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Rockwall County News

Volume Number 28 • Issue Number 13 • USPS 002-495 • Thursday, March 27, 2014 • Single Copy Price 75 Cents • Copyright 2014 Rockwall County News

Schell sworn in, top city manager candidates named

Millie Jean Coppedge
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Christy Schell, who was appointed to fill the vacant Place 1 Fate City Council seat, was sworn in March 17 by city secretary Jean Dwinnell. The seat was vacated after Lorne Megyesi informed the council on Jan. 16 that he was resigning his position on the council. Schell was appointed on Feb. 26. After the appointment was made, controversy regarding Schell's past work record and ethics and the reasons she left her previous position with the City of Fate was scheduled to be sworn in at the council's March 3 session. The ceremony had to be postponed as she was unable to be present due to a conflict with her job. Schell took her seat March 17, she asked if she could say a few

"I would like to thank the council for appointing me to Place 1, as well as all the congratulatory phone calls, visits and emails from friends and neighbors," she said. "I appreciate it more than words can say."

"At the last meeting in February, some statements were made designed to shock the audience. The statements were not true. First, I was not terminated from the City of Fate, and my resignation letter, which includes my settlement package, is available to all of you through the City Hall. Second, there is nothing missing from my personnel file, which is also available for you to view at City Hall."

"The council appointed me because they were aware these statements were inaccurate. It is an embarrassment to the city that a councilman would try to destroy the process this way, and it taints everyone. This behavior has the potential to run off developers, business owners and current and future employees. It can also directly impact the caliber of city manager candidates we receive," she said.

"It is the council's responsibility to provide community leadership. We have some work to do," Schell said.

Other various items on the agenda were addressed.

In a March 19 news release issued by the city secretary, notice was given that three finalists will be interviewed on March 29 for the Fate city manager position.

"The City of Fate has received a total of 43 applications from candidates in 15 states and one foreign country," Mayor Bill Broderick said. "The City Council is conducting a comprehensive and meticulous recruitment process to choose a city manager who will be an exceptional leader and an ideal fit for our community. Almost all of the applicants have extensive local government experience and with more than half having served as a city manager or assistant city manager."

The three finalists are Amy Buckert, Michael Kovacs and Cindy Powell.

Buckert, who has 13 years of experience in local government, serves as city administrator for the City of Balcones Heights. She also has served as city manager for Olmos Park, assistant to the city manager for the City of Hurst and administrative analyst for the City of Lewisville. She is a Certified Government Financial Officer with a master's degree in public administration from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Kovacs, with 16 years of local government experience, recently served as city manager for the City of Galveston. He has served as assistant city manager for Park City Municipal Corporation in Utah, city manager for Port Aransas, town administrator for Surfside Beach, South Carolina, and city administrator for Presidio. Kovacs has a master's degree in public administration from Texas A&M University in Corpus Christi.

Powell has eight years of local government experience and serves as the city administrator for the city of Ovilla. She has served as assistant to the city manager and assistant economic development director for the City of Rosenberg and management intern for the City of Plano. Powell earned a master's in public administration from the University of Texas at Dallas, earned a graduate certificate in local government management and is a graduate of the Oklahoma University Economic Development Institute.

All three candidates have extensive experience in various government and economic areas.

"The City of Fate selected Strategic Government Resources (SGR) to manage the candidate search," according to the news release. "SGR is an executive search firm based in Keller, Texas specializing in recruiting, assessing, and developing, innovative, collaborative and authentic leaders for local governments."

All council members were present at the council meeting.

The regular Fate City Council meetings are conducted at 6 p.m. on the first and third Mondays at the Fate Community Center at 104 South W.E. Crawford.



ictured above are the UIL academic winners representing Cullins Lake Pointe. Shown are Skylar Lynn, second place winner in 5th/6th grade Spelling; Jaden Douglas, third place winner, 5th grade Oral Reading; Gabriel Hartsell, first place, and Chelsea Titsworth, third place winner, 3rd grade Storytelling; Braden Wills, fourth place winner, 5th grade Number Sense; Rachel Ivanovsky, sixth place winner, 6th grade Number Sense; and Keri Leon, third place winner, 3rd/4th grade Music Memory.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Live 'Leadercast' broadcast set May 9 at Utley PAC

Community business leaders can tap into the knowledge and experience of world-renowned leaders by attending the "Leadercast" broadcast on May 9 at the Rockwall High School Performing Arts Center, Utley Middle School, 1201 T.L. Townsend, in Rockwall.

The "Leadercast" event will be broadcast live from Atlanta, Ga., to hundreds of sites around the world, including Rockwall. This year's speaker lineup includes:

- Andy Stanley, leadership author and communicator
- Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel laureate and human rights activist from Cape Town, South Africa
- Malcolm Gladwell, journalist and best-selling author of "The Tipping Point" and "Outliers"
- Randall Wallace, screenwriter, director, producer and songwriter ("Braveheart," "Secretariat")
- Bill McDermott, CEO of SAP
- Laura Schroff, former ad sale executive and best-selling author of "An Invisible Thread"
- Dr. Henry Cloud, clinical psychologist and leadership consultant
- Simon Sinek, best-selling author of "Start with Why" and leadership expert
- Laura Bush, First Lady of the United States (via exclusive video interview)

Last year, more than 100,000 leaders from 14 countries attended "Leadercast." Now, in its 15th year, this full-day, experiential conference is on track to reach its largest audience to date.

(Continued on Page 3)

Adams seeks re-election to RISD Board

Stephanie Adams, a member of the Rockwall Independent School District Board of Trustees, announced last week that she is seeking a second term, according to a news release.

The Rockwall ISD has experienced success in safety, academic achievement and fiscal responsibility during the past three years, according to Adams.

"I am proud of my first term on

the Rockwall School Board and I am looking forward to continuing my service for the students, parents, teachers and staff of Rockwall ISD," Adams said in the release. "During my tenure, every campus in our district has achieved the highest state accountability rating for 2012-2013, our board has worked together and approved school resource officers at every campus, reduced school property

tax rate for the first time in six years and approved salary increases for all teachers. Additionally, during my time on the board, we have implemented new contracts and energy savings procedures, which has saved our district over \$2 million. At the same time, we increased student safety, improved technology and focused on student achievement."

(Continued on Page 3)

Royse City ISD trustees hear reports of students', teachers' accomplishments

Millie Jean Coppedge
mjcopp@yaho.com

The March 20 Royse City School Board meeting was a proud place for the board, teachers, staff and students. It was a night from the board for a "job well done."

