

Rockwall County News

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Family thankful for outcome of Jan. 10 accident on I-30

Millie Jean Coppedge has plans for every single one of those in that accident and the reason why none of them were hurt seriously or killed. "I've done with them yet," said Howard Lede, son-in-law of Howard Lede, driver of a 2007 Avalanche SUV. Lede recently was involved in an accident. Lede is the father of the three grandchildren involved in the accident. Howard Lede and his wife, Annette, were in the front seat with their grandsons were in the back seat. They were taking their oldest grandchildren, Aston, 7, Logan, 8, to school when the accident occurred. Both the older grandsons had their seatbelts on and the 13-month-old Josiah, was in the back seat. All five family members sustained skin burns from the accident, but could have been seriously injured or killed had they not had their seat belts on. Airbags deployed, but only Howard Lede's arm was cut from the force of the deployment. Each child had minor bruises and cuts, and Howard Lede also received lacerations on his hands.



This family (the grandparents and their three grandsons) was riding in a 2007 Avalanche when it became involved in the construction accident. Left to right are 13-month-old Josiah, grandmother Annette Lede, 8-year-old Logan, 7-year-old Aston, and grandfather and driver of the SUV, Howard Lede. The Ledes were taking their two oldest grandsons to school.

Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/Rockwall County News

At 8:30 a.m. Jan. 10, the accident occurred on I-30 near FM 548. According to Roysie City Chief of Police Jeff Stapleton, a white Kia hit the big pothole in the eastbound lane of westbound I-30 near Erby Campbell Boulevard, and threw it into the cement barrier. Three of the Kia's tires were blown out. The 18-wheeler behind the Kia hit the pothole and blew out some tires on the cab of the truck. The front trailer landed in the eastbound lane and the back trailer landed in the westbound lane and both east- and westbound lanes of traffic. Both the front and back outside tires of the second trailer "rode the cement barriers" and the tires were totally gone and rode on the rims.



This 2007 Avalanche was involved in the Jan. 10 accident in Roysie City on I-30 near FM 548 in which a small car hit a large pothole, then was stalled when the car hit the cement barrier to the right of the two lanes. An 18-wheeler pulling two trailers came apart after hitting the same pothole, landing the first trailer in the west bound lane and the other crashed into the barrier and landed in the eastbound lane. The SUV was headed east when the air-born trailer hit the top of his truck causing it to hit the barrier and crash. Both trailers landed on their sides.

Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/Rockwall County News

Howard and Annette Lede were in the second trailer already was damaged, and that is how the top of the 2007 Avalanche is so damaged. Howard Lede said he remembers the trailer hitting his car twice, but it opened so quickly he doesn't remember where it hit the second time. Stapleton said all seven people were taken by Rockwall EMS to Lake Point Hospital, including a woman in the Kia who received minor injuries and the driver of the 18-wheeler who sustained neck injuries. The names of the truck driver and the 18-wheeler driver are (Continued on Page 7)

Regional Corps of Engineers commander to retire

Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Kula, the commander of the Southwestern Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will retire from the U.S. Army after 32 years of service, effective April 11, according to a news release.

The Southwestern Division will change command on April 4, and will hold Kula's retirement ceremony.

"I am so very appreciative of the many opportunities I have been given to serve our nation," Kula said, "and I'm always proud of the men and women I have been fortunate to serve with and to lead. I have enjoyed the last three years with Southwestern Division supporting a seven state region and providing value to the public and our many partners. It's been a tremendous last assignment.

"I am also very grateful for all the dedication and sacrifices that my family has shown in support of my Army career. The Army is a family, and mine have always been there for me.

"Although it's always hard to end one chapter of a career, I have the best memories of the Army, and I look forward to continuing to serve our nation in other capacities."

Kula, a North Chicago, Ill., native was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers and awarded a bachelor's degree in civil engineering upon graduation from the United States Military Academy in 1982. He holds a master's degree in military arts and science from the School of Advanced Military Studies, Command and General Staff College.

His previous military assignments have included assignments in many, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., the Pentagon, and deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Brig. Gen. Richard J. Muraski, currently the SWD deputy commander, will assume command of the division until a permanent commander is named.

Kula lives in Rockwall and plans to remain in the area, according to a news release.



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Kula

City of Heath wants to make a statement with 740 entrance

by Brittany Williams
ren.brittany@yahoo.com

If a first impression really is as important as they say, the City of Heath is ready to dress to the nines.

