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Rockwall County News



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Saluting the RHS and RHHS Class of 2017 Valedictorians and Salutatorians



Abigail White
Valedictorian
Rockwall High School
Class of 2017

Abigail has attended Nebbie Williams Elementary School, Williams Middle School and Rockwall High School. She is the co-founder/president of Science Club at RHS and is an active member of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church. She works at the CORE, helping to teach children about science and technology. She will attend the University of Notre Dame, majoring in biology, in hopes of becoming a research scientist. Abigail's parents are Todd and Tisa White.

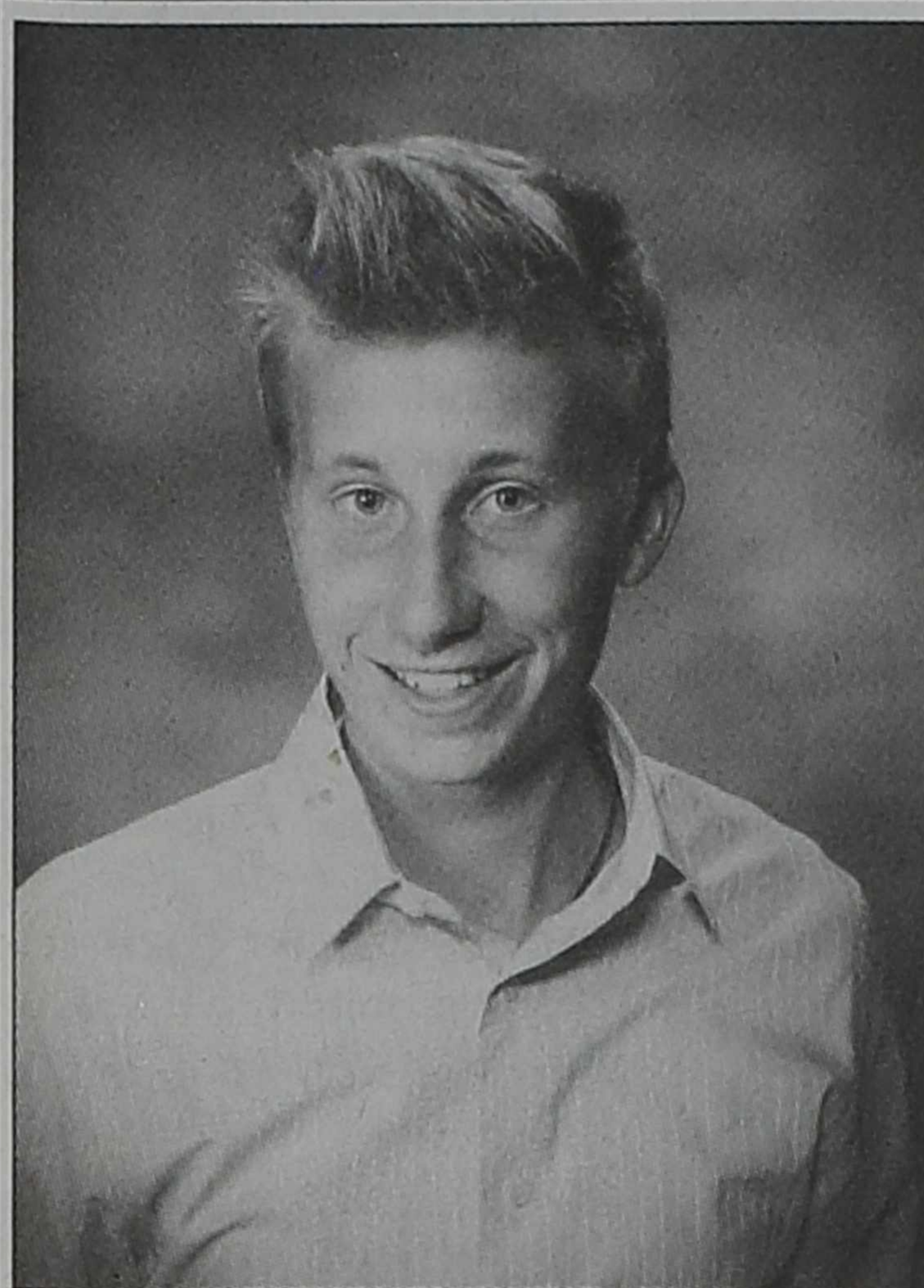
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Emily Vu
Salutatorian
Rockwall High School
Class of 2017

Emily has attended Hartman Elementary School, Williams Middle School and Rockwall High School. She has been a member of the RHS Varsity Orchestra, TMEA Region Orchestras and Greater Dallas Youth Orchestras throughout all of high school. She is the President of the National Honor Society, co-president of Psychology and Piano Club, co-founder of Embrace, and a member of Mu Alpha Theta. Emily plans to attend Mercer University to major in Biochemistry and minor in piano performance in hopes of becoming an oral surgeon. Emily's parents are Quang and Jackie Vu.

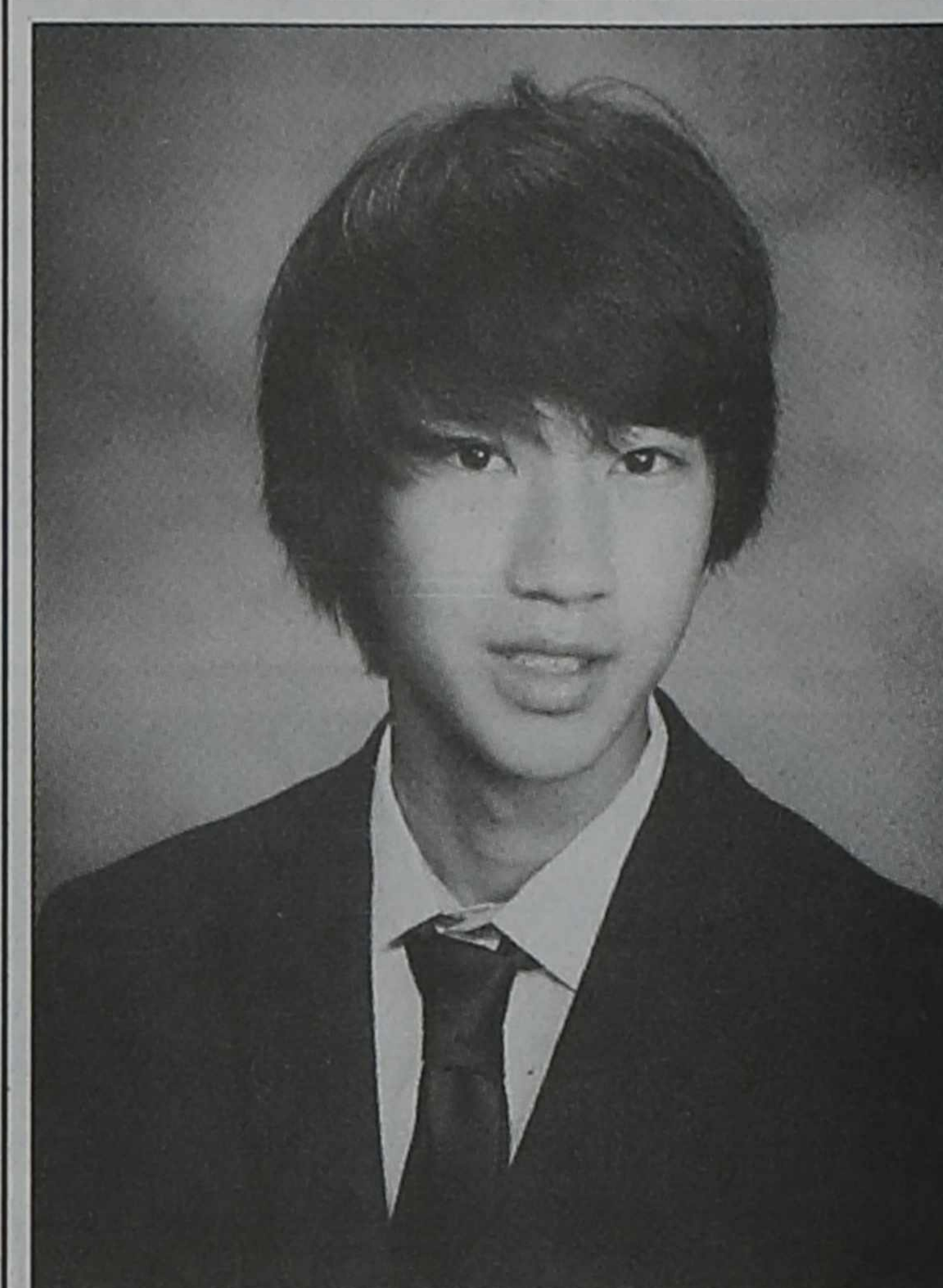
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Andrew Spletter
Valedictorian
Rockwall-Heath High School
Class of 2017

