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# Rockwall County News

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## Saluting the RCHS Class of 2017 Salutatorian



**Emily Nolan**  
Salutatorian  
Royse City High School  
Class of 2017

Emily attended Browning Elementary, Fort Elementary, Ruth Cherry Intermediate School, Royse City Middle School and Royse City High School. She participated in academic, art, athletic and music extracurricular activities. Band, On Stage Band, Friends of Rachel, Crime Stoppers, Our Lady of the Lake Youth Group, GT Camp Volunteer are just a few of the leadership roles and camp activities in which she excelled. She plans to attend Texas A & M University in College Station to pursue a degree in education and a career in teaching. Her parents are Jason and Elizabeth Nolan.  
*Courtesy Photo/Rockwall County News*

### University scholastic honors

#### Laslo named to Dean's List

Missouri State University tapped Austin Laslo of Rockwall for the Dean's List for the spring semester, according to a news release from the Springfield, Missouri, news release.

The Dean's List recognizes full-time undergraduate students who achieve at least a 3.50 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale.

#### Kelley, Applegate make honors lists

Two local residents were among students placed on the President's or Dean's lists for the spring semester at Schreiner University, according to a news release from the Kerrville university.

Honorees include Kylie Applegate of Fate, who was named to the President's List, and Blake Kelley of Rockwall, who was named to the Dean's List.

To be eligible for either list, a full-time student must complete 12 credit hours for the term. For the President's List, a student must earn at least a 3.75 grade-point average, according to the release. For the Dean's List, a student must earn at least a 3.5 grade-point average.

#### Draheim named to Dean's List

Stewart Draheim of Royse City was among students named to the spring Dean's List at Roger Williams University, according to a news release from the Bristol, Rhode Island, university.

Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a grade-point average of 3.4 or higher are eligible for the Dean's List.

## County citizens urge commissioners lower tax rate and off-set valuation increases

The Rockwall County Commissioners Court met, June 13, 2017, at the Historic Courthouse on the square in Rockwall.

During the public forum, Judith Matherne expressed her concerns about the United States pulling out of the France Climate Change Summit, asked the commissioners to consider climate change a non-partisan issue, and to review study material that she provided.

Matherne also asked the commissioners to consider the use of electricity from 100% wind energy, and to purchase automobiles that use alternative fuels.

She emphasized the importance of protecting the water quality of creeks and rivers in Rockwall County, and referred to a TECQ matter related to discharge water flowing into Squabble Creek.



Kirk Aldridge (right), Deputy Chief of the Rockwall Police Department, fields questions during the Saturday, June 17, 2017, Democratic Party Breakfast meeting forum in the conference center at Harry Myers Park Rockwall. Shown from left are Democratic Party of Rockwall President Judith Matherne, panelists Terry Garrett (DPS Director for the City of Heath), Sol Villasana representing the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Rockwall County Sheriff Harold Eavenson, Kali Cohn representing the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Aldridge. The panelists in the peaceful forum addressed various issues related to the recent passage of Senate Bill 4 in the Texas Legislature, including its affects on law enforcement policies and practices, and affects on the civil liberties of immigrants and all people in Texas and America.  
*Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News*

## Senate Bill 4 addressed during Democratic Party forum in Rockwall

The Democratic Party of Rockwall hosted a forum, Saturday morning, June 17, 2017, the conference center at Harry Myer's Park in Rockwall.

The subject of the forum was the affects of Senate Bill 4 in the Texas Legislature on local communities.

The panel of speakers included Terry Garrett (DPS Director for the City of Heath), Sol Villasana representing the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Harold Eavenson (Sheriff of Rockwall County), Kali Cohn representing the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and Kirk Aldridge (Deputy Chief of Police for the City of Rockwall).

The event was coordinated by Judith Matherne of the Democratic Party Rockwall.

Villasana spoke of the "real impact" of the bill on every day policing, and stated that the bill requires local officers to start inquiring about immigration status by requiring people to show papers such as documents as proof of citizenship. He insisted the bill would lead to damaging relations within the communities.

Villasana referred to an article which included the Police Chief of San Antonio describing profiling as being a part of law enforcement, and that observing "skin color" is a natural part of profiling.

"We cannot lump criminals with non-criminals. The only difference between legal and illegal immigrant is a good lawyer," exclaimed Villasana.

He later explained that the bill targets law enforcement officials. He said they can lose their position in office if they even offer stated intentions to not assist in the enforcement of immigration laws by checking for documents, which includes elected officials such as Sheriffs.

Cohn explained that the ACLU filed actions against SB4, which have temporarily blocked enforcement of the law until the courts assess its constitutionality. She said one of the key problems with the law is the anti-sanctuary provision and the part that requires local law enforcement to honor federal immigration retainers that are not supported by probable cause. She also expressed concerns about the vague nature of the law.

In addition, Cohn spoke of concerns that witnesses and victims may not be aware of the protective exceptions.

Rockwall County News Publisher Tim Burnett asked Cohn for more information about the case filings. She explained the cases were filed a federal court that would be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In response to Burnett's question about the fact that the U.S. Constitution does not give power to Congress to regulate immigration and the power might be for the states and the people, Cohn said the federal government is authorized to enforce immigration laws. She did not cite the Article and Section of the Constitution giving Congress authority to regulate immigration.

Eavenson fielded concerns in the audience related to the point of contact during which officers would inquire and check people for documents. The inquiry and inspection of documents would occur after a person has been booked into a jail.

On further inquiry by audience member Peter Hancon, the Sheriff clarified that such questioning and inspections of documents for immigration status would not occur during a traffic stop. He later reiterated that the subject of immigration would "never come up" during the point of a traffic stop for violations such as running stop signs, speeding, and other traffic rules.

Garrett spoke on the establishing of policies that prohibits officers from violating state law. He said, "we go out and enforce the law as fairly as we can." Garrett emphasized that in all situations, officers ask, "What crime has been committed?"

When questioned about the humanitarian aspect of the law, Garrett clarified that his focus is on law enforcement and facts, not about social-psychology issues.

Cohn responded to the humanitarian question by declaring that people are scared.

Aldridge finished by sharing an example of a recent murder of a 14 year old person in Rockwall. He said because the suspect was in the U.S. on an expired visa, the police was given enough time to obtain an admission of guilt. Aldridge emphasized that without the immigration regulations, the suspect could have easily paid to get out, and the police might have been unable to bring him back.

In the end, the law enforcement officers in the panel agreed that the immigration regulations help in effectively investigating crimes.

### Rockwall County News Briefs

#### Concert by the Lake to feature Local Yoakam

Tonight's Concert by the Lake, which will begin at 7:30 p.m. at The Harbor (2059 Summer Lee), will feature Local Yoakam (localyoakam.com).

#### Farmers Market open in downtown Rockwall

The Downtown Farmers Market is open on the north side of the courthouse square on Kaufman Street from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays through Sept. 24. Locally grown fruits and vegetables, fresh baked goods, organic and pasture-raised meats, seafood and honey and other items are available.

#### Dog Days event planned in Rockwall

Rockwall Dog Days will kick off Saturday, June 24, at Marry Myers Park West, 875 E. Washington St., with a low-cost vaccination clinic and microchipping, free pet registrations with proof of residency and rabies vaccine, and activities for Rockwall residents and their dogs and cats. The event will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with vaccinations and microchipping offered from 10 a.m. to noon. Cats must be in carriers; dogs must be on leashes. Only cash or credit cards will be accepted. For more details visit playrockwall.com.

#### ARC blood drive set Saturday in Rockwall

The American Red Cross will conduct a blood drive from 10



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## Rockwall County Obituaries

### Paulette Lofland Burks

Paulette Lofland Burks, age 74, of Rockwall, Texas, passed away June 12, 2017.

