

# Rockwall County News

Volume Number 25 • Issue Number 46 • USPS 002-495 • Friday, November 18, 2011 • Single Copy Price 75 Cents • Copyright 2011 Rockwall County News

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## Veterans honored during dedication of Rockwall County Veterans Memorial

County Commissioner Lorie Grinnan assists retired World War II service member Bea Burns (center), who is accompanied by World War II service member Raymond Cameron (second from right) in the special dedication of Rockwall County Veterans Memorial at the new county courthouse Friday November 11. A lone plane veered off from others in memory those who lost their lives defending freedom. Tri-County Veterans Honor Guard member holding the American flag is Roger Gomez (left).

Photo by Timothy Downs/Rockwall County News

## Rockwall city officials still mum on details about city manager's termination

na Edwards  
Week after the Rockwall City Council passed a motion 5-2 to draft a resolution terminating city manager Julie Couch's contract, officials are mum on the details. The action marked a strong disapproval of how Couch had handled a number of recent issues, the vote was apparently the result of a late meeting session at the Nov. 7 regular meeting. The executive session agenda included a discussion of the city manager's

contract and evaluation, as well as "duties of officers/staff attendants and others regarding operations of the animal shelter; and related matters." Despite the agenda's specific reference to the animal shelter, council members contacted by the Rockwall County News say that the shelter's recent issues were not the sole or primary cause behind the decision to terminate the city manager's contract. The resolution, being drafted by city attorney Pete Eckert, is scheduled

to be presented to the council for approval at the Nov. 21 regular council meeting. Mayor David Sweet said he understood that the charter requires the resolution to state the reasons for terminating Couch's contract. Media inquiries were directed to city attorney Pete Eckert, who has not responded to last week's request for an official statement. Mayor Sweet released the following statement to the Rockwall County News late Tuesday: "I want to express my gratitude to Ms. Couch for her service to the City of Rockwall and wish her the best in her future endeavors. The city of Rockwall is an outstanding community to live, work and play; and has a tremendous future ahead of us and one that I am ready to embrace. Our future will include and improvement in communication and leadership internally and externally as well as an improved execution of shared goals of the council, staff and our citizens. We must continue to focus on challenges in relation to customer service and focus on our response to issues that arise. "We must learn from mistakes in the past be willing to change our processes quicker and move forward to improve on a daily basis. If any of our citizens have any questions they are more than welcome to contact me at 972-639-6530."



## Lone Star CASA volunteers sworn in by Judge Brett Hall

Eight new Lone Star CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) volunteers were sworn in by Judge Brett Hall Nov. 9. Shown from left are Ellen Hairston, Susie Miller, Lillie Kelly, Hall, Sandy Robinson, Rae Cook, Michael Shaw, Betty Shupp and Janie Merle. CASA advocates for children in foster care in Rockwall and Kaufman counties, with the CASA volunteers working for the child's best interest in court and playing an important role in helping secure a safe, permanent home for the child. Another volunteer training will begin in January. For more details visit [becomecasa.org](http://becomecasa.org) or contact Lone Star CASA at 972-772-5858.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

## City of Fate approves inter jurisdictional agreement for county emergency services

by Timothy Downs

Fate's City Council meeting of Nov. 7 considered and approved the Inter-Jurisdictional Mutual Aid Agreement for emergency services within Rockwall County under the North Central Texas Council of Governments Mutual Aid Plan. Cities recognize vulnerability of communities to damage, injury, and loss of life and property resulting from disasters and civil emergencies, including terrorist actions, weapons of mass destruction, and other incidents of man-made origin. Direct agreements with independent jurisdictions are ways of coordinating public services within the county's communities to provide facilities, equipment, services, supplies and personnel for such events beyond the capacity of each municipality. Subject to this agreement, food and housing will be supplied from the time of those arriving at the designated location to the time of their departure. Those asking for assistance, unless state or federal aid is available, will pay costs, including personnel compensation, injury, disability and death benefits. Not approved - the taxation of goods in transit held within the extra-jurisdictional territory of the city for further transport to a destination. Members of the council stated that taxation would dissuade potential business growth. The council approved a department-wide \$30 non-sufficient fund check fee. Some departments continued the previous rate of \$25 and the resolution establishes consistency for all departments.



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**Births**

**Nathan Samuel Saunders**

Megan Clark and Corey Saunders of Quinlan are proud to announce the birth of their son, Nathan Samuel Saunders, on Oct. 20, 2011, at Lake Pointe Medical Center.

The infant weighed 6 pounds, 4 ounces.

Grandparents are Billy and Karen Clark of Quinlan, Larry Saunders of Quinlan and Tammy Kinkade of Olive Branch, Miss. Great-grandparents are Sandra and Larry Spurlock of Whitehall, Md., and Pauline and Danny Strawn of Quinlan.

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**CASE seeks host homes for exchange students**

New Rockwall/Heath area representative for Cultural Academic Student Exchange Carolyn Lemon has a unique and personal perspective of world cultures.

Born and raised in Thailand, daughter of missionaries, she grew up with an instilled love of foreign countries and cultures. Working in a Red Cross orphanage in Bangkok, Thailand, for two summers as a teen cemented her desire to adopt cross-culturally, culminating in the adoption of her three children from Brazil, Thailand and India. Lemon also has sponsored two teenage exchange students, one from India and the second from France.

"These young men have stayed in touch with our family through-


out the intervening years and still call me mom," she said. "It was definitely one of the most rewarding experiences of my life... aside from the adoptions of my own children, of course."

CASE exchange students come from more than 50 countries. They are all between the ages of 15 to 18 and speak English well enough to function in the public school systems. They have their own spending money and are fully insured. Host families are asked to provide a bed and a quiet place to study, three meals a day, love and support.

