

# Rockwall County News

Issue 23 USPS 002-500 Newsstand Price 50¢ Friday, May 8, 2009 Copyright Rockwall County News 2009



The finest dining experience in all of Rockwall County took place in the Rockwall High School cafeteria as this year's Taste of Rockwall Business Expo brought together restaurants and caterers offering their best samplings to the public. Businesses were also on hand at the event to showcase their unique services to the packed-house. The Rockwall Rotary Club and the Rockwall Chamber of Commerce presented the Business Expo and Taste of Rockwall.

Photo by Kathy Williams

## News Briefs

### Two NAMI free Support Groups

Two NAMI free support groups will be offered from 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Saturday, May 9 at the First United Methodist Church (B Building), Rockwall, 1200 E. Yellow Jacket Lane. The mental illness support group will be held in Room 121 and the families support group will be in Room 123. For more information call Hal or Dee Whitfield at 972-412-6030.

### Graduates eligible for free RCN subscription

Each Class of 2009 graduate of a Rockwall County high school is eligible to receive a free one-year subscription to his/her hometown newspaper - the Rockwall County News - as a congratulatory gift. Just e-mail your name, mailing address, phone number and school name to rcn.news@yahoo.com to get your subscription started.

### Fund established to aid Brake family

A fund has been established at Bank of American under the name of The Michelle Brake Assistance Fund to receive donations for Brake and her two daughters. The family lost their Rockwall home and belongings in an April 24 house fire. Monetary contributions may be made at any Bank of America branch. Brake's ex-husband, Ken Brake, is assisting in the effort and may be contacted at 214-717-9781. She can be reached at 214-794-6892.

### Brown Bag lecture set today

The Rockwall County Historical Foundation and the Rockwall County Historical Commission will host the May Brown Bag lecture, Images of America: Rockwall, from noon to 1 p.m. today at the Historic Downtown Courthouse. Coinciding with the debut of Arcadia Publishing's photo history of Rockwall, the program will include images from the 1880s through the 1970s and discuss the inception and growth of the archive. The presentation by author Sheri Fowler will be free and open to the public. For details call 214-926-6466.

### Friends of the Library to meet

A Friends of the Library meeting will be at 11 a.m. on May 12 at the home of Judge Brett Hall and his wife, Karen. Officers for the new year will be installed, and the Hartman and Celia Hays awards winners will be announced. Southern Comfort will cater. Reservations required by Friday (972-771-8976 or eplagens65@aol.com).

### "Bedtime Stories" is park movie this week

The movie "Bedtime Stories" will be screened Friday at Harry Myers Park as part of the Family Fun Fridays/Movie in the Park weekly event hosted by the Rockwall Parks & Rec Department. Activities begin at 7:30 p.m.; the movie at 9 p.m. Families should bring snacks, blankets or lawn chairs and an FM radio to hear the movie.

### Voting locations changed for election

Because of the reconstruction of Utley Middle School, voters in Precincts 1, 1B, 1C, 2A, 3A, 3B, 4B, 4C and 4D will be required to vote in the Rockwall County Public Library for the Saturday election. The library is located at 1215 E. Yellow Jacket Lane adjacent to the Utley facility.

### Community Band plans concert

The Rockwall Community Band will present its spring concert at 7 p.m. Saturday at Rockwall High School. Admission will be free. For more information call 972-841-1942 or visit therockwallcommunityband.org.

### Mothers to be feted on Mother's Day

Mothers visiting Culver's on Mother's Day will receive a free one-scoop sundae and a carnation, according to information distributed recently by the Rockwall restaurant.

### Newcomers Club meeting set

The Rockwall Newcomers Club will meet on Thursday at Chandler's Landing. New board members will be installed, and a program, "Books to Broadway," will be featured. The coffee social will begin at 10 a.m., followed by a brief business meeting and program and installation of the new board. A luncheon will follow; cost will be \$16. Call Kitty Colquhoun at 972-771-3491 or Ann Small at 972-771-1748 by 6 p.m. Sunday to make reservations.

### Red Cross benefit set Tuesday

The local American Red Cross chapter will benefit from a Tuesday fundraising event at Culver's. From 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on that date, 10 percent of sales will be earmarked for the ARC. Rockwall Fire Department members will be at the restaurant with their firetrucks, and raffles will be conducted.

### RCHS play in state-level contest

The Royse City High School's one-act play will advance to the state-level competition with its production of "The White Rose" on May 15 in the Hogg Auditorium at the University of Texas. Anyone interested in attending the contest should contact the RCCHS front office.

### "Beethoven" to be screened at park

The movie "Beethoven" will be screened at Harry Myers Park as part of the Family Fun Fridays/Movie in the Park weekly event hosted by the Rockwall Parks & Rec Department on May 15. Activities begin at 7:30 p.m.; the movie at 9 p.m. Families should bring snacks, blankets or lawn chairs and an FM radio to hear the movie.

### "Mulching for Dummies" class slated

A "Mulching for Dummies" class, sponsored by the Rockwall Parks & Rec Department, will run from 9:30 a.m. to noon on May 23 at the Harry Myers Community Center. The class will be taught by Sara Beckelman, a master composter registered with the state. Cost will be \$10 for residents, \$15 for non-residents. For more information call 972-771-7740.

More News Briefs on Page 2A

## Election Day set Saturday in Rockwall County

### Ballot boxes set throughout area

The Election Day will be held on Saturday, May 9, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at various locations throughout Rockwall County. The locations include, in Rockwall County: 1215 E. Yellow Jacket Lane, Rockwall; Lake Pointe Center, 6800 Scenic Highway, Royse City; 3057 Arch St., Fate; Community Center, 104 S. Lawford, Heath; Heath 11, 20 Laurence; and McLendon-Chisholm, Chisholm Baptist Church, 1388 S. Hwy. 205.

The following is an overview of the remaining elections to be determined by Rockwall County-area residents, according to reports and information collected from governing body Web sites:

Rockwall ISD Board of Trustees

- Place 1 - Tony Fisk, Chris Cuny
- Place 2 - Earl Milner, Russ Childers, Norman Quintero
- Place 3 - Craig Zurek

City of Royse City City Council

- Mayor - William J. Archer, Connie Goodwin, Jerrell Baley
- Place 1 - Xavier Cortez, Brooks M. Williams, Janet Nichol

- Place 3 - Bill Bell
- Place 5 - James Branch, Mark Plemmons

City of Heath City Council

- Place 1 - Robert (Bob) Hille
- Place 2 - Karen Lewis
- Place 4 - Steve McKimney
- Place 6 - John Koerner, Rich Krause, Tommy Goodson

City of Fate City Council

- Place 1 - Autumn Lobinsky
- Place 3 - Forest Murley, Wilbur "Willie" Williams
- Place 5 - K.C. Erwin, Ryan Pfuhl, Brad Bianucci
- Place 6 - David Hill, Tammy Ryan

City of McLendon-Chisholm City Council

- Place 1 - Beverly Stibbens, Jess Lovell

- Place 3 - Jerry P. Moss, Patrick Short
- Place 5 - James S. Parnell, Gary L. Moody

Elections to fill vacant positions on the Rockwall City Council and the Royse City Independent School District Board of Trustees were canceled. All incumbents for the City of Rockwall filed for re-election, including Bill Cecil, mayor; David Sweet, Place 1; Glen Farris, Place 3; and Matt Scott, Place 5; however, no one filed in opposition of the incumbents. Similarly, in the RCISD incumbents Don Palmer, Place 3, Rhonda Phillips for Place 4 and Charlie Carroll, Place 5, filed as the sole candidates for full, three-year terms, while Julie Stutts was the lone candidate for an unexpired one-year term to be filled for Place 7.

