



# Rockwall County News



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



## Hartfields welcome Rockwall County New Year's first baby

Jennifer and Jon Hartfield are the parents of the first baby of 2012 born at Texas Health Presbyterian hospital in Rockwall. The newborn girl made her debut at 5:14 p.m. Jan. 1 with the assistance of Dr. Shannon T. Hudgins, M.D. and hospital personnel. She weighed in at an even 8 pounds and was 20.5 inches long. She is welcomed by her parents and older brother. The family lives in Garland.

Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

## Despite erroneous reports, water conservation efforts remain at stage 3

by Jana Edwards

After The Dallas Morning News reported that Stage 4 water conservation measures might be effective in Rockwall in January, interim City Manager Rick Crowley issued a memo Dec. 30 to members of the Rockwall City Council, calling the report "erroneous."

While they are quoting Mike Ricmon, the North Texas Municipal Water District's deputy director," said Crowley, the story is not accurate in its implication that Stage 4 may be effective in January."

Crowley said that although the NTMWD will consider the matter in January, he was advised that the effective date being considered at the NTMWD Board meeting is actually in April.

Rockwall's water monitoring and enforcement efforts continue, he reported, with approximately 300 violation letters mailed as of the end of December. The focus has, thus far, been on reducing water consumption and not on issuance of citations, said Crowley.

The status update reported that the conservation coordinator has worked extensively with many residents and businesses to help them achieve compliance with the program. This has included appointments to assist with the setting and adjustment of automatic sprinkler times, coordinating with landscape maintenance contractors and visits to explain the program.

Generally, most customers seem to intend complying with the program's requirements, but had fallen short of that for various reasons and are now compliant.

There are, however, a number of customers that have not been cooperative," said Crowley's report, which went as far as to say some customers have indicated they do not plan to comply. These customers will be receiving citations, said Crowley.

The interim city manager also reported he had approved the mailing of notice to all local businesses, notifying them that Stage 4 will probably be implemented in April. Customers also will be advised through a notice in the current City Notes newsletter, which will continue to provide updates and details as April approaches.

Finally, Crowley warned councilmembers about the anticipated financial impact from the loss of revenue from increased water sales.

City staff is currently developing a strategy for coping with the revenue loss and probably will present those recommendations to the council in February. One solution, already implemented, is a hiring freeze for positions funded by the Water and Sewer Fund.

For more information on Stage 3 conservation requirements, including a lawn watering calendar, visit rockwall.txmwd.com.

## LGBT extension open, but expect ongoing work

by Jana Edwards

Although the President George Bush Turnpike Eastern Extension has opened, motorists should continue to expect lane closures and traffic switches until construction is completed on the main lanes of I-30.

According to officials with the Texas Department of Transportation, the interchange project, including the I-30 main lanes at the interchange and both eastbound and westbound frontage roads, is expected to be substantially complete in June.

"We are continuing work on both frontage roads and the eastbound I-30 main lanes," said Michelle Releford, a spokesperson for TxDOT, who reported that the various phases of construction were being completed on time.

(Continued on Page 3)

## Local officials poised for upcoming elections with adjusted timeline

by Jana Edwards

Candidate packets now are available for the Rockwall Independent School District school board election, RISD officials announced Jan. 3.

Three RISD places are up for election, as are three places on Rockwall City Council.

In the RISD Board of Trustees election set for May 12, three places are up for election: Place 1, presently held by Chris Cuny; Place 2, presently held by Russ Childers; and Place 3, presently held by Craig Zurek.

Candidates may file for a place on the ballot beginning Feb. 6 at the Administration/Education Center. The deadline to file is 5 p.m. March 5.

RISD Board of Trustees candidate application packets may be obtained during regular business hours (Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., and Friday from 8 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) in the superintendent's office at the Rockwall Independent School District Administration/ Education Center, 1050 Williams Street, Rockwall.

Rockwall City Secretary Kristy Ashberry reports that Councilman Mark Russo is eligible to run for re-election, but Cliff Sevier and Margo Nielsen are "termed out" according to the city charter.

While city elections will not occur until May, Rockwall County has received a number of applications for the primary elections.

Some citizens continue to express anxiety about voter registration cards that expired Dec. 31, but Rockwall County elections administrator Glenda Denton reminds the public that redistricting lawsuits across the state have had a major effect on the regular timeline.

A Dec. 16 Federal Court Order provided a new deadline to send out voter registration certificates -- on or before Feb. 13. The deadline to change county election precinct lines has been moved to Jan. 31. The new filing deadline for primary candidates, independent candidates and minor party candidates is now 6 p.m. Feb. 1. Filing was permitted to continue under the previous court order through Dec. 19, said a memo from the interim director of elections, State of Texas. The 2012 primary election dates are scheduled for April 3, with a runoff election date of June 5.

Denton reported that so far no Democratic candidates have filed for the primaries.

"There will be another filing period that will start sometime in January, and will end on Feb. 1," said Denton. "I will not know the re-opening date until the federal redistricting case has been settled."

## Republican Primary filing, election date changes

by Mark Russo

Rockwall County Republican Party Chairman Tony Fisk has set ballot positions to be drawn that day promptly at 7 p.m. The court action has also delayed registration card delivery, but they should be delivered shortly according to the Elections Office.

As of Tuesday, January 3, no Democrat Party candidates have filed. The following are Republican Party candidates who have filed for county offices:

### District Judge 382nd Court

Brett Hall (Incumbent)

### District Judge 439th Court

David Rakow (Incumbent)

### County Court At Law

Brian Williams (Incumbent)

### Sheriff

Harold Eavenson (Incumbent)

### Tax Assessor-Collector

Barbara Barber (Incumbent)

### Rockwall County Commissioner Precinct 1

William Cecil

Dick Demien

Clifford Sevier

### Constable Precinct 1

John Benedetto

Vince Zubras

### Constable Precinct 2

Paul Britt

Trey Chaney

### County Commissioner Precinct 3

Dennis Bailey (Incumbent)

### Justice of the Peace Precinct 3

Chris Florance

Joe Florey

### Justice of the Peace Precinct 4

Lian Bell-Whitten

James Branch

David Karr

### Constable Precinct 4

Randy Parks Incumbent



The Rockwall County Republican Women installed new officers at the organization's Christmas party in December. Pictured from the left are Ann Easterwood, vice president of finance; Ann Hettinger, vice president of legislation; Judy Dickson, vice president of programs; Vicki Jolley, secretary; Jerry Fisher, president; Marcia Gilbert, treasurer; Jane Buie, vice president of membership, and Sheila Kirkley, vice president of campaign activities. Not pictured is Brenda Zielke, past president. The group's first program of the new year will be Blazing Trails to Victory. That meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 9 at the Harry Myers Community Center, 815 E. Washington St. Those planning to attend are urged to come early, enjoy some chili and meet the new officers. For more details on the RCRW, visit rcrw.org.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



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**Gadberry, LeForce wed in Plano church**



Mr. and Mrs. C.J. LeForce

LeAnn Mae Gadberry and C.J. LeForce of Rowlett were married Nov. 19, 2011, in a ceremony conducted in the St. Andrew Methodist Church in Plano with Dr. Robert Hasley officiating.  
 The bride is the daughter of Garth Gadberry of Heath and Ann Gadberry of Rowlett.  
 The groom's parents are Gary and Martha Kuhlman of Plano.  
 Serving as maid of honor was Kristen Jones of Heath. Bridesmaids were Emily Walls of Rockwall, Kristen Vanmeter of Wylie and Kandace Vanmeter of Farmersville. Rebecca Kuhlman of Plano and Payton Gadberry of Rowlett were flower girls.  
 Best man was Doug Kuhlman of Killeen. Serving as groomsmen were Phillip Mims and Chris Watson of Dallas and Tyler Kuhlman of Plano. Ushers were Geoffrey Gadberry of Rockwall and Michael Cope of Wylie.  
 Bradley Reznicek provided music for the ceremony.  
 A wedding reception was conducted at Café Max in Richardson, with Disc Jockeys Now providing music and entertainment.  
 The bride is a 2007 graduate of Rockwall High School. The groom is a Plano High School graduate.  
 The couple is at home in Rowlett.

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Austin and Sibble Quinlan of Heath celebrated their 90th birthdays with friends and family on New Year's Eve. All their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren attended the event. Pictured from left are the couple and their children: Bob Quinlan, Austin Quinlan, Sibble Quinlan, Ed Quinlan and Judy Stohle.

Photo by Darcy Rocha/Rockwall County News


**This Week in Heath**  
**Couple celebrates 90th birthdays with family**

by Darcy Rocha  
 On Dec. 31 the fellowship hall of the First Baptist Church of Heath was set up for a big party, but not to celebrate New Year's Eve. This group of revelers came from as far away as Washington state to celebrate the joint birthdays of Austin and Sibble Quinlan, both turning 90 years old.  
 The Quinlans, who have been married for 67 years, are only separated by one month in age.  
 "I'm the older woman," says Sibble in jest, who was born on Dec. 4, 1922. Austin was born Jan. 4.  
 The occasion of their joint 90th birthday was a ripe opportunity for their family to organize a reunion of sorts to help this lovely couple celebrate such an exciting milestone.  
 The hall was filled with guests, and it was apparent Sibble's heart was brimming with joy and gratitude. She tirelessly circled the room hugging and greeting her guests, her smile not once disappearing. Austin was hard to track down as he made his way visiting with each of the special folks who took the time on New Year's Eve to join them for these festivities.

The couple has lived in Heath for almost 37 years, making many friends and becoming very involved at FBC Heath and in the community. Several of their neighbors and church friends were at the party.  
 Their daughter, Judy Stohle of Houston, helped in making the arrangements for the event.  
 "We wanted to do something special for mother and dad. This week seemed the best time to be able to get everyone together, with the holidays and kids being out of school," she said.  
 The guests of honor were continually surrounded by friends and family, coming not only from all parts of Texas, but from Colorado, California, Oregon and Washington to enjoy the blessed day. All of the Quinlans' children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were at the celebration, some of the littlest of which would be their first time to see one another.  
 "We wanted to have a celebration like this to bring all of the great grandkids and everyone together because some of the great grandkids have never seen mom and dad, and they haven't seen their cousins. So this was an event big enough that we could bring everyone together and these young ones could meet their grandparents," said their son, Bob Quinlan.  
 Bob and his family made the trek from Portland, Ore., and were able to stay for the week.  
 Son Ed Quinlan is the pastor of

(Continued on Page 3)

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## Tollway work ...

(Continued from Page 1)

"Our schedule is to have the frontage roads complete by the end of February, 2012, with the westbound frontage road most likely finishing first. The eastbound main lanes of I-30 are under construction now and will most likely be fully open very close to the completion of the entire project in early summer."

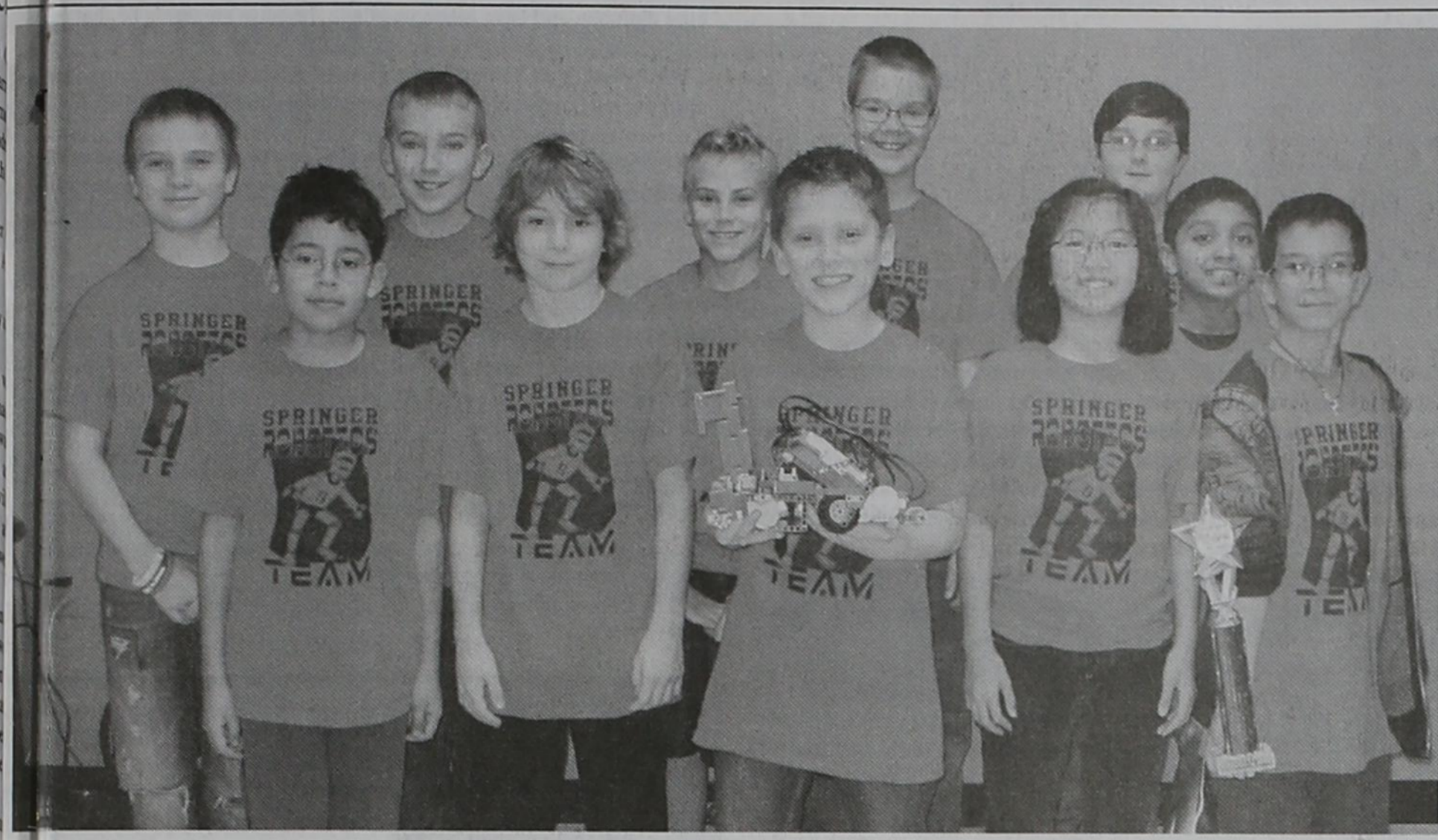
All of the direct connection ramps that make up the interchange are open allowing the traffic to flow from the Eastern Extension to the I-30 main lanes, said Releford.

