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Rockwall city council says no to panhandling

by Patricia Nolan Butts

At the Feb. 7 meeting, Rockwall City Council approved 7-0 the first reading of ordinance changes aimed at discouraging street corner panhandling.

The changes, if approved at second reading Feb. 21, will make it a misdemeanor to, for example, make a temporary habitation under a bridge or attempt to solicit food, clothing or money on public property or property owned by the city. This includes parks, roadways and rights-of-way.

Proposed by council member Matthew Scott, the ordinance is the city's official response to the presence for some months of persons using signs to ask for money at intersections such as I-30 and Ridge Road and a person setting up a temporary home under the I-30 at SH 205 bridge.

Scott addressed the question of why the previous "Peddlers, Solicitors and Itinerant Vendors" section of the city ordinance needed changes. The standing ordinance was "aimed at persons actually selling wares, as opposed to persons begging for money", he said.

Mark Russo put forward information from the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty in Washington, D.C. that indicated the city may be open to legal challenges to the ordinance. Some argument has been made locally that activities the ordinance penalizes are actually protected as free speech.

"From a constitutional standpoint, I think [the measure] does pass muster, because...you've got a person in a roadway, and a person not following traffic signals. There are legitimate governmental reasons for the curtailment of free speech, if you want to call it that," Scott said.

"I don't think anyone would tell you this...would withstand challenges at the federal level, but I think this is a good attempt at it," city attorney Pete Eckert told the council when introducing the modifications made to the ordinance presented at the Jan. 17 meeting. Changes included more "narrowly defining" habitation in a public place and what constitutes a solicitation.

"If it needs to be refined down the line, we're certainly open to doing that. But I think it contains the concerns that were expressed to me," Eckert said.

Offsite banners in Rockwall could be history by summer's end, as the city moves to end the use of temporary banners to promote local events. The council has discussed for three years replacing banners with one or more electronic event signs in the city, and had allocated money for the project. But ongoing council disagreement about the effectiveness of a sign in any one location, particularly one that cycles through multiple events as drivers pass, caused the electronic sign proposal to flicker out.

After more discussion on the issue Feb. 7, council voted 5-2 (Scott and Russo against) to install several small, permanent signs to direct passersby to the city website as well as a Chamber of Commerce calendar for event information.

The council also revisited the topic of its proposed solid waste agreement with Allied Services following questions posed by Rockwall resident Patrice Kapur of Bayhill Drive. Kapur expressed concerns that the large trucks needed for mechanical emptying of the 95-gallon polycarts would hasten alley repairs. She also asked council to make certain that some of the money Allied saves by reducing garbage pickup from twice weekly to once weekly is passed on to citizens.

Council members emphasized that the city is continuing to field citizen concerns and that the proposed changes in cost and service have not yet been adopted.

The Green Subcommittee, on which council members Russo, Cliff Sevier, and Glen Farris sit, has been studying ways to increase recycling in Rockwall, he said, and the proposed service change is one of them.

According to Farris, city staff is still gathering information about such matters as homeowners' association requirements and the need for storing or screening the polycarts.

In response to a requested water rate increase in Rockwall Lake Estates from Aqua Texas, the council issued the equivalent of a show-cause order asking the water provider to come back with information.

"The information they've provided to us is not sufficient to make that decision," said Scott. "In the past, they've made their rate increases and gone on. Now that the system is within the city limits, they have to come to us for approval."

"We want to say that if folks down in Rockwall Lake Estates read words like 'we're considering' or 'we're reviewing' an increase, don't read that as 'we're granting. There are a number of steps before the rate is stayed, increased or decreased. We are truly analyzing what is being proposed. This is potentially a long and drawn-out process," he said. The council is appointing a hearings examiner for the process.

In continued action regarding the relocation of Archer Car Care, the council voted to amend the Unified Development Code (UDC) to allow a permit process that could allow Jerry Archer to locate his minor car care business in the downtown district.

Archer had moved from his 26-year location to a rented building on Washington after SH 205 widening disrupted access to his business. His special use permit (SUP) for a non-allowable business in the new location has expired.

The council directed city staff to bring back wording changes in the UDC so that the process of amending zoning could permit Archer to apply for an SUP. Public hearings will then give input from others in the area about locating Archer's business downtown.

In other council business, city council disregarded the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission to grant Best Buy in Rockwall Plaza a variance to the lighting code which requires that lighting is directed downward.

The store has been in noncompliance since its construction three years ago,

(Continued on Page 2)



A rainbow of cultures was on parade as the Rockwall ISD hosted "Diversity of Cultures" multi-cultural event at the Rockwall-Heath School Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, Feb. 15. Students around the district wore clothes that reflected their cultural heritage and some marched in a Parade of Nations with flags from all over the world to signify the countries represented in the school district. Winners of an essay contest, Isaac Brown for Primary, Emily for Intermediate and Aleksandra Kochan for high school, read their essays to the standing room only crowd. A video of RISD students who were either born in another country or have family who moved to America was shown and a joint choir made up of students from every RISD school sang, "We are Children of the World." Here are costumes from their father's home country of India are RISD students Jordan Sam (left) and her sister, Ashley Sam. (For more photos from the event, visit www.rockwalltexasonline.com)

Photo by Kathy Williams/Rockwall County News

Royse City plotting route for future SH 66 widening

Royse City council is making provision for future growth by adopting a long-term plan for the widening of SH 66 through downtown. The council adopted a resolution at their Feb. 8 meeting that selects Main St. as the eastbound lanes of traffic and Church St. for the westbound two

lanes. Though the widening is "maybe 10 years out", according to city manager Shipp, engineers working with Rockwall County need input now to determine the future couplet through downtown will align with the larger

plans call for a six-lane highway from SH 205 east of Rockwall to Main St. on Royse City's east side, but the highway must split to pass through Royse City.

The council's choice of the Church St. plan also included a preferred parking area on Main St. Adopting parallel parking on the south side only will provide 20-foot sidewalks for a more "pedestrian-friendly downtown area" and accommodate, for example, outdoor dining," said Shipp.

In this plan, additional parking would be necessary, and the city is considering a conversion of Burton St. as well as off-site parking, possibly at the site of the old Norton Building, which was demolished in late 2010.

"We have a lot of time to transition in an orderly fashion that satisfies everyone," Shipp said. The city council's input is "one part of the process" and citizen response will be solicited at future public hearings, he said.

The council's route plan includes provision for a bridge over Pond Branch Creek to tie the couplet back into Highway 66 where westbound Church St. ends west of N. Houston.



The Rockwall-Heath High School Highsteppers joined more than 500 drill team dancers from across the North Texas area to perform with the singing group, Black Eyed Peas, singer Usher and guitarist Slash from Guns 'N Roses, as they thrilled the standing-room-only crowd at the Feb. 6 Super Bowl party in Arlington. The dancers wore white hooded suits that changed colors from green to red. The Highsteppers are under the direction of Captain Taylor Short and Squad Director Monica Lyon.

Photo courtesy of Kathy Starnes/Rockwall County News



The cast of "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown," at Heritage Christian Academy rehearses for its Feb. 24 opening night. The show, based on the Charles Schultz 'Peanuts' comic strip, and featuring such favorite songs as, "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown," "Happiness," and "Supper Time," follows Charlie Brown through a day of wondering what makes a good man. A dinner theater presentation will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24 and Friday, Feb. 25. A 2 p.m. dessert matinee is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 26. Tickets for the Thursday and Friday shows are \$16 for adults and \$13 for children under age 12. The Saturday matinee costs \$13 for adults and \$10 for children under age 12. Reserved seats may be purchased by calling 972-772-3003. The school is located at 1408 S. Goliad in Rockwall. The cast above includes (front row left to right) Molli Devine as Snoopy; Payton Oliver as Woodstock; Amy Adams as Frieda; (middle row) Blake Cheek as Schroeder; Garrett Blankenship as Linus; Cate Walker as Lucy; (back row) Rachel McMillan as Peppermint Patty; Victoria Engel as the Little Red-Headed Girl; Andrew Wood as Charlie Brown; and Taylor Duggan as Patty.

Photo by Kathy Williams/Rockwall County News



Rockwall says no to panhandling...

(Continued from Page 1)

when the project manager was informed by P&Z director Robert LaCroix that existing flood lighting did not meet code. Those pole-mounted lights have been found on and off at various times since, but never taken down, LaCroix said.

In place of the floodlights, store owners requested spot lighting to the blue field around the yellow sign on their building façade in the interest of "branding". The council voted 7-0 to allow two hooded 150-watt directional lights to replace the four 250-watt floods.

The site plan for McDonald's restaurant on SH 205 North received a waiver of its pitched-roof requirement, as recommended by the P&Z.

David Reno of Rockwall Lake Estates was granted a special request to building standards after no little wrangling with the council about the net effect of the changes to his property. Reno asked to expand his current metal

storage facility and sheath it and his carport with the same material, which is not a code-approved material for Planned Development No. 75 district.

Reno agreed to tear down one of the existing buildings on his land and to get his equipment and recreational vehicles into storage.

Special use permits were finalized for Christian Brothers Automotive at Rockwall Market Center on Ralph Hall Rd., and for Rockwall Flower and Design at 1014 Ridge Rd.

The council approved new roadway signs designating old FM 549 from I-30 to SH 276 as Corporate Drive. As part of an economic development package, the city will consider granting naming rights for the road to a new corporation locating in Rockwall.

Approval was given to an increase in the speed limit on SH 205 between the DGNO railroad bridge and Boydston to 40 miles per hour.

Candy Bigham of Kaufman, representing Dance for Hope Charities, asked

the Rockwall city council for waivers or lower fees at the Harbor amphitheater in anticipation of fundraiser dance concerts. Since her organization lacks profit status, she was advised to ask the nonprofits for which the fundraisers are conducted to file for the fee waivers.

Nonprofits are charged \$100 per hour for a four-hour minimum, compared to not-for-profits' fees of \$240 per hour.

Library seeks input on three-year strategic plan

The C.F. Goodwin Public Library in Royse City is working on a three-year strategic plan and needs input from local residents.

According to the city's e-newsletter, the library is seeking input on programs and materials the library offers to ensure that the facility "remains a vital, well-used community service." Royse City residents of all ages are encouraged to complete the survey, including multiple members of the households.

The survey may be completed online at roysecity.com/library. Copies of the survey also are available at the library.

For more information on the survey or the strategic planning effort, call 972-635-2772.

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

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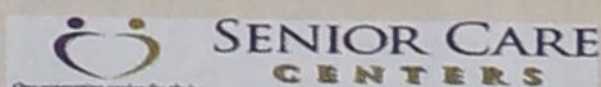
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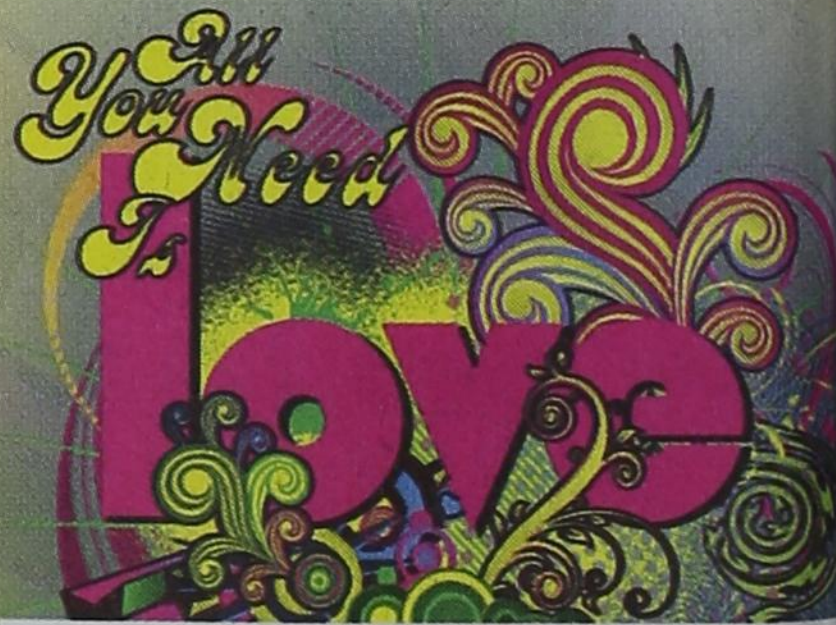
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Lots on the Water Now Available for Sale in Royse City



Whittle Development has opened up 20 select pond and creek lots for sale in Hidden Creek Estates in Royse City. Louretta Moukhtar, the manager of Hidden Creek, said "These are the premium lots that were originally committed to a couple of the builders in the community. However, the lending environment has made it difficult for builders to get financing for speculative home building lately. Therefore, we are now offering these home sites for sale to individuals who want to build a custom home now or hold the lot to build later. Moukhtar added, "The interesting thing is that the first lots to sell in Phase One a few years ago were the lots on the small lake that is part of the City Park. In fact, we had builders literally in a bidding war trying to get those lots. Homebuilders know that homes that are built on lots that are on water of any kind sell faster. In the home building industry the fact that the home site is unique generally causes the house to sell for more money and increase the profit for the builder. Moukhtar added excitedly, "The great news is that we now have lots available along the small lake in Phase Two. We also have lots available along the tree lined creek that borders the property that are just beautiful."

Rob Whittle, the developer of Hidden Creek Estates, stated "We had to battle thru several years of bureaucratic red tape with FEMA to preserve the majestic trees that tower along the creek banks. It would have certainly been easier to take the recommendation to simply bulldoze the trees, dig a deep channel to allow the water to flow, and called it a day. However, once you walk that wooded area for a few hours and hike up and down the banks of that old creek you soon realize what a marvel of nature that area is. It is one of those unique spectacular properties that make you feel like you are a thousand miles from civilization. It is one of those areas that is especially great for kids to just go play and explore all afternoon and never get bored. As a parent, you can turn off the kid's video games, say 'go outside and play' and your children will actually thank you at the end of the day. And you can say the same thing the next day because there is always something more to explore. So not only do these lots on the lake and the creek create a potentially good financial investment, but create a quality of life for the family that is hard to match anywhere."

Bank financing is available for those who want to purchase a lot and build later. The down payment is 15 percent which can be as little as \$7,000.00. The average monthly payment on the lot is approximately \$300. The great thing is that the entire down payment and all of the monthly principal payments that a person pays can be used as equity in the new home when they decide to build their home. This is a fabulous way to build equity while waiting to start a new home.

It only takes a few minutes of driving the Hidden Creek neighborhood to see why so many professionals have chosen the community. The lots are wider than that in many neighborhoods. That allows the architects to create a beautiful front elevation. In addition to the lots being wider, most of the lots have rear entry garages. That fact allows the architect to enhance the front beauty of the home with unique stone and brick detail instead of half of the front of the house being a big double garage door. There are multiple architectural styles prevalent in the neighborhood. The architectural mix is prevalent in many of Whittle's communities and keeps the community from being dated in a few years.

Hidden Creek Estates is the premier master planned community in Royse City. It features a large community pool and clubhouse. Lighted tennis courts are part of the club complex. A fenced children's playground is a gathering place for moms and small children. The teenagers and families enjoy the sand volleyball court. Soccer fields are located along the tree lined creek. A fishing pond is located near the clubhouse and a wonderful place for Dad to take the kids after work or on a Saturday afternoon.

The Homeowners Board of Directors and the management team work diligently together to create the most family friendly neighborhood imaginable. Special events are offered throughout the year. Weekly gatherings for game night, Bible study, and summer volleyball leagues are the norm. Annual events like the Easter Egg Hunt, July 4th festivities, October Halloween carnival and the Christmas festival are enjoyed by the residents of all ages.



The Club House at Hidden Creek includes pool, lighted tennis courts, sand volleyball, and children's play ground.

Christina Reeves, the Director of the community said, "Not only do I work here, my husband Greg and our children live here. We previously lived in the Dallas area and I was working here at Hidden Creek. Once I experienced the wonderful sense of community here in Royse City, we made the decision to move to Hidden Creek. We absolutely love it! Our teenage daughter spends lots of time at the pool with her friends. Our son is thriving in the Royse City School District and has made a lot of friends quickly. The teachers in the school system genuinely care about the kids and you can see the positive difference it makes."

Whittle, said, "Hidden Creek is one of the most beautiful, secluded, tree covered communities you will ever see. However, all of those trees and creeks and seclusion make it tough to find the first time you visit. You don't necessarily need a compass and map, but you need to follow the directions closely to find the community. When we first started the community I thought our motto should be, "Hidden Creek - Hard to find, but worth the search." When so many families started buying in the community our sales team changed it to "Hidden Creek - where families thrive." Whittle said, "As it turned out, both slogans are appropriate. Families do absolutely love the community and take advantage of all of the fabulous amenities. And it is still really hard to find nestled behind all of those majestic tree lines and creeks and ponds."

To view the new lots, call Hidden Creek Estates at 972-6936-9300, or Loretta at 469-853-2318, or Christina at 214-621-3506 or e-mail Christina@whittledevelopmentinc.com. To visit Hidden Creek Estates, take I-30 east to the Royse City exit FM 548. Turn left and go to Main Street (St Hwy 66). Turn right and continue east approx 1 mile to FM 1777. Turn left on FM 1777 about 400 yards to the entrance of Hidden Creek Estates.



Kindergarten students at Cullins Lake Pointe Elementary recently celebrated the 100th day of school with various craft activities, snacks and counting activities. Special guests included Zero the (a.k.a. Cory White, the school's principal), who is pictured above. Zero helped wrap up the day's festivities.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Erwin, art teacher at Doris Cullins-Lake Pointe Elementary, is shown with one of the pieces of art created by students from throughout the RISD at the Feb. 26 Celebration sponsored by the Rockwall ISD Education Foundation. Art teachers and students from throughout the RISD create and donate artwork that is sold and auctioned off during the event. Each participating department receives half of the funds raised by their artwork to help enhance their school's art program. For more information on the event, which will be conducted at the SouthFork Ranch, or for tickets, contact the Education Foundation office at 972-771-0605.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Homeland Security course to be offered in Rockwall

The Rural Domestic Preparedness course will provide area officials a four-step process detailing how to safeguard health and safety by reducing the potential for disruption to the community's infrastructure in a free Department of Homeland Security-certified course and vulnerability assessments.