Randy Sorensen with Jacobs Engineering, designer of the gargantuan 50-foot tall entrance feature to the city, presented the design to the council and those in attendance.

The statue would be located at the corner of Henry Chandler Road and FM 740.

According to Sorensen, the goal of the design is to create a formal entryway into the city, so there was no question that you were entering into the city of Heath.

Another goal was to incorporate the nautical theme the city already has in place.

A mast and sail-like stainless steel piece extends to the top of the feature and the city's nautical themed logo on both sides of the design.

Forty feet of landscaping will extend from the corner down 740 and will include low-maintenance grasses and plants to set-off the tower.

The feature will have internal LED lights to keep it visible at night.

"I didn't want to just put some big spot lights on it and light it up, I wanted it to glow," Sorensen said.

According to Sorensen, unless the traffic light is red, a passing driver would only have about a five second window to see the statue.

The budget given for the project was \$100,000. The proposed design is expected to cost between \$175,000 and \$300,000, which the EDC is expected to help the city pay for.

"This is something that is very representative of our brand, of our city, the theme that we have and, I think, we want to go for," Councilmember Justin Holland said of the design. "It's classy, it's distinctive, it goes with what our community as a whole has told us what they want Heath to be."

The following items were also on the agenda for discussion and action:

An application for a conditional use permit for a 480-square-foot accessory structure for agricultural use was approved by council.

A resolution was approved for the mayor to execute a professional services agreement to be awarded to Freeman-Millican, Inc. for the engineering design of the Amy Parks Drive project. Some concerns of conflict of interest were raised as the company also does other work for the city, but the city attorney advised that there was no conflict. The resolution passed.

The council approved \$3 million for street repair to be added to the Capital Improvement Project. The current total for the CIP is \$14.4 million. The plan includes projects to improve and repair streets and various other sites around the city.

Mayor Lorne Liechty proclaimed January 2014 Rockwall Women's League Month in Heath in honor of the league's 40th anniversary.

The next city council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 28, 2014.

Rockwall County News Briefs

Habitat needs meals, bottled water

The Rockwall Area Habitat for Humanity needs bottled water and meals (breakfasts and lunches) for its volunteers. For more details visit rockwallhabitat.org.

Citizens Police Academy registration underway

Registration for the City of Rockwall's Citizen Police Academy will be open until Feb. 4. The academy will run Feb. 11 through May 6, with classes set for 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays. For more details call 972-771-7765 or email pyoung@rockwall.com. Applications may be completed online at rockwallpolice.org.

(Continued on Page 3)



Royse City FFA fares well at Collin County stock show

The Royse City FFA show team earned several top spots at the 2014 Collin County Livestock Show conducted Jan. 7-10 in McKinney, according to a news release from the school.

- Results included:
- Breeding Rabbits
 - Alesia Pinto, Best of Breed with her English angora rabbit Swine
 - Caitlin Shannon, first in class with her white OPB pig; went on to win grand champion
 - Makenleigh Jones, fifth in class with her white OPB pig
 - Brianna Littlefield, eighth in class with her white OPB pig
 - William Littlefield, seventh in class with his white OPB pig
 - Tyler Martin, fourth in class and sixth in another class with his two WOPB pigs
 - Nolan Amshoff, third in class with his WOPB pig
 - Maddie Dayberry, second in class with her black OPB pig
 - Ty Pinson, fifth in class with his black OPB pig
 - Nellie Waterhouse, fourth in class with her black OPB pig
 - Madi Berry, first in class with her Duroc pig
 - Lawton Berry, second in class with his Duroc pig
 - Brianna Garcia, sixth in class with his Duroc pig
 - Colten Erbe, first in class with his Duroc pig; went on to win reserve

- champion Duroc
- Dalton Hayes, first in class with his Hampshire pig; went on to win grand champion Hampshire
- Isela Garcia, sixth in class with her Yorkshire pig
- Montana Pinson, first in class with his Yorkshire pig
- Kaylee Little, fourth in class with her Yorkshire pig
- Robin Jones, sixth in class with her Yorkshire pig
- Cody Riley, seventh in class with his Yorkshire pig
- Taylor Stroud, fourth in class with her Yorkshire pig
- Montana Pinson, second in class with his Yorkshire pig
- Lane Hudson, sixth in class with his Yorkshire pig
- Kaitlyn Johnson, first in class with her Yorkshire pig; went on to win reserve champion Yorkshire and placed first in class with her Crossbred pig
- Taylor Sutton, second in class with her Crossbred pig
- Caitlin Shannon, third in class with her Crossbred pig
- Mary Gilliland, fourth in class with her Crossbred pig
- Chance Damron, second in class with his Crossbred pig
- Baillie Anderson, seventh in class with her Crossbred pig
- Kelton Ward, first in class with one of his Crossbred pigs; third in class with another
- Tre Green, first in class with his Crossbred pig

