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Rockwall County News

Volume Number 25 Issue Number 4

USPS 002-495

Friday, January 28, 2011

Single Copy Price 75 Cents

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Construction continues on the project to widen FM-740 from a two-lane asphalt roadway to a four-lane divided concrete roadway from Horizon Road in the city of Rockwall southward to FM-1140 in the city of Heath. The contractor for the TXDOT project is Ed Bell Construction. The project, which is about 25 percent complete, is on schedule and has a completion date of August 2012. The Heath City Council recently heard an update from architect Jim Cooper of Cooper Design Works in Rowlett about ongoing planning of the median design for the road project. Cooper has been working with city staff and the park board to design a landscape design to flow in harmony with the median landscaping the city of Rockwall installed last year for the Ridge Road expansion project. Cooper said the median landscaping could cost an estimated \$200,000, depending on the plant and hardscape materials selected. He said he expects a grant from TXDOT to pay that cost but final approval has not been received. If Heath receives the grant, the landscape project would be funded in 2012 when the roadway is complete.

Editor's Note: In the coming weeks, the Rockwall County News will be highlighting other construction projects and incoming businesses around the county. Does this signal a positive turnaround in the local economy? Watch for a response to this question from local leaders and more economic updates in the Rockwall County News.

Photo by Ken Szolosi/Rockwall County News

Rockwall City Council agrees panhandling ordinance needed

by Patricia Nolan Butts

"I think it's something we definitely have to address, from a safety standpoint for our residents," Rockwall City Council member David Sweet said in the council's Jan. 17 meeting.

"It" is a growing problem of panhandlers at Rockwall intersections.

The five council members present at the meeting agreed a local anti-panhandling ordinance is needed, but concurred that the wording of the ordinance needs more tweaking before they sign off on it.

When introducing the ordinance to the council, Matthew Scott referred to "an individual who had apparently set up a bedroom under the I-30 at SH 205 bridge" as well as persons asking for money at the I-30 and FM 740 for several months.

"In talking to [police] chief Moeller, we really don't have a lot in our ordinances to prohibit someone from doing such things," Scott said. The goal of a 'Peddlers, Solicitors and Itinerant Vendors' ordinance is to give the police department the ability to lawfully discourage the practice.

One issue that had to be settled: Whether the persons asking Rockwall drivers for handouts are themselves Rockwall residents down on their luck.

Sweet said the proposed ordinance was not intended to make tough times tougher on locals.

"It's something we need to be sensitive to in the economy we're all living in right now," he said. "There are folks in our community going through tough times, and we do have places for those folks to get the necessary assistance."

He acknowledged council member Margo Nielsen's involvement with Rockwall's Helping Hands and how that agency models a local response to local needs.

But according to Scott, police checks indicate that the panhandlers are "commuting" to Rockwall from Dallas or other cities where panhandling is prohibited "because this is apparently a pretty lucrative place for them to come."

The safety concerns are apparently two-sided. Panhandlers put themselves at risk by walking in traffic lanes, and they cause safety concerns to drivers to whom they make appeals.

Sweet said female constituents have told him they felt unsafe when approached by the panhandlers at Rockwall intersections.

Fine tuning the ordinance language to prohibit unwanted behaviors without endangering other liberties fell under discussion. Although Mark Russo expressed concern that language prohibiting "falling asleep in a public place" would be unenforceable, Matthew Scott responded he didn't think those situations would be an issue.

"I trust our officers have enough discretion, as they do with all of our ordinances," he said. "We're not talking about the folks dozing off on the park bench while their kids are playing."

Other concerns related to prosecution under the ordinance. Nielsen asked about procedures for fining or jailing those found in violation.

Nielsen asked police chief Mark Moeller, "Where does a vagrant or transient or panhandler stay between the time he's charged with a misdemeanor and the time he's convicted and has to pay a fine?"

"As with any other ordinance," Moeller said, "there's the option of going to jail -- or being cited, in which case they're free to come and go, like any other citizen. They're arraigned at the jail unless released, which can be fairly quickly. They would be released with promise to appear at municipal court."

Not showing up at court results in a bench warrant for violators, he confirmed.

"And then, if they get out of jail, do you say, 'Hit the road, Jack?' I have some concerns about what happens to people between 'under the bridge' and 'getting where they're supposed to be,'" Nielsen said.

She told Scott, who had moved for Jan. 17 passing of the ordinance, "Matt, you and David have had opportunity to talk to the chief about this. I would ask that you give us a little more time to have that same conversation."

Russo suggested homeless persons in other cities deliberately break the law to get a warm place to stay and some meals.

"They can misuse an ordinance, so we need to think seriously about what we want to achieve," he said.

Scott emphasized that violations under the ordinance would be treated like a traffic ticket. Violators are processed and released, "presumably on foot." The potential of someone abusing the panhandling ordinance to get "two hots and a cot" should not deter the council from acting on the ordinance.

"This is something that needs to be addressed," Scott said when he agreed to pull the motion, pending language tightening. He committed to reintroduce the ordinance at the Feb. 7 council meeting.

City attorney Pete Eckert assured the council the issues raised by council members would be considered in ordinance wording and that local fundraising campaigns such as those conducted by firefighters at intersections would be exempted.

In other business, the council voted to suspend the Feb. 14 implementation date of Oncor Electric Delivery's requested rate increase. City manager Julie Couch explained that suspending the increase is a mechanism Rockwall and other cities in its energy coalition may employ to delay increases so that the coalition can study and negotiate the rate down.

Following continued discussion about the bi-annual Rockwall Citizen Survey, the council committed once again to a mailed-out, mailed-back form, but not without some lobbying by Russo to inaugurate an opt-in online version. Mayor Cecil and council member Nielsen agreed that the survey should have an electronic component in the future, but said there is not time to implement those changes this year.

Citizen input is needed as soon as possible for city planning, Cecil said. The council voted to save money by printing the survey in English only.

The council granted a specific use permit (SUP) to Christian Brothers Automotive for a nine-bay, Monday through Friday minor automotive repair business at Rockwall Market Center. The Planning and Zoning Commission had recommended the approval.

Marlyn Roberts spoke at the public hearing portion of the process asking the council to examine the pertinent city ordinance for its overnight vehicle storage provisions. An employee of Valvoline Express Oil in the area, he said that his intent was to ensure that Christian Brothers "play by the same rules as the rest of us."

Robert LaCroix, P&Z director had told the council that no welding or painting would be permitted at the location, nor any outdoor overnight vehicle storage.

Following the SUP approval, city staff met with Roberts to examine the ordinance.

An SUP also was granted to Darby Burkey to relocate her business, Rockwall Flower and Design, to 1014 Ridge Rd. The SUP applies only to a flower shop at that location, LaCroix told council, because the business involves primarily phone and internet orders and utilizes normal-size vans for deliveries. Any future business in that light commercial location would require re-application for an SUP.

The city completed annexation of 37.844 acres on the south side of Clem Road east of FM 1141, with the exception of acreage belonging to veterinarian Dr. Allan Stevenson, who lives on Clem Road. The council approved a seven-year 212 non-development agreement with Stevenson, exempting the property.

The council appointed Janice Johnson to the Historic Preservation Advisory Board.

Royse City ISD investigates allegations against middle school teacher

Administrators with Royse City Middle School and Royse City ISD are investigating allegations of inappropriate conduct by a teacher at the school and a student, according to a letter sent to parents by Royse City Middle School Principal Jerome L. Adams dated Jan. 20, 2011.

The letter states "the teacher has been placed on administrative leave with pay pending results of the investigation and administrative recommendation(s)."

Specifics of the allegations and the teacher's name have not been released due to the pending investigation and a request by the district to the Texas

Attorney General's office regarding release of that information. The letter states, "If the employee subject to investigation consents to disclosure, these documents will be made immediately released."

The district did indicate that, upon review, the incident did not involve abuse of the student.



The Heritage Christian Academy will present performances of the Broadway musical "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!" on Feb. 24, 25 and 26. Dinner theater performances will be at 7 p.m. on all three dates; a dessert theater performance is set for 2 p.m. Feb. 26. Dinner theater tickets cost \$16 for adults, \$13 for children under 12; dessert theater tickets cost \$13 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. Only reserved seating is available; call 972-772-3003 for tickets. Cast members include, from the left: Rachel McMillan as Peppermint Patty; Blake Cheek, Schroeder; Andrew Wood, Charlie Brown; Maria Engel, the Little Red-Headed Girl; Garrett Blankenship, Linus; Cate Walker, Lucy; Mollie Lane, Snoopy; and Payton Oliver, Woodstock.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Rockwall ISD to host Multi-Cultural Celebration

On Tuesday, Feb. 15, the Rockwall Independent School District will host a new event to celebrate the many cultures represented in a student body of over 13,500 students.

The first-ever Rockwall ISD Multi-Cultural Celebration will feature student artwork, essays, cultural performances and a parade of flags. The event will be held at 7 p.m. at the new performing arts center at Rockwall-Heath High School, located at 801 Laurence Drive in Heath.

The event is open to the community and free of charge. The Rockwall ISD Orchestra will also be on hand to perform.

Currently, there are more than 45 languages spoken as the primary language other than English for Rockwall ISD students. This and other facts about diversity in Rockwall schools have been part of a social studies curriculum for the past few months. In addition, Rockwall ISD art classes have participated in culturally-rich projects in preparation for the event. These works, as well as live performances by Rockwall ISD students, will be part of the celebration.

One highlight of the evening will be a grand Parade of Nations where students can represent their home country by dressing in native costumes and carrying their nation's flag.

For more information please contact the curriculum department at Rockwall ISD at 972-771-0605 or visit www.rockwallisd.com.





“Healthy enough for a heart attack.”

When she first had her heart attack at age 38, she had no signs. Becky Drake had little reason to suspect she was having a heart attack. She was active, was not overweight and worked out.

Heart disease is a silent killer. Being active and healthy might not be enough. Individuals can become more prone to develop heart disease based on their family history.

