

Rockwall County News

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News Briefs

VNA offers bereavement seminar

The Visiting Nurse Association will offer a bereavement seminar for adults, "Coping with Grief," from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the VNA branch office, 102 W. Grove St. in Kaufman. Topics to be covered include common grief experiences, coping with grief and myths about grief. There is no cost to attend. However, reservations should be made by calling Clayton Meard at 972-962-7500 or 1-800-345-0576.

Community Seminar Series set

The Lake Pointe Health Network will kick off its 2009 Community Seminar Series with a presentation by Dr. Umar Beyy, a board-certified orthopedic surgeon on staff at the center, who will present "Advances in Arthritis Care." The presentation will review current alternatives, both surgical and non-surgical, for the treatment of degenerative conditions affecting the joints of the human body. The event will begin at 7 p.m. today at the Lake Pointe Professional Development Center, 944 Lakeview Parkway, Suite 113A in Rowlett in the Scenic Square Shopping Center. To attend or for more information call 1-800-525-5762.

Senior trip to Canton planned

The Rockwall Parks & Rec Department is planning a seniors bus trip to Canton Trade Days from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday. Cost will be \$7 for Rockwall residents, \$11 for non-residents. For more information call 972-771-7740.

Churches plan Day of Blessing

First Church will join Crossroad Baptist in offering a Day of Blessing on Saturday beginning at 9 a.m. The congregations will offer free clothing, household items and other items to individuals and families in need. The distribution will take place at 7900 Chiesa Road in Rowlett.

Noon Lions plan meeting

The Rockwall Noon Lions meet the first and third Mondays of each month at noon at Joe Willy's on South Goliad. Guests are welcome.

Heath Cemetery Association to meet

The annual meeting of the Heath Cemetery Association will be at 7 p.m. Monday at the Heath Community Center, 2000 Lawrence Drive, in Heath. The Heath community meeting will immediately follow.

Republican Lunch Bunch set Wednesday

The Rockwall County Republican Lunch Bunch will meet at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Luigi's Italian Café in Rockwall. Cost is \$10, which includes lunch, beverage, tax and tip; participants will pay at the door. Reservations are not required. The event will be informal and open to all Republicans. For more details call Dalton Kennimer at 972-636-4034.

'Daddy Day Camp' is featured flick

The March First Wednesday Flick, sponsored by the Rockwall Parks & Rec Department, will be "Daddy Day Camp," a comedy. The movie will be screened at 3 p.m. Wednesday at The Center, and admission is open to individuals ages 50 and older. Cost is \$1 for residents, \$2 for non-residents. For more information call 972-771-7740.

Rockwall Computer Council to meet

The Rockwall Computer Council will conduct its next meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Center at Rockwall City Place, 1033 Washington St. Lisa Frazier of Lisa Frazier Training & Service will be guest speaker. The meeting will be open to anyone interested in the use of computers for home or office, and individuals of all types and degrees of expertise are welcome. For more details contact Joe Conrad at 972-771-8712.

Spring Fling Ballroom Party set

The Spring Fling Ballroom Party, hosted by the Rockwall Parks & Rec Department, will run from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. March 6 at The Center. Participants can enjoy dance hits, practice dance moves and learn new ones. Light refreshments will be served, and door prizes will be given away. Partners not required; dress will be semi-formal. To register or for more information call 972-771-7740.

Rochell Elementary fundraiser slated

The Rochell Elementary fifth grade class is raising money for the Rocky Ranch Camp trip in May. From 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Agavee's in Rockwall, 695 E. I-30, breakfast and all the fixings will be served at a cost of \$7 per person. Advanced tickets may be purchased at the school or at the door. All proceeds will go to the camp fees.

ARC first aid class available

American Red Cross-taught first aid class will be offered March 7 at The Center. Open to individuals ages 15 and older, the class will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will include information on basic care of injuries and sudden illness, as well as CPR and AED training. Cost will be \$80 for residents, \$120 for non-residents. For more information on the Rockwall Parks & Rec sponsored event call 972-771-7740.

RCP auditions set

Auditions for the Rockwall Community Playhouse's "Kiss Me Goodnight" production will take place March 7 at the First United Methodist Church in Rockwall, 1200 W. Yellowjacket Lane, beginning at 10 a.m. and on March 8 at the Rockwall Wedding Chapel, 205 S. Fannin, at 1 p.m. Callbacks, if needed, will be on March 9. Performances will be May 8-24, with rehearsals beginning March 10. Singing and non-singing roles will be filled (no children's roles available). Singers should be prepared to sing; dancers should bring dance shoes. Accompanist will be provided. Bring headshots. For details call 972-722-3399 or rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org.

More News Briefs on Page 2



Jonathan Jones (right) was named grand prize winner at the Hubbard Chamber Music 13th Annual Solo & Chamber Music Competition last week. He and other prize winners performed at the Winners' Concert following competition. His accompanist was Simone Sala (left) who placed second in the competition. Staff Photo by Tim Burnett

New speed limit set for John King Blvd.

by Kathy Williams

The Rockwall City Council unanimously voted to set the speed limit on the newly completed John King Blvd. at 45 mph, but agreed that at least one intersection on the road is cause for concern and creates safety hazards that must be addressed.

The specific intersection under scrutiny is at JKB and FM 552 in the northern part of the county. Mayor Bill Cecil said he has personally witnessed near-collisions at that site during midday with clear weather conditions that would not hamper driver visibility.

Westbound FM 552 slopes upward as it nears the new intersection, with only a short distance between the rise of the hill and the JKB crossover. He said drivers on FM 552 have little reaction time if they top the hill and encounter a car crossing the road on the north-south bound JKB.

Studies have been conducted at the intersection to identify a way to keep drivers safe while still moving traffic at an efficient pace on the new roadway. Rockwall City Engineer Chuck Todd said the findings were submitted to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) but are still under consideration.

He said they are considering adding either a 4-way stop, a full stop light or flashing lights and a speed reduction to 30 mph at the intersection. He said the options are still being studied, because at the time the recommendations were made to TxDOT, the road was still under construction and no actual traffic impact data could be gathered. Until cars began to roll and each option could be seen in action, no decision could be made as to the safest, most efficient intersection control option.

He did say that until that decision is made, caution signs will be placed along FM 552 near the JKB intersection to warn drivers to watch for crossing cars and to also be aware of their speed as they top the hill.

Council member Margo Nielsen suggested another traffic hazard at the site is the placement of construction company signs placed right at the edge of the road. She said drivers have to pull too far out into the intersection to see around the signs to look for oncoming traffic. Todd said he would see about moving the signs back approximately 20-25 feet from the road to aid visibility.

In other business, the council voted 6-1 to approve the annexation (Continued on Page 3)

Rockwall County man kills son, then himself

A Rowlett man who felt his son, a student at J.W. Williams Middle School in Rockwall, would be sent to prison and not be able to defend himself, is believed to have shot and killed the boy before committing suicide on Friday, Feb. 20.

According to Lt. John Norton, spokesman for the Collin County Sheriff's Office, his office received a 911 call at approximately 11:45 p.m. last Friday from a male stating there were two bodies at (Continued on Page 3)



Girls Scouts from Troop 8967 learn the fine art of "dipping" as they practice their Tango during 'Thinking Day' Sunday at Rockwall High School. More than 160 girls and leaders from the Rockwall/Heath area participated in the event, learning about 17 countries around the world. Troop 8967 is dressed to represent their country, China. Girls from Troop 2003 studied Argentina and gave Tango lessons as their activity. (See story on Page 3) Staff Photo by Kathy Williams

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News Briefs

(Continued from Page 1)

RARTA meeting set March 9

The next Rockwall Area Retired Teachers Association meeting will be at 1:15 p.m. March 9 in the RISD Administration Building. Speaker will be Mayor Bill Cecil. The meeting will be open to all retired school personnel and their guests.

Head Start, pre-K registration meeting set

The Rockwall ISD will host a Head Start and pre-kindergarten registration meeting beginning at 6 p.m. March 9 at Pullen Elementary, 6492 FM 3097. Parents are encouraged to attend the program to learn how their children may qualify to participate. Qualifying factors include language, income, active military status or disability. For more details call 972-772-2073.

VNA offering grief support program

The Visiting Nurse Association will conduct a five-session grief support program, "Sharing the Journey: Coping with Grief," beginning March 10 and running through April 7 at the First United Methodist Church in Kaufman. Meetings will run from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. There is no cost to attend. For more information call Clayton McCord at 972-962-7500 or 1-800-345-0576.

Workshop to focus on eye care

Eye care will be the focus of an hour-long March 11 workshop at The Center. Sponsored by the Rockwall Parks & Rec Department, the event will include information on cataracts, glaucoma and other eye diseases, as well as signs, symptoms and treatments. The workshop will begin at 3 p.m. For more information call 972-771-7740.

Newcomers Club plans meeting

The Rockwall Newcomers Club will meet at 10 a.m. March 12 at Chandlers Landing. The event will kick off with a coffee social, followed by a program, short business meeting and lunch. Luncheon cost is \$16 per person. To RSVP or for more details contact Kitty Colquhoun at 972-722-5569 or Ann Small at 972-771-1748.

SKYWARN spotter training slated

SKYWARN spotter training, presented by the Fort Worth office of the National Weather Service, will be conducted from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. March 12. The class will meet at the Rockwall County Library, 1215 E. Yellowjacket Lane, in the Community Room on the first floor. SKYWARN training is designed to provide residents with the ability to recognize fast-changing weather conditions. The class is free and open to the public. For details call Joe DeLane at 972-772-6625.

Seniors Out-to-Lunch set March 13

The Rockwall Parks & Recreation Department's Out-to-Lunch Bunch for seniors will be at Esteban's Resaurante Firewheel on March 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.

Noon Lions plan meeting

The Rockwall Noon Lions meet the first and third Mondays of each month at noon at Joe Willy's on South Goliad. Guests are welcome.

Spring Break Camp offered

The Rockwall Parks & Rec Department will offer the ROCK Spring Break Camp March 16-20 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the RISD Education Center Gym. Activities for children ages 6-12 will include trips to the Dinosaur Valley State Park, Texas Freshwater Fisheries, Dallas Zoo, Science Place, Imax and the aquarium. Pre-registration is required; space is limited. Cost is \$75 for Rockwall residents, \$113 for non-resident. For more information call 972-771-7740.

Trip to Heritage Museum slated

A trip to the Heritage Farmstead Museum, open to individuals ages 50 and older, will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 27. The event is sponsored by the Rockwall Parks & Rec Department. Cost (transportation, admission and guided tour) is \$10 for residents, \$15 for non-residents. For more information call 972-771-7740.

'One for the Books' set March 29

"One for the Books," an original revue featuring songs from Broadway shows and performed by six generations of local performers, will be performed at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. March 29 at the library. Seating for the event, sponsored by the Capital Campaign of the Friends of the Library, will be limited. To reserve tickets or

for more details e-mail cplagens65@aol.com. Tickets cost \$5; the fundraiser, which will benefit the Capital Campaign.

'Iron Man' is Wednesday flick

The April First Wednesday Flick, sponsored by the Rock Parks & Rec Department, will be "Iron Man," a superhero movie. The movie will be screened at 3 p.m. April 1 at The Center. Admission is open to individuals ages 50 and older. Cost is \$5 for residents, \$2 for non-residents. For more information call 972-7740.

Old-fashioned egg hunt slated

An old-fashioned Easter egg hunt, complete with egg dyeing, cooking decorating and hunting for hidden goodies, is set for April 3 at The Center. Open to individuals ages 50 and older, the event will be free and will include a prize for the individual who brings the best-dressed basket. For more information call 972-7740.

Pullen to celebrate 10th anniversary

Pullen Elementary will observe a 10th anniversary celebration from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. April 3 at the school. An Italian dinner and silent auction will be conducted, and Pullen students present, staff members, families and friends are welcome to attend. Reservations are required by e-mailing deeyoung@mac.com.

Easter Egg Hunt set April 4

The Rockwall Parks & Recreation Department's seventh annual Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 10 a.m. April 4 at the Tuttle At Complex (Field 1, up to age 2; Field 3, ages 3-4; Field 2, age 5-6; Field 4, ages 7-12). Candy and special prize eggs will be offered. Other activities are planned. For more information call 972-7740.

April 8 workshop to cover skin

"Taking Care of Your Skin" will be offered April 8 at The Center. Open to individuals ages 50 and older, the free workshop will explore summer skin care, as well as the signs and symptoms of common skin problems. The event will run from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call 972-771-7740.

April 10 is Out-to-Lunch event

The Rockwall Parks & Recreation Department's Out-to-Lunch Bunch for seniors will be at Love and War in Texas, Plano on April 10. 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.

RISD sets weather make-up days

Rockwall Independent School District students will attend school on April 10 and 13, which have been scheduled as an inclusion weather make-up days, according to a district news release. For more details contact the school district. For more information call rockwallisd.com.

Babysitter training offered

An American Red Cross training for future babysitters, ages 14 and older, will be offered from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 11 at The Center. Cost is \$60 for residents, \$83 for non-residents. For more information call 972-771-7740.

Casino trip for seniors scheduled

A day trip to the Choctaw Casino in Durant, Okla., will be offered by the Rockwall Parks & Rec Department on April 15. Open to individuals 50 and older, the trip will include an 8 a.m. departure and a 6:30 p.m. return. Cost will be \$20 for residents, \$30 for non-residents. For more details call 972-771-7740.

Family Fun Fridays begin April 17

Family Fun Fridays, sponsored by the Rockwall Parks & Recreation Department, will run April 17 through May 8. Free activities will begin at 7:30 p.m. each Friday, including contests, disc golf, pool, pick-up wiffle ball games, face painting, fishing and a bounce house. A movie is set for 9 p.m. each week. Families should bring picnics, lawn chairs, blankets and FM radios. For more information call 972-771-7740.

Environmental Action Day set

The City of Rockwall will host an Environmental Action Day beginning at 8 a.m. April 18. Rockwall residents may dispose of household chemical wastes by calling 972-771-7700. Trash collection volunteers (individuals and/or groups) may reserve their own spots by calling 972-771-7740. Trash collection volunteers will be served breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at The Center.

Noon Lions plan meeting

The Rockwall Noon Lions meet the first and third Mondays of each month at noon at Joe Willy's on South Goliad. Guests are welcome.

Class to focus on effective disciplining

Effective Disciplining, offered free of charge by the Rockwall Parks & Rec Department, will begin at 5:45 p.m. April 28 at The Center. The workshop, open to individuals ages 18 and older, will focus on consistent parenting in our fast-paced world. For more information call 972-771-7740.

Animal shot, microchip clinic set

Rockwall Animal Services will host a low-cost shot and microchip clinic from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on May 2 at the Loftis veterinary office, 2001 S. Goliad. Rabies shots will be offered for \$8 (year) or \$24 (three-year). Other basic shots will be available for \$8 each. Microchipping will cost \$20 while supplies last. All animals must be on leashes; cats must be in carriers. For more information call RAS at 972-771-7750.

Relay for Life set May 1-2

The annual Relay for Life fundraising event for the American Cancer Society will run May 1-2 in Rockwall County. Registration is open to all ages.

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New speed limit ...

Continued from Page 1

of Lake Rockwall Estates, with Council Member Mark Russo casting the lone negative vote. Now on its second reading as part of the annexation process, the action was part of a number of items on the Consent Agenda, but Council Member Matthew Scott asked that it be pulled and voted on separately.

"It feels unceremonious to vote on it as part of the Consent Agenda. This is the most important thing we've done since we've been here," he said. Nielsen added, "I am glad to second the motion."

Lake Rockwall Estates is an area of approximately 329.53 acres located along the south side of Tubbs Road, east of Horizon Road and north of County Line Road.

Council members discussed another Rockwall neighborhood, this time for its historic significance to the community. Ron Harper, Chairman of the Historic Preservation Advisory Board, approached the council about creating a Neighborhood Preservation Overlay (NPO) District for the area north of Williams Street, east of Fannin Street and south of Heath Street.

City of Rockwall Planning and Zoning Director Robert LaCroix said the neighborhood, plus three houses facing the neighborhood, are reflective of traditional housing from the 1945-post World War II era, with some in the area being more historic.

He said the house styles are good representations of Tudor, Victorian, Craftsman and ranch designs of the time. He agreed an overlay district was appropriate for the neighborhood, saying, "We don't feel enough homes in the area are of the quality to create a historic district, but they do warrant being identified, finding the people who may have lived there and preserving the architecture."

Council Member Margo Nielsen asked if residents had contacted the city about creating the overlay district or if the city initiated the process. LaCroix said the city is surveying the area, but will "reach out" to neighbors for input and feedback.

Harper added that the three additional houses included in the plan may be sitting on historic property, but research is continuing. He said historians are looking to see if the land was part of the Zollner property and that is one reason the houses were identified for inclusion.

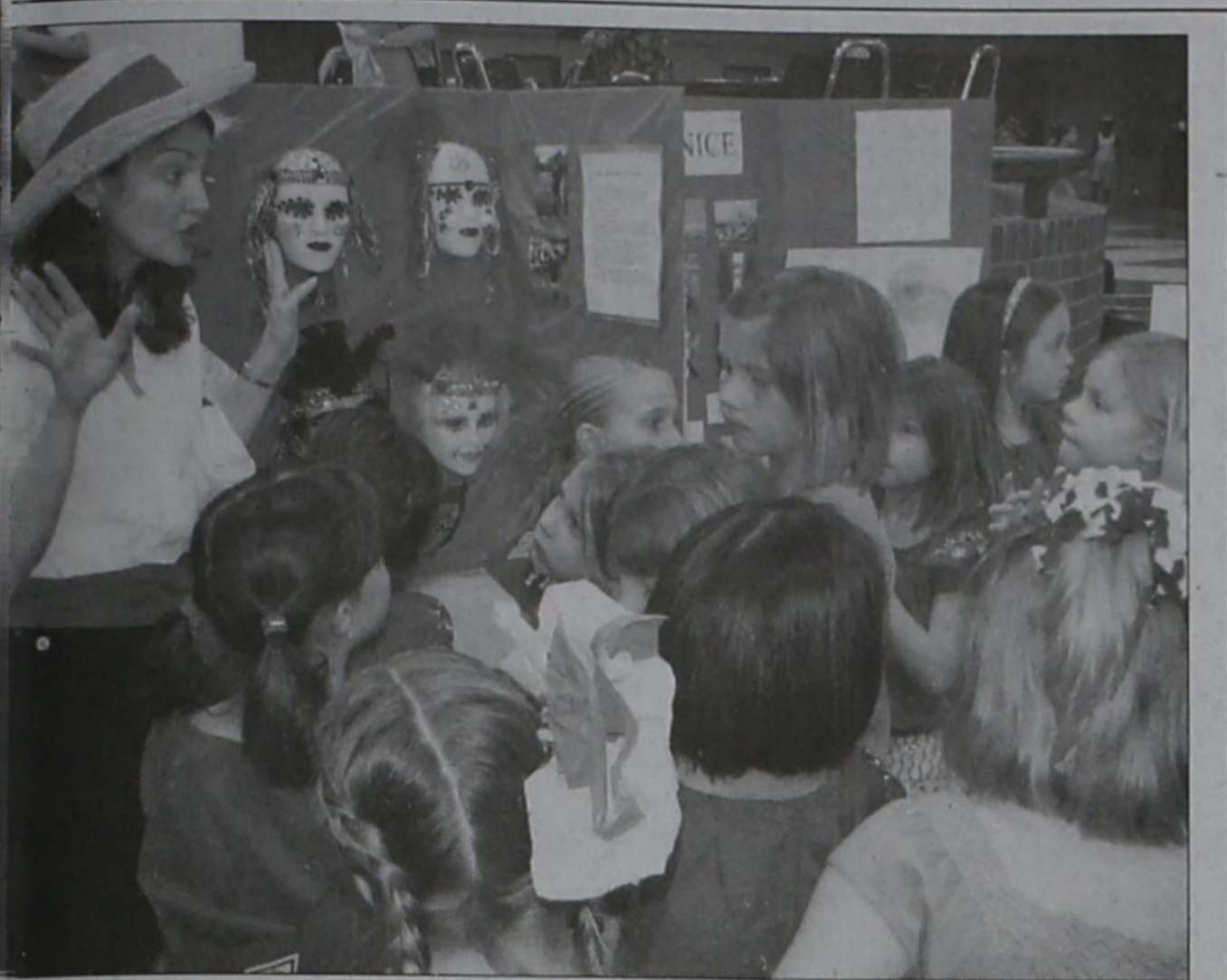
The Mathias Zollner fam-

ily settled in Rockwall County 1876 and his descendants have been working their extensive farmland here since then.

Harper said the preservation board would be setting up guidelines to preserve the neighborhood and deter any changes to the architectural characteristics of the area. Nielsen agreed with Council Member Glen Farris that it is crucial to receive feedback from residents to ensure they understand the process that is taking place and what the preservation overlay district would mean to them.

She said, "I want to contact the neighbors and make sure it is not a 'capture vs. a buy-in' process. We need to make sure the residents are buying in to this."

No vote was needed to create the overlay district at this time, but LaCroix said they wanted to get the council's agreement to be "on board" with the plan as it will eventually become a Planning and Zoning procedure. Council members agreed that continuing to study the area for historic preservation was a worthy effort.