Andrew has attended Amy Parks-Heath Elementary School, Cain Middle School and Rockwall-Heath High School. He is a member of the Heath Tennis team, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta and participated in the Mighty Hawk Band. Andrew is also a National Merit Commended Scholar. He will pursue a degree in Chemical Engineering at Texas A&M University in College Station. Andrew's parents are Rick and Cathy Spletter.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Ian Lowe
Salutatorian
Rockwall-Heath High School
Class of 2017

Ian has attended Utley Middle School and Rockwall-Heath High School. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta and the French National Honor Society. Ian is a candidate for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and has been accepted to the University Honors Program of Dedman College at Southern Methodist University where he will pursue a degree in biology (pre-medical program). Ian's parents are Jeffrey and Yuko Lowe.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

University scholastic honors

Area residents named to Collin College honors lists

Many area residents were named to honors lists for spring semester academic performances at Collin College, according to a news release from the college.

Named to the President's List were Francisco Guajardo, Patrick Martin, Brenda Ogden and Karen Westrup of Fate; Melissa Ramos and Stephanie Williams of Forney; Katherine Holloway and Kennedy Preas of Heath; Kuburat Alaketu, Korlin Carter, Nicholas Matley, Steven Maya and Tara O'Neill of Lavon; and James Lamb, Amber Stone and Madeline Thomas of Roysie City.

Rockwall honorees include Ellen Baker, Rachel Block, Bailey Carlson, Robbie Castillo, Juntra Chanthavisay, Kaylee Dagenhart, Mykala Horn, Deborah Howard, Alicia Paredes, Ryan Phillips, Elizabeth Razor, Adam Rodriguez, Melinda Snyder, Joseph Jethro Vang, Dustin Weaver, Alyssa Wickham and Travis Wood.

To be named to the President's List, a student must maintain a perfect 4.0 grade-point average in a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Those named to the Dean's List include Niklas Marquis, Haley Ream and Brice Wood of Fate; Leena Azab, Jeremy Hughey and Andrew Soto of Forney; Shelby Byrne, Catherine Hudson and Charles Sandlin of Greenville; Alex Simonson of Heath; Jeremy Brunette, Ashlee Matley, Jordan Mayfield and Allison Seitz of Lavon; and Ruby Aguirre and Kaitlyn Rasmussen of Roysie City.

Rockwall honorees include Faye Anzai, Katelynn Brown-Abraham, Nicholas Claggett, Justin Couch, Carly Davis, Jacqueline Floyd, Sydney Hall, Shawn Hall, Jacob Ham, Adam Hampton, Devyn Haney, Amanda Jowers, James Juarez, Amanda Keith, Brett Loeffler, Colten Maples, Kathleen Massey, Jacob Moore, Samuel Reidling, Shelby Smith, Joshua Tyers and Wyatt Wilson.

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must achieve a grade-point average of between 3.5 and 3.99 while completing at least 12 credit hours.

Two named to UA Dean's List

Two local residents were among students named to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's spring 2017 Dean's List, according to a university news release.

Honorees included Rebecca Davis of Rockwall and Stephen Johnson of Terrell.

To be recognized for their academic performance, a student must have at least nine credit hours with a grade of A, B, C or "credit" and at least a 3.5 grade-point average, according to the release.

Three named to LeTourneau President's List

Three local residents were named to the President's List at LeTourneau University following the spring semester, according to a news release from the Longview university.

Honorees include Savanna Stutts, a junior interdisciplinary studies major from Heath; Brendon Moore, a sophomore scripture and theology major from Rockwall; and Rachel Smithers, a senior engineering major from Rockwall.

The President's List recognizes students who have achieved a 4.0 grade-point average, according to the release.

Cox named to CCU Dean's List

Rylie Cox of Rockwall was among the 1,920 students at Coastal Carolina University who made the Dean's List for the spring semester, according to a news release from the Conway, South Carolina, university.

To qualify for the Dean's List, freshmen must earn a 3.25 grade-point average and upperclassmen must earn a 3.5 GPA.

Cox is a marketing major at the university.

Master tapped for Samford Dean's List

Mollie K. Master of Rockwall was named to the spring Dean's List at Samford University, according to a news release from the Birmingham, Alabama, university.

To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must have earned a minimum 3.5 grade-point average out of a possible 4.0 while attempting at least 12 credit hours of course work. Dean's List recognition is the highest academic recognition given by the school at the end of each semester, according to the news release.

Rockwall County News Briefs

First Presbyterian to host Mission Camp

The First Presbyterian Church of Rockwall, 602 White Hills Drive off of Ridge Road by Wal-Mart I-30, will offer a vacation Bible school alternative, Mission Camp, from 9 a.m. to noon June 12-14. Children who have completed kindergarten through sixth grade are invited. Participants will visit a fire station, police station and retirement home; work in a community garden; and take donations to Helping Hands as part of being the "hands and feet of Christ." They also will

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Rockwall approves new dealership, hears strategic plans

During the May 1, 2017 regular meeting of the City of Rockwall, Inc., the council voted to approve Ordinance 17-27 request by Cameron Sloan of FC Cuny Corporation on behalf of Randall Noe of Rockwall Rental Properties, LP, related to the granting of a specific use permit for a motor vehicle dealership of new cars and light trucks, on property within the IH-30 overlay district, addressed as 1415 & 1501 E. IH-30 (first reading).

Sloan and Noe informed the council that the property would be on a flood plain with a flood way. Noe indicated plans to build an elevated parking deck above the flood plain, that would in essence like a "bridge." The bottom will be about two feet over the flood plain.

The estimated cost of building the parking deck would be a little over \$1,000,000, with an estimated cost of overall construction with flood retention work, to be around \$10,000,000. Sloan reminded the council that the cost estimation would be an indication of high property values for taxation purposes.

Sloan also pitched the project as a model for future enhancement of property values affected by flood plains, and the Subaru facility would employ about 150 people.

Noe explained that when "this pig" was purchased, he had no knowledge of a flood plain due to the lack of any flood stamps. He said that attempts to sell this "piece of dirt" to 20 different businesses has failed due to the same flood plain issues.

Noe further pitched that Subaru requires the dealership to donate revenues from each sale to local charities, and sold the "quality" of Subaru products to the council.

Noe promised that he would continue to help the council with every deal that comes in. He mentioned names of certain businesses that did not get "a cent" from the city, including Texas Roadhouse, further exclaimed that he was not asking for "a cent" for the dealership project.

Noe informed that council that a vote against the ordinance would set the property value to \$0, and a vote in favor would increase the property value to about \$400,000.

Noe confirmed that he was on a deadline for an agreement with Subaru.

Currently, the City ordinances do not allow for development on flood plains. Miller advised the council of its discretionary authority to approve.

(Continued on Page 3)

Contract awarded for highway upgrade

The Texas Department of Transportation recently approved a contract to restore the pavement on I-30 from the Dallas County line to the Hunt County line, according to a TxDOT news release.

The \$2.3 million contract was awarded to O. Trevino Construction, LLC.

Construction dates will be established in upcoming meetings between the contractor and TxDOT, according to the news release.

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 of curriculum on the basic elements of acting and culminate in a performance open to family and friends.

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. The story involves two modern-day children who travel back to storybook land and meet Red Riding Hood, White Rabbit, Alice in Wonderland, Hook, Peter Pan, Snow White, Pinocchio, Tiger Lily, Raggedy Ann and Andy and many others.

Christy Brown will serve as director. Total cast will include 19 youths.

Workshops will meet Aug. 29 through Oct. 24, plus one rehearsal on Nov. 1. Performances will be at 7 p.m. on Nov. 3 and 2 p.m. Nov. 4.

Capricious Pearl will cater to students in grades 6-8 at the same times each Thursday. The story involves mob thieves who decide to rob a nursing home. Little old ladies make friends with the thieves and try to help them.

Darlene Singleton will be the director. Total cast will include 12 members.