- Cameron Parrish, sixth in class with his Crossbred pig
- Market Goats
- Garrett Watts, sixth in class with his market goat
- Cole Jones, eighth in class with both of his market goats
- Market Sheep
- Hannah Jones, first in class with her finewool lamb; went on to win grand champion finewool
- Hannah Jones, second in class with her medium wool lamb
- Breeding Heifers
- Mary Gilliland, first in class with her ARB heifer; went on to win grand champion ARB, then grand champion American and super reserve champion
- Lexi Ruff, second in class with her Simmental heifer; went on to win reserve champion Simmental
- Market Steer
- Cooper Gilliland, second in class with his middle-weight English steer
- Showmanship
- Mary Gilliland, grand champion, Junior Swine Showmanship
- Grand Champion Beef Heifer Showmanship
- Kaitlyn Johnson, grand champion, Senior Swine Showmanship
- Hannah Jones, grand champion, Senior Sheep Showmanship
- Cooper Gilliland, reserve champion, Senior Steer Showmanship



Royse City FFA member Mary Gilliland, pictured above, earned several awards at the 2014 Collin County Livestock Show in McKinney earlier this month. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

A&M Club awards scholarships

The Rockwall County A&M Club recently awarded several scholarships to Rockwall County residents returning to the College Station university for the spring semester. Recipients of scholarships provided through the organization's Endowed Scholarship Program included Emily Coltharp, recipient of a scholarship given in honor of Duke (1960) and Sue Burnett; Spencer Thames, recipient of a scholarship given in honor of Clarence (1965) and Leigh Plagens; Josiah Bezet, recipient of a scholarship given in honor of Tom and Margaret Davison (1978); and Kameron Svoboda, recipient of a scholarship given in honor of Karen McKee Woodliff (1998). Pictured from the left are Svoboda, Davison and Coltharp.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



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Ainsley Forrester was presented the Rockwall Student of Honor recognition at the Jan. 9 lunch meeting. She attends Dorothy Smith Pullen Elementary. Pullen principal Renee Demianovich is shown presenting the award. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Joyce Jackson and her Son Charlie Roach

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Four locals named to Dean's List

Four local residents were among the more than 1,200 Hard University students at Seat Ark., included on the Dean's List for grades achieved during the semester, according to a university news release.

Honorees included Linda Fere, a senior from Royse City; Mich Kelley, a junior from Royse City; Bethany Lasley, a senior from Rockwall; and Julie White, sophomore from Rockwall.

The Dean's List recognizes those who have achieved 12 or more hours with a 3.65 or higher grade point average and no incomplete

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continued from page 5

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Legal Notices

Jose Cruz and Adriana Guerrero
12223 Quail Drive No 325
Balch Springs, TX 75180

Re: Notice to owner to repair, demolish or remove the structure located at 410 & 416 Yvonne, Rockwall, TX, 75032.

Reference City Ordinance: Chapter 10 - BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS
ARTICLE XIII. - DANGEROUS BUILDINGS SECTION 10-537

According to the Rockwall County Appraisal District, you are the registered owner of the property known as ROCKWALL LAKE EST #2 LOT 1088 MH SERIAL # 12011978 LABEL # TEX0251898 REDMAN, located at 410-416 YVONNE, in Rockwall, Texas 75032. This lot contains two vacated structures and has been declared dangerous by the Building Official of the City of Rockwall.

You are hereby ordered to appear before the City Council on February 3, 2014 at 6:00 P.M., to show cause, if any you have, why the building or structure, or any part thereof, should not be repaired, demolished or removed. At the conclusion of the hearing, the City Council may order the structures repaired, demolished, or removed as the Council deems necessary.

