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# Rockwall County News

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



## Step into 2013 ready to be involved, affect change

by Darcy DeBok Rocha

Whether it was the all-consuming marathon of the 2012 U.S. presidential election or the continuing trend of the past decade, we seem to be more polarized than ever. Even those who admit they're not very politically savvy will fervently stand on one side of the aisle, finding it impossible to consider the other, much less look for common ground in the middle.

But do we really know where we stand, besides being red or blue? On the cusp of this new year, it's time to start giving some critical thought to the political issues that impact our lives and the lives of those around us and be prepared to be involved so we can affect positive change in our community, state and nation.

I've got a secret for you. And it's one that you won't hear on the intensely polarized major news outlets. It's ok if we aren't an exact fit with one party or the other. Being a registered party member does not mean that you have to drink the Kool-Aid.

You can still think independently, consider the issues individually and fearlessly make decisions regardless of where your party stands. We each have the right to take a step back, clear our head and find our own perspective of where we stand on the issues.

In order to move forward at all, we need to recognize that there is validity to the views of all parties and in actuality there is more that binds us than divides us. Safety, prosperity, justice and freedom seem universal enough. Enough at least to encourage us to do everything we can to work together to ensure them.

Mutual respect and working towards the common good can once again be virtues at all levels of politics, not something to be demonized. Life without collaboration is nothing but a recipe for misfortune.

## Purdue recognized for bravery in fire response

Jacob Purdue, a fifth grade student from Celia Hays Elementary, was recognized by Rockwall County Fire Department in October for demonstrating fire safety knowledge during a recent fire that took place at his home. According to the Fire Department, Jacob and his Dad discovered their house was on fire and Jacob immediately called 911. According to the press release from Hays Elementary, "He spoke calmly to the operator and provided details of their emergency. Jacob's quick action prevented the fire from further spreading and saved the surrounding homes from devastation." The release also stated that The Rockwall County Commissioner's Court will recognize Jacob for his act of bravery. During the October visit to Celia Hays, the Fire Department also educated students on fire safety and prevention. The students were educated on the importance of having a fire safety plan, knowing home address and remaining calm during emergencies.

Photo courtesy of Jovan Overshown (RISD)/Rockwall County News



## Williams Middle School send two teams to Lego League Robotics Competition

Williams Middle School took two teams to the First Lego League Robotics Competition Regional Qualifier. The Wildcats Orange Team pictured above won second in the Robot Game and second place overall. Pictured at front are Sean Gregorio, Jarred Manning and Harrison Smith. At back are Todd Manning, coach, Rohan Rajbhandari, Eric Bray, Esther Kim and Tammy Manning, coach. Not pictured are Tadd Whitfield and James Matthews. The team will compete in the North Texas Regional Competition on Jan. 12.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



## Rockwall Fire Department treated to barbecue and tour

Members of the Rockwall Fire Department recently were treated to a barbecue and tour of an almost-completed post-hospital recovery and long-term care facility on Medical Drive in Rockwall. Pictured above are firefighters Todd Hooton and Bruce Winkelmann as they make their way through the buffet line. Firefighters also received gift bags in appreciation for the work they do.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



## Christmas holiday fun in the snow ...

The Gilleys of Royse City tried to make snowballs following the recent snowfall, but the snow was too dry to stick together – as evident by the mist spraying from Geoffrey's hands as he aims at his mother, Rachel. Meanwhile, Tommy is shown explaining to his 5-year-old son, Jack, how to make a snowball. The snow blanketed the area on Christmas day.

Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/Rockwall County News

## Rockwall County Entertainment

### Wine, dine for Rockwall PAWS

The Third Annual Wine and Dine for Rockwall PAWS will begin at 6 p.m., Jan. 19 at the Rockwall Golf & Athletic Club, 2600 Champions Drive. The event will include a dinner at Nineteen by Zanata, wine, a lottery tree, silent and live auctions, a cash bar and desserts by Tiers by Tista. Rockwall PAWS is a nonprofit organization that sponsors a monthly low-cost spay/neuter shuttle for KCAAP; funds the treatment of heartworm-positive shelter dogs; and assists with ill or injured animals. Tickets cost \$50; RSVPs are due before Jan. 14. Checks may be sent to Rockwall PAWS at P.O. Box 44, Rockwall, 75087. For more details call Cathy at 214-532-4407 or email cbedsole@heartoftexas.com.

