

Rockwall County News

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Traffic snarls at the intersection of Goliad (Hwy 205) and Ridge Rod (FM 740) continues to frustrate Rockwall drivers. Traffic congestion is a primary complaint aired in a recent citizen survey.

Photo by Tim Burnett

Rockwall traffic congestion number one citizen gripe

by Judy Evans

in the City of Rockwall. It would be near perfect if traffic congestion were eliminated and Olive Garden, Red Lobster, Barnes & Noble and Central Market or Whole Foods would locate

Other findings were tracked in the 2008 Citizen Survey, conducted by Raymond Turco & Associates. Results were taken from 12,719 households in Rockwall completed from a mailing to 12,719 households in November 2008.

95% of respondents to the survey (95%) indicated they were very satisfied (51%) or satisfied (44%) with the quality of life in Rockwall. Dissatisfaction has declined since 2003 from 8% to 4% in 2005 to its current rate of 4%. Seven out of 10 respondents

replied that, as a community, Rockwall has improved. Traffic congestion (42%) was considered by far the most critical problem in the City today. On the plus side, that is down 10% from 2003.

With the overwhelming support and the passion they showed for the City, a major improvement in their perception of Rockwall, said City Manager Julie Couch.

"On the board, we see improvement," she said, noting that the survey was taken at a specific retail operation (Costco) and a recreation outlet with bowling (Shenanigans) - both high on the list of desired businesses - have opened.

City services improving and property maintenance were overwhelmingly supported.

City services were General community safety (95%), Police (96%), Fire (95%), Opportunities offered at The

Harbor District (92%), Fire (91%) and Animal control (91%).

City services with the lowest approval ratings were Efforts with major roadways (35%), Efforts to improve traffic movement (45%), Preservation/revitalization of Downtown Square (61%), Maintenance of neighborhood streets (61%), Opportunities offered at Historic Downtown area (68%).

In other findings, 89% of responders said they could find what they wanted to buy in Rockwall. Books topped the list of items difficult to find followed by clothing and shoes, furniture and specialty food grocery stores. 78% said there were ample entertainment opportunities in the City.

Assistant City Manager Rick Crowley said he was pleased with the improvement in city service ratings, adding that, "It's also nice to know that citizens said they could generally buy what they wanted, go out to dinner and pursue entertainment in Rockwall."

Responders ranked Lake Ray Hubbard and a small town atmosphere as contributing to making Rockwall a unique place to live.

They overwhelmingly supported continuing the police department's Holiday Crime Watch program (98%) and increased patrol of neighborhoods and commercial areas (96%).

Local newspapers remain the most popular source for information about the City along with the newsletter inserted in water bills, word-of-mouth, the City Fun Guide and City website. Water bill inserts gained in reliability, but not local newspapers or word-of-mouth.

Jogging/biking trails, more neighborhood parks and a performing arts center topped the list of park and other facility projects residents would most strongly support being funded by the City in the next five years.

News Briefs

LCC auditions offered

The Lakeside Civic Chorus is inviting all interested chorus singers to audition. General membership requires sight-reading abilities, vocal quality, ability to blend vocally and previous ensemble experience. For details visit lakesidecivicchorus.org or contact David Bush, LCC director, at 972-679-4227 or bushdl@swbell.net.

HH food drive set at Brookshire's

Brookshire's in Rockwall will host a food drive for the Helping Hands food pantry beginning Saturday and running through July 4. Items needed include Tuna, Chicken or Hamburger Helper, rice, dry beans, canned meats, peanut butter, jelly, pasta and child-friendly snacks. For more details call 972-771-HELP.

Farmers Market open Saturday

The Rockwall Farmers Market, offering locally grown fruits and vegetables, honey, jams, jellies, flowers and other items, is open from 8 a.m. to noon every Saturday in the downtown square.

Conservative Coffee Meet-up scheduled

A conservative coffee meet-up is set for 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Texas Roast, 2435 Ridge Road in Rockwall. Michael Quinn Sullivan of empowertexas.com will serve as discussion leader, and the discussion will focus on the last legislative session. Issues will include local, state and national topics. Open to conservatives of all ages.

Church plans 'Come and See'

Faithbridge Church, a new-church ministry of the First United Methodist Church of Rockwall, will host a Come and See at 3 p.m. Sunday. The event will give the public a chance to see what the new church will be like.

City seeks board, commission applications

The City of Rockwall is accepting applications for board and commission appointments. Application forms and descriptions of positions are available online at rockwall.com/citysecretary or from the city secretary's office in City Hall. Applications must be received by noon on Monday.

Stingerette Summer Camp scheduled

Girls in grades K-8 can participate in the Rockwall High School Stingerette Summer Camp, July 21-24 at Williams Middle School. Activities will run from 9 a.m. to noon; first day check-in 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$70 through Monday; \$80 on the first day. For details contact Claire Shippy, cshippy@sbcglobal.net or call 972-816-8857.

Republican Lunch Bunch to meet

The Rockwall County Republican Lunch Bunch will meet at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at Luigi's Italian Café in Rockwall. Cost is \$10, which includes lunch, beverage, tax and tip. Pay at the door; no reservations required for this informal social gathering for area Republicans. For details call Dalton Kennimer, 972-636-4034.

Petty Theft to give lakeside concert

Petty Theft will perform at the free City of Rockwall Concert by the Lake Series event beginning at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at The Harbor Amphitheater, 2047 Summer Lee Drive. For more information visit rockwall.com/parks.

City of Heath offices to mark holiday

The City of Heath offices will be closed July 3 in observance of the Independence Day holiday. Normal business hours will resume on July 7.

Farmers Market open July 4

The Rockwall Farmers Market, offering locally grown fruits and vegetables, honey, jams, jellies, flowers and other items, will be open from 8 a.m. to noon July 4 in the downtown square.

Parade, Popsicles in the Park set

The annual City of Heath Independence Day Parade and Popsicles in the Park will take place July 4. The parade will begin at 9 a.m. at Amy Parks-Heath Elementary. After the parade, free popsicles will be served in the Towne Center Park Pavilion behind City Hall. For more details visit heathtx.com or call 972-771-6228.

Old Town to host July 4 parade

The Old Town Rockwall Neighborhood Association and Community Bank will host the 10th Annual Fourth of July Parade beginning at 11 a.m. The route will run through the square, south on Fannin, east on Munson and west on Clark back to Kaufman. For details call Sherry Pittman at 469-698-9588 or visit oldtownrockwall.com.

FourthFest planned in Royse City

Royse City's 4th Annual FourthFest Parade and Festivities is set for July 4. The parade will begin at 6 p.m. in the downtown area, followed by activities, music and food at the old RCHS football stadium. A fireworks display is set for 9:15 p.m. For details visit roysecity.com or call 972-636-5000; parade entrants must register in advance.

Fireworks show set at Harry Myers Park

A Rockwall Parks & Rec Department-sponsored fireworks show synchronized to music will be offered at dusk on July 4. Participants are encouraged to bring picnic baskets, FM radios and blankets or lawn chairs.

America's Tea Party Fourth event set

A non-partisan group of activists, Dallas Tea Party, will host America's Tea Party celebration at the Southfork Ranch near

News Briefs Continued on Page 2



Regatta of sail boats competing in the Dallas Race Week earlier this week. Racing events continue through today (6/26/09) on Lake Ray Hubbard. Today's circle course race starts and finishes at Chandler's Landing Yacht Club. The post-race activities will be held at the pavilion at Chandler's Landing Marina. Watch for race details in the Rockwall County News next week.

Photo by Kathy Irwin



Members of the Relay for Life Rowlett Presented by Lake Pointe Medical Center committee accept a check for \$5,000 from Lake Pointe Medical Center CEO Carolyn Jackson (left) and LPMC Director of Business Development Jeff Patterson (right). LPMC is the presenting sponsor for the fourth annual Rowlett event. Receiving the check with Jackson and Patterson are Relay sponsorship committee member Kathie Zahn, Relay accounting chair B.J. Eggleston, American Cancer Society representative Denise Hodges, Relay teams chair Jan May Hand and Relay sponsorship chair Staci Mauldin. Not pictured is event chairperson Sherry Lundswick. The Relay will take place from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., Sept. 25-26 at Rowlett High School. The event committee meets at 7 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at First United Methodist Church in Rowlett. Those interested in more information about serving on a committee, organizing a Relay team or the event in general, may contact Staci Mauldin at 214-607-1660 or by e-mail at lakesidetax@verizon.net. The Relay committee is also sponsoring a golf tournament on Saturday, Aug. 21 at Waterview Golf Club, with proceeds going to the American Cancer Society. Tee time is 8 a.m. For more information about the golf tournament, contact Sheri Lundswick, event chair, at 214-534-8062.