## City of Rockwall reports first possible case of H1N1 flu

Not confirmed, the City of Rockwall has distributed a release stating that it has identified a toddler may have contracted Swine Flu, also known as H1N1 flu. Rockwall County Health Department notified the City on May 7 that this was the first possible case of H1N1 flu. The case was sent to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta for further testing and confirmation. Dr. Carl E. Hays, the Rockwall Health Authority and Dr. Denise Hays, the city's Public Health Officer, are working with the state public health officials to ensure there is proper notification and residents.

and diarrhea. Anyone experiencing these symptoms should contact their health provider. There is no vaccine available at this time, but other treatments for flu may be available. It is important that parents of young children, pregnant women, persons with chronic diseases or compromised immune systems pay close attention to any related changes to their health, and follow these CDC guidelines to help limit their exposure:

- \* Cover nose and mouth with a tissue when sneezing or coughing.
- \* Wash hands often with soap and water or with an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- \* Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are easily spread that way.
- \* Try to avoid close contact with sick people
- \* If illness occurs, the CDC recommends that staying home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

City officials will continue

to work closely with Rockwall County Emergency Management and local health authorities for the protection of residents. If residents have any questions during normal business hours, please call Rockwall County Emergency Management at 972-772-6625.

## Community-wide Rachel's Rally rescheduled for May 20

The Rockwall Independent School District's second annual Rachel's Rally, originally scheduled for Thursday, May 7, has been re-scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 20, at Lake Pointe Church. "Re-scheduling Rachel's Rally to May 20 will help to provide a safe and healthy atmosphere for our students, staff and community," said district spokesperson Sheri Fowler. "The health and well-being of our students is a top priority in Rockwall ISD and we continue to work with county health officials and to consult

Additional information about the H1N1 flu is available on the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/index.htm) or the Department of State Health Services at [www.dshs.state.tx.us/swineflu](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/swineflu), which also has a public call center available to answer questions at 1-888-777-5320.

additional outside sources on a daily basis regarding H1N1 flu awareness." After conferring with public health officials, and in alignment with the Center for Disease Control advice to avoid large crowds and practice social distancing, the district made the decision to re-schedule the Rally. All plans that were in place for the original date have been moved to the new date of May 20. The time, location and all programmatic and thematic elements will remain the same.

(Continued on Page 2A)

# Rockwall Community Playhouse raises curtain on 'Kiss Me Kate' Friday, May 8

by Kathy Williams

The Rockwall Community Playhouse spring musical production of "Kiss Me Kate," directed by Barbara Doudt, begins its three week-end run on Friday, May 8. Sharron Hale also leads the production as assistant director.

Based on Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew" and injected with Cole Porter's music and lyrics, "Kate" is a play-within-a-play, where each cast member's on-stage life is complicated by what is happening offstage.

Familiar musical numbers include Why Can't You Behave, So In Love Am I, Wunderbar, Tom, Dick or Harry, Too Darn Hot, Brush Up Your Shakespeare, Always True to You (In My Fashion) and Another Op'nin, Another Show.

The cast includes Brad Tompkins as Pops, Mary Rose-

Duncan as Hattie, Mike Sager as Paul, David Mitchell as Ralph, Shayna Oden as Lois Lane, Aaron White as Bill Calhoun, Alicia Alford as Lillie Vanessi, David Hobbs as Dance Cap, Jacob Thomas as Fred Graham, Mike Cravens as Harry Trevor, Jack Eidson as Stagehand #1, Patrick Persons as First Man, Dennis Gullion as Second Man, David Hobbs as Stagehand #2, Nathan Leach as Flynt, Chris Bell as Riley, Phil Alford as General Harrison Howell, Judy Perser as Wardrobe Lady, Lindsey Yarbrough as Padua Inn Waitress and Jen Brown, Celina Hilbrand, Christal Sager, Nicole Sager, Hope Eidson, Amy Adams, Ensemble.

Two of the cast members, Aaron White and Jacob Thomas, bring Broadway experience to the Playhouse. White performed in "Sweet Love Adieu" at The



The Rockwall Community Playhouse romantic comedy, "Kiss Me Kate," features Jacob Thomas as Fred (left) and Alicia Alford as Lilli (right), with Mike Craven as Baptista (center). Staff photo by Tim Burnett

Bank Street Theater in New York. He also performed in "Come Away" at the Producer's Club in New York. He majored in Theater at The University of Kentucky and studied with Naomi Thornton at the Michael Howard Studios. He currently lives in Garland.

As a New York actor, Thomas appeared in Moonworks' productions of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Richard III." Another of his representative roles was Legard in Theater 1010's production of "Duelists." His crowning achievement was his grandmother seeing him on "Guiding Light," a soap opera

she had watched for 60 years.

As a theater producer and technical director, Thomas owned and operated Goeghetter Productions, which according to the New York Times, was touted as "a Chinese menu of theater services for the producer on the go."

White and Thomas do share a common background in that, while in New York during the late 90s, Goeghetter Productions was the production company called whenever a producer needed help at the very busy and oft booked Producers Club.

The show's production team includes Stage Manager Sarah McKinney, Choreographer Pique Elise, Costumer Lori Wright, Antonia Messina-Gates and Mary Waddle on Props, Jeff Medley on Set Design, Bob Morgan on Set Construction, Set Artist Phyllis Johnson, Light Technician Mac Burris, Sound Technician Chris Bell, Producer Eileen Davis and Production Director Felicia Sykes.

Crew members are Courtney Yarbrough, Katy Moore, Isaac Niems, Trevor St. John and Leith McKinney.

Show dates are May 8-10, 15-17 and 22-24. Show times are 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, with a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for senior and students. To purchase a ticket, contact the RCP at 972-722-3399.

The Rockwall Community Playhouse is located at 609 E. Rusk.

**Classified Ad Deadline**  
Tuesday 5 p.m.

## News Brief

(Continued from Page 1A)

### Trip to Clymer Meadows set

The Rockwall Parks & Rec Department is planning a trip to Clymer Meadows, one of the largest and most diverse of the Blackland Prairie and one of the most scenic areas in Central Texas, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 23. The park is a habitat for a number of bird species. Cost is \$7 for residents, non-residents. Participants will depart The Center at 11 a.m. Those interested in following in their own vehicles are welcome.

### RHHS plans Drama Camp

The Rockwall-Heath High School Theatre Arts Department will host its third annual Drama Camp from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on June 26, with a final showcase performance set for 2 p.m. on June 27. RHHS Black Box Theatre. Students entering grades 1-12 are eligible to participate. Cost is \$125 per camper, \$100 for a sibling or additional child in the same family. Enrollment limited to 25 participants. For more information call Leigh Reid at 972-771-7740 or e-mail lwesley@rockwallisd.org. Registration is due by June 15.

### Founders Day Festival set May 30

The 6th Annual Founders Day Festival will begin at 10 a.m. on May 30 in Rockwall's historic downtown square. The celebration will include vendor booths, children's activities, food and entertainment. A sundown concert will begin at 6:45 p.m. Admission is free. For more information call 972-771-7740.

### Farmer's Market closed on Founder's Day

The Downtown Farmer's Market, sponsored by the Rockwall Chamber of Commerce and the City of Rockwall, will not open for the observance of the community's Founder's Day celebration on May 30. The market will reopen June 6.

### Concert by the Lake slated

Admission is free to the Concert by the Lake event which will be held weekly at The Harbor. Upcoming bands include, June 8, The Glory; June 11, VooDoo Blue; June 18, Hanna's Reef; and June 25, Professor D. All performances begin at 7:30 p.m.

