Heath and various missions for Lake Pointe.

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



Brian Berry

Rockwall County News Brief

(Continued from Page 1)

Special guest will be Janie Walsh, who will ring her collection of more than 200 hats to be used to transport those attending back through the history of fashion. Join the gathering by calling Barbara at 972-771-1057 or Cathy at 942-400-9934 or visit newcomersrockwall.com. RSVP by Feb. 1.

Friends of the Library plan meeting

The next meeting of the Friends of the Library will begin at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 9, in the Library Community Room, first floor, 1215 E. Yellow Jacket Lane, Rockwall. The program will be All That's New at the Diamond in Dallas from The Arboretum, information about the upcoming Dallas Blooms Festival, by George Russell. An optional \$20 lunch may be ordered with a reservation made no later than 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 2, by calling Leigh Plagens, 972-771-8976 or email cplagens65@aol.com. Unless a reservation is cancelled by the deadline, payment is required.

Republican Lunch Bunch to meet Feb. 3

The Rockwall County Republican Lunch Bunch will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 3, at Luigi's Italian Café, Rockwall. Cost will be \$10, which includes lunch, beverage, tax and tip; pay at the door for this informal social gathering open to all area Republicans. No reservations required. For details call Dalton Kennimer at 972-636-4034.

Medicare/Medicaid fraud prevention program set

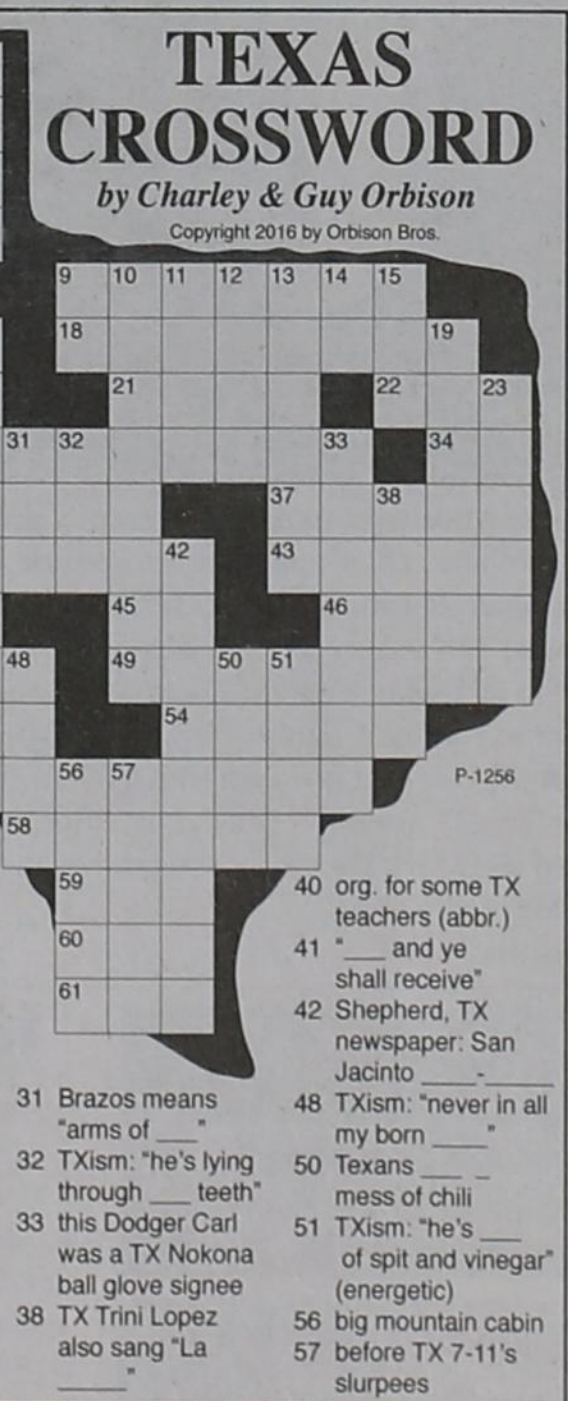
A program on Medicare/Medicaid Fraud Prevention will be presented beginning at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 3, at the First Church of Christ, Rockwall. (Continued on Page 4)