Rockwall/Heath families should consider opening their hearts and homes to host a foreign exchange student, Lemon said. CASE gives

students, host families and communities the ability to learn and value other cultures, ultimately increases inter-harmony and creates lasting ships.

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Maxine Harber with her son Les and his wife Karylle Harber.

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Leah Walker is daughter of Phil and K Walker. She is this year's Stingerette New Sergeant and a member of the Kick Company. She served on Social Court her junior year as social coordinator. She plans to attend Blinn and Texas A&M University.

Courtesy photo/ Rockwall County News



Lisa Pitts is daughter of Howard and Jill Pitts. She is the senior class representative for Stingerettes and a member of the Showstoppers. She was voted Miss Perfect Beautiful. She plans to attend Texas State University where she will major in fashion merchandising.

Courtesy photo/ Rockwall County News

# Rockwall Christian Academy grads setting example for current students



Two Rockwall Christian Academy alumni and recent college graduates are independent, knowledgeable Christians who have a "pioneer spirit" and are setting strong examples for current students at RCA.

Jason Ruffing graduated from RCA in 2006 and from North Texas earlier this year with a degree in history. He now is working on his master's degree.

He said RCA strengthened him, providing a "solid foundation on which to build life experiences," according to a news release from the school. RCA also introduced to him several "powerful relationships" that continue today.

Ruffing was an active member of the school's music department, clubs such as Honor Society and chess, and athletics, including football and track.

Ruffing said he observed the same values in his home that were taught at school. The consistency made it easier to embrace the worldview modeled by his parents, Barbara and Ken Ruffing.

Phylicia Jasper was RCA valedictorian in 2007 and at the time was one of a just a handful of black students at the school. The product of a single-parent household, she also had an upbringing that echoed the worldview delivered at RCA. Consequently, she said, she had a solid and strong value system that proved helpful in making life choices in college.

"Being brought up in a Christian environment at school and at home has equipped me with the ability to... maintain a Christian life," she said.

While a student at RCA, Jasper was active in volleyball, basketball and

track and was involved in Student Government, Spanish Club and the National Honor Society.

Jasper made a smooth transition from her high school years to the larger world at North Texas University in Denton. However, she said the transition did underscore for her the limited diversity at RCA. She said she hopes to see "...more diversity of the students attending RCA. I was one of the few African-American students at the school, and I believe it is important to be able to learn from different types of students."

Jasper graduated from college earlier this year and began a career in hospitality management. She stays busy with her work, but remains active in church and her commitment to Christianity.

Phylicia Jasper, a graduate of Rockwall Christian Academy, pictured above with her mother, Cornelia Lincoln, at Jasper's graduation from North Texas University earlier this year. After earning her degree, Jasper now is employed in hospitality management.  
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Jason Ruffing, a graduate of Rockwall Christian Academy, is shown with his mother, Barbara Ruffing, at North Texas University's commencement exercises in May. Following his graduation from North Texas, Jason Ruffing now is pursuing a master's degree.  
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

## Moreno is graduate of Everest College

Janie R. Moreno of Rockwall was among the more than 340 graduates who received a diploma in medical insurance billing and coming to a news release from the college.



James and Verbel Watson of Garland will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary this year. She is a retired food service employee with the Garland Independent School District. He is retired from the automotive industry. The Watsons are the parents of three children - Doris Watson Yancey and her husband, Bill, of Garland, Judy Watson Talley and her husband, Jimmy, of Wylie and Steve and Mone' Watson of Rockwall. They also have seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.  
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

## Boland, Stragglers perform Dec. 30

Jason Boland and The Stragglers will perform at Southern Junction in Rockwall Dec. 30 in support of the school's October release, "Rancho Alto," album, produced by Grammy-winning producer Lloyd Cole. The album features 11 new songs, of which were written or co-written by Boland.

"Rancho Alto" features single narrative storytelling and an old sense of songcraft," writes Monthly. "There might be no more country music yet." Boland is described as a "country purist" who clings to the notion that the mental values of the genre are still, blue-collar, defiant, truthful and real."

Formed in 1998, Jason Boland and The Stragglers has released five studio albums, two live albums and has had sold-out live shows throughout the U.S. To date the band has sold more than 500,000 copies independently. Their 2008 album, "Comal County Blue," was ranked on the Billboard National Country Albums chart, No. 30 on the Billboard Country Albums and No. 1 in the country albums. "Rancho Alto" debuted on Billboard Country Albums at No. 26 and the single "Ellen's Greenhouse" is No. 1 on Texas radio.

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Williams Middle School celebrated Red Ribbon Week Oct. 24-28, but this year's observance was a little different. Beginning this school year, Rockwall secondary students combined Drug Free Youth in Texas with Students Against Destructive Decisions to create RADD, or Rockwall Against Destructive Decisions. The WMS RADD governing board decorated the campus with red ribbons, balloons and posters to spread the message about the importance of a drug-free lifestyle. Students also collected canned goods for the Helping Hands food pantry. Pictured are governing board members, at back, Maddisyn Parrott and C.J. Franklin; middle row, Sarah Duchak, Kyleigh Hinojosa, Daria Howard, Hallie Coy, Mikey DeGuzman and Emily Green; and, at front, Lacey Helfferich, Stone Kinsey and Allie Feste.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



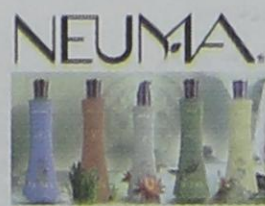
Ghost, an Alaskan malamute and Siberian husky mix, is neutered, up-to-date on shots, house-trained, leash-trained and enjoys car rides. He is just one of the many animals available for adoption at Texas Best Choices Non Profit Animal Rescue in Quinlan. Call 214-535-5230 or email allanc214@aol.com for more details.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