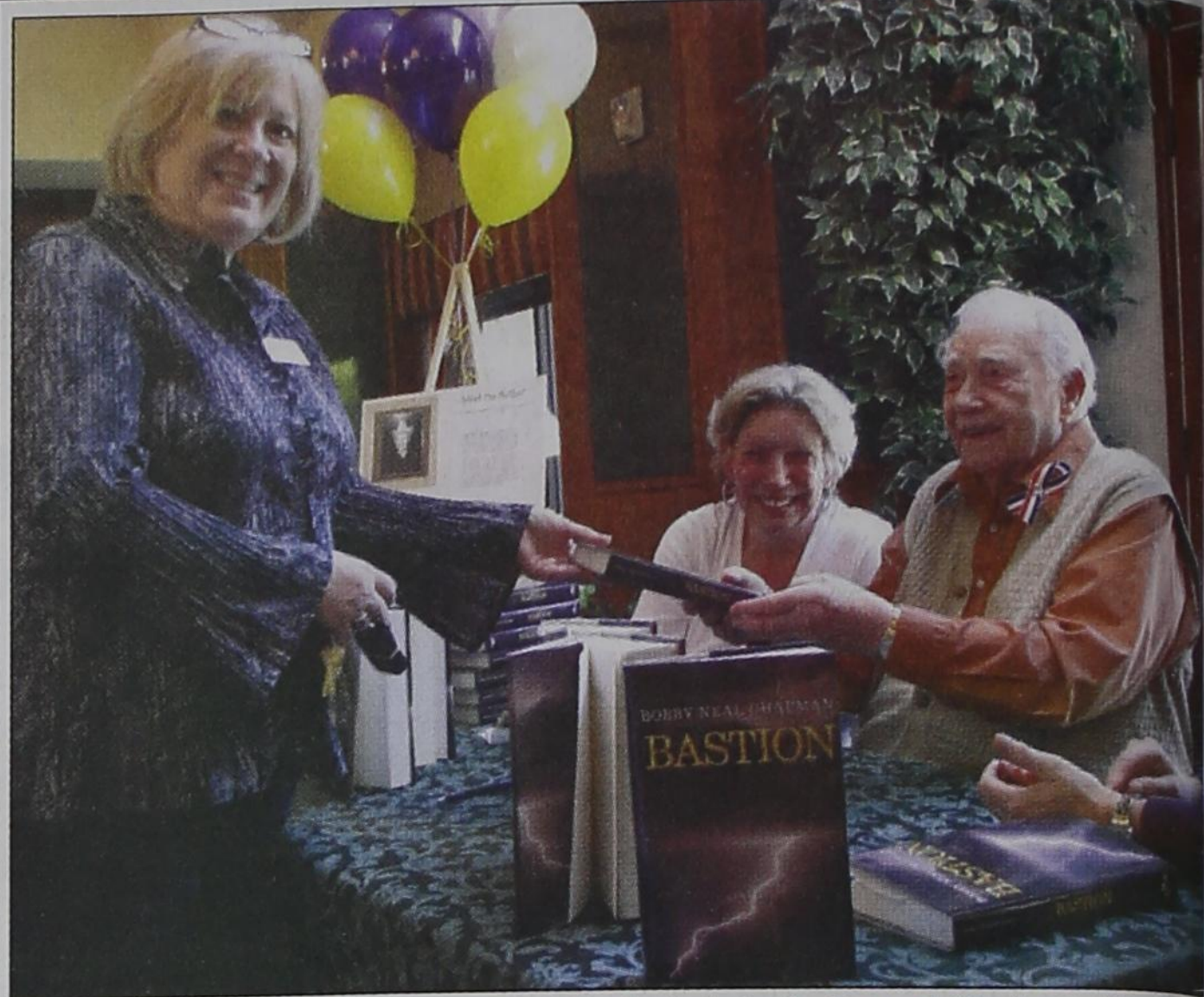
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Rockwall author Bob Chapman recently held a book signing for his novel, “Bastion,” at Rockwall Summer Ridge Assisted Living Center, which he has called home for the last nine years. The book is work of fiction filled with stories of a young paratrooper making his way through life to keep a promise to a fallen soldier. Bobby Neal Chapman was born to tenant cotton farmers, Basil Calvin Chapman and Etalka Lee Chapman, on December 14, 1926. They and his sister, Doris, lived six miles east of Bonham in a two room house. Chapman's father had only a third grade education but was remembered as a good family man. Bobby was one week shy of his fifteenth birthday when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. He graduated from high school at the age of 16 and went to work for the railroad until he was old enough to join the Army. After spending nearly two years in the Army Paratroops, he returned to work for the railroad, where he was employed for 44 years.
Photo by Mike Moore/Rockwall County News



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



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5250 Medical Drive Rockwall, Texas 75032
South of the Presbyterian Hospital

The First Christian Church Rockwall Disciples Women recently assembled boxes with an assortment of goodies and necessary items to send to family members serving in the armed services in Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany and other locations around the globe. The boxes should be received by Valentine's Day. Families submitted the names of their loved ones to receive a box and items such as books, games, snacks, juices and hot chocolate mix, hand sanitizer, hot/cold pads, soap, cortisone cream, razors, toothbrushes and toothpaste were donated to go in each box. The Disciples Women chose a philanthropy project each month; preparing the military boxes was their January project. Disciples Women members on hand to prepare the boxes last Saturday, Jan. 22, were (left to right) Greta Miller, Betty Taylor, Mary Beth White, Elma Ponder, Debbie Clay, Dorothy Allen and Marilyn Giles. First Christian Church Rockwall is located at 3375 Ridge Road, across from Chandler's Landing.
Photo by Kathy Williams/Rockwall County News

Many tasks planned for Habitat workday

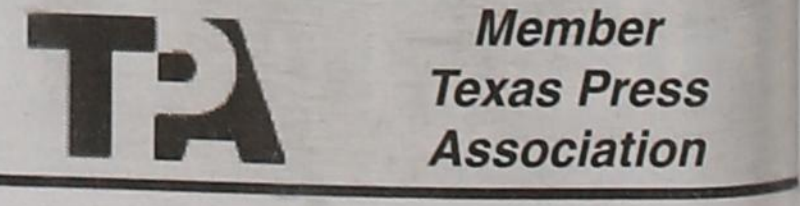
The work load at 803 Peter's Colony on Saturday will again be light as Rockwall Area Habitat for Humanity continues work on its current house. Work will begin at 8:30 a.m., with the focus on a little exterior paint, interior door work, trim work, closets and general worksite cleanup to prep for driveway to be poured. For up-to-the-minute information on any late changes or in the event of inclement weather, visit rockwallhabitat.blogspot.com.

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Office located at 107 E. Bourn Ave., Rockwall, Texas 75087
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It is the mission of this newspaper to promote the rights of individuals 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.



More than 50 join in 'Great Days' campaign

A total of 368 individuals spent their Saturday morning on Jan. 15, 2011, sharing their talents and skills to make a difference in the Rockwall area.

Through the second annual Great Days of Service campaign, sponsored by the First United Methodist Church of Rockwall, volunteers assisted in 27 service projects that took place Jan. 14-16.

"Our goal was to provide work and service for local and area organizations. We offered opportunities for people to give their time and talents," said event chair Susan Gallander. Her effort was a success beyond expectations.

Main activities achieved included:

- Homemade dog treats and kits assembled for the Animal Shelter
- Hundreds of pieces of trash and old sofa removed from two parks
- Rooms painted at the Boys & Girls Club and the County Helping Hands Center
- Activity bags assembled for children
- Blankets made for children by the Rainbow Room and the Pregnancy Resources Center
- Volunteers assisted with construction at a local Habitat for Humanity house and the Genesis Homeless Shelter
- Loaves of bread baked for the church and congregants
- Pairs of shoes delivered to the Community Services
- Sandwiches prepared and delivered to the Soupmobile for distribution to the homeless
- Hot meal served at the Inn homeless shelter and delivered to a Rockwall fire station
- Birthday blessings created for children at the Waco Children's Home
- Murals painted for the Paws facility
- Troop treat kits assembled for soldiers returning from Iraq
- Meals delivered and one home made for individuals served by the Homeless Shelter
- Parties for seniors conducted at the Rockwall Housing Authority
- Health care kits assembled for the United Methodist Committee on Relief
- Sewing kits assembled for distribution during an upcoming mission to India
- Shopping carts full of food and stocked at Rockwall County Helping Hands

"In this year, Great Days of Service gained momentum and went from good to great," said FUMC Rockwall senior pastor Jami Frisby. "I have never witnessed a response to a call to help, lend a hand and serve others as I have seen in this effort. When we serve, we are a part of changing the lives of others in the name of Christ, but inevitably, it is we who are changed – and it's great."

For more information on next year's event, contact Gallander at 972-289-0707.

Pat Comstock, left, and Sherie Hockaday were among those who stitched blankets for children at the Rainbow Room and the Rockwall Pregnancy Resource Center as part of the First United Methodist Church of Rockwall's recent Great Days of Service event. One hundred blankets were created. The blanket-making effort was one of the many activities undertaken during the Great Days campaign.

Photo courtesy FUMC Rockwall/Rockwall County News

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Wooded Golf Course lots Available at Buffalo Creek!



Golf Course lots with large mature trees are now available at Buffalo Creek

Whittle Development has opened up the final 2 phases of lots in Buffalo Creek Golf Club. The lots are on Majestic Point and Falcon View Pass. Rob Whittle, the developer, acknowledged that these are some of the most expensive lots in Buffalo Creek. Whittle said, "most of these 26 lots are covered with spectacular trees. Several of them back up to the legendary creek that gives Buffalo Creek its name. A couple of the lots overlook the beautiful lake on the 16th fairway. All 26 of these home sites are nestled in an area that is surrounded by the golf course. They are not just surrounded by the course, but these 2 sections of the golf course are perhaps the areas of the most natural beauty. The gentle roll of the hills, the water, the creeks and the huge trees create an ideal setting for a home. And yes, the lots in these 2 phases are more expensive. The lots range from \$170,000 to \$300,000. However, you would be hard pressed to find lots as beautiful as these unless you were to go out to East Texas."

Whittle added, "The one thing that I caution folks on is not to be intimidated by the amount of work that it takes to prepare one of these lots for a home. In fact, that is part of the joy of custom designing a home for one of these spectacular lots. We have contractors who can help site the house, selectively clear just the right trees and maximize the beauty of the lot with just the right house. That is one of the many things that makes Buffalo Creek a very special place. Builders do not just come in and clear cut lots. We work together on the front end of the process to save trees and enhance the final product of a home and site that work harmoniously with each other."

Buffalo Creek Golf Course was designed by PGA legend, Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish. The course has been host to several major tournaments including the final qualifying site of the US Open. The community also has a private tennis club, children's playground, native wilderness area and swim complex.

For more information call 972-771-5253 or 214-477-5217.

One Patio Home Remaining for Sale

Caruth Builders recently completed 4 patio homes in The Enclave at Buffalo Creek. Several of those homes sold quickly, with the 3rd one going under contract last week, according to Jinksie Patton who represents the builder. Ms. Patton said, "There is no question that these homes have been exactly what a certain segment of the market has been waiting for. That's why these are selling quickly even in a challenging real estate market."

The market research determined that there are many homeowners who have raised their children in the Rockwall area in a large single family home. Those kids have now left for college or have families of their own. Couples wake up one day and realize that they have a large home to maintain, a huge lawn to mow and seldom is there anyone using it. However, they love the Rockwall area and are not interested in condominium or townhome living. There is still a desire to have a small yard and to have a garage. Most importantly is the desire to still have a home with enough room that the extended family can still gather for holidays and long weekends. The homes in this secluded area of Buffalo Creek are targeted specifically to this market.

The architect designed these homes with that market in mind. The design criteria was to target that market who have raised their children, but want to comfortably accommodate their children, grandchildren and guests when they come for long visits. The floor plans have been designed to specifically attract mature affluent adults who want to downsize in the Rockwall/Heath Area.

Jinksie Patton said "I have been a Realtor® in the Rockwall market since 1976. Many of the young professional families that I sold homes to during the early and mid 80's have been active throughout the years serving in our community in many roles like YMCA coaches, park board members and volunteering at school functions. They are active in our areas churches and civic organizations. They loved raising their family here. They don't want to move to a condominium in Dallas, but they do want a smaller home and smaller lot in a nice custom community."



1725 Weiskopf – A large master suite and family room are featured in this Buffalo Creek home backing to a greenbelt with lots of trees.

The home at 1725 Weiskopf features a spacious master suite with 2 large walk-in closets. Patton smiled and said "I know one of the things that so many of the women want is their own closet. They love their husbands, but aren't anxious to share a closet with him. It may seem like a small thing, but it's important and our architect listened. In fact, you can see the architect's understanding of this particular market's needs throughout the house."

The kitchen features granite counter tops and beautiful custom cabinets. There is a large informal family gathering/dining room with a comfortable fireplace. Additional, on the main floor there is a smaller room overlooking the trees and creek that is ideal for a study, office or music room.