The youth Cherry Intermediate students who attended Camp Grady told of their recent camp experiences. They were Maika

Rauch, Jacklynn Wenzel, Gage Elder and Dylan Zator. The camp sponsor was Holly Wheatley.

The District 13-4A Boys All District Basketball Team gave special honors for All District 2nd Team - Joseph Steffen. All District Honorable Mention went to Dalton Warner, Tyler Thompson and Devante Alexander. The presenters were athletic director David Petroff and boys basketball

coach Anthony Howerton.

Dallas Bookout, girls athletic director, recognized the District 13-4A Girls All District Basketball Team as follows: First Team All District - Alexus Wanton, Sophomore, Second Team All District - Melanie Sumrow, Junior and Yasmine Woodard, Senior, Honorable Mention-Morgan Sumrow, Freshman and Sara Collins, Freshman. Academic All District-Brooke Hays, Senior, Alena Najera, Senior, Morgan Sumrow, Freshman, and Jamie Williams Sophomore.

The Golden Debs Team -- The team scored 90 or higher on the four dances performed and received sweepstakes at both competitions. The team received the Judges Award for its Lyrical at Danceline (judge's favorite dance). The Judges Awards at Showtime International (received high points on all dances) -- first place for their Team Pom at Showtime International and Runner Up for their Lyrical at Showtime International. The Golden Debs Officers performed three dances and received Sweepstakes at both competitions.

In the Individual Awards, Danceline: of the 16 solos and three ensembles performed, the girls scored 14 divisions 1 rating for solos 3 division 1 rating for ensembles. For Kick Challenge: Meagan Dahse made top five in contest, Jacqlyn Beckering placed first. In Showtime Competition, the girls performed nine solos and one ensemble, all of which received 1 ratings.

(Continued on Page 4)



Brittany Lancaster was presented the 21st Century Learning Award at the Royse City School Board meeting Tuesday night March 20. Zach Snow, Instructional Technology Director presented the award, which was given for inspiring student learning and success through 21st learning. Mr. Snow showed an iMovie, Angles Attack, depicting Ms. Lancaster's students creations using their iPads over angles and lines. She used this movie to introduce the unit and then turn have the rest of her students create their own iMovie award.

Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/Rockwall County News

Berry seeks to return to Heath Council

Incumbent Heath City Councilmember Brian Berry filed for Place 5 last week in the May 10 General Election.

The race is currently uncontested, according to a news release from Berry.

"It has been an honor to serve my community during these exciting times for Heath," Berry said in his news release. "I am proud that we have adopted a Capital Improvement Plan, and I am committed to the completion of the many important projects included in the plan."

"Supporting the Heath Golf and Yacht Club and seeing the development come to fruition is another goal," said Berry. "Both the CIP and Heath Golf and Yacht Club are two of the biggest events in Heath's recent history, and I want to continue to work with my colleagues on the Council to achieve the success of each."

Berry is the owner and president of Med-Tech Construction, a national healthcare construction company based in Heath. He is also president of Top Shelf Millwork Inc. and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University.

Berry and his wife, Shelley, who is also an A&M graduate, celebrate their 12th anniversary this year. The couple has three boys: Brady, 6; and identical twins, Breck and Brooks, 4.



Christy Schell took the oath of office for Place 1 for the Fate City Council at the council's March 17 meeting. Administering the oath above is city secretary Jean Dwinnell.

Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/Rockwall County News

Rockwall County News Briefs

Citizen Fire Academy sign-ups underway

The Rockwall Fire Department's free Citizen Fire Academy will be offered from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Thursdays, March 27-May 22, at Fire Station No. 2, 920 Rockwall Parkway. Training will include a full Saturday class -- either May 10 or May 17. Participants must be at least 18 years old (or more than 16 with parental consent). For details call the Rockwall Fire Department at 972-771-7770 or email bpatrick@rockwall.com. Sign-ups may be completed online at rockwall.com/firedepartment/fireacademy.asp.

'Forever Plaid' auditions planned

Auditions for the Rockwall Community Playhouse's production of "Forever Plaid," to be staged May 9-11, 16-18 and 23-25, will take place at 1 p.m. March 29 and at 7 p.m. March 30 at the playhouse, which is located at 609 E. Rusk. Available roles include men, ages 18-25: baritone (low B flat, high C sharp); second tenor (low B/high G sharp); tenor (low B/high F sharp); and bass (low F/G). Those auditioning should prepare a one-minute stylistically appropriate song (16-24 bars) that shows vocal range and ability; accompanist provided. Bring sheet music, theatrical resume & headshot; cold readings will be required. For details visit rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org.

Get Healthy Rockwall plans potluck event

Get Healthy Rockwall will host a come-and-go potluck dinner from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. March 31 at the Harry Myers Community Center, 815 E. Washington St., Rockwall. Participants should bring healthy, plant-based dishes, as well as copies of their recipes to share with others; avoid recipes with nuts so that those with allergies can participate. For more details call Carol Miskin at 972-672-6679.

RWL seeks grant requests

The Rockwall Women's League is accepting grant requests from nonprofit agencies that provide services to the Rockwall County community. Proceeds from the RWL's annual fundraising charity ball are used to provide grants to nonprofits, as well as scholarships to high school graduating seniors in Rockwall County. This year's ball, Club 40: Jazz at the Ruby Room, is set for April 12 at The Omni Hotel in Dallas. To contribute or attend contact Alison Fox at 972-771-6508 or ballchair@rockwallwomensleague.org. Grant requests should include program name, 501(c)3 ID number, program description and beneficiaries and amount requested. Requests must be submitted in writing; mail to P.O. Box 383, Rockwall, 75087, Attn.: Patti Poole. Submission deadline is April 1. For more details call 972-771-7343.

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Royse City ISD Destination

Imagination teams headed for state

by Millie Jean Coppedge
rcn.millie@yahoo.com

The regional competition for Destination Imagination was conducted March 1 in Mesquite, according to Debbie Smith, Royse City's Destination Imagination director.

The district sent 36 teams to compete against 332 other teams.

Seven of the Royse City teams will move on to state competition April 11 and 12 in Pflugerville. Pictured are three of the seven teams. The other four are The N.E.R.D.S., The OKs, The Thoughtful Thinking Things and the Texas Solvers.