From TxDOT's perspective, she said, it is too soon to tell what kind of an impact the new routes have had on traffic flow to I-30 and Hwy. 66, but commuters commenting on Twitter have reported having as much as 20 minutes shaved from their travel time between Rockwall or Rockwall and southern Metroplex suburbs.

The last phase involves cleanup work and establishing some vegetation on the right of way area.

"The public may still see cones and barrels here and there until all of the punch list items are complete and the job is released," said Releford, "but for all practical purposes, the job will be called complete in early summer."

As the projects near completion, TxDOT will continue to notify commuters in advance of lane closures with portable message signs, bulletins posted on [txdot.gov](http://txdot.gov) or [dfwtraffic.org](http://dfwtraffic.org) or through Twitter at [twitter.com/txdotdallaspio](https://twitter.com/txdotdallaspio).



Springer Elementary's robotics team competed in a First Lego League competition Dec. 10 at the University of Texas at Dallas. The team received a trophy for excellence in programming and qualified to compete in a regional competition on Jan. 21. Pictured at back are Justin Duncan, Evan Scott, Braeden Dunn, Mason Cross, Harrison La Croix and Devon Maheshwari, and at front, Andrew Mendoza, Sam Ukrainzow, Giovanni Copioli, Dara Chanthavisay and Diego Acosta. Not pictured is Mathieu Faucon. The team, led by teachers and parents, worked all fall on programming and research for the competition. This marked the school's first year to sponsor a robotics team comprised of fifth and sixth grade members.

Photo courtesy of Paige White/Rockwall County News

## Habitat to begin house build Jan. 14

The Rockwall Area Habitat for Humanity will begin construction at its next site on Jan. 14, according to a news release issued this week.

The site is located on Ross Street. Volunteers are needed, as are groups to provide lunch for volunteers. Anyone interested in helping out should email or call Mike Humphrey at [volunteer@yahoo.com](mailto:volunteer@yahoo.com) or 214-354-9777.

## Locals included on Midwestern honor roll

Three area residents were included on the Midwestern State University honor roll for the fall 2011 semester, according to a university news release.

Edu R. Arceneaux of Rockwall was named to the Provost's Honor Roll which included 221 students. To make the Provost's Honor Roll, a student must complete a semester of at least 12 hours with a grade point average of 3.75 to 3.99 and no grade lower than a C.

Samantha L. Bigham of Rockwall and Jennifer G. Eilts of Heath each were included on the Dean's Honor Roll which requires a student to complete a semester of at least 12 hours with a GPA average of 3.5 to 3.7 with no grade lower than a C.

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MIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS-B G	12:00	2:05	4:10	6:15	8:20		
BOUGHT A ZOO PG	11:10	1:55	4:40	X	7:25		
TIN 2D PG	X	X	X	X	5:00	X	
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NEW YEAR'S EVE-A PG13	X	X	X	X	X		
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SHERLOCK HOLMES-B PG13	X	X	X	X	6:30		
THE DARKEST HOUR 2D PG13	X	1:30	X	5:40	X		
THE DARKEST HOUR 3D PG13	11:25	X	3:35	X	7:45		
THE HORSE-B PG13	11:30	X	3:05	X	6:10		
BOUGHT A ZOO-B PG	12:10	2:55	X	X			

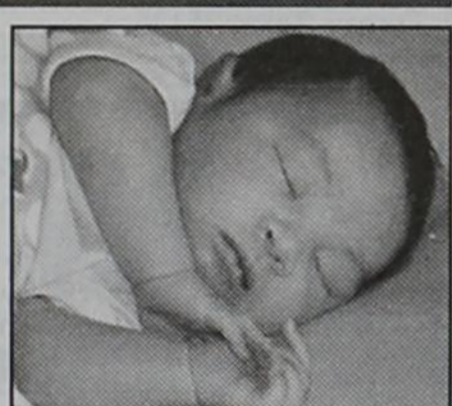
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Showing off their prize-winning parade float are City of Rockwall employees, standing from the left, Brian Sartain, Daniel Norrell, Travis Rose, Codey Barrons and Peter Hicks and, at bottom, Nathan Kinsley, Sergio Escobar, Carlos Romero and Clayton Evans. Not pictured are William Grey, Jeremy Moon and Jack McLain. The group's Polar Express float earned the Mayor's Choice Award in the Kiwanis Club's annual Christmas parade. Participating employees represent parks maintenance and recreation employees, along with some employees from the street department and water/wastewater department. Sartain was in charge of the float's design and construction.

Photo courtesy of City of Rockwall/Rockwall County News

## Births



**Roman Jace Malik Maldonado**

Achelle Maldonado and Jahmil Foster of Rockwall are proud to announce the birth of a son, Roman Jace Malik Maldonado, at 2:07 p.m. July 8, 2011, at Lake Pointe Medical Center, Rowlett.

The infant weighed 8 pounds, 15 ounces and was 21 inches long at birth.

He was welcomed home by siblings Nadine, Savi and Ayanna.

## Russell kicks off comedy series Jan. 14

Professional stand-up comedian Jason Russell will kick off a new bimonthly professional stand-up comedy series at the Agave Restaurant and Bar in Rockwall at a performance set to begin at 8 p.m. Jan. 14.

The series will feature the best comedians touring the U.S., including Russell, whose comedy stylings have been described as "silly, hard-hitting and real."

Opening for Russell will be Jake Sharon, who is described as "adventurous and high energy" and "an active dufus."

For more details visit [agaverockwall.com](http://agaverockwall.com) or call 214-771-0423.

## 90th birthday celebration ....

(Continued from Page 2)

Plainview Bible Church and was able to come in on Christmas Eve after finishing the service at his church, which was also a nice surprise to his children and grandchildren in Mesquite. He was happy to see how many people were able to attend.

"For these two to have their whole family here is wonderful. My dad's younger brother and two of his daughter's are here from the coast. Folks came a long way. Several folks from mom and dad's Sunday school are here, also from mom's exercise class," he said.

It's not only remarkable that the Quinlans share this milestone birthday together, but that they are so gracious, energetic, independent and loving. The celebration went beyond their birthdays. This was a special moment for Austin and Sibley to enjoy the love and respect of the many folks who care so much for them.

"They were a great mom and dad growing up. Just appreciated how close they are to one another. Great models for a great marriage," said Ed. "They're still goo-goo in love with each other, they really are. It's cool to watch them. It's a great example for all of us."

Darcy Rocha is the Heath community correspondent to the Rockwall County News. To share your news and events about Heath, email her at [rcn.darcyrocha@gmail.com](mailto:rcn.darcyrocha@gmail.com) or call (214) 771-1035.

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by Danette McNew, D.D.S.

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In this age of fluoridated water and toothpastes, it may seem that cavities are on the decline among young children. However, the fact is that ten percent of two-year-olds and over half of five-year-olds have cavities. These numbers show that tooth decay is the most common chronic disease among today's youngsters. To better tackle this problem, parents must understand that dental caries are caused by transmissible bacteria that produce acids as a byproduct of eating sugary and starchy foods. While children may brush morning and night and avoid candy, they might eat baked goods and other sticky snack foods that accumulate between teeth and cause of cavities. A switch to healthier foods and fluoride treatments can help prevent this problem.

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P.S. Because babies first come in contact with the bacteria that causes tooth decay by sharing foods and utensils, parents may want to think twice about putting a spoon in their own mouths before using it to feed a baby.  
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# On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

## Believing...Matthew 14:28-31

Believing God's word brings powerfully dynamic results. That's because God is the author of His word, and to this day He is still able to back His word.

Now let's learn from the believing of Jesus Christ and one of his disciples Jesus Christ just finished teaching over 5000 people. Later he sent his disciples to the other side of a sea, while he went up to a nearby mountain to pray alone.

Still in the ship, his disciples contended with hostile winds. During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto the disciples. He didn't hop in a boat to do this. Instead he walked on top of the water.

Jesus did not dream this up himself. He was responsible for doing God's will. So when he stepped out onto the water for a stroll to his disciples, it

was because God gave revelation to do so. This is the context of Matthew 14:28-31.

Verse 28, "And Peter said, 'Lord if it be thou will, bid me come unto thee on the water.'" He knew if Jesus gave the word by authority from God, then it would come to pass.

Verse 29, "And he said, 'Come.' And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water to go to Jesus." Peter was fully persuaded that when he stepped out, his feet would stand solidly on the water. He believed.

Verse 30, "But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid, and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, 'Lord save me.'" At first Peter had his eyes focused on the Lord Jesus Christ. Next he turned his eyes toward the hostile forces of nature. He immediately became afraid and began to sink.

As fear and doubt defeated Peter's ability to walk on the water, so also will it defeat anybody's ability to receive from God. Look at Jesus' response in verse 31, "And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand and caught him, and said unto him, 'O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?'" After grabbing Peter, Jesus began to teach him that doubt defeated his ability to continue walking on the water. Notice the close connection between doubt and fear.

We have God's word written for the Body of Christ today, "Ye are of little children, and have overcome them, because greater is he that is in than he that is in the world" (1John 4:4).

While facing the tumultuous storms of this world, stay focused on the promise and not distracted by the troublesome winds of life. This is true if our own actions stir up the troublesome winds and storms. God is still there ready to help us through the storms and make things right.

The examples of life's storms are innumerable. Every one of our lives can in some way offer new and meaningful stories of horrible storms in lives.

We can approach every situation in life being fully persuaded that God promised He is able also to perform (Romans 4:19-25); ready to acknowledge our weaknesses while letting God's strength be accomplished in us (2Corinthians 12:9); letting the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in God's eyes (Psalms 19:14); learning from God's commandment to Joshua, "be strong and of a good courage; be not dismayed; for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

What ever we pray let it be with believing from the heart to receive (11:22-25). And let God know that we meekly and humbly desire that purpose might be accomplished in our lives.

"The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1).

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**THE RIVER OF LIFE FELLOWSHIP**  
303 Rusk St., Royse City  
**CALVARY CHAPEL OF FATE**  
202 S W.E. Crawford St., Fate 75132  
**RIDGEVIEW CHURCH**  
1362 E. FM 552, Rockwall  
**THE WALL**  
Meeting at Hampton Inn Sundays, 10 a.m.  
**PENTECOSTAL**  
**HOLY LIGHTHOUSE**  
**TABERNACLE CHURCH**  
123 Kenway, Rockwall  
**PEOPLE OF THE NAME PENTECOSTAL**  
9055 FM 35, Royse City  
**REVIVAL CENTER OF ROCKWALL**  
1203 Beta Court Ste. 102  
**UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH**  
4672 E. I-30, Rockwall  
**PRESBYTERIAN**  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH U.S.A.**  
602 White Hills Dr., Rockwall  
**TRINITY HARBOR CHURCH PCA**  
306 E. Rusk, Rockwall  
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**EPISCOPAL**  
**HOLY TRINITY BY THE LAKE**  
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**LUTHERAN**  
**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN**  
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**JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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**METHODIST**  
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, HEATH**  
FM 740 at FM 1150 (140 Smirl Dr.)  
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST OF ROCKWALL**  
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**CROSS CREEK COWBOY CHURCH**  
Sabine Creek Ranch, Royse City  
**DAYS PRING DISCIPLESHIP**  
505 E. Boydston, Rockwall  
**FAITHBRIDGE CHURCH**  
Meeting at Celia Hays Elementary  
FM 1141 & FM 552  
**GENESIS COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
7066 W. Hwy. 66, Royse City  
**LAKES COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
3025 I-30, Fate  
**LIFE CHURCH ROCKWALL**  
FM 3097  
**MILLWOOD CHURCH**  
3023 E I-30 i Fate  
**NEW HORIZONS FELLOWSHIP**  
408 N. Goliad St., Rockwall  
**OASIS OF GRACE**  
Hwy 551, south of Fate  
**TEXAS LIFE CHANGERS MINISTRIES**  
2455 Ridge Rd., Rockwall  
**THE RIVER OF LIFE FELLOWSHIP**  
303 Rusk St., Royse City  
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**TRIN**

# Rockwall County Obituaries

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## Grover Minton Henderson

Services for Grover Minton Henderson, 68, of Rockwall will be conducted at 2 p.m. Jan. 6, 2012, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 10 a.m. to noon prior to the service.

He died Dec. 26, 2011.

Born March 22, 1943, in Dallas to W.C. and Margaret Aurelia (Powell) Henderson, he retired from Howmett Aluminum Corp.

Survivors include his children, Wylie C. Henderson, Malynda L. Henderson and Tony Wayne Henderson; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and a sister, Mary Carpenter.

He has preceded in death by his parents; his brothers, Jerry Baxter Henderson, Bill Henderson and Clarence Henderson; and his half-brothers, Gerald Lee Henderson, Dana Pankey and Eddie Akins.

## Felton Newton Kerley

Services for Felton Newton Kerley, 80, of Rockwall were conducted at 2 p.m. Dec. 9, 2011, in the Lakeshore Church of Rockwall with Pastor Brad Howard officiating. Burial followed in the Rest Haven Memorial Park in Rockwall.

He died Dec. 25.

Born March 26, 1931, in Comanche to Fred and Thelma Kerley, he graduated from Comanche High School in 1949 and from Howard Payne University in Rowlett in 1961 with a degree in business education.

