

Rockwall County News

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Rockwall County Long-time sweethearts celebrate special Valentine's Day

Kathy Williams
As is said that, while many couples look forward to their wedding day, they often find that they have a life to live once the rice is swept up and the thank you notes are mailed. According to the latest United States Census Bureau statistics, first marriages in America last approximately eight years. Second and third marriages have a whopping 40% divorce rate. Before they reach their 18th birthdays, one half of the babies born to couples married in 2008 will see their parents divorce. With the odds seemingly stacked against a new marriage lasting "till death do us part," what secrets do long-married couples know that the rest of us wish we knew? There are a few ways to guarantee those promises made, standing so earnestly before family and friends in a crisp tuxedo and diaphanous white dress, will be kept? While long-married couples admit there is no deep, dark secret to a long, happy marriage, they do agree that marriage is hard, it takes work and commitment and it's every ounce of effort put into it.

Don and Pat Lovell

Don and Pat Lovell of McLendon-Chisholm, who met at Rockwall High School when he was a senior and she was a freshman, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 16, 2008. They had their first date when he took her home after the Rockwall vs. Plano football game. "We've had an exciting 50 years," according to Pat. "Marriage takes commitment. A little piece of advice we got when we first married was never go to bed mad." Don, who was raised in Chisholm, graduated from RHS in 1955 and attended East Texas State Teachers College. Pat, a Fate girl, graduated from RHS in May 1958 and they were married the following December in Fate. They settled in Chisholm where they raised three children, Cindi, Phil and Gina. They have eight grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Don said one of the factors that contributed to his long marriage is "the way we were brought up. We had a commitment." Pat agreed and said, "We were brought up in church and were taught about commitment. It's not 'what can I get out of a marriage?' It's about 'what can I give?'" She recalled a conversation with a woman she met who said her first divorce was so hard - after that it was easy. Pat said, "Now when people get tired of things, they just walk away. You have to have a strong family. It may not work all the time but a lot of people are scattered today, but they can still call. You can still keep in touch."

Pat retired almost three years ago after 36 years at Community Bank. Don is retired from Extruders in Wylie. A Texas A&M certified deputy, he is a former weekend deputy for Rockwall County and was a volunteer officer for the City of Heath under Sheriff Cullens. When they weren't raising children or working their jobs, Don and Pat had many interests that led to their "exciting" 50 years together. Don has always ridden motorcycles, a pastime that Pat shared. She said, back in their younger days, anyone who rode a motorcycle was considered a hoodlum. Don said she would tell him, "I don't want to ride on that thing. I feel like a hoodlum!" Whether hoodlum or not, the couple shared many adventures together on their motorcycle, with Pat riding along hanging onto her beloved biker husband. For Don's 70th birthday and several friends rode through the western United States, visiting places they had not seen before and stopping in on his and Pat's daughter, Gina, and her family in California along the way. Pat said in addition to the motorcycles, she and Don have raised horses, been part of rodeo, flown airplanes and raced boats and cars. Don said for another gift, his daughter bought him a ride in a NASCAR car, but was disappointed when they speeded out at 200 mph. Exciting, indeed. When discussing their life together and the activities their family has shared, Pat said "I believe you have to be saved, trust in the Lord and pray a lot. I don't know anybody can do anything without a personal relationship with the Lord." Even with the racing on Saturday nights, they always got up on Sunday morning to go to church. The Lovells are proud of their roots in the McLendon-Chisholm community. The family settled in Chisholm 129 years ago when the towns of McLendon and Chisholm were still separate. Their land has a historical designation for having been the same family for 100 years. In summing up their years together, Don said, "You have to have communication, a sense of humor, love, commitment and prayer. A lot of married people today have things separate - you hear about them having separate bank accounts, splitting bills. But, it's not just hers or mine, it's ours."

Hal and Dee Whitfield

Just days before the Jan. 29, 1949 wedding of Hal and Dee Whitfield, an ice storm hit into town and knocked out power at the home of Dee's parents where the ceremony was set to take place. "My mother was beside herself," Dee said. Fortunately, the electricity was restored and Hal and Dee said their vows in a warm house with the lights on. The storm later altered their plans to drive to New Orleans for their honeymoon. The honeymoon was off as planned, but instead of driving, they took a train to Louisiana. Dee said she believes one reason for the high divorce rate is, "it's in our culture. In the movies, it's on TV. It's an accepted thing. People like us who've been married a long time, we're the different ones." Hal and Dee, both raised in Dallas, were introduced by Hal's stepsister, Margarette Redwine, when they worked together at Lone Star Gas in Dallas. "She decided we were meant for each other and she introduced us. She was right," Dee said. Dee was 19 years old and Hal 21 when they were married. Margarette Redwine was the maid of honor. Hal graduated from Southern Methodist University in Dallas in 1950, attending college on the GI Bill. He served on Guam in World War II. Duty called again as active reserves, including Hal, were activated for the conflict in Korea. He said