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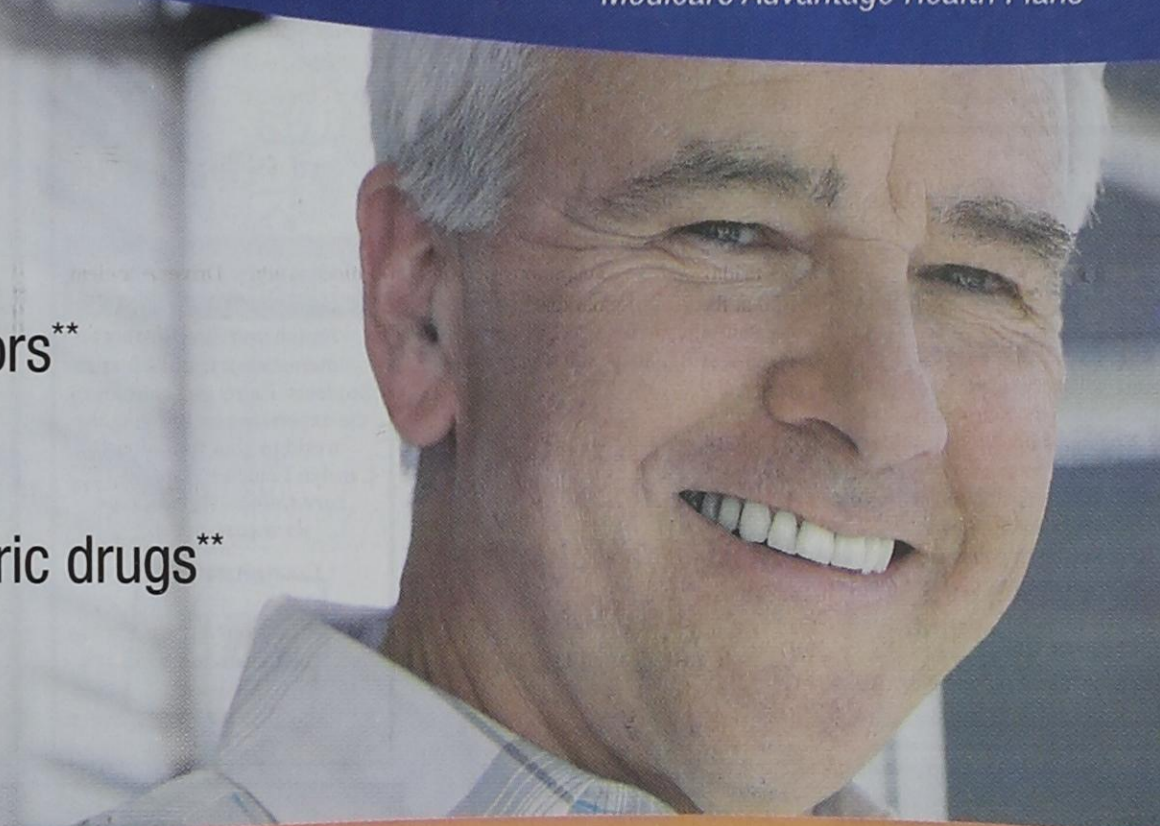
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## Rockwall Police Blotter

Nov. 1-7

- Nov. 1
  - Burglary of Motor Vehicle block Ridge Road, 8 a.m.
  - Burglary of Motor Vehicle block N Goliad, 8:45 a.m.
  - Warrant Service (by Police Department), 900 block Townsend Drive, 12:21 p.m.
  - Missing Person/Runaway, block Water Way, 8:40 p.m.
  - Assault, 1000 block I-30 p.m.
  - Assault, 500 block Windsor, 10:30 p.m.
- Nov. 2
  - Theft, 800 block Steger Drive, 11 a.m.
  - Theft, 900 block W Yellow Ln, 11:30 a.m.
  - Warrant Service (by Police Department), 1000 Williams Street, 12:40 p.m.
  - Motor Vehicle Theft, 6800 Line Drive, 2:18 p.m.
  - Theft, 1000 block I-30, 5:30 p.m.
  - Assault, 2800 block Miral Ln, 6:20 p.m.
- Nov. 3
  - Disorderly conduct, 2600 Ridge Road, 3 p.m.
  - Theft, 400 block I-30, 4 p.m.
  - Burglary Habitation, 1000 High Cotton Ln, 11:35 p.m.
- Nov. 4
  - Assault, 1400 block Engl Drive, 10 a.m.
  - Theft, 700 block Hartman, 4:30 p.m.
  - Burglary Building, 900 block Road, 5 p.m.
- Nov. 5
  - Theft, 700 block I-30, 11:30 p.m.
  - Fraud, 1100 block Midnight, 12:30 p.m.
  - Burglary of Motor Vehicle, block Summer Lee Drive, 1 p.m.
  - Burglary of Motor Vehicle, block I-30, 1 p.m.
  - Theft, 2900 block Ridge, 4:42 p.m.
  - Burglary Motor Vehicle, block Laguna, 6 p.m.
  - Assault, 2900 block H Road, 6 p.m.
  - Burglary of Motor Vehicle, block I-30, 6 p.m.
  - Theft, 2900 block Ridge, 6:24 p.m.
- Nov. 6
  - No reports
- Nov. 7
  - Possession of marijuana, 800 E Washington Street, 12:36 a.m.

