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Rockwall County News

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Royse City resident one of five killed in Dallas police shootings

By Julie Jean Coppedge

Alan Thompson, 43, of Royse City was the first officer to be killed by a sniper in the ambush of law enforcement officers and firefighters in downtown Dallas at about 9 p.m. on Thursday, July 7. Thompson also was the first DART (Dallas Area Rapid Transit) officer to be killed in the line of duty since the DART Police Department was formed in 1989. He was a patrol officer in downtown Dallas and had worked for DART for nine years.

Thompson had security experience in several zones, having served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Royse City Mayor Janet Nichol confirmed that Thompson had been married only two weeks and that he and his wife, also a DART officer, reside in the Woodland subdivision in Royse City.

More than 50 law enforcement officers, firefighters and first responders from several counties attended a Friday, July 8, prayer gathering, along with an estimated 400 citizens who came to support the five officers killed and the civilians wounded in the downtown Dallas shootings. Those wounded included seven officers and two civilians.

Several ministers of faith from the Royse City area individually prayed for the healing of the officers.

Royse City Chief of Police Jeff Brumit and Mayor Janet Nichol, along with other city officials, led the prayer circle, sharing thoughts about the bravery and

dedication of the nation's law enforcement, firefighters and first responders.

At the end of the prayer event, when all the speakers had finished, Brumit and Nichol asked the officers, firefighters and first responders to line up and invited those in attendance to shake the hands of the officials who put their lives on the line every day. It was an emotional time of sharing.

Local residents have undertaken several efforts to show support and pay respect to the injured and fallen law enforcement officers.

"It is a sobering day in North Texas," stated a news release issued Friday, July 8, by the City of Rockwall. "Our thoughts and prayers in the City of Rockwall go out to our neighbors in the City of Dallas and especially the Dallas Police Department and DART Police Department today after the tragic events that unfolded in Dallas last night. As the details of this senseless crime come to light, our hearts go out to all the victims and their families. We salute the bravery of the men and women who serve in Dallas law enforcement agencies and who have fought to protect people and keep them safe. It is our hope and prayer that the people of North Texas can come together in the aftermath of this horrible tragedy and begin to heal."

On Monday, July 11, the Rockwall Ministerial Alliance assembled at The Center for an early morning prayer

meeting for victims and their families, according to reports. The event was open to the public.

A Go Fund Me account to assist the slain officer's family was set up by DART employees at gofundme.com/2debdfk4, according to the DART website. Created on Friday, July 8, the account had collected \$46,940 from 758 donors as of 8:30 p.m. on Monday, July 11. The site's primary message reads, "R.I.P., our brother in blue."

Some of the comments left on the gofundme page read as follows:

- "I took DART from Plano to downtown for seven years. I remember Officer Thompson from his patrolling DART to keep us safe. I never had a conversation with him, but remember him well. I'm sick about this man's murder. Can we not as children of God all come together? I really don't care what color you are. We all bleed red ..."

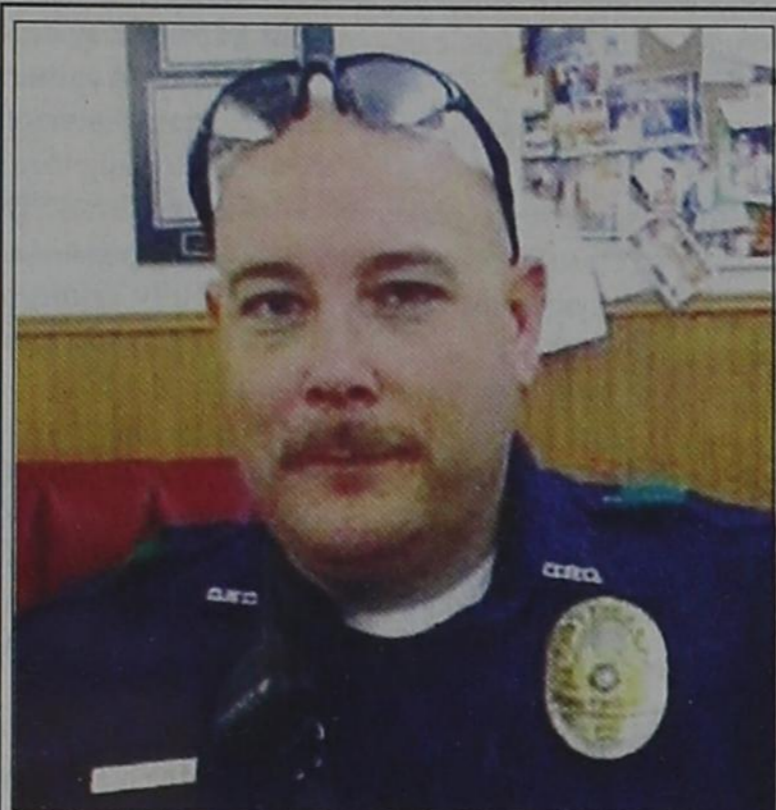
- "I am a DART rider and remember meeting Brent Thompson (sic) while riding DART. He was a very pleasant and personable man. I am deeply saddened by this senseless loss and am praying for his family and all of the families of the officers involved. May he rest in peace."