### RHS All-Class Alumni Banquet set June 13

The 58th Annual Rockwall High School All-Class Alumni Banquet will begin at 6 p.m. June 13 in the RHS cafeteria. Members of the graduating classes of '39, '49, '59, '69, '79, '89, '99 and '09 will be honored. Tickets cost \$15 and are available for purchase at the Community Bank (off the square) and American National Bank (corner of Ridge Road and Horizon) or online at rockwallhighschoolalumni.com. Space also may be reserved by e-mail at rockwallhighschoolalumni.com or calling Mary Grace Fowler at 972-771-863-6960. Tickets must be purchased or reservations made to accommodate the event's catering order.

### Rachel's Rally Rescheduled

(Continued from Page 1A)

"We hope that all those who were planning on attending the Rally on its original date will be able to attend the re-scheduled Rally on May 20," said Fowler.

For more information about Rachel's Challenge, log onto rachelchallenge.com. For more information about the Rachel's program in Rockwall ISD, log onto rockwallisd.com. For questions regarding the re-scheduling of the Rally, please contact Rockwall Independent School District at 972-771-0605.

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# Police and fire investigate Rockwall house fire, suicide

Police and fire arrived on the scene by 6:57 p.m., with a second alarm sounding shortly after their arrival. The blaze burned for at least two hours before being extinguished. A woman and two young girls also lived in the house with Stalsberg, but they were not home at the time of the fire and were not injured. The house, with an assessed value of \$234,660, was a total loss, Hargrove said. No police, fire fighters or emergency personnel responding to the fire were injured during the incident.

The body was found, but he did not undergo a medical examination. The coroner's office concluded the death to be suicide. Stalsberg's death, Hargrove said, was not a homicide or that injuries were not sustained.

Police Lt. Carl Stalsberg said rumors of a suicide were not true. The body was found, but he did not undergo a medical examination. The coroner's office concluded the death to be suicide. Stalsberg's death, Hargrove said, was not a homicide or that injuries were not sustained.

## Water line project gets under way

The Lakeside Village water line project, which involves the construction of an 8-inch water line, additional fire hydrants and the relocation of water meters, got under way this week.

As water meters are moved away from buildings and to the parking lot, access to the parking lot will be maintained as much as is practical, according to a City of Rockwall news release. However, there will be short periods of time in which parking in certain areas will not be possible. The city hopes to keep local residents informed of construction process and temporary water shut-offs required during the transfer of water services.

Completion of the project is anticipated to be in August.

For more information, contact Jim Raines, City of Rockwall construction inspector, or Kathleen Lappen, the city's project manager, at 972-771-7746.

## 'Night at the Opera' slated for May 15

The Lakeside Civic Chorus will sponsor a special event that will unite four accomplished singers – Jennifer Sanchez, Barbara LeMay, John Hines and Bryce Westervelt – in "A Night at the Opera."

Each performer will sing an aria, as well as a lighter piece, before the four will come together to sing duets and quartets. Classic operas will be performed and the story behind each one explained.

Accompanying the singers on piano will be Lakeside Civic Chorus artistic director David Bush, LCC accompanist Ken Frerichs and Luis Sanchez.

The event will begin at 7 p.m. May 15 at the Our Savior Lutheran Church in Rockwall.

Tickets will cost \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students.

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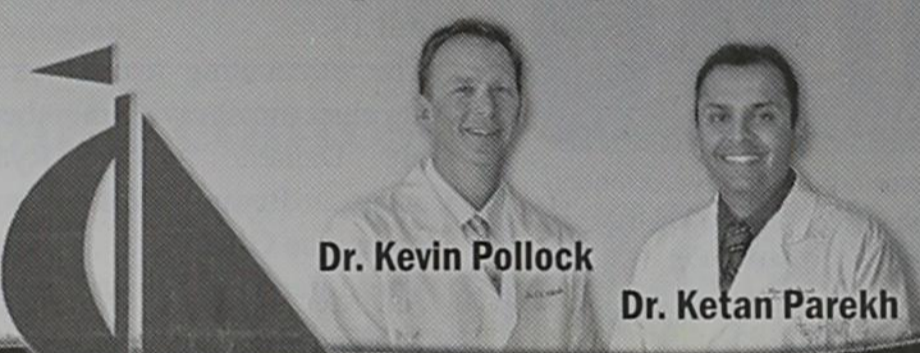
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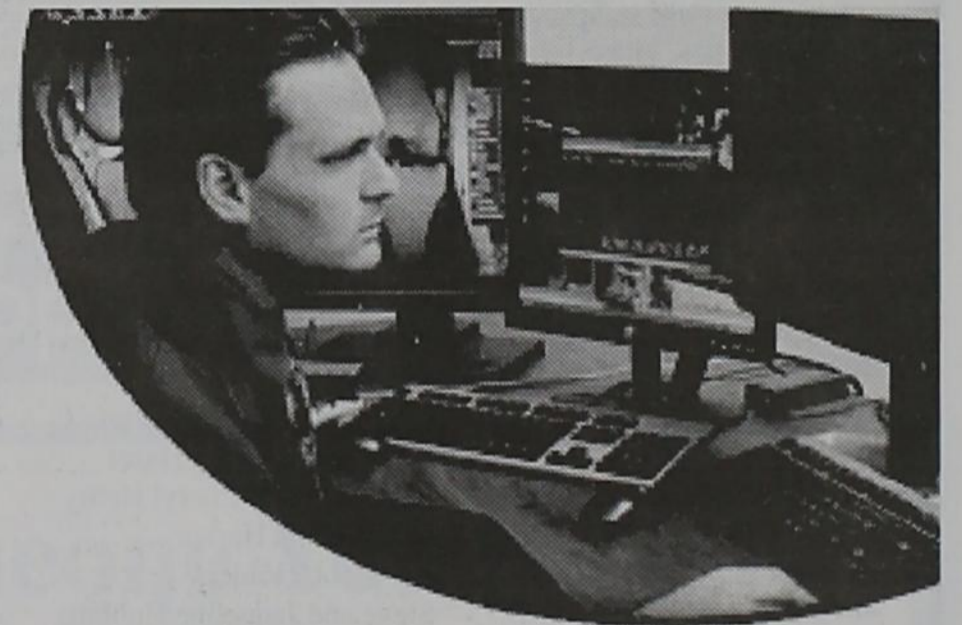
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# Thank You Rockwall!!

The Rockwall High School Class of 2009 wishes to thank all the businesses, community members, teachers, administrators and parents who have contributed to making our senior year one we shall never forget.

With your support our "Havana Nights" Senior Prom and "A Night In Gotham" After-Prom Party were a spectacular success.

A Special Thank You is extended to our Class Sponsors, Mrs. Dana Akard and Mrs. Teresa Kelly, and to our Parent Sponsors:

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Mrs. Debbie Cullins  | Mrs. Gayle Mueller   |
| Mrs. Chrissie Loftis | Mrs. Sarah Lawshe    |
| Mrs. Debbie Knight   | Mrs. Sheri Hughes    |
| Mrs. Deborah Bias    | Mrs. Palmer Ragsdale |
| Mrs. Kathleen Broze  | Mrs. Stacey Steward  |
| Mrs. Jackie Hubbins  | Mrs. Elesia Donham   |

and to the numerous parents who spent countless hours planning, raising money and chaperoning our events.