She was born April 5, 1943, in Royse City, Texas, to J.L. and Pauline (Summers) Lofland. Paulette graduated from Rockwall High School in 1961 and married Glenn Burks in 1963.

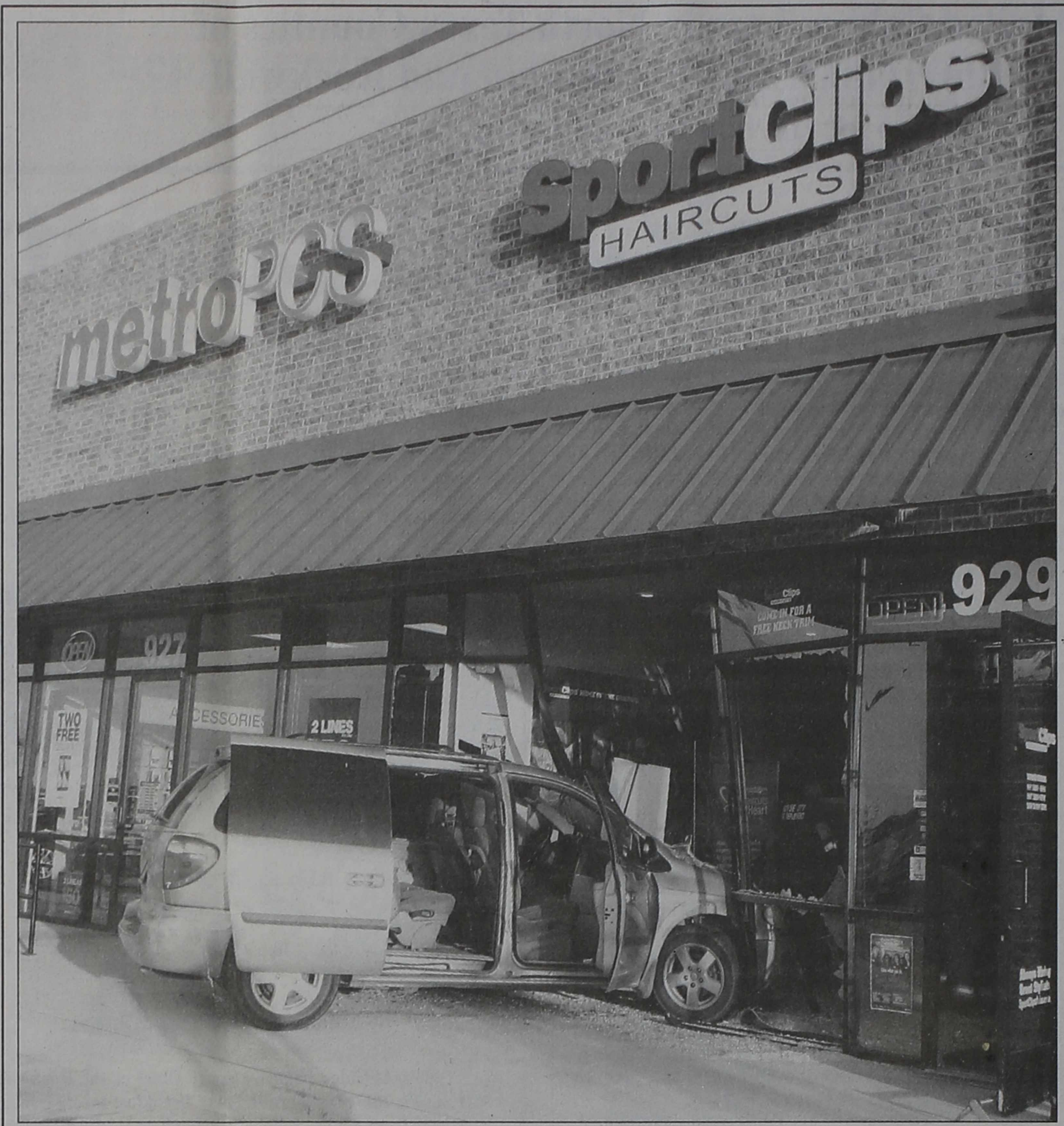
Paulette began working for the Rockwall County Clerk's office in 1969, serving as Rockwall County clerk from 1984 until her retirement in 2006. She also served as president of the Texas Association of County Clerks from 2000-2001 and was proud to be awarded County Clerk of the Year for the State of Texas in 2005. Paulette was an active member of First Baptist Church of Rockwall. She served on the Republican Women's Club board of directors, Republican Lunch Bunch and enjoyed being a member of the Lakeside Book Club.

Paulette is survived by her loving husband of 53 years: Glenn Burks of Rockwall, Texas; daughters: Cheree Holden and husband Scott of Trophy Club, Texas, and Autumn Quinton and husband Billy of Rockwall; grandchildren: Davis and Erin Holden of Trophy Club and Cash and Burkley Quinton of Rockwall; sister-in-law: Billie Lofland; and special caregivers: Ruby, Grace, Miata and Teresa.

She was preceded in death by her parents: J.L. and Pauline Lofland; and brother: Jimmy Charles Lofland.

Funeral services under the direction of Rest Haven Funeral Home were held 2 p.m., Thursday, June 15, 2017, in the M.L. Jones Chapel at First Baptist Church, 610 S. Goliad St., Rockwall, with Pastor Steve Swofford officiating. Interment followed in Rest Haven Memorial Park.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association at alz.org.



At about 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 13, while in the Royse City Council meeting, Police Chief Jeff Stapleton and Fire Chief Ricky Bell received calls that someone had driven into the Sport Clips Haircuts business, a newly opened store in the Royse City Wal-Mart complex. Joan Castillo, 18, was the driver of the minivan and his mother was in the passenger seat and his little sister in the back seat sitting behind her. "I didn't have any sleep all night, but thought I was OK to drive," Castillo said. "I tried to park and dozed off to sleep and ran up on the curb and into the building." No one in either the car or the store was injured.

Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/Rockwall County News

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- Rowlett - Walmart Neighborhood (Dalrock and Hwy 66)
- Royse City - Tiger Mart, Main Street (coin rack), McDonald's (coin rack), Walmart
- Fate - Fate Grocery Store.

### University Scholastics

#### Lucius earns degree from UA

Katherine Lucius of Heath was awarded the following the University of Alabama during ceremonies conducted in May, according to a news release from the Tuscaloosa, Alabama, university.

Lucius earned a Bachelor of Science in commerce and business administration, according to the news release.

#### Master elected SGA officer at Samford

Mollie Master of Rockwall was elected vice president for events during Student Government Association elections conducted recently at Samford University, according to a news release from the Birmingham, Alabama, university.

Masters is a sophomore prebusiness major.

#### Smith tapped for scholarship

Lauren Smith of Heath has been selected to receive the Achievement Scholarship from Southern Arkansas University beginning the 2017-2018 academic year, according to a news release from the Magnolia, Arkansas, university.

This scholarship includes \$1,000 per semester and has a four-year value of \$8,000.

Smith is the daughter of Terry Smith, according to the release.

#### Maginnis graduates from USAF Academy

Zachary Maginnis graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, receiving a bachelor's degree and commissioned as a second lieutenant, according to a Joint Hometown News Service news release.

The academy is a four-year military institution of higher education that develops and inspires new air and space leaders with a vision for the future. Its curriculum provides instruction, education, training and experience in academics, military training, physical and athletic conditioning, and spiritual and ethical development.

Maginnis is a 2013 graduate of Rockwall High School.

### Rockwall County News Briefs

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a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 24, at Lowe's, 851 N. Steger Town Drive. All blood types are needed. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of ID are required for check-in. Individuals who are 17 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds and are generally in good health may be eligible to donate. Download the ARC Blood Donor app, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS to make an appointment or for more information.

