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# Rockwall County News

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## DAR meeting honors fallen soldiers' Memories in National Cemeteries and Art

The Rock Wall Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution met on April 9 at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Dallas. The chapter hosted two speakers, Becky Marks, Dallas Ft. Worth National Cemetery representative, and Cameron Frazier, past Rockwall High School student and artist. Additionally, DAR Chapter member Mindy Lovell recognized members who received state and national certificates.

The DAR 117th Texas State Conference took place on March 10-13 in Houston. This year the Rock Wall DAR Chapter was recognized with state and national certificates of appreciation and excellence. Specific members received certificates:

- Marilyn King -- "Outstanding Support" at the Christmas Shop at Mayburn Veterans Center in Bonham
- Margaret Anderson -- Stitching for Children TXDAR Project
- Colyn Duckworth -- Outstanding Use of Technology for DAR Rockwall Chapter Facebook
- Nikki Van Wey -- Outstanding Use of Technology for DAR Rockwall Chapter Facebook
- Nikki Parker -- Rock Wall Chapter Conserve and Protect the Environment

Members presented information about the National Cemetery at Mountain Creek Parkway in Dallas. She discussed facts and details regarding services offered for soldiers of all branches of military service in the United States. The following information was provided:

- Visitation hours: 365 days a year, open from dawn to dusk
- Administrative office open Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Purpose of the cemetery is to preserve dignity, beauty, and serenity for interred veterans
- Approximately 13 to 25 graveside services are held per day
- Employees are veterans
- Veterans and spouses are eligible for interment
- Presently 152 acres of cemetery are developed with an additional 38 acres available for future
- Presently 50 thousand people are interred in cemetery
- Visitors may visit the National Cemetery at any time, Marks said;

however, Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Wreaths Across America (December) are important dates to remember. Wreaths Across America is a non-profit organization dedicated to honoring and thanking our veterans for their service and sacrifice. The organization's mission is to "Remember, Honor, and Teach." The annual wreath laying ceremony began in 1992 at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. It is now performed around the country.

The following information was shared by Cameron's former RHS teacher and DAR member, Linda Smith:

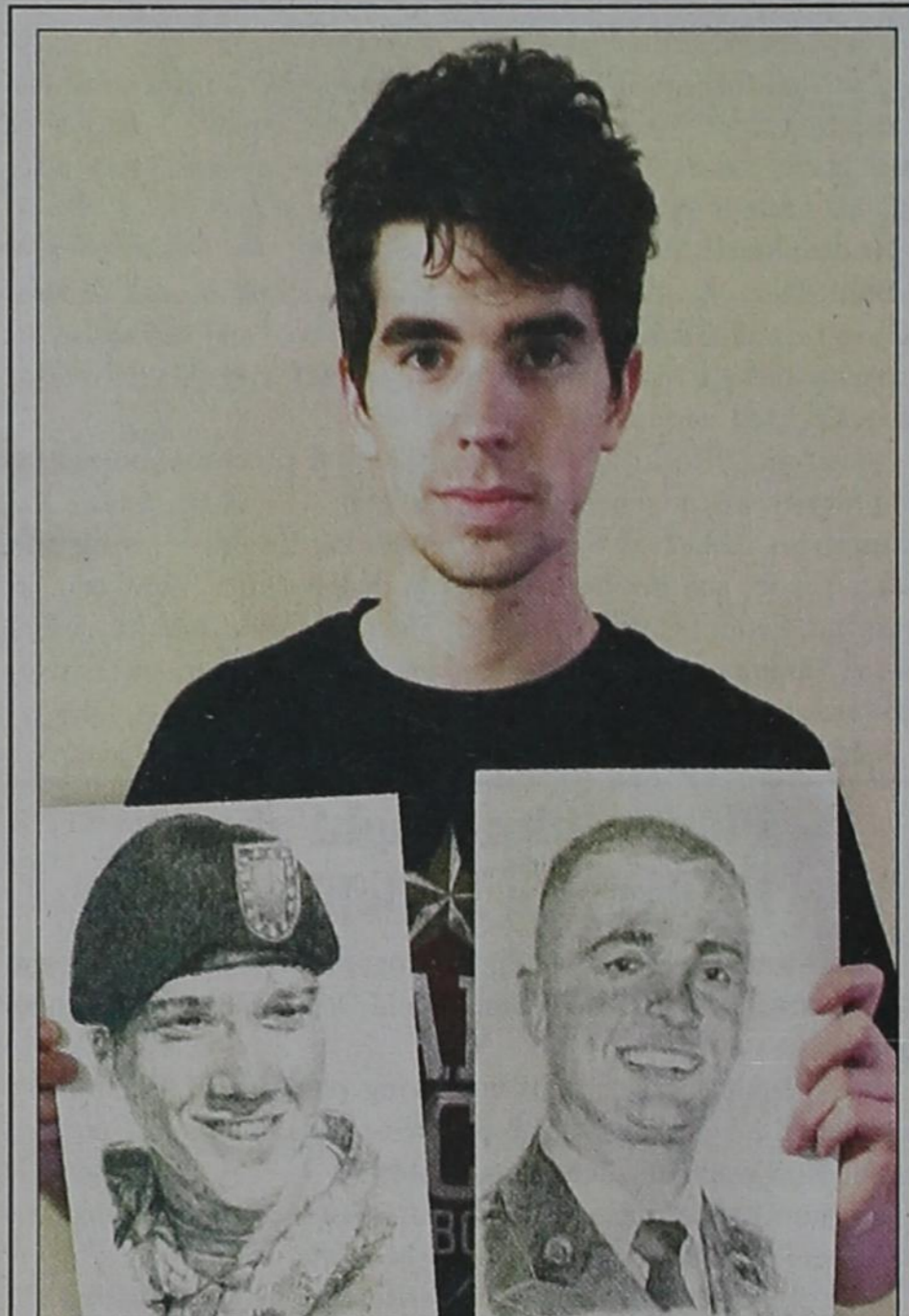
"It all started from a 'viral' e-mail," she said. "I really don't know who sent it out initially or even who forwarded it to me, but I remember its message. The writer lamented how our public had become overwhelmingly obsessed with celebrity 'train wrecks' -- largely ignoring those who made meaningful contributions to our society. In particular, our fighting men and women who were dying with hardly a mention from the media, politicians or the nation in general.

"The author of the e-mail urged all Americans to pay their final respects to our fallen heroes -- as that was the least we could do. Honor them with a moment of silence, a prayer, help their families, attend their funerals -- just honor them. That was in the spring of 2011.

"I had determined that beginning with the first day of school in the fall of 2011 -- as more American soldiers were dying while fighting in Operation Enduring Freedom, my students would take a moment to remember them, to give each of them a face, to learn about their pasts and their hopes for a future that would never be fulfilled. I was ready on that first day of school to implement my plan.

"Aug. 27, 2012, was the first day of the new school year. I shared my plans of honoring fallen soldiers with my classes of supportive students. I watched the OEF casualty website waiting for the names that I knew would soon appear. On the same day that my students began their senior year with hope and anticipation, SGT Christopher Birdwell and SPC Mabry Anders would be killed by an Afghan soldier whose views and mission were not aligned with those of the American soldiers who had volunteered to help stabilize and improve

(Continued on Page 2)



Artist and former Rockwall High student Cameron Frazier was on hand at the April 9 meeting of the Rock Wall Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to display two pieces of his artwork. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

## Rockwall native pens book about Heath

by Millie Jean Coppedge  
Austin Wells, 27, said that in the summer of 2014, an editor at Arcadia Publishing contacted him by email wanting to know if he knew of anyone who would be interested in writing a book on Heath series "Images of America." Wells, who was writing for a newspaper at the time and had written a story on the history of Rockwall, said he believes that may be the reason the editor contacted

"So without thinking much about it, I wrote back and told them I would be happy to take on the project," Wells said. "Little did I know what a long, time-consuming project I had just agreed to complete."

What a shock Wells experienced when he had collected a handful of vintage photos that he thought would make the cut for the book, only to find out that he had to have 200 images.