- |  |                                       |                                   |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Kerry Agee                             | The Flower Box                        | Pizza Getti                       |
| Alejandro's Grill and Cantina          | Teri Foster - Arbonne                 | Presbyterian Hospital of Rockwall |
| Dr. Mark Allen, DDS                    | Rick and Lindy Fox                    | David and Amy Rakow               |
| Alliance Bank                          | Don Gage Bookkeeping                  | Tom and Misty Rapp                |
| American National Bank                 | Genghis Grill                         | Jack and Susan Robinson           |
| Applebee's                             | Mr. Chad Ghormley                     | Rest Haven Funeral Home           |
| Arkoma                                 | Groovy's                              | Ms. Tosha Ridgeway                |
| Tony and Laurie Arterburn              | Aaron Gunderson                       | Rockwall Donuts                   |
| Aspasians                              | Keven and Anne Haddox                 | Rockwall Doughnuts                |
| Ava's Restaurant                       | Hair Motion - Kim Morrow              | Rockwall Flowers                  |
| Baker's Dozen                          | Judge Brett Hall                      | Rockwall High School PTA          |
| Steve and Karen Bander                 | Doug and Janet Hamilton               | Rockwall Sherriff's Possee        |
| Brakes USA                             | Dr. Mark and Fran Hazel               | Rockwall Vet Hospital -           |
| Brookshires                            | Billy Don and Cheryl Henry            | Dr. David Loftis                  |
| Buffalo Wild Wings                     | Hilton Bella Harbor                   | Rockwall Women's League           |
| Melissa and Denise Cain                | Mr. Jacob Holder                      | Meredith Sabrusula                |
| Bob & Gina Celii                       | Steve and Jaqueline Hubbins           | Dr. Les Sandknop                  |
| Chicken Express                        | Jackson Automotive                    | Bryan Sandlin                     |
| Chick-Fil-A                            | JC's Burger House                     | Dr. J.W. "Sonny" Shaddix, DDS     |
| Chiloso's Mexican Bistro               | Joe Willy's - Rick and Diane Basinger | Glenajo and Mark Shambeck         |
| Chipotle                               | Steve and Janis Kampman               | Scott Self                        |
| Jaycee and Margie Chung                | Dr. Arthur Kuhlman, DDS               | Shenaniganz                       |
| Cici's Pizza                           | Kung Thai                             | Sherwin Williams - Kyle           |
| Cinemark Theater                       | Krogers                               | Brashears                         |
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## Rockwall HS brothers create Internet tutorial, chat site to aide freshmen

by Logan Metcalf-Kelly  
Andy and Tony Wickham are dream students—intelligent, dedicated, and ambitious. The twin brothers have established a reputation at Rockwall High School as the veritable brainiacs of their freshman class. "[The Wickhams] are fun, good—and smart," said RHS Pre-AP English teacher Desmon Grosshuesch. But the boys have taken their talents beyond the classroom and into cyberspace.

On top of their own academic workload, the boys make time to run an Internet tutorial website for their classmates, which they launched last October with the help of friend and classmate Eugene Kim. "Homework Help," as the website is called, hosts an array of features, including study guides, notes and a flashcard generator, all of which the boys designed themselves.

The Wickhams first delved into web design in establishing another site meant to host an online game they created. They were able to create both their websites using webs.com, a host that allows users to set-up their own web addresses for free. These tech-whizzes made short work of setting-up "Homework Help."

"[It] was easy," Tony joked.

Since the fall, "Homework Help" has developed a membership of nearly 70 freshmen, and around test time it draws many more. Students seek help mainly in Pre-AP biology and Pre-AP geometry.

A popular feature among users is a chat room function, where RHS ninth-graders can get one-on-one help.

"The chat-room is the most useful because you can ask anything," said Tony.

Students also take advantage of the CRAMMIN' Study Resources, which provide access to online quizzes.

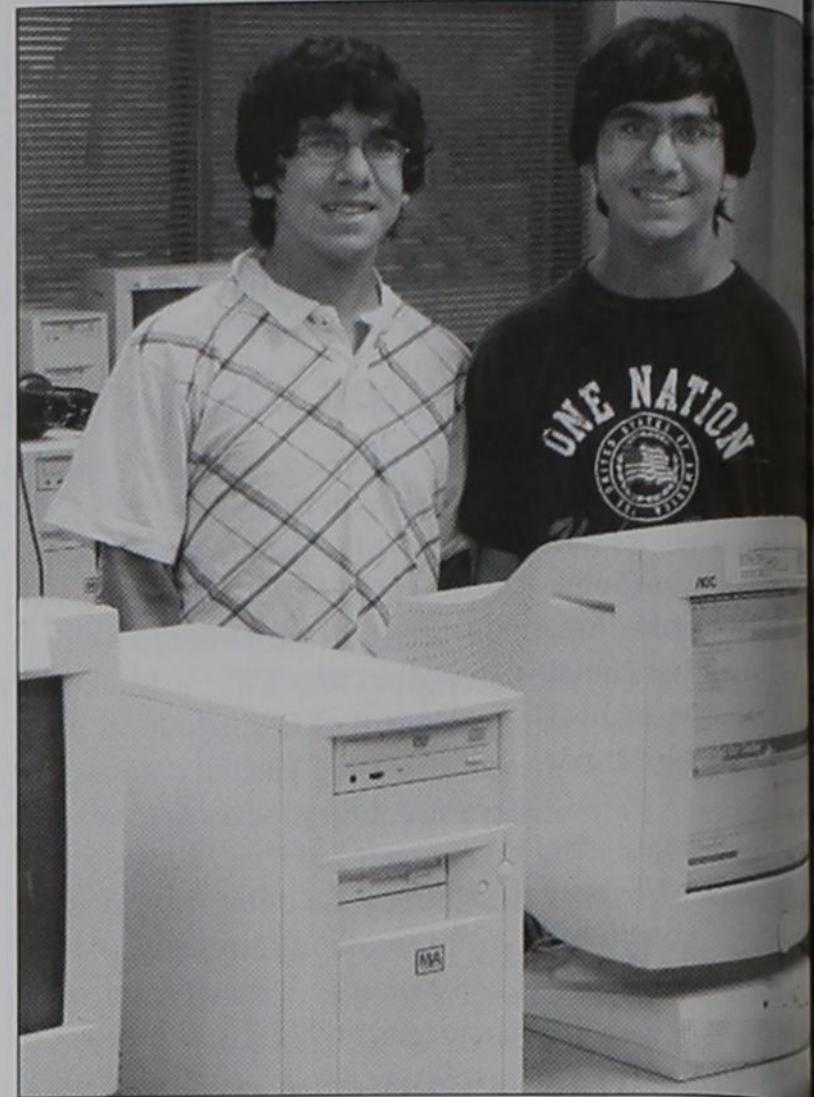
"By testing them," said Andy, "I believe their brains are actively engaged, which helps instill the information."

Though they've put their gaming website on hold, the Wickhams make time to maintain "Homework Help," clocking in anywhere from two to twelve hours each week. The boys say the website is an efficient way to help their classmates learn.

"There were large masses of pleading students needing help," Tony said. "And it seemed like the best way to get a large amount of info across to a large public."

The boys plan to continue their site as they go into tenth grade and beyond. They hope they can eventually make it functional for all high-schoolers.

"I hope people can continue



Tony and Andy Wickham

getting help from it even after we have graduated and that others will be willing to help us out," Andy said.

This website represents a unique opportunity for students and teachers alike. Teacher Mrs. Grosshuesch says "Homework Help" is a sign that students are relying largely on their own initiative, and turning to teachers as facilitators rather than activators. Though this technology may seem baffling, the boys feel that it is simpler

than it seems. Using Internet to create web pages is becoming easier and easier. Grosshuesch recalls the excitement upon reading the need for a tutorial. "We'll create one!" Both Tony and Andy are interested in pursuing a career in technology and Grosshuesch believes the dedication and creativity of technology will continue to serve their peers as they further their endeavors.