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Rockwall water not under 'boil' advisory

A Dallas television station erroneously reported earlier this week that City of Rockwall water customers should boil their water prior to consumption; however, according to a municipi-

pal news release the city's water is under no such order.

"(WFAA-TV) Channel 8 News reported... a 'boil water' advisory, which implies that City of Rockwall customers should boil their water before drinking," the news release stated. "This report is an error. The City of Rockwall is not included in that notice."

The 'boil' advisory applied to High Point Water Supply Corp. customers, which serves southern Rockwall County residents, according to the news release. No residents within the City of Rockwall are served by High Point.

For more information, call 972-771-7700.

Library Holiday Closing

Rockwall County Library will be closed Friday, July 3rd and Saturday, July 4th for the Fourth of July Holiday. The library will re-open on Monday, July 6th at 10 a.m.

Just say you saw it in the "County News"

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News Brief

(Continued from Page 1)

Dallas. The free July 4 event will run from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. including fireworks at 9:30 p.m. Events will include special games, food, a children's area and full cash bar. Park \$10.

'Treasures of the Desert' VBS plans

A "Treasures of the Desert" vacation Bible school is planned from 11:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. July 7-10 at the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 1524 Smirl Drive, in Heath. Co-hosted by Holy Trinity Presbyterian of Rockwall, the event will be open to children ages 4 through completion of fifth grade. Call 972-771-8222 for details.

Church day care enrollment under way

The First United Methodist Church of Heath is currently accepting enrollment for the summer and fall sessions of its Little V Care program. Summer sessions for children ages 2 to 5 will begin July 7 and continue through July 30. For information, contact the church office at 972-771-6732 or visit funcheath.org.

Intro to Computers class offered

An Introduction to Computers course for ages 50 and over will be run from 10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. July 7 and July 9 at the City of Rockwall Amphitheater. Cost will be \$20 for Rockwall residents, \$30 for non-residents. For more details, visit rockwall.com/parks.

Moving Colors plans Harbor concert

Moving Colors will perform at the free City of Rockwall Harbor Amphitheater, 2047 Summer Lee Drive, beginning at 7:30 p.m. July 9. For more information, visit rockwall.com/parks.

Out-to-Lunch Bunch set July 10

The Out-to-Lunch Bunch will meet at 10 a.m. July 10 at the City of Rockwall Garden. Cost will be \$7 for Rockwall residents, \$11 for non-residents. For more details, visit rockwall.com/parks.

Art camp to focus on safari fun

A safari-themed art camp for ages 3-6 will be offered to noon July 13-17 at the Harry Myers Community Center. Cost will be \$139 for Rockwall residents, \$194 for non-residents. For more details, visit rockwall.com/parks.

Modern Art Camp set

Youths ages 6-10 will learn about a variety of contemporary art in the Modern Art Camp that will run from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. July 13-17 at the Harry Myers Community Center. Cost will be \$139 for Rockwall residents, \$194 for non-residents. For more details, visit rockwall.com/parks.

Surfing the 'Net' class available

A Surfing the 'Net' class for individuals ages 50 and over will be offered from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at The Center. Cost will be \$50 for Rockwall residents, \$100 for non-residents. For more details, visit rockwall.com.

The Pictures plan concert at lake

The Pictures will perform at the free City of Rockwall Harbor Amphitheater, 2047 Summer Lee Drive, beginning at 7:30 p.m. July 16. For more information, visit rockwall.com/parks.

Red Hot Robots Camp offered

Robots of all types will be the focus of a camp for 9-12 to run from 9 a.m. to noon July 20-24 in the Rockwall Education Center Gym. Cost for Rockwall residents will be \$140. For non-residents will pay \$210. For more details, visit rockwall.com/parks.

Random Axis is featured band

Random Axis will perform at the free City of Rockwall Harbor Amphitheater, 2047 Summer Lee Drive, beginning at 7:30 p.m. July 30. For more information, visit rockwall.com/parks.

Science camp scheduled

A camp covering a multitude of sciences – from biology to chemistry – will be offered from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 27-31 at the Harry Myers Community Center. The program is for youths ages 6-9. Cost will be \$140 for Rockwall residents, \$210 for non-residents. For more details, visit rockwall.com/parks.

Airwave 80s to play at Harbor

Airwave 80s will perform at the free City of Rockwall Harbor Amphitheater, 2047 Summer Lee Drive, beginning at 7:30 p.m. July 30. For more information, visit rockwall.com/parks.

FUMC Heath to host Bible school

The First United Methodist Church of Heath will host a Vacation Bible school from 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 3-7. Sign-up sheets are available at the church office or at the church Web site: www.fumc.org. Registration costs \$15 per child or \$35 for three or more children of the same family. Scholarships are available. For details call 972-771-6732.

Secret Agent Camp set

CSI-themed science activities will be offered in a Secret Agent Camp for youths ages 9-12. The event will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 3-7 in the Rockwall ISD Education Center Gym. Cost will be \$140 for Rockwall residents, \$210 for non-residents. For more details, visit rockwall.com/parks.

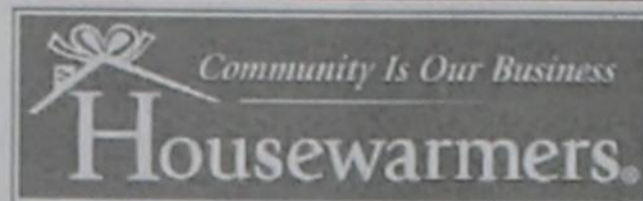
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It is the mission of this newspaper to promote the best interests of individuals, guided by the principles so eloquently described in the American Declaration of Independence: The right of life, liberty and ownership of property are the cornerstones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

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Jacob Polakoff and Shannon Caraway

Caraway, Polakoff plan June 27 ceremony

Doug and Vicky Caraway of Rockwall are proud to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Shannon Leigh Caraway of Denton, to Jacob Joseph Polakoff of Denton, son of Peter and Jeanette Polakoff of Dallas.

The bride and groom are alumni of the University of North Texas. A June 27, 2009, wedding is planned. The ceremony will take place at St. Marks Catholic Church in Denton.

Just Say You Saw It In

"The County News"



Sign at Lakeside Chevrolet tells the story of the local dealerships joining the new GM organization. General Manager commented, "We were recently invited to be a part of GM. We'll be a GM dealer for years to come. The future is bright and we're as excited about Chevrolet as we've been time. For nearly 40 years Rockwall has been very good to us. We look forward to serving our community for many years."

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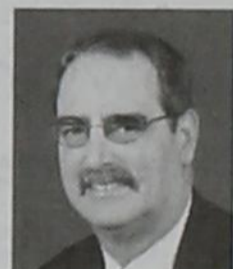
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flu

Diagnoses camp

Muscular Dystrophy Association announced last week canceled the remaining annual summer camp because of the H1N1

children are much merable because of ned respiratory mus- Dr. Valerie Cwik of "We are taking this action to protect possible exposure to u."

ately 1,800 children ed 33 MDA summer the past month. Of 1 cases of swine flu ed after the children ip.

information about mp or the MDA visit or contact Abbey n at amclaughlin@

You Saw It In

County News"

Texas P on 2009



Pictured above are a handful of the Rockwall ISD teachers who received award grants recently from the Rockwall ISD Education Foundation. Standing are Darlene Humphries, Carol Fuller, Cindy Waltrip, Beverly Stovall, Lori Dyer, Katie Walker, Barbara Rushing, Kristi Routen, Alicia Duckworth, Cheyenne Weable, Nancy Doudney, an unidentified recipient and Heather Hayley. Seated are Lisa Costello, Denise Hoover, Kara Petrocelly, Lisa Shipley, Diana Saenz, Kathleen Finan and Cynthia DeFreeze. Recipients are awarded for going "above and beyond the call of duty to inspire students to learn in new ways that might not be provided for" within the school district's budget.



The Rockwall ISD teachers pictured above represent a portion of those receiving Rockwall ISD Education Foundation grants recently. Standing are Connie Shackelford, Alan Engle, Patty Engle, Ursula Rakow, Darla Robinson, Tara Welch, Angela Stembidge, Kristie Ferguson, Susan Boyd, Jori Riley, Patti Martinez, Paula McClendon and Melissa Crabtree. Seated are Cheryl Kelly, Ann Knostman, Melissa Davis, Christy Wendt, Jennifer Smiley, Rachael White and Barbara Felder. A total of 56 teachers received 15 grants across 11 campuses. Grant monies distributed totaled almost \$28,000, according to a foundation news release.