Arcadia Publishing is famous for its chronicles of the history of small towns across America, preserving stories, documentation of information on people, places and events. Each book has more than 200 photos.

As the deadline for the first chapter of the book was near, Wells was feeling a little panicked.

That is when Patsy Stodghill, local poet, writer and historian, came into his life. They began to work together and with her connections to many of Rockwall and Heath's lifelong residents, were able to collect photos and the history of Heath. They spent many hours, which turned into weeks, organizing the photos and information into chapters, he said. The first chapter took him about four months to complete.

Wells admits that until he met Stodghill and she began to guide him through how to organize information and photos into book form, he didn't think the project would actually come to be. He said this book is "truly a collaborative effort of the longtime families of Heath."

The book was released on Monday, Jan. 25. One only has to see the pride in Wells' face as he carries the book around to know how he feels about this accomplishment. It took a year and a half to complete, he said, but the feeling he gets looking at the pages of the finished book is well worth the work and time it took to complete.

## Celebrate Downtown Rockwall set Saturday

Celebrate Downtown Rockwall and the unveiling of more than \$8.6 million worth of capital improvements in the downtown area are set for Saturday, April 16.

For the past three years, Rockwall residents have waited for the \$8.625 million Capital Improvement Project to be complete. Now, to officially unveil the new face of Downtown Rockwall, the Old Town Shoppes have partnered with the City of Rockwall to throw a unique celebration.

On Saturday, April 16, Downtown Rockwall will be alive with activity, starting at 11 a.m. with a Farmers' Market on the San Jacinto Plaza, a Rockwall Through the Decades parade at noon, followed by an antique car show, tours of the Historic Courthouse jail and a walking tour of the historic square. Street dancing and live music by the Scotty Isaacs Band will run from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and the InsideOut Band will perform from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., according to a Downtown Rockwall news release. There will be plenty for children

(Continued on Page 3)

## Rockwall County News Briefs

### Businesses, students team up for community service

Rockwall ISD students and staff will undertake service projects across the community as part of the annual Students Serving Others Day on April 16. Students will spend the day working service projects at different locations and facilities throughout the community. Pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade students will be scattered throughout the community with projects such as beautifying neighborhoods, raising money to support local agencies and cleaning highways. To get a group or business involved and be a partner for the day by lending a hand and assisting with a project or providing supplies visit rockwallisd.com/sso.

### Fundraising event to benefit RFA program

A fundraising breakfast for the Reading For Adults program will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 16, at Applebee's, 687 E. I-30, Rockwall. Pancakes, syrup and sausage are on the all-you-can-eat breakfast menu. Volunteers and tutors will staff the restaurant for two hours, greeting and serving customers at this sixth annual event. Tickets may be purchased at the Rockwall County Library's Literacy Center or at the door. Cost will be \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 10 and younger.

### Car wash benefit for tornado victims slated

Students from Utley Middle School and Shannon Elementary will wash vehicles at the Utley campus, 1201 T.L. Townsend Dr. in Rockwall, from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 16. Proceeds will benefit tornado relief efforts.

### Democrats plan monthly meeting

The Rockwall County Democratic Party will host its monthly meeting at 9 a.m. on April 16 at the Harry Myers Community Center, 815 E. Washington, Rockwall. Those attending will receive a report on the recent Rockwall County Democratic Convention and be introduced to delegates who will attend the Texas State Democratic Convention. A continental breakfast will be served.

### A&M Club to host annual Muster

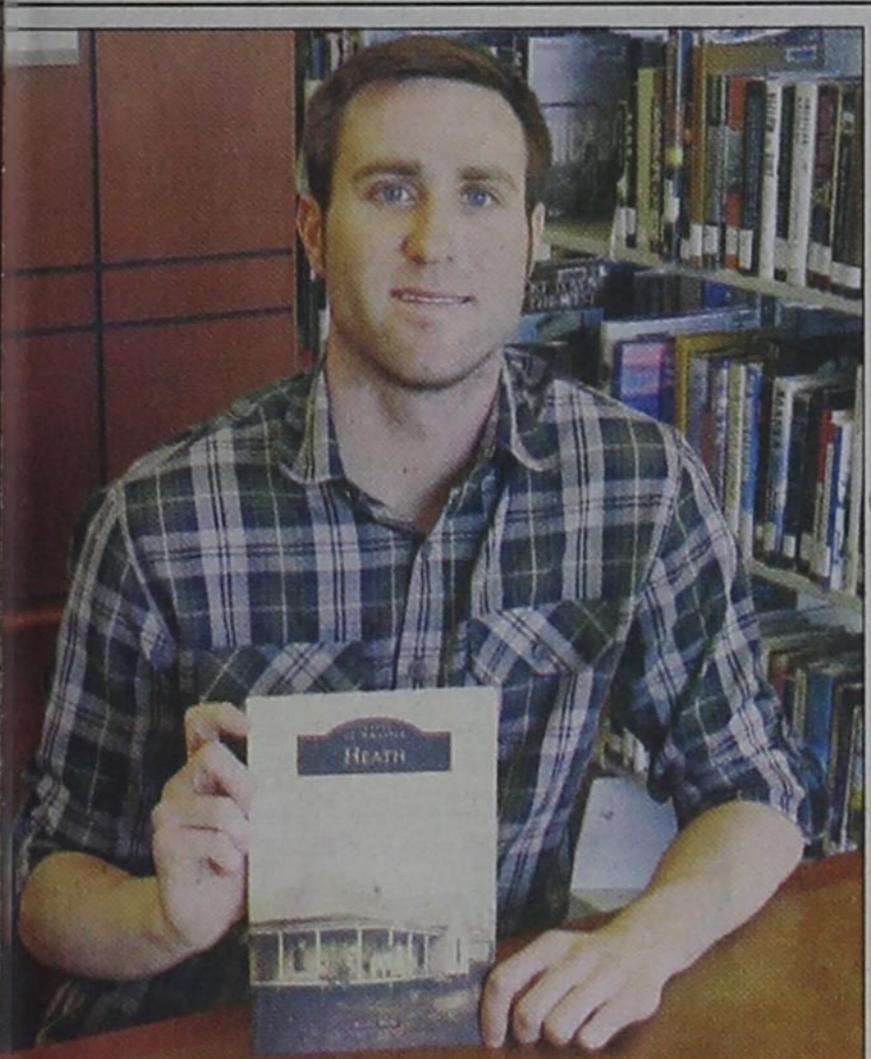
The Rockwall County A&M Club will host its annual Muster on Thursday, April 21. The traditional ceremony will take place at Rockwall High beginning at 6:30 p.m. Doors will open at 6 p.m. A family-friendly meal will be served at a cost of \$20 per person, \$15 for children 10 and younger. Following dinner and a time for meeting area Aggies, the guest speaker, The Walking Aggie: Col. John Ball '78 (Ret.), will be introduced. A traditional Muster ceremony will follow. Register online at rockwallaggies.com through April 20 or RSVP to Terrell at tgmiller92@yahoo.com.

### Household hazardous waste collection set April 23

The City of Heath will join the City of Rockwall to host the 16th Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day rain or shine on April 23 at Rockwall's Service Center, 1600 Airport Rd., Rockwall. The 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. event will be open to Heath residents who must obtain a free voucher to participate, according to the City of Heath's website. Household pesticides, paint products, household cleaners, herbicides, motor oil, automotive chemicals, pool products and tires (no rims) will be accepted. Document shredding and electronics recycling also will be offered. To volunteer as neighborhood coordinator or to obtain participation voucher go by City Hall or call 972-771-6228.

### RCP plans auditions for 'Mulan Jr.'

The Rockwall Community Playhouse will conduct auditions for the children's summer (Continued on Page 2)



"Images of America: Heath," written by Rockwall native Austin Wells, hit the stands on Jan. 26. Published Arcadia Publishing, this is Wells' first book. Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/Rockwall County News

## TxDOT awards highway improvement contract

An ongoing effort to enhance state roadways and improve safety, Texas Department of Transportation recently approved a contract for men safety shoulders and add turn lanes at major intersections 1.66 from just west of FM 1141 to the Hunt County Line.

