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Rockwall County News



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Three Medal of Honor recipients attend Nevada commemoration

Col. Leo Thorsness

Col. Leo Thorsness (Ret.), a highly decorated Vietnam War veteran, was a special guest of the Military Heritage Collection of North Texas in Nevada, Texas, on Thursday, Oct. 22. Thorsness, coordinator of the museum, said museum officials were pleased by the Purple Hearts Reunited Organization in welcoming him to the museum.

Two other recipients of the Medal of Honor, Robert W. Skyleski and Spec. 4 Mike Fitzmaurice. These veterans account for two of the 78 surviving recipients of the award, according to the Purple Hearts Reunited Organization.

The Medal of Honor is the highest military honor awarded by the United States for "personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty." The medal is given in the name of the President of the United States.

Thorsness came to visit the new gallery built in his honor, which contains many mementoes of his career, including his flight suit and military awards. Thorsness information stated, he received his Medal of Honor for his actions in Vietnam while flying an F-105 Wild Weasel. Thorsness was born on Feb. 14, 1932, was awarded the medal for an air engagement on April 19, 1967, when he shot down a MIG fighter while attempting to protect the lives of a downed aircraft crew. He was shot down two weeks later and sent six years in captivity in North Vietnam as a prisoner of war.

Also scheduled to attend but unable to make the event with Thorsness was a fellow POW from Vietnam, Col. Ken Cordier, USAF (Ret.). He was shot down in his F-4C and also held captive for six years.

Formally receiving the exhibits on behalf of The Collection was Lt. Col. "Red" Smith, USAF (Ret.). With the gallery's opening of the Purple Hearts Organization, medals from Marine aviator Col. Dorsie D. Paige Jr., USMC will be on display. Major Gen. Bill Gossell USMC (Ret.) accepted the awards on behalf of The Collection. Gossell served with Paige in Danang, Republic of Vietnam, during 1972. He noted that "he received a return salute from Col. Thorsness. It is customary for military personnel to honor the medal with a salute when worn around the neck by the recipient." Crowley also said, "Thorsness stated that he and his medal have received salutes from officers out-ranking him and even one from President George W. Bush, a former Air Force veteran, and Commander-in-Chief."

Thorsness said that "living up to the standards of the Medal of Honor, come the values of integrity and selfless service and patriotism, and trying to live it more than just talk about it."

According to the Wikipedia Medal of Honor site, "The Medal of Honor Historical Society of the United States there have been 3,512 medals awarded to the nation's soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and coastguard since the creation of the award." Also recently donated to the museum was a brick from a former POW camp during the Vietnam War, which was dubbed the Hanoi Hilton by American POWs. The camp was in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The brick was recovered by Gary Flanagan, USAF, from the prison wall when it was torn down in the 1990s. He donated the brick to the Southwest Military Museum in San Angelo. Crowley secured the brick when the military museum closed and re-donated it to the Nevada museum.

Crowley said the brick "... now holds a place of honor as an anchor for the POW exhibit honoring Col. Thorsness."

The inscription on the brick reads: "Brick Is From The HOA Lo Prison, In Hanoi, North Vietnam -- This Prison was Nicknamed by the Vietnam POWs, The Hanoi Hilton, Donated by Gary Flanagan."



USAF Col. Leo Thorsness (Ret.) was honored Oct. 22 as a Medal of Honor recipient and former Vietnam POW at the Military Heritage Collection of North Texas in Nevada, Texas. The colonel is shown wearing the medal; behind him is his military dress uniform with attached medals and awards donated to the museum. The items will be housed in the new gallery built in his honor.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



This brick was retrieved from the POW camp in Hanoi, North Vietnam, also known as the Hanoi Hilton by the American prisoners who were held there. When the camp was torn down in the 1990s, the brick was retrieved and donated to a Texas museum. Upon closure of that museum the brick was turned over to the Military Heritage Collection of North Texas in Nevada, Texas.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Rockwall firefighters investigate gasoline odor

Rockwall Fire Department issued a Nov. 5 report of a strong odor similar to that of a petroleum-based product at the intersection of North State Drive and West Rusk Street in Rockwall, according to a press release.

The department discovered a spill of petroleum product in the drainage area located to the south of the intersection.

Personnel located absorbent equipment in an effort to prevent the odor from reaching Lake Raybourn, according to the news release. Due to the nature of the spill, the quantity of the material was confirmed and the spill remains under investigation.

Rockwall Fire Department is working with the Texas Department of Transportation on Environmental Response and Cleanup actions. Additionally, a cleanup team is working to mitigate the odor. The department and the Texas Department of Transportation will continue to monitor the situation to ensure public safety, according to a press release. Residents are advised to stay away from the channel during the cleanup process.



First grade students at Springer Elementary recently created flip-flops using recycled materials in Denise Hoover's art class. Students studied the differences between 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional art by understanding that with 3D art "you can walk around," which led to the birth of the flip-flop art. Pictured above are Brayden Bunyard, Kennedy Jacoby and Emma Chavez, just a handful of the students who participated in the project.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Rockwall County News Briefs

English, writing GED tutors sought

Rockwall County Library Adult Literacy Program needs reading and writing GED tutors from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursdays. Tutors will be provided. Tutors will help with essay writing and response answers. No qualifications are needed except for a desire to help, patience and a proficiency in English. Classes will be held at Rockwall Community Library, 1215 E. Yellow Jacket Lane, Rockwall, Texas. For details contact Carol Cease, adult literacy coordinator/manager, Rockwall County Library, 1215 E. Yellow Jacket Lane, Rockwall, Texas. Email: cease@rockwallcountytexas.com, or call 972-204-7705.