### Daddy-Daughter Dance tickets almost gone

A Rockwall Parks & Recreation news release issued last week indicated there were fewer than 200 tickets remaining for the Jan. 26 Daddy-Daughter Dance set to run from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Hilton Bella Harbor. Cost is \$69 or \$45 for Rockwall residents; \$15 for each additional child. For more details call 972-771-7740.

### 'Oliver' set at RCP in February

"Oliver" will be staged at the Rockwall Community Playhouse Feb. 8-10, 15-17 and 22-24. Friday and Saturday shows will be at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinee performances will be at 2 p.m.

### Side Street Strutters to perform

The Side Street Strutters will present a musical event showcasing the vocal stylings of Meloney Collins beginning at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 12 at the RHS Performing Arts Center, 1201 T.L. Townsend Dr., Rockwall. The program, Shiny Stockings, will include an extensive repertoire, colorful costumes, tap dancing and 26 years of musicianship. Tickets cost \$65 for concert subscription (for four different performances) or \$25 for individual performance ticket. For more details visit rockwallmusicfest.com.

### Robert Post show slated March 18

Rockwall MusicFest will present Robert Post in a one-man variety show at 7:30 p.m. March 18 at the RHS Performing Arts Center, 1201 T.L. Townsend Drive, Rockwall. Post's show is inspired by classic vaudeville and his Italian grandmother, who danced and sang at any

(Continued on Page 4)



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Joyce Jackson and her Son Charlie Roach

## Frasier, Bryan wed in Dec. 8 ceremony

Lacie Jo Frasier of Rockwall and Kyle Bryan of Heath were married Dec. 8, 2012, in a ceremony performed by Pastor Steve Swofford in the First Baptist Church, Rockwall.

The bride is the daughter of Mike and Mary Grace Frasier of Rockwall.

The bridegroom is the son of Blake and Cheryl Bryan of Heath.

The bride was given in marriage by her parents.

Lauren Durbin of Denton served as maid of honor. Matron of honor was Chelsea Gonzales of San Antonio. Bridesmaids were Haley Cannaday of Austin, Melissa Warner of Rockwall and Sami Mayfield of Deon. Hannah Frank of Rockwall served as junior bridesmaid.

Makena Ragsdale of Forney was flower girl for the ceremony. Ring bearer was Hunter Frasier of Rockwall.

Serving as best man was Kyle Gitchell of Denton. Groomsmen were Daniel Gonzales of San Antonio, Josh Beard of Rockwall and Ty Lunday of Rockwall.

Ushers were Josh Frasier, Haydon Frasier, Luke Ragsdale

and Garrett Ferguson. Emma Galdo, Jordan McConnell, Melissa Frasier and Bobby Duncan provided music for the ceremony.

Following the wedding, a reception was conducted in the North Texas Automobile Museum in Dallas.

The bride, a graduate of Rockwall

High School and Texas Women's University, plans to attend medical school. The groom, also a Rockwall graduate, holds a degree from North Texas and is employed at Multiview in Las Colinas.

The couple honeymooned in Angel Fire, N.M., and have their home in Denton.



Mrs. Kyle Bryan



### Friday Study Club exchanges Christmas gifts

The December meeting of the Friday Study Club was held in the home of Peg Pannell Smith (center). Members exchanged gifts and brought items to stock the Helping Hands food pantry. Co-hostesses preparing and serving refreshments were Nancy Hall (left) and Betty Moon (right). Photo courtesy of Carolyn Francisco/Rockwall County News

## Royse City High School Golden Debs travel to see Rockettes

The Royse City Golden Debs traveled to the Verizon Theatre in Grand Prairie December to attend a performance of the Radio City Christmas Spectacular starring the

Rockettes. The Rockettes' precision dance numbers, costumes and eye-high kick-line performances were awe-inspiring for the drill team


members. The trip was made possible by the Golden Debs Booster Club, a nonprofit organization that works throughout the year to raise support, promote the education of the drill team and coordinate its involvement in the school and community.