#### Sign-ups underway for RSM Summer Camps

Sign-ups for the Rockwall Summer Musicals 2017 Summer Camps are underway. The "Fiddler on the Roof" Summer Camp will run June 26-30 from 9 a.m. to noon for youths ages 5-7 and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for those ages 8-18. The "Peter Pan" Summer Camp will run Aug. 14-18, from 9 a.m. to noon for youths ages 5-7 and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for those ages 8-18. Registration includes the workshop, a final performance, a ticket and a T-shirt. For more details or to register, visit rockwallsummermusicals.org/season/summer-camps-2017/. Scholarships are available; contact rockwallsummermusicals.org/contact/.

#### Local LULAC to meet June 26

Rockwall LULAC (League of United Latin-American Citizens) will conduct its next monthly meeting beginning at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 26, at Arboladas Mexican Grill, 1103 Ridge Rd., Suite A, in Rockwall. Anyone interested in LULAC will be welcomed. For more details contact Sol Villasana at 214-231-0137 or svillasana@whitewiggins.com.

#### Spay/neuter bus in Rockwall June 27

The spay/neuter hospital bus will be in Rockwall on Tuesday, June 27, in the Wal-Mart parking lot, 782 E. I-30. Kittens and puppies, ages 12 weeks to three months, will be fixed at a cost of \$20 each; must mention this blurb when making an appointment to get the special price. Surgeries will be performed on site. To make an appointment or for more details call 972-472-3500 or 817-423-5500, spayneuternet.org. Spaces fill quickly. Ask about getting older dogs/cats fixed too; prices are affordable. All dogs must be on collar/leash or harness that cannot be slipped; cats must be in secure carriers. Posted by Rockwall PAWS.

#### Celebrating Freedom set June 30 in Royse City

Royse City's Celebrating Freedom event will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, June 30, in the RCHS Football Stadium. Admission will be free; food will be available for purchase. Live music - Zach Tressler at 6 p.m., followed by Shenandoah at 7 p.m. and Big Gus & the Swampadelic at 8:15 p.m. - and a free kids' zone are planned. Fireworks will begin at 9:30 p.m. Those planning to attend are urged to bring lawn chairs. No alcoholic beverages or pets will be permitted.

#### Democratic Men to meet July 1

The Democratic Men's Group of Rockwall County will host its next luncheon July 1. The group meets for lunch on the first Saturday of each month at various local restaurants. Open-minded, progressive men concerned about the future of Rockwall County and Texas are invited.

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### Rockwall County Entertainment

#### Concert by the Lake to feature Limelight

The June 29 Concert by the Lake, which will begin at 7:30 p.m. at The Harbor (2059 Summer Lee), will feature Limelight (limelightband.com). The Rockwall Parks & Recreation department is organizing the event.

#### Patriotic concert set July 2

The Rockwall Philharmonic Orchestra will present a patriotic concert beginning at 6 p.m. on Sunday, July 2, at the First Baptist Church, 610 S. Goliad. The orchestra will play in conjunction with a community-wide choir and the First Baptist Choir and Orchestra. No ticket required.



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# On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

## By faith unto righteousness ...

For thousands of years, mankind has passed down, from generation to generation, two opposing concepts in life; law and freedom. Certain types of people strive toward obtaining power and the control of money with the end goal of controlling nations and societies of people at various levels. The rest of the people often embrace the rulers for safety and security, and for protection and preservation of property.

With the American revolution came a significant change in which the people who were ruled established a Constitution and government with laws and statutes designed to rule over and regulate the government. The judicial system saw an expansion from the Magna Carta system where the Landlords assert influential control over the King, to a system which existed by and for the people. With the law comes violations, judgment and punishment. Violations can be replaced with the term sin often used in the Bible.

Yet, even in America, certain people passed down a system of statutes and expansion of government power over the people to the point that today, she looks more like a socialist communist country with the appearance of freedom for the people.

In all cases, throughout history, the rulers or controllers gradually expand their control to the point of over burdening the ruled.

God's word addresses the subject of law and freedom in the context justification by faith and by law.

It helps to distinguish between underlying laws such as life, liberty, believing, love, gravity, constructive possession; and ordinance rules such as the numerous "thou shalt's" and "shalt not's" found in most nation states and local governments. In all cases, they appear to be attempts to cleanse and sanitize societies according to man's ways of cleansing.

Basic laws were established by God from the beginning. Moses did God's will by establishing the 10 commandments and the numerous ordinances found in Leviticus.

It says in Romans 3:9-10, "... for we have before proved both Jews

and Gentiles, that they are all under sin. As it is written, 'There is none righteous, no, not one ... there is none that does good, no, not one'" (Romans 3:9-18).

The 10 commandments and original ordinances from God through Moses were in truth perfectly according to God's will, and fully exposed the underlying problem of mankind that started with the disobedience of the first man (a.k.a., Adam). Sin nature entered into man, and was passed down from generation to generation. Along with sin, was the additional and related problem of death. It came upon all mankind from the first man.

Romans 3:19, "Now we know that what things soever the law says, it says to them who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God." All people are bound to fall into a guilty state under the true and perfect laws from Him.

Next, it begins to contrast justification by law with justification by faith, "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin."

It goes on, "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God: being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God has set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare the righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God" (Romans 3:21-25).

Is this referring to the faith of all people? Absolutely not. How can the faith of all people who are under sin bring any good unto everlasting life and liberty from death.

No - it's about the faith of our Lord Jesus the living Messiah and Son of the Creator of the heavens and the earth. Yes - our Lord Jesus still has faith today while seated at the right hand of God. And this faith of our Lord Jesus is referred to in 1 Corinthians 12:7-10 as one of the nine ways to profit from the manifestation of holy spirit.

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The two new ways to manifest holy spirit, that was not available before, is faith and speaking in tongues (praying with the spirit). "Therefore we conclude that mankind is justified by faith without the deeds of the law" (Romans 3:27).

Chapter 4 beautifully connects the subject of faith and law with Abraham.

It says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness." That's right. The promise of Isaac and his descendents down to the Messiah was not by a regulatory law that results in being punished, but by promise that is believed unto seeing it come to pass, and unto righteousness.

Chapter 4 ends, "He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness."

Wait - there's more. "Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on Him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead!"

According to Ephesians 3:2, Paul was called to teach about the Administration of the grace of God. This new spiritual administration began on the day of Pentecost, as accounted for in Acts 2:1-4, when the holy spirit was poured out and many people were filled with holy spirit because they were believing with their hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead, and many of them began to speak in tongues.

Believing unto righteousness or being filled with holy spirit, is summed up in Romans 10:9-10, for with the heart it is believed that God raised Jesus from the dead, unto righteousness.

Just as faith without the law was counted unto Abraham for righteousness, so also is faith in our Lord Jesus Christ accounted unto us for righteousness.

Let's be guided not by the laws and ordinances unto scorn and punishment for disobedience, but let's be guided by the law of faith and grace that is through our Lord Jesus the living Messiah and Son of God.

# Dog Days set Saturday in Harry Myers Park

Rockwall Dog Days is scheduled for Saturday, June 24, at Harry Myers Park West, 875 E. Washington St.

The event will feature a low-cost vaccination clinic and microchipping, free pet registrations with proof of residency and rabies vaccine, and many activities to entertain local residents and their furry friends.

Activities planned include a dog splash area and demonstrations from the City of Rockwall's new WILD (Wildlife Instructional Learning and Discovery) trailer, which provides information about safe interaction with local wildlife.

Activities will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with vaccinations and microchipping from 10 a.m. to noon.

The Mingling Mouth food truck will be on site offering food sales.

Cats must be in carriers and dogs on leashes. Only cash and credit cards will be accepted for vaccinations and microchipping.

The city offers low-cost pet vaccinations twice a year. The next event is scheduled for September.

### Area families needed for exchange students

Volunteer families are needed to host high school exchange students, according to a news release from the SHARE! High School Exchange Program.

