

Inside: Candidates Answer Questions

Rockwall County News

Page Number 24 Issue Number 7

USPS 002-495

Friday, February 19, 2010

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Rockwall's Historic Snow

Kathryn Jordan (front) plays in the snow with her brother Grant Jordan last Friday morning at their Chandlers Landing home. According to their parents, Bill and Kirsten Jordan, this was the children's first snow experience. Snow began falling early Thursday (Feb. 11) and continued steady into Friday. Snowfall totals were reported at nine inches in the area, the most in a 24 hour period since 1970.

Staff photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

Bailey tapped as lone finalist for RISD superintendent post

Bailey, deputy superintendent for the Rockwall Independent School District, named the lone finalist for superintendent of schools post at Monday's school board meeting, according to a news release issued this week.

After assuming his current position at the RISD in May, Bailey was named deputy superintendent of Plano Independent School District.

The selection of Mr. Bailey as the lone finalist for the position of superintendent of RISD is the culmination of a significant amount of work and research

and many conversations and interviews over a long period of time," said board president Craig Zurek. "The luxury of this planning process has enabled the Board of Trustees to select who we feel is absolutely the best possible candidate to lead the school district into the future. (Superintendent of schools) Dr. (Gene) Burton himself, along with current and past board members -- especially past Board Presidents Dr. David Loftis and Brad Lamberth -- played key roles in this planning process and that has enabled us to keep the dis-

trict on track for our aggressive educational, financial and community goals."

Zurek said Bailey's experience should "add to all of our successes in Rockwall."

Bailey holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education and a master's degree in educational administration, both from East Texas State University. He began his educational career as a teacher and coach in the Plano ISD in 1979, then served that district as assistant principal, personnel director and principal. As the area assistant superintendent for the East Cluster from 1999 to 2007,

his responsibilities included the instructional and operational management of 27 campuses. In 2007 he assumed the role of deputy superintendent for the district, overseeing day-to-day operations for 68 campuses.

Bailey's work in the RISD, however, appears to have influenced the board's decision.

"Having had the opportunity to watch Mr. Bailey in action as he worked through a variety of district tasks over the past nine months has convinced every member of the board that he is definitely the right person and the right 21st century leader for our kids, our staff and our community," Zurek said.

Bailey said his selection was a "great opportunity" and indicated he hopes to "continue the strong leadership that Dr. Burton and the board have provided over the years." He also said he hopes to continue moving the district

in the direction that has made it "one of the greatest districts in the state and the nation."

Zurek said trustees are prepared to name Bailey superintendent at their March 22 meeting.

"With regards to next steps, the board will wait for the 21-day notification period to transpire," he said. "Over that time we anticipate Mr. Bailey and Dr. Burton to prepare for their transition. The board hopes to finalize the naming of Mr. Bailey as the next superintendent at our March meeting. The transition will then begin in earnest from that time through the end of the school year. Dr. Burton remains as the superintendent until the final student walks off of the stage at graduation in June and the board intends for Mr. Bailey to step in as superintendent on June 7, 2010."

Burton officially informed the board of his intent to retire at

the January board meeting. The board immediately posted the superintendent's position, hoping to make a decision by early spring.

"The board has made an excellent decision that will have a positive impact on the future of Rockwall ISD," said Burton. "Mr. Bailey will be able to provide strength and stability as the district faces a time of transition. His 31 years of experience across all levels will bring expertise and knowledge that will be critical as we look for new and innovative ways to move the district forward. We are extremely fortunate that the board has chosen a candidate that is committed to maintaining the current direction of the district, but is also excited about exploring new ideas that will benefit students and families."

Bailey and his wife, Janis, have been married for 24 years and are the parents of four children: BJ Ferguson, 29; Whitney Bailey, 20; Austin Bailey, 18; and Tyler Bailey, 16.



The Rockwall High School academic decathlon team finished in first place in the regional competition earlier this month at J.J. Pearce High School, winning the gold medal in the super quiz relay and the gold in the super quiz team contest. Pictured at back, from the left, are Laura Robertson, Hannah Korman, Emily Cariker, Ginny Mitchell, Laura Trevisani, Tricia Divita and coach Michael Oldham. At front are coach David Gear, Brad Carter and Austin Chappell. Not pictured is Paige Davis.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

RHS AcDec team sweeps regionals

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Regional champions include Austin Chappell, Brad Carter, Laura Robertson, Laura Trevisani, Ginny Mitchell, Hannah Korman, Paige Davis, Tricia Divita and Emily Cariker.

Individual results, according to a school news release, were as follows:

- Brad Carter – second place, math; first place, music; second place, economics, third, science; third, language and literature; third, art;

(Continued on Page 2)



Jeff Bailey

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(Back row, left to right) Dan Aldrich, MD – Chair, Department of Surgery; Sam Crowley, MD – Secretary; Gary Bonacquisti, MD – Medical Director; Kirte Kinser – President, Governing Board.

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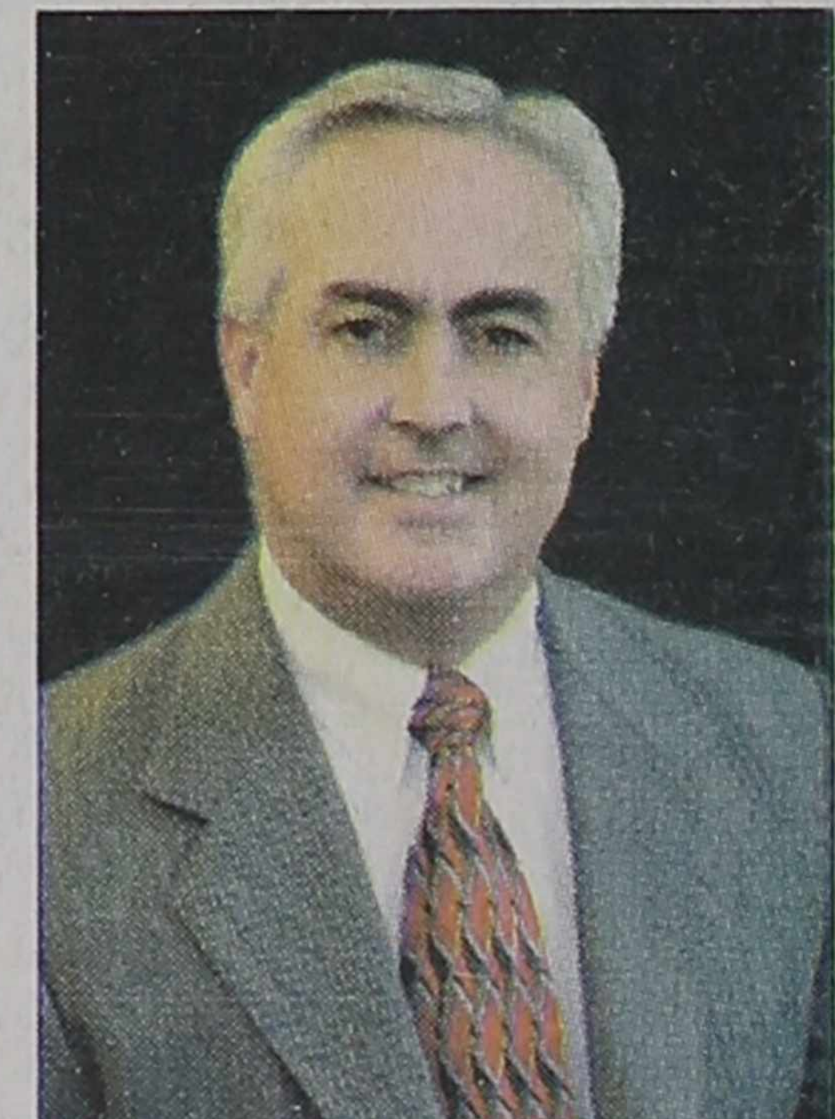
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Jeff Bailey

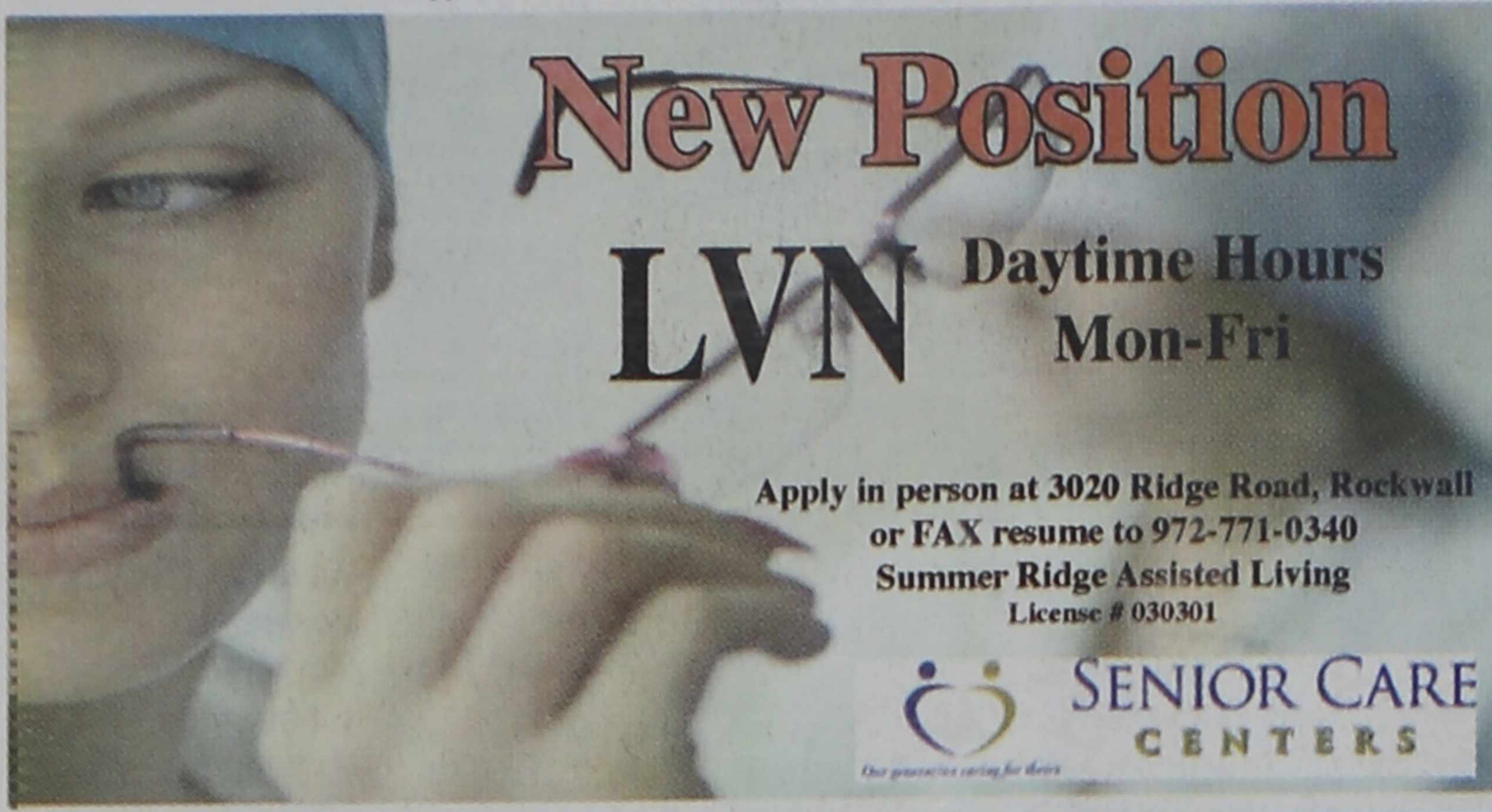
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Weather impacts Quail Run project

Because of recent weather conditions, Quail Run Road will be closed to all traffic from Memorial Drive to Hays Road until Wednesday for utility construction, according to a City of Rockwall news release.

Detour signs will be in place.

Anyone with questions regarding this project should contact Jim Raines, City of Rockwall construction inspector, at 214-543-3255 or Kathleen Lappen, the city's project manager, at 972-771-7746.



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"It was a miracle"

That's the way Linda Jefferson describes her near-death experience in Galveston with her 81 year old mother. On the weekend trip to Galveston, Linda woke up the day after arriving with severe back pains. "I couldn't move, the pain was excruciating." She was admitted to University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston Hospital where she was diagnosed with kidney failure. While in ICU, hospital staff informed her mother about the seriousness of Linda's condition, not expecting her to live.

"I remained in a semi-conscious state for several days," Linda explained. "I was still in pain and couldn't walk or do anything for myself." After 10 days she was ready to be released from the hospital, with recommendations to

seek help in a rehabilitation facility to help her regain strength and be able to walk again. "I wanted to be close to home, so I told them to take me to Royse City Health & Rehabilitation Center," Linda said. "I was unable to make the trip back by car, so it was a seven hour ambulance ride to Royse City."

"I was at an all time low," she added, "but in a few days I slowly came out of that state, because the staff was so attentive and caring. They literally saved my life! I couldn't do anything by myself upon arrival, but every day got just a little bit better. They just kept encouraging me."

Linda is at home now, and returns to Royse City Health & Rehabilitation Center once a week as a volunteer. "I made some good friends there," she said, "and I enjoy calling bingo, it's a wonderful outing for me and I get to see my friends again."

"If you need special attention, I can tell you that you'll get the very best personal care at Royse City Health & Rehabilitation Center," Linda concluded.



Linda Jefferson with Cherise Wright, O.T. (left) and Pam Ragsdill, P.T. (right)

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The Rockwall Children's Chorus spent the weekend delivering singing valentines, including a stop at the Rockwall County News. There were many surprised recipients as the children sang and delivered cookies and a card. Choir members delivering the special Valentine gifts are (back row left to right) Emily Ullom, Ryan Ullom, Caroline Couch, (front) Cate Frazier, Abby Lowry, Jason Apaun and Erin Kinsey. Each year the Children's chorus sells singing valentines for \$25, as their fund raiser. Thanks to all the great advertisement, we had a very successful turn out. The Choir consists of students in 2nd - 8th grade who reside in Rockwall County and is directed by Mr. Alan Clark. For more information visit our website: www.rockwallchildrenschorus.com or call Karen Slater at 972-772-0371.

Photo by Wes Burnett/Rockwall County News



Royse City High School broadcasting students Payton Williams (left to right), Rebekah Schehrer, Grace Martindale and Linda Ferelle are shown rehearsing for national competition next month in Anaheim, Calif. Students are raising money for their trip through a garage sale set for 8 a.m. to noon Saturday in the old administration building parking lot.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

RGHS TV team raising funds for trip to nationals

The 12-member Royse City High School broadcasting team is gearing up to return to a national convention and competition set March 3-9 in Anaheim, Calif.

More than \$6,000 has been raised for the trip, but the group's final fundraiser, a garage sale, will take place from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday in the old administration building parking lot between American National Bank and Wing Dingers.

"We still need to raise around \$1,000 and hope to make it with this garage sale," said Steve Vaughn, RGHS broadcasting teacher.

The sale will include donated items such as laptop computers, cell phones, cell phone accessories, mil-

itary models, ceiling fans and many other items.

Vaughn said the national competition is a good way for students to grade themselves against the efforts of other students.

"It is also a chance to meet industry professionals from TV shows and production companies who speak to students at various workshops," he said.

This will mark the school's fourth year to participate in the Student Television Network convention.

Last year, RGHS brought home a second-place trophy in the commercial competition. Previous years saw awards in live reporting and com-

mercials.

"I'm excited about going to California," said Rebekah Schehrer, a RGHS senior. "It is a chance to apply our video production skills and learn from other students' professionals."

More than 2,000 students from across the nation attend the annual event. This year RGHS students plan to compete in commercial, anchoring, "tell story" and public service announcement competitions.

"This is my first year going to a convention," said Kristen Helms, a junior at RGHS, "and I'm excited about competing."

Regionals ..