One of the concerns that people have when they downsize is having comfortable space for the kids when they come back with grandchildren for a visit. The home at 1725 Weiskopf addressed that need perfectly. The second level has a large game room and media room. The second level also has 2 additional bedrooms and a Jack and Jill bath arrangement."

Patton added, "at first glance you might think the second level is too large. However, when the kids and grandchildren come to visit you want that time to be special. In these times with everyone so busy, the days that many people get with their children and grandchildren is limited. The second floor arrangement is ideal for providing an inviting comfortable stay without everyone feeling like they are on top of each other."

The small wooded lot is virtually maintenance free. The nearby swimming pool and 2-car garage complete the picture of an ideal home for many empty nesters. The home is priced at \$395,000 and will be open this weekend from 1:00pm to 6:00pm. Call Jinksie at 214-477-5217 or 972-771-5253 to schedule a tour anytime or contact her at jinksiepatton@att.net.

Rockwall initiates neuter, shot clinic

The City of Rockwall's Animal Services and Adoption Center has a new on-site neutering and shot program that allows individuals to bring their dogs to take them home the same day.

Previously, animals were sent to a veterinarian and to get necessary shots they could be released from the veterinarian.

"It meant our staff was transporting the animals back and forth and a delay in people taking home their pets," said Jeffrey Widmer, director of Animal Services.

An agreement between Dr. Kurt Widmer and the city established the new neuter clinic program.

They donated to Animal Services the equipment needed to purchase the equipment for the costs of setting up the program, Widmer said.

The goal is to have every animal available for adoption ready to go with you," he said.

"The first week of the new program, procedures were performed. The new service should help us make our adoption, and it will help make the process of adoption much more convenient for our customers," said Widmer.

Rockwall County Obituaries

Adelaide Edith (White) McLeroy

Services for Adelaide Edith (White) McLeroy, 93, will be conducted at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, 2011, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel with Jesse Crouch officiating. Burial will follow in the Forest Park Cemetery in Greenville.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28, at the funeral home.

She died Jan. 24.

A native of Lone Oak, she graduated from Lone Oak High School and acquired a bachelor's degree from Texas Women's University in 1938. She married William Troy Garner in 1937. He died in a 1945 automobile accident one month after the death of the couple's eldest son, 5-year-old Billie Reeves. She devoted her life to raising her two children in Dallas.

She was a gifted teacher, teaching in the Dallas school district for 29 years.



In 1966 she married Joe McLeroy and resided in Rockwall until his death in 1989. Tootsie, as she was known by her family, enjoyed sewing and cooking for her family; she was well known for her chicken-fried steak. She served as worthy matron in Eastern Star and was a member of the First Baptist Church in Rockwall. She later moved to Green River, Wyo., to be near her daughter and her family. There she became a member of PEO Chapter AY.

Survivors include her son, Joe (Anna) Garner of Waukesha, Wis.; her daughter, Joyce (Howard) Hart of Green River; four grandchildren, Sherry (Robert) Sa, Sandy (Jon) Lever, Dan (Shelley) Garner and Whitney (Stacey) Pugh; 13 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Peggy Mayo and Bettie Junkin; and many nieces, nephews and extended family members.

She was preceded in death by three brothers and three sisters.

Kevin Duane Walraven

Services for Kevin Duane Walraven, 39, of Richardson were conducted at 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 24, 2011, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel with Dr. Joe Pool officiating. Burial followed in the Rest Haven Memorial park.



He died Jan. 19. Born Oct. 22, 1971, in Dallas to Kenneth Ray Walraven and Goldie Jean (Boaz) Walraven, he graduated from L.V. Berkner High School in 1993 and served as the manager for the football team from 1989 to 1993. He was a member of the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 894, in Richardson. He worked in the retail industry in shipping and receiving and was a member of the First Baptist Church of Richardson.

Survivors include his father, Ken Walraven of Richardson; his brother, Keith Walraven and his wife, Meredith, of Rockwall; and a large extended family and numerous friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Goldie Walraven.

The family has suggested memorial contributions may be made to the Arc of Texas, 8001 Centre Park Drive, Suite 100, Austin, TX 78854 or thearcoftexas.org.

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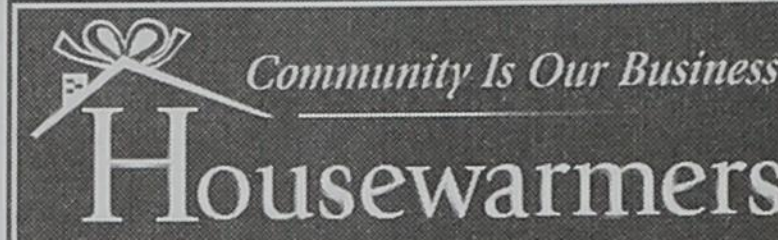
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Hungry Harry Restaurant Review Keeping with Resolutions

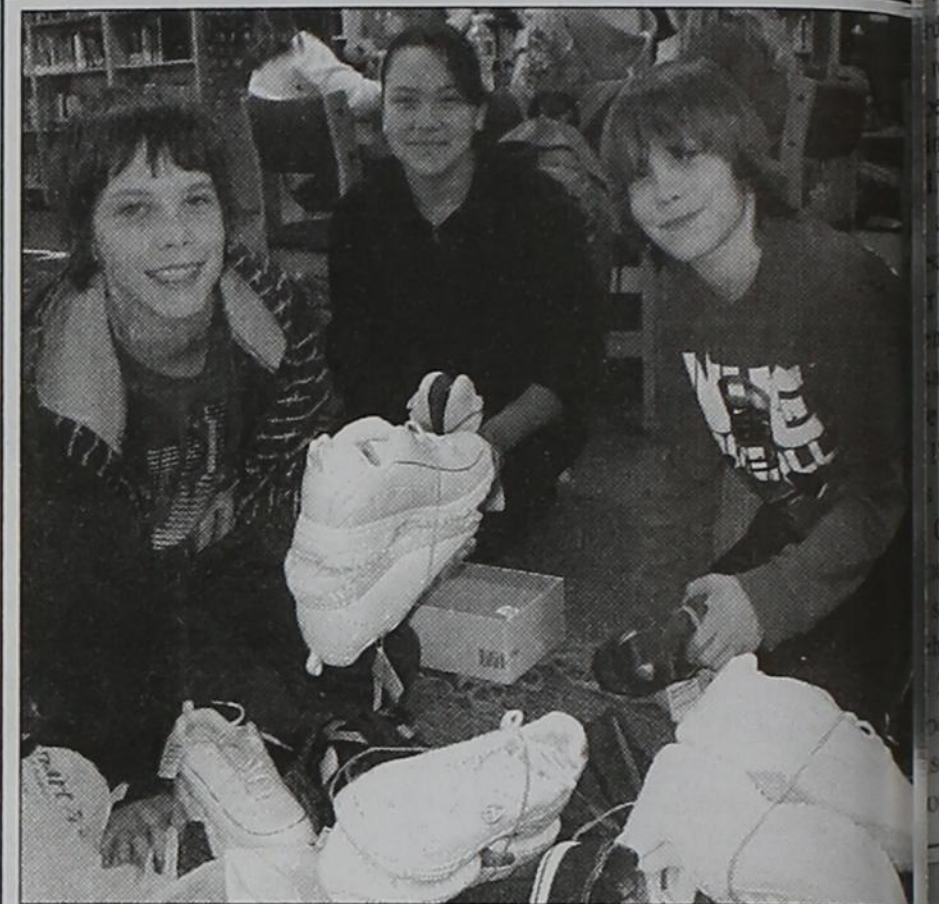
How many of you have already broken your New Year's Resolution? A resolution was to eat as many restaurants as I can across Rockwall County. The fact is not every restaurant I visit is worth talking about. However, there are many that are. I decided this article is this the perfect time to hop in my Hungrymobile and head to Roysse City. Roysse City has some great hidden gems of Rockwall County. One of those gems is in the form of a coffeehouse. The Well.

The Well is a family-run, clean, quaint place. Think of it as a Christy coffee version of Cheers where everybody knows your name. It is a versatile place that is a great lunch location or a place on the weekends to catch some good family-fun music. It kept clean and gives you that hometown feel that a Rockwall County specialty. It is a unique venue with that doesn't sacrifice service or quality. Some places forget about the customer and I didn't get it feeling. The food is simple and for a coffee house/café they do it well.

I ordered for lunch one of their "Grounders" which is like non-sloppy slopy joe joe. Also, since it is a coffee house I would be remiss if I didn't have a specialty coffee. Atmosphere: Unique, Casual, and Family Friendly.

Service was good and the overall experience was a worth a second visit. Service: Great; Food: Good; Simple; Price: Great; Overall: Four out of five.

Location: 103 E. Main Street, Roysse City, Texas
(Editor's Note: Hungry Harry is a local resident who enjoys eating out. This writer receives no compensation or benefit from any food establishment.)



Dobbs Elementary recently conducted a new shoe drive to benefit children in Afghanistan. Students became involved with the project after hearing Dobbs teacher Mary Akin describe how her son, a military officer currently serving in Afghanistan, saw so many children without shoes in the desert climate. Dobbs and its KC Club decided to help as part of their mission to show kindness to others as part of their commitment to Rachel's Challenge. Thirteen boxes were filled and shipped. Pictured from the left are Morgan Straight, Zully Zavala and Parker Straight.
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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Rusk #106 Downtown Rockwall 972-722-8766 The Insurance Doctor of Texas "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Matt. 28:20</p>
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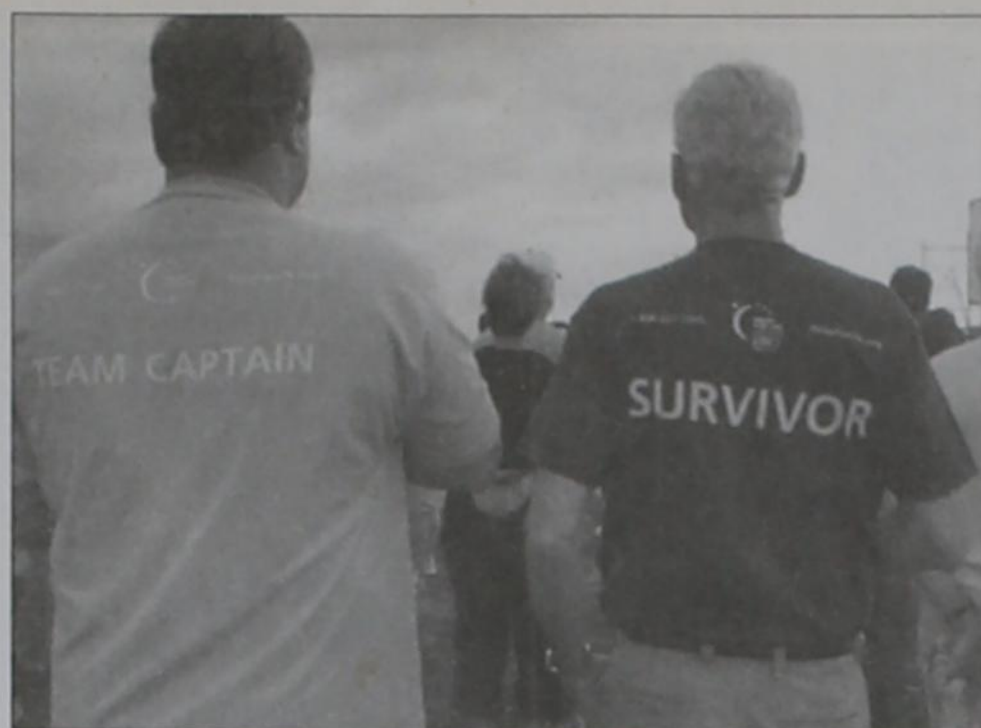
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On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

Church is made up of saints...