Students from Germany, Sweden, China, Brazil, Belgium, Italy, the Czech Republic, Japan, Ecuador, South Korea and other countries are applicants to the program. Students are 15 to 18 years of age, speak English, are medically insured and have their own funds for personal expenses, according to the release.

Students attend the host family's local high school for a school year or semester.

SHARE! is a nonprofit educational foundation that sponsors about 750 high school exchange students each year.

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Psalm 150:6

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

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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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# Rockwall County Classified Advertising

## Meetings

Alcoholics Anonymous, 24 hour help line, 800-503-8602.

### AA Meetings

Rockwall, 7 days a week, Big Book Group, 213 Rusk St., 972-722-6366.

### Al-Anon Meetings

Call for information and locations in Dallas area, 214-363-0461.

### Al-Anon Garland

Meetings Monday & Friday, 8 p.m. at 2206 South Jupiter St., Suite 130, Garland.

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

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

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

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Rockwall County News legally qualifies for publication of required notices for all government units located in Rockwall County as a newspaper of general circulation under Texas Government Code Section 2051.044, 2051.045, 2051.046 and 2051.048 (b) and (c)(1).

## Required Notices

### Notices to Creditors

THE ESTATE OF ROMA N. PERRY, Deceased  
Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Roma N. Perry, Deceased were granted to the

undersigned on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May, 2017 by The County Court At Law of Rockwall County, Texas. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same to Randy C. Perry, care of David Bower, Attorney, within the time prescribed by law. My address is:

Randy C. Perry  
Care of David Bower, Attorney  
David Bower, PC  
2926 Maple Ave, Suite 200  
Dallas Texas 75201  
Independent Executor of the Estate of Roma N. Perry, Deceased.  
CAUSE NO. PR-17-0049

## TWC malenforcement of Unemployment Compensation Act

The below information is offered for all people, and/or companies created under the laws of the 52 states, who are targets of Texas Workforce Commission enforcement practices of an alleged "State" Unemployment Tax.

No bill of attainder, ex post facto law, retroactive law, or any law impairing the obligation of contracts, shall be made Texas Constitution Article 1 Section 16).

The practice of forcing businesses and people to purchase an Unemployment Compensation Insurance plan constitutes "impairing obligation of contracts."

The practice of enforcing a non-existent Texas Unemployment "Tax" constitutes administrative making of law.

\*Texas Comptroller's office can verify the non-existence of a Texas Unemployment Tax.

### Federal Unemployment Tax Act

The TWC's enforcement scope is narrowly limited to underlying scope of the Federal Unemployment Tax Act. The scope of the federal tax is limited to entities that are required by District of Columbia Law, Common Wealth of Puerto Rico Law, Virgin Islands Law, to make payment into an unemployment fund.

Said entities may include Federal Instrumentalities, joint stock companies or joint stock associations, created under the laws of the above stated political bodies, that are engaged in statutory "employment" activity on the soil of Texas.

See Tx. Labor Code Section 201.101 (federal conformity clause) & 26 U.S.C. 3306 (c), (g), and (j)(1 & 2). The narrow scope of the Federal Unemployment Tax Act may be found by applying the definitions of the terms "State" and "United States" found in subsection (j), to the respective definitions in (c) "employment" and (g) "contributions."

All people are encouraged to:

1. Demand a full and exhaustive Legislative investigation and Attorney General Assessment of the Texas Workforce Commission to determine whether the agency has repeatedly engaged in illegal malenforcement practices against people and companies that do not fall within the narrow scope of the federal act, in direct violation of Texas Constitution Article 1 Section 16; and
2. Petition the Texas Governor to appoint a special Texas Rangers Task Force to launch a criminal investigation of each Commissioner, Lary Temple (Director), Lasha Lenzy (Director Unemployment Compensation), and all state officers in the Tax and Regulatory Integrity Divisions. The Texas Rangers are authorized to charge each commissioner, director, and enforcement officer with criminal offenses of Official Oppression and Abuse of Official Capacity under Texas Penal Code Chapter 39, with intent to commit fraud and extortion as representatives of the State of Texas.
3. Petition the U.S. Department of Justice to order the Federal Bureau of Investigations investigate the Texas Workforce Commission Directors, Tax and Regulatory Division officers for filing illegal and fraudulent Bank Freeze actions against depositors of banks.

## Public Notice

As of June 20 2017, the cities of Roysce City, Fate, McLendon-Chisholm, Heath, Rockwall and their respective representatives have continued to not publish each required notice in the Rockwall County News.

- The City of Roysce City has not published each required notice since year 2002.
  - The City of Heath has not published each required notice since October 2008.
  - The City of Fate has not published each required notice since October 2012.
  - The City of McLendon-Chisholm has not published each required notice since October 28, 2014.
  - The City of Rockwall has not published each required notice since December 1, 2014.
  - The Rockwall County Elections Administrator has not published required municipal general election notices since April 2016.
  - The Rockwall County Judge used tax dollars for payment to an out-of-county newspaper, under the pretense of publication of required RFP notice on behalf of the EMS Corporation, while knowing the selected newspaper was not qualified to publish the notice.
- By the above referenced negligence, the right of the people to be duly notified of each city action in accordance with state law, may be found to have been impaired on multiple counts.

Each representative responsible for selecting a newspaper in accordance with state law may be found to have committed statutory violations on multiple counts.  
Each representative responsible for releasing tax revenues, as payment for services that cannot legally be offered, may be found to have defrauded the tax-paying Body Politic of each respective municipal corporation and county, on multiple counts.

All of the referenced municipalities and other government units have been informed that the Rockwall County News meets the statutory criteria established under Texas Government Code Sections 2051.044, 2051.045, 2051.046 and 2051.048 (b) and (c), as a newspaper of general circulation, for publication of each required notice in accordance with state law.

- Texas Government Code Section 2051.044
- (a) The newspaper in which a notice is published must:
    - (1) devote not less than 25 percent of its total column lineage to general interest items;
    - (2) be published at least once each week;
    - (3) be entered as second-class postal matter in the county where published; and
    - (4) have been published regularly and continuously for at least 12 months before the governmental entity or representative publishes notice.
  - (b) A weekly newspaper has been published regularly and continuously under Subsection (a) if the newspaper omits not more than two issues in the 12-month period.
- Texas Government Code Section 2051.048
- (a) This section applies only to a political subdivision other than a county or a conservation and reclamation district under Section 2051.047.
  - (b) A notice of a political subdivision shall be published in a newspaper that is published in the political subdivision and that will publish the notice at or below the legal rate.
  - (c) If no newspaper published in the political subdivision will publish the notice at or below the legal rate, the political subdivision shall publish the notice in a newspaper that:
    - (1) is published in the county in which the political subdivision is located; and
    - (2) will charge the legal rate or a lower rate.
  - (d) If no newspaper published in the county in which the political subdivision is located will publish the notice at or below the legal rate, the political subdivision shall post the notice at the door of the county courthouse of the county in which the political subdivision is located.