Workshop will meet Aug. 31 through Nov. 2. Performances are set for 7 p.m. Nov. 4 and 2 p.m. Nov. 5. For more details email rockwallcommunityplayhouse@gmail.com.

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City of Rockwall tackles issue of dealership development project in flood plain, hears strategic plans ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Councilman John Hohenshelt asked about whether there would be legal issues if Subaru decided to back out, and expressed concerns about making City Attorney Frank Garza "frown."

It was verified that Noe could enter into an agreement with any company if Subaru backed out.

David Adams with Subaru of America spoke to the council during the public hearing. Adams explained that Subaru is limited in the Dallas area, and is careful about location choices in relation to demographics sales potential. He noted that most of their customers are crossing over from Toyota and Honda, and thus desire to be located near Toyota and Honda dealerships.

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The ordinance included the following false and misleading language, "Whereas, the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Rockwall and the governing body of the City of Rockwall, in compliance with the laws of the State of Texas and the ordinances of the City of Rockwall, have given the requisite notices by publication and otherwise, and have held public hearings ..."

The Rockwall County News found no records indicating that "requisite notices" were published in compliance with the laws of the State of Texas, as restrictively required under Texas Gov. Code Sections 2051.044 and 2051.048, bringing into question the legality of the action.

The P&Z Commission did not send an order to the Rockwall County News for publication of the required requisite notices.

It is unknown at this time whether City Secretary Kristy Cole and City Manager Rick Crowley will follow the state laws by executing publication of the required notice of ordinance in a newspaper that is published in Rockwall, and which holds a USPS Second Class Periodical Permit in a Post Office of origin located where the newspaper is published, as required under the above cited state laws.

Rockwall County News Publisher Timothy W. Burnett has given due notice to both public officials that the Rockwall County News continues to meet the statutory criteria they are required to comply with in their official capacities, for qualification to be selected and paid for publication of each required notice for the City of Rockwall.

The ordinance was approved 6-1, with councilman Scott Milder casting the opposing vote.

During the May 15 regular meeting, councilman White moved to approve the ordinance. The council approved the ordinance on second reading, 6-1, with Milder casting the opposing vote. During discussion, Milder expressed concerns about the council's need to allow the property be used for something while knowing it is on a flood plain, and also spoke against allowing another dealership in Rockwall. He indicated there was nothing wrong with unusable property being used for nothing.

Mayor Pruitt spoke in agreement about not adding another dealership in Rockwall, and said the property could be used for an auto auction. He was troubled about the raised parking deck, and said

he would trust the city engineers to make sure everything would be done right. Pruitt ultimately supported the ordinance only because it would not be located next to other dealerships.

The council held a work session to hear and discuss strategic plans for certain city departments.

Joey Boyd reported on the Internal Operations Department.

Reporting on the Human Resources Department, Cheryl Dunlop described a plan to create a comprehensive program for professional development of entry-level positions toward supervisory positions, with a target date of third quarter fiscal year 2018.

Mary Smith reported on the Finance Department. Smith presented a plan for acquisition of water from certain corporations, including the Blackland district. She also discussed a plan for acquisition of vehicles, and investigated vehicle tracking systems.

Presenting on the Public Works Department, Tim Tumulty discussed two strategic goals.

The city arranged for a company to run an analysis of the streets in Rockwall. The department established three review teams. They have completed the review of the alleys. The information about asphalt streets is completed.

Tumulty described a replacement program for water lines at six inches or less, and sewer pipes. The Federal Environmental Protection Agency is pushing the city for replacement of all the clay-tile lines with PVC pipe.

The storm sewer pipe system is being held while waiting to finish the street and utilities plans.

Drainage and flood ways was last planned during 2006. Tumulty anticipates including certain areas that were not in the drainage master plan. He expects the plan to be completed during the third quarter of 2018.

Tumulty commented on the plan to update the design standards, which he referred to as a "living document."

Police Chief Kirk Riggs covered the strategic initiatives for the Police Department.

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Rockwall County News Briefs

(Continued from Page 1)

travel to Harry Myers Park to play, eat popsicles at the splash park, get ice cream and go bowling. Registration forms are available at firstpresrockwall.org. Registration fee of \$10 includes a T-shirt, transportation, snacks and bowling. Call 972-722-5702 for more details.

Auditions for RCP production slated

Auditions for "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," a Rockwall Community Playhouse production, will take place at 9 a.m. June 17 and 7 p.m. June 18. The RCP is located at 609 E. Rusk, two blocks off the square in downtown Rockwall. Participants should bring music, resume and a headshot and be prepared to sing one upbeat and/or one ballad that depicts vocal range and ability. Bring your own accompaniment (Bluetooth or audio). You may be asked to do some choreographed movement, so wear appropriate attire. Cold readings will be conducted from the script. For more details call 972-722-3399.

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/.

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.

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.

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 of curriculum on the basic elements of acting and culminate in a performance open to family and friends. 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. Performances will be at 7 p.m. on Nov. 3 and 2 p.m. Nov. 4. Capricious Pearl will cater to students in grades 6-8 at the same times each Thursday. Workshop will meet Aug. 31 through Nov. 2. Performances are set for 7 p.m. Nov. 4 and 2 p.m. Nov. 5. Cost of each workshop is \$150 per participant. For more details email rockwallcommunityplayhouse@gmail.com.

Rockwall County Entertainment

4th annual Country Fair set June 10

The Rockwall Soroptimists will host its 4th annual Country Fair from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, June 10, at the Rockwall County Courthouse, 111 E. Yellow Jacket Lane. The event will include live music and entertainment, vendors, food trucks, a silent auction, and beer and wine. A kid zone will be featured; kids can ride and play all day with a \$10 wrist band. A zip line, bounce houses, petting zoo, rock wall climb, basketball hoops, a maze, a train ride and other activities are planned. Nonprofits will be on hand to provide vintage games at a cost of \$1 a try. Pony rides and a photo booth will be offered. Proceeds will fund the organization's ongoing projects benefiting women and children, including the Children's Advocacy Center. Visit rockwallcountryfair.com for more details.

There is no fear in love.
But perfect love casts out fear. 1John 4:18



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ACROSS

- 1 Gulf crustacean
- 5 assistant to a senior military officer
- 6 bright star that slowly fades
- 7 an smasher was never finished near Waxahachie
- 8 this Holiday was a dentist in Dallas and Fort Griffin, TX
- 9 TXism: "sack" (burial bag)
- 12 Sen. Al D'... lost 1993 Super Bowl bet to Sen. Phil Gramm
- 17 TXism: "dancing like a bobber"
- 19 TX saying: "... just fact"
- 21 stinging hair plants
- 22 str up
- 23 online service for freelance jobs
- 28 wicked
- 29 TX Vikki Carr 1988 album: "Hombres"
- 30 TX Ginger Rogers' "Fifth ... Girl"
- 31 Cinco de Mayo is "fifth ..."
- 35 tiny amount
- 36 what a husband wants (3 wds.)
- 42 unofficial capital of Austin's colony in 1824
- 44 TX ... Perot
- 46 heavenly
- 48 Waco's "Texas Fair & Rodeo"

DOWN

- 1 TXism for "no" (4 wds.)
- 2 "One ..."
- 3 supporter of a particular cause
- 4 TX Simone Biles won 2016 bronze on the balance ...
- 9 TX Kenny sang "Can Make It on My Own"
- 10 TX Tanya Tucker 1986 country hit in 1919 (abbr.)
- 11 this Studi was in 2003 film "The Lone Ranger"
- 12 a cuckoo bird
- 49 TXism: "every trick in the book"
- 50 poker stake
- 51 Austin event from 1976 to 2007: "Spam ..."
- 52 TXism: "she don't ... enough to stoke a sparrow" (skinny)
- 53 this Guerrero was 1st woman on the Texas Railroad Commission
- 54 TXism: "scared ..."
- 56 common Japanese name
- 57 UT advanced bus. degree
- 58 slippery Gulf fish
- 13 TXism: "put your ... your mouth is"
- 14 what kids learn in kindergarten
- 15 TX ZZ Top, e.g. side ... grama
- 16 state grass of TX: a large TX conglomerate (1961-2000)
- 20 large American conglomerate
- 23 movie studio started in 1919 (abbr.)
- 24 TX Audie Murphy's beginning rank in WWII (abbr.)
- 25 TX-filmed "Pee ... Big Adventure"
- 26 ... play
- 27 Cowboys' Ezekiel Elliott, e.g.
- 32 "Star Trek" genre: sci- ...
- 33 TX "Monkee"
- 34 Ken Paxton (abbr.)
- 36 Lou Gehrig's disease (abbr.)
- 37 TXism: "... shuck" (left quickly)
- 38 states an opinion on U.S. 190
- 40 in early TX, folks would "... posse"
- 41 TXism: "... bien" (good)
- 43 boot width
- 45 "and ... forth"
- 47 TXism for "leave it alone" (3 wds.)
- 48 TXism: "got ... a mind to"
- 55 baby horse

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City of Rockwall regular meeting ...