Rockwall County Letters to the Editor

We encourage the submission of Letters to the Editor. The publishing of letters is at the sole discretion of the editor. Letters must be brief, to the point, and accurate. Letters which are considered libelous or an attack of an individual character will be rejected, as well as those promoting political candidates. Letters must be signed and include a telephone number or address for verification.

Girl Scouts say thanks!

From the Girl Scouts of Rockwall County Service Unit to the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas.

Community support is the backbone of our organization. The help of these wonderful people and organizations, we are able to serve as many girls as we do. Over 573 girls and adults in Rockwall County benefited from your support.

We greatly appreciate the following businesses:

- American National Bank
 - Archer's Car Care
 - Blockbuster Video
 - Bowl-A-Rama
 - Brookshire's
 - Chase Bank
 - CiCi's Pizza - Rockwall
 - Community Bank
 - Eastridge Church of Christ
 - Eddie Deen and Co. Catering
 - Ron Evans
 - Exxon - Royse City
 - Karen & Roy Garner
 - Hobby Lobby
 - Kroger
 - Lakeland Academy - Norma Morris
 - Lakeside Bank
 - Lowe's
 - Joe Meno
 - Ridgeview Church
 - Rockwall Animal Shelter
 - Rockwall County Library
 - Rockwall ISD
 - Royce City ISD
 - Sonic
 - Starbucks
 - Travel Centers of America
 - Wal-Mart
 - First United Methodist Church - Heath
 - First United Methodist Church - Rockwall
 - First United Methodist Church - Royse City
- Sincerely,
Ami Brandow, Rockwall

City of Rockwall offers info on use of fireworks

As area residents prepare to celebrate the Fourth of July, Rockwall Fire Department officials want to call attention to the proper use of fireworks and remind everyone that fireworks are in the city limits or within 5,000 feet of the city limits.

A map outlining the city limits and the 5,000-foot area is available on the city's Web site: rockwall.com. Click on the "Now" link.

Each year fireworks cause an estimated 2,000 structure fires in the U.S., resulting in approximately \$39 million in direct property damage, according to a news release. Nearly 10,000 people require emergency medical attention because of fireworks injuries. Burns are the leading cause of injury to children ages 10 through 19. More fires are reported on a typical July 4 than on any other day of the year, and fireworks are responsible for half of those fires.

In the City of Rockwall, individuals cannot possess, use, or set off fireworks. Only devices not requiring ignition of a fuse are allowed.

For more information contact the fire department at 7770.

Just Say You Saw It
In
"The County News"

Robert Earl Keen performs Friday and Saturday at Southern Junction

Country music performer Robert Earl Keen will appear at Rockwall's Southern Junction Night Club & Steak House tonight and Saturday.

Keen has long been a Texas favorite, but his satirical and insightful song lyrics have won him fans nationwide. The LA Times dubbed him "one of the most literate in Texas' long line of esteemed singer-songwriters," while Rolling Stone magazine called Keen "Texas' ranking nice-guy poet."

According to The New York Times, "Texas seems to breed

storytelling down-home philosophers for its songwriters, and Mr. Keen is one of the best. His songs present small-town characters, small-town crooks, bruised lovers and eccentric family members, just getting by but making the most of what little luck they have. He sings about them in a voice as weather-beaten as they are; it's bleary, rough-hewn and game for more."

The Rockwall story has more than 130 cities to visit in 2009. This year marks the release of a new album, the 20th anniversary of his best-known song "Goes on Forever", and his latest book "Goes on Forever and Never Ends" and the release of a new studio album, "Hotel."

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Johnston named Cain Middle School principal

Johnston has been tapped as Maurine Cain Middle School principal according to a new release issued last week by the Rockwall Independent School District. Johnston currently serves as assistant principal at Webb Middle School in Garland Independent School District. Johnston expressed his interest in the opportunity to join the Rockwall ISD and the Cain Middle School family. "I look forward to participating in the many successes of our students. I eagerly anticipate working with our students, staff, parents and community to create a safe and challenging environment that provides stu-

dents with the encouragement and opportunity to achieve high levels of success, both academically and socially." Johnston holds a master's degree in educational administration from Texas A&M-Commerce and a bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of North Texas. He is pursuing his doctorate in educational administration at Texas A&M-Commerce. Prior to serving in his current position, Johnston was a business teacher and a coach for Garland ISD. In his administrative role, Johnston has been responsible for facility maintenance, staff development, transportation, discipline,

textbooks, personnel issues, safety, master scheduling and curricular departments. He has served as the TAKS testing coordinator, the PSAT coordinator and the master technology trainer. "Mr. Johnston brings valuable experience to his new position as principal at Maurine Cain Middle School," said Gene Burton, RISD superintendent of schools. "I know that he will bring strong leadership to the Cain campus."

Just Say You Saw It In "The County News"

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Rep. Hargrave of Rowlett, left, offered the opening prayer recently in the U.S. House of Representatives. Hargrave, who is vice president of development for the United Methodist Theological Center in Moscow, Russia, served as associate pastor for the First United Methodist Church of Rockwall from 2003 to 2008. Pictured above with Hargrave and his wife, Cathy, are, from the left, Congressman Lou Lomax (TX/4th), Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Chaplain Daniel Coughlin.

Rockwall County Health Matters



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At Home Healthcare, headquartered in Tyler, Texas, has been providing quality homecare since 1986. The company has a Pediatrics office in Rockwall located at 316 S. Goliad, Ste 215. Offices are also located in Canton, Sulphur Springs, Paris, Mt. Pleasant, Longview, Henderson, Jacksonville and Texarkana, Texas.

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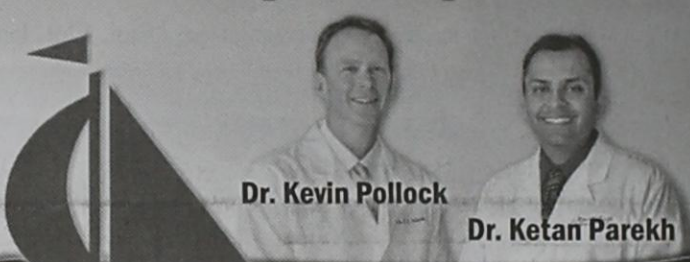
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On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett
For archives of On God's Word visit

Brief chronological review of Jesus' crucifixion

Before we transition to the events following his death, let's briefly review the chronology of Jesus' crucifixion.

Following his condemnation by Pilate, Jesus was led to the place of his crucifixion with two other men who were also accused of being malefactors or evil-doers. The soldiers required a man named Simon to carry Jesus' wooden stake for him. This was very likely due to the fact that Jesus was physically too weak to do so himself, because of all the torturous scourging he experienced.

On the way, Jesus prophesied for some of the women who faithfully followed him. They wept greatly for him. His prophecy was related to the scripture found in Hosea 9:12-16 (Luke 23:27-31). Even after all his sufferings, Jesus still had the soundness of mind to prophesy!

When Jesus and the other two arrived to the place, the soldiers offered him a drink that was meant to help reduce the pain. He refused their offer (Matthew 27:34 and Mark 15:23).

After Jesus was hung on the stake, he said aloud, "Father, forgive them. For they know not what they do" (Luke 23:26). The next verse says "they" parted his garments. Tracking the pronouns helps to understand that he probably asked to forgive the soldiers. They were just doing their job, and did not understand the spiritual aspects surrounding his crucifixion.

Later, Pilate ordered a superscription to be put over Jesus' head that read, "This is the King of the Jews" (Luke 23:38). Sometime after the Jewish leaders asked Pilate to remove the plaque over Jesus, the soldiers divided his garment into four parts, and because his coat or tunic was seamless, they cast lots for it. This fulfilled the Old Testament scripture in Psalms 22:18.

According to Mark 15:25, sometime after the superscription was placed over Jesus, two thieves or robbers were brought in. This fulfilled the scripture in Isaiah 53:12.

Also during this time, one of the evildoers continued to mock and rail on Jesus like others did earlier. But the other "evil-doer" rebuked him, and then asked Jesus to remember him when his kingdom would be established in the future. Then Jesus again prophesied of the future and said to the believing "evil-doer," "Verily I say unto you today, you shall be with me in paradise." The book of Revelation gives more detail about paradise, which is also referred to as the new earth (Revelations 21:1).