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City of Rockwall
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Opinions America's surveillance state

(continued from the Thursday January 16, 2014 edition)

by Wendy McElroy
Future Freedom Foundation
FFF.org

The sort of data collected included sexual preferences, especially homosexuality; information on family members, including children; tax and other financial records; names of friends, associates, and funders; travel and events attended; transcripts of letters and phone calls; and mental and physical health records. The information was used in several ways. Perhaps first and foremost, the FBI wished to establish that the AFC or any of its members had received foreign funding. If so, they could be prosecuted as "unregistered foreign agents." The FBI also searched for prosecutable treason, such as a statement of desire to assassinate Roosevelt; the Smith Act of 1940 allowed prosecution of those who sought to violently overthrow the U.S. government. In the meantime the FBI used the information gathered to smear Roosevelt's opponents through leaks to popular and cooperative media men like the radio phenomenon Walter Winchell. A common smear aimed at those on whom the FBI could not discover dirt was to accuse them of being spies in the pay of the German government.

Notably, no criminal or otherwise prosecutable activity was revealed on the major targets, although the FBI, in Charles's words, "extensively and systematically monitored administration critics while seeking to undermine them."

Charles painstakingly chronicles the rise of FBI powers through recounting the specific surveillance and other tactics used against Lindbergh, Wheeler, Walsh, Nye, and Roosevelt critic Rep. Hamilton Fish. For example, Walsh was accused of visiting a male brothel; Fish was accused of tax evasion.

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed the American naval installation at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Shortly thereafter, America was at war with the Axis powers, and the AFC disbanded. Nevertheless, FBI investigations continued. To justify continued surveillance, Hoover claimed the AFC had only gone underground, although all FBI field reports concluded that the AFC had indeed disbanded.

Charles narrates this period by presenting three cases pursued by the FBI. "What is particularly striking about the three FBI targets to be analyzed here..." he writes, "is that their cases preceded, and were a clear step toward, the much more publicized "great sedition trial," which serves as a marker for the peak of the domestic security state. The trial involved thirty alleged fascists who in January 1944 were charged with a "plot to incite mutiny in the armed forces."

The three targets were the ultraconservative Ethel Brigham, the revisionist historian Harry Elmer Barnes, and noted female aviator Laura Houghtaling Ingalls. The administration was finally able to prosecute Ingalls after discovering that some of her lectures had been partially funded by a German supporter. Thus she could be charged with being an "unregistered agent of a foreign power." Through these cases,

Charles demonstrates how the FBI evolved from a political arm of the White House to an aggressive agency that acted with something close to autonomy. Certainly during the Cold War years, the FBI abandoned public prosecution in favor of secret and illegal programs such as COINTELPRO (Counter Intelligence Program).

History has disproportionately dealt with the FBI's activities during the Red Scare and the Cold War largely because the FBI files on the great debate period before World War II were closed to research until recently. If Douglas M. Charles did nothing more than chronicle this hitherto unknown history, his accomplishment would be impressive. Douglas does much more. He demonstrates how the domestic surveillance and counterintelligence programs of the Cold War were rooted in the backlash against noninterventionism. That's when aggressive illegal tactics and secrecy procedures became entrenched; that's when Hoover became an autonomous and untouchable player on the American political scene; that's when extensive data sharing with foreign governments became a common practice.

"The FBI's secretive relationship with British intelligence illustrates the embryonic origins of the institutional side of the national security state," Charles writes. "A hallmark of the Second World War, Cold War, and War on Terrorism, the intimate intelligence relationship between the United States and Great Britain had its origins during the Great Debate."

The FBI's almost invulnerable autonomy could not survive Hoover's death, however. "Following Hoover's death in 1972, and revelations of intrusive FBI domestic surveillance activities, FBI investigations were formally restricted to prevent the bureau from investigating political oriented groups."

Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, however, powerful forces within the Bush administration "believed these restrictions impeded counterterrorism efforts by preventing the employment of undercover agents to monitor, without probable cause, religious and political groups. Accordingly, FBI activities were expanded to include broad wiretapping and other investigative authority. Through the PATRIOT Act, the agency regained its ability to conduct political domestic surveillance. The FBI surveillance authority has done nothing but expand since then.

"It is during this critical period [the great debate]..." Charles concludes, "that FBI officials [first] acquired increased investigative authority and resorted to sensitive investigative techniques, like wiretapping, and violated investigative restrictions — all in the name of combating 'subversive activity,' but too often, in reality, with a prime objective and end result being the monitoring of domestic political activity while violating the civil liberties of foreign policy critics." Douglas M. Charles has produced an invaluable work of scholarly excellence. This article originally appeared in the September 2013 edition of Future of Freedom.