- "Because I live my life dedicated to working in public transit, I have known a lot of great people that have provided protection and security for those who depend on the trains and buses and want to ride safely to their destination. Brent Thompson did not deserve this and for all transit police departments, including DART, I give my thanks for your service ..."

Goal for the gofundme campaign is \$100,000.

A fundraising dinner also is being organized by the Royse City Chamber of Commerce. The event, Night of Honor & Hope: Showing Admiration & Giving Recognition to Royse City First Responders, will begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 30, at the Big Sky Event Hall, Royse City, according to chamber officials. The event will benefit the Brent Thompson family and include a dinner, program, Police Officer and Firefighter of the Year awards and silent auction.

(Continued on Page 2)



Royse City's Brent Thompson, 43, a Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) officer, was the first of five police officers killed in an ambush that occurred at about 9 p.m. on Thursday, July 7, in Dallas.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Fundraising continues for family of 8-year-old injured by fireworks

The Royse City Chamber of Commerce is asking area residents to contribute to the gofundme account for the family of 8-year-old Makenna Brown, who was injured July 3 in a fireworks accident.

Makenna sustained injuries to an eye when a firework fell over during lighting, went off and struck her in the eye. According to information included on the gofundme page. She was taken to Children's Hospital in Dallas and underwent surgery.

The page's most recent update, dated Monday morning, July 11, reports indicated Brown was to have had surgery to remove the injured eye and have the fractured socket repaired. She eventually will be fitted with a prosthetic eye.

As of 8:30 p.m. Monday, \$3,430 had been contributed to the gofundme account by 23 donors. The goal for the account, set up on July 7, is \$10,000.

Contributions to the fundraising account may be made at gofundme.com/makennabrown, according to the family's Facebook page.



Makenna Brown, 8-year-old daughter of Corey and Tonya Brown of Royse City and a second grade student at Scott Elementary, was critically injured Sunday, July 3, in a fireworks accident. While in Children's Hospital, she had surgery to repair damage to her left eye socket. On Monday, July 11, she had another surgery to remove the eye as it was too damaged to save. She will receive a prosthetic eye and have at least one more surgery to make any repairs needed. Donations to help with medical bills may be made at Guaranty Bank under her mother's name, Tonya Brown (who works at the Royse City Chamber). Donations also may be made through a GoFundMe account: gofundme.com/MakennaBrown. Updates of the child's progress also are available at the website.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

County Judge arrested for DWI, warrant found in records

According to a Rockwall Police Case Report, Rockwall County Judge David Earl Sweet (42) of Rockwall, was arrested on suspicion of driving while intoxicated, 12:52 a.m., Fri. June 24, 2016, at 2901 Ridge Road in Rockwall.

The arresting officer was Brumit. The police case number is 2016-23526. Records provided by the Rockwall Police Department and County District Attorney's office reveal that a search warrant was obtained for breath and blood analysis.

According to the Incident Report, at the time of the stop, Sweet was driving a White 2016 Toyota. At 1:04 a.m., on the same date, Justice of the Peace Precinct 4, Linda Whitten, executed a Magistrate Warning (MAG1-16-0156).

The Magistrate Warning was later obtained from the District Attorney's office. The warning informed Sweet of the charge against him of "driving while intoxicated," and set bond at \$10,000. Sweet marked that he did not want to request a court-appointed attorney.

According to officer Brumit's sworn affidavit, Sweet was stopped at 2901 Ridge Road, at the EZ Mart location. The officer stated that he observed "the strong odor of an alcoholic beverage emitting from the right side of the vehicle," and "continued to observe the odor ... emitting from his breath and person."

After conducting "Standardized Field Sobriety Tests," officer Brumit placed Sweet under arrest, with an affidavit. After Sweet refused to provide a sample of his breath and blood, the officer "traveled to the Methodist Hospital of Rockwall where he attempted to obtain a Warrant."

According to the affidavit, Brumit was "contacted by Sgt. Arrowood #967 who advised me to transport the defendant to the Rockwall County Detention Center and book him for Driving While Intoxicated."

It is unknown at this time whether officer Brumit submitted a warrant application, and whether officer Arrowood was instructed by another official to call Brumit away from the hospital, and to the jail.

According to the sworn affidavit, Brumit observed "a white passenger car exit the east driveway next to the building." He then observed the car make a "wide right turn traveling across all three lanes of travel in the far left hand lane (U-turn) lane of the S. Service Rd of IH 30." Next he observed the vehicle make

(Continued on Page 5)

Rockwall County News Briefs

Helping Hands seeks school supply sponsors

Rockwall County Helping Hands is seeking sponsors to help local families with school supplies. Eligible children are enrolled in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. Of the 15,000 students in the Rockwall ISD, approximately 23 percent fall within the federal income poverty guidelines, while in the Royse City ISD, the number is 30 percent, according to information from Helping Hands. A \$20 sponsorship provides one basic school supply pack. To make a donation, visit friendraising.donorpro.com/campaigns/333.