The Rockwall County News has been published in an office located at 107 E. Bourn Street, Rockwall, Texas 75087; Maintained a USPS Second Class Periodical Matter Permit #2495, in the Rockwall post office; and Continued charging the lowest legal rate which is the same as the newspaper's classified advertising rate



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### Roysce City Police Blotter, June 9-15

- **Friday, 9 June:** Public intoxication arrest, 300 block Medina Court; Theft, 700 block W. I-30 NSR; Suspicious person, 400 block W. I-30 NSR; Medical assistance, 400 block W. I-30 NSR; Disturbance, 300 block Starlight Lane; Disturbance, 300 block Hidden Court; Suspicious vehicle, 400 block E. Hwy 66; Noise disturbance, 2400 block Comal Court; Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound near the 75-mile marker
- **Saturday, 10 June:** Open container, 900 block E. I-30 NSR; Driving while license invalid arrest, Area of S. Elm Street and Main Street; Driving while license invalid arrest, Area of Erby Campbell Boulevard and Hwy 66; Fail to identify/Hunt County Sheriff's Office warrant arrest, I-30 westbound near the 76-mile marker; Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound near the 76-mile marker; Suspicious person, 500 block Dyann Drive; Accident, Area of I-30 SSR and FM 548; Welfare concern, Area of Erby Campbell Boulevard and Hwy 66; Alarm, 900 block Loganwood Drive; Suspicious person, Area of Northwood Lane and Anthem Drive; Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound near the 75-mile marker; Suspicious person, Area of Evergreen Street; Noise disturbance, 600 block Preston Drive; Suspicious person, Area of Erby Campbell Boulevard and I-30 SSR
- **Sunday, 11 June:** Driving while intoxicated/Possession of marijuana arrest, 1000 block Pullen Street; Possession of marijuana arrest, I-30 NSR near the 77-mile marker; Possession of drug paraphernalia, I-30 westbound near the 77-mile marker; Suspicious vehicle, 900 block Meadowdale Drive; Welfare concern, Area of N. Erby Campbell Boulevard and W. Main Street; Reckless driver, Area of Erby Campbell Boulevard and Sandy Lane; Accident, I-30 westbound near the 76-mile marker
- **Monday, 12 June:** Public intoxication arrest, 900 block Loganwood Drive; Driving while license invalid/Balch Springs Police Department's warrants arrest, 100 block W. I-30 SSR; Possession of drug paraphernalia, Area of I-30 NSR and Elm Street; Welfare concern, 1000 block Pullen Street; Alarm, 200 block W. I-30 NSR; Suspicious vehicle, 800 block E. I-30 NSR; Suspicious vehicle, 1400 block Erby Campbell Boulevard; Accident, I-30 westbound near the 80-mile marker; City ordinance violation, 2800 block Marsha Lane; Theft, 100 block E. Main Street; Suspicious person, 600 block Skelton Street
- **Tuesday, 13 June:** Driving while license invalid arrest, 900 block E. I-30 NSR; Possession of marijuana arrest, 100 block W. I-30 NSR; Burglary of a residence, 200 block Rustic Grove Lane; Medical assistance, 1500 block Hafner Drive; Welfare concern, Area of FM 35; 911 hang up, 200 block N. Erby Campbell Boulevard; Accident, I-30 westbound near the 75-mile marker; Suspicious person, 900 block Cooper Lane; Disturbance, 1200 block Mexia Court; Burglary of a residence, 200 block Rustic Grove Lane; Accident, 900 block S. Erby Campbell Boulevard; Theft, 300 block Texoma Court; Medical assistance, 7000 block W. I-30 NSR

(continued on page 6)



# Opinions

## Discrimination hypocrisy

by Laurence M. Vance

Future of Freedom Foundation

Soon after Donald Trump won the presidential election in November, it was widely reported that a number of prominent fashion designers were refusing to work with his wife, Melania Trump, because they do not approve of her husband's politics.

In a word, they were practicing discrimination.

Designer Sophie Theallet, who dressed First Lady Michelle Obama, posted an open letter on her Twitter account stating,

*As an independent fashion brand, we consider our voice an expression of our artistic and philosophical ideas. The Sophie Theallet brand stands against all discrimination and prejudice. Our runway shows, ad campaigns, and celebrity dressing have always been a celebration of diversity and a reflection of the world we live in.*

*As one who celebrates and strives for diversity, individual freedom, and respect for all lifestyles, I will not participate in dressing or associating in any way with the next First Lady. The rhetoric of racism, sexism, and xenophobia unleashed by her husband's presidential campaign are incompatible with the shared values we live by.*

*I encourage my fellow designers to do the same.*

Designer Derek Lam stated,

While I have incredible respect for our country's political institutions, I find it challenging to be personally involved in dressing the new first lady. I would rather concentrate my energies on efforts towards a more just, honorable, and a mutually respectful world. I don't know Melania Trump personally, so I don't wish my comments to seem I am prejudging her personal values, but I really don't see myself getting involved with the Trump presidency.

No liberals or progressives of note have criticized these blatant acts of discrimination based on the political beliefs held by these or other designers.

Recently, however, some other acts of discrimination have received a lot of media attention, especially in the LGBT community.

A gay man recently sued a funeral home in Mississippi for breach of contract and emotional distress, alleging that it refused to cremate his recently deceased partner because it did not "deal with their kind."

John Zawadski and Robert Huskey met in 1965 in California. They settled in Picayune, Mississippi, in 1997, and soon after took advantage of the Supreme Court's decision to legalize same-sex unions nationwide. Less than two months later, Huskey's health began to deteriorate and he moved into a nursing home. In 2016, his nephew made arrangements with a local funeral home to transport his uncle's body from the nursing home to the funeral home for cremation and related services. After his uncle's death, the nephew said "the nursing home contacted him and told him the funeral home 'adamantly' refused to provide services after learning through the paperwork that Huskey's spouse was male." Because the nursing home did not have a morgue on site, a frantic search ensued for another funeral home with an on-site crematorium. Although one was found about 90 miles away, the "turmoil and exigency" created by the funeral home "permanently marred the memory of Bob's otherwise peaceful passing," the lawsuit states. The lawsuit requests a jury trial and unspecified monetary damages.

A farmer in Michigan was recently banned from the East Lansing farmers' market because he refused to host same-sex weddings at his orchard.

In 2014, Steve Tennes, owner of the Country Mill Orchard — which hosts a corn maze, birthday parties, weddings, and other events — denied the request of two lesbians to hold their wedding at the orchard because of his religious opposition to same-sex marriage. He referred the women to an orchard that held same-sex weddings, and they followed up on his suggestion the next year. But in 2016, after one of the women wrote a Facebook post discouraging people from doing business with Country Mill, Tennes ceased hosting weddings. He later changed his mind and expressed his traditional view about marriage on his farm's Facebook page. East Lansing city officials then determined that his statements violated the city's 1972 human-relations ordinance prohibiting discrimination and banned the Country Mill from participating in its farmers' market. Tennes and his wife have in turn sued the city for religious discrimination in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan. The lawsuit says in part that the city "has no authority to enforce its

ordinance based on Tennes' religious beliefs and their impact on how he operates Country Mill."

This is discrimination hypocrisy. When fashion designers refuse to serve Melania Trump because they don't want to appear that they endorse her husband's politics liberals are silent, but when others refuse to serve homosexuals because they don't want to appear that they endorse their behavior liberals are vocally upset.

But there is enough discrimination hypocrisy to go around.

Conservatives generally don't have a problem with religious people who discriminate against others on the basis of sexual orientation or sex identity, but at the same time they generally support laws against discrimination based on other things such as race, religion, national origin, color, sex, or age.

Here is a typical example. In the midst of a post regarding fashion designers and Melania Trump on *National Review's* blog, The Corner, conservative Veronique de Rugy said,

I guess this is my chance to say that I thought Gary Johnson was absolutely wrong during the campaign to argue that the government should force a Jewish baker to bake a Nazi cake. While I agree with Johnson that there is a role for government to address a widespread refusal of service for things that are central to human flourishing — such as a business refusing to provide everyday food, medical services, or housing to a person due to race, religion, sexual orientation, or political views — it is my impression, however, that in spite of what some are claiming, there is no such widespread discrimination against gay marriages that justifies the government's intervention.

Since both liberals and conservatives seem to have trouble with the concept of discrimination, and because even Libertarian Party presidential candidate Gary Johnson is confused about it, perhaps it is time to review the libertarian perspective on discrimination. Here are twelve maxims.