The church of God is made up of an overall body of people who are referred to as saints. The word church is used throughout the Epistles and Revelations. The chapters of Revelations addresses the church as it will exist during the time starting after Christ returns for the born again saints, and ending at the Notable Day of the Lord (see also Acts 2:20). After Christ returns for the born again saints (1Thessalonians 4:13-18) it will no longer be possible to be born again, but it will continue to be possible to become saints. The administration of the grace of God the church is made up of people who have been filled with holy spirit, as well as those saints who are not. This distinction is revealed in 1Corinthians 1:2, "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called by the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, in whom we have obtained grace. The church is basically made up of them who are called saints, and all the saints who have begun to call upon the name of the Lord. Sanctified basically means to be separated out by God, being filled with the Holy Spirit. According to Romans 10:9-10, these are they who have believed that God raised Jesus from the dead. 1Corinthians 1:2 reveals the distinction between the saints and they who call upon the name of the Lord. The distinction is seen in the word "with." This word referred to being in proximity with others. There are two categories of people who are in proximity with each other. The saints are in close proximity with the Lord. In other words, not all saints will call upon the name of the Lord. But there should still be a close relationship between all saints and the ones who call upon the name of the Lord. According to Acts 2:21 and Romans 10:13 calling upon the name of the Lord results in salvation. Romans 10:14 shows that it cannot occur unless people have first believed unto being filled with holy spirit. As it is written, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him whom they have not seen? How shall they call on the name of the Lord whom they have not called upon? How shall they believe in him whom they have not seen? How shall they call on the name of the Lord whom they have not called upon? How shall they believe in him whom they have not seen? How shall they call on the name of the Lord whom they have not called upon?" More study is required on this, but to the best of my understanding, those who have not called upon the name of the Lord during the age of grace of God, and are alive during Christ's first return (1Thess. 4:13-18), will be plunged into the great tribulation period, and continue to be churches addressed in the book of Revelations chapters 1-3. Christ did the will of his Father and allowed his blood to be shed so that we who believe can become a member of the true church of God, and we receive ourselves by spiritually calling upon the name of the Lord. The church is made up of people who were purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:7-8). Praise God in heaven for His love toward the world, that who believe that God raised Jesus from the dead shall be made righteous, and learn of the blood of the Lamb (Jesus). They shall not perish, but will have the life of resurrection, and eventually enjoy everlasting life.



Justin Holland, left, and his father Lance are pictured during last year's Rockwall County Relay for Life after Lance Holland was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer at the age of 46. This year's event will begin at 7 p.m. April 29 at the Cain Middle School track. Justin will serve as logistics chairman, and Lance will be on hand to take the Survivors' Lap. For more information about Relay, visit relayforlife.org/rockwalltx.

Cancer prompts realtors to join in local Relay effort

by Mary Thacker

The Holland family has a winning blueprint for success. "You say, this is the situation, and this is how we're going to deal with it," said Justin Holland. So when Justin's father, Lance, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer at the age of 46, and once his clan digested the information, they got to work setting up a plan to tackle the problem. "My father is the definition of a self-made businessman," said Justin. "He had a modest upbringing. My grandfather had to work three jobs at times to support his family. My father started in real estate in 1983, and I think he waited tables on the side for a while. By 1991, he was ready to start his own company."

That company, Regal Realtors, banded together and got behind Lance's battle with cancer by forming two teams for the Rockwall County Relay For Life, the signature fundraising event for the American Cancer Society.

"Relay was five months away when my dad started chemo and working toward the event, raising money, gave us something to look forward to," Justin said. "My father's diagnosis caught us by surprise. It was the first time I'd been affected on a day-to-day basis by a close family member having cancer."

Lance's symptoms leading up to pancreatic cancer began with that of adult onset diabetes. In fact, when Lance Holland went into the emergency room in mid-2009, the doctor asked him what his blood sugar level was, because his glucose levels appeared skewed. He was not diabetic, nor had he ever experienced diabetic symptoms.

Lance's team of doctors consisted of Dr. Viral Patel (gastroenterologist), Dr. Thomas Shires (general surgeon), and Dr. Minal Barve (oncologist). In December of 2009, he underwent the Whipple Procedure before beginning a six-month treatment of chemotherapy. Although his father's chemo was fairly mild because of the frequency of his treatments, Justin was impressed by his dad's strength through the ordeal.

"I've been involved in sports my whole life, and I've been taught what being 'tough' is supposed to be," Justin said. "But you don't know 'tough' until you see someone you love going through chemotherapy."

Justin became the captain of the Regal Realtors team, guiding them in their fundraising efforts for ACS.

"We became proactive to try to outweigh the feeling of helplessness by doing something about it," he said. "We didn't know what the future would hold, and this made us feel like we had some control over the situation, even though we didn't."

The teams set an early goal of \$2,500, but they quickly had to set a new one as the contributions started pouring in. Justin personally raised more than \$6,000, largely by utilizing the American Cancer Society plug-ins for Facebook.

"It's amazing how dynamic social networking can be for spreading the word about a good cause," he said. "I told people about my father's diagnosis and asked for their support in raising money. I don't know when they'll find a cure for cancer, but they can't find a cure unless communities like ours are out there raising thousands of dollars for research."

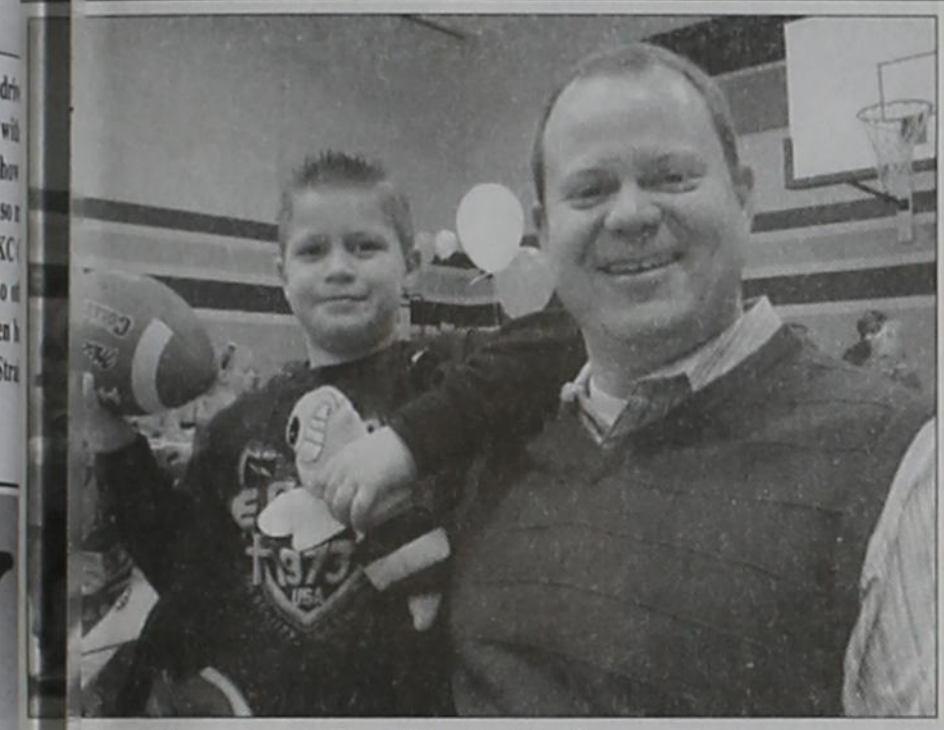
A large part of Relay is getting into the spirit of the event, and Justin's team was full of spirit. Since the Kentucky Derby was the Sunday after Relay, they named themselves Derby Riders for the Cure, decorated their tents with hats and came supplied with Southern-style foods and a Mint Julep machine. They even had stick-horse races around the track for the children, and their team captured first and third places in the cake-decorating contest.

Justin said he enjoyed the fun aspects of Relay, but his mindset was serious. "The whole point of Relay being held from 7 p.m. Friday night until 7 a.m. Saturday morning is because cancer never sleeps," he said.

The 12-hour time period mirrors the fight of the cancer patient who begins his battle with energy, begins to tire and becomes his most exhausted right before the dawn which symbolizes the cure and return to health. During Relay, luminarias -- paper bags filled with candles -- are placed on the stadium bleachers to spell out the word 'hope.' Later in the night, the luminarias are rearranged to spell out the word 'cure.'

This year Relay For Life is set for April 29, starting at 7 p.m. at the Cain Middle School track. Justin won't be team captain this year because he's taken on the job of Logistics Chair for the Relay Committee. His father, Lance Holland, will be there, walking the Survivors' Lap.

For more information about Relay or to register on-line, visit relayforlife.org/rockwalltx. To sign up to be on a Relay committee, contact Relay Chair Carla Brooks at: cbrooks_heath@sbeglobal.net.



Reed Brackett is shown enjoying some early morning fun with his father, Rusty, at the school's recent Donuts for Donors event. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Rockwall Preschool group announces spring schedule

The Rockwall Preschool Association has announced its spring 2011 meeting schedule. Meetings and scheduled speaker topics are set as follows:

- Feb. 4 - "Keeping Romance Alive"
- March 4 - "Get Your Home & Life Fit"
- April 1 - "Frugal Moms of Rockwall County: Local Insider Deals, Coupons & More"
- May 6 - "Summer Boredom Busters & Tackling Sibling Rivalry"

The RPA has served the Lake Ray Hubbard area since 1985. The organization's primary objective is providing fellowship and educational opportunities for mothers and their preschoolers.

Membership is open to all Rockwall-area mothers with children ages birth to kindergarten.

The RPA calendar runs from September through May, and new members are welcome at any time.

The RPA meets at 9 a.m. on the first Friday of each month; meeting dates change when they fall in holiday weeks. Meetings take place at the Free Methodist Church across from Nebbie Williams Elementary, 315 Dalton Road, Rockwall.

For more information about membership or the group, visit rockwallpreschoolassociation.com.

City Council candidate filing begins Feb. 12

The first day to file for the May 14 City of Rockwall General Election is Feb. 12. City Council places 1, 3 and 5 and the mayor's seat will be on the ballot.

Council members David Sweet (Place 1) and Glen Farris (Place 3) are eligible to run for re-election. Sweet has announced he will run for mayor, and Farris has indicated he will seek re-election to his current position, according to city news release issued last week.

Mayor Bill Cecil and Council members Matt Scott (Place 5) both have served the allowable number of terms under the City Charter and are ineligible to run in their current positions.

The last day for candidates to file for office on the ballot is 5 p.m. on Feb. 14.

Application packets are available for download and paperwork must be filed with the city secretary's office on the third floor of City Hall, 385 S. Main St.