The course is designed to increase awareness of potential community hazards; enhance capability of responding effectively and efficiently; strengthen the ability to withstand and recover rapidly; and reduce potential human, social, economic and environmental impacts and losses.

The training is designed for rural responders, elected officials, local government staff and "private community stakeholders," according to the news release issued by the RDPC. The course is designed to increase awareness of potential community hazards; enhance capability of responding effectively and efficiently; strengthen the ability to withstand and recover rapidly; and reduce potential human, social, economic and environmental impacts and losses.

The RDPC is a partnership of academic institutions with a "vision of creating an environment wherein rural communities across America will have the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to enhance the safety, security and quality of life for their citizens," according to the news release. Current members include East Tennessee State University, Eastern Kentucky University, the University of Findlay, Iowa Central Community College, NorthWest Arkansas Community College and North Carolina Central University.

All training delivered by RDPC is certified by the Department of Homeland Security and is offered tuition-free.

To register for this course, contact Joseph Ellis at 972-204-7082 or e-mail jellis@rockwallcountytexas.com.

For more information, contact Jarrod Witchers at 606-677-6092 or e-mail info@ruraltraining.org. Visit the consortium's website at ruraltraining.org.

No other newspaper offers more Rockwall County news and photos



Dobbs first grade student Madison Puckett is shown inspecting collection of valentines following her class's Valentine's Day party Monday.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



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Our beautiful Valentines

Rockwall County Obituaries

Marjorie Lucille (Oldham) Blackshear

Marjorie Lucille (Oldham) Blackshear died Feb. 12, 2011, in Rockwall.

Born May 19, 1925, in Portia, Ark., to Loma Goad Oldham and Thomas Henry Oldham of Lawrence County, Ark., she was the seventh of nine children. She attended school in Arbor Grove. She married Lehman Dwight Blackshear on Aug. 21, 1942, in Lawrence County and was a cosmetologist and a housewife. She and her husband were longtime active members of the First Baptist Church of Springdale, Ark. She was an excellent seamstress who enjoyed decorating her home and creating items for her family. She enjoyed gardening and canning with her niece, Kay Oliver, and shared the fruits of her labor with many.

Survivors include her daughter, Alice Louise (Blackshear) England and her husband, Phillip, who reside in the Dallas area; two grandchildren, Cary



Dean England and Holly Louise England, also of the Dallas area; two sisters and a brother, Armorel Garner of Paragould, Ark., Beanna Manthey of West Memphis, Ark., and Elvis Oldham of Sioux Falls, S.D.; and a host of other family members.

Ann Jones Phillips

Services for Ann Jones Phillips, 76, of Rockwall were conducted at 11 a.m. Feb. 12, 2011, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel. She died Feb. 10.

Born Aug. 15, 1934, in Texarkana, Texas, to Albert and Gwendolyn (Tidwell) Jones, she was a homemaker.

Survivors include her children, Tommy Phillips and his wife, Linda, of Rockwall, Mark Phillips and his wife, Terri, of Roysse City and Mike Phillips and his wife, Donna, of Texarkana, Texas; her grandchildren, Kelly, Katie, Lyndsey, Penny, Colton, Brett, Mandy, Taylor, Chelsea, Ashley, Stacey, Briana and Jeff; 13 great-grandchildren; several great-nieces and great-nephews; and a brother, Dr. Ron Jones and his wife, Marilyn, of Rockwall, and their children, Leigh, Ross and Lauren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Joe Phillips.



experienced at looking good and clean on the outside, but on the inside are against the simple truth. Others who are new, may believe, yet still as unbelievers

The people in the above example who are filled with holy spirit make the true church in that assembly. This truth can be seen in Paul's letters to Corinthian believers and brethren. He said, "And I, brethren, could not write unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as babes in Christ." (1 Corinthians 3:1). They were part of the church of God, yet he referred to as carnal babes in Christ. While they were truly the church, their belief and spiritual lives were weak. Notice that their life styles did not change standing as God's church.

"I have fed you with milk, and not with meat. For you were not able to bear it, neither now are you able. For you are yet carnal. For whereas it is among you envying, strife and divisions. Are you not carnal, and walking as carnal babes in Christ? (1 Corinthians 3:2-4). God's saints stand with holy spirit in them. Once again, this does not change who they as fellow members of the body of Christ.

Jesus Christ understood this very well when he said, "Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like white sepulchers which appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and uncleanness." (Matthew 23:27). Jesus addressed people who were making and following their own rules and appearing godly, yet on the inside they had nothing to do with God.

The above reference to Jesus' words is not meant to suggest that the church of God may include people like the Scribes and Pharisees, but it is a lesson that can be learned from his words. That which is on the inside what defines the true church, not the outward appearances and deeds.

Everyone can identify themselves as the children of someone else. It involves a genetic connection that cannot be extracted. Whether or not we have good relationships with their parents, or even know them, they are inherently their children. Most parents understand what it means to love children, even when they do not have good relationships with them.

Likewise, the inherent identifier of the true church is believing with heart that God raised Jesus from the dead. This automatically results in being filled with holy spirit, which is what makes the condition of sanctification. This is the foundation and starting point for all members of the true church. The rest involves learning how to think and live as God's saints.

The church of God is not inherently defined by how people act, good or bad, but by whether they are filled with holy spirit. It's that simple.

Coldren tapped for Dean's List

Roman Coldren of Roysse City was among students named to the University of Saint Mary's fall Dean's List, according to a university news release issued last week.

Coldren attained a grade point average of 3.5 or better to be named to the list.

On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

The church of God is not defined by works...

Last week we looked at who makes up the church of God. It is the body of people known as saints. To be a saint basically means to be separated out. Another word for this is sanctified. In essence, they have believed with their hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead unto righteousness. Having been filled with holy spirit, they are counted as saints.

The underlying essence of the true church is not defined by a religious order of doctrine and rules. When we walk into a church, we meet a number of people who basically agree on the rules and doctrine of that church. Some are devoted followers, and others not so devoted. Some may be very new in the word, and do not yet believe with their hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead. Others may be very

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"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you ..."
 Matthew 7:7

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 1 John 4:16
 Looking for a warm, welcoming family of faith that is dedicated to embodying God's love in Rockwall and beyond? Then join us this Sunday at First Presbyterian Church, located at 602 White Hills Dr., under the water tower and across from the entrance to Walmart.
 Sunday School starts at 9:45 a.m., with worship led by Pastor Cheryl Taylor at 11 a.m. For more information, call 972-771-5702, or check out our website at www.firstpresrockwall.org

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 "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."
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Rockwall-Heath HS choir program sees growth, success

The choir's week didn't look as rosy for the Rockwall-Heath High School choir program in 2005. The recently-opened school had 16 singers, one choir. It was comprised of sophomores and freshmen, and no booster club had developed. Even a regular performance hall was a challenge. Students felt as though they were singing in a cafeteria because they were.

The choir is singing a different song. The group is now more than 100 members strong and features four performing choirs and ensembles. The choir produces five major performances annually including a popular Christmas concert. The group operates in a multi-million-dollar state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center at the high school. And last week the group performed at the state choir festival in San Antonio.

"We are beginning to get recognition for years of voice training," said choir director Natalie McCollough. "Competitive success, personal growth, audience response and, simply, the joy of singing are all giving us a boost in our organization."

McCollough is a TCU-educated fine arts major who started the choir program at RHH while doubling as the Cain Middle School choir director. She has expanded the scope, depth, quality and student pipeline for her programs. In addition to musical theater, collaborating with fine arts teachers from other schools, she began to stretch her student charges into other areas of the performing arts.

This year, McCollough's students were featured in three lead roles for "Seussical: The Musical" during a four-show run at the Performing Arts Center. Graham DeFranco as Horton, sophomore Meredith Bennett as Gertrude and Kirwan as the Cat in the Hat were some of the highlights. Kirwan is the choir president. McCollough is the second All-State Choir program member in the district. He is also the only representative from the district in this year's concert.

"Tyler has an amazing discipline," said McCollough. "It's not just about talent; he's building a stronger, more polished voice with every performance."

Kirwan is a student of McCollough as well as private teachers Jennifer Sanchez and Jacquelyn Lengfelder. He performed with the Texas All-State Men's Chorus in San Antonio on Feb. 12 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio as part of the 2010 Texas Music Educators Association Clinic/Convention.

He was chosen for the honor through a competitive process conducted this year across the state at district, region and area levels. All-State is the highest honor a Texas music student can receive. Students are selected through a process that began with more than 55,000 students from around the state vying for the honor to perform in one of 13 ensembles including band, orchestras and choirs.

The Texas Music Educators Association sponsors the Texas All-State competition. The competitive process begins throughout the state in auditions hosted by TMEA regions. Individual musicians perform selected music for a panel of judges who rank each instrument or voice part. From the ranking, a select group of musicians advance from their region to compete against musicians from other areas in seven TMEA area competitions. The highest-ranking musicians judged by TMEA area competitors qualify to perform in a TMEA All-State music group.

"We're very proud of Tyler and he is a great example of our program's progress," said McCollough. "We even started a booster club recently so it's been quite an evolution in six years."



Seniors Makynzie Stevens, as JoJo, and Tyler Kirwan, a.k.a. the Cat in the Hat, sing "It's Possible" in "Seussical, the Musical" recently at the Rockwall-Heath Performing Arts Center at Rockwall-Heath High School. Kirwan will perform with the Texas All-State Men's Chorus in San Antonio this weekend.
Photo courtesy of Stephen McClung/Rockwall County News

Church plans memorial auction on Saturday

St. Ann's Catholic Church in Heath will conduct the Laura Whitmore Memorial Art Auction Saturday in the church's parish hall. The silent and live auction will begin at 4 p.m., followed by the live auction at 8 p.m.

Whitmore was a professional artist in the Rockwall community who died from cancer in May. Her artwork is recognized and well known, her art is personal and her media diverse. Nearly 50 paintings will be offered during the auctions in the church's parish hall. Whitmore's family has agreed to donate all proceeds from the art sales to the church's columbarium project.

John and June Price are chairpersons for the event. Craig Zurek will serve as auctioneer. The event will be open to the public. An assortment of wines and cheeses will be served.

'Voice of Aggieland' group to perform locally March 4

The Texas A&M University Singing Cadets, known as the "Voice of Aggieland," will perform in the Rockwall High School Performing Arts Center, located at 1201 T.L. Townsend Drive on the Utley campus in Rockwall, at 7:30 p.m. March 4.

The all-male choral group was established in 1893 and is one of the oldest collegiate singing groups in the world. The Singing Cadets have toured the U.S. and abroad and have performed for many American presidents. The group typically performs between 60 and 70 concerts each year and recently spent 10 days touring South Africa.

Tickets to the local event cost \$10. For more details contact vday95@gmail.com or call 972-463-8921.

Exclusively in Your Hometown Newspaper



Members of Kappa Kappa Iota, an organization for educators, recently treated residents of Reese Manor Senior Housing to a soup luncheon. Residents were served homemade chicken noodle soup, sandwiches, fruit, vegetables and dip, and a variety of cakes, cookies and brownies. This marked the 10th year the group has provided a luncheon for Reese Manor residents. Pictured at front are Denise Haer, Doris Cullins, Billie Stevenson, Nora Myres and Katherine Stevener. At back are Kelly Chilton and Georgia Lee. Kappa Kappa Iota is the oldest national organization for educators. The Rockwall chapter, organized in 1991, will celebrate its 20th anniversary in November.
Photo courtesy of Nora Myres/Rockwall County News

Residents tapped for Dean's List

Several local residents were included on the honors lists for the fall semester at the University of Texas, according to a university press release.

The President's List honorees included: Lori Blick, Natalie Christine Ruffing, Christopher Fultz, Lauren P. Jason L. Ruffing, Kelsey Elizabeth Schultz and Michelle M. Dyer of Rockwall and Ashley L. Dyer of Roysse City.

Local students named to the Dean's List included, from Heath, Makayla Bryan, Paige Lauren and James P. Hunt, Clint Rowan and Dan J. Scallan; from Rockwall, Christopher Andrew Bailey, Bryan Barnes, Kiara Ke'Andre Ruffing, Alec James Burmania, Lawrence Carrington, Nikki Rebecca J. Conger, Robert Dyer, Emily R. Davis, James August Eidson, Martette Everett, Katherine Reaves and James T. Ham-

Rockwall honorees included: Milen Elizabeth Hanrahan, Taulbee Hazel, Nathan Ray, Brittany M. Kostra, Jeffrey McCulley, David Jonathan Nguyen, Mark Igho Michael Andrew Potiska, Pujol, Steven Martin, Erin R. Rapp, Allison L. and Sarah Lacey Simpson. Conger out the list from Roysse Sean Kyle Jacques.

The Dean's List, a student must complete a minimum of 12 academic hours with a GPA of 3.5 to 3.9.

Say You Saw It In the County News"



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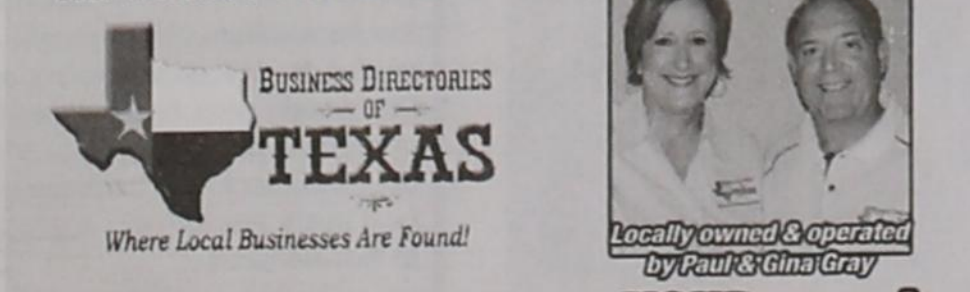
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Rockwall HS Youth & Gov't students capture awards at state meet

Twenty-one Rockwall High students participated in the YMCA Youth and Government State Conference Jan. 27-30 in Austin, competing in judicial and legislative events.

Seniors Kalil Armstrong and John Meacham took first place as the top appellate team in the state. Attorney Chad Meacham helped prepare the duo for the competition.

Seniors Kaylee Bishop and Andrew Braun, competing as attorneys, were tapped as the eighth place judicial team along with their witnesses, junior Omar Abdelrazik and seniors Kyle Chaffin, Nicole Salom and Ellen Stein. Rockwall attorney Jack Robinson worked with the team, helping them learn how to present a case.

Senior Shaun Bruner was named Distinguished Delegate in the Senate, an honor given to only a few students in the state. Based on her performance at the competition, senior Rachel Phillips was invited to apply for the national Youth and Government Conference.

Other RHS students participating in the event included Alexandria Casteel, Hallie Elledge, Alexa Harakal, Kelli Hardenbrook, Lauren Hittson-Smith, Charlene Lee, Thorne Pettigrew, Lisel Reyes, Jessica Saunders, Logan Whitley and Matthew Yates.

For more information about the RHS Youth and Government program, contact the team's sponsor, Melissa Nelson, at mnelson@rockwallisd.org.



