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Volume Number 25 Issue Number 13 USPS 002-495 Friday, April 1, 2011 Single Copy Price 75 Cents Copyright 2011 Rockwall County News

Serving County Readers in • Fate • Heath • McLendon-Chisholm • Rockwall • Rowlett • Royse City

Budget options subject of April 11 RISD workshop

The public is invited to the next Rockwall ISD budget workshop at 6:30 p.m., Monday, April 11, where Superintendent Jeff Bailey and the board of trustees are expected to discuss the ongoing funding issues facing the district and possible options available to them.

School districts around Texas are expecting to hear from the state legislature in May regarding its budget and how any policy or funding changes will affect those districts. RISD is facing a possible budget shortfall of between \$11 million and \$19 million.

Although the only cost saving decision made by the district so far has been the recent layoff of 23 central office employees for a savings of \$1.4 million in salaries, RISD Communications and Marketing Director Sheri Fowler said the district is trying to get ahead of the problem and be prepared for whatever the final amount turns out to be. All campuses and departments have scrubbed their proposed 2011-2012 budgets and the district has a list of possible cost saving options ready to put in place when it votes on the budget in June.

But Fowler reiterates no decisions have been made at this point and any proposed cost cutting measures depend on the state budget.

Some options available to the district include possible furlough days, increasing some fees, and outsourcing custodial service and bus service. Fowler said if the bus service is outsourced, the district would negotiate for all current bus drivers to be hired by the management company. She said many school districts have outsourced their bus service and the common practice is to simply transfer management of the drivers to a new employer without any disruption in service.

"If we did that, it would be a business decision, but we are aware of the people aspect. We would negotiate for people to keep their jobs," Fowler said.

At the April 11 workshop, Bailey will give an update on any legislative news, once again go over the cost saving options available to the district and review what measures the district has taken so far.

"Mr. Bailey has said publicly on several occasions we will do all we can not to have to cut teachers," Fowler said. "The goal is to make sure classrooms don't change and students get the same services in an efficient way."

The workshop will take place at the RISD Administration Office, located at 1050 Williams Street.



Helping to raise money at last Saturday's "Students Servicing Others" community service event were the Rockwall High School Mascots, Britton and Marissa Lancaster, and RHS A.V.I.D. club members, (left to right) Monique Alvarado, Vineisha Hendricks, Spencer Colin Sevier, and (kneeling) Cody Jonas. The A.V.I.D. clubs from both Rockwall and Rockwall-Heath High School sponsored a booth where participants could create cards and notes that will be sent to U.S. military personnel serving around the world. In addition to activities at the Wilkerson-Sanders Stadium, students from each RISD campus participated in service projects for individuals and local charitable organizations around Rockwall. For more photos, see page 6.

Photo by Kathy Williams/Rockwall County News

RCHS students take third at national TV competition

Students from Royse City High recently brought home a third-place trophy in the short film category of the Student Television Network National Convention in Orlando, Fla.

The short film category is known as the Sweet 16 in the annual competition.

The Sweet 16 gives teams 16 hours to produce a short movie on a given theme. Teams must include a prop in three scenes of the film," said Steve Vaughn, advanced Video Production teacher at RCHS.

This is the first year for RCHS students to enter the short film competition. According to Vaughn, it was a stressful event.

"We had the entire 16 hours and came up against the deadline with a dilemma. We could either turn in a copy that had glitches and audio problems or turn in one at all. I'm glad we turned it in," Vaughn said.

Even with the technical problems, the judges saw the creative talents and

VVMF seeking Glasscock photos, remembrances

This week marks the 44th anniversary of the death of David L. Glasscock of Rockwall, who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War.

On the anniversary of Glasscock's death, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation (VVMF) and the Texas Grassroots Campaign to Build the Education Center remember Glasscock and honor him.

The VVMF has issued a call for photographs for the 58,267 names on The Wall, of which 3,416 are from Texas. The VVMF asks Glasscock's friends and family members still residing in Rockwall for photos of Glasscock and any remembrances they wish to share. His photo will be displayed in the planned Education Center, which will honor Glasscock and share his story beyond his home in the Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

"Glasscock and the others on The Wall are the ones we need to honor and remember. They gave everything for us and we must do our part to tell their stories," said Jay Kimbrough, Texas coordinator for the VVMF and a Vietnam veteran.

Several Texans already are contributing to the cause to remember these heroes and build the Education Center, including Texan Peter Holt, owner of the San Antonio Spurs. Holt has pledged a matching contribution for every dollar donated by Texans to build the center - up to \$1 million.

Glasscock indicated Rockwall as his home of record, and the VVMF asks anyone who has a photo or a remembrance of Glasscock to please share it with the VVMF.

To submit a photograph online, contributors should have a scanned copy of the photo saved on their computer; visit vvmf.org/thewall; search for Glasscock; once Glasscock is located, click on "post a remembrance," then fill out the information requested and select "Attach an Image from my computer" to upload the photo.

Contact the VVMF directly for assistance by calling Martin Kobylarczyk at 202-333-0090 or e-mailing mkobylarczyk@vvmf.org or by contacting the Texas Grassroots coordinator, Cassie Ladd, for assistance at cladd@vvmf.org.

"Our grassroots campaign focuses in on each of the 3,416 and telling their stories," Kimbrough said. "Texans are known for honoring our military service members and it's our duty to remember David L. Glasscock and make sure our country never forgets his story."

unique concept of the film.

"I think we would have taken first place if we would have turned in an error-free piece, but we are happy to have the award," Vaughn said.

More than 30 teams competed in the Sweet 16 film category.

Besides the Sweet 16, Royse City students also competed in Music Video, Public Service Announcement, Movie Trailer and Sports Highlights.

Christina Barsoum, Megan Frauendorfer and Tanner Coker competed in the Movie Trailer category and came up with the concept of a nerdy girl who stalks a guy she likes in their movie, "The Mistake."

"We had six hours to film and edit our final one-minute piece. It was a lot of hard work but fun. I'm proud of our final production," said Barsoum.

Seniors Grace Martindale, Payton Williams, Cameron Whitney and Hannah Palmer competed in the music video category.

"Our concept was based on problems you encounter at the competitions such as broken tapes, computers shutting down while editing, etc.," said Martindale.

"It is an awesome feeling to come up with an idea and be able to bring it to

life on video in just six hours," said Williams.

Kim Carson competed in the Sports Highlights competition where teams were given video footage of a high school football game. She had to compile the footage into a one-minute highlight reel with narration.

"I researched the players in the game on the internet and came up with some interesting facts about the two quarterbacks - both who are signed to NCAA D1 teams - and used that as sort of a dueling-quarterback theme," said Carson.

Kristen Helbert and Linda Ferelle competed in the Public Service Announcement category.

"I enjoyed it because it was a short sweet film and it was fun making it with Linda," said Helbert. Ferelle said. "It's really cool to be able to film something on a camera and then turn it into a work of art."

This is the fifth year for RCHS students to attend and compete at STN. Over the past four years, students have won two second-place awards and one honorable mention.

More than 1,400 students from 129 schools attended the event this year.



Pictured are the Royse City High School students who recently earned a third-place trophy in the Short Film category at the Student Television Network National Convention in Orlando, Fla. Shown at back, from the left, are Megan Frauendorfer, Christina Barsoum, Steve Vaughn (teacher), Grace Martindale, Kim Carson, Payton Williams, Kristen Helbert, Linda Ferelle and Hannah Palmer. At front are Tanner Coker and Cameron Whitney.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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Rockwall County News Briefs

Amy Parks artwork on display

Mixed-media artwork by students of Amy Parks Elementary is featured this month in the display cases of the Rockwall County Library.

Preschool Association meeting slated

The Rockwall Preschool Association will meet at 9 a.m. April 1 at the Free Methodist Church across from Nebbie Williams Elementary, 315 Dalton Rd., Rockwall. Leslie Wilson will discuss "Baby Boot Camp: Teaching Your Children to be Responsible." New members are welcome. For more information, visit rockwallpreschoolassociation.com.

Registration for summer activities set today

The Rockwall Parks & Recreation Department will host a registration open house from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. April 1 at The Center. Sign up for swim lessons, summer camps and classes. The department's "Summer Fun Guide," a complete listing of upcoming activities for individuals of all ages, is available at rockwall.com/parks.

RISD Art Show set April 1, 2

Artwork created by Rockwall ISD students will be featured at a District Art Show set for 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. April 1 and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. April 2 at the RHHS Performing Arts Center, 801 Laurence Drive, Heath. Artwork will include drawings, paintings, mixed media, photography, 3-D sculpture, ceramics and more. All RISD schools will be represented. Pieces will be judged and awards presented April 1. The event will be open to the public; admission will be free.

'Peter Pan' offered at Poetry School

The Poetry Community Christian School will present a musical theater production of "Peter Pan" at 7 p.m. April 1-2 and at 2 p.m. April 3. Tickets cost \$5 for students and seniors, \$7.50 for adults or \$10 at the door. For more details call 972-563-7227. The school is located eight minutes north of Terrell on Hwy. 986.

Habitat workday planned

Volunteers with Rockwall Habitat for Humanity will continue framing work at 801 Peter's Colony April 2, with a few volunteers completing work at the site next door. Start time is 8:30 a.m. For up-to-the-minute information on the effort in the event of inclement weather, visit rockwallhabitat.blogspot.com.

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Over 8 Years • Iyabo Ogundeji, Caregiver • Hortencia Aguillon, Chef • "Bo" Bohannon, Maintenance • Maria Faliso, Caregiver • Vicki Jones, Caregiver

Over 7 Years • Carol Kennedy, Business Office Manager • Sue Evans, Dietary Aide • Veronica Resendiz, Caregiver • Norma Albarran, Medication Aide • Lupe Rivera, Director of Food and Beverage

Over 6 Years • Marie Duo, Caregiver • Tsige Bekele, Dietary Aide • **Over 5 Years** • Maria Quinonez, Medication Aide • **Over 4 Years** • Consuelo Rivera, Chef

Over 3 Years • Valsa Varughese, Caregiver • Cristina Rivera, Chef • Aster Faliso, Caregiver

Over 1 Year • Sulesco Mbuan, Dietary Aide • Jilena Daniels, Medication Aide • Gloria Camacho, Caregiver • Kim Hargrave, Dietary Aide

Almost 1 Year • Jolynn Hardin, Receptionist • Nenita Stombaugh, Caregiver • Melissa Moon, LVN • Pam Luera, Medication Aide • Lorrie White, Caregiver • Bobbie Faulk, Caregiver • Robin Hunter, Recreation Director • Jesse Kennedy, Dietary Aide



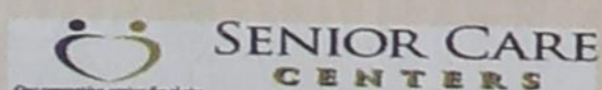
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'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof' offered at RCP
Marking what would have been Tennessee Williams' 100th birthday, Rockwall Community Playhouse will offer productions of the classic "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" through April 10. Performances are set for 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, with Sunday matinees set for 2 p.m. Tickets to the show, featuring adult themes, cost \$20 for adults and students, \$15 for seniors. Visit the RCP Facebook page for a discount code. Purchase tickets online at wallcommunityplayhouse.org or by calling 972-722-3399.



Nebbie Williams Elementary students participated in Read Across America, a national reading celebration conducted in conjunction with the March 2 birthday of author Dr. Seuss. To celebrate, the school cafeteria served green eggs and ham for breakfast, and the Cat in the Hat also made a special appearance. Here, Nebbie Williams third grade student Kate Avery is pictured with child nutrition campus manager Elizabeth Williams.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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Barbecue to benefit Relay For Life

A barbecue fundraiser to benefit Rockwall County Relay For Life will run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 2 in the parking lot behind Horizon Car Wash and American National Bank (intersection of Horizon and Ridge Roads). Cost is \$5 for barbecue sandwich and chips. The event will feature live jazz music.