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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- ACROSS**
- this actor Andrews was in "Laura" with TX Gene Tierney
 - TX-based "Giant" was an ____ film
 - TX Dabney film: "____ to Five" (1980)
 - golf ball holders
 - state fair mo. (abbr.)
 - African hunting expedition (2 wds.)
 - TXism: "I ____ that like an armadillo needs an interstate"
 - TXism: "hunkered down and ____ go"
 - Parkland Hospital's receiving area for the injured (abbr.)
 - A&M started as a ____ grant college
 - Houston Oilers old league (abbr.)
 - ____ E. Myers designed the state capitol
 - bad dream
 - airline once headquartered in Dallas (abbr.)
 - "42" tile piece
 - TX "Moonraker" actress Chiles
 - TX Luby's CEO at time of '91 killings
 - abrasive ABC reporter from TX
 - consumers expect after X-mas (2 wds.)
 - most secure
 - TXism: "cut ____ some slack"
 - once a Texarkana AM
 - what the faucet did before it was fixed
 - Boerne has a llama, kid, and ____ fair
 - TXism: "let '____ rip!"
 - Ozona football class
 - a hot time at the spa
 - TX Gale Storm TV show: "____ Margie"
 - San Marcos dance hall: Cheyenne ____ Club
 - LBJ's party (abbr)
 - ____ whiz
 - road curve
 - home of TWU and UNT
 - TXism: "just down the road ____"
 - teen age
 - high poker cards
 - "Cowpokes" artist Reid (init.)
 - TXism: "____ away" (save)
 - male sheep (2 wds.)
 - former Dallas-based oil co., now Alon USA
 - TX Cullen Davis was accused of killing this daughter of Priscilla
 - a TX Gatlin (init.)
 - TXism: "call ____ day" (quit)
 - football precision dancers (2 wds.)
 - film about TX woman: "Son ____ Starr"
 - lumber is sold by the ____ foot
 - TV horse: Mr. ____
 - Ebanos, TX
 - Gov. Hogg's daughter
 - TXns Bowie, Hogg & Reeves
 - TX "Steak ____" will try to make a comeback in 2016
 - TXism for "dancer"
 - org. for some TX teachers (abbr.)
 - ____ and ye shall receive"
 - Shepherd, TX newspaper: San Jacinto ____
 - TXism: "never in all my born ____"
 - Texans ____ mess of chili
 - TXism: "he's ____ of spit and vinegar" (energetic)
 - big mountain cabin before TX 7-11's surpluses



The Friday Study Club held the first meeting of its 97th year, on January 15, 2016, in the home of June Frawley (center), shown with co-hostesses Betty Moon (left) and Nancy Hill (right). Club President, Kathy Melston, conducted the business, which included its annual review of the Club's bylaws and duties of the officers and standing committees. The Nominating Committee presented its recommendation for the 2016 officers approved by acclamation. The officers will be installed at the February meeting. Photo by Ruth Willis (FSC Reporter)/Rockwall County News

Medicare/Medicaid Fraud Prevention
 A program on Medicare/Medicaid Fraud Prevention will be presented at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 3, at the First Church of Christ, Rockwall. The presenter will be Janie Walsh. She will advocate through the North Texas Crime Commission how to monitor records to be sure records are not released from the church. Following the presentation, the SMP is a voluntary program by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The SMP's mission is to help Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, their families, and report health care fraud, counseling, and education. The First Christian Church, Rockwall, TX. Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
 TBGA offers
 Applications are now being accepted for the TBGA Wildlife Conservation Award. The TBGA will award \$1,000 to a student who has completed a junior majoring in an environmental field and is eligible to apply for the award. Eight \$1,500 scholarships are available to students who are TBGA scholarship applicants with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Download the application form at www.tbga.org. All applications must be received by Feb. 15, 2016.
 Students and faculty are invited to participate in an effort to help the community. The event will be held on Dec. 26, 2016, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Rockwall Community Center. The event is free and open to all. Students and faculty are encouraged to bring a donation of food, clothing, or other items to help those in need. For more information, contact the Rockwall County Office at 972-771-1057.
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 www.housewarmers.com
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Medicare/Medicaid fraud prevention program planned

A program on Medicare/Medicaid Fraud Prevention will be presented at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 3, at the First Christian Church Rockwall.

The presenter will be Mike Shipley, senior Medicare patrol (SMP) advocate through the North Central Texas Agency on Aging. Shipley will show how to monitor the Explanation of Benefits from Medicare to be sure records are not fraudulently used, according to a news release from the church.

Following the presentation will be a discussion period.

The SMP is a voluntary organization involved with and supported by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Program. It is also supported in part by a grant from the Administration on Aging, Administration on Community Living and Department of Health and Human Services. The SMP's mission is to empower and assist Medicare beneficiaries, their families and care givers to prevent, detect, and report health care fraud, errors and abuse through outreach, counseling, and education.

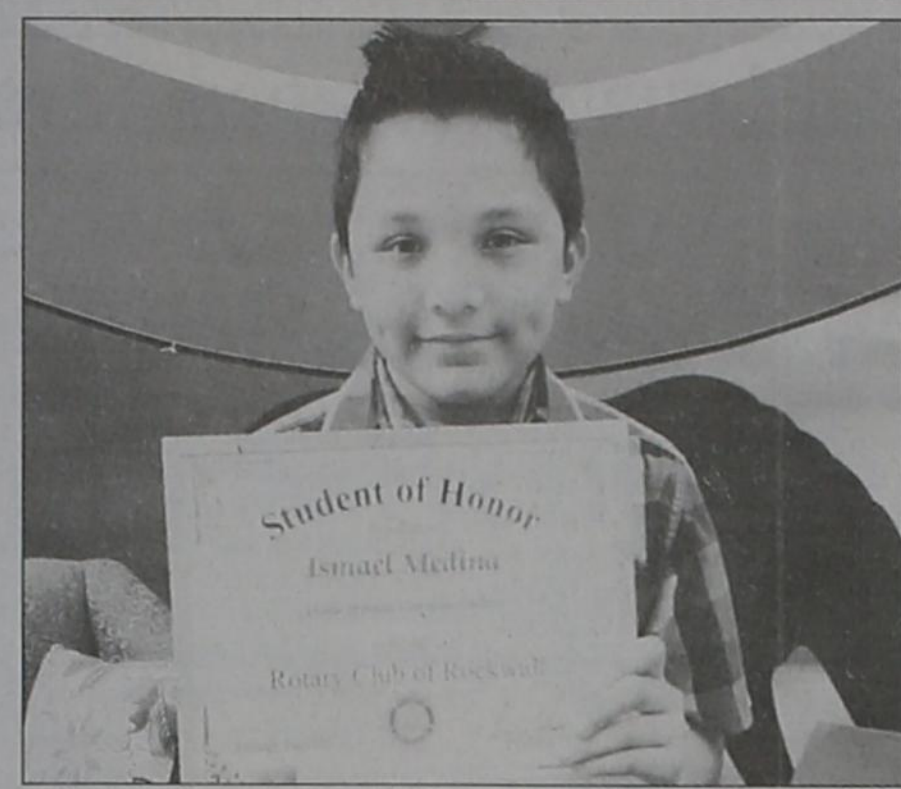
The First Christian Church is located at 3375 Ridge Rd., 1.4 miles south of I-30.