Still maintaining soundness of mind, Jesus saw his mother standing by one of his disciples that he loved very much and said, "woman, behold your son." He then said to his disciple, "behold your mother." From that time on, this disciple took care of Jesus' mother (John 19:26-27). What a beautiful moment! Jesus Christ made sure that his mother would be cared for.

Around the sixth hour or noon, darkness fell over the land until around three o'clock, and the veil of the Temple ripped in two pieces, down the middle (Luke 23:44). According to Mark 15:38, the veil tore from top to bottom.

Next Jesus cried out in the Aramaic language, "Eloi, Eloi, lama

sabachtani" (Mark 15:34 and Matthew 27:46). According to Eastern Aramaic expert George Lamsa, Jesus' words are better translated, "My God, my God, for this purpose was I spared [or reserved]." Jesus gave a victory cry to his Father.

After receiving some bitter wine on a sponge, Jesus said, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit" (John 19:28 and Luke 23:44). He was simply referring to holy spirit from God, which does not

abide in dead bodies. He also said, "It is finished" (John 19:30).

What was finished? Everything. That's right...he accomplished that which was necessary for God's redemption of mankind, his Father's love for the world by willfully giving his life in behalf of mankind. Jesus could have been rescued by angels and lived on. But he understood his Father's will out of love.



Rockwall County Library "Duct Tape Mania"

Rockwall High School senior Cole Brosie (left), a member of the Rockwall County Library's Teen Advisory Board, helps Uteley School seventh grade students William Brooks and Travis Hubbard (right) make duct tape wallets at the library's "Duct Tape Mania" event. More than 120 teenagers made wallets and flip-flops out of duct tape at Tuesday's event, which was part of a weekly series of events at the library. The full schedule of events is available at www.rocklib.com.

Photo by Elizabeth Fudge

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Matthew 7:7

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."
Romans 10:13

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Matthew 7:7

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

"A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul."
Proverbs 10:13

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"Best of Rockwall County" winners announced July 10, 2009

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Friday Opinions

Shut Up about Iran

by Sheldon Richman
Here's some advice for Barack Obama, John McCain, and any other U.S. politician who feels the urge to issue a declaration about the election in Iran: Shut up.

True, Obama has said he does not wish to interfere in the Iranian election. Others, such as John "Bomb Bomb Bomb, Bomb Bomb Bomb" McCain, have no such compunction. But any statement at all - even a statement about not making a statement - is a mistake. The record of the U.S. government in Iran over the last half-century is so tainted that it would be better for all officials to just keep quiet.

The results of the presidential election certainly suggest a fix. But that is for the Iranians to work out.

For the last few years, the U.S. "military option" has been prominently "on the table" when it comes to Iran. The U.S. government's closest ally in the Middle East, Israel - especially under the new hard-line prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu - clearly would like to see Iran attacked for having the nerve to develop nuclear technology. U.S. intelligence says Iran gave up a weapons program long ago - before Mahmoud Ahmadinejad became president - but Israel apparently won't tolerate an Iran even with only a civilian nuclear-power industry. Apparently the thought of another country's challenging Israel's 40-year nuclear-weapons monopoly in the Middle East - and thus being able to deter aggressive military action - is intolerable. (Ahmadinejad, incidentally, has no military authority under Iranian law.)

The U.S. government, then, can hardly be an unbiased observer of Iran's political process. Besides, it is well known that U.S. governments have routinely meddled in elections throughout the world, overtly and covertly. The National Endowment for Democracy, a government-funded organization, is just the most obvious way that American officials interfere. (Remember how outraged people were in the Clinton years when they thought the Chinese had funneled money into the U.S. electoral system?)

Most of all, the U.S. government needs to keep silent because of 1953. That was the year the CIA - that model of openness and commitment to democracy - drove an elected, secular Iranian prime minister from office in order to restore to power the brutal monarch, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. For the next quarter century, the shah ruled with an iron fist - secret police, torture, the works. "Enlightened" Americans used to say that he was "dragging his people kicking and screaming into the twentieth century." He was a close friend of American presidents and Israeli prime ministers, and a main instigator of high oil prices. With all that oil money, he could easily buy the latest weapons made by American contractors, keeping them and his American political sponsors happy. He was "our" man in one of the world's hotspots.

It was a sweet deal for everyone - except average Americans and Iranians. In 1979 the Iranians had had enough and, led by the charismatic ayatollah, Ruhollah Khomeini, they again drove the shah from power - this time for good - in the Islamic revolution that has reigned in Iran ever since. The U.S. government's crimes against Iran were not forgotten, as the U.S. embassy was seized and the personnel held hostage for 444 days. When the hostage crisis began, President Jimmy Carter dismissed the connection to 1953, claiming that it was "ancient history." It is from such utterances that the term "ugly American" was born.

What was ancient to Carter and unknown to most Americans was fresh in the minds of Iranians. Middle-class Iranians may have a high regard for the American people and our way of life, but that does not mean they welcome intervention.

In Cairo, Obama acknowledged that history. Good. However, acknowledgement is not enough. Deeds must match regrets - if that's what he feels - about 1953. The U.S. government must forswear intervention, take the military option off the table - and mean it.

The Obama administration says the United States has two concerns regarding Iran: its support for terrorism in the Middle East and its nuclear ambitions. Neither concerns the American people. Even if Iran builds a weapon, the leaders there are not suicidal. And the way for the United States to safeguard against terrorism is to follow a noninterventionist foreign policy. U.S. troops can't be attacked in the Middle East if they aren't there. Someone as bright as Obama ought to realize that.

Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation, and editor of The Freeman magazine and author of "Ancient History: U.S. Conduct in the Middle East since World War II and the Folly of Intervention."

The last laugh does not go to Letterman

by Bill O'Reilly
That was some firestorm David Letterman found himself confronting, wasn't it? Do you think the comedian had any idea his jokes mocking Gov. Sarah Palin and her family would lead to such condemnation? I don't.

What Letterman and his writers failed to see is the growing anger in America over personal attacks leveled against public people. The issue is primarily about partisan insults. Many now consider Letterman a liberal guy, and so his remarks about Palin were viewed as more political than satirical. If Jay Leno (who is more nonpartisan than Letterman) had told the jokes, he would have been criticized, but not to the same extent.

According to a new Gallup Poll, 40 percent of Americans identify themselves as conservative, 35 percent say they are moderate and just 21 percent answer to the liberal description. Liberals are outnumbered by almost four to one. Thus, when a conservative icon such as Palin is demeaned by a high-profile entertainer who leans left, it becomes a big political story. Cable news and the blogs blow it up.

Celebrating our first anniversary in Rockwall

by Wesley W. Burnett
Today marks our first anniversary serving as the steward of your hometown newspaper. On June 26, 2008 we signed closing documents with MET Publishing Inc. in their Terrell Tribune offices, beginning a new era for us and the Rockwall County News.

It has been a remarkable year, highlighted by the overwhelming support you have given us and inspired by the lavish praises bestowed on us by our readers and advertisers.

The list of individuals critical to our success is much too long to attempt, but I must point to those with whom we worked with during this past year, in order of their joining us in this venture:

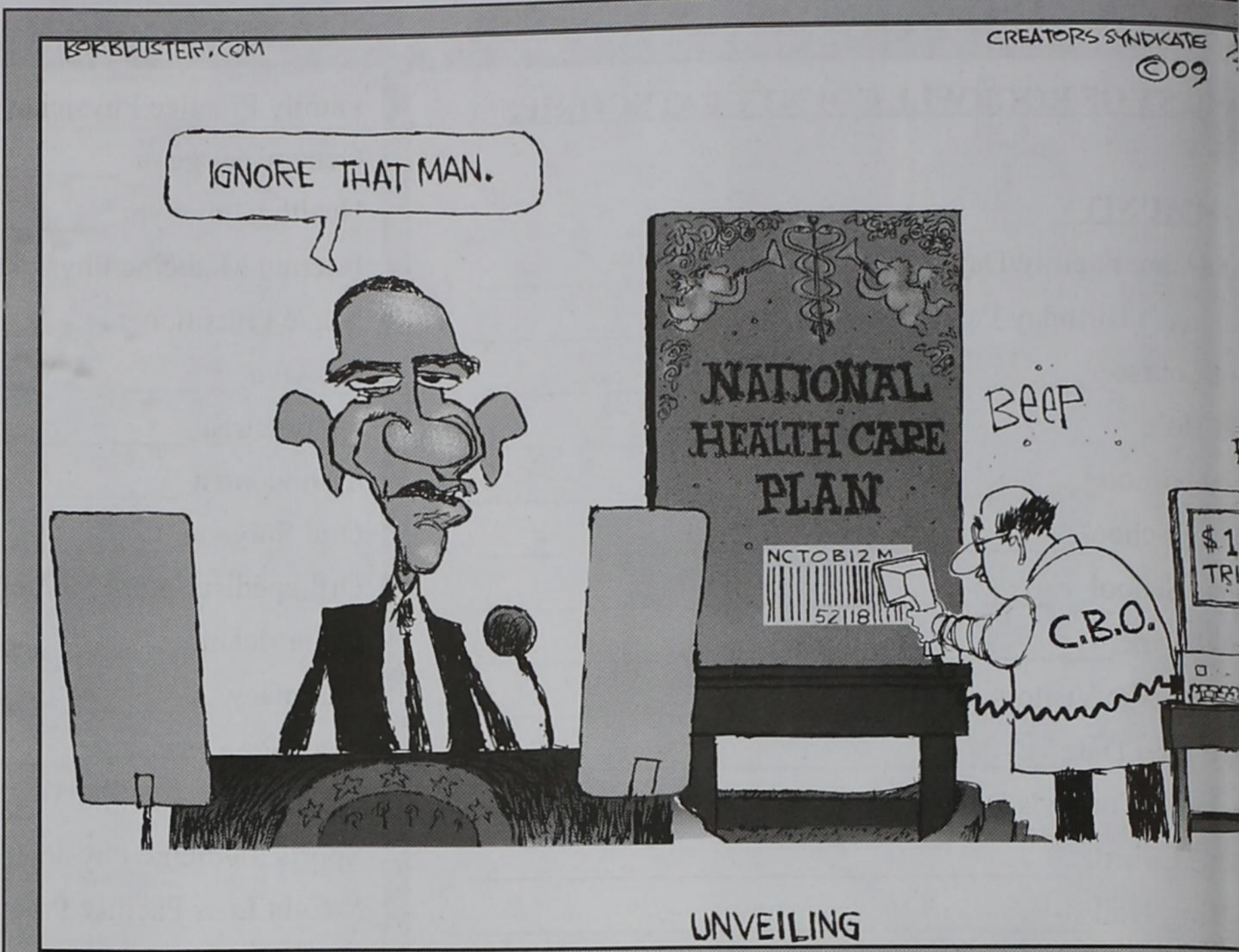
Tim Burnett, Sheri Lewis, Billie Kingham, the late Tony Sifuentes, Tom Sifuentes, Lary Bump, Matt McGillen, Kathy Williams, Sandy Webber, Mike Moore, Susan Lyles, Tom Wafer, Judy Schneider, Amy Van Vleck, Amy Smith, Ern Strahm, Roy Heath, Carl McClung... and many, many other contributors and helpers.

We have been honored by you all. We're greatly pleased that during this first year we introduced a second edition (now publishing Tuesdays and Fridays).

It has been our goal from the beginning to produce the absolute best quality hometown newspaper possible. We strive daily to exceed the expectations of our subscribers and advertisers.

Together we have a bright future... and through it all, we pledge to continue on a path of excellence, producing a hometown newspaper for which you can proudly proclaim as your newspaper. When you say you "saw in the paper," we know that you mean you saw it in the Rockwall County News.

It's such a pleasure and privilege serving you all.



Vicious academic libera

by Walter E. Williams
Ward Connerly, former University of California Regent, has an article, "Study, Study, Study -- A Bad Career Move" in the June 2, 2009 edition of Minding the Campus (www.mindingthecampus.com) that should raise any decent American's level of disgust for what's routinely practiced at most of our universities.

Mr. Connerly tells of a conversation he had with a high-ranking UC administrator about a proposal that the administrator was developing to increase campus diversity. Connerly asked the administrator why he considered it important to tinker with admissions instead of just letting the chips fall where they may. His response was that that unless the university took steps to "guide" admissions decisions, the University of California campuses would be dominated by Asians. When Connerly asked, "What would be wrong with that?," the UC administrator told him that Asians are "too dull -- they study, study, study." Then he said to Connerly, "If you ever say I said this, I will have to deny it." Connerly did not reveal the administrator's name. It would not have done any good because it's part of a diversity vision shared by most college administrators.

With the enactment of California's Proposition 209 in 1996, outlawing racial discrimination in college admissions, Asian enrollment at UC campuses has skyrocketed. UC Berkeley student body is 42 percent Asian students; UC Irvine 55 percent; UC Riverside 43 percent; and UCLA 38 percent. Asian student enrollment on all nine UC campuses is over 40 percent. That's in a state where the Asian population is about 13 percent. When there are policies that emphasize and reward academic achievement, Asians excel. College officials and others who are proponents of "diversity" and equal representation find that outcome offensive.

To deal with the Asian "menace," the UC Regents have proposed, starting in 2010, that no longer will the top 12.5 percent of students based on statewide performance be automatically admitted. Students won't have to take SAT

subject matter tests. Grades and test scores will no longer weigh admission decisions. This is simply gross racial discrimination.

"dull" Asian students who "study, study, study" in favor of "interwhite and Hispanic students who don't 'study, study, study.'"

This is truly evil and would be readily condemned as such in other areas lacking in diversity. With blacks making up about 10 percent of professional basketball players, there is little or no diversity in basketball. Even at college-level basketball, it is not at all unusual to have two teams playing and there not being a single white player on the team. I can think of several rule changes that would increase racial diversity in professional and college basketball: eliminating slam dunks and disallowing three-point shots? Restrict the basket's height? These and other rule changes would be the "unfair" advantage that black players appear to have and basketball diversity. But wouldn't diversity so achieved be despised? answer yes, why would it be any less so when it's used to fulfill the vision of college diversity?

Ward Connerly ends his article saying, "There is one truth that is applicable in the era of 'diversity,' especially in American universities: absolute unwillingness to accept the verdict of colorblind policies is part and parcel of the liberal academic elite. But the American fund universities either as parents, donors or taxpayers, should not be evasive and there's a good way to stop it -- cut off the funding discriminating colleges and universities."

Walter E. Williams is a professor of economics at George Mason University. To find out more about Walter E. Williams and read features by other Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website www.creators.com.

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In the media world in which Letterman lives, many people are outspokenly liberal. New York City and Hollywood are unabashedly so. But the folks are not. And they do not want nasty stuff directed at a working mother like Palin, who holds traditional values. To hear the liberal pundits try to defend Letterman was something out of "The Twilight Zone." They put forth that because 18-year-old Bristol Palin appeared with her mother at political rallies, she was fair game. Pure idiocy.