Republican Women plan membership event

The Rockwall County Republican Women will host a Membership Luncheon April 2. Anyone interested in attending the luncheon or joining the group should contact Jane Buie at 972-772-0415 or email janebuie@aol.com.

Local home, garden show set April 3

The Lakeside Home and Garden Show in Rockwall is set for April 3 at the Hilton and throughout the Harbor in Rockwall. Activities will include landscaping samples, deck builders, Master Gardener workshops and presentations by tool professionals. Sponsored by the Rockwall Soroptimists, proceeds from the show will benefit the organization's many activities that serve women and children in the community and throughout the world.

Births



"Eddie" James Drake and Rumbold Drake of Rockwall announce the birth of Heath Edward Drake, at 7 p.m. Jan. 7, 2011, at Lakepointe Medical Center.

The infant weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces. Grandparents are David Rumbold and Rumbold Drake. Grandmother is Helena Rowlett.

Great-grandparents are Gale Rowlett of Dallas and Donna Rowlett of Rowlett.

Marquis of Pittsburgh, Pa., and the infant's great-great-grand-



Members of the Rockwall Police Department were recognized during the March 21 City Council meeting after the department recently earned recognition from the Texas Police Chiefs Association. Pictured at back are Marlin Price, Southlake Police chief (retired); Kirk Riggs, Rockwall assistant chief; Kirk Aldridge, Rockwall Police lieutenant; Tom Shehan, DFW Airport police chief (retired); and Mayor Bill Cecil. At front are Diana Snyder, Rockwall Police department administration; Mark Hafner, Keller Police chief; and Mark Moeller, Rockwall Police chief. Price, Shehan and Hafner represent the Texas Police Chiefs Association.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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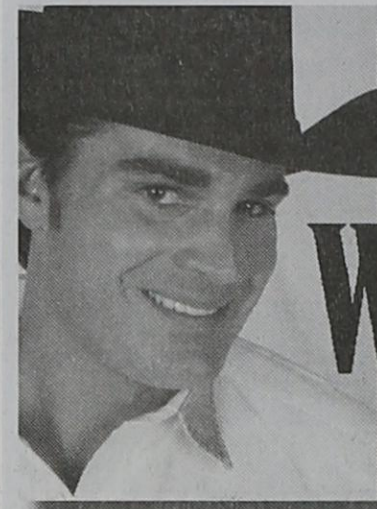
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Rockwall students lend a hand at first SSO Day

Students from all 18 Rockwall ISD schools participated in a day of community service last Saturday during the district's first "Students Serving Others (SSO)" Day.

Wilkerson-Sanders Stadium hosted several school activities while other students fanned out across the district to work directly with individuals and organizations.

In addition to activities such as a blood drive, fundraising pancake breakfast, walk-a-thon, and writing cards to soldiers, students visited local nursing homes, picked up trash along the streets, and helped clean yards at individual homes.

In all, more than 60 projects took place around the district.



Gracie Collins, a student at Celia Hays Elementary School, displays the beautiful face art painted by art students from Utley Middle School at last Saturday's Students Serving Others Day. In addition to numerous activities at Wilkerson-Sanders Stadium, Rockwall ISD students worked on many projects around town for the benefit of others.

Photo by Kathy Williams/Rockwall County News



Jones Elementary School students (left to right) Tori Scott, Megan Thornton, and Parker Humphrey, spent a few minutes writing cards that will be sent to soldiers serving in the U.S. military around the world. The card booth, sponsored by Rockwall and Rockwall-Heath High School A.V.I.D., was just one of many service projects set up at last Saturday's Students Serving Others Day event at Wilkerson-Sanders Stadium. In addition to the events at the stadium, Rockwall ISD students participated in service projects across the district.

Photo by Kathy Williams/Rockwall County News



Rockwall County Meals on Wheels hosted a booth at last Saturday's Students Serving Others Day for participants to make personalized greeting cards to be delivered with meals throughout the year. Working on their personal cards are (left to right) Anna Voth (child of Kelly and Ben Voth), Miranda Siedloczek (child of Karen Siedloczek), and Adam Johnson. Working the booth is Stacy Johnson.

Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News



Members of the Rockwall Association for School Nutrition (RASN) working the concession stand during Saturday's Students Serving Others Day at Wilkerson-Sanders Stadium are (back row, left to right) Evonne Harcourt, Debby Battison, Elizabeth Williams, Ed Harcourt, Patsy Shguit, (front row) Janice Stewart, Linda Hamilton, Cathy Morgan and Karen Siedloczek. RASN is within Area 5 of the Texas Association of School Nutrition. Dedicated to maintaining high nutritional standards for Texas public schools, according to the website www.tasn.net the association offers certification programs for food service professionals, and training academies for directors and managers.

Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News



In observance of the Rockwall ISD's Students Serving Others initiative, Reinhardt students delivered hanging baskets to the homes of some of the school's oldest and newest neighbors; joined with students, staff and parents from Utley to wash and shine cars for free; handled yard duties for a recently retired RISD employee who lives across the street from the school; and raked the school yard. Shown delivering a pot of flowers to Reinhardt neighbor, Elizabeth Cameron, are students Molly Kate Evans and Burkley and Cash Quinton.

Photo courtesy of Leigh Plagens/Rockwall County News



In observance of the Rockwall ISD's Students Serving Others initiative, Reinhardt students delivered hanging baskets to the homes of some of the school's oldest and newest neighbors; joined with students, staff and parents from Utley to wash and shine cars for free; handled yard duties for a recently retired RISD employee who lives across the street from the school; and raked the school yard. The students pictured above also cleaned out and replanted the flower beds on the school campus.

Photo courtesy of Leigh Plagens/Rockwall County News

Three Texas Health Presbyterian nurses tapped for area recognition

Three registered nurses who work at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Rockwall were recently selected as Dallas/Fort Worth Great 100 Nurses for 2011.

Shonna Hansen, Suzanne Myers-Phariss and Sheila Shaw were selected from thousands of nominations submitted from across the Metroplex, according to a hospital news release.

Hansen is an ICU nurse who excels in patient care and is known as a patient advocate. She is actively involved in the community through a variety of outreach programs, including sexual assault, child abuse and domestic violence prevention and education. In 2007 she was voted as Nurse Hero for Nurse Week magazine after responding to the scene of a two-car accident on her way home. She pulled an infant from a burning car on the scene where two people lost their lives.

Myers-Phariss is a respected member of the ICU, serving as a shift supervisor and role model for other nurses. A certified grief counselor, she has a natural ability to comfort families during critical health experiences, yet she also is willing to be "family" for the patient who has none, sometimes providing the last kind gesture, word or act before an individual's death. In addition to the level of patient care she provides, one physician commented that Myers-Phariss communicates with concise and accurate information that provides them exactly what they need for effective treatment.

Shaw, a surgery supervisor, functions in an environment that demands schedules, but also requires preparation for the unexpected situation that may occur at any moment. She has an uncanny ability to be organized, yet allow as much individual time as needed with patients to provide comfort and reassurance. She also has several community service roles, supporting families, children and local school. She also was instrumental in bringing a program into the hospital to inspire middle school students to consider nursing careers.

The mission of the Great 100 recognition program is to recognize professional RNs for their contributions to the communities in which they live and practice.

The 21st Annual DFW Great 100 Nurses celebration is set for April 27 at the Morton Myerson Symphony Center in Dallas.

"Our profession is full of dedicated men and women who commit themselves to the demanding, yet rewarding job of nursing," said Cindy Paris, vice president of nursing. "At Texas Health Rockwall we believe nurses are our heroes. Our hospital is very proud to recognize Shonna, Suzanne and Sheila for their dedication and accomplishments."



Three Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Rockwall nurses were selected as Dallas/Fort Worth Great Nurses for 2011. Pictured from the left are honorees Shonna Hansen, Suzanne Myers-Phariss and Sheila Shaw, all registered nurses at the local hospital.

Photo courtesy of Mike Moore/Rockwall County News

Heath church plans Amigos Days in April

The Mission Committee of the First United Methodist Church of Heath is planning Amigos Days, which will provide opportunities to contribute to the community by refurbishing local homes in need of repair. Workers will meet at the church on April 1, 2, 8 and 9. For times and more details call the church at 972-771-6732, go by 201 Laurence Drive in Heath or visit fumcheath.org.



Businesses participated this time and we look forward to holding several similar events 3 to 4 times per year. Main Street businesses who were not already members have realized the value of uniting with the Chamber. The Chamber is very active in Royse City, Rockwall and other surrounding communities and has worked closely with Main Street since its designation in 2008. Royse City Main Streets next scheduled event is set for Saturday, April 16th. The 2011 Main Event Car Show will take place on Main Street from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. We are still accepting sponsorships and registration. For additional information about the car show, contact Kari 972-636-2184 / khollifield@roysecity.com. For information regarding joining the Chamber, contact Julia 972-636-5000 / info@roysecitychamber.com



Rockwall Chamber of Commerce members welcomed Lasting Impressions with a Ribbon Cutting ceremony March 8, 2011. Lasting Impressions is located at 812 W. Holiday Lane (Hwy 66). Helen Courege serves as General Manager (helen@ligardcenter.com).

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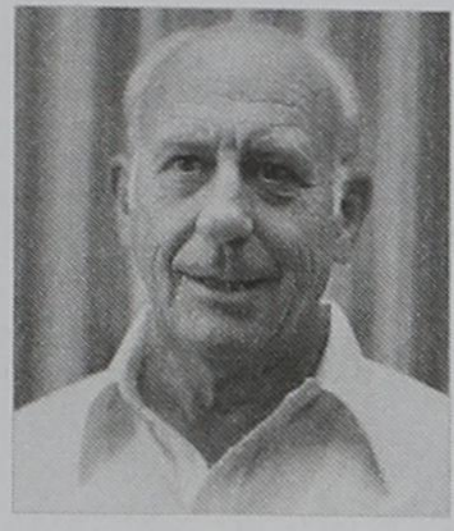
Rockwall County Obituaries

Dollie Wilson Dowell



Funeral services for Dollie Wilson Dowell were conducted at 10 a.m. on March 6, 2011, in the Roysse City Cemetery at the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel. Pastor Paul Wilson was in charge of arrangements. She died March 23 in Highland Village. She was born April 10, 1913, in Bagota to Orange and Bertie (Johnson) Wilson. She was employed with the Internal Revenue Service. She retired to Tyler where she was a member of Green Acres Baptist Church and the Women's Bible Class. She was a volunteer at the church's Good Samaritan Outreach Center and was instrumental in the formation of the original senior adult group, Young at Heart Green Acres. She was a member of Eastern Star. Survivors include her sister, Velma Brandon of Georgetown; 12 nieces and nephews; and many great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Sylvan Dowell; her parents; her brothers, Odie, Milton, Raymond and Orange Wilson Jr.; and two nephews, Nelson Jr. and Paul Wilson.

Robert 'Bob' Thoreson



Funeral services for Robert "Bob" Thoreson, a 94-year resident of Rockwall, were conducted at 2 p.m. March 31, 2011, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel with Dr. Joe Pool officiating. Burial will be in Glendale, Calif. He died March 28. He was born June 7, 1916, in Clark, S.D., to Arleigh (Gerber) Thoreson and Edna (M) Thoreson. He graduated from South Dakota State College in Brookings, S.D., with a degree in civil engineering. He served as a major in the U.S. Army during World War II, earning numerous decorations and awards, including five Bronze Stars and a Legion of Merit. He was a public works engineer until his retirement. Survivors include his wife, Angela Thoreson of Rockwall; one son, Mark Thoreson and his wife, Vicki, of Rockwall; and two grandchildren, Greg Thoreson of Dallas and Angela Rich and her husband, Travis, of Rowlett. He was preceded in death by one daughter, Gail Thoreson, and two brothers, Donald and Dale.