(Continued from Page 1)

second, super quiz; second place, overall varsity

• Laura Robertson - third place, math; first place, economics; second, science; first place, art; first, super quiz; third place, overall city

• Laura Trevisani - first place, music; second place, economics; second, science; third, language and literature; second place, first, super quiz, third place, overall scholastic

• Ginny Mitchell - first place, music; first place, economics; second place, science; first place, language and literature; first place, art; second, speech; second place, super quiz; first place, overall scholastic

• Hannah Korman - third place, math; second place, music; third, economics; second, science; second, art; second, essay; first place, speech; second, interview; first, super quiz; second place, overall scholastic

• Paige Davis - third place, music; second, science; first place, art; second place, super quiz; first place, overall honors

• Tricia Divita - first place, science; second, language and literature; second, art; third, interview; third place, overall honors

• Emily Cariker - second place, music; second, economics; second, science; third, language and literature; third place, art; first, super quiz; second place, overall honors

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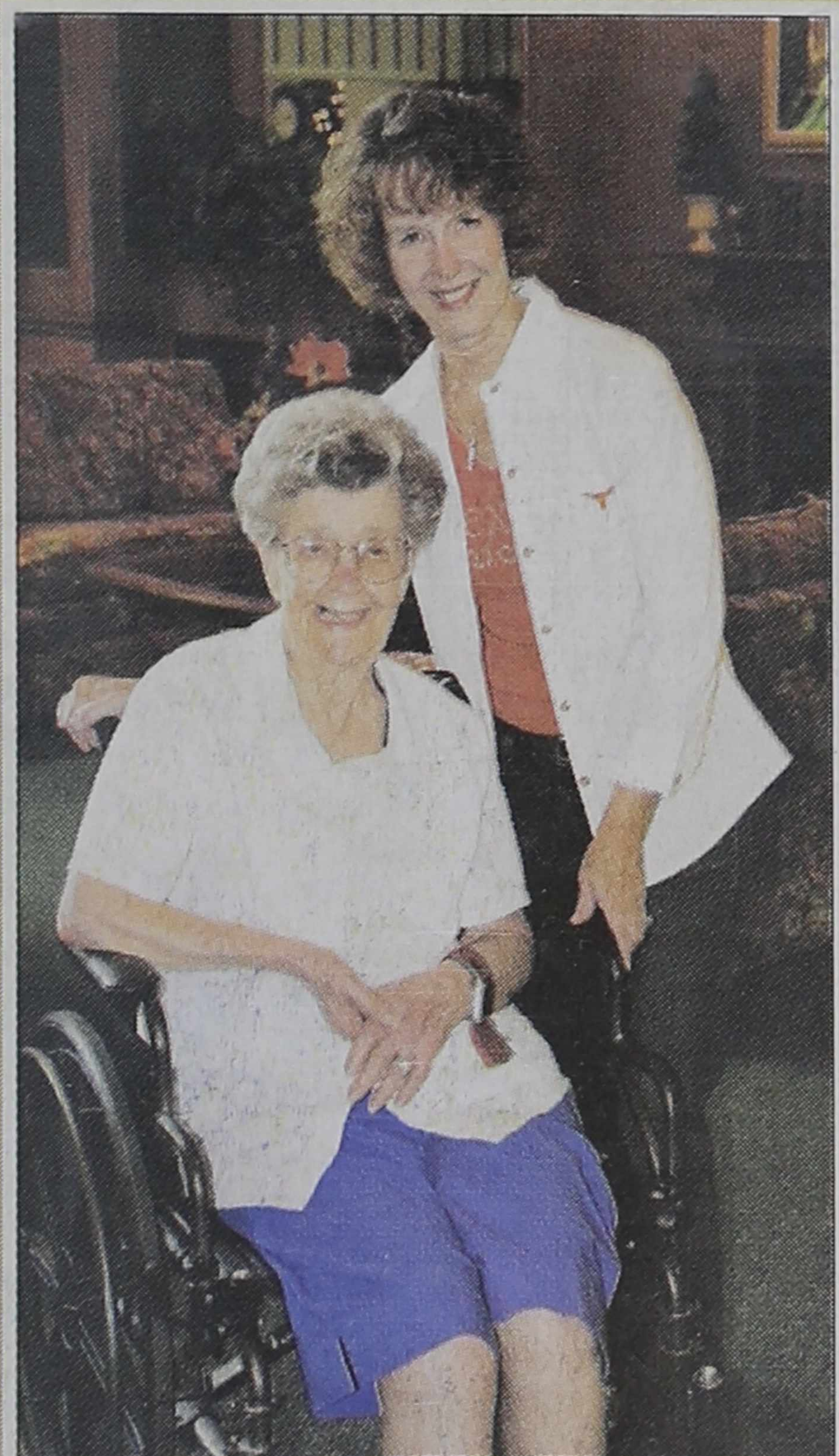
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Helen Mitchell (seated) with her daughter Linda Duran.

The Catholic Mother...
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 Courtesy photo/Rock...

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 972-771-8139 or e-m...

Rockwa...



The Catholic Mothers Council of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church welcomed Jane Beeson, guest speaker for its February meeting. CMC members learned about tools available to better support patients of blood cancers and how the society's fundraising efforts are impacting research. Pictured above, from the left, with Beeson are Jennifer Carrell, CMC vice president; Melissa Montero, secretary; Julie Aldridge, treasurer; and Katrina Tate, president. The group's March meeting will include a presentation about couponing given by club members. For more information the council call 214-771-1035.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Lala Bell Tawry observes 102nd birthday

Lala Bell Tawry marked a century of life and then some when the 102-year-old resident celebrated her birthday on Jan. 28. Born in 1908 in Arkansas, she is the eldest of four girls and two boys. She apparently has longevener genes. Her father, Big Al, lived to his early 90s. Her only surviving sibling, sister Elaine Tompkins, is 91. Lala's was a short childhood helping her mother with the house and work at the candy store. She came to Texas at about the age of 20, moving to the Dallas area. Lala was twice married, but never had any children of her own. Marriage took her to Texas where she worked as a clerk, a gardener and a housekeeper on a large ranch while married to her second husband. Lala likes to leave the door open for the cowboys: leave boots outside the door or them before entering, no shoes at the table, face and hands

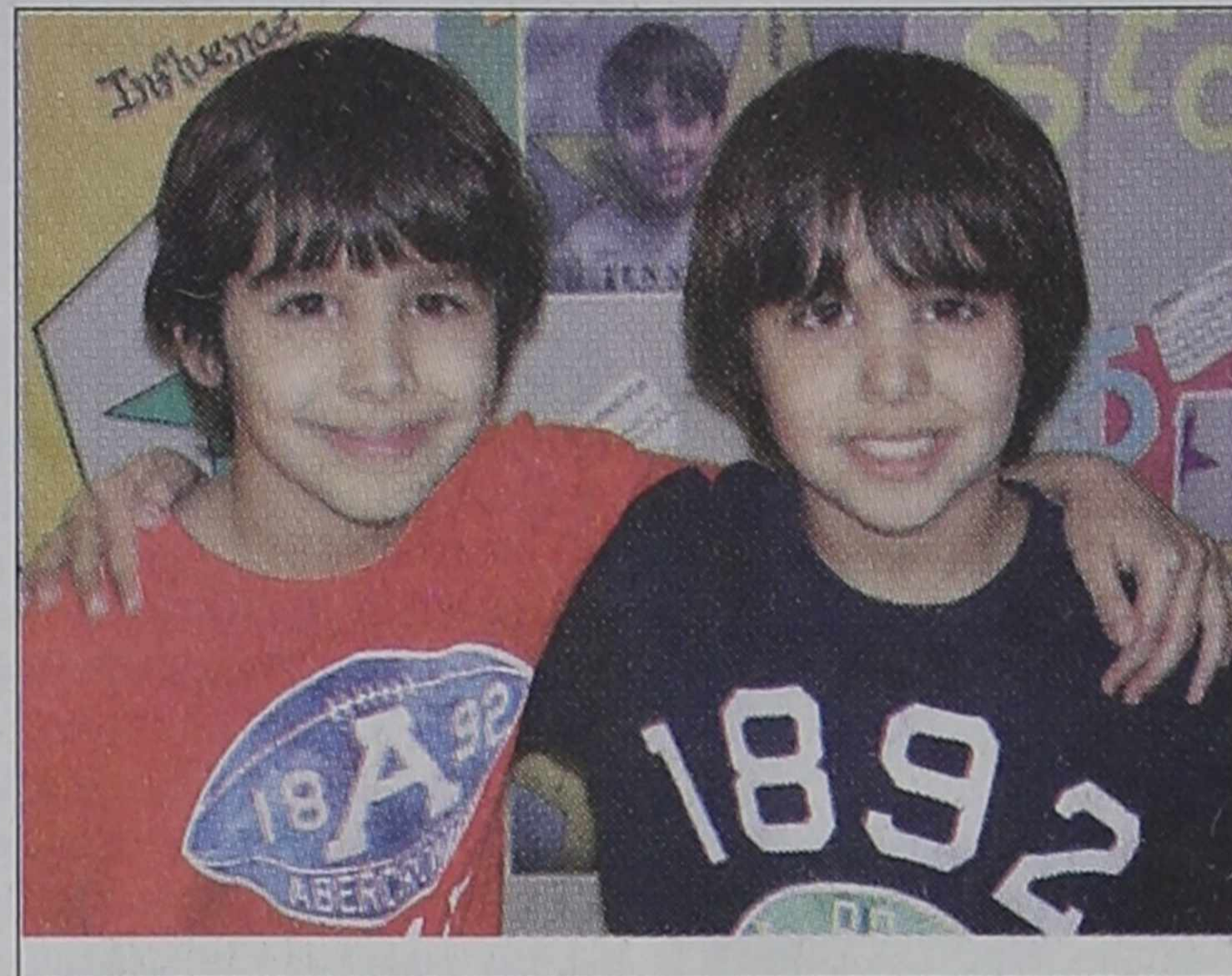
washed before sitting at the table and good manners are a must. During her life she has enjoyed cooking, gardening and preserving her own produce (canning, freezing and pickling), sewing and quilting. She quilted until just a few years ago and always had a quilt in the quilting frames for some family member or friend. She made baby quilts for church members, but never let even the smallest piece of fabric go to waste. She saved up money for a piano, taking lessons and teaching herself. She played into her late 70s, fulfilling a lifelong dream. She also stayed busy studying the Bible, listening to sermons on TV or tape or attending church. Lala returned to this area in the early 1970s when her husband died. She lived in Rowlett from 1973 to 2006 before moving to Heath and then to Rockwall Senior Care with her sister.

"Yes, at 102 Lala's still young at heart and in her thoughts," wrote her neighbor of 30 years, Sandra Moore. "She has love for everyone, even though her body has become frail. With the sparkle still shining in her eyes, she loves a good cup of hot coffee any time of the day, a good hairbrush to run through her hair and feels in heaven when a child is nearby."

Births

Hunter Mark Banks

Brandon Mark and Amy Laura Banks are proud to announce the birth of their son, Hunter Mark Banks, at 6:43 p.m. Jan. 27. The infant weighed 7 lbs., 9 oz., and was 20 inches long. Grandparents are Paul (Buddy) and Lynda Banks of Heath and Mary Ann Plante of Richardson. Other family members include an aunt, Traci Farrington and family of Rowlett, and an uncle, Ray Plante and family of Richardson.



Nebbie Williams Elementary third grade students Andrew and Matthew Daymen recently decided they wanted to donate their allowance to the school's Hope for Haiti campaign. Their mother advised she would match whatever they gave. After some discussion, the boys decided to give all of their savings -- \$150 -- to the campaign, which is raising funds for the American Red Cross efforts to help earthquake victims. The boys' mother honored her word and wrote a check for \$300 to the ARC. Each day's donations to Hope for Haiti are counted, and progress is documented on a display in the school's hallway to help students see the difference they are making.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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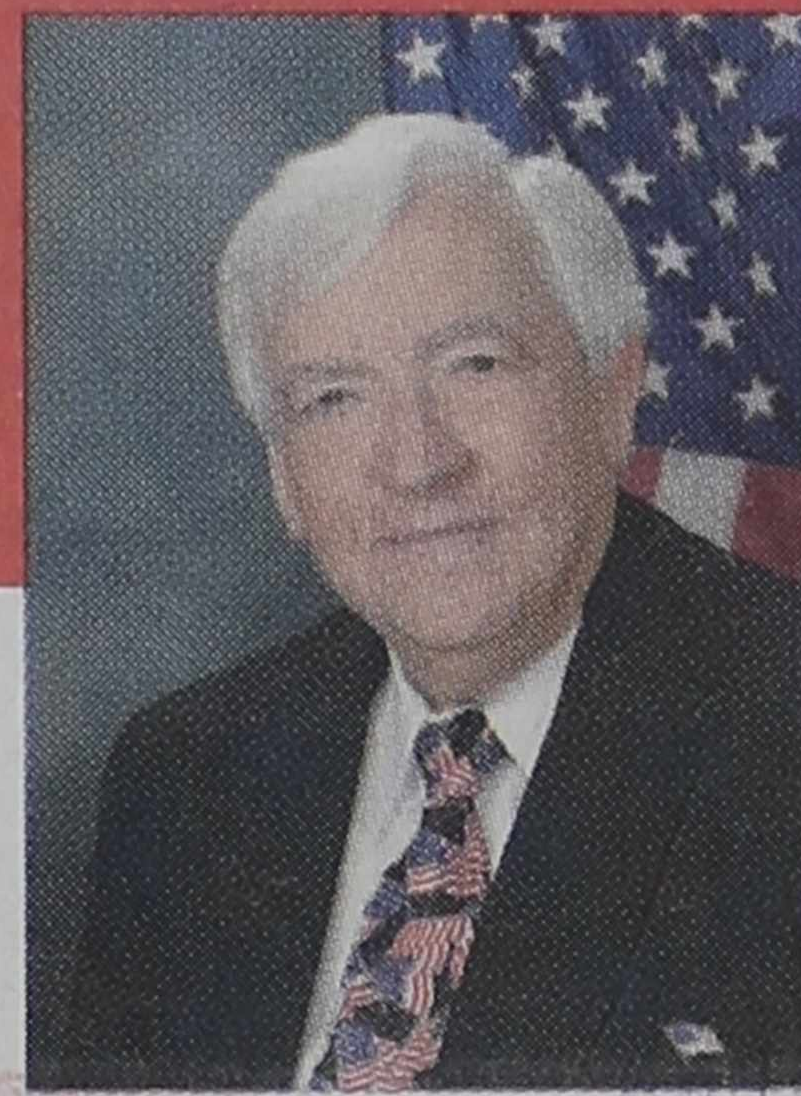
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- ✓ Married to Glenda 47 years, 4 Children & 8 Grandchildren

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Lala Bell Tawry (Photo by Suzie Bell)

Relay For Life kickoff sees 14 teams sign up

The Rockwall County Relay For Life kickoff event, hosted by Over's Restaurant, saw 14 teams register for the signature fundraising event for the American Cancer Society.

Another local business, Lakeside Chevrolet, also signed on as a 100 sponsor.

Bob Holliman, general manager of the family-owned dealership, and his wife, Melissa, said they decided to help sponsor the event because a family member recently has been affected by cancer.

"We decided that this was a good time to throw our resources into supporting the fight against cancer," Bob Holliman said. "When you think about how many people are affected by the disease, it's obvious that it's a real issue that needs our attention. Finding a cure has to become a priority. Times are tough, but I hope the community will jump in." The Relay For Life is scheduled for April 30 through May 1 at Cain Middle School.

For more information about the upcoming event, call Carla Brooks at 972-771-8139 or e-mail relayforliferockwallcounty@gmail.com.

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Karen and Ed Miller are pictured above with their 18-month-old great-granddaughter, Alexis. Both Karen and Ed have battled cancer. Ed Miller lost his battle with the disease earlier this year.

Photo courtesy of Karen Miller/Rockwall County News

Millers wage family battle against cancer

by Mary Thacker

For Ed Miller and Karen Sorensen, it was love at first sight. The only problem was that they were on a double date, and they weren't paired with one another.

That didn't stop them from having a great time talking and laughing. After their initial meeting, they became inseparable. Six months later when Karen had to leave for college, she and Ed knew they couldn't bear to be apart, so he enrolled as well. He had already seen a lot of the world, having served in the Army during the Korean War, so when he gave Karen a promise ring, he wanted to be clear

about his intentions.

"We're not just going steady," he told her. "I want you to be my wife."

The couple had a long engagement during which they decided that college wasn't for them. Karen and Ed returned to Chicago where they joined her father's business until her father decided he was tired of cold Chicago winters and sold the company. He advised the newlyweds to relocate to California where he used his connections to find them jobs at Pacific Bell Telephone Company.

Ed and Karen lived in Los Angeles for 45 happy years, raising their children, Susan and Scott. Karen was a stay-at-home mom who pinched pennies on a tight budget.

"I had one of those plastic clickers that I would take to the grocery store with me to keep track of what I was spending," she remembered. "My family had been fairly well off, so I was used to luxuries. But I was happy."

Ed retired after 35 years at Pacific Bell before their first grandchild was born. The couple moved to Rockwall seven years ago to help their daughter raise her three boys. They were still in the process of settling into their new community when a lump was discovered in Karen's left breast during a routine exam.

Karen's physician told her he could almost guarantee that she would live to see her grandkids graduate from college if she had a mastectomy. After the surgery, she underwent a course of chemotherapy, relying on wigs and make-up to bolster her when she wasn't feeling well.

"Ed was by my side every step of the way," Karen said.

Karen's lump was not the couple's first experience with cancer. For 15 years, Ed had been in remission from prostate cancer. His PSA levels were closely monitored, and when his levels began to rise in 2008 he was referred to an oncologist.

Once his CT scans showed evi-

dence of tumors, his doctor bed chemotherapy. He seemed doing well until he drove into a car in April. At first Ed's assumed he had suffered a causing the accident, but an MRI posed a brain tumor.

After surgery to remove the malignancy, Ed's health started to decline. However, a subsequent MRI led five more tumors that also removed. A second round of was prescribed, during which developed severe back pain. Radiation treatments that were supposed to help control the back pain damaged his esophagus and destroyed blood cells. Two transfusions nothing to improve Ed's fatigue. It became hard for him to breathe.

The day after Christmas, Ed me so weak that Karen took the emergency room. They stayed there for more time. There were chemotherapy treatments they planning to try once he regained strength, but just before New Year's Day Ed asked Karen to take him home. He died Jan. 2.

"Ed had always prayed that I would outlive me so he could care for me," Karen said as she stashed the wedding ring she wore on her ring finger. "I prayed that would keep me healthy so I could see him through his illness. We were inseparable — best buddies. I enjoyed being together. Our evening was sitting in our side La-Z-Boys with our dogs laps, holding hands."

Ed and Karen faced cancer together, joined hand in hand, chose to embrace life and other. Although Ed is no longer here, he lives on in her heart the hearts of those who loved him.

Relay For Life is the signature fundraising event for the American Cancer Society. It will take place in Rockwall County on April 30 at Cain Middle School. For information, contact Carla B at 972-771-8139 or relayforlifewallcounty@gmail.com.



Mackenzie Iles of Heath, kisses her snowman built Thursday afternoon, Feb. 11. The daughter of Mike and Kim Iles, Mackenzie is a 5th grade student at Amy Parks Elementary.

Photo courtesy of Kim Iles/Rockwall County News



Royse City volunteer Firemen Dustin Hendon (left) and John Dunlap (right) enjoy converting their snowman into a new recruit.

Courtesy of Nancy Beaty/Rockwall County News

It Was A Very Snowy 24 Hours in Rockwall County February 11 and 12, 2010



DEBRA MEDINA

FOR TEXAS GOVERNOR

Eliminate property tax: We must eliminate property tax in Texas. We can fund necessary government services more efficiently and fairly using a broader based sales tax. Eliminating property tax and deriving that revenue from a sales tax will mean a \$3 billion increase in net personal income in Texas and will add 125,000-175,000 new jobs.

Protect gun ownership: Protecting freedom requires that the people be well armed. Government cannot protect us from violence, we must defend ourselves. Texans must not compromise and must not surrender their right to keep and bear arms. We must not only nullify federal laws that threaten that right but encourage citizens to be, as Madison encouraged, "trained to arms, as that is the best and most natural defense of a free country."

Secure our border: Texas must promote healthy immigration and trade through the legal ports of entry. We cannot wait on Washington D.C. to act. As governor I will make addressing illegal immigration and promoting sovereignty a top priority.