1. Discrimination is not a dirty word. It simply involves choosing between options.

2. Everyone discriminates all day every day. Ordering a coke instead of an iced tea, buying a Ford instead of a Chevy, wearing a black outfit instead of a blue one, or patronizing Wendy's instead of McDonalds are acts of discrimination.

3. Discrimination is a crime in search of a victim. Every real crime needs a tangible victim with measurable damages.

4. There is no "right to service." In a free society, business owners have the right to refuse service to anyone for any reason on any basis.

5. What the government terms "public accommodations" are still private businesses. Just because they serve the public by offering to sell them goods or services, it doesn't follow that they should have to accept all members of the public, as the post office does.

6. It doesn't matter why discrimination takes place. That discrimination might be due to someone's race, creed, religion, sex, color, age, national origin, political ideology, IQ, physical appearance, marital status, socio-economic status, disability, gender identity, or sexual orientation is irrelevant.

7. It doesn't matter what anyone thinks about acts of discrimination. That discrimination is thought to be unfair, illogical, irrational, subjective, capricious, nonsensical, unreasonable, sexist, homophobic, or stupid, or based on stereotypes, ignorance, prejudice, hate, bigotry, or racism is of no consequence.

8. If customers can legally discriminate against businesses for any reason and on any basis, then businesses ought to likewise be able to discriminate against customers.

9. Discriminating against someone is not aggressing against him. Since no one is entitled to any particular job, apartment, house, good, or service, he has no recourse if he is denied any of those things.

10. Refusing to sell a product or provide a service has everything to do with property rights. Since no potential customer has a claim on the property or the time of any business owner, he has no legal recourse if the owner of the property refuses to do business with him.

11. To outlaw discrimination is to outlaw freedom of thought. In a free society, everyone has the right to think what he wants to think about anyone else and choose to discriminate on the basis of those thoughts.

12. Discrimination means freedom. A free society must include the freedom to discriminate against any individual or group for any reason and on any basis.

It goes without saying that anyone should have the same right to refuse to cremate a dead body or host a wedding — or bake a cake, sell flowers, or provide photography for a same-sex wedding — as fashion designers have to refuse to serve Melania Trump.

## Trump turns back the clock with cold war Cuba u-turn

by Ron Paul

Ron Paul Institute for Peace and Prosperity

Nostalgia seems to be very popular in Washington. While the neocons and Democratic Party hard-liners have succeeded in bringing back the Cold War with Russia, it looks like President Trump is determined to take us back to a replay of the Bay of Pigs!

In Miami on Friday, the president announced that he was slamming the door on one of President Obama's few foreign policy successes: easing 50 years of US sanctions on Cuba. The nostalgia was so strong at Trump's Friday speech that he even announced participants in the CIA's disastrous 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in the audience!

President Trump said Friday that his new policy would be nothing short of "regime change" for Cuba. No easing of US sanctions on Cuba, he said, "until all political prisoners are freed, freedoms of assembly and expression are respected, all political parties are legalized, and free and internationally supervised elections are scheduled."

Yes, this is the same Donald Trump who declared as president-elect in December that his incoming Administration would "pursue a new foreign policy that finally learns from the mistakes of the past. We will stop looking to topple regimes and overthrow governments." Now, in another flip-flop toward the neocons, President Trump is pursuing regime change in Cuba on the pretext of human rights violations.

While the Cuban government may not have a spotless record when it comes to human rights, this is the same President Trump who just weeks ago heaped praise on perhaps the world's worst human rights abuser, Saudi Arabia. There, he even participated in a bizarre ceremony to open a global anti-extremism center in the home of state-sponsored extremism!

While President Trump is not overturning all of President Obama's Cuba policy reforms — the US Embassy will remain open — he will roll back the liberalization of travel restrictions and make it very difficult for American firms to do business in Cuba. Certainly foreign competitors of US construction and travel companies are thrilled by this new policy, as it keeps American businesses out of the market. How many Americans will be put out of work by this foolish political stunt?

There is a very big irony here. President Trump says that Cuba's bad human rights record justifies a return to Cuba sanctions and travel prohibitions. But the US government preventing Americans from traveling and spending their own money wherever they wish is itself a violation of basic human rights. Historically it has been only the most totalitarian of regimes that prevent their citizens from traveling abroad. Think of East Germany, the Soviet Union, and North Korea. The US is not at war with Cuba. There is no reason to keep Americans from going where they please.

President Trump's shift back to the bad old days on Cuba will not have the desired effect of liberalizing that country's political environment. If it did not work for fifty years why does Trump think it will suddenly work today? If anything, a hardening of US policy on Cuba will prevent reforms and empower those who warned that the US could not be trusted as an honest partner. The neocons increasingly have President Trump's ear, even though he was elected on promises to ignore their constant calls for war and conflict. How many more flip-flops before his supporters no longer recognize him?

## After the ISIS a Russia-US collision?

by Patrick J. Buchanan

Buchanan.org

Sunday, a Navy F-18 Hornet shot down a Syrian air force jet, an act of war against a nation with which Congress has never declared or authorized a war.

Washington says the Syrian plane was bombing U.S.-backed rebels. Damascus says its plane was attacking ISIS.

Vladimir Putin's defense ministry was direct and blunt:

"Repeated combat actions by U.S. aviation under the cover of counterterrorism against lawful armed forces of a country that is a member of the U.N. are a massive violation of international law and de facto a military aggression against the Syrian Arab Republic."

An ABC report appears to back up Moscow's claims:

"Over the last four weeks, the U.S. has conducted three air strikes on pro-regime forces backed by Iran that have moved into a deconfliction zone around the town of Tanf in southwestern Syria, where there is a coalition training base for local forces fighting ISIS."

Russia has now declared an end to cooperation to prevent air clashes over Syria and asserted an intent to track and target aerial intruders in its area of operations west of the Euphrates.

Such targets would be U.S. planes and surveillance drones.

If Moscow is not bluffing, we could be headed for U.S.-Russian collision in Syria.

Sunday's shoot-down of a hostile aircraft was the first by U.S. planes in this conflict. It follows President Trump's launch of scores of cruise missiles at a Syrian airfield in April. The U.S. said the airfield was the base of Syrian planes that used chemical weapons on civilians.

We are getting ever deeper into this six-year sectarian and civil war. And what we may be witnessing now are the opening shots of its next phase — the battle for control of the territory and population liberated by the fall of Raqqa and the death of the ISIS "caliphate."

The army of President Bashar Assad seeks to recapture as much lost territory as possible and they have the backing of Russia, Iranian troops, Shiite militia from Iraq and Afghanistan, and Hezbollah.

Assad's and his allied forces opposing ISIS are now colliding with the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces opposing ISIS, which consist of Arab rebels and the Syrian Kurds of the PYD.

But if America has decided to use its air power to shoot down Syrian planes attacking rebels we support, this could lead to a confrontation with Russia and a broader, more dangerous, and deadly war for the

How would we win such a war, without massive intervention?

Is this where we are headed? Is this where we want to go?

For, again, Congress has never authorized such a war, and there seems to be no vital U.S. interest involved in who controls Raqqa and neighboring lands, as long as ISIS is expelled. During the campaign, Trump even spoke of U.S.-Russian cooperation to kill ISIS.

While in Saudi Arabia, however, he seemed to sign on to what is being hyped as an "Arab NATO," where the U.S. accepts Riyadh as the principal ally and leader of the Gulf Arabs in the regional struggle for hegemony with Shiite Iran.

Following that Trump trip, the Saudis — backed by Egypt, the UAE and Bahrain — sealed their border with Qatar, which maintains

ties to Iran. And though Qatar is also host to the largest U.S. air base in the region, al-Udeid, Trump gave the impression its isolation was his idea.

President Trump and his country seem to be at a decision point.