Meeting to focus on high-speed rail

Individuals interested in learning more about high-speed passenger rail services between Houston and North Texas are invited to come to a public meeting set for 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 16, at the Harry Myers Community Center, 815 E. Washington, Rockwall. Rebecca Cowle, outreach manager for Texas Central, a group promoting high-speed passenger rail service in Texas, will be the guest speaker. The event is being hosted by the Rockwall County Democratic Party. For more details, visit rockwalldems.com.

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On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

Can people lose salvation?

One day a man worked on a project with the assistance of his son. It was an extremely important job that had to be done exactly according to the father's instructions. Any mistakes could result in loss of revenues for their family.

The man was a producer of automobiles. He actually built them from scratch to be sold. It was how they made their living.

During the day, the son's sister came to the garage and watched her brother work. She asked him how he thought the panel should be installed, to which he replied, "I must do it according to Dad's will, not mine."

He did his best to follow his father's instructions, but he grew more anxious and rigidly nervous as time wore on. He was unable to peacefully solve problems, and became angry often with many obstacles that came with building an automobile by hand.

You see, his father included a stipulation; if he did one thing against his instructions, he would no longer be the man's son. Moreover, he would not be saved from a near drowning that occurred the week before.

After a few hours, the man looked at his son and said, "I'm afraid you've made not only one mistake, but too many to count. Therefore, you are no longer my son, and you are no longer saved

from the drowning that I saved you from last week."

The son looked at his father while weeping, and said, "But Daddy, I know I did many things wrong, and if you it's your will to do this to me, then let it be done."

The son said, "Daddy, I love you! How can you say you love me, while at the same time make me no longer your son?"

The son wisely finished, "Daddy, if I was made by you and Mommy, then how can you unmake me? If I was saved by you, then how can you unsave me?"

The man paused -- groaned with sadness and grief in his heart, because he thought that he could somehow un-son and un-save his saved son.

This is about a truth that is still debated among Christians even to this day.

Paul declared the truth, "But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace you are saved;) and has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

"That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."

"For by grace you are saved through faith [of Jesus Christ]; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works ..."

Visit Facebook.com for the archives of On God's Word.



Doris Cullins of Rockwall recently was honored at the state convention birthday luncheon as a 65-year member of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Pictured at the Frisco event are Darlene Bealmear, luncheon chairman; Catherine Stevener; Jo Kay Glass; and Cullins. Cullins was founder of the chapter and its first president, as well as a Rockwall teacher and principal. Doris Cullins-Lakepointe elementary is named in her honor. Others from the Lambda Psi chapter attending the convention but not pictured were Becky Cecil, Kathy Melston, Doreen Miller and Robin Wright.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Gospel quartet to perform at FUMC

At 4 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 7, at the First United Methodist Church Rockwall, 1200 E. Yellow Jacket Lane, a gospel harmony quartet, vocal 4-Cast of Rockwall, will perform in the Open Door temporary worship space. The public is invited. The event is sponsored by the FUMC active seniors group, the Sailsetters. Advance tickets will be required, but a donation basket will be set around.

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

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

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

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

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1 John 4:16
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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.

24 Hour Help Line for substance & mental health counseling. 800-662-4357.

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

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

Rental Wanted

Christian man looking for room to rent. 972-210-5082.

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SECTION - 00 11 13 NOTICE TO BIDDERS

ROCKWALL COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 6 will receive bids for the construction of GRADING IMPROVEMENTS FOR WOODCREEK PHASE 6D; ROCKWALL COUNTY, TEXAS. Sealed bids must be delivered to the office of the DISTRICT ENGINEER (Petitt Barraza, LLC, 1651 N. Glenville Drive, Suite 208, Richardson, TX 75081) no later than 11:30 AM, Monday, August 1, 2016. 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: 04021-06D01. 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 11:30 AM, Friday, July 22, 2016 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 and Payment 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 WATER, SANITARY SEWER AND STORM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS FOR WOODCREEK PHASE 6D2; ROCKWALL COUNTY, TEXAS. Sealed bids must be delivered to the office of the DISTRICT ENGINEER (Petitt Barraza LLC, 1651 N. Glenville Drive, Suite 208, Richardson, TX 75081) no later than 12:00 PM, Thursday, August 1, 2016. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time and place. Bids received after this time will be returned unopened.

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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.