Shelle Gross (left) from Girl Scout Troop 1920 tells girls from Troop 8971 about the wonders of Italy at Sunday's Girl Scout 'Thinking Day' at Rockwall High School. More than 160 girls researched different countries then presented their findings by wearing the clothes, cooking food and playing the games of that region.

Photo by Kathy Williams

Rockwall County Girl Scouts travel globe during 'Thinking Day' event

More than 160 local Girl Scouts and their leaders brought home to Rockwall on Feb. 22 as they presented their findings by wearing the clothes, cooking food, games, costumes and playing the games of that region.

The event, Girl Scout Taylor, Girl Scout Series, 170 Thinking Day Celebration, said this year's mission was to reach their potential as responsible citizens of the world. In order to bring home to life for the girls, they chose a country and all they could about that country.

The girls came together at the High School cafeteria to share their efforts. Each girl had a booth that represented their country. Prizes were awarded to the girls who wore the native costumes of their chosen land. Prizes were required not only to reach their potential as responsible citizens of the world, but also to wear the clothes, cook a food for that country is known, and an activity representative of their country and handed out to their booth. Prizes are Special What-

Affectionately Pinned Somewhere - specifically, trinkets the girls make to represent their country that can be pinned on a hat, sash or lapel.

As the troops travelled around the world, they had their passports stamped and were able to sample the foods and games of other countries. For instance, the girls learned that not only was the game of golf created in Scotland, but so was the schoolyard favorite hopscotch. Many countries have variations of familiar games but with their own cultural twists. In Fiji, the game we know as Hot Potato is played with a coconut.

Several judges were on hand to vote in different categories, with trophies being presented at the end of the afternoon.

Prizes awarded were: Best Decorated Booth to Troop 1920, Venice, Italy; runner-up honors to Troop 8970, Mumbai, India.

Best SWAP to Troop 8970, Mumbai, India; runner-up to Troop 2015, Finland.

Best Food to Troop 8967, Beijing, China for their homemade fortune cookies; runner-up to Troop 3009, Barcelona, Spain for their Clementine orange

cake. Best Costume to Troop 3003, Barcelona, Spain; runner-up to Troop 8967 for Beijing, China.

Best Activity to Troop 8977 for Zimbabwe for bead stringing; runner-up to Troop 1920, Venice, Italy for bocce ball.

Most Informative to Troop 2269, Fiji; runner-up to Troop 3384, Marseilles, France.

Most Work Done by Girls to Troop 2015, Finland; runner-up to Troop 8973, Ireland.



Happy Birthday
Patsie Ruth ...
The love of my life!
With love forever,
Wes

Family tragedy ...

Continued from Page 1

Rock Park, which is on the north side of Lake Lavon. Upon arrival, deputies found the remains of a 14-year old male, Roberto Acevedo, and his father, Roberto Acevedo, in the car, both with wounds to the head.

A preliminary investigation of the incident was a homicide, but the Collin County Medical Examiner's office has not made an official

needing additional assistance coping with the death of their classmate.

"Our first concern is always our students," she said. "We will make sure they have emotional support and use any resources available to help them through this."

The 11 call is believed to have been made by the father.

Collin County Sheriff's Office, which is investigating the incident, said they are unsure if the father felt his son was sent to prison as that incident had no pending intentions against the son.

Fowler, director of communications and public relations for Rockwall ISD, said several counselors were on campus Monday to offer grief counseling and other counseling services for any student needing them. She said several students were contacted and received those services.

The school's on-site counseling services are available anytime students need assistance, she said.

Pringle, principal at Wilton, sent a letter home to each student with information regarding the student's death and details about the school's partnership with City of Rockwall, which also offers counseling. Fowler said City House is able to help any student



Lucile Tate (right) with her son Garvin Tate

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<p>07 GMC CANYON REG. CAB. A very nice pickup! Regular cab with automatic transmission, A/C, upgraded stereo, bedliner and much more! Only... \$11,988</p>	<p>05 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 2500 HD. This 4-wheel drive, extended cab has lots of extras! Powered by Vortec V8, it features an automatic transmission, A/C, trailer tow package, brush guard & knobby tires... Wow! Only... \$19,988</p>
<p>08 CHEVROLET 1500 EXPRESS VAN. Perfect for your company's delivery needs. Powered by a V8 engine coupled with automatic transmission, A/C, and AM/FM stereo plus an extra long wheel base for plenty of cargo space! Only... \$15,988</p>	<p>07 LEXUS IS350. This one owner sports sedan has only 6800 miles and it features keyless entry, push button start, leather seats, power moonroof, automatic transmission, climate control and much more! Our price... \$29,988</p>
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<p>08 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 2500 HD. Just a great truck! Regular cab, long box and powered by a 6.0 V8 engine with automatic transmission with only 9k miles, this one is like new! Our price... \$19,988</p>	<p>08 BUICK ENCLAVE CXL. A beautiful car! Tan paint with tan leather interior, wood grain accents, power lift rear hatch, dual climate control and more! With 12K miles, you'll save \$10,000 over new! Our price... \$29,988</p>
<p>06 JAGUAR STYPE. European luxury with a discounted price. Super well equipped with automatic transmission, climate control, power moonroof, full power options including navigation! Original MSRP \$50,200. Our price... \$19,988</p>	<p>07 GMC YUKON SLT2. Beautiful in black with tan leather interior, 2nd row bucket seats, rear A/C, AM/FM/CD with XM DVD, 20" alloy wheels and more! Loaded!! Our price... \$31,988</p>

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Sheila Hair of My Computer Guy attacks the ropes course during a teambuilding weekend last fall for members of the Rockwall Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class 2009. Their chosen class project is to build a similar ropes course at Sabine Creek Ranch. Photo Courtesy of Shelli Miller

Rockwall Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class 2009 raising funds for rope course

Contributed by Shelli Miller and Karen Coughlin

The Rockwall Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class 2009 is partnering with a local camp, Sabine Creek Ranch in Royse City, to build a state of the art ropes course in Rockwall County. Sabine Creek Ranch is a non-profit facility that has been in operation for about five years.

As each school year begins in September, appointed representatives from diverse industries join Leadership Rockwall, a year long initiative with the goal of strengthening business partnerships in the community. And with each new class, the

participants must select a project that enhances and improves Rockwall County.

The class of 2009, although very small in size with just 11 members, had no difficulty determining what they would leave to the City of Rockwall. The members of the class, most of whom had never met each other, spent a weekend together getting acquainted and participating in team-building activities, including a ropes course. Karen Coughlin, Hotel Manager at the Hilton Bella Harbor Hotel, said, "An amazing thing happens once the weekend kicks off and the journey through the Ropes Course Challenge begins. Over the course of two days, you become so connected and loyal to this new group of friends that you leave with the sense you have known them forever."

"You challenge yourself to push way beyond your usual comfort zone. You're supported, coaxed and helped by teammates to accomplish whatever element it is that you've set out to do. But you yourself are ultimately the one that makes the decision and you, yourself, are the one that benefits from the self pride, satisfaction, fulfillment, contentment, delight and even humility. The life skills learned are absolutely huge. This was such an overwhelming, awe-inspiring experience for our leadership class that we want to make it available right here in our little community," according to Shelli Miller, Vice President of HomeBank in Rockwall.

Run by Eddie and Sarah Walker, the 300+ acres Sabine Creek Ranch plays host to camps, retreats and events year-round. The summer camps are full every summer, sleeping up to 300 campers. The ropes course will be incorporated into the camp programs for even the kids to use.

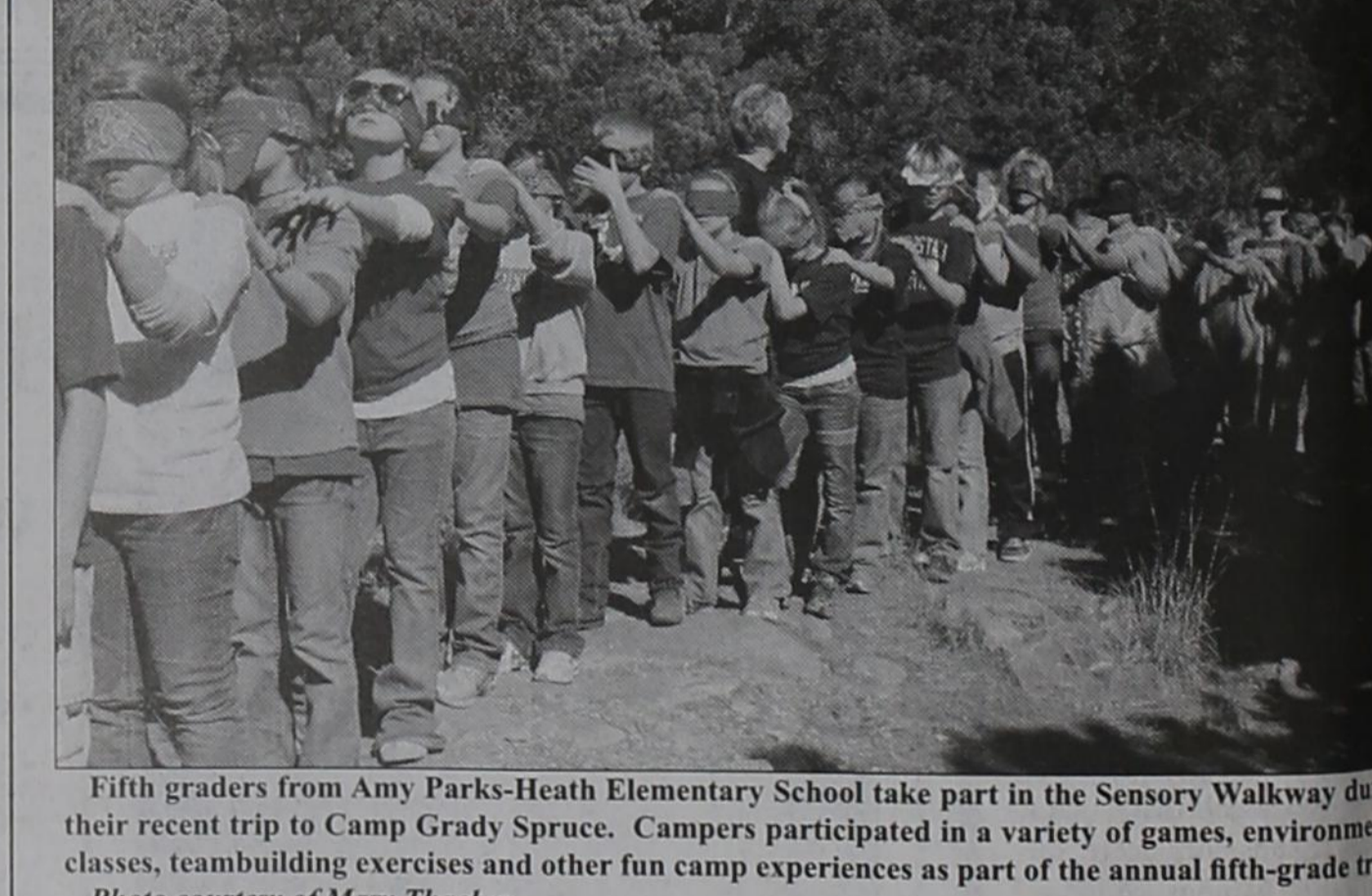
The rest of the year, the camp is available to groups and is used by local churches, including Cowboy Church, for services and events.

Miller said children, as well as adults, from all walks of life could benefit from the ropes course. The Ranch welcomes children every week from families that struggle with the challenges Leadership Rockwall is charged with helping. Sabine Creek Ranch has scholars in place to help these children have a meaningful camp experience. But every child, no matter how underprivileged, can benefit from the course would bring.

Participants said the ropes course isn't just for fun by any means, or just for building leadership skills, communication skills or even relationship skills. All said the greatest outcome of conquering the ropes course was the boost to their self esteem, no matter their age.

Participants said the ropes course isn't just for fun by any means, or just for building leadership skills, communication skills or even relationship skills. All said the greatest outcome of conquering the ropes course was the boost to their self esteem, no matter their age.

Fundraising efforts to build the ropes course are under way with the completion of Phase 1 anticipated by May 2009. The leadership class has designed a website, www.leadershiprockwall2009.org, that highlights the members of the class and gives an overview of the course project including photos. Information about Sabine Creek Ranch and its programs can be found at www.sabinecreek.com.



Fifth graders from Amy Parks-Heath Elementary School take part in the Sensory Walkway during their recent trip to Camp Grady Spruce. Campers participated in a variety of games, environmental classes, teambuilding exercises and other fun camp experiences as part of the annual fifth-grade trip. Photo courtesy of Mary Thacker

Amy Parks students learning at Camp Grady Spruce

Fifth grade students from Amy Parks-Heath Elementary School recently took their much-anticipated annual school trip to Camp Grady Spruce.

The trip began at 6:45 a.m. on Feb. 3, when parents dropped off their children, along with suitcases and duffel bags, at the school. There, the students boarded chartered buses that carried them to Graford.

Along the way, the buses stopped at the Mineral Wells Park in Mineral Wells, where the students ate sack lunches

and burned off some energy on the playground.

Once they arrived at the camp, students were assigned cabin space, and parents lucky enough to have won the grade-wide lottery to attend camp were assigned a group to supervise. About 125 students, five teachers and 17 parents attended the four-day event.

Each day the students participated in educational activities - climbing Johnson's Peak on a nature hike; learning how to trace the history of a tree by ex-

amining its rings; studying the lake and analyzing the water; learning to canoe; taking a motorized boat to Devil's Island to investigate the different plants and animals living there.

A course in orienteering taught students on how to use a compass. The Squirrely Scouts would be to survive on a diet of acorns and nuts while dodging predators. A class called "The Environment" taught

(Continued on Page 5)

Student art featured in Celebration auction

A 250-piece fused-glass chandelier created by Amy Parks-Heath Elementary School art students and their art teacher, Kathleen Finan, is one of more than a dozen student artworks to be auctioned off at the Rockwall Independent School District's Education Foundation Celebration on Saturday.

Almost every student in the school's art classes took part in making the chandelier's pieces and extra pieces.

Fund generated through the auction will help support district art programs and Innovative Teaching Grants that the foundation awards to RISD teachers who "go above and beyond the call of duty to inspire students to learn in new ways not provided for within the district's budget," according to a RISD news release.

The Celebration is organized as a means of honoring Innovative Grant recipients, Century Club members and the foundation's board.

Theme for this year's event is "Reach for the Stars: A Celebration in Black and White." It will feature live entertainment, a student art exhibit, dinner and a live auction.

Seating is open to the public; individual seats may be reserved at a cost of \$50. Table seating for teachers may be sponsored for \$200, while table seating for a public party of eight costs \$400.

For reservations or more details, contact the RISD Education Foundation, 469-698-7032.

Amy Parks students at camp...

(Continued from Page 4)

students about recycling and renewable resources. Sensory Walkway had students walking in a line, hand-to-shoulder, to cross boulders, navigate low-hanging branches and around objects dangling from trees.

At night the students played games in groups and visited the Star Lab to view constellations.

Other activities included horseback riding, KP duty in the cafeteria and flag ceremonies by the lake.



Students from Shana Young's 4th period advisory class at Rockwall-Heath High School found their new sweethearts for Valentine's Day when they took handmade Valentine cards to the residents of Rockwall Nursing Center last Thursday, Feb. 12. The students decided to give back to their community for "My Turn Day," a day set aside to do a good deed for the community or a person in need. Center resident John H. (right) received his Valentine from RHHS sweethearts (left to right) Bailey Walker, Chase Walker, Laci Morgan, Whitney Thompson and instructor Shana Young (front). Photo by Kathy Williams

Habitat adds Buford, Hicks to board of directors

Rockwall Area Habitat for Humanity has added two new members - Wendy Buford and Melissa Hicks - to its board of directors.

Buford, a self-employed real estate agent, is responsible for church relations for Habitat for Humanity. Hicks, president of the organization, will oversee marketing, will oversee the selection of Deidre Culp as a homeowner. The organization is working to construct a home in Royse City for the Culp family.

Information on volunteer and contribution opportunities is available at rockwallhabitat.org.

The board is seeking applicants for additional homes to be constructed this year. Selection criteria area available online at

The RAHFH's all-volunteer board is responsible for implementing the organization's mission, ensuring its financial operations and managing all aspects of the home-building process - from applicant approval, construction and financing.

On Jan. 15, the board approved the selection of Deidre Culp as a homeowner. The organization is working to construct a home in Royse City for the Culp family.

Information on volunteer and contribution opportunities is available at rockwallhabitat.org.

The board is seeking applicants for additional homes to be constructed this year. Selection criteria area available online at



Melissa Hicks

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the above Web address or by calling 972-771-6766.

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Representatives for Western Rim Investment Advisors, Inc. will be at the site of a future development to allow residents an opportunity to transplant trees which would otherwise be lost when development occurs. The development site is located at the NW corner of S.H. 276 and John King Blvd. Trees are available for residents to take for transplanting free of charge between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on Saturday February 28, 2009. Residents shall access the site from John King Blvd.

The Developer will have a representative on duty to help residents identify available trees. Some trees are not available and will be incorporated into the new development. While the trees are free to residents, interested residents should come prepared with any tools and equipment that may be needed to dig and transport them. All costs associated with transplanting trees will be the responsibility of the resident. The Developer/Owner shall be held harmless for any damages or injury that removal of trees may cause to any individual.

If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact Jonathan Youness at 214-432-8070.

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Free standard local delivery on any appliance over \$399 offer discounts and coupons. Standard delivery includes delivery within the local delivery area Mon. thru Fri. and delivery not requiring additional services or time. Customer pays an additional charge for non-standard delivery. Rebate values, local areas and additional charges vary. Maximum rebate value \$75. Excludes KitchenAid™ built-in refrigeration. See store for details. Excludes Outlet Stores. See sears.com for online rebate details. Offer good thru 2/28/2009.

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Rockwall County Obituaries

Arthur 'Lu' Campbell

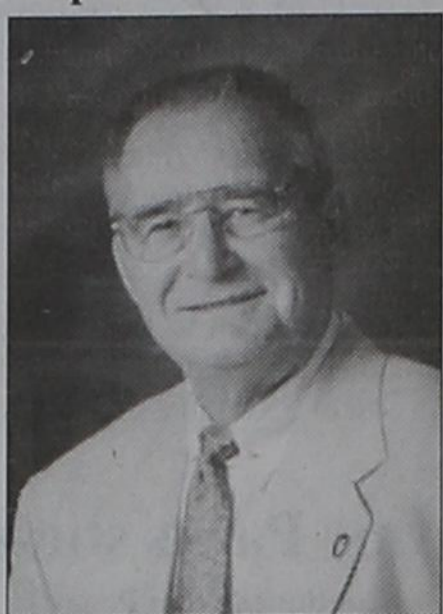
Memorial services for Arthur "Lu" Campbell, 89, of Rockwall will be conducted at 11 a.m. March 7, 2009, in the First Presbyterian Church, 602 White Hills, in Rockwall with Angus Gascoigne officiating. The Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel is in charge of arrangements. Burial will be in the DFW National Cemetery at a date to be announced.

He died Feb. 18.
Born Aug. 21, 1919, in Rigby, ID, to Herbert and Effie (Bates) Campbell, he was an Eagle Scout and served his country in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He was a POW. He received numerous citations, including the Presidential Citation for Valor, three Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star and a Silver Star.

A former manager of the auto division of J.C. Penney, he retired in 1975. He was a member of the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor, the Veterans of Foreign War, Kiwanis Club and the Elks Club. A member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he also attended the Presbyterian church with his wife, Frances.

Survivors include his children, Shelda Upshaw and her husband, Roy, of Fort Worth, Art Campbell and his wife, Karen, of Rowlett and Elizabeth Gascoigne and her husband, Angus, of Rockwall; his brothers Tom Campbell and his wife, Beverly, and Ken Campbell and his wife, Roberta, all of Idaho Falls, ID.; his grandchildren, JoAnna, Jason, Jenny, Lance, Jonelle and Jean-Luc; and his great-grandchildren, Jarett, Jensen, Jaycee and Jolie.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years; his parents; one brother; and three sisters.



Lou Etta McClain

Services for Lou Etta McClain, 83, of Rockwall were conducted at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009, in the Rockwall Bible Church, 801 Zion Hills Circle, in Rockwall with Pastor Woody Profit officiating. Burial followed in the Rest Haven Memorial Park under the direction of the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel.

She died Feb. 17.
Born June 3, 1925, in Amistad, N.M., to John Perl and Lizzie (Wolford) Moore, she was a missionary to Brazil and co-founder of the Rockwall Bible Church where she was a member. She was a grandmother to many exchange students and loved her church family.

Survivors include her son, Daniel McClain and his wife, Lori, of Rowlett; her grandchildren, Brittany McClain of Lubbock, Brandon McClain of Dallas and Rebecca McClain of Mercersburg, Pa.; a large extended family; and many loving friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lewis McClain; an infant son, Stephen Stripling; her parents; her brothers, John Newton, Ralph, Clarence, George and Charley Moore; and one sister, Dora Gay.



Wanda Skaer

Services for Wanda M. Skaer, 77, of Rockwall were conducted at 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 23, 2009, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel with the Rev. Duane Crane officiating. Burial followed in the Restland Memorial Park.