If, after the fall of ISIS in Raqqa, we are going to use U.S. power and leverage to solidify the position of Syrian rebels and Kurds, at the expense of Damascus, we could find ourselves in a collision with Syria, Russia, Hezbollah, Iran and even Turkey.

For Turkish President Erdogan looks on our Kurdish allies in Syria as Kurdish allies of the terrorist PKK inside his own country.

During the campaign, candidate Trump won support by pledging to work with Russia to defeat our common enemy. But if, after ISIS is gone from Syria, we decide it is in our interests to confront Assad, we are going to find ourselves in a regional confrontation.

In Iraq, the U.S. and Iran have a common foe, ISIS, and a common ally, the government in Baghdad. In Syria, we have a common foe, ISIS. But our allies are opposed by Assad, Russia, Iran and Hezbollah.

The question before us: After Raqqa and Mosul fall and the caliphate disappears, who inherits the ISIS estate?

The U.S. needs now to delineate the lines of advance for Syria's Kurds, and to talk to the Russians, Syrians and Iranians.

We cannot allow our friends in the Middle East and Persian Gulf to play our hand for us, for it is all too often in their interests to have us come fight their wars, which are not necessarily our wars.

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# McLendon-Chisholm councilmembers sworn in, Steinhagen explains meeting decorum

During the May 13, 2017 regular meeting of the City of McLendon-Chisholm, Inc., Justice of the Peace Precinct 3 Mark Russo issued Oaths of Offices to uphold, protect and defend the Texas and U.S. Constitutions, to newly elected council members Adrienne Balkum Place 1, Scott Turnbull Place 3, and Jim Herren Place 5.

The minutes of the meeting have been for public inspection. The council unanimously approved appointment of Wayne Orchard to serve as Mayor Pro Tem.

During the citizens comments portion of the meeting, five local citizens raised concerns about a zoning change application by Altura related to the Chisholm Crossing Phase IV addition. The application was to change the zoning from Agricultural to Office District on a 3-acre parcel situated at the southwest corner of the intersection of FM 550 and Cattle Barron Drive.

The speakers commented on the withdrawal of the application. Others expressed concerns about promises by the developer that the area would remain green space, flood plain consideration, consistency with the Comprehensive Plan and preservation of the neighborhood.

Speaking were Jim Boelens, Sim Woodham, Thomas Wayne, Richard Rogers and Bill McGrath.

Bev Stibbens praised outgoing council members Gary Lovell and Patrick Short. She was expressed happiness to see the Citizen of the Year Plaque hanging in the City Hall entry.

Robert Jones, Chief of the McLendon-Chisholm Fire Department spoke of concerns about the impact of future Texas Department of Transportation project on SH 205 on the Fire Department building. He also commented on the negotiations related to the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction with the City of Rockwall, and suggested that the City consider negotiating with developers rather than giving up the ETJ.

Newly appointed Mayor Robert Steinhagen explained the rules of decorum for how he would govern meetings.

He explained that all meetings would be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

"... the Council may desire to invite the citizens present to engage with us as we consider the many issues that are before us. Therefore, there may be times during a meeting where we may suspend the rules during discussion and deliberation to accommodate your involvement," said Steinhagen.

It was clarified that if a citizen believes that an action or ruling of the Chair is out of order, he would "entertain the citizen's point of order, so long as it does not unduly disrupt the proceedings."

In support of the new "decorum," the Mayor explained, "The greatest benefit of using RRO is that it slows down discussion and debate. This forces both sides of an issue to listen to other supporting or opposing points of view."

He emphasized that should any citizen "continue to disregard the admonitions of the Chair to comply with decorum, that citizen will be asked to leave the proceedings, in accordance with Texas State law regarding open meetings by a governing body. According to the minutes, Steinhagen did not cite the relevant state law; nor did he address the right of the people to "inquire about a subject" for which notice is not given, as further stipulated in Section 551.042, Texas Government Code.

The council approved the minutes of the April 25, 2017 meeting. A motion to leave the council member Place 4 seat vacant until the May 5, 2018 general election was withdrawn by Orchard without objection.

The council approved Orchard's nomination of Herren for representative on the Rockwall County Road Consortium.

Florencia Wilkinson won a position on the Planning and Zoning Commission that would replace Turnbull. She received approving votes by Balkum, Herren and Orchard. Sim Woodham received a vote from Turnbull. The term will expire during January 2018.

According to the minutes, the Mayor asked the Communications subcommittee to work on the method of notification of meetings to citizens "who opted-in."

The Mayor called the council into Executive Session without stating the reason for the closed meeting, and without providing a description of the subject to be discussed.

No action was taken on the closed meeting.

The council unanimously approved resolution 2017-15R authorizing the Mayor to enter into negotiations with representatives of the City of Rockwall to amend existing boundary agreements, or otherwise make boundary agreements to establish a new, common boundary. The discussion unanimous affirmation that the goal would be to preserve the rural lifestyle. The minutes also include a statement that the "council will work to disseminate accurate information to dispel inaccuracies being circulated."

It is unknown what the "inaccuracies" were, who was circulating the "inaccuracies," and how the city intended to "disseminate accurate information."

The Rockwall County News has not received communications from the city related to the dissemination of accurate information.

The Mayor moved the meeting outside and around the exterior of the building to review the landscaping of City Hall. It is unknown whether the council members had not seen the landscaping prior to the meeting.

Steinhagen emphasized that the "city invested \$61,000 of taxpayer funds, which were spent in ways that were completely unnecessary and frivolous."

The Mayor has not commented on the city's frivolous and wasteful expenses on publication of required notices in newspapers that are published out-of-county, and which do not meet the statutory criteria the city and its representatives are required to comply with when selecting a newspaper.

To date, the city has not published a required notice in a newspaper for purposes of Texas Government Code Sections 2051.044 and 2051.048, since October 2014. During his time as council member, Steinhagen allowed the City Secretary to repeatedly violate state law related to selection of newspaper for publication of each required notice.

The Rockwall County News will monitor the Mayor and council to ascertain whether the city will stop engaging in unlawful and wasteful spending of tax dollars related to publication of required notice.

The council approved resolution 2017-14R designating authorized signatories to the city's accounts with Alliance Bank, Wilmington Trust, Texpool and Logic. The signatories will be Steinhagen, Balkum, Turnbull, Administrator David Butler and Secretary Stephanie Galanides.

## Rockwall County commissioners court regular meeting ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Boy Scouts Troop 989 members Michael Norwood and Bradley Mitchell,

presented 12 benches donated by the troop for use in the Rockwall County fitness trail. Not present were troop members Haden Kinslo and Drew Paige. The benches donation was part of an Eagle Scout project. Commissioner Lee Gilbert presented the issue and introduced the scout members. Gilbert said "if there was one thing he could in this country, he would make sure every boy participated in boy scouts for at least one year. He expressed his opinion that with this policy, the jails would not be full, juvenile probation wouldn't have a hundred kids in it."

Commissioner Dennis Bailey presented on the final plat for Phase 2 of Los Establos Estates. Bailey noted that Rockwall County has not received the fee payment in the amount of \$11,500 that is due, but that it would be taken care of. He stated his intent to revise the motion to be subject to payment of fees.

Bailey also explained that the subdivision would be in three counties, Rockwall, Hunt and Kaufman. He said that in Hunt and Rockwall Counties, there is only one entrance and egress into the subdivision, off of High Point, and that emergency first responder issues would need to be handled in an agreement at some point.

Bailey's motion passed unanimously.

The court approved the setting of speed limits for Rockwall County roads. Commission David Magness (Precinct 4) presented the item.

Magness explained he sought legal council on the county's authority to set speed limits.

Attorney Grant Brenna provided a letter explaining that under Texas Transportation Code 545.352 and 545.355, the county may set a speed limit between 20 and 30 miles per hour.

Magness explained that one of the goals would be to make sure drivers and enforcement officers would know the speed limit.