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## CISD Education Foundation awards Innovative Grants at recent pep rally

The Nov. 4 Royse City School pep rally had surprises in store for participants when the Royse City Independent School District Education Foundation's Grant Patrol was in to announce innovative grant winners. Teachers were presented with checks for speech and debate events exchanged high prizes, realizing that their students had won laptops for use in speech and debate competitions.

Grant committee member Mary Ellis led the way as the Grant Patrol, comprised of foundation directors and donors, visited RCISD campuses to announce winners. A total of 21 innovative grants valued at \$42,573 were awarded, according to RCISD news release.

Grant winners included: Mimio Magic, Herndon Intermediate, \$3,898; Let Your Fingers do the Talking, RCHS, \$4,798; Rockin' Robotech, Herndon Intermediate, \$3,000; Less Paper, More Pies, RCHS, \$4,577; EDP Kids... Going the Long Mile, Extended Day Program, \$965; Classroom Kingdom, Ruth Cherry Intermediate, \$3,564; Collaboration that Works: Redesigning the Classroom, Ruth Cherry Intermediate, \$967; GPS Treasure Hunts: Quest for Knowledge, Elementary, \$619; Plants Alive! Botany, Davis Elementary, \$1,000; Project EXCEL: Reading Children's Elementary Learning Material, Scott Elementary, \$1,000; Science is a Cinch: Teaching the STARRS, Royse City Middle School, \$440; The Real World,



Jill Jeffrey, a teacher at Royse City High, is shown receiving a check for an innovative grant from the Royse City Independent School District Education Foundation's Grant Patrol. The presentation was made at a RCHS pep rally.  
(Photo Courtesy/Rockwall County News)

Vernon Elementary, \$1,120  
 • BACKpacks to the Future!, Fort Elementary, \$1,159  
 • Keep Math Simple, Scott Elementary, \$549  
 • No More "Waisting" Time! Together Let's Dew into our Future, RCHS, \$1,978  
 • Wacom Out of the Closet, RCHS, \$3,067  
 • Zen Den, RCHS, \$1,500

• Adaptive Physical Education Equipment, RCMS, \$844  
 • Apples for iPads, Fort Elementary, \$790  
 • Leap into Learning, Scott Elementary, \$785  
 • Literacy Speaks, The Talking Place & Scott Elementary, \$625  
 The RCISD Education Foundation was founded in February 2009. Since that time it has awarded more

than \$110,000 in innovative grants to teachers and students in Royse City schools.


The foundation's annual fundraising drive is now under way and will continue until Dec. 15. For more information on joining the foundation in support of creative teaching and learning in the RCISD, contact Jo Nell Melloy at 972-636-2413 or visit [rcisd.foundation.com](http://rcisd.foundation.com).

**More News in your Hometown Newspaper Rockwall County News**

## Royse City Police Blotter


Nov. 4-10

• Friday, 4 Nov.: Suspicious person, 1500 block Audrey Drive; Accident, I-30 at the 70-mile marker  
 • Saturday, 5 Nov.: No driver's license/Expired motor vehicle inspection arrest, 100 block W. I-30 SSR; Possession of marijuana arrest, I-30 at the 76-mile marker; Suspicious vehicle, 600 block Lamar Street; Suspicious vehicle, I-30 at the 80-mile marker  
 • Sunday, 6 Nov.: Welfare check, 500 block Timberhaven Trail; Driving while intoxicated arrest, 1700 block Green Terrace Court; Criminal mischief, 1300 block High Meadow Court; Alarm, 2300 block E. I-30; Noise disturbance, Area of Marsha Lane; Noise disturbance, 2600 block Redwood Street; Suspicious activity, 600 block Chestnut Court; Assault, 800 block Cooper Lane  
 • Monday, 7 Nov.: Criminal mischief, 300 block N. Houston Street; Medical assistance, 700 block Orchid Boulevard; Alarm, 200 block Cookston Lane  
 • Tuesday, 8 Nov.: Reckless driver; I-30 at the 77-mile marker  
 • Wednesday, 9 Nov.: Suspicious activity, 200 block W. Main Street; Suspicious activity, 1100 block Walnut Street; Alarm, 500 block Dyann Drive



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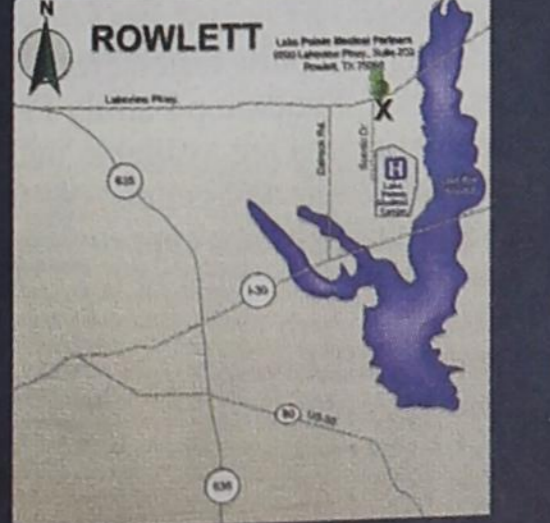



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# Rockwall County Sports

## Hawks' ground game wears down Wakeland

**By Bump**  
 Rockwall-Heath's offense pounded the ball on the ground and the Hawks' vaunted defense took the ball away from Wakeland three times in a second-half comeback that sent RHHS to the football playoffs' Area round. The Hawks (10-1), who fell behind 14-10 just before halftime, finally regained the lead with 3 minutes, 4 seconds left.

Rico Henderson scored the winning touchdown on an 11-yard run for a 22-21 victory in a 4A Division I playoff game Friday, Nov. 11, at Wildcat-Ram Stadium.