Don and Pat Lovell celebrated 50 years of marriage on Dec. 16, 2008.
Staff Photo by Tim Burnett



Hal and Dee Whitfield celebrated 60 years of marriage on Jan. 29, 2009
Staff Photo by Tim Burnett

(Continued on Page 3)

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Graham and Audrey

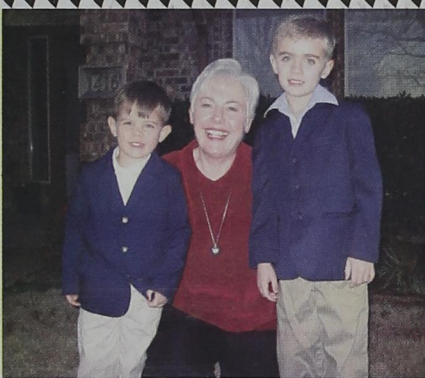
Grandparents:
Bobby and Virginia Robertson



Top: Larry III, Crystal, Shaun and Mamaw
Middle: Amber & Michael, Meghan, Rachel and Merrin
Front: Justin, Lauren, Blake and Alec Turner
The 11 precious grandchildren and 1 great grandchild of Glynda Turner



Mimi and Pops Super Seven
Abby (back row, left to right), Eli, Olivia,
(front row) John Daniel, Emma, Edison and Sam.
Grandparents
Howard and Joan Haddock



Tyler Rollins, "Granny" Sue
Reeves & Cody Rollins



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Kingham
Great Grandmother
Billie Kingham

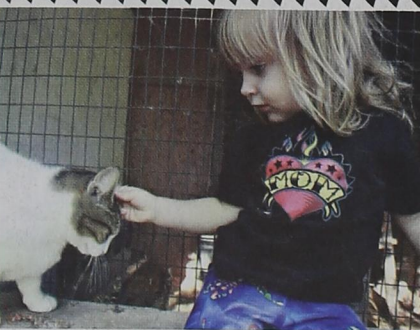
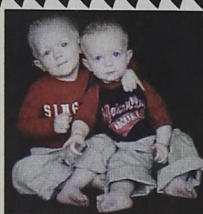


Isaac and Owen Kingham

Grandparents:
Rick and Tracey
Kingham
Great Grandparents
Billie Kingham
Jerry and Juanita
Grubb

Walker & Easton Overman

Grandparents:
Dayna Boyd
Bob Baker
Beverly Baker



Gwendolyn Gleinser
Grandparents:
Dixon and Carl Glaze

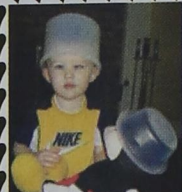
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Dan & Donna Bong
Great Grandmother
Billie Kingham



Danae Bong
Grandparents
Rick & Tracy Kingham
Dan & Donna Bong
Great Grandmother
Billie Kingham



Gavin Pearce
Grandparents
Jimmy & Becky Pearce
Great Grandmother
Billie Kingham



Jaycob Zachary Park

Grandparents
Randy & Dawn Grubb
Great Grandparents
Billie Kingham
Jerry & Juanita Grubb



Ethan Andrew Bong
Grandparents
Rick & Tracy Kingham
Dan & Donna Bong
Great Grandmother
Billie Kingham



Elizabeth Burrus
Grandparents
Keith & Dolores Collett



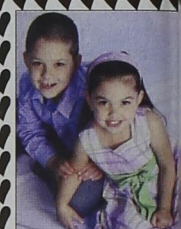
Laura Webber
Grandparents
Keith & Dolores Collett



Chandler Pearce
Grandparents
Jimmy & Becky Pearce
David & Leah Hemphill
Great Grandmother
Billie Kingham



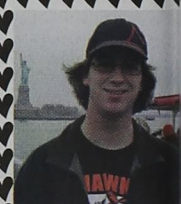
Mary Pearce
Grandparents
Jimmy & Becky Pearce
David & Leah Hemphill
Great Grandmother
Billie Kingham