Rockwall County Sheriff's Office

June Report

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• Aggravated assault - 1
• Simple assault - 7
• Burglary/breaking & entering - 2
• All other larceny - 2
• Motor vehicle theft -- 2
• Credit card/ATM fraud -- 1
• Destruction/damage/vandalism of property - 3
• Impersonation -- 4
• Drug/narcotic violations - 9
• Drug equipment violations - 8
• Weapon law violations - 4
• Driving under the influence - 6
• Drunkenness - 2
• Liquor law violations - 2
• Runaway -- 2
• All other offenses - 94
• Total offenses - 149; total incidents - 111
Arrests:
• Aggravated assault - 1
• Simple assault - 5
• Burglary/breaking and entering - 1
• Motor vehicle theft -- 1
• Drug/narcotic violations - 9
• Drug equipment violations - 3
• Weapon law violations - 3
• Driving under the influence - 6
• Drunkenness - 1
• Liquor law violations -- 1
• All other offenses - 114
• Total charges - 145; total arrests - 66
Accidents:
• Total accidents - 12
Criminal papers:
• Affidavit for surety to go off bond (1716) - 12
• Affidavit for surety to go off bond (1719) - 11
• Bench warrant - 5
• Bond forfeiture - 25
• Civil -- 2
• Failure to appear for court - 12
• Insufficient bond - 8
• Motion to adjudicate guilt - 2
• Motion to revoke probation - 26
• Probable cause - 3
• Traffic - 91
• Warrant - 36
• Total criminal papers served - 294; total criminal papers - 232
Civil papers:
• Citation - 29
• Criminal subpoena - 2
• Decree of divorce - 1
• Notice to show cause -- 1
• Precept to service - 2
• Protective order -- 1
• Subpoena/deuces tecum civil - 2
• Summons - 3
• Summons and complaint -- 2
• Writ of execution - 2
• Writ of possession -- 1
• Total civil papers served - 44; total civil papers - 47

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Opinions

Fool's errand: NATO pledges four more years of war in Afghanistan

By Ron Paul
 ronpaulinstitute.org

The longest war in US history just got even longer. As NATO wrapped up its 2016 Warsaw Summit, the organization agreed to fund Afghan security forces through the year 2020. Of that all that funding comes US and NATO troops, and thousands of contractors, trainers, and more.

President Obama said last week that the US must keep 3,000 troops in Afghanistan. The real reason is obvious: The mission has failed and Washington cannot bear to admit it. But Obama won't put it that way. He said:

"It is in our national security interest, especially after all the blood and treasure we've invested over the years, that we give our partners in Afghanistan the best chance to succeed."

This is how irrational Washington's logic is. Where else but in government would you see it argued that you cannot stop spending on a project because you have already spent so much to no avail? In the real world, people who invest their own hard-earned money in a failed scheme do something called "cut your losses." Government never does that.

Isn't 15 years of US "blood and treasure" enough of a "best chance" to succeed?

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg announced at the summit that thanks to an additional billion dollars in NATO member-country donations, the organization had come up with close to the \$5 billion per year that it has pledged to the Afghan government. Of that \$5 billion you can guess who is paying the lion's share. That's right, we are. We send \$3.45 billion every year to, according to

Transparency International, the third most corrupt country on earth -- while Americans struggle with unemployment, stagnant wages, and inflation. That is why I always say that foreign aid is money stolen from poor people in the United States and sent to rich people overseas.

NATO head Stoltenberg said, "Our message is clear: Afghanistan doesn't stand alone. We're committed for the long haul." How nice of the Norwegian politician to commit Americans to financing the war in Afghanistan for "the long haul."

When I suggested in a recent interview that the only sensible US policy in Afghanistan would be to bring all the troops home, the host asked whether I was worried the Taliban would rush in to fill the vacuum. That's what has already happened, I said. The Taliban are stronger than ever in Afghanistan. They control more territory than at any time since the original US invasion in 2001. Despite 15 years of US interventionism, nearly 2,500 dead US soldiers, and well over a trillion dollars, Afghanistan is no closer to being a model democracy than it was before 9/11. It's a failed policy. It's a purposeless war. It is a failed program.

The neocons [neo-conservatives] argue that Iraq, Libya, and other US interventions fell apart because the US did not stay long enough. As usual they are wrong. They failed and they will continue to fail because they cannot succeed. You cannot invade a country, overthrow its government, and build a new country from the ground up. It is a fool's errand and Washington has turned most Americans into fools. It's time to end this game and get back to the wise foreign policy of the founders: non-intervention in the affairs of others.

Fleeing germs

By Bertler
 Bertler@Life

We live in a culture where people fear shopping cart handles. To most people, it's not the handles themselves. It's the germs residing on the handles. Germs can make us sick. Being sick is a logical thing to do -- we wipe the handles with disinfectant and go about our business.

Shopping cart handles may be a quirky fear, but that's only the beginning. Some people go to great lengths, and employ considerable resources in their quest for a germ-free life.

Sometimes I'm one of those people.

In discussions with others, I've found I'm not alone. We all do things (or maybe they are smart things) in the name of cleanliness.

microscopic bad things can grow. I've read you can sanitize your sponge in the dishwasher, but I stick with washcloths I can launder in bleach on the hot cycle.

Double dipping -- now there's a thing (or two) to get the masses chatting. I'm a single dip proponent. In direct conflict with this is drink sharing. I think nothing of sharing my water bottle with my husband or kids. Same goes for chapstick, which when you consider it logically is probably more likely to harbor germs than a carrot stick in ranch dip.