"Destination Imagination is a non-profit organization that teaches the creative process from imagination to innovation in engineering, science, structure, community services and theatre," Smith said.

"The DaVinci Award was given to a RCHS team, We Came for the Food, for having a unique approach to a solution, for risk taking and/or for outstanding creativity," Smith said.

The community service teams Flying with Fluffy and The Thoughtful Thinking Things are from RCHS and Cherry Intermediate School. The technical team from the Royse City Middle School is The SuperStar Bulldogs.

Texas Solvers and The OKs are the structure teams from Herndon Intermediate School.

Moving on to state competition from the elementary schools are The Glorious Girls and the K-Ster -- the theatrical team -- from Vernon Elementary, The N.E.R.D.S. -- the scientific team, from Fort Elementary.

"From state competition, teams can move on to the global competition in Knoxville, Tenn.," Smith said.

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The Glorious Girls and the K-Ster team for Destination Imagination are, at bottom, from the left, Alicia Weeks, Kolby Erwin and Celeste Conlin and, at top, Olivia Hodges, Allie Grace Singleton, Kaley Francis and Toni Redfern.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



The Flying with Fluffy team for Destination Imagination are, from the left, Johnny Biffar, Caleb Fay, Jonathan Beardon, Faith Kitchens, Amanda Blanton, Kaleigh Jackson and Chris Biffar.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Preston Murphy and Mary Kidd

Kidd, Murphy set May wedding

Gayle and Steve Kidd of Rockwall are proud to announce engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Mary Kidd, to Preston Murphy, son of Derris Murphy of Spring and the late late Murphy. The wedding and reception will take place at Southfork on May 24, 2014.



The SuperStar Bulldogs team members for Destination Imagination are, from the left, Brendan O'Connor, Ethan Margot, Cade Baridon, Lou Lou Howell, Sarah Nolan and Karina Revilla.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



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Mercier DeCuir (left) with her daughter Shannon DeCuir

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Facility I.D. #Pending

Presbyterian named to list Top 100 hospitals

Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Rockwall has named one of the nation's Top Hospitals by Truven Analytics, according to a release.

The Truven Health 100 Hospitals study identifies hospital and leadership teams that provide the highest level of value to communities, based on a balanced scorecard. The 100 Hospitals balanced scorecard measures hospital performance across 10 areas: mortality; inpatient complications; patient average patient stay; expense; profitability; patient satisfaction; adherence to clinical standards of care; and post-discharge mortality and readmission for acute myocardial infarction (heart attack), heart failure, pneumonia.

The study has been conducted annually since 1993.

"When we decided to build this facility in Rockwall, we did so with the foremost goal of providing the highest quality of care to this community," said Gary Bonacquisti, Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Rockwall CEO.

(Continued on Page 3)

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Board Certified Family Practice



Danney Drury, D.O.
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Hospitalist



Kevin W. Stephens, M.D.
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Kevin Vo, M.D.
Board Certified Family Practice
Fluent Vietnamese



Jim George, M.D.
Board Certified Family Practice



Becky J. Wynn, RNC, FNP



Margie Chung, RNC, FNP



Jeff C. Mohart, PA-C



Charis Granberry, RNC, FNP



Lisa M. Connolly, PA-C



Christina L. Roberts, PA-C



Julie Briscoe, RNC, FNP



Julia Barvard, PA-C



Lindsay A. Valls, RNC, FNP



Sherry A. Hoover, RNC, FNP



Jimmy D. Sanders, PA-C

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Wayne Camp

Services for Wayne Camp, 70, of Rockwall will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 27, 2014, in the First United Methodist Church chapel, 4405 Main Street, Rowlett, with the Rev. Buist officiating. Burial will follow in the Rest Haven Memorial Park in Rowlett in the direction of the Rest Haven Home-Rowlett Chapel.



He was born April 28, 1943, in Abilene, Texas, married Ona Kay Williamson on February 14, 1989, in Garland. He owned and operated Wayne's Locksmith in Rowlett until his retirement in 2001. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Rockwall and the Disciples Sunday School Class.

Survivors include his wife of almost 25 years, Kay Camp of Rowlett; two sons, William Michael Evans of Lee's Summit, Mo., and Philip Ryan Evans of McKinney; and seven grandchildren.

Peggy Ann Fuller Dowell

Services for Peggy Ann Fuller Dowell, 71, of Rowlett will be conducted at 1 p.m. March 26, 2014, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel with Pastor Joey Johnson officiating. Burial followed in the Rest Haven Memorial Park in Rowlett on March 22.



She was born March 13, 1943, in Lufkin to E. and Rena Mae (Bennett) Dowell. She worked for Century Copy for more than 40 years. She owned and operated Century Reprographics. Survivors include her husband, Oliver Dowell of Rowlett; her children, Eddie Fuller and his wife, Betty; Jimmy, of Combine, Debbie Horton and her husband, James, of Rowlett; Jeanetta Beimler and her husband, Eric, of Justin, Debbie and Kyle Inglis of Highland Village and Johnny Fuller and his wife, Loretta, of Longview; her sister, Billie Denezza of Las Vegas, and her grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Terry Lee Kirkwood

Services for Terry Lee Kirkwood, 70, of Addicks will be conducted at 11 a.m. March 27, 2014, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel with Pastor Charlie Nassar officiating. Burial followed in the Rest Haven Memorial Park in Rowlett on March 21.



He was born May 11, 1956, in Rockwall. Survivors include his wife, Joyce Kirkwood; his children, Shanda Kirkwood, and her husband, Danny, of Rowlett; Eth Whitus, and her husband, Keith, of Rowlett; his grandchildren, Cheyenne, Madysyn, Dayton, Alex, and Ruston; his mother, Doris Flores; his father, A.M. Kirkwood; his sister, Winford Seabolt, and his wife, Margaret; and his sister, Allison, and her husband, Clayton.

He preceded in death by a son, Kasey Jonathan Cooper, and his sister, Lupe Flores.

Johnnie T. Nichols

Services for Johnnie T. Nichols will be conducted at 11 a.m. March 28, 2014, at the Joy Lutheran Church, 302 N. Goliad, Rockwall with Pastor Paul Appel officiating. Burial will follow in the Rest Haven Memorial Park.



The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. March 27 at the funeral home.