Nick & Barlie Russo
Mama & PopPop Grubbs



Emma Burrus
Grandparents
Keith & Dolores Collett



Sean Williams
Grandparents
Mary Jo Huffman
Marilyn Williams

Rockwall County News
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(Continued fr
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troops, thus escaping a tri
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RCISD seeks input
The Roys City Independent S
input on names for two in
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with a short paragraph at
be sub
recommended, should be
directed to: Jo Nell N
Box 478, Roys City, TX 75189
Finding Love
The Rockwall Parks & Rec De
Finding Love after the Loss of
Tuesday at The Center. T
adults ages 50 and older. For m
Teen Game Night
Game Night will run from 5:
the big first-floor meeting roo
Free and open to students
include free pizza for the first 20
Relay for Life capt
Captains for the Rockwall Cou
7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the cafeteria
Rockwall. Anyone interested is v
Rockwall Newc
The Rockwall Newcomers wil
social, followed by a prog
lunch at Chandlers Landin
hostess Mary Burks Worche
Kitty Colquhoun at 972-
771-748 by 8 p.m. Sunday to
cost will be \$16 per pers
Applicants for Citizen
Applications are being accept
sponsored by the Rockwall
from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
through April 23 (no class on M
The program is designed to giv
standing of the fire department. A
station and City Hall. For mor
972-771-7770.
Seniors Out-to-L
The Rockwall Parks & Rec
Lunch Bunch for seniors will be
held on Feb. 13. The event w
cost will be \$7 for Rockwall re
more information call 972-77
Brown Bag Le
The first program of the 2009
Foundation Brown Bag Lecture
in the Historic Courthouse of
The Mystery of the Rock Wall
mission is free and open to anyo
Mental illness supp
Two NAMI free support grou
mental illness and one for thei
from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Feb. 1
March. Family members will m
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Dee Whitfield at 972-412-603
Library closin
The Rockwall County Library
observance of President's Day. Th
Feb. 17.
Basic computer
A class on computer basic wi
Parks & Rec Department Feb. 17
individuals ages 50 and older, th
1:30 a.m. Cost is \$20 for reside
more information call 972-771-7

Sweethearts celebrate long-time love ...

(Continued from Page 1)

For his superiors found out he had been in WW II, he was sent in troops, thus escaping a trip overseas. He said, "Dee was getting a baby so I didn't volunteer for anything."

The Whitfield's have three children, Greg, Dan and Cindy, and a recently married granddaughter.

Dee received her Bachelors degree from the University of Texas at Dallas in 1980, once her children were grown. She also received a Master of Liberal Arts in English from SMU in 1985.

When thinking on her own long-term marriage and the difference in attitudes today, she said, "It's awfully easy to get a divorce. It's just too easy. If you are going to get married and raise a family, it's a commitment. You have to give 100 percent. You have to work things out. Maybe you're not going to be rich or you may have problems, but you stick together."

Hal said Pat has been a wonderful mother to their children. "She's just done such a wonderful job with the kids. I wish I could take the credit. Back when I was young, men didn't say 'I love you' and things like that. You have to tell your kids that."

After Korea, Hal worked in a bank then moved to Borrows Corporation for 25 years, then spent the last 15 years of his career in recruiting. Dee helped in his office once she received her degree.

Dee recalled an incident where her son, Greg, was telling his widowed grandmother about an argument he had had with his wife. His grandmother let him express his concerns and frustrations, then looked him in the eye and said, "I wish I had somebody to fuss with." Dee said, "You don't quit because you have a disagreement. You don't stay married that way."

Hal said having a church family has helped them through the years as well. Although Dee is a Baptist and Hal is a Methodist, he said in the last several years, he has become a great admirer of the Rev. Billy Graham, "and I believe in Jesus Christ."

Although they are both retired, they keep busy with their church, volunteer work and leading classes and other volunteer work for the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Hal said the "biggest thing" that has held him and Dee together for 60 years is "the love that we have for each other and our children. We've worked at it and we receive that love back from our kids."

"The first Commandment is to love and we love each other dearly."

Dee said, "In sickness and in health, till death do us part. You have to believe in that."

News Briefs

RCISD seeks input on school names

The Royse City Independent School District is seeking community input on names for two intermediate schools. The district traditionally has named campuses after outstanding educators who have worked within the school district. Name suggestions, along with a short paragraph about why the individual is being recommended, should be submitted prior to Feb. 27. Entries could be directed to: Jo Nell Mellody, Royse City ISD, P.O. Box 479, Royse City, TX 75189 or e-mail mellodyj@rcisd.org.

Finding Love workshop set

The Rockwall Parks & Rec Department will host a workshop, Finding Love after the Loss of a Loved One, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday at The Center. The event will be open to individuals ages 50 and older. For more information call 972-771-7740.

Teen Game Night set at library

Game Night will run from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the big first-floor meeting room of the Rockwall County Library. Free and open to students in grades 7-12, the event will include free pizza for the first 20 student-participants.

Relay for Life captains plan meeting

Captains for the Rockwall County Relay for Life will meet at 10 p.m. Tuesday in the cafeteria of the Presbyterian Hospital, Rockwall. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Rockwall Newcomers to meet

The Rockwall Newcomers will meet at 10 a.m. Feb. 12 for a coffee social, followed by a program, a short business meeting and lunch at Chandlers Landing. Storyteller, actress, author and triathlete Mary Burks Worchester will provide the program. Contact Kitty Colquhoun at 972-722-5569 or Ann Small 972-11-1748 by 8 p.m. Sunday to make reservations for the luncheon; cost will be \$16 per person.