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He introduced the presentation with the departments vision to interact with the community. The first goal was to ensure safety and security through crime prevention and reduction, including introduction of a program to reduce burglaries, larcenies and auto thefts by 10%. They implemented patrols of "hot spots." They increased "holiday step programs along I-30 corridor," which as he clarified was a hot spot for BMVs and auto thefts.

Riggs spoke of using educational programs such as "take it, hide it, lock it."

He explained that property crime is down by 22% compared to 2016 fiscal year.

Burglaries dropped from 40% to 31%. Larcenies were down 3.7%. Auto thefts increased from 19 to 28 incidents.

Next goal was to maintain uncommitted time to 60% or above. Initiative three related to the Bait Car Program that was implemented in 2016. It monitors internal and external cameras that go to DVR. The program has been deployed at 47 different locations. Riggs noted one successful arrest involving an I-Pad placed in a Bait Car vehicle.

Another initiative involves a voluntary property identification program. To date about 90 property owners have signed up through their HOAs. The program includes calling on property owners to mark their valuables for identification in the front yards.

Strategic goal number two related to the analysis of traffic issues, including use of software to identify "hot spots" of accidents. The program results in police officers focusing on hot spot areas with increased "high visibility" to reduce "drivers' behavior."

Strategic goal three was to improve transparency and accountability. The department was awarded a state grant for body-worn cameras. Since October 2016, after issuance of the cameras, the department logged 6200 "contacts."

The department set an initiative to enhance public relations by "park-walk-a-talk" programs. He said that someone with command staff would be at every ribbon cutting in the City of Rockwall. Riggs current sits on the board of the Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce.

Initiative three relates to the Rockwall police and clergy partnership with the hopes of building relationships with the community, and assist with crisis intervention.

Initiative four encourages ongoing attendance by police officers at community events.

The city council held a work session to discuss and consider changes to the residential design standards for the State Highway 205 By Pass Overlay District.

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Longtime Soroptimists member Shelli Miller, left, recently presented the organization's Susan Faulkner Memorial Scholarship to Rockwall-Heath High School senior Princess Mazagwu (right). Scholarship funds are raised at the Soroptimists' annual Rockwall Country Fair, which is scheduled to run from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on June 10 at the Rockwall County Courthouse, Yellow Jacket Lane.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

How the devil affects God's people ...

The wicked one has nothing on God's children and beloved saints. Considering the amount of suffering God's people endure, it would seem that the wicked one has something on them. But, God does not promise that His children will not suffer and endure persecution for doing good and right.

The wicked one refers primarily to the Devil or Lucifer, who sits at in the position of "God of this world" (See 1Corinthians 4:4). Next in rank are the legions of angels that serve Lucifer. The term "Satan" is often used in the context of this bigger picture.

Next in rank are the people who are of the world, born of spiritual seed of the Devil.

The Lord Jesus confronted a number of high ranking powerful people in the Jewish Sanhedrin who fell in the category of the Evil.

These are they whose hearts are seared from the truth, and are unable to hear and perceive truth.

God's words as spoken by His son Jesus had no place in them. John chapter 8 speaks of Jesus talking about his Father. According to verse 30, "many believed" after hearing his words.

Yet, there were some who would not hear the truth. The conversation changes to the comparison between them and Jesus.

Jesus got straight to the point at verse 43, "Why do you not understand my speech even because you cannot hear my words. You are of your father the devil ..." Jesus was speaking of people who truly committed the unforgivable sin, and had no hope. They appeared as clean and enlightened with wisdom and knowledge, but inside were dead and without hope. They are known by their fruit.

It's through them that the devil affects God's people. This can be seen in how Pontius Pilate made his final judgment against Jesus. It wasn't because of the wicked Jews, but the masses of people who were influenced by the Sanhedrin into crying out for Jesus' death.

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CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

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CHISHOLM BAPTIST CHURCH

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CHRIST CHURCH BAPTIST COMMUNITY

749 Justin Rd., Rockwall

ChristChurchRockwall.org

COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy. 276, Royse City

DAY SPRING BAPTIST CHURCH

8602 Lakeview Pkwy., Rockwall

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FATE

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IGLESIA BAUTISTA INUEVA ESPERANZA I

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GRACE FELLOWSHIP

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LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH

850 Blackland Road, Fate

NEW CALDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

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TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

360 Hickory Hill Rd., Royse City

OPEN DOOR BAPTIST CHURCH

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FAITH TEMPLE BAPTIST

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BIBLE

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Rockwall County News

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Mission Statement

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



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

Psalm 150:6

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

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Meetings

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

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

Rockwall County Kiwanis Club

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

Senior Services

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

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Everyone is invited to attend the "SAVING AMERICA THROUGH PRAYER" event, on the second Sunday of each month, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at Rockwall Bible Church located at the corner of Hwy 66 and Zion Circle, west of FM 3549, in Rockwall. The free event will include guest speakers. This is not church affiliated, and is open to everyone interested. For more information contact Mike Kennedy (972) 998-2680 or Kenneth Shores (214) 334-1206 or Jerry Minx (972) 896-7081

Rainbow Drum JAM, 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the Rockwall Harbor District. Hosted by Jimi Towry of Watusi band. All public invited. More info - 972-771-3797

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Notices to Creditors

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF NETA FAY CAIN
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of NETA FAY CAIN were issued on May 17, 2017, in Cause No. PR17-0052, pending in The County Court At Law, Rockwall County, Texas, to:

BERNIECE Joyce May
The residence of such executor is Rockwall, Rockwall County, Texas.

The post office address is: Berniece Joyce May 3302 South Glenbrook Drive Garland, Texas 75041
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED this the 31st day of May, 2017.

FRIESLAND LAW FIRM, PLLC
By: T. Craig Friesland
Attorney for the Executor

Notices of Bidders

SECTION-00 11 13 NOTICE TO BIDDERS
ROCKWALL COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 6 will receive bids for the construction of WATER, SANITARY SEWER AND STORM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS FOR WOODCREEK PHASES 6E & 6F, ROCKWALL COUNTY, TEXAS. Sealed bids must be delivered to the office of the DISTRICT ENGINEER (Petitt Barraza, LLC, 1651 N. Glenville Drive, Suite 212, Richardson, TX 75081) no later than 11:00 AM, Monday, June 26, 2017. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time and place. Bids received after this time will be returned unopened. The Developer, D. R. Horton – Texas, Ltd., will be the Payor for the contract for Rockwall County Municipal Utility District No. 6.

Plans, specifications and bid documents are available at <http://www.civcastusa.com>; Keyword: 04021-06EF02. Contract Documents may be downloaded or viewed free of charge at this web site. It is the downloader's responsibility to determine that a complete set of documents, as defined in the Instructions to Bidders are received. Printed copies of the Contract Documents may be purchased at the website for the cost of printing. The cost for printed Contract Documents is non-refundable. This web site will be updated periodically with addenda, plan holders lists, bid tabulations, additional reports or other information relevant to bidding the Project. Pre-bid conference for the project will be held at 10:00 AM, Friday, June 16, 2017 at the office of the DISTRICT ENGINEER, and is not mandatory. Bids must be accompanied by a cashier's check or a bid bond from a surety company holding a permit in the State of Texas for an amount equal to 2% of the amount bid. The amount of said cashier's check or bond will be forfeited to the OWNER and the bank or surety shall be liable to the OWNER for the amount in event the successful bidder fail or refuse to enter into a contract or furnish bonds as hereafter required within ten (10) days after the date of notice of award. Performance, Payment and Maintenance Bonds are required.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities or irregularities in bidding in case of lack of clarity in stating prices. The OWNER reserves the right to consider the most advantageous construction thereof, or reject the bid.