I used to love staying overnight at a hotel. It felt special, not having to make your bed in the morning and all. This changed after I watched a couple of those helpful investigative news stories about the horrors of hotel rooms. Items especially suspect and susceptible are the TV remote and phone. Experts advise bringing your own sanitizing cloths and giving a good wipe down before you change the channel or call down to the front desk for more germ-laden pillows.

A friend of mine has an aversion toward rental carpet cleaners. She thinks the cleaners aren't clean. She might be right. But isn't it possible that a carpet cleaning company could have dirty equipment as well? They deal with some pretty nasty stuff. My best advice would be to clean your carpet cleaner before you clean your carpet. I'm pretty sure there's an oxymoron in there somewhere.

I've saved the best (or worst) for last: public restrooms. Ever enter a stall only to find the toilet is covered in droplets? There aren't many things higher on the gross-meter than a wet toilet seat. I also avoid faucet and door handles in public restrooms -- and touching anything in public restrooms for that matter.

We live in a crazy, germ-filled world. They are everywhere, and it is not possible (not possible at all) to avoid them completely. Still we try. At least I do. And if we ever meet in person, I want you to know I'm okay with a fist bump and even a hug, but maybe not a handshake. Depending on the day and how I'm feeling and whether you are sneezing and wheezing.

Just trying to keep it honest.

Landmark legislation to restore separation of powers passes House

Reverses power grab by executive branch

contributed by the office of John Ratcliffe
 Rep. John Ratcliffe's (R-Texas) legislation to reverse Constitutional erosion and stop overreach by administrative agencies passed the U.S. House of Representatives today by a vote of 240 to 171.

The Separation of Powers Restoration Act (SOPRA) of 2016 (H.R. 4768) seeks to restore three co-equal branches of government by abolishing the doctrine that has enabled administrative agencies to create rules that have the force of law.

"For too long Americans have lived in a regulatory state where unelected bureaucrats are leveraging a 1984 Supreme Court decision to regulate far beyond the bounds originally defined by the Constitution. It's time that we put an end to this ongoing abuse of the separation of powers," Ratcliffe said.

"I'm grateful for the broad support this legislation received, because when the Constitution is defended, it's the American people who win. They are rightfully sick and tired of faceless, unelected bureaucrats engaging in de-facto lawmaking to make their lives more difficult. This bill says that tipping the scales in favor of the regulators is no longer acceptable."

Ratcliffe's bill overturns a 1984 Supreme Court decision (*Chevron v. NRDC*) which ruled that courts should, in many cases, defer to administrative agencies' interpretations of "ambiguous" statutes written by Congress. H.R. 4768 would amend the Administrative Procedure Act to require courts to conduct a "de novo" -- or from scratch -- review of all relevant questions of law, rather than leaving such interpretation up to the whims of federal bureaucrats.

A Senate version of the bill, introduced by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) has 12 cosponsors, including Senate Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) and Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas).

Ratcliffe also grilled Attorney General Loretta Lynch Tuesday on her decision to not pursue criminal charges against Hillary Clinton for mishandling highly classified national security materials.

Rockwall County Judge arrested for DWI ...

(Continued from Page 1)

The officer stated that he observed the vehicle make another lane change from the left lane to the middle lane without using a turn signal. The officer stated that he observed the vehicle make another lane change to the right hand lane which is a straight and left turn only lane. Next he observed the vehicle make a right hand turn from the left lane for straight and left turn only traffic onto Ridge Road. He stated the vehicle "disregarded an official traffic control device."

The Rockwall police reports do not indicate that Sweet was involved with wreckless driving, endangering other drivers, or disregarding an official traffic control device.

The reports do not cite a state statute, with designated criminal penalty, requiring Sweet to regard an official traffic control device.

The affidavit and reports do not indicate that other automobiles were stopped and/or moving at the same intersection, during the time the "offense vehicle" was seen traveling toward the intersection.

The report cited a suspected violation of Texas Penal Code 49.04 (While Intoxicated, which is a Class B misdemeanor criminal offense "with a minimum term of confinement of 72 hours."

According to the statute, if it is shown on trial that the person operating the motor vehicle had an open container of alcohol in his possession, the offense is a Class B misdemeanor with a minimum term of six days.

If it is shown on trial that an analysis of a specimen of the person's blood, breath, or urine showed an alcohol concentration level of .15 or more, the offense is a Class A misdemeanor.

The report did not indicate that an open container of alcohol was found in Sweet's possession, or that an analysis of blood, breath, or urine was taken.

The named victim in the Incident Report, was "society." The report did not provide the address, race, sex, height, weight, etc. of the victim.

On Tues. June 28, the case prosecution was assigned to Assistant District Attorney Jon Thatcher.

The D.A.'s office has not responded to the RCN's inquiry as to whether the state filed a DWI complaint against Sweet.

In response to a request to the Rockwall Police Department under the Texas Public Information Act, the City of Rockwall provided the Incident Report, Rockwall Police Case Report Detail, and the CAD Narrative without the narrative content.