Applicants for Citizen Fire Academy sought

Applications are being accepted for the Citizen Fire Academy sponsored by the Rockwall Fire Department. Classes will run from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Thursday nights from Feb. 12 through April 23 (no class on March 19) at Fire Station No. 2. The program is designed to give participants a broader understanding of the fire department. Applications are available at the Fire Station and City Hall. For more details, call Tony Santoro at 972-771-7770.

Seniors Out-to-Lunch set Feb. 13

The Rockwall Parks & Recreation Department's Out-to-Lunch Bunch for seniors will be at Siciliano's Taste of Italy in Rockwall on Feb. 13. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost will be \$7 for Rockwall residents, \$11 for non-residents. For more information call 972-771-7740.

Brown Bag Lecture slated

The first program of the 2009 Rockwall County Historical Foundation Brown-Bag Lecture series will begin at noon Feb. 10 in the Historic Courthouse on the square. The topic will be "The Mystery of the Rock Wall." No reservations needed; admission is free and open to anyone interested.

Mental illness support groups to meet

Two NAMI free support groups - one for individuals with mental illness and one for their family members - will meet on Feb. 11 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Feb. 14 at the First United Methodist Church. Family members will meet in Room 206, B Building, while the other meeting will take place in Room 205. Call Hal Dee Whitfield at 972-412-6030 for more details.

Library closing announced

The Rockwall County Library will be closed Feb. 16 in observance of President's Day. The facility will reopen at 10 a.m. on Feb. 17.

Basic computer class offered

A class on computer basic will be offered by the Rockwall Parks & Rec Department Feb. 17 and 19 at The Center. Open to individuals ages 50 and older, the class will run from 10 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. Cost is \$20 for residents, \$30 for non-residents. For more information call 972-771-7740.

Rockwall County News

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Library plans teen activities

The Rockwall County Library has several teen activities planned for the month of February, according to a news release issued last week.

On Feb. 21, a Teen Anime Group will meet from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the second-floor meeting room. Free and open to students in grades 7-12, the meeting also will include the election of officers.

A Teen Writer's Group will meet from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Feb. 24 in the big first-floor meeting room of the library. Free and open to students in grades 7-12, the group is scheduled to elect officers during this session.

For more information on any or all of the above scheduled activities, contact the Rockwall County Library.

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Rockwall announces road closings

Alamo from Rusk to Washington is closed to through traffic because of reconstruction, according to a City of Rockwall release.

The roadway closed last Monday and construction of this road should be completed in about two months, according to city officials.

The Police and Courts building parking lot is accessible on the east section of Alamo from Rusk; however, no parking will be available on Alamo.

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Nell Vanlandingham with daughter, Sandra Hail

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Charity golf tourney slated for March

The Rowlett Women's Club will host the Blazing Balls Charity Golf Tournament from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. March 30 at the Buffalo Creek Golf Course, located at 624 Country Club Drive in Rockwall. Buffalo Creek earned a four-star rating in 'Golf Digest.'

The four-person scramble will include dinner, snacks, prizes and more. Cost is \$110 per person or \$400 per team.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. Funds raised through the event will help provide scholarship opportunities for women in need. The RWC is a 501c3 organization; all donations are tax-deductible. For more information visit rowlettwomensclub.com or e-mail info@rowlettwomensclub.com.

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Valentine's Day
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Zack Thacker and Anne-Marie Thacker are two of the primary reasons local resident Mary Thacker involved in Relay for Life. The local event is planned for May 1-2 at Cain Middle School.

Local woman's family prompts Relay involvement

by Mary Thacker

I think my heart skipped a beat when my 9-year-old daughter casually said, "Mom, we're The Cancer Family."

We were on our way to the Rockwall County Relay For Life last year, and she was looking at the many luminarias I had decorated with family photos. (Luminarias are paper bags that are filled with sand and candles and line the track during Relay to honor those who have battled cancer.) Suddenly I realized why I was at Relay. It wasn't because I was asked to volunteer on a committee, and it wasn't because the event is like a giant block party. It was because I needed to be there to raise money to find a cure for a disease that was eating away at my family.

My first loss from cancer was my paternal grandmother who died when I was a freshman in college. She was a petite, energetic woman who worked in my grandfather's printing office and taught a couples' Sunday school class. She was a shining example of living a Christian life. My grandparents were deeply in love, and he was heartbroken when

she died from breast cancer. He remarried years later with the family's blessing, but was later diagnosed with lymphoma soon after the birth of his first grandchild. I still remember how sweet it was to watch him hold my son. Sadly, they never got to know each other.

Not long after that, my dad was asking me about a spot on his lip that wouldn't heal.

"That's a symptom of skin cancer!" I practically yelled at him. "You need to get it checked out."

That was the beginning of my father's battle. He routinely has painful treatments to eradicate years of sun damage. Thankfully, he is a survivor.