The Hawks' next will play Dallas Kimball (9-2), a 34-24 Bi-District winner over Dallas Bryan Adams. The Area game will be played at Homer B. Johnson Stadium in Garland.

In the second half, Henderson and Jeremy Armstrong combined for 159 of the Hawks' game total of 246 rushing yards.

Wakeland's Wolverines (7-4) had taken that lead on a 9-yard touchdown pass to Dan Harrington from Nick West, who scored on two TDs and ran for the third. Henderson and Wakeland didn't fare as well after that. He threw an interception, and the team lost two fumbles.

Henderson scored both RHHS second-half touchdowns. Both were set up by takeaways: an interception by Justin Williams and a fumble recovery at Rockwall-Heath's 16 yard line by Jordan Points.

In the first of those drives, Armstrong gained 40 yards on six consecutive carries. He jump-started the game with a 64-yard drive with a 25-yard gain, and dashed for 28 yards two plays later.

The Hawks failed on two 2-point conversion attempts, but the defense stopped the Wolverines' last possession. Dan Mayfield knocked down a fourth-and-one pass. Henderson then ran for a first down, allowing RHHS to advance to the clock.

Wakeland-Heath had taken a 10-7 second-quarter lead on Ethan Smith's 31-yard field goal and Amaris Fields' 54-yard punt return for a touchdown.

The Hawks found some frustration for the Hawks, who recovered their own onside kick to start the game, and moved the Wolverines' 30 yard line twice more without scoring in the first quarter. One of RHHS' three lost fumbles occurred on its third possession at the 29.

Wakeland had scored in the first quarter on West's 5-yard pass to Carson Carew. West scored on a 1-yard run in the second quarter, with Zach Paul's extra point making the score 14-10.

The Wolverines just 2:15 into the third quarter to score again, before their errors and the Hawks' vigilant defense combined to shut down the Wakeland offense.

The Hawks' attack had become one-dimensional because Rockwall-Heath held them to 44 rushing yards in the game.



Hawks' Gentry Rodgers (2) and Jordan Points (80), swoop on Frisco Wakeland quarterback Nick West (12) for a sack during Friday's Bi-District playoff game. Defending at back is Jay Arnold (85).  
 Photo by Carl McClung (flickr.com/photos/carls\_sideline\_pics/)Rockwall County News

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Wakeland	0	10	6	6	22
RHHS	7	7	7	0	21
Points					
Wakeland	18	14			
RHHS	50-246	20-44			
Att-Int	8-14-0	22-36-1			
g yds.	90	244			
yds.	336	288			
avg.	1-6.0	4-39.8			
ies-yds.	3-25	2-20			
ies-Lost	3-3	3-2			



Hawks' Amaris Fields (3) grabs the ball for a catch against Frisco Wakeland during last Friday's Bi-District playoff game in Wildcat Stadium.  
 Photo by Carl McClung/Rockwall County News

- Wakeland - Carson Carew 5 pass from Nick West (Zach Paul kick)
  - Wakeland - Ethan Smith 31 FG
  - Wakeland - Amaris Fields 54 punt return (Smith kick)
  - Wakeland - West 1 run (Paul kick)
  - Wakeland - Dan Harrington 9 pass from West (Paul kick)
  - Wakeland - Rico Henderson 1 run (pass failed)
  - Wakeland - Henderson 11 run (run failed)
- Individual statistics**
- Wakeland - RHHS: Cody Court 8-14-0-90; Wakeland: Nick West 22-36-1
  - Wakeland - RHHS: Amaris Fields 5-79, Jacob Granstaff 1-8, Alan Williams 1-5, Shyon Motlugh 1-minus 2; Wakeland: Dan Harrington 4-67, Devaughn Childress 4-67, Jonathan Weisheit 5-60, Turner Smiley 3-60, Carson Carew 2-10, Brad Sicula 1-1.
  - Wakeland - RHHS: Rico Henderson 25-116, Jeremy Armstrong 14-110, Dan Mayfield 11-20; Wakeland: Tyler Carver 10-31, Nick West 5-5, Alex Williams 4-67, Devaughn Childress 3-4.

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## Congratulations Rockwall-Heath Lady Hawks 2011 Regional Runner-Up Volleyball Team



Rockwall-Heath Lady Hawks' volleyball team returning as UIL Regional Championship runner-up are (back row left to right) Assistant Coach Marceau, Aimee Hamsher, Head Coach Maggie Younger, Assistant Coach Tracey Black, Claire Carpenter, Baileigh Millender, Morgan Cook, Molly Neslon, Regina Tillis, Kailey Peters, Manager Amanda Wizman, Savanna Stutts, Beth Rose, Head Trainer Kristi Messina, (front row left to right) Paige Parent, Tess Harding, Aubree Baune, Student Trainer Nicole Johnson, Kelsie Murphy, Adalee Lamberth, Haley Coleman and Brianne Lacy.

Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

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# Big 4th quarter carries Lady Hawks to win

The Rockwall-Heath girls' basketball team rallied in the fourth quarter to defeat Mesquite Poteet 59-49 Tuesday night at RHHS.

Junior Jordan Mitchell led the Lady Hawks' scoring with 27 points. Freshman Katie Webster added 12 points for RHHS (1-1), overcame a 37-36 deficit after three quarters by outscoring Poteet 23-12 in the final quarter. "Both shot the ball well, and are really starting to extend defenses and offering some easy offense for others, said Lady Hawks head coach Devin Gabbard.

"We played well in stretches. We went into the half down six, and had played well in the first quarter (which ended with RHHS ahead 16-12). Offensively in the second quarter we stood around a little too much and didn't really execute some things that allowed them to take a lead. We had pressed some early with a little success. So we felt like we could change some things at half and expose (the Lady Pirates) some.