TGBA offers college scholarships

Applications are now available for the Texas Big Game Awards (TGBA) Wildlife Conservation College Scholarship Program. The TGBA will award \$15,000 in college scholarships for the 2016-2017 school year. Any entering college freshman, sophomore or junior majoring in an agriculture or natural resources-related field is eligible to apply for the scholarships.

Eight \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded, and the overall top scholarship applicant will receive \$3,000.

Download the application at texasbiggameawards.org/scholarships. All applications must be postmarked by March 31.



Ismael Medina was selected as Springer Elementary's Noon Rotary Club student by his sixth grade teachers for exemplifying great character and the pride he takes in his schoolwork. Not only is Medina a student who excels in all subjects, but also he is quick to lend a helping hand. He also holds several leadership positions in his school. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

Declaring the Lord Jesus = praying with the spirit, Part 2

1 Corinthians 12:3 says, "Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed: and no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost."

To "say that Jesus is the Lord," basically refers to a vocal declaration that bears witness to Jesus' Lordship. The word "say" was translated from the ancient Greek word *Laleo* which referred to the mechanics of speech without considering the words being spoken.

This study is meant to ascertain whether the references to declaring the Lord Jesus, confessing the Lord Jesus, and calling upon the name of the Lord, are talking about words spoken by the Holy Ghost, or speaking in tongues (See Acts 2:4).

The above verse is part of a series of connected chapters that address spiritual matters.

Chapter 14 addresses speaking in tongues and prophecy. Verse 14 reveals when people speak in tongues, the spirit is praying. It goes on to distinguish between praying with the spirit and praying with the understanding.

If speaking by the spirit is speaking in tongues, then declaring and confessing with the mouth the Lord Jesus is also talking about speaking in tongues. It brings true spiritual result of the new birth and salvation.

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

"Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord."
Psalm 150:6

"That if you will confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord', and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."
Romans 10: 9-10

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

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

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

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

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

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FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
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HIGH POINT ASSEMBLY OF GOD
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THE RIVER CHURCH
8601 Liberty Grove, Rowlett

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ChristChurchRockwall.org
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DAY SPRING BAPTIST CHURCH
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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HEATH • 224 Smirl Drive
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROCKWALL • 610 Goliad St.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROYSE CITY • 900 Pullen Street
IGLESIA BAUTISTA INUEVA ESPERANZA
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GRACE FELLOWSHIP
1408 Damascus Dr., Rockwall
LAKE POINTE BAPTIST CHURCH
701 E. I-30, Rockwall
LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH
850 Blackland Road, Fate
NEW CALDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH
301 Bourn, Rockwall
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OUR LADY OF THE LAKE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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SAINT MATTHIAS CATHOLIC CHURCH
116 Kenway, Rockwall
CHRISTIAN
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Independent)
203 N. Arch St., Royse City
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CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH OF CHRIST
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CHURCH OF CHRIST
Corner of Front & Bell streets, Royse City
EASTRIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST
670 Stodghill Rd., Rockwall
UNION VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST
9424 FM 35, Royse City
EPISCOPAL
HOLY TRINITY BY THE LAKE
1524 Smirl Dr., Heath

LUTHERAN
OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN
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JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Students and teachers at Davis Elementary, in an effort to help the children and families affected by the Dec. 26 tornado, conducted a PJ Day and Tech Day, raising more than \$1,280. Pictured above are just a few of the students who participated, including kindergarten students Rocky Murphy, Myah Milton, Khloe Moreno, Olivia Allain and Ashton Roberts. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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Mission Statement

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

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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.

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

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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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Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of LAUR MACKOY CRANNELL, JR., Deceased, were issued on December 4, 2015, in Cause No. PR15-139, pending in the Probate Court of Rockwall County, Texas, to: CANDACE ANN CRANNELL. The mailing address of the Independent Executor is 325 Raintree Drive, Apt. 15, Tyler, Texas 75703.

All persons having claims against this Estate which are currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated the 25th day of January, 2016.
LEAKE LAW FIRM, PLLC
By:
PAUL R. LEAKE

Attorney for the Estate
State Bar No.: 12092300
P.O. Box 1300
Forney, Texas 75126
Telephone No (972) 564-1500
Telecopier No (972) 564-1521
E-mail: paul@leakelawfirm.com

A public hearing regarding the Texas Education Agency's (TEA) Texas Academic Performance Reports (TAPR) for Roysse City Independent School District will take place in conjunction with the regularly scheduled February meeting of the Board of Trustees. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m., Monday, February 8, 2016, at the Ernest Epps Education Center located at 810 Old Greenville Road in Roysse City. The purpose of the TAPR hearing will be to allow for public discussion of the TAPR district and campus reports. Copies of these reports will be available for public review at each school building and the administration office. This release is tendered to and in compliance with Texas Education Code (TEC) requirements to provide notice of the hearing by means of local media.