Margie Ruth Walden



Funeral services for Margie Ruth Walden, 81, were conducted at 11 a.m. March 29, 2011, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Roy City Chapel with Pastor Rick Dorn officiating. Burial followed in the Roy City Cemetery. She died March 22. She was born in Union Valley on Jan. 4, 1930, as the daughter of Willis Wheeler and Sarah Lea Monk. On June 11, 1949, she married J.C. Walden, the love of her life. She had a successful career selling cosmetics in fine department stores, including Lichtenstein's in Corpus Christi, D.E. Holmes in New Orleans, La., and Brooks, Scarboroughs and Yarings in Austin. She was saved and baptized in the First Baptist Church in Roysse City in May 1947. Survivors include her daughter, Pam Walden of Austin; her granddaughter and grandson-in-law, Kelly and Aaron Payne of Lampasas; her granddaughter and grandson-in-law, Lauren and Jon House of Cedar Park; her great-grandchildren, Jacey and Cassidy Payne and Jacob and Sarah Houser; and her sister, Iva Thrash of Rowlett and Reba Talley of Roysse City.

Buzz Watkins



Funeral services for James "Buzz" Watkins, 85, of San Marcos, formerly of Rockwall, will be at 3 p.m. April 2, 2011, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel. Burial will follow in the Rest Haven Memorial Park. The family will receive friends at 1 p.m. prior to the service. He died March 25. He was born Oct. 27, 1925, in Hunt County to Dan Webster and Iva (Lowrie) Watkins. He served in the U.S. Army as an infantry rifleman in France and Germany. He was an accountant for the U.S. Postal Service in Dallas until his retirement. A member of the First Baptist Church in Rockwall, he volunteered for Meals on Wheels and served on committees for the Dallas Public Library and the Rockwall County Committee on Aging. Survivors include his brothers, David H. Watkins of Terre Haute, Ind., and Ted Watkins of Martindale; his nephews, Dan High, Brett Watkins and Jarryl Watkins, all of Austin, and Scott Watkins of Terlingua; his nieces, Nancy, daughter of Leander, Jennie Watkins of Fayetteville, N.C., Chris Winicour of Indianapolis, Ind., and Laura Ping of Terre Haute; one brother-in-law, Robert High of Georgetown; and eight great-nieces and great-nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Dorothy Watkins High. The family has suggested memorials may be made to CTMC Hospice in San Marcos, Multiple Myeloma Foundation or Rockwall County Helping Hands.

Republican Lunch Bunch sets meeting

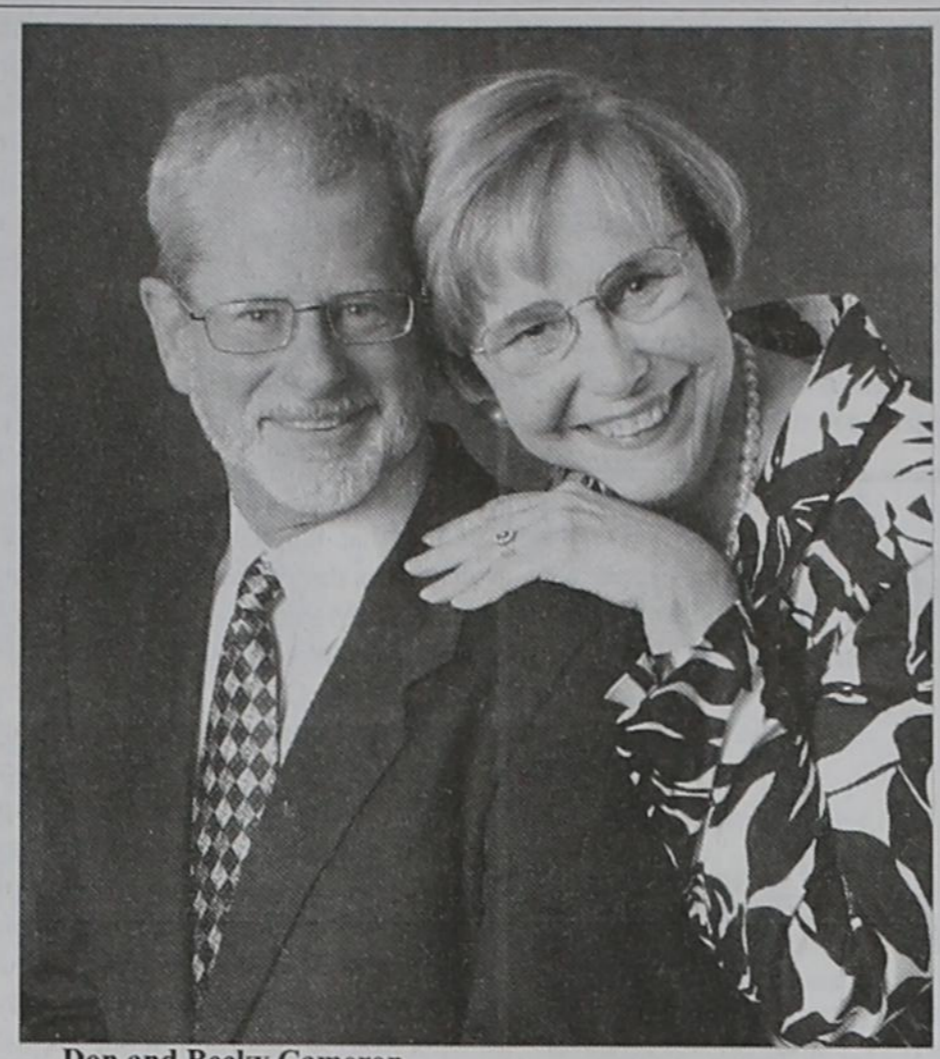
The Rockwall County Republican Lunch Bunch will meet at 11:30 a.m. April 6 at Luigi's Italian Café, Rockwall. Cost will be \$10, including lunch, beverage, tax and tip; pay at the door. No reservations required for this informal social gathering open to all area Republicans. For more details call Dalton Kramer, 972-636-4034.



Cain Middle School seventh grade student Jordan Cooper is pictured with teacher Leslie Jones, who nominated him as a Character Counts Star Student. The recognition is given as part of the school district's commitment to developing character in its students. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Eighth grade student Victoria Lack of Cain Middle School is pictured with teacher Heather Ross. Ross nominated Lack as a Character Counts Star Student for the recently ended nine-week grading period. The recognition is given as part of the school district's commitment to developing character in its students. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Don and Becky Cameron

Camerons headed to Kenya for two-year missionary trip

Longtime Rockwall residents Don and Becky Cameron are making final preparations to leave for a two-year missionary assignment in Kenya, East Africa, with Biblical Life Ministries. The couple will leave April 12. The Camerons have been active members of the Rockwall community throughout their 40 years of marriage. After completing his education at Texas A&M and the Pharmacy School in Austin, Don Cameron opened Ridge Road Pharmacy and later went into land development with his father and uncle, Bill and Raymond Cameron. For the past 18 years he has been a pharmacist at Wal-Mart, opening and managing the pharmacy there until his retirement a few weeks ago. Becky Cameron worked as an administrative assistant in Rockwall with Evangel Bible Translators and Christ for India for the past 12 years. The two are members of LakeShore Church in Rockwall where they have served in numerous capacities. They were Home Group leaders, and he served on the Mission Council. She led weekly women's Bible studies and was active in the Hospitality Group. He also served with the Boy Scouts of America as a scoutmaster for Troop 83 for five years and as a trainer for more than 20 years with the Gray Owl District and Circle 10 Council. The Camerons have completed short-term mission trips to Haiti, India, Africa and Romania. In the fall they spent three months on the mission field in Kenya before returning home to finalize plans for a long-term assignment. The Camerons will work with village pastors, presenting "The Jesus Film," and teaching Bible classes in remote areas.

Dobbs tapped as Heath's new public works director

Randel Dobbs has been named city engineer and director of public works for the City of Heath, according to a news release issued this week. "We are very pleased and fortunate to welcome Randel as our new city engineer/director of public works," said Ed Thatcher, Heath city manager. "His experience in municipal government is extensive, and he is well respected in the engineering industry throughout Texas. Add his deep roots in Heath, and we feel like we couldn't have asked for a better fit for the job." As a child, Dobbs rode his bicycle along FM 740 to get to the houses of his friends. He now travels that same road to the Heath City Hall. A registered professional engineer, Dobbs previously served as director of water utility services for Nathan D. Maier Consulting Engineers in Dallas. He was town engineer for the Highland Park community, senior civil engineer for the City of Garland, city engineer for the City of Farmers Branch and assistant city engineer for the City of Richardson. Additionally, he worked with the North Texas Municipal Water District for 10 years, during which time he assisted the City of Heath and surrounding areas with water and sewer planning. He has more than 35 years of experience in civil design, municipal administration, residential and commercial development, and construction and utility management. "The council and staff have worked hard to make Heath one of the most desirable places to live in the Metroplex," Dobbs said. "That is why I bought a home here, and it's why I am excited about being a part of the city's future."

In his new position, Dobbs will supervise maintenance of city streets, drainage systems and utilities, as well as building inspections, code enforcement, planning and development, and parks and recreation.

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News Briefs

Rockwall Computer Council to meet

The Rockwall Computer Council will meet from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. April 6 at The Center, Rockwall City Place, 108 E. Washington St. Bill Hair will speak on new computer technologies, software, virus controls and more. A Q&A session also is planned. The RCC is open to anyone interested in computer use in homes or offices, regardless of computer types or degree of expertise. For more information call Bob Alston, 214-770-1140, or Jim Baird, 972-771-8529.

Library needs volunteers

Adult volunteer tutors are needed for the Rockwall County Library's GED tutoring program, which is part of Reading for Adults. Anyone interested in volunteering to tutor GED classes, particularly from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, should contact Gloria at the library at 972-204-7705.

CASA to mark Child Abuse Prevention Month

Lone Star CASA will host a candlelight vigil at 6:30 p.m. April 7 to mark April's observance as Child Abuse Prevention Month. The event will take place at the Historic Courthouse on the Square. For more information about CASA, its vigil or to become a volunteer, call 972-772-5858, email director@lonestarcasa.org or visit lonestarcasa.org.

Brown Bag Lecture to focus on baseball

The Rockwall County Historical Foundation's Brown Bag Lecture will be conducted at noon at the Historic Courthouse on April 8. Old-time Rockwall Baseball lore will be the subject of discussion as the group prepares for the Vintage Baseball Game on May 1 at the RHS Campbell Complex.

April Lunch Basket set at Rotary Hall

The Friends of the Library will host the April Lunch Basket at 11 a.m. April 12 at the Rotary Hall. Sheri Fowler, author of the new book "Rockwall: Then and Now," will be the featured speaker. Lunch reservations are required and should be made by April 8 by calling 972-771-8976 or e-mailing cplagens65@aol.com.

Pancake event to benefit reading program

An all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast is set for 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. April 9 at Applebee's in Rockwall. Proceeds will benefit the Rockwall County Library Reading for Adults program, which provides free educational services to adults. Tickets cost \$6 for adults, \$4 for children and are available at the library, from volunteers or tutors or at the door.

Auditions for summer musicals planned

Rockwall Summer Musicals will begin its premier season June 24-26 with "The Sound of Music," followed by "Music Man" July 29-31. Auditions for "Sound" will run April 9-10 in the Utley Middle School cafeteria (9:30 a.m. to noon April 9, children only; 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., adults only; and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. April 10, adults only). For more details visit rockwallsummermusicals.com or call 214-202-9673.