She died Feb. 20.
Born Dec. 21, 1931, in Dallas to Roy and Evelyn (Clements) Robinson, she married Frank Skaer on Aug. 6, 1949, in Yuma, Ariz. She was a homemaker and a member of the Bethel Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, Frank Skaer Sr. of Rockwall; her daughters, Brenda Bates and her husband, Rick, of Broken Arrow, Okla., and Cristi Skaer of Mesquite; one son, Frank A. Skaer Jr. and his wife, Sue, of Terrell; one brother, Dr. Lee Fausett of Desoto; her grandchildren, Amber Ledbetter, Tiffany Moore and Stephani and Delaney Usrey; and her great-grandchildren, Hudson Ledbetter and Aidan Moore.

She was preceded in death by her parents.



Jodie Earl Douglas

Services for Jodie Earl Douglas, 90, of Terrell were conducted at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2009, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel with Aaron Washburn and Charles Hoback officiating. Burial will be conducted at a later date.

She died Feb. 21.
Born April 1, 1918, in Fate to Jerry Monroe and Mattie Lee (McGraw) Burks, she had worked in retail sales and was known by all for her cooking, generosity and hospitality. She was a member of the Rebekah's Lodge and the First Christian Church of Terrell.

Survivors include her sons, Coy Douglas and his wife, Kim, of Edom and Terry Douglas and his wife, Denise, of Smithville; her grandchildren, Shannon Haynes and her husband, Rock, of Flint, Chris Largent and his wife, Jana, of Mineola, Joseph Douglas and his wife, Leslie, of Forney, Joshua Douglas and his wife, Amy, of Smithville, Anna Burchett and her husband, Mark, of Terrell, and Jeremy Douglas and his wife, Ashley, of Mesquite; eight great-grandchildren; her sisters, Juanita Cross of Roysse City and Sarah Parks of Rockwall; and one sister-in-law, Flo Burks of Roysse City.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Coy Douglas; her parents; five brothers; and four sisters.



Rockwall County Religious Life

Focus on Marriage Simulcast at Lake Pointe

Lake Pointe Church's Adult Ministry invites the public to the Focus on Marriage™ Simulcast on Saturday in the church's 4:19 Student Center. This landmark Focus on the Family® event designed to show what relationships look like through God's Focus on Marriage™ will help participants understand the purpose of marriage, while providing practical insights to help everyday issues.

Speakers include Beth Moore, founder of Living Proof Ministries; Dr. Gary Smalley, author of "The DNA of Relationships"; Dr. Trent, author of "Breaking the Cycle of Divorce"; Gary Thomas, author of "Sacred Marriage"; Dr. Del Tackett, Focus on the Family's Truth Project®; and musical guest Jeremy Camp.

The conference begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. For tickets, call the church office at 469-698-2200. For more information, visit lakepointe.org.

Joy Lutheran Church hosts Lenten suppers

Joy Lutheran in Rockwall will host Lenten supper and worship services each Wednesday leading up to Easter. The suppers begin 7 p.m. with worship following at 7 p.m. March 4, 11, 18, 25 and 31.

Every Sunday, education classes for all ages begin at 9:15 a.m. with communion at 10:30 a.m. For children age four and younger, a nursery with an attendant is available from 9 a.m. to noon.

Joy Lutheran Church is located at 302 N. Goliad (Hwy. 205) block north of the Rockwall County Courthouse.

Our Lady of the Lake celebrates Lent

Lent fish fries begin Friday and will run through April 3 at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church. The fish fries will run from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Also, a support group for adults, teens and older children who lost a loved one has been formed at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church. The Group meets on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon in St. Anne Room.

For more information, contact the church office at 972-771-4101 ext. 101.

Local author holds book signing Saturday

Rockwall author Kay Blanks will be available Saturday from 2 to 3 p.m. for a book signing and autograph session at Hacienda Wash, Ralph Hall Parkway and Tx Hwy 205. The new book, "Heart to Heart Forever," is the first in a three-book series.

Poetry Community Christian School Boot Camp wraps up six weeks of work

After six weeks of showing up at the Poetry Community Christian School gym each day at 5:25 a.m., participants in the Poetry Fitness Boot Camp recently observed a day of celebration.

The camp was designed to provide training for whole-life health, starting from what personal trainer Tara Senkevech calls the "God center" and reaching out to four areas of fitness: mental, social, spiritual and physical.

"Our heart is we want to minister to women and encourage them in their health," said Senkevech, who also is a certified dietician. "Our focus is total health, and part of what we do is pray in the class for the class and for all the participants."

Senkevech teamed up with personal trainer Cheryl Brown last fall to create the boot camp after realizing a calling to minister to women's health.

The program, which combines

instruction in nutrition, exercise, health educations and a social aspect, is designed to assist women of all ages in learning to achieve "whole body fitness."

"There is a big difference between trying to go it alone and with a support group," said Senkevech. "And the social aspect is as big a part as any. We're not meant to be islands. It's important to build friendships. A lot of the reasons people overeat is a lack of relationships. You've heard of soul food – for some people food is the way they are feeding their soul."

Boot Camp participants were encouraged to nourish their "God center" each week by spending at least three hours giving attention to each area.

At the celebration, the biggest loser, Karen Fletcher of Poetry, was recognized for having lost

more than 5 percent of her starting body weight, while Jo Anna Matejka of Terrell lost 6.5 inches. Heather Kearney of Poetry was recognized for the most improvement in strength, cardiovascular health and flexibility. Carlyne Spalding and Rose Smith were singled out for their dedication to the program with good attendance and adherence to the diet plan.

"This class has done so much for me," said Fletcher. "I'm altogether stronger, I feel better, I have energy all day and I feel like I'm ready to be able to make fitness a habit that I can keep up for years to come."

Sign-ups for another Boot Camp session are under way. It will begin March 2, with all classes in the PCCS gym. Classes last one hour each, and participants can choose the number of sessions

they want to attend each week. Sessions fit into individual schedules.

"We have an early bird at 6 a.m., an 8:15 a.m. and a 6 p.m. session and we're very strict on our time. We respect that people have work and other places to be," said Brown. "We want to be able to have this class so important for all our members and overall fitness."

Brown also teaches a 9 a.m. fitness class for older participants at the First Christian Church. Classes cost about \$10 each with an eight-session, month minimum. The classes are open to women only, ages 45 and older. For more information about the fitness classes or the Boot Camp, call Brown at 972-354-2412 or Senkevech at 972-317-8128.



Members of the Poetry Fitness Boot Camp, from the left, include Rose Smith, Cheryl Brown, Carolyn Spalding, Karen Fletcher, Tara Senkevech and Heather Kearny. The group is shown at the camp's final session, celebrating six weeks of work.

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ACROSS

- Cedar _____, TX
- TX in '89 flag burning case
- TX singer/actor Jimmy
- dir. to Denton from Comanche
- _____ overalls
- landing surface at DFW Airport
- former Dallas Sidekicks star
- Jacksonville used to stage the "Battle of _____" during "Tomato Fest!"
- _____ one Ranger!
- De Leon's "Peach & _____ Festival"
- TXism: "want _____ I could spit!"
- Campbell was a TX Ranger in "True _____"
- break a promise
- TXism: "_____ a door nail!"
- Fort Worth's Robert Bass is a _____
- TX ZZ Top album: "_____ Grange"
- TXism: "get while the _____ is _____ good"
- TX Vikki Carr album: "_____ Hombres"
- "vaya _____ Dios"
- TX poet: Naomi _____ Nye
- suburban community just NE of Plainview

DOWN

- TX Ginger Rogers '47 film "It _____ to Be You"
- TX Blue Bell _____ cream
- pink granite found only in Llano Co.
- Boerne, TX has one of only seven of this rare book (2 wds.)
- word with mariachi or marching

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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The Original

1	2	3	4																
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Williams Middle School sweeps UIL event

Written by David Shafer
 and eighth grade
 Middle School stu-
 k first place in their re-
 competitions, as well as
 first-place overall per-

formance at a recent University
 Interscholastic League aca-
 demic event.
 WMS students swept the
 competition with 66 placed fin-
 ishes.
 Winners, according to in-

formation provided by the
 school, included seventh grade
 art, Caitlyn Ford, third place,
 Christen Gang, sixth place;
 eighth grade art, Jacob Parker,
 sixth place; seventh grade cal-
 culator applications, Meghan

Johnson, second place, Alexis
 Appelquist, third place; eighth
 grade calculator applications,
 Josh Copes, second place, C.J.
 Carlin, fourth place, and Kyle
 Hayes, fifth place; seventh grade
 dictionary skills, Haley Welch,
 third place, Skyler Simmons,
 fourth place, and Selena Garcia,
 fifth place; eighth grade dictio-
 nary skills, Zach Bennett, second
 place, Brian Porter, third place,
 and Rebecca Ahern, fourth;
 seventh grade editorial writing,
 Andreama Fajardo, second place,
 Whitnee Bomkamp, third place,
 Tori VanVleck, fourth place;
 eighth grade editorial writing,
 Taylor Madle, second place,
 Madison McMahan, fourth
 place; and seventh grade history,
 Braden Nofziger, second place,
 Grant Workings, third place, and
 Wyatt French, fourth place.
 Also, eighth grade history,
 Ethan Barton, second place,
 Spencer Taylor, third place; sev-
 enth grade impromptu speak-
 ing, Jadzia Hardeman, fourth
 place; eighth grade impromptu
 speaking, Tijana Neskovic, first
 place, Meredith Atkins, third

place; seventh grade listening
 skills, Seth Whitson, first place,
 Taylor Minty, fifth place; eighth
 grade listening skills, Lauren
 Harrell, second place, Laura
 Donaldson, fifth place; seventh
 grade maps, graphs and charts,
 Alexandra Janicki, first place,
 Molly Phillips, second place,
 and Karly Matthews, sixth place;
 eighth grade maps, graphs and
 charts, Mathew Hearn, first
 place, Ryan Wallace, second, and
 Kyle Ziegler, sixth place; sev-
 enth grade mathematics, Alexis
 Appelquist, third place, Douglas
 Yancy, fifth, and Meghan
 Johnson, sixth place; and eighth
 grade mathematics, David Tram,
 second place, Jonathan Marsh,
 fifth place.
 Also, seventh grade mod-
 ern oratory, Austin Hatten, first
 place, Aiden DeMuth, second,
 and Michael Williams, fourth
 place; eighth grade modern ora-
 tory, Bobvicia McIntyre, second
 place, Jeremy Small, third, Josh
 Copes, fourth place; seventh
 grade number sense, Robert
 Pulatie, sixth place; eighth grade
 number sense, Jayesh Joshi,
 sixth place; seventh grade oral
 reading, Rachel Smithers, sixth

place; seventh grade ready writ-
 ing, Alex Bridges, fourth place,
 Cristina Neely, fifth; eighth grade
 ready writing, Morgan Reynolds,
 second place, Sheely Taylor, fifth
 place, Courtney Corbin, sixth
 place; seventh grade science,
 Grace Scivetti, second place,
 Julio Colon, third, Christine Roe,
 sixth; eighth grade science, Lydia
 Harris, first place; seventh grade
 spelling, Ryabn Nguyen, second
 place, Nathan Hogan, fifth place,
 Kayla Moreno, sixth; and eighth
 grade spelling, Mathew Hearn,
 first place, Dahlia Rizk, fourth,
 and Alexis Catinchi, fifth place.

Publisher's Note: "On God's
 Word" not available this week
 due to the writer's illness. The
 column returns next week.



Williams Middle School students who competed in a recent UIL academic competition are pictured with the three first-place trophies they received. The seventh and eighth grade students (back row left) Jadzia Hardeman, Harrison Cummings, Jonathan Marsh, Tijana Neskovic, Matthew Meredith Atkins, Nikki Frye, Jayesh Joshi, Laura Donaldson, Alexis Catinchi, Isabeau Ver-Hailee Housewright, (front row from left) Rachel Smithers, Alexis Appelquist, Lauren Harrell, Rizk, Jonathan Orue, Zach Bennett and David Tram, each received first place in their respective levels, while the school's contestants as a group captured the top overall award.
 Photo Courtesy of Stacey L. Hatten

Last Puzzle Solution

S-887

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"fool's mouth is his destruction,
 and his lips are the snare of his
 soul."
 Proverbs 18:7

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UNION VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
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RIDGEVIEW CHURCH
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ROCKWALL BIBLE CHURCH
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"That if you will confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord', and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."
 Romans 10: 9-10

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"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."
 Mark 11:24

Attention Rockwall County Churches: Send your church news to rcn.news@yahoo.com

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Rockwall County Entertainment



The Four Plaids – from the left, Richard James, Steve Griffin, Bob Cotti and Brian Morgan – are reuniting to help celebrate the six-decade history of the Rockwall County Library. Two performances of “One for the Books” are scheduled, including a 2 p.m. matinee and a 7 p.m. show on March 29 at the library. The event will feature songs from Broadway shows written during the past 60 years and performed by six generations of local performers under the direction of Marvis Kisselburgh. Seating for the original revue, sponsored by the Capital Campaign of the Friends of the Library, will be limited. To reserve tickets or for more details e-mail cplagens65@aol.com. Tickets cost \$20; proceeds will benefit the Capital Campaign.

Soroptimist Club’s ‘Rockwall Idol’ hits the stage in March

It’s time to let out your inner rock star and show the world your talent at the Rockwall Soroptimist Club’s annual “Rockwall Idol” competition and WomenAid Benefit. The footlights come up for preliminary competition at 7 p.m. Thursdays, March 5, March 12 and March 19 at the Hilton Bella Harbor. The final competition, featuring the top preliminary finishers, will take place at 7 p.m. Saturday March 28 at the Club’s

WomenAid Gala and Dinner at the Hilton. The newly crowned Rockwall Idol will receive a cash prize and complementary recording session at Manor Recording Studio in Rockwall courtesy of owners Nicki and Stephen King. Funds raised will benefit local area women’s programs, including scholarships for a graduating female Rockwall ISD student, Shoes for Kids, area food banks,

Helping Hands, Boys and Girls Club, the club’s clothes closet, Community Garden and STA (Saving Today and Recover Tomorrow). Registration is \$10 per song with a second song allowed. Time permits. Contestants register online at www.rockwallidol.com, by mail or in person at the preliminaries. Any questions may call Mindy at 335-3699.

RCHS band members qualify for state contest

Six soloists and two ensembles representing the Roysse City High School Mighty Bulldog Band received Division I ratings and qualified for the UIL State Solo & Ensemble Contest following the solo and ensemble competition conducted Feb. 7. Headed for the state competition are Dylan Nailling, clarinet solo; Courtney Rogers, clarinet solo; Rick Stevens, alto sax solo; Sean Smallwood, baritone solo; Kyle Geyman, snare drum solo; and Michael Stowers, marimba solo, according to a news release

from the school. Also eligible for the contest in Austin are the brass ensemble comprised of Malary Brandow, trumpet; Ty Johnson, French horn; Lee Radley, tuba; Quinton Reel, trombone; Taylor Roberts, trumpet; and Sean Smallwood, baritone; and the percussion ensemble that includes Erika Dupree, marimba; Alex Mathis, vibes; Michael Stowers, xylophone; and Trixie Van Winkle, marimba.

Other RCHS band members earning Division I ratings included Stacy Hood, flute solo; Christina Barsoum, clarinet solo; Valeria Trevino, clarinet solo; Lisa Walters, alto sax solo; Paul Geyman, trumpet solo; Travis Sanders, trumpet solo; Alec Henderson, trombone solo; Kishonna Thomas, trombone solo; Apryl Ervin, snare drum solo; and the flute quartet comprised of Megan Frauendorfer, April Lopez, Rachel Reel and Taylor Spinks. Earning Division II ratings were Kaley Palmer, clarinet solo; Julie Byrd, marimba solo; and Kris Stephens, alto sax solo.



Ventriloquist, storyteller and author Nancy Burks Worcester, right, and one of her sidekicks, center, provided entertainment at a recent Rockwall Newcomers Club meeting. Pictured with Worcester is Connie Kuester, the organization’s first vice president. The group’s next meeting will be at 10 a.m. March 12 at Chandlers Landing with a coffee social, followed by a program, short business meeting and lunch. Luncheon cost is \$16 per person. To RVSP or for more details contact Kitty Colquhoun at 972-722-5569 or Ann Small at 972-771-1748.



Roberta Pavlov, pictured above, is shown rehearsing for an upcoming performance in the musical revue, “One For the Books,” to be offered at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on March 29 at the Rockwall County Library. Proceeds from the performances will benefit the library’s Capital Campaign. Seating will be limited; tickets cost \$20. For information or tickets contact Elizabeth Reese at 972-772-6864 or Dori Hillman at 972-772-2786.

Rush Creek Yacht Club Frostbite Regatta Feb. 28

Entries are now being accepted for the Saturday, Feb. 28 running of the Frostbite Regatta at Rush Creek Yacht Club in Heath. The racing area will be the southern end of Lake Ray Hubbard. Entry fee for the regatta is \$25. Registration will be from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. the morning of the race, with a competitor’s briefing fol-

lowing at 10 a.m. Lunches may be purchased for \$7.95. Three races will be attempted during the day. The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race is 10:45 a.m. According to the rules of the race as supplied by race officials, the regatta is open to all keelboats. Three one-design boats will constitute

their own class. Prizes will be awarded in each class. The racing instructions will be available after 9 a.m. race day at the registration desk. Further information about the regatta can be supplied by Progelhof at 214-334-9318 or jeff.progelhof@fnis.com.

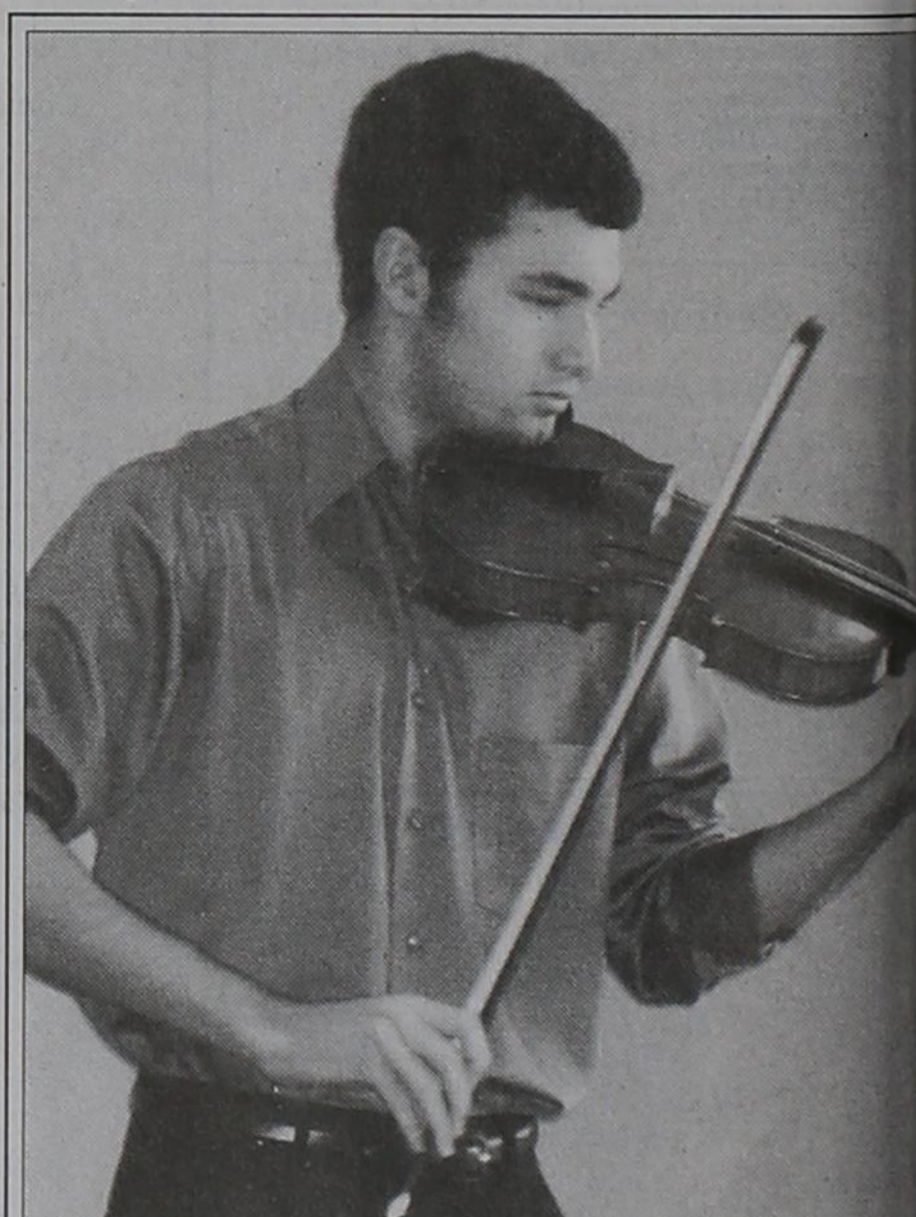
Mighty Hawk Band fundraiser Monday

The Rockwall-Heath High School Band Council will have a fundraiser from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, March 2 at Chik-fil-A in Rockwall. Chik-fil-A will donate a portion of the evening’s proceeds to benefit the Band Council’s student activities. The community is welcome to join the Council for a great meal and support local schools.