## RHS students compete at UIL regional event

The Rockwall High School UIL academic team regional qualifiers competed at the University of North Texas on April 18.

The Accounting team took a fifth place finish, with members were Daniela Arzola, Ryan Cerrato, Bryan Wolfe and Dominique Gittens.

The Literary Criticism team,

which also finished in fifth place, was comprised of Kristi Kneedler, Travis Kasinger and Miguel Chavira, who placed fourth individually.

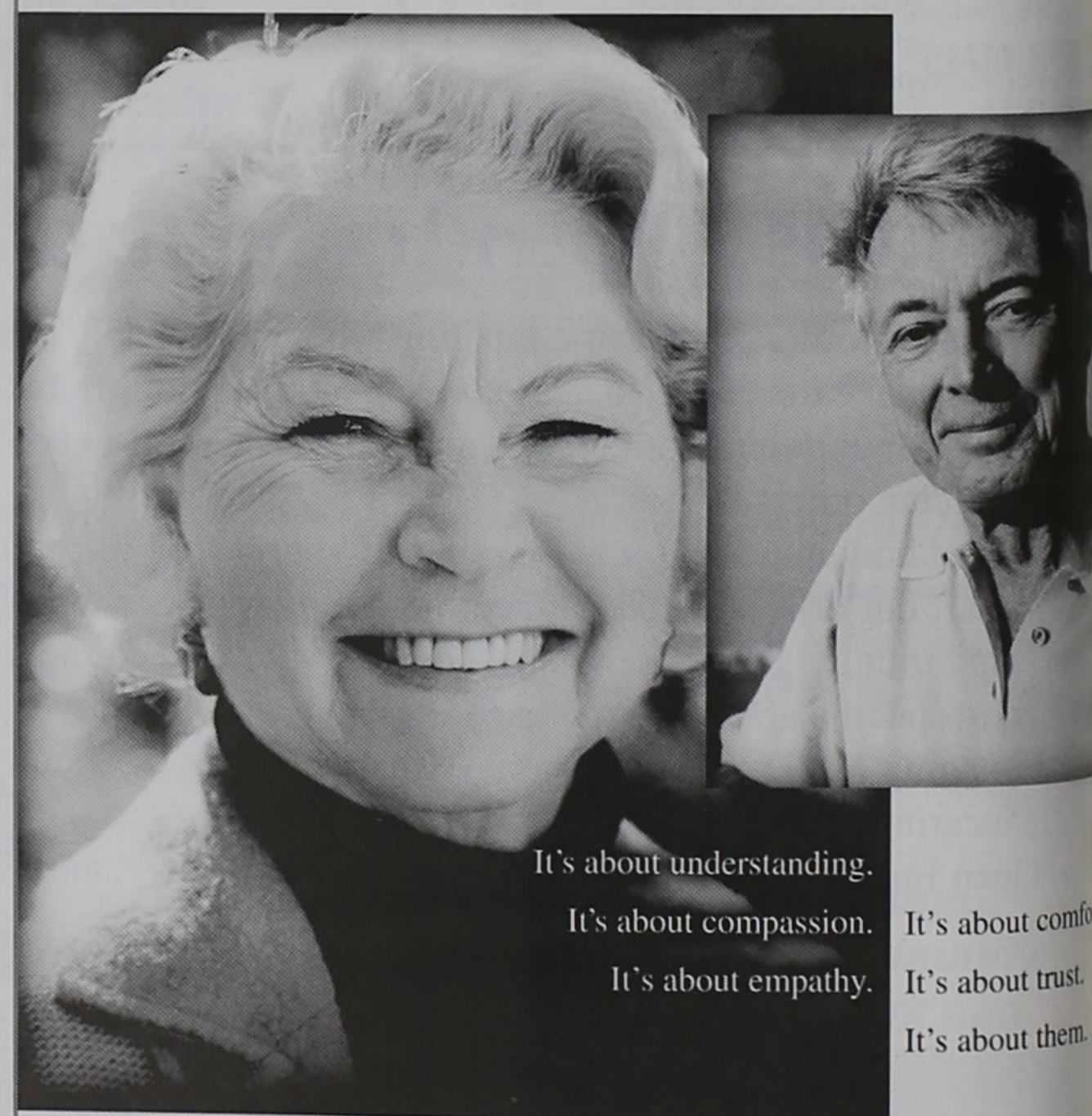
The Spelling and Vocabulary team, which includes Audrey Fudge, Megan Doyle and Owen Graham, earned a fifth place finish.

Also participating were the

Computer Application team, which was comprised of Doyle, Clark, and Number One qualifier, Eugene Kim.

Team coaches Linda Burrows, Jay Garrett, literary Melissa Nelson, spelling vocabulary; Kim computer application Doug Collings, number

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# Non-profit group formed to boost RCISD offerings

organization created to receive donations from individuals and firms interested in the Royce City Independent School District's educational offerings. The Royce City Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was formed by local business leaders and community members. The foundation was created to help the people in the district to help the school district to support and celebrate students' academic excellence.

Joining Cherry as unpaid foundation directors are Lucille Bell, Nancy Crowell, Melody East, Mary Ellis, Bill Ellis, Eric Fort, Jaime Gamez, Leslie Gibson, Calvin Gilliland, Kari Hargrave, Jeff Hays, Subrena Hurd, Stacey Klutz, Tammy Lewis, Jim Melody, Scott Muckensturm, Stan Pinkham, David Raglin, Dr. James Rah, Joyce Sink, Steven Skipworth, Royce Swiney, Connie Taylor and Joe David Vaughan. Dr. Rhonda Phillips-Black will represent the school district's board of trustees, and Randy Hancock, superintendent, also will be a voting board member. "There are numbers of good programs we have wished for over the years which would enrich our students, but which we simply could not afford," said Hancock. "The foundation will give us a chance to fund many of these worthwhile programs and projects."

"The idea of the foundation comes from other districts throughout the country that have begun a similar organization in recent years," said Jo Nell Melody. "It is estimated that over 4,000 public school districts have established education foundations." Some of the primary proposals already being discussed for foundation sponsorship include plans to help finance "innovative and creative teaching grants to pay incidental costs of teacher-initiated classroom projects" and the development of a new academic recognition program, Melody said. "The Royce City Board of Trustees is excited about the educational possibilities that the foundation will open for our students," said Don Palmer, board president. "We anticipate that local corporations and residents will begin to consider the foundation along with other

groups to which they donate. The foundation intends to create an ongoing program and will publicly announce the results of its fundraising efforts each year." The foundation will accept gifts of cash, checks, property, insurance and will bequests, as well as in-kind products and services, according to a news release issued last week. All donations are tax-deductible. Donations may be sent to the Royce City ISD Education Foundation, P.O. Box 479, Royce City, TX 75189. For more information, contact Jo Nell Melody at 972-636-2413.

## Royce City ISD Child Find Policy

In accordance with Federal Regulations, Individuals with Disabilities Educational Act, Child Find Identification (34CFR section 300.125, 300.451), this is notification that Royce City Independent School District, Located at 810 E. Old Greenville Road, Royce City, TX has a child find system for indentifying, locating and evaluating all children with disabilities, from birth through 21 years of age, residing in the district, including children with disabilities attending private schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, and who are in need of special education and related services.

If you have any questions please call the Special Services office at 972-636-9514.