The City sent a letter to the Texas Attorney General's Office related to unannounced withheld documents. The RCN's request also included the Investigation Report, Radio Log, Warrant Application, Inventory List, Arrest Report, and authenticated copies of the dash-cam video and the officer video.

Violation of Texas "speed limit" is not a criminal offense

Texas Transportation Code Section 545.351 Maximum Speed Requirement, and Section 545.352 Prima Facie Speed Limits, do not include language that designates the violation of a "speed limit" to be a prosecutable criminal offense punishable by a fine.

The Texas Legislature recognized the right of the people to travel freely on the roads and highways of Texas.

Republican Party runoff elections canvassed, Holland edges Keating by 99 votes

In the Texas House of Representatives Republican Primaries runoff election for District 33, Former Heath City Council member Steve Holland edged Frisco City Council member John Keating by 99 votes.

The election occurred May 24, 2016.

According to the summary results provided by the Texas Secretary of State, Holland received 4,029 votes for 50.62% and Keating received 3,930 votes for 49.38%.

The official canvass reports indicate that Holland received 640 votes from Collin County voters and 3,389 votes from Rockwall County voters; Keating received 2,057 votes from Collin County and 1,873 votes from Rockwall County voters.

According to his campaign website, Holland declared his intent to act in the best interest of his customers. According to his campaign finance report, Holland's biggest financial contributor is the Texas Association of Realtors (Austin) for a total of

\$40,000. Holland has been in the Real Estate business.

Keating served in the United States Army as Senior Counterintelligence Agent from 1986 thru 1995, including assignments in Korea and Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. His only financial contribution was in the amount of \$1000 from Donna Akin of Frisco.

Prior to the May 24 runoff election, the RCN sent an inquiry to Mr. Keating to learn whether he was active duty Army during the time of the Primary election, and received training in, and/or served as a trainer, in special operations under the Department of Homeland Security and Army North American Command.

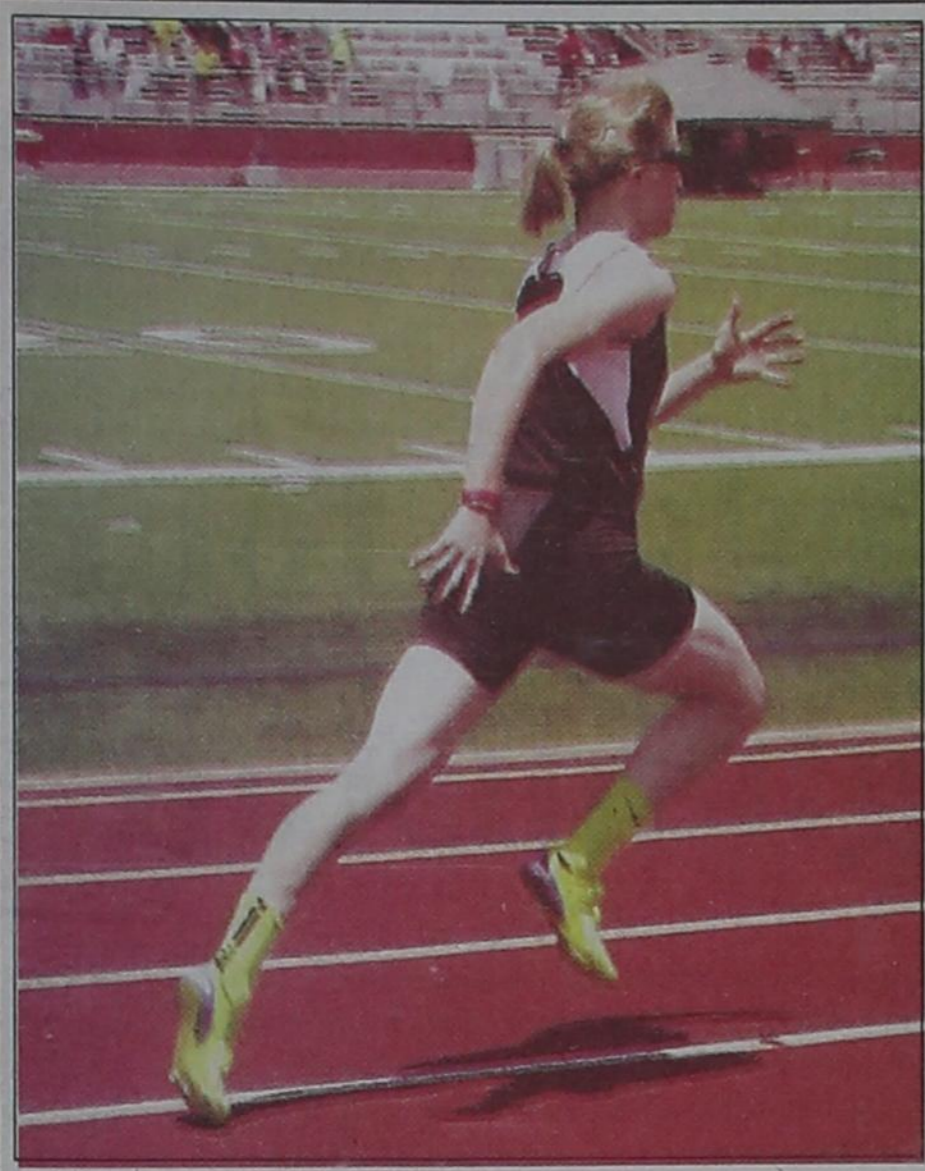
As of Tuesday July 12, 2016, the RCN has not received a response to the inquiry.