Restore Sovereignty: The U.S. Constitution not only protects citizens' freedoms in the Bill of Rights, it also divides power between the federal and state governments and ultimately reserves final authority for the people themselves. Texas must stop the over reaching federal government and nullify federal mandates in agriculture, energy, education, healthcare, industry, and any other areas D.C. is not granted authority by the Constitution.

VOTE DEBRA MEDINA FOR GOVERNOR MARCH 2

Paid Pol. Adv. Paid for by Debra Medina Campaign, Mark Vacek, Treasurer.



RCBS students making a softball snowman during last Thursday's snow event are (left to right) Jenna Geyman, Kim Carson, Abby Stutts, Rebecca Zernick. Kneeling is Marcy Quarrells.

Photo by Renee Wallace/Rockwall County News



Building a 6' 4" tall snowman last Friday are Rockwall residents (back row, left to right) Bret Boswell, Stephen Wadley, (front row) Adrienne Boswell, Logan Kinney and Ryan Kinney. Adrienne is an 08 graduate of RHHS & sophomore at Paris Jr College.

Photo courtesy of Amy Boswell/Rockwall County News

Opinions

Debra Medina, Glenn Beck and the Northwoods 'Truthers'

by Jacob G. Hornberger
 An obvious ambush of Texas Republican gubernatorial candidate Debra Medina, Fox News commentator Glenn Beck told Medina in a radio interview she had received emails from listeners saying that she was a 9/11 truther, a person who believes that the U.S. government was behind the 9/11 attacks.

Medina failed to specifically deny the charge, indicated that she didn't have an opinion on the matter, stated that some good questions had been raised about the evidence, and said that the American people had not seen all the evidence. She later issued a statement stating that she has never been involved in the 9/11 movement and affirming her conviction that the U.S. government was behind the 9/11 attacks.

After the interview was over, Beck and his on-air cohorts began yucking it up, catching off any prospects for Medina, who has recently soared from 4 percent in the polls to 24 percent, to win the race. "Wow!" Beck exclaimed, "The way back to four percent. I think I can write her off the list."

Beck's mindset was precisely the type of mindset that I described in my November 17, 2009, article "Operation Northwoods and the 9/11 Truthers." That article addressed the mindset of Washington Post columnist Charles Krauthammer regarding the 9/11 truthers, a mindset that is clearly the same as the mindset of Beck.

There are several possible reactions to the claims made by the 9/11 truthers: one is to have reviewed the evidence and have not been convinced that the U.S. government was behind the attacks. Another is to have reviewed the evidence and am convinced that the government was behind the attacks. A third is to have not reviewed the evidence and, therefore, do not have an opinion on the subject.

Beck doesn't care what the evidence is because it is inconceivable that the U.S. government would ever commit such a dastardly act, and anyone who doesn't immediately denounce such a possibility is an unpatriotic whacko who hates America.

In the interview with Medina it's obvious which category Beck falls into: he is in the same category that Krauthammer falls into. However, Beck is guilty of the same critical omission that characterized Krauthammer: Operation Northwoods.

Beck, like Krauthammer, is not a dumb man. He is intelligent and well-read. The possibility that he has never heard of Operation Northwoods is virtually inconceivable. So, why omit it from the discussion? Obviously because the reality of Operation Northwoods just doesn't fit within a mindset that characterizes Beck and Krauthammer. So, it becomes necessary, from a psychological point of view, to simply pretend that it never happened.

Reality is reality. In 1962 the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff unanimously agreed in Operation Northwoods to commit fake terrorist attacks, including hijackings, on American soil, attacks that were even designed to cost innocent Americans. Once the attacks had taken place, the plan called for U.S. officials to blame them on the Cuban government of Fidel Castro.

Americans would be so hyped up and angry that they would support a U.S. invasion of Cuba, which would enable U.S. officials to finally fulfill their dream of a regime change in that country. The Pentagon has never apologized for pressing one iota of regret for having recommended its secret plan to the president.

Given the reality of Operation Northwoods, how can anyone intelligently say that it is inconceivable that the U.S. government would engage in fake terrorist attacks on the United States? It's one thing to say that one hasn't been convinced by the evidence presented by the 9/11 truthers (a category I happen to be in), but it's quite another thing to suggest that it is inconceivable that the U.S. government would commit such a dastardly act.

How about it, Beck? Let's hear you reconcile your mocking attack on Medina with the reality of Operation Northwoods. Or are you in the same camp as Bill Clinton, who once suggested that you can't love your country while professing support for the wrongdoing of your government?

For more information on this sordid and evil conspiracy, Google "Operation Northwoods" or look for the Wikipedia entry on it.

Jacob Hornberger is founder and president of The Future of Freedom Foundation.



Black opportunity destruction

by Walter E. Williams
 "Do you mean he is taller than me am?" sarcastically barked Dr. Martin Rosenberg, my high school English teacher, to one of the students in our class. The student actually said, "He is taller than me," but Rosenberg was ridiculing the student's grammar. The subject of the elliptical (or understood) verb "am" must be in the subjective case. Thus, the correct form of the sentence is: He is taller than I.

This correction/dressing down of a student, that occasionally included me, occurred during my attendance at North Philadelphia's Benjamin Franklin High School in the early '50s. Franklin had just about the lowest academic standing in the city. All of our teachers, except two or three, were white. Despite the fact that we were poor, most of Franklin's teachers held fairly high standards and expectations.

Today, high standards and expectations, at some schools, would mean trouble for a teacher. Teachers, as pointed out in one teaching program, are encouraged to "Recognize and understand the cultural differences among students from diverse backgrounds, and treat such differences with respect. Intervene immediately, should a fellow student disparage a Black student's culture or language." That means if a black student says, "I be wiff him" or "He axed me a question," teachers shouldn't bother to correct the student's language. What's more, should anyone disparage or laugh at the way the student speaks, the teacher should intervene in his defense. Correcting the student's speech might be deemed as insensitive to diversity at best and racism at worst, leading possibly to a teacher's reprimand, termination and possibly assault.

A teacher's job is to teach and failure to correct a student's speech, just as failure to correct a math error, is a dereliction of duty. You might say, "Williams, Ebonics or black English is part of the cultural roots of black people and to disparage it is racism." That's utter nonsense. During the 1940s and 1950s, I lived in North Philadelphia's Richard Allen housing project, along with its most famous resident, Bill Cosby. We all were poor or low middle class but no one spoke black English. My wife was the youngest of 10 children. Listening to her

brothers and sisters speak, compared to many of her nieces and nephews, you wouldn't believe they were in the same family. The difference has nothing to do with cultural roots of black people. The difference is that parents, teachers and others in authority over youngsters have become less judgmental, politically correct and lazy; therefore, speaking poorly is accepted.

Language is our tool of communication. If a person has poor oral language skills, he's likely to have poor writing, reading and comprehension skills. To my knowledge, there are no books in any field of study written in Ebonics or black English. It is very likely that a person with poor language skills will suffer significant deficits in other areas of academic competence such as mathematics and the sciences. It doesn't mean that the person is unintelligent; it means that he doesn't have all the tools of intelligence. That is what's so insidious about the state of black education today; so many blacks do not have a chance to develop the tools of intelligence. Many might have high native intelligence but come off sounding like a moron.

Black Americans should thank God that non-judgmental, politically correct people weren't around during the early civil rights movement when blacks began breaking discriminatory barriers. Discriminatory employers would have had ready-made excuses not to hire a black as a trolley car motorman, cashier or department store sales clerk.

There are some significant challenges to being judgmental and politically incorrect and insisting on proper language. A professor or teacher can get cursed out by students or parents. A black student who speaks well, carries books and studies can be accused of "acting white" and find himself shunned and assaulted by other students.

I would be interested in hearing the teaching establishment's defense of permitting poor language.

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 Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Glenn Beck's Thursday interview with Medina...

by Timothy W. Burnett
 Last Thursday, many radio listeners heard an interesting interview between Glenn Beck and Texas gubernatorial candidate Debra Medina. I realize some of our readers may not be Medina fans, but I can only guess that anyone listening to Beck's interview noticed how he attempted to badger her into making a statement about whether or not she believed the government caused 9/11.

I found this to be strange behavior on his part considering his Fox News television program focuses on many of the same constitutional issues as Medina expresses. It was also interesting that someone as smart as Glenn Beck would try to corner any candidate for governor into giving a personal opinion about what caused 9/11. Anyone with common sense surely would see how irrelevant 9/11 is to the functions of a Texas governor.

It's my observation that he was trying to split Medina's fans and supporters over issues related to 9/11. This was more evident considering the condescending way he used the term "9/11 Truthers," and the fact that he later spinned her answers by deciding on his own that she answered "yes" to his question, he expressed his lack of support for her because of his twisted conclusion of her "yes" answer, and to make things worse he mocked and laughed at her.

I've already found a number of main-stream media websites publishing stories about how Medina expressed her belief that the government caused 9/11. This is not as much an attack on Medina as it is an attack on her platform of constitutionally restrained and down-sized government, abolition of property taxes, refusal to enforce many federal laws and more.

Beck's declaration is based on a lie. Medina answered that she did not have enough information to determine whether the government caused 9/11. She also mentioned that there are lots of questions about 9/11. But she never said "yes" to his question. Hopefully, people who like what Medina stands for will not be distracted by such crafty and subtle attacks as seen in the Beck interview and the related stories that came out after the interview.



My Special Valentine ...

Bill O'Reilly
 My special Valentine this year is a beautiful 10-year-old girl named Madeline. She is a typical American kid, confronted by a world vastly different from the one in which her parents grew up.

Instead of inventing games and projects with other children, Madeline has a variety of high-tech gizmos to keep her occupied. While my transistor radio is up to date on the Beatles, Madeline's small music machine holds hundreds of tunes that are piped into her ear on demand. And she doesn't even have to go to a record store! She can "download" any song she wants from a computer.

On the playtime front, Madeline has a DS and a Wii. Instantly, games appear on small and big screens. She doesn't have to go bowling — she can simulate bowling using the Wii on her giant TV set. She can play tennis that way, too. In fact, Madeline never even has to go outside to play sports. They are virtually all in her living room.

"Can Eddie come out and play?" That was my question after I knocked on my friend's door back in Levittown, Long Island. But Madeline has never said those words. She calls her friends on a cell phone, and playtime is arranged in advance by nervous parents who wouldn't dare allow their young children to play in the neighborhood unattended. Madeline has fun on her "play dates," but spontaneity is missing, as are gangs of kids. "Play dates" are usually limited to one or two urchins.

Despite all the technology and protection, Madeline has somehow developed an interest in time-honored hobbies like horses, pop idols and volleyball. She also has developed a deep sensitivity toward other people. Like many children, Madeline has seen her peers brutalized by cyber-bullying and finds it cruel and unacceptable. She even wrote a school paper about it.

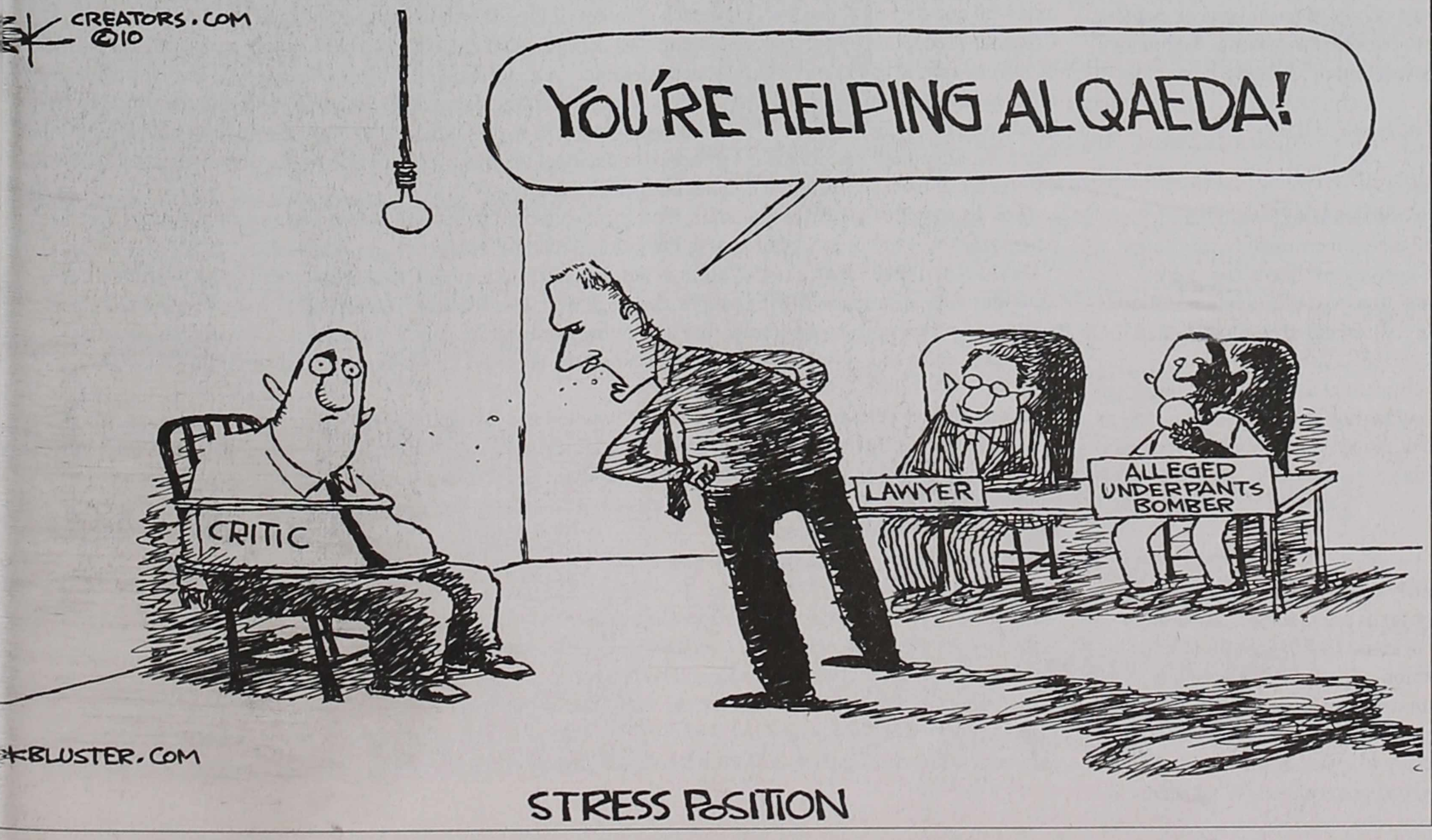
But the tech revolution has also made it easier for Madeline to escape from reality. The machines allow her to avoid thinking about problems and solutions. With a flick of a finger, Madeline can enter a fantasy world where she doesn't have to think about bad things or work out complicated situations. She can play emotional hide-and-not-seek all day long.

It is not easy for an adult to talk with Madeline. She prefers to be otherwise occupied, which is normal at that age. Her favorite phrases are "I don't know" and "I don't care." Perhaps for Valentine's Day, I'll get her a shirt with those words printed on the front and back.

Most likely, though, I'll get Madeline a card that says I love her more than anything or some such Valentine's endearment. She is America's future, and I know she will make this country better. Machines or no machines.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Who's Looking Out For You?" To find out more about Bill O'Reilly, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com. This column originates on the Web site www.billoreilly.com.

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We the People

In order to form a more perfect union, we offer this opportunity for our readers to evaluate the qualifications of those citizens seeking election in the March 2, 2010 Republican Party Primary Election. It is our firm belief that the future of our republic

(as defined and constructed by the founders) rests best in the hands of an informed electorate. We encourage our readers to arm yourselves with knowledge about the candidates before casting your vote.

As a member of Congress ...

1. How will you respond to legislation that is not authorized by the U.S. Constitution, specifically the limits imposed by Article 1, Section 8?
 2. What are your plans to restore a republic form of government?
 3. What action will you take to eliminate the Federal Reserve Bank and reclaim Congress' constitutional responsibility for securing the monetary system?
 4. Do you support the repeal of the 16th and 17th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution?
 5. What is your position on the notion that Congress may operate with "Plenary Power" (enacting laws and regulations not specifically authorized by the constitution)?
- Lou Gigliotti • No response
Joshua Kowert • No response
Jerry Ray (Tea) Hall • No response
John Cooper • No response
Steve Clark • No response
Ralph M. Hall • No response

As County Judge ...

1. What is your position on the notion that county government may operate with "Plenary Power" (enacting laws and regulations not specifically authorized by the constitution)?
Ken Jones: I believe county government and all other governmental agencies should abide by the constitution and the authority given them. Any variation or changes should be voted on and authorized by the people.
Jerry Hogan: Frankly I have not heard of county governments operating in a position where they could enact laws and regulations not authorized by the constitution. If elected, and if this issue was presented to the Rockwall County Court, I would become very familiar with this concept. As a matter of general principle, I believe in the US and the Texas constitutions and would uphold both documents.
Kevin Fowler: Plenary Power is seldom, if ever, used in county government. It is better associated with United States Constitutional law and is used most frequently by the United States Congress and the President (as when granting pardons). So, its use in county government is virtually non-existent. So, I think that county government can operate without the use of plenary power.
Chris Florance • No response
2. What is your understanding of the term "Due Course of Law," specifically in the administration of justice?
Ken Jones: No person would be denied the due process of law.
Jerry Hogan: This is a principle that states an individual cannot be deprived of life, liberty, or property without appropriate legal procedures and safeguards. In simple terms this means where an individual is facing a deprivation of life, liberty, or property, procedural due process mandates that he or she is entitled to adequate notice, a hearing, and a neutral judge.
Kevin Fowler: Due process (due course of law of the land) is used most frequently by the judiciary and is mentioned in the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments. Due process maintains that the government must respect all of the legal rights that are owed to a person according to the law and that government not be unfair to its people. I support the United States Constitution and the thought that it is the supreme "law of the land".
Chris Florance • No response
3. Do you support the repeal of property taxes?
Ken Jones: No. If that happened, we would have to have a state income tax. The reason Texas has fared better than other states in these bad economic times is that we have no state income tax which has caused many companies and factories to move to our state, and this has helped strengthen our employment base which, in turn, has helped Texas better weather the slowdown in the economy.
Jerry Hogan: Repeal of property tax is not an issue that will be decided by the County Judge or the Commissioners Court, therefore my personal opinion is not relevant. I do support lower taxes and perhaps repeal of property taxes addressed at the State level would be an appropriate approach to reducing taxes. At this point, the verdict is unclear.
Kevin Fowler: County government has to be funded in order to provide the services required by the State of Texas and expected by the citizens. County residents desire and expect infrastructure such as roads, economic development to lessen the tax burden and a desirable community in which to live. In Texas this is accomplished by ad valorem or property taxes. If property taxes are repealed, these services and improvements must be funded in some other way. I believe in the responsible administration of funds that are available to the county.
Chris Florance • No response

As a County Commissioner...