The newly formed Royce City ISD Education Foundation Board of Directors includes, front row, Jo Nell Melody, Steve Skipworth, Scot Muckensturm, Ruth Cherry, Jeff Hays, Stan Pinkham, and Dr. Rhonda Phillips-Black; second row, David Raglin, Leslie Gibson, Subrena Hurd, Jim Melody, Royce Swiney, Tammy Lewis, Jaime Gamez and Mary Ellis; third row, Connie Taylor, Stacey Klutz, Calvin Gilliland, Eric Fort, Lucille Bell and Bill Ellis; and, not pictured, Randy Hancock, Nancy Melody, East, Dr. Jimmy Raj, Joyce Sink, Kari Hargrave and Joe Vaughan.

# Bands take wins in regional contest

Royce City High School band recently competed in the UIL band contest at Mesquite High School in Mesquite. The band competed in Division 1 and earned 2 ratings. The performance included "Tears March," "The World War II Selections," "The Fishbowl," and "Blue Mountains of Australia." The band also won the Music of a

for having achieved Division 1 ratings in all UIL band contests. The band competed in during this school year.



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<p><b>2009 PONTIAC G5</b> Power windows, power locks, tilt, cruise, AM/FM/CD stereo, XM satellite radio, On-Star, and much, much more!</p> <p>MSRP \$18,000 <b>HERITAGE PRICE... \$13,988*</b> Includes rebate</p>	<p><b>2009 GMC ACADIA SLE</b> Power windows, power locks, tilt, cruise, am/fm/CD, XM/Onstar remote fm/am/CD stereo, rear air conditioning and 3rd seat.</p> <p>MSRP \$32,700 <b>HERITAGE PRICE... \$27,988*</b> Includes rebate</p>	<p><b>2009 GMC YUKON SLE</b> V8 automatic, power windows, power locks, tilt, cruise, am/fm/CD, XM radio Onstar, remote keyless entry, rear air conditioning, 3rd seat.</p> <p>MSRP \$37,405 <b>HERITAGE PRICE... \$29,988*</b> Includes rebate</p>	

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**Helen Mitchell (seated) with her daughter Linda Duran.**

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# On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

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## Judas Iscariot kills himself ...

About the time that Jesus was transferred to Pontius Pilate, Judas Iscariot began to realize Jesus would soon face condemnation. The record found in Matthew 27:3-10 does not provide much detail for the chronology related to Jesus' trials. We do know it occurred sometime after Jesus' transfer to Roman authority. The above scripture includes general information and was likely not meant to fit between verses 2 and 11 chronologically. A study of this subject with other scripture reveals this to be true.

According to Matthew 27:3-5, Judas was the disciple who earlier betrayed Jesus. He left during their last meal, revealed their location and plans to the Jewish leaders and led them to Jesus. He then received a payment of 30 silver pieces from the chief priests and elders. After he saw that Jesus was condemned, Judas repented of his action and returned the payment to the chief priests and elders. He told them that he sinned by betraying the "innocent blood" (Matthew 27:4).

The chief priests and elders let him know that his sin wasn't their business. Next Judas threw down the silver pieces in the temple and left. In verse 5, the reference to hanging himself is a figure of speech that is interpreted in Acts 1:13-20. The Greek word translated 'hanged himself' in the King James Version is *apanchomai* from the Greek word *apancho*. This word allegedly meant "to strangle" or "to choke," and figuratively meant to choke with anger or grief. Judas was probably choked with overwhelming grief over his actions. The records show that all 12 disciples were together even up to the point that Jesus ascended into heaven. In Luke 24:33-36 and John 20:19-24 we find the 12 apostles together, without Thomas, after God raised Jesus from the dead. Eight days later, Jesus reappeared when all 12 apostles were present (John 20:26-29).

According to Acts 1:2-4, Jesus was once again present with his "chosen ones" just prior to his ascension. If Judas was not present with them, there is no doubt that Jesus would have arranged to replace him. There is no record of any one of his "chosen ones" being missing at this time.

After Jesus ascended, the apostles stayed in an upper room. It was during this time that Peter stood up and announced the need to replace Judas Iscariot with another apostle. The record reveals that Judas left the others and killed himself by somehow causing a sword to plunge into his stomach area (Acts 1:13-20)

Not unlike Peter, Judas made a wrong decision. Instead of denying that he knew Jesus, Judas betrayed him into the hands of those who sought to kill him. Judas also grieved greatly just as Peter did. The difference was that Judas was so overwhelmed that he was spiritually driven to commit suicide.

According to Acts 1:17, he was numbered with the others and obtained part of the ministry. Peter and the others obtained the full ministry after holy spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4). Many people after them also obtained the same ministry.

Judas did not obtain the full measure of the ministry because he died before the day of Pentecost came. He could not benefit from what would become available during the spiritual administration of the grace of God which began at the time recorded in Acts 2:1-4.

## Rockwall County Obituaries

### Durell T. Gray

Services for Durell T. Gray, 87, of Providence Village were conducted at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 5, 2009, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel. Burial followed in the Rest Haven Memorial Park.

He died May 2.

Born June 20, 1921, in Cordell, Okla., to Commander and Elizabeth (Green) Gray, he retired from the U.S. Air Force base in Merced, Calif., and attended the Baptist church.

Survivors include his daughter, Linda Marie Barnett and her husband, Bradley; a brother, Donald Gray; sisters Bobbie Sherr, Berdena Theis and Barbara Keller; and his grandchildren, Craig Michal Okelberry, Hannah Annice Kreun and Brendan Thomas Barnett.

His parents and his wife, Opal Marie Gray, preceded him in death in 1999.

### Patsy Ann Lovell

Patsy Ann Lovell, age 68, of Rockwall, Texas, passed away May 1, 2009.

She was born Dec.16, 1940, to C.D. and Louise (Harper) Boren

in McLendon-Chisholm, Texas, where she maintained her membership in the First Baptist Church and faithfully served as treasurer. Patsy was past president of the Soroptimist Club of Rockwall and a lifelong member of the Misfits Motorcycle Club, traveling all over the U.S. She retired in 2006 as vice president of Community Bank in Rockwall after 37 years of dedicated service. Patsy was loving and caring and will be well remembered by all who knew her.



Patsy is survived by her husband, Don Lovell of Rockwall; daughters: Cynthia Sartain and husband, Doug, of Rockwall; Dionne and husband, Rich, of San Jose, Calif.; son, Larry, and wife, Rhonda, of Rockwall; parents: C.D. and Louise of Fate, Texas; brothers: Terry Boren and wife, Mary, of Rockwall, Texas, and Gerry Boren and wife, Gayle, of Fate, Texas; Lemons of Wylie, Texas; grandchildren: Christie Doreen, Bobby, Amanda Roberts and husband, Ryan, of Rockwall, Texas, and wife, Michele, Ashlie Anders, Anna and Emma, William Beamish III and Halie Dionne; and great-grandchildren: Ethan, Tyler, Makenzie, Kileigh, Bryse and Carter.

Funeral services were held 10 a.m. Monday, May 4, at Chisholm Baptist Church with Dr. Rocky Weatherford officiating. Interment followed in Chisholm Cemetery. The family received friends at Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel Sunday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Memorials may be made to the Rest Haven Cemetery Foundation, 353 League Road, Rockwall, Texas.

### RHHS plans Drama Camp

Rockwall-Heath High School's Theatre Arts Department is planning its third annual Drama Camp from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 1-5. The weeklong event will conclude June 26 with a performance of "Gary Grinkle's Battle with Wrinkles" in the Box Theatre. Students entering grades one through eight may participate.

In addition to participating in the camp production, students will receive a Drama Camp T-shirt, a daily mid-morning lunch on the final day and a DVD filled with events from the week.

Cost is \$125 for camper or \$100 for each additional family member. Registration, limited to the first 30 students, is due by May 29.