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Thomas E. Schoenheit, VP - Assistant General Counsel and Assistant Secretary
Family Dollar Holdings, Inc., Managing Member (officers are same as listed above)

Hazard Mitigation Plan Public Meeting February 4, 2016

Rockwall County will hold a public meeting on Thursday, February 4th to gather public input for a County-wide Hazard Mitigation Plan. The meeting is from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Rockwall County Sheriff's Office; 972 T.L. Townsend Drive, Rockwall 75087. The public is invited and encouraged to attend the meeting. 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. If you cannot attend the public meeting, information about the planning process and a public participation survey are available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RockwallCountyHMAP> Notice for Public Meeting 1.22.16.docx and https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Condado_de_Rockwall. 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. Questions about the Hazard Mitigation Plan should be addressed to H2O Partners, Inc., planning consultants for Rockwall County; Attn: Heather Ferrara, Project Manager by email at heather@h2opartnersusa.com.

Rockwall County News Briefs

(Continued from page 2)

Christian Church Rockwall. The presenter is Mike Shipley, senior Medicare patrol advocate through the North Central Texas Agency on Aging. Following the presentation will be a discussion period, and attendees will be given informational materials. First Christian Church is located at 3375 Ridge Rd., 1.4 miles south of I-30. For more information, call 972-771-5526.

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.

Registration for RCP children's workshops set

Registration for the Rockwall Community Playhouse's children's 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. Performances will be at 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. on April 17. Registration for students in grades 6-8 will be at 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 11, with performances set for 7 p.m. April 17 and 8 p.m. April 18. The RCP is located at 609 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 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 Feb. 12. Williams will share her life story and love of education in a pre-recorded oral history.

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 (Continued on page 6)

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Rockwall County Entertainment

RHS Theatre presents 'Spamalot'

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

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

The Rockwall Community Playhouse, 609 E. Rusk (two blocks off 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 and Saturday performances will be at 8 p.m.; the Sunday matinee will be at 2 p.m. For more details visit rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org.

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Opinions

Why we don't compromise, Part 2

by Jacob G. Hornberger
Frere Freedom Foundation

Fighting for the free society, people necessarily must determine what means to be free. Freedom obviously has many different dimensions. Religious liberty entails the freedom to worship God or not, without state compulsion one way or the other. It means the right to read and publish whatever a person wants, even if what is published or read doesn't meet with the approval of most others. It means the right to keep and bear arms, thereby enabling people to protect themselves from criminals and tyrants. A free society also entails long-established procedural guarantees that must be followed before government officials incarcerate or fine a person.

The libertarian concept of freedom is that people should be free to live their lives any way they choose, so long as their conduct is peaceful. That is, so long as people do not engage in conduct that infringes on the rights of others to live their lives the way they want, people should be free to do whatever they want, even if others consider it irresponsible, dangerous, or immoral. That means that people do not have the right to murder, rape, steal, defraud, rob, or burglarize, because those acts infringe on the rights of others. But people do have the right to view pornography, ingest cocaine, commit adultery, and advocate satanic worship because those peaceful acts do not infringe on the rights of other people. Thus, the test of a free society is not whether people are free to engage in responsible or morally correct behavior. The test of a free society is whether people have the right to engage in irresponsible or immoral behavior, so long as it is peaceful.

That leads us to a discussion of the primary differences between libertarians and nonlibertarians with respect to freedom and America's non-market-day governmental system, specifically what has become known as the welfare state and the warfare state.

The statist way

Libertarians, or statist, believe that freedom entails a way of life in which the government is charged with the responsibility of taking care of people. That's what the welfare state is all about. Social Security, which statist consider to be the crown jewel of the welfare state, is a governmental program that takes care of seniors by providing them with retirement pay through money that has been taken from people who are still working. Medicare provides seniors with free or deeply discounted health-care services. Medicaid does the same for poor people. Education grants help students get an education. Farm subsidies help farmers. Foreign aid helps faraway regions. Under the welfare state, large segments of people receive welfare largess from the government.

The welfare state also encompasses what we call a regulated economy, one in which government controls and regulates economic activity. Minimum-wage laws come to mind. Or price controls during natural emergencies, such as hurricanes. Or insider-trading laws. Let's face it: There is hardly any part of economic life that is not subject to some governmental regulation.

The welfare state also consists of immigration controls and trade restrictions, which punish people for seeking a better way of life through labor and which inflict economic harm on people for political purposes through such programs as sanctions, embargoes, and trade restrictions.

The welfare state also includes drug laws, which purport to take care of people by punishing them with incarceration and fines for

ingesting substances that government officials think might be harmful to them.

The welfare state also consists of government-owned and government-operated enterprises, such as the Postal Service and the Federal Reserve System, both of which are monopolies. At the state and local level, governments own and run the educational system, which is a semi-monopoly.

The warfare state, which is also known as the national-security state, consists of the vast military establishment, headed by the Pentagon, an enormous string of foreign and domestic military bases, the CIA, and the NSA. Statist believe that a national-security state apparatus is part and parcel of a free society and that its existence is necessary to keep the nation safe and secure.