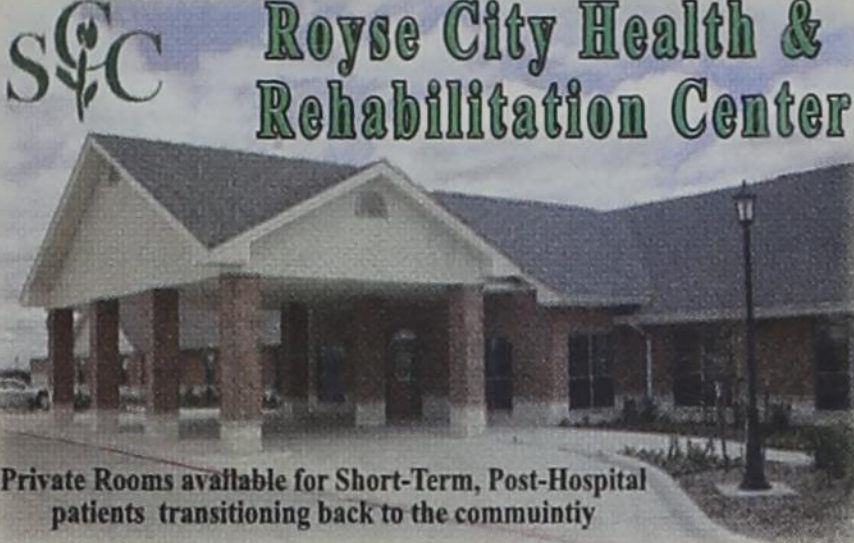
The Rockwall High legislative team presented bills in the House and Senate at the YMCA Youth and Government State Conference conducted last month in Austin. Team members are, at front, seniors more Jessica Saunders, juniors Zachary Kuntz and Lisel Reyes, seniors Alexandria Casteel and Rachel Phillips and, at back, seniors more Charlene Lee, senior Shaun Bruner and sophomore I Whitley.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



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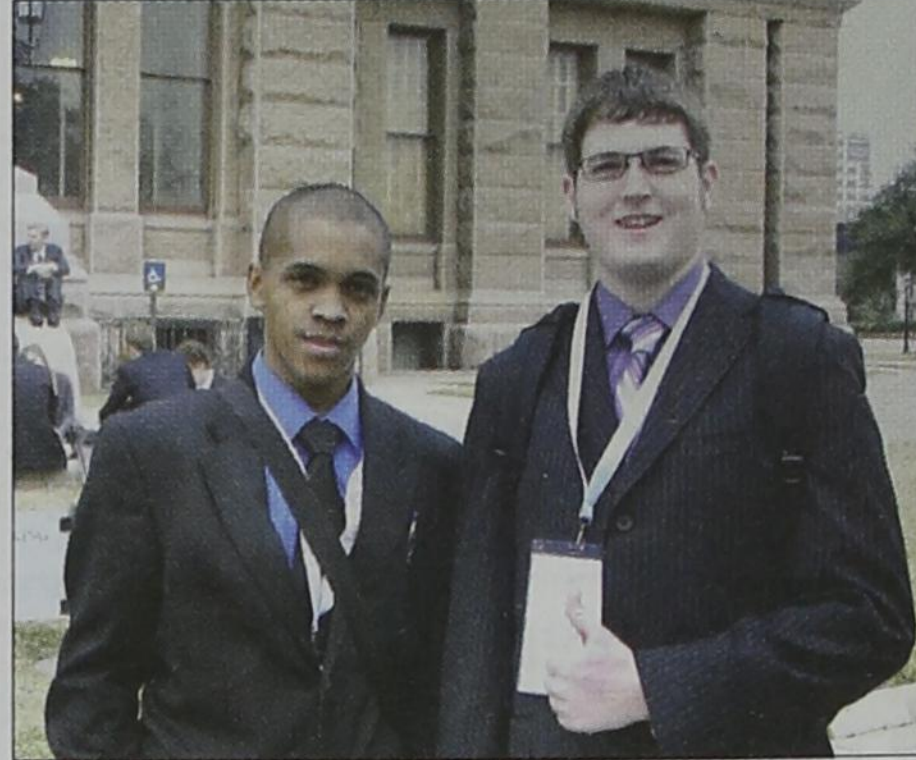
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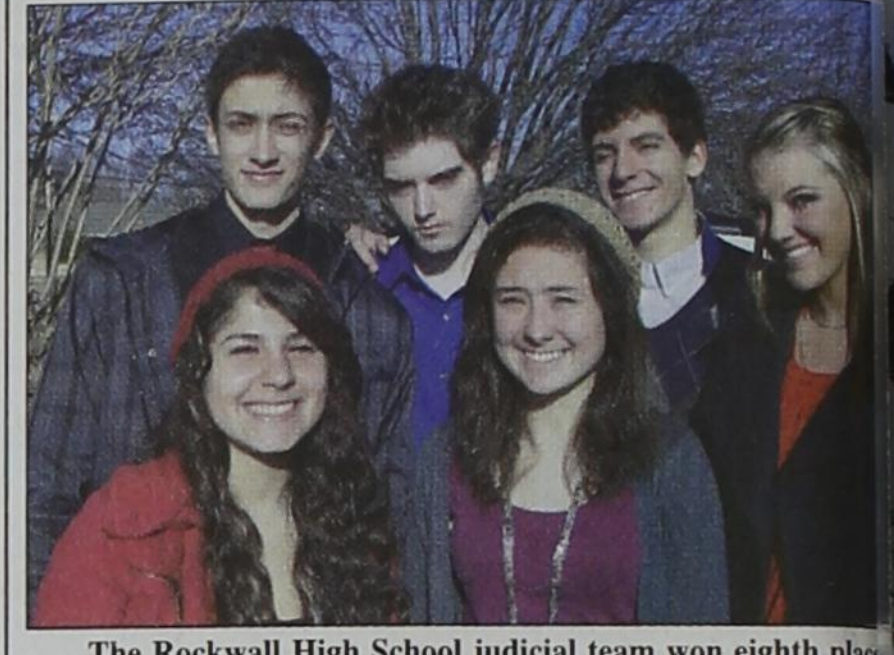
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Seniors Kalil Armstrong and John Meacham were tapped as the first place appellate team in the state at the YMCA Youth and Government State Conference. The event took place last month in Austin.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



The Rockwall High School judicial team won eighth place at the state level in the YMCA Youth and Government State Conference Jan. 27-30 in Austin. Team members include, at front, seniors Nicole Salom, Ellen Stein and Kaylee Bishop and, at back, seniors Andrew Braun, Kyle Chaffin and junior Omar Abdelrazik.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

on-line @
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Crime Stoppers donates \$24K to law enforcement agencies

Members of the governing board of Rockwall County Crime Stoppers voted Jan. 31 to donate \$24,000 to local law enforcement agencies in Rockwall County.

The decision, according to a news release issued last week, was based on prior requests received to support law enforcement and juvenile justice purposes relating to Crime Stoppers.

Organizations to receive funds for equipment purchases include the City of Heath Department of Public Safety, City of Rockwall Police Department, City of Royse City Police Department and the Rockwall Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association.

The alumni group will receive the largest share of funding in support of its Citizens on Patrol program. That program will assist in the purchase of equipment and the operation of two new police volunteer vehicles. Police volunteers utilize these vehicles to conduct neighborhood patrols, business watch patrols, patrols at The Harbor, handicapped parking enforcement and assistance during special events such as parade traffic control or school events.

Crime Stoppers is a crime-solving organization that pays rewards up to \$1,000 for tips leading to the successful solving of a crime. The organization accepts calls for information on major and minor crimes that have taken place or are being planned.

Crime Stoppers has paid out approximately \$28,000 in rewards over the past three years. Individuals who call in to Crime Stoppers at 972-771-TIPS may remain anonymous, according to the news release.

For more information regarding Crime Stoppers, contact its coordinator, officer Jay Shippy of the Rockwall Police Department, at 972-771-7765 or e-mail jshippy@rockwall.com.

Say You Saw It In
 The County News

Hare, Hooten earn Harding honors

Two local residents were among Harding University students included on the Dean's List for the fall semester.

Allison Hare and Whitney Hooten, both of Rowlett, were recognized for their academic performances.

The Dean's List recognizes those students who are carrying 12 or more hours and achieve a 3.65 or higher grade point average with no incomplete grades, according to the university press release.



Cassie Ross, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brad Ross of Rockwall and an eighth grade Utley Middle School student, has been selected to serve as an honorary page on the State Senate Floor on March 15. The 'A' Honor Roll student has a strong interest in becoming an attorney or a state senator and last year was voted Student of the Year at her school.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Rockwall Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors celebrated Claritas BBQ & Diner Grand Opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony February 8, 2011. At the event were (left to right) Larry Parks, Susan Allen, Glen Farris, Rod Doguid, Hossin and Marcila (from Clarita's), Dr. Mike Troxler, Bob Lewis, Stephen Straughan, Barbara Wilks, Jeanie Swanson, Sharon Conner, Kay Ditto and James Nelson. Claritas BBQ & Diner is located at FM 549 & SH 66.

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FEBRUARY 26, 2011

Do you want to learn how to be heart-healthy? Do you want to learn how to feel great, increase your energy and better your health? Then this event is for you!

The Heart & Vascular Center at Sunnyvale is hosting a heart health event on Saturday morning, February 26 from 8am to 10am.

A part of the Texas Regional Medical Center at Sunnyvale, the Heart & Vascular Center is holding this event in conjunction with American Heart Month. Attractions will include:

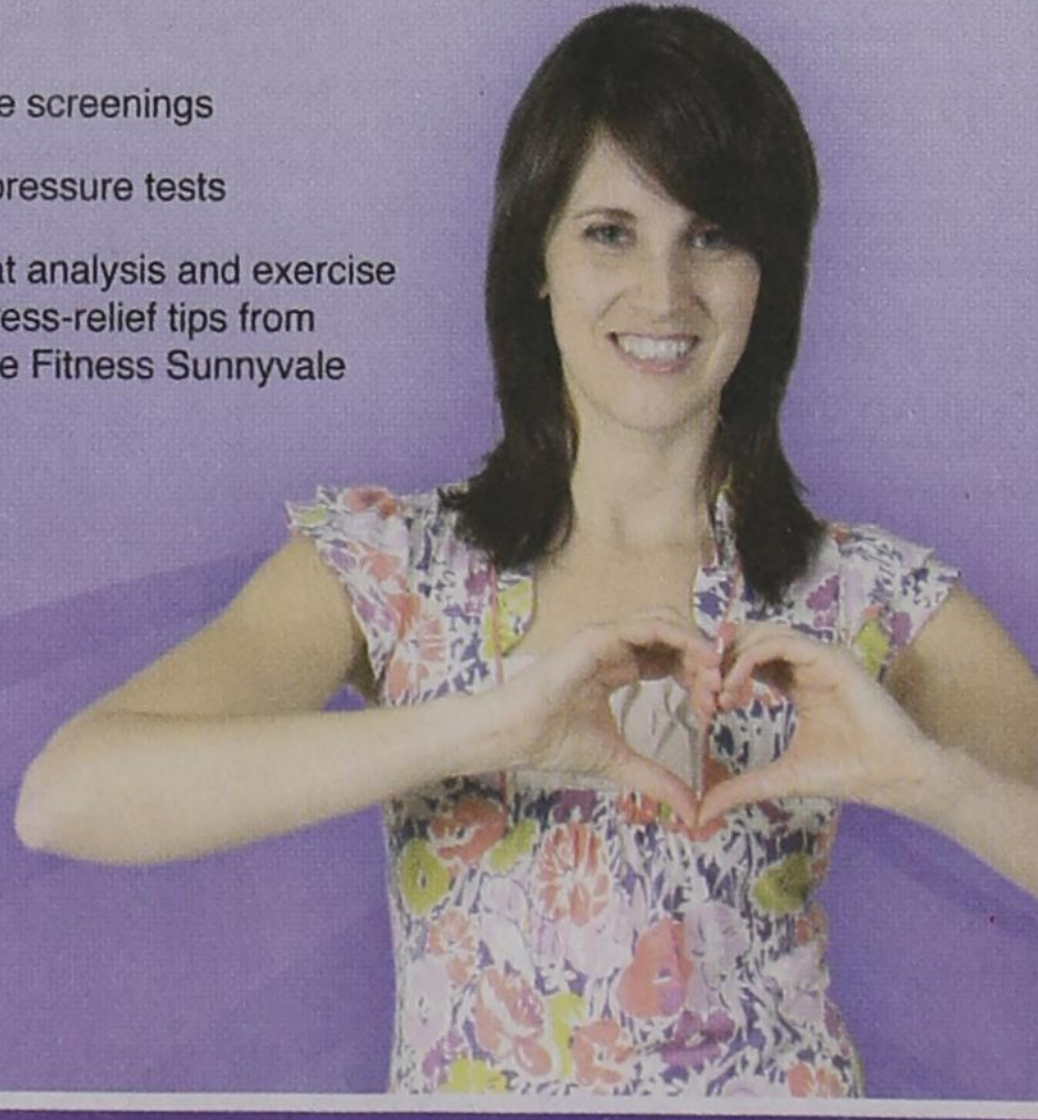
- Cardiologist Dr. Prem Pillay M.D. in the 'Ask the Expert' booth
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Mission Statement

It is the mission of this newspaper to promote the rights of individuals guided by the principles so eloquently described in the American Declaration of Independence. The right of life, liberty and ownership of property are the cornerstones of our freedom. The sole purpose of government is to enhance our liberty and freedom. Therefore, we hold every elected and appointed agent of government accountable to that standard.



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Local residents earn OBU honors listings

A handful of local residents were among the students at Ouachita Baptist University listed to the President's List and Dean's List for the fall semester, according to a university press release. Local President's List honorees included Sarah McKimney of Heath, Baronger Bieger and Rachel Spencer from Rockwall and Rachael Herrmann, Kristyn Howk, Katie Willhite and Holly Williams of Rowlett. To be named to the President's List, a student must compile a 4.0 grade point average and be classified as a full-time student with a minimum of 12 academic hours. Locals named to the Dean's List include Jacob Way of Heath, Katy Krikorian, Jordan Miller and

Kelsey Stawasz of Rockwall and Molly Brown and Rachel Chapman of Rowlett. To be named to the Dean's List, a student must achieve a 3.5 grade point average and be a full-time student with a minimum of 12 semester hours. In addition to being named to the OBU Dean's List, students also will be included in the National Dean's List for 2010-2011.

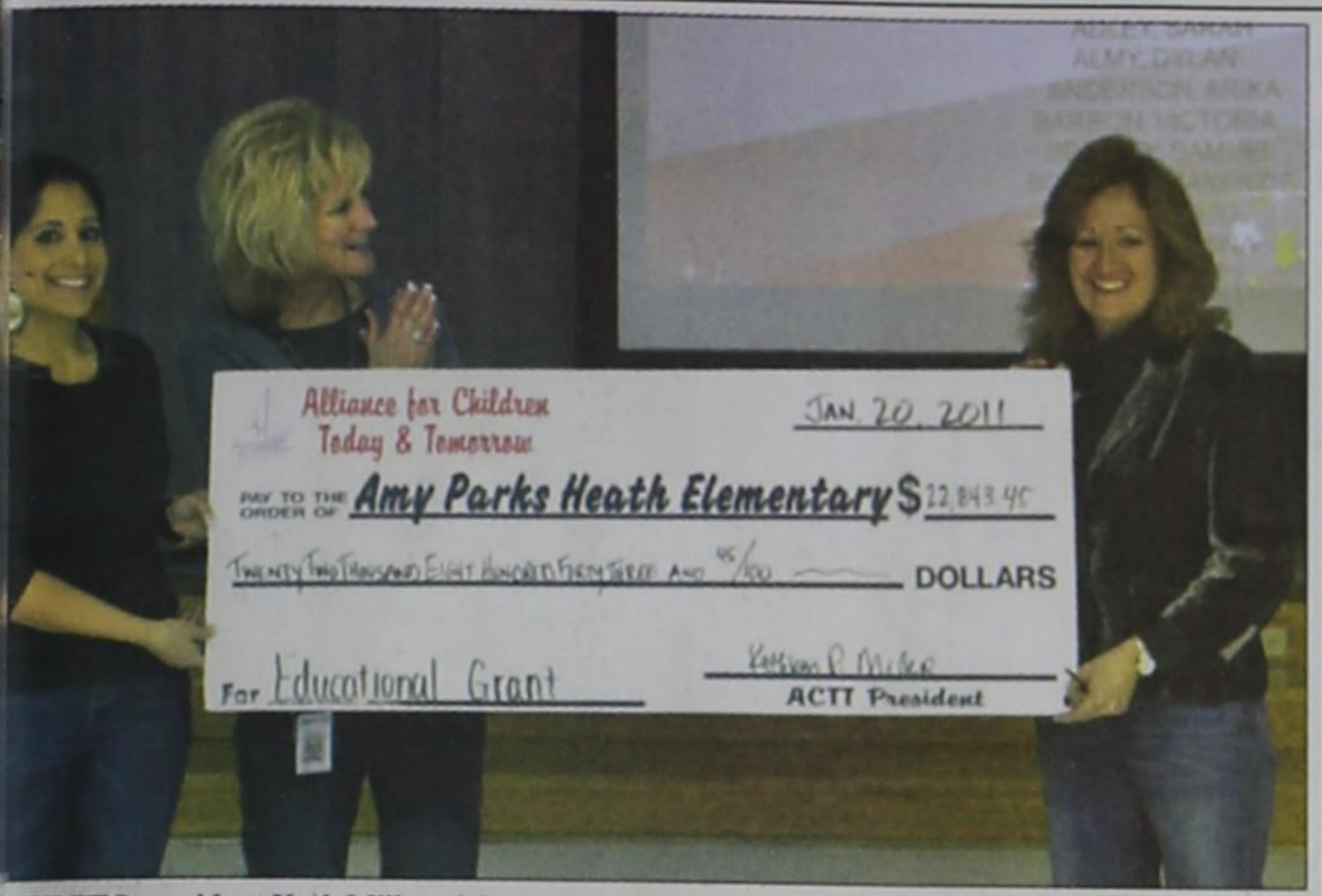


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CTT-PTO president Kath Miller, right, is shown presenting a \$22,843 check to Amy Parks-Heath principal Maricela Helm, left, and assistant principal Karrie Brown. The money was raised during the school's annual Read-a-Thon and will be used to supplement and enhance the educational experience of students who attend Amy Parks. The presentation was made Jan. 20. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Opinions

Obamacare' is unconstitutional!

Andrew Leonie
What two out of four Federal Judges have now ruled — are unconstitutional. On Tuesday, February 8, 2011, the U.S. Supreme Court received an appeal (Petition for Writ of Certiorari) from Virginia Attorney General asking that the four federal cases from two states in Virginia, as well as Florida and Michigan, which have ruled Obamacare, be allowed to bypass the usual appellate courts to be sent for hearing and determination of its constitutionality. Both the Virginia and Judge Vinson of Florida recently ruled that Obamacare is unconstitutional in its requirement mandating individuals to purchase health insurance. Neither Judge elected to order the federal government to stop implementation while the cases were appealed. This is about the Tenth Amendment and the Commerce Clause. Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution provides that Congress shall have the power to regulate commerce among the several states. The Tenth Amendment provides that powers not delegated to the federal government by the Constitution nor prohibited by it to the States are reserved to the States or the people. It is this interplay of legal authority which has created the unique question about Obamacare to the Supreme Court. Congress clearly can regulate interstate commercial activity. Obamacare seeks to regulate "inactivity" by punishing citizens who refuse to purchase health insurance. The assertion of this type of government

power has never before been attempted in American history. In legalese this is called a "police power", which the Supreme Court has until now always rejected as part of the Commerce Clause. Nor can the penalty be merely treated as a tax. In the Obamacare plan it is levied as punishment for violation of the individual mandate. One of the biggest questions is whether or not the individual mandate is "severable". In other words, can the individual mandate be carved out and set aside without invalidating the whole Obamacare act. That question has been answered by Obama's attorneys in Court who have argued that the "changes in insurance regulation are not severable from the mandate and the changes would collapse the insurance industry without the mandate and penalty". On this basis Florida Judge Vinson declared Obamacare unconstitutional in its entirety on January 31, 2011. Because of Obamacare, the Virginia appeal asserts, for the first time in American history, a clear majority of states are in litigation with the federal government, each claiming that the federal government has exceeded its enumerated powers. The question has become one of, "where are the limits, if any, of power of the federal government" and "does the Tenth amendment mean anything anymore"? Because the implementation of Obamacare has not been ordered halted, states like Virginia, Florida and Texas have to undertake efforts to assess whether to develop a high risk insurance pool or default to the

federal government, whether to overhaul state insurance laws, whether to create a health benefit exchange, and how to determine the expense of the expanding Medicare program. Adding to existing budgetary constraints, this entails new state costs just with creating or expanding existing state agencies to meet the requirements of the Obamacare act. Businesses and people all across America are reducing spending and delaying hiring. As noted in the Virginia appeal, besides establishing minimum standards for health insurance plans, Obamacare requires employers with more than 50 employees who don't offer health insurance, to pay a penalty of \$2000 per employee. Employers of more than 200 employees must automatically enroll new employees in existing insurance plans. Employers must also offer vouchers to employees to obtain coverage through state-run insurance exchanges rather than through the employer. Meanwhile, hundreds of unions and Obama-administration-friendly businesses have sought and been granted "waivers" from Obamacare requirements. It is clear that the need for resolution of this issue is urgent. This pending case has significant future constitutional implications and a huge current national economic impact. We can be sure that the nine Justices comprehend the significance and urgency of this decision. The question is whether at least five will adhere to constitutional principles or be swayed by political considerations. Andrew Leonie is a lawyer who has lived in Rockwall County with his family for over 20 years. The views expressed are his own.