The contract for the \$15.8 million project was awarded to APAC-Construction, Inc.

Construction dates will be established in upcoming meetings between TxDOT and the contractor.

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### Rockwall County Obituaries

#### Docie Vean Butcher

Memorial services for Docie Vean Butcher, 58, of Garland were conducted at 1 p.m. on Friday, April 8, 2016, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel with Pastor Donaho officiating.



She died April 3.  
Born Aug. 27, 1957, in Spur to Wylie Hall and Esther Fern (Dickerson) Hall, she was an executive secretary at Carrier Corp. She loved gardening and baseball.

Survivors include her husband of 34 years, Harold Butcher of Garland; her sons, Sean Butcher and his wife, Jessica, of Royse City and Ben Butcher of Garland; her daughter, Amanda Hennessey of Dallas; her brothers, Wylie Hall Jr. of Wills Point and Van Hall of Honey Grove; her sister, Nan Gilreath and her husband, Alan, of Venus; her grandchildren, Nolan, Hailey, Gracelyn and Haley; a great-grandson, Jeremy; an aunt, Lyeta Dickerson, and her husband, Henry, of Aspermont; and numerous other family members.

Her parents preceded her in death.

#### Robert Edward 'Bob' Ewald

Visitation for Robert Edward "Bob" Ewald, 69, of Rockwall was conducted from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 2, 2016, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel. Burial will take place at a later date in Pennsylvania.

He died March 29 at home.

Born Dec. 7, 1946, in New York to Charles and Audrey (Carey) Ewald, he served in the U.S. Air Force and worked in the communications industry at Ericsson, AT&T and others, retiring from Ericsson as a contract manager.

A resident of Rockwall for 25 years, he was a diehard Yankees fan and loved cars, camping, traveling and golf.

Survivors include his wife of 35 years, Pat Ewald; his daughters, Stacy Coyle, and her husband, Keith, and Jennifer Thaw and her husband, Scott; his granddaughter, Shannon Coyle; and his sisters, Susan Skidmore, Linda Kozak and her husband, Peter, and Barbara Edwards and her husband, Bruce.

A brother, John Ewald, preceded him in death.

### Photos, film sought about 1950s event in Dobbs gym

A local woman is hoping to find photographic evidence of an event that occurred in the late 1950s in the old Dobbs Elementary School gym.

Mary Waddle of Rockwall is seeking photos and film footage depicting the event she believes may have been a fundraiser, perhaps for the Rockwall High School football team.

A portion of the event in which she is interested involved a humorous skit where men dressed like women, she said.

Some of the men who participated in the skit included Ralph Hall, who wore maternity clothes; Don Waddle, Mary Waddle's husband; Ben Klutts, Rockwall's mayor at the time; Dick Pickens, Ted Cain, Wade Canup, Billy Peoples, W.J. Price (Sheriff at the time), Wyne Rogers, Joe Loftis and Raymond Cameron, Earl Slaughter and Ellison Slaughter (owners of a local drug store).

Anyone who knows of or has access to photographs or film recordings of the event may contact Mary Waddle at P.O. Box 1744, Rockwall, TX 75087.

#### Phena Dean 'Dee' Whitfield

Services for Phena Dean "Dee" Whitfield, 86, of Rockwall were conducted at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12, 2016, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel with Dr. Joe Pool officiating. Burial followed in the Rest Haven Memorial Park.



She died April 7.  
Born Nov. 7, 1929, in Dallas to Marlyn A. Newman and Bernice Dean Newman, she attended Dallas schools and graduated in 1947 from Woodrow Wilson High School where she received a Linz pin award for scholarship and a blue ribbon medal for vocal solo in the Dallas Public School Music Festival.

She married Harold D. Whitfield in 1949 in Dallas. He died Dec. 3, 2014. After raising three children, she went to college and received a bachelor's degree in general studies from UTD in 1980 and a master's degree in liberal studies from SMU in 1985.

She was a member and past president of the Pedal Pushers Garden Club, the Dallas Literary Club, the Jane Douglas Chapter of DAR, past regent of the John Chew Chapter of DAC, past president of the Major James McGregor Chapter of Col. Dames of the XVII and a member of the Daughter of the Pilgrims and Rockwall DAR. She was an active member of the NAMI Dallas and past board member, teacher of the Family to Family Education Class and a certified family support group facilitator, member of the PLAN of North Texas and a member of the First United Methodist Church of Rockwall. She had been active in the Presbyterian church in the past.

Survivors include her son, Gregory D. Whitfield, and his wife, Joan Benson; a daughter, Cindy Rodgers, and her husband, Robert; her granddaughters, Cynthia Trifilio and Jessica Whitfield; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Her parents, a sister, Mary Frances Newman Shepherd, and a son, Dan E. Whitfield, preceded her in death.

### DAR meeting honors fallen soldiers' ...

(Continued from Page 1)

the conditions in Welayat Khan's country. Chris and Mabry would become the first two names and faces on my bulletin board. The circumstances surrounding their deaths were not what I expected to have to share with my students, but in retrospect, it piqued their interest in a war that had largely become forgotten to the American people.

"While gathering information to share with my students about SGT Chris Birdwell, I felt compelled to write the family, express my condolences and to share with them information about our efforts to remember Chris and Mabry. Pam Birdwell quickly responded and included in her letter a commemorative dog tag and a funeral program. I immediately felt a connection. We corresponded occasionally throughout the fall. During the Christmas holidays, while visiting a local gift shop, I saw an angel figurine clutching a folded American flag to her heart. I immediately thought of Pam, bought it and sent it to her. I did not know at the time that this was the 2nd Willow Tree 'Hero Angel' given to Pam. Her first angel was given to her by Gen Woydziak, the mother of SPC Mabry Anders, who had died in the same military engagement that same day with Chris. Pam shared with me that Gen had chosen to honor her son by providing every mother and every widow of every soldier killed after Mabry with a "Hero Angel." Her project was called Mabry's Angels. Gen had dutifully purchased and mailed these angels, primarily using her own funds. "My friend and former Rockwall High School co-worker, Leslie Kieschnick, and I discussed the email regarding Mabry's Angels but her words "I did not realize how many of us there were" finally elicited that delayed response. We knew it was the right thing to do. Without hesitation, Leslie and I agreed that students in our Economics classes could bear the costs of Mabry's Angels. Students and staff willingly contributed to see that this necessary activity continued. From the beginning of the school year in August, until the last day of school in June for the past two years, funds have been provided to purchase these angels.

"The 2014-2015 school year introduced my students to 14 heroes. Their faces remind us that "freedom is not free." At the end of the school year, all items were removed from my bulletin board and carefully placed in a closet container. They will be soon be resting with their band of brothers -- a unique collection of patriots whose homes span the continent, each diverse, yet each the same. They are now together."

Be kind one to another with tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:23

#### Dr. Patricia Anne (Duncan) Parrish

Dr. Patricia Anne (Duncan) Parrish of Rockwall died at 2:30 a.m. on April 7, 2016, following a 17-year struggle with breast cancer. The Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel was in charge of arrangements.



She was born May 25, 1942, at Brooks Air Force Base Hospital in San Antonio to James Preston and Mamie (Kalil) Duncan.

She completed her doctoral degree in educational administration in 1994 at Texas A&M-Commerce. She attended seven universities and completed nine professional certifications in the Texas Teacher Certificate System. She was a Nationally Certified Educational Diagnostician and Registered Professional Educational Diagnostician in the state and maintained memberships in multiple professional organizations, including Phi Delta Kappa, an international professional association for educators.

She was active in prekindergarten through postsecondary education for 40 years in instructional, diagnostic, central office administrative and university positions in New York and Texas. In Texas, she worked in the Palestine ISD, Cayuga ISD, multiple North Texas schools in the Anderson County Cooperative, Shepherd ISD, Coldspring ISD, Splendora ISD and the Sweeny ISD. In New York, she worked in the Central Islip ISD.