According to respective city records, both Holland and Keating, had a history of voting to authorize the city secretaries to select

newspapers that did not meet the statutory criteria for publication of required notice as required under Texas Government Code 2051.048 which requires the city units to select a newspaper that is published in the city, or published in the county.

Holland repeatedly voted to authorize selection of a newspaper that was published in Dallas County, while knowing a qualified newspaper was published in Rockwall County. Keating repeatedly authorized selection of a tabloid print product published outside of Collin County, while a qualified newspaper was published in Collin County.

In the Republican Primary runoff election for Court of Criminal Appeals Place 5, Scott Walker received 206,745 votes for 57.97%, and Brent Webster received 149,891 votes for 42.03%. Place 5 covers the counties of Collin, Dallas, Grayson, Hunt, Kaufman, and Rockwall.



Sarah Horan, Poetry Community Christian School student, competed at the recent AAU Junior Olympics Qualifier for Region 18, qualifying for the National Junior Olympics in the 400-meter run, 4x100 meter relay and the 4x400 meter relay. The national event will be in Houston during the first week of August. She has competed in the event three years straight, as well as in the State Games of America. She practices with the club team, McKinney Track Attack, and trains at the Michael Johnson Performance Center with trainer Lindsay Anderson.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Royse City FFA Officers Attend Leadership Camp

by Annie Trammell, Royse City FFA Reporter
Several Royse City FFA officers for 2016-2017 attended the Area Leadership Camp (ALC) June 20 - 22, 2016, at Texas A&M Commerce. The event was put on by the Area V FFA Association. The theme of the Leadership Camp was "Branded by Success".

FFA officers attending the training camp were Rebecca Strong - sentinel, Lawton Berry - treasurer, Kiley Shannon - student advisor, and Tori Hayes - secretary, and Annie Trammell - reporter. The attendees learned how to lead large groups, communicate effectively, be better officers, and make their brands.



Royse City FFA officers attending the Area Leadership Camp, June 20 - 22, 2016, at Texas A&M Commerce. (left to right), Annie Trammell, Rebecca Strong, Lawton Berry, Kiley Shannon, Tori Hayes.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Rockwall County Sports Notes

RCISD plans summer two football camps

The Royse City Independent School District will offer a pair of summer football camps in coming weeks. The Royse City We Will Win Football Camp is for students entering grades kindergarten through sixth grade. Players will receive instruction in all aspects of football. This will be a non-contact camp. A camp T-shirt will be provided. Cost for this camp, which will run from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. July 18-21, will be \$50. The Royse City Football Camp II is open to students entering grades seventh through ninth grade. Cost will be \$25. The camp will run from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. July 25-27. Both camps will be conducted at the high school's Royse Swiney Multipurpose Facility and taught by Royse City ISD coaches. For more details visit rcisd.org/athletics/athletic-camps and click on Football Camps.

Lady Bulldog Volleyball Camp set

The 2016 Future Lady Bulldog Volleyball Camp will run from 9 a.m. to noon July 18-20 in the Royse City High School gyms. The camp will be open to incoming seventh, eighth and ninth grade students, according to the Royse City Independent School District website. The camp will offer instruction in fundamentals, court knowledge,

serve receive, team defense, team offense and tryout preparation by the volleyball coaching staff and former players. Cost is \$50. The district is offering 50 percent off for RCISD employees, as well as a \$10 sibling discount. Cost includes a camp T-shirt for each paid participant; T-shirts will be ordered the first day of camp and will be available for pick up the following week. For more information or a registration form, visit rcisd.org/athletics/athletic-camps.

Lady Bulldog Basketball Camp planned

The 2016 Royse City Lady Bulldog Basketball Camp, open to girls in grades 4-9, is scheduled for Monday, July 25, through Wednesday, July 27. Incoming fourth through sixth grade girls will have camp from 9 a.m. to noon in the new gym. Incoming seventh through ninth grade girls will be in the main gym from 9 a.m. to noon. All-Star games will be conducted at the conclusion of the camp. Coaching will focus on pride, teamwork, motivation, enthusiasm and hustle. Awards will be given for outstanding play and improvement. Cost is \$50. Checks should be made payable to RCHS Athletics (include driver's license and phone number). The registration form is available at rcisd.org/athletics/athletic-camps. Mail in forms and camp fees by July 11 to ensure a camp T-shirt.