Auditions for ‘Kiss Me Kate’

Auditions for the Rockwall Community Playhouse’s “Kiss Me Kate” production will take place March 7 at the First United Methodist Church in Rockwall, 1200 W. Yellowjacket Lane, beginning at 10 a.m. and on March 8 at the Rockwall Wedding Chapel, 205 S. Fannin, at 1 p.m. Callbacks, if needed, will be on March 9.

Performances will be May 8-24, with rehearsals beginning March 10. Singing and non-singing roles will be filled (no children’s roles available). Singers should be prepared to sing 16 bars; dancers should bring dance shoes. Accompanist will be provided. Bring headshots. For details call 972-722-3399 or visit rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org.



Vito Gutillo, an 18-year-old violinist, performed musical selections at the Friday Study Club February meeting conducted in the home of Carolyn Duckworth. Ruth Peck served as co-hostess and introduced Gutillo as a member of the Greater Rockwall Philharmonic Orchestra since the age of 14. The orchestra is sponsored by MusicFest. Music is one of the arts supported by the Friday Study Club since its inception in 1919.



Sheri Fowler, pictured with her father, Don Stodghill, gave the program at the first meeting of the 2009 Brown Bag Lecture Series sponsored by the Rockwall County Historical Foundation in conjunction with the Rockwall County Historical Commission. The rock wall for which Rockwall is named was the topic of Fowler’s presentation, which covered that time period from the formation’s 1852 discovery to the latest study made in 1996. Theories on the wall’s creation range from its construction by a prehistoric race to simply being a natural formation; however, the topic remains one of controversy. Stodghill grew up on farmland where an outcropping of the rock wall was discovered. The next lecture will take place at noon on March 13 in the Historic Courthouse on the Square. There is no charge to attend the family-friendly programs; attendees are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch.

Local author holds book signing Saturday

Rockwall author Kay Blanks will be available Saturday from noon to 3 p.m. for a book signing and autograph session at Hacienda Car Wash, Ralph Hall Parkway and Tx Hwy 205. The new book, “Heart to Heart Forever,” the first in a three-book series.

Women’s League opens Wishing Well

The Rockwall Women’s League will open its new nonprofit Wishing Well gift shop at Presbyterian Hospital at 1:20 p.m. on March 5. The gift shop is located just outside the visitors’ lounge and features an assortment of gifts for mother and baby, jewelry and other items of interest and use to patients and their families. League members will serve samples from their award-winning cookbook, “A League of their Own.” Also, everything in the shop will be discounted 20 percent.

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 Feb. 13-19 -- 41
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Rockwall County Responders

Rockwall County Sheriff's Department
(Feb. 13-19) -- 219
s (Feb. 13-19) -- 41
ent unit arrests (week of Feb. 16) -- 2

Royse City Police
Feb. 12-19

Friday, 12 February: Disorderly conduct, 1300 block E. Main Street; I-30 at the 77A mile marker
Saturday, 13 February: Verbal disturbance, 700 block West Creek Drive; disturbance, 200 block Hidden Creek Court
Sunday, 14 February: Suspicious person, 500 block N. Barton Street
Monday, 15 February: Domestic disturbance, 200 block W. Main Street; suspicious activity, 900 block E. I-30; Welfare check, 200 block Street; Criminal trespass, 800 block FM 2453; Accident, 400 block Rokston Lane; Alarm, 400 block E. I-30; Marijuana (51.22 lbs) possession arrest, I-30 at the 80 mile marker
Monday, 16 February: Wreckless driver, I-30 at the 74 mile marker; mischief, 700 block Preston Drive; Suspicious person, 300 block Stic Grove; 2 Marijuana possession arrests/3 Felon firearm possession arrests, I-30 at the 81 mile marker
Tuesday, 17 February: Alarm, 2300 block E. I-30; Alarm, 100 block M Street; Suspicious activity, 200 block Midnight Lane; Verbal disturbance, 600 block Timberhaven Trail
Wednesday, 18 February: Theft, 900 block E. I-30; Medical assistance, 100 block Marti Drive; Assault, 1000 block Caddo Court
Thursday, 19 February: Medical assistance, 600 block Silverleaf Court; Controlled substance (Suspected methamphetamine-38 grams) arrest, I-30 at the 80-mile marker

Rockwall County Responder Calls for Service

Feb. 16-22

Rockwall Fire & EMS
Calls: C/O Alarm or Poisoning 1, Care fire 2, Dwelling 1, Fire Fuel spill 1, Grass fire 6, Mercantile 1, Other fire not classified 1, odor 1, Vehicle rescue 1, Wires down 1.

Rockwall Police Dept.

Monday, 16 February: Theft, 2900 block Ridge Road; Theft, 100 block Darrin Drive; Theft, 200 block Darrin Drive.
Tuesday, 17 February: Theft, 900 block IH 30; Theft, 400 block 30; Theft, 900 block West Yellow Jacket Lane; Theft, 1500 block 30; Theft, 2000 block Summer Lee Drive; Theft, 1900 block 30
Wednesday, 18 February: Burglary, 1700 block Williams Street; Theft, 1000 block IH 30; Burglary, 2800 block Lost Creek Court; Theft, 2800 block Bent Ridge Drive; Burglary, 2800 block Lost Creek Court; Theft, 200 block Rock Brook Drive.
Thursday, 19 February: Theft, 2100 block South Goliad Street; Theft, 1000 block Ridge Road; Theft, 3000 block Fall Brook Drive; Theft, 200 block West Rusk Drive.
Friday, 20 February: Theft, 700 block IH 30; Theft, 900 block IH 30; Theft, 1000 block Ridge Road; Theft, 3100 block, Horizon Road.
Saturday, 21 February: Theft, 200 block Storrs Street; Theft, 800 block 30.
Sunday, 22 February: Theft, 900 block IH 30; Theft, 1000 block 30; Theft, 1900 block IH 30; 2000 block Summer Lee Drive.
Other Service Calls: Abandoned property 11, Alarms (all) 37, Animal complaint 12, Assist citizen 26, Civil matter 4, Criminal assault/ battery 1, Criminal mischief 9, Criminal trespass 1, Fight 1, Fire alarm 1, Injuries (all) 39, Forgery 7, Injured or sick person 22, Meet and greet 38, Minor disturbance 13, Minor traffic accident 21, Missing person 1, Narcotics 1, Ordinance violation 13, Possible DUI 26, Shots fired/shooting 2, Street hazard 7, Suspicious person 70, Traffic complaint 1, Welfare concern 9.

Heath DPS

Monday, 17 February: Theft 200 block Laurence Drive; Theft 7400 block M 549.
Friday, 20 February: Theft, 200 block Laurence Drive.
Other Service Calls: Animal complaints 6, Alarm (all) 10, Criminal mischief 2, Drunk (all) 1, Injured or sick person 4, Investigations (all) 1, Minor complainant 1, Minor disturbance 1, Minor traffic accident 1, Suspicious person 1, Shots fired/shooting 2, Suspicious person 7, Welfare concern 2.

RHHS Rocket Team seeks assistance

The Rockwall-Heath High School Rocket Team needs corporate and personal sponsorships to assist three students in qualifying for the Team American Rocketry Challenge. Sponsors may have their logos on the competition rocket. Qualifications for the national event must occur by April 6, with the national challenge set for May 16 in The Plains, Va. To make a contribution, contact Lori Gerritsen at 469-273-

News You Won't Find Anywhere Else!

Economic woes increase need for Helping Hands

The current economic climate is driving up the number of individuals and families seeking assistance from Helping Hands.

In a news release issued this week, Helping Hands indicated that the number of requests for assistance received by the agency has doubled.

"We need your financial help to continue our mission of helping our residents in times of crisis now more than ever," states the news release.

Donations of the following food items are particularly needed: flour, sugar, cooking oil, salt, pepper, canned milk, canned vegetables and meats, macaroni and cheese, Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, oatmeal, rice, soups, pasta, spaghetti sauce, snack foods for children, coffee, tea and juice.

Food donations may be dropped off at 950 Williams St., Suite A, weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Also, donations of clothing and household items to the Rockwall and Royse City thrift stores always are welcomed. Donations can be dropped off at 950 Williams St. in Rockwall from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, while the Royse City location, 508C I-30, is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursdays. Revenues from the thrift store sales serve as one of the agency's primary funding sources.

Volunteers also are needed to assist in the thrift stores, the Health Center or with the Assistance and Referral Program. Interested individuals should call 972-771-HELP.

Helping Hands is a nonprofit critical assistance agency that has been serving the local community for more than 30 years. More than 6,000 people are served each year.

Rockwall County Book Review

'Three Cups of Tea' by Greg Mortenson

Contributed by Laurie Lynne Smith, Library Assistant, Rockwall County Library

I was there...in Pakistan and later Afghanistan, following Greg Mortenson, a Montana-sized American, as he built school after school. Okay, I wasn't actually there, but Mortenson led this reader into each impoverished village, met each child who hugged him with excitement and gratitude, and felt cold fear as he struggled to survive in a country where insurgents revile Americans.

Apparently I'm not the only fan of Mortenson's book, *Three Cups of Tea*, as it's been a #1 New York Times bestseller for 82 weeks since its January 2007 release, and was Time Magazine Asia Book of The Year. Before reading this best seller, the title made me think of a cozy setting with English women sharing a spot of tea in delicate porcelain cups held tenderly with pinkies up in the air. Titles can be so misleading.

Mortenson didn't set out to be an American ambassador in a hotbed of political chaos. He simply found a village where a group of girls sat in the dirt scratching out school lessons without benefit of walls, floors, textbooks, shelter from the weather, a place of their own to learn. He vowed to build that school and stone on stone reverberated goodwill and peace. In his own words, "You can drop bombs, hand out condoms, build roads, or put in electricity, but until the girls are educated, a society won't change."

Although I don't normally read non-fiction, this book will remain one of my favorites. Not only was it a fiction-like page-turner,



but I found myself appreciating that I was learning more about the people of this region, their customs and dreams, daily lives and tribal traditions.

While I fell in love with the author and his story of goodwill, I must give kudos to two other people who played roles in this book: Tara Mortenson, who shouldered family responsibilities back home in the States while lending support to her husband's efforts in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and co-writer David Relin, who struggled to get Mortenson to stay still long enough to get this incredible story written.

Three Cups of Tea is an excellent read with a cup of coffee, a cup of tea, or in my case, a Diet Dr. Pepper.

Greg Mortenson spends part of every year making personal appearances and raising funds for more schools. His itinerary for 2009 includes visits to Sherman and Dallas on March 5. That morning, he will give a public lecture, "Promoting Peace through Education," at Austin College in Sherman. Later that day, he will receive the 2009 Austin College Leadership Award at the Belo Mansion in Dallas. Regrettably, both events are sold out.

Rockwall County Yesteryears

Compiled by Judy Schneider
From the archives of the Rockwall County Library

10 Years Ago

February 23, 1999
Dr. Les Sandknop was named the new Rockwall County jail doctor, following Dr. Bob Sparks, who resigned from the position. Dr. Sandknop provided medical services to the prisoners.

Braegan Allen from Rockwall was named to the Dean's Honor Roll at Texas Tech during the 1998 fall semester. Allen graduated from Rockwall High School in 1996.

20 Years Ago

February 21, 1989
Sixty-five members of Rockwall Women's League helped the community through the efforts of their annual charity ball, held at Chandler's Landing. The ball provided scholarships, as well as helping the Rockwall community through financial assistance programs. They gave \$18,000 to Rockwall community organizations and \$6,000 to Rockwall High School for student scholarships. The League president was Barbara Coleson.

The Rockwall Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution recognized Rockwall Middle School students for essays written for American History Month. The winner of the contest was Kimberly Lyons. Four other students, Rebecca Ervin, Andrea Crowell, Matt Young and Heather Parks, were also recognized for their highly rated essays.

30 Years Ago

February 23, 1979
Several fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade students competed for the title of school Spelling Bee championship. Fifth grade contestants were Karen Coers and Susan Bailey. The sixth grade contestants were Robert Miller and Meg Gilbert. The seventh grade contestants were Teddy Cisel and Melissa Adams and the eighth grade contestants were Kathy Forrest and John Harvey.

Steve Spafford won a Linton microwave oven in a drawing at Brookshire's grocery store. He also received a cookbook that was included with the oven.

40 Years Ago

February 28, 1969
The Rockwall school lunch menu included: Monday - Spaghetti & meat sauce, pinto beans, vegetable salad and corn bread. Tuesday - Fried chicken, creamed potatoes, green beans and ice cream. Wednesday - Meat loaf, black-eyed peas and buttered carrots. Thursday - BBQ on a bun, baked beans and potato chips. Friday - Fish sticks, peas and macaroni & cheese.

Gifts Unique had its grand opening at 104 West Rusk. Owned by Jim and Marian Haptonstall, Gifts Unique featured imported gifts, wrought iron, jewelry and custom china along with Studio cards.

60 Years Ago

February 25, 1949
Congressman Sam Rayburn appointed Albert Nelson of Rockwall as the rural route carrier. He replaced Jack Canup. Mr. Nelson received one of the highest scores of the applicants who took the final exams. The other applicants were Bedford Hartman and Billy Stevenson.

Bill Lofland, Rockwall County Judge, along with Jack Cunningham and Joe White, went to Austin to meet with the Highway Commission about the completion of Highway 205 going into Rockwall.

April 2, 1886

Dick Norman of Rockwall reported a bad stand of corn was planted in his section. He announced he will have to plant again.

Hoisington speaks to RHHS classes

Local businessman Ted Hoisington visited Rockwall-Heath High School's Marketing and E-commerce classes recently to lecture on "adding value" in today's uncertain economic times.

Hoisington drew from his own experiences to show students strategies to become successful businessmen and women in the future.

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Will Morris of Rockwall, a sixth grade student who participates in Clovers 4-H, was one of the winners in the San Antonio Livestock Show & Rodeo calf scramble conducted Feb. 14. FFA and 4-H youth competed for \$800 certificates to purchase breeding animals to exhibit in the 2010 San Antonio Junior Livestock Show. Morris, pictured above center, was one of 12 youths to catch a calf and receive a certificate. Joining Morris are (left to right) David Kriewald, Jeanne Champion Leesa Lowak and Hank Sebastian from the Livestock Show.
Photo Courtesy of Lindsey Kocian

Kathleen Morrow's focus on life helped her live

by Mary Thacker

Kathleen Morrow had just moved to Rockwall in the summer of 1994.

She began the rituals of unpacking, adjusting to her neighborhood and getting recommendations for a doctor and dentist. Her new OBGYN didn't have any openings until April. That worked well for Morrow, since she didn't have any health complaints and recently had undergone a check-up.

By November, however, she noticed that she had gained weight. She started working out and dieting. But as soon as she lost a pound, she gained it right back. She contacted her doctor when she missed a period, but she wasn't too worried.

"I'd never been sick a day in my life," Morrow said. "The only times I'd been in the hospital were when I had my tonsils out and when I gave birth to my daughter. I wasn't having any pain or discomfort, just a

little bloating. I thought it was nothing."

So it was a shock for Morrow to learn she had a 10-pound ovarian tumor that was about the size and shape of a gallon of milk.

"Nobody talked about ovarian cancer then. They never told me, but they told my husband that I had a less than 20 percent chance to live," she said. "There's not much publicity about ovarian cancer, because there are so few survivors. Women need to be aware of the signs, no matter how insignificant they may seem."

Morrow was immediately scheduled for surgery. The first operation involved the removal of the tumor and testing it for malignant cells. Successive surgeries with a total of 36 biopsies followed. Eventually Morrow was told that the cancer was in remission.

Looking back, Morrow remembers being intrigued by a section of the medical history form she was asked to fill out during the process. The questions focused on her level of involvement in her church and community. When she asked her surgeon about the relevance of the questions, he informed her that research had proven that people involved in their church and community have a 25 percent better chance of survival.

Morrow is committed to life. Not only is she a wife and mother, but she's a Realtor and owner of Mr. Handyman. In addition, she is president of the Rockwall County Alliance for the Arts.

Morrow said she is committed to finding a cure for cancer and will walk the Survivor Lap at the Rockwall County Relay For Life on May 1-2 at Cain Middle School.

For more information, visit relayforlife.org/rockwalltx.

The Fulton School opens new science exposure for younger students

by Kathy Williams

From kindergarten to fourth grade, lower school students at The Fulton School now have the opportunity for greater scientific exploration, thanks to the donation of a mobile science lab that will help expose them to the wonders of science at a younger age than many schools offer.

The science cart is loaded with a variety of materials for students to use as they study geology and earth science, physics, basic biology and kitchen science, according to Fulton master science teacher Cheryl Farrens. She said the kitchen chemistry experiments will have safe reactions and, "the kids will be able to go home and say 'look what I did'. They can carry what they learned here back home."

Joy Greenwalt, Head of School at The Fulton School, said, "We have outstanding families at The Fulton School who support our children and their education. Donations such as this portable science lab help us achieve our mission of providing a quality education."

"As Head of School, one of my initiatives is to continuously improve the science curriculum. Students become excited about science when given the opportunity to conduct experiments."

Farrens said she will set up the cart with grade-appropriate experiments, then train the school's teachers how to lead their students in those lessons. She said upper school students, who are already familiar with conducting science experiments and the safety precautions needed in a lab setting, will act as mentors for the younger students.

"The mobile lab will allow us to bring a good science program to the lower school and upgrade in the middle and upper schools. Lab work is the foundation of science and the curriculum will be adapted for the lower grades. Now, when the younger students move into middle school, they will have a good science foundation," Farrens said.

Greenwalt is also excited about the youngest students the school having the opportunity for exposure to a science curriculum at such a tender age.

"Our kindergarten students conducting hands-on science experiments and learning scientific method of research. The lower grades will be to incorporate resources already have at the school go into the garden and look things under the microscope. Farrens said another goal staff is working towards is the addition of the mobile lab to change the way students act to and think about science news they see or hear from news outlets."

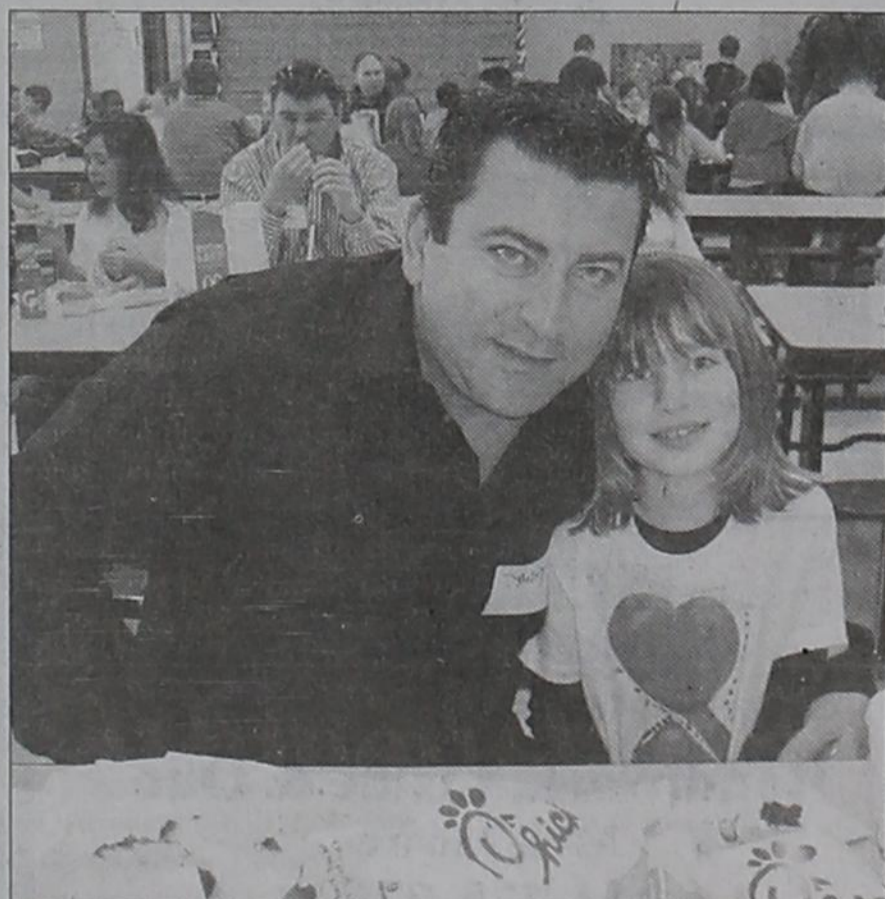
She said, "We want to get them to have an intellectual action, not an emotional reaction. Many of our middle school students have heard about global warming, but they don't understand it and it scares them. We'll talk about what they see on T.V. and analyze it, just accept what they hear."



Kindergarten students from Jan Brooks and Allison Burney's classes at The Fulton School are excited about the new mobile science lab donated to the school that will allow all grades, including the kindergartners, to conduct hands-on science experiments outside of a traditional lab setting.
Staff Photo by Kathy Williams



Cancer survivors gather at the 2008 Relay for Life and prepare to circle the track to kick off the overnight event. This year's Relay is set for May 1-2 at Cain Middle School.



Students at Pullen Elementary enjoyed dining with their dads recently as part of an annual weeklong observance. The fathers ate lunch with their children, posed for pictures and enjoyed chocolate goodies for dessert. Pictured above is Danny Belcevic, who surprised his second grade daughter, Isabela. "This is great," she said, "because he shows me how much he cares about me by having lunch with me."