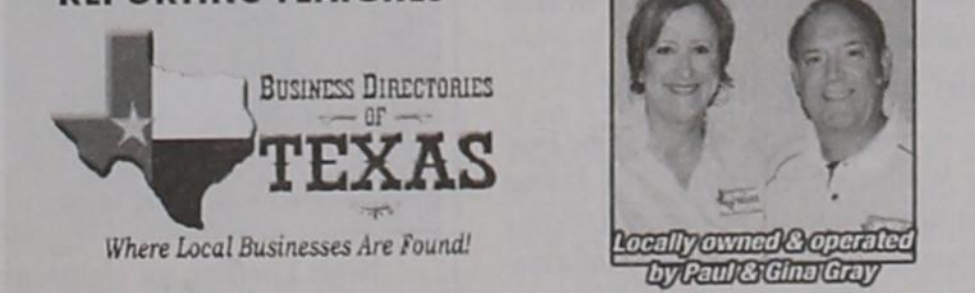
Primary voting will take place at the Rockwall County Elections Office, downtown square at 107 E. Kaufman starting May 2 and run-through May 10.

Applications for ballots by mail must be requested from and mailed to the Rockwall County Elections Administrators Office, Attn: Glenda Kaufman, 107 E. Kaufman, Rockwall, TX 75087. Applications must be received no later than the close of business on May 6.

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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).

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

Rockwall County News Briefs

RC library providing tax forms

The C.F. Goodwin Library in Royse City will provide federal tax forms beginning this month. The most commonly used forms and instructions will be available in paper format or online free of charge.

Tractor collection on display in RC

Ernest Baley's tractor collection will be on display throughout the month of January at the Z Museum in Royse City. The museum is open from noon to 4 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Scheduled tours are offered on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. To schedule a tour call 972-635-7438. For more details visit roysecitymuseum.com.

FCC women's group to meet Jan. 31

The First Christian Church Rockwall women's group will meet at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 31. The Rev. Irie Session, co-pastor of Rosemont Christian Church in Dallas and associate area minister for the North Texas Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), will speak about her "New Friends, New Life" ministry. The church is located at 3375 Ridge Road, south of I-30 across from Chandlers Landing. For more details call 972-771-5526.

Support group program set in Forney

As part of the Lake Pointe Medical Center's ongoing support program, Living Well with Cancer, Dr. Stephanie Shisler, OB/GYN, will lead a free interactive discussion regarding breast cancer and hormone replacement therapy beginning at 6 p.m. Feb. 1 in the Lake Pointe Imaging Center, 763 E. State Hwy. 80, Suite 120, Forney. RSVP to Barbara Quest at 469-698-7824.

Republican Lunch Bunch meeting set

The Rockwall County Republican Lunch Bunch will meet at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 2 at Luigi's Italian Café, Rockwall. Cost will be \$10, which includes lunch, beverage, tax and tip. No reservations required for this informal social gathering open to all area Republicans. For more details call Dalton Kennimer, 972-636-4034.

AARP offers free tax service

A free tax service is being offered at The Center in Rockwall from noon to 4 p.m. each Wednesday Feb. 2 through April 13. Services offered by trained volunteers include tax advice, return preparation and e-filing. Services are available to everyone, but with special emphasis on individuals more than 50 years old and older and individuals of limited means. Service will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. For more details visit Geoff Tetley at 972-961-0222.

Diabetic Support Group to meet

Endocrinologist Dr. Sumana Gangi will lead an interactive discussion, Using Your Glucometer-Learn the Who, What, When, Where and Why of Glucose Testing, beginning at 7 p.m. Feb. 3 at the Lake Pointe Medical Center Café, 6800 Scenic Drive, Rowlett. Assistance will be provided to those who need help calibrating or using their personal machines. RSVP at 972-412-3380, ext. 2628.

'Beauty and the Beast' offered

The RHS Fine Arts Department will offer four performances of the musical "Beauty and the Beast" in the RHS Performing Arts Center on the Utey Middle School campus, 1201 T.L. Townsend Drive. Performances are set for 7:30 p.m. Feb. 3, 4 and 5 and at 2 p.m. Feb. 6. Reserved seats cost \$15 and may be purchased from Margaret Mayo, RHS Counseling Center. Call her at 469-698-7213 or e-mail mmayo@rockwallisd.org.

Preschool Association meeting slated

The Rockwall Preschool Association will meet at 9 a.m. Feb. 4 at the Free Methodist Church across from Nebbie Williams Elementary, 315 Dalton Rd., Rockwall. The program will be "Keeping Romance Alive." New members are welcome any time. For more information on the group, visit rockwallpreschoolassociation.com.

FOL to meet for book review

The Friends of the Library will meet at 11 a.m. Feb. 4 at the library for a book review entitled "Teddy Roosevelt" by Ken Frehill. The Cake Factory will serve lunch at noon. Reservations required; e-mail cplagens65@aol.com.

Brown Bag Series continues

The Rockwall County Historical Foundation's Brown Bag Lecture Series will continue at noon Feb. 11 in the historic courthouse. This lecture will focus on Sheri Fowler's new book, "Rockwall: Then and Now."

Free NAMI support groups to meet

Two NAMI free support groups – one for individuals with mental illness (Room 121) and one for their family members (Room 123 B Building) – will meet from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Feb. 12 at the First United Methodist Church, 1200 E. Yellow Jacket Lane, Rockwall. Call Hal or Dee Whitfield, 972-412-6030, for more details.

Group to offer singing telegrams

The Rockwall Children's Chorus is offering telegrams as part of its spring fundraiser. For \$25, a group of choristers will offer a Valentine's Day serenade, with three songs and the presentation of a card and a bag of cookies. For more details call Karen at 972-772-0371 or e-mail karen@slateria.net.

RARTA meeting set Feb. 14

The Rockwall Area Retired Teachers Association will meet at 1:15 p.m. Feb. 14 in the RISD Administration Building. The meeting will include a book review by Cindy Sandell.

RISD to host multi-cultural event

On Feb. 15 the Rockwall ISD will host an event celebrating the many cultures represented in the student body. The RISD Multi-Cultural Celebration will feature student artwork, essays, cultural performances and a parade of flags beginning at 7 p.m. at the new performing arts center at Rockwall-Heath High, 801 Laurence Drive, Heath. The event will be open to the community; admission will be free.

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 in the Rockwall Wedding Chapel, 305 S. Fannin, Rockwall. Seating will be limited; reserved tickets recommended. Tickets cost \$10 per person. Visit hubbardchambermusic.com.

HCA to present 'Charlie Brown'

Heritage Christian Academy will present dinner theater performances of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!" at 7 p.m. Feb. 24, 25 and 26. Tickets cost \$16 for adults and \$13 for children under 12. A dessert theater production of the show will be offered at 2 p.m. Feb. 26; tickets cost \$13 for adults, \$10 for children under 12. Only reserved seating will be offered. Call 972-772-3003 to secure tickets.

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 300 adults in ESL, GED, Citizenship Preparation and Adult Literacy Classes. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Gloria Bishop, 972-204-7705.

Celebration planned 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 risdeducationfoundationinc.com.

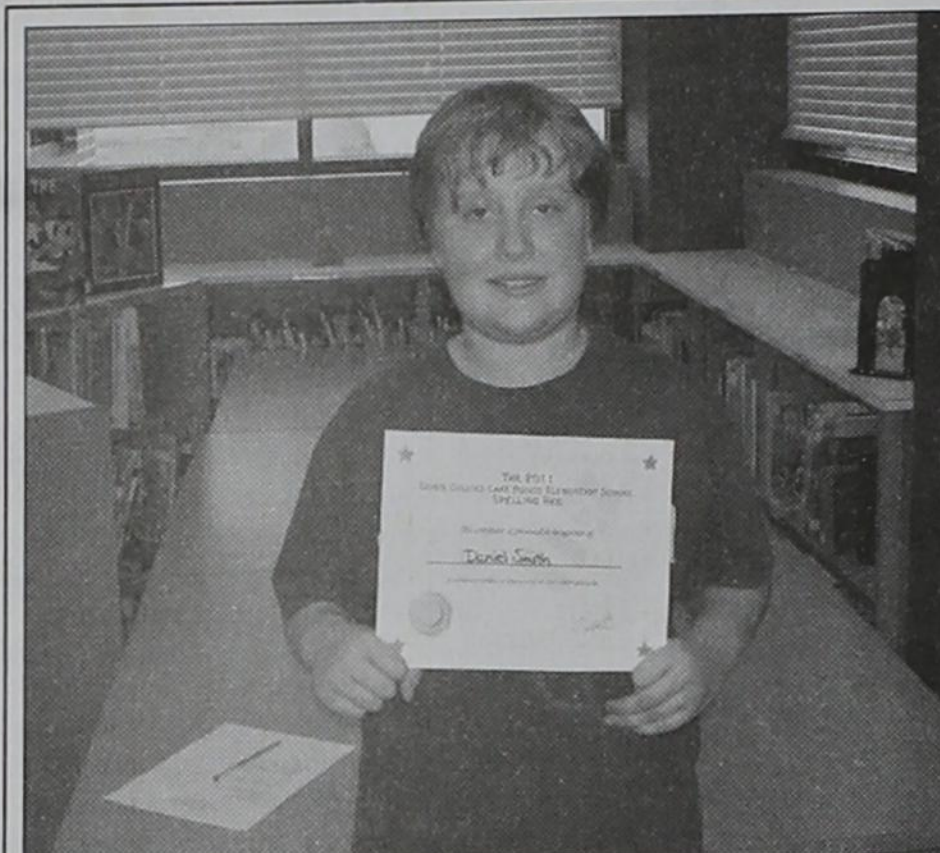
Flu shots offered until March

The Health Center of Helping Hands has flu vaccine that will be available until March. Prices range from \$14 to \$20. Go by the Health Center, 102 S. First St., or call 972-772-8194 for an appointment.



Dr. Kurt Avery and veterinary technician Emily Cook are preparing to perform the first neuter at the Rockwall Animal Adoption Center's new in-house clinic. The clinic was made possible by donations from local residents.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Daniel Smith, pictured above, was one of 19 Cullins Lake Pointe fourth, fifth and sixth grade students to compete in a national spelling bee conducted at the school. Smith now is eligible to compete at the district-level competition.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Heath students take Southwestern honors

Shannon Walthall and Tyler Walthall of Heath each were named to the Dean's List at Southwestern University in Georgetown for the fall 2010 semester.

To be selected to the Dean's List, a student must have at least a 3.6 grade point average on a 4.0 scale with at least 12 graded hours and be in good standing with the university.

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, 315 Dalton Rd., Rockwall. The program will be "Get Your Home and Life Fit." New members are welcome any time. For more information on the group, visit rockwallpreschoolassociation.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, \$15 for non-resident. For more details call 972-771-7740.

March 12 Quilt Show planned

The Rockwall Parks & Rec Department will host a Quilt Show from 10 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.

Royse City to host circus

The Royse City Chamber has signed a contract with the Kelly Miller Circus for a March 23 show. Activities will begin at 7:30 a.m., with the tent raising set for 9 a.m. Two performances – 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. – are set for this "old-style" circus. More information is available at info@roysecitychamber.com or call 972-636-5000.

Preschool Association meeting slated

The Rockwall Preschool Association will meet at 9 a.m. April 1 at the Free Methodist Church across from Nebbie Williams Elementary, 315 Dalton Rd., Rockwall. The program will be "Frugal Moms of Rockwall County: Local Insider Deals, Meal Plans & More." New members are welcome any time. For more information on the group, visit rockwallpreschoolassociation.com.

Easter egg hunt set April 16

The Rockwall Parks & Rec-sponsored 9th Annual Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 10 a.m. at the Tuttle Athletic Complex. Field 1 will serve children ages up to the age of 2; field 2, ages 3 and 4; field 3, ages 5 and 6; and field 4, ages 7 through 12. A bounce house, face painting and a visit from the Easter bunny are planned.