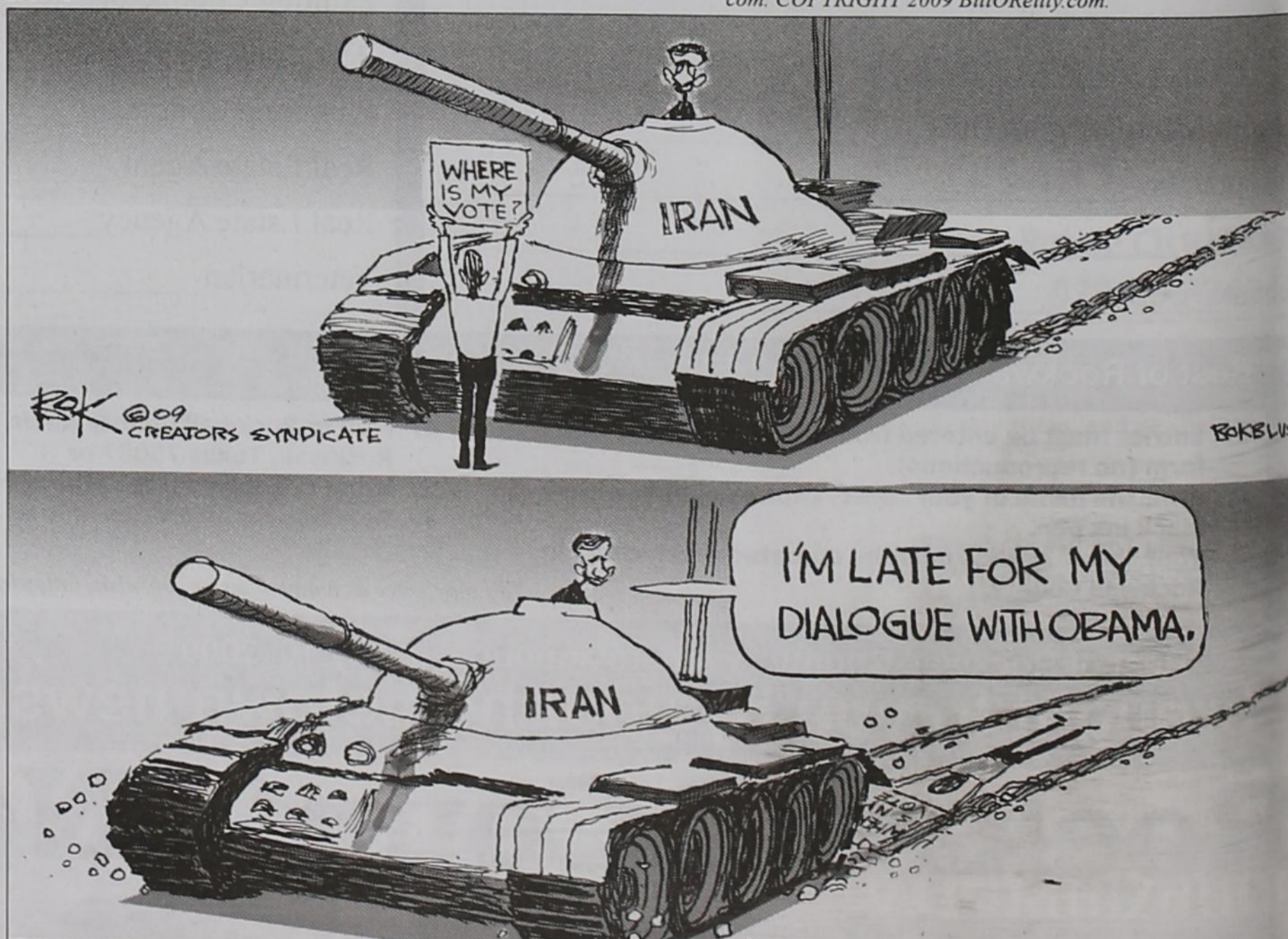
The folks also zeroed in on the hypocrisy of the Letterman-Palin situation. If somebody had mocked President Obama's family that way, they would be destroyed. There's a difference between a president and a governor, but the analysis is valid.

What liberal entertainers do not understand is that Obama was elected because the economy collapsed under a Republican president. While some liberal zealots believe Obama's ascension certified a national ideological move to the left, they are exceedingly wrong. The folks are closely watching Obama. And if the economy does not improve significantly, he'll have a battle in 2012.

I believe Letterman when he says he's sorry about the Palin daughters; he's not that dumb. But he definitely has an edge when it comes to people who do not fit into his ideological comfort zone. I've been on the Letterman program many times. Last time around, he called me a goon and mocked Rush Limbaugh. I asked him why he was doing that, but he did not have an answer.

And so it was the mean-spirited perception that dunked Letterman debate over issues has made the USA the great country it is. But in personal attacks are being used to marginalize opposing points of view when those attacks involve kids, even on the periphery, America stands for it.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News "O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Who's Looking Out for Me?" To find out more about Bill O'Reilly, and read features by other Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website www.creators.com. This column originates on the Web site www.creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2009 BillO'Reilly.com.



Rockwall County Sports

Soldats helping to build soccer tradition in Rockwall

encouraged Randi, Shelby and Christian Soldat to try soccer. They did just that — playing various sports, playing different instruments and taking dance classes. They all came away with a love for soccer.

the soccer-playing equivalent of Rockwall High School's basketball.

forward, and Shelby, a sophomore defender, helped the soccer team this spring to the regional quarterfinals, its first in the playoffs. Christian will join them at RHS as a freshman to win a spot as a defender on an emerging boys' varsity team.

he likes soccer because "There's a mix between having a team and a team sport. There's the thrill of winning as a team, but you have to win it by yourself."

can honing those skills at the Rockwall YMCA. "Living next to the Y, it's easy to go down there and play soccer. We kick the ball around and shoot on each other."

near-round passion. Last weekend, they all played for select youth soccer Region 3 championships on the fields at Frisco and Russell Creek Park in Plano.

out at age 11 for 12-and-under travel teams. An injury kept him from playing as an 11-year-old, but her brother and sister were able to play.

started playing on club teams, "Rockwall was pretty far from the soccer world," said her father, Bill Soldat.

the Dallas Sting, which practices up to four days a week for a half-hour drive. Shelby and Christian have similar practices with the Dallas Texans Red. Those practices are in Farmers Branch from Rockwall. Driving to those practices and tournaments put 100,000 miles on Bill's 2-year-old truck.

of their travel. Christian's team qualified for both a tournament in Finland, and for the Gothia Cup in Sweden. Shelby's team qualified for the Gothia Cup, so Bill was able to make a trip to see his children in international competition.

back on a plane this spring, traveling to Costa Rica. They played four games against 16- to 25-year-olds, and were away for 10 days. We had time to interact with the people who were able to see all the culture. We were able to go into the

forest. We saw gorillas and monkeys. We went on a zip line and saw a waterfall."

Shelby's greatest soccer thrill came on another trip, to California. "We got the experience to go down into the locker room for the women's national team. I met Abby Wambach and Leslie Osborne and some other players."

Christian said, "I liked going to the Gothia Cup in Sweden. It was my first trip out of the country. I saw a lot of cultures."

For Randi, soccer has meant "having that extra experience. A lot of kids we go to school with don't get that extracurricular activity. We get to meet other people from outside school with our club teams, and become friends with them too."

"Being involved with such a competitive sport gives us the drive to want to accomplish our goals."

For each sibling, one goal is to go on to play Division I college soccer.

"I've been talking to some coaches," Randi said. So far, she has made unofficial visits to SMU, Penn and other colleges in Pennsylvania and Florida.

Soccer coaches can't directly recruit high school sophomores, but Shelby said, "They send camp stuff." She is on the mailing list for Texas A&M, North Carolina, Duke and Stanford.

Christian said he has his sights set on Duke and UNC.

They're shooting not just for good soccer schools, but also for high-quality academic colleges.

"School comes first," said Shelby, noting that they often do their homework in the car on the way to practice.

There is a downside to such a rigorous soccer schedule.

Said Shelby, the most outgoing of the siblings, "We don't get to hang out with friends a lot. Tons of kids in Rockwall go down to the harbor. We don't get to do that a lot."

Soccer might be their first love, but all three siblings still play other sports. Randi and Shelby, who can run all day on a soccer field, also run cross country for the Lady Jackets. And track — as sprinters! Moving up from Williams Middle School, Christian will be in football practice this fall as a kicker. He also plans to run on the track team.

In the regional tournament, Christian and Shelby's teams had 4-0-1 records that took them to Wednesday's final match for their age division. The Texans Red U14 boys met the North Carolina champion, CASL Elite. The U15 girls went against NASA Elite II from Georgia. The boys

were hoping to add another title to their North Texas and Dallas Cup championships.

Both Christian and Shelby helped their defenses dominate. The U14 boys had outscored their opponents 15-1. The defense was even more important to the U15 girls, who scored just eight goals but gave up none.

Randi's Sting U17 girls lost 2-1 in the semifinals, finishing the tournament with a 3-1-1 record.

SPORTS Physicals

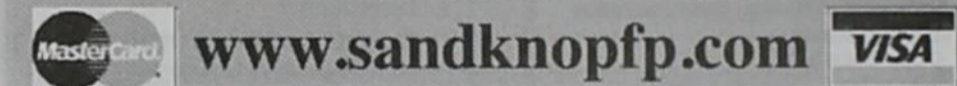
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Exclusive in the Rockwall County News



Soldat (front row, second from right) of Rockwall celebrates with the Olympic Development 16 and under national champions.

Royse City out of Rockwall 7 on 7 football tournament

Rockwall High School will be the last chance to see the state Division I football on Friday and Saturday, 11, at Texas A&M College Station. Rockwall-Heath are expected to compete in a

Heath and the Tuesday varsity league at Forney.

"The JV did really well. They only lost one game, to (Nevada) Community. The varsity has gotten better each week. We went from where we didn't know how to pass or run pass routes or defend the pass the first week to within a score in every game after that."

"We don't put a lot of stock in 7 on 7. We use it as practice and don't get into it as much as other

schools. Rockwall is a lot more serious about it."