He died March 23. Born Aug. 4, 1942, in Dallas to his mother, Norbia Lee, his father, Johnnie T. Nichols, and to his mom, Flora Kitts, he married Karen Widlund in 1992. He enjoyed fishing and collecting fishing lures and Dr Pepper memorabilia.

Survivors include his wife, Karen Nichols; his daughter, Kimberly, and her husband, Tony; his grandchildren, Kari, Chris, Kayla and Cameron; his daughter, Kelly, and her husband, Jack; his grandchildren, Krystal, Michael, Jessica and Matthew; his great-grandchildren, Anthony, Hayden, Jerzee and Keithan; his stepson, Lane, and his wife, Sara; his grandchildren, Kathleen, Hannah, Arabelle and Zachary; his stepdaughter, Jeanna, and her husband, Jason; and his grandchildren, Jordan and Jacob.

In lieu of flowers, the family has suggested memorial contributions may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, Church Street Station, P.O. Box 780, New York, NY 10008-0780 or michaeljfox.org or to Joy Lutheran Church.

Republican Lunch Bunch to meet

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

Taste of Rockwall, Business Expo slated

The 21st Annual Taste of Rockwall and Business Expo, presented by the Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce, will run from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. April 3 at Rockwall High School. Advance tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-12 and may be purchased at rockwallchamber.org or at the following locations: Rockwall Area Chamber, Alliance Bank, American National Bank and Community Bank. Tickets at the door will cost \$17 for adults and \$7 for children. Children ages 5 and under will be admitted at no cost.

Junk Prom to benefit Helping Hands

A Junk Prom to benefit Helping Hands will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 5 at Rockwall County Helping Hands' Centsible Thrift Store, located at 950 Williams St., Rockwall. For more details, call 972-771-4357.

Church plans Priscilla Shirer simulcast

The Rockwall Friendship Baptist Church, 5651 State Hwy. 76 in Royse City, will host a biblical teaching by author Priscilla Shirer via live simulcast from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 5. Registration costs \$20. The event will include a continental breakfast, catered lunch and afternoon snack. To register online, visit tinyurl.com/rfbcpss. For more details about the church, visit rockwallfriendship.org.

Live 'Leadercast' broadcast ...

(Continued from Page 1)

"It is one of the single most consolidated sources of leadership that I know of," said 2013 attendee John Doe, senior manager at ABC & Co., in a Rockwall Chamber of Commerce news release issued last week. "But it goes beyond that. I think this conference, although very focused on leadership, transcends the topic and really shows you how to lead in life."

"Leadercast" exists to positively change the way the world thinks about leadership. This year's theme — Beyond You — challenges leaders to focus outward rather than inward.

For more information, visit www.leadercast.com. For local ticketing information, visit LeadercastRockwall.com.

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Rockwall Chamber welcomes Baylor Emergency Medical Center

The Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce recently welcomed Baylor Emergency Medical Center with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Baylor Emergency Medical Center at Rockwall represents a compassionate, efficient and patient-centered approach to the delivery of emergency medical and inpatient care. The first of its kind in Rockwall County, this new emergency hospital is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and is staffed with emergency medicine physician specialists and experienced nursing and clinical staff.

The facility has an emergency department with seven beds, diagnostic imaging including X-ray, a CT scanner and ultrasound, a laboratory and an eight-bed inpatient unit for those requiring an admission for additional medical services. The 36,000-square-foot facility has a second floor that will be dedicated to medical offices.

Baylor Emergency Medical Center at Rockwall is located at 1975 Alpha, Suite 100. Phone: 214-294-6200. Learn more at BaylorRockwall.com.

Adams seeks re-election ...

(continued from Page 1)

Adams said she is looking forward to continue offering her experience as a parent, realtor, PTA member, community volunteer and school board member to continue the Rockwall ISD's success.

In addition to her service on the local board, Adams has served at the state level, serving as an alternate on the Texas Association of School Administrators Legislative Advisory Council the past two years.

Recently, Adams was invited to speak about her passion for public education and her experience in the educational arena.

"I'm excited to kick off my re-election campaign by bringing a positive message to the voters about the achievements Rockwall ISD has seen in the past few years," Adams said.

Adams is an A&M graduate, Adams and her husband of 20 years, Robert, have three children: twins attending the University of Texas at Dallas and a son, Billie Stevenson Elementary and an eighth grade student at Middle School.

The family attends Lakepointe Church where both are actively involved in the Children's Ministry program.

Rockwall County Entertainment

Battle of the Bands set March 29

The annual Battle of the Bands is scheduled for Saturday March 29 at Rowlett High School. The event lasts from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. The competing bands are Rockwall's Surface 180, Circuitry, Fog On The Stage, Mother People, Therapeutic Insanity and What Happened to Me. A special performance to be offered by Jagged Row. Tickets are \$10.

'Steel Magnolias' to be staged at RCP

'Steel Magnolias' will be featured at the Rockwall Community Theatre, 609 E. Rusk, Rockwall, in performances set for March 28-30 and April 4-6. Friday and Saturday shows will be at 8 p.m.; Sunday performances will be at 2 p.m. Tickets may be purchased online at rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org or by calling 972-722-3399.

'Believe' ballet slated for April 5, 6

Harmonic Motion Ballet Theatre and Harmonic Motion School of Ballet will stage "Believe" at 7 p.m. April 5 and 2 p.m. April 6 at Rockwall High School Theatre. Professional dancers will be accompanied by students in performing this ballet. General admission tickets cost \$10 at tututix.com.

Next Brown Bag Lecture Series set April 11

Rockwall County Historical Foundation and the Rockwall County Historical Commission will present the next Brown Bag Lecture Series from noon to 1 p.m. April 11 in the second floor courtroom at the Rockwall County Courthouse in downtown Rockwall. The topic will be the Stories of Rockwall County, presented by Nancy and Bruce Beaty. Admission is free and open to the public. For more details call Sheri Fowler at 972-6466.

Discount offered on early-bird RSM tickets

Tickets purchased before April 30 for the Rockwall Summer Musical's 2014 season are available at a 20 percent discount. The summer season will include "South Pacific" June 26-28 and "Anything Goes" June 30-July 4. Visit rockwallsummermusicals.org or call 881-71-TICKETS for more information. Coupon code HAPPYTALK to receive discount.