Gabbard added, "In the third quarter we went small to match a smaller lineup that they had, and really picked up the tempo of the game. We also started moving within our offense and got some good looks. We did some trapping both in the full and in the half court that allowed us some easy offense as well."

Other major contributors were sophomore Rylee Maldonado with nine points, and senior Brianna Richardson with eight points and nine rebounds.

Said Gabbard, "We felt like coming into the year that we were better offensively and fundamentally. It was just going to be getting kids in the right positions to utilize their strengths. We have done things in the first two games that have built off each other and made us a lot more offensive than we have been in the past. Our younger kids and key role kids have been able to contribute in ways that we were unsure of coming into the season.

"If we continue to work hard and execute a little better it should be a fun year.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Poteet	12	16	9	12	49
RHHS	16	7	13	23	59

Poteet (2-4) – Kiera Waters 21, Megan Doe 11, Cheatam 5, Raehgan Shaw 4, Burns 4, Dyer 4.

RHHS (1-1) – Jordan Mitchell 27, Katie Webster 12, Rylee Maldonado 9, Brianna Richardson 8, Jillian Granstaff 2, April Brown 1.

## Lady Hawks defeat Red Oak in Regional Semifinals, fall short of state tourney

The best season in Rockwall-Heath volleyball history didn't end until Saturday in the Region II-4A final.

The Lady Hawks, who finished 45-6, lost that match to District 10-4A rival Richardson Pearce, which swept three games from RHHS all three times the teams played this season.

In fact, after Sept. 2, when Rowlett defeated the Lady Hawks, they were 18-3 – with all three losses to the Lady Mustangs.

There appeared to be some hope that Rockwall-Heath could contend with Pearce. In Friday's marathon semifinals, both RHHS and Pearce had to go five games to win. The Lady Mustangs had to overcome a 21-20 deficit in the third game against Waxahachie to avoid being eliminated in three games.

In the second semifinal at the Garland Special Events Center, the Lady Hawks defeated Red Oak 21-25, 25-16, 25-17, 18-25, 15-11 in an up-and-down match. Regina Tillis led the winners with 30 kills, and Paige Parent had a team-high 31 digs. Tillis added 25 digs, and Claire Carpenter helped with 14 kills. All are sophomores.

At the same place the next day, RHHS came the closest all season to winning a game from Pearce – the first game. However, the Lady Mustangs held on to take a 27-25 decision, then took two more games 25-19 and 25-15, to earn a trip to this weekend's State Championships.

## Hawks wrestling place 2nd at Warrior Invitational

Zac Whitaker and Jacob Glastad finished first in their weight class to lead a strong team effort as Rockwall-Heath's wrestlers finished second among 14 teams Saturday in the Warrior Invitational at Arlington Martin.

Whitaker was the champion at 106 pounds, and Glastad at 170. The Hawks also had two runners-up, Nakona Brawner at 132 pounds and Tyler Gaddis at 145. B.K. Sanford (120) and Jacob Black (138) each placed third, and Grant Rose (113) was fourth.

The second-place finish in RHHS' first competition was good preparation for Saturday, when the Hawks will host the Heath Invitational.

## Fast start carries Newman Smith past Hawks

Rockwall-Heath came almost all the way back after falling behind by 17 points in the first quarter and 21 in the third, but couldn't quite catch up Tuesday night at Carrollton Newman Smith.

"We cut it down to 5 points with 2 minutes left, with the ball," Bradley Waters said after his first game as RHHS' head coach. However, the Hawks couldn't score on that possession and ended up losing to Newman Smith 67-60.

"They were more talented than we expected," Waters said. "We had a hard time blocking out. They had 30 offensive rebounds. Those are things we'll work on in practice and play better."

The Hawks fell behind 24-7 after the first quarter of their season opener, then outscored the Trojans 53-43 over the final three periods.

Sophomore point guard Cameron Martin led RHHS with 17 points. Jared Webber added 15 points and Matt Greene scored 12.

Waters said he expects the team's rebounding will become better when Jordan Points and Tyler McKay join the Hawks once they're through the football playoffs.

## TCU will begin Big 12 play with Hawks' Thompson

by Lary Bump

There was no doubt that Jake Thompson would sign a letter of intent to play Division I college baseball.

The questions were where he might go, and whether he'd be a pitcher or a first baseman.

At TCU, which went to the College World Series as recently as 2010, "They're giving me the opportunity to do both," Thompson said at Rockwall-Heath High School Wednesday, Nov. 9, when he signed a letter of intent to play for the Horned Frogs.

The high school All-American had made a non-binding verbal commitment during his sophomore year at RHHS to play for the University of Nebraska. A coaching change for the Cornhuskers helped him change his mind.

Big 12 schools still were hotly after Thompson. He mentioned Oklahoma, and said he had talked to Texas A&M.

"TCU was the first school where I made a visit in my junior year. They came on strong during the summer. They saw me at a heavily scouted event in Weatherford where there were a whole bunch of teams from three or four states," Thompson said.

"They've really developed a lot of pitchers in the last 5 or 6 years, and had several pitchers make it to the big leagues."

He received a bonus this fall when TCU left its commitment to move to the Big East Conference, and agreed to join the Big 12.

"I was excited about it," Thompson said. "I think it will be more of a challenge than the Big East, more higher caliber teams and players."

He said that he began thinking about playing big-time college baseball "when I was around 12 or 13."

(Continued on Page 15)

## Lady Hawks' Goodwin takes 5th place

Jessie Goodwin scored an 80 Tuesday in the Jacket-Hawk Invitational at Buffalo Creek Golf Course to lead the Rockwall-Heath girls' golf team.