The warfare state also entails a massive assault on the procedural principles that are essential to a free society, such as due process of law, trial by jury, right to counsel, right to confront witnesses, and habeas corpus. It is characterized by torture, assassination, indefinite detention, secret prisons, and partnerships with dictatorial regimes.

The primary means of funding the welfare-warfare state is the federal income tax, which empowers the government to seize whatever portion of people's income it wants, in order to pay for the ever-growing expenditures of the welfare-warfare state. The secondary means of funding is through debt and the Federal Reserve System, whose primary task is to finance the debt through inflationary increases in the money supply.

The libertarian way

It shouldn't surprise anyone that libertarians hold a totally opposite position on all these welfare-warfare state issues.

Libertarians hold that freedom necessarily entails keeping everything you earn and deciding what to do with it for yourself. That's why we oppose the federal income tax and would repeal it.

We also would repeal, immediately, every single welfare-state program, including, of course, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. We believe that government has no more business in the charity business than it does in the religion business.

We would terminate every single economic regulation, including minimum-wage laws, price controls, insider-trading laws, immigration controls, and trade restrictions. That's because we believe in free enterprise — that is, enterprise that is free of government control, interference, and regulation.

We would open the borders to the free movements of goods and people and lift all sanctions, embargoes, and trade restrictions.

We would legalize drugs — all drugs, including heroin, meth, cocaine, and marijuana, just as we would keep alcohol and tobacco legal. We hold that what a person ingests is no business of the government and that, in fact, government should be protecting the exercise of freedom, not infringing on it.

We would separate school and state, as our ancestors separated church and state. Government has no more legitimate role in education than it has in religion.

And we would dismantle, not reform, the national-security branch of the government. That would mean an end to the Pentagon, the vast military establishment, the empire of foreign and domestic military bases, the military-industrial complex, the CIA, and the NSA. We hold that a national-security governmental apparatus is totalitarian in nature and therefore antithetical to the principles of a free and secure society.

Thus, the big difference between libertarians and statist in our time concern those two areas: the welfare state and the warfare state. Statist want to keep the welfare state and the warfare state as part of America's governmental structure. Libertarians want to rid our governmental structure of both the welfare state and the warfare state.

One of the criticisms that statist level at libertarians is that we are fighting for a utopia. Our philosophy is pie-in-the-sky, they tell us. It's not capable of being achieved, they say. We are Don Quixotes, they claim. Better to just throw in the towel and become a reformer of the welfare-warfare state way of life, they counsel. Abandon your delusions of achieving a free society, they declaim, and join up with us statist to make the welfare-warfare state a better way of life for everyone.

Over the years, some libertarians have fallen for this line, which has caused them to give up trying to achieve a genuinely free society through the dismantling of the welfare-warfare state and to relegate themselves to becoming reformers of the welfare-warfare state way of life. Thus, they devote their efforts to reforming and modifying the serfdom system under which we live, much as there were people in the 19th century who devoted their lives to improving the lives of the slaves on the plantations.

Obviously that's not all bad. I think we would all agree that any reform that makes life better for serfs or slaves is a positive thing. But we just need to be clear about something: It's not freedom! And libertarianism is about freedom. It's not about an improved way of life for serfs and slaves.

A benchmark

Are the statist right? Is the libertarian paradigm of economic liberty and a limited-government, constitutional republic impossible to achieve?

Well, it certainly wasn't impossible for our American ancestors in the late 1800s. If we consider, say, the year 1890, we find a society which had the following characteristics: no federal income tax; no IRS; no Federal Reserve System; no fiat (paper) money; gold coins and silver coins as the official money of the country; no Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, or welfare; no immigration controls; very few economic regulations; no drug laws; no sanctions or embargoes; no gun control; no public-schooling systems; no enormous permanent military establishment; no Pentagon; no CIA; no NSA; no empire of foreign and domestic military bases; and no foreign aid.

That's what it once meant to be an American. That's what it once meant to be free.

Now, before anyone writes me (as they inevitably do whenever I point this out), I am not suggesting that the latter part of 19th-century America was a perfectly pure libertarian society. It wasn't. There were government-business partnerships, land grants to the railroads, various economic regulations (including the Sherman Anti-Trust Act of 1890), compulsory school-attendance laws in Massachusetts, and more.

I agree! But that's not the point I am making. I'm not saying that America in 1890 was a libertarian paradise. What I'm saying is that those Americans proved that it's possible to achieve a society without income taxation, a welfare state, or a warfare state.

So why not make that a minimal benchmark for freedom? If our ancestors could achieve it, then why can't we? Then, once we achieve it, we can build on that minimal benchmark by expanding on what they accomplished.

How could we do that? One way is through constitutional amendments that enshrine libertarian principles permanently into the political system. That is, rather than simply repeal welfare programs and economic regulations, let's think at a higher level — one that totally separates charity and the state and economy and the state.

Isn't that what our ancestors did with religion? They didn't settle for a reformed system of state churches. No, they instead enacted the First Amendment, which expressly prohibited the federal government from involving itself in religion. Why not do the same with respect to the welfare-warfare state? Indeed, why not go even further and apply the principles of economic liberty to the states?