A few years later, our family was dealt another blow. Many jokes are made about mothers-in-law, but I adored mine. She made holidays extra-special with Easter baskets and Christmas stockings for children and adults, and her Southern cooking was delicious. She was diagnosed with bile duct cancer when she was in her early 70's. There was no effective drug for the disease, so she struggled

through experimental treatments. Sadly, two years later we buried her.

Then my mother found a lump in her breast. How can I describe the fear I felt when I heard the news? She stoically went through a mastectomy and more than five years later she has no sign of cancer. I and my dad walked the Survivor Lap at Relay last year.

The death that rocked our family was when my cousin Steve, died from skin cancer. Steve, handsome, muscular, 40-year-old fireman who lived in California, he got sick and it went so fast that no one could believe it. A year later, his sister was diagnosed with a brain tumor. She was terrified she would die and leave her teenage daughter alone. I am grateful that she is a two-year survivor of cancer.

Why do I Relay? Because I want to guarantee that my children and their children grow up in a world without cancer.

Please join us May 1-2 at Cain Middle School. For more information, visit relayforlife.org/rockwalltx.

Electronic recycling events set Feb. 21

A pair of electronic recycling events will be conducted Feb. 21 under the sponsorship of Wal-Mart and the Environmental Co-op, a nonprofit environmental organization based in Terrell.

The local event will be conducted in the parking lot of the Wal-Mart Supercenter in Rockwall, located at 782 I-30, while the second event will take place at the Wylie Wal-Mart location on Hwy. 78. Both events will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Most items will be accepted at no charge, including computer CPUs, keyboards, laptops, scanners, printers, copiers, fax machines, cell and corded phones, inkjet and laser cartridges, stereos, microwaves, shavers, mixers, fans, air conditioners and batteries, both rechargeable and non-rechargeable.

Those dropping off items with hard drives will be responsible for wiping out all information before depositing their electronics.

Computer monitors will be accepted at a cost of \$5 each,

while televisions will be accepted as follows: \$10 each for TV sets up to 13", \$20 for sets 14" to 19" and \$30 for any television larger than 19".

Organizers indicated in their news release that the charge is necessary because of the process required to recycle the glass in monitors and TV sets.

"We welcome everyone who has old electronics to take ad-

vantage of these local events," said Marilyn May, executive director of the Environmental Co-op. "Electronics contain chemicals that contaminate water if put in the landfills. Do the responsible thing and recycle them."

For more information contact Environmental Co-op at 972-524-0007, visit the Web site at trashbusters.org or e-mail environmentalco-op@cebridge.net

Rockwall ISD make-up days set

The Rockwall Independent School District has scheduled two student weather make-up days in April. Students should attend classes on April 10 and April 13, according to a RISD news release issued earlier this week.

For more information concerning the RISD visit rockwallisd.org

on-line @
rockwallcountynews.com

Members of Boy Scout Troop 314... making and orienteering trek at... Chris Allen, Chris Bowyer, Matt... Justin Murphy, Jacob Hogue, Nich... Photo Courtesy of Mary Thacker

Barefoot in the Park

Barefoot in the Park," one... Neil Simon's most beloved... opens at the Rockwall... Community Playhouse this Fri... Feb. 6.



cast of "Barefoot in the Park"... catering dinner that has been pr... and self-styled chef, Victor Vel... (right) Matt McClearin as Paul... Patrick Persons as Victor... Photo by Tim Burnett

WE'LL unde... to your per...



Ly... 2... Loan

Heath Boy Scout Troop's success lies in activity level

Boy Scout Troop 314 of Heath graduates Eagle Scouts every year thanks to the fact that its members are active.

Troop members camp every month. In August, they traveled to Sharp's Farm to work on pioneering skills, in September they traveled to Tyler State Park to take on the mountain biking trails and repair a damaged park bridge. October's destination was Mineral Wells State Park, where the troop went backpacking. In November they attended Webelos Woods at Camp James Ray to meet perspective Boy Scouts from area Cub Scout programs. In December, there was a campout at Lawrence Farm involving wilderness first aid training.

Threats of rain and cold temperatures in January didn't slow down the troop, which went on a backpacking and orienteering trek in Somerville State Park. In February the group will participate in the Scouting for Food drive and enjoy a Shotgun and Rifle Campout where they will learn to use firearms.

The troop also performs community service. They assisted cyclists in Hot Rocks, a bicycle race sponsored by the Rockwall Rotary Club; cleared tables during A Taste of Rockwall; and sold popcorn and assisted the North Texas Retriever Club in training their dogs during the Bird Boy Campout.

Once school is out, the group plans to attend summer camp in locations in Arkansas and Colorado where they will work toward badges. Some of the older scouts also will attend Camp Philmont in New Mexico and NYLT for leadership training.