Rockwall plans Hazardous Waste Day

Rockwall will have the opportunity to dispose of household chemicals and other hazardous waste items from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 30 at 1600 Airport Road. To participate, local residents must bring a copy of their utility bill or driver's license to verify residency.

Preschool Association meeting slated

The Rockwall Preschool Association will meet at 9 a.m. May 6 at the Free Methodist Church across from Nebbie Williams Elementary, 315 Dalton Rd., Rockwall. The program will be "Summer Boredom Busters & Tackling Sibling Rivalry." New members are welcome any time. For more information on the group, visit rockwallpreschoolassociation.com.

Founders Day Festival set May 21

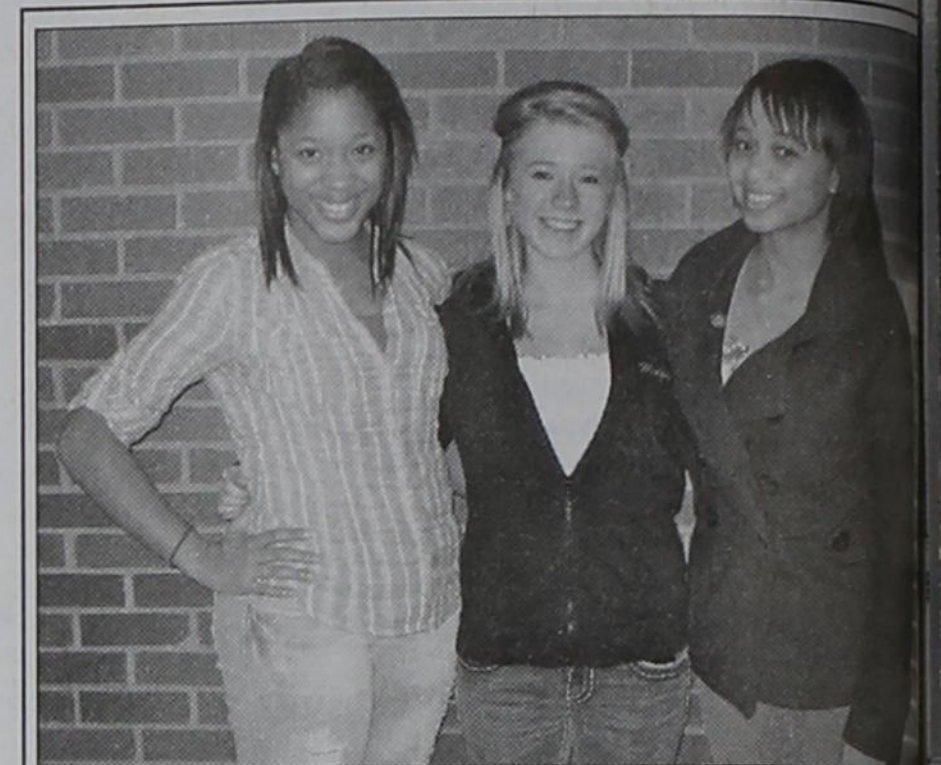
The City of Rockwall's historic downtown square will play host to the annual Founders Day Festival May 21. Vendor booths, children's activities, food, entertainment and a sunset concert are planned. For more details visit rockwallfoundersday.com.

Lake Pointe earns ANCC designation

Lake Pointe Medical Center recently achieved the Pathway to Excellence designation by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

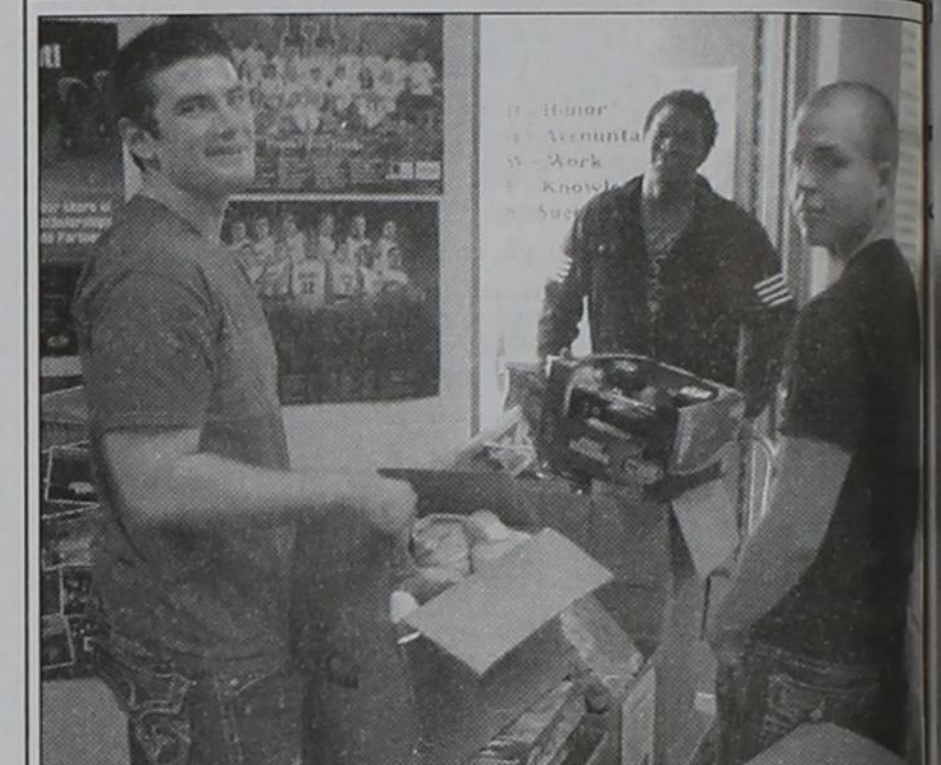
The Pathway to Excellence designation identifies the elements of the environments where nurses can flourish.

The designation substantiates the professional satisfaction of nurses at Lake Pointe Medical Center.



Rockwall High students Vicky King, left, Meagan Massey, center, and Vernie King collected toys, made cupcakes and organized gift baskets for delivery to the Scottish Rite Hospital during their holiday break. Vernie King spearheaded the effort after being treated for scoliosis at Scottish Rite. She said she wanted to deliver the treats to the hospital's sick children because she knows how nice it is for them to look forward to the holiday in the hospital.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



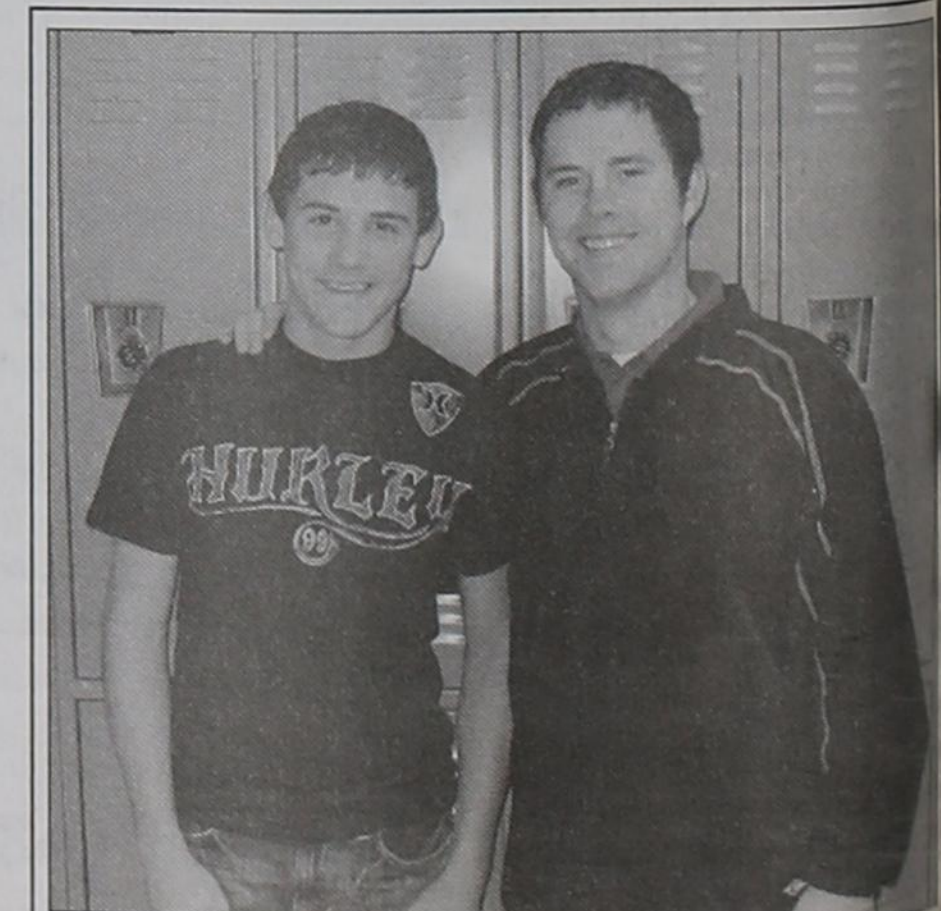
The Rockwall-Heath High School DECA group organized a toy drive for all clubs to participate in prior to the holidays. Pictured above sorting through some of the toys are, from the left, Brandon Ilig, Jeffrey Irokwe and Brendan Johnson. The Student Council won the Hawks Helping Santa Toy Drive trophy by contributing the most toys. Each student who donated a toy had his or her name entered into a drawing for an iPod. The winning student was Brett Lagerberg, a member of the Student Council. The drive collected more than 200 toys for Helping Hands.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Cain Middle School eighth grade student Harrison Taylor recently was recognized as a Character Counts Star Student for the last nine-week grading period. Loeffler is pictured above with his nominating teacher, Farrah Couch. Teachers nominate students whom they feel exemplify the traits of responsibility, respect, caring and trustworthiness.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Brett Loeffler, an eighth grade student at Cain Middle School, recently was recognized as a Character Counts Star Student for the last nine-week grading period. Loeffler is pictured above with his nominating teacher, Kevin Walker. Teachers nominate students whom they feel exemplify the traits of responsibility, respect, caring and trustworthiness.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Fifth grade students from Reinhardt Elementary are shown with Marvin Hamilton and Misty Stevens from Home Depot after receiving Reinhardt T-shirts in appreciation of their time. The two, experts in flooring and paint, made a presentation on calculating perimeter and area and worked with students on measuring square yards, square feet and square inches. Following the presentation, students will create a scaled model of rooms to be remodeled.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Two positions open on RCISD trustee board

Two positions on the Royse City Independent School District Board of Trustees are subject to election during the general election. The positions are Places 1 and 2, both full three-year terms. To be qualified as a candidate, an individual must be a U.S. citizen, 18 years old or older at the start date of the election and a qualified voter in the school district. The individual also must have been a resident of the school district for six months prior to the filing deadline and a Texas resident for 12 months prior to the filing deadline (or more before the day of the election in the case of a write-in candidate). Candidates may file for a place on the ballot between Feb. 14 and March 14. Packages containing information needed for filing are available during the above time period during regular business hours at the Ernest Epps Education Service Center, 810 Old Greenville Road, in Royse City. Individuals who wish to vote in the May 14 election must be registered with the appropriate county tax assessor/collector by April 14.