'Aim for Success' planned

Utley Middle School's PTA will host the parent portion of Aim for Success, a nationally acclaimed program that tackles the topics of sex, drugs and alcohol, from 7:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. April 12 at the RHS Performing Arts Center. The parent program is a preview of the student presentation where parents can learn "creative ways to talk about sex with their children and encourage them to avoid sexual activity until marriage." The program for seventh- and eighth-grade students, will be offered May 10 and will address the issues of teen pregnancy, STDs and the emotional impact of teen sexual activity. Community guests are welcome to participate in the program.

on-line @ rockwallcountynews.com



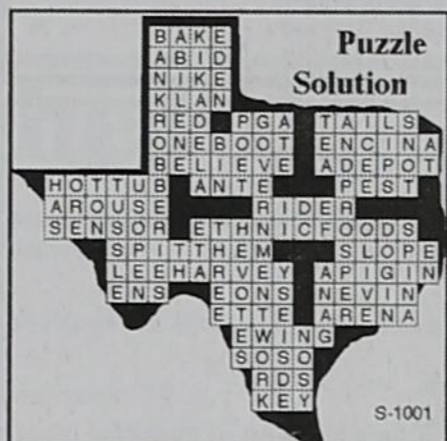
Mayors of the Heath and Fate communities, as well as the Heath city manager, joined more mayors and other city officials from throughout the U.S. to participate in Mayors for Meals 23. Pictured are Ed Thatcher, Heath city manager; John Radcliff, Heath mayor; and Bill Thatcher, Fate mayor. The annual campaign enlisted city officials to serve and deliver hot meals to community-based Meals on Wheels programs. Through its MOW program, the County Committee on Aging serves about 160 lunchtime meals five days each week to elderly and residents ages 60 or older. Volunteers, including those involved in church-sponsored and church-based meals, typically deliver the meals.

Photo/Rockwall County News



K. Williams (center right), Rockwall County Extension Agent, and members of the Rockwall County Master Gardeners Program, presented the Commissioners Court a mock check for \$136,525, the amount of the service the Master Gardeners provided to the community in the last year. With 63 master gardeners assisting clients with such issues as turf problems, vegetable and ornamental issues, and insect identification, the experts contributed more than 6,350 hours of service. The master gardeners will host an annual tour of homes in May, have a plant swap in the fall, and produce a newsletter with hints and information. The Rockwall County Master Gardeners Program was begun in 2006. For more information, contact the Rockwall County Extension Office, 1350 Washington Street, at 972-772-6660 or txmg.org/rockwall/.

Photo by Kathy Williams/Rockwall County News



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Opinions

to nosy questions: Coercive lawsuits shouldn't keep people from exercising their constitutional rights

2011 Houston Chronicle
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...to the head, a greater threat to the First Amendment...
...describing SLAPP suits in 1992. Was Judge Colabella...
... dangers of SLAPPs? We don't believe so.
...ears, SLAPP suits have been brought against individuals and...
...ulating petitions, testifying at public hearings, lobbying,
...onstrations - even for writing letters to the editor, say law...
...orge Pring and Penelope Canan, whose 1996 book, SLAPPs:...
...for Speaking Out, is considered a ground-breaking work on...
...ome examples of the harm done by SLAPP suits in Texas:
...a women who had filed a complaint against a doctor before...
...ate Board of Medical Examiners and later complained to a...
...tion was sued for defamation by the doctor. Defendants were...
...anted a summary judgment, but not before the doctor was able...
... costs needlessly.
...a developer of a low-income housing project and the principal...
...per sued a local newspaper for news gathering activities prior...
... of any article, claiming that the investigation was intended to

defame them and interfere with their business relationships.
In Houston, former HISD administrator Robert Kimball made complaints to the school district against a private company that contracted with HISD to teach troubled children and the company sued Kimball for defamation.
Lawsuits such as these are a clear threat to processes that perform an overriding public good by protecting individuals from possible professional malpractice, tracking the expenditure of tax dollars and watchdogging the performance of those chosen to perform services for the benefit of the community.
SLAPP suits strike at the heart of our democracy - citizen participation. Whether that comes in the form of writing a newspaper article, voicing a criticism or signing a petition, this participation without fear of legal retaliation is a cornerstone of our system. These voices must continue to be heard without the threat of multimillion dollar damages acting as a giant, heavy-handed mute button available only to individuals and corporations with fat wallets.
Two anti-SLAPP bills have been filed for consideration in the current session of the Texas Legislature. They are HB 2973 and HB 2974 by state Rep. Todd Hunter, R-Corpus Christi, and SB 1565 by state Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston.
Together these bills form the Texas Citizen Participation Act, which

is modeled after similar acts passed in 27 states and the District of Columbia.
If approved, the Texas act would allow defendants to seek dismissal of SLAPP suits earlier in the legal process, thus avoiding excessive litigation costs and fees. It would also allow defendants who are sued as a result of exercising their right of free speech or their right to petition the government to file a motion to dismiss the suit.
At this point, the plaintiff would be required to provide clear evidence of a genuine case for each essential point of his claim. If the motion to dismiss is granted, the plaintiff may be required to pay the defendant's legal fees.
These protections are basic tools to help protect citizens in their free exercise of fundamental, constitutionally derived rights of speech and petition.
Over time, exercise of these rights has been openly threatened and visibly curtailed by SLAPP suits intended to intimidate and bully.
In a crowded legislative agenda in Austin, likely to get more crowded as lawmakers' attention shifts to matters such as restricting, these bills must not be forgotten. Defending citizens against this kind of intimidation deserves a priority.
SLAPP suits are the bully's chosen weapon against democracy. The bullies must not be allowed to prevail any longer in Texas.

Balancing the county budget

Jerry Hogan, Rockwall County Judge
...people have asked me how much the county spends each year, ... money comes from, and what shape, financially, we are in. ... questions that deserve answers.
... Equal Year, which goes from October 1, 2010 through September ... the county budget for what it is going to cost to operate all ... ctions of this level of government, is \$35,415,000. The ... revenue to fund this budget is \$35,217,000. Of this forecasted ... \$6,556,000 comes from our property tax, \$3,275,000 has been ... from our Reserve fund into the General Budget category, and ... r comes from grants, fees, and fines.
... geted amount is split into three general categories. One is the ... ridge fund that was created when the voters elected back in the ... to a "Unit" road system. This decision consolidated all of the ... ridge activities that before had been the responsibility of each ... Precinct Commissioner and put all of this under a supervisor ... ates independently from the Commissioners. To ensure ... funding for this function, the voters also designated specific ... used. This year the revenue for this function is projected to ... 000.
... and major function is the Debt Service fund. This fund is used ... principal and interest on our debt. The revenue for this comes ... property tax and the interest we have earned on deposits invested. ... he revenue for this function is \$5,236,000. As of October 1, ... total debt outstanding is \$91,240,000 of which \$59,100,000 is ... and \$32,165,000 is Interest owed on the debt.
... category is called the General Fund. This fund is the operating ... e county. All of the costs, with the exception of the two specific ... ed above, come from this area. Salaries, retirement, medical ... utilities, maintenance and repair, jail operations, library books, ... etc. all come from this fund.
... ar the anticipated expenses in this category are \$28,302,000.

The revenue, however, is projected to be \$25,028,000. Part of this shortfall between revenue and expense is due to a payment on the new courthouse which was not included in the original \$30 million Tax Note. This payment of \$2,426,000 was pulled from the Reserve fund along with an additional \$849,000 to balance the budget.
As you can see, 83% of the revenue from which the county operates comes from property tax. Contrast this with the State of Florida where only about 15% of the revenue for the counties in their state comes from property tax and the remainder comes from other sources such as tourist fees, etc. Our ability to generate other revenue is limited by State Statutes, thus going forward, the county's prudent growth is directly linked to the growth of our property tax base. As it grows, the county can also grow, unless something different is done.
One way to raise additional dollars is to raise the tax rate. Over the last five years, the county tax rate has grown from 35.7 cents per hundred dollars of appraised value to 38.64 cents. However, how that increase has been allocated shows the problem the county is beginning to feel.
Of the overall tax rate, the amount allocated to the General Fund, that part of the budget that allows operation of the functions of the County, has been almost the same for the last five years. It has varied from 30.71 cents to its current 29.94 cents, but has basically hovered in the 30 cent range. However those funds from the tax rate that have been allocated to the Debt Service have steadily increased from 4.4 cents to the current 8.4 cents. In other words, the county has been operating all of its functions the same for the last five years, while any increases in tax revenue has all gone to servicing our debt.
Compounding this problem is the additional expenses that should be in the debt fund but are being forced to be paid from the General Fund. Two specific examples are the new Courthouse where \$30 million was allocated to build this facility without raising any taxes to pay for this expenditure and the \$100 million road bond that was passed in 2008 and from which about \$13 million has been spent. No tax increase was ever authorized by the Commissioners Court for either of these expenses, thus the General

Fund must absorb this interest and principal expense.
We currently are starting preparation of next year's budget. It is increasingly difficult for our elected officials and department heads to prepare their budgets as they are asked to cut once again the funds required to operate their function. They have been asked to cut year after year and there simply isn't a lot to cut. Balancing the budget, as shown by this year's budget that did not balance without pulling from the Reserve Fund, appears to be questionable.
How do you solve this problem? Two ways; raise taxes or start operating differently. I will neither recommend nor vote for a tax raise. I do not believe the Commissioners will either.
Then if that option is out the window, we obviously must address different ways of doing business. We must eliminate expenses that can be eliminated without affecting productivity or service. We must address consolidation of functions where possible. We need to look at out-sourcing functions that can be done at lower cost and equal or better service. We need to look at our manning strength levels to ensure we are operating with only the necessary personnel.
In other words, we need to look at other ways of doing business while still providing the same or better service. I urge you to contact your Commissioner and let them know how you feel on these issues. Their phone numbers and email addresses are:
Precinct One: Jerry Wimpee jwimpee@rockwallcountytexas.com 972-204-6010
Precinct Two: Lorie Grinnan lgrinnan@rockwallcountytexas.com 972-204-6020
Precinct Three: Dennis Bailey dbailey@rockwallcountytexas.com 972-204-6030
Precinct Four: David Magness dmagness@rockwallcountytexas.com 972-204-6040
Jerry Hogan is the County Judge of Rockwall County. He can be reached at 214-394-4033 or 972-204-6000. His email is jhogan@rockwallcountytexas.com or jerryhogan@sbcglobal.net

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Legal Notices

Estray Notice
Rockwall County Sheriff's Posse picked up a horse at 250 E. Ridge in Royse City on March 11, 2011. Call 972-204-7001

Chandlers Landing Community Yard Sale
Public invited to shop huge multi-family sale.
Saturday, April 2 from 7am - 11am.
Ridge Road and Henry M. Chandler Drive. (Rain Date April 9)

Help Wanted

Office Assistant
Heavy phone, typing, customer service, fast paced. Starting at 7 a.m., entry level pay.
972-771-8887, ext. 105

Royse City ISD Child Find Policy

In accordance with Federal Regulations, Individuals with Disabilities Educational Act, Child Find Identification (34CFR section 300.125, 300.451), this is notification that Royse City Independent School District, Located at 810 E. Old Greenville Road, Royse City, TX has a child find system for indentifying, locating and evaluating all children with disabilities, from birth through 21 years of age, residing in the district, including children with disabilities attending private schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, and who are in need of special education and related services.

If you have any questions please call the Special Services office at 972-636-9514.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ROCKWALL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

RFP 11-5.6-121 Workers' Compensation
Release Date - April 1, 2011
Opens May 6, 2011 at 2:00 PM

RFP 11-5.6-122 Property / Casualty Insurance
Release Date - April 1, 2011
Opens May 6, 2011 at 2:00 PM

RFP 11-5.6-123 Student and Athletic Accident Insurance Program
Release Date - April 1, 2011
Opens May 6, 2011 at 2:00 PM

The Rockwall Independent School District is receiving sealed proposals for athletic, property/casualty, and Workers' Comp insurance coverage's. Proposal packages may be requested from the Purchasing Office at dmacdonald@rockwallisd.org. The District anticipates award at the June board meeting. The effective date of the program will be September 1, 2011. Proposals will be received until 2:00 PM on May 6, 2011 at the Administration Center located at 1050 Williams Street, Rockwall TX 75087. Proposals should be in a sealed envelope to the attention of the Director of Purchasing and marked with the proposal number and name. Proposals will be opened and identified but not read.