Strahm said playing 7 on 7 has been a team-building experience for the Bulldogs, who graduated a big senior class, including Division I recruits Richard Morrison (Arizona) and Brock Wempa (Louisiana-Monroe). "We're jelling as a group. That has been very obvious from the first week until now."



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Miscellaneous for Sale

Selmer Bb Trumpet with case, Bach C7 & C5 mouthpieces. Reconditioned 8-2007. Used for high school band. \$200. Call 214-335-3038.

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Garage Sales

2517 Buckingham @ White Rd., Heath, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., June 25 & 26.

Furniture, bedspreads, clothes, ceiling fans, misc. Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., 210 Glenn Ave., Rockwall.

BIG ITEM GARAGE SALE - Antiques Dealers Welcome, Friday, June 26th & Saturday, June 27th, 8 AM, 8968 County Road 2472, Roysie City (1Block off Highway 276 at Rockwall/Hunt County Line). Follow Pink Signs.

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Legal Notice

PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code that Buffalo Creek, an unincorporated association of persons, is making application to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Private Club Registration and Beverage Car located at 624 County Road 276, Rockwall, Texas. Wright Kniffen, President; Wayne Earls, Secretary.

Public Notice

Application has been submitted for a Private Club Permit for Southern Junction DBA Southern Junction, County, Texas. Said application has been made to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code. Pres/Sec: Richard Morelan; VP/Pres: Thomas Houk.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF ROCKWALL, TEXAS

Request for Bid for Fire Fighting Equipment

The City of Rockwall, Texas will accept at the Purchasing Agent's Office, 385 S. Goliad, Rockwall, Texas 75087, sealed bids for the purchase of Fire Fighting Equipment at 10:00 a.m. local time, on July 1, 2009. All bid responses must be in the Purchasing Agent's Office by the time and date specified above. Late responses will not be accepted. The City of Rockwall reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to award by selection, to make multiple awards, to waive technicalities, to waive any informalities, to re-advertise, and to proceed otherwise in the best interest of the City. Specifications may be obtained from the City's Purchasing Office 972-771-7700, ext. 6418.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF ROCKWALL, TEXAS

The City of Rockwall City Council provides financial support to eligible community programs and events under Title 3 Local Taxation, Subtitle D, Chapter 351, Municipal Hotel Occupancy Taxes, Subchapter B; Section 351.101 in exchange for advertisement promoting Tourism; the Arts and historical preservation projects held inside the Rockwall city limits. The City is accepting applications for funding for its 2009-2010 budget year from eligible organizations. Interested organizations should contact Lea Ann Ewing, Finance Dept., City of Rockwall, 385 S. Goliad, 972-771-7700. Application submission deadline is July 31, 2009. Applications are available at the H.O.T. Workshops. Attendance at one workshop is required. Workshops will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers on the following dates:

Wednesday	July 15	5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
Thursday	July 16	11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Rockwall's Animal Adoption Center continues with improvements

In Fudge last year, the City of Rockwall's Animal Adoption Center moved to a comfortable and spacious new facility that was a significant improvement over the previous location. But the changes for the Center didn't stop there.

By the way, the Adoption Center inaugurated a new volunteer program that will increase animal adoption rates, raise awareness about the responsibilities of pet ownership.

"I think we've been pretty pleased with it," said Animal Services Officer and Volunteer Coordinator Randy Carothers after the program.

There are about 20 adult volunteers and five volunteers under the age of 16.

Appreciative of those individuals that take their time and help out, said Jeffrey Widmer, director of Building Inspections, Planning and Animal Services for Rockwall.

For applicants, they must fill out a short application, sign a waiver, attend an orientation session and go through hands-on training with an Animal Services officer.

"We try to get people comfortable with recognizing the animals," Carothers said.

According to the Adoption Center's Volunteer Handbook, volunteers can walk, bathe or groom dogs, give food and water to the animals in animal cages and help out at special events such as the Center's annual rabies vaccination clinic. Walking the dogs is the most popular activity among volunteers. Carothers said, "The more experienced volunteers have also washed and groomed dogs."

"When they walk frequently, then when they come out to meet someone who might want to potentially adopt them, they're not as excited about coming out, so they just show better, or they're more comfortable in that environment," Carothers said.

To socialize the animals, that way they're used to interaction," Carothers said.

The Volunteer Handbook was amended to allow children under the age of 16 to volunteer. The change was made at the advocacy of City Councilman Matthew Scott, whose daughter volunteers at the Adoption Center.

Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied at all times by a parent or guardian also volunteering at the Adoption Center.

"When an adult that's up here while the youth is participating, they're actually a volunteer, so they've gone through the training, they understand the jobs," Widmer said.

As an additional safety precaution, volunteers under the age of 16 are not allowed to walk dogs more than 12 weeks old or dogs heavier than 20 pounds. Volunteers between the ages of 13 and 15 can only walk dogs older than 12 weeks or heavier than 20 pounds with the special approval of Animal Services staff.

For the safety of volunteers of all ages, volunteers are restricted to a designated area and can only handle animals available for adoption.

It does not mean that there isn't some risk there, but those are the risks that we would bring out and show a family, typically when they can adopt," Carothers said.

"One thing we do is we have them clean their hands frequently to prevent disease. ... And then we make sure, since they're going to be on some of the back parts of the shelter, that anything that they touch is kept out of the way. In other words, we try to keep it clean and dry and we have signage in areas that are wet," Carothers said.

The experience level of incoming volunteers "varies all over the place," Carothers said.

Some volunteers have quite a bit of experience and then some don't. "Some have, you know, zero experience," Carothers said. "Animal Services officers take this into consideration when they assign volunteers."

"When we can see has a lot less expertise, we'll watch them more closely than somebody that maybe has volunteered 10 times before," Carothers said.

For Carothers, there haven't been any significant problems with the program.

One of the reasons for potential volunteers is the flexible scheduling of the program.

"We don't make a schedule real rigid, so that they have the flexibility when they want to come in, how long they want to stay, and what they want to do. Maybe as the program gets larger and we get more volunteers in the facility at a given time, we might have some guidelines on it, but at this point we can keep it fairly flexible," Carothers said.

"We try to cluster them from 11 to fiveish, but we try to be flexible with their schedules too, realizing they're volunteering for their own schedules," Carothers said.

Moncada, who has volunteered at the Adoption Center since she was a child, likes to volunteer on Tuesday and Thursday every week. She likes to work with the animals, she said, and hopes to one day open a kennel for dogs while their owners are on vacation. At the Adoption Center, she walks dogs in the enclosed outdoor courtyard outside the facility, depending on the dog's behavior.

"It's a great part of volunteering," Carothers said.

"I think I did a good job on helping the dogs," Moncada said.

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Boys & Girls Club gets volunteer attention

Employees and partners of PricewaterhouseCooper rolled up their sleeves last week to help give the Boys and Girls Club of Rockwall a bit of a makeover.

The project, which took place June 19, included building, painting and landscaping projects.

The project was part of an ongoing PwC volunteer effort to support education and leadership development. More than 350 PwC employees and staff members volunteered time at either the Rockwall or Denton Boys and Girls Club of Denton.

PwC reached out to communities through more than 175 projects, spending more than 60,000 work hours, according to a recent release. Now in its fourth year, the program has contributed more than 200,000 volunteer hours to nearly 600 projects across the U.S.



Animal Adoption Center volunteer Teresa Tuggle plays with Sunrise, a lab mix puppy available for adoption, in the Center's "get-to-know" outdoor courtyard, where families or individuals can meet and socialize with animals they are considering adopting.

Photo by Elizabeth Fudge

Brookshire's hosts Helping Hands food drive

Brookshire's in Rockwall will host a food drive for the Helping Hands food pantry beginning Saturday and running through July 4.

In 2008, Helping Hands provided a record 14,868 bags of food to clients - 4,800 bags more than were distributed in 2007. Another record-breaking year is anticipated in 2009.

Needed items include Tuna, Chicken or Hamburger Helper, rice, dry beans, canned meats, peanut butter, jelly, pasta and child-friendly snacks.

Coordinator for the drive is David Pike, Brookshire's manager. For more details, to volunteer or to make a donation call 972-771-HELP.