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Members of Boy Scout Troop 314 of Heath are pictured here during their January trip to Somerville State Park. The boys enjoyed a backpacking and orienteering trek at the park. Members of the troop are, (back row from left), Zack Thacker, Jeremy Bayliss, Evan Bakka, Chris Allen, Chris Bowyer, Matt Graves, Hamrick Morgan, Blake Hollowell, (front row from left) Ethan Smith, Anthony Schneemann, Martin Murphy, Jacob Hogue, Nick Bowyer, Carston Steinmeyer, Jonnathan Milliser, Malachi Morrel and Will Wilcoxen. Photo Courtesy of Mary Thacker

'Barefoot in the Park' opens Friday at the Rockwall Community Playhouse

"Barefoot in the Park," one of Neil Simon's most beloved comedies, opens at the Rockwall Community Playhouse this Friday, Feb. 6.

Directed by Dennis Gullion and assistant director Christina Swanson, the show opens Friday and will continue weekends through Feb. 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20,

21, and 22. Show times are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, with a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee. The story centers around newlyweds Paul and Corie Bratter,

her mother, their upstairs neighbor who uses their window to climb the outside ledge to his apartment, a couple of nervous deliverymen and a broken skylight that snows into their sixth floor walk-up.

The cast includes Ashton DeGroot as Corie Bratter, Matt McClearin as Paul Bratter, Johnna Leigh as Mrs. Banks, Juan Perez as Harry Pepper, David Kierski as the Delivery Man and Patrick Persons as Victor Velasco.

The stage crew includes Mace Burris on lights and sound, Kay Gullion on costumes, and props by Mary Waddle and Antonia Messina-Gates.

The Rockwall Community Playhouse is located at 609 E. Rusk. To purchase tickets, call 972-722-3399 and leave a message. Tickets prices for musicals are \$18 for adults and \$15 for seniors and students. For non-musicals, tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors and students.



The cast of "Barefoot in the Park" decides if they want to taste the festive dinner that has been prepared for them by upstairs neighbor and self-styled chef, Victor Velasco. Members of the cast are (left to right) Matt McClearin as Paul Bratter, Ashton DeGroot as Corie Bratter, Patrick Persons as Victor Velasco and Johnna Leigh as Mrs. Banks. Photo by Tim Burnett



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Rockwall County Sports

Sports Notes

YMCA soccer registration under way

Early registration is under way for the Rockwall County YMCA Soccer Association's spring season. Small Fry Soccer is open to 3-year-old youths, while Youth Soccer is open to both genders ages four and older (as of July 31). Registration runs through Monday; late registration begins Tuesday and runs until the teams are full. For information call 972-772-9622 or visit rockwallymca.org.

Special needs open gym Feb. 27

The last Friday of each month is Special Needs Open

Gym Night at the RISD Education Center gym, located at 1050 Williams St. The gym will be open from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. for children with special needs to interact with each other and play various activities while their parents meet as a support group. For more information call the Rockwall Parks & Recreation Department at 972-771-7740.

Power yoga classes scheduled

The Rockwall Parks & Recreation Department will sponsor a Vinyasa-style yoga class, Power Yoga, March 2-23 at The Center. Open to individuals ages 15 and older, the event will run Mondays from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Cost is \$40 for residents, \$60 for non-residents. For more information call 972-771-7740.

Ping pong tourney slated

A ping pong tournament for individuals ages 50 and older, sponsored by the Rockwall Parks & Rec Department, will begin at 10 a.m. March 20 at The Center. Drinks and snacks will be provided for players. For more information call 972-771-7740.

Special needs open gym March 27

The last Friday of each month is Special Needs Open Gym Night at the RISD Education Center gym, located at 1050 Williams St. The gym will be open from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. for children with special needs to interact with each other and play various activities while their parents meet as a support group. For more information call the Rockwall Parks & Recreation Department at 972-771-7740.

Junior Olympic Skills contest set

A free national skills competition open to children ages 8-12 will be offered from 10 a.m. to noon March 28 in the RISD Education Center. Rockwall youths can showcase their skills in basketball, soccer, tennis, and track and field, with genders competing separately. Each child must provide a copy of his/her birth certificate for age verification. For more information call the Rockwall Parks & Recreation Department at 972-771-7740.