Texas Legislature facing budget issues

Jodie Laubenberg
The Texas Legislature is now in session for the next 140 days. How we manage the budget in this economic recession is the Legislature's foremost responsibility. That budget, how we ensure the core functions of government are maintained is our greatest concern. As one legislator involved in the process, it is my duty that I speak forthrightly. Recommendations that have recently come out are just a start in a lengthy budget process. Both the Senate and House work on their recommendations, taking testimony from both the public and stakeholders. The House and Senate budgets must then be reconciled into a final budget for 2012-2013. As you can imagine, this is an intense process. The budget you read today is not the budget that will be finally signed into law. These recommendations do express the state's priorities and serve as an indicator of Texas' strained means. In terms of education, the base

recommendations reveal two truths. Texas' commitment to education is evident when education spending is compared to the rest of the budget. In the base recommendations, 55.9 percent of state money is dedicated to education. Of that amount, 69 percent is dedicated to public education, with the remainder going to higher education. Education receives more in-state dollars than any other part of government. The base recommendations also show that the focus of public education spending is our Constitutional duty to the "general diffusion of knowledge." Cuts to the Foundation School Program, which finances this Constitutional duty, have been kept to a minimum. The main public education cuts are to programs outside this core mission. Still, \$953 million is a significant cut from the Foundation School Program. We are in tough times, and even education cannot be protected from these painful decisions. Regardless, my belief is that the impact of this reduction can be minimized by spending decisions at the local level. School

districts are working to prioritize their spending, and in doing so still have the opportunity to provide our children a quality education. This session, the Legislature will not be able to avoid cuts to any sector of government, even to education. As a legislator, I will do everything in my capacity to make certain school districts have the flexibility and local decision-making power needed to achieve high-quality educational outcomes with limited resources. To this end, I have coauthored House Joint Resolution 56, which will put a constitutional amendment on the ballot to end unfunded mandates on local governmental entities like school districts. I will also work for a budget that prioritizes government's core missions over unnecessary programs. And above all, I will remain committed to the directive given to me by voters in 2010: No new taxes and smaller government. Representative Jodie Laubenberg is serving her fifth term on behalf of District 89.

Rockwall County letters to the Editor

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 removed. Letters must be signed and include telephone number or address for verification.

Questions Sunday construction
Constitutional Issues -- isn't it unconstitutional to legislate "no Sunday construction?" I have seen those signs at every construction site in Rockwall, and I suspect this trend is going nationwide. This is a religious law under the guise of "one day of peace and quiet." This is a back-door attempt at enforcing a national "rest day." Retailers and restaurants will be targeted next. I believe in God's Sabbath, but I do not believe in forcing it upon others. The ordinance is not talking about the first day, Sunday, but the seventh day, Saturday. Read your Bible from cover to cover. You will find no scripture mandating the first day, Sunday, as "God's Holy Day." Mike Burkleo, Heath

City Council member objects to editorial
You stand alone in your love for vagrants congregating in our city, begging for residence under our bridges and overpasses, and begging for money at every stop light and stop sign. The ordinance, first, it does not prohibit anyone from exercising their inherent right to express themselves on publicly owned property. The ordinance seeks to stop vagrants (most of whom are not from Rockwall but "commute"; here to beg for money) from begging for money on city property. When they do this, they put themselves in danger by congesting roadways, distract drivers, and in some cases, simply harass drivers, who do not expect to be approached for money while driving. The proposed ordinance also seeks to prevent them from setting up residence under bridges and overpasses. If you can show a legitimate interpretation of the Constitution that says anyone has an inherent right to make his or her home under a bridge or overpass, I sure would love to see it.

City Council member objects to editorial
The practical enforcement of this proposed ordinance, I completely understand that it cannot be enforced. Very simply, if someone is begging for money while standing in the median, they violate the ordinance. This is

very easily identifiable. If someone is making their home under a bridge or overpass, they are violating the ordinance. An example here might be a vagrant sleeping under a bridge next to five boxes of his person belongings (I'm not making this one up, it actually happened here recently).

Your statement that "the right to express oneself is inherent . . . it comes from our Creator, not from government" is obvious and understood by virtually every human being on the planet. But the statement in this context says nothing—it is simply someone trying to disguise an ideal as intelligent and rational thought. In any event, the proposed ordinance is not attempting to suppress free speech—it is attempting to stop vagrants from flooding into Rockwall and taking up residence under bridges and overpasses.

Contrary to your statements, the proposed ordinance does not make soliciting help a crime. Indeed, we have a number of organizations in Rockwall that help those in need. Rockwall County Helping Hands comes to mind. Speaking of which, I was at the Helping Hands Christmas gala, which raised money for Helping Hands to assist it in helping those in need. Funny, I don't recall seeing you or your enterprise represented there.

But if you really feel that all cities should encourage vagrants to come to their city and live under bridges and overpasses (after all, he says all these vagrants are doing is "giving other people the opportunity to donate to a good cause") then I would encourage you to look into moving to Dallas or Chicago, as these large cities have a never-ending supply of such persons. Most cities, Rockwall included, don't have such a opinion of homeless vagrants, and most of Rockwall's citizens don't either. But if you are truly concerned that preventing vagrants from commuting to Rockwall is an "attack on our God-given inherent right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," then all I can say is, by this ordinance, I hope we are encouraging those people to pursue those things in other places. Finally Mr. Burnett, to answer your question, yes, I have read the Constitution, more than a couple of times. I keep a leather bound pocket copy at my work desk, and I have an electronic version on my iPhone. I've even had a number of classes devoted entirely to it. So any time you'd like to debate the Constitution, its meaning, and its interpretation, please tell me where and when, and I'll show up. Please be prepared to elaborate the basis on which you contend this proposed ordinance is "unconstitutional." And also please be prepared to discuss the Constitution in detail, including

how it has been interpreted by the courts since its ratification over 220 years ago, and not resort to the vague notions and catch phrases strewn throughout your opinion piece.

Matt Scott, Rockwall City Council Member
Editor's Note: As for the writer's comment about Helping Hands, a reminder that thousands of Rockwall County people and businesses give generously to Helping Hands, including Rockwall County News. The fact that many of them did not attend the "Gala" certainly does not diminish their personal and business love and devotion to the organization.

From the American Declaration of Independence:
When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government.

Warning:
Elected and appointed government officials ignoring or violating our constitutionally guaranteed rights, do so at the risk of being removed from office.

Food to go: Rockwall Meals on Wheels delivers

by Patricia Nolan Butts

Food to go—it's an inextricable part of the American landscape. But here's a question not heard at a Rockwall drive-through: "Would you like that chopped, low residue, diabetic, low sodium, or regular? And how about a home delivery today?"

Except for pizza and Chinese take-out, home delivery is usually not an option. Unless, of course, the driver is a Rockwall Meals on Wheels (MOW) volunteer, and the meal is on its way to the home of an elderly or disabled person in Rockwall County.

Every weekday, trained volunteer servers load 151 hot, nourishing meals from a Rockwall ISD kitchen into thermal totes and fan out on 12 routes throughout the county to deliver to homebound, disabled or elderly individuals. What the volunteers bring, along with a smile, is a key to continued independent living.

MOW volunteers transport about 3,000 meals to their neighbors every month, helping to make certain that, whatever other deficits the Rockwall County residents are dealing with, malnutrition is not one of them.

Sometimes MOW is requested by the recipient or by a family member, but often the referral comes from a doctor or local church. Recipients must qualify based on physical constraints or home setting. MOW executive director Marjory VerHagen conducts an hour-long home interview and assessment with each referral.

Some persons served by MOW are not able to stand at all, or perhaps not for long or without assistance. These and other conditions may prevent them from cooking meals for themselves. Some of the meals go to two congregate sites, one at Reese Manor and another at Evergreen Rockwall, where qualifying senior citizens may eat in their apartments or join with friends to eat their hot meal together.

None of MOW's criteria for meal delivery are financial. Just as a low income doesn't guarantee qualification for MOW, an adequate income does not preclude services. Some of the funds for the program are federal, which cannot be restricted on the basis of income. Other funding for MOW comes from Rockwall County, city governments of those served, and various grants such as Texans Feeding Texans.

The local program will soon celebrate 33 years. Begun March 31, 1978 by community leaders who recognized a need for home delivered meals to shut-ins, it began as an oversight board for Hunt and Kaufman county Committees on Aging.

In 2002, Rockwall County Meals on Wheels gained nonprofit status, joined the national Meals on Wheels organization, and began to pay an executive director to administer the local program. Securing positions on a Regional Aging Advisory Committee (a part of the North Texas Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging) meant gaining a voice in MOW decision-making for the area.

Working under the oversight of Rockwall County Committee on Aging board chairman Mary Joe Cason, MOW currently has three paid staff. Serving with director VerHagen is Rob Lowe, who does purchasing, coordinates volunteers, matches routes to drivers and recipients, maintains the website (rockwallmow.com) and "whatever I'm told," he says.

Another MOW employee, Janice Enloe, is training as a fulltime benefits counselor to be able to answer questions on Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and disability. This service will be available to any who contact the Committee on Aging.

Meals are delivered Monday through Friday. When inclement weather makes driving hazardous for the volunteers (as in last week's icy, snowy days), meal recipients rely on a box of shelf-stable food MOW previously delivered for just such occasions. When MOW anticipates a potential snow day, the driver brings a small bag of extra canned food along with the daily meal.

On holidays when the RISD kitchen is closed, local restaurants step up to meet the need. Monetary donations cover reduced-cost restaurant food, which is picked up and delivered by volunteers. Rockwall MOW welcomes donations, which can help serve clients who would not be able to receive meals through MOW grant funds.

The agency is also seeking substitute drivers who can take a delivery route when the regular driver is unable to come. The office number is 972-771-9514.

Volunteer drivers won't get a nifty little lighted sign for their car top, but there's a lot to be said for the satisfaction of helping to meet a neighbor's need for a hot, healthy meal each day.



Rockwall County Meals on Wheels volunteers Pat Henson (left) and Laurie Holguin (right) assist MOW executive director Marjory VerHagen bag cans of heat-and-eat soup. The supplementary meals were delivered with the midday hot meal Wednesday in anticipation of snowy weather that might prevent deliveries.

Photo by Patricia Nolan Butts/Rockwall County News

Volunteers provide the wheels for meals

by Patricia Nolan Butts

A retiree, a disabled veteran, a young wife and mother who relocated from Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina: what do they have in common? Five mornings each week, they meet at the Quest Academy (Rockwall ISD) kitchen on Williams Street and organize meals cooked there for delivery to homebound, elderly, or disabled persons in Rockwall County.

Every day, at least twelve volunteers drivers, both young and older, male and female, load the meals into insulated bags and deliver them to their assigned clients with smiles and hot meals. Their name tags say "Meals on Wheels Ambassador".

Laurie Holguin, who serves on the MOW board of directors, is among that crowd of volunteers. Once displaced by a hurricane she and her husband have now found a home in Rockwall and a good school for their daughter. Laurie has found many new friends among her fellow volunteers and the homebound and elderly clients they serve.

"It's like I have a whole bunch of grandparents," she says. "I just love them. They know I can relate to them."

Laurie relates to her older or mobility-impaired friends because she knows what it's like to suffer from a disability and be housebound, unable to drive. Laurie has epilepsy and, before brain surgery in 2003, she had 30 to 50 seizures a day. Since surgery, medication is able to control the seizures. Finally able to drive, she says, "I wanted to help out."

"When I was in need, there were people there for me. Now I want to give back," Laurie says.

Bill Michalenko, a disabled Vietnam veteran and 14-year Rockwall resident, also moved from recipient to giver. He received meals from MOW for a period, and one day Sharon Shannon, the volunteer who brought his meals, asked if he wouldn't like to deliver meals to others. Michalenko found that he did want to, and has been working with Meals on Wheels ever since.

"The rewards keep coming back in blessings," he says. "It's the Lord's work [to feed the hungry]," he says, "and you can't outgive God."

Michalenko really enjoys the camaraderie of the other volunteers, and is quick to shift attention from his contribution to the others. He speaks of Shannon and other drivers who take clients birthday cakes and who stop to buy ice cream for their friends for dessert. He mentions how MOW's executive director Marjory VerHagen cares for and calls each county client to check on them in bad weather.

"Marjory found out about a frozen water pipe break at a client's house when she called last week, and she arranged to get it fixed," Michalenko says.

"And Carol, now—that guy with the 'thumbs up' as he headed out with his meals? His heart's really in it. If another driver can't make it, Carol's here in a minute," Michalenko says of co-volunteer Carol Macon.

Each with a genuine enthusiasm for the mission of Meals on Wheels, the workers come to MOW on varied paths. Mary Thacker's volunteerism with MOW was inherited.

"Growing up, I can remember my mother driving for Meals on Wheels in Dallas. I hope my own daughter will carry on the tradition," she says.

"I've been a Meals on Wheels driver for many years, and it's one of the most rewarding things I've ever done." Thacker volunteers one day a week. It takes one hour door-to-door to complete her route. She picks up 14 meals from the RISD cafeteria and drives to Reese Manor where resident Emily Shrum helps her unload the food.

Shrum takes about eight of the meals to those who eat in the dining hall. Thacker delivers the other six to her "regulars" at Reese Manor.

She fondly tells of Cleo Holland, "a precious 91-year old lady who always greets me with a smile", and "Sheryl Brewster, who loves to watch Paula Deen on TV and is a marvelous cook herself."

"I always leave the building knowing I have brightened someone's day while having my own day brightened, as well," Thacker says.

Her sentiments are echoed by fellow volunteer, retiree Pat Henson of Rockwall. "I absolutely love working with Meals on Wheels. It gives me purpose. It makes my day," Henson says.

Like Thacker, she has a family connection to MOW as well.

"My cousin in Farmers Branch volunteers with Meals on Wheels," Henson says. "I thought for years, 'I want to do that.' Finally I got up one morning, came up here, and have been here every since."

"The kids are gone, the grandkids are busy. I've always been concerned for the needy, for children and the elderly. I love to give. Through interaction with MOW volunteers and clients, she says, "Now I certainly get more than I give."



Meals on Wheels volunteers Marilyn Hoisington, Bill Michalenko, and David Beaulieu count out hot meals that Hoisington is preparing to deliver to several Rockwall County recipients. At least a dozen volunteers daily travel from the RISD kitchen at Quest Academy taking meals to homebound, disabled, or elderly residents.

Photo by Patricia Nolan Butts

Community service event, SSO Day, slated March 26

Rockwall Independent School District students are preparing to host Students Serving Others (SSO) Day on March 26. The community service initiative, which will include partnerships with numerous local community service organizations, will take place at Wilkerson-Sanders Memorial Stadium, as well as at various sites within the community.

Elementary students will be stationed at the stadium from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to lead hands-on projects like the Duffie Stuff Project, where goodie bags will be assembled for women in need. Secondary students will have the opportunity to partner with area non-profit organizations for community service projects throughout the day.

SSO Day is a result of the RISD's ongoing partnership with the Rachel's Challenge Organization.

Kim West, the RISD's director of counseling, and her staff have continued to promote the mission of Rachel's Challenge—kindness and compassion—within the RISD. The partnership between the two has resulted in three major Rachel's Rally events that celebrated the acts of students, as well as the Million Meals Project that allowed students from across the district to package one million meals for the people of Haiti.