- Consider the following constitutional amendments:
"No law shall be enacted respecting the establishment of welfare or charity or abridging the free exercise thereof."
"No law shall be enacted respecting the regulation of commerce or abridging the free exercise thereof."
"No law shall be enacted respecting the establishment of education or abridging the free exercise thereof."
"Taxation on income is prohibited."
"Standing armies and intelligence agencies in times of peace are prohibited."

If such amendments were to be enacted, it would obviously constitute a revolutionary transformation in American life, one that would bring our nation closer to a libertarian paradise than ever before in history. It would mean freedom for a long time and would serve as a model for the entire world.

One criticism that reformist libertarians level at purist libertarians is that there is no "button" to push that would automatically and immediately get rid of the welfare state and warfare state. But actually, there is. The "button" is called a constitutional amendment. At the moment that constitutional amendments that enshrine economic liberty into the Constitution became effective, the income tax and every welfare-state program would automatically go out of existence. The "button" would have been pushed.

Is it difficult to achieve the free society? Of course it is. If freedom were easy, everyone in history would have experienced what it's really like to live the life of a free man or free woman. But while achieving freedom is difficult, it's not impossible.

Imagine how socialists and imperialists must have felt in 1890. Here they were facing a society in which there was no income tax, no welfare state, and no warfare state. Their aim was to induce Americans to abandon that way of life and embrace a statist way of life. If anyone should have been discouraged over their prospects for success, it should have been statist in 1890.

Yet within a relatively short period of time, statist had achieved their goal. They had convinced Americans to abandon the principles of economic liberty and a constitutional republic and embrace the principles of socialism, interventionism, militarism, and imperialism in the form of the welfare-warfare state.

If they could do it in the wrong direction, why can't we do it in the right direction? In fact, given the disastrous outcomes of the welfare-warfare state way of life, our job in finding people to join up with us has been made considerably easier.

The question is: How do we achieve freedom — by advocating reform of the welfare-warfare state or by standing squarely on dismantling infringements on freedom? We'll examine that question in part 3.

Owned by cats

Jill Pertler
Saves of Life

I have two cats, or better put, they have me. Cats aren't actually owned by humans. It's a fallacy perpetuated by dogs that delight in being owned and coming when they're called.

Cats grace me with their presence when they want, not when I call. They strut through the house with the dignity of royalty. Next time you see a cat, mind they were both abandoned as kittens. One was found in a cardboard box on the side of the road, the other wandering the parking lot of a home improvement store. Technically, they have humble roots and should be thankful we took them in and provided a warm spot for their naps.

But they know nothing of technicalities or humility. They are cats. Amas such, they are assured, without any hint of a doubt, they are the supreme beings of our domicile, the planet, and most likely the entire universe. They possess powers and authority incomprehensible to mere humans.

Not only that, they may want to kill us.

Research made the news recently when a study compared domestic cats to larger cats in the wild saying both breeds have strong characteristics related to dominance, impulsiveness and neuroticism. And both are predators with an instinct to hunt and eat their kill. Some researchers concluded that our cats would kill us, if only they could. Trouble is, we're too big.

Although cats are smarter and better than humans in every way possible, in this case, size does matter.

In addition to their extremely honed balance, super-kinetic jumping skills and other worldly hunting abilities (among countless other attributes) my cats are telepathic. At various times of the day, at their choosing — they sit atop a perch on the cabinet directly

in front of the TV and stare with the tenacity and intensity of Spock doing a mind meld. This is because I think they are attempting a mind meld by telepathically sending the message, "Give me all the catnip, simple worthless human."

Unfortunately, as a simple human, I am not as evolved as the feline species and as such have not yet mastered the skill of telepathy. I can only guess what they desire because when I get up to fetch a cup of tea from the kitchen, they follow me greedily and alternate the death stare between their treat dish and yours truly.

Which brings me to the most astounding and impressive fact about my elusive and elite felines. Despite their haughty temperament and persnickety demeanor, I've taught one of them to perform a cat trick.

He doesn't exactly perform on demand. He has to be in the right frame of mind and know it is time for his daily dose of nip. Then, and only then, he will shake hands.

That's right. My cat shakes hands. If I hadn't witnessed the feat (or better put, paw) with my own eyes, I wouldn't have thought it possible because as a general rule, my cats don't do anything I ask of them. They also don't particularly like people pawing with their paws, which under normal circumstances would make shaking hands with a human a deplorable experience.

It probably is deplorable. I never said my cat enjoys shaking his paw. I said he will do it — for the right price, or in this case cat treats.

I'm sure there will come a time when his hatred for cat tricks overcomes his desire for treats. At that point he will probably give in to his cat instincts and attempt to kill me.

For now, though, I still have the upper hand.

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. No 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))

widely recognized problem in Texas and local governments is selective compliance with state law (Texas constitution, public laws, state statutes and subordinate ordinances).

Resolution: Call on the House and Senate to amend Penal Code Section 39.02 Abuse of Official Capacity to:

- Remove "with intent to harm or defraud another;" and
- 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."