At the time of her death, she was a faculty member in the Department of Psychology, Counseling and Special Education at Texas A&M-Commerce as an adjunct and interim professor. In addition to her faculty positions during her 14-year employment there, she served as director of the educational diagnostic program, interim director of the Center for Educator Certification and Academic Service and selected committee member positions when TAMU-C and TAMU College Station launched online educator certification programs.

Her history with TAMU-C spanned more than 40 years. She initially enrolled in graduate-level courses there in 1974, completing both master's and doctorate degrees. In 2011, the department designated her as an alumni ambassador, the highest honor a department of a university bestows upon a graduate.

She authored many newspaper articles, newsletters and informational brochures that focused on educational program and services in public schools and professional journals. In 2010, she authored "A Wake-Up Call for Schools: A New Order in Public Education." In 2014, she wrote "Getting it Right: Dynamic School Renewal, Fixing What Broken" as a sequel that included current research-based strategies and tools for meeting the educational needs of all students.

She began her education in Nagoya, Japan, at an American school on Nagoya Air Force Base. She also attended public schools in Texas in the Sherman ISD, San Benito ISD and Abilene ISD, graduating in 1959. She lived or traveled in each of the 50 states of the U.S. and traveled to Costa Rica, Panama, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean Islands, Russia, Brazil and Europe.

Survivors include her husband of 54 years, Dr. Linden Joe Parrish; three sons, Phillip Duncan Parrish, Timothy Linden Parrish and Stephen Susan Parrish; her daughters-in-law, Mitzy Kay (Greg Parrish, Susan (Samuel) Parrish and Kristy Dawn (Moss) Parrish) and nine grandchildren, Stanford Parrish, Jefferson Parrish, Balu Nicole Parrish, Joseph Timothy Parrish, Caroline Grace Parrish, Alexander Bruce Parrish, Ryan James Parrish, Landon Jacob Parrish and Brooklyn Samantha Parrish.

The family has suggested that as an alternative to flowers, memorials in her honor may be made to the Psychology, Counseling and Special Education Endowment Fund at Texas A&M University-Commerce, the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center located at 5554 Herd Hines Blvd., Dallas, TX 75235 or to the Baylor Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center at 3410 Worth St., Dallas, TX 75246.

### Rockwall County News Briefs

(Continued from Page 1)

musical "Mulan Jr." beginning at 10 a.m. on April 30. Performances will be at 7 p.m. June 21-25 and at 2 p.m. June 26. The RCM is located at 609 E. Rusk, two blocks off the square in downtown Rockwall. Tuition costs \$150 per student; due at registration. Visit rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org for more details.

#### Rockwall Farmers Market to open May 7

The Rockwall Farmers Market's 2016 season will run from 8 a.m. to noon each Saturday May 7 through Sept. 24. The pet-friendly farmers market, established in 2008, will take place in the historic downtown Rockwall square. More than 30 vendors are expected to participate, offering fresh produce, grass-fed meats, fresh-baked artisan breads, farm eggs, seafood, honey, jams, pasta, tamales and other goods. Local talent also will provide live music each week. For more details, visit rockwallfarmersmarket.org.

#### Hope Mobile animal spay/neuter available

The Spay/Neuter Network's 45-foot hospital bus will be in Rockwall on the second Friday of every month in the I-30 Wal-Mart parking lot. Upcoming dates include May 13 and June 10. Surgeries are performed on site. Walk-up vaccinations are available at reduced rates. (Continued on Page 4)

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## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

- 1 Iowa \_\_\_\_ TX
- 5 TX Roy Orbison hit: "It's \_\_\_\_"
- 6 TX H.E.B. section with TX Owen Wilson
- 7 TXism: "fit \_\_\_\_ a fiddle"
- 8 large communications co.
- 9 TXism: "tight as a cinch \_\_\_\_ horse"
- 15 cookie sandwich
- 16 at daybreak, a TX rancher is this (3 wds.)
- 19 Gulf game fish
- 21 TX singer/songwriter, Griffith
- 22 this actress Alba once lived in Del Rio, TX
- 27 published in Kyle: "Hays \_\_\_\_ Press"
- 28 bulldozing leaves a cowboy \_\_\_\_ for days
- 29 tie up again
- 30 female TX shot putter, Brown
- 32 this Noonan was a defensive end for the Cowboys (init.)
- 33 folks we send to Washington D.C. or Austin
- 36 superstar, e.g.
- 37 TXism: "let a sleeping dog \_\_\_\_"
- 38 riot control substance (2 wds.)
- 39 one USS San Jacinto was an \_\_\_\_ carrier
- 41 O.J.'s failed book: "If I \_\_\_\_ it"
- 42 TXism: "\_\_\_\_ mark (conform)"
- 45 Liu of "Shanghai Noon" with TX Owen Wilson
- 46 Levi of blue jeans fame (init.)
- 47 this Ephron wrote TX-filmed "Silkwood"
- 48 hole in \_\_\_\_
- 49 TXism: "sweatin' bullets"
- 52 historic plantation in Independence
- 53 poker debt
- 54 TX wheeler-dealer, Billy \_\_\_\_ Estes
- 55 home security co.

**DOWN**

- 1 TXism: "two peas in a \_\_\_\_ (alike)"
- 2 Greenville in Dallas, e.g. (abbr.)
- 3 akin
- 4 TX singer, actor, & songwriter, Kris
- 8 "Hill Country State Natural \_\_\_\_"
- 9 in 1917, she was the first female mayor in TX
- 10 our continent (abbr.)
- 11 TXism: "brave \_\_\_\_ a rodeo clown"
- 12 tornado (2 wds.)
- 13 "git'er dun!" (abbr.)
- 14 Gulf game fish
- 15 areas for citrus growing in the Valley
- 16 one who takes illegal drugs
- 17 make acid
- 18 brown and gray finch with red breast
- 20 nest eggs for retirement (abbr.)
- 22 TX Hagman's Ewing role on "Dallas"
- 23 Gulf long fish
- 24 old bed plank
- 25 \_\_\_\_-off shotgun
- 26 this "Rocket" played three seasons for the Cowboys
- 28 poker phrase: "Are you \_\_\_\_ out?"
- 31 this Adams was in 1964 film "The Best Man" with TX John Henry Faulk
- 34 this Kay is a U.S. Rep. & was mayor of Ft. Worth (init.)
- 35 chow down
- 37 TX "Big Bopper" hit: "Chantilly"
- 40 "R" of stat for Adrian Beltre
- 43 very long periods of time
- 44 autobiography by TX director King Vidor: "A \_\_\_\_ Tree"
- 50 TX Fred Hansen won gold in the pole \_\_\_\_ in 1948
- 51 TX Kenny's "Love \_\_\_\_ Something Like It"

## On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

### Christian rights ... Part 5

A study of spiritual rights and natural rights clearly reveals a distinct difference between the two.

Spiritual rights are truly endowed by the Creator of the heavens and the earth in the Holy Ghost, through our Lord Jesus His living Messiah and Son.

Our Lord Jesus died and spilled his blood for our spiritual rights. They are secured by the power and authority that is in the name of the Son of the Most High Creator.

Natural rights are declared by people, but are not truly endowed or unalienable. As history has proven, there are people who seek to do the will of the Devil, which is the steal (rob), kill (murder) and destroy.

There is one common ground that connects the two kinds of rights.

Our heavenly Father made people to use their bodies for His service.

Romans 10:14-15 reveals an example. It refers to call upon the Lord with the mouth, believing with the heart, hearing, preaching with the mouth, being sent.

Next week we will compare the above with the basic natural rights to speak, move about, travel, listen, think, and more.



Dozens of volunteers, many of whom are pictured above, participated in the recent "Star Wars"-themed membership event organized by the Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce. The event netted 194 new chamber partners and generated almost \$100,000 in revenue in less than three days. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

## Rockwall Area Chamber sees record-setting membership drive

The Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce recently embarked on a "Star Wars"-themed membership event, welcoming a record 194 new members and generating \$98,357 in revenue in less than three days. More than 120 volunteers joined forces at the Texas A&M Commerce Center campus to participate in the "May Your Chamber Be With You" event, hosted by Your Chamber Connection and celebrity "entertainer" Jimmy Cusano. Chamber partners shared the benefits of membership with local businesses, forming teams to see which group would bring in the most new partners.