For more details or to registration, contact Leigh R. Lwlesley at 972-2600 or e-mail [lwesley@rockwallisd.org](mailto:lwesley@rockwallisd.org).

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 Matthew 7:7

"Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord."  
 Psalm 150:6

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."  
 Romans 10:13

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**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) of Rockwall**  
 3375 Ridge Road  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 FM 740 one block S. of Laurence Dr., Heath

- CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 Corner of Front & Bell streets, Royse City  
**EASTRIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 485 North FM 549, Rockwall  
**UNION VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 9424 FM 35, Royse City  
**EPISCOPAL**  
**HOLY TRINITY BY THE LAKE**  
 1524 Smirl Dr., Heath  
**LUTHERAN**  
**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN**  
 3003 Horizon Rd., Rockwall  
**JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 302 N. Goliad St., Rockwall  
**METHODIST**  
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, HEATH**  
 FM 740 at FM 1150 (140 Smirl Dr.)  
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST OF ROCKWALL**  
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**NON-DENOMINATIONAL**  
**CHURCH OF HIS GLORY**  
 1995 FM 549, Rockwall  
**CHURCH OF PRAYER**  
**CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
 506 E. Boydston, Rockwall  
**CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
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 Sabine Creek Ranch, Royse City  
**GENESIS COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
 7066 W. Hwy. 66, Royse City  
**LAKES COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
 3025 I-30, Fate  
**LIFE CHURCH ROCKWALL**  
 FM 3097  
**NEW HORIZONS FELLOWSHIP**  
 408 N. Goliad St., Rockwall  
**OASIS OF GRACE**  
 Hwy 551, south of Fate  
**RIDGEVIEW CHURCH**  
 1362 FM 552, Rockwall  
**THE RIVER OF LIFE FELLOWSHIP**  
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**TABERNACLE CHURCH**  
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"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."  
 Matthew 5:8

"That if you will confess with your mouth the Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."  
 Romans 10:9

"Therefore I say unto you, Whatsoever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."  
 Matthew 7:7

"A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul."  
 Proverbs 10:13

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# Safety, fire station dedications top Rockwall City Council agenda

In the late 1930s and 1940s, Shaw, along with J.E. (Lighting) Bridges, Sam Huse and Wade (Cut) McCoulskey, built the first modern fire truck for the City of Rockwall from the wrecked chassis of a 1939 car. They put together the frame and body, added a water tank and pump and mounted the fire equipment in his garage.

Later, the men purchased a 1942 open top chassis from Ford Motor Company, again building a pump truck to suit the city's needs. Shaw later used a 1949 Dodge Power Wagon Panel van to build the City's first ambulance.

Upon his retirement, he was made a lifetime honorary firefighter for the Rockwall Volunteer Fire Department.

Shaw passed away in May 1988.

## Paul Craig Merritt Sr.

Merritt was born in Garland on May 22, 1939. After graduating from Garland High School in 1957, he farmed in the Rowlett area until 1984. He later owned Wylie Glass until 1998, then went to work for Rockwall County as the Road and Bridge Administrator until his retirement in 2008.

Merritt and his wife, Louise, have six children.

Merritt joined the Rockwall Volunteer Fire Department on July 12, 1965. He was a firefighter from 1965 to 1978, Second Assistant Chief from 1978 to 1984, First Assistant Chief from 1984 to 1985, Chief from 1985 to 1992 and Safety Office from 1992 to 2008.

During this time, he was involved in establishing one of the first radio systems, using CB radios, between dispatch and the fire trucks. Merritt served on committees over the years that helped purchase trucks, pagers, new radio systems, the department's first self-contained breathing apparatus and extrication/rescue equipment.

Merritt also served on the committee that was instrumental in building the Benny Gracy Memorial Fire Station.

Merritt retired in 2008 with 43 years of service. Three of his sons, Brett, Craig and Ron, served in the department, as well as a grandson. Upon his retirement, he was made a lifetime honorary firefighter for

the Rockwall Volunteer Fire Department. During his tenure, he was named Firefighter of the Year by the City of Rockwall and received the Rotary Club Firefighter of the Year Award.

## Gloria Williams Pool

In other business, the Council unanimously approved amending the 2008-2009 FY Budget to make mandatory safety improvements to the Gloria Williams Pool in the South Side neighborhood.

Brad Griggs, Parks and Recreation Director, explained that a new federal law passed in December 2008, the Virginia Graham Baker Act, requires the installation of anti-entrapment drain covers in pools and spas. The improvements are meant to prevent a swimmer from being sucked to the bottom of the pool and trapped on the drain by the force of the moving water.

The federal Act was passed after the City's budget was in place, necessitating the Council's vote to authorize general reserve funds for the mandatory upgrades.

Griggs said, although the Williams and Harry Myers Park pools were both built around 1960, the larger Myers pool was constructed with some of the now-required equipment and has had some other upgrades over the years that are in line with the new federal guidelines. He said the City was able to make other necessary safety improvements to bring the Myers pool into compliance for about \$400.

The Gloria Williams pool will need substantial work, costing approximately \$22,000. Griggs said the pool bottom, pool walls and decking will need to be removed to access the piping and drain systems to make the safety upgrades. The City will need to build a sump, which is a space between the bottom of the pipe and the grate drain, widen the grate drain and increase the size of the piping to reduce the speed of water going between the return line and the bottom of the drain.

Griggs also said that due to buckling and sinking of the pool deck, which create a tripping hazard, the deck would be repaired after it is torn out for the safety improvements. He said the City had the plan inspected by an engineer, who concurred

that the modifications would bring the Gloria Williams pool into federal compliance.

## Pool Use vs. Cost

Council Member Matthew Scott questioned Griggs on the use of the Williams pool versus the cost to the City to make the expensive repairs on a pool "that doesn't get much use." Griggs said in the summer of 2008, 391 people paid 50 cents each to use the pool, resulting in \$192 revenue for the City. He said it costs the City approximately \$9,000 to operate the pool, including employing three paid staff members.

Harry Myers Park had just fewer than 10,000 visitors last summer, resulting in approximately \$12,000 in revenue. Griggs said operational costs at the Myers pool were approximately \$35,000.

Council member Glen Farris said, "Based on the fact that we are subsidizing the citizens to swim in the pools, I think we have a responsibility to go ahead and ensure that they are safe."

Council member Margo Nielson, who motioned to accept the budget amendment, said, "I can't imagine anything more horrifying that a child from our community drowning in one of our pools by being sucked down to the drain. That's just unimaginable to me."

"This is an important issue. This is a neighborhood that doesn't have many amenities and the little park and pool are the heart of the neighborhood. When you say not many children use it, 391 times last year children did use the pool. That's a lot for a neighborhood that's only seven blocks long and five blocks wide," she said.

Mayor Pro Tem Cliff Sevier added, "To the people on the South Side, this pool is just as important as the pool at Harry Myers Park. To destroy the pool would cost a lot, but we would never have anything there again for the people of the South Side area."

At the vote, Scott agreed with the Council to approve funding the pool upgrades, but with an eye on the coming budget season and concern for fiscal responsibility.

## Fire Station Updates

Roger Hamm from Speed Fab Crete addressed the Council with his monthly update on the construction of Fire Stations #3 and #4. The continuing rainy spring weather has once again wreaked havoc with the construction schedule, pushing the completion date further back to July 20.

The steel erection at Station #3 is almost complete, with backfill done in all areas. The exterior rock wainscoting has been installed and roofing will begin soon.

At Station #4, steel erection and decking are complete, roofing will continue, floor topping will be poured and caulking on the wall panel joints will begin

soon. Crews have begun electrical work in the apparatus bay and interior framing is set to start.