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids/proposals and to waive any irregularities, technicalities or informalities in any bids or the bid process.

Notice of Public Auction of Property

to satisfy Landlord's Lien. Auction is at 11:00 a.m. April 18, 2011 at American Mini Storage, 660 Justin Road, Rockwall TX 75087. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from the auction. Property includes contents of storage units of the following tenants:

- Mabel Lallo - Lawn Furniture, Bicycle, Monitor, Clothes, Misc.
- Lori Weatherford - File Cabinets, Chairs, Toys, Pictures, Cabinet
- Brian Mastin - Exercise Machine, Box Springs, Mattress, Bicycles, Freezer, Misc.
- Stacie Cook - Furniture, Household Goods, Misc.
- Dr. Rivera & Associates - Office Chairs, Monitor, Printers, Shredder, File Cabinet, File Boxes

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- Public Notice -

The City of Rockwall Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 12, 2011** at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Rockwall City Hall, 385 South Goliad, Rockwall, Texas, and the Rockwall City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, April 18, 2011** at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Rockwall City Hall, 385 South Goliad, Rockwall, Texas, to consider the following items:

Z2011-006: Proposed SUP - Winery - 2083 Summer Lee Dr.
Hold a public hearing and consider a request by Jennifer Norman of JKW Winery LLC for approval of a Specific Use Permit (SUP) to allow for a "winery" within the (PD-7) Planned Development No. 7 district, specifically to be located within The Harbor development at 2083 Summer Lee Drive, Suite 209, being within Lot 2, Block A, The Harbor-Rockwall Addition, and take any action necessary.

Z2011-007: Proposed PD Development Plan - Within the PD-32 District
Hold a public hearing and consider a request by Russell Phillips of Harbor Heights Investors, LP, for approval of a "PD Development Plan" within (PD-32) Planned Development No. 32 district, in accordance with Ordinance No. 10-21, specifically on a 3.945-acre tract of land comprised of all or part of Tracts 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 7, 9 and 14, Abstract 11, M. J. Barksdale Survey, part of Tract 41, Abstract 207, E. Teal Survey, part of Lot 1, Block 7, George Moton Addition, and part of the existing platted right-of-way for Hilltop Drive, said 3.945-acre tract being situated along the south side of the IH-30 service road west of Horizon Road and more specifically described in a legal description on file at the City of Rockwall Planning Department office, and take any action necessary.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend. Please contact the City of Rockwall Planning and Zoning staff at (972) 771-7745 with any questions. Additional information can be found on all current Zoning cases on the City's website: <http://www.rockwall.com/Planning/ZoningChanges.asp>

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Retired contractor seeking work. Roof repairs, carpenter work, siding. Call 214-534-7548.

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Legal Notices

Public Notice
CAUSE NO. PR11-25
ESTATE OF SANDRA L. MCKENZIE, DECEASED
IN COUNTY COURT AT LAW
IN AND FOR
ROCKWALL COUNTY, TEXAS
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
OF INDEPENDENT
EXECUTOR

Notice is hereby given that on March 23, 2011, Letters Testamentary as Independent Executor upon the Estate of SANDRA L. MCKENZIE, Deceased, were issued to JAMES R. MCKENZIE, who resides at 2360 Saddlebrook Lane, Rockwall, Texas 75087, by the Honorable County Court at Law of Rockwall County, Texas, in Cause No. PR11-25, pending upon the Probate Docket of the Court. All persons having claims against this Estate which is now being administered are hereby required to present same to the Executor's attorneys, NORMAN & NORMAN P.C., at the address shown below, within the time prescribed by law. BY: NORMAN & NORMAN P.C. Attor-

neys
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100
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76104

STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS
439th District Court OF
ROCKWALL COUNTY, TEXAS
CAUSE NO: 1-10-1001
TO: CAMERON RAY MORRISON
5516 AUSTRALIA COURT,
WALL, TEXAS 75032
You have been sued. You may not file a written answer clerk who issued this citation A.M. on the Monday next after the expiration of forty-two (42) days after you were served this citation. Honorable 439th District Court of Rockwall County, Texas, at the Courtroom Center, 1101 Ridge Road, Suite 209, Rockwall, Texas. Judgment may be taken against you if you do not file a written answer by the expiration of forty-two (42) days after the expiration of the citation, on MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2011, at 10:00 A.M. at the Courtroom Center, 1101 Ridge Road, Suite 209, Rockwall, Texas. Plaintiff's Petition, was filed in Court on SEPTEMBER 1, 2010 in this case numbered 1-10-1001 the docket of said court, and CLOVIS SANFORD V. CAMERON RAY MORRISON.
A brief statement of the nature of the suit is as follows, to-wit: DATED: The officer executing this writ promptly serve the same and to requirements of law, and to dates thereof, and make due to the law directs.
ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER HAND AND THE SEAL OF COURT AT Office, this the 1st day of February 2011.
KAY MCDANIEL, District Clerk of Rockwall County, Texas
1101 Ridge Road, Ste. 209
Rockwall, Texas 75087
By: ALVA CARAWAY, Deputy District Clerk
ROCKWALL COUNTY NEWS, E. BOURN AVENUE, P.O. BOX 1000, ROCKWALL, TEXAS 75087 (paper)
Issued at the request of:
Jason Smith
105 E. KAUFMAN
ROCKWALL, TX 75087
469.757.0253

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of John Holland Shirey, Jr., deceased, were issued on March 24, 2011, Cause No. PR11-26, pending in County Court at Law of Rockwall County, Texas to Mr. Thomas Shirey and to Ms. Nancy J. Shirey Corry. All persons claiming against this estate which is now being administered are hereby required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Thomas Shirey, John H. Shirey, Nancy J. Shirey Corry
% Wheeler & Wheeler, P.C.
965 W. Ralph Hall Pkwy., Suite 200
Rockwall, Texas 75032
Dated the 30th day of March, 2011.
Keith P. Wheeler, Attorney for Plaintiff
State Bar No. 21257525
965 W. Ralph Hall Pkwy., Suite 200
Rockwall, Texas 75032
Telephone: (972) 771-8515
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Rockwall County Sports

Rockwall Lady Jackets sweep 1st half of district season

lightly above average night for the Rockwall softball team as it completed half of its District 10-4A season undefeated.

Rockwall Lady Jackets swept the first half of their District 10-4A season, finishing with a 3-0 record. The team's success was highlighted by a 6-5 win over the Hawks on Tuesday night at Scotland Center.

Overall, they have a 10-0-1 record in their last 11 games to improve to 16-7-1. Despite the unbeaten streak, Rockwall has dropped to 22nd in the TGCA state 4A rankings. The Lady Jackets ripped McKinney North 14-2 Friday night, March 25, at the Campbell Complex.

Laycee Holcomb was the winning pitcher, with help from an RHS offense that out-hit the Lady Bulldogs 10-3. Audrey Farfan's triple was the Lady Jackets' only extra-base hit. North dropped to 3-3 in the district.

Walks off with 6-5 win over Hawks

Yard in Highland Park, where two of the top five teams in the THSBCA state 4A rankings were playing with first place in District 10-4A at stake.

Rockwall-Heath ace Jake Thompson had a 5-4 lead entering the bottom of the seventh inning. He retired the first two batters, but Chris McDade doubled to keep them alive. Thompson worked the count to 3-and-2 on Highland Park first baseman Ben McElroy, threw the ball toward

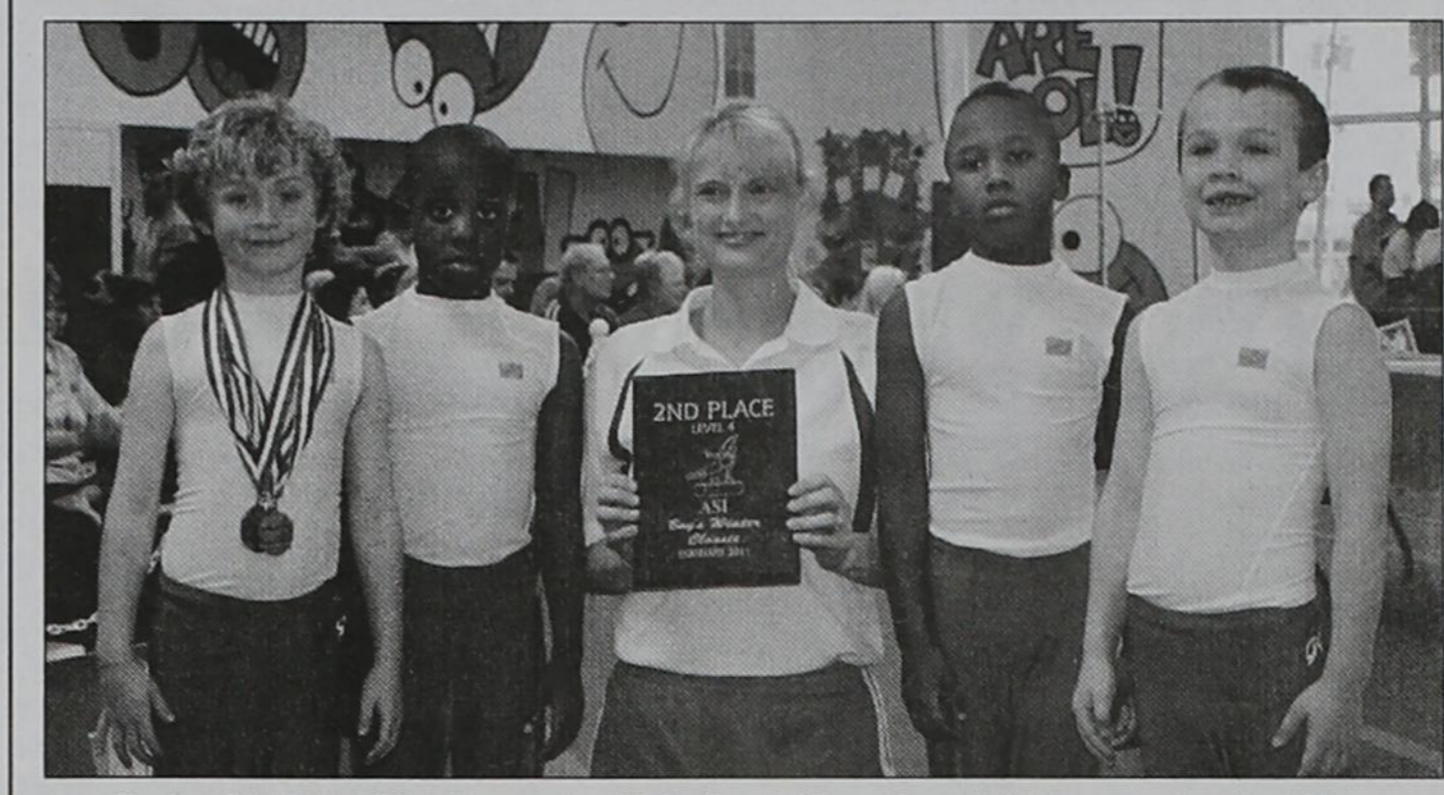
the plate and ... CRACK! The ball traveled over the fence, the Scots walked off the field as the winners of a 6-5 game and the Hawks walked to their bus.

Named to All-State 1st team

Christian Academy forward has been named to the All-State boys' basketball team.