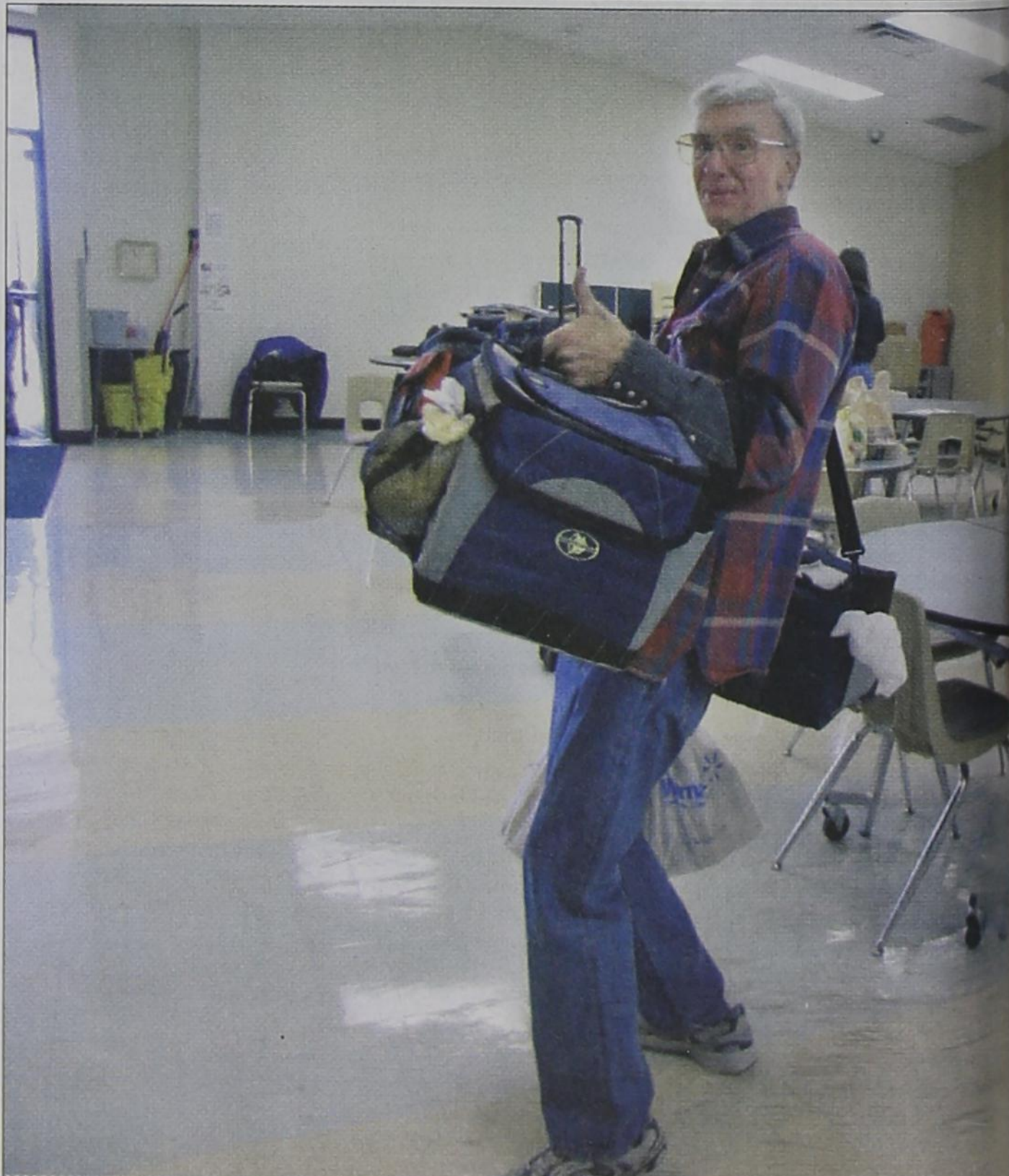
This year, Rachel's Rally will look a little different, according to a RISD news release. The RISD will host a virtual rally on all 18 campuses on May 5, allowing every single student to participate during the school day. Campus-based events and a universal video will recap the Rachel's Challenge-inspired events that have taken place throughout the school year, and parents and the community will have the opportunity to join online at rockwallisd.com.

Additional community service project ideas are needed for SSO Day. Anyone with idea should contact Donna Barnett at 972-771-0605.



Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital in Rockwall has signed on as title sponsor for the upcoming All You Need is Love Charity Ball organized by the Rockwall Women's League. Pictured above from the left are Susan Langdon, league president, and Jami Frisby, 2011 ball chair, accepting a check from Nikki Mutschler, hospital representative. The ball will feature a seated dinner, dancing to Le Freak and silent and live auctions. For more information about attending the event or to donate an auction items, contact Frisby at jami.frisby@swt.com or call 214-435-4872.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Longtime Meals on Wheels volunteer Carol Macon heads out the door of Quest Academy cafeteria with hot meals to deliver to the clients on his route.

Photo by Patricia Nolan Butts

News when it happens
RockwallTexasOnline.com

Rockwall County Sports

Lady Jackets advance to Area playoff

Rockwall will be shooting for its sixth consecutive girls' basketball Area playoff title Friday when the Lady Jackets face South Oak Cliff at Mesquite Potoc. RHS wasted little time running past Carrollton Newman Smith for a 63-35 victory in the Bi-District round. Hannah Hughes scored 16 of her game-high 20 points to lead Rockwall to a 38-20 halftime lead. Alyssa Lang put in 13 points and Paige Turner had 12.

"I thought our kids would come out with a lot of energy," said RHS head coach McDill. "There's a level for the non-district games, then bump it up for district and bump it up again to a different level in the playoffs. I'm proud of their energy and focus."

Hughes played well overall. Alyssa had a little foul trouble, but she was able to get it under control. She had some big plays at the end, and they had some really big points in the fourth quarter.

McKinney had much more at stake. Winning would have clinched second place for MNHS, but its 59-51 loss coupled with McKinney's victory sent North to third place.

By finishing third, McKinney North had to meet powerful Frisco Liberty in the Bi-District round. The Lady Bulldogs lost that game while McKinney, the 10-4A runner-up was winning over Frisco Centennial by 20 points.

North led Rockwall 30-26 at halftime, when McDill told her players to act as if they were the ones with something to lose. After the Lady Bulldogs' hit a 3-point shot to put RHS behind by seven points, the Lady Jackets responded with a 33-18 scoring advantage for the remainder of the game.

Lang dominated the game inside to score 30 points and pull down 12 rebounds. Hughes scored 16, including two foul shots that put Rockwall ahead to stay in the fourth quarter.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RHS	16	10	13	20	59
North	14	16	8	13	51

RHS (28-6, 13-1) – Alyssa Lang 30, Hannah Hughes 16, Paige Turner 6, Kayla Smith 5, Caitlin White 2.

McKinney North (19-11, 10-4) – Alexis Mason 18, Rachel Thomas 10, Aundrea Gamble 8, Theresa Mendoza 8, Madison Loeb 4, Maui Berkhadley 3.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Newman Smith	5	15	5	10	35
RHS		21	17	14	11

Carrollton Newman Smith (19-14) – Cassandra Florence 9, Alexis Neziyana 8, Morgan Ainsworth 5, LaChelle Jackson 4, Pauline Pham 3, Antoinette Iroko 2, Lisa Wright 2, Kiara Perry 1.

RHS (29-6) – Hannah Hughes 20, Alyssa Lang 13, Paige Turner 12, Kayla Smith 9, Morghen Day 6, Caitlin White 2, Kathleen Jones 1.



Lady Jackets' Lacey Smith (15) puts on a strong defense against a JJ Pearce ball handler. Photo by Roy Heath/Rockwall County News

Lady Hawks play HP with 5th place on the line

Don't tell the Rockwall-Heath girls' basketball players they have nothing left in them. After being eliminated from playoff contention Monday, they came back with their highest point total in a 52-27 home victory over Wylie.

These girls had all the makings of being a threat to the Lady Hawks' 48-41 record on Monday.

RHS had led the Lady Pirates 26-20 at halftime. They led Wylie East 14-10 at the end of Tuesday's game.

The reference came in the third quarter. The Lady Hawks scored just two points, allowing Wylie to go ahead 35-10. But on Tuesday, Rockwall came out of the halftime locker room with a 26-point lead over Wylie Raiders going into the third quarter.

An offense that has sputtered all season worked at peak efficiency during the fourth quarter. RHHS' Brooke Eddy scored with a game-high 14 points, helped from Jordan Mitchell and Brianna Richardson with 10 apiece.

RHS' defense has been exemplary all season, and it held Wylie East checked throughout the game.

At the end, Aly Coughlin scored all 11 her points in the first half, but ran into trouble in the second half. Eddy finished the game's high scorer with 12 points.

"I think we came out in the third quarter confident," said Lady Hawks head coach Kevin Gabbard. "We quit doing things that got us the lead. We've got two halves, but we went through the execution side where we struggled to score."

Wylie even played hard in the third quarter, but the execution side was lacking.

Wylie went ahead by as many as 14 points, but RHHS played until the final buzzer, scoring the game's last seven points.

The Lady Hawks (10-20 overall, 4-9 in District 10-4A) will host Highland Park (15, 5-8) in their final game at 6 p.m. Thursday. And there's something to say about moving into a tie with the Lady Pirates for fifth place.

Gabbard said, "We look forward to playing Highland Park, especially for our seniors in their last home game. Rockwall plays well and scores well. Aly's effort has really been coming around. She (McKenzie White) does a lot of things you don't notice, like drawing fouls and getting on the floor to go for the ball."

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RHHS	12	14	2	13	41
Wylie		11	9	15	13

RHHS (9-20, 3-9) – Brooke Eddy 12, Aly Coughlin 11, Jordan Mitchell 5, Brianna Richardson 5, McKenzie White 4, Kenzie Mammeli 2, Willette Rankin 2.

Wylie (15-12, 7-5) – Makaia Jordan 11, Sydnie Whitworth 11, Mary Fisayo 9, Courtney Jones 8, Kayla Walton 6, Shae Stewart 2, Colby Davis 1.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RHHS	12	6	26	8	52
East		2	12	6	7

RHHS (10-20, 4-9) – Brooke Eddy 14, Jordan Mitchell 10, Brianna Richardson 10, Willette Rankin 8, McKenzie White 5, Aly Coughlin 2, Kailey Peters 2, April Brown 1.

Wylie East (6-24, 1-12) – Maya Minter 7, Jordan Roper 6, Brittany Higgins 4, Lucy Williams 4, Kristin Davidson 3, Nadja Jones 2, Erica Roman 1.

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Rockwall High School senior first baseman Tucker Fielder has been selected to a "2011 Under Armour Pre-Season All-American" by the "Baseball Authority" scouting department. He was invited to attend the All-American tournament in Tucson, Arizona.

Courtesy Photo/Rockwall County News

Can you read it in the Rockwall County News!

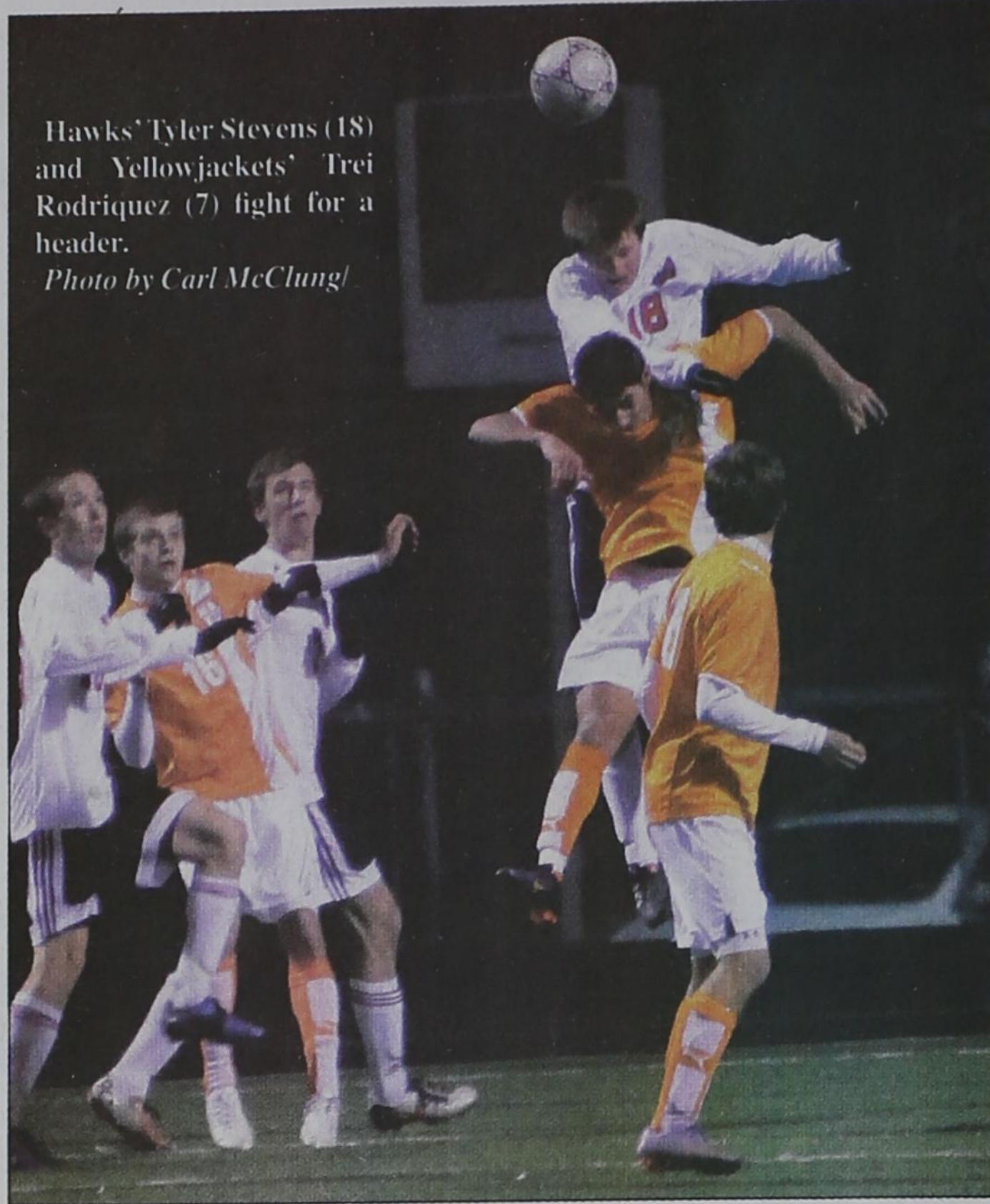
Rockwall County Sports



Lady Hawks' Gymnastics team advancing to State competition are (back row left to right) Kennedy Vaughan, Lauren Statham, and Carolyn Sherwin, (front row) Maegan Chennault, Taylor Williams, Kristen Beck, Jacquelyn Doughty, Naje' Watkins, Jade Bowerman and Mallory Hosey.
Photo by Marcia Hasenyager/Rockwall County News



Yellowjackets' gymnastics team advancing to State competition are (back row left to right) Jeremy Scott, Bradley Meyer, (bottom row) Payton Larman, Michael Weidman, Blake Kirk, Zach Bennett, Kurt McGuire, Nick Wintermute and Caleb Waller.
Photo by Marcia Hasenyager/Rockwall County News



Hawks' Tyler Stevens (18) and Yellowjackets' Trei Rodriquez (7) fight for a header.
Photo by Carl McClung!



Lady Jackets' gymnastics team advancing to State competition are (back row left to right) Megan Inglis, Amber Zolman, Paige DeLatte, Jamie Pultorak, Katy Kelly, (middle row) Sarah Beasley, Hayden Raney, Alicia Chavira, Jenna Jeffrey, Lindsay Loy, Brityn Gilman Emily Pettett, (front row) Kaitlyn Stoddart, Shelbi Crawford, Kailea Coles, Kenzie Hedges, Kara Miller and Krystal Haynes.
Photo by Marcia Hasenyager/Rockwall County News

Lovejoy hands Hawks 1st district loss, 2-1

Rockwall-Heath entered the best stretch of its District 21-4A season without a district loss, but away from two home games last week with a 2-0 victory and a 2-1 defeat. Isaac Esquivel and Chase Minton scored for the Hawks (11-3-2 overall, 4-1-1 in the district) in their tight win over Rockwall Friday.

On Tuesday, first-place Lovejoy (5, 5-0) won 2-1 in part because Minter scoreless. The RHHS season has 23 goals this season. The game against the Leopards marked the time that he didn't score other than three games in which the Hawks shut out.

Shaun Keane scored RHHS' but the Hawks fell one short.

Jackets defeat RC in soccer

Rockwall improved its record 2-1 in District 21-4A boys' soccer winning at home Tuesday over Rockwall City 3-1.

Christian Soldat scored two goals and Zachary Galloway added one for the Yellowjackets (6-6 overall). Rockwall City fell to 2-9-1 overall and 1-2-2 in the district.

Lady Jackets still undefeated in district soccer

Six girls scored a goal apiece to lead the Rockwall girls' soccer team to a 6-0 victory Tuesday over Rockwall City.

Even though the Lady Jackets are undefeated (2-0-1) in District 21-4A they trail Rockwall-Heath (4-0) and Lovejoy (3-0-1) in the standings.

Angie Boyd, Vicky King, Beth Schomin, Kendall Smith, Beth Talley and Allie Wentzel had goals against the Lady Bulldogs.

Schomin, Smith help Lady Jackets win soccer match

It was a good week for Rockwall girls' soccer, and for the Lady Jackets. Bethany Schomin and Kendall Smith playing at home Friday, RHS won Rockwall-Heath its first District 21-4A loss 2-0, with Schomin and Smith scoring the goals.

On Tuesday, Schomin and Smith each scored two goals in a 6-1 victory at Quinlan Ford. That win gave Rockwall a 4-0-1 district record, keeping the Lady Jackets at the top of the standings with RHHS (4-1-1) and Lovejoy (3-0-2).

Nicole Salom and Allie Wentzel also scored against Ford. The goals matched Rockwall's high output this season. The Lady Jackets have outscored district opponents 20-2, with balanced scoring led by Smith's five goals, Schomin's five and Wentzel's three.

RHS head coach Melissa Garza said, "We held on for another victory. The ladies close out the first round on Friday night in Wylie. They stepped to close out first round with a win. Wylie is 3-2 and in fourth place in the district."

Bulldogs even district soccer record

Bryan Romero scored the game's only goal Friday to give Royse City a 1-0 boys' soccer victory over Wylie East Friday.

That win evened the Bulldogs' District 21-4A record at 2-2-1 and kept them in a scramble for the district's third and fourth playoff berths with Rockwall (3-2) and Wylie (2-2).

The Royse City girls lost to Wylie East 2-0.



Yellowjackets' Wesley Davis (12) drives to the basket against Highland Park.
Photo by Roy Heath/Rockwall County News

RockwallTexasOnline.com

Assisted Living & Memory Care ARBOR HOUSE OF ROCKWALL



Resident Pat Mills with her granddaughter Jennifer Wright (standing) and great-granddaughter Shelby Wright.



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Rockwall County Sports

RCA boys, girls win district titles in basketball

High-flying Rockwall Christian Academy boys' basketball team easily won two games last weekend to clinch its second consecutive district 4-2A championship.