Hubbard young artists music competition slated

The Hubbard Chamber Music Series 15th Annual Young Artists Solo and Chamber Music Competition will run Feb. 18-20. The South United Methodist Church will open its doors to young musicians, and several panels of judges will select the most extraordinary performances. A full day of preliminary competition for advanced-level competitors in both high school, collegiate and amateur categories is set for Feb. 19. Judges will select instrumental solos and chamber music ensembles to perform in the final competition set for Feb. 20 at the Rockwall Wedding Chapel. Final winners can receive as much as \$1,000 each in cash awards and a concert performance. Contestants will receive more than \$3,000 in cash awards. The 18 Junior Level Competition is reserved for competitors up to the age of 13. Winners at this level will receive second- and third-place awards in a number of different levels. Anyone interested in additional information about HCMS and the Young Artists Competition should visit hubbardchambermusic.com or call Michele McDonald, artistic director, at 972-772-7692 with questions or to receive an application. The deadline for application is Jan. 31.

Rockwall to offer low-cost shot, microchip clinic

Rockwall Animal Services will host a low-cost shot and microchip clinic from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. March 12 at the Rockwall Animal Adoption Center, 1825 Airport Rd. Rabies shots will be offered at a cost of \$8 for a single-year shot, \$24 for a three-year shot. All other basic shots will cost \$8 apiece. All dogs and cats that reside within the Rockwall city limits are required to be vaccinated against rabies at either one- or three-year intervals, depending on the type of vaccine used. The center also will offer microchipping, an advanced pet identification and retrieval system, for dogs and cats. A microchip with a unique identification code is implanted under the skin between the shoulder blades of the animal, and the pet owner must enroll the pet with a pet recovery service. When a lost pet is found, it can be scanned at an animal shelter or the clinic of a participating veterinarian. The animal's ID number is called into the 24-hour recovery service, and the pet owner is immediately notified. Microchipping fee is \$20 and includes the chip and the procedure to administer it. The service will be offered while supplies last. City of Rockwall animal registrations also will be offered. For each spayed or neutered dog or cat, cost is \$5 per year or \$15 for three years. For non-spayed or non-neutered animals the cost is \$20 per year or \$30 for three years. State law requires that dogs wear a rabies vaccine tag at all times, and wearing the city registration tag ensures a lost pet can be quickly identified and returned. All dogs must be brought in on a leash; all cats must be in a carrier. Pet owners from outside the Rockwall city limits are welcome to participate in the clinic. For more details, contact Rockwall Animal Services at 972-771-7750.

Hubbard Chamber Music finals concert set Feb. 20

The Hubbard Chamber Music Series will offer a grand finale concert at 5 p.m. Feb. 20 at the Rockwall Wedding Chapel, 305 S. Fannin in Rockwall, following the 15th annual Young Artists Solo and Chamber Music Competition. The event will feature finalists from the Feb. 19 preliminary competition. Patrons will be treated to a concert of string, wind, piano and chamber music contestants. Following the concert and while judges are making their decision, patrons will be treated to a catered champagne reception. Cost for the Feb. 20 concert is \$25 per person. Seating will be limited; advance ticket purchase is recommended. For tickets or more information, call Michele McDonald, artistic director, at 972-772-7692.

Congressman Hall responds to "State of Union"

Following the Tuesday, Jan. 25 State of the Union address by President Barack Obama, Rep. Ralph Hall (R-TX), Chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, released the following statement: "Tonight the President focused on 'America winning,' by leading the world in innovation. But leading the world in innovation must start with a focus on what fosters private investment and economic growth. Too many of the administration's policies have been detrimental to business and to jobs in the U.S. The American people have been clear that they want us to work together to reach the reach of the Federal Government, and to give entrepreneurs an environment in which to invest and grow by lowering taxes, limiting burdensome and costly regulations, cutting spending, and reducing our national debt. While appropriate investments in science and technology are important, they must be made prudently within the confines of a balanced budget. While much of the President's rhetoric on energy is commendable, it is at odds with this administration's actions in some of the most

important areas. From blocking energy exploration and production to the EPA's unjustified assaults on U.S. industry, the President's policies are making energy less abundant and less affordable, which in turn makes America less competitive. These are job-killing policies, and my home state of Texas is at the center of this storm. "I welcome the President's attention to the importance of basic research, as it is critical to driving innovation and economic growth. However, the President went on to say that we must focus our efforts on 'clean energy technologies,' which suggests an emphasis not on basic research, but on commercialization. These are activities often best left to the private sector. "Further, without comprehensive scientific review, the President made the decision to abandon development of the Yucca Mountain site as a nuclear waste repository, terminating the Nation's only existing option for long-term nuclear waste storage, before assessing potential alternative options. "In the 112th Congress, the Science, Space, and Technology Committee

will conduct oversight of these policies, as well as the broader research and development priorities necessary to advance American competitiveness. If we are to continue to lead the world in innovation, we must invest wisely and put a stop to Democrats' job-destroying spending. "Absent from the President's speech, apart from mentioning Sputnik as a metaphor, was any vision for our Nation's space agency. NASA's exploration program has been paramount to securing America's lead in the global economy and spurring innovation. So many technological advancements have stemmed from an ambitious, goal-oriented space program. I am disappointed that the President used this moment only to reflect on NASA's history, rather than promoting a strong vision for the future of space exploration. This Thursday (Jan. 27) is officially designated as 'A Day of Remembrance' for the space shuttles Columbia and Challenger tragedies; a day to reflect on those national heroes who lost their lives. We should honor them by carrying on their legacy and ensuring that America 'keeps winning' in space exploration and scientific discovery."



Author Peggy Sundberg, a.k.a. Cowgirl Peg, recently visited Dobbs Elementary to share her love of horses, dogs and good stories. Pictured with Sundberg are, at top, from the left, Max Mumaw, Audrey Cowley; middle row, Kelly Hurley, Sundberg, Theresa Vehslage and Daniel Cunningham; and, at bottom, Lucas Tabira, Olivia Kilcrease and Summer Thibodeaux.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



More than 60 girls participated in a dance clinic hosted by the Rockwall-Heath High School Highsteppers Drill Team on Saturday, Jan. 22. The clinic was for girls ages Pre-K to ninth grade. The young dancers learned new dance moves and a choreographed dance that they performed at an end-of-day Show Off for their parents and friends. Shown here directing the fourth, fifth and sixth grade participants are Highsteppers members Anna DiGirolamo, Lt. Kirsten Peek, Alyssa Mastronardi, Meredith Magee, Savannah Meler, Kolby Van Bevers, Katelyn Redding, Madison Lovett and Pharon Davidson.

Photo by Kathy Williams/Rockwall County News

Preschool Clubhouse events begin Feb. 16

The City of Rockwall Parks & Recreation Department's Preschool Clubhouse program will begin Feb. 16.

Preschool Clubhouse is a parent-child program open to parents and their children ages 2 to 5. Fifteen classes featuring developmentally appropriate activities such as music, art, nature, sports, story times, a puppet show and physical activity are offered. Parents may select one of two enrollment options: a five-session punch card, which allows participants to select any five of the sessions, or the full 15-session enrollment.

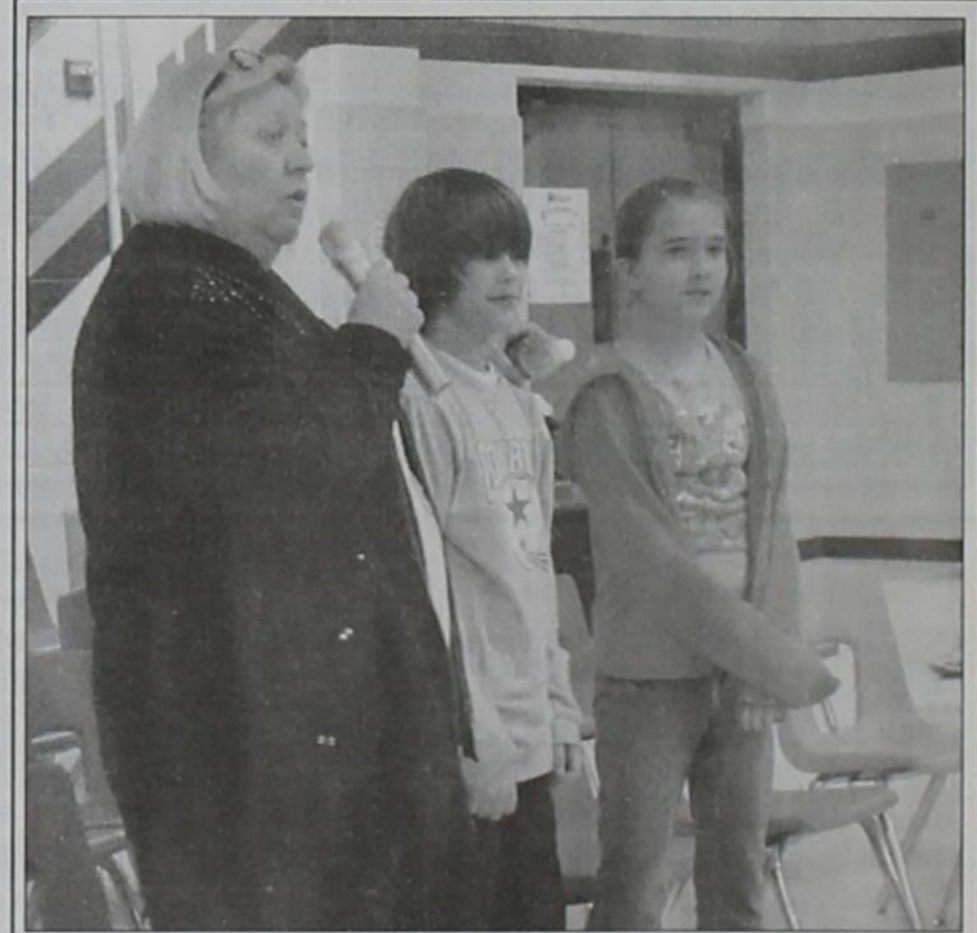
- Scheduled activities, all of which begin at 10 a.m., include:
- Story Time, Feb. 16
 - Puppet Theatre, Feb. 21
 - Art Zone, Feb. 28
 - Story Time, March 2
 - Musical Minds, March 7
 - Little Chefs, March 14
 - Story Time, March 16
 - Krafty Kids, March 21
 - Li'l Nature Explorers, March 28
 - Story Time, March 30
 - Kids Safety Day, April 4
 - Sports Sampler, April 11
 - Story Time, April 13
 - Animal Exploration, April 18
 - Bounce House Extravaganza, April 25

Cost for the five-session punch card is \$50 for Rockwall residents,

\$75 for non-residents. Cost for all session is \$80 for residents, \$120 for non-residents.

For more information on the program or to register, call 972-771-

7740, go by The Center, 108 E. Washington, or mail in the registration form located in the city's Fun Guide publication.



Reinhardt Elementary sixth grade teacher Pam McNellis is shown explaining the rules of the last round of the school's Jan. 19 spelling bee. Final round competitors Trey Strong and Kelsey Vinci also are pictured. About 50 contestants representing the fourth, fifth and sixth grades competed for more than an hour. Vinci won the annual event and will represent the school at the district-level meet.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Rockwall County Sports

Fulton tied for 3rd after beating Brownwood

After two losses, The Fulton School boys' basketball team tied for third place with a 48-38 victory over Brownwood Victory Life Academy on Tuesday.

The Falcons now are 10-5 in TAPPS District 2-1A. Fulton is tied for third place with Waco Christian, where Fulton will play on Saturday. The Falcons are almost certain to have one of the district's playoff berths.

Rockwall was close in the first minutes, when "We made critical free throws," said Falcons coach Brian Peters.