Rockwall-Heath ace Jake Thompson had a 5-4 lead entering the bottom of the seventh inning. He retired the first two batters, but Chris McDade doubled to keep them alive. Thompson worked the count to 3-and-2 on Highland Park first baseman Ben McElroy, threw the ball toward

the plate and ... CRACK! The ball traveled over the fence, the Scots walked off the field as the winners of a 6-5 game and the Hawks walked to their bus.



Rockwall's United Elite Gymnastics USGA Level 4 Boys Team finishing second at the ASI Gymnastics Boys Winter Classic are (left to right) Baylor Baumann, Jaylin Nwigwe, Coach Kathy Howell, Deontae Pruitt and William Langston. Not pictured are Bruno Ackerson and Chase Nowaczyk.

Rockwall County Sports Schedules

Heritage Christian Academy Eagles
Monday, April 4 - JV track and field: at District 10-4A JV Meet, Wilkerson-Sanders Memorial Stadium
Tuesday, April 5 - Baseball: at Rockwall Christian Academy, Chiesl Baseball Complex, 4:30 p.m.

Royce City Bulldogs
Friday, April 1 - Varsity track and field: at Rockwall Rockin' R Relays, Wilkerson-Sanders Memorial Stadium, 2:30 p.m.
Baseball: at Mount Pleasant, JV1 4:30 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.

Rockwall Christian Academy Warriors
Monday, April 4 - Baseball: at Garland Christian Academy, 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 5 - Baseball: home vs. Heritage Christian Academy, Chiesl Baseball Complex, 4:30 p.m.

Utey Middle School Wolves
Tuesday, April 5 - Boys' soccer: at Williams, Rockwall High School, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 7 - Girls' soccer: at Wylie McMillan, Wylie High School, 5:30 p.m.

Rockwall High School Yellowjackets
Monday, April 4 - Track and field: home for Rockin' R Relays, Wilkerson-Sanders Memorial Stadium, 4:30 p.m.

Williams Middle School Wildcats
Tuesday, April 5 - Boys' soccer: home vs. Utey, Rockwall High School, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 7 - Tennis: at Lovejoy Sloan Creek, Lovejoy High School, 4 p.m.

Rockwall-Heath High School Hawks
Monday, April 4 - Track and field: at Mansfield Legacy Kowbell Classic, 6 a.m.

Rockwall Lady Jackets
Tuesday, April 5 - Varsity tennis: home for District 10-4A Tournament, Rockwall Tennis Facility, 7 p.m.

Jackets, Hawks both in line for state gymnastics

Rockwall took over first place in both boys' and girls' Compulsory competition in the regional gymnastics meet at RHS.

The state qualifiers were the top three boys' and girls' teams, provided that they reached a minimum qualifying score.

along with the top eight in individual events and the top 10 all-around gymnasts.

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RC's revived bats bounce Greenville

Royce City came back with a 10-hit attack Tuesday after managing no hits the previous Friday, and earned a split in its two District 13-4A baseball games.

Exclusively in the Rockwall County News

On March 25, the Bulldogs lost 8-0 against Sherman. The Bearcats scored five runs in the second inning. Those were more than enough for prospect Kyle Crick, who pitched a no-hitter.

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9 TX Tom Kite org.
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52 Fay ____ Co.
53 old facility for Mavs & Stars: "Reunion ____"
54 TX Hagman's "Dallas" role: J.R. ____
56 medicore
57 country lanes (abbr.)
58 TXism: "church ____ (bottle opener)"
DOWN
1 Bonnie & Clyde pulled ____ (2 wds.)
2 home of Dyess AFB
3 former state rep.: ____ Garza
4 TX town or biblical garden
9 Judd Lewis was 1st TX ____ laureate
10 TXism: "close enough for ____"
11 TXism: " ____ some gravel" (fell)
12 iced ____
13 TX Roddenberry "Trek" line: "live long 7-11 "Slurpee""
15 TXism: "stretch your ____" (smile)
16 TXism: " ____ slinging drunk"
18 grain crib
20 TXism: "chompin' the bit" (eager)
23 TX George H.: "The liberation of Kuwait ____ begun"
24 TX mine output
25 El Paso's Plaza Theatre has 15- ____
26 scuffle
27 TX Trevino won this in '68 & '71
32 TX Audie was hero of WW ____
39 TX seal has live oak & ____ branches
40 TXism: "tall ____ the pack" (leader)
41 TXism: " ____ yam" (tell a tale)
43 ex-Ranger pitcher Henke (init.)
45 Ranger broadcaster Nadel (init.)
47 Mexican day celebrated in TX: "Diez ____ Septiembre"
48 poor horse (2 wds.)
55 TXism: "looking to meddle"

Rockwall County Sports

Rockwall Christian Academy takes early district lead

It took a few innings, but Rockwall Christian Academy's baseball team warmed up nicely Monday for its showdown with Tyler East Texas Christian Academy. RCA outhit DeSoto Canterbury Episcopal 10-5 for a 13-3 victory. Winning pitcher Aaron Eastin hit two triples, and freshman leadoff batter Colton Jones had another. Randy Castaneda added a double to the Warriors' attack.

"The second time around the lineup, we really started punishing the ball. We were able to 10-run them in the sixth inning," said head coach Caleb Palmer.

That victory gave RCA a 3-0 record in TAPPS District 2-1A/2A and a one-game lead over defending district champion East Texas, which lost 10-0 Monday to Dallas Lakehill Prep.

The Panthers were saving their ace pitcher – Hunter Pirtle, who has committed to pitch next year for Southern Nazarene University – for Thursday's game against visiting Rockwall Christian.

Thus far this season, the Warriors have had the luxury of having two strong pitchers – senior Eastin and junior John Edwards, who was scheduled to start at East Texas.

"We've both got to win the game," Palmer had said Wednesday. "In our district, we play each team once and then go into our district playoffs. Whichever team wins would finish first. We would have a better record if we win, and they would finish first if they won because they would have beaten us. So we're playing to be seeded higher for the district playoffs, which is important."

Edwards has pitched a one-hitter this season, and he and Eastin combined for a no-hitter.

Eastin also has been the Warriors' leading hitter, with a .600 batting average and two home runs. Jones has batted .400.

Another freshman, Justin Robison, also has been important to RCA's success.

Palmer said, "He has made a world of difference behind the plate. He's a freshman, but he's already the best catcher we've had in years. He's been stronger up the middle with the pitching and Aaron at shortstop when pitching."

Her most spectacular goal against Hillcrest was her fourth. Kelly beat defenders and ran down the right side. The goalie stopped her right-footed shot, but the rebound bounced out to the middle of the field. Kelly raced after the ball and hit it with her left foot about knee high, past the goalie and into the net.

"It was my first year to play forward in high school," she said. "I didn't know what to expect."

Kelly scored both goals when the Lady Hawks won 2-0 at Forney Jan. 17. She expected special treatment this time around.

"I feel like they're going to mark me. It's going to be tough," she said.

However, head coach Marco Duran said, "They really didn't do anything special against her. We had some opportunities, but we didn't put them away."

Instead, Forney put away the game in the shootout.

Neither team scored on its first attempt, with the goalkeepers rushing out to cut

down shooting angles. The next two Lady Jackrabbits, Holly Blair and Burke, anticipated Lady Hawks goalie Ashton Hierholzer's advance and over her head into the top of the net for a 2-0 shootout lead.

Bailey Bacon kicked the ball past Forney keeper Jacy Wright as she went to the ball to cut the deficit to 2-1, but Melissa Dobbs restored the two-goal margin with a shot into the right corner of the net before the Lady Hawks had their do-or-die opportunity.

"It was a tough loss," Duran said as he walked to the bus. "We knew they were going to come out with some energy, and we had to match that energy. We can't take anything away from them."

"We started three seniors this year, so we'll have a lot of kids returning next year."

Lady Hawks' playoff run ends with shootout loss to Forney

by Lary Bump

Cori Kelly hoped to score three goals when the Rockwall-Heath girls' soccer team played the first playoff game in its history Friday, March 25.

She scored four as the Lady Hawks defeated Dallas Hillcrest 4-0 at Homer B. Johnson Stadium in Garland.

No doubt she would have wanted to save that extra goal for RHHS' Area game Tuesday at Williams Stadium in Garland.

Oh, that night she scored one, her 30th this season. But that was the only goal the Lady Hawks scored. Forney's Allie Dickson matched that goal, and no one else could score again until the game went through two overtimes and beyond tied 1-1.

That was when Rockwall-Heath's season ended. With Kelly waiting her turn as the last of five Lady Hawks in a shootout, the time limit ran out as freshman Taryn Manning maneuvered past Forney's goalie for what appeared would have been a goal to keep RHHS in the game.

Instead, the Lady Jackrabbits won the shootout 3-1 and the game 2-1. They, and not Rockwall-Heath will be advancing to Friday's Sectional playoff against Rockwall.

After the Hillcrest game, the supremely confident Kelly had said, "My goal was to score three. I haven't scored in a while. I felt a lot of pressure to score. I feel like it's my job."

That wasn't her job last season as a sophomore, when she played defense for the Lady Hawks. However, she has been a scorer for the ASG 94 Girls select team, and she filled that role for RHHS (14-7-2) this year.

shot over the crossbar.

The Jackets stayed alive with a goal on the fourth kick, but still needed to have shootout goaltender Taylor Baker stop Daniel Sanchez's attempt and Christian Soldat make his shot to keep the shootout going.

Sanchez's shot went wide left. Sophomore Soldat, the Jackets' leading scorer, appeared to get by TJ goalie Omar Cabral for an open shot, but Cabral reached back and knocked the ball away. Thus, the Patriots won the shootout 4-3 and the game 2-1.

Williams said, "I told the guys, 'It's the playoffs. Anything can happen, and we got on the wrong side of that.'"

"It's harsh to go out like that. I thought I had the right guy shooting. We practiced them. He missed a couple of shots during the game that he would have gotten 9 times out of 10."

The next day, RHS appealed the decision to skip the overtime periods to the UIL, but the appeal was denied.

Williams looked back, and ahead.

"We had a good season. We only lost three times in the district. We're champs. In two games we came from behind to win when we probably should have won. And a lot of these guys are coming back next year."

Jackets have chance to move on up in 10-4A

Rockwall's chance to thrust itself into the District 10-4A baseball playoff picture went on hold for a day when its home game against McKinney North was postponed by rain.

The contest against the Bulldogs at the Campbell Complex was rescheduled for Wednesday.

A victory would have put the Yellowjackets in a tie with Richardson Pearce for fourth place, the district's final playoff spot, at 3-3. RHS and Pearce are scheduled to meet Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Pearce to complete the first half of the district season.

However, if the Jackets were to lose to North, they would drop into a fifth-place tie with the Bulldogs, who entered the game at 1-4 in 10-4A.

After losing to the district's top three teams, Rockwall already distanced itself from the lower echelon Friday with a 3-2 home victory over Wylie East. The Raiders (1-4) had entered the game tied with RHS.

Each team had seven hits, but the Jackets' Thomas Anderson pitched out of trouble well enough to win the game.



Lady Hawks' Cori Kelly (16) drives the ball down field against Forney, during Tuesday's Area playoff game at Williams Stadium in Garland. Assisting in the play is teammate Bailey Bacon, at back. Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

Jackets exit playoffs after surprise shootout against Thomas Jefferson

by Lary Bump

The Rockwall boys' soccer season ended early – about 20 minutes and a few playoff rounds short of what the Yellowjackets wanted and expected.

The Jackets had finished the regular season third in highly competitive District 10-4A. They were the only team to defeat district champion Lovejoy.

RHS (13-9-1) also had more scoring chances than Dallas Thomas Jefferson in their Bi-District playoff matchup Thursday, March 24, at Homer B. Johnson Stadium in Garland. But too many of those chances resulted in no goal, so the game was 1-1 at the end of regulation play.