Against Trinity, RCA, second in the state in TAPPS 2A last season, was scheduled to play at home Thursday against Dallas The Covenant School, TAPPS District 3-2A.

The game was to follow a Bi-District game at RCA featuring the Rockwall boys' team, also TAPPS District 4-2A champions, against Waco Vanguard College Preparatory Academy.

"This is the first time in a number of years that both the boys' and girls' teams won the district," said RCA athletic director Caleb Palmer.

In each weekend boys' game, the Warriors scored more than 80 points, held their opponent below 50 and won by 33 points or more. At home Friday, RCA defeated Longview Trinity School of Texas 82-48. On Saturday, Rockwall Christian routed visiting Greenville Christian 81-43.

The outcome was decided early in each game. The Warriors led Trinity 26-13 after one quarter and 53-21 at halftime. The next day, Greenville trailed 30-9 after the first quarter and 40-21 at halftime.

Three Warriors reached double figures in points and at least eight RCA players scored in each game.

Against Trinity, Grant Jensen scored a game-high 22 points. Raymon Stewart helped with 18 and Carl Clewis put in 11. In the Greenville game, Aaron Eastin led RCA with 18 points. Jensen had 16 and Stewart totaled 15.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Trinity	13	8	16	11	48
RCA	26	27	16	13	82

Longview Trinity School of Texas (8-9, 3-4) – Rahman Mohammed 21, Danny Pope 8, Nathan Burket 7, Smith Houston 6, Bret Levy 4, Rassoul Mohammed 2.

RCA (13-10, 6-0) – Grant Jensen 22, Raymon Stewart 18, Carl Clewis 11, Aaron Eastin 8, Justin Robison 7, Justo Garcia 6, Joey Rousset 4, Daniel Rorie 3, Eric Wright 3.

Greenville Christian (N/A) – Kelton Pitts 20, Jake Brooks 7, Andrew Wombaker 6, J. Henderson 4, A.J. Uland 4, Jordan Brooks 1, Rook 1.

RCA (14-10, 7-0) – Aaron Eastin 18, Grant Jensen 16, Raymon Stewart 15, Carl Clewis 8, Justo Garcia 8, Eric Wright 8, Daniel Rorie 6, Joey Rousset 2.

Two tough losses typify Jackets' season

The Rockwall boys' basketball season ended with three games in six games that illustrated why the Yellowjackets' season didn't stretch beyond the regular season.

RHS was in two of the three games into the final stages, but fell short as it had in so many close games this season.

On Thursday, the Jackets led playoff-bound McKinney North after three quarters 31-30, but the Bulldogs shut down Rockwall in a 14-4 fourth period for a 44-35 victory.

That game also pointed out another principle: RHS had a deep team, but one without take-charge stars. Nine Jackets scored, but Clay Marley was the high scorer with just nine points.

The next night against Highland Park, Rockwall tried to slow down the District 10-4A co-leaders. That half-worked in the first quarter. HP scored just five points, but shut out Rockwall. After that, the pace picked up enough for the Scots to win 57-45 with high-scoring Luke Turpin pouring in 23 points. Daunte Crawford and Wesley Davis scored 15 each for the Jackets.

Tuesday's game at Wylie had a seesaw effect. Rockwall led 13-11 after the first quarter, trailed 33-25 at halftime and outscored the Pirates 18-10 in the third quarter to pull into a 43-43 tie. Wylie prevailed by three points in the fourth quarter and in the game for a 57-54 victory.

For Rockwall, which finished 11-10 overall and 3-11 in the district, Davis scored 14 points and Blake Sandlin had 11. Sandlin and Taylor Oden completed four years anchoring the Jackets' backcourt.

Eagles reach playoffs despite lost weekend

Christian Academy's busy boys' basketball weekend brought the free losses that dropped them from second place to fourth in TAPPS 2A.

(11-11 overall, 3-5 in the district) still made the playoffs, and traveled TAPPS District 3-2A champion Waco Vanguard College Preparatory Thursday.

Due to postponements, Heritage played Friday, Saturday and Monday, in two trips to Longview.

The Eagles entered the weekend tied for second place with Christian Heritage Longview entering the weekend, but lost to Christian Heritage 57-52 on Friday and again Saturday 41-34 in a "home" game at Greenville.

The game was made up there because HCA's usual home court at Indoor Sports Expo was booked for other events.

Monday, Heritage Christian, then tied for third place with Longview Trinity Texas went back to East Texas and lost to the Titans 56-43.

HCA in Friday's game were Quincy Terrell with 16 points; Andrew Waters 12 points; Aaron Mateer with 11 points, 7 assists and four steals, and Smalley with nine rebounds.

On Saturday, Nathan Mateer had a team-high eight points. Waters grabbed 10 rebounds and blocked two shots and stole the ball twice.

Trinity, Terrell scored 13 points, Aaron Mateer 11 and Waters 10. Waters added four steals and Mateer three assists to their point totals.

The Eagles fell behind early in each game and couldn't catch up. The Eagles lost Friday when they trailed by nine points entering the fourth quarter, lost Christian Heritage 19-15 in the final eight minutes.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Christian Heritage	9	14	10	19	52
HCA	15	16	11	15	57

Christian Heritage (1-9, 3-3) – Quincy Terrell 16, Andrew Waters 12, Aaron Mateer 11, Smalley 5, Asa Burke 4, Nathan Mateer 2, Eric Tamez 2.

Christian Heritage School of Longview (11-4, 4-2) – Blake Godsey 30, David Jones 10, Chance Gamble 4, Shaw 4, B. Upchurch 3, A. Krug 2, Daniel Jones 2.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Christian Heritage	12	11	8	10	41
HCA	4	13	7	10	34

Christian Heritage School of Longview (12-4, 5-2) – Blake Godsey 19, Daniel Nelson 3, L. Shaw 2, Chance Gamble 1.

Christian Heritage (13-10, 3-4) – Nathan Mateer 8, Aaron Mateer 7, Andrew Waters 7, Terrell 5, Quincy Terrell 5, Asa Burke 2.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Christian Heritage	14	5	14	10	43
HCA	21	7	18	10	56

Christian Heritage (13-11, 3-5) – Quincy Terrell 13, Aaron Mateer 11, Andrew Waters 10, Smalley 3, Preston Smalley 3, Eric Tamez 2, Nathan Mateer 1.

Longview Trinity School of Texas (9-9, 4-4) – Rahman Mohammed 20, Nathan Burket 12, Smith Houston 12, Danny Pope 6, Bret Lacy 4, Rassoul Mohammed 2.

Fulton reaches playoffs for first time

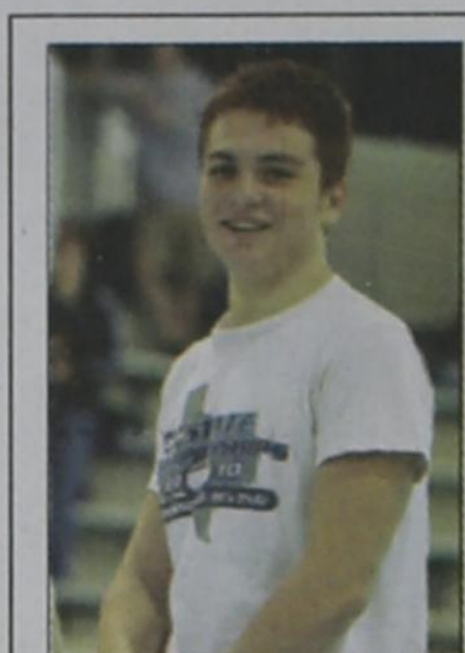
The Fulton School qualified for the TAPPS 1A boys' basketball playoffs for the first time in the school's history.

The Falcons bounced back from a 43-38 loss Thursday at McKinney Christian Academy to defeat Waco Parkview Christian Monday night in the regular season in third place in TAPPS District 2-1A.

Against Cornerstone, Fulton fell behind 30-18 after three quarters and rallied for a 20-13 fourth-quarter advantage that wasn't enough to catch up.

The Falcons earned All-District honors. Tim Borgen and Dylan Leverett were first team, Harrison Cleek was on the second team and Brett Steffen and Chase Nasr received honorable mention.

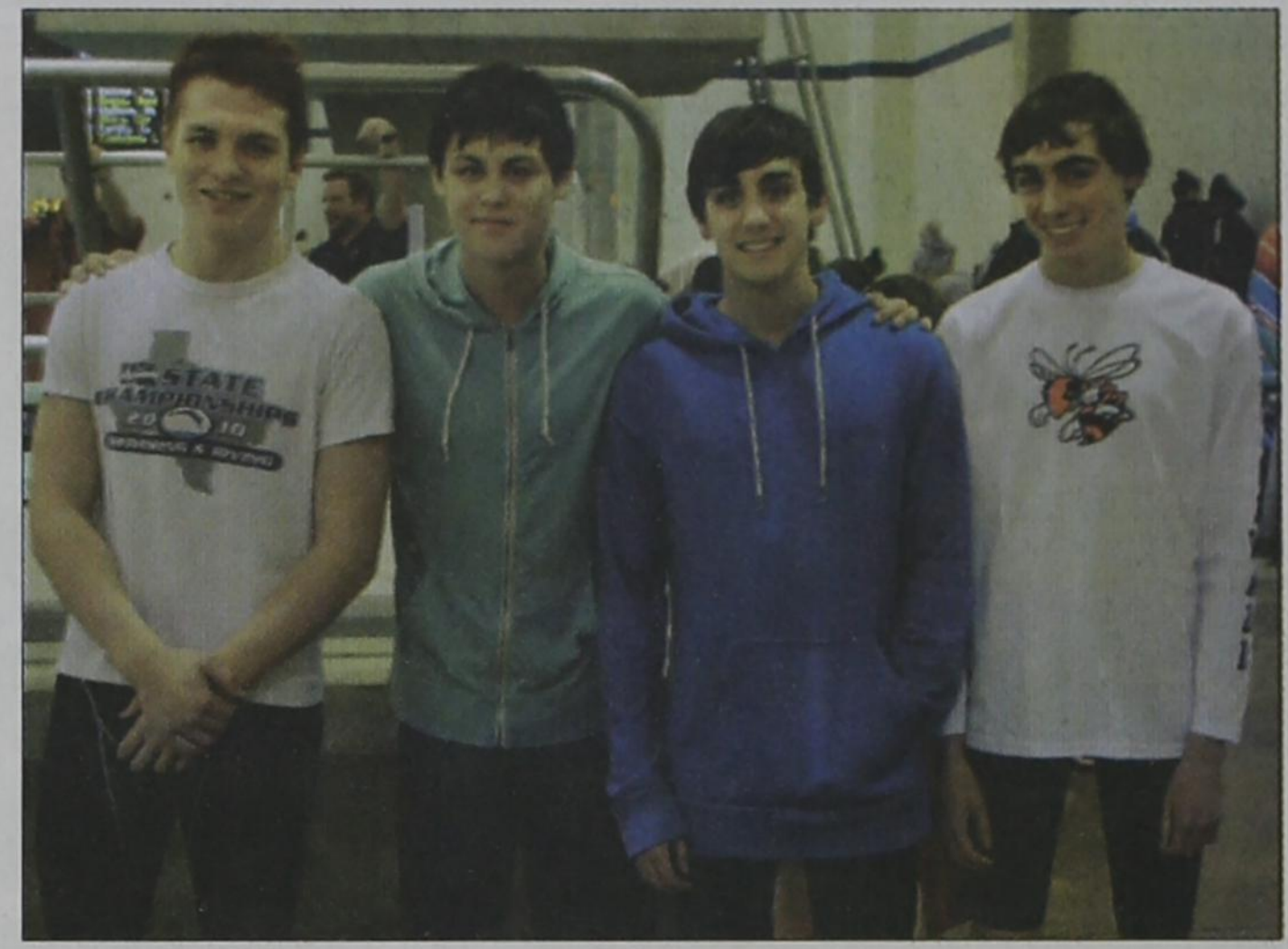
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Cornerstone	6	8	4	20	38
Fulton	9	12	9	13	43



Yellowjackets' Alex Fontenot advances to the State swim meet in the 100 Backstroke. Photo by Sue Madrid/Rockwall County News



Hawks' Jon Sherwin advances to the State swim meet in the 50 Free and 100 Free. Photo by Sue Madrid/Rockwall County News



Qualifying for the State Swim meet are Yellowjackets' 200 Meter Relay team Alex Fontenot, Nathan Eldridge, Jared Tokuz and Justin Tokuz. Photo by Sue Madrid/Rockwall County News



Cole Burack (shown front and right), of Rockwall, played with the Stars Elite Ice Hockey team last weekend, and won the State Championship in the Tier I - U16 division. Burack had a "shut out" on Saturday 2-0. In Sunday's championship game, he only allowed one goal for a 5-1 win. Burack is the son of Carece and Mark Burack of Rockwall, where he is a sophomore @ Rockwall High School. Photo courtesy of Sylvia Carter/Rockwall County News



Fulton's Chase Nasr (15) drives in for a Lady Hawks' shot against Cornerstone at Highland Park. Photo by Carl McClung/Rockwall County News



Yellowjackets' Jeff Inmon races for the ball against Hawks' Chase Minter. Photo by Carl McClung



Billy Quinton, Margo Nielsen, Julie Couch and Laurie Grinnan are pictured during a special "Jeopardy!" segment of the recent Rockwall MusicFest's Roast. This year's event feted former Rockwall mayor Scott Self, shown at right. The annual roast supports the summer's Rockwall Philharmonic Orchestra concert at The Harbor and other MusicFest events.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Casey Wright, one of four Rockwall High Chain Reaction Team members who visited recently with Hartman Elementary KC Club students in an afterschool meeting, is pictured above with Hartman students, from the left, Shelby Wright, Macie Darrigan, Haylie Poncinie, Alyssa Monks, Sophia Barrow and Kelsie Brouillette. The RHS students presented leadership training intended to "grow leaders, reduce bullying and build self esteem."

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Hungry Harry

A Tale of Two Restaurants

by Hungry Harry

How many of you have set a meeting at a restaurant with multiple locations? You go to one location and they go to meet you at the other.

This situation happened to me, with Arborleda's Mexican Grill being the suspect restaurant. The person I was to meet didn't have their phone with them so they stayed and ate at the Roysse City location while I ate at the Rockwall location.

However, we both apparently had good meals. This led me to investigate the idea, which was a better location. Some of you may think I need to get a life. I just really like to eat food.

The food at both locations was very good. I have tried their Alid's Plate and their Pollo Chipotle, both of which were very tasty.

The environment though for both is very different. Roysse City has a more historic old feel with more emphasis on a family atmosphere. Rockwall has a more open feel and cleaner defined appearance.

The service also was very differ-

ent, though the food was good at both. The service seemed faster at Roysse City than Rockwall and with a bigger smile. Smiles are important to me. I understand that not every day can be a good day. However, a server can set the tone for your meal. In this case, both were good but, I give the edge to Roysse City.

I do believe that you will have two different kinds of experiences yet, the same good food with consistency. Overall, I would say I preferred Roysse City better but, it is just my opinion and truthfully I

don't think Rockwall's disappoints either.

If you are looking for a good place to have a meal with friends Arborleda's may be a good choice, just make sure you clearly tell them which one you are going to.

Atmosphere: Casual, Friendly, Clean. Service: Fair. Food: Very Good. Price: Excellent. Overall: Three out of four smiles. Locations: 1103 Ridge Rd Rockwall, 75087; 138 E. Main Street Roysse City, 75189.

(Editor's Note: Hungry Harry is a local resident who enjoys eating out. The writer receives no compensation or benefit from any food establishment.)

Rockwall Women's League accepting grant requests

Rockwall Women's League is now accepting grant requests from non-profit agencies that provide services to Rockwall County.

The deadline for submission is April 1, 2011.

Proceeds from Rockwall Women's League's annual fundraising charity ball will be used to provide grants to area not-for-profit organizations and scholarships for Rockwall County high school seniors.

Last year, RWL awarded \$25,400

Exclusive in the Rockwall County News

ACROSS

1 Stockton, TX

5 WWII pilots were trained at TX

6 Harper of TX-based "Tender Mercies"

7 TX-based "Giant" actress (init.)

8 agcy. that arrested TX Allen Stanford for "Ponzi scheme"

9 TXism: "___ fish in water"

15 1840 Indian fight in TX: "Battle of ___ Creek"

16 non-profit org.: "___ Beautiful"

19 in Fannin Co. on 34

21 TX Pat Green lyric: "___ like Texas"

22 steal a mutt? (3 wds.)

27 TXism: "stirred up a hornet's ___"

28 TXism: "it beats a ___ the eye with a sharp stick"

29 folded egg dish

30 TXism: "runnin' round like a chicken with ___ cut off"

32 Old West novel writer Zane (init.)

33 TXism: "changes his mind ___ he does socks"

36 Rusty Staub was this after he was an Astro

37 rum cocktail: ___ tai

38 Kinky Friedman slogan in '06

governor race: "Why Not?"

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
Copyright 2011 by Orbison Bros.

39 TXism: "a ___ burner" (exciting)

41 Andrews h.s. class

42 in Fayette Co.: ___ Alp

45 this Cheryl replaced TX Farrah as an "Angel"

46 TX Tanya (init.)

47 dir. to Dallas from Dublin

48 in '10 TX Willie's was 77

49 '40 film "Texas"

52 this Phil was a Ranger in '05 & an Astro in '95

53 John Wesley Hardin died in a ___ game

54 TX fiddler Robertson

55 Susan of TV film "Blue River" with TX Nick Stahl

DOWN

1 TXism: "chew the ___" (talk)

2 Jevan Snead left UT for "___ Miss"

3 in Falls Co. on 77

4 public tributes

8 "Lone Star ___"

9 National ___ forecasts

10 storms in TX

10 boot width

11 this Petty & TX Roy Orbison were

"Wilburys" (init.)