Local residents earn Texas A&M degrees

A handful of local residents were among the 3,182 Texas A&M University graduates who received diplomas during fall commencement exercises.

The following were recognized, according to a university news release: Katharine Barton Anderson of Rockwall, bachelor's degree in agricultural economics; Megan Carol Stussi of Rockwall, bachelor's degree in chemistry, cum laude honors; Aaron Martin Gunderson of Rockwall, a bachelor's degree in industrial distribution; Philip Alan Partington of Royse City, bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies; Matthew Wade Harris of Heath, bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, summa cum laude honors; Ryan Matthew Stucker of Rockwall, bachelor's degree in recreation, park and tourism sciences; and Jonathan Paul Yeager of Rockwall, bachelor's degree in construction science.

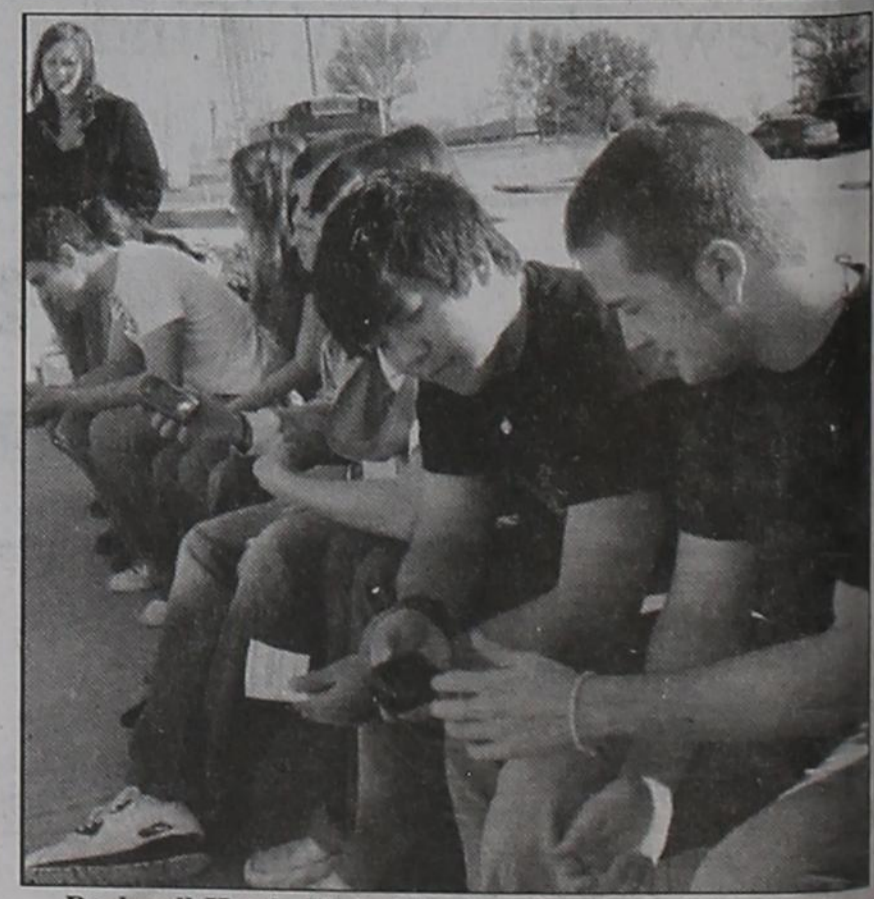
Also, April Michelle Combs of Rockwall, bachelor's degree in political science; Benjamin Lee Gilbert of Rockwall, bachelor's degree in maritime administration; and Kristen Alyse Decker of Royse City, a bachelor's degree in biomedical sciences.

Wicks on Dean's List

Brittney Wicks was named to the Dean's List at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi for the fall 2008 semester, according to a university news release.

Wicks is a student in the College of Science and Technology, Biomedical Science.

To qualify for the Dean's List, an undergraduate must be enrolled full time with a minimum of 12 semester hours and earn a GPA of 3.65 or better on a 4.0 scale.



Rockwall-Heath High School senior Beau Dicus is shown working with a Global Positioning System receiver during a recent classroom outing. Leah Voth's students worked with technology as a means of setting waypoints for areas of interest on the RHHS campus. The GPS receivers were awarded to the students by the Rockwall Independent School District Education Foundation. With the use of the receivers, high school students are preparing an outdoor scavenger hunt for Amy Parks-Heath Elementary students.

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The Rhythm Addicts
Harbor Hotel. The blues
and stand-up bass, Billy
harmonica.
Staff Photo by Kathy W

Pets of

Hank and Henry are
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generalists.org.

Jobs tapped for honors

Just for the Kids Elementary recently was selected as a 2008 Just for the Kids Higher Performing School based on the mathematics performance of its students, according to a news release issued by the school.

Elementary was selected for the recognition based on analysis conducted by the National Center for Educational Achievement, a part of the Just for the Kids campaign.

The CEA is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization and the national sponsor of Just for the Kids. The organization's goal is to encourage efforts to reach excellence in education; to raise academic standards; and to promote practices that will help more students succeed in college/career readiness.

Quest Academy students assist Boys & Girls Club

A service project undertaken by Choice High School student Quest Academy in Rockwall recently benefited the local Boys & Girls Club.

After contacting the Boys & Girls Club director to determine what was needed for the after-school program, the high school students made a shopping trip to Target to purchase items for different age groups. Because Boys & Girls Club members enjoy playing electronic games, controllers and games were purchased, as well as board games, activities and movies.

A group of the high school students met at the Boys & Girls Club to hand out the gifts to club members and interact with the younger members. Several of the Choice students enjoyed the visit so much they've made additional visits to the Boys & girls Club to mentor students each week.



Proud teachers from The Fulton School display gifts made by their students which were auctioned at the school's Spring Mardi Gras Gala Saturday, Feb. 21 at the Hilton Bella Harbor Hotel. The teachers are (left to right) Laura Davidson, 3rd grade; Barbara Blackstone, 1st grade; Pam Huston, 4th grade; Susan Hansley, 2nd grade; Marnie Cooper, Pre-K, 4th and 5th grades and Sandra Henkemeyer, Pre-K, 3rd and 4th grades. Funds from the event will go towards the school's building fund.

Staff Photo by Kathy Williams



Choice High School students from Quest Academy recently purchased electronics, games and movies for use by Boys & Girls Club youngsters. Pictured above are representatives of both student groups and some of the items purchased.

Three Rockwall County students earn academic recognition at Tarleton

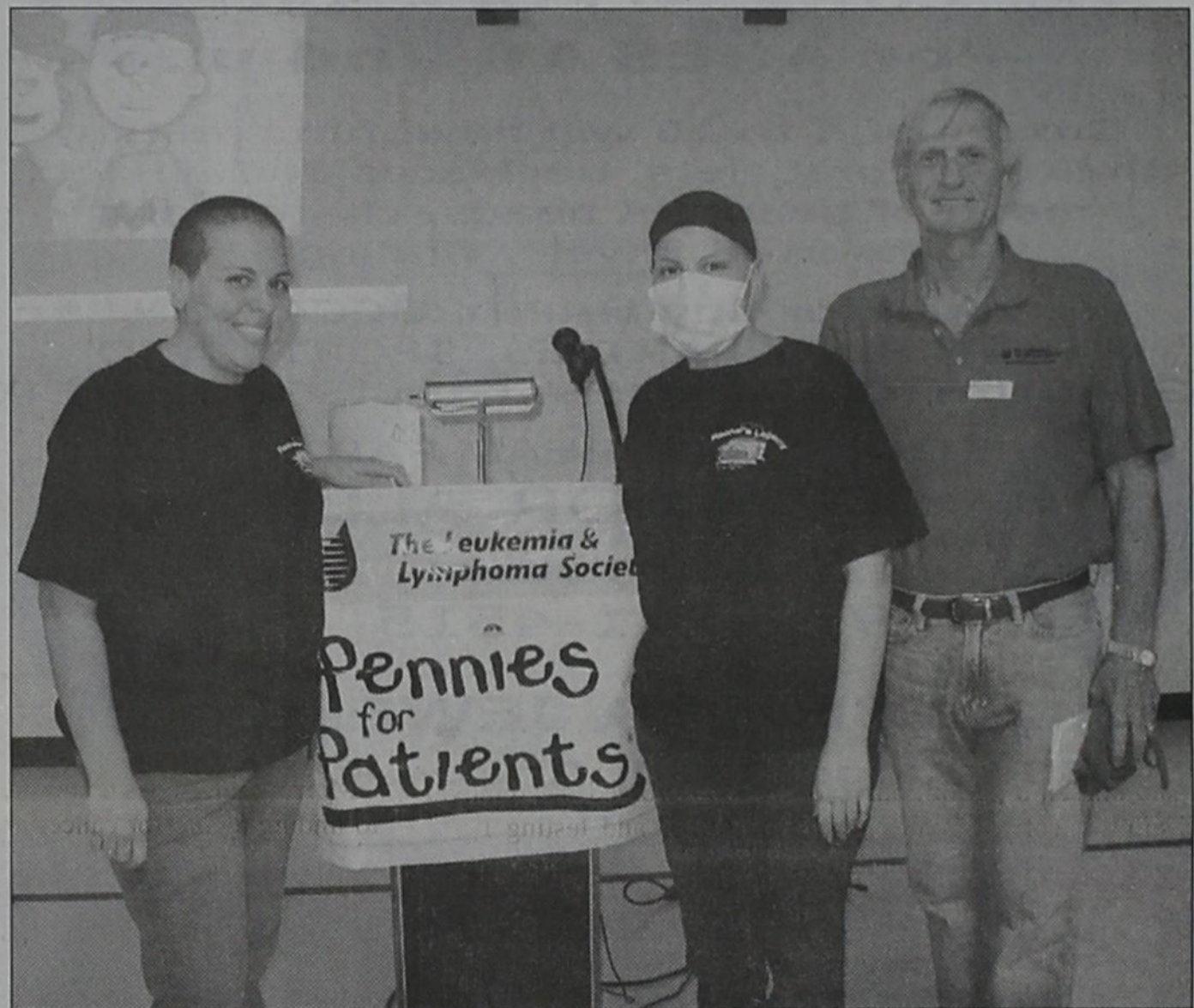
Local residents were named Distinguished Students at Tarleton State University for the spring 2008 semester.

Adamson and Courtney Cox of Rowlett were

included on the list of honorees, according to a news release issued earlier this month by the Stephenville university.

Distinguished Students include freshman and sophomore students who have a minimum

3.25 grade point and no grade lower than a C, and juniors and seniors who have a minimum 3.5 grade point with no grade lower than a C. All must be in good standing with the university.



Rochell students and staff members are once again collecting donations for the "Pennies for Patients" program, which benefits the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. This year's assembly included third grade teacher Lori Kahl's twin sister, Lili Rodriguez, who was diagnosed with leukemia in December. The two are shown above with Steve Abrey of the LSS. Rodriguez visited and shared her story with the students, explaining how her life has changed and describing the treatments she's received as part of her effort to recover. Students are participating in numerous events to raise money for the LLS, such as voting for teachers who will have pies thrown at them; purchasing paper pennies for display; and other fun activities. The campaign will run through Friday.

Fundraiser to aid Rochell fifth graders

A fundraiser set for March 7 at Applebee's in Rockwall will help the Rochell Elementary fifth grade class raise funds for the upcoming Sky Ranch Camp trip.

From 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., breakfast with all the fixin's will be served at Applebee's, 695 E. I-30, at a cost of \$7 per person.

Advanced tickets may be purchased at the school, located at 899 Rochell Court, or at the door. All proceeds will be used to offset camp fees.



Southwest Airlines pilot Kevin Watts is pictured with Doris Cullins Lake Pointe Elementary students, from the left, Carl Chapman, Coltin Hoepfner, Kevin Watts and Christabel Linares and, kneeling, Heidi Blackwell. As part of the Southwest Airlines Adopt-a-Pilot Program, Watts spoke to students about aviation and how it relates to the students' math, science, social studies and language arts curriculum. The pilot visited with students each week for three weeks as part of the program.



The Rhythm Addicts hit all the right notes at The Fulton School Spring Mardi Gras Gala Saturday, Feb. 21 at the Hilton Bella Harbor Hotel. The blues band is made up of members (left to right) Rob Owen on keyboards, Michael Cazabon of Rockwall on bass and stand-up bass, Billy Hendrix on vocals, Bob "Shuffle King" Carlson on drums, Bill Hamilton on guitar and John Homesley on harmonica.

Staff Photo by Kathy Williams

Pets of the Week

Hank and Henry are 7-month-old black male domestic shorthairs that need to be adopted together. Both have delicate bone structure, and it is believed that one of their parents was Siamese. They both will come when called, unless they're busy eating or eating canned food. Hank also can play the retriever, bringing a thrown toy back to continue the game. Henry enjoys being in a lap and wrapping his paws around the neck of his favorite person. When his brother sees Henry getting all the attention, he often jumps in. Neither shows signs of scratching furniture, but they enjoy people and other cats and dogs. The brothers are neutered, have had their vaccines, microchips, flea and worm treatments. To meet Henry and Hank, e-mail info@alfriends.org.



Health Center offers flu shots for \$5

The Health Center of Helping Hands is offering flu shots for \$5 thanks to a donation of vaccine from Dr. Roberto Lopez of Rockwall.

Flu season, which already is underway, will run through April.

The Health Center is located on the lower level of the Reeves Service Center on First Street between Rusk and Washington in Suite B. The center is open weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

For more details, call 972-772-8194.



Members of the Dance Force Studio senior team, (back row from left) Danielle Scharf, Mallory Parrott, Kayla Bender, (front row from left) Joelle Savage, Emily Auth and Tori Carney, perform their award-winning routine at the Showtime International DFW Drill Team Contest in Carrollton earlier this month.
Photo Courtesy of Margaret Kochan

Dance Force Studio Drill Team competes and wins in Carrollton

Contributed by Margaret Kochan
DFS Publicity Coordinator

More than 20 dance teams competed for top scores and trophies at the Showtime International DFW Drill Team Contest on Saturday, Feb. 7. The event was hosted by R.L. Turner High School in Carrollton.

Rockwall was represented by the 76 members of the Dance Force Studio. Solo, duet and group routines captivated the audience throughout the day and into the evening hours. Four Dance teams, including the Angels (Kindergarten), Dreamers (1st through 3rd grade), Sweethearts (4th through 6th grade) and Seniors (7th through 11th grade), were awarded high scores for their performances and won a total of 38 trophies.

"We and the teachers are extremely proud of our girls. All of them have worked hard to prepare for this year's competition and their efforts are paying off," said Janette and Valerie Kreczko, owners of the Dance Force Studio.

The teams are will compete again the weekend of Feb. 26-27 at the Regional Drill Team Competition in Quinlan.

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Pictured above is Caitlyn Lozano, a fourth grade student in Rachael White's class, created this sketch based on Van Gogh's 'Starry Night.' From that sketch, Shannon Elementary sixth grade students in Susan Guzman's class created this mosaic, which will be one of the many student artworks auctioned off at the Rockwall ISD Education Foundation's Celebration on Feb. 28.

Mystique

ROCKWALL WOMEN'S LEAGUE
30TH ANNUAL BLACK TIE CHARITY BALL

Be a part of a **Magical** night.

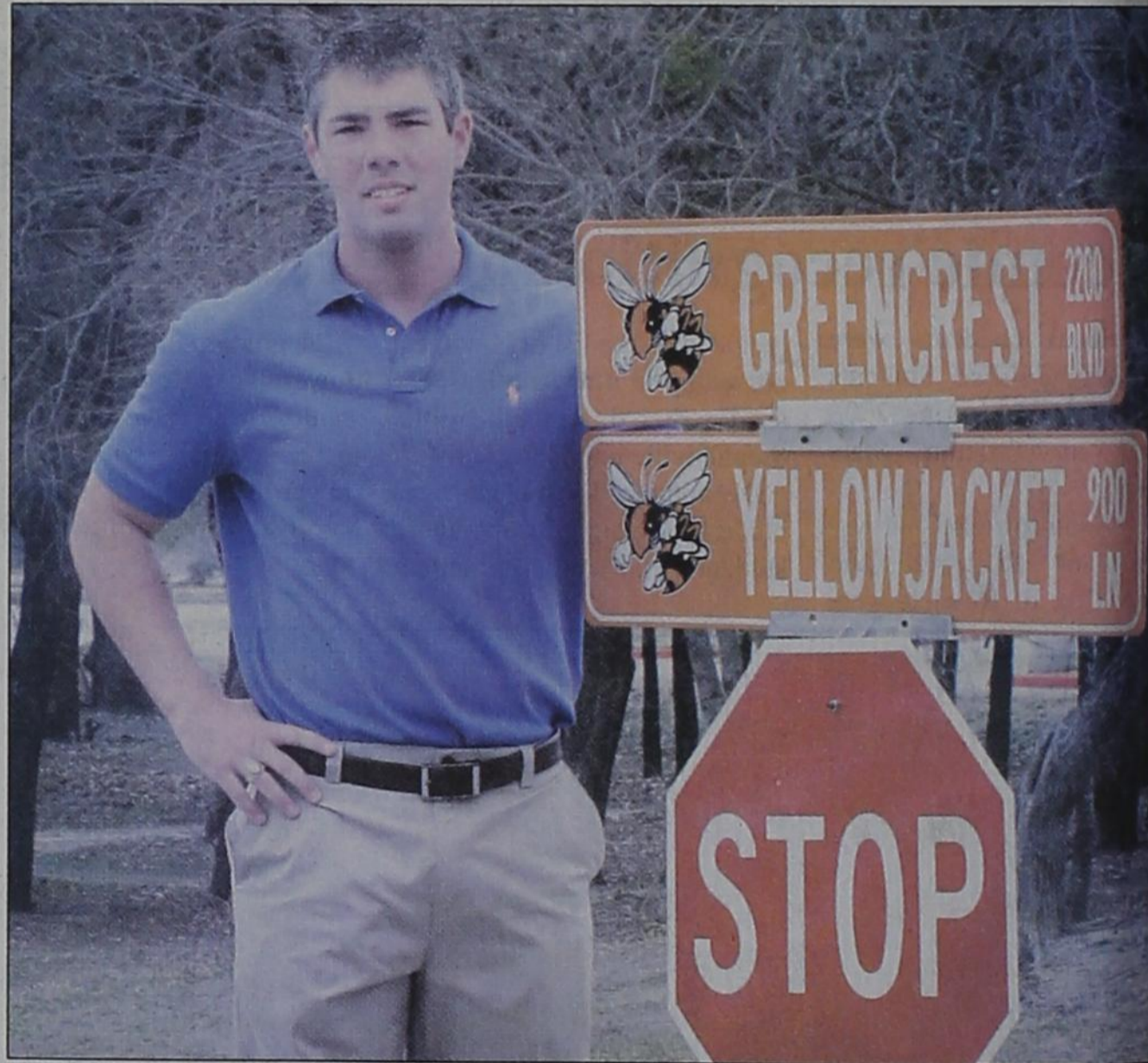
This cirque-themed event will dazzle you with surprises at every turn!

Saturday, April 18, 2009
The Hilton Anatole Hotel Dallas
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To serve as a sponsor or auction item donor for this year's ball, Mystique, to be held April 18, 2009 at the Anatole Hotel, please contact Kendra Jones at 972-772-8052.
Go to www.rockwallwomensleague.org to purchase tickets.



You have filled our lives with music and love, Keep Smiling! Happy Birthday Becky! from your family with love

New street signs along Yellowjacket Lane from Ridge Road to T. Townsend now show of to the world that famous Yellowjacket pride. Rockwall High School graduate John Hagaman class of 2000, donate the signs, which are Yellowjacket orange and display the RHS logo. City crews installed the signs Wednesday, Feb. 25.
Staff Photo by Tim Burnett

Charity golf tournament slated for March

The Rowlett Women's Club will host the Blazing Charity Golf Tournament on Friday, March 13, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. March at the Buffalo Creek Golf Club located at 624 Country Drive in Rockwall.

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

Funds raised through the event will help provide scholarship opportunities for women in need.

For more information contact rowlettclub.com or email info@rowlettclub.com.