In the first year of the UIL spirit competition, the Royse City High School cheer team set the bar high, playing 27th out of 77 squads representing 5A schools. The team competed with performances of the fight song, a band dance to "Uptown Funk" and a cheer/chant mix. Pictured are, top row, from the left, Alyssa Adley, Sarah Carlson, Courtney Park, Taitlyn Jones, Haley Caswell, Kailen Kendzierski, Grace Backus, Sydnee Smith and Rachel Corley and, bottom row, Aliyah Mull, Skylar Green, Kaylie Kirk, Madison Legarda, Daneille Pelt, Jade Washington, Jamie Williams, Alesia Pinto, Alex Glover and Alisa Bower. At front is mascot Cody Parker. The UIL describes spirit as an "extracurricular activity that focuses on the traditional game-day role cheerleaders have on the sidelines and in schools, supporting athletic teams." The competitions have three categories: fight song, time-out band dance and time-out cheer.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Cole Burack recognized as conference Goalie of Week

College at Brockport freshman goalie and Rockwall native Cole Burack recently was named the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) Goalie of the Week.

Burack is a member of the College at Brockport ice hockey team from Brockport, New York.

Burack earned his first career shutout in a 7-0 win over Nazareth College on Jan. 16. He was described as being "unstoppable in net, stopping 34 shots including 16 in the second period alone. Burack wasn't fazed by Nazareth's three power play opportunities, stopping all six shots during the six minute span," according to information on the college's website.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Liz Wacienga, athletic communications assistant at the College at Brockport, contributed to this story.)

Developer approaches Rockwall with multi-family housing plan

The Rockwall City Council conducted a work session last week prior to its regular meeting. Dan Allgeier, senior vice president of NuRock Companies, presented his company's plan for housing and tax credits.

The Council took no action on the proposal, according to a city news release.

Allgeier requested that the Council consider a resolution on an upcoming agenda related to NuRock's grant application for tax credit funding. If the plan lacked the City's support, Allgeier said it likely would fail in the competitive grant application process.

The property under consideration is a vacant lot located at 1325 S. Goliad St. Zoning at this site does not currently allow for multi-family residential use and NuRock would have to submit a formal zoning change request, which would require public hearings before the planning and zoning commission and the City Council, according to the news release.

To date, no zoning change application has been submitted. The proposed NuRock project includes 28 one-bedroom units, 68 two-bedroom units, and 40 three-bedroom units, according to the news release. For most of those, rental rates would be based on a resident's income; however, 21 units would not be income restricted.

Traveler taken into custody following handgun incident

A traveler was taken into custody by the Rockwall Police Department following an incident that allegedly involved a handgun.

According to a RPD news release, at approximately 9:30 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 22, the Rockwall Police Department received a report of a subject in a motor vehicle who had allegedly pointed a handgun at another driver before crossing Lake Ray Hubbard into Rockwall on the Highway 66 bridge. While officers responded to the call, additional reports were received concerning the same subject being involved in a vehicle accident in the area of Kaufman and Goliad Streets, according to the release.

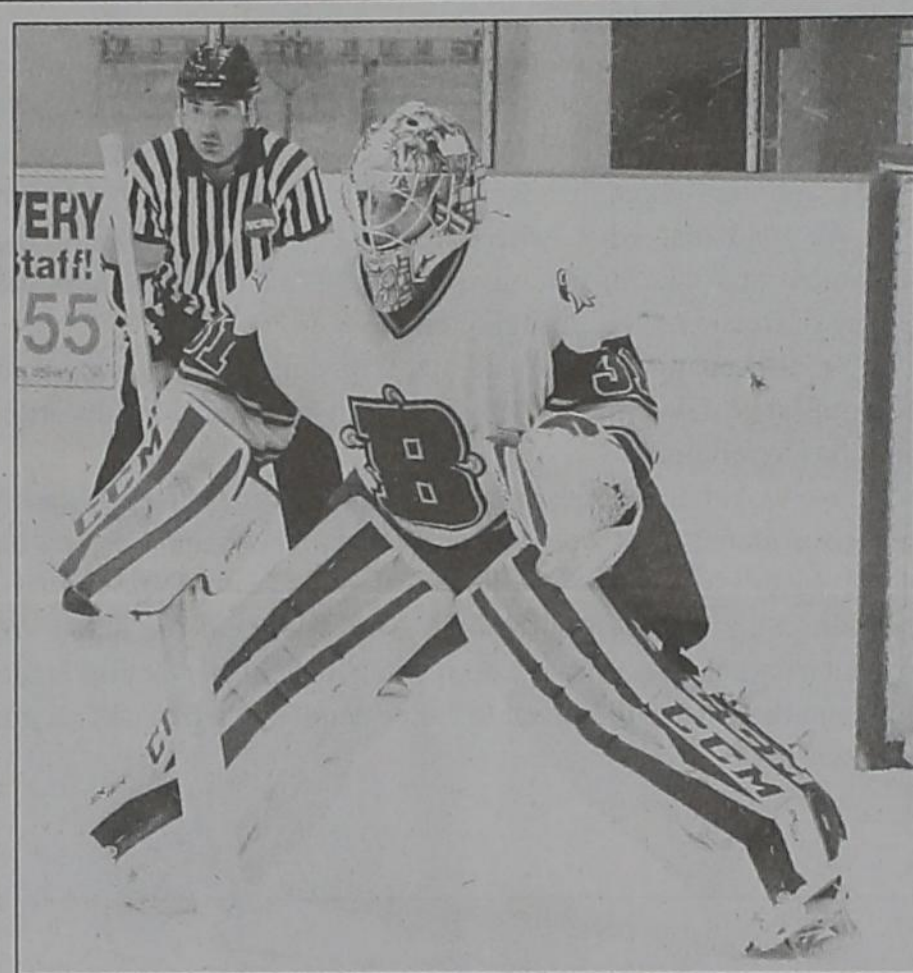
The subject reportedly fled on foot from the accident scene toward a residential area north of the downtown square.