12 TXism: "hotter than ___"

13 "hide-and-___"

14 tire shaft

15 TX Jim Marrs book: "Crossfire: The ___ Killed Kennedy"

16 TX Pride's ___ an Angel Good Momin"

17 TXism: "pantin' like ___ on a hot rock"

18 TX-born Debbie Reynolds film: "___ in the Rain"

20 ex-Mav coach Avery now coaches this New Jersey team

22 TX Nolan threw more ___ hitters than any assn. for a "pill wrangler"

24 TX McMurtry's "Lonesome Dove" was a ___ seller

25 Hawaiian "howdy" conquer

26 conquer

28 endearment for father

31 TX George Strait's "All My ___ Live in Texas"

34 this Erik was in "Spring Break '83" with TX Morgan Fairchild (init.)

35 Astro league (abbr.)

37 "Urban Cowboy" was ___ in TX

40 purses

43 El Paso's "___ Wild Waterworld"

44 TX Willie's "Last Thing ___"

45 First Thing This Morning" ('82)

50 this singer Nelson died in '85 TX crash

51 hole-in-___

Hubbard Chamber Music competition final set Feb. 20

The final competition concert of the 15th annual Young Artists Solo and Chamber Music Competition, conducted by the Hubbard Chamber Music Series, will begin at 5 p.m. Feb. 20 at the Rockwall Wedding Chapel, 305 S. Fannin, in Rockwall. The event will feature string, wind, piano and chamber music finalists from the preliminary competition on Feb. 19.

Judges for the event are pianist John Owings and violinist Misha Galaganov, both artists-in-residence at Texas Christian University.

Final winners can receive as much as \$1,000 each in cash awards, as well as a concert performance. Contestants will collectively receive more than \$3,000 in cash awards.

Following the concert and while judges make their final decision, patrons will be treated to a catered champagne reception provided by Zanata's, Bin 303, TR Café & Grill and the Rockwall Cake Factory.

The Hubbard Chamber Music Series, founded in 1986 by artistic director Michele McDonald, has dedicated many years to providing classical solo and chamber music to Rockwall area residents. Since retiring the concert series in 2007, which was performed by Dallas Symphony musicians and guests who made up the Hubbard Chamber Ensemble, the organization has been devoted to promoting young artists.

Cost of the Feb. 20 concert and reception is \$10 per person. Seating will be limited, so advance ticket purchase is recommended. Visit hubbardchambermusic.com for information or to reserve tickets.

Work wrapping up on Habitat house

Work on the Rockwall Area Habitat for Humanity's latest build at 803 Peter's Colony is close to being finished, according to a news release issued Tuesday.

Saturday's work will include the installation of lights, completion of electrical and the installation of cabinets. A small group also will work on a small deck being constructed at the house's back door. Start time will be 8:30 a.m.

The organization already is looking ahead to the start of its next build. Framing on the next home, to be located at 801 Peter's Colony, should begin in just a couple of weeks. As organizers move toward that date, they are seeking assistance with breakfast and lunch meals for volunteers on workdays.

Recently, coffee for volunteers was supplied by TR Café & Grill, breakfast was provided by Mike Mahoney and lunch was provided by the Catholic Mother's Council-Our Lady of the Lake.

For up-to-date information on the organization and its plans for a workday or in the event of inclement weather, visit rockwallhabitat.blogspot.com.

Rockwall County News Briefs

RC library's Anime Club to meet

The Anime Club of the C.F. Goodwin Library will meet at 1 p.m. at the library. For more details call 972-635-2772.

Hubbard chamber music event set

The Hubbard Chamber Music 25th anniversary and 15th annual Solo and Chamber Music Finals Competition Concert will begin at 5 p.m. Feb. 20 at the Rockwall Wedding Chapel, 305 S. Fannin, Rockwall. Seating limited; reserved tickets recommended. Tickets cost \$10 per person. hubbardchambermusic.com.

Library's quilting group plans meeting

The C.F. Goodwin Library plays host to quilters at 6 p.m. each Tuesday with the next session set for Feb. 22. For more information call 972-772.

Lake Pointe seminar series to continue

The next interactive discussion in the Lake Pointe Medical Community Seminar Series will begin at 6 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Best Western 752 Pinson Rd. in Forney. Dr. Kenny Iloabachie, ENT will lead the seminar titled "Chronic Ear Infections in Children and Adults." Those wishing to participate should RSVP to 1-866-525-5762.

HCA to present 'Charlie Brown'

Heritage Christian Academy will present dinner theater performance "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!" at 7 p.m. Feb. 24, 25 and 26. Tickets cost \$16 for adults, \$13 for children under 12. A dessert theater performance will be offered at 2 p.m. Feb. 26; tickets cost \$13 for adults, \$10 for children under 12. Reserved seating only; call 972-772-3003 for tickets.

Registration under way for 'Black Dress' event

Registration for the Little Black Dress Night fundraiser benefiting Women's Health Care at the Health Center for Helping Hands will continue through Feb. 24. The event, which will take place at the Reston in Rockwall, will run from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Feb. 27. For more details e-mail kaydutta@rockwallhelpinghands.com or melody.hail@mac.com or call 214-232-2891.

Chocolate Festival returns Feb. 25

The Girls' Ministry at Lake Pointe Church, Rockwall will resume the Chocolate Festival tradition Feb. 25. Prizes, giveaways and the crowning of the 2011 Chocolate Queen are scheduled. Local residents are invited to create chocolate recipes and enter the taste-test contest. Cost is \$5 a young woman in grades 6 through 12 and their mothers are invited to provide more details or to register, contact Rebecca Bradford at rebeccab@lakepointe.org or visit fourmneteen.com.

RFA tutor training set Feb. 26

A Reading for Adults tutor training session is set for Feb. 26. The program's second semester is under way, with an enrollment of more than 100 adults in ESL, GED, Citizenship Preparation and Adult Literacy Classes. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Gloria Bishop, 972-7705.

Celebration set at South Fork Ranch

The Rockwall ISD Education Foundation Inc. will conduct a celebration honoring Innovative Teaching Grant recipients, Century Club members and the board of directors at South Fork Ranch Feb. 26. The event will include live entertainment, a student art exhibit, dinner and auction. For details call 469-698-7032 or visit riseducationfoundationinc.com.

RHS to host UIL tournament

Rockwall High will host its first Tournament of Service UIL Academic Tournament on Feb. 26. All UIL academic events will be offered, as well as speech and LD debate. Registration is open at joyoftournaments.com.

Celebration tickets still available

Tickets to the Rockwall ISD Education Foundation's Feb. 26 at Celebration event, "Beyond the Tropical Horizon," are still available at a cost of \$70 apiece. Cost includes dinner, entertainment and live art. The event, designed to honor teachers who have "reached beyond" to educate students, will begin at 6 p.m. at SouthForkRanch. Tickets purchased in advance by calling the EF office at 972-771-0605, ext. 700.

Shisler to address women's seminar

Dr. Stephanie Shisler, OB/GYN will lead an interactive seminar titled "Hormone Replacement Therapy - Making the Right Choice for You" beginning at 6 p.m. March 1 at the Lake Pointe Imaging Center in 7063 E. State Hwy. 80, Suite 120. Those planning to participate in this seminar should RSVP to Barbara Quast at 469-698-7824.

Library to be closed March 2

The Rockwall County Library will be closed on March 2 in observance of Texas Independence Day. The facility will reopen at 10 a.m. on March 3.

RCC meeting set March 2

The Rockwall Computer Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. March 2 at the Center, Rockwall City Place, 108 E. Washington St. Kaaren Mahoney, senior tax adviser with H&R Block, will present the program on federal law changes, payroll tax holiday, changed for self-employed, estate tax, AMT Patch extended and expiring provisions, etc. Anyone interested is invited to attend. For more details call Bob Alston, 214-770-1140.

Preschool Association meeting slated

The Rockwall Preschool Association will meet at 9 a.m. March 4 at the Free Methodist Church across from Nebbie Williams Elementary, Dalton Rd., Rockwall. The program will be "Get Your Home and Life in Order." New members are welcome any time. For more information on the group visit rockwallpreschoolassociation.com.

Museum plans March 4 fundraiser

The Zane Robison Historical Museum in Roysse City will host its annual Tall Tales or True fundraiser at 7 p.m. March 4. Cost for beans, cornbread, desserts and more will be \$10 per person. For more details, call 972-674-7438.

A&M Singing Cadets to perform

The Texas A&M University Singing Cadets will perform at the Rockwall Performing Arts Center on the Utley campus, 1201 T.L. Townsend Drive, Rockwall, at 7:30 p.m. March 4. Tickets cost \$10. For more details call vday95@gmail.com or call 972-463-8921.

Bands plan dinner concert, auction

The Rockwall-Heath High, Utley Middle School and Cain Middle School bands will conduct a mega-concert from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. March 5 at the Rockwall-Heath Performing Arts Center. The event will be a dinner and silent auction fundraiser. Dinner tickets cost \$10 apiece and must be purchased in advance by e-mailing hoar@netportusa.com.

Sock Hop set March 5

The Rockwall Parks & Rec Department will host a Sock Hop beginning at 7 p.m. March 5 at The Center. The event will include a crazy socks contest and plenty of rock 'n' roll music. Cost will be \$10 per local resident and \$15 for non-resident. For more details call 972-771-7740.

March 11 is next Brown Bag Lecture

The next Rockwall County Historical Foundation's Brown Bag Lecture will be at noon on March 11 in the Historic Courthouse. "Artistic Renderings: Highlights from Rockwall's Creative Side" will be the topic. The program is free and open to the public.

March 12 Quilt Show planned

The Rockwall Parks & Rec Department will host a Quilt Show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 12 at The Center. Handmade quilts will be displayed. Admission will be free. For information call 972-771-7740.

Exclusive in the Rockwall County News

RWL engineers renovations at local Boys & Girls Club

Thirty-five members of the Rockwall Women's League, working in two groups, renovated a pair of rooms at the Boys and Girls Club of Rockwall on Jan. 14.

The service project was planned by Melody Hail, program chair. RWL members Deidra Roe and Kristy Gussio designed the renovations and led volunteers.

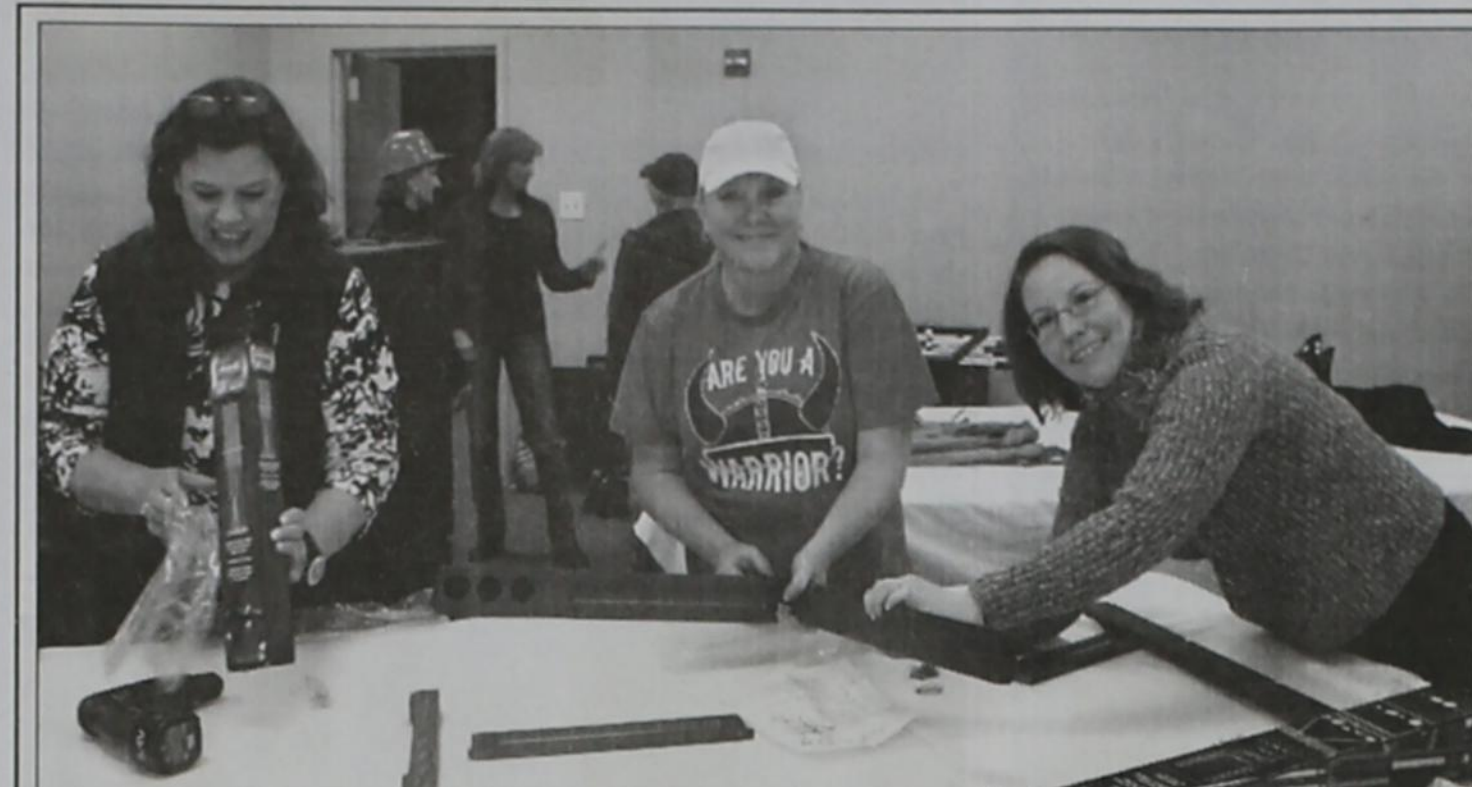
In the Teen Room, RWL members oversaw the repair of drywall and repainted the walls a neutral gray color, then added billiard wall racks, curtains, stools, corkboards, ceiling décor and a big-screen TV donated by RWL member Lori Smith. Also added was a new sound system, which according to the

Boys and Girls Club executive director, Gordon Eldredge, was on top of the teens' wish list.

In the Mirror Image girls' beauty parlor, league members painted the walls a vivid pink, using a paler shade for shelves. The floor was painted with a sparkling gray paint. A beauty parlor chair and mirrors were added to accommodate hair-styling and make-up lessons. Rounding out the transformation were a vanity, stools, a black chandelier, wall art and shelf decorations.

Thanks to the RWL members' dedication and fundraisers such as the Annual Charity Ball, the league was able to provide the renovations with every item on Eldredge's wish list.

This year's RWL fundraising ball, under the theme of "All You Need is Love," is set for March 26 at the Hilton Anatole. The event will be open to the community, and funds raised will be used for service projects, grant disbursements and local scholarships. For tickets contact Jami Frisby, ball chair, at jami.frisby@swst.com or call 2140435-4872.



Rockwall Women's League members, from the left, Lisa Reid, Kayla Worley and Kelly McNeely Bly are shown assembling billiard wall racks in the Boys and Girls Club of Rockwall Teen Room on Jan. 14. League members designed and did renovations to the club. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Rockwall County Coffee Conservatives to meet Saturday

RCCC will be meeting at The Well 103 E. Main Street Royse City Feb. 19th to discuss Texas Lawsuit Reform at 10:30am Saturday, All ages welcome and free to public. For more information contact (214)793-2923.

Royse City High School debate team brought back several members from the UIL Policy Debate District Meet held in Greenville, Texas, Feb. 11. These students will compete at the State Meet in March 17-19. Katrina Watson and Nicole Austin placed second and were named alternates to the state competition; Kaylee and Kelsie Rogers placed second and are advancing to the competition; and Matt Stone and Travis Sanders received first and are advancing to the state competition. Also the District Top speaker was Matt Stone. Pictured above left to right are Kelsie Rogers, Matt Stone, RCHS UIL Academic Coordinator Josh Stone, Travis Sanders and Kaylee Dusek.

Citizen Survey mailed to Rockwall homes

A Citizen Survey conducted by Raymond Turco & Associates was mailed to more than 15,000 households in the City of Rockwall. Residents are encouraged to complete the questionnaire and return it by Feb. 25. The survey gives city officials an idea of what improvements are needed in areas such as city services and police and fire protection, providing insight on what items are most important to residents. The survey was completed in 2008.

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Legal Notices

- Public Notice -

City of Rockwall Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2011** at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Rockwall City Hall, 385 South Goliad, Rockwall, Texas, and the Rockwall City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, March 21, 2011** at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Rockwall City Hall, 385 South Goliad, Rockwall, Texas, to consider the following items:

Z2011-005: Proposed Zoning Change from Ag to PD District – SH 205 and FM 549
Hold a public hearing and consider a request by Jerry Sylo of JBI Partners, Inc. for approval of a change in zoning from (Ag) Agricultural district to (PD) Planned Development district on a 264.6-acre property comprised of parcels known as Tracts 17-4, 17-13, 17-15, 17-16 and 40-8 of Abstract 80, W. W. Ford Survey, and situated along the west side of SH 205 (S. Goliad) and south side of S FM 549, and take any action necessary.

Z2011-004: Proposed Amendment to UDC within "DT" Downtown District
Hold a public hearing and consider approval of a city-initiated request to amend the Unified Development Code (Ord. No. 04-38), specifically an amendment to Article IV, Permissible Uses, that would allow for "Auto Repair, Minor" within the "DT" Downtown district subject to approval of a Specific Use Permit, and take any action necessary.

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

3x5, stands waist high with a storage shelf below and four inch vise attached. Call 469-338-6417.

Commercial Property

Hunting Lease
Hunting lease available in Hunt County, 15 acre pasture with deer, feral hogs, bird and other wildlife. Located on FM 1532, 12 miles N.E. of Commerce. Call 432-758-2892.