Tiebreakers placed Goodwin fifth among the individuals in the event.

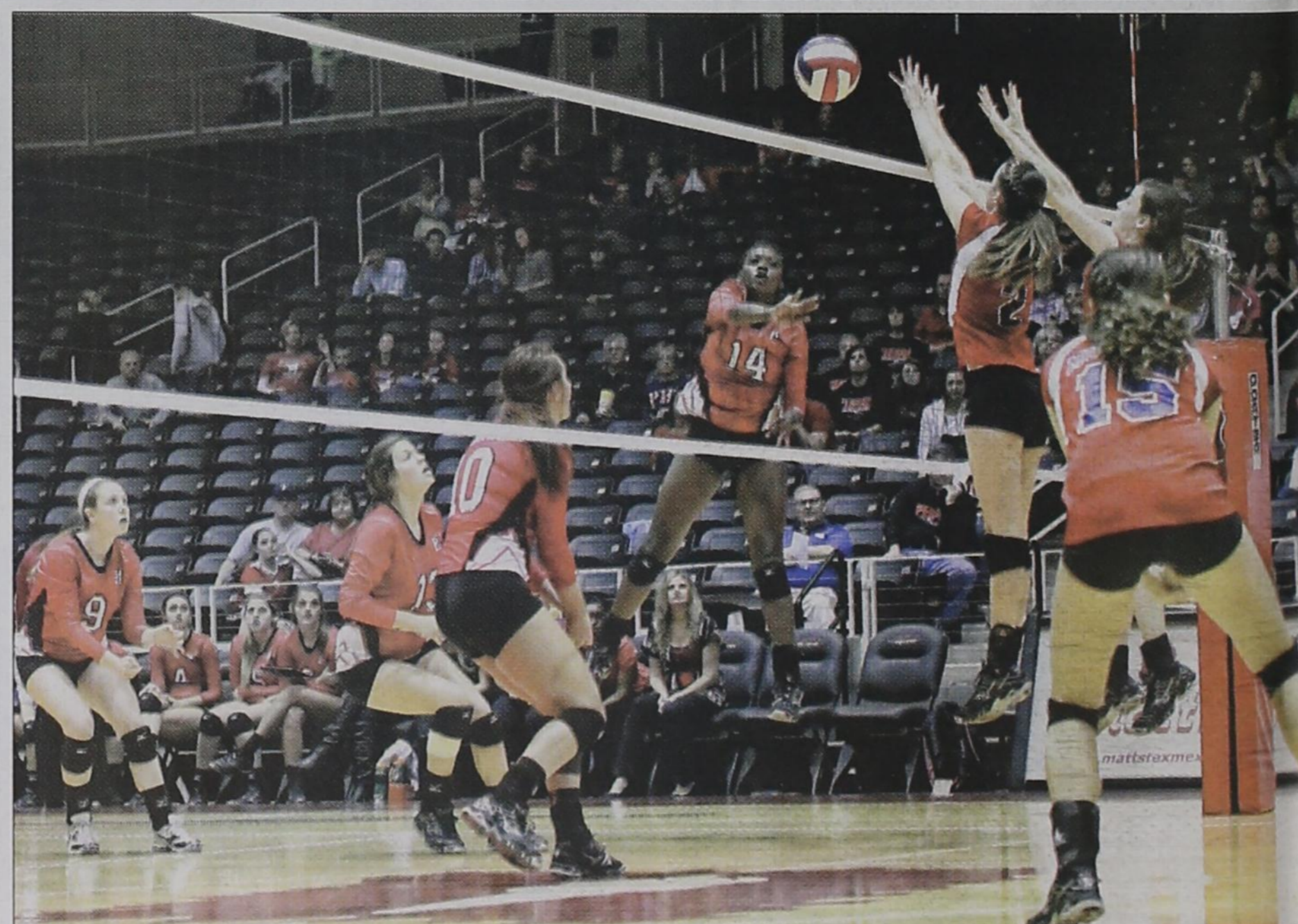


Junior Jordan Mitchell drives up the court for the Lady Hawks after a Mesquite Poteet turn-over during Tuesday's game in Heath. Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News



Lady Hawks' Molly Nelson (4) slams the ball into the Red Oak side for a point during Friday's Regional Semi-finals match at the Garland Special Events Center. Ready to assist are Aubree Baun (8) and Morgan Cook (10). The Lady Hawks won in five games 21-25, 25-16, 25-17, 15-11, and will advance to the Regional Finals match against Richardson J.J. Pearce starting Saturday at 4 p.m. at the same location.

Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News



Lady Jackets' sophomore Regina Tillis (14) slams the ball over the net for a kill during Saturday's UIL Regional Finals match at the Garland Special Events Center. Ready to assist in the play are Adalee Lamberth (9) and Kelsie Murphy (13). Rockwall-Heath lost to Pearce 27-25, 25-19 and 25-15.

Photo by Carl McClung (flickr.com/photos/carls\_sideline\_pics)/Rockwall County News

# Yellowjackets 8th place best ever in state cross country

Rockwall overcame a strong wind blowing dust into runners' faces and a deep rut in front of the starting line Saturday to earn the best finish in a 100-year state championship race in RHS history. Matt Hearn finished 23rd overall and ninth among runners from Rockwall teams, to lead the Yellowjackets to eighth place in the 4A State Championships at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock. Rockwall was making its second trip to the state meet, in each of the last two years. The 2010 team placed ninth. Coach Toby Howell said, "We did really well. We finished ninth last year and eighth this year. Next year, we might win a medal, even if we're not."