After a brief search of the area, officers took the suspect into custody without incident.

The Rockwall Police Department was assisted with the search by the Texas Department of Public Safety Helicopter Division.

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Cole Burack, of Rockwall, was named SUNYAC Goalie of the Week. Burack is a Freshman Goalie at College at Brockport. Photo courtesy of College at Brockport/Rockwall County News

Applicants sought for Texas pageant contestants

The Texas International Pageant Organization, a system for teens, misses and married women in Texas, is seeking women to wear the most beautiful crown in the Lone Star State. The pageant is set for April 8-10 in the Dallas area.

"Whether you have stood on a stage before and competed, or have only been crowned in your dreams, this is a fantastic pageant experience for women ages 13-57," said Texas International executive director Rachel Hedstrom in a news release from the pageant system. "This is your chance to do that thing on your bucket list that you've always wanted to do."

The winner of the Teen Texas International title will be eligible for a \$70,000 college scholarship from Hollis University, provided she meets the GPA and SAT/ACT requirements from the school. She will go on to compete for the title of Miss Teen International, a teen who will walk away with a full, four-year scholarship to the school, worth more than \$100,000.

The women crowned as Teen Texas International, Miss Texas International and Mrs. Texas International 2016 each will receive a prize package valued in the thousands of dollars, including the crown and sash, and will go on to a year of service.

No local preliminaries are conducted, so women named to represent their city or county have the opportunity to go straight to the state competition and compete for the title.

The deadline for applications is Feb. 29. No previous pageant experience is necessary, and there is no talent or swimsuit division.

Married women compete in interview, fitness wear and evening gown, where they are escorted by their husbands on stage.

Teen and miss contestants compete in interview, fitness wear and evening gown, as well as "fun fashion," a category devoted to showing off their own personal style in an age-appropriate outfit of their choosing.

Texas International titleholders are women who are from Texas or who have lived in the state for at least six months.

To learn more about the pageant or the reigning titleholders, visit mrstexasinternational.com, misstexasinternational.com or missteentexasinternational.com. To request an application, contact Hedstrom at texasinternationalpageant@gmail.com.

Sports schedules

RHS men

Fri. 1/29, 7:00 p.m., at Sachse
Tue. 2/2, 7:00 p.m., at Rowlett
Fri. 2/5, 7:00 p.m., Tyler Lee at RHS
Tue. 2/9, 7:00 p.m., at Garland HS
Fri. 2/12, 7:00 p.m., at North Garland
Tue. 2/16, 7:00 p.m. Lakeview Centennial at RHS

RHS women

Fri. 1/29, 7:00 p.m., at Sachse
Tues. 2/2, 7:00 p.m., Rowlett at RHS

RHHS Basketball

Women

Fri. 1/29, 7:00 p.m., at West Mesquite
Tue. 2/3, 7:00 p.m., at Forney HS
Fri. 2/5, 7:00 p.m., Royse City at RHHS
Tue. 2/9, 7:00 p.m., at South Garland

Men

Fri. 1/29, 7:00 p.m., at West Mesquite
Tue. 2/2, 7:00 p.m., Forney at RHHS
Fri. 2/5, 7:00 p.m., at Royse City
Tue. 2/9, 7:00 p.m., South Garland at RHHS
Fri. 2/12, 7:00 p.m., Poteet at RHHS
Tue. 2/16, 7:00 p.m., at Terrell

RHHS Soccer

Men

Fri. 1/29, 7:15 p.m., at West Mesquite
Tue. 2/2, 7:15 p.m., at South Garland
Tue. 2/9, 7:15 p.m., Mesquite Poteet at RHHS
Fri. 2/12, 7:15 p.m., Forney at RHHS
Tue. 2/16, 7:15 p.m., at Terrell
Fri. 2/19, 7:15 p.m., at North Forney
Tue. 2/23, 7:15 p.m., West Mesquite at RHHS
Fri. 2/26, 7:15 p.m., at Royse City
Tue. 3/1, 7:15 p.m., South Garland at RHHS
Fri. 3/4, 7:15 p.m., at Mesquite Poteet
Tue. 3/15, 7:15 p.m., at Forney HS
Fri. 3/18, 7:15 p.m., Terrell at RHHS

Rockwall County News Briefs

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to come, meet the candidates and celebrate the start of early voting with fellow Democrats. Refreshments will be served.

Chamber, YPR to host Feb. 16 candidate forum

The Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce and the Young Professionals of Rockwall will host a candidate forum featuring candidates in Rockwall County elections from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at Liberty Hall, located in the Rockwall County Courthouse, 1111 E. Yellow Jacket Lane. Candidates for Precinct county commissioner, sheriff and Precinct 3 justice of the peace have been invited to participate. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m.; the public is invited to attend.

Democratic Party plans monthly meeting

The Rockwall County Democratic Party will conduct its monthly breakfast meeting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 20, at the Harry Meyer 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 Rockwall.

The Constitution of most of our states (and of the United States) assert that all power is inherent in the people; that they may exercise it by themselves; that is their right and duty to be at all times armed and that they are entitled to freedom of person, freedom of religion, freedom of property and freedom of press.

Thomas Jefferson