He began working for the Santa Fe Railroad in 1950, beginning a career that spanned 43 years. He retired from the railroad in 1993. From 1951 to 1958 he served in the Texas 36th Infantry Division of the National Guard where he held the rank of sergeant and head of the radio division. In 1969, he began working part-time as a recruiter for the Stenograph Institute of Texas. For 16 years he traveled throughout the state recruiting students interested in pursuing a career in court reporting. Following his retirement from the railroad, he went to work for Enterprise in 1996. He enjoyed working there for 15 years, retiring in November of this year because of health problems.

He and his wife, Fred Elaine Kerley, were married for 58 years. They married on Dec. 9, 1951. In 1965 the couple moved to Sweetwater where they lived for 18 years. In 1983 they moved to Rockwall.

He served as a deacon at the First Baptist Church in Sweetwater and enjoyed teaching an elementary boys' Sunday school class. While in Rockwall, the Kerleys were active members of the Lakeshore Church for many years. He enjoyed sharing his faith and always was willing to pray with or minister to others in need.

He enjoyed sailing and all nautical things. His favorite travels were those that took him to tropical destinations.

Survivors include his daughter, Kathy Young, and her husband, Phil, of Rockwall; five grandchildren, Audrey Butera and her husband, Jimmy, Abbey Kerley and her husband, Chuck, and Nathan, Aimee and Annie Young, all of Rockwall; one great-grandchild, Chloe Keith; and a great-grandson expected to be born in February.

He was preceded in death by his wife; one son, William Bland Kerley; his parents; and one brother, Clifton Don Kerley.

## Arthur W. Meyer

A memorial service for Arthur W. Meyer, 83, of Rockwall will be conducted at 11 a.m. Jan. 7, 2012, in the Our Savior Lutheran Church in Rockwall. The Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rowlett Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

He died Dec. 27, 2011.

Born Sept. 11, 1928, in Falfurrias to Henry and Marie Steuwe Meyer, he served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict and attended the Lutheran church.

Married in Tulsa, Okla., in 1954, he and his wife, Ernie, celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary on Dec. 26, 2011.

The couple had lived for many years in Allen where she was owner of the Merle Norman Cosmetic Studio.

Survivors include his wife, Ernestine 'Ernie' Meyer of Rockwall; one daughter, Diane Lynn Meyer Emery, and her husband, Mike, of Rowlett; one son, Stacey Ray Meyer of DeFuniak Springs, Fla.; a sister, Dorene Hoffstetter; and a grandson, Gregory Meyer Emery of Rowlett.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a grandson, Daniel Micah Emery; two brothers, Henry and Walter Meyer; and a sister, Helen Stehle.

## Veronic Shanks

Services for Veronic Shanks, 48, of Plano were conducted at 2 p.m. Jan. 5, 2012, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel with Robert Posner officiating. Burial followed in the Rest Haven Memorial Park.

She died Jan. 1.

Born May 21, 1963, in McKinney to George and Denise Mayberry, she was employed with Capital One Financial in the auto collections department. She was a member of Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church in Plano.

Survivors include her children, Jeff Shanks of Rockwall and Nicole Shanks of Richardson; her mother, Denise Mayberry of Plano; the father of her children, Sam Shanks of Rockwall; her grandchildren, Alexis Jade and Jorge Gerard; her brother-in-law, Ben Shanks of Rockwall; and a nephew, Bradley Shanks of Garland.

She was preceded in death by one son, Brandon Andrew Shanks, and her father.

The family has suggested memorial contributions may be made to the United Way at [liveunited.org/donate](http://liveunited.org/donate).

## Patricia 'Patti' St. Clair

Services for Patricia 'Patti' St. Clair, 59, of Mesquite were conducted at 2 p.m. Jan. 2, 2012, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel with Pastor Bruce Buchanan officiating. Burial followed in the Rest Haven Memorial Park.

She died Dec. 29.

Born March 22, 1952, in Fort Worth to Vincent and Mildred Palmer, the family moved to Arlington in 1957. She graduated from Arlington High School and received a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Texas at Arlington.

She was a member of the Phi Mu sorority, serving as secretary/treasurer for two semesters. Prior to graduation, she was sworn in as a deputy sheriff with the Dallas County Sheriff's Department, where she served four different sheriffs in a variety of roles and responsibilities. She often paved the way for other women to advance within the department.

At the time of a life-altering fall at Reunion Arena in 2001, she was regional director for the Tri-Vector Corp. After undergoing three spinal surgeries, she was diagnosed as having permanent spinal damage and was relegated to a scooter for the remaining years.

Survivors include her husband, Carroll Glenn St. Clair of Mesquite; an aunt, Dottie Farren of St. Petersburg, Fla.; four cousins, Joyce Berg of Florida, Jody Kay and Jeff Berg, both of Indiana, and Terri Cronk of Colorado; and several great-nieces and great-nephews. She also is survived by four stepchildren and three families and her Jack Russell beagle, Cody.

The family has suggested memorial contributions may be made to the First Presbyterian Church, 602 White Hills Drive, Rockwall, TX 75087.

You Saw It In "The County News"

## Buena (Sullens) Stowe

Services for Buena (Sullens) Stowe, 77, of Dallas were conducted at noon Dec. 30, 2011, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel with Pastor Rick Donaho officiating. Burial followed in the Rest Haven Memorial Park.

She died Dec. 23.

Born July 20, 1934, in Toccoa, Ga., to Jesse L. and Nancy E. (Kinsler) Sullens, she was a homemaker and a Baptist.

Survivors include her sons, Mark Stowe, and his wife, Frances, of Dallas and Zachary Stowe and his wife, Michelle, of Little Rock, Ark.; her grandchildren, Tami, Zeke, Nick and Taylor Stowe; her brothers, Bill, Dennis and Joe Sullens; and her sisters, Annie Pearl Payne, Joyce English and Bonny Farmer.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Grady Stowe; and two brothers, Lee and Paul Sullens.

## Willie 'Margaret' Teel

Services for Willie "Margaret" Teel, 93, of Longview were conducted at 10 a.m. Jan. 4, 2012, in the Eastridge Church of Christ in Rockwall with Ken Hope officiating. Burial followed in the Cedar Creek Cemetery in Palestine under the direction of the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel.

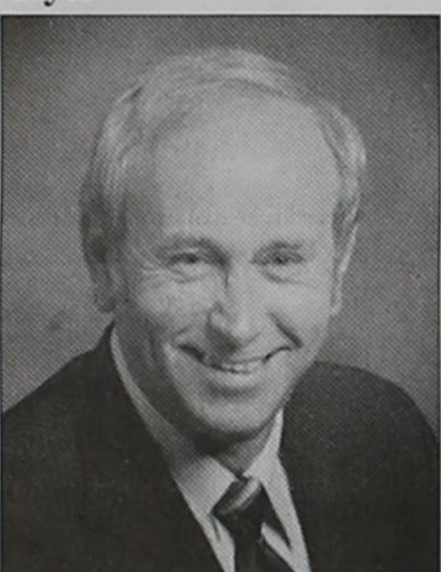
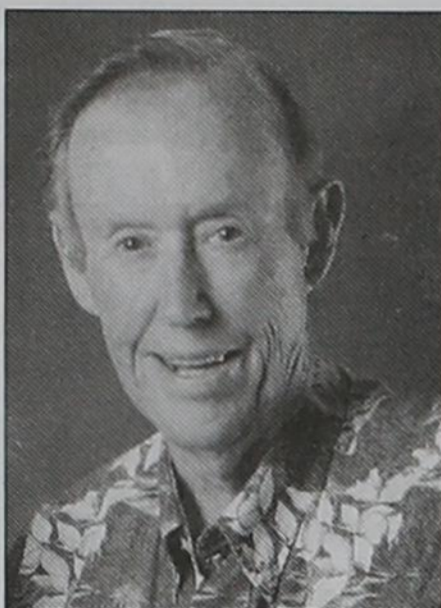
She died Jan. 1.

Born Aug. 7, 1918, in Grapeland to Willie Oscar and Maggie Eliza (Holt) Lively, she was a mother, a homemaker and a member of the Centerville Road Church of Christ.

Survivors include her sons, John Teel, and his wife, Mary, of Tyler, James L. Teel and his wife, Suzanne, of Winter Park, Fla., and Ken Teel and his wife, Becky, of Heath; her sister, Geneva Pickle of Houston; her brother, Charles Lively of The Woodlands; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, John Franklin Teel; two granddaughters, Inge M. Teel and Chalon Teel; six sisters; and one brother.

The family has suggested memorial contributions may be made to the Centerville Road Church of Christ Youth Group, 1102 E. Centerville Rd., Garland, TX 75041.



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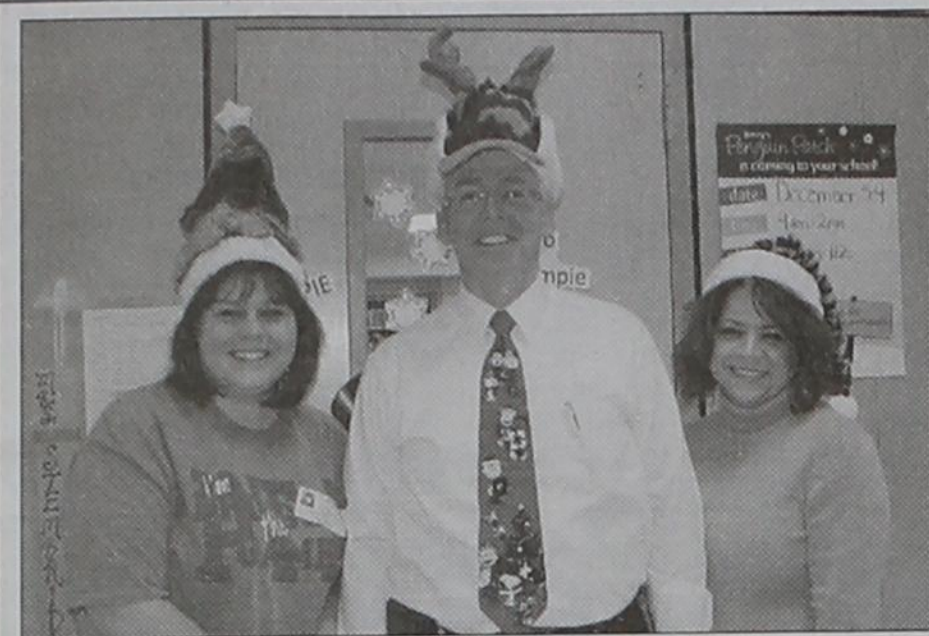
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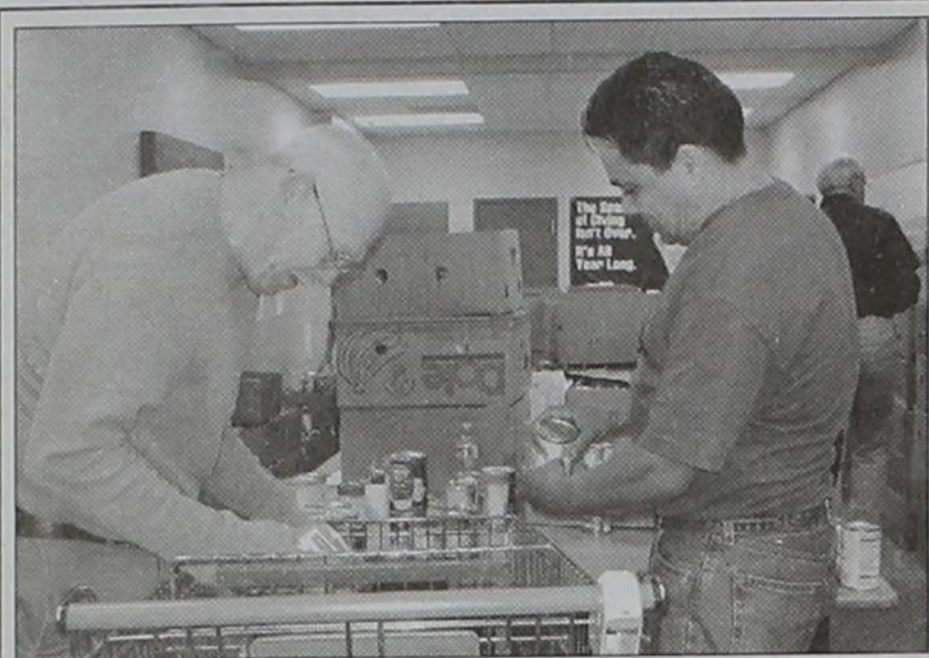
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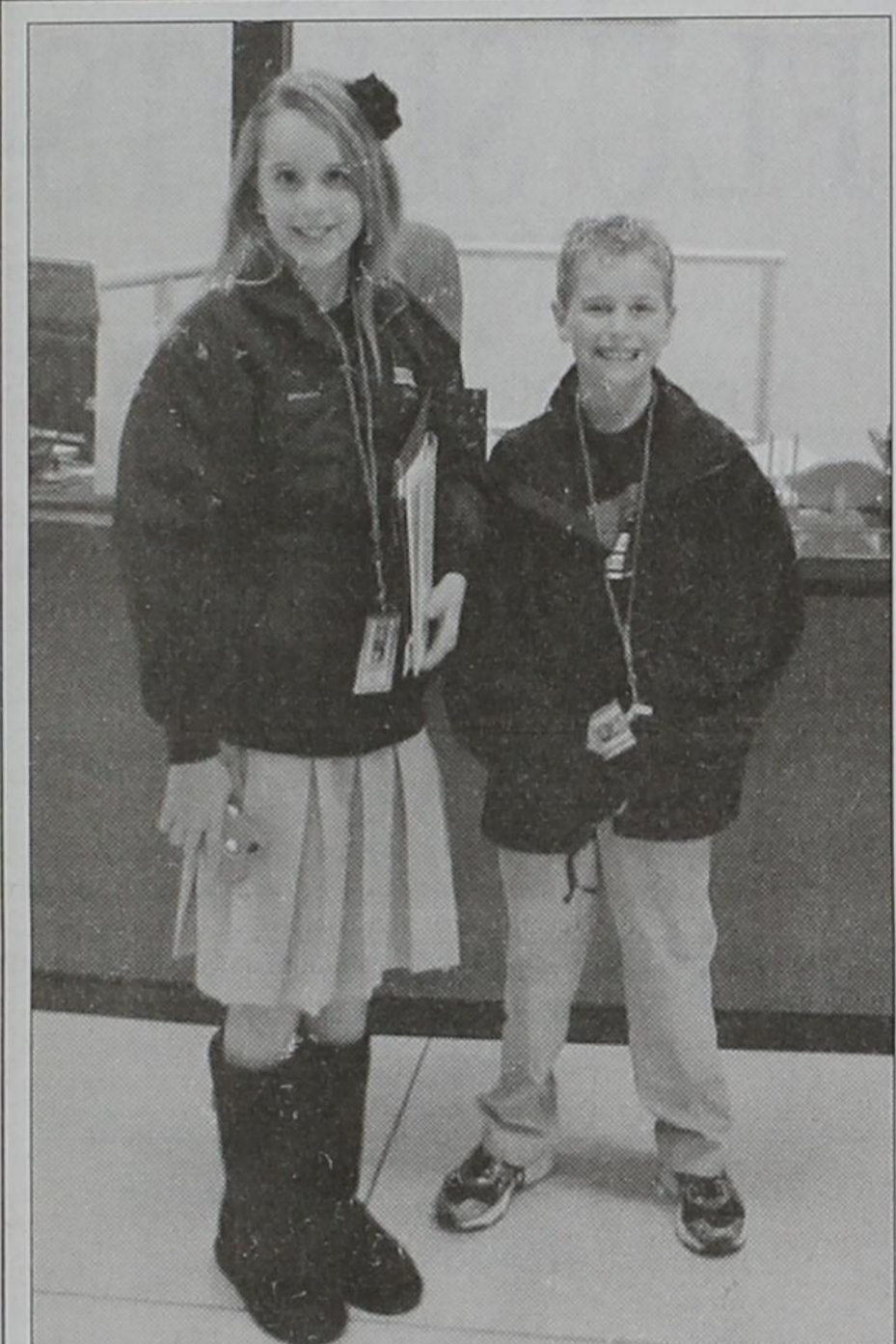
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Jones Elementary students recently enjoyed shopping at the annual Penguin Patch. The shop was sponsored by the Jones PTA and allowed students to shop for holiday gifts for members of their families. Pictured are Jones PTA president Lesli Kilgore, principal Mark Speck and assistant principal Ruth Johnson.  
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Richard Plumb, right, and Hector Martinez are shown sorting and checking dates on food provided to the Helping Hands Food Pantry by the Rockwall Post Office. The food was picked up from local residents by postal employees during the post office's annual food drive.  
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