SECTION-00 11 13 NOTICE TO BIDDERS

ROCKWALL COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 6 will receive bids for the construction of PAVING IMPROVEMENTS FOR WOODCREEK PHASES 6E & 6F, ROCKWALL COUNTY, TEXAS. Sealed bids must be delivered to the office of the DISTRICT ENGINEER (Petitt Barraza, LLC, 1651 N. Glenville Drive, Suite 212, Richardson, TX 75081) no later than 11:30 AM, Monday, June 26, 2017. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time and place. Bids received after this time will be returned unopened. The Developer, D. R. Horton – Texas, Ltd., will be the Payor for the contract for Rockwall County Municipal Utility District No. 6.

Plans, specifications and bid documents are available at <http://www.civcastusa.com>; Keyword: 04021-06EF03. Contract Documents may be downloaded or viewed free of charge at this web site. It is the downloader's responsibility to determine that a complete set of documents, as defined in the Instructions to Bidders are received. Printed copies of the Contract Documents may be purchased at the website for the cost of printing. The cost for printed Contract Documents is non-refundable. This web site will be updated periodically with addenda, plan holders lists, bid tabulations, additional reports or other information relevant to bidding the Project. Pre-bid conference for the project will be held at 10:30 AM, Friday, June 16, 2017 at the office of the DISTRICT ENGINEER, and is not mandatory. Bids must be accompanied by a cashier's check or a bid bond from a surety company holding a permit in the State of Texas for an amount equal to 2% of the amount bid. The amount of said cashier's check or bond will be forfeited to the OWNER and the bank or surety shall be liable to the OWNER for the amount in event the successful bidder fail or refuse to enter into a contract or furnish bonds as hereafter required within ten (10) days after the date of notice of award. Performance, Payment and Maintenance Bonds are required.

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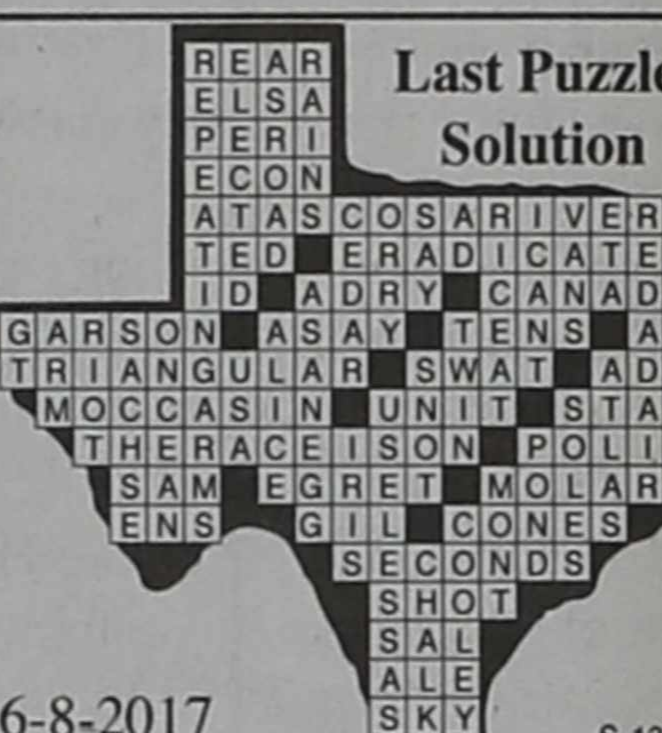
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Rockwall monthly report, March 2017

Permits

- Total: 377; Single Family, 302, valued at \$12,982,444.48; Communications, 21, value \$3,966,190.25.
- Sixteen50 @ Lake Ray Hubbard - CO2016-0119; issue date 11/18/2016; active 3/6/2017; 1650 John King Blvd.; property and business owner, Star Hubbard, LLC, Irvine, California.
- Minuteman Press - CO2017-0008; issue date 2/14/2017; active 3/10/2017; 1104 Ridge Road B; business and property owner, Erin Ragsdale, Rockwall.
- Chair King - CO2017-0015; issue date 3/2/2017; active 3/24/2017; 405 IH-30 107; business owner, Jacquelyn Barish of Rockwall; owner, Builders, Associates #3, Beverly Hills, California.
- Breezy Hill Amenity Center - CO2017-0017; issue date 3/10/2017; active 3/10/2017; 951 Calm Crest Drive; business and property owner, BH AMC Ltd. Of Dallas.
- Xtreme Salads - CO2017-0018; issue date, 3/10/2017; active 3/31/2017; 445 IH-30; owner, Bent, Tree Realty Co.; business owner Dusty Austin of Rockwall.

Fire Department

Calls by type - Passenger vehicle fire, 1; Grass fire, 3; Dumpster, 1; Medical assist, 4; Motor vehicle accident with injuries, 4; Motor vehicle accident with no injuries, 6; Extrication, 1; Water & ice related rescue, 1; Swimming/recreational water area rescue, 1; Watercraft rescue, 2; Gasoline spill, 1; Natural Gas leak, 3; Chemical hazard, 1; Chemical spill, 1; Carbon monoxide incident, 1; Power line down, 6; Arcing, shorted electrical equipment, 1; Attempt of burn, 1; Service call, 1; Lock-out, 1; Assist police or other agency, 15; Public service, 3; Smoke scare, 6; HazMat release investigation, 1; False alarm, 1; System malfunction, 1; Sprinkler activation no fire, 1; Smoke detector activation no fire, 5; Detector activation no fire, 3; Alarm system activation no fire, 9; Carbon monoxide detector activation no CO, 1; Severe weather, 1.

Police

By activity - Homicide/Manslaughter, 0; Sexual Assault, 1; Robbery, 1; Aggravated Assault, 1; Burglary, 8; Larceny, 42; Motor Vehicle Theft, 2; Family Violence, 18; Drinking While Driving, 17 (blood sample unknown).

Arrests - Felony, 37; Misdemeanor, 86; Warrant, 15; Juvenile, 14.

Total calls for service, 1567.

Accidents - Injury, 12; Non-injury, 60; Fatality, 1.

False Alarms - Resident, 48; Business, 127.

Narcotics Unit - Cases, 7; Arrests, 9; Warrants, 2; Search Warrants, 1.

Narcotics seized - Marijuana, 105.15 ounces; Methamphetamine, 1.22 Kilograms; Heroin, 3.3 grams; Ecstasy, 50 grams; Weapons, 8; Money, \$9,390.

Harbor District calls - 3/4/2017, Cinemark Movies 12, 1:50:44 a.m., Investigation, No Report; 3/4, Hilton

Hotel, 10:58:58 p.m., Investigation, Report filed; 3/4, Hilton, 11:38:53 p.m., Disturbance, NR; 3/5, Cinemark Movies 12, 5:22:11 p.m., Suspicious Activity, unable to locate; 3/7, The Harbor, 11:21:20 p.m., Investigation, NR; 3/9, The Harbor, 8:39:36 p.m., Investigation, NR; 3/11, Three Sheets, 11:50 p.m., Disorderly conduct, NR; 3/12, The Harbor, 10:12:39 p.m., Welfare Concern, NR; 3/14, CM 12, 5:34:27, Investigation, Citation; 3/14, Campisi's, 11:51:26, False Alarm; 3/16, The Harbor, 12:25:34 a.m., Investigation, NR; 3/16, The Harbor, 4:51:52, Investigation, NR; 3/17, Hilton, 12:22:22 a.m., Investigation, NR; 3/18, Hilton, 7:29:47 p.m., Criminal Mischief, NR; 3/19, Gloria's Restaurant, 12:44:45 a.m., Intoxication, Arrest (blood sample unknown); 3/20, The Harbor, 1:58 a.m., Investigation, NR; 3/23, Gloria's, 6:04:08 a.m., False Alarm; 3/23, The Harbor, 6:22:24 p.m., Water Rescue, NR; 3/24, The Harbor, 12:48:51 a.m., Investigation, NR; 3/24, Hilton, 10:01:01 a.m., BMV, Report; 3/24, The Harbor, 8:53:20 p.m., Investigation, NR; 3/25, Hilton, 12:50:08, Intoxicated, Arrest (blood sample unknown); 3/27, Three Sheets, 8:10:04 p.m., Intoxicated, Arrest (blood sample unknown); 3/30, 8:31:23, Hilton, Investigation, NR.

Airport Operations

Report certified by Todd Parks, Managing Director - Texas Air Center, LLC
Fuel Sales - Jet-A, 675 gallons for \$1,799.63; Av-Gas, 1,863 gl, \$6,984.95.
Hangar Rental Revenue - Patio Hangar, \$3,145; Transient Covered Nightly, \$0; Enclosed Hanger, \$120; Nightly Tiedown Fees, \$21; North Community, \$650.