Jackets head coach Troy Williams expected that after controlling most of the play all evening, they had a better chance than the Patriots to score during two 10-minute overtime periods.

The problem was that the game officials said the game would skip overtime and go directly to a shootout. Williams contended that UIL rules call for overtime, with a shootout only if the game still is tied. The officials' opinion stood.

Thomas Jefferson connected on its first four of the five shootout kicks. For Rockwall, Jacob Davis and Trei Rodriguez connected. However, Tapp Hazel, who had scored the Jackets' first-half goal on a 30-yard kick, sent his shootout

lost three of those games. An encouraging sign is that they have had three of those double-digit outputs during their last six games, when they have averaged almost nine runs per game. Contrast that with an 11-game stretch in late February and early March when Rockwall-Heath totaled just 15 runs, and lost all 11 contests.

The Lady Hawks' game rained out Tuesday was rescheduled for Thursday.

"We had a good season. We only lost three times in the district. We're champs. In two games we came from behind to win when we probably should have won. And a lot of these guys are coming back next year."

Lady Hawks outscored in close game against Highland Park

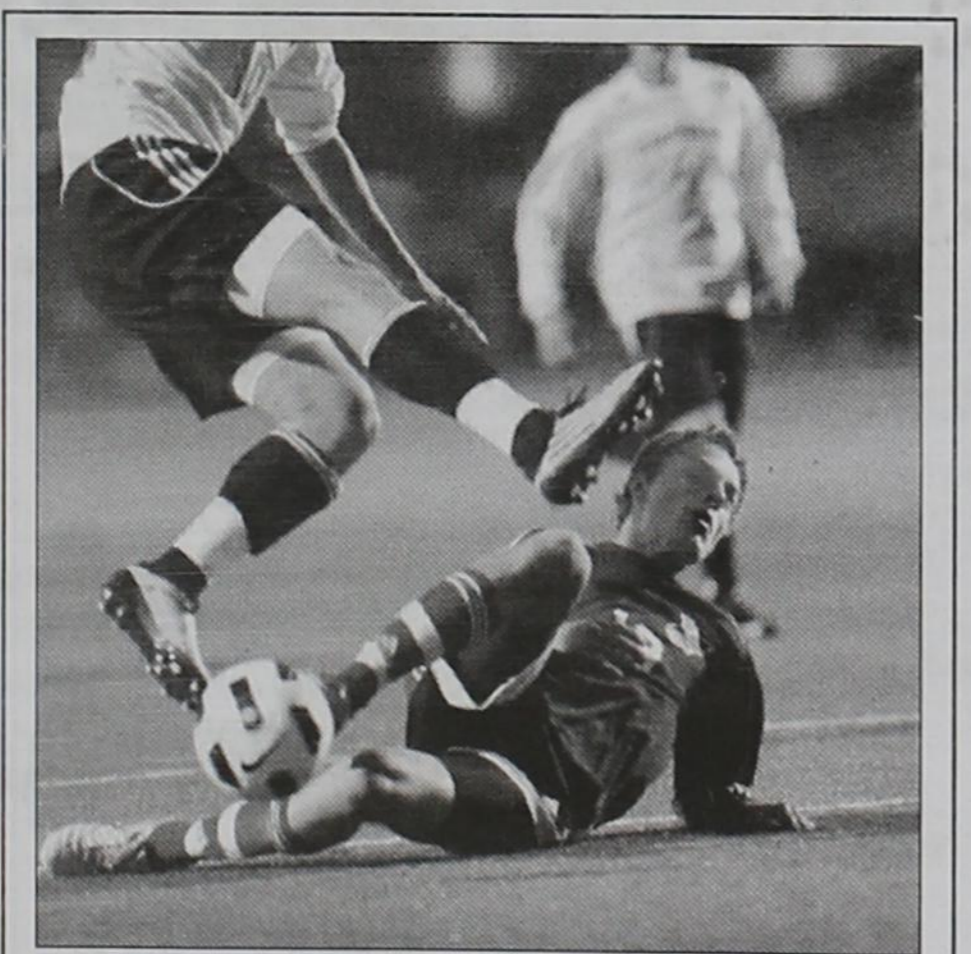
If something could go wrong for the Rockwall-Heath softball team this season, it has.

The most recent example was the Lady Hawks' game at Highland Park Friday. They equaled their season high with 15 runs -- but lost 16-15 to fall to 1-5 in District 10-4A.

RHHS has had 10 or more runs just four times this season, and the Lady Hawks

lost three of those games. An encouraging sign is that they have had three of those double-digit outputs during their last six games, when they have averaged almost nine runs per game. Contrast that with an 11-game stretch in late February and early March when Rockwall-Heath totaled just 15 runs, and lost all 11 contests.

The Lady Hawks' game rained out Tuesday was rescheduled for Thursday.



Hawks' Parker Swanson (19) fights for control of the ball against Kaufman during Tuesday night's Area playoff game in SMU's Mustang Stadium. Photo by Carl McClung/Rockwall County News



Lady Jackets' Kayla Smith passes the ball during last Thursday's Bi-District action against Dallas Conrad. Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News



Yellowjackets' goalie Joey Hernandez stops a Thomas Jefferson attack during last Thursday's Bi-District game at Homer Johnson Stadium. Also defending at back is Cameron Canada (17). Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News



Lady Jackets' Kylee Darrington (18) fights for control of the ball against Dallas Conrad. At back is teammate Natalie Day. Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

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Penalty kick in overtime enables RHS ladies to advance

Rockwall players stood, it must have appeared that the Terrell players had more players on the field Tuesday night. S played most of the game one up. A Lady Tiger received a red card at halftime, so Terrell had just 10 players to the Lady Jackets' 11 at that half. And through the second half, and two overtime periods, it was clear that long because Terrell's defensive style neutralized intense Rockwall offense and held the Area playoff game scoreless.

"It was like there was a cover over the game," said RHS junior Shelby Soldat, "and they used their zone defense to pack it into the paint and forcing out-lets. The Lady Tigers forced Rockwall to shoot from the perimeter. When they worked her way inside, the defenders would move up to get an all-out effort." Coach Melissa Garcia, "It was like there was a cover over the game. (Terrell) did a fantastic job, and they fought hard."

The Lady Jackets couldn't break through that cover of players in front of the goal. They needed to remove them from the picture. That happened in the 7th minute, 27 seconds remaining in the second overtime, their half off in the break they needed.

Soldat took the penalty kick, with only goalie Ariel Quinlan between her and the goal. "I was just thinking, 'Don't miss.' I've taken lots of penalty shots. I'm not nervous about them. I go through the same routine or I think I'll miss it. In fact, I missed once in five penalty-kick attempts this season. That was my previous attempt."

Against Quinlan where she tried to ease it in and it went right to the net. "I was just thinking, 'Don't miss.' I've taken lots of penalty shots. I'm not nervous about them. I go through the same routine or I think I'll miss it. In fact, I missed once in five penalty-kick attempts this season. That was my previous attempt."

Her team's best chances against Terrell sail over the crossbar or the net. Soldat again was cautious on Tuesday's penalty kick. Instead of kicking toward a corner post, she hit the ball just a few yards to the left, where she was able to get her fingers on the ball but not keep it into the net.

To tie, Terrell turned offensive, but with an extra defender in the back and allowed the clock to run out for a 1-0 victory.

"I was just thinking, 'Don't miss.' I've taken lots of penalty shots. I'm not nervous about them. I go through the same routine or I think I'll miss it. In fact, I missed once in five penalty-kick attempts this season. That was my previous attempt."

Rockwall took a 5-0 halftime lead and used the whole roster in the second half. Anthony Schomin and Kayla Smith each scored two goals; Maddie

Bertrand and Natalie Day had one apiece. The Lady Jackets had been hoping they'd have a chance to meet Rockwall-Heath, with whom they split during the regular season, in this weekend's Sectional round. The Lady Hawks were tied 1-1 with Forney at the time Rockwall's game ended, but RHHS ended up losing in a shootout.

RHS will meet the Lady Jackrabbits at 7 p.m. Friday at Lovejoy High School. Garcia said, "Everybody's good when you get this far. There is no easy path to state. We finished third (in the district) last year, and look how far we went." That was to the regional quarterfinals, the deepest advance in Rockwall girls' soccer history. That's where they'll be again if they can defeat Forney.



Lady Jackets' Nicole Salom (5) battles against Terrell players to maintain control of the ball during Tuesday's Area playoff game at Royse City ISD Stadium. Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

Rockwall-Heath boys advance to Sectional playoff

Rockwall-Heath had to come from behind to defeat Dallas Molina, District 22-4A team, and advance in the playoffs. After an easier Area-round victory over Kaufman, the Hawks will have to defeat champion Dallas Bryan Adams in the Sectional round to stay alive in the playoffs.

Rockwall-Heath had to come from behind to defeat Dallas Molina, District 22-4A team, and advance in the playoffs. After an easier Area-round victory over Kaufman, the Hawks will have to defeat champion Dallas Bryan Adams in the Sectional round to stay alive in the playoffs.

The score stayed that way for 25 minutes before RHHS popped a pass over the Molina's defensive back line. The Jaguars' goalie raced out to get the ball, but Rockwall-Heath's Chase Minter ran faster, got to the ball and rolled it into the net to tie the game.

Just 2 minutes later, in the 64th minute, the ball again went over the defenders' heads, Minter won the race to the ball and bounced in a shot that proved to be the winning goal in a 3-2 victory.

RHHS head coach Marc Broyles said the chip shots that Minter chased weren't

part of any offensive strategy. "It was all Chase's effort."

Before that, Molina had frustrated the Hawks' efforts. Shots by Shaun Keane and Minter bounced off goalposts.

The Jaguars scored during the sixth minute on a shot almost from the left sideline bounced into the goal's right corner.

In the 31st minute, Rockwall-Heath tied the score. Minter took a free kick from 25 yards out near the right sideline. The ball was headed away from the goal, but the Hawks' Michael Merritt put a low shot into the right corner of the net.

Molina might have planted an idea in the Hawks' heads with its second goal less than 3 minutes into the second half. A Jaguar beat RHHS goalie Chase Davis to the ball to put in an easy goal.

The outcome wasn't in doubt for long Tuesday, when the Hawks (18-3-3) defeated Kaufman, the fourth-place team from District 23-4A, 4-0.

In the game at Westcott Field on the SMU campus, Parker Swanson scored two goals, with Isaac Esquivel and Colt McNally adding one each.

Bryan Adams (16-2) advanced to the Sectional round by defeating West Mesquite 4-2.

Lady Eagles win 1st 2 district games

Heritage Christian Academy won two softball games last week to remain undefeated at 4-0 overall and 2-0 in TAPPS District 2-1A/2A.

The Lady Eagles won their first two district games, from Rockwall Christian 3-0 on the RISE Monday, March 21, and over Greenville Christian School 14-3 on Thursday, March 24.



Lady Eagles' Erika Mendoza steals home base after hitting a double and stealing third base on two Greenville Christian errors, during last Thursday's game in Rockwall. Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News



Hawks' Chase Minter (10) takes off toward the Kaufman goal during last night's Area playoff game at SMU's Mustang Stadium. At left is Kaufman's Andrew Sullivan (5). Photo by Carl McClung/Rockwall County News

Lady Bulldogs sweep 1st half without allowing a run

The Lady Bulldogs' remarkable achievement of not allowing a run in a District 13-4A game continued with two shutouts last week. The Lady Bulldogs completed the first half of the district schedule without allowing a run while compiling a 6-0 record.