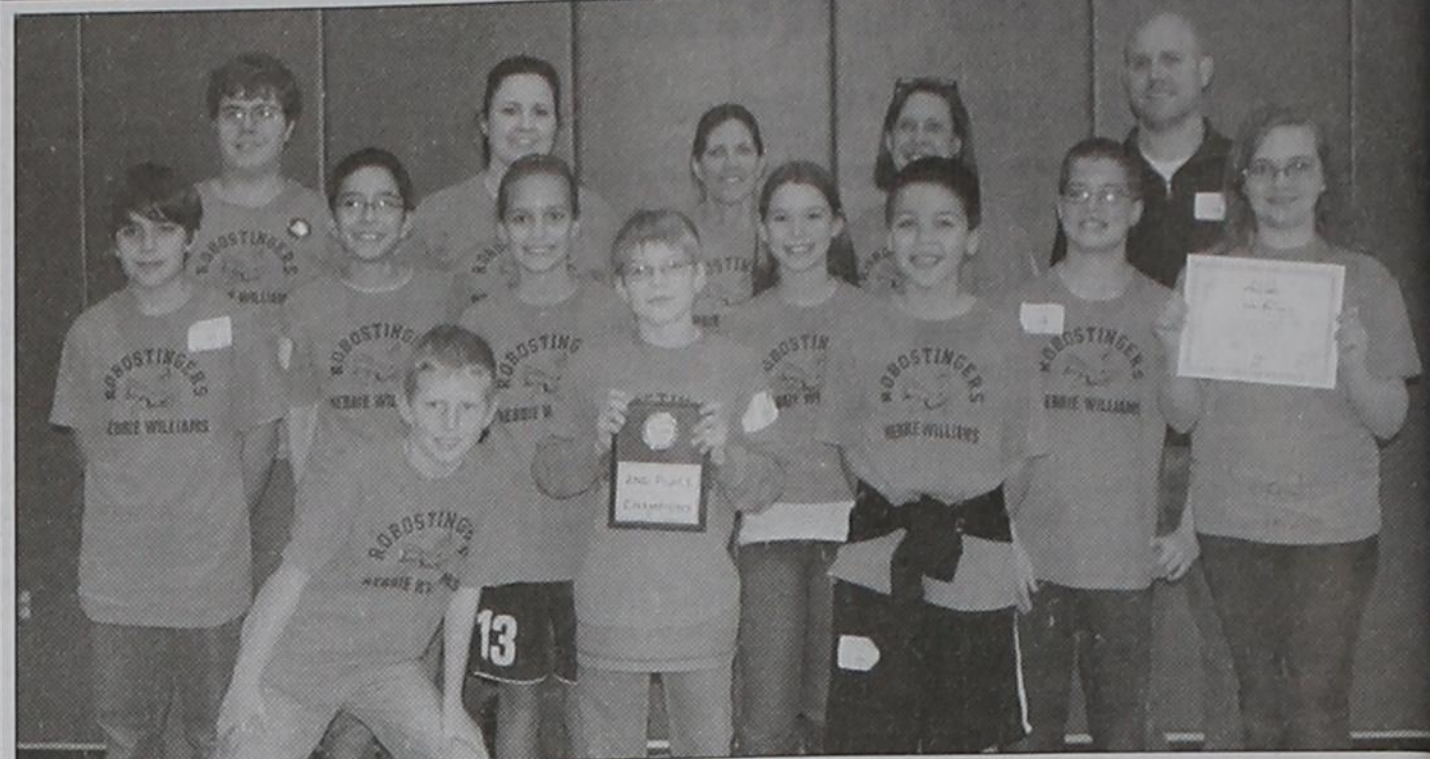


Heritage Christian Academy sixth grade student Mikayla Smith, pictured here with her brother, fourth grade student Mitchell Smith, recently observed a FOX 4 News meteorologist in Dallas as part of a requirement for a class project. The sixth grade class completed a research project through which each student researched a specific career and interviewed a professional in that field. Smith chose meteorology and spent a day at the FOX 4 studios with meteorologist Evan Andrews.  
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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Natalie Trollinger, daughter of Tommy and Carolyn Trollinger, is also a member of Kick Company and Showstoppers. She plans to attend Kilgore College, then transfer to the University of North Texas where she will major in dance and minor in business.  
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



The Nebbie Williams Robostingers won second place at the First Lego League Robotics District competition conducted recently. Thirty other teams competed, including several from Rockwall. Pictured at back, from the left, are Brian Bray, Jessica Jones, Suzanne Harakal, Kay Orr and Steven Brown; middle row, Eric Bray, Josh Harper, Brooke Patterson, Anna Cory, Ryan Figert and Kassie Nedrud; and at front, Gabriel Brown, Devin Williams and Josh Jacobs. The Robostingers will go on to compete in the regional contest in January at Hockaday School.  
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Joshua Carranza, Ramsses Gamez and Martha Guidino, all fifth grade students at Ouida Springer Elementary, are shown learning about earth science. Representatives from the Dallas Arboretum, thanks to a grant, have helped teach the students science concepts to enrich and support their classroom learning and prepare them for the upcoming STARR test. The first unit, Rock and Roll, covered concepts such as tectonic plates, rocks, erosion and fossils.  
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Evelyn Harrill and Nancy Barnett of the First United Methodist Church of Rockwall joined a large group of volunteers that helped fill Thanksgiving baskets distributed to local residents in need. The distribution was made by Rockwall County Helping Hands the week of Thanksgiving. This year, 250 families were served, compared to 183 served last Thanksgiving.  
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Ashley Lynn Westmoreland is the daughter of Les and Shelley Westmoreland. She plans to attend Midwestern State University where she will major in child development and early education.  
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Just Say You Saw It In the "County News"

## Rockwall County News Briefs

### Tree recycling offered in R'wall

The City of Rockwall will offer a Christmas tree recycling drop-off location at 1600 Airport Road, next to the city's service center. To take advantage of this service, local residents are asked to remove all ornaments, lights and bases from trees being dropped off.

### Library offers improved online services

The Rockwall County Library now offers improved audio book and e-book download services, including loans of books for Kindle, Nook and other electronic reading devices. Visit [rockwallcountytexas.com/library](http://rockwallcountytexas.com/library) and select Databases & Downloads from the menu for more information.

### Defensive driving classes for seniors offered

AARP 55 Alive Defensive Driving will be offered at The Center from noon to 4 p.m. on Jan. 6, Feb. 17 and April 27. Participants can learn more about driving defensively and may be eligible to receive an insurance discount upon completion of the course. Fees vary. For more details visit [rockwall.com/parks](http://rockwall.com/parks).

### Republican Women to meet Jan. 9

The Rockwall County Republican Women will conduct their first meeting of the new year beginning at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 9 at the historical courthouse, 101 E. Rusk St., in downtown Rockwall. The event will open with a meet-and-greet. For more details on the organization or to join, visit [rcrw.org](http://rcrw.org).

### Registration under way for library classes

Registration is under way for the Rockwall County Library's GED, ESL and Citizenship classes, which will resume the week of Jan. 9. Classes are offered free of charge; book fee (required) is \$20. Morning classes will run from 10 a.m. to noon Mondays/Wednesdays or Tuesdays/Thursdays; conversation classes will be offered on Fridays. Evening classes run Tuesdays/Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., GED classes, and 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., ESL and Citizenship. Pre-registration is required. For more details visit the library's literacy classroom area or call 972-204-7705.

### Youth oil painting class set

An oil painting class for youths ages 5-13 will be offered from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Jan. 11 at the Harry Myers Community Center through the Rockwall Parks & Rec Department. Cost is \$15 for Rockwall residents, \$25 for non-residents, plus a \$12 supply fee (which covers paints, palette, canvases, brushes, painting medium and a detailed lesson plan). Additional classes are set for Feb. 13, March 5 and April 9. For more details visit [rockwall.com/parks](http://rockwall.com/parks).

### Relay For Life planning meeting slated

Relay For Life now is forming committees for the upcoming event set to begin at 7 p.m. April 28 at Cain Middle School. The executive board's

welcome and planning meeting, which will be open to anyone interested in joining the fight against cancer, will be at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 12 at the Rockwall Hilton. The kickoff meeting will run from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Jan. 26 at the Hilton and is open to those interested in registering teams. For more details visit [relayforlife.org/rockwalltx](http://relayforlife.org/rockwalltx).

### Chamber event slated Jan. 12

The annual Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet/Dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 12 at the Allure Restaurant in Chandler's Landing. For more details, contact the chamber of commerce.

### Library to close for MLK observance

The Rockwall County Library will be closed Jan. 16 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, according to a library news release.

### American Legion Post 117 to meet

The Rockwall Terry Fisher American Legion Post 117 will meet at 6 p.m. Jan. 19 for a brief dinner, followed by the quarterly meeting at 7 p.m., in the Civic Center Building next to the pool in Harry Myers Park, 815 E. Washington St. A special presentation will be made by Joe DeLane, Rockwall County emergency management coordinator, following the meeting. All members and non-member veterans of Rockwall County are urged to attend. For more details visit [legionpost117.org](http://legionpost117.org); those planning to attend the dinner should RSVP via email at [miltonwittig@sbcglobal.net](mailto:miltonwittig@sbcglobal.net).

### Ping Pong tourney set at The Center

A ping-pong tournament for individuals ages 55 and older will be offered at 10 a.m. Jan. 20, Feb. 10 and March 23 at The Center. All levels of play are encouraged, and prizes will be awarded to first place and runner-up winners. Fee to participate is \$5 or \$3 for Rockwall residents. For more details visit [rockwall.com/parks](http://rockwall.com/parks).

### Wine and dine for Rockwall PAWS

Rockwall PAWS will conduct its annual fundraiser Jan. 21 at Occasions at Stone River in Royse City. Tickets cost \$40 per person. The organization helps make affordable spays/neuters available and provides financial assistance when needed, as well as funds the treatment of heartworm-positive shelter dogs and assists with medical expenses for ill or injured animals. For more details on the fundraiser call Cathy at 214-532-4407 or visit [rockwallpaws.org](http://rockwallpaws.org).

### Cheer 101 classes scheduled

The Rockwall Parks & Rec Department will host a series of classes, Cheer 101, on Mondays Jan. 23-Feb. 27 at The Center. Open to youngsters ages 4-6, each class will begin at 6:15 p.m. and will teach cheers, chants and jumps while improving self confidence, listening skills and teamwork. For more information call 972-771-7740.

### Cheer Level 2 class offered

A cheerleading class for youths ages 7-10 will be offered from 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. on Mondays Jan. 23-Feb. 27 at The Center. The class will include instruction in cheers, chants and jumps, as well as work on self-confidence, coordination, strength and teamwork. Cost is \$49 for Rockwall residents and \$75 for non-residents. For more details on this Rockwall Parks & Rec sponsored event visit [rockwall.com/parks](http://rockwall.com/parks).

### Bridge tournament scheduled

A bridge tournament for individuals ages 55 and older will begin at 10 a.m. Feb. 17 at The Center. The tournament will feature Chicago-style scoring. Drinks and snacks will be provided. Participants must have a partner to play. Prizes will be awarded to the first place and runner-up winners. For more details visit [rockwall.com/parks](http://rockwall.com/parks).

### Rock through Spring Break

The Rockwall Parks & Rec Department will once again offer its Rock through Spring Break event for local youths ages 6-12. Explorers will venture to several nature-based destinations such as a state park, zoo, aquarium and more. Space is limited. Participants will be asked to bring a sack lunch, snack and water each day. Activities will run from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. March 12-16 at the Harry Myers Community Center. Cost is \$113 or \$75 for Rockwall residents. Visit [rockwall.com/parks](http://rockwall.com/parks) for more details.