RCP seeks director for children's summer show

Rockwall Community Playhouse is seeking a director for its children's summer musical, "Disney's Mulan Jr." Auditions are set for Nov. 9, with performances scheduled for June 21-26. Interested individuals should email rockwallcommunityplayhouse@gmail.com or call 972-322-3399. A small stipend will be provided.

Free Microsoft Word, Excel classes offered

Rockwall County Library, through funding provided by the U.S. Department of Education & Library Services via a Texas State Library & Archives Commission grant, will offer free classes in Microsoft Word and Excel in 2016. Three levels of classes are planned in the total of 12 classes. Class size will be limited. Sign up at the Rockwall County Library Reference desk, 1215 E. Yellow Jacket Lane, Rockwall, Texas. For details, call 972-204-7700.

Health residents invited to Comprehensive Plan meeting

The City of Heath's next meeting to update its Comprehensive Plan is set for 6 p.m. Nov. 12. Residents are encouraged to attend. The meeting will include demographics, commercial and residential land use, and community livability. Once an updated plan is completed and approved by the Comprehensive Plan Committee, it will be presented to the Heath City Council for adoption. Changes to the plan then will be incorporated into the city's zoning ordinance. For more information, visit the project website at clients.freese.com/health.

Information, visit the project website at clients.freese.com/health.

T'giving food drive underway in RC

The Royse City police and fire departments are sponsoring a Thanksgiving food drive for needy families who reside in Royse City or have children in the RCISD. Food drop-offs may be made at the police or fire departments, City Hall or at the Careers in Dental Assisting and State Farm Insurance. Suggested donations include cash to purchase supplies for making a Thanksgiving meal. Family application forms available at drop-off locations; must be submitted to the RC Police, 100 W. Main St., by Nov. 13. Food baskets will be delivered Nov. 24. For details call 972-636-9422.

Electronic Waste Collection Event planned

The City of Heath will host a free Electronic Waste Collection Event from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Nov. 14, in the Cain Middle School parking lot. E-waste is any electronic equipment that has reached end-of-life or end-of-usage in the home or office. Items to be accepted include computer hardware, TVs, printers, copiers, scanners, faxes, servers, cell phones, corded phones, stereos, DVD players, small household appliances, ink and toner cartridges and batteries. Document shredding also will be available. For more details call 972-524-0007 or email eco@trashbusters.org.

Year-end Hope Mobile spay/neuter dates set

The Spay Neuter Network's Hope Mobile, a 45-foot hospital bus parked in the I-30 Wal-Mart parking lot, is set for Nov. 16 and Dec. 11. Surgeries are performed on-site. Low-cost packages are available; walk-up vaccinations are offered at reduced prices from 10 a.m. to noon (watch spayneuternet.org for online specials). Services available

Updates to FM 548 set

The Texas Department of Transportation has approved a contract to rehabilitate and resurface FM 548 from SH 205 to SH 66, according to a TxDOT news release.

The contract for the \$13.7 million project was awarded to Zachry Construction Corp. LLC

The timeline for the project will be determined in upcoming meetings between TxDOT and the contractor, according to the release.

Lane closures on I-30 planned

Eastbound and westbound lanes on I-30 between FM 548 and FM 551 and from one mile west of FM 551 to two miles east of FM 551 will be closed between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. through Saturday, Nov. 14, according to a Texas Department of Transportation news release.

Various frontage road lanes and ramps also will be closed. Delays are expected, according to the release, and motorists are urged to seek alternate routes if possible.



Dr. Barb Fowler and Melaney Loar were inducted into the Aspasians at the October meeting. Members gathered to hear a presentation from Jeff Bailey, superintendent of the Rockwall ISD, about the upcoming bond election and celebrating the success of the Fall Aspasians Marketplace. Aspasians is a group of 35 women who dedicate their time and talents to host the Aspasians Marketplace twice a year, allowing vendors to set up booths to sell specialty items. The next event will be April 23 at the Wilkerson-Sanders Memorial Stadium, Rockwall. For more details, visit aspasians.com.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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Rockwall County Church Notes

'Evening in Bethlehem' set for Dec. 11
Church will host an 'Evening in Bethlehem,' Friday, Dec. 11, 2015. The free event will last 6:00-8:30 p.m. The church is located at 1362 East FM 552, Rockwall.

Rockwall County Entertainment

(Continued from Page 2)

What I Like About Texas' to benefit library
A popular entertainer and a fifth-generation Texan, will perform "What I Like About Texas," a production full of humorous songs, on Thursday, Nov. 12, as a fundraiser for the Friends of Rockwall County Library. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room for pre-show desserts and beverages. Tickets may be purchased for \$20 by calling 214-600-3937 or 3105. Funds raised by the nonprofit FOL will be used for special programs, services, books and equipment not in the library's annual operating budget.

Nov. 13 program to focus on Rayburn
Rayburn, one of Texas' best-known statesmen, will be the focus of Nov. 13 program, part of the Sheri Stodghill Lecture Series, formerly the Brown Bag Lecture Series, from noon to 1 p.m. in the courtroom at the historical downtown courthouse. The program is free and open to the public.

Talent Box to host 'The Miracle Worker'
Performances of the play, 'The Miracle Worker' will continue, Nov. 13 and 14, at the Talent Box in Wills Point, Texas. Shows will include a dinner starting at 6:30 p.m. Dinner reservations close at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 12. For reservations, call 3-8945. The theater is located at 244 N. 4th Street in Wills Point.