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Rockwall boys' gymnastics
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the meet with a score of
RHS scored 149.750.
well-Heath was eighth at

You Saw It In
The County News"

Rockwall County Sports

Rockwall Lady Jackets dig in hard fought game against Lincoln

Bump
 were coming into place for the Rockwall girls' basketball team, they did as the Lady Jackets were winning their final 11 season games, plus two playoff games.
 's Area round at North Mesquite, RHS led Seagoville just 19-20 to a 20-6 second-quarter advance that propelled the Lady Jackets to a 70-40 victory.
 railed defending state 4A champion Lincoln 13-5 after the first quarter. No big deal. An 18-13 second quarter left Rockwall 26-23 at halftime, and ready to strike in the second half. This time it wasn't to be. This time, it was the Lady Tigers coming in the second half. They outscored RHS 13-2 in the second quarter for the second half for a 53-35 regional-quarterfinal victory.
 a case of the Lady Jackets' coming up small in the second half at Mesquite High School?
 ach Jill McDill explained, "A lot of things just didn't go our way. We didn't hit our shots. We turned the ball over. Some things that go our way didn't."
 sly, we played a great team. They're the defending state champions. They have two kids going on to the Big 12 (Kimetria Hayden, Chynna Brown, Texas Tech) and other great players and we fought and got back into it, but we just couldn't get some things at the end."
 o dig their way out of a 39-25 hole to begin the fourth quarter, the Lady Jackets scored the first five points to cut the lead to 39-30. Their half-court pressure caused the Lady Tigers to call a timeout. While Rockwall was failing to take advantage of scoring opportunities, Lincoln was making six consecutive foul shots – by the Lady Jackets thought might not make the shots. The 15-point lead in 2 minutes, 44 seconds was just too much. The Dallas team won 74-14-5 over the last four minutes.
 s defense kept pressure on the ball, and held Rockwall's Peyton Adams to her lowest point total this season: seven. She was averaging 18.5 points per game, broke her own RHS record with a 41-point game and scored in playoff victories over Frisco Liberty and Seagoville.
 the second time this season, someone other than Adamson led the Lady Jackets in scoring. Freshman Alyssa Lang scored a game-high 20 points, giving her 47 for the three playoff games. With her seven points, Adamson finished the season with 1,004 in 36 games.
 game, McDill was telling her players to hold their heads



Backed by Lady Jacket fans, Peyton Adams (22) drives to the basket during Tuesday's UIL Area round Playoff game against Lincoln at North Mesquite High School.
 Staff photo by Roy Heath

Yellowjackets end basketball season against a strong Sherman team in Bi-District game

by Lary Bump
 On The Night the Basketball Season Ended in Rockwall, the RHS boys team battled virtually to the end of its Bi-District playoff game against Sherman.
 It wasn't until the last minute and a half Tuesday that Yellowjackets head coach Alan Simmons conceded the game at McKinney Boyd to the Bearcats.
 Simmons took out the valiant warriors and overachievers who had scrapped their way into the playoffs to give sophomores Collin Schmucker and Griffin Fraser and freshman Wesley Davis a taste of what it's like to play in the playoffs.
 They joined junior Carson Brooks and sophomore Taylor Oden, who already had played off the bench, to finish the 68-54 loss to the District 9-4A champions.
 Part of the thinking was that those players might be back in the playoffs next season.
 A week earlier, even four days earlier, it wasn't certain that Rockwall would even be in the boys' playoffs. The Jackets had to beat Rockwall-Heath – not once, but twice – to earn the fourth and final playoff spot from District 10-4A.

"The second quarter really hurt us."
 The Bearcats (25-7) kept up their relentless half-court pressure defense and turned up their offensive intensity. They scored 24 points, 13 of those by Clark. Wardell drew his third foul late in the quarter, which ended with Sherman ahead 33-22.
 RHS stayed that close only because the Jackets scored 18 points, 12 by senior Kyle Sandlin. He was playing his last game – for Rockwall, at least – and playing it hard.
 The second quarter was the only time when Sherman gave him room to shoot his 3-point shot, and he made two. Most of the time, he would drive to the basket, get jostled to miss his shot and go to the foul line. Sandlin finished with 28 points (Clark had 33).
 "We've had contact with a few schools," Simmons said. "Kyle will be playing somewhere next year."
 He made 15 of 16 foul shots. As a team Rockwall was 22-for-27, including its first 14. "The free throw line kept us in the game," Simmons said.

...of people thought this was going to be a 'rebuilding' year," she said. "I was telling them to be proud. At one point, we were 4-7, and to end up 26-10? This was only the second team ever that were undefeated district champions. The other year was (2006-07) when we were 40-0 and won the state title."
 ...of these kids. They could have gone, 'Oh, no!' at 4-7, but they pulled it together and they played tough."
 ...is Rockwall's shortest playoff run in five years. They had won at least the regional semifinals, including two state title games, in four seasons in 5A.
 ...to disgrace losing to Lincoln (24-7). The Lady Tigers are ranked 10th in the TABC 4A poll, with RHS 10th. No. 10 is supposed to beat Lincoln.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Lincoln	17	6	11	6	40
Rockwall	19	20	12	19	70

...: Patrice Flanagan 17, Chariety Miller 15, Rebecca Moon 4, and Hanks 4.
 ...: Peyton Adams 39, Kayla Kimmons 13, Alyssa Lang 12, and Anterhaus 6.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Rockwall	5	18	2	10	35
Sherman	13	13	13	14	53

...: Alyssa Lang 13, Peyton Adams 7, Jordan Anterhaus 5, Kimmons 4, Raven Turner 3, Vertashia Dean 3.
 ...: Lincoln: Kimetria Hayden 12, Brittney Gowans 12, Chynna Brown 10, Felicia Lowe 10, Raven Smith 7.

Claggett advances to state wrestling

Claggett, an alternate to go to the state wrestling tournament last year, has earned his way to state to finish his senior year.
 Claggett placed third at 189 pounds in the Region 3-4A tournament last week. The top four finishers in each weight class from each of the four regions will converge on the Austin ISD's Delco Center for the tournament Friday and Saturday, Feb. 27 and 28.
 Claggett's best record this season is 49-5. Of the 240 wrestlers qualifying for the state, just nine have more wins than Claggett.
 Yellowjackets, the District 19-4A champions, sent 11 wrestlers to the state tournament at Allen, but Claggett was the only one who made his way through to reach the states. As a team, Rockwall finished in the region.

Rockwall boys' gymnastics finish 2nd in Highland Park gymnastics

Rockwall boys' gymnastics finished second among 10 teams at a meet Thursday, Feb. 12, at Highland Park.
 The team had the top indicia in an event by any team. He was first in the vault and exercise with his best score, 9.35.
 Meyer was Rockwall's all-around finisher, fourth with a score of 51.000. Daniel was sixth at 48.800.
 Lakeview Centennial, Benson Coleman's first-around score of 52.500, and Rockwall scored 52.500. RHS scored 149.750.
 Heath was eighth at 48.800.



Yellowjackets' fan and father Rick Yeager embraces his son Tim Yeager (center) following Tuesday's Bi-District basketball game against Sherman at McKinney Boyd High School.
 Staff photo by Tim Burnett

You Saw It In County News

...the Jackets' only lead was at 4-3, after which Sherman went on a 9-0 run to go ahead 12-4. RHS came back within two points, 16-14, before the Bearcats took a 17-8 run into halftime.
 After that, Rockwall came within nine points twice, but couldn't gain enough momentum for a big finish like the one that had carried them past Dallas Madison to win a tournament in Mabank.
 For the season, the Jackets were 5-5 in games decided by four points or fewer. Those represented one-third of the games in their 15-15 season. They had ended district play 7-7 with a 53-45 home victory Feb. 17 over Rockwall-Heath that had forced Friday's tiebreaker game against the Hawks at Mesquite Potet.
 In that game, Sandlin scored 23 points to help the Jackets hold off Rockwall-Heath 56-54.
 Simmons said, "At the end of any season, you always wish you could have all your kids back, because there are some aspects of our game we're just catching on to."
 "I told our kids, 'You put another brick in our foundation.' We'll have to replace some scoring (mostly Sandlin's 18 points per game), but we have a great nucleus coming back. We're excited."

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Rockwall	13	11	18	14	56
RHHS	11	9	17	17	54

Rockwall: Kyle Sandlin 23, Hunter Jorgensen 12, Jaron White 9, Luke Wardell 5, Blake Sandlin 3, Tim Yeager 2, Adam Dingwell 2.
 Rockwall-Heath: Dustin Morett 10, Chase Nielsen 9, Cameron McClung 9, Lewis Snowton 8, Jeremy Casebolt 7, Demi Leonard 4, Eric Larson 3, Preston Wynn 2, Kyle Whittle 2.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Rockwall	4	18	15	17	54
Sherman	9	24	17	18	68

Rockwall: Kyle Sandlin 28, Hunter Jorgensen 9, Tim Yeager 6, Jaron White 6, Adam Dingwell 4, Wesley Davis 1.
 Sherman: Cameron Clark 33, Andrew Dick 10, Greg Jackson 8, Trey Jones 7, Xerius Jackson 4, Andre Bryant 4, Jordan Thompson 2.

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Rockwall County Sports

Big 6th inning carries Lady Jackets over McKinney North

by Lary Bump

Freshman Ashton Atwell's two-run triple in the sixth inning of her first varsity game sparked a four-run inning that allowed Rockwall's softball team to defeat McKinney North 5-2 Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Each team had six hits in their season-opening game, but the Lady Bulldogs managed just singles against RHS sophomore pitcher Laycee Holcomb.

Lady Jackets head coach Shadie Acosta was encouraged because Holcomb was able to pitch a complete game.

Acosta said, "We played our Saturday scrimmages with both pitchers out. Our catcher threw our last game. Kat Brown just got cleared, and she warmed up tonight. It's good to get both healthy. This was the first time we've had all 17 players on our roster because we've had so much illness and injury."

The coach pointed out that RHS' defense helped Holcomb.

The game had been tied 1-1 before Rockwall broke out with four runs in the sixth inning. In the top of the seventh, McKinney North, a regional semifinalist last season, loaded the bases with two out. Holcomb then gave up her sixth hit, and one run scored. The runner from second base also tried to score, but Lady Jackets center fielder Amanda Harmon threw home to record the game's final out.

"It's a great way to start it out," Acosta said. "McKinney North is always a respected program. We've been a work in progress. This game wasn't perfect, but there were lessons learned."

Atwell's arrival to play third base has allowed sophomore Audrey Farfan to move to catcher. She hit a double against North, and made the tag that ended the game.

Rockwall is scheduled to play the Lady Bulldogs again at 11 a.m. Friday in the Allen tournament. That will be one of five games in the tournament for the Lady Jackets, whose first opponent will be Gariaud Lakeview Centennial at 6 p.m. Thursday. They'll also play Irving Nimitz at 1 p.m. Friday.

Before that, RHS was scheduled for a home game Tuesday against Frisco Wakeland.

Pitching could carry Jackets back to playoffs

Rockwall hasn't even played an actual baseball game this season, but already there's optimism about the team.

"The weather has cooperated and allowed us to get in all five scrimmages, a total of 53 innings," head coach Jeff Payne said. "We've gotten to evaluate a lot of things, pitchers have gotten in all their work and we've been able to see the guys in different game situations."

The for-real game situations will begin Thursday.

Payne said, "We'll head to Waco for five games and see how we stack up." The Yellowjackets will open play in the Waco Invitational at noon Thursday against Stephenville on the Vets 2 diamond at the Waco ISD Complex. Right after that game, Rockwall will face Waco University on the same field. Friday's opponents on Vets 1 will be Killeen at 10 a.m. and China Spring at 4 p.m.

The top three teams in each of the two brackets will meet Saturday in three games beginning at 10 a.m.

It's important that the pitching is lined up, because that's the Jackets' strength. Returning from last year are right-handers Travis Ballew, who already has committed to play college baseball at Texas State, and Tim Parish, who missed the latter part of the season because of a broken hand. Another right-hander, Wesley Cox, will join the rotation with Kyle Turansky, who has moved from Florida to Rockwall.

Other players new to the team are outfielders Quin Baker and Josh Steward; Dakota Herrera, who moved here from San Antonio, and utility players Derek Clinard, Klayton Estes and Will Steward.

J.D. Deloach, the District 10-5A Newcomer of the Year as a sophomore third baseman, is moving to catcher this season, and Michael Hatcher, who played second base, will be making longer throws from shortstop.

"Pitching and defense will keep us in most games," Payne said.

"The only returning starter bats are Parish, Deloach and Hatcher. We'll just need to have smart, quality ABs to push across a few runs."

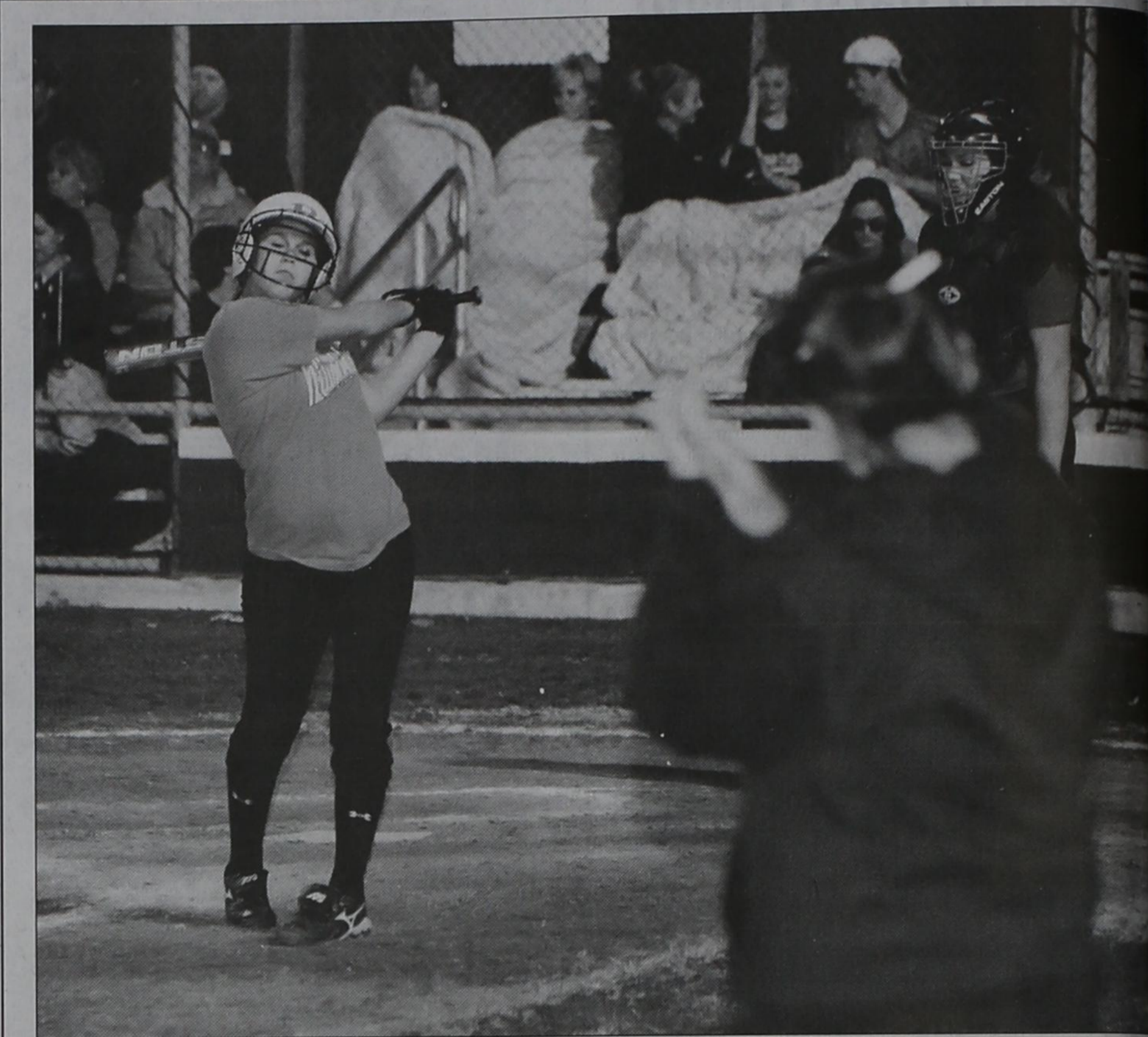
Last year, Rockwall won two 5A playoff rounds, over Wylie and Mesquite, before losing two close games to eventual state champion Plano West in the regional quarterfinals.

Though the Jackets have moved down to District 10-4A, Payne doesn't feel his team has received any breaks.

He said, "This new 4A district will be just as tough as last year's 5A district. Highland Park, Heath, Newman Smith and Roysie City all can play with anybody. We have our hands full for sure. There are good coaches and talented players throughout this district.

Rockwall lost two first-team all-district players, left-hander Cody Fields and first baseman Garrett Henderson, to graduation, but their spirit could linger.

Payne said, "I'll miss the intensity and competitiveness of guys like Cody Fields, Garrett Henderson, Jonny Bertrand and Jordan Hammontrree, but this group reminds me of them and I expect the same intensity."



Feb. 12 scrimmage prepares Lady Jackets for big season...

Lady Jackets softball coach Shadie Acosta (right) encourages batter, Bailey Frierson (left), during the recent scrimmage against Marcus at the RHS field.

Staff photo by Tim Burnett

At halfway point, Rockwall needs win over Lady Hawks

With just five other teams to compete against, the Rockwall girls' soccer team is halfway through its District 21-4A schedule almost as soon as it began.

The district season was delayed one day because of the threat of storms Tuesday, Feb. 10.

Playing at home the next night, the Lady Jackets tied Rockwall-Heath 1-1.

Said RHS head coach Melissa Garcia, "The game was as it was promised to be - a dogfight!"

Michelle Kelley scored Rockwall's goal, with Rachel Garcia's goal equalizing the score for the Lady Hawks.

That first-ever district game hasn't been the highlight of RHS' 21-4A play, but it's close.

Hughes helps Jackets stay close heading into RHHS game

Ryan Hughes scored four of Rockwall's four goals to help the Yellowjackets finish the first half of their District 21-4A schedule with a 2-3 record.

Currently in fifth place, the Jackets (6-13-2 overall) can pull even with Rockwall-Heath for the district's final playoff spot by winning at home Friday against the Hawks. When the teams met in the district opener Feb. 11, Rockwall-Heath (2-1-2 in 21-4A, 2-9-3 overall) won 2-0.

After that, the Yellowjackets won two in a row at home, over Highland

Park 2-1 on Feb. 13 and against Lovejoy 2-0 Feb. 17. Again, Hughes scored the only goal for the varsity on a banner night for RHS girls' soccer. The junior varsity shut out the junior Lady Leopards 3-0.

The Colony (2-1-1 in the district, 7-4-3 overall) visited Rockwall Friday night and left with a 3-1 victory. Kelley again scored, giving all three Lady Jackets goals through their first four district games.

After Tuesday's game against first-place Richardson Pearce (4-1-1), Rockwall will travel to Rockwall-Heath for Act 2 of their district and cross-town rivalry at 7 p.m.

Before playing Pearce, the Lady Jackets were 1-2-1 and 5-7-5. They would need a victory Friday to pull ahead of the Lady Hawks in the district to make the playoffs.

Williams Wildcats' schedule

Tuesday, March 3 - A gymnastics: vs. Hurst-Bedford-Eules, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 5 - Girls' tennis: vs. Allen Curtis, Lowery, 4 p.m.

Boys' and girls' track: vs. Cain, Wylie Cooper and Wylie, 4 p.m. Rockwall-Heath High School, 4:30 p.m.

Rockwall Yellowjackets' schedule

Saturday, Feb. 28 - Varsity track and field: at Wylie Pirate Relays

Tuesday, March 3 - JV tennis: at Arlington Martin, 4 p.m. Softball: home vs. Allen, JV 5 p.m. and varsity 7 p.m.

JV baseball: home vs. Plano, JV Orange 5 p.m. and JV White 7 p.m. Girls' soccer: home vs. Highland Park, JV 5:30 p.m. and varsity 7 p.m.

Boys' soccer: at Highland Park, JV 5:30 p.m. and varsity 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 4 - Boys' gymnastics: Optionals at Invitational, FEW

Thursday, March 5 - Varsity softball: at Wylie Varsity Tournament, vs. Richland 11 a.m. and vs. Irving Nimitz, 5 p.m.

Varsity baseball: at Jesuit Tournament, Jesuit Prep at High School, Dallas, vs. Prestonwood Christian, 5 p.m.

Girls' gymnastics: Optionals at Bell Invitational, FEW

Friday, March 6 - Varsity and White boys' golf: Rockwall tournament, Buffalo Creek Golf Club, 8 a.m.

Varsity softball: at Wylie Varsity Tournament, vs. Bishop Lynch, 7 p.m. and vs. Springtown 7 p.m.

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

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

Varsity baseball: at Jesuit in Jesuit Tournament, Jesuit Prep at High School, Dallas, 7:30 p.m.

Varsity tennis: at Plano Invite, Plano

Varsity 1 girls' golf: at A&M Consolidated, Pebble Creek Club

Doubles tennis teams place first at Cedar Hill

One boys' pair and one girls' team from Rockwall High School placed first in tennis doubles at the 16-team Cedar Hill Valentine Invitational Friday, Feb. 13.

Logan Metcalf-Kelly and Josh Miller defeated their counterparts from Cedar Hill to take the boys' A doubles title. In the girls' B doubles, Sarah Meacham and Victoria Constant defeated Arlington Lamar's duo in the finals.

Two double teams finished second in consolation brackets: Samantha Haight and Ali Hudson in girls' A and Drew Bryson and Katie French in mixed.

In singles, Kyle Greer placed first in the boys' A consolation, Greg Nelson was second in boys' B, Alex Phillips third in girls' A and Shelby Taylor third in girls' B.

Said head coach Lana Fulkerson, "The varsity tennis team did a great job. The kids did awesome! They had a long day with some great competition, and I am very proud of them."

"It turned out to be a pretty good Friday the 13th after all."

Southern Nazarene lands Jackets' White

Add Jaron White to the list of Rockwall High School football players signing a letter of intent to play college football.

White and Yellowjackets head coach Scott Smith said the former running back/wide receiver would sign his commitment to Southern Nazarene University Wednesday, Feb. 11.

Southern Nazarene is an NAIA college in Bethany, Okla.