### Easter Egg Hunt set March 31 in R'wall

The Rockwall Parks & Rec Department's 10th annual Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 10 a.m. March 31 at the Leon Tuttle Athletic Complex. Field 1 will be for children up to the age of 2; Field 2 for children ages 5-6; Field 3 for children ages 3-4; and Field 4 for children ages 7-12. The event will be free to the public and will feature prize eggs, a bounce house, games and other activities.

### Founders Day Festival set May 19

Rockwall's annual Founders Day Festival will begin at 10 a.m. May 19 on the downtown square. The daylong event will feature live entertainment, food and other family-friendly activities. Admission will be free. For more information visit [rockwallfoundersday.com](http://rockwallfoundersday.com).

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# Rockwall County Sports Notes

## RBA spring registration slated

Spring registration for the Rockwall Baseball Association will run through Feb. 1. The spring baseball season begins the week of March 5. To register, visit [rockwallbaseballassociation.com](http://rockwallbaseballassociation.com) or call 972-772-6324 for more details.

## Adult softball registration set

The TAAF/USSSA slow-pitch adult softball league will feature divisions based by level of ability. Divisions will include co-ed recreational on Mondays and men's D on Wednesdays. The season will include eight games, with the top four teams will have a final night of playoffs to determine division winners. This season also will feature a pick-up team category for individual registrations. Games will be played at the Leon Tuttle Athletic Complex. Registration deadline is Feb. 21; play begins the week of Feb. 27. Team fee is \$349; individual pick-up team fee is \$35 per person. For more details visit [rockwall.com/parks](http://rockwall.com/parks).

## RGSA registration under way

Spring registration for the Rockwall Girls Softball Association is now under way and will run through Feb. 26. The spring season will run March 26-May 31. To register, visit [rockwallgirlssoftball.com](http://rockwallgirlssoftball.com) or call 972-841-2939 for more details.

## Angel League season set

The spring 2012 Angel League season will begin March 21, with games set for 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday for nine weeks. Registration and additional information can be found at [angelleague.org](http://angelleague.org) or by calling 972-722-6001.

## Little Kickers Soccer scheduled

Little Kickers soccer for children ages 3.5 to 6 years of age will run from 6:15 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Mondays April 16-May 21 at the Harry Myers Park Ball Fields. Participants will learn soccer skills in a fun interactive team environment. Registration fee is \$45 or \$29 for Rockwall residents. For more details visit [rockwall.com/parks](http://rockwall.com/parks).

## Little Sluggers T-ball season set

The Little Sluggers T-ball season will run from 6:15 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays April 17-May 22 at the Harry Myers Park Ball Fields. Participants ages 3.5 to 6 years of age will be split into team where they will learn the fundamental skills of throwing, fielding, hitting and base running. Registration is \$45 or \$29 for Rockwall residents. For more details visit [rockwall.com/parks](http://rockwall.com/parks).

## Little Dribblers season planned

Youngsters ages 3.5 to 6 can learn to dribble, pass and shoot through the Little Dribblers upcoming season. Activities and games will take place from 6:15 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursdays April 19-May 24 at The Park at Hickory Ridge. Cost is \$45 or \$29 for Rockwall residents. For more details visit [rockwall.com/parks](http://rockwall.com/parks).

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## Rockwall County Letters to the Editor

We encourage the submission of Letters to the Editor. The publishing of letters is at the sole discretion of the editor and may be edited for brevity, grammar and accuracy. Letters which are considered libelous or an attack of an individual's character will be rejected. Letters must be signed and include telephone number or address for verification.

Email [rcn.news@yahoo.com](mailto:rcn.news@yahoo.com)  
Mail to P.O. Box 819, Rockwall, Texas 75087

### FDR's dirty little secret

The headline of the recent editorial piece, FDR'S Noble Lie, was an eye-catching contradiction. It was necessary to research the article in anticipation of learning how a deliberate untruth could be characterized as relating to high moral principles based on high ideals.

It didn't take much searching of the treatise to find who it was that excused the treachery of FDR and excused his lie to the American people "to never send their boys to fight in foreign wars."

Very early in the article Tim Kelly said, "Most historians when pressed on the matter ... that Roosevelt lied ... excuse his treachery as a 'noble lie.'"

So there we have it. FDR's "noble lie" was a deception perpetrated against the public by the political elite to achieve a supposed greater good.

Jacqueline Strickland, Rockwall

## Frustrated with Immigrants? Just Wait until They Leave

by Fergus Hodgson

The enforcement of laws against illegal immigrants remains a bone of contention between states and the federal government (and on the GOP presidential campaign trail), and the U.S. Supreme Court has now agreed to weigh in on the issue. There is, however, an irony to this battle that appears to be lost on deportation proponents: many people are already leaving voluntarily or choosing not to come.

That's right, for the first time in sixty years, net illegal migration from Mexico has gone to zero; it may even have tipped into the negatives. Approximately six out of ten illegal immigrants in the United States originate from Mexico, but in just the past three years apprehensions along the southern border have fallen by 53 percent. In fact, the Pew Hispanic Center puts the current number of illegal immigrants at 11.2 million, down from a peak of 12 million in 2007.

A further testament to the reversal is that the demographics of illegal residents are changing. Just 15 percent of today's illegal residents arrived within the last 5 years, for example; it was 32 percent in 2000.

And it's not only illegal immigrants eyeing distant lands. The Census Bureau's net international-migration measure has been trending downward since 2000 (PDF, p. 17). Even if the accuracy of that data may be questionable, anecdotes abound of immigrant communities packing up shop and heading home. The Atlantic magazine went so far as to call this trend "The End of Chinatown."

As fewer immigrants come, legal or otherwise, and more return home, two grains of truth become apparent for those willing to observe. First, immigration is not the cause of America's problems, so its reversal will do nothing to restore economic prosperity or individual liberty. Second, America is no longer the shining city on a hill that many people revere. It is becoming less free and prosperous at an alarming rate, and the changing immigration flows reflect that.

### Fears about immigrants

One leading fear regarding immigrants is that they tend to replace domestic workers. This, of course, assumes individuals born in a certain location or holding certain government-granted privileges are more valuable than other individuals. However, if we put aside the nativism, a recent incident in Asheville, North Carolina, shows that this fear is unfounded.

To comply with the E-Verify program and avoid legal charges, a wholesaler of flowers fired more than 60 illegal immigrants in 2009. Two years later, despite 8 percent unemployment in the county and higher than 10 percent unemployment in the state, the owner has been unable to find replacements. "Those who want to work fail to pass E-Verify, and those that pass fail to work," he explained.

The work ethic of these immigrants, and their willingness to accept menial labor rather than pursue welfare (PDF, p. 5), puts many native-born Americans to shame.

Okay, but perhaps their departure will require employers to pay better wages to attract locals. That does make some economic sense, but as the warehouse owner points out, "Without comprehensive immigration reform, [verification requirements are] going to kill agriculture." In other words, some ventures are simply not viable at a higher cost of labor.

And, as Bryan Caplan of George Mason University has noted, "Immigration has little or no effect on overall wages. Educated Americans are primarily customers, not competitors, of new arrivals." So pushing foreigners out in the hopes of increasing the employment of native-born Americans is a fool's errand.

What about crime then - shouldn't that be subsiding as the number of immigrants decreases? Perhaps this will be surprising to some, but evidence suggests that immigrants commit fewer crimes than native-born Americans. Even the Center for Immigration Studies, which actively seeks to reduce immigration into the United States, admitted that they "found no strong evidence one way or the other for the notion that immigrants commit either more or less crime than the American population."

### Why is immigration falling?

The sad part of this story is that people are leaving (or not coming in the first place) because the American dream is on the way out. Migration follows economic freedom, and the United States is no longer the freest nation on earth - far from it. In fact, according to the Fraser Institute ranking, the United States has less economic freedom than Canada and the United Kingdom; and it fell four places, from the sixth to the tenth position, in the latest ranking (based on 2009 data; PDF).

"Much of this decline is a result of higher spending and borrowing on the part of the U.S. government, and lower scores for legal structure and property rights," the release notes. Of course the many trillions of official debts and unfunded liabilities are hardly enticing to would-be immigrants or Americans. Who would want to be stuck with that tab?

Fergus Hodgson is Director of Fiscal Policy Studies with the John Locke Foundation and a policy advisor with The Future of Freedom Foundation.

**We must demand a return to the constitutional limited government we inherited from our ancestors**

# Opinions

## Snapshot of county at year's end

by Jerry Hogan

I think I can say without much opposition that people are generally fed up on how our government operates and how our politicians are mired in self-serving ways of inattention to the needs of our country.

Witness the continuing trend of "appointing a special committee" to solve the major problems facing our country that continue to be debated and then locked into "no decision" results. What a waste of time, talent, money and effort to fulfill the desires and needs of the voters.

That's at the national level of our country. Let me talk about a part of our government that doesn't operate like that and does have positive results; our Rockwall County government.

First, citizen involvement. This last year, more than 120 volunteers joined together to develop the first stages of a five-year strategic plan for the county. The guidance given to them was simple: Develop a Strategic Plan that lays out specific objectives of what you, the citizen, want our county to look like in five years.

Pretty simple instructions, you might say, but just the simple logistics of getting that many people focused on a cohesive plan was challenging. And it was accomplished; organized, directed, published and briefed to the Commissioners Court by volunteers, where it was then accepted as the start of the Rockwall County Strategic Plan going forward.

Because of the census every 10 years, the county must go through redistricting of our political boundaries just like the state does. Again a person volunteer Citizens Redistricting Committee was formed to assist and advise the Commissioners Court on new precinct divisions in the county. The realignment was reached with little disagreement and the recommended divisions of the county were forwarded to the Department of Justice for approval.

We dedicated our Rockwall County Veterans Memorial on Nov. 11. More than 1,000 citizens attended this one-hour event that included airplanes, marching bands, choir, speeches, presentations, honoring of veterans and memorial itself. All of this was organized and conducted by a volunteer citizens committee from our county.

Second, visibility into government. The policy-making organization within the county and the group directly responsible for the finances of the county is the Commissioners Court. This court meets every week on Tuesdays at the historic courthouse at 9 a.m. But that's the time when many of our citizens are working and don't have the opportunity to actually observe and hear what is being discussed and what decisions are being made.

Several things have been done to improve on this. Now all of the Commissioner Court meetings are audio-streamed, so any citizen, simply going to the county website, [rockwallcountytexas.com](http://rockwallcountytexas.com), can key on the audio and be immediately connected to the audio from the meeting. Also, the court now has night court meetings at least once each quarter so again the citizens have the opportunity to actually sit in the meetings and observe all the activities. The county judge also holds town hall meetings at least once each quarter so citizens have the opportunity to address any issue of their choosing directly with a member of the Commissioners Court.

At least once each month a column addressing county activities is written for the county judge and published in the local newspapers. These are not just pitches; they detail what is happening in county government: the good, the bad and the ugly.

Third, and very important, is finances. No one wants taxes raised, and no one wants their entitlements reduced or taken away. And that's the major problem facing all governments today. The county is no different, but intense focus has resulted in good results.

The county budget this year (fiscal year 2012) is a balanced budget with tax increases. It was not easy to accomplish. For the first time, the county had a RIF (involuntary reduction in workforce); leases on buildings were terminated; several buildings owned by the county were vacated and put

up for sale; capital expenditures for vehicles, office equipment, etc., were significantly reduced; a small COLA of 1.5 percent was allowed for non-elected officials, but no other raises for employees; most departments took a 5 percent reduction in their operating expenses; and several additions needed within the county structure were not added. That was on the operating side of the budget.

On the capital side, we pulled about \$5 million from our reserve fund to complete our obligation for the new courthouse. This payment was authorized back in December of 2009 and completes the \$7.2 million that was added to the \$30 million tax note action to fully fund the completion of the new courthouse. The courthouse was completed on time and in the budget approved in 2009 of \$37.2 million. Our unaudited reserve fund now has a balance of about \$14.5 million. Our stated financial policy on this fund, and the one communicated to all bond agencies, is to have four to six months of operating cash in the reserve fund. We currently have significantly more in the fund than required by our rating agency policy.

As you have probably observed, we are also moving forward on building the roads our citizens approved in the 2004 and the 2008 bond elections. The John King overpass and FM 740 north in Heath are both in the middle of construction. Approval has been obtained from the state, and they are obligating the money to go along with county money, for the construction of the Erby-Campbell overpass in Royse City, the FM 551 overpass in Fate, the FM 3549 overpass between Fate and Rockwall and the FM 740 South road completion in Heath. These road construction projects, while annoying when you have to wait for traffic while they are working on the roads, are the key to the continued expansion of our county and they have the highest priority of the Commissioners Court.

Finally, attitude of the court. As mandated by the Texas Constitution, each county in Texas has a commissioner court made up of four commissioners and one county judge. This group is the policy-making organization for each county and the developer of the annual budget. The group is very limited by state statute in terms of what they can do. (My personal frustration with the county system of government as dictated by the state is that it is inefficient, no one is in charge measured and held accountable, and everyone is always telling you what you can't do rather than how to make something work.)

Some courts are effective; others are dysfunctional and accomplish little other than making the newspapers in a non-flattering way. Our court in Rockwall County has several advantages over many: All the members are conservative, all are from the same political party, and all have the best interests of the county. That is not to say the court is always in agreement; in fact quite often members of the court are at opposite ends of an issue when it is first raised. Civil debate and discussion, however, focuses the issue and acceptable solutions are most often reached. It takes three votes on the court for an issue to be passed; it takes five votes for something to really be implemented well.

Do the citizens always agree with the decisions of the court? Absolutely not. Do a majority agree? In most cases, yes. Has the court made errors? Yes. Has the court made major errors this last year? No. This court is an effective court; it is working to become an excellent court.