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE
The following Ordinances were passed by the City Council of the City of Fate, Texas on Monday, February 14, 2011.
ORDINANCE NO. O-1167
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FATE,

PRO-TIME

- Stone Patios
- Stone Bars & Kitchens
- Sidewalks
- Fire Pits
- Flower Beds
- Retainer Walls
- Yard Maintenance
- Sod
- French Drains

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TEXAS, ADOPTING IMPACT FEES FOR WATER, SEWER, AND ROADWAYS; ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR THE ASSESSMENT, COLLECTION, COMPUTATION, EXPENDITURE AND REFUND OF IMPACT FEES; PROVIDING FOR AN ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR IMPACT FEES; PROVIDING CONSTRUCTION SEVERABILITY CLAUSES; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING FOR RELATED MATTERS.

The Ordinance, in its entirety, is available for review in the City Secretary's office at 105 E. Fate Main Place, Fate, Texas.

Jean Dwinell, TRMC
City Secretary
City of Fate
ORDINANCE NO. O-1168

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FATE, TEXAS, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O-1162, APPROVING AND ADOPTING EXHIBIT "C", REMOVING ALL TAP FEES AND ADDING A WATER CONNECTION FEE AND A SEWER INSPECTION FEE TO WATER/SEWER/MISCELLANEOUS RATES TO BE CHARGED FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICES TO CUSTOMERS OF THE MUNICIPAL WATER AND SEWER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Ordinance, in its entirety, is available for review in the City Secretary's office at 105 E. Fate Main Place, Fate, Texas.

Jean Dwinell, TRMC
City Secretary
City of Fate
ORDINANCE NO. O-1169

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FATE, TEXAS, APPROVING AND ADOPTING FEES TO BE CHARGED FOR DEVELOPMENT; HEALTH DEPARTMENT; AND ANIMAL CONTROL/CODE COMPLIANCE CUSTOMERS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Ordinance, in its entirety, is available for review in the City Secretary's office at 105 E. Fate Main Place, Fate, Texas.

Jean Dwinell, TRMC
City Secretary
City of Fate

CITY OF FATE PUBLIC NOTICE

The Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Fate will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, March 17, 2011 at 6:00 P.M., in the Fate Community Center, 104 South W.E. Crawford, to consider a preliminary plat for Woodcreek Phase 5, 95.336 acres situated in the J. Hodges survey, Abstract No. 103, City of Fate, Rockwall County, Texas. For detailed information regarding this preliminary plat, please contact the City Hall, located at 105 E. Fate Main Place, at (972) 771-4601.

The City Council of the City of Fate will hold a Public Hearing and Consider an Ordinance on March 21, 2011 at 6:00 P.M., in the Fate Community Center, 104 South W.E. Crawford, to consider a preliminary plat for Woodcreek Phase 5, 95.336 acres situated in the J. Hodges survey, Abstract No. 103, City of Fate, Rockwall County, Texas. For detailed information regarding this preliminary plat, please contact the City Hall, located at 105 E. Fate Main Place, at (972) 771-4601.

Jean Dwinell, TRMC
City Secretary
City of Fate

PUBLIC NOTICE
The City of Rockwall Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 10, 2011 at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, 385 S. Goliad, Rockwall, Texas to consider the following item s:

Case # BOA-2011-1-V
Hold a public hearing to consider approval of a request from Mr. and Mrs. Rick Baylor for a variance from the zoning to reduce the rear build-line along the take-line from 10-feet to 0 -feet on Lot 38, Block D, HILLCREST SHORES, City of Rockwall, Texas located at 743 Sunset Hill.

For more information concerning this case, contact the Building Inspections Department at (972) 771-7709 .

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Finalists announced for Boy's and Girl's State

The Rockwall American Legion Post 117 has announced its candidates for the 2011 Girl's and Boy's State Convention to be held this summer.

The students selected to attend this year's event will be announced at the Post's Birthday Banquet on March 20.

This year's candidates are: from Rockwall High School Taylor Gilstrap, Colleen McNeir, Brooke Jennings, Shelby Soldat, Brooke Baird, Kathleen Jones, Kaitlyn Reed, Wes Davis, Robert Hurd, Curtis Smith, Tyler Sandman, Tyler Cerrato, Chance Witherspoon, Zach Brown and Jordan Garrison; and from Rockwall-Heath High School Kristen Beck, Chase LaRosa and Jacob Glastad.

The students were nominated by their teachers and counselors, James Jones of Rockwall-Heath High School and Teddie Cherry of Rockwall High.

The delegates selected from this group will attend a week-long camp with emphasis on Americanism. Girls will attend Texas Lutheran University in Seguin and boys will attend the University of Texas at Austin.

According to information provided, "The American Legion believes there is no better way to assure the survival of our republic than to train our young people in the ideals and Objectives of American government."

Guest speaker at the Birthday Banquet will be U.S. Congressman Ralph Hall. The banquet will be held at the Rockwall Senior Citizen's Center, lo-



The Lake Pointe Sleep Center in Rowlett, a part of the Lake Pointe Health Network, recently received program accreditation from the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. To receive a five-year accreditation, a sleep center must meet or exceed all standards for professional health care as designated by the AASM. The accreditation process involves a detailed inspection of a center's facility and staff, including an evaluation of testing procedures, patient contacts and physician training. Pictured above are Dr. Jessica Tan, medical director for the Sleep Center; J. Eric Evans, CEO of the Lake Pointe Health Network; and Bobbie Walker, manager of the Lake Pointe Sleep Center.
Courtesy photolRockwall County News



Love was in the air Feb. 11-12 as members of the Rockwall Children's Chorus delivered singing telegrams as part of the annual Valentine's Day fundraiser. Groups of four or five chorists dressed in formal concert attire serenaded Rockwall residents with songs and presented them with homemade cookies and cards. Pictured are, at top, Keona Collins and Gabriella Mendez; middle row, 93-year-old Reese Manor resident Cleo Holland and honorary RCC member Nayely Mendez and Matthew Mata; and at bottom, Anne-Marie Thacker and Kaylee Chuang.
Photo courtesy of Mary Thacker/Rockwall County News



Rockwall High School girls nominated for the 2011 Girl's State Convention, which is sponsored by the American Legion, are (left to right) Taylor Gilstrap, Colleen McNeir, Brooke Jennings, Shelby Soldat, Brooke Baird, Kathleen Jones and Kaitlyn Reed.
Courtesy photolRockwall County News



Gifted and Talented students from Fort Elementary in Royse City share with district trustees at the Feb. 14 meeting about their class' international penpal project. Pictured are Daxen Lane, Micah Wolfe, Meghan Nolan, Aubrey Oliver, Aly Dusek, Matthew Homan, and Sarah Nolan.
Photo by Patricia Nolan Butts/Rockwall County News



Rockwall High School boys nominated for the 2011 Boy's State Convention are (left to right) Wes Davis, Robert Hurd, Curtis Smith, Tyler Sandman, Tyler Cerrato, Chance Witherspoon, Zach Brown and Jordan Garrison.
Courtesy photolRockwall County News



The Rockwall-Heath High School students nominated for the 2011 Boy's and Girl's State Convention are (left to right) Kristen Beck, Chase LaRosa and Jacob Glastad. The finalists will be announced at the March 20 Rockwall American Legion Post 117 Birthday Banquet. Girl's State will take place this summer at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin.
Courtesy photolRockwall County News

RISD candidate filing under way

The Rockwall Independent School District began accepting application for a place on the May 14 trustee election ballot on Monday.

Three people had filed applications for the open positions in Places 6 and 7, according to a news release issued shortly before 5 p.m. Tuesday. Incumbents Leigh Plagens and Stan Lowrance had filed for re-elections to their posts in Places 6

and 7 respectively, and a challenger, Randy Oakes, also had filed for Place 7.

The RISD Board of Trustees will officially call the election Monday at its regularly scheduled meeting.

Royse City to Host Circus

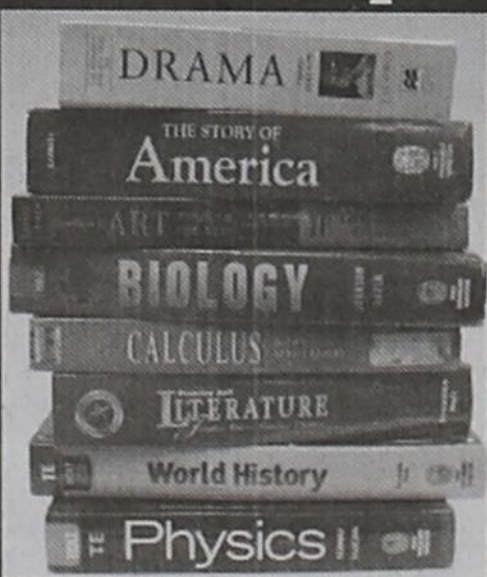
It has been announced that the Royse City Chamber of Commerce, has signed a contract with the Kelly Miller Circus for the exhibition of an all new 2011 show. The circus will roll into town on Thursday March 24, 2011. Everyone is invited to come out and watch the animals being unloaded and fed, and the elephants raising the big top. Activities will begin at 7:30 a.m., and the tent will be raised at 9:00 a.m. Guides will be furnished for school groups and anyone attending.

The traditional "old style" circus will present two performances at 4:30 & 7:30 p.m. Support the Royse City Chamber of Commerce -- buy your tickets in advance and save.

The 2011 season promises to be more exciting than ever with many new acts and entertainers to amaze and amuse you. Come out and enjoy a day of fun filled excitement at the circus.

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RHHS Interact Club sets Feb. 25 blood drive

The Rockwall-Heath High School Interact Club is sponsoring a blood drive from 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., Friday, Feb. 25 at the school gym. Donations from the blood drive will benefit a RHHS student. For more information contact Jennifer Smith at jsmith@rockwallisd.org or 972-772-2474. Rockwall-Heath High School is located at 801 Laurence Drive in Heath.

RHS cross-ex debaters qualify for state meet

The Rockwall High School cross-examination debate team of Lauren Hittson-Smith and Ellias Hishmeh qualified to participate in the state debate meet in March, according to a news release from the school.

Hittson-Smith, a junior, and Hishmeh, a sophomore, captured a first-place win at the district meet conducted last week at Yllie High School to secure their trip to the state-level competition.

With the district win, the two were named district champions.

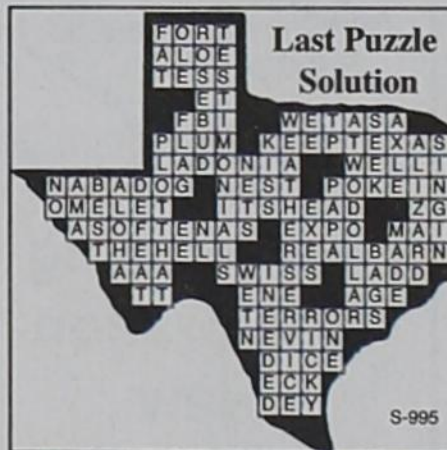
Rockwall Habitat joins Manhattan Construction to build next home

Manhattan Construction Company will join forces with Habitat for Humanity of Rockwall in building the city's 27th home on Peter's Colony next door to its current project.

Manhattan and Rockwall Habitat will break ground on the house this week, with the anticipated completion expected in six to eight months.

Manhattan Construction Co. is currently building Rockwall County's new courthouse, located at the corner of Townsend Blvd. and Interstate 30 Service Road. The courthouse will have approximately 126,900 square-feet of building, with 140 employee parking spaces and 400 public parking spaces. The building is four-stories with a dome and cupola system atop the roof that is 150-feet above grade.

The following companies will also partner with Manhattan Construction building the Rockwall house: Humphrey & Associates, Inc.; JMEG, LP; Lattimore Materials Co.; Facility Construction Services, Inc.; NuFab Arrowhead LLC; Sigma Marble and Granite, Inc.; Skyline Forming, Inc.; Cooper Excavation; ThyssenKrupp Elevator; NOW Specialties, Inc.; Sherwin-Williams; Dallas Door & Supply; LH Land Painting; Drywall Interiors; Barber & Assoc. Commercial Window.



Correction

In its Feb. 11 issue, the Rockwall County News inaccurately printed amount of a grant given to the City of Heath for the Safe Routes to School project which is currently in the planning stages. The correct amount of grant is \$1,034,383, not \$1.5 million as reported. We regret the error.

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NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE REQUEST

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) publishes this notice that on January 7, 2011, Oncor filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) its Petition and Statement of Intent to Change Rates, a copy of which is kept at Oncor's office at 1601 Bryan St., 23rd floor, Dallas, TX 75201. This notice is being published pursuant to Commission Procedural Rule 22.51(a)(1).

Oncor's rate filing, based on the system-wide financial results for a 12-month test year ending on June 30, 2010, adjusted for known and measureable changes, supports a net increase in transmission and distribution rates of approximately \$353 million over adjusted test-year revenues, or approximately a 12.6% increase over adjusted test-year revenues of \$2,809.2 million. Test-year revenues have been adjusted to annualize the rate increase from Oncor's last base rate case, to normalize billing units, to remove the revenues associated with Oncor's Advanced Metering Cost Recovery Factor, Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Factor, and Rate Case Expense surcharge, and to increase test-year revenues to reflect Transmission Cost of Service (TCOS) and Transmission Cost Recovery Factor (TCRF) adjustments approved or pending after June 30, 2010. If the approved or pending TCOS and TCRF adjustments are excluded from the adjustments to test-year revenues (and thus included in proposed base rates), the total base rate increase over adjusted test-year revenues is approximately \$441 million, or approximately a 16.2% increase over adjusted

test-year revenues of \$2,720.6 million. If approved, the increased rates will be charged to Oncor's direct customers, all retail electric providers (REPs), in those portions of Oncor's service area under the original jurisdiction of the Commission. Each such REP is potentially affected by the proposed change. Depending on the REPs' actions, the end-use customer classes of such REPs are potentially affected by the proposed change. In addition, the result could be a change in Oncor's transmission cost of service rates, which would impact all load serving entities in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. Oncor has requested a February 14, 2011 effective date for its proposed rate change.

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings, in Docket No. 38929, Application of Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC for Authority to Change Rates, should notify the Commission as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is 45 days after the date the application was filed with the Commission.

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC

National Signing Day

Participating in the recent National Signing Day ceremony are Michael Minter, Chase Minter (sitting), Luis Najarro, Lynne Minter, Karen Coughlin, Aly Coughlin (sitting), Libby Holley, Devin Gabbard, Brian Coughlin, Jacey Hodan (sitting), Jan Miller, Jason Miller, Dan Hodan, Todd Nunnally, Shelton Williams (sitting), and Mickey Moss.

Photo by Carl McClung/Rockwall County News



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binoculars – it's time for the 14th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count. Beginning today through Monday, expert and beginner birders will have fun all across Rockwall County counting birds and sending results to The Cornell Lab of Ornithology. For years Rockwall has had one of the leading Eastern Bluebird populations counted in the state of Texas. The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual, four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where birds are across the continent. Anyone may participate, from novice bird watchers to experts. Find out more at www.birdcount.org or birdcount.org websites.

photo by Dixon Glazel/Rockwall County News

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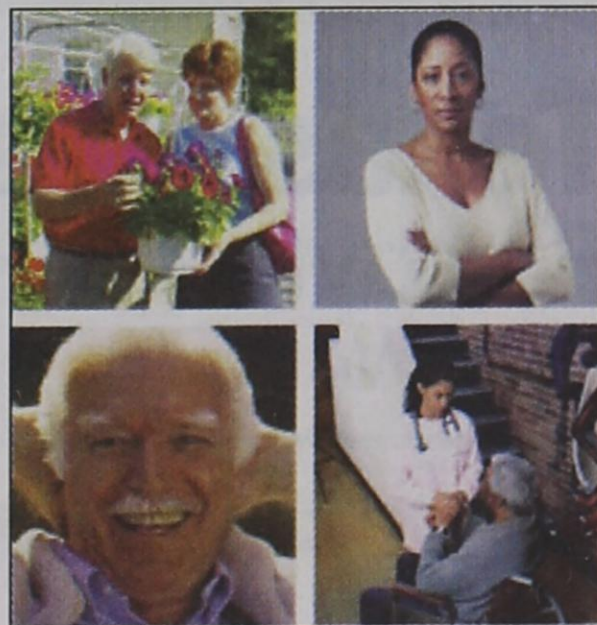
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What Goes Around

Right now, Sinus Infections (Sinusitis) seems to be very prevalent in Rockwall County. Many of these infections follow a common cold and may need to be treated as a separate problem. Be aware of the systems that accompany Sinusitis:

- Thick, yellow, foul-smelling nasal discharge
- Pressure or pain around the face and eyes
- Headache (generally in the forehead area)
- Nasal obstruction
- Congestion
- Post-nasal drip
- A cold that won't go away
- Fever or cough that may or may not be present

Untreated, Sinusitis can lead to much worse complications so call your doctor today if you are having continued sinus problems.

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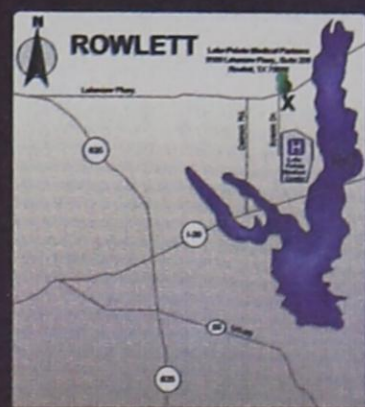
Monika T. Hearne, M.D.



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Outpatient Therapy Services

Outpatient Therapy at Texas Health Rockwall provides services to assist patients who have difficulty with major life functions, including movement and communication.

We offer a full range of rehabilitation programs including:

- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Pathology



We help patients recover more quickly through a therapy program designed specifically for each patient. Our goal is to get patients back to their former lifestyle as soon as possible. Call today to schedule your appointment.

469-698-1100 - option 3

Medical Office Building
3142 Horizon Road, Suite 210
Rockwall, Texas 75032



Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital ROCKWALL

Healing Hands. Caring Hearts.SM

www.phrtexas.com or call 469-698-1000