Annual Festival of Trees event set Nov. 13-14
The 25th annual Helping Hands Festival of Trees will begin Nov. 13-14 at the Hilton Dallas/Rockwall Lakefront. Decorated trees and wreaths donated by local businesses and organizations will be featured. Awards are presented for best trees. The Gala is set for Nov. 14 and will feature and a raffle. Helping Hands will collect toys and gift cards donated to Rockwall County children during the holidays. From the event will benefit Helping Hands of Rockwall. To purchase tickets, email events@rockwallhelpinghands.com. To learn more, visit rockwallhelpinghands.com or call 972-771-1111.

Int'l Game Day event planned at library
Rockwall County Library will host 2015 International Game Day, with board games and card games planned for ages 4 to adult, including Scrabble, Trouble, Connect Four, Monopoly, Uno, dominoes and Munchkin: Treasure Hunt. Games are planned from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14, and from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 18.

Library to host Family Night Nov. 17
Sandy Shroul will deliver a tall tale about legendary boy Pecos Bill in a "side-splitting, rootin', tootin'," Texas-set show beginning at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 17, at the County Library. The program is open to children and adults.

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Rockwall County News Briefs

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Food drive underway for Helping Hands
Rockwall Police Department dispatchers are organizing a food drive to benefit the Rockwall County Helping Hands. The drive is Nov. 18, and drop boxes are located in the records lobby and communications lobby at the police department. For more information, contact Stacie Mosley at 214-298-4122.

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Mission Statement
The mission of this newspaper is to promote the rights of individuals, 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 this newspaper is to enhance our liberty and freedom. Therefore, we are elected and appointed agent of government accountable to the standard.
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Several Rockwall High School students, accompanied by Principal Courtney Gober, visited fifth and sixth grade students at Cullins-Lake Pointe Elementary recently. Gober talked to the young students about the importance of good study habits at a young age and how those habits will impact them when they moved into high school and beyond. Pictured above is former CLP student and RHS football player, Caleb Broach, with Miguel Macias. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Berta Soliz recently was honored as SSC's Employee of the Month. George Kelsey, SSC unit manager who employs the Williams Middle School custodial staff, surprised Soliz with a plaque and gift certificate to recognize her work and commitment. Pictured above with Soliz are David Blake, principal; Dane Steinberger, assistant principal; Cathleen Petroff, assistant principal; and Kelsey. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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

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

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

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

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding;"
Proverbs 3:5


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

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known ..."
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AI-Anon Meetings

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

AI-Anon Garland

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

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

Rockwall County Kiwanis Club

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

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

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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE (REAL ESTATE) BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER OF SALE issued out of the COUNTY Court of ROCKWALL County, Texas, in a certain cause numbered 1/15/86. On the 15 DAY of JUNE A.D. 2015, styled: WOODCREEK FATE HOA INC. vs. ARMONDO AND MONICA SOLIZ, to me, as CIVIL DEPUTY directed and delivered, I have levied upon this 6th day of Oct A.D. 2015 and will between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. at approximately 10:00 A.M. on the first Tuesday in DECEMBER A.D. 2015, it being the day of said month, at 1111 YELLOW JACKET LN. ROCKWALL TX of said ROCKWALL County, proceed to sell at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash in hand, all right, title and interest, if any, which the defendant had on the 15 day of JUNE A.D. 2015, or at any time thereafter, of in and to the following described property: LOT 27, BLOCK A, WOODCREEK FATE PHASE 2-A, AN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF FATE, ROCKWALL COUNTY, TEXAS,

ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN CABINET E, SLIDE 378 OF THE MAP RECORDS. COMMONLY KNOWN AS 304 MAGNOLIA FATE TX 75087. Said property is levied on as the property of ARMONDO & MONICA SOLIZ and will be sold to satisfy the judgment for 6021.22 Dollars. GIVEN UNDER MY HAND on this 2ND day of Nov A.D. 2015. HAROLD EAVENSON ROCKWALL County, Texas By Deputy R. Garlington 972-204-7001

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S FORECLOSURE SALE (REAL ESTATE) BY VIRTUE OF A WRIT OF ATTACHMENT issued on the 8th day of May A.D. 2015, and BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER OF SALE issued on the 25th day of Sept A.D. 2015, to me, as CIVIL DEPUTY, out of the 382ND District Court of ROCKWALL County, Texas, in a certain cause numbered 1-15-402 and styled: Omni Audio Video LLC vs. Shari Gray, I have levied upon the 18th day of May A.D. 2015 at 9:43 A.M., and will between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. on the first TUESDAY

in DECEMBER A.D. being the 1st day of said month at 1111 YELLOW JACKET LN. ROCKWALL TX ROCKWALL County, to sell at public auction the highest bidder, for cash in hand, all right, title and interest in and to the following described property: Lot 14, in Block B of Northshore Phase 1-A, Addition to the City of Rockwall, Rockwall County, Texas According to the Plat Recorded in Subj. Page 393, of the Map of Rockwall County, Texas. Said property is commonly known as 108 Crestwood Rockwall, Texas 75087. Said property is approximately 0.24 acres. Said property is levied on the property of Shari Gray and will be sold to satisfy the judgment for \$90,368.40 Dollars above-referenced cause. GIVEN UNDER MY HAND on this 2nd day of NOVEMBER A.D. 2015. HAROLD EAVENSON ROCKWALL County, Texas By R. Garlington #513 972-204-7001