Your help is needed as we go forward. Our county government is not mired in the mess of endless political battles that reach no conclusion, does nothing for our citizens, or continues to drive us deeper and deeper into debt without addressing and fixing the problems facing its citizens. Tell us what you want; get involved; become a volunteer; let us know your expertise and where you would like to volunteer; talk to your elected officials and grade them on how well they meet the citizen's needs; and finally, don't give up on us or America. Concerned and involved citizens can help lead the way going forward.

Jerry Hogan is the Rockwall county judge. He can be reached at [jerryhogan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jerryhogan@sbcglobal.net) or 214-394-4033.

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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<p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <p>1 seat of Oldham Co.</p> <p>5 head of JFK commission, Warren</p> <p>6 TXism: "safe as a squirrel" up a _____</p> <p>7 wood chopper</p> <p>8 TX flag since 1865</p> <p>9 "Leap of Faith" was _____ in TX</p> <p>15 TXism: "when you're up to your neck in manure, don't _____ your mouth"</p> <p>16 description of TX Walter Prescott Webb</p> <p>19 TXism: "a frisky _____" (enthusiastic)</p> <p>21 dance bent backwards under a pole</p> <p>22 first black person to travel to TX</p> <p>27 TXism: "still wet behind the _____"</p> <p>28 early TX cattle drives went to this state</p> <p>29 San Antonio street: Lon _____</p> <p>30 those engaged in a wild disturbance</p> <p>32 Biblical division (abbr.)</p> <p>33 famous TX soccer player</p> <p>36 TXism: "from _____ to riches"</p> <p>37 "also known as" (abbr.)</p> <p>38 In Starr Co., La _____ TX</p> <p>39 TXism: "no hill for _____"</p>	<p>41 female doc.: OB/ _____</p> <p>42 attribute to</p> <p>45 flies high</p> <p>46 TX-born pro wrestler Sue (init.)</p> <p>47 Tyler is in _____ TX</p> <p>48 TX B&amp;Bs</p> <p>49 SMU grad TV producer Aaron _____</p> <p>52 how to pronounce but not spell ex-Cowboy Sanders</p> <p>53 north Atlantic fish</p>	<p><b>DOWN</b></p> <p>1 horse doc</p> <p>2 TXism: "within _____ shot"</p> <p>3 TXism: "fast as _____ lightning"</p> <p>4 Dallas was named for this commodore</p> <p>8 TXism: "my stomach is balled _____ a knot"</p> <p>9 TXism: "_____ of the box"</p> <p>10 series for TX Betty Buckley: "Eight _____ Enough"</p> <p>11 _____ Gov. Dewhurst</p> <p>12 TXism: "slow as _____ January"</p> <p>13 a pen name for TX romancer Sandra Brown</p> <p>14 lowers the light</p> <p>15 Rembrandt work in Fort Worth's Kimball Art Museum: "Portrait _____ Jew"</p> <p>16 anyone who died at the Alamo</p> <p>17 TXism: "popular as _____ daughter"</p> <p>18 cloudy night (2 wds.)</p> <p>20 critter's den</p> <p>22 TX fiddler Robertson</p> <p>28 LPTV station in Rio Grande City</p> <p>31 reduce stress</p> <p>34 TX singer Trini (init.)</p> <p>35 UT grad Wallach</p> <p>37 TXism: "flat as _____ handle prairie"</p> <p>40 ping-_____</p> <p>43 baby food</p> <p>44 previously owned vehicle (2 wds.)</p> <p>50 house in a state park</p> <p>51 TXism: "as much chance as a steer _____ a packing plant"</p>
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# Rockwall County Sports

## Rockwall-Heath Lady Hawks overcome by Lady Jackets

Rockwall-Heath's break from playing girls' basketball may have seemed longer than the Lady Hawks expected. They didn't play in a holiday tournament this year, so when they took the court at RHHS Tuesday night against Rockwall, it was their first game since Dec. 20.

The first quarter came and went without a point from RHHS. The Lady Jackets, coming off two consecutive losses in the Bryan-College Station tournament less than a week earlier, took a 17-0 lead on the way to a 65-19 victory.

Rylee Maldonado and Deandra Maxwell were the high scorers for Rockwall-Heath (5-12 overall, 0-4 in District 4A) with six points each. Five Rockwall players exceeded that amount: Paige Turner with 15, Kayla Smith and Sara Williamson with 11 apiece and Morghen Day and Alyssa Lang, each scoring 10.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Rockwall-Heath	0	5	7	7	19
Rockwall	17	16	14	18	65

RHHS (5-12, 0-4) – Rylee Maldonado 6, Deandra Maxwell 6, Alexis Fisher 2, Jordan Mitchell 2, Brianna Richardson 2, Brooke Garner 1.

Rockwall (19-6, 3-1) – Paige Turner 15, Kayla Smith 11, Sara Williamson 11, Morghen Day 10, Alyssa Lang 10, Megan Grandy 4, Julia Sealock 3, Ellen Baker 1.

### Hawks go 1-2 in Lubbock tournament

Rockwall-Heath shook off two losses to come back for a 61-50 victory and a 1-2 record in the 53rd annual FiberMax Crook Classic boys' basketball tournament last week.

Lubbock Trinity Christian, which began the tournament 18-0 and finished it 23-0, raced to a 25-8 first-quarter lead. The home team went on to win the first-round game 89-42 Wednesday.

The Hawks (7-11) took a narrow 65-57 defeat against El Paso Austin Thursday at Lubbock High School. After trailing 25-12 in the first quarter, Rockwall-Heath came back within four points (36-32) at halftime, but couldn't quite catch up in the second half.

That left just a Friday afternoon game against El Paso, and RHHS won at Estacado High. A 22-7 first-quarter lead was just about all the Hawks needed.

For Trinity Christian, ranked third in the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches' poll of large private schools, Parker Wentz scored all of his game-high 21 points in the first half. Trinity took a 49-19 halftime lead at the Monterey High School Old Box gym. Jordan Points led the Hawks with 11 points.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RHHS	8	11	10	10	42
Trinity Christian	25	24	22	18	89

RHHS (6-10) – Jordan Points 11, Christian Nwabuko 8, Cameron Martin 8, Matt Greene 7, Jared Webber 6, Luke Ramirez 2.

Lubbock Trinity Christian (19-0) – Parker Wentz 21, Miller 16, Stephenson 13, Durham 10, Leonard 8, Wheeler 6, Popovic 4, Ammons 4, Wilson 3, Gregory 2, T. Wentz 2.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RHHS	12	20	10	15	57
El Paso Austin	25	11	13	16	65

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RHHS	22	17	13	13	65
El Paso	7	11	19	15	52

### Fulton 4th in Consolation Bracket

The Fulton School finished right in the middle of the pack in the Fort Worth Lake Country Classic boys' basketball tournament Small School Division.

The Falcons (5-8) placed fourth in the Consolation Bracket of the 24-team event. With eight schools from the championship Bracket also ahead of them, that meant they were 12th of 24 overall.

Considering that Fulton was one of the smallest schools in the tournament, that was a pretty good finish.

The Falcons opened the tournament Wednesday, Dec. 28, by defeated Fort Worth Bethesda Christian 46-41 on its own court. They were outclassed in their other game in Wednesday's pool play, losing to Beaumont Legacy Christian 36-36.

That put Fulton in second place in the pool, and in the Consolation Bracket. The Falcons defeated Dallas Lutheran 54-44, then lost similar games to Dallas Gateway Charter (52-43) and Regents School of Austin 53-51. Regents also won by two points over Rockwall Christian Academy in pool play.

Fulton held off a second-half rally by Dallas Lutheran, which had cut a seven-point halftime deficit to two at 46-44 entering the fourth quarter. The teams played on even terms over the final 8 minutes. Brenden Williams finished with 10 points for the Falcons.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Beaumont Legacy Christian	12	16	27	19	74
Fulton	6	9	8	13	36

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Fulton	10	18	18	10	56
Dallas Lutheran	8	13	23	10	54

Fulton (5-6) – Brenden Williams 10, Terrence Kennell 9, Tim Borgen 8, Jaston Reese 8, Tanner Treadway 2.

Dallas Lutheran (5-10) – Connor Shannon 15, Gottlieb 12, Johnson 11, Rials 7, Hallford 3, Jonathan Klein 3, Sean Linkaid 2, Seth Jackson 1.



Rockwall-Heath Lady Hawks' Jillian Granstaff (23) lunges for a shot under the basket against stretched arms of Lady Jackets' Alyssa Lang (32) during Tuesday's game in Rockwall. Photo by Roy Heath (royheath.exposuremanager.com)/Rockwall County News

## Rockwall County Sports Schedules

### The Fulton School Falcons

Friday, Jan. 6 – Varsity boys' basketball: home vs. Granbury Apple Hill Farm Academy, Forney Sports Center, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 9 – JV boys' basketball: home vs. Fort Worth Lake Country Christian, Forney Sports Center, 6 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 12 – Varsity boys' basketball: at Denton Selwyn School, 6 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 13 – Varsity boys' basketball: home vs. Waxahachie rep, Forney Sports Center, 7:30 p.m.

### Heritage Christian Academy Eagles

Friday, Jan. 6 – Varsity girls' basketball: at Dallas Tyler Street Christian Academy in Tyler Street Christian Academy Tournament, 2 p.m.

Middle school basketball: home vs. DeSoto Canterbury Episcopal School, RISE, girls 5 p.m. and boys 6 p.m.

Varsity boys' basketball: at Tyler Street Christian Academy tournament

Saturday, Jan. 7 – Varsity girls' basketball: vs. Lucas Christian at Tyler Street Christian Academy tournament, 2 p.m.

Varsity boys' basketball: at Tyler Street Christian Academy tournament

Monday, Jan. 9 – Middle school basketball: home vs. Greenville Christian, RISE, girls 5 p.m. and boys 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 10 – Basketball: at Greenville Christian, JV boys 5 p.m., varsity girls 6 p.m. and varsity boys 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 13 – Basketball: home vs. Greenville Phoenix Charter, JV boys 4:30 p.m., varsity girls 6 p.m. and varsity boys 7:30 p.m.

### Rockwall Christian Academy Warriors

Friday, Jan. 6 – Basketball: home vs. Dallas Home School Athletic Association South, JV boys 4:30 p.m., varsity girls 6 p.m. and varsity boys 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 9 – Junior high basketball: home vs. Sherman Texoma Christian, girls 6 p.m., boys 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 10 – Basketball: home vs. Dallas Thunder, JV boys 4:30 p.m., varsity girls 6 p.m. and varsity boys 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 12 – Basketball: at Longview Christian Heritage, JV boys 4:30 p.m., varsity girls 6 p.m. and varsity boys, 7:30 p.m.

Junior high basketball: home vs. Inspired Vision, girls 5 p.m. and boys 6 p.m.

### Rockwall High School Yellowjackets

Friday, Jan. 6 – Varsity wrestling: at Grapevine Duals, 3 p.m.

Freshman A girls' basketball: home vs. Wylie East, Utley Middle School, 5:30 p.m.

Boys' soccer: scrimmage at Denton, JV 5:30 p.m. and varsity 7:15 p.m.

Freshman B girls' basketball: home vs. Leonard, Utley Middle School, 7 p.m.

Girls' basketball: home vs. Wylie East, JV 6 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.

Boys' basketball: at Wylie East, Freshman A 5:30 p.m., JV Orange 6 p.m., Freshman B 7 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 7 – Varsity wrestling: at Grapevine Duals, 9 a.m.

Varsity girls' soccer: home scrimmage vs. Waxahachie and Longview Pine Tree

Monday, Jan. 9 – Boys' soccer: home scrimmage vs. Forney, JV 5:30 p.m. and varsity 7:15 p.m.

JV White boys' basketball: home vs. Lovejoy, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 10 – Girls' soccer: scrimmage vs. Plano West, Kimbrough Stadium, JV 5:15 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.

Freshman boys' basketball: home vs. McKinney North, Utley Middle School, A 5:30 p.m. and B 7 p.m.

Girls' basketball: at McKinney North, Freshman A 5:30 p.m., JV 6 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.

Boys' basketball: home vs. McKinney North, JV Orange 6 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 12 – JV Tennis: at Ennis JV Tournament, 8 a.m.

JV girls' soccer: vs. Fort Worth Christian School at North Richland Hills JV Tournament, noon

Wrestling: home vs. Plano East

and Saginaw, 5 p.m.

Varsity girls' soccer: vs. Richland at North Richland Hills Tournament, 5:15 p.m.

Varsity boys' soccer: vs. Paris at DP Cup, Denison, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 13 – Freshman A girls' basketball: home vs. Richardson Pearce, Utley Middle School, 5:30 p.m.

Boys' basketball: at Richardson Pearce, Freshman A 5:30 p.m., JV Orange 6 p.m., Freshman B 7 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.

Girls' basketball: home vs. Richardson Pearce, Rockwall High School, JV 6 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.

JV girls' soccer: vs. Arlington Sam Houston at North Richland Hills JV Tournament, 1:45 p.m.

Varsity boys' soccer: vs. Plano West at DP Cup, Denison, 5:30 p.m.

Varsity girls' soccer: vs. North Crowley at North Richland Hills Tournament, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 14 – Varsity wrestling: at Cougar Classic, The Colony, 9 a.m.

JV wrestling: at Azle JV Invitational, 9 a.m.

Varsity boys' soccer: vs. Gainesville at DP Cup, Denison, 11:30 a.m.

JV girls' soccer vs. Hurst L.D. Bell at North Richland Hills JV Tournament, 11:30 a.m.

JV White boys' basketball: at Dallas Jesuit Preparatory High School, 1 p.m.

Varsity girls' soccer: vs. Arlington Sam Houston at North Richland Hills Tournament, 1:15 p.m.

### Rockwall-Heath High School Hawks

Friday, Jan. 6 – Varsity wrestling: at Cy-Fair ISD Invitational, Barry Center, 3 p.m.

Freshman boys' basketball: home vs. Wylie, Cain Middle School, A 5:30 p.m. and B 7 p.m.

Girls' soccer: home scrimmage vs. Garland Naaman Forest, JV 5:30 p.m. and varsity 7:15 p.m.