Melody to lead Brown Bag Lecture Series event

Rockwall County Historical Foundation and the Rockwall County Historical Commission will present their Brown Bag Lecture Series from noon to 1 p.m. May 9 at the historic courthouse in downtown Rockwall. The topic will be One American Soldier, with Jo Nell Melody presenting the story of her father-in-law who served in WWII and was captured in France. Admission will be free and open to the public. For more details call Sheri Fowler at 214-926-6466.

CITY OF ROCKWALL

14th Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

This event is open to all City of Rockwall, City of Heath & Rockwall County residents

ONE DAY ONLY!!

Saturday April 5, 2014
9am to 3pm
@ The City of Rockwall Service Center
1600 Airport Road

Paper Shredding

We will accept household quantities of:

- Pesticides
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Example of items we **WILL NOT** accept:

- Commercial & Industrial Waste
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- Compressed Gas Cylinders
- Freon Cylinders
- Household Garbage
- Ammunition
- Explosives

Safety & Preparation Tips

1. **City of Rockwall residents** will need to bring a current utility bill or driver's license for proof of residency.
2. **City of Heath & Rockwall County residents MUST** have a voucher to participate. Please pick up your voucher at the City in which you live.
3. Bring chemicals in their original containers if possible.
4. **Do not mix** different or unknown chemicals together.
5. Place broken or leaking containers inside a second container of similar material (glass for corrosive, metal for flammables). Use clay-based cat litter to soak up spills.
6. Transport materials in the trunk or back of vehicle, away from the driver and passengers.
7. For safety purposes please do not bring children or pets to the collection site.
8. **Please stay in your vehicle** when entering the collection site. Trained workers will unload hazardous waste from your vehicle.

There may be a long wait at the collection site. Be patient. The contractor and volunteers are working as quickly as possible to collect and identify the materials safely.

Rain Or Shine

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The Golden Debs pose for the cameras after having introduced themselves individually to the Roysse City School Board and the audience on March 20. The team scored 90 or higher on the four dances performed and received "Sweepstake" at both competitions. The team attended Danceland Productions USA North Texas Regional Competition at Ford High School on Feb 8 and Showtime International's Dallas Dance Spectacular at Potet High School on February 22nd.

The attached article explains in more detail all the awards the Debs received. Pictured bottom row l-r are: Kaylee Harrelson, Audrey Green, Kaitlyn Jeffery, Mikayla Kilgore, Savannah Renfrow, Cynthia Villegas, Kirby Dresser, Faith Lunday and Meagan Dahse. Top row/l-r are Alexa Ochoa, Shelby McManus, Sarah McNeil, Allie DeBona, Jacqlyn Beckering, Hannah-Kay Brazel, Madison Runnels, Olivia Rodriguez, Kay Brown, Cheyenne Chandler, Alex Schar, and Kristin Dresser. The Golden Deb's Drill Team Director is Rebecca Allan.

Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge (rcn.millie@yahoo.com)/Rockwall County News

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Psalm 150:6

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

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1 John 4:16
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Royse City ISD ...

(Continued from page 1)
According to the agenda, "After essays are collected from parent students, a Director's Award is given to one honored director. The award went to Roysse City High School drill team sponsor Rebecca Allan."
Out of 79 Roysse City Middle School UIL Students, 44 placed in the following categories: Art 7th- Ellie Wier, Faith Hawerton; Art 8th- Sanchez, Maggie Trammel, Kaitlyn Agee, Litzzy Guevara; Calculus Applications 7th-Lacy Howell, Riley Roberts, Thatcher Davis; Calculus Applications 8th-Evan Cawthon, Litzzy Guevara, Chloe Carr; Dictation Skills-7th-Karina Revilla, Ethan Margot, Sarah Nolan; Dictation Skills-8th-Kumiko Rauch, Catherine Allesio; Editorial Writing- Sarah Nolan, Lacy Howell; Editorial Writing-8th-Lumiko Rauch; Impromptu Speaking 8th-Sydney Hall, Nathan Bennett; Listening Skills 7th-Uriel Frias, Cade Bairdon, Lacey Howell; Listening Skills 8th-Catherine Allesio, Destiny Sakolevidis; Mathematics-7th-Tanner Townsend; July Ringle; Mathematics- 8th-Michaela Travers; Modern Oratory- Lindsey Miller, Aaliya Pichon; Modern Oratory-8th-Hanna Pickett; Haley Burden, Victoria Aguilera; Number Sense-7th-Jordan McColl; July Ringle; Oral Reading-7th-Miranda Hayes, Rachel Coday, Ethan Margot; Oral Reading-8th-Hannah Negrete, Kolton Crumpton, Shari Doroshow; Ready Writing-7th-Karina Revilla, Jordan McCain, C. Baridon; Ready Writing-8th-Destiny Vogel, Sydney Hall, Crystal W. Science 1-7th-Tanner Townsend; Social Studies-7th-Ruth Huffner; Berndon O'Connor, Thatcher Davis; Social Studies-8th-Frank Fazio; Mary Edwards; Spelling 7th-Morgan Jordan, Jacob Stanley, Maci Hogg; Spelling 8th-Brooke O'Donnell. The presenter was Middle School Coordinator Angela Carpenter.

After the awards were given, the rest of the meeting was filled with business agenda.
The enrollment for RCSD is 4,956. The RC High School graduation date is set for June 3 at the Curtis Cullwell Center. The RC Alternative Learning Center Graduations will be June 7 at 7 p.m. at a location to be announced.

Julia Robinson, director of curriculum and instruction, gave PowerPoint presentation updating Strategic Plan 1.1.1 and 1.2.1. She discussed the improvements in spreadsheets that monitor each student's progress.

The funniest comment of the entire evening was when Robinson referred to a book called, "If You Don't Feed the Teachers, They Eat the Students." When everyone had regained their composure, she explained that administrators must give the teachers all they need to teach the students and have them meet the required expectations. The book by Neila Connors is inspirational, filled with words of wisdom, gives insight on improving the school climate and communicating with parents and students.

As the evening came to a close, the board members gave their comments. Each member echoed the same sentiments: giving thanks and praise to the teachers, staff, and administrators for all they do to make Roysse City's students successful. They acknowledged and thanked Julia Robinson for the over and beyond work she does for the students and their teachers.

The next school board meeting will be April 14.

Let the peace from God rule in your hearts to which also you are called in one body ...
And whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks unto God and the Father by him.
Colossians 3:15

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Opinions

Victory for honest elections

Phyllis Schlafly
 A federal court in Kansas just rendered a much-needed decision on the central government's interference with state efforts to combat voter fraud. Kansas and Arizona won total support for laws to stop voter registration by illegal aliens and other persons, and the court ordered a federal agency to revise its forms accordingly.