White said, "They run a Spread offense. They said they're going five wide (receivers). I'm going to go up there and work hard."

The speedy White was listed on last fall's RHS roster at 5'8" tall and 135 pounds.

Sports Notes

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 to 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$40 for residents, \$60 for non-residents. For information call 972-771-7740.

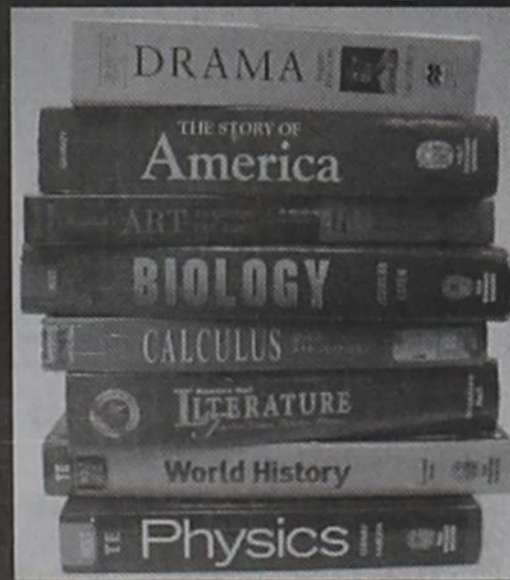
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Rockwall County Sports

Hawks come up just short again as Rockwall Jackets end Heath playoff hopes 56-54

by Matt McGillen

That sound you hear is the thud of a season of high hopes coming to a disappointing end.

Having held onto what would have been the last postseason basketball berth in District 10-4A for nearly the entire season, the Rockwall-Heath Hawks needed just one more win.

They didn't get it.

After losing to Rockwall 53-45 in the final district game to drop into a tie with the Jackets for the last playoff spot, the Hawks also lost the tiebreaker to Rockwall, falling 56-54, Feb. 20 at Mesquite's Poteet High School.

Heath finishes its season 13-19, being denied what would have been the Hawks' first trip to the playoff in the school's four-year history. Rockwall, meanwhile, improved to 15-14 with its fourth win in a row, but will have little time to savor eliminating Heath, as they will have a first-round playoff matchup with District 9-4A champion Sherman (24-7).

On the verge of getting blown out late in the third period, the Hawks rallied from 12 points down to pull into a 50-50 tie with the Jackets with just over two minutes to play.

The smallest player on the court, 5-foot-4 Jarron White, then turned in one of the biggest plays of the game, stealing the ball at halfcourt and taking it to the basket to put Rockwall up 52-50 with 1:45 remaining.

Heath tied the score 52-all with 1:05 to play when sophomore Demi Leonard rebounded his own miss for a put back.

Rockwall's Adam Dingwell, who had barely missed an 80-foot buzzer beater in the first game between the cross-town rivals won by the Hawks 62-59, then scored his only basket of the game – on his only shot of the game – to push the Jackets back in front 54-52 with 45 seconds on the clock.

Heath point guard Dustin Morett tried to knot the score again but his reverse layin along the baseline in heavy traffic spun out and was rebounded by Rockwall's Luke Wardell. Wardell outletted to Kyle Sandlin who was immediately fouled with :21.1 ticks left.

Sandlin, the Jacket's leading scorer and an 85-percent free throw

shooter, missed the front end of the one-and-one, though, with Heath's Jeremy Casebolt controlling the rebound.

Sandlin quickly made up for his errant shot, however, by stealing the ball back with 15 seconds to play and converted both his free throws after being fouled with 12.5 seconds left to give the Jackets an all but insurmountable 56-52 margin.

Following a Hawk timeout with :07.5 seconds to go, Morett tried to draw a foul while shooting a three-point shot, hoping for a four-point play to send the game into overtime. The 6-0 senior didn't get either the basket or the foul, instead rebounding his own missed shot and laying it in at the buzzer to set the final score.

Sandlin, who came into the game averaging 17.2 points per game, finished with a game-high 23, connecting on 8-of-15 field goals, including a trio of three-point baskets, and was 9-of-11 for free throws.

Morett, the Hawks top scorer at 14.2, struggled from the field, making just 3-of-16 shots and none of his five three-point tries, and ended his high school career with an eight-point performance.

Still, the Hawks out shot the Jackets from the field 44 percent (21-for-48) to 41 percent (17-for-41) but only went to the foul line seven times, making four, compared to Rockwall's 15-of-20 performance from the charity stripe.

Seniors Cameron McClung and Chase Nielsen led Heath with nine points each, with McClung drilling three treys on a 3-of-4 shooting effort. Senior Lewis Snowton finished his Heath career with eight points.

Hunter Jorgensen had seven rebounds to lead the Jackets while Leonard topped the Hawks with six.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Rockwall	13	11	18	14	56
Heath	11	9	17	17	54

Rockwall (56) – Kyle Sandlin 23, Hunter Jorgensen 12, Jarron White 9, Luke Wardell 5, Blake Sandlin 3, Tim Yeager 2, Adam Dingwell 2.

Heath (54) – Chase Nielsen 9, Cameron McClung 9, Dustin Morett 8, Lewis Snowton 8, Jeremy Casebolt 7, Demi Leonard 6, Eric Larson 3, Preston Wynn 2, Kyle Whittle 2.



Hawks' Cameron McClung (2) shoots for 3 points with teammates and fans watching from behind, during last year's basketball shootout with the Yellowjackets for first place in the District in the RHHS gym.
Staff photo by Carl McClung

Returning eight starters, Rockwall-Heath varsity team softball looks to go even further in playoffs in 2009

by Matt McGillen

After coming within a single strike of advancing to the third round in the playoffs last season, the Rockwall-Heath softball team should be ready to go even further this year, as they kicked off the season with a special emphasis on armed. Or, in pitcher Chelsey Eddy's case,

the team will look to put off season elbow surgery in December of 2008 and missed several weeks of the Lady Hawks' season before returning the later in time to help her team reach the playoffs as the number two overall seed in District 10-4A.

The team is looking for a strong start, sweeping both games against Little Elm in the first round, the Lady Hawks topped Hallsville 3-2 in a marathon 24-inning game in their first round of the district playoffs.

Chelsey Eddy went the distance, striking out 25 batters in her first game. Eddy took the mound again in the second game, and carried a 4-1 lead into the bottom of the seventh.

The Lady Hawks scored four times, the last two runs coming with two outs, to end the Lady Hawks' season at 20-14. It was the second year that Heath made the playoffs, as they fell to sixth-ranked Frisco in the first round of the 2007 postseason.

Chelsey Eddy, who has a two-year varsity record of 22-12, was backed by junior Victoria Combs, who racked up a 13-7 record in her first season and an ERA of 1.90 in Eddy's absence.

Will the Lady Hawks have both their pitchers back, they lost a pitcher, Kristen Embry, to graduation, with all but one of the returning players all hitting better than .340 during the regular season.

The top of the offensive threats for Heath would normally be shortstop Sarah Long, who has hit safely in 34 straight games, including the

RHHS track opens the season with pole finishes at Jacket Invite

Although they produced only one first place performance between the Rockwall-Heath men's and women's track teams scored points in each to both place fourth in the eight-team Rockwall Jacket Invite Feb. 21 at RHHS.

Heath because of construction at Rockwall's Wilkerson Stadium, the meet went off in cool and windy conditions.

The men's meet was won by Duncanville with 140 points followed by Rockwall (86) and North Garland (89). On the women's side, first place went to Willye with 147 points with runnerup Duncanville (133) and Rockwall (97) rounding out the top three.

At Cameron Wilson turned in the only winning effort for the Hawks as he took the high jump at 6-0. He also finished third in the long jump (33'7") and sixth in the triple (38'10").

Highlights for the men included efforts turned in by a trio RHHS relayers: 2008 regional qualifier Darius Jones took third in both the 4x100 (1:07) and 300 hurdles (41.75). His 110 time was .09 seconds faster than the regional qualifying mark last spring.

Do Villa, meanwhile, took third in the 400 (52.77) while Kendal Williams was clocked in 10.69 in the 100, good enough for fifth place.

The Hawks managed two third place finishes in the relays, as they took 43.75 in the 4x100 and 3:39.50 in the 4x400 race.

On the women's side, distance specialist Andrea Moeller and sprinter Cameron Williams had the highest individual finishes for the Lady Hawks with Moeller coming home third in the 3200 in a time of 13:14.

Cameron Williams, also a regional qualifier from 2008, took third in the 200 and well off her best of 24.61.

The Lady Hawks also did well in the relays, taking second in both the 4x100 (3:50.84) and 4x400 (4:16.35), where they finished just .27 seconds faster than Duncanville.

The teams will go their separate ways for their next competition in the men's team will compete in the Raider Relays Feb. 27 at Williams in Garland while the women travel to Frisco for the Frisco Invitational at Frisco ISD Stadium.

Hawks battle to three consecutive ties before losing 4-0 to first-place Pearce

Opening the district portion of their schedule with three straight wins over Rockwall, Highland Park and The Colony, the Rockwall-Heath Hawks finally broke their string of ties.

Unfortunately, it was not the way they would liked, as they fell to first place Richardson Pearce 4-0 on Feb. 20.

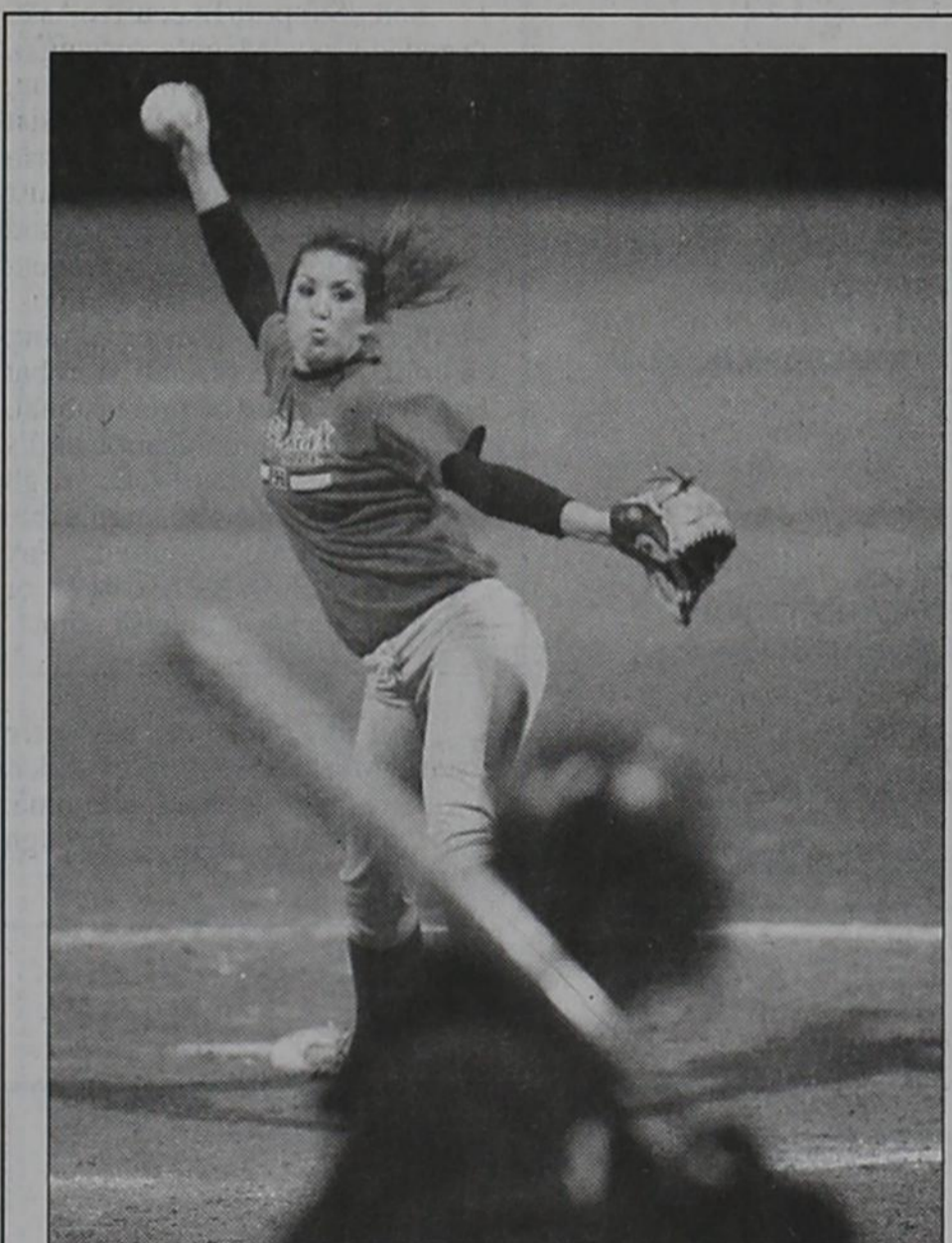
The Hawks had a 1-1 tie to Rockwall and back-to-back 0-0 games against Highland Park and the Colony, the Lady Hawks now stand in fourth place in the standings at 0-1-3 in District 21-4A and are 7-6-4 for the season.

last two game of 2007 season, putting together an impressive regular season average of .586 in 2008.

Long also led Heath during the regular season in hits (51), runs (30), RBI (28), stolen bases (16) and home runs (2).

Long suffered a back injury in October, however, and when or if she will return is undecided.

The other returning starters for Heath coach Kourtney Westerfeld, who started the Lady Hawks' softball program in 2005 when the school first opened, are Sarah Deimling (.434), Dakota Whittern (.423), Taylor McLoughlin (.378), Hailey Galloway (.367), Kaeleigh Lutz (.361), Taylor Blair (.343) and Devon Edgemon (.258).



Lady Hawks' Chelsey Eddy winds up for a pitch during the February 10 game against McKinney at the RHHS field.
Staff photo by Carl McClung

Heath gymnasts take second at Highland Park Invitational meet

Led by Lori Williamson's second-place overall finish, the Rockwall-Heath gymnastics team finished second at the Highland Park Invitational Feb. 12 at HPHS.

William's total of 38.20 on the vault, beam, bars and floor exercise trailed only individual champion Sarie Morrison of Lake Highlands, who compiled an all-around score of 38.85.

South Garland won the team title with a total of 109.95 points to Heath's 109.70.

Williamson recorded scores of 9.5 on the vault, 9.55 on both the bars and the beam and a 9.6 in the floor exercise.

Lauren Vandiver also cracked the top 20 by placing 14th out of more than 70 participants. Other member of the runnerups were Jade Bowerman, Megan Hasenyager, Naje Watkins and Lauren Statham.

The next action for Heath will be this Friday against Irving, Colleyville and Grapevine at Irving High School.

Heath was scheduled to play at last place Lovejoy Feb. 24.

With the realignment in the district, four depart while four others – Rockwall, Royce City, Carrollton Newman Smith and Carrollton Turner – will join the district and compete for four berths instead of three as in the past.

According to Westerfeld, the battle for the district title figures to be between Rockwall and Heath.

The Lady Hawks' first home game won't be until March 6 when they host North Mesquite.

In the meantime, the Lady Hawks are off to a good start, going 4-1 at the Sulphur Springs tournament Feb. 22-23.

The Lady Hawks beat Wills Point 3-0, Paris 15-0, Frisco Liberty 8-0 and Frisco Wakeland 3-2. Their only loss was to host Sulphur Springs 12-6.

Despite the success the Lady Hawks have achieved so far, according to Westerfeld Heath has its sights on bigger things still.

"The atmosphere on the field this year is different than I have seen it before," said Westerfeld. "The girls have set very high goals for this season and are determined to achieve them. They have gone from the attitude of 'we want to win' to the attitude of 'we are going to win, and we are going to do whatever it takes to make that happen.' They are on fire and ready to play. It's exciting to see them coming together with this fierce determination this early in the season." The Lady Hawks' next action will be at Flower Mound on Feb. 27.

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Rockwall County Sports

HCA splits tournament games runs past Carrollton

Rockwall's Heritage Christian Academy has started its softball season with four wins in seven games.

The Lady Eagles won their first three games in last week's inaugu-

ral Lone Star Christian Sports Network Softball Tournament.

While defeating Fort Worth Calvary, Watauga Harvest Christian and Austin School for the Deaf, HCA ran into in-

jury problems with its ing. The result was losses to Lady Eagles' next three games against Frisco Legacy Christian - preventing HCA from finishing among the tournament top four teams.

During the tournament, Roxanne Lamarre and Jordan Miller and Megan Trape named one of the tournament most valuable players.

On Monday, the Lady Eagles outscored Carrollton Christian Academy 18-12. It might be to say they stole the game. Lauren Pettit stole eight bases. Trapane swiped five, junior J. Huckabee added three steals, junior Monica Whitmore, two. Senior Audrey Salter the starting pitcher; junior Jordan Miller earned a save by pitching the final 1 1/3 innings.

The Lady Eagles will travel to Lakehill Prep in Dallas for the Lakehill Spring Softball Tournament Friday and Saturday.

Includes information provided by head coach Rick Trapane.



HCA Lady Eagles' Roxanne Lamarre is ready for a catch during last week's Lone Star Christian Sports Network Softball Tournament.

Photo courtesy of Heritage Christian Academy

Rockwall's varsity basketball team came back from three defeats against a low ranked Hurst/Bedford team only to see the slip away in a shoot out (4-3) at Eules Star Center Feb 19th.

The Jackets, having lost 3 of the last 4 games, are struggling several fronts as the race for positions in the Metroplex begins to heat up. Rockwall remains in 3rd place, 2 points behind Bishop Lynch who the Jackets face in 2 weeks.

"We're not skating hard getting in position to score," Mark Thirion, assistant coach. "We can't beat teams just coming from the outside." The Jackets took the ice short handed as players were healthy scratches including top scorer Rockwall's Chris Thirion.

HEB caught Rockwall to react to a drive in the offense to take an early lead.

Rockwall sophomore Kinnear answered with an assisted end-to-end play capped deke past that exposed Titan to knot the score.

But a miscommunication between players near the Rockwall late at 11:20 in the first allowed a HEB breakaway goal.

On the next puck possession Rockwall finally got an odd rush when Rockwall-Heath's Chris Rogers drew the Titan goal then passed to Wylie senior Skinner for an open net equalizer.

At 8:03 in the period Rockwall on a penalty kick, successfully stretched the defense and took the lead. With the Titans sensing an their defense stiffened and physical play increased.

The Jackets fell into trouble late in the 2nd period their offensive capability.

Late in the 3rd period, Rockwall pulled even when Wylie's Corey Hoegger found the net an assist from Kinnear.

Both goalies shut out attempts through the end of the and a five minute overtime, the shoot out HEB connected two of three for the win.

The Jackets (15-3-1) will face the Arlington Wild (3-1) Feb 26th, at the Farmers Star Center.

The Rockwall Ice Hockey competes in the AT&T Metroplex High School Hockey League and is composed of young athletes from Rockwall, Royse City, and Wylie ISD's.

O.K. WHAT DO YOU DO NOW THAT STIMULUS BILL IS SIGNED

Conomi

alter E. Williams

idea that even the brightest of the U.S. Congress, can't grasp the knowledge that we're losing. At the risk of boring you, we've such knowledge is important. That means there would be these elements. Now, characterized by being either on relationships among those who have the 30th power, that's well those six elements.

economic system consists of members of our population. A list of possible reasons so if we include international tendency for all of these congressional meddling. L average well-stocked supermarket because those items are so rare miracle goes unnoticed.

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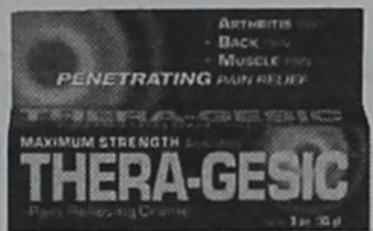
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RHS graduate playing with Texas A&M-International...

Chris Buttermore, a 2008 graduate of Rockwall-Heath High School, now competing for Texas A&M-International, is shown here in a game against Dallas Baptist University Feb. 19. Buttermore, a first-team All-District selection both his junior and senior years at RHHS, has started six games for TAMI as a freshman. In the matchup with DBU, the 6-7 Buttermore was hampered by foul trouble and failed to score, but had two blocks, two steals and one rebound in about 10 minutes of action. He picked up his fourth personal foul with about 12 minutes to play and did not return to the game won by DBU 77-66. Buttermore is majoring in biology at TAMI, which is located in Laredo.

Staff photo by Carl McClung

Sports Notes

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.

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

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Opinions

President Obama, What about Tomorrow?

by Sheldon Richman

The Obama administration's \$275 billion bailout for mortgage lenders and troubled borrowers once again shows that "tomorrow-be-damned" thinking still rules the White House. President Obama has clearly dumped the Clinton administration's theme song, "Don't Stop Thinking about Tomorrow." (Not that Clinton or his successor took the lyric to heart.)

Under the plan, the federal government will spend money it doesn't have to encourage banks to refinance mortgages for people who can't afford their current loans. The plan also calls for giving more money to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to make it easier for people to get new mortgages. These government-guaranteed agencies were put under government control last year when they appeared to be insolvent.

Obama and his economic advisors are putting short-term expediency over longer-term consequences. That is always a dangerous strategy. This can be seen clearly in Obama's wish to see bankruptcy law changed so judges can amend the terms of mortgages to lower distressed borrowers' monthly payments. If that happens, lenders henceforth will be reluctant about lending to marginal borrowers. Why take the risk that a judge will change the loan later?