Congress defers to President on NSA reforms

by Ron Paul
RonPaulInstitute.org

Congress's decline from the Founders' vision as "first among equals" in government to an echo chamber of the unitary executive, has been a slow but steady process. In the process we have seen a steady stream of unconstitutional wars and civil liberties abuses at home. Nowhere is this decline more evident than in the stark contrast between the Congressional response to intelligence agencies' abuses during the post-Watergate era and its response to the far more serious NSA abuses uncovered in recent years.

In 1975, Senator Frank Church (D-ID) convened an historic select committee to investigate the US intelligence services for possible criminality in the wake of Watergate. Thanks in part to reporting by Seymour Hersh and others, abuses by the CIA, NSA, and FBI had come to light, including the monitoring of US peace activists.

The Church Committee played its proper Congressional role, checking the power of the executive branch as it had been spiraling out of control since the 1950s and the early CIA covert action programs. The Committee sought to protect US citizens against abuses by their government after those abuses had come to light through leaks of secret government documents.

The parallel to the present NSA scandals cannot be ignored. What is completely different, however, is that Congress is today acting as an advocate for the executive branch's continuing abuses, and as an opponent to the civil liberties of US citizens. Not only has Congress — with a precious few exceptions — accepted the NSA's mass spying program on American citizens, it has actually been encouraging the president to continue and expand the program!

Where once there was a Congressional committee to challenge and oppose the president's abuse of power, today the president himself has been even allowed by a complacent Congress to hand pick his own NSA review commission!

Are we really expected to believe that a commission appointed by the president to look into the activities of the president's intelligence services will come to anything more than a few superficial changes to give the impression of real reform?

One of the president's commission recommendations is that the NSA cease holding our phone records and demand that the private phone companies retain those records instead — for the NSA to access as it wishes. This is supposed to be reform?

The president will make a speech this Friday to tell the rest of which of the suggestions made by his own commission he will decide to implement. Congress has no problem with that. Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) admitted last week that Congress has no intention of asserting itself in the process. "It's my hope that [Obama will] do as much as he can through the executive process because the legislative process will be difficult, perilous and long."

Senator Church famously said back in 1975:

In the need to develop a capacity to know what potential enemies are doing, the United States government has perfected a technological capability that enables us to monitor the messages that go through the air... We must know, at the same time, that capability at any time could be turned around on the American people, and no American would have any privacy left... There would be no place to hide... I know the capacity that is there to make tyranny total in America and we must see to it that this agency and all agencies that possess this technology operate within the law and under proper supervision so that we never cross over that abyss. That is the abyss from which there is no return."

Have we reached that point? Let us hope not. Real reform begins with the repeal of the PATRIOT Act and of the 2001 Authorization for the use of military force. If we keep our eye on that goal and not allow ourselves to become distracted with the president's phone commissions we might force Congress to listen.

Just Say You Saw It In the "County News"

Royse City News

Royse City School Board recognizes students, staff

by Millie Jean Coppedge
 The Royse City ISD Might Bulldog Band's Jazz Ensemble led by Doug Hood, band director, played a melody of 3 songs for the packed crowd at the Jan. 13th Royse City School Board meeting. They received a standing ovation at the conclusion of their performance.
 Students from the boys football team 13-A All-District, were recognized and honored by the Athletic Director David Petroff. Students receiving Honorable Mention were Jackson Watts, Jay Milton, Alex Crayton, Tucker, Joel Dunn, Jared Lofuis, Brandyn Brown and Cameron Adams. Brandon Martinez - 1st Team Offensive Running Back, Deandre Williams - 1st Team Offensive Back, Alex Ramsey - 2nd Team Running Back and Jake Glisch - 2nd Team Receiver.
 Students from the girls volleyball team All District Honors were recognized by the Girls Athletic Director, Dallas Bookout and Head Coach Jamie Dover. Those students were Autumn Quinn - 1st Team All District and Eilish Poe - 2nd Team All District. Honorable Mentions were Rebecca Sherman, Sabrina Kidd, Taylor Gill, and Ariana Woltman.
 Students from the District 13-4A Cross County were recognized by the Athletic Director Dallas Bookout and Head Cross County Coach Eric McMasters. Cross County recognition went to Newcomer of the Year - Daphne Foreman, and Academic All-District Danielle Allen, and Merillat, and Rachel Robertson.
 Finally, the 2013 Girls Cross Country Accomplishments were that Varsity Girls placed 4th overall, Flowermound Invitational - 4-A Varsity Girls took 1st place over all, Swept the Denison Invitational Cross Country Meet - THE BEAST: Varsity Girls and JV Girls placed 1st overall. Presenters for the awards were Girls Athletic Director, Dallas Bookout and Head Cross County Coach Brooke McMasters.
 The month of January is School Board Appreciation Month. Several students had made posters, banners and a variety of gifts for the members of the board to show their appreciation. Several different school representatives -- students, teachers and principals -- came forward to present gifts made by students.
 Key Margot, Fort Elementary Gifted & Talented teacher, was awarded the 1st Century Learning award by Zach Snow, the instructional technology coordinator.
 Key Kaye Hudson gave the federal programs report, noting that the ISD presently has eight or nine homeless students at this time. Each individual school makes sure the students have everything they need in