Not every day federal bureaucrats are told to submit to state government liberals have been in disbelief ever since the ruling, which upheld the power of the states to force the federal Election Assistance Commission to include proof-of-citizenship requirements on voter registration forms pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

Kansas and Arizona had enacted laws requiring real proof of citizenship, such as birth certificates or passports, in order to register. Until now, the federal voter registration form required only a signature to affirm citizenship, without showing any documents or proof.

Illegal aliens break the law to enter this country, so it is obviously not their intent to lie in signing a form. Moreover, all persons who are here on green cards or temporary visas have not surrendered their loyalty to the United States, nor have they surrendered citizenship of their countries of origin.

The brilliant approach of requiring proof of citizenship on the registration form is the brainchild of Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, and this new court decision obliges the Obama administration to comply with this common-sense regulation. This is a great step forward for states that are trying to protect their citizens against a federal government that refuses to enforce federal immigration law.

Kobach explains to the Associated Press, "This is a really big victory not just for Kansas and Arizona but for all 50 states." Alabama immediately moved forward with its own law against illegal voter

registration, and the other 47 states can now do likewise.

The phony canard of "voter suppression" is already being chanted by liberals, even though the only "suppression" is of illegal votes that never should be cast. The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the requirement to show identification in order to vote, so showing a document to prove citizenship is plainly reasonable.

This dispute started in October 2012, when the Election Assistance Commission refused to cooperate with attempts by the states to crack down on illegal voting.

So Kobach sued, in *Kobach v. U.S. Election Assistance Commission*, to force the federal government to include proof of citizenship requirements on its forms registering voters in Kansas and Arizona. State law, after all, is what defines election eligibility, not federal law, apart from a few exceptions, such as forbidding discrimination and allowing 18-year-olds to vote.

Arizona previously tried to require proof of citizenship in voting registration, but the Supreme Court struck down Arizona's prior attempt. This time, however, Arizona and Kansas did what the Supreme Court invited them to do: add the document requirement on the printed federal voter registration form.

In ruling for the states, the federal court holds that "Congress has not preempted state laws requiring proof of citizenship through the National Voter Registration Act" and states have the power to

require proof because the "Constitution gives each state exclusive authority to determine the qualifications of voters for state and federal elections."

This splendid new decision by federal Judge Eric F. Melgren explains, "Because the Constitution gives the states exclusive authority to set voter qualifications under the Qualifications Clause, and because no clear congressional enactment attempts to preempt this authority," it is OK for the states to decide that "a mere oath is not sufficient" for prospective voters to prove they're citizens.

The judge then ordered the federal EAC "to add the language requested by Arizona and Kansas to the state-specific instructions on the federal mail voter registration form, effective immediately." The words "effective immediately" are particularly gratifying because they order the Obama administration to comply right now, before the 2014 elections.

Congratulations to Kobach for his persistence in pursuing honest elections. That's the job of state secretaries of state.

Phyllis Schlafly is a lawyer, conservative political analyst and author of 20 books. She is the co-author, with George Neumayr, of the New York Times Best-Seller titled "No Higher Power: Obama's War on Religious Freedom." She can be contacted by e-mail at phyllis@eagleforum.org.
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Did team Obama blunder or conspire in Ukraine

by Sheldon Richman
 Future Freedom Foundation
 fff.org

While no one ever lost money overestimating the capacity of the U.S. government to blunder, we cannot rule out that American officials knew exactly what they were doing when they helped provoke the crisis in Ukraine.

It is hard to believe that all these officials are so ignorant of Russian history that they could not anticipate how President Vladimir Putin would respond to U.S.-backed machinations in Kiev. These machinations led to the ouster of elected (if corrupt and power-hungry) president Viktor Yanukovich after street demonstrations, which included neo-Nazi elements now represented in the new government.

About these machinations there is little doubt. We have a phone call between Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland and U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt, in which they talk about who should rule Ukraine next. Nuland says, "I don't think Klitsch [an opposition leader, Vitaly Klitschko] should go into the government. I don't think it's necessary, I don't think it's a good idea.... I think Yats [Arseny Yatsenyuk, another opposition leader] is the guy who's got the economic experience, the governing experience." Yatsenyuk became the prime minister after Yanukovich's ouster.

Pyatt responds, "I think you reaching out directly to him [Yatsenyuk] helps with the personality management among the three [opposition leaders]."

The U.S. government worked to replace Yanukovich with its "guy" — which is not what the Obama administration tells the American people.

Pyatt adds, "But anyway we could land jelly side up on this one if we move fast.... [W]e want to try to get somebody with an international personality to come out here and help to midwife this thing."

This phone call made headlines because Nuland used an obscenity regarding the European Union. But the news is that, contrary to

public statements, the Obama administration sought to "midwife" regime change.

One need not be a Putin apologist to ask how the Americans failed to see that this activity would provoke the Russian president.

Let's not forget that all this came at the end of a long train of U.S. abuses that began when the Soviet Union disbanded in 1991. These include the expansion of NATO up to Russia's border, contrary to the promise President George H. W. Bush made in exchange for the withdrawal of the Red Army from East Germany; the incorporation into NATO of former Soviet republics and the grooming for NATO membership of Ukraine and Georgia; and U.S. military deals with Muslim-dominated former Soviet republics in central Asia.

Anyone with a smidgen of knowledge about Russian history would know that these things would eventually produce a nationalist response. The retaking of Crimea was the most predictable response. Who really believes the Americans were surprised by this?

The only question is whether they wanted that response. It seems so. To what benefit? Putin may have Crimea, but the rest of Ukraine is likely to move hard into the European camp (even though the EU's economic offer to Ukraine was less generous than Russia's). And Putin's ham-handed moves present new opportunities for demonizing him, perhaps increasing the American regime's stock, which has suffered in recent years. An additional dividend might be a stanching of moves to cut the Pentagon budget. The military-industrial complex will be happy about that. Other corporate interests also stand to benefit.

Nor can we rule out that, perhaps despite Obama's wishes, the neoconservatives inside and outside his administration want to undermine cooperation between the United States and Russia on Iran and Syria, where Putin has helped Obama.