1. What is your position on the notion that county government may operate with "Plenary Power" (enacting laws and regulations not specifically authorized by the constitution)?
Lorie Grinnan (Precinct 2): By design, the State Legislature has given very limited powers to county government, and those powers are clearly defined and set forth by the constitution and state statutes. In other words, county offices are under the plenary control of the legislature with only constitutional and judicial control as exceptions. This system of government that has successfully served the State of Texas for more than a century, and county governments should operate within their given powers.
Stan McWhirter (Precinct 4): The county government has little, if any, power to enact laws or statutes independently. Our constitutional structure requires the state legislature to handle law making. Regulatory authority is very limited, other than tax rate issues. So my position on this notion of "Plenary Power" is that, in most cases, it's unconstitutional.
Fred Lively (Pct 2) • No response
David Magness (Pct 4) • No response
2. What do you believe is the primary responsibility of county government?
Lorie Grinnan (Precinct 2): The primary responsibility of county government is to provide the structure to maintain a safe and secure society. It is the functional arm of state government; vital county services include support for the court system, providing accurate record-keeping for deeds and public documents, support of public safety and jails, providing a reliable regional transportation system, collecting property taxes, issuing vehicle registration and transfers, operating elections and providing limited environmental, health and human services.
Stan McWhirter (Precinct 4): The number one responsibility of government at all levels is keeping us safe, both physically and fiscally. County government is charged with maintaining the local justice system, sheriff, constables, courts and jails. The commissioners court is charged with the county budget. Maintaining the fiscal reserves necessary to insure our ability to continue operations is critical.
Fred Lively (Pct 2) • No response
David Magness (Pct 4) • No response
3. Do you support the repeal of property taxes?
Lorie Grinnan (Precinct 2): County government functions are primarily funded with property taxes, and this system has overburdened property owners. However, if property taxes are repealed, some other form of tax would have to replace them. Without a source of revenue, Rockwall County would not be able to operate our court system and jail, nor provide law enforcement protection. The key to relieving the burden on property owners under the current system is to control spending and cut costs.
Stan McWhirter (Precinct 4): In my opinion, people really become irate when they perceive their taxes to be inequitable, they think they don't have a voice in how the money is spent, or they think that they are getting very little in return for their investment - in other words, bad government. What seems to

irritate folks about property taxes is the never ending increases based on increasing the appraised values. Obviously this increases your cost of ownership, if you're keeping your property for the foreseeable future. But, ever increasing values are a great thing when it comes time to sell your property.

Fred Lively (Pct 2) • No response
David Magness (Pct 4) • No response

4. What limits would you impose on the term "Eminent Domain" in the taking of property for government purposes?
Lorie Grinnan (Precinct 2): Eminent Domain should only be used when a vital function of county government could not continue to effectively serve the public without the acquisition of property. Any other circumstance is not justified.

Stan McWhirter (Precinct 4): Forcing folks to sell their property should never be undertaken lightly. But I think you need to be clear with your question - the government is NOT taking people's property, as in confiscating it. The use of "eminent domain" does condemn the property and force it to be sold at market value. Obviously, there are issues here when the property owner does not want to sell at any price. And there have certainly been abuses of defining what "fair market value" might be. But, in my opinion, government needs the "eminent domain" tool to be able to complete projects needed for the greatest good for the greatest number of people. In my opinion, invoking "eminent domain" should only be used in situations involving the public's health or safety. Never should government jump in to aid a commercial development.
Fred Lively (Pct 2) • No response
David Magness (Pct 4) • No response

As the County Clerk ...

1. What do you believe is your primary responsibility?
Shelli Miller: Simply put, the county clerk's responsibility is to be the recorder and the record keeper for the county. She is also responsible for being the clerk of the commissioner's court and county courts at law. And finally she's responsible for developing and administering a records management program that ensures the preservation of essential records from 1856 to present.
David Sweet • Response submitted after deadline, see advertisement on Page 5
2. What qualifies you to serve as the county clerk?
Shelli Miller: It all boils down to experience. With a 17-year background in the banking industry and over 15 years in leadership roles in civic organizations here in Rockwall County, I have the qualifications and experience to manage the county clerk's office. Every aspect of the county clerk's office is governed by federal and state laws and regulations in much the same way as the banking industry. I am experienced with regulatory compliance, maintaining important documents and records, managing internal controls for handling cash, and adhering to confidentiality and security requirements.
David Sweet • No response
3. How will you handle Federal Notices of Tax Liens, considering that Texas is not an "income tax state"?
Shelli Miller: When tax liens are received at the county clerk's office, after verifying their validity, the county clerk's job is simply to file the lien.
David Sweet • Response submitted after deadline, see ad with responses on Page 5

As a Justice of the Peace ...

1. What is your understanding of the term "Due Course of Law," specifically in the administration of justice?
Cathy Penn (Pct 2&3): As a licensed attorney and trial judge, I am very familiar with the Texas and United States Constitutional guarantees of due course of law, due process, and equal protection. Protections to ensure justice and fairness by the government in dealing with citizens include the right to notice of a proceeding, the right to a fair trial and the right to be heard by a fair and impartial judge. A fair trial in a criminal case means the right to a speedy trial, an impartial and fair jury, to call witnesses, to cross-examine witnesses, to counsel, to remain silent, to the presumption of innocence, and to require the State to prove each element of the offense beyond a reasonable doubt.
Jack James (Pct 1&4): Each and every citizen has the right to be treated in a fair and equitable manner in accordance with the law.
David Karr (Pct 1&4): Every citizen is entitled to their day in court which is guaranteed by the Constitution. It begins with being informed of a crime being filed or indictment from the Grand Jury against him or her. That the defendant is afforded a speedy trial with proper counsel if unable to afford one, one being appointed for him, regardless of status. I as a judge or magistrate it is my duty to see that justice is administered fair and impartial. None of the victims rights are denied and fair and impartial trial by their peers is conducted in manner according to law.
Nancy Beatty (Pct 2&3): I understand your term "Due Course of Law" in the administration of justice to mean, an orderly proceeding where a person has an opportunity to be heard and have his rights enforced according to the law before a court with the power to hear and determine the case.
Michelle Leek Sutton (Pct 1&4): Due Course of Law is described in the Texas Bill of Rights (Article I, Section 19 of the Texas Constitution) and it states: "DEPRIVATION OF LIFE, LIBERTY, ETC.; DUE COURSE OF LAW. No citizen of this State shall be deprived of life, liberty, property, privileges or immunities, or in any manner disenfranchised, except by the due course of the law of the land." Its concepts are "practically synonymous" with due process as outlined in the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and are rooted in the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution, English common law, and the Magna Carta, as they deal with due process and equal protection under the law.
Larry Holloway (Pct 2&3) • No response
2. What do you believe is your primary responsibility?
Cathy Penn (Pct 2&3): I believe the primary responsibility of the Justice of the Peace is to perform the duties of the office impartially and diligently, and with integrity and judicial independence. Under my judicial oath of office, I am sworn to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the laws of the United States and the State of Texas. The oath and the Code of Judicial Conduct require a judge to be familiar with the law and competent in its use. As the only candidate (in precincts 2 & 3) that is a licensed attorney, I have the extensive training and experience to ensure that the law is followed and to see that all parties are treated fairly.
Jack James (Pct 1&4): My primary responsibility is to make sure that every citizen is treated in a fair and equitable manner in accordance with the law and to be available to the citizens.
David Karr (Pct 1&4): A Justice of the Peace wears many hats, during a day, I can be a judge sitting in misdemeanor court or in small claim or justice court. While in justice, I may be hearing an eviction suit or render a \$10,000 judgment and next I may be a magistrate setting bonds, signing warrants, misdemeanors, felony, mental, search warrants, etc. Then I may be called upon to hold a death inquest at some person's home, along side the road, at the hospital. So to answer this all I can say is that it is my responsibility to serve the citizens of this county in any and all hats I wear.
Nancy Beatty (Pct 2&3): My primary responsibility is to perform the duties of the office of Justice of the Peace as prescribed by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Texas in a fair and impartial manner.
Michelle Leek Sutton (Pct 1&4): I believe my primary responsibility as Justice of the Peace is to provide judicial, magistrate, and other services to the citizens of Rockwall County in a timely, efficient, transparent, consistent, fair, and just manner.
Larry Holloway (Pct 2&3) • No response

3. How will you respond to complaints filed by law enforcement officers which fail to cite the statute that has allegedly been violated?
Cathy Penn (Pct 2&3): A complaint is a sworn affidavit that sets out in plain language the alleged unlawful conduct of the accused and each element of the offense which the State must prove. The Code of Criminal Procedures provides that a complaint is filed when an accused person enters a plea of "not guilty" or fails to appear based on written notice contained in a citation given the accused by the law enforcement officer. The Code also sets out the specific requisites of the complaint. It does not require the code section be cited in the complaint and it would be outside my scope of authority to impose an additional requirement. A judge may not pursue his or her own personal visions of justice and fairness in disregard of the law; to do so would violate the judicial oath and ethics.
Jack James (Pct 1&4): In my court, the officer that filed the complaint will be required to make sure the complaint was filed in accordance with the law in each and every case.
David Karr (Pct 1&4): First of all, it is not the court's complaint. It is the state charging instrument. It is up to the state attorney to file the proper charge at trial. It is the state responsibility to review the facts and evidence in the sworn complaint before approving or objecting. But if it does get to the trial stage either before the court or a jury trial, and a proper objection is raised I probably would dismiss the cause of action.
Nancy Beatty (Pct 2&3): All cases will be handled in a fair and impartial manner.
Michelle Leek Sutton (Pct 1&4): Law enforcement officers commonly issue citations to citizens with only the name or title of the offense or violation listed (e.g. "minor in possession of alcohol," "failure to maintain financial responsibility," or "no seatbelt") and this meets the legal requirements as described in the Code of Criminal Procedure.
Larry Holloway (Pct 2&3) • No response

Publisher's Note: Invitations to participate in our "We The People" special page were sent Thursday, February 11, 2010 by email to all candidates listed above specifying a deadline of 5 p.m. Monday, February 15 for inclusion. Those candidates listed in italics above did not respond prior to the deadline. David Sweet reported that he did not receive the email notice, his response is included in an advertisement on Page 5. Voters are encouraged to carefully review the positions of candidates on the ballot so as to be well informed when casting their ballots. • Rockwall County News

being recently at the East
Brittany Johnson (OS
Williams Middle School
Feature Twirler Dana
Twirler Ashley Pinales,
Photo: Rockwall Cot

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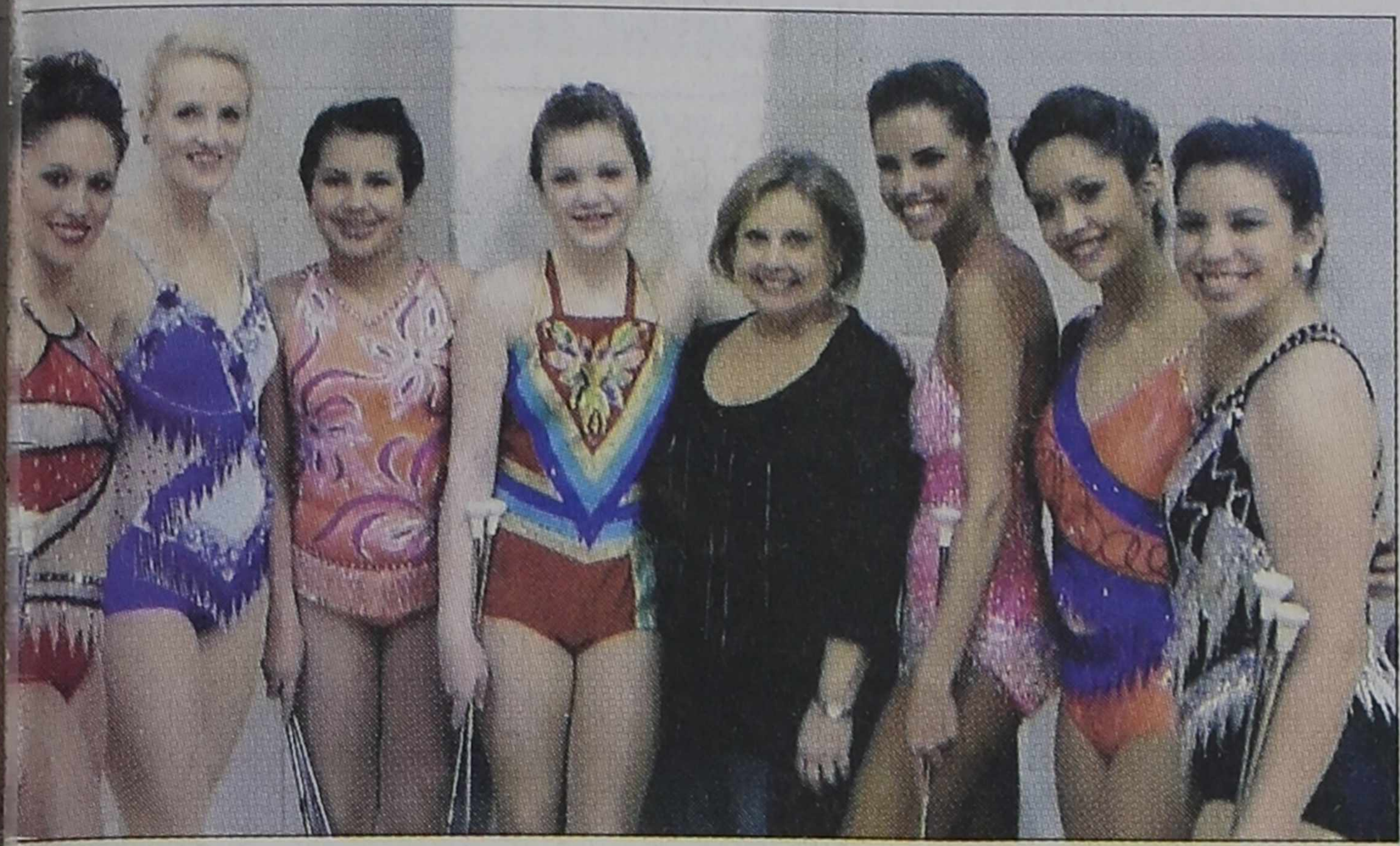
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Participating recently at the East Texas Twirl Competition are Rockwall students (left to right) Feature - Brittany Johnson (OSU), Feature Twirler Carly Bender (SMU), National Champion Alyssa Williams Middle School Alex Bridges, coach Janice Jackson, Feature Twirler Kendall Morris Feature Twirler Danae Couch (Baylor) and 1st Runner Up Miss Texas and Rockwall High twirler Ashley Pinales, Photo/Rockwall County News

Weather delays lane openings on SH 205

New lane openings for State Highway 205 from Sam Houston to just north of the downtown square have been delayed because of weather conditions, according to a City of Rockwall news release issued late last week.

The northbound lanes now are scheduled to open Tuesday. Southbound lanes should open March 2.

When the new lanes are open, some traffic delays are to be expected when northbound traffic is moved to the new lanes and while traffic signals are re-programmed, the release stated. Flagmen will direct traffic as necessary. After the traffic switch, there will be periodic lane closures in some areas of the roadway while minor work is completed.

State transportation officials have not provided a final completion date

for that work. First presented to the City of Rockwall in 1984 by the Texas Department of Transportation with a selection of 13 alternative routes, the six-lane design wasn't approved by city officials until 1993. Until 2007, lack of state funding had delayed construction of the state highway that extended from Sids Road north to just north of downtown Rockwall.

For more information about the traffic switch, contact Kevin Lay, state project manager, at 214-320-6100 or Rockwall city engineer Chuck Todd at 972-771-7746.

Local FFA, 4-H members show at Ft. Worth event

Several Rockwall High School FFA and Rockwall County 4-H Club members participated in the recent Fort Worth Southwestern

Exposition and Livestock Show.

FFA participants included Sam Evans, Molly Kate Evans, Jacob Hillman, Ryan Ullom, Emily Ullom, Jake Termin, Luke Termin and Ted Oates, Commercial Gilt Show; Will Morris and Cale Merritt, Yorkshire Breeding Gilt Show; Tyler Hughes, Samantha Giovanangelo and Devynne Pazos, Junior Wether Goats; and Tanner Howey, Junior Beef Angus Heifer.

FFA chapter sponsors are Casey Jones and Bobby Fowler. Rockwall County 4-H sponsor is Todd Williams.