Legal Notices

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Advantage Storage, which is located at 660 Justin Rd Rockwall, TX 75087 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien online at www.StorageBattles.com. The auction will end on or around 12 p.m. on 11-23-15. Property will be sold to highest bidder. Deposit for removal and cleanup may be required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of following tenants, with brief description of contents in each space: Robert Hensley, table top, two side tables with glass tops, Misc. boxes. Please contact Sarah Thornton at 972-772-3212 for more information.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Housing Authority of the City of Rockwall, Texas (hereinafter called the "Local Housing Authority") will receive sealed bids for a single construction contract for removal of all existing windows and screens, and the installation of new windows and window screens, at 40 (Forty) dwelling units, offices, library, lounges and community room, and all work specified and/or shown on the drawings until:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2015 AT 11:00 AM
at the HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF ROCKWALL
100 Lake Meadows Drive
Rockwall, Texas 75087

Immediately thereafter all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Proposed forms of contract documents, including plans and specifications, are on file and available for inspection at the office of the Housing Authority of the City of Rockwall and at the office of Cameron Alread, Architect Inc., 209 W. 8th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, (817) 332-6231 and may be on file at plan rooms in various cities of the state.

Copies of contract documents may be obtained upon request to the Architect, and unless otherwise specified, will be emailed in digital format at no cost. Paper copies may be provided upon request and will be available for a refundable deposit of \$100.00 (check or money order), one set per general contractor. Such deposits will be refunded on return of the plans, specifications and contract documents in good condition within 30 days after bid opening. Plans and specifications that have been taken apart are not considered in good condition.

A PRE BID CONFERENCE will be held on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at 11:00 AM at the Rockwall Housing Authority.

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF ROCKWALL, TEXAS
Tony Rios, Executive Director
(972) 771-0211
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Rockwall County Sheriff's Office October Report

Calls for service - 667

Incidents/investigations:

- Simple assault - 7
- Theft from motor vehicle - 1
- All other larceny - 3
- Credit card/ATM fraud -- 1
- Destruction/damage/vandalism of property - 1
- Drug/narcotic violations - 6
- Drug equipment violations -- 5
- Weapon law violations - 3
- Driving under the influence - 3
- Drunkenness - 3
- All other offenses - 105
- Total offenses - 138; total incidents - 96

Arrests:

- Simple assault - 5
- Destruction/damage/vandalism of property - 1

- Drug/narcotic violations - 5
- Drug equipment violations - 2
- Weapon law violations - 2
- Driving under the influence - 3
- Drunkenness - 6
- All other offenses - 134
- Total charges - 158; total arrests - 64

Accidents:

- Total accidents - 8

Criminal papers:

- Affidavit for surety to go off bond (1716) - 4
- Affidavit for surety to go off bond (1719) - 5
- Bench warrant - 3
- Bond forfeiture - 25
- Failure to appear for court - 62
- Insufficient bond - 5
- Motion to adjudicate guilt - 16

- Motion to revoke probation - 22
- Probable cause - 7
- Traffic - 144
- Warrant - 49

• Total criminal papers served - 270; total criminal papers served - 270

Civil papers:

- Citation - 32
- Criminal subpoena - 5
- Decree of divorce -- 2
- Notice - 1
- Order extend temporary restraining order -- 1
- Precept to serve - 1
- Protective order -- 1
- Summons - 1
- Temporary restraining order - 1
- Writ of execution - 2
- Total civil papers served - 51; total civil papers served - 51

Want more copies of the Rockwall County News? Purchase at the following locations

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

Rockwall County News legally qualifies for publication of required legal notices for all government units located in Rockwall County as a newspaper of general circulation under Texas Government Code Section 2051.044, 2051.045, 2051.046, 2051.048 (b) and (c), and 2051.049.

To Submit legal notices call 972-722-3099 or email rcn.advertising@yahoo.com

Opinions

Real issues you won't hear from the 2016 presidential candidates...

Whitehead

om Foundation (fff.org) wn has begun.

less than one year until the 2016 presidential election, pect to be treated to an earful of carefully crafted, ex- ites and political spin about climate change, education, ions es and war.

ire state of our nation, however, you can rest assured e problems that continue to undermine our freedoms ed in any credible, helpful way by any of the so-called ial candidates and certainly not if doing so might jeop- nding with the unions, corporations or the moneyed their campaigns.

g are just a few of the issues that should be front and presidential debate. That they are not is a reflection of as citizens to have our political elections reduced to lit- apularity contests that are, in the words of Shakespeare, nd fury, signifying nothing."

The national debt

politicians talking about the whopping \$18.1 trillion our government owes to foreign countries, private cors retirement programs? Not only is the U.S. the largest n the world, but according to Forbes, "the amount of ational debt is estimated to be accumulating at a rate of n dollars per minute." Shouldn't the government being bankruptcy be an issue worth talking about?

Black budget spending

American taxpayer \$52.6 billion every year to be spied n or so intelligence agencies tasked with surveillance, counterintelligence and covert activities. The agencies black budget (top secret) funds include the CIA, NSA artment. Clearly, our right to privacy seems to amount e eyes of the government and those aspiring to office.

Government contractors

he talk about big and small government, what we have ith is a government that is outsourcing much of its work ntractors at great expense to the taxpayer and with no le transparency and dubious savings. According to the st, "By some estimates, there are twice as many peopl ent work under contract than there are government e open-ended contracts, worth hundreds of millions of ount for anywhere between one quarter and one half rvice contracting." Moreover, any attempt to reform the rly opposed by federal employee unions, who take it as o prevent good employees from being rewarded and bad n being fired."