Meddling in other countries' affairs is nothing new for America. We can learn much from Secretary Nuland's husband, neoconservative brain-truster Robert Kagan, whose 2006 historical work, *Dangerous Nation*, urges Americans to realize that their country is an empire now and always has been:

Americans have cherished an image of themselves as by nature inward-looking and aloof, only sporadically and spasmodically venturing forth into the world, usually in response to external attack or perceived threats. This self-image survives, despite four hundred years of steady expansion and an ever-deepening involvement in world affairs, and despite innumerable wars, interventions, and prolonged occupations in foreign lands.

Kagan wants us to embrace the empire with gusto. Instead, we should reject and liquidate it.

Rockwall County Letters to the Editor

We encourage the submission of Letters to the Editor. The publishing of letters is at the sole discretion of the editor and may be edited for brevity, grammar and accuracy. Letters which are considered libelous or an attack of an individual's character will be rejected. Letters must be signed and include telephone number or address for verification.
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Angels Walk Among Us

On Monday, January 13, 2014 I had no idea that four angels would walk into my life. Total strangers (angels as I call them) who just happened to be at the Denny's in Rockwall. These 4 angels, have been acquaintances since their children were small, normally meeting at a local restaurant to have breakfast together.

One morning they decided to meet at another location for their own get-together. My mother (Valerie Spinks 93 year young) decided to have breakfast after completing her first physical therapy session for her right shoulder.

I noticed the 4 ladies as we were enjoying our breakfast but had no idea they would play such a vital part in my mother's life.

They all completed our breakfast about the same time and paid their bills. My 4 angels, left the restaurant before we did, but were waiting there good-byes in front as we exited the restaurant.

She mom is 93 I always park in handicap parking, and I always park in front of her, well that morning she got in front of me. In just a second mom was standing and then she wasn't. Yes, she went down on the concrete.

The 4 angels jumped into action, getting napkins, towels to stop bleeding, offering to call 911 which they did and upon arrival of ambulance offered to drive me to the ER. That wasn't the end of the 4 angels.

They came to the hospital to check on my mom and brought her to the plant. Oh no that isn't the end either, they came to the Moor Lodge to check on mom, where my mother spent 1 1/2 months in rehabilitation.

My mom is now back home and enjoying life again. I wish to thank and recognize to our community these 4 angels: Mindi Schatz, Andrea Roof, Jennifer Norris and Jennifer Hicks.

Thank you ladies from the bottom of my heart, God Bless each of you.

Valerie Spinks and
 Diane S. Turner

Presbyterian Hospital named to top 100 list ...

(Continued from Page 2)

Rockwall's chief medical officer. "And we searched for caring individuals to help us achieve that goal. We are very proud of our staff and physicians who work tirelessly to reach that goal and are humbled by this great honor."

Hospitals do not apply for this recognition; they are selected based upon their performance in these measures. The 2014 award is based upon hospital data reviewed from 2011 through 2012.

"Texas Health Rockwall's ongoing commitment to advancing the quality and value of the services we provide for our community is readily apparent in the everyday actions of the people who make up every department in the facility," said Cindy Paris, RN and hospital president. "This recognition celebrates the dedicated efforts of every staff member, physician and leader who are responsible for providing the best care possible."

"This year's 100 Top Hospitals set the benchmarks for peers around the country to follow — consistently delivering outstanding quality of care, satisfaction, and community value at a reasonable cost," said Jean Chenoweth, senior vice president for performance improvement and the 100 Top Hospitals program at Truven Health Analytics. "The majority of the 2014 award winners have produced year-to-year performance improvement, as well. This speaks to the consistent focus on excellence by the entire organization."

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- 1 in Grayson Co. on 5
- 5 TXism: "___ late and a dollar short"
- 6 TX astronaut Don ___ Slayton
- 7 first TXn to walk in space: ___ White
- 8 sixth sense
- 9 TXism: "___ out" (ate too much)
- 15 TXism: "cut from the ___ bolt"
- 16 this TX Helmond was on "Who's the Boss?"
- 19 TXism: "___ with kid gloves"
- 21 once a Houston NFL player
- 22 TX Willie tune: "___ It You Wanted"
- 27 TX singer Vikki ___ released
- 29 TX frontier scout James B. who got Medal of Honor
- 30 conservative TXns are ___ government
- 32 UT '66 sniper (init.)
- 34 TXism: "___ my hide!"
- 37 grant possession to 38 a Cowboy, Rocket, Spur, Star or Astro
- 39 TX Jim Reeves tune about island girl
- 40 knees that stick out more
- 42 TX Dan Jenkins football novel
- 45 entreated
- 46 "in the year of Our Lord" (abbr.)
- 47 ___ Maria, TX
- 48 TXism: "shoots dice over the phone" (___-taker)
- 49 TXism: "you ain't ___ nothing while you're talking"
- 52 ammo for bows
- 53 TXism: "suits ___ a fare-thee-well"
- 54 DFW guesstimate
- 55 Cowboy Hatcher pos.
- 14 east TX reptile croco
- 15 shirts worn at a honky tonk
- 16 Mission, TX AM
- 17 Coleman Co. stream: "Jim ___"
- 18 TXism: "let ___ rip!"
- 20 TXism: "___ his hide" (spanks)
- 22 this Devane was in "Rolling Thunder" with TX Tommy Lee Jones
- 23 TXism: "sells like ___ cakes"
- 24 Dallas cosmetics queen Mary Kay
- 25 TXism: "___ dog won't hunt"
- 36 gratuity for a "menu mamma" (2 wds.)
- 38 TXism: "when ___ fly!" (never)
- 41 naval prison
- 43 Hico h.s. class
- 44 TXism: "he'd be ___ in a battle of wits" (dumb)
- 50 TXism: "___ lick" (none)
- 51 Harlingen has ___ Jima statue

DOWN

- 1 TXism: "___ my boots retreated"
- 2 TX Benson film: "___ to Billy Joe"
- 3 TX Nat Stuckey tune: "She ___ Every Morning"
- 4 Athens is "Black ___ of the World"
- 8 TXism: "plain as the ___ on a mule"
- 9 this TXn killed "Billy the Kid"
- 10 TXism: "run ___ by a lawyer"
- 11 this Gene was in "Bonnie & Clyde" about TX duo (init.)
- 12 star of "Oh God! Book II" with TX Louanne Sirota
- 13 a Great Lake

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Sons of the American Revolution
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Rockwall County Kiwanis Club
Meets every Tuesday at noon at the Rockwall Wedding Chapel, and we recently added an evening meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., also at the Rockwall Wedding Chapel, 203 S. Fannin. For more information call 972-772-6001

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In compliance with Tex. Occ. Code Ch. 2303.151 notice is hereby given on abandoned vehicle 1995 HONDA CIVIC VIN 1HGEJ1229SL037719 towed from 214 S. GOLIAD ROCKWALL, TEXAS 75032. Now located at Dallas Towboys VSF Lic 0628232, 291 National Dr. Rockwall, TX 75032, vehicle may be claimed by owner/lienholder upon receipt of storage and tow fees accrued to date which are \$ 1782.20 and increase \$21.65 daily until 45 days at which time all rights/ownership shall be forfeited of said vehicle which will be sold at a public auction if not claimed on or before APRIL 3, 2014.