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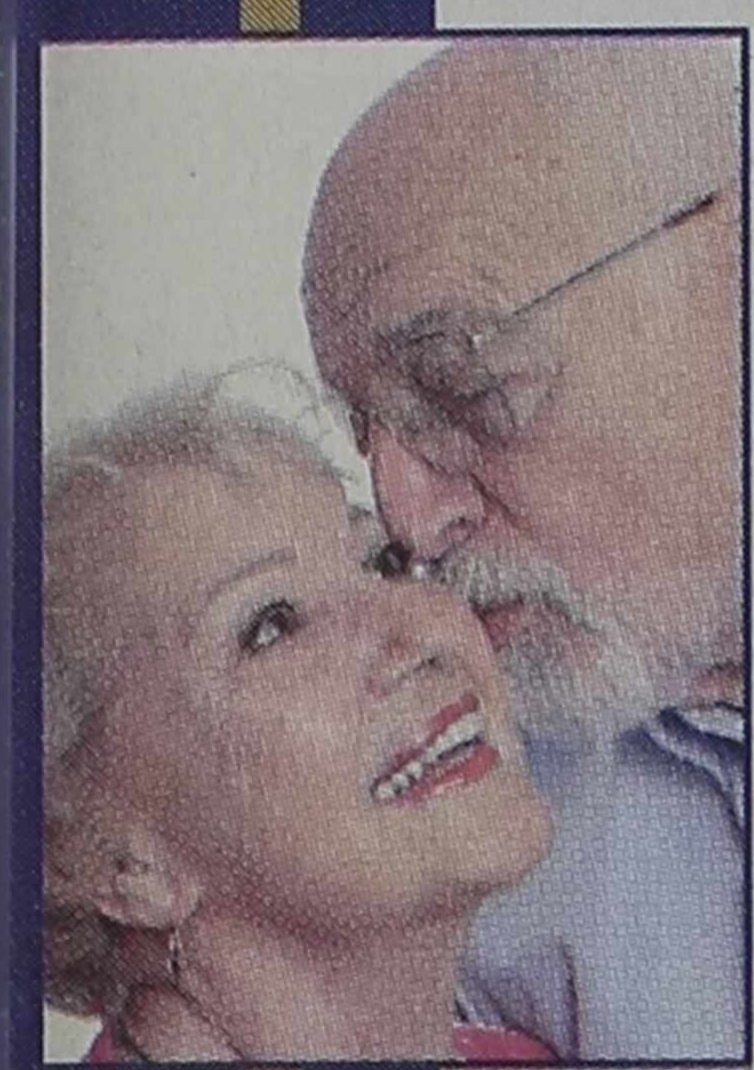
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Daneane is accepting patients in our Rockwall Office.

Paul Koetter, RPT

Paul is a Licensed Physical Therapist with a Master's of Physical Therapy Degree. Paul earned his degree at the University of Oklahoma Health and Science Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Paul's professional experience has been in outpatient orthopedics and sports rehabilitation. He has professional training in manual therapy, spinal rehabilitation, orthopedic injuries, shoulder rehabilitation for the overhand thrower, and TMJ rehabilitation.

Paul is accepting patients in our Rockwall office.

Misty Hurley, RPT

Misty graduated from the University of Central Florida in December 1998 with a Bachelors degree in Health Service Administration and a minor in Health Science. In 2000, she earned her Master's degree in Physical Therapy at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences in St. Augustine, Florida. Her professional training involves outpatient orthopedic experience including spinal rehabilitation with core stabilizaiton/Pilates programs, manual therapy techniques, vestibular rehab, work comp related injuries including FCEs and variety conditioning programs as well as treatment for a variety of musculoskeletal and sports related injuries.

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Volunteers honored by Helping Hands

Richard Slaughter, Bob and Karen Clements among honorees

by Judy Evans

Eight members of the Rockwall community were recently honored by Helping Hands for their outstanding volunteer service to the non-profit critical assistance agency.

Recipients for 2009 were:

- Karen and Bob Clements (the Ethel Moss Award)
- Richard Slaughter (the David Lensch Award)
- Mildred Brown (Health Center Volunteer of the Year)
- Bonnie Cunningham/Emma Edwards (Thrift Store Volunteers of the Year)
- Sandy Rice/Ed Frazier (Assistance and Referral Volunteers of the Year)

The incredible value of volunteers to Helping Hands is not measured in dollars alone. It is measured in the hours of work and support they give to the agency on a wide range of projects that require their time, talents and energy.

Volunteers are critical to the success of Helping Hands, said Margo Nielsen, executive director of Helping Hands. With their help, she said, the agency assisted more than 5,000 clients in need in 2009.

"They are so much more than a support work force," said Mrs. Nielsen. "Volunteers are the front line for our agency in the community, representing us as they go about their daily lives. They are an indication of the support Helping Hands has in Rockwall. Without the assistance of schools, churches, business and civic groups, we'd be lost."

"Our accomplishments are so much greater because of our volunteers."

The Ethel Moss Award was awarded to Karen and Bob Clements, well known philanthropists in Rockwall. The Clements were supporters of Dallas Race Week when Helping Hands was the charitable recipient, and for several years provided great barbeque for more than 200 sailors with all of the money going to Helping Hands. Mrs. Nielsen credits the couple for teaching her how to make money on donated dinners. They were also sponsors of the Culpepper Tournament, which raised tens of thousands of dollars for organizations that included Helping Hands. In 2009, they hosted the Chef's Shootout, an outstanding event featuring local chefs that raised \$15,000 for the agency.

"The Clements not only raise funds, they do it with panache, hosting events that create fun and excitement for the participants, sponsors and charitable recipients. I love it when Helping Hands is involved with them," said Mrs. Nielsen.

The award is named for Ethel Moss, business partner of Helping Hands benefactor Eloise Culum.

The David Lensch Award, named in honor of the Health Center's volunteer physician and medical director, went to Richard Slaughter. He served on the agency's Board of Directors from 1996 until 2006 and on the board of Rockwall Area Healthcare (2001-2004) where he established a pharmacy at the clinic under his license. Today, the Health Center of Helping Hands maintains a Class D pharmacy under Richard's license.

"Without Richard's support and counsel, the Health Center would not be complete. Volunteers like Richard and David Lensch are few and far between and when an organization is lucky enough to engage them, we hang on tight!" said Mrs. Nielsen.

Volunteer awards were also presented by the agency to:

Mildred Brown was named Health Center Volunteer of the Year. She has worked with the Health Center since 2005 in an RN capacity, primarily helping out with flu shot clinics. She has been an RN for 56 years, bringing a wealth of experience to the center.

"She is considered the greatest shot-giver around and always does it with a smile no matter what time of day we schedule her or how far we ask her to travel," said Lesa Walker, the center's chief clinician. "Mildred has a long history of volunteerism."

Bonnie Cunningham and Emma Edwards were named Thrift Store Volunteers of the Year. They are the Thrift Store duo lovingly known as "The Saturday Ladies." Bonnie began volunteering in 1989, starting her career at Helping Hands when it was located in a small space on Kenway. Emma joined Bonnie on Saturday duty when the store moved into larger quarters in 1992.

The two ladies work in the households section of the Rockwall store each Saturday, always paying close attention to the merchandise they put on shelves for cleanliness and fair pricing, said Thrift Store Manager Melody East.

"Words cannot express how much Helping Hands appreciates the time and dedication of these two wonderful women," she said.

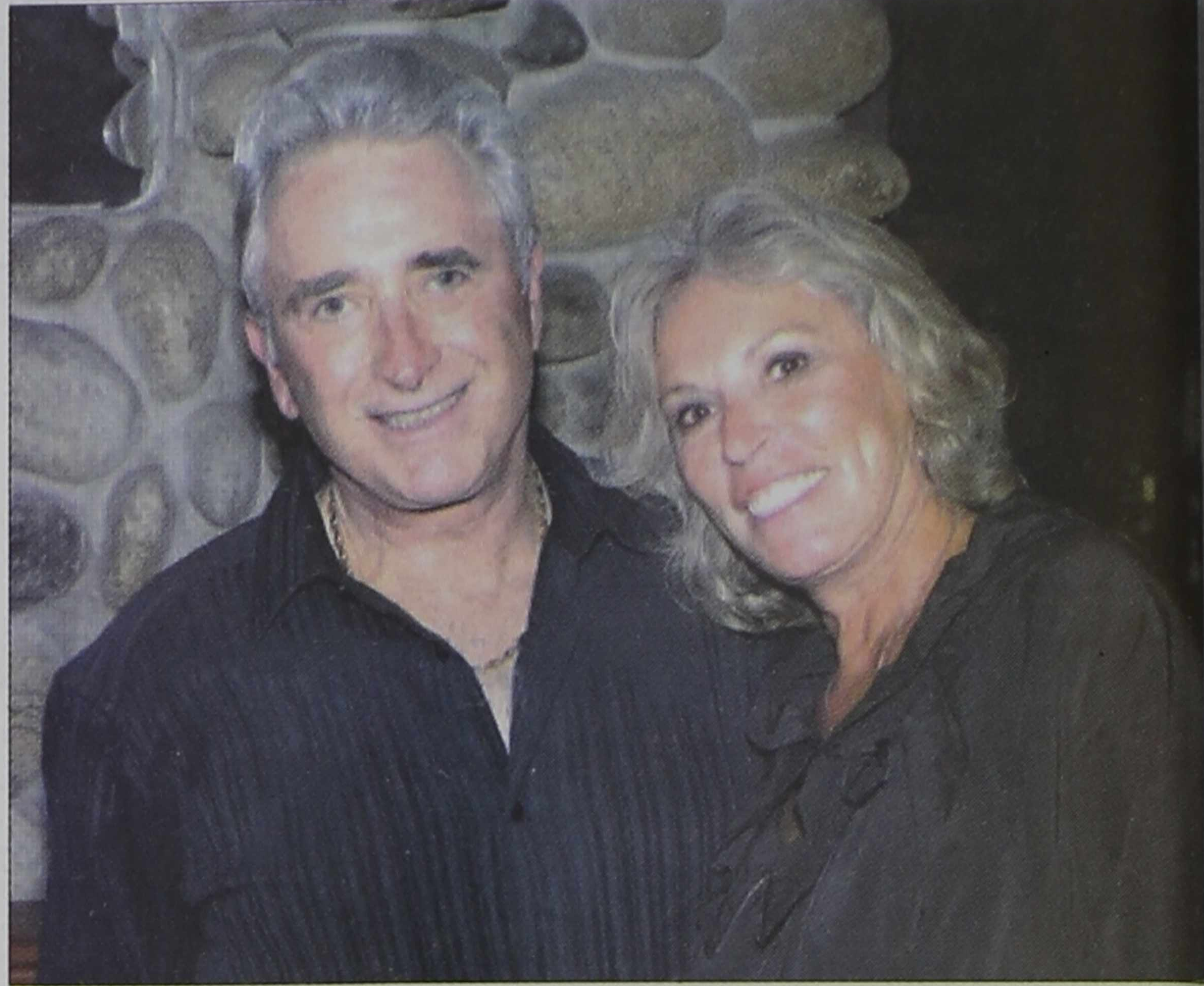
Ed Frazier and Sandy Rice were named Assistance and Referral Volunteers of the Year. Ed packs food for clients in the agency's Food Pantry where he works every Friday morning and additional days when items come in from food drives. He also helps sort food and stock shelves, quite a job in 2009 when there was an 85 percent increase in the amount of food distributed. He started volunteering almost four years ago.

"Ed is such a dependable pantry volunteer," said Sherry Hamm, director of Assistance and Referral. "He is there every Friday morning ready to pack food for clients. When we have a big food drive coming in and I call for volunteers to help, he is always one of the first to respond."

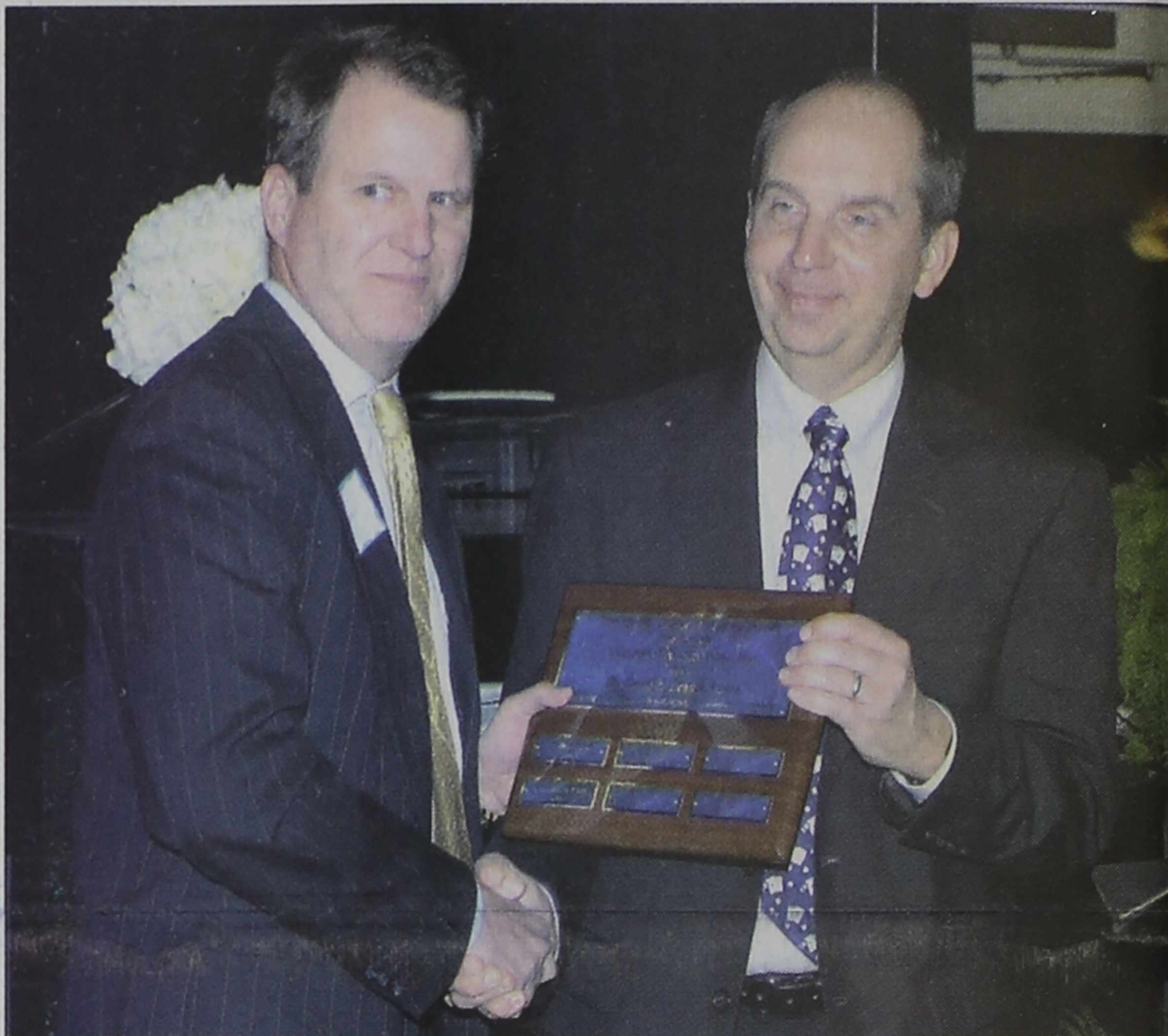
Sandy has been a Helping Hands volunteer for eight years. She has worked in different areas of Assistance and Referral, and she currently interviews clients to determine their needs. Sandy helps out on Mondays, but she often fills in for other volunteers.

"Sandy's concern for those requesting assistance is so sincere," said Mrs. Hamm. "She does an exceptional job interviewing clients because she takes time to listen to their needs yet she is very thorough in evaluating each situation and determining the assistance we should provide."

Helping Hands pays homage to all of its volunteers. Each has unique gifts to share and each makes significant contributions by putting his or her best talents to work at the agency. They are a diverse group, but they share the value of making a difference to Helping Hands and to the Rockwall community.



Bob and Karen Clements were recognized with the Ethel Moss Award. Photo by Ron Austin



Richard Slaughter (left) accepts the David Lensch Award from Dr. Lensch. Photo by Ron Austin



Bonnie Cunningham (left) and Emma Edwards were named Thrift Store Volunteers of the Year. Photo by Ron Austin



Ed Frazier and Sandy Rice were named Assistance and Referral Volunteers of the Year. Photo by Ron Austin

Helping Hands 2009 Statistical Report

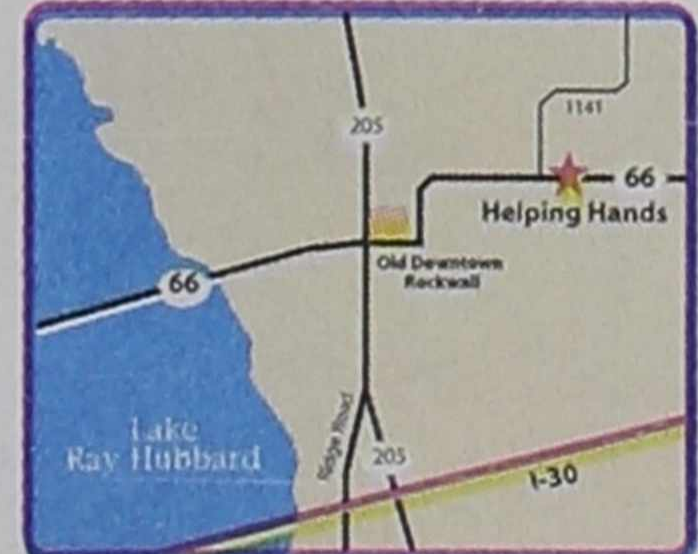
- Served 5,248 clients (unduplicated)
- Served 5,209 patients at the Health Center including 1,326 under the age of 18
- Provided 24,479 bags of food to clients
- Provided 3 new toys at Christmas to 1,076 children
- Increased thrift store revenues more than 8%



Helping Hands

ROCKWALL COUNTY

For more information about Helping Hands or to make a donation, please call 972-771-HELP



Mildred Brown was named Health Center Volunteer of the Year.

Rockwall County Sports

Rockwall Christian Warriors rout Abilene Christian, advance to regional final

Rockwall Christian Academy won three wins of the boys' basketball state championship Saturday with an 81-61 victory at home over Abilene Christian in an Area round game. The Warriors improved their record to 15-5 with their 14th consecutive win, which moved them up to 11th place in the TABC poll of the schools.

Both spread the scoring across their lineup: Central Texas has five players averaging double figures in points per game, led by guard Scott Rizvi's 15.1. Rockwall Christian has four, with Below averaging a team-high 17.5.

One difference between the teams is that RCA plays more aggressive defense. Turner's 7.4 steals per game are more than the average for Central Texas' team. The Lions are somewhat deeper. In addition to the five players scoring in double figures, they have point guard Kevin Morales, whose 6.7 assists per game almost equal his scoring average.

Central Texas also is taller, with three players 6'2" or taller, but the

Warriors' Peoples plays so far above his height that he averages 10 rebounds per game. That's second on the team to Below's 11.4.