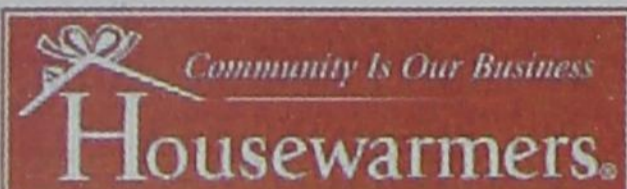
Blazing Balls golf tourney slated

The Rowlett Women's Club will host the Blazing Balls Charity Golf Tournament from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on March 30 at the Buffalo Creek Golf Course. Funds raised through the four-person scramble will help provide edu-



Rockwall High School sophomore Krystal Haynes shows her style in the beam routine at last month's RHS gymnastic meet. Staff Photo by Tim Burnett

Williams Middle School and Williams... during recent competition. Williams (50), Jessie Hall and Kelli... Mallory Rice (right). Staff Photo by Tim Burnett



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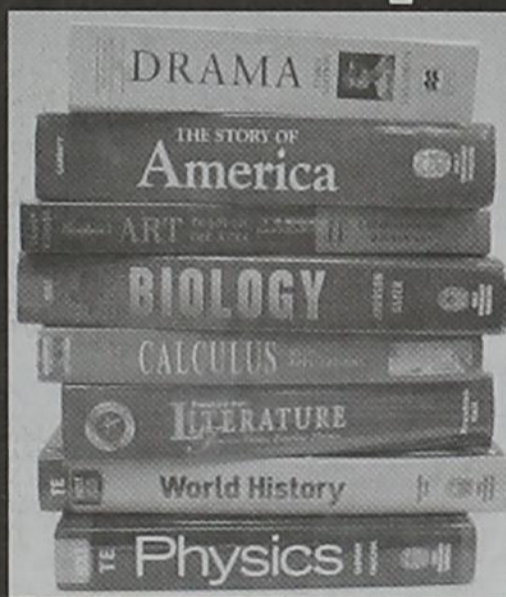
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(Continued on Page 7)

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Rockwall-Heath High School's Jonathan Fuller (#3) flies to the basket for a layup in the recent contest with Newman Smith High School. Teammate Andrew Twedell (22) assists in the action. Staff Photo by Carl McClung

Legal Notices

Mixed Beverage Restaurant Permit with FB

Application has been made for a Mixed Beverage Restaurant Permit with FB for SYNERGY RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT LLC Dba APPLEBEE'S NEIGHBORHOOD GRILL & BAR at 687 IH 30 EAST, ROCKWALL, ROCKWALL, TX. Said application made to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code.
SUNIL DEVJI DHAROD, MGR/MEMBER/PRES
DAVID FREDERICK MORRIS, VP



Cain Middle School 7th grader Leeshea Mayo polishes her performance in the February 3 gymnastics meet. Staff Photo by Roy Heath

Williams Middle School 8th gra... in a recent contest. Staff Photo by Tim Burnett

www.rockwall.com

Rockwall County Sports

Sports Notes

(Continued from Page 6)

Cational scholarships for women in need. Cost is \$110 per person, \$400 per team; cost includes dinner, snacks, prizes and more. Visit rowlett womensclub.com or e-mail info@rowlett womensclub.com for more details.

Kayak class set April 25

A kayaking clinic, sponsored by the Rockwall Parks & Rec Department, will be offered from 9 a.m. to noon on April 25 at the Hwy. 66 boat ramp. Open to individuals ages 18 and older, the class will be taught by Dave Holl. Cost will be \$60 for Rockwall residents, \$90 for non-residents. For more information call 972-771-7740.

Little Kickers Soccer begins in April

A soccer program designed for children ages 3 1/2 to 5 years of age, sponsored by the Rockwall Parks & Rec Department, will run April 27 through June 1. The program is designed to teach age-appropriate drills and skills and will include Monday evening classes and games at Myers Park Field No. 1. Cost is \$30 for Rockwall residents, \$45 for non-residents. For more information call 972-771-7740.

Little Sluggers T-ball program slated

Children ages 3 1/2 to 5 years of age can learn T-ball fundamentals in the Rockwall Parks & Rec Department's Little Sluggers program, which runs April 28 through June 2. Classes will run Tuesday evenings at Myers Park Field No. 1. Cost is \$30 for Rockwall residents, \$45 for non-residents. For more information call 972-771-7740.

Disc Golf Weekend slated May 2-3

An event being billed as the "World's Biggest Disc Golf Weekend" is being planned for May 2-3 in Harry Myers Park. The non-competitive event will be open to all ages and levels - from professionals to first-time disc golfers. Visit wbdgw.com for more information.

Animal Services to offer reduced-cost shots

Rockwall Animal Services will host a reduced-cost shot and microchip clinic from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. May 2 at the veterinarian offices of Dr. J. David Loftis, 2001 S. Goliad.

Rabies shots will be offered for \$8, single-year, and \$24, three-year shots. All other basic shots will be offered at a cost of \$8 each.

All dogs and cats in the Rockwall city limits are required to be vaccinated against rabies at either one-year or three-year intervals, depending on the type of vaccine used.

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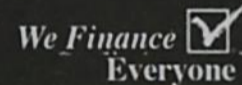


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Williams Middle School and Williams Middle School 7th grade B team basketball players fight for ball during recent competition. Williams Middle School players are (left to right in black) are Brittney Jones (50), Jessie Hall and Kelli Craig (31). Cain Middle School players are Nicole Johnson (middle) and Mallory Rice (right). Photo by Tim Burnett



Williams Middle School 8th grade soccer team member Haley Gates (18) scoots around a Cooper Middle School player in a recent contest. Photo by Tim Burnett

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Feral Friends to host Valentine's adoption event

Feral Friends will host a Valentine's Adoption Weekend Feb. 15. Comet the cat is just one of many adorable animals available for adoption at this event.