Brenna initiated a recommendation to Magness that the motion specify what type of county roads because certain roads may be as high as 55 mph. Magness amended the motion to specify county roads in subdivisions.

Brenna did not initiate a clarification as to whether Transportation Code sections 545.351 and 545.352 designate violation of the posted speed limit as a punishable misdemeanor criminal offense.

The Rockwall County Education Incentive was addressed for the purpose of revising the policy to meet requirements under state law that prohibits elected officials from participation. It was established that elected officials are not the same as employees.

The second revision related to awarding a \$300 annual incentive to non law enforcement employees where a paralegal certification is not job required, but would benefit the department. The suggested

departments in the revision are the County Clerk, District Clerk, and the District Attorney, effective October 1, 2017.

The first revision passed unanimously.

Judge David Sweet asked the court about its preference for the second revision, and there was no response. Sweet began to discuss the issue and asked County Clerk Shelli Miller to explain the benefits of paralegal certified employees. Miller explained that nine times out of ten she turns to the District Attorney's office for assistance, and that including a paralegal in the Clerk's office helps in areas of research.

County Auditor Lisa Wylie explained that the District Clerk's office does not include employees that are not paralegal required but are certified.

After the presentations, Sweet moved to approve as presented. Bailey seconded. Sweet opened it back up for discussion. The second revision passed unanimously.

The court approved volume licensing agreements with Microsoft at no cost to the county.

Amendment 3 to the Intergovernmental Cooperative Reimbursement agreement with the TECQ for the Local Initiative Projects was approved with an extension of expiration date agreement related to Rockwall County lending revenues to Kaufman County.

The court adopted a special budget for revenue in the amount of \$122,040 from the City of Rockwall for public works radios in accordance with Section 111.0108 of the Texas Local Government Code. Wylie explained that the funds flow from Rockwall through the county as payment for the portable radios.

Sweet asked the court to approve a measure to include lighting of the Historic Courthouse for special occasions or special days such as "national heart," or child abuse special days, as well as colored lighting for the different schools that include students that win national or state championship.

He explained he was approached by a representative of the Children's Advocacy Center.

Bailey expressed concerns about an increase in requests for special lighting, and showing bias toward one association over another. He also spoke of concerns of different types of lighting shining on the courthouse.

After probing the commissioners' for feedback, Sweet decided to pull the agenda item for the next meeting.

The court approved the consent agenda, including Indigent Health monthly expenditure-case reports; Justice of Peace Courts monthly judicial activity reports; Environmental Health Coordinator monthly activity reports; payment to Atkins North America, Inc. for engineering services provided thru April 30, 2017 at FM 3549 from SH 66 to IH 30 in the amount of \$16,096.73; payment to Dannenbaum Engineering Company for services provided during April 2017 at FM 549 from SH 276 to SH 205 in the amount of \$10,086.40; and Acknowledge out of state travel for Sheriff office employee Tim Williamson to attend the National Sheriff's Association conference June 25 - 29, in Reno, Nevada, with all expenses to be paid from law enforcement seizure funds.

It was approved for the Maintenance & Operations department to purchase a Knox key lock box for the Adult Probation building at an estimated cost of \$324 from Capital Outlay.

Approved the following presented by Wylie: Paid claims \$379,613.39; unpaid claims \$684,239.19; payroll for pay period ending May 20, 2017, in the amount of \$618,778.50; payroll for pay period ending June 3, 2017, in the amount of \$629,876.01.

During the commissioners court reports, Bailey said that Ron Merritt had just handed the payment for fees related to the Los Establos plat issue.

### Royse City Police Blotter ...

(Continued from Page 4)

- **Wednesday, 14 June:** Driving while license invalid/Public intoxication arrests, 100 block E. Main Street; Driving while license invalid/Possession of dangerous drug arrest, I-30 eastbound near the 79-mile marker; Driving while license invalid arrest, Area of Hwy 66 and FM 1777; Welfare concern, 100 block W. I-30 SSR; Suspicious person, 100 block E. Main Street; Civil matter, 1000 block Oak Grove Lane; Burglary of a residence, 300 block Panola Court; Alarm, 1700 block Colonial Drive; Suspicious person, 1700 block Birch Street; Welfare concern, 400 block W. I-30 NSR
- **Thursday, 15 June:** Possession of drug paraphernalia, I-30 eastbound near the 79-mile marker; Suspicious vehicle, 300 block Midnight Drive; Burglary of a residence, 1000 block Oak Grove Lane; Disturbance, 300 block Starlight Lane; 911 hang up, 2600 block Redwood Street



Madison Fuston (right), a second grad student at Reinhardt Elementary, is shown having her face painted by Katherine Doss (left). Face-painting was just one of the many activities offered as part of Rockwall Reads kicked off its second annual summer reading initiative June 15. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

## Summer reading initiative underway in Rockwall

Rockwall Reads kicked off its second annual reading initiative last week with storytelling, face painting, crafts, snacks and the distribution of books at two local apartment complexes.

Rockwall Reads partnered with The Mission and Pebblebrook apartments and the Community Center at Lake Rockwall Estates, providing bookshelves for the apartment leasing offices and stocking them with a variety of books for residents to read. The books may be kept or returned to these "pop-up libraries." Books will be replenished weekly through the end of July.

On June 28, Rockwall Reads will begin a reading initiative at Lake Rockwall Estates. Library media specialists from the Rockwall Independent School District will be on hand in the mornings to provide stories and crafts. Snacks will be offered and children will be offered books to keep or borrow.

Rockwall Reads will provide programming each Wednesday through July, except during the Independence Day holiday week, at the Lake Rockwall Estates community center. The community center library has been reorganized and refreshed for students to use year-round.

Books for the program were donated through book and coin drives at schools throughout the school district and through grand funds in partnership with the Rockwall County Public Library.

Rockwall Reads is an initiative to put books in the homes of students who have limited access to the public library who may otherwise not have access to reading materials over the summer months, according to a Rockwall Reads news release. Formed through collaboration between the RISD library media specialists and the county library, Rockwall Reads provided books for the first time last summer at the schools hosting the summer lunch program. Realizing the program could reach more students by visiting places where students live, Erin Figert, Reinhardt Elementary's library media specialist, began contacting apartment complexes and Karen Meno, Pullen Elementary's library media specialist, reached out to the Lake Rockwall Estates community center.

## Rockwall County News Briefs

(Continued from Page 2)

### Rockwall fireworks,

#### 4th of July parade plans announced

Rockwall Parks & Rec has big plans for Independence Day, including a parade and fireworks on Tuesday, July 4. The parade will begin at 11 a.m. at Utley Middle School and end at Dobbs Elementary. Free hot dogs (noon to 2 p.m.), live music (7:45 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.) and fireworks (dusk) will be offered at Harry Myers Park. For more details visit playrockwall.com.

#### Republican Lunch Bunch meeting set

The Rockwall County Republican Lunch Bunch will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 5, at Luigi's Italian Café, Rockwall. Cost will be \$12, which includes lunch, beverage, tax and tip; no reservations required. Pay at the door for this informal social gathering open to all area Republicans. For more details call Dalton Kennimer at 972-636-4034.

#### Registration underway for RCP children's workshops

The Rockwall Community Playhouse is planning its Children's Fall Workshops for students in grades 1-5 and 6-8. The fall workshops will provide 10 weeks on the basic elements of acting and culminate in a performance. Wonders of Storybook Land will be open to students in grades 1-5 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday. Workshops will meet Aug. 29 through Oct. 24, plus one rehearsal on Nov. 1. Capricious Pearl will cater to students in grades 6-8 at the same times each Thursday. Workshop will meet Aug. 31 through Nov. 2. Cost per workshop is \$150 per participant. For more details email rockwallcommunityplayhouse@gmail.com.

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