Cost of war

the detrimental impact the government's endless wars profit-driven military industrial complex) is having on es, our budget and our police forces. In fact, the U.S. Defense is the world's largest employer, with more than ploees. Since 9/11, we've spent more than \$1.6 trillion n Afghanistan and Iraq. When you add in our military work specified an

efforts in Pakistan, as well as the lifetime price of health care for dis- abled veterans and interest on the national debt, that cost rises to \$4.4 trillion.

Education

Despite the fact that the U.S. spends more on education than any other developed nation, our students continue to lag significantly behind other advanced industrial nations. Incredibly, teenagers in the U.S. ranked 36th in the world in math, reading and science.

Civics knowledge

Americans know little to nothing about their rights or how the gov- ernment is supposed to operate. This includes educators and politi- cians. For example, 27 percent of elected officials cannot name even one right or freedom guaranteed by the First Amendment, while 54 percent do not know the Constitution gives Congress the power to de- clare war. As one law professor notes:

Only 36 percent of Americans can name the three branches of government. Fewer than half of 12th grade students can describe the meaning of federalism. Only 35% of teenagers can identify "We the People" as the first three words of the Constitution. Fifty-eight percent of Americans can't identify a single department in the United States Cabinet. Only 5% of high school seniors can identify checks on presi- dential power, only 43% could name the two major political parties, only 11% knew the length of a Senator's term, and only 23% could name the first President of the United States.

A citizenry that does not know its rights will certainly not rebel while they are being systematically indoctrinated into compliance.

Asset forfeiture

Under the guise of fighting the war on drugs, government agents (usually the police) have been given broad leeway to seize billions of dollars' worth of private property (money, cars, TVs, etc.) they "sus- pect" may be connected to criminal activity. Then—and here's the kicker—whether or not any crime is actually proven to have taken place, the government keeps the citizen's property, often divvying it up with the local police who did the initial seizure. The police are actually being trained in seminars on how to seize the "goodies" that are on po- lice departments' wish lists. According to the New York Times, seized monies have been used by police to "pay for sports tickets, office par- ties, a home security system and a \$90,000 sports car."

Surveillance

Not only is the government spying on Americans' phone calls and emails, but police are also being equipped with technology such as Stingray devices that can track your cell phone, as well as record the content of your calls and the phone numbers dialed. That doesn't even touch on what the government's various aerial surveillance devices are tracking, or the dangers posed to the privacy and safety of those on the ground. Just recently, a 243-foot, multi-billion dollar military surveil- lance blimp drifted off, leaving a path of wreckage and power outages in its wake, before finally crash landing.

Police misconduct

Americans have no protection against police abuse. It is no longer unusual to hear about incidents in which police shoot unarmed indi- viduals first and ask questions later. What is increasingly common, however, is the news that the officers involved in these incidents get

off with little more than a slap on the hands. Moreover, while increas- ing attention has been paid to excessive police force, sexual miscon- duct by police has been largely overlooked. A year-long investigation by the Associated Press "uncovered about 1,000 officers who lost their badges in a six-year period" for sexual misconduct. "Victims included unsuspecting motorists, schoolchildren ordered to raise their shirts in a supposed search for drugs, police interns taken advantage of, women with legal troubles who succumbed to performing sex acts for prom- ised help, and prison inmates forced to have sex with guards." Yet the numbers are largely unreported, covered up by police departments that "stay quiet about improprieties to limit liability, allowing bad of- ficers to quietly resign, keep their certification and sometimes jump to other jobs."

Prison population

With more than 2 million Americans in prison, and close to 7 mil- lion adults in correctional care, the United States has the largest prison population in the world. Many of the nation's privately run prisons—a \$5 billion industry—require the state to keep the prisons at least 90 percent full at all times, "regardless of whether crime was rising or falling." As Mother Jones reports, "private prison companies have supported and helped write 'three-strike' and 'truth-in-sentencing' laws that drive up prison populations. Their livelihoods depend on towns, cities, and states sending more people to prison and keeping them there." Private prisons are also doling out harsher punishments for infractions by inmates in order to keep them locked up longer in order to "boost profits" at taxpayer expense. All the while, the prison- ers are being forced to provide cheap labor for private corporations.

SWAT team raids

Over 80,000 SWAT team raids are conducted on American homes and businesses each year. Police agencies, already empowered to crash through your door if they suspect you're up to no good, now have ra- dars that allow them to "see" through the walls of your home.

Oligarchy

We are no longer a representative republic. The U.S. has become a corporate oligarchy. As a Princeton University survey indicates, our elected officials, especially those in the nation's capital, represent the interests of the rich and powerful rather than the average citizen.

Young people

Nearly one out of every three American children live in poverty, ranking America among the worst countries in the developed world. Patrolled by police, our schools have become little more than quasi- prisons in which kids as young as age 4 are being handcuffed for "act- ing up," subjected to body searches and lockdowns, and suspended for childish behavior.

Private property

Private property means little at a time when SWAT teams and other government agents can invade your home, break down your doors, kill your dog, wound or kill you, damage your furnishings and terrorize your family. Likewise, if government officials can fine and arrest you for growing vegetables in your front yard, praying with friends in your living room, installing solar panels on your roof, and raising chickens in your backyard, you're no longer the owner of your property.