Hangar Occupancy Rates - Open T, 45 Hangars, 42 Rentable, 32 Leased, 76.19%; Closed, 2, 2, 2, 100%; Open, 2, 1, 1, 100%.

City Fees Due - Fuel Sales (Gallons Sold), Fee rate \$.10, Fuel Flowage Fees Due \$253.84; City Owned, 5% Fee Rate, Franchise Fee Due, \$196.80, Fuel Flowage \$0.

Animal Adoption Center

Income - Adoption Fee, Shelter, \$13,935.74; Not Specified, \$2,881.79; Medical - Shelter, \$83.35; General Donations, Not Specified, \$3,858.76; PayPal - Not Specified, \$510.61; Gross Profit, Shelter \$14,019.09; Not Specified \$7,251.16; Total \$21,270.25.

Expenses - Shelter, \$572.48; Micro Chip, \$1,498.50; Medication, \$6,678.32; Cleaning, \$170; Repair/Maintenance, \$3,850; Truck Maintenance Administration \$71.38, Shelter \$114.85; Total, \$14,270.21.

Other expenses - Insurance, Admin \$697.20; Veterinary, Admin \$7,742.30, Shelter \$60; Business, Admin 34.74; Contract Services, Admin \$276; Outside Contract Svc, Admin \$2,083.34; Facilities/Equipment, Shelter \$200; Paypal/Intuit Fee, Admin \$472.13; Postage, Admin \$6.65; Bank Fees, Admin \$38.38; Retirement 401K, Admin \$1,277; Healthcare Insurance, Admin \$2,053; Payroll, Admin \$20,532.82; Tax Penalty, Shelter \$5,886.98; Books/Subscriptions, Shelter \$225.99; Supplies, Admin \$83.34; Total, Admin \$24,463.38, Shelter \$6,112.97.

(continued on page 6)

Opinions

How food stamps subverted democracy, Part 2

by James Bovard

Future of Freedom Foundation

Last month we saw how political demagoguery helped make hunger a major issue in American politics beginning in the late 1960s. After Jimmy Carter was elected president in 1976, liberals and their media allies largely declared victory over hunger. Carter was a humane progressive and there was no reason to beat that drum — especially since food-aid programs continued gradually expanding.

But in November 1980, Ronald Reagan defeated Carter, and the nation had the most conservative-sounding president since the New Deal. The liberal media vilified Reagan's efforts to curb social spending; he was sometimes tagged as a fascist for his budget-cutting efforts. Thanks in part to a severe recession, food-stamp spending soared 44 percent between 1980 and 1983 and the number of recipients increased by several million. But the media fanned a hunger crisis by using the same shaky claims that they had trumpeted in the prior decade.

The fact that Reagan proposed budget cuts was sufficient proof of mass hunger, notwithstanding that federal food-program spending actually increased. Facts rarely interrupted the morality play. As long as handout advocates flourished a handful of punchy phrases and horror stories, nothing else mattered. And every anecdote had to be accepted as a Revealed Truth, or else the doubter was automatically damned.

Liberal "activists" also claimed that Reagan's policies amounted to a tragic roll-back of a great success. A former top Carter administration official declared that, during Carter's presidency, food stamps "had virtually ended hunger and malnutrition in the U.S." Dr. Jean Mayer, president of Tufts University and a long-time hunger "activist," claimed that hunger was "the one social problem that we had eliminated."

By early 1983, opponents were using allegations of mass hunger to seek to de-legitimize the Reagan administration. But the number of

food-stamp recipients had increased sevenfold since the 1960s. By the early 1980s, low-income people could get eight federally paid meals a day. I was mystified by the hubbub and proposed an article on "the Great Hunger Hoax" to Policy Review, and editor John O'Sullivan leaped at the idea.

"Feeding Everybody"

I wanted to learn whether the expansion of food programs had fundamentally improved low-income diets. I had learned how to analyze and interpret the raw data from national nutrient-intake surveys while running a typing business near Virginia Tech in the late '70s. Some of my favorite customers were graduate students in human nutrition and, while typing their term papers and theses, I became familiar with the methodologies and controversies in evaluating food-aid programs. I visited the USDA to garner the latest unpublished nutritional data. I went to the Library of Congress and carted armloads of dusty old studies from the stacks to peruse in the main reading room. I found that government feeding programs had an abysmal nutritional record. Nor was there any evidence of a dietary golden era during the Carter administration thanks to government handouts. The reports on the programs' failures had vanished in the Memory Hole. Instead, the government relied on "body counts" — looking solely at the number of people fed or meals shoveled out. As long as politicians appeared benevolent, food programs were a roaring success.

The Policy Review piece caused a firestorm when it came out in September 1983. On a local television talk show, I sparred with future CIA chief Leon Panetta, who was then chairman of the House subcommittee with jurisdiction over food stamps. I relished the two-hour slug fest with one of the Carter administration's top food-stamp officials on a Washington public-radio station. NPR fans flooded the station's call-in lines and repeatedly implied that my parents had never

been married. On another Washington radio show, Pat Buchanan's liberal co-host, Tom Braden, was so dumbfounded by me that he kept repeating that a Texas Democratic congressman I quoted had used bigoted rhetoric in the 1960s. Braden later condemned me for "disturbing the public debate by raising questions that were settled long ago." Pat Buchanan wrote a column about the piece that helped put it on the conservative — and White House — radar screen.

"Feeding Everybody" also spurred a Washington Post editorial that denounced me for asserting that "hungry people in America have only themselves to blame." My article said no such thing, but that technicality did not impede the Post's wrath. The Post's biggest revelation was that I favored turning back the clock to the Middle Ages: "Mr. Bovard blames agricultural mechanization ... for much of the poverty problem." But, the Post tut-tutted, "a return to subsistence farming" will not "commend itself to many as a desirable course for this country's economic and social development." My article had noted that the 1967 Mississippi Delta unemployment surge (which helped spark the national hunger alarm at that time) was caused in part by the extension of minimum-wage laws to agriculture work, which swayed farmers to rely on machinery to harvest cotton. To accuse someone who abhorred unnecessary hard labor of favoring "subsistence farming" was the ultimate cheap shot. (A dozen years later, the Washington Post magazine cited my work in an article refuting wildly exaggerated claims of a national hunger epidemic.)

Reagan responded to the hunger hubbub by appointing a Task Force on Food Assistance in late 1983. They paid coach fare for me to fly to Los Angeles to offer my two cents at their first public hearing. I didn't see much point in testifying, since I had nothing to offer except what I had just written. (Task Force members could read, right?) But since the other witnesses were from groups such as L.I.F.E. (Love Is Feeding Everyone), maybe the task force simply wanted to hear a different tune. I rattled on and answered questions for perhaps 20 minutes, but don't recall the exchanges with panel members. A few months later, I testified at a Senate Agriculture Committee hearing chaired by Jesse Helms. Helms was one of the few members of Congress willing to stoutly oppose the expansion of food stamps. (His zeal against wasteful government spending did not extend to the tobacco program beloved by his North Carolina constituents.)

As the 1980s progressed, the hunger issue became increasingly sensationalized. The high point came in 1986 when millions of people bonded for the Hands Across America (HAAC) extravaganza to publicize the plight of the hungry. HAAC presumed that if five million people could link up and simultaneously sing "America the Beautiful," the nation's social problems would practically be solved. An HAAC flyer promised that it would be "the largest interactive event in the history of mankind" and the "greatest moment of shared concern and hope ever."

HAAC's goal was to raise \$50 million — the equivalent of three days' worth of the national food-stamp budget. HAAC focused its effort on whipping up public guilt and anxiety over hunger. Much of the \$10 each person was asked to pay to stand in line would be used to bankroll the hunger lobby for a massive campaign to persuade Congress to spend more for food stamps and other federal food programs.

HAAC's core message was that "the problems of hunger and homelessness in the U.S. are growing at a frightening pace." One of the organizers even claimed on television that "there is widespread hunger and famine in America." And the only way to absolve the mass guilt was through increased federal spending. Coca Cola was the largest donor, providing \$10 million to get the HAAC show on the road. (Food-stamp recipients are heavy purchasers of soft drinks.)