Boys' basketball: home vs. Wylie, JV 6 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.

Girls' basketball: at Wylie, JV Red and Freshman Red 6 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.

at Cy-Fair ISD Invitational, Barry Center, 9 a.m.

Boys' soccer: home scrimmage vs. Carrollton Newman Smith, JV 10:30 a.m. and varsity noon

Tuesday, Jan. 10 – Wrestling: at Dallas Jesuit Preparatory, 5 p.m.

Freshman Red girls' basketball: home vs. Highland Park, Cain Middle School, 5:30 p.m.

Boys' basketball: at Highland Park, Freshman A 5:30 p.m., JV 6 p.m., Freshman B 7 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.

Girls' soccer: scrimmage vs. Mesquite at Hanby Stadium, JV 5:30 p.m. and varsity 7:15 p.m.

Boys' soccer: home scrimmage vs. Sachse, JV 5:30 p.m. and varsity 7 p.m.

Girls' basketball: home vs. Highland Park, JV Red 6 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.

Freshman Black girls' basketball: home vs. Blue Angels, Cain Middle School, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 12 – Varsity boys' soccer: at 8th annual Forney Jackrabbit Kickoff Tournament, North Forney High School, vs. Sulphur Springs 1 p.m. and vs. Mesquite Horn 7 p.m.

Varsity gymnastics: home vs. Highland Park, Compulsory, 6:30 p.m.

Varsity girls' soccer: at Emily Hunter Varsity Tournament, Arlington

JV girls' soccer: at Mesquite JV Tournament

Friday, Jan. 13 – Wrestling: at Dual State Championships, Austin, 10 a.m.

Boys' basketball: home vs. Wylie East, Rockwall-Heath High School, Freshman A 5:30 p.m., JV 6 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.

Girls' basketball: at Wylie East, Freshman Red 5:30 p.m., JV Red 6 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.

Varsity boys' soccer: at 8th annual Forney Jackrabbit Kickoff Tournament, Forney High School, vs. Longview 3 p.m. and vs. Lindale 7 p.m.

Varsity girls' soccer: at Emily Hunter Varsity Tournament, Arlington

JV girls' soccer: at Mesquite JV Tournament

Saturday, Jan. 14 – Wrestling: at Dual State Championships, Austin, 10 a.m.

JV wrestling: at Sommerstein Classic, Dallas Bishop Dunne, 10 a.m.

Varsity boys' soccer: at 8th annual Forney Jackrabbit Kickoff Tournament, Forney High School

Varsity girls' soccer: at Emily Hunter Varsity Tournament, Arlington

JV girls' soccer: at Mesquite JV Tournament

### Royse City Bulldogs

Friday, Jan. 6 – Girls' basketball: home vs. Denison, freshman 5 p.m., JV 6:15 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.

Boys' basketball: at Denison, freshman 5 p.m., JV 6:15 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.

Boys' soccer: scrimmage at Princeton, JV 5 p.m. and varsity 6:30 p.m.

Varsity girls' soccer: home scrimmage vs. Rowlett, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 10 – Boys' basketball: home vs. Sherman, freshman 5 p.m., JV 6:15 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.

Girls' basketball: at Sherman, freshman 5 p.m., JV 6:15 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.

Girls' soccer: home scrimmage vs. Kaufman, JV 5:30 p.m. and varsity 7 p.m.

Boys' soccer: scrimmage at Commerce, JV 5:30 p.m. and varsity 7 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 12 – Boys' soccer: at 8th annual Forney Jackrabbit Kickoff Tournament, North Forney High School, vs. Longview 11 a.m. and vs. Sulphur Springs 5 p.m.

Girls' soccer: at Mount Pleasant Tournament

Friday, Jan. 13 – Boys' soccer: at 8th annual Forney Jackrabbit Kickoff Tournament, Forney High School, vs. Mesquite Horn 9 a.m. and vs. Lindale 1 p.m.

Girls' basketball: home vs. Greenville, freshman 5 p.m., JV 6:15 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.

Boys' basketball: at Greenville, freshman 5 p.m., JV 6:15 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.

Girls' soccer: at Mount Pleasant Tournament

Saturday, Jan. 14 – Boys' soccer: at 8th annual Forney Jackrabbit

Kickoff Tournament, Forney High School

Girls' soccer: at Mount Pleasant Tournament

### Cain Middle School Mustangs

Monday, Jan. 9 – 7th grade girls' basketball: home vs. Allen Curtis, C 5:30 p.m., B 6:30 p.m. and A 7:30 p.m.

7th grade boys' basketball: at Allen Curtis, C 5:30 p.m., B 6:30 p.m. and A 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 12 – 8th grade boys' basketball: home vs. Allen Curtis, C 5:30 p.m., B 6:30 p.m. and A 7:30 p.m.

8th grade girls' basketball: at Allen Curtis, C 5:30 p.m., B 6:30 p.m. and A 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 13 – 7th grade boys' C basketball: at C Team Tournament, Allen Ereckson, 4 p.m.

7th grade girls' C basketball: at C Team Tournament, Lovejoy Sloan Creek, 4 p.m.

8th grade boys' C basketball: at C Team Tournament, Wylie Burnett, 4 p.m.

8th grade girls' C basketball: at C Team Tournament, Williams, 4 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 14 – 7th grade boys' C basketball: at C Team Tournament, Allen Ereckson, 8 a.m.

7th grade girls' C basketball: at C Team Tournament, Lovejoy Sloan Creek, 8 a.m.

8th grade boys' C basketball: at C Team Tournament, Wylie Burnett, 8 a.m.

8th grade girls' C basketball: at C Team Tournament, Williams, 8 a.m.

Monday, Jan. 9 – 7th grade boys' basketball: home vs. Allen Ford, C 5:30 p.m., B 6:30 p.m. and A 7:30 p.m.

7th grade girls' basketball: at Allen Ford, C 5:30 p.m., B 6:30 p.m. and A 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 12 – 8th grade girls' basketball: home vs. Allen Ford, C 5:30 p.m., B 6:30 p.m. and A 7:30 p.m.

8th grade boys' basketball: at Allen Ford, C 5:30 p.m., B 6:30 p.m. and A 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 13 – 7th grade boys' C basketball: at C Team Tournament, Allen Ereckson, 4 p.m.

(Continued on Page 10)

# Rockwall County Sports

## Lady Jackets suffer 2 last-minute losses in Invitational Tourney



Lady Jackets' Sara Williamson (11) rushes under the basket for a shot against Lady Hawks' Rylee Maldonado (11) during Tuesday's game at Rockwall. The Ladies defeated Rockwall-Heath 66-19.

Photo by Roy Heath (royheath.exposuremanager.com)/Rockwall County News

Rockwall's defense held five opponents to an average of 37 points per game, but came away from last week's Bryan-College Station McDonald's Invitational Tournament with just three wins and a fourth-place trophy. That was because the top-seeded Lady Jackets (18-6) couldn't stop opponents late in the final two games: a 46-44 semifinal loss to host College Station A&M Consolidated Thursday and a 48-42 setback the next day against Victoria East.

Those results left RHS with consecutive losses for the first time in just over a year, when the Lady Jackets lost to McKinney and Eules Trinity Dec. 21 and 28 of 2010.

"We played really well against really good people. We didn't finish off those two games," Rockwall head coach Jill McDill said. "It doesn't matter for anything, but we might have to play one of these teams again."

The tournament field was packed with strong teams. All four semifinals are ranked in the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches state poll - A&M Consolidated (18-6) 24th in 5A, and Rockwall 10th, runner-up Bryan Rudder (22-4) 13th and Victoria East 14th at 24-2.

McDill said, "Now we're just trying to focus on doing the right things and playing the best we can play." The Lady Jackets returned to District 10-4A competition with a home game Tuesday against Rockwall-Heath.

RHS had rolled past its first two opponents at College Station, holding Conroe scoreless in the third quarter of a 58-22 victory and breaking away from a 27-24 third-quarter lead to defeat League City Clear Creek 58-37 Wednesday, Dec. 28. Alyssa Lang had game highs of 20 and 22 points in those two games, with Kayla Smith adding 19 against Clear Creek.

The defense continued Thursday. In the Lady Jackets' first game that day, they took a six-point first-quarter lead over Katy Seven Lakes - and won by six, 38-32. Each team scored just two fourth-quarter points, with Rockwall missing three consecutive one-and-one free throws.

Morghen Day stole the ball on the Lady Spartans' final possession to seal the victory. She and Lang scored 12 points each.

The semifinal game on Consolidated's home court was close throughout. RHS led until Day fouled out midway through the fourth quarter. With the score tied 44-44, the Lady Jackets were holding the ball for a last shot until they were called for an illegal-screen foul with 30 seconds to play.

Then the home team held the ball until calling a timeout with 3 seconds remaining. A&M Consolidated called a play for sophomore Blair Schaefer to penetrate into the lane. She put up a floater that went in just before the buzzer for the last of her 17 points. Lang had game-high totals of 27 points and 11 rebounds.

In Friday's third-place game, McDill said, "We were ahead the entire game. We were tired, no doubt about it."

That fatigue seemed to show in the second half. RHS led by 11 points, 27-16, at halftime, but the Lady Titans' Danielle Franklin was energized. She scored 16 of her 20 points after halftime as East came back to cut the lead to four with 4 minutes to play and win going away by making all six foul shots during the final minute. Franklin was 8-for-8 at the line in the fourth quarter.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RHS	13	16	15	14	58
Conroe	8	6	0	8	22
RHS (16-4) - Alyssa Lang 20, Morghen Day 9, Kayla Smith 8, Ellen Baker 7, Paige Turner 6, Megan Grandy 2, Kendyl Pirkey 2, Julia Sealock 2, Sara Williamson 2.					
Conroe - Magee 5, Shute 5, Boatrights 4, Buchanan 2, Davis 2, Dyer 2, Jordan 2.					
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RHS	10	10	16	22	58
Clear Creek	9	11	8	9	37
RHS (17-4) - Alyssa Lang 22, Kayla Smith 19, Paige Turner 6, Morghen Day 5, Sara Williamson 4, Ellen Baker 2, League City Clear Creek - Longley 11, Branch 9, Howez 6, Blanchard 4, Cook 3, Harris 2, Rainey 2.					
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RHS	10	14	12	2	38
Seven Lakes	4	13	13	2	32
RHS (18-4)					
Katy Seven Lakes (19-4)					
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RHS	10	9	16	9	44
A&M Consolidated	14	5	17	10	46
RHS (18-5) - Alyssa Lang 27, Sara Williamson 8, Morghen Day 4, Kayla Smith 3, Paige Turner 2.					
College Station A&M Consolidated (17-6) - Blair Schaefer 17, Tierra Tucker 13, Tori Tucker 8, Tiara Tucker 6, Rejhai Dickey 2.					

### 3 RHS varsity wrestlers win titles at Wylie East

Rockwall's Zach Peterson, Tim Irons and Rilee Fisher finished in first place in their weight class at the Wylie East Roundup wrestling tournament Friday, Dec. 30.

Seven other Yellowjackets placed in the event. Devon Rowe, Cade Goss, Ryan Gamino and Austin Hatten reached the final match, but lost to place second. Jacob Molengraf finished in the third place. Jonathan Molengraf and Jose Estrada were fourth.

In the junior varsity portion of the tournament, 15 wrestlers placed.

Justin Tazuin, Ty Thomas, Anthony Gudino, Ty Hammond and Dante Thomas won championships. In second place were Trent Alders, Josh Escamilla, Michael Bonfante, James Campbell and Armani Broussard. Samson George finished third. Taking fourth place were Drew Troxler, Andrew Smetana, Chris Humphreys and Matt Holland.

### Heritage Christian Academy busy after layoff

The last basketball games of 2011 for the Heritage Christian Academy varsity teams were played back on Dec. 10.

They have made up for lost time with four games this week, nearly doubling the number of games in the boys' rear-view mirror for 2011-12.

HCA was scheduled to play Tuesday - the girls against the Dallas Thunder, the boys at McKinney Christian Academy.

On Thursday, they began three

games in three days at the Dallas Tyler Street Christian Academy Tournament. Both the Eagles and Lady Eagles were scheduled to play against Irving Faustina.

The girls' last game in a four-team round robin is scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday against Lucas Christian. The top two finishers would receive trophies.

In the eight-team boys' tournament, trophies would go to the top three teams. The Eagles would finish with

a game sometime between 12:30 and 6:30 p.m. Saturday. The better they do, the later they would play.

The HCA boys played good defense in most games before the break, but their offense was held to totals between 34 and 45 points.

### Eagles' Terrell receives dual All-State honors

Heritage Christian Academy senior Quincy Terrell was named first-team All-District on both offense and defense, and received Honorable Mention both ways on the TAPPS 6-Man I All-State team as well.

Terrell made the TAPPS 6-Man District 2-I All-District team as a running back and defensive lineman. Joining him on the All-District first-team defense was teammate Caleb Cathey, a senior linebacker. Cathey also received All-District Honorable Mention at running back and All-State Honorable Mention as a linebacker.

They led HCA to a playoff berth and an overall record of 5-6. Sixmanfootball.com noted the difficulty of the Eagles' schedule by placing them sixth in its rankings of TAPPS 6-Man II teams despite the losing record.

Voted to the All-District team were junior Garrett Blankenship at quarterback and defensive back, junior Evan Pettit on the defensive line, junior Jake Edge at center and senior Stephen Salter on the offensive line. Edge also received Honorable Mention as a linebacker.

**Rockwall County News**

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### Jackets take 2 but lose to Plano

One bad half of basketball ruined the chances of the Rockwall boys' team for a perfect record last week. The Yellowjackets (13-5) won two of their three games in the Avery Air Invitational at Plano Senior High School and were within five points of the host school at halftime when those teams met.

RHS had jumped to an 11-7 lead after one quarter, but Plano came back to lead 22-17 at halftime of their quarterfinal game Wednesday, Dec. 28.

The home team outscored Rockwall 19-6 in the third quarter, and went on to win 58-38 despite Austin Grandstaff's 22 points for the Jackets.