Fulton led with 17 points, Dylan Everett and Harrison Cleek contributing 12 apiece. "Tim hit some big shots," Peters said.

Before that, the Falcons had lost at home to the district's top two teams. Granbury Happy Hill Farm Academy broke away from an 18-13 halftime

lead to win 50-29 Thursday, Jan. 20, and Dallas Tyler Street Christian Academy shut down Fulton 47-18 the next night.

Peters said, "We were missing Tim against Happy Hill, and we just have that mental block against Tyler Street."

1st 2nd 3rd 4th Final
Happy Hill 8 10 16 16 50
Fulton 7 6 4 12 29

HCA suffers 1st district loss

In a battle of teams unbeaten in TAPPS District 4-2A, Heritage Christian Academy couldn't overcome Rockwall Christian Academy's quick start Friday, Jan. 21.

Playing on their home court at Rockwall Indoor Sports Expo, the Eagles fell behind RCA 18-8 in the first quarter. HCA played on more even terms in the middle two quarters, but the Warriors cruised home with a 15-7 fourth-quarter advantage for a 57-35 victory.

Each team had entered the game with a 2-0 district record. RCA overcame the efforts of Quincy Terrell, whose 18 points were more than half of Heritage Christian's total.

1st 2nd 3rd 4th Total
RCA 18 12 12 15 57
Heritage 8 11 9 7 35

RCA (10-9, 3-0) - Grant Jensen 23, Raymon Stewart 15, Aaron Eastin 9, Justo Garcia 6, Daniel Rorie 2, Eric Wright 2.
Heritage (7-7, 2-1) - Quincy Terrell 18, Aaron Mateer 6, Cameron Westmoreland 3, Asa Burke 2, Nathan Mateer 2, Preston Smalley 2, Eric Tamez 2.

Lady Eagles hand RCA 1st district loss

Heritage Christian Academy broke away from a 22-22 halftime tie Friday, Jan. 21, for a 13-4 third-quarter advantage that led to a 47-39 victory over the Rockwall Christian Academy girls' basketball team.

RCA came back to tie the score in the fourth quarter, but the Lady Eagles (2-1 in TAPPS District 4-2A) pulled away again. The loss at Rockwall Indoor Sports Expo was Rockwall Christian's first in the district.

Rachel McMillan led HCA with 18 points, and had plenty of help from Erika Mendoza's 15 points.

1st 2nd 3rd 4th Final
RCA 10 12 4 13 39
Heritage 12 10 13 12 47

Warriors maintain district wins

4-0 first half of the way through the District schedule. Closest by 12 vs. Tuesday's opponent, Christian Heritage. Eight-game winning streak.

Rockwall Christian	10-9	3-0
Rockwall Heritage Christian	7-7	2-1

	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
Rockwall Christian	18	12	12	15	0	57
Rockwall Heritage Christian	8	11	9	7	0	35

Lady Hawks enter district play on high note

The Rockwall-Heath girls' soccer team won four of five games during the last week, giving the Lady Hawks momentum going into the District 21-4A season.

A 1-0 loss to Frisco Wakeland Friday in the Leopard Challenge at Lovejoy was the week's only blemish on RHHS' record. The Lady Hawks enter district play Friday at Roysie City.

At Lovejoy, Rockwall-Heath first defeated Gainesville, 4-3 on Friday, Jan. 21. Cori Kelly, who leads RHHS in scoring this season, scored three goals and Jenna Simmons added another.

Following the loss to Wakeland, the Lady Hawks came out firing on Saturday and defeated district opponent Wylie East 6-0. No RHHS player had more than one goal.

The Lady Hawks edged Greenville 1-0 in the final tournament game on Erin Moses' goal.

Playing at home Tuesday, Kelly exploded for four goals in a 7-0 rout of West Mesquite. Brittany Buchanan scored two goals, and Moses had her second in two games.

Erbe's shot halts Lady Bulldogs' skid

Pleasant and then at Sulphur Springs 44-40 Friday, Jan. 21.

RC led for most of Tuesday's game before the Lady Tigers rallied to tie the score 51-51. If the game had gone to overtime, momentum clearly was in Texas' favor.

The 3-point shot by Erbe did far more than just winning a game. It halted a slide that threatened to drop

Royse City even farther in the standings and jeopardize its playoff hopes. Instead of dropping to 5-4 in the district, with Texas moving to 4-4, half a game behind with a game in hand, RC (17-11 overall) improved to 6-3. The fifth-place Lady Tigers (10-16) fell to 3-5 - 2 1/2 games behind the Lady Bulldogs. Just three games remain on Roysie City's schedule, with four left for Texas.

Sulphur Springs avenged a 60-39 loss at Roysie City earlier this season. The home team led Friday by as many as 13 points at 35-22 with 3 minutes, 10 seconds remaining in the third quarter.

In that game also, the Lady Bulldogs rallied. They pulled within a point of SS at 41-40 on Jennifer Null's inside basket in the game's final minute.

(Continued on Page 10)



Rockwall RACE USA club "A" level swimmers competing at the 29th Annual Speedo Greater Southwest Short Course Invitational held in Addison on January 14-16 are (back row left to right) Head Coach Neil Walker, Coach Tom Applegate, (third row) Claire Walters, Raena Eldridge, William Rapp, Justin Tokuz, Evan Hovenden, Hunter Arnold, Tobias Kim, (second row) Emily Manly, Harper Gullentine, Rebecca Voth, Mitchell Eldridge, Alex Rodriguez, Jeremiah Kim, (front row) Jordan Cummings, Bridget Griesbach, Jessica Iggo, Brooke Arnold, Nathaniel Wang. Not pictured are Rachel Hyvl and Marshall Garrett. Photo courtesy of Barbara Tokuz/Rockwall County News

Lady Jackets take district lead, clinch playoff berth

By Lary Bump

Jill McDill looked up at the scoreboard Tuesday night at McKinney at the end of the first quarter. "We've got almost as many points as we had in the whole game last time against them," the Rockwall girls' basketball head coach realized.

The last time the teams met, Dec. 21 at Rockwall, McKinney had handed the Lady Jackets their only District 10-4A loss in three seasons. The teams were tied for first place when RHS arrived at the Lionettes' den.

After Tuesday's game, McDill could say, "We're so much better team than we were December 21st when we lost 39-35 and couldn't hit a shot."

The Lady Jackets left little doubt of that fact. Unofficially, they made 49 percent (21-for-43) of their field goal attempts. They led 20-4 at the end of the first quarter and stretched the advantage to 27 points before McKinney scored the game's last 10 points to make the final score 57-40.

Since the loss to the Lionettes, Rockwall has won 10 of 12 games, including the last seven in a row. Tuesday's victory moved RHS into first place in 10-4A at 9-1, a game ahead of McKinney and McKinney North.

With four games remaining, the win also clinched a playoff berth for the Lady Jackets. They can finish no worse than third in the district because Rockwall has a four-game lead, two victories and a tiebreaker over fourth-place Wylie.

Neither of those victories over the Lady Pirates, by a total of five points, came easily. RHS had to go into overtime Friday, Jan. 21, to win 53-50.

Rockwall trailed 48-42 with less than 2 minutes remaining in regulation time. Sophomore Hannah Hughes drove for a basket that tied the score with 27 seconds left, and Wylie missed a last-second shot that would have won the game.

In overtime, the Lady Pirates went ahead with two foul shots, but Hughes scored another tying basket. Kayla Smith hit three of four foul shots to put RHS ahead to stay.

The biggest difference between the Lady Jackets from the first half of the district schedule to now is that they have a much better outside game to complement Alyssa Lang's play inside.

Hughes was the biggest factor in both of last week's wins. She scored 27 of Rockwall's 53 points at Wylie, and came back with 26 at McKinney. Her eight

1st 2nd 3rd 4th OT Final
RHS 15 14 11 8 5 53
Wylie 12 13 17 6 2 50

RHS (23-6, 8-1) - Hannah Hughes 27, Kayla Smith 11, Alyssa Lang 7, Morghen Day 4, Lacey Smith 2, Paige Turner 2.
Wylie (13-13, 4-5) - Mary Fisayo 17, Colby Davis 16, Makaila Jordan 9, Sydney Whitworth 8.

1st 2nd 3rd 4th Final
RHS 20 10 9 18 57
McKinney 4 11 8 17 40

RHS (24-6, 9-1) - Hannah Hughes 26, Alyssa Lang 13, Paige Turner 8, Morghen Day 5, Kayla Smith 4, Mariah Roof 1.
McKinney (19-9, 8-2) - Aundrea Gordon 16, Breana Smalls 13, Payton Brenham 6, Mariah Mitchell 3, Michelle Hoehne 2.

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ACROSS

- This Matt beat the Rangers in Game 2 of '10 World Series
- This Premier directed TX Tierney
- "fair in love and war"
- "Black Friday" event
- "We Know Drama" cable channel
- West TX mountains have ____ trees
- TXism: "delight" (milk)
- TX Tanya sang "One Love"
- Comanche Co. is a big ____ producer
- ____ Hubbard is east of Dallas
- Big ____ TX
- TXism: "attracted like a pig ____"
- This Barbara was TX Hagman's "Jeannie"
- TXism: "between a rock ____ hard place"
- TX Meat Loaf album: "Bat Out ____"
- late TX atheist Madalyn Murray
- actress Jane of '66 film "The Chase" with TX Martha Hyer
- TX pro hockey team 42 committed
- last "M" of "MG" brief Spurs coach Tarkanian was coach at this CA school
- TX-based '83 film: "____ Mercies"
- Cybill of "Texasville" (init.)
- UT Ransom Ctr. has desk of Edgar Allan ____
- TXism: "all over but the shouting"
- TX-based airline (abbr.)
- TX JoBeth Williams '80 film: "____ Crazy"
- preservation grp. for TX "horny toad" (abbr.)
- TXism: "bunched up like hogs ____ trough"
- Nocona Boot Co. was started by ____ Justin Steltzer
- TXism: "he could out ____ six legged bobcat" (fast)
- this Dallasite Cassidy was "Lurch" on "The Addams Family"
- this Tom was Ranger player, GM, and now broadcaster (init.)
- TXism: "fixin' ____ do it"
- it's not hard to find a chili cook-____ in TX
- TXism: "he rides rough ____ over everybody" (mean)
- a German surname
- 38 jumps
- Valley univer. before "A and M" name
- Winona of "Great Balls of Fire" with TX Dennis Quaid
- watermelon reject
- Gable of TX-based "Boom Town" (init.)
- TX Dale Evans hubby (init.)
- Katrina relief: "____ Hood"
- Harper of TX-based "Tender Mercies"
- TXism: "____ off the dogs" (stop)

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Rockwall County Sports



Aly Coughlin (13) takes a jump shot for the Lady Hawks, during Tuesday's game against McKinney at Heath.
Photo by Carl McClung/Rockwall County News



Brianna Richardson (21) pushes for a Lady Hawks' basket against McKinney defenders.
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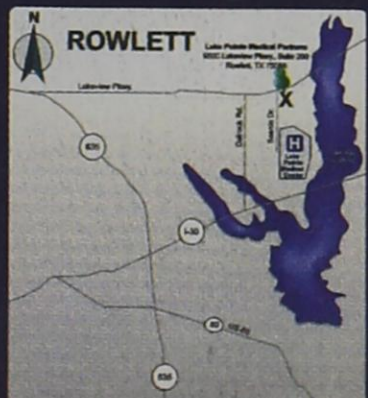


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