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Rockwall County's Newspaper of Record

(Classifieds continued on Pages 7)

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning & Zoning Commission and the City Council of the City of McLendon-Chisholm, Texas will conduct a Public Hearing:

Planning & Zoning Commission Public Hearing Date:
Date: Thursday, April 17, 2014
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: City Hall
1248 S. Highway 205
McLendon-Chisholm, Tx 75032

City Council Public Hearing Date:
Date: Tuesday, April 22, 2014
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: City Hall
1248 S. Highway 205
McLendon-Chisholm, Tx 75032

The Public Hearings are for a zoning change from Planned Development to an Amended Planned Development. The property tract includes 409 acres located along FM 550, land known as Triple Creek.

All interested parties are invited to attend.

Deborah Sorensen
City Secretary

- Public Notice -

The City of Rockwall Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 8, 2014** and the Rockwall City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, April 21, 2014** consider the following item(s). Both hearings will take place at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Rockwall City Hall, 385 South Goliad, Rockwall, Texas.

Z2014-007: Proposed PD Amendment - Breezy Hill

Hold a public hearing to discuss and consider a request by Darren Cain of the Skorburg Company on behalf of Breezy Hill 405, LTD for the approval of a zoning amendment to Planned Development District 74 (PD-74) to amend the concept plan and allow for changes to the development standards contained in Exhibit 'C' of Ordinance 12-26 for 405.184-acres of land identified as Tract 7 & 7-1 of the J. Strickland Survey, Abstract No. 187, Rockwall, Rockwall County, Texas, generally located north of FM-552 and west of Breezy Hill Road, and take any action necessary.

Z2014-008: Proposed Zoning Change - John King & SH-66

Hold a public hearing to discuss and consider a request by Mike Peoples for the approval of a zoning change from an Agriculture (AG) District to a Heavy Commercial (HC) District for a 7.42-acre tract of land identified as a portion of Tract 4-01 of the M. B. Jones Survey, Abstract No. 122, Rockwall, Rockwall County, Texas, situated within the East SH-66 Corridor Overlay (E-SH 66 OV) District, located east of the intersection of John King Boulevard and SH-66, and take any action necessary.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend. Please contact the City of Rockwall Planning and Zoning staff at (972) 771-7745 with any questions. Additional information on all current development cases can be found on the City's website: <http://www.rockwall.com/Planning/PlanningDevCases.asp>

TxDOT NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING FM 552 - ROCKWALL COUNTY CSJ: 1017-01-015

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and Rockwall County will conduct a Public Meeting on **Thursday, April 10, 2014** for the proposed improvements to Farm-to-Market (FM) 552 in Rockwall County, Texas. The project limits extend from State Highway (SH) 205 to SH 66.

The purpose of the Public Meeting is to present proposed roadway improvements within this 5.2-mile long section of FM 552. The Public Meeting will be an "open house" format and will be held on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at **Williams Middle School, 625 E. FM 552, Rockwall, Texas 75087** from **5 p.m. to 7 p.m.** TxDOT staff and its consulting engineers will be available in an informal setting to answer questions during the meeting.

The proposed project is needed to address an expected increase in traffic, to conform to local planning efforts, and to provide safer geometric and operating conditions. Upon completion, FM 552 would accommodate two 11 to 12 foot wide inside lanes and one 14-foot-wide outside shared-use lane in each direction, an 18-foot-wide median with 1-foot to 2-foot curb offsets, a 6-foot to 10-foot-wide sidewalk with minimum of 9-foot offset from face of curb. Dedicated left and right turn lanes are provided along FM 552 at major intersections with SH 205, John King Blvd, FM 1141, and FM 3549. At various cross streets, a 10-foot-wide left-turn bay would be provided in the median. The horizontal and vertical alignment has been improved to satisfy a 40 mile-per-hour (mph) design for an urban arterial facility along FM 552. Major cross street connection design speeds vary between 40 mph and 45 mph. Drainage improvements include replacing the existing side ditches with a curb and gutter section. Approximately 52 acres of additional right-of-way (ROW) and easements would be needed to accommodate the proposed roadway and drainage improvements. One residential property displacement would be required. No commercial property displacements or relocations would be required.

The maps and drawings reflecting the project's location and geometric design will be displayed at the Public Meeting. This and other information about the proposed project are available for public inspection and duplication at the TxDOT Dallas District Office located at 4777 E. Highway 80 Mesquite, Texas 75150, the TxDOT Rockwall/Kaufman County Area Office located at 2750 S. Washington, Kaufman, Texas 75142, and on-line at www.KeepItMovingDallas.com under Upcoming Public Meeting.

All interested persons are invited to attend this meeting to obtain information about the project and to express their views. Persons requiring special communication or accommodation needs should contact the TxDOT Dallas District public information officer at (214) 320-6100 at least two (2) working days prior to the Public Meeting. Because the Public Meeting will be conducted in English, any request for language interpreters or other special communication needs should also be made at least two (2) working days prior to the Public Meeting. Every reasonable effort to accommodate these needs will be made.

Written comments from the public regarding the proposed project may be presented at the Public Meeting. Comments may be presented for a period of 10 days after the meeting. Written comments can be submitted to:

Ms. Nancy Peron, P.E. TxDOT Dallas District Project Manager
4777 E. US Highway 80 Mesquite, TX 75150-6643

Written comments submitted after the Public Meeting must be hand-delivered or postmarked on or before **Monday, April 21, 2014**, in order to be included in the public record. For additional information please contact Nancy Peron, P.E., TxDOT Dallas District, via phone (214) 320-6245 or e-mail: Nancy.Peron@TxDOT.gov.

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