Against Full Armor Christian, Jonathan Sulak led Central Texas with 25 points.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Abilene	7	12	15	15	49
RCA	16	26	14	25	81

Saturday

Abilene Christian: Chris Macke 13, Tony Macke 9, Shea Beltran 8, Harrison Hancock 7, Drew Martinez 6, Daniel Austin 4, Clint Burton 2.

Rockwall Christian (23-5): Stephan Turner 24, Elvis Below 18, Raymon Stewart 18, Charlie Wilson 6, Aaron Eastin 6, Sherman Peoples 4, Randy Castaneda 3, Daniel Rorie 2.



RCA Warriors' Raymon Stewart (1) drives in for two points during Saturday's game against Abilene Christian at RCA. Ready to assist is RCA teammate Eric Wright (21).
Staff photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

4 Yellowjackets qualify for state swimming

The Rockwall boys' 200-yard medley relay team qualified for the state swimming championships, and three of its swimmers qualified in individual events as well at Saturday's Region III-4A meet at Southlake Carroll.

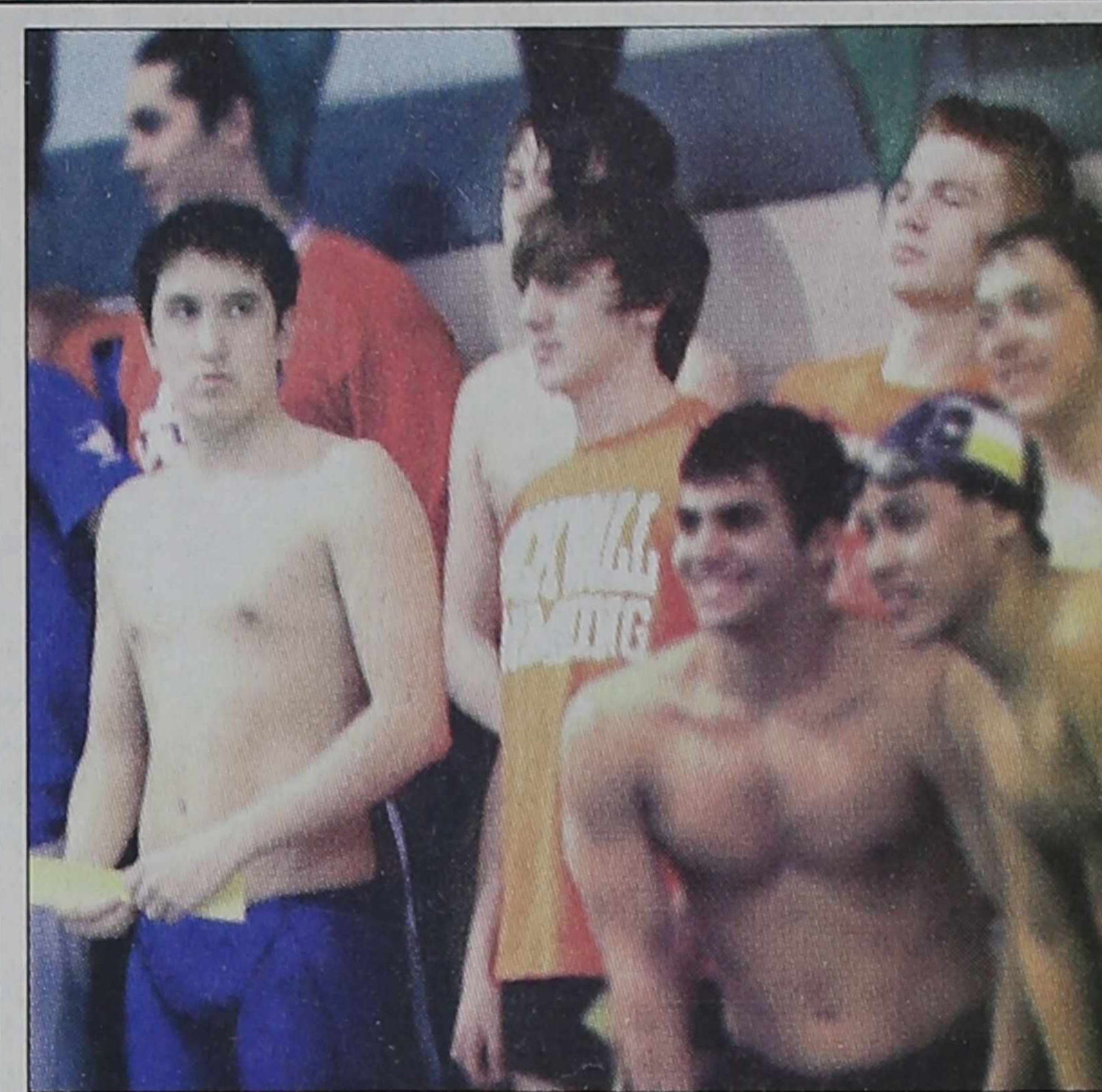
Nick Fontenot, Jonathan Walters, Ryan Lang and Matt Lang finished fourth in the relay and earned the 11th seed for the state meet with a time of 1 minute, 42.49 seconds.

Ryan Lang and Walters each had a second-place finish that qualified them as 12th seeds in the state. Lang finished the 200 freestyle in 1:48.00, and Walters splashed to a time of 1:03.05 in the 100 breaststroke.

Fontenot also took a silver medal in the 100 backstroke (55.93 seconds), qualifying as the 13th seed in the state meet Feb. 26-27 at the University of Texas in Austin.

The Friday, Feb. 12, snowfall turned a scheduled two-day regional event into a very busy single day of swimming.

Includes information provided by Deva Fontenot.



Yellowjackets' 200Y Relay team qualifying for the UIL swim meet at Austin with a time of 1:42:49 are (back row left to right) Matthew Lang, Dustin Fontenot (front row) Jonathan Walters and Jared Tokuz is standing in for team member Ryan Lang.
Photo courtesy of Sue Madrid/Rockwall County News

Hodan wins regional 100 breaststroke

Jacey Hodan will go into the state 4A girls' swimming meet seeded first in the 100-yard breaststroke after winning the Region III-4A championship in 1 minute, 5.34 seconds.

She led a group of four Rockwall-Heath girls qualifying for the state meet Feb. 26-27 at the University of Texas in Austin. Hodan also qualified in the 200 individual medley and in both the 200 medley and 400 freestyle relays, teaming with Morgan Madrid, Coral Davenport and Katie Langdon in each event.

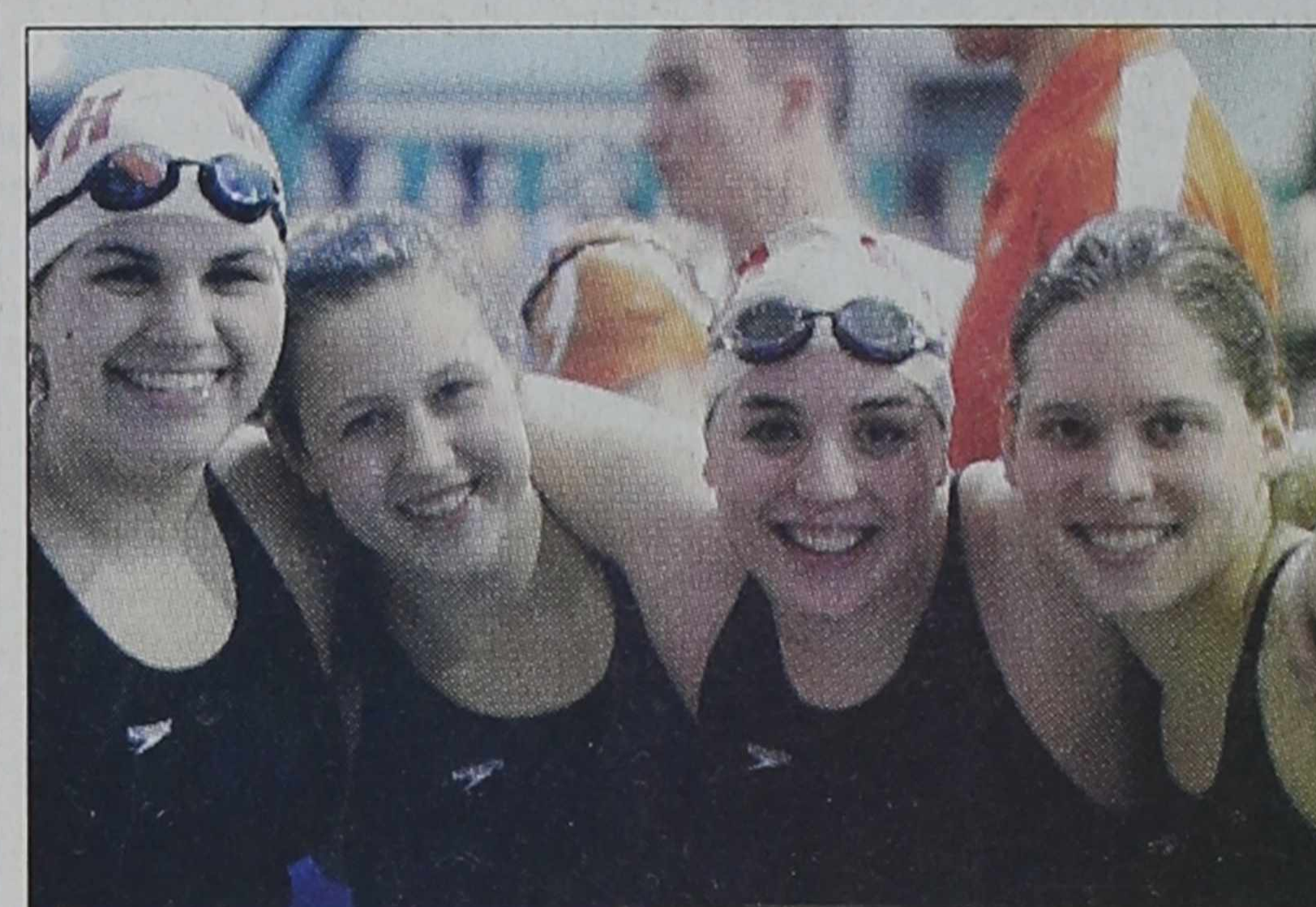
Hodan was third in the IM race. She swam the third leg for the medley relay team that placed third in the region and will be seeded fifth in the state, with a time of 2:09.14. Hodan also anchored the freestyle

relay that finished in 3:47.99 and will be seeded 10th in the state.

Davenport was the only other Lady Hawk to qualify in an individual event, swimming the 100 butterfly

in 59.46 seconds for second place in the region and the seventh seed statewide.

Includes information provided by Deva Fontenot.



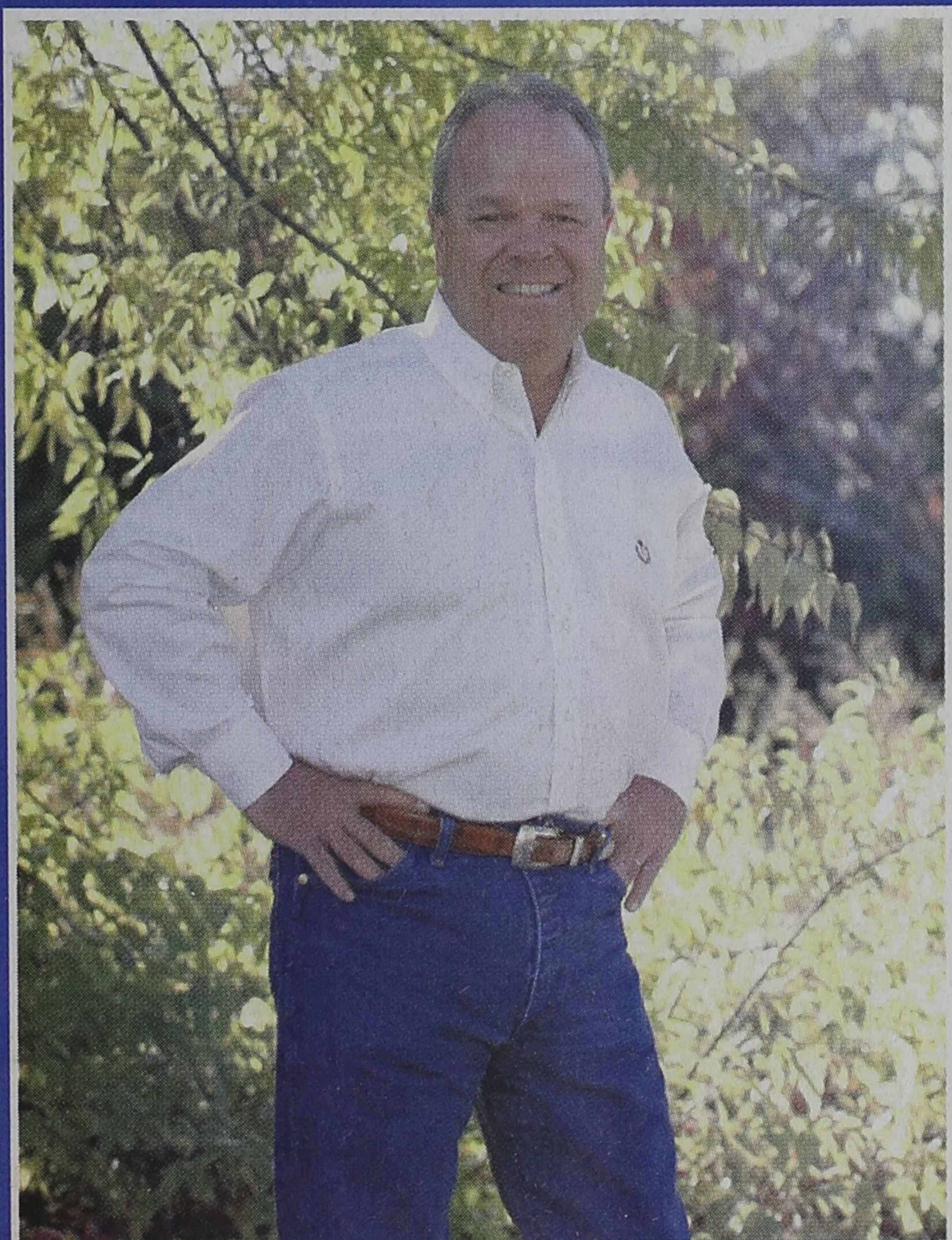
Lady Hawks' 200Y Medley Relay team advancing to State UIL swim meet at Austin with a Regional Bronze medal are (left to right) Morgan Madrid, Katie Langdon, Jacey Hodan and Coral Davenport.
The team seeded in 5th place with a time of 1:52.64. In addition, the team also qualified their 400Y Freestyle Relay for state with a 10th place seed in a time of 3:47.99.
Photo courtesy of Sue Madrid/Rockwall County News

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Re-elect Chris Florance

Rockwall County Judge



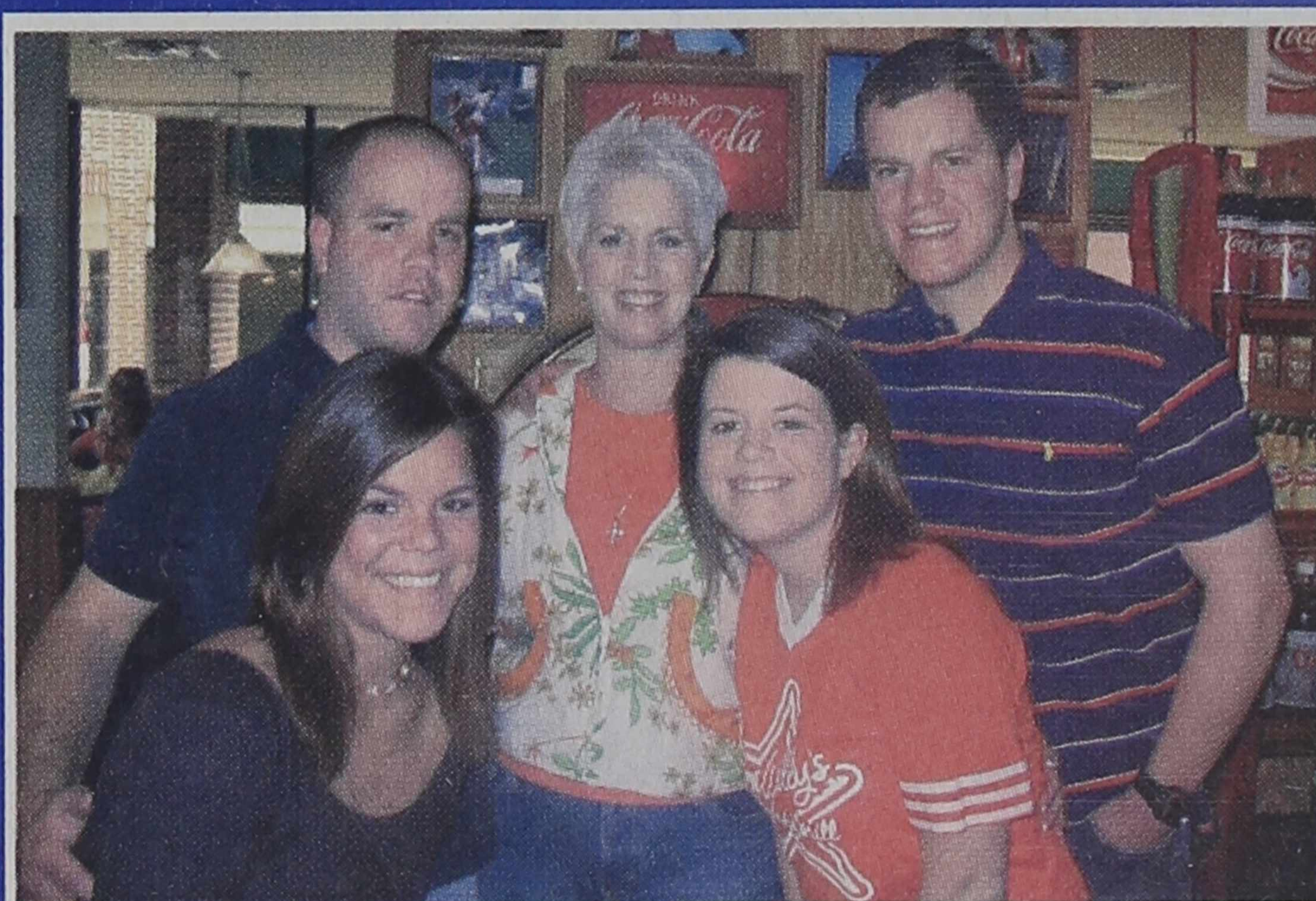
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- Fact:** Achieved the 11th highest bond ratings in the state among 254 Counties state wide.
- Fact:** Successfully testified before the Seante to defeat Parkland Hospital's attempt to create a Regional Tax on Rockwall County.
- Fact:** Successfully testified before the Senate to fund a State-funded District Judge position for Rockwall County.
- Fact:** Successfully negotiated a Board Seat on the Regional Transportation Council representing Rockwall and Hunt Counties.
- Fact:** Successfully kept Rockwall County infrastructure and development moving forward in a depressed economy.
- Fact:** Successfully completed 160 hours of Judicial training from the Texas Judicial Academy.