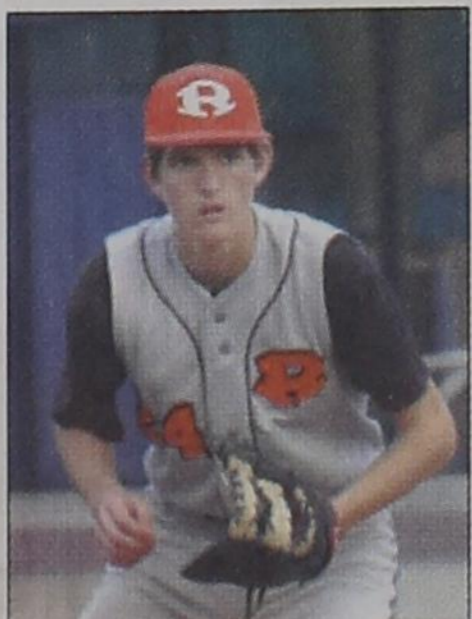
The Lady Bulldogs needed shutouts to win those two games, 1-0 at Sherman Friday, March 25, and 2-0 at home against Greenville Tuesday.

At Sherman, who already had two perfect games in 13-4A games this season, the Lady Bulldogs' pitcher, Katelyn Klug, pitched a perfect game. The only hit was a bunt in the third inning, when Pille also gave up her only walk.

The Lady Bulldogs also struck out the side in that inning, and in five hitters. Pille struck out batters, with the Lady Cats' only other out on a popout with one out in the seventh inning.

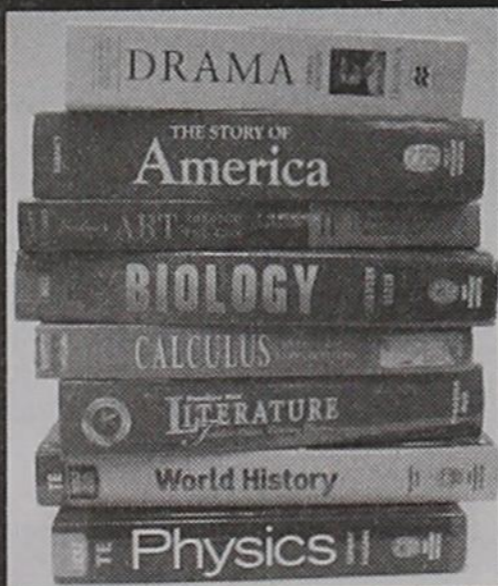
Sherman's Katelyn Klug allowed only two hits. One was Krissy Tubbs' infield hit in the first inning. The other won the game Klug threw two strikes to Tori Green, who hit the next pitch over the left-center field fence for the game's only run.

Rockwall High School pitcher Tucker Fielder, was selected to the Rawlings High School All American Team, and the All Region Team. In addition, Fielder was selected to the Under Armour High School All American Team, and the All Region Team. The Rawlings All American Team consists of 50 players from 100 schools across the United States. The top 150 players were selected to the All Region Team.



Courtesy of Phil Fielder/ Rockwall County News

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Four members of the Rockwall Area Retired Teachers Association traveled to Austin March 23 for the Texas Retired Teachers Association Lobby Day event. They met with a staff member in Sen. Robert Duell's office, as well as with a staff member for Rep. Joe Driver's office. Pictured from the left are Marvin Lee, Georgia Lee, Johanna Ash and Barbara Bateman. Among the issues discussed by the retired teachers were health coverage and cost-of-living increases.

Photo courtesy of Leigh Plagens/Rockwall County News

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Hostesses for the March meeting of the Rockwall Area Retired Teachers Association were, from the left, Betty Moon, Billye Leigh Plagens, Susan Mills and Jannie Clark. County Judge Hogan addressed the group, talking about the new Governor, road projects, economic concerns facing the county and opportunities being afforded to local residents interested in being involved in the county's strategic five-year plan. The final meeting of the year will be its annual spring luncheon set at the Roysie City Baptist Church. RARTA is open to all school personnel and their guests. For lunch reservations, babysbate@aol.com.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Benefit poker tournament slated

A Texas Hold'Em tournament benefiting Lost Orphans International will begin at 6 p.m. April 9 in the Rockwall Rotary Building, 408 S. G. Rockwall. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. Buy-in will be \$50, \$20 added re-buys, \$20 add-on; includes food, snacks and drinks (BYOB). Prizes will be awarded for final table. RSVP by calling Henry Young 214-771-3545 or e-mailing hjyret@att.net.

Mi Familia es Primero event slated

The first Mi Familia es Primero conference will run from 8 a.m. to April 30 at Lake Pointe Church. Sponsored by the Texas-based Asociación Misionera, the Spanish-language event will feature national marriage experts Francisco and Viviana Robledo of the PAIRS Foundation; Sastry, founder and director of Creciendo Unidos; and Enid Reyes, and director of Asociación Misionera Latina. The event will include workshops on how to equip religious ministers, counselors, couples and families with tools and strategies needed to strengthen families and unions. Registration will cost \$40 for individuals, \$65 for couples. Call 213-215-1736 or 579-4866 or visit mifamiliaprimero.com by April 15 to register.

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Meet Christopher A. Witherspoon, M.D.



Dr. Witherspoon is Board Certified in both Family Medicine and Primary Care Sports Medicine. He previously served as Medical Director at the University of Texas at Arlington Health Services Center and also was the Head Team Physician of the Athletic Department. He has served as the Sports Medicine Fellowship Director at Texas Tech University Health Science Center and has worked in private practice in family medicine as well. He has worked with a number of professional and collegiate athletes and enjoys caring for individuals of all ages and abilities.

Dr. Witherspoon grew up in Waco, and attended the University of Texas at Austin as an undergraduate and earned his MD from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. Dr. Witherspoon's residency training was with Garland Family Practice and his sports medicine fellowship at Chariton Methodist Hospital.

His wife grew up in Garland and is also pleased to be returning to the area. Dr. Witherspoon and his wife have two daughters. During his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, golf and is an avid college football fan.

Meet Timothy J. Doyle, M.D.



Dr. Timothy Doyle received his medical training from the University of North Texas Health Science Center College of Osteopathic Medicine. He did both his internship and his residency program at the Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas UNT Health Science Center and was the recipient of the Robert G. Haman Memorial Scholarship in 2001. He is Board-Certified in Family Medicine and Manipulative Medicine and holds membership in the American Medical Association, American Association of Osteopathy, American and Texas Osteopathic Medical Association, and the American and Texas College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

Dr. Doyle also attained a PhD in Physics from Texas Christian University and has a B.S. in Mathematics and Physics from Texas Christian University at Arlington.

His professional interests include preventive medicine, migraines, chronic and acute pain, acupuncture, and sports medicine. His personal hobbies include woodwork, tile work, fishing, water sports, and fencing. Dr. Doyle and his wife have two daughters who enjoy bowling, volleyball, and water sports.

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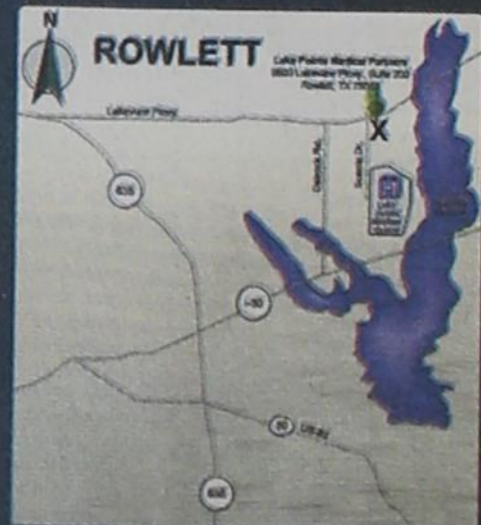


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Trailer Team building skills, brings home competition wins

years ago, the FFA team at Rockwall High School didn't exist. But in the few years since its formation, the team has been building and entering contests, winning almost 30 blue ribbons at a State Fair of Texas in 2008.

Rockwall ISD Agriculture/Career instructor Bobby Fowler, the team's coach, includes students from Rockwall and Rockwall-Heath schools and Utley Middle School. Fowler previously was an instructor at Eustace High School and then moved to RHS and starting the team here.

Members on the team are entering several vocational classes and are interested in learning the skills needed for the industry. The team has been competing in spring luncheon events, and the FFA is open to all students. Lunch reservations are available.

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Members of the Rockwall High School Trailer Team and their instructor show off the 24-foot trailer built by the students for use by the school's FFA program. Members shown are (left to right) Ted Gates, instructor Bobby Fowler, Baley Polk and Hayden Ferguson. Students in Fowler's Career Tech/Agriculture classes learn the skills necessary to build different types of trailers then enter their creations in competitions against other teams.

Photo by Kathy Williams/Rockwall County News

University to study for a career in agriculture. "I would never have thought of agriculture if I hadn't taken this class," he said. "When I joined as a sophomore, I had no idea (about the future). I read the class description and it said you learned how to weld and I thought, 'that's cool.' I liked it then took the class again and then took it again this year. It's really grown on me and given me a direction in agriculture."

RHS junior Baley Polk said although he hopes to become a firefighter, the skills he is learning now could be useful in many applications. "I always like building stuff like tree houses and ramps for my bicycles, so I figured I'd join the Ag classes and learn how to do more. I had a lot of fun this year and learned a lot so I'm going to take it again next year. I want to be a fireman but they only work a few days out of a month. I can use these skills for a side job," he said.

RHS senior Ted Gates was led to the classes by his father, who suggested adding another class to his school schedule rather than having two free periods. "A few days into the class I was happy I took it instead of having the off periods," he said.

Gates will be attending Texas A&M University in Galveston to major in Marine Engineering. His interest was piqued after visiting the campus machine shop and talking to students about projects they were involved in, employment opportunities and the excellent starting pay in that field. The student he spoke to said he and another TAMU-Galveston graduate had built a model for Exxon's new offshore oil rig.

"I probably wouldn't have majored in that area if I hadn't taken this class," Gates said. Fowler said although he talks to his students about what kinds of jobs their newly-acquired skills can be applied to, he doesn't like to push them in one direction or the other. "I just try to give them enough skill so when they leave they are able to accomplish what they want to do," he said.

Ferguson said in addition to the practical skills he has learned in

Fowler's classes, he has a new-found confidence in himself. "The main thing I learned in this class I guess I didn't have before, you know how some people have vision, being able to see something and say, 'OK, I want to do this.' I never really had that. I really learned to see the metal and what I can do with it," he said. "I also learned confidence, to be able to build something without any help and not really question myself. It's helped me learn to be able to do it and know that I can do it and just go for it, instead of thinking, 'can I do it, can I not do it.' I know I can do it."

In addition to Ferguson, Gates and Polk, the members of the trailer team are Tucker Doughty and Keifer Peak, both 10th graders from Rockwall-Heath High School; Will Morris, 8th grade from Utley Middle School; and Trevor McKenzie, 11th and Zane Knochel, 12th, from Rockwall High School.

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Rockwall ISD Kindergarten Round-Up April 14

Rockwall Independent School District's annual Kindergarten Round-Up will run from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. April 14 at elementary school campuses throughout the district.

Parents of children who will be 5 years of age on or before Sept. 1 are encouraged to attend. During the event, parents and teachers will meet to discuss the kindergarten program and receive information regarding the kindergarten program.

Registration for pre-kindergarten continues for parents of children who will be three or four years of age on or before Sept. 1. These parents are encouraged to contact the RISD Parent Education Center at 972-772-2073 regarding application and registration for any of the following programs:

- Head Start – a federally funded program for 3- and 4-year-old children of RISD residents based on qualifying factors, including income
- Pre-kindergarten – a state-funded program for 4-year-old children of RISD residents based on qualifying factors, such as military status, language other than English or income
- Tuition-based pre-kindergarten – a free-based program for 4-year-old children of RISD residents; enrollment documents and a \$100 non-refundable deposit are required at registration. Parents may pay \$2,061 for the yearly rate or make monthly payments of \$229 from September through May of the 2011-2012 school year.

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