Strip searches. Court rulings undermining the Fourth Amendment and justifying invasive strip searches have left us powerless against police empowered to forcefully draw our blood, forcibly take our DNA, strip search us, and probe us intimately. Accounts are on the rise of individuals—men and women alike—being subjected to what is essentially government-sanctioned rape by police in the course of "routine" traffic stops.

Fiscal corruption

If there is any absolute maxim by which the federal government seems to operate, it is that the American taxpayer always gets ripped off. This is true, whether you're talking about taxpayers being forced to fund high-priced weaponry that will be used against us, endless wars that do little for our safety or our freedoms, or bloated govern- ment agencies such as the National Security Agency with its secret budgets, covert agendas and clandestine activities. Rubbing salt in the wound, even monetary awards in lawsuits against government officials who are found guilty of wrongdoing are paid by the taxpayer.

Militarized police

Americans are powerless in the face of militarized police. In early America, government agents were not permitted to enter one's home without permission or in a deceitful manner. And citizens could resist arrest when a police officer tried to restrain them without proper justifi- cation or a warrant. Daring to dispute a warrant with a police official today who is armed with high-tech military weapons would be noth- ing short of suicidal. Moreover, as police forces across the country continue to be transformed into extensions of the military, Americans are finding their once-peaceful communities transformed into military outposts, complete with tanks, weaponry, and other equipment de- signed for the battlefield.

These are not problems that can be glibly dismissed with a few well-chosen words, as most politicians are inclined to do. Nor will the 2016 elections do much to alter our present course towards a police state. Indeed, it is doubtful whether the popularity contest for the new occupant of the White House will significantly alter the day-to-day life of the average American greatly at all. Those life-changing decisions are made elsewhere, by nameless, unelected government officials who have turned bureaucracy into a full-time and profitable business.

As I point out in my book Battlefield America: The War on the American People, these problems will continue to plague our nation unless and until Americans wake up to the fact that we're the only ones who can change things for the better and then do something about it.

This was a recurring theme for Martin Luther King Jr., who urged Americans to engage in militant nonviolent resistance in response to government corruption. In a speech delivered just a few months before his assassination, King called on Americans to march on Washington in order to take a stand against the growing problems facing the nation— problems that were being ignored by those in office because they were unpopular, not profitable or risky. "I don't determine what is right and wrong by looking at the budget of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Nor do I determine what is right and wrong by taking a Gallup poll of the majority opinion," remarked King. "Ultimately a genuine leader is not a searcher of consensus but a molder of consen- sus."

Guided by Gallup polls, influenced by corporate lobbyists, and molded by party politics, the 2016 presidential candidates are playing for high stakes, but they are not looking out for the best interests of "we the people." As King reminds us:

"Cowardice asks the question, 'Is it safe?' Expediency asks the question, 'Is it politic?' And Vanity comes along and asks the question, 'Is it popular?' But Conscience asks the question 'Is it right?' And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must do it because Conscience tells him it is right."

Ratcliffe Honors Viet Nam Vets 50th Anniversary during DAR meeting

Daughters of the American Revolution Texas Society- III

November 7, 2015
Defense Brunch

Rockwall Chapter DAR held its annual National Defense Saturday, November 7 at the Rockwall Public Library. The event was in partnership with the Advance of the Colors by the East Fork Sons of the American Revolution (SARS) Color Guard, and Walt Thomas.

Program Chairman, Carolyn Duckworth introduced John Ratcliffe, U.S. Congressman, Texas 4th District, who spoke about National Defense and Homeland Security.

He discussed current concerns and possible solutions to terrorism and the role of the military throughout the world.

John Ratcliffe honored local Viet Nam Veterans as the centerpiece of the 50th Anniversary of the Viet Nam War. Congressman Hayes and the Rockwall High School Culinary Arts team presented the brunch.

The 50th Anniversary Commemoration was related to a presidential proclamation by President Barack Hussein Obama, on May 25, 2012, until November 11, 2025.

The proclamation begins as follows:
"To honor the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, we reflect with reverence upon the valor of a generation that served our country. We pay tribute to the more than 3 million servicemen and women who left their families to serve bravely, a world away from

everything they knew and everyone they loved."

"Through more than a decade of combat, over air, land, and sea, these proud Americans upheld the highest traditions of our Armed Forces."

The proclamation ends, "Beginning on Memorial Day 2012, the Federal Government will partner with local governments, private organizations, and communities across America to participate in the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War -- a 13-year program to honor and give thanks to a generation of proud Americans who saw our country through one of the most challenging missions we have ever faced."

"Let us renew our commitment to the fullest possible accounting for those who have not returned."

The document concludes, "NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 28, 2012, through November 11, 2025, as the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. I call upon Federal, State, and local officials to honor our Vietnam veterans, our fallen, our wounded, those unaccounted for, our former prisoners of war, their families, and all who served with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities."