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Rockwall County Sports

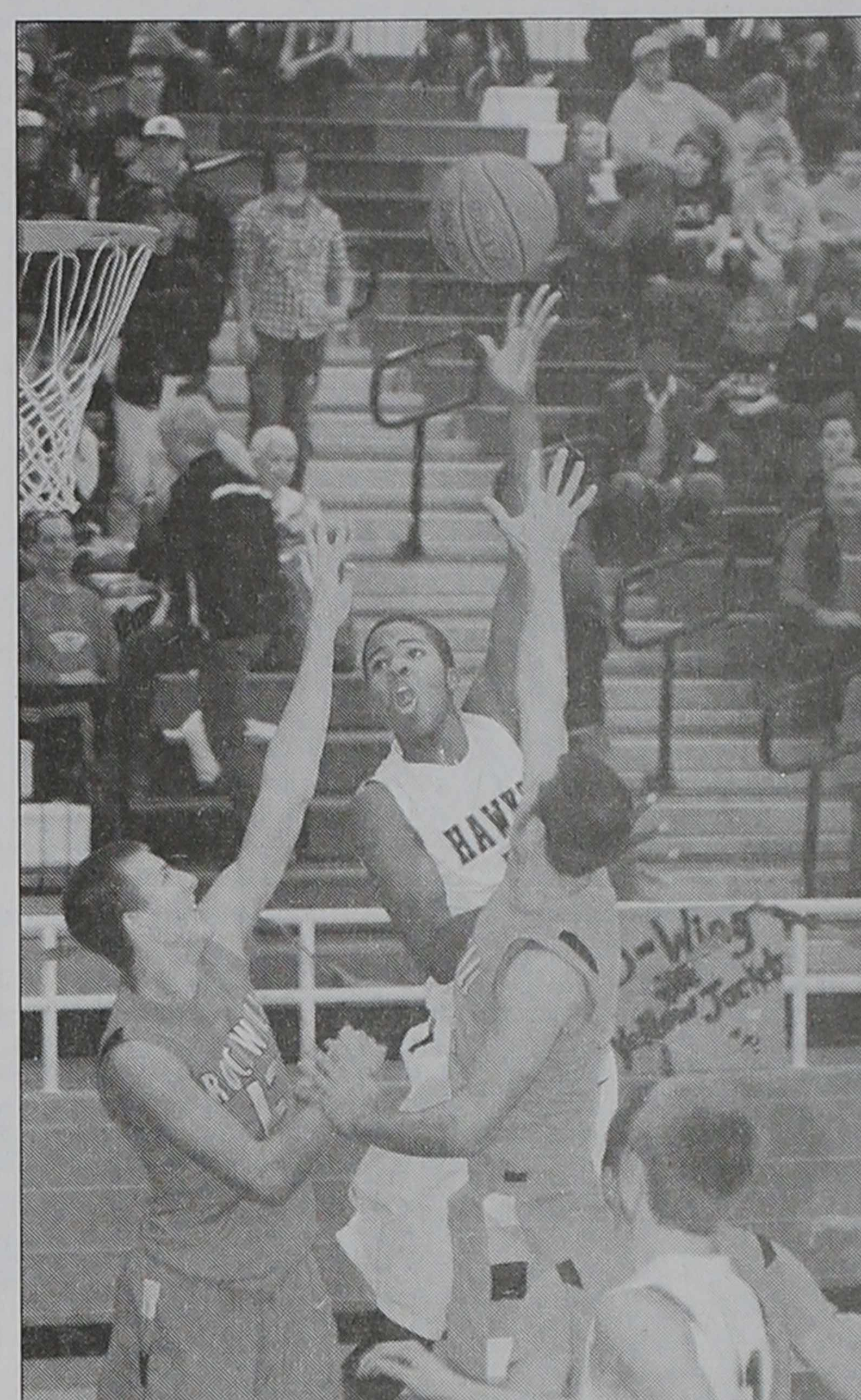
Hawks finish on high note by edging Rockwall

By Bump
 ed easy for Rockwall-Heath son-ending boys' basketball against RISD-rival Rockwall. as it turned out. at home, the Hawks down on Rockwall for lead with 1 minute, 41 remaining in the first quarter. Yellowjackets nearly stung l-Heath in the end before ladney picked up an errant preserve a 49-48 victory night. The Jackets then followed their successful strategy of fouling, sending Gladney to the line for two shots with 3.2 seconds to play. He missed them both, dropping Rockwall-Heath to a miserable 4-for-13 from the foul line in the fourth quarter. When the rebound went out of bounds, Rockwall had the ball. Adam Dingwell threw a pass three-quarters of the length of the court, where teammate Micah Griffey soared above Gladney but couldn't hold the ball. Gladney retrieved it and a game that might have been lost. Gladney, Preston Wynn and Wayne

a little longer, but we finally settled down and pulled it out." Rockwall used runs of 6-0 and 7-0 in the second quarter to pull within 24-19, and sliced RHHS' halftime advantage to 28-24. The Hawks three times built their lead to eight points in the second half, but RHS battled back to come the closest they would in the game at 46-45 and again at 49-48 on three foul shots with 6.3 seconds left. The Jackets then followed their successful strategy of fouling, sending Gladney to the line for two shots with 3.2 seconds to play. He missed them both, dropping Rockwall-Heath to a miserable 4-for-13 from the foul line in the fourth quarter. When the rebound went out of bounds, Rockwall had the ball. Adam Dingwell threw a pass three-quarters of the length of the court, where teammate Micah Griffey soared above Gladney but couldn't hold the ball. Gladney retrieved it and a game that might have been lost. Gladney, Preston Wynn and Wayne

Cunningham are the three seniors leaving the Hawks to a nucleus of underclassmen who grew up during the season. Morett said, "Our three seniors did a great job. It was a young team, so we knew it was going to be a tough year at times. "Defensively is probably our biggest strength coming back next year. We'll have all that experience that we didn't have coming in this year. These kids really like each other; they're a close group. We need to find a way to put the ball in the hole, especially at the foul line." The victory over Rockwall wasn't quite as good as it might have been. The Hawks' defense couldn't stop Greenville's Devonte Green, whose 28 points more than offset RHHS' 15 from Jordan Points, 12 by Todd Franza and 10 from Anthony Haake. Morett said after Tuesday's game, "I wish we could have got a win Saturday, but this was a big one anyway. We needed it." 1st 2nd 3rd 4th Final

RHHS 8 18 15 21 62
 GHS 15 20 23 19 77
 Saturday
 RHHS (10-18, 5-8): Jordan Points 15, Todd Franza 12, Anthony Haake 10, Jonathan Fuller 7, Aaron Gladney 6, Zachary Morett 6, Preston Wynn 4, Wayne Cunningham 2.
 Greenville (14-16, 8-5): Devonte Green 28, Byron Mack 13, N.J. Mason 13, Ladarrian Green 6, Ryan Redmon 4, Dijoun Sheppard 4, Sawyer Harmon 3, Cal Crabtree 2, Alton Dennis 2, Tristin Farley 2, Manon Steward 2.
 1st 2nd 3rd 4th Final
 RHS 6 18 8 16 48
 RHHS 18 10 8 13 49
 Tuesday
 Rockwall (10-19, 5-9): Griffin Fraser 17, Wesley Davis 11, Blake Sandlin 8, Micah Griffey 6, Hunter Jorgensen 3, Carson Brooks 3.
 Rockwall-Heath (11-18, 6-8): Jonathan Fuller 12, Demi Leonard 9, Jordan Points 8, Todd Franza 7, Aaron Gladney 6, Anthony Haake 3, Zachary Morett 3, Preston Wynn 1.



Hawks' Demi Leonard (5) takes a two point shot over Yellowjackets' defenders Wesley Davis and Adam Dingwell. Also in the play Heath teammate Aaron Gladney (21) and Rockwall's Blake Sandlin. Staff photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

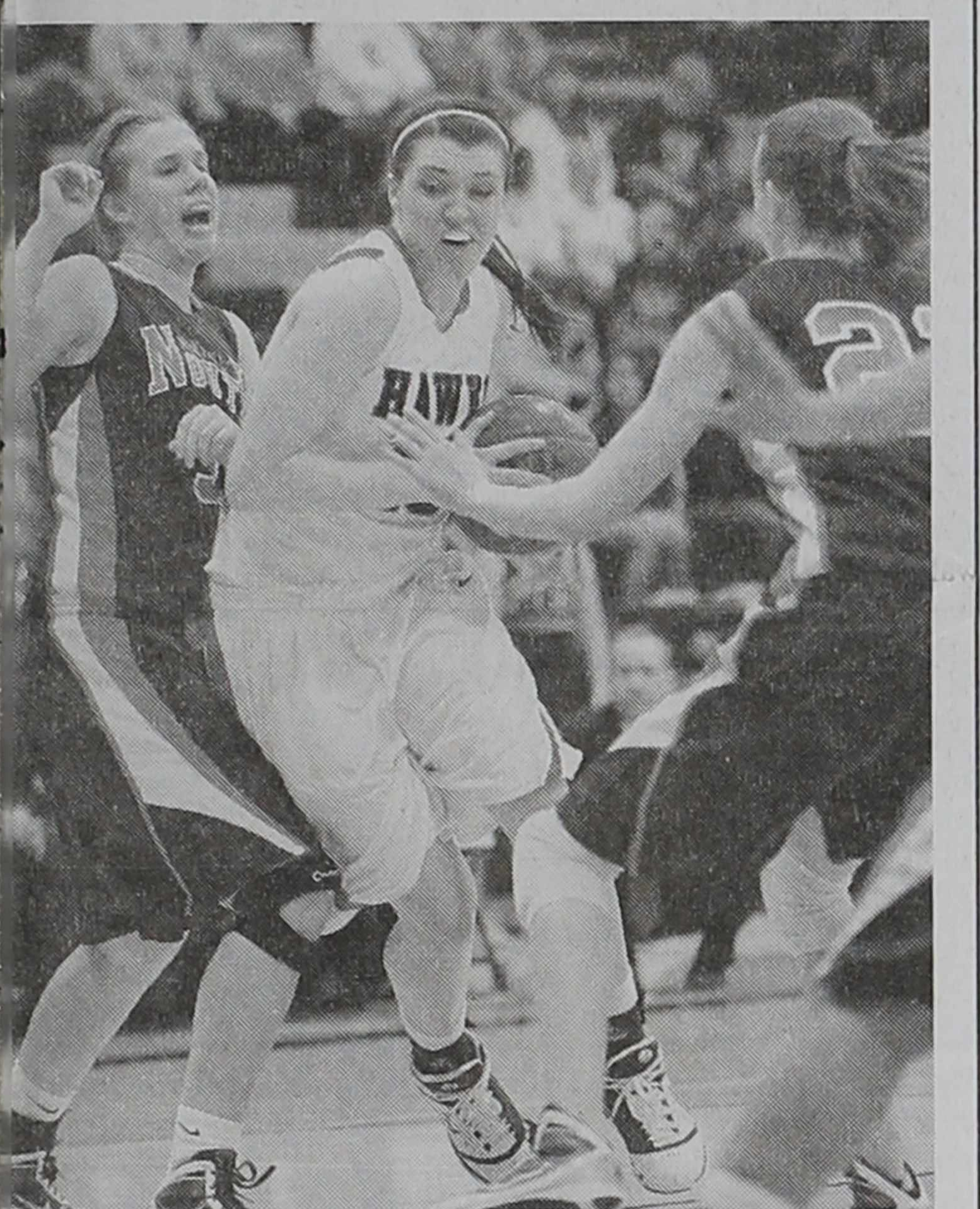
Lady Hawks' scoring drought brings 55-38 playoff loss

into Monday night's district matchup, first-year l-Heath head coach Devin l knew his Lady Hawks uphill fight against talented ey North at Plano East High new they were going to be with their athleticism," said l. "They are a solid club. We

needed to play them tough." RHHS did just that throughout the first half. When senior Shanae Lowrance powered her way for a three-point play to knot the score 23-23 just before halftime, it appeared that Lady Hawks could hang with the taller, faster Lady Bulldogs. But a scoring dry spell that

spanned the last minute of the second quarter, the entire third quarter and almost a minute of the fourth allowed North to put together a crushing 22-2 string and cruise to a 55-38 win. "We went through a stretch where we couldn't score and they went through a stretch where they couldn't miss," said Gabbard, whose team missed 10 shots in a row. After Lowrance's three-point play with 1 minute, 9 seconds left in the opening half, Rockwall-Heath didn't score again for 9:51, until senior Lyndsey Renta dropped two foul shots with 7:18 left in the fourth quarter.

school career as the leading scorer and rebounder in RHHS history, took the night's scoring honors with 19 points, making 9 of 14 from the field. She also collected a game-high eight boards and blocked two shots. "You can't say enough about Shanae," said Gabbard, whose resume shows 16 years of coaching experience, including a two-year stint at Huntsville before arriving at Heath. "She is the heart and soul of this team. People say I did a great job of coaching her but I just got out of her way and let her do her work. Kids like her make my job easier." Overall the Lady Hawks had an excellent season, reversing a disappointing 9-19 record in 2008-09. Gabbard said his program is actually ahead of schedule. "I've come into places before where you have to do three things," Gabbard said. "First you have to teach them to compete, then you have to teach them to win, and then you have to teach them to win big games. That's usually a two-year process. But these kids have been competing since day one. The six seniors have put us way ahead of the curve." In addition to Lowrance, who's likely to win All-District honors for the fourth time, and Renta, seniors Jaci Mitchell, Meredith Deere, Macall Smith and Katelyn Morris finished their time as Lady Hawks.



Shanae Lowrance (10) drives in for a Lady Hawkss basket during Monday's Bi-District matchup with McKinney North at Plano East High School. Staff photo by Carl McClung (flickr.com/photos/carls_sideline_pics) Rockwall County News

Hawks 6th in regional wrestling; Tanner qualifies for state

led Tanner led Rockwall-Heath along sixth-place finish in last year's region III wrestling meeting fourth in the 215-pound class to qualify for the state championships. 89, the Hawks' Clint Scott

finished the regional competition at Allen High School, but lost a challenge match to Lake Highlands' Brent Bono. That knocked Scott (35-16 this season) down to fifth place. He'll be an alternate for the state meet at the Austin ISD Delco

Center Feb. 26-27. Tanner, like Scott a senior, has a 38-7 record. Allen, the host team, won the championship with 231 points. RHHS had 62. Fifty-four teams competed.

Defensive-minded Lady Hawks fall to 0-1-2

Rockwall-Heath girls' soccer gave up a goal Tuesday for the one in its three District 10-4A

play. The Lady Hawks followed up an opening scoreless tie against Rockwall with another 0-0 match Monday at The Colony. Those results put Rockwall-Heath

in fifth place in 10-4A. The Lady Hawks face another challenge at home Friday at 7:15 p.m. against Richardson Pearce, second in the district at 2-1.

ay You Saw It In The County News"

Last Puzzle Solution

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Rockwall County Sports

Dylan Devereaux represents Rockwall High for UIL state wrestling

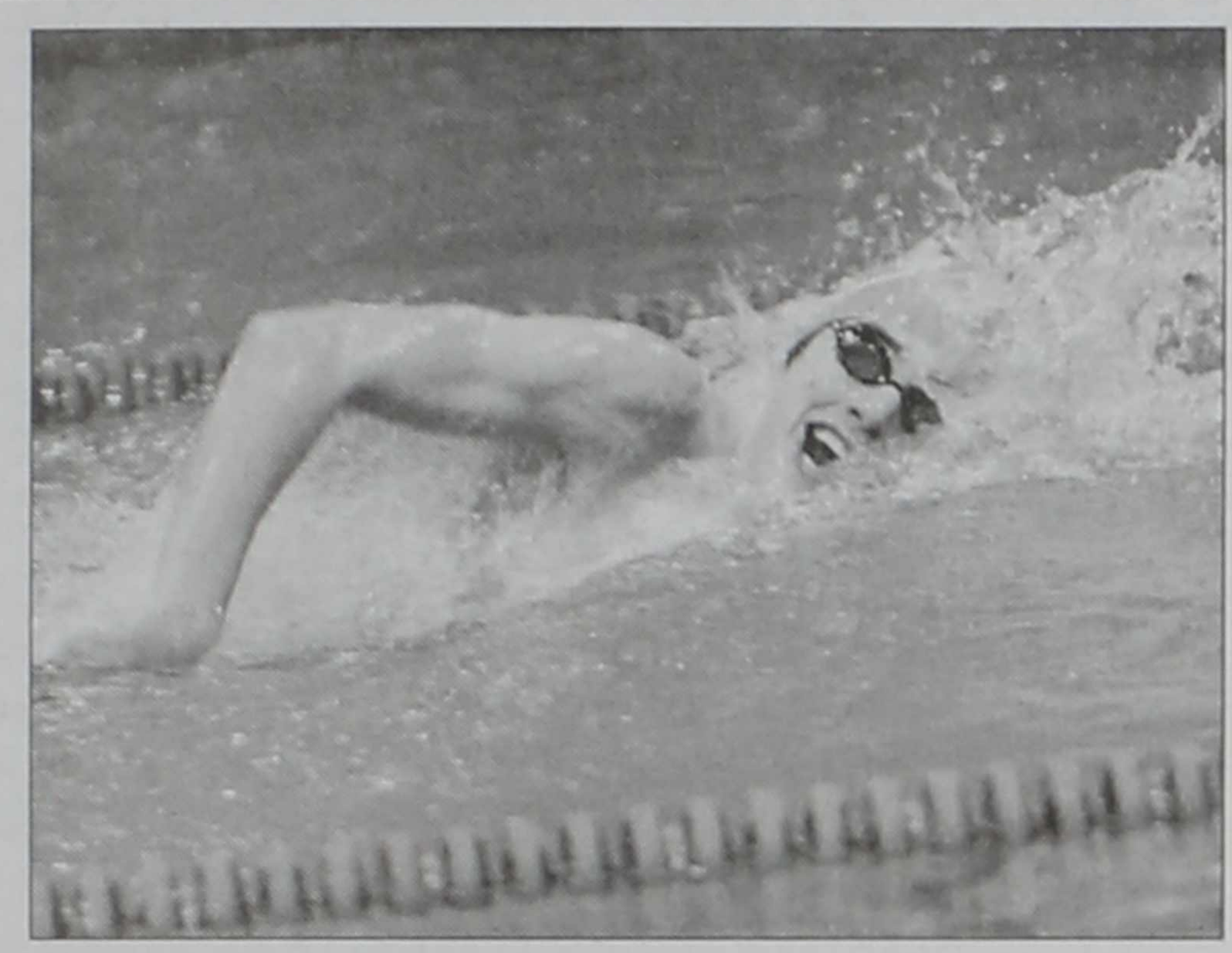
Rockwall's Dylan Devereaux placed second at 160 pounds in last weekend's Region III wrestling championships, earning a trip to the state meet. Teammate and junior classmate Robert Hinton barely missed qualifying. He finished fifth in the 285-pound class, and will be an alternate for the state championships. Hinton is 38-8 after wrestling in the regional, where his only

loss in five matches was to runner-up Juan Adams of Jesuit Strake. Devereaux (36-6) entered the meet as the second seed at 160. He won each of his matches until meeting unbeaten Isaac Grieder (55-0) of Lake Highlands in Saturday's final at Allen High School. Rockwall's team, which consisted of 13 qualifiers from the District 19

champions, finished 14th with 42 points. Allen won the 54-team event with 231. The state championships will be Feb. 26-27 at the Austin ISD Center.