Yellowjackets fish football camp set

The Rockwall Yellowjackets 2016 Football Camp for incoming ninth grade students will run from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Aug. 1-4 at the Kyle Practice Field at Rockwall High School. Cost is \$80, which includes a camp T-shirt distributed on the final day of camp. Campers should wear rubber cleats, if possible, and a T-shirt and shorts. Water will be provided. For more details or a registration form, visit rockwallisd.com/athletics/community/camps/rockwall.

Future Lady Bulldog Volleyball Camp slated

The 2016 Future Lady Bulldog Volleyball Camp will run from 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 8-10 in the Royse City High School gyms. The camp will be open to incoming fourth, fifth and sixth grade students, according to the Royse City Independent School District website. The camp will offer instruction in volleyball fundamentals, including terminology, court knowledge, serve receive and team concepts. Cost is \$40. The district is offering 50 percent off for RCISD employees, as well as a \$10 sibling discount. Cost includes a camp T-shirt for each paid participant; T-shirts will be ordered the first day of camp and will be available for pick up the following week. For more information or a registration form, visit rcisd.org/athletics/athletic-camps.

Hot Rocks Bike Ride set Aug. 13

The Rockwall Rotary Club's 2016 Hot Rocks Bike Ride will begin at 7:30 a.m. Aug. 13 at the Wilkerson-Sanders Stadium, Rockwall. This year's event will feature new routes, including an official 100k (62-mile) Red Route, and 12-, 24- and 42-mile routes. Proceeds will benefit college scholarships. For more information and registration visit hotrocksbikeride.com.

Just Say You Saw It In the "County News"

Mosquito season

(continued from page 2)

Aedes mosquito (*A. aegypti* and possibly *A. albopictus*). Mosquitoes are mainly found in South Texas and along the coast, but are also present in other parts of Texas, especially in urban environments. They typically lay eggs in and near standing water in things like buckets, bowls, animal dishes, flower pots and more. They live indoors and outdoors.

Approximately 80 percent of people infected with the virus do not become ill. For those who do develop symptoms, illness is generally mild and typically lasts a few days to a week. The most common symptoms of Zika virus disease are fever, rash, joint pain and conjunctivitis (red eyes). Severe disease requiring hospitalization is uncommon and fatalities are rare. An increase in Guillain-Barré syndrome was noted during an outbreak of Zika virus in French Polynesia in 2014. An increase in microcephaly was noted during an outbreak of Zika virus in Brazil last year, according to a news release.

Mosquitoes may pick up certain viruses, such as Zika, from a human who has a Zika infection. The Zika virus also can be passed from mother to child, if the mother is infected with the Zika virus during pregnancy. There have not been any reports of pets or other animals spreading or contracting Zika.

Currently, there is no vaccine or treatment for the Zika virus. The best protection to avoid infection is to prevent mosquito breeding and protection from mosquito bites.

Prevent Mosquito Breeding

- At least weekly empty or get rid of cans, buckets, old tires, plant saucers and other containers that hold water.
- Keep gutters clear of debris and standing water.
- Remove standing water around structures and from flat roofs.
- Change water in pet dishes daily.
- Rinse and scrub vases and other indoor water containers weekly.
- Change water in wading pools and bird baths several times a week.
- Maintain backyard pools or hot tubs.
- Cover trash containers.
- Water lawns and gardens carefully so water does not stand several days.
- Screen rain barrels and openings to water tanks or cisterns.
- Treat front and back door areas of homes with residual insecticide if mosquitoes are abundant nearby.
- If mosquito problems persist, consider pesticide application around the home.

People who are traveling to areas where Zika is being spread should protect themselves from mosquito bites while abroad and for 21 days after returning home to help prevent themselves from becoming infected, and to keep from spreading the virus to mosquitoes in their case the travelers were exposed to Zika.

Because spread of the virus through blood transfusion and sexual contact also has been reported, the CDC recommends that pregnant women and their male sex partners discuss the male partner's past exposures and history of Zika-like illness with the pregnant woman's health care provider; men with a pregnant sex partner who reside or have traveled to an area of active Zika virus transmission and whose pregnant sex partners should consistently and correctly use condoms during sex or abstain from sexual activity for the duration of pregnancy; and couples in which a man resides in or has traveled to an area of active Zika virus transmission who are concerned about sexual transmission of Zika virus may consider using condoms consistently and correctly during sex or abstaining from sexual activity, according to the news release.

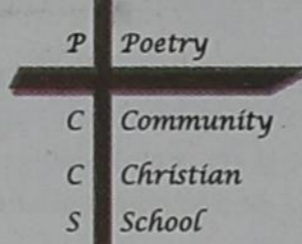
The City of Rockwall will continue to remain informed about risks of mosquito-borne diseases and provide updated information as it becomes available. The city treats stagnant water with larvicide, an integral part of the approach recommended by the CDC in minimizing the number of mosquitoes in our area. The city conducts a mosquito surveillance program by trapping and testing mosquitoes for West Nile Virus.

For additional information, visit the CDC website at cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/wnv_factsheet.htm.

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