"The Force was definitely with us," Dana K. Macalik, chamber president, said. "Nationwide, only 31 chambers have reached the \$100,000 revenue mark at a membership event, and now the Rockwall Area Chamber has done so - twice!"

Over two and a half days of competition, the teams celebrated at the Dallas/Rockwall Lakefront, where the winners were announced. The winning team was the Purple and Green Team, led by Mike Chouteau of Honda Cars of Rockwall and Cindy Paris of Health Presbyterian Hospital Rockwall. Mike and Robin, the husband-and-wife duo to earn the honor of reigning Godfather and Godmother, led their team to victory with 51 new partners and \$29,750. They also spawned the Top Team, led by Captain Karen Smith with Inwood National Bank, who achieved 12 sales totaling \$322,500. But Robin was the Jedi, achieving Top Individual Sales at \$66,000. She single-handedly welcomed 14 new partners, with sales of \$6,000. She was named among the Top Dogs who brought in six new sales.

Increasing membership size enables the chamber to better address the needs of the Rockwall area business community through business development and economic growth, according to the chamber news release. The additional revenue will help the chamber impact retention, support business in Rockwall and thereby creating jobs; and provide momentum in the chamber's continued efforts toward education, legislation and lobbying for infrastructure.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known ..."*  
Proverbs 3:6

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# Opinions

## What sports can teach us about politics

By Wendy McElroy

Freedom Foundation (fff.org)

What can sports teach us about civil society and federal agencies like the Department of Health and Human Services? In his most famous speech, Senator Robert A. Taft (1889–1953) answered that question.

He was a passionate defender of private enterprise in domestic affairs as well as non-intervention in foreign affairs. This made him a proponent of the New Deal policies adopted under President Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933–1945).

Before FDR's presidency, most Americans embraced a general preference for limited government and personal freedom, including the pursuit of economic opportunity. Over the FDR years, Taft watched as public opinion pivoted to view big government as the solution to the supposed problems of capitalism.

His speech "Equal Justice Under Law" was delivered on October 5, 1946. It was a plea for business and industry to return to the "American Way of Life," which rested on liberty and equal justice under law.

He quoted the American historian James Truslow Adams (1878–1949), who deeply admired a trait of the British: respect for law and order. Since most laws at the time protected person and

property, obeying them was key to establishing a civil society. By "civil society," Adams and Taft meant more than a private sector that functioned without government; they meant a society in which people interacted without violence even when disagreement flared. Respect for law and order made them use legal solutions instead.

But the respect was conditional. People needed to believe the law was fair in order for them to accept the rulings of a tribunal when those rulings were not favorable. That is, as long as the courts administered reasonable law in an unbiased manner, people accepted their verdicts and did not resort to violence. People needed to believe there was equal justice.

Adams drew an intriguing parallel to sports, which Taft featured in his speech. Adams wrote, "Sport, which for centuries has played so large a part in British life, has had enormous influence in fields apparently wholly remote from it. Unless games are all to end in fights and bloody noses, there must grow up a willingness to give and take, to accept decisions in good faith, whether winners or losers."

Sports expresses both opposition and good will. The opposition: each side wishes to win by besting the other. The good will: winning is based on merit and occurs according to mutually agreed upon rules. An overall confidence in the fairness of umpires is necessary if bloody noses are to be avoided. The rules must be fair,

and their application must be equal.

Civil society also expresses opposition and good will. For example, businesses compete with each other for customers. The rivalry is conducted according to agreed upon rules, such as nonviolence, and serious breaches of conduct are taken to arbitrators or judges, who act as umpires. Merit wins. But an overall confidence in the fairness of the rules is a prerequisite to avoiding violence and collapse.

To Adams's insight, Taft added, "I cannot over-emphasize the importance of this attitude, the willingness to accept the decisions of an impartial tribunal made in accordance with the law, even if that decision is thought to be wrong." When people lose trust in such tribunals, Taft believed violence was inevitable. "Only by this attitude," he cautioned, "do we avoid civil war such as developed when this country refused to accept the verdict of Lincoln's election." The one time Americans had lost all confidence in the equal justice of "the system," they had killed each other in unprecedented numbers.

Taft warned against a new feature of American life that could destroy that trust — and civil society along with it: the federal agencies that had been established under FDR.

Federal administrative agencies are bureaucracies created by the White House to direct and supervise the implementation of legislation and executive policy on a nationwide level. Examples are the Department of Justice, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Securities and Exchange Commission. The head of an agency is appointed by the president and serves at his pleasure. Although they are accountable only to the president, the agencies wield tremendous power over commerce and the everyday lives of Americans.

Despair over the Great Depression gave FDR a mandate to establish an unprecedented number of federal agencies in order to redefine American society. The hundred-plus New Deal bureaucracies enforced what were known as the 3Rs: Relief (government employment), Recovery (government stimulation), and Reform (regulation of the financial world). These presidential agencies and policies constituted a massive shift of power away from Congress to the executive branch. The agencies were autonomous and non-transparent, enforcing policies against which there was little hope of appeal.

Taft avidly opposed almost all of the federal bureaucracies. Although they were said to correct social problems that the marketplace caused, he believed they did the opposite. They crippled the economy and created social problems in the process of expanding government to the benefit of elites.

The agencies devastated society in another, more subtle manner. They destroyed public confidence in the American system because they were the antithesis of equal justice. Taft declared, "Few have any confidence in the impartiality of federal action. It is essential not only that we have law, but that we have a faith in the impartiality of our government boards and officials who administer the law." The biased federal agencies were akin to an umpire who broke all rules of the game to favor one team. In the process, the umpire destroyed the sport that was based on the rules. Without a sense of fair laws being equally applied, society would give way to violence.

Taft's words have particular relevance to the present day for at least two reasons.

First, President Obama openly declares FDR to be his role model. True to his word, Obama has aggressively expanded the network of federal agencies to impose his own version of a New Deal on America. He is far from the only president to wield such power, of course, but Obama has used it with particular abandon. Consider the expansion of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). According to Downsizing the Federal Government, HHS has become America's first trillion-dollar department, planning to spend \$1.1 trillion in 2016 to support 73,000 employees and "528 different subsidy programs." That's "\$8,800 a year for every household."

In December 2014, the Washington Examiner reported that the average number of regulations produced by the Obama administration every year was 3,500. The average person bears the financial and compliance cost of these intrusive laws, against which they have no effective recourse or appeal. The agencies constitute a shadow government that promotes a deep disrespect for law. Few people now trust in equal justice.

The second reason Taft's words should resound is that the approaching election is bitterly divisive. From the podium, he warned, "I think the same characteristic [respect for law] is shown in our willingness to accept the decision of the people in fair elections. An election may be won by only one vote, but ninety-nine out of a hundred people feel that the public has spoken and that the decision must be accepted, as a matter of course, as a basic feature of our life."

If equal justice is transparently dead, then there is credibility to Donald Trump's prediction of "riots" should he be denied the GOP nomination. There is credibility to the threat from a leading #BlackLivesMatter activist when he commented that people "such as myself are fully hell bent on inciting riots" if Trump is elected.

When no unbiased umpires remain, players either leave the field or they start to bloody noses. Either one makes civil society teeter.

## RISD students, staff plan day of community service

Rockwall Independent School District students and staff will work on service projects across the community as part of the annual Students Serving Others Day on Saturday, April 16.