For more information on the drill team, to arrange an appearance or to become a sponsor, contact the booster club at goldendebstoosterclub@gmail.com or visit rchsgoldendebbs.com

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(Continued from Page 3)

Ladies Retreat to be hosted

Ladies' Retreat will be hosted at Sabine Creek Ranch in Royse City, January 11-12, 2013 featuring author/speaker Vicki Courtney.

Local TEA Party meeting slated

Rockwall County TEA Party will meet from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Well Coffee Lounge, 103 E. Main St., Royse City.



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Rockwall County Letters to the Editor

We encourage the submission of Letters to the Editor. The publishing of letters is at the sole discretion of the editor and may be edited for brevity, grammar and accuracy.

Email rcn.news@yahoo.com

Mail to P.O. Box 819, Rockwall, Texas 75087

We must cut spending and reduce deficit

Let the Bush tax cuts expire. Let the spending cuts take place. At least we have some certainty. The people voted for this president and the Congress and now should for the government they wanted.

Texas needs a legislative liberty leader

Texas is a sovereign state, and sometimes we have to act like it." I am paraphrasing the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court in his opinion in the Obamacare decision.

Opinions

Texans deserve defense from federal government

By Wesley W. Burnett

Local and Texas elected officials begin 2013 responsibilities shortly ... hopefully considering ways to defend Texans from an aggressive and dangerous U.S. federal government.

Texas is the "enemy" to the federal government communist and socialist rulers. Those high-level regulators are getting ready to use their power to close down Texas liberty and free enterprise life.

How do they do destroy our way of life?

The federal government has historically used U.S. funding to



Scott Elementary Head Start students in Aretha Pannell's class recently were treated to a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/Rockwall County News

Rockwall County high school varsity results, Dec. 24-30

Table listing boys' and girls' basketball results for various schools.

Unfortunately, our current Speaker, Joe Straus, has been all too willing to cave to threats from the Obama Administration.

Now, the race for Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives could come down to just a few votes.

With time running out, you can bet statist incumbent Speaker Joe Straus is twisting arms, cutting smoky backroom deals, and doing everything else he can to hold on to his top spot.

That's why I'm urging you to contact your State Representative and urge your Representative to vote for David Simpson for Speaker of the Texas House.

The vote takes place on January 8, so there isn't much time. The truth is, the battle lines couldn't be any clearer between the two candidates for Speaker of the House.

Incumbent Speaker Joe Straus has refused to pledge his opposition to tax increases.

He has fought efforts to cap spending every step of the way. He called efforts to stop TSA groping in Texas a "publicity stunt" and worked behind the scenes to make sure the bill was killed.

But all of this should be no surprise, since Joe Straus gained his position as Speaker with the support of statist in BOTH parties.

You see, his winning coalition in 2009 included only 11 statist House

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Republicans. The rest were Democrats whom Strauss had cut a deal with - immediately appointing big spending statist Democrats to 16 of 34 House chairmanships.

In fact, one online news source stated the emails reveal Strauss' ongoing malicious "War Against Conservatives."

The good news is, David Simpson's record is far different. He's publicly pledged to reduce both taxes and spending as well as curb government involvement in our lives.

He introduced the original bill to criminalize TSA groping in Texas. He strongly opposes indefinite detention, and he has pledged to push 10th Amendment challenges to federal overreach - including "ObamaCare" and "Cap and Tax."

But right now, you and I have that chance. Considering everything that's at stake, it's critical you act at once.

That's why it's vital you contact your State Representative and urge your Representative to vote for David Simpson for Speaker of the Texas House.

Tell your State Representative to take a stand. Make sure they know they won't get off scot-free by voting to install Joe Straus as Speaker for another term.

John F. Tate, Campaign for Liberty (www.campaignforliberty.org)

TEXAS CROSSWORD by Charley & Guy Orbison. Includes crossword grid and word list.

When is it okay to steal?

- God said, "Thou Shalt Not Steal!" He did not say, "Thou shalt not steal, except to help the poor." He did not say, "Thou shalt not steal, unless government needs more money."

What does the U.S. Supreme Court say about the definition of income?

"Throughout the argument of the Government, in a variety of forms, runs the fundamental error already mentioned - a failure to appraise correctly the force of the term 'income' as used in the Sixteenth Amendment, or at least to give practical effect to it."







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