Jacey Hoden carries the Lady Hawks to UIL State swim meet in the breaststroke with a time of 1:53.4. Photo by Sue Madrid/Rockwall County News



Rockwall Yellowjackets' Ryan Lang finishes the 200 freestyle in 1:48.00 and advances to the UIL State swim meet at Austin. Photo by Sue Madrid/Rockwall County News

Lady Jackets come back after loss to Highland Park

After losing 5-0 to powerhouse Highland Park Monday, the Rockwall girls' soccer team came back at home the next night to defeat Lovejoy 3-2. Kendyl Pirkey, Kendall Smith and Emily Weller scored the Lady Jackets' goals against Lovejoy as they improved their District 10-4A record to 1-1-1.

Postponing the Highland Park game from snowy Friday, Feb. 12, to Monday, the team delayed the inevitable against the first-place Lady Scots (10-1-2 overall). Rockwall's next game is scheduled for 7:10 p.m. Friday at The Colony, which split its first two district games.

Rockwall Yellowjackets out-kick Lovejoy, tie Highland Park

Rockwall bounced back from a loss to Rockwall-Heath in the opening District 10-4A game to score a tie and a win on consecutive nights last week. Snow and cold postponed the Yellowjackets' game at Highland Park from Friday, Feb. 12, until Monday. They tied the Scots 1-1 on a goal by Cameron Smith.

On Tuesday, RHS shut out Lovejoy 2-0, with Conrado Rodriguez and Houston Smith scoring for the Jackets. The results of those two games left Rockwall, HP and Lovejoy tied for third place with 1-1-1 district records. RHS will return home Friday night to play The Colony (0-3 in district).

Royse City Bulldogs hang with Pearce, RHS before losing

Royse City played Richardson Pearce close, but lost 48-39 in Tuesday night's season-ending boys' basketball game at home. The loss to District 10-4A's second-place team (21-11 overall, 10-4 in the district) left the seventh-place Bulldogs with a final 9-22 overall record, 2-12 in 10-4A.



Royse City Bulldogs' Pierre Hayden (10) flies through the air for two points against Rockwall. High defenders Griffin Fraser (20) and Blake Sandlin (5) during Saturday's game in the RHS gym. Also ready to assist are Bulldogs' Dajon Avery (11) and Alex Williams (24). Staff photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

On Saturday, RC had taken a 15-8 lead after one quarter at Rockwall. The Bulldogs and Yellowjackets were tied 29-29 after three quarters, but RHS broke loose to outscore Royse City 20-12 in the fourth quarter.

Cory Stapleton was the Dawgs' leading scorer with 14 points. Rockwall held their season leader, Pierre Hayden, to seven.

Lady Bulldogs shut out by West Mesquite

The Royse City girls' soccer team lost its third consecutive District 23-4A game Monday night at West Mesquite, 4-0.

The loss to the Lady Wranglers dropped RC's district record to 2-4. The Lady Bulldogs are scheduled to play Friday night at North Forney. They defeated the Lady Falcons 2-1 at home on Jan. 26.

West Mesquite blanks Bulldogs

First-place West Mesquite kept its District 23-4A boys' soccer record perfect with a 5-0 victory at Royse City Monday night. The match was postponed from Friday because of snow.

The Bulldogs are scheduled to open the second half of the district season Friday night at North Forney. RC won the teams' first matchup 4-1 at home on Jan. 26.

RHHS falls to Scots; showdown with Pearce next

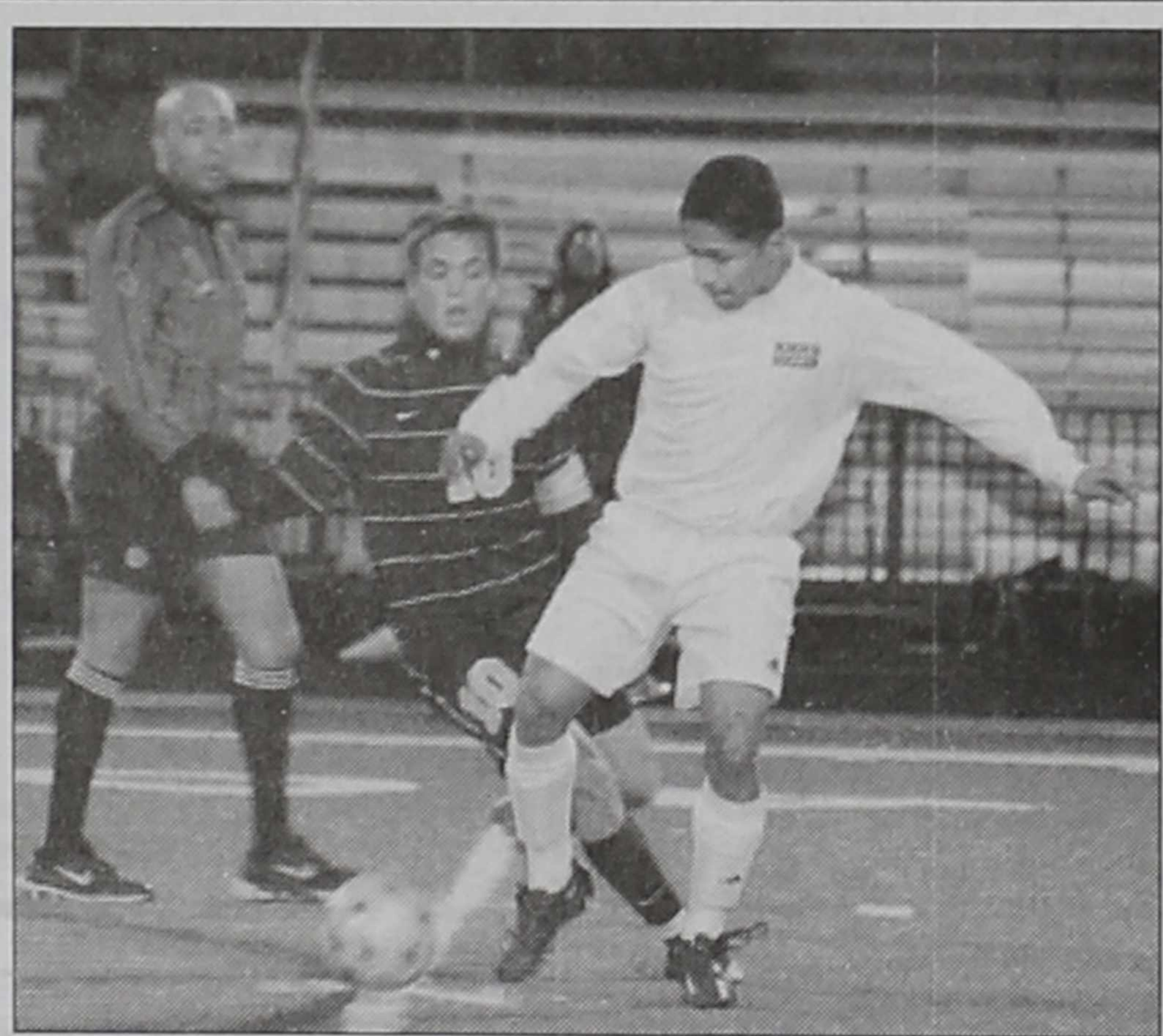
Highland Park handed Rockwall-Heath its first District 10-4A soccer loss Tuesday night, knocking the Hawks out of first place.

The Scots' victory also pulled them into a three-way tie for third place, a game behind RHHS.

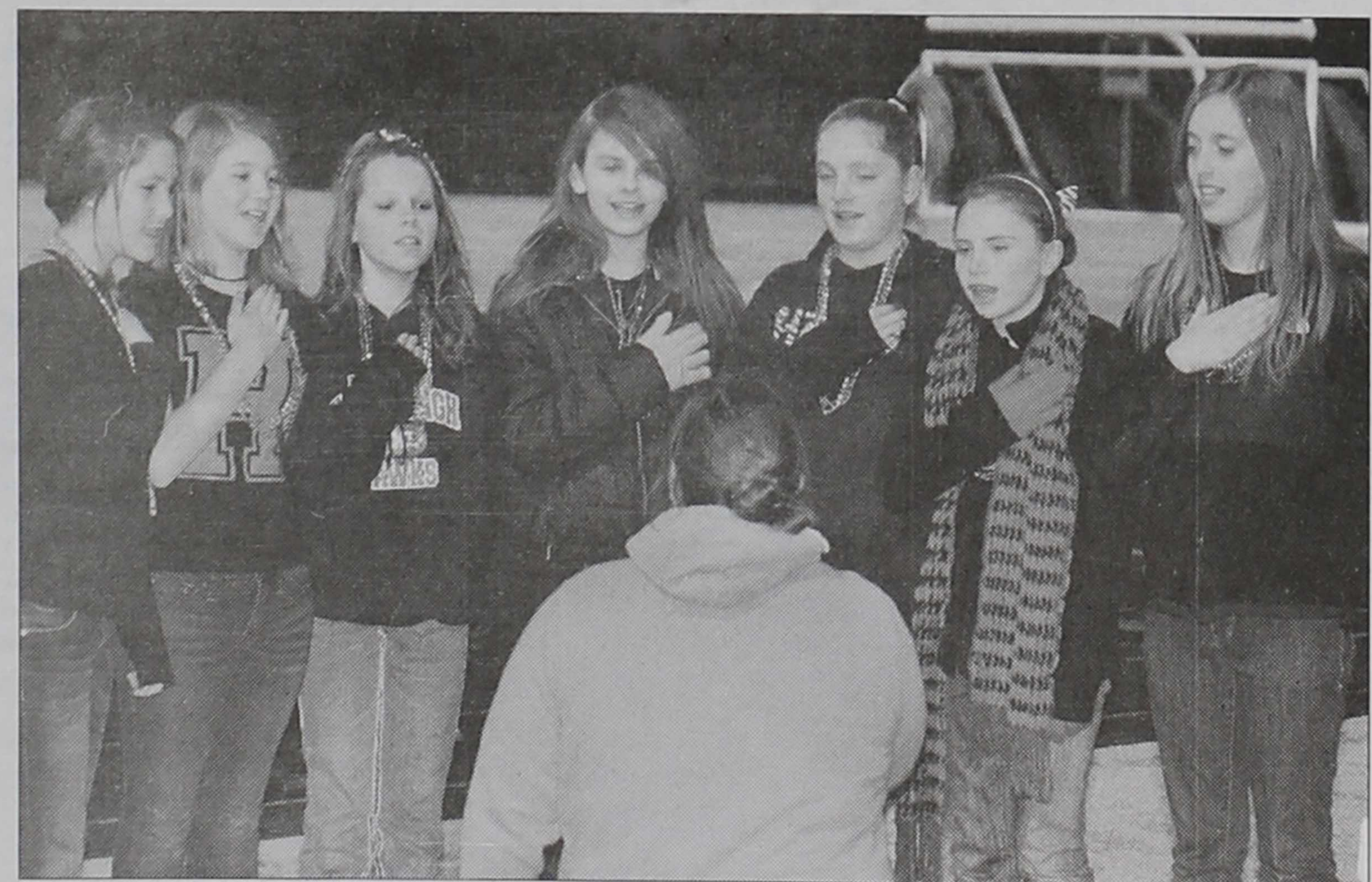
Brandon Lu and Guillermo Medina scored for Rockwall-Heath, but HP's Scott Mitchell had three goals to outscore the Hawks.

A night before, RHHS (2-1 in the district) had scored twice in the second half to defeat The Colony 2-0 in a game postponed from Friday because of snow. Jesus Carrillo and Chase Minter scored to provide the winning margin as goalie Hugo Cardenas shut out the Cougars.

The Hawks' next scheduled game is a showdown at district leader Richardson Pearce Friday at 7:15 p.m.



Aaron Contreras (8) controls the ball for the Hawks' during Tuesday's game against Highland Park at RHHS. Staff photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News



Pullen Elementary sixth grade choir members singing the National Anthem during Tuesday night's Hawks' soccer game against Highland Park are (left to right) Ally Helms, Alyssa McHargue, Morgan Thomas, Isabella Burzair, Kennedy Preas, Ashley Surber and Tatiana Pineda. Directing is Laci Betterton. Staff photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News



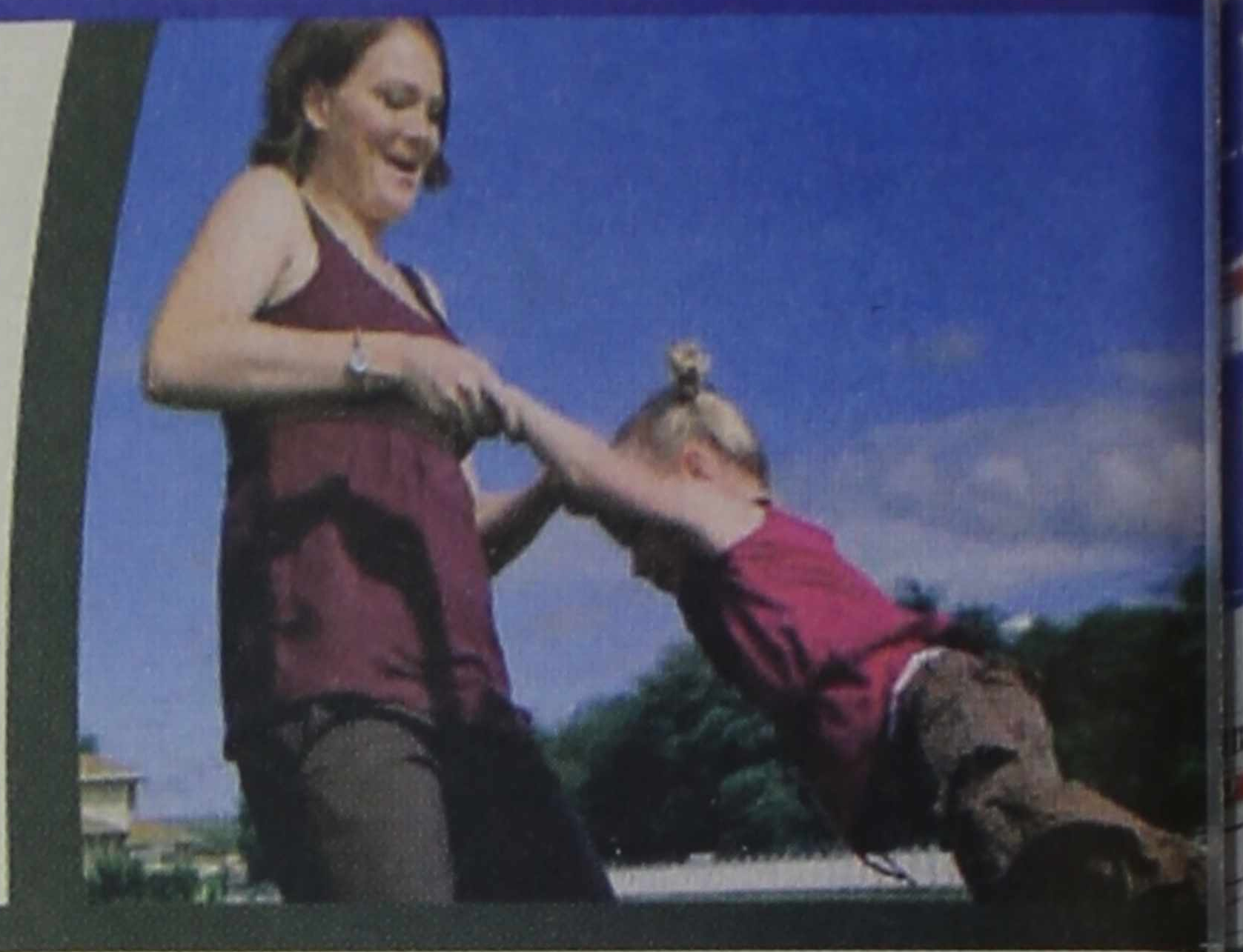
Lady Jackets' point guard Kayla Smith looks for a pass against McKinney during Monday's Bi-District game at Sachse High School. Staff photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News



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Dr. Kenneth Bryce (left) with Gary Freedman

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