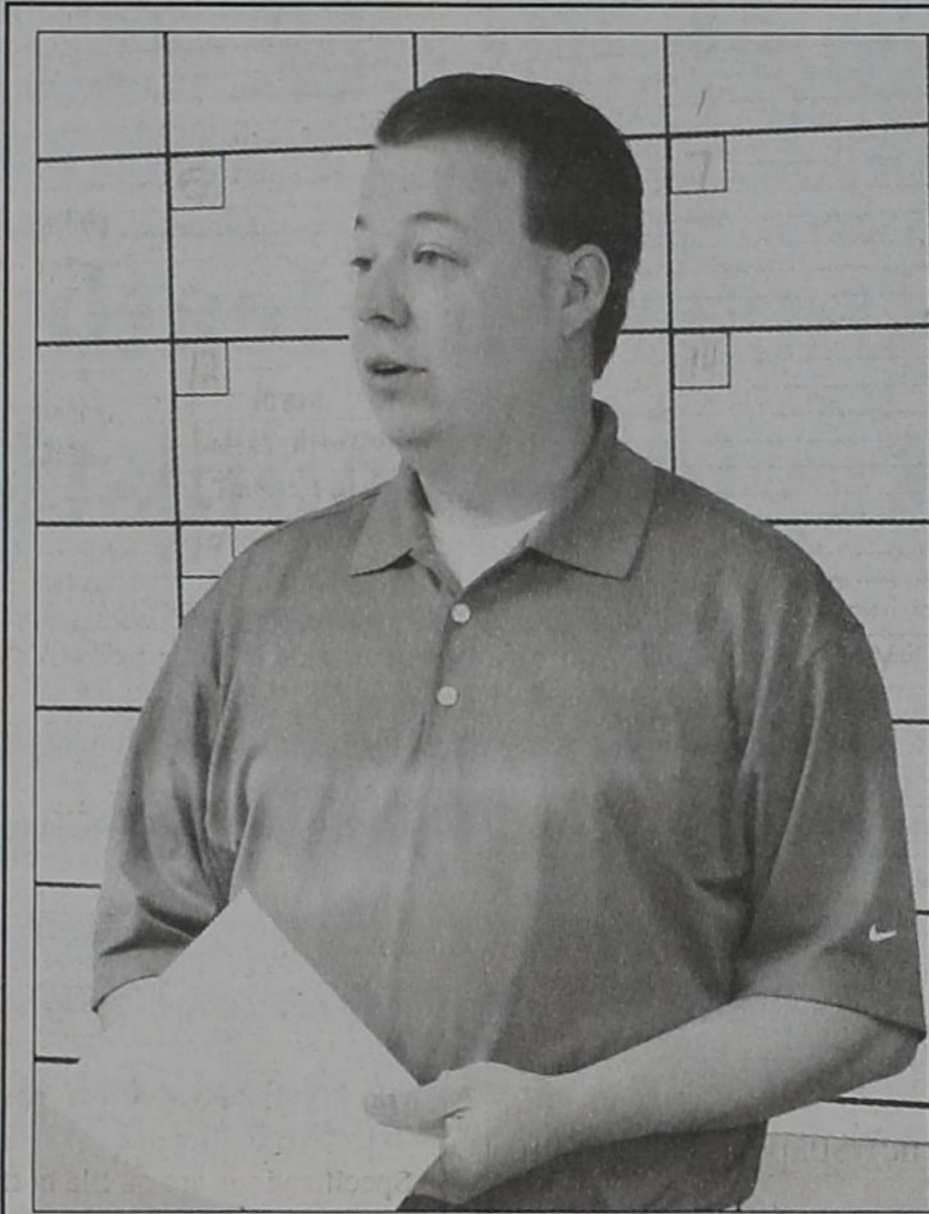
Businesses will spend the day assisting students working service projects at different locations and facilities throughout the community, according to a RISD news release.

"This partnership is important for several reasons," Jon Bailey, president and CEO of Helping Hands, said. "First, it's teaching a generation of young people the importance of serving others at a young age. Secondly, Helping Hands relies so heavily on community support so it allows us the opportunity to tap into 15,000 students and staff."

Businesses throughout Rockwall can partner and support students of Rockwall ISD while they find purpose, pride and passion through serving the community. This is a chance for acts of kindness and compassion to be shared throughout the community by students and community members, according to the release.

"At the end of the day we get thousands of families in Rockwall County that are experiencing need, and we are getting them served," Bailey said. "If we could teach a generation now to invest in serving others, our future will look pretty darn good."

Get a group or business involved and become a partner for the day by lending a hand and assisting with a project or providing supplies. Visit [rockwallisd.com/sso](http://rockwallisd.com/sso).



John Stacy, a Fate resident who has worked in the health care industry for more than 14 years and has been very involved in the political issues of Rockwall County, spoke to the Roysse City Rotary Club on Thursday, April 7. His topic was the controversial Affordable Care Act, or as most people call the act, Obamacare. Stacy's main information shared included the laws that were put into place as pertains to employers and employees and the many ways businesses are affected by the ACA. The act became law on March 23, 2010, under the term of President Barack Obama. The purpose of the law was to enable every U.S. citizen to have affordable health care insurance. Stacy shared with the Rotary members and visitors that basically the price of health insurance doubles in cost every five years, at least 30 percent of the Medicare claims that are filed are fraudulent, according to the government, and that 70 percent of the money spent on health care goes toward the care of senior citizens, while only 30 percent is spent on the remaining population. A question-and-answer session ended the presentation.

Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/Rockwall County News

## National Volunteer Week honors Rockwall County volunteers

Each year, volunteers donate their time and energy to make their communities a better place to live. These volunteers will be among the millions across the country who will be recognized during the 42nd anniversary of National Volunteer Week, April 10-16.

Rockwall County Extension volunteers conducted more than 6,750 service hours, worth more than \$160,000 in 2015 alone.

Research conducted by the Corporation for National and Community Service found that 26.5 percent of adult Americans (64.5 million) volunteered 7.9 billion hours of service worth \$175 billion in 2012.

Rockwall County residents rely heavily on volunteers in Texas A&M AgLife Extension Service. These volunteers work with the 4-H and Youth Development Program, horticulture programs through certified Master Gardeners, Program Area Committees and teachers from local schools. Volunteers spend numerous hours working on tasks, such as helping organize an event at the youth fair, teaching a child with a 4-H project, or leading a project to serve the community.

Rockwall County volunteers are instrumental in carrying out the mission of Extension by being involved in every aspect of the agency, including determining the needs of the local residents, planning and implementing programs to address these needs, securing resources, and evaluating programs. An example of these volunteers is the Leadership Advisory Board. The board consists of appointed county citizens who work with the county Extension staff to plan and oversee Extension activities.

The work of Extension volunteers never ends. They assist citizens through Extension programming to improve knowledge in agriculture literacy, family life skills and youth development to enhance Rockwall County communities, according to a news release from the Extension Service office.

**A true patriot must be a religious man. He who neglects his duty to his Maker may well be expected to be deficient and sincere in his duty towards the public.**

Abigail Adams

## Rockwall's spraygrounds now open in 3 parks

The City of Rockwall's three public spraygrounds now are open and ready for use, according to a news release from the municipality's Parks & Recreation Department.

The spraygrounds are available for use from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. They are located at Harry Myers Park, The Park at Hickory Ridge and The Park at Foxchase.

Sprayground users should look for the "hip-tall white tube and touch the top" to activate the water by contact.

For more information or to report problems, call 972-771-7740.

## Rockwall County News Briefs

(Continued from Page 4)

### Vendors sought for June 4 Country Fair

The Rockwall Soroptimists are accepting applications for both food vendors for their third annual Country Fair on Saturday, June 4. The event, which will include live music, a kid zone, rides, vintage games, a car show and a live auction, will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Rockwall County Courthouse, 1111 E. Yellow Jacket Lane. Admission will be free. Tickets will be sold for vintage game rides and beverage purchases. Check out the Soroptimists' website [rockwallcountryfair.com](http://rockwallcountryfair.com), for further details. Proceeds will fund Soroptimists' ongoing projects benefiting women and children, including the new Children's Advocacy Center of Rockwall at the Soroptimist House.