Rock Wall Chapter meetings are held the first Saturday of the month unless otherwise indicated. Time and locations are designated. Guests are welcome. Please contact Mindy Lovell, 214-502-7697, or by email gml1949@aol.com



Viet Nam Veterans with Congressman John Ratcliffe are (left to right) Robert Vickers, David Powell, Sandra Soloman, John Ratcliffe, Bob Stewart, Joyce Adair, Jim Greenwalt, Walt Thomas, Gregory Bachman and Stephen Nanney. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Hawks Running Back J'Corian Jimmerson (Jr) (10) escapes a South Garland tackler while weaving in & out of defensive traffic, Friday, Nov. 6, during Rockwall-Heath's last game of the 2015 season, at Wilkerson-Sanders Stadium in Rockwall. Jimmerson carried the ball 12 times for 117 yards in the Hawks' 52-14 win over the Rebels. Teammate, Tyler McCalister also stood out with 10 carries for 138 yards and 3 touchdowns. Other Hawks players scoring were Quarterback Caanan Smith passing for 2 TDs and 1 TD off a keeper; Grant Buckholt, Mark Bielski, and Tanner Wooten, with 1 TD each on a pass reception. Shown assisting Jimmerson with blocking Trent Podleski (68) and Chad Gardner (74). Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News



The Rockwall-Heath High Steppers take to the field for an entertaining show featuring the Fathers of the Senior dancers, Friday, Nov. 6, during the Hawks last game of the 2015 season against South Garland at Wilkerson-Sanders Stadium in Rockwall. Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

Williams MS supports Martell with fundraiser, social media

by Delaina Temple
Williams Middle School student

Williams Middle School eighth grader Luna Martell is all smiles despite her condition. Luna was diagnosed with a type of cancer called Heptablastoma, but cancer cannot stop the now 10-year-old from having fun and living life to the fullest.

WMS has come together several times to raise money to help Luna. First, WMS hosted a challenge, danceforluna. For this particular challenge, students played songs and did their best moves, then posted videos online under the #danceforluna hashtag. It was not only a lot of fun but it lifted Luna's spirits and raised awareness.

There was also a fundraiser at Joe Willy's in Rockwall on Sept. 27. Luna even felt well enough to attend and enjoyed spending time with friends.

In making sure Luna kept up with her studies, WMS teachers thought they had an idea that really meant a lot to Luna. Luna adores fairytales of all sorts, so coach Terri Bates' classes came together to make their own stories using Luna as the main character. Each student was assigned to write a story, and once they were completed, coach Bates made them into a book for her.

When the book was completed, Bates thought of a great way to deliver it. She dressed up as Mrs. Potts from "Beauty and the Beast," the beloved Disney character, and visited Luna in her hospital room. "Luna loved her fairytale book," Bates said. "Although there were some spelling and grammar mistakes here and there, we let Luna edit them for school credit. She's our honorary English teacher."

As for Luna's family, they said they have enjoyed seeing Luna laugh and smile while reading her fairytale books.

Luna continues to fight cancer, but WMS students, teachers and parents are here for her. When asked to describe Luna, Terri Bates smiled and said, "If I could describe her in a few words, I'd have to say she's a fighter ... she's intelligent, determined, happy and a gift from God. We're praying for her every day of her life."



Williams Middle School student Luna Martell is shown with her English teacher, Terri Bates. Bates recently organized a special project on Martell's behalf. Martell, an eighth grade student, battles with Heptablastoma. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Rockwall-Heath football

The Rockwall-Heath Hawks maintained control of the South Garland Rebels in their 52-14 win Friday, Nov. 6 at Wilkerson-Sanders Stadium in Rockwall.

During the first half, Quarterback Caanan Smith (Sr) led the Hawks to 37-7 lead. The team teamed up for 4 touchdowns and a field goal, holding S. Garland to 7 points.

Quarterback Ben Mays (So) led the team to two more TDs during the 2nd half, with the Rebels scoring one more TD soon after the Hawks first drive. Smith completed 6 of 14 passes for 106 yards and 1 TD while Mays completed 3 of 5 passes for 61 yards and 1 TD.

Tyler McCalister led the rushing with 10 carries for 138 yards, followed by J'Corian Jimmerson with 12 carries for 117 yards.

Grant Buckholt caught 3 passes for 73 yards and 1 TD, followed by Tanner Hooten with 2 catches for 45 yards and 1 TD, and Mark Bielski with 1 carry for 21 yards and 1 TD.

The Hawks are set to play for Bi-district against Carrollton Creekview, 7:30 p.m., Fri. Nov. 13 at Clark Stadium.

Rockwall football

District 11-6A Champions, Rockwall Yellowjackets defeated Garland High School, 44-34, Friday, Nov. 6, at Garland. The Yellowjackets finished their district undefeated, and will play for Bi-district against Copperas Cove, 1:00 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 14, at Copperas Cove High School.

The game against Garland highlighted back-up Quarterback Matt Jones (Jr) with 12 completed passes for 15 for 221 yards and 2 touchdown passes. Cameron Ast carried the ball 15 times for 71 yards, followed by Caleb Broach's 3 carries for 79 yards. Sam Crawford led with 5 receptions for 116 yards and 1 TD, and also scored on a 1 yard run.

Rockwall County Sports Notes

Archery training offered

An introduction to archery will be offered Nov. 14 and Nov. 21 through the Rockwall Parks & Recreation Department. Participants will learn how to properly shoot and handle a bow and arrow in this introductory course which will teach all of the basics of archery. Open to individuals ages 10 and older, the event will run from 9 a.m. to noon at Harry Myers Park. Cost will be \$45 or \$29 for Rockwall residents. Pre-registration is required. For more details visit rockwall.com/parks.

Rockwall County Entertainment

(Continued from Page 3)

Holiday in the Park plans announced

Plans are underway for the 2015 Heath Holiday in the Park event set for 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13, at Towne Center Park - rain or shine. The Amy Parks and Dorothy Pullen Elementary choirs, as well as the Rockwall-Heath High performance groups, will provide entertainment. Food trucks and an outdoor dining area will provide an area for seasonal evening meals. Also planned are a miniature train ride, fun activity booths for kids and a holiday photo booth. Complimentary hot cocoa and Christmas cookies will be served by Mrs. Claus and her elves. Santa also will be on hand, so parents should bring their cameras. For more details visit heathtx.com.