A 25-year retrospective on HAAC published by Mental Floss observed, "The participants couldn't fully stretch from sea to shining sea given Hands' circuitous route, so long ribbons or lengths of rope had to stand in for actual people for up to a hundred miles in areas like deserts. The Los Angeles Times reported that there were huge gaps in the line in some of the dodgier sections of East LA, and volunteers' efforts to recruit people from their front porches to join the chain didn't generate any interest." A National Coalition for the Homeless spokesman complained to the New York Times that HAAC organizers "spent too much to raise too little and promoted a national extravaganza empty of content."

The following month, a House Select Committee on Hunger held a hearing to follow up on the ruckus HAAC raised. Aging folk singer Judy Collins was HAAC's official rep, and she lamented, "In this nation, where the lives of so many are blessed with abundance, I feel shame when I see the hungry and homeless." But the issue failed to catch fire — in part because the nation was in the middle of the Reagan economic boom.

Food-stamp enrollment surged during the recession of the early 1990s and then trended downward for the rest of the decade. The Clinton administration launched some food-stamp recruiting efforts, especially by using AmeriCorps. When I was investigating that program in the late 1990s, I traveled to Mississippi to see first-hand an AmeriCorps program that claimed to be conducting "door-to-door canvassing to identify potential food-stamp recipients" and also providing "assistance ... in completing necessary applications for food stamps." The stated goal of the program was to enroll "75% of surveyed rural Mississippi residents who are eligible for food stamps, but are not receiving them." When I interviewed the program director in Greenville, Mississippi, she initially denied that the program had much to do with food stamps. I was surprised that she was so evasive after the program's annual reports to AmeriCorps had offered ample details of its recruiting campaign. When I returned to Washington, I spoke to the AmeriCorps inspector general about the peculiar reaction. The IG did a little digging, the FBI joined in, and the chief of that program was convicted and sent to prison. It turned out that the organization had a bunch of ghost employees on the payroll.

The Mississippi program was part of four AmeriCorps "Beyond Food" programs devoted to boosting food assistance. The Congressional Hunger Center (CHC), the lead grantee for the "Beyond Food" programs, exemplified AmeriCorps's humility. In its 1999 grant application, it stated, "Beyond Food/DC exists to fight hunger by developing leaders.... Our members ... learn in a 'Capital' environment where some of our nation's greatest humanitarian experts work."

When I interviewed AmeriCorps chief Harris Wofford, I asked how food-stamp recruiting meshed with his statements that AmeriCorps promoted self-reliance. Wofford replied, "A self-reliant citizen knows what their [sic] opportunities are and figures out how to make use of those opportunities." Apparently, the new, improved key to self-reliance is knowing the address of the welfare office.

A strong economy and congressional welfare-reform legislation combined to trim food-stamp rolls. By 2000, there were 17 million food-stamp recipients — lower than at most times during the 1980s. But with the victory of George W. Bush in the 2000 presidential election, food stamps would soon be expanded to burnish his "compassionate conservative" bona fides.

In part 3, we shall see how "hunger" was used to purchase votes and affect election outcomes.

Rosenstein joins the posse

by Patrick J. Buchanan

"With the stroke of a pen, Rod Rosenstein redeemed his reputation," writes Dana Milbank of The Washington Post.

What had Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein done to be welcomed home by the Post like the prodigal son?

Without consulting the White House, he sandbagged President Trump, naming a special counsel to take over the investigation of the Russia connection that could prove ruinous to this presidency.

Rod has reinvigorated a tired 10-month investigation that failed to find any collusion between Trump and Russian hacking of the DNC. Not a single indictment had come out of the FBI investigation.

Yet, now a new special counsel, Robert Mueller, former director of the FBI, will slow-walk his way through this same terrain again, searching for clues leading to potentially impeachable offenses. What seemed to be winding down for Trump is now only just beginning to gear up.

Also to be investigated is whether the president tried to curtail the FBI investigation with his phone calls and Oval Office meetings with FBI Director James Comey, before abruptly firing Comey last week.

Regarded as able and honest, Mueller will be under media pressure to come up with charges. Great and famous prosecutors are measured by whom they convict and how many scalps they take.

Moreover, a burgeoning special counsel's office dredging up dirt on Trump and associates will find itself the beneficiary of an indulgent press.

Why did Rosenstein capitulate to a Democrat-media clamor for a special counsel that could prove disastrous for the president who elevated and honored him?

Surely in part, as Milbank writes, to salvage his damaged reputation.

After being approved 94-6 by a Senate that hailed him as a principled and independent U.S. attorney for both George Bush and Barack Obama, Rosenstein found himself being pilloried for preparing the document White House aides called crucial to Trump's decision to fire Comey.

Rosenstein had gone over to the dark side. He had, it was said, on Trump's orders, put the hit on Comey. Now, by siccing a special counsel on the president himself, Rosenstein is restored to the good graces of this city. Rosenstein just turned in his black hat for a white hat.

Democrats are hailing both his decision to name a special counsel and the man he chose. Yet it is difficult to exaggerate the damage he has done.

As did almost all of its predecessors, including those which led to

Holland vote for proposed state budget, fiscal irresponsibility?

by Timothy W. Burnett

Rockwall resident Jacqueline Strickland sent a letter to the Rockwall County News, with information about Texas House Representative District 33 Justin Holland's affirmative vote on the budget.

Ms. Strickland explained that the April 7 vote "would have created a \$7 billion hole to be filled by taxpayers in two years," and "would not have provided any property tax relief."

The letter finished, "Surely Justin's constituents in Rockwall, or Heath for that matter, can't be pleased. Just who in Austin does Justin represent?"

Strickland's letter included a separate letter from Michael Sullivan of "Texans For Fiscal Responsibility."

Sullivan's letter reads as follows in its entirety:

When the 2017 legislative session began, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott called on members of the Legislature to live within the taxpayers' means and not "loot" the Economic Stabilization Fund (the so-called "rainy day fund") to balance the budget.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and members of the Texas Senate heard those calls and acted responsibly. The Senate passed a budget free of gimmicks, staying within available revenues, and leaving the rainy day fund intact.

Sadly, the Texas House did just the opposite. Your state representative, Justin Holland, voted for an irresponsible budget that spends more than is available while still using budget gimmicks and drawing money from the rainy day fund.

As an example of the gimmicks in Rep. Holland's budget, Texas schools would only get 23 or 24 monthly payments over the next two years, shoving responsibility for that last month's funding onto the next legislature.

Indeed, gimmicks like that and widespread overfunding in other areas means the budget Rep. Holland voted for on April 7 would create a \$7 billion hole to be filled by taxpayers in two years.

As you can imagine, Holland's budget doesn't provide any property tax relief.

Texas taxpayers deserve better.

Republican lawmakers like Justin Holland campaign like conservative fiscal hawks at home, but spend like Democrats while in Austin.

the resignation of President Nixon and impeachment of Bill Clinton, Mueller's investigation seems certain to drag on for years.

All that time, there will be a cloud over Trump's presidency that will drain his political authority. Trump's enemies will become less fearful and more vocal. Republican Congressmen and Senators in swing states and marginal districts, looking to 2018, will have less incentive to follow Trump's lead, rather than their own instincts and interests. Party unity will fade away.

And without a united and energized Republican Party on the Hill, how do you get repeal and replacement of Obamacare, tax reform or a border wall? Trump's agenda suddenly seems comatose. And was it a coincidence that the day Mueller was appointed, the markets tanked, with the Dow falling 372 points?

Markets had soared with Trump's election on the expectation that his pro-business agenda would be enacted. If those expectations suddenly seem illusory, will the boom born of hope become a bust?

A White House staff, said to be in disarray, and a president reportedly enraged over endless press reports of his problems and falling polls, are not going to become one big happy family again with a growing office of prosecutors and FBI agents poking into issues in which they were involved.

Nor is the jurisdiction of the special counsel restricted to alleged Russia interference in the campaign. Allegations about Trump's taxes, investments, and associates, and those of his family, could be drawn into the maw of the special counsel's office by political and business enemies enthusiastic about seeing him brought down.

More folks in Trump's entourage will soon be lawyering up.

While it's absurd today to talk of impeachment, that will not deter Democrats and the media from speculating, given what happened to Nixon and Clinton when special prosecutors were put on their trail.

Another consequence of the naming of a special counsel, given what such investigations have produced, will be that Vice President Pence will soon find himself with new friends and admirers, and will begin to attract more press as the man of the future in the GOP.

A rising profile for Pence is unlikely to strengthen his relationship with a besieged president.

In the United Kingdom, the odds are growing that Trump may not finish his term.