the way emotional and financial support, school supplies, clothing, etc.
 Transportation director Tammy Lovelace, in giving her report to the board, gave a PowerPoint presentation that showed that during the 2013-2014 school year, the 39 route buses will travel 476,329 miles to get students to and from school; 45,714 miles for extracurricular activities; 5,814 for tutorials; and 10,952 miles for summer school, making a total of 538,809 miles. The report showed that 57.89 percent of the total enrollment of Royse City school district students ride the bus, and the drivers transport 3,014 students per day.
 "Thank you all here tonight for staying for this long meeting (as it did not adjourn until 9:15 p.m.)," trustee Eric Fort said. "This board meshes very well together to do what is best for our students."
 "Tonight's meeting was awesome, with people lining the walls, all seats

full and so many students honored," said trustee Scott Mackensturm.
 "I appreciate the job all the board members do," Bobby Summers, the board secretary, said. "We've got 5,000 kids now and that is a lot of responsibility."
 "Seeing my kids come home every day happy and they really want to be at school is the reason we do what we do for the kids," said trustee Brian Zator.
 Board president Julie Stutts closed the board members' comments section of the meeting. "It is a privilege and honor to have my three kids in this district," she said.
 Board vice president Don Palmer and trustee Jerry Richardson, Place 2, were absent from the school board meeting.
 The next board meeting is scheduled for March 20.



Students present gifts they made to members of the Royse City Independent School District Board of Trustees in recognition of School Board Recognition Month.
 Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/Rockwall County News

ONCOR addresses Royse City Council regarding recent ice storm

by Millie Jean Coppedge
 City Tayem, ONCOR representative, explained to the Royse City Council during its Jan. 14 meeting exactly how the company responds to ice storms.
 They used the Dec. 5 ice storm as an example and explained the sequence of events that occur in order to restore power to homes and businesses when electric power is lost. She said that 232,000 meters of wire were cut at the peak time during this storm, and the company restored power because of the completion of repairs related to the storm. According to the website, ONCOR is "a regulated electric transmission and distribution utility provider that serves 10 million customers across the state of Texas and has more than 3,000 employees."
 City Manager, Alsbrook, told the council that since the Holiday event for Dec. 7 had to be canceled because of bad weather, a Winter Wonderland is being planned from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 15 in the downtown area. There will be an ice skating rink, inflatables, a snow-tumbling hill, mini-train rides and a vendors' market.
 During the council meeting, a resolution was passed unanimously appointing Lucille Bell, Mike Gilbert and Clay Ellis to the Heritage Preservation Committee.
 The issue of the museum in Royse City came up again, having been discussed at the last meeting. Mainly the two issues are regarding what the museum's official name is and whether there is a City Advisory Board for the museum.
 There has been much controversy over whether the museum is called the Zaner Robinson Historical Museum or Royse City Museum. At the same time, the banner hanging in front of the museum reads Royse City Museum.
 Stegall, Royse City CFO, said two weeks ago that the sign up now against the city ordinance as it is clearly a "banner" and not a sign. He would locate the original sign that said Zaner Robinson Historical Museum and have it put back up, but during the meeting said he has been unable to locate the sign. No one seems to know who took down the sign or put up the banner.
 One of the councilmen said there is no official City Advisory Board for the museum, so the council shouldn't even be discussing it.
 Brenda Craft, the city secretary, said the Code of Ordinance says the museum is still called Zaner.
 "Let this cleared up. I don't want to hear any more about this," Mayor Bill Baley said.
 "When will you don't we put this on next week's agenda and vote on it?" Councilman James Branch said.