### Lecture to focus on Flight of our Fathers

The Sept. 9 installation of the Sheri Stodghill Lecture Series presented by the Rockwall County Historical Foundation and the Rockwall County Historical Commission from noon to 1 p.m. in the third floor in the historic downtown courthouse. The topic will be the history of the No. 1 British flight training school in Terrell. Commander Joe M. Hood, USN (Ret.), will share the story of how the largest facility of its kind was used to train more than 2,000 British American pilots between 1941 and 1945.

### Talking Tombstones lecture set Oct. 14

Meddie Bowles (aka Nancy Beaty) will present the circumstances surrounding the trail and murder conviction of her husband in 1949 as part of the Oct. 14 installation of the Sheri Stodghill Lecture Series presented by the Rockwall County Historical Foundation and the Rockwall County Historical Commission from noon to 1 p.m. in the third floor in the historic downtown courthouse.

### Fisher to be recognized at Nov. 10 event

Terry Fisher, the first Rockwall soldier to be killed in World War II, will be recognized by Dick Clark, member of American Legion Post 117, at the Sheri Stodghill Lecture Series presented by the Rockwall County Historical Foundation and the Rockwall County Historical Commission from noon to 1 p.m. in the third floor in the historic downtown courthouse on Nov. 10. The Rockwall post, named for the legendary Fisher, is one of the oldest in the U.S.

### Rock Wall to be revisited Dec. 11

The history of the rock wall will be re-examined at the Sheri Stodghill Lecture Series presented by the Rockwall County Historical Foundation and the Rockwall County Historical Commission from noon to 1 p.m. in the third floor in the historic downtown courthouse on Dec. 11. The program also will explore the most recent developments regarding Rockwall's unique underground formation.

## Rockwall County Entertainment

### Vintage Car Tour to make RC stop

The Bankhead Highway Texas Centennial Vintage Car Tour will make a quick stop in Roysse City at about 10 a.m. on Friday, April 22, across from the Roysse City City Hall, 305 N. Arch. The Bankhead Highway can be traced back to 1916 and was one of the first transcontinental highways and the first all-weather transcontinental highway in the U.S. The roadway extended from Washington, D.C., to San Diego, California. Its path crossed approximately 850 miles of Texas, passing through Texarkana, Mount Vernon, Roysse City, Dallas, Fort Worth, Weatherford, Abilene, Midland and El Paso. It was designated SH 1 in 1917 by the Texas Highway Department. The Centennial Texas Tour, which will run from Texarkana to Odessa, is set for April 20-24.

### RSM to stage 'Carousel,' 'Mary Poppins'

Rockwall Summer Musicals will present "Carousel" June 24 through July 3 and "Mary Poppins" Aug. 12-21 at the Rockwall Performing Arts Center on the Utley Middle School campus. Discounts will be available for churches, groups or season subscribers. For advance tickets or more information visit [rockwallsummermusicals.org](http://rockwallsummermusicals.org).

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### Property Tax Information Available for Texas Property Owners

**Property Tax Exemptions for Disabled Veterans** - The law provides partial exemptions for any property owned by veterans who are disabled, surviving spouses and surviving children of deceased disabled veterans. This includes homesteads donated to disabled veterans by charitable organizations at no cost to the disabled veterans and their surviving spouses. The exemption amount is determined according to percentage of service-connected disability. The law also provides a 100 percent homestead exemption for 100 percent disabled veterans and their surviving spouses and for surviving spouses of U.S. armed service members killed in action.

**Property Tax Exemptions** - Non-profit organizations that meet statutory requirements may seek property tax exemptions and must apply to their county appraisal district by a specific date. Businesses that receive tax abatements granted by taxing units; ship inventory out of Texas that may be eligible for the freeport exemption; store certain goods in transit in warehouses that are moved within 175 days; construct, install or acquire pollution control property; own and operate energy storage systems; convert landfill-generated gas; or store offshore drilling equipment while not in use may also be eligible for statutory exemptions.

**Rendering Taxable Property** - If a business owns tangible personal property that is used to produce income, the business must file a rendition with its local county appraisal district by April 15. Personal property includes inventory and equipment used by a business. Owners do not have to render exempt property such as church property or an agriculture producer's equipment used for farming.

**Appraisal Notices** - Normally, taxpayers receive a notice of appraised value from the appropriate local county appraisal district when the district has increased the value, the property owner renders or request a notice. The city, county, school districts and other local taxing units will use the appraisal district's value to set property taxes for the coming year.

**Property Taxpayer Remedies** - This Comptroller publication explains in detail how to protest a property appraisal, what issues the county appraisal review board (ARB) can consider and what to expect during a protest hearing. The publication also discusses the options of taking a taxpayer's case to district court, the State Office of Administrative Hearings or binding arbitration if the taxpayer is dissatisfied with the outcome of the ARB hearing.

**Homestead Exemptions** - A homestead is generally defined as the home and land used as the owner's principal residence on Jan. 1 of the tax year. A homestead exemption reduces the appraised value of the home and, as a result, lowers property taxes. Applications are submitted to the appropriate local county appraisal district.

**Productivity Appraisal** - Property owners who use land for timber land production, agricultural purposes or wildlife management can be granted property tax relief on their land. They may apply to their local county appraisal district for an agricultural appraisal which may result in a lower appraisal of the land based on how much the taxpayer produces, versus what the land would sell for on the open market.

**Residence Homestead Tax Deferral** - Texas homeowners may postpone paying the currently delinquent property taxes due on the appreciating value of their homes by filing a tax deferral affidavit at their local county appraisal district. This tax relief allows homeowners to pay the property taxes on 105 percent of the preceding year's appraised value of their homestead, plus the taxes on any new improvements to the homestead. The remaining taxes are postponed, but not cancelled, with interest accruing at 8 percent per year.

**Property Tax Deferral for Persons Age 65 or Older or Disabled Homeowners** - Texans who are age 65 or older or disabled, as defined by law, may postpone paying current and delinquent property taxes on their homes by signing a tax deferral affidavit. Once the affidavit is on file, taxes are deferred, but not cancelled, as long as the owner continues to own and live in the home. Interest continues to accrue on unpaid taxes. You may obtain a deferral affidavit at the appraisal district.

**Protesting Property Appraisal Values** - Property owners who disagree with the appraisal district's appraisal of their property for local taxes or for any other action that adversely affects them may protest their property value to the appraisal district's ARB. For more information about these programs, contact Rockwall Central Appraisal District at 841 Justin Road, Rockwall, TX 75087. Information is also available on the Rockwall Central Appraisal District website at Rockwallcad.com and on the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division's website at comptroller.texas.gov/taxinfo/proptax/.