Christmas tree lighting set in R'wall

Rockwall's 32nd annual Christmas tree lighting will run from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, on the lawn at City Hall. Old-fashioned holiday fun and music will be offered. Craft making will take place in the lobby while free cookies, hot chocolate and coffee will be served. Santa also will be on hand to make a visit. For more details visit rockwall.com/parks.

Rock wall to be revisited

The history of the rock wall and recent developments about the unique underground structure will be the focus of the Dec. 11 program that will be part of the Sheri Stodghill Lecture Series, formerly the Brown Lecture Series, from noon to 1 p.m. in the third-floor courtroom at the historical downtown courtroom. Lectures are free and open to the public.

Breakfast with Santa set Dec. 12

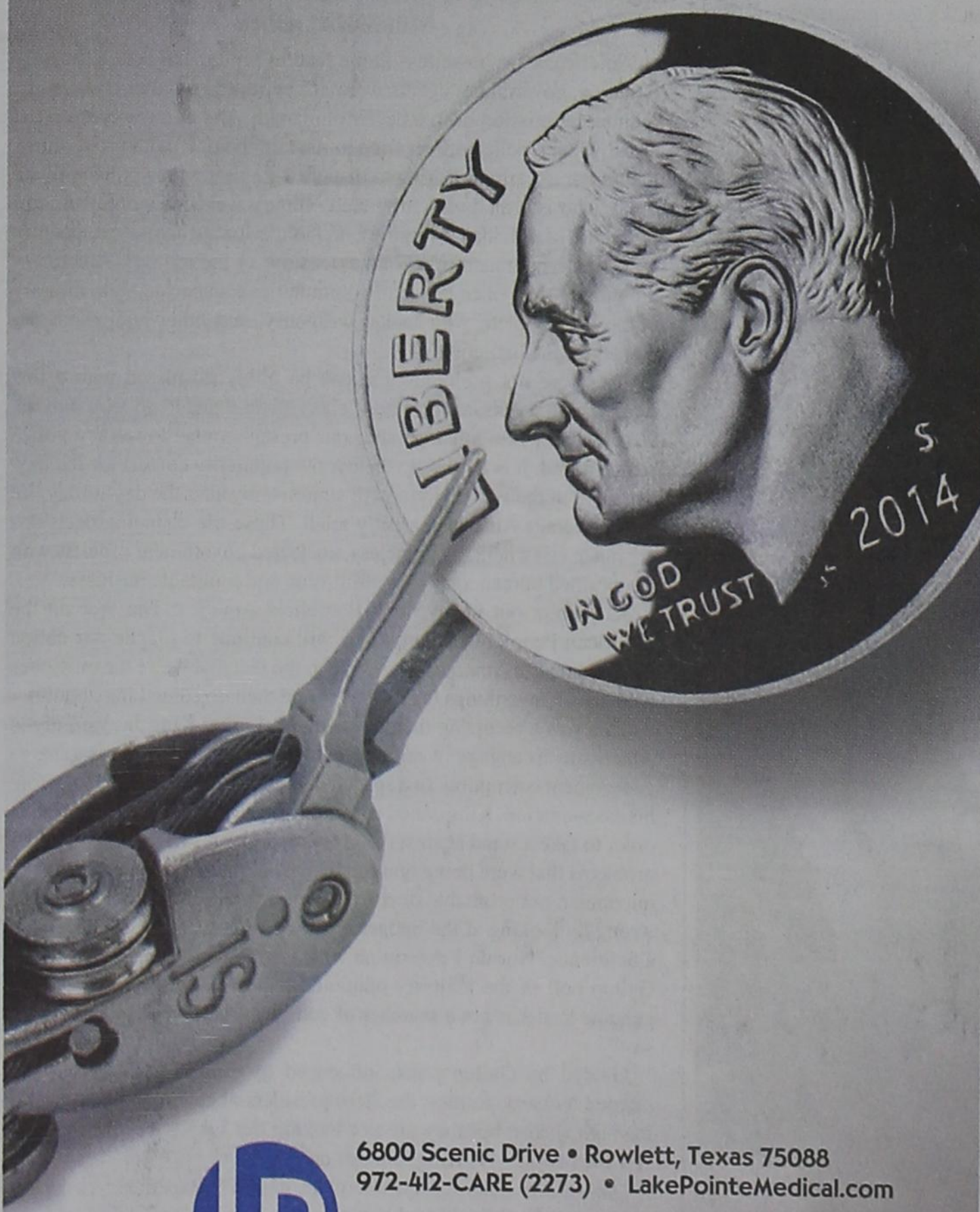
Breakfast with Santa, offered by the Rockwall Parks & Recreation Department, will be offered on Saturday, Dec. 12, at The Center. Pancakes, sausage and orange juice will be served and holiday-related activities will be provided. Santa will be on hand for the picture-perfect moment. Cost will be \$17 or \$11 for Rockwall residents. A limited number of tickets are available; pre-registration is required. For more details visit rockwall.com/parks.

Tickets available for Daddy/Daughter Dance

A Daddy/Daughter Dance, sponsored by the Rockwall Parks & Recreation Department, will run from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 23, at The Hilton Bella Harbor. Each participating girl will receive a flower at the end of the evening. Light refreshments will be served. Cost is \$99 or \$65 for Rockwall residents (\$25 for each additional child). A limited number of tickets are available; pre-registration is required. For more details visit rockwall.com/parks.

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