Each PetSmart location partners with a nonprofit animal organization and the Rowlett location will partner with Feral Friends Community Cat alliance to adopt out cats and kittens.

The event will run from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Feb. 14 and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 15.

The Feb. 14 event will also feature child-friendly Valentine's treats and a door prize drawing for dinner for two.

Feral Friends adoptable cats and kittens have been rescued from abandoned and homeless situations. They are domesticated and well socialized. They reside in homes with foster parents and, of the time, with other cats, children and sometimes dogs. A spayed or neutered, microchipped, rabies- and FVRCP-vaccinated and FIV/FelV tested. A 30-day pet insurance policy is provided with each adopted cat or kitten.

For more information about the Feral Friends organization, visit feralfriends.org.

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Rockwall
ROC
Volume 23, Issue 7
News
Friends of the L...
The February meeting of the Rockwall County Community Room of the Rockwall County... today. The program will be "A Touch of Music... A Touch of Love" at 11 a.m. today. The program will be \$15; reservations/cancellations call 972-771-8976 or e-mail cpl...
Finding Love w...
The Rockwall Parks & Rec Department is sponsoring a Valentine's Adoption Weekend Feb. 15. Comet the cat is just one of many adorable animals available for adoption at this event. Each PetSmart location partners with a nonprofit animal organization and the Rowlett location will partner with Feral Friends Community Cat alliance to adopt out cats and kittens. The event will run from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Feb. 14 and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 15. The Feb. 14 event will also feature child-friendly Valentine's treats and a door prize drawing for dinner for two. Feral Friends adoptable cats and kittens have been rescued from abandoned and homeless situations. They are domesticated and well socialized. They reside in homes with foster parents and, of the time, with other cats, children and sometimes dogs. A spayed or neutered, microchipped, rabies- and FVRCP-vaccinated and FIV/FelV tested. A 30-day pet insurance policy is provided with each adopted cat or kitten. For more information about the Feral Friends organization, visit feralfriends.org.

Seniors Out-to-Lunch
The Rockwall Parks & Recreation Department is sponsoring a Seniors Out-to-Lunch program for seniors will be at Sicily's Italian Restaurant on Friday, Feb. 13, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 13, for Rockwall residents, \$11.50 for lunch and \$1.50 for coffee. For more information call 972-771-7740.

Brown Bag Lecture
The first program of the 2009-2010 Rockwall County Library Foundation Brown Bag Lecture series will be "The Historic Courthouse on the History of the Rock Wall." No registration fee and open to anyone interested. The lecture will be held at the Rockwall County Library on Feb. 17, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information call 972-771-7740.

Mental illness support group
Two NAMI free support groups will be held at the Rockwall County Library on Feb. 17, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Family members will meet with the other meeting will take place at the Rockwall County Library on Feb. 17, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information call 972-412-6030 for more information.

Pink Dance set
The Williams Middle School National Junior Honor Society will be sponsoring a Pink Dance set for Feb. 17, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday in the Williams Middle School gymnasium. All WMS students are encouraged to attend. Those who are affected by cancer will receive an advance, \$12 at the door. Menus will be displayed during the dance which takes place this week.

Noon Lions pl...
The Rockwall Noon Lions meet each month at noon at Joe Willy's. For more information call 972-771-7740.

Library closing
The Rockwall County Library will be closed for the observance of President's Day. The library will be closed on Feb. 17.

Basic computer
A class on computer basic will be held at the Rockwall County Library on Feb. 17, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. For individuals ages 50 and older, the cost is \$20 for resident. For more information call 972-771-7740.

Chicago-style bridge
A bridge tournament featuring a Chicago-style bridge will be held at the Rockwall County Library on Feb. 18, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 18. The event is open to individuals ages 50 and older. For more information call 972-771-7740.

RC Business After Hours
The Royce City Chamber and Commerce is sponsoring a Business After Hours event on Feb. 18, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The event will include live music, refreshments and more. Admission to the event is free. For more information contact the chamber office at 972-771-7740.

Electronic recycling
An electronic recycling event will be held at the Rockwall County Library on Feb. 21, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Items accepted include computer CPUs, keyboard, laptop, printers, fax machines, laptops, modems, scanners, and other electronic devices. Monitors and TVs will be accepted for recycling. For more information, visit trashrecycling.com.

Teen Anime Group
The Teen Anime Group will meet on Feb. 21, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the second-floor meeting room. The event is free and open to students. The event will include the election of officers. For more information call 972-771-7740.

More News Br...
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