# Rockwall Yellowjackets take Region 1 gymnastics championship

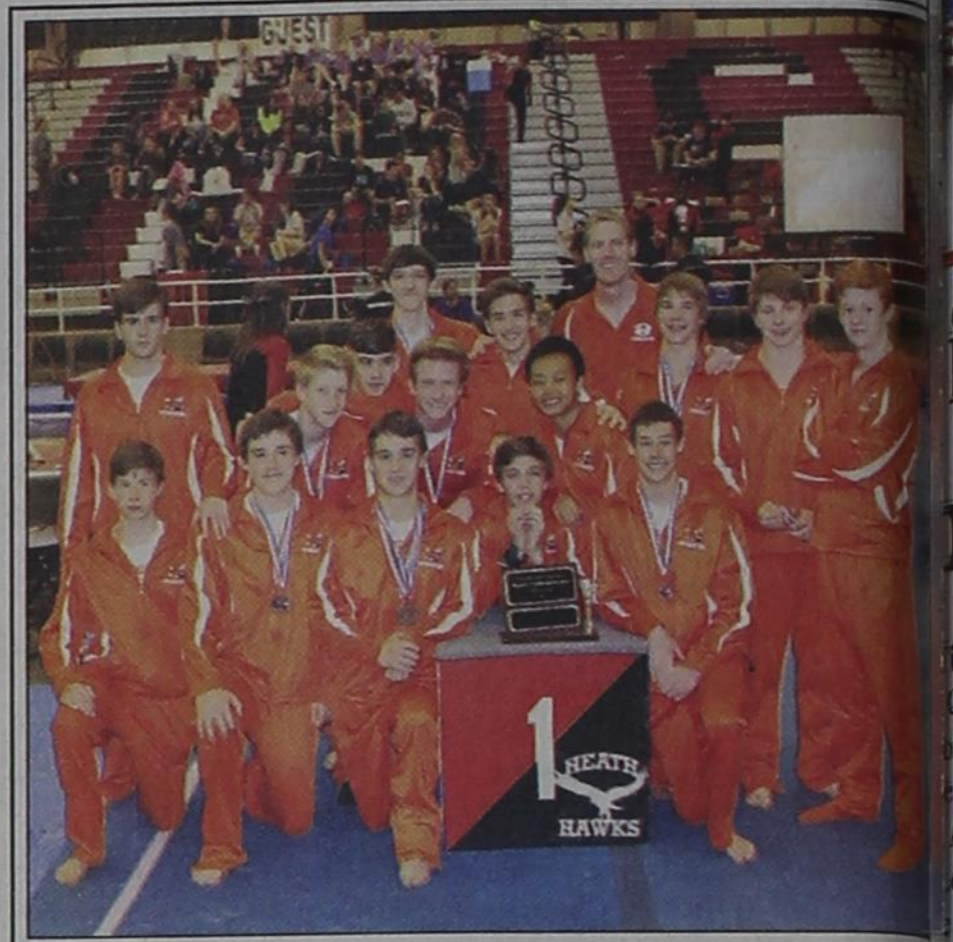
The Rockwall Yellowjackets gymnastics team won the Regional Championship, Wed. April 6, 2016, at the Rockwall-Heath basketball gym.

According to Coach Cameron Sweny, the team was behind by half a point after the first day, and finished in 1st place after the completion of the 2nd day.

"This continues a long streak of regional titles for our team. We have now won 8 straight Regional Championships," said Coach Sweny.

The team will advance to the State meet April 29-30 at Chisholm Trail High School.

Results are below:  
Team results (6 schools represented):  
1st - 325.7 Rockwall  
2nd - 325.1 Lakeview  
3rd - 316.3 Highland Park  
4th - 313.0 Heath  
5th - 68.4 Irving  
6th - 22.2 Richardson  
Individual (49 guys):  
All Around - Adam Alford 3rd - 109 points; Mckay Larman, 5th - 105.2; Jake Hodges, 8th - 86.0.  
Floor - Alford, 3rd - 19.1; Hodges, 6th - 18.2; Larman, 10th - 17.8.  
Pommel Horse - Zach Dougal, 5th - 18.1; Josh Creamer, 9th - 17.7; Larman, 10th - 17.2.  
Rings - Alford (tie), 2nd - 17.7; Larman (tie), 2nd - 17.7; Hodges, 6th - 17.1; Chad Singer, 10th - 16.7.  
Vault - Alford, 1st - 19.2; Larman, 5th - 18.8; Connor Campbell, 6th - 18.5; Aaron Cory, 9th - 18.3.  
Parallel Bars - Alford, 3rd - 19.1; Preston Gage, 6th - 18.5; Larman, 9th - 18.0.  
High Bar - Alford, 4th - 17.4; Cory, 5th - 17.1; Kyle Ziegler, 6th - 16.7; Campbell, 8th - 16.6.



Rockwall Yellowjackets gymnastics team winning the Region 1 Championship, Wed. April 6, 2016, at Rockwall-Heath are (back row left to right) Mckay Larman, Connor Campbell, Wilson Farris, Zach Dougal, Chad Singer, Sean Denny, Aidan Culp, Coach Cameron Sweny, Aaron Cory, Preston Gage, Ryan Szafran (front row) Zane Larman, Jake Hodges, Adam Alford, Josh Creamer, Kyle Ziegler.  
Photo by Kathleen Cory/Rockwall County News

# Rockwall-Heath Lady Hawks win Region gymnastics championship

The Rockwall-Heath Lady Hawks gymnastics team won the Region 1 Championships, Wed. April 6, 2016, held at their home basketball gym.

According to Coach Jennifer Holden, the team is currently ranked second in the state.

She praised the team for earning their highest scores of the season that night.

"With every meet this season we keep improving our team score," exclaimed Coach Holden.

The team will advance to the State Championships, April 29-30, at Chisholm Trail High School.

The girls session will be at 9:30 a.m. on Friday and 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. Team photo attached was taken by Stayce Malone.

Team Results  
1st Heath HS 227.60  
2nd Highland Park 226.50

3rd Rockwall HS 226.25  
4th Lakeview HS 223.225  
Individual Results  
Spencer Ware won on the Floor with a 19.575 points, placed 8th  
Vault 18.55, 7th on Uneven Bars 18.4, 10th Balance Beam 18.55, and 5th in the All-Around 75.075.  
Rebekah Malone placed 8th on Vault 18.55, 10th on Uneven Bars 18.225, 7th on Balance Beam 18.75, 5th on Floor 19.225, and 7th in the All-Around 74.75.  
Bailey Daulong placed 2nd on Vault with a 19.25, 6th on Uneven Bars 18.525, and 4th on Floor 19.275.  
Peyton Moody placed 2nd on Uneven Bars 19.3 and 9th on Balance Beam 18.6.  
Maddie Lundell placed 5th on Balance Beam 18.85 and 3rd Floor 19.35.  
Darion Mellorn placed 10th on Vault 18.4.

# Rockwall Lady Jackets defeat Round Rock 2-1, advance to Region 2 Championship

The Rockwall High School Lady Jackets soccer team rallied late in the second half to defeat Round Rock Westwood 2-1, last Fri. April 8, 2016, for the UIL Region 2 6A Semi-finals game at Kelly Reeves Athletics Complex in Round Rock.

Rockwall return to Kelly Reeves on Sat. April 9, to take on Highland Park for the Region 2 6A Championship game. The Lady Jackets fell to Highland Park 4-0, who will advance to the State tournament with a game against MacArthur.

The Lady Jackets finished the season with a record of 17-4-4 Overall, and 11-2-1 in District.

During the Championship game, the Lady Jackets attempted at least 12 shots on goal by Lauren Baker, Katie Givens, Bailey Wooten, Nicole Pugsley, Micah Larkin, and Alana Wickham.

After the game, Head Coach Melissa Garcia spoke of how proud she was of the for their unending offensive and defensive stand against the strong Highland Park team. She praised them for playing their absolute best through the end of the game.

The Semi-finals game began with a quick score by Westwood during the first 7 minutes of the game.

During the rest of the game, the Lady Jackets pounded Round Rock

with at least 12 shots on goal by Baker, Wooten, Larkin, Pugsley, Rylie Robertson and Givens.

With about 9 minutes left in the game, and after a 2 consecutive saves by Rockwall Goal Keeper Kristina Patterson against a strong Westwood attack, Givens nailed a long shot to the goal from the middle of the field for a 1-1 tie, with the assistance of Alana Wickham.

As the clock approached 2 minutes, Baker took control of the ball and took a long shot sending the ball past the Westwood Goal Keeper who was running forward to challenge.

Rockwall Goal Keeper Kristina Patterson stopped numerous Westwood attacks and shots with blocks and saves, and with assistance of defenders Kayla Campbell, Keely Hampton, Kately Luera, Ariell Hopkins, Emily Huckaba, and Robertson.

Following the high-energy game, Head Coach Melissa Garcia praised the team for maintaining unity and staying focused on the game.

She explained that during the half-time break, the team pulled together to identify problems and solutions. "They decided they were not finished," said Coach Garcia.



Rockwall HS Lady Jackets goal keeper, Kristina Patterson, gets a save against a Round Rock Westwood attack, Fri. April 8, 2016, during the UIL Region 2 Semi-finals game at Kelly Reeves Athletics Complex in Round Rock. The Lady Jackets went on to defeat Westwood 1-0 and advance to the Region 2 Championship. Assisting are Lady Jackets Keely Hampton (5) and Kayla Campbell (4).  
Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News