Due to 2010 UIL redistricting, RHS was just below the cutoff point for 5A. It is likely that in a growing school district, the Jackets would be in 5A in 2012-13 redistricting.

The Yellowjackets' 193-point total was the best from Region II-4A. They finished ahead of District 10-4A rival and Regional champion Highland Park in 10th place and Red Oak (291, 12th) from II-4A. Boerne Champion won the team championship with a score of 52.

"It's just a great season. I'm proud of the boys," Howell said. "The boys' time for a 5-kilometer course was 16 minutes, 42.69 seconds. Wood's Ryan Teel won the race in 15:42.35."

Rockwall scorers were Thorne Pettigrew, 52nd overall and 29th in the competition in 17:11.91; Justin Tokuz, 60th (35th) in 17:18.40; Harmon, 79th (51st) in 17:44.17, and Gaines Kinsey, 97th (69th) in 18:05. Spencer McKee was 108th (80th) in 18:49.72 and Antonio Harvey (3rd) in 19:49.32.

Hearn and Harvey are the only seniors among that group, but in 2011 Hearn and his freshman brother, Jared Hearn, aren't expected to be on the team because their family is moving back to Australia.

Harvey and Harvey were involved in a pileup of more than a dozen runners less than 200 meters into the 5-kilometer race. Harvey received a foul when he was stepped on, but finished the race.



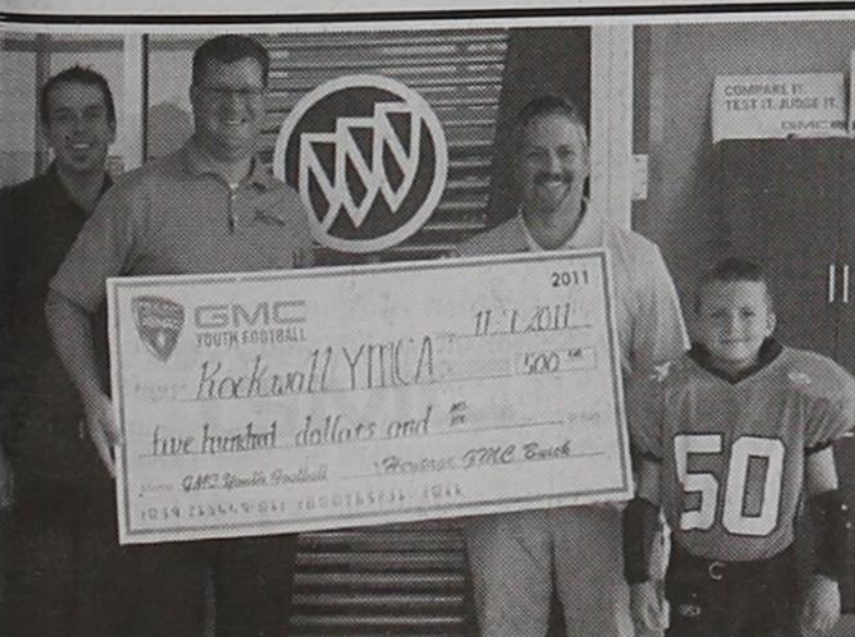
Rockwall Yellowjackets' runners starting last week's State Cross Country meet with 25-30 mile per hour winds and blowing dust are (from left) Matt Hearn (948), Spencer McKee, Robbie Harmon (946), Justin Tokuz (952), Gaines Kinsey (950) In back: Antonio Harvey (947) and Thorne Pettigrew (951). The team finished with a Region II-4A best of 193 points.  
Photo by Jared Hearn/Rockwall County News



Yellowjackets' Matt Hearn (front) finished 23rd overall, ninth among runners from qualifying teams, to lead Rockwall to eighth place in last week's State Cross Country meet. Hearn finished with a time of 16:42.69.  
Photo courtesy of Liz Hearn/Rockwall County News



Sara Williamson (11) takes a shot for the Lady Jackets during Tuesday's game against Garland in Rockwall.  
Photo by Roy Heath (royheath.exposuremanager.com)/Rockwall County News



Rockwall YMCA Director Mike Atkins along with youth football player Konner Pounds (right) recently received donations of \$500, t-shirts and other equipment from Heritage GMC Buick. The donations are to be directed to the Y's Partners Campaign. Mike said, "The Partners Campaign allows us to give financial assistance to help kids who can't afford it to be a part of our football program"

## Lady Jackets win 5 of 6 after opening loss

by Lary Bump  
In a busy week, the Rockwall girls' basketball team bounced back well from a season-opening loss.

The only blemish on the Lady Jackets' record between Thursday, Nov. 10, and the following Tuesday was a second loss to a 5A team from Plano. In a Frisco ISD Varsity Tip-Off Classic semifinal, RHS lost 55-34 to Plano East. The Lady Jackets (5-2) had lost their opener at home to Plano West Nov. 7.

The week ended with Rockwall pulling out a 46-45 victory over Garland in overtime Tuesday at RHS. The Lady Jackets continued to play without starters Hannah Hughes and Paige Turner.

It might have looked easy when Rockwall rolled to a 12-2 lead over Garland after the first quarter. However, the Lady Owls came back to lead 32-30 after three quarters. The Lady Jackets came back to tie the game 38-38 at the end of regulation play before gaining a 1-point advantage in overtime for a 46-45 victory.

(Continued on Page 15)

### Rockwall County News

2011-2012

#### Holiday Schedule

Publication Date: Wednesday, Nov. 23  
(Deadline Friday, Nov. 18)

Publication Date: Thursday, Dec. 22  
(Deadline Monday, Dec. 19)

Publication Date: Thursday, Dec. 29  
(Deadline Monday, Dec. 26)

Publication Date: Friday, Jan. 6  
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