"Well, we do have a City Advisory Board for the museum on the books, but no one is on it," said Alsbrook.
 It was established at the last council meeting that there was a Friends of the Royse City Museum Board. (On Aug. 17, 2011, a letter from the Office of the Secretary of State was sent to the Friends, stating, "It is our pleasure to file the certificate and issue the enclosed certificate of filing evidencing the existence of the newly created nonprofit corporation." The official certificate is dated Aug. 16, 2011, and reads, "Certificate of Filing of Friends of the Royse City Museum, Inc.")
 Thus, according to information presented at recent council sessions the Advisory Board and the Friends of the Royse City Museum Board are separate entities. The Friends is a volunteer group formed to assist with the needs of the museum such as hosting fundraising events to pay for things the museum needs. The question of just what the City Advisory Board for the museum actually does and its responsibilities still has not been answered. In the last meeting, Baley noted that the city board had no responsibility.
 Robby McMillan said wanted to address the council, so he was asked to come to the podium so he could be clearly heard. He is involved with the museum and serves as treasurer on the Friends of the Museum Board.
 "I don't think Royse City needs a formal city board," he said. "I think you need a liaison from the Friends of the Museum to report to the City Council as to what the Friends are doing."
 Jason Day, the city attorney, suggested the issue be tabled and discussed at the Jan. 28 council meeting, allowing more information to be gathered on both issues. A unanimous vote of the council was to table the issue and address it at the next meeting.

On a closing note, Alsbrook said that the pothole was the cause of the accident that occurred in the I-30 construction area near FM 548 on Jan. 10, involving the 18-wheeler, automobile and SUV. Webber LLC, the construction company working on the Erby Campbell Project, and the city are working to keep the potholes filled and the road in safe traveling condition.
 All city council and staff were present at the meeting.
 The next council meeting will be Jan. 28 at the Police and Courts Building, 100 West Main Street, Royse City.

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I-30 accident in Royse City ...

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... and the woman were not available to the newspaper press time.
 The investigating officer for the crash is Officer John Ostrowski with the Royse City Police Department.
 Royse City Police and Fire Departments, Fate DPS and Fire Department, the Highway Patrol and Rockwall County Sheriff's Department all took part in clearing the scene of the accident and subsequent traffic control for the next two days. Traffic in both directions was diverted onto the alternate roads," said Stapleton.
 I-30 remained closed until the afternoon of Jan. 11 to accommodate cleanup and the repair and/or replacement of concrete barriers and pavement. To clean up the debris, an additional wrecker was brought in to transfer the goods.
 A hodgepodge of goods -- coil springs, items of clothing, gallon drums of grape juice -- among the items transferred removed from the highway. Tractor, tow trucks and a crane

had to be used for the cleanup," Stapleton said.
 Chub's Towing and Recovery from Rockwall was called in to help remove the damaged vehicles. A tractor-trailer wrecker, two heavy-duty wreckers and three flatbed wreckers were used to transfer the vehicles from the scene.
 "Going from the angle of the construction itself of the Erby Campbell Project, growth is part of the process and inconveniences Royse City will face. That is one of my fears," Stapleton said, "that in case of a serious accident like this one last week, the traffic became so heavy so quickly that we could not get emergency vehicles to the scene, between the traffic and the construction itself. A Royse City fire truck was trying to enter I-30 near McDonalds, but couldn't get through because of the gridlock. If there were a car fire, other serious incident or a fatality, my people wouldn't be able to get to the scene in a timely manner."
 "With this accident, we couldn't get people out of the scene for

over an hour due to the gridlock. An ambulance coming to the scene got caught up in the gridlock of the traffic and when there were no shoulders for the ambulance to move around the traffic, it couldn't reach the accident site," he said. "So another ambulance was called and by taking a different route, was able to get to the scene. Due to the mud and the fact that a gurney couldn't roll toward the most seriously hurt victim, the truck driver, he had to be physically carried to the waiting ambulance."
 All seven injured passengers were transported in the same ambulance. The truck driver was placed on the stretcher and the others sat on the benches for the trip. Annette Lede held the baby on her lap, according to reports.
 Stapleton said it is a great frustration when an accident happens and emergency vehicles can't get to the scene. He said Royse City still has two more years of construction to endure, and he fears future such happenings.

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