Obama says his plan is intended to stop the fall in housing prices. Therein lies the problem. Market prices are signals — information about reality. Masking or distorting prices can never be prudent. It's the equivalent of turning off the light before crossing a room full of furniture. You are bound to hurt yourself.

Government interference in the market

Housing prices have fallen precipitously over the last year, but that happened because they had previously soared to unprecedented heights on the wings of government policy. Once we understand that, we can see the folly of trying to push prices back up with government policy. If they are to do their job, prices have to be allowed to find their level according to genuine supply and demand. Obama's plan attempts to paper over past mistakes and therefore sets the table for the next economic crisis.

For more than a decade, the federal government aggressively encouraged resources to flow into housing and the financing of housing by artificially boosting demand. Beginning in the 1990s, a variety of federal agencies and guarantees sought to make homeownership available to people who were unable to obtain conventional mortgage loans because of insufficient income or poor credit records.

The government was intent on removing those factors as barriers to buying a home. This effort coincided with an big influx of foreign savings, a low-interest-rate policy from the Federal Reserve, or both. As a result, mortgage loans were easily procured, boosting the demand for houses.

The resulting rise in home values, the "bubble," gave many people the incentive to refinance their homes at the higher values in order to turn their equity into cash for consumer spending. Loans that ordinarily would have been seen as risky became attractive because expected higher home prices made later refinancing or sale at a profit appear feasible. All of this had the effect of driving demand and prices even higher.

More borrowing won't make it better

Since this was a bubble artificially inflated by government policy, it couldn't last. Too many resources went into housing. Too many units were built. Too many marginal loans were made. Eventually prices stopped rising and turned south. Loans that looked good in a bull housing market suddenly looked bad in a bear market.

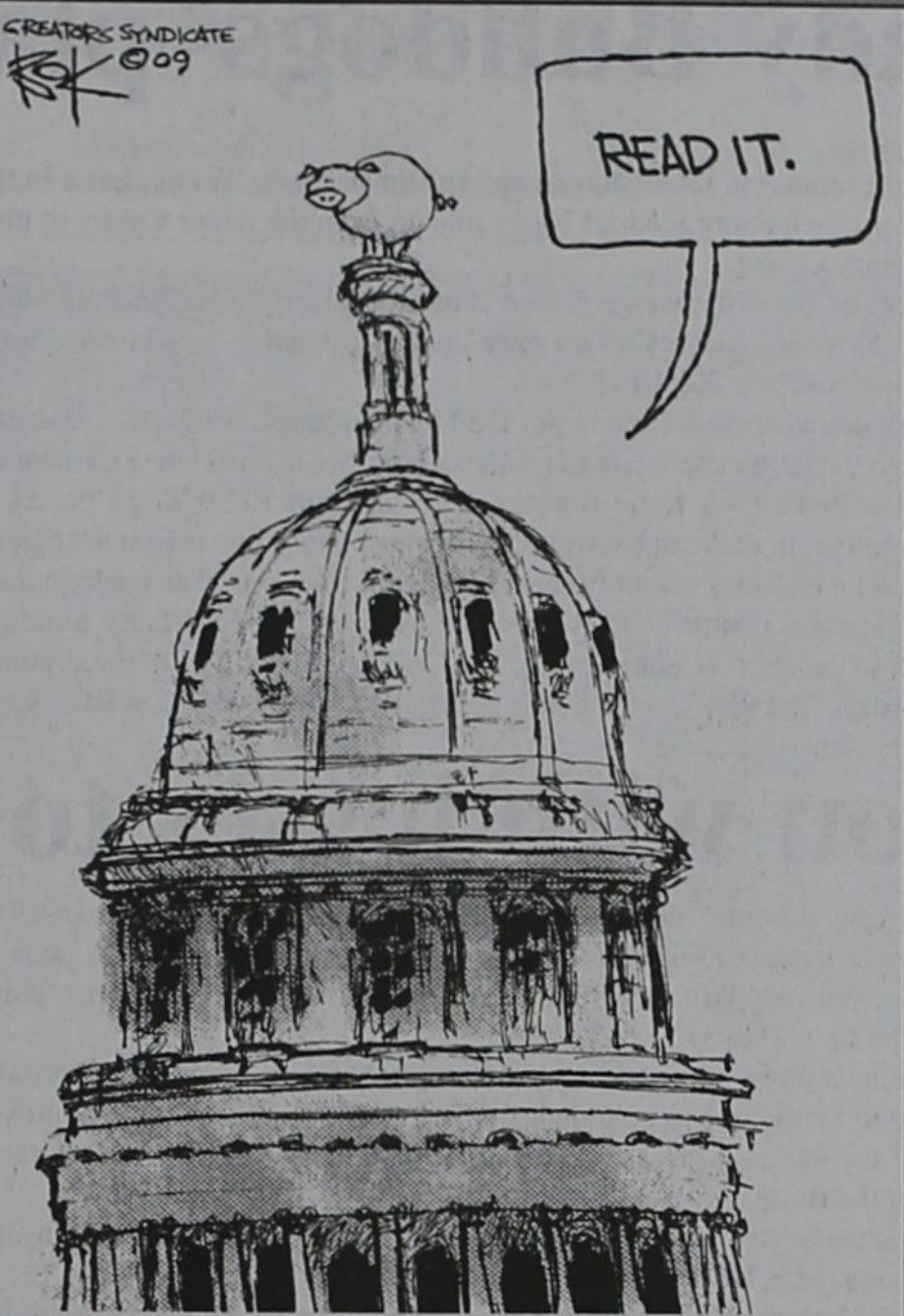
Conventional economic and political thinking says that the only real problem is the fall in home values — therefore government should do all it can to stabilize prices and get them rising again. Hence the plan to pump money to homeowners, lenders, and the government guarantors.

But if the prices of homes were artificially inflated and the source of the economic collapse, why would we want those prices pushed back toward their previously unsustainable levels? That policy cannot bring lasting economic recovery. It is merely a typical political expedient. Obama keeps doing things the old way.

That would be bad enough. But the tab for this program will be financed by more borrowing. Obama has stopped thinking about tomorrow.

Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation, author of *Tethered Citizens: Time to Repeal the Welfare State*, and editor of *The Freeman* magazine. Visit his blog "Free Association" at www.sheldonrichman.com

The surest path to economic prosperity is the abolition of taxation ... it's the right thing to do and we need to start now.



Economic miracle, or arrogance?

Walter E. Williams

Even the brightest person or group of bright people, the U.S. Congress, can wisely manage an economy has to be free of arrogance and conceit. Why? It is impossible for anyone to possess the knowledge that would be necessary for such an attempt. At the risk of boring you, let's go through a small example of how such knowledge is impossible.

Imagine you are trying to understand a system consisting of six elements. That means there would be 30, or $n(n-1)$, possible relationships between these elements. Now suppose each element can be either on or off. That means the number of possible relationships among those elements grows to the number 2 to the 30th power; that's well over a billion possible relationships among those six elements.

Our economic system consists of billions of different elements that include members of our population, businesses, schools, parcels of land, homes. A list of possible relationships defies imagination and grows so if we include international relationships. Miraculously, the tendency for all of these relationships to operate smoothly without congressional meddling. Let's think about it.

A well-stocked supermarket carries over 60,000 different items because those items are so routinely available to us, the fact that a miracle goes unnoticed and unappreciated. Take just one of those items — canned tuna. Pretend that Congress appoints you tuna czar. It's not totally out of the picture in light of the fact that Congress recently proposed a car czar for our auto industry. My question to you is: Can you identify and tell us how to organize all of those necessary to get tuna out of the sea and into a supermarket?

Not obvious inputs are fishermen, ships, nets, canning factories, trucks. But how do you organize the inputs necessary to build a road to provide the fuel, and what about the compass? The trucks need seats and windshields. It is not a stretch of the imagination to

suggest that millions of inputs and people cooperate with one another to get canned tuna to your supermarket.

But what is the driving force that explains how millions of people manage to cooperate to get 60,000 different items to your supermarket? Most of them don't give a hoot about you and me, some of them might hate Americans, but they serve us well and they do so voluntarily. The bottom line motivation for the cooperation is people are in it for themselves; they want more profits, wages, interest and rent, or to use today's silly talk — people are greedy.

Adam Smith, the father of economics, captured the essence of this wonderful human cooperation when he said, "He (the businessman) generally, indeed, neither intends to promote the public interest, nor knows how much he is promoting it. ... He intends only his own security; and by directing that industry in such a manner as its produce may be of the greatest value, he intends only his own gain." Adam Smith continues, "He is in this, as in many other cases, led by an invisible hand to promote an end which was no part of his intention. ... By pursuing his own interest he frequently promotes that of the society more effectually than when he really intends to promote it." And later he adds, "It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker, that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest."

If you have doubts about Adam Smith's prediction, ask yourself which areas of our lives are we the most satisfied and those with most complaints. Would they be profit motivated arenas such as supermarkets, video or clothing stores, or be nonprofit motivated government-operated arenas such as public schools, postal delivery or motor vehicle registration? By the way, how many of you would be in favor of Congress running our supermarkets?

Walter E. Williams is a professor of economics at George Mason University. To find out more about Walter E. Williams and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Resting Obama ...

Bill O'Reilly

Biden is a prophet. On Oct. 19, 2008, the now-vice president said my words. It will not be six months before the world tests Obama like they did John Kennedy."

Just about six months, the foreign affairs insults arrived within weeks of Obama's presidency. And with the economy dominating this cycle, very little attention has been paid.

Take them one by one: The most important insult to the Obama administration came shortly after U.S. special envoy Richard Holbrooke visited the country, the country surrendered to the Taliban and al-Qaida, putting the world in danger.

Shocking abdication of responsibility, the Pakistani government says the Taliban has the authority to impose sharia law in the part of the country. This means the Pakistani government is letting these terrorists to do whatever they want, and that will include attacking their attacks on American forces in neighboring Afghanistan. This is huge. And President Obama would be wise to respond and punish the Pakistani government. They have thrown in terrorists and killers, and the United States cannot accept that, nor any responsible country.

Insult two: The government of Kyrgyzstan is closing the U.S. air base on its soil. That air base supplies NATO forces in Afghanistan. This is huge.

The reason the base is being closed is because Russian tyrant Vladimir Putin doesn't like America assisting nations like Poland and Latvia in their defense strategies. So Putin, whom the Kyrgyzstan government fears, has succeeded in hurting NATO's war against the Taliban. Nice.

Insult three: Iran. No surprise here. While the mullahs talk about talking with Obama, they continue to fast-track nuclear weapons. A report by the Institute for Science and International Security says that Iran could have weapons-grade nuclear material this year. There is now an urgency to the situation, and Obama must act quickly or the nuke genie will be out of the bottle.

Insult four: Crazy Kim Jong Il, the leader of North Korea, celebrated his 67th birthday this week by threatening a nuclear missile attack.

Because of the terrible economy, many Americans have no idea what is going on, but there is no question that Obama is being tested and that villains are watching closely to see what he will

In that speech last October, Biden also told Americans to "gird your loins." I'm not exactly sure what that means vis-a-vis foreign policy, but it doesn't sound good. I also don't know whether President Obama is "girding" right now, but he had better be doing something.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Who's Looking Out For You?" To find out more about Bill O'Reilly, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com. This column originates on the Web site www.billoreilly.com.

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Rockwall County Sports

Centennial ends Lady Bulldogs' playoff run quickly

by Lary Bump

Royse City's highly successful girls' basketball season came to a sudden and decisive end Tuesday, February 17.

The Lady Bulldogs finished 27-6 following a 58-38 loss to Frisco Centennial in a Bi-District playoff loss at Mesquite Potet.

RC didn't look like the team that had won its previous six games and whose only District 10-4A losses were to champion Rockwall.

This was the second time this season that the Lady Bulldogs had lost to the Lady Titans. At Centennial on Nov. 18, the teams were even after three quarters. The home team outscored Royse City 21-13 in the fourth quarter to take a 63-55 victory.

Since then, head coach Dallas Bookout had noticed great improvement in his team.

The three senior starters - Raven Alexander, Taylor Howard and Kellie Wyrick - blended with younger players joining the varsity - sophomores

Ariel Freese and Taylor Jordan and freshman Taylor Young. Later in the season, sophomore Jennifer Null came up from the junior varsity to give the team a boost.

Royse City will miss the seniors, but head coach Dallas Bookout noted that the young players' experience during a winning season provides a "foundation" for 2009-10.

Not much worked Tuesday for the Lady Bulldogs, who were outscored in every quarter. The game was almost over by halftime, when Centennial held a 29-14 lead. Katie Brakner, who had hurt RC with 23 points in November, in the rematch struck for 16 (just above her season average).

The Lady Titans certainly seemed to learn from mistakes made in their earlier game against Frisco Centennial. Alexander led the Lady Bulldogs with 17 points that fall evening, but Centennial held her to three points Tuesday. That was 13-plus points below her season average as RC's scoring leader.

Against the Lady Titans, Wyrick led the way with 15 points. The loss by Royse City to the third-place team from District 9-4A was part of a poor overall showing by 10-4A teams. Only Rockwall, which lost to Frisco Centennial, finished in the top 10. Royse City finished 10th against 9-4A's fourth-place team from Frisco Liberty, won a playoff game against Frisco Wakeland held off third-place Greenville 52-43, and 9-4A champion Frisco embarrassed Highland Park by racing to a 67-20 halftime lead.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Frisco Centennial	16	13	12	17
Royse City	8	6	10	14

Frisco Centennial: Jenika Sanchez 16, Katie Brakner 16, Barton 13, Alyssa York 8, Courtney Javine 3, Carli Johnson 2.

Royse City: Kellie Wyrick 15, Taylor Young 6, Taylor Howard 6, Freese 4, Raven Alexander 3, Taylor Jordan 2, Ashlei Jordan 2.

Bulldogs close season with losses to Rockwall, Pearce

A promising start to Royse City's journey through its first season as a 4A boys' basketball team skidded off the road at the end of the trip.

Through 16 games, the Bulldogs were 9-7. After that, playing all District 10-4A opponents, they won just 3 of 13 games to finish 12-17 overall and 4-10 in the district.

RC did give a good effort, at least until the final half of the final game.

After pushing Rockwall throughout a game that ended in a 41-38 loss Friday February 13, the Bulldogs stayed with Richardson Pearce, which advanced to the playoffs as 10-4A's third-place team.

Bulldogs varsity drop baseball opener to Frisco Liberty

Royse City took the big stage - at Dr. Pepper Ballpark, home of the Texas League's Frisco RoughRiders - for its opening baseball game Monday.

Frisco Liberty managed just three hits but came away with a 5-2 victory over the Bulldogs.

RC rapped out seven hits, including doubles by Dylan Funderburk and Scot Lane. Richard Morrison, who will perform in a much bigger venue at the University of Arizona football stadium, was the losing pitcher.

Wills Point edges Lady Bulldogs

In an exceptional pitching duel with the two teams held to a total of three hits, Wills Point defeated Royse City's softball team 1-0 Tuesday.

Wills Point had just two hits, but Shelby Perry allowed only one against the visiting Lady Bulldogs, who made three errors.

Scoring has been a problem for RC. In its opening game Monday, Feb. 16, the Lady Bulldogs managed just two hits in a 3-2 loss at home against Van. In last weekend's Sulphur Springs tournament, Frisco Wakeland had just four hits, but one was Alexis Cantu's home run in a 4-1 victory. Losing pitcher Alicia Pille hit a triple, one of just four hits for Royse City.

The Lady Bulldogs are playing in the Carrollton Schools Tourney this weekend.

Playing at home Tuesday, February 17, the Mustangs led just 26-19 at halftime. Then a 21-11 third-quarter advantage all but ended the game at 47-30. Pearce (14-16, 10-4) had another 10-point bulge, 14-4, in the fourth quarter to win 61-34.

Friday's game was a defensive struggle between two teams that take pride in being able to stop their opponents. And it was a huge improvement for RC over its visit to Rockwall Jan. 30, when the Yellowjackets stung the Bulldogs 55-30.

Stephen Edwards led Royse City with just 10 points. RC held Rockwall's scoring leader, Kyle Sandlin, to 14 points. Hunter Jorgensen added 10.

In the Pearce game, it was too much Chris Bowie and Bruce Smith for the Bulldogs to handle. Bowie had 18 points; Smith combined 15 points with 14 rebounds.

Each of the Richardson team's stars scored 15 points at Royse City Jan. 23. That time, Pearce led just 17-15 at halftime, and by only five points

Girls' varsity soccer team looks for better second half of season

The first goal in district play was a milestone, but hardly enough to keep the Royse City girls' soccer team from being winless during the first half of their first season in a district.

Four losses by a combined score of 37-1 left them 0-5 in District 23-4A. The Lady Bulldogs begin the second half of the season Friday at West Mesquite, which scored a 6-0 victory in the first district game at Royse City Feb. 10.

After that, Royse City lost at home to Kaufman 4-0 on Feb. 13 and 11-0 at Terrell on Feb. 17.

RC head coach Shelby Henry has been optimistic all season, but after the loss to Terrell she really couldn't be. She said, "We didn't play well at all, to say the least. It was disappointing."

The Lady Bulldogs scored Friday at Forney, but lost 14-1. They hosted district-leading Mesquite Potet (5-0, 16-1-1) Tuesday. The Pirates' depth was just too much as seven girls scored in Potet's 8-0 victory.

After three quarters before the Bulldogs ran out of time in a 48-39 loss. Senior Scotty Arterberry led RC with 11 points. All but four of Royse City's points were scored by its seniors - Arterberry, Stephen Edwards, Justin Jacobs, Cory Kawesa and Wynn Posey.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Rockwall	7	9	16	9	41
Royse City	6	7	15	10	38

Rockwall: Kyle Sandlin 14, Hunter Jorgensen 12, Tim Yeager 3, White 3, Luke Wardell 3, Blake Sandlin 3, Adam Dingwell 3.

Royse City: Stephen Edwards 10, Scotty Arterberry 8, Justin Jacobs 6, Cory Stapleton 4, Wynn Posey 4, Thomas 2, Cory Kawesa 2, Avery 2.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Royse City	11	8	11	4	34
Pearce	12	21	14	61	

Royse City: Scotty Arterberry 11, Justin Jacobs 8, Wynn Posey 6, Stephen Edwards 4, Cory Stapleton 2, Cory Kawesa 2, DaJon Avery 2, Richardson Pearce: Chris Bowie 18, Bruce Smith 15, Brooks Vela 11, Jake Allen 9, Cole Holland 7, Zubin Teherani 1.

Bulldogs soccer find offense, but fall short in last three games

Royse City's boys found some offense, but lost their three most recent soccer games.

The Bulldogs scored three times but lost at home against Kaufman on Friday, Feb. 13. They surrendered four goals to Victor Gomez, and another into their own net.

On Friday, Feb. 20, Forney defeated the Bulldogs 3-1.

They went to Mesquite Potet to play the District 23-4A leaders in the district, 12-3-3 overall) and lost 6-0.

RCHS will begin the second half of the district season Friday at p.m. at home against second-place West Mesquite (4-1, 12-7-5). Wranglers won their home game 6-0 in Royse City's first district game at 7 p.m. Tuesday, the Bulldogs will play at Kaufman.

RCMS 8th graders prep to host district with wins

The Royse City Middle School boys' basketball teams prepared for this weekend's district tournaments by winning three of four games Monday against Forney Brown.

The Bulldogs' 8th grade teams will be right back on the RCMS courts for their tournament Friday and Saturday. The 7th grade teams will travel to Red Oak.

For the RCMS girls, the district

tournament will be in Forney. Against Brown, the boys' 8th grade A team took a 14-2 lead after the first quarter. Forney rallied, feated Brown, 33-24. The Bulldogs but the Bulldogs came up with de-held Forney scoreless in the defensive stops and made foul shots quarter.

down the stretch to hold on for a 43-36 victory. The 8th grade B team used even better defense to down Brown 30-25. Royse City also controlled the

ball late in the game to keep Forney from scoring.

RCMS' 7th grade B team also

lost the first quarter. Forney rallied, feated Brown, 33-24. The Bulldogs but the Bulldogs came up with de-held Forney scoreless in the defensive stops and made foul shots quarter.

down the stretch to hold on for a 43-36 victory. The 8th grade B team used even better defense to down Brown 30-25. Royse City also controlled the

Sports Notes

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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.

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.

Royse City Schedule

Saturday, Feb. 28 - Varsity baseball: at Celina Tourney
Varsity softball: at Carrollton Schools Tourney
Varsity boys' and girls' track and field: at Wylie Pirate Relays
JV and freshman baseball: at Crandall Tourney

8th grade girls' basketball: at District Tournament, Forney
Monday, March 2 - Varsity golf: at Jesuit Invitational

Tuesday, March 3 - JV baseball: home vs. Emory Rains, 4:30 p.m.
Girls' soccer: home vs. Kaufman, 5:30 p.m.

Boys' soccer: home vs. Kaufman, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 5 - Varsity baseball: at Mesquite Tournament
JV tennis: at Greenville Tourney

Friday, March 6 - Varsity softball: vs. Sherman, McKinney
Tournament, 1 p.m.

Girls' soccer: home vs. Terrell, 6 p.m.
Varsity baseball: at Mesquite Tournament

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