Before that, RHS had opened the tournament with a 74-60 victory over Garland. The Jackets led 31-21 at halftime. Grandstaff also had 22 points in that game, and Clay Marley added 11.

In RHS' final tournament game Friday, Rockwall defeated Irving 56-47. The Jackets' big men took over, with Wes Davis scoring 16 points and Elijah Thomas putting in 12. Jared Ragland had 10 for Rockwall.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RHS	14	17	18	25	74
Garland	6	15	14	25	60
RHS (12-4) - Austin Grandstaff 22, Clay Marley 11, Jared Ragland 9, Wes Davis 8, Prince Giadolor 8, Elijah Thomas 8, Weston Ritchey 4, Andrew Hincley 2, Zach Rhodes 2.					
Garland (5-11) - Tyrone Mackey 15, Derrick Modest 14, V.J. Gates 9, Tradarian Fountain 8, Ja'Taveon Green 7, Fred Scott 4, Brian Redic 2, Nathan Baldwin 1.					

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RHS	11	6	6	15	38
Plano	7	15	19	17	58
RHS (12-5) - Austin Grandstaff 22, Wes Davis 6, Avery Knutson 4, Prince Giadolor 2, Zach Rhodes 2, Elijah Thomas 2.					
Plano (7-7) - Austin Mitchell 19, Malcom Mann 14, Travis Warman 8, Dustin Bercutt 6, Kevin Nelsen 3, Shawn James 2, Connor Pitts 2, Grant Schauer 2, Raivon Smith 2.					

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Irving	11	11	6	19	47
RHS	15	9	15	17	56
Irving (6-12) - Andrew Latson 16, Nick Webb 13, Kevin Booze 12, Cameron Abron 4, Edwin Hardeman 2.					
RHS (13-5) - Wes Davis 16, Elijah Thomas 12, Jared Ragland 10, Austin Grandstaff 9, Zach Rhodes 4, Andrew Hincley 3, Avery Knutson 2.					

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RCA	5	15	6	17	41
Carrollton Christian	8	18	22	11	59
RCA (7-5) - Chris Stephens 20, Daniel Rorie 12, John Stanley 4, Taylor Corbin 3, Colton Jones 2, Alan Thomas 2.					
Carrollton Christian Academy - N/A.					

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Austin Regents	24	15	22	24	85
RCA	23	19	26	15	83
Regents School of Austin - N/A.					
RCA (7-6) - Chris Stephens 32, Daniel Rorie 23, Colton Jones 14, John Stanley 5, Taylor Corbin 4, Alan Thomas 1.					

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RCA	7	13	10	16	46
Frisco Legacy	23	4	9	24	60
RCA (7-7) - Chris Stephens 24, Colton Jones 8, Alan Thomas 7, John Stanley 5, Brett Brinner 2.					
Frisco Legacy Christian Academy (5-8) - J.T. Anyanwu 18, Travis Hadden 12, Riley Chapman 9, Patrick Tomeny 9, D.J. Nelson 4, Zach Snider 4, Parker Todd 4.					

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RCA	10	11	11	13	45
Bethesda	17	12	12	16	57
RCA (7-8) - Chris Stephens 26, Brett Brinner 9, Taylor Corbin 6, John Stanley 2, Alan Thomas 2.					
Fort Worth Bethesda Christian - N/A.					

### Warriors swept in 4 tournament games

Rockwall Christian Academy went into last week's Fort Worth Lake Country Christian Classic flying high. The Warriors had won four games in a row, including a sweep of the Quinlan Boles tournament.

RCA returned home on a four-game streak, but it was a losing streak after they fell in all four tournament games in Fort Worth.

The only highlights were the continuing spectacular play of freshman Chris Stephens, who totaled 102 points, and a near-miss 85-83 loss to Regents School of Austin.

Even in that game, the Warriors' second in Pool 1 Wednesday, Dec. 28, they had the second-half collapse that characterized their first three games. Rockwall Christian took a 68-61 lead into the fourth quarter, but Regents outscored RCA 24-15 in the final period to come away with a victory.

Stephens scored 32 points in that game, and had plenty of help. Daniel Rorie put in 23 and Colton Jones had 14. Rorie scored 12 points (and Stephens 20) in the Warriors' first game at Fort Worth. They trailed just 26-20 at halftime, but Carrollton Christian Academy outscored RCA 22-6 in the third quarter and cruised to a 59-41 win.

In the third-place bracket, Rockwall Christian trailed similarly, 36-30, after three quarters. Frisco Legacy Christian Academy bombed away in the final eight minutes, outscoring the Warriors 24-16 to win 60-46. Stephens was their only scorer in double figures, with 24 points.

He had 26 points in the final tournament game for RCA (7-8). In that one, Bethesda Christian led virtually the whole game for a 57-45 victory to avoid finishing the tournament with four losses, two on its own court.

The Warriors had players in and out of the lineup throughout the tournament, and didn't establish continuity.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RCA	5	15	6	17	41
Carrollton Christian	8	18	22	11	59
RCA (7-5) - Chris Stephens 20, Daniel Rorie 12, John Stanley 4, Taylor Corbin 3, Colton Jones 2, Alan Thomas 2.					
Carrollton Christian Academy - N/A.					

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Austin Regents	24	15	22	24	85
RCA	23	19	26	15	83
Regents School of Austin - N/A.					
RCA (7-6) - Chris Stephens 32, Daniel Rorie 23, Colton Jones 14, John Stanley 5, Taylor Corbin 4, Alan Thomas 1.					

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RCA	7	13	10	16	46
Frisco Legacy	23	4	9	24	60
RCA (7-7) - Chris Stephens 24, Colton Jones 8, Alan Thomas 7, John Stanley 5, Brett Brinner 2.					
Frisco Legacy Christian Academy (5-8) - J.T. Anyanwu 18, Travis Hadden 12, Riley Chapman 9, Patrick Tomeny 9, D.J. Nelson 4, Zach Snider 4, Parker Todd 4.					

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RCA	10	11	11	13	45
Bethesda	17	12	12	16	57
RCA (7-8) - Chris Stephens 26, Brett Brinner 9, Taylor Corbin 6, John Stanley 2, Alan Thomas 2.					
Fort Worth Bethesda Christian - N/A.					

## Rockwall County Sports Schedule

(Continued from Page 9)

- 7th grade girls' C basketball: at C Team Tournament, Lovejoy Sloan Creek, 4 p.m.
- 8th grade boys' C basketball: at C Team Tournament, Wylie Burnett, 4 p.m.
- 8th grade girls' C basketball: at C Team Tournament, Williams, 4 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 14 - 7th grade boys' C basketball: at C Team Tournament, 8 a.m.
- 7th grade girls' C basketball: at C Team Tournament, Lovejoy Sloan Creek, 8 a.m.
- 8th grade boys' C basketball: at C Team Tournament, Wylie Burnett, 8 a.m.
- 8th grade girls' C basketball: at C Team Tournament, Williams, 8 a.m.
- Williams Middle School Wildcats**
- Monday, Jan. 9 - 7th grade boys' basketball: home vs. Allen Ereckson, C 5:30 p.m., B 6:30 p.m. and A 7:30 p.m.
- 7th grade girls' basketball: at Allen Ereckson, C 5:30 p.m., B 6:30 p.m. and A 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 12 - 8th grade girls' basketball: home vs. Allen Ereckson, C 5:30 p.m., B 6:30 p.m. and A 7:30 p.m.
- 8th grade boys' basketball: at Allen Ereckson, C 5:30 p.m., B 6:30 p.m. and A 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, Jan. 13 - 8th grade girls' C basketball: home for C Team Tournament, 4 p.m.
- 7th grade boys' C basketball: at C Team Tournament, Allen Ereckson, 4 p.m.
- 7th grade girls' C basketball: at C Team Tournament, Lovejoy Sloan Creek, 4 p.m.
- 8th grade boys' C basketball: at C Team Tournament, Wylie Burnett, 4 p.m.
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- 7th grade boys' C basketball: at C Team Tournament, Allen Ereckson, 8 a.m.
- 7th grade girls' C basketball: at C Team Tournament, Lovejoy Sloan Creek, 8 a.m.
- 8th grade boys' C basketball: at C Team Tournament, Wylie Burnett, 8 a.m.

# Royse City News

## Royse CISD honors students at board meeting

**by Timothy Downs**  
 The Royse City Independent School District Board of Directors met in a session Dec. 12 at 6 p.m. One many recognitions and actions of the evening, Royse City High Show Choir, led by sponsor Shelba Gorham-Bell, treated Board members to a performance. Selections of Christmas songs: "Welcome Jesus our Redeemer" and "Carol of the Bells" entertained the group. Recognized was sophomore Jordan Paul, presented by Principal David Paul participated in Special Olympics competition earning first-place in the swimming events: relay, 50-meter free style and 25-meter free style. Achievements of the High School Lady Bulldog cross country team were recognized. Although the team finished third in district overall, they earned their running percentage, missing second place by only five percent. Sponsor Faye Marshall introduced team captain Taylor Neely, recently named not only First Team All-District, but also Academic All-District, and All-State from the Country Coaches Association of Texas and All-State from Texas Girls Coaches Association. During the past four years, Neely maintained higher than a 94 grade point average, according to reports given at the meeting. Recognition of the Lady Bulldog varsity volleyball and 13-4A All-District was presented by coach Dallas Bookout. The team became district champions winning all 12 district games. Bookout said the key to their success is the girls. They are all-around great kids who understand the importance of hard work, teamwork and hard work," he said. Superintendent Randy Hancock congratulated the girls saying, "It is

amazing to see how well you all get along. Your teamwork and your camaraderie are an inspiration. You are all such a great group of kids and ones that I never have to worry about when you travel to other towns. Thank you for being a good representation of passion, perseverance and pride," he said. Hancock presented chief financial officer Jimmy Butler recognition for the State of Texas Comptroller's Gold Leadership Circle Award. To qualify for the honor, a school district must strive to meet a high standard for financial transparency on-line by opening their books to the public, providing clear, consistent pictures of spending, and sharing information in a user-friendly format that lets taxpayers easily drill down for more information. Butler accepted the award saying, "Credit goes to Jeana Franklin for her excellent maintenance of the district website." Board president Don Palmer read a letter of resignation presented by Superintendent Randy Hancock to the Board of Trustees. Palmer said, "It is with great emotion I recommend we accept the resignation of Superintendent Randy Hancock as presented." In other business, trustees: Received the middle school and high school campus reports Received the maintenance update Received the transportation update Received the Education Foundation update Received the trustees' logged hours for continuing education Approved consent agenda of monthly financial reports, budget amendments, donations, adoption of resolutions honoring students. According to reports, the district shows 3.7 percent enrollment growth.

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Members of the Royse City High School Show Choir, led by sponsor Shelba Gorham-Bell, performed for trustees of the Royse City Independent School District at the group's December meeting. Pieces performed included "Welcome Jesus our Redeemer" and "Carol of the Bells."

Photo by Timothy Downs/Rockwall County News

## Royse City Police Blotter

Friday, 16 Dec.: Family disturbance, 500 block Rosemary; Burglary of a motor vehicle, 900 block Mockingbird Street; Accident, 200 block W. I-30; Disturbance, 600 block S. Elm; Accident, Corner of FM 1138 and Hwy 66; Alarm, 2300 block S. Noise disturbance, 300 block ... Court

Saturday, 17 Dec.: Suspicious person, 600 block S. Elm Street; Medical assistance, 500 block Dyann ...; Rockwall Police Department warrants arrest, 900 block Live Oak ...; Medical assistance, 900 block

Live Oak Street; Threat, 400 block S. Elm Street; Disturbance, 2400 block FM 2453; Suspicious person, 700 block FM 2642; Suspicious person, Area of County Line Road; Welfare check, 300 block Pin Oak Lane; Noise disturbance, Area of Lavon Court; Suspicious person, 900 block Pullen Street

Sunday, 18 Dec.: Suspicious person, 600 block Love Lane; Welfare check, 300 block I-30 NSR; Family disturbance, 200 block Adams Street; Noise disturbance, 300 block N. Houston Street; Accident, 200 block W. I-30; Criminal trespass, 600 block Preston Road; Family disturbance, 200 block Adams Street; Hunt County warrants arrest, 900 block Pullen Street

Monday, 19 Dec.: Suspicious person, Area of FM 35; Alarm, 2300 block I-30; Welfare check, 300 block Panola Court; Medical assistance, 200 block Ame Lane; Suspicious person, Intersection of Sandy Lane and Welch Road; Suspicious person, 200 block W. I-30; Reckless driver, I-30 at the 73-mile marker; Medical assistance, 500 block Cookston Lane; Criminal Mischief, Area of Logan Drive; Suspicious person, 500 block Rowdy Drive; Driving while license suspended/Possession of drug paraphernalia arrest, 3000

block FM 35 Tuesday, 20 Dec.: Possession of dangerous drug arrest, 100 block W. I-30; Medical assistance, 800 block Preston Drive; Welfare check, 1700 block Meadowlark Circle; Medical assistance, 500 block New Street; Criminal mischief, 2600 block Marsha Lane; Accident, Corner of I-30 and FM 2642

Wednesday, 21 Dec.: Driving while license suspended/Denton County warrants arrest, 1100 block E. I-30; Suspicious person, 100 block Rowdy Drive; Suspicious person, 300 block Cookston Lane; Suspicious person, 300 block N. Hickory Hill Road; Accident, 1500 block Redman Drive; Disturbance, Area of Blockdale Road; Suspicious person, Corner of Houston Street and County Line Road

Thursday, 22 Dec.: Fraudulent use/Possession of identifying information, 400 block Center Street; Assault, 500 block Autumn Lane; Medical assistance, 1000 block E. I-30; Reckless driver, I-30 at the 78-mile marker; Accident, 800 block Nancy Drive; Criminal mischief, Corner of Hwy 66 and Erby Campbell Boulevard; Family disturbance, Autumn Trail; Family disturbance, 100 block E. I-30; Reckless driver, I-30 E. at the 77-mile marker

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