So how does he regain the enthusiasm and energy he exhibited in previous crises, with such talk in the air?

A debilitating and potentially dangerous time for President Trump has now begun, courtesy of his deputy attorney general.

We voted to drain the swamp in Washington, DC; it's time to do the same in Austin. But that will have to wait until the 2018 GOP primary.

With just weeks left in the legislative session, it will be up to the Texas Senate to stand strong against the anti taxpayer budget advanced by Rep. Holland and the Austin lobby. There is still time for Justin Holland to do the right thing.

Call the capitol switchboard at 512-463-4630 and urge Rep. Holland to stop the games and vote for a conservative budget.

Readers who have not reviewed the proposed budget to confirm Sullivan's allegations need only a simple review of Holland's campaign finance reports and his record while serving as councilman for the City of Heath.

According to his campaign finance report for the Texas House District 33 campaign, Holland's biggest financial contributions were in excess of \$30,000 from the MetroTex Realtors Association. This information may assist in understanding who he is serving.

Since the beginning of his service as councilman, Holland approved by vote and negligence a "gimmick" that in essence constituted fraud, waste and abuse.

Active participants in the "gimmick" were former Mayor Lorne Liechty, City Manager Ed Thatcher, former City Secretary Stephanie Galanides, Mayor Brian Berry and City Secretary Norma Duncan.

In short, the participants used tax dollars for the purpose of paying an out-of-county newspaper under the pretense of publishing required notices.

This well-executed "gimmick" resulted in gross negligence in the area of required government transparency and the possibility of numerous civil, administrative and criminal actions against the city government and its officials for fraud, waste and abuse.

Considering the "gimmick" involved non-compliance with the restrictive state law under Texas Gov. Code Section 2051.048, it can be logically concluded that each required notice since late 2010 has not been published, thus bringing into question the legality of each respective action requiring publication of notice.

Common sense may dictate that such peculiar practices by government officials, truly constitutes fiscal irresponsibility.

Hundreds attend Memorial Day event in Nevada, Texas

by Millie Jean Coppedge/Rockwall County News

Almost every branch of the military was represented by those in attendance on Saturday, May 27, at the annual Memorial Day Celebration at the Military Heritage Collection of North Texas, located in Nevada, Texas.

The collection, owned by Mark Witham, who served in the British Royal Air Force, draws history buffs from all over the country to

see Witham's collection of military vehicles and memorabilia, including exhibits of military uniforms, weapons, military models, equipment, armored and soft-skinned vehicles photos. The exhibits are supplemented by audio-visual displays and a collection of original artwork and prints.

The celebration ran from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Lunch was set up inside one of the buildings, with tables to enjoy the meal, a large tent with tables was outside and many people ate just wherever they could find space. This was a good time for people to share their stories of the military and the various wars and conflicts.

The lunch and supplies were provided by various businesses in Royse City, Caddo Mills, Greenville and Wylie.

According to Witham, "At 1 p.m. a T6 aircraft performed an incredible practice routine over the museum, trailing smoke with many passes over the museum. That signaled the start of the vehicle program. We ran armored vehicles and trucks all afternoon and many of our guests and families got to ride."

The museum, located at 2079 Country Road 590, takes part in many events such as parades and other celebrations that teach about all aspects of the military and their part in keeping the country safe.

Rockwall discusses design standards for Hwy 205 Bypass ...

(continued from page 3)

Mayor Jim Pruitt explained his belief that the state would make John King Blvd the new By Pass Overlay.

Director of Planning Ryan Miller offered the presentation, and introduced that the corridor is about 23% developed as of today, excluding the Rockwall ISD projects.

He said that the Hance property and Lofland property are entitled along John King Blvd.

The other property identified for development was at John King and Highway 66 and recommended changing the designations for the east and west sides of the corridor to commercial zoned.

Pruitt expressed his belief that the commercial zoning issue is a low priority because he did not anticipate that Hance would take any action on platting within the following 120 day period.

The council followed up with a lengthy discussion about various residential design standards along the corridor. More attention was given to discussions about possible residential designs where the back-sides of homes would face the corridor.

The council discussed different options for buffers between the residential structures and the corridor. They freely discussed the differences between 50 foot and 100 foot buffers and possible effects on residential back-yard space.

Pruitt called on staff to return with an outline of different standards based on information from the council's discussion.

Councilman David White chimed-in by stating his belief that the property owners would have known about the potential Highway plans prior to purchasing the property.

During the open forum portion of the meeting, Bruce Foith expressed his surprise about Pruitt's statement that it looks like the future state highway route for 205 was going to be John King.

Foith went on to question White's comments about property owners knowing about the highway in advance. Foith explained he did research in advance of purchasing the property, and did not find the potential Highway in the city documents.

He said that based on the documents he read, he did not expect John King to become a state Highway. According to the minutes of the meeting, Foith strongly indicated that he did not appreciate Councilman White's comment that the property owners did not do their research. Foith further stressed that he would definitely vote during the next municipal election, and that White's comments would not be forgotten.

White was not a candidate in the May 6, 2017 municipal election. During the meeting, the council approved a resolution to support additional training of police personnel for "human trafficking." The training would be provided by the Federal Department of Homeland Security. The council did not question whether 2016 influx of "refugees" into Rockwall County, from South America, constituted "human trafficking."



More than 500 veterans, their families, friends and visitors were served a free barbecue lunch at the Military Heritage Collection of North Texas on Saturday, May 27. A huge crowd came to the annual event to see the collection of military vehicles and memorabilia and an air show.

Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/Rockwall County News

Rockwall Monthly Report, March 2017

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Other Types of Expenses - Shelter \$160; Refund Adoption Fee, Canine \$150, Shelter \$550; Uncategorized, Shelter \$200; Total, Admin \$35,368.34; Shelter \$21,481.80.

Net Income - Admin \$-35,368.34, Canine \$-150, Shelter \$-7,462.71, Not Specified \$-7,241.18.

Total number of dogs adopted, 56.

Total number of cats adopted, 21.

STAR Transit Demand and Response Ridership Report

Total number of trips, 739 for 23 service days.

Number of trips by purpose - Education, 0; Government, 2; Medicaid, 24; Medical, 263; Nutrition (Senior Center), 4; Other (adult-day care, beauty salon, friend's homes, etc.), 176; Shopping, 87; Work, 183.

Total number of Unduplicated Passengers, 83.

Rockwall County Sports Notes

Y Rock Spring Triathlon set June 25

The Y Rock Spring Triathlon is scheduled for Sunday, June 25. A 5K and 1-mile run also are scheduled. Activities will kick off at 6 a.m. with a practice, followed by the race at 7 a.m. Awards will be presented at 9:30 a.m. The on-road courses will close at 11 a.m. for all participants. Proceeds will benefit the J.E.R. Chilton YMCA. Registration is underway at playtri.com/rock, where more information and course maps also may be found.

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Lady Jackets earn 2017 All District softball honors

Rockwall Lady Jackets softball players earning 2017 11-6A All-District Softball Team honors are (back row, left to right) Lexi Coward, Reagan Swindall, Darryan Welborn, Cassie Lawrence, Paige Harris, Rebekah Allen, (front row) Sam Bean, Erica Speer, Hannah Frank and Liz Monks. The players were recognized last week at the Campbell Complex. District superlative went to Reagan Swindall for Offensive MVP. First-team selections were Hannah Frank (pitcher), Samantha Bean (infield), Darryan Welborn (infield), Erica Speer (outfield) and Cassie Lawrence (utility). Second team selections were Rebekah Allen (catcher), Paige Harris (infield) and Lexi Coward (outfield). Honorable Mention went to Liz Monks. Reagan Swindall hit .543 with two doubles, one triple, 14 RBI and 44 runs scored. Frank hit .360 with four home runs, four doubles, two triples, 25 RBI and 32 runs scored. Bean hit .323 with one home run, five doubles, two triples, 25 RBI, and 27 runs scored. Welborn hit .320 with five home runs, seven doubles, two triples, 22 RBI and 23 runs scored. Speer hit .391 with one home run, three doubles, two triples, 34 RBI and 39 runs scored. Lawrence hit .333 with 22 RBI and 16 runs scored. District All Academic Awards went to Taylor Edwards, Speer, Bean and Allen. RHS team awards went to Harris for Newcomer of the Year, Monks for Infielder of the Year, Speer for Outfielder of the Year and Frank and Bean for Jacket Fight Award.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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