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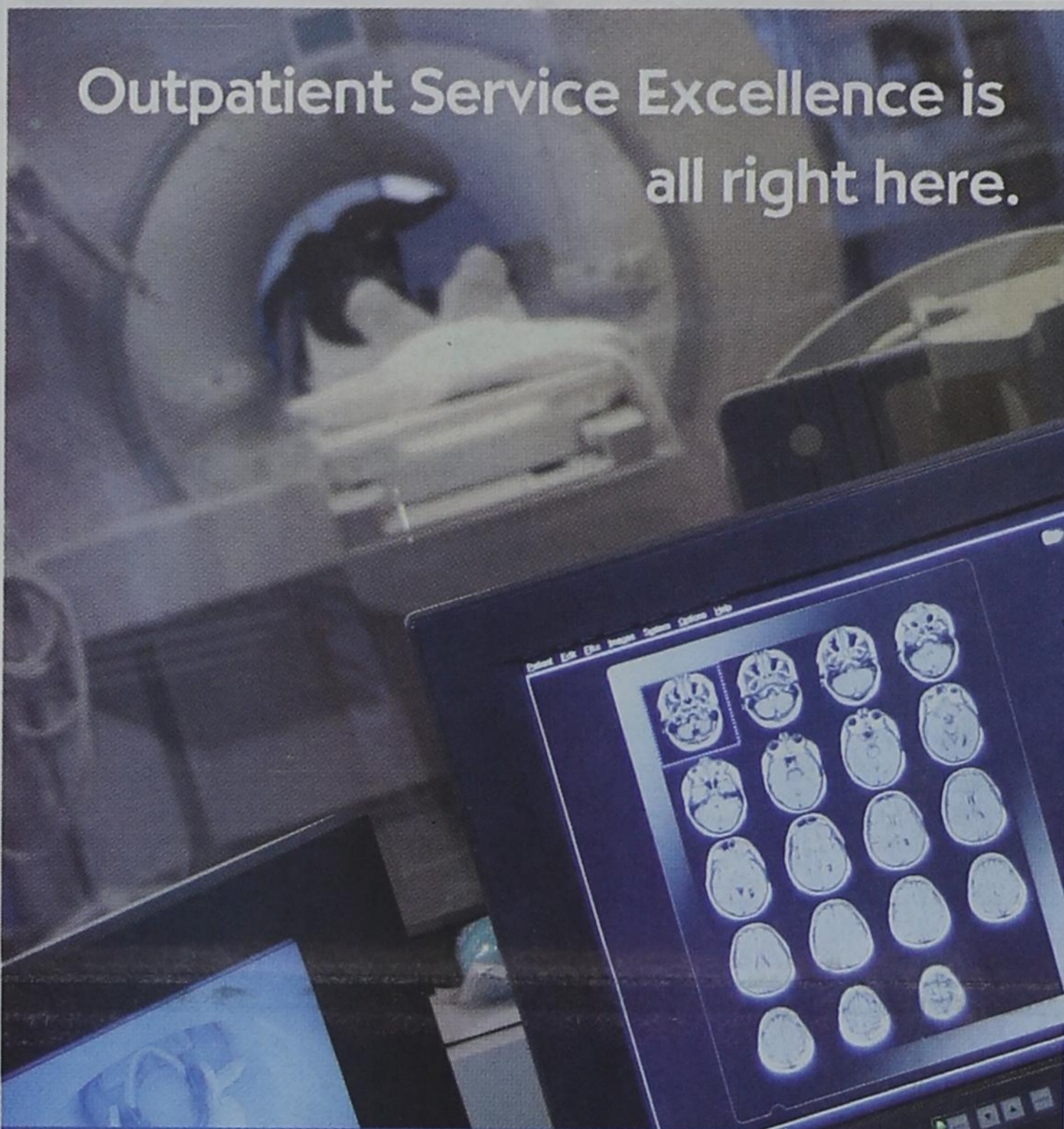


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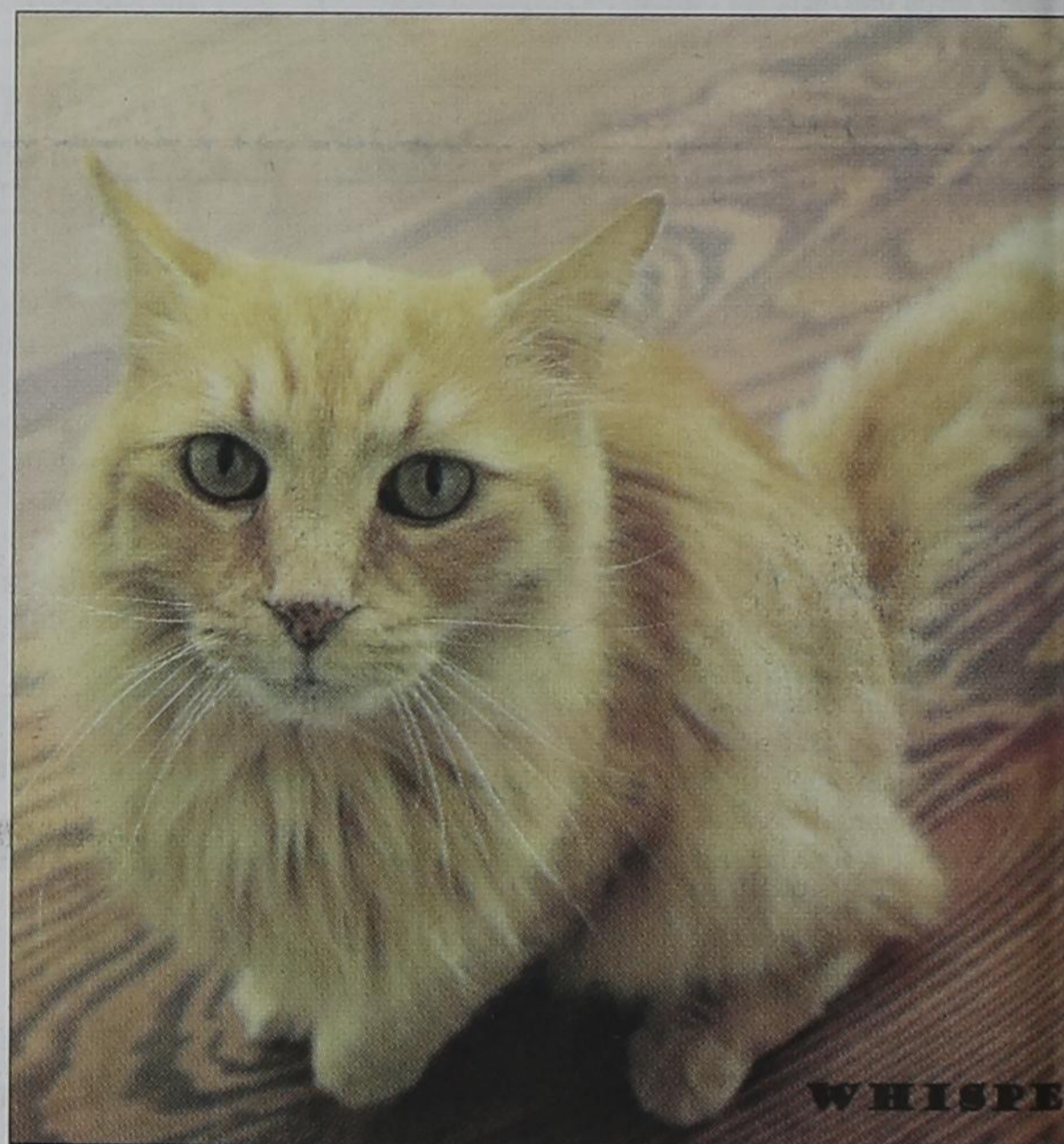
NEBBIE WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY



Cheree Ferguson of Nebbie Williams Elementary was named District Paraprofessor of the Year in May. An employee at the school for the past three years, Ferguson received the honor for the "outstanding work she contributes with a big heart," according to a news release from the school.



Angela Homan (left) was recognized recently as Royse City ISD's Elementary Teacher of the Year. Chandra Caffee was named Royse City ISD's Secondary Teacher of the Year. Caffee will participate in the Region 10 Teacher of the Year competition; be honored at a Texas baseball game; and be treated to an August luncheon where regional winners will be recognized. Photo Courtesy Royse City ISD



Whisper, an orange tabby male, is approximately 10 years old and is an indoors-only cat. Rescued from the Irving Animal Shelter, he enjoys attention and would enjoy being the only cat in an adopted household; however, he might acclimate if introduced slowly to a non-alpha cat. He is a friendly soul who is good with dogs and children. He is housetrained, but has not been de-sexed. For more details contact Elise Bissell at 214-908-0074 or visit feralfriends.org.

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