The schedule for the coming month includes shingling the roof, beginning interior framing, continuing with the fire sprinkler piping and ductwork, installing exterior doors and windows and pouring transformer and generator pads.

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**Notice to Parents  
Intent to Destroy Records**

In compliance with the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34, Volume 2, the Royse City Independent School District plans to dispose of confidential records for students that were dismissed, graduated, moved, or were assessed but did not qualify for the 2000-2001 school year. If your child was served through Special Education and you desire copies of the records, please notify the Special Services office at 972-636-9514 by August 3, 2009.

The records will be destroyed after the week of August 24, 2009.

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**Free Seminar Date:** Thursday, May 14, 2009  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Superior Lending Mortgage  
2880 Ridge Road, Rockwall  
**RSVP Required:** Contact Karen at 972-772-1866, ext. 245

**Refreshments provided**



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Food Pantry manager Marsha Chapman, left, and Eileen Conway, Rockwall library supervisor, are shown checking the food drive box during the library's recent Food for Fines schools or organizations interested in conducting a food drive or fundraiser for Helping Hands. Contact Sherry Hamm at 972-771-HELP.

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# Rockwall County Yesteryears

Compiled by Judy Schneider

From the Archives of the Rockwall County Library

## 10 Years Ago May 4, 1999

Scott Sorrells just squeaked past his opponents by six votes, earning him the Place 6 spot on the Rockwall ISD school board, while the mayoral candidate Scott Self received more than 65 percent of the 1,400 votes cast in the municipal election.

Mrs. Wayne B. Goss, DAR Rockwall Chapter, attended the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution 108th annual Continental Congress in Washington, DC. While there, Goss attended a luncheon at the National Press Club.

## 20 Years Ago May 2, 1989

Rockwall High School sophomore Rob Botts sponsored his second baseball card show at the Ridge Road Shopping Center. Botts had been collecting cards for nine years and was in the process of putting on the Greater North Texas Baseball Card Show in an effort to display cards from the 1950's through the newest cards released at that time.

Four Royse City High School students competed in the State UIL Academic Meet after succeeding at the District and Regional levels. Seniors Kim Frasier and Staci Crumley, junior Allison Cherry and sophomore Kevin Hurst all placed to earn the trip to State. Kim placed first in the District News Writing category and third in Regionals. Staci also competed in Headline Writing. Allison and Kevin both competed in the Headline event. Kevin placed second in the District meet and third at Regionals.

## 30 Years Ago May 4, 1979

John Harvey competed in the annual Dallas Morning News Spelling Contest. John, representing Rockwall Middle School, and 31 other North Texas county champions competed at the May 5 spelling bee, which was televised on Channel 8. Prizes awarded totaled more than \$2,000 and the winner earned the right to represent the Dallas region at the National Spelling Bee.

City of Heath residents voted to elect Douglas E. Hall as Heath Mayor. Hall won the seat with 212 votes against Barbara Montgomery, who polled 171 votes. Hall was a twenty-year resident of Heath and resided on FM 740 in Heath with his two sons, Lowell and Justin.

## 40 Years Ago May 9, 1969

Rockwall High School Commencement exercises for the sixty-one members of the Class of 1969 took place at the school cafeteria. Valedictorian was Miss Kimberly Sparks, who had a four-year average of 96.5833. Salutatorian was Miss Carol Ann Miller.

County Judge Derwood Wimpee and Ted Martin, District Agent named Odis Lowe the Agricultural Extension Service Agent for Rockwall County. Mr. Lowe graduated from Sam Houston State College with a B.S. degree in Agricultural Education.

## 60 Years Ago May 6, 1949

William G. Stevenson, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. Stevenson of Rockwall, was honored for high scholastic achievement during an Honors Day program at SMU.

The Rockwall School Calendar included May 9, Music Recital; May 13, Style Show at RHS; May 15, Vesper Services at the Baptist Church; May 16, Music Recital at the Baptist Church; May 20, Commencement Service at the Baptist Church.

## September 25, 1891

Teeth Without Plates: With this new method, lost teeth could be restored as perfectly as natural teeth for use and appearance. A gold filling cost \$1, new set of teeth cost \$6 and gold crown cost \$5.

# Rockwall County Religious Life

## Joy Lutheran honors mothers

Joy Lutheran Church will honor mothers who attend the 10:30 a.m. Mother's Day worship service. Also, the baptism of three young men will be confirmed as they state their intention to take more responsibility for the ministry of Joy Lutheran. The three are Anthony Maxwell, Stephen Nelson and Mitchell Simpson.

Joy's Nominating Committee will have its initial meeting at 7 p.m. Monday. The committee is responsible for recruiting members to serve as officers and members of its Church Council and presenting nominees at the congregational meeting in June. The Nominating Committee is David Eliasson, Sue Steffen, George Dieterich, Sandra Carter, Jim Randolph and the Rev. Paul Appel.

On May 24, Joy will have a congregational picnic following the 10:30 a.m. worship service, and residents are invited to attend. There is no charge.

Joy Lutheran Church is located at 302 N. Goliad Street (Hwy. 205) in Rockwall, one block north of the Rockwall County Courthouse. The Rev. Paul Appel is Joy's pastor.

## This is Your Season Ministries sets marathon

This is Your Season Ministries will sponsor a 5K/10K Walk-Run Marathon on May 16 at Harry Myers Park in Rockwall.

Proceeds will benefit Beloved Wisdom Home of Love, a transition home in Rockwall for women and their children who are facing difficult times. The race will begin at 8:30 a.m. Registration fees are \$50, or \$35 for senior citizens. To pre-register, call 972-772-4411.

# Rockwall County Book Review

## 'Redwall' by Brian Jacques

Review by Arlene Sosta  
Library Assistant  
Rockwall County Library

Over the years some wonderful fantasy books have come from the pens or computers of new and well-known authors. In addition, some of these books have made it to the big screen. Many times, readers go to the movies to see how the written words were interpreted as they watch the story unfold. There are times that the adaptation follows the original story and other times the story's content has been altered or changed.

Fantasy and science fiction have a common thread - make believe tales. The genre of fantasy involves stories that have characters and events that do not exist in real life.

A few ingredients we find in this genre are magic, wizards and mythological characters. The story may begin as a realistic one, but soon evolves into a strange tale that could never really happen.

On the other hand, science fiction stories incorporate science and technology and involve the future on the printed page. The writers try to create a world and life quite different from planet Earth. There are many new fantasy authors whose books have made it into school and public libraries. Christopher Paolini (The Inheritance Cycle) and Rick Riordan (The Percy Jackson Series) are very familiar names to readers of fantasy. However, if we look on the shelves, we will still see the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, Jules Verne, C.S. Lewis and Philip Pullman.

British author Brian Jacques has been writing for many years and his "Redwall" series has stood the test of time. The adventures and challenges of the characters are set in Medieval times. The first book's setting is Redwall Abbey and Mossflower Wood. The protagonists are the mice, moles, shrews, squirrels and their friends. The antagonists are the rats, weasels, stoats, foxes and their allies. Throughout the series the theme of good versus evil is evident.

I imagine most readers are not particularly fond of mice, but Brian Jacques makes us fond of Matthias, a young mouse who shows us that size does not always matter. This vibrant and charming character shows us that courage and determination can help us do the impossible.

The key to bringing peace to Redwall Abbey is recovering the lost sword of Martin the Warrior. The legendary sword will help the animals combat the evil rat, Cluny the Scourge, and his band of followers.

Matthias reminds us of Don Quixote, who was on a quest while dreaming the impossible dream. Unlike Don Quixote, Matthias is not chasing windmills. Matthias's mission is believable since he is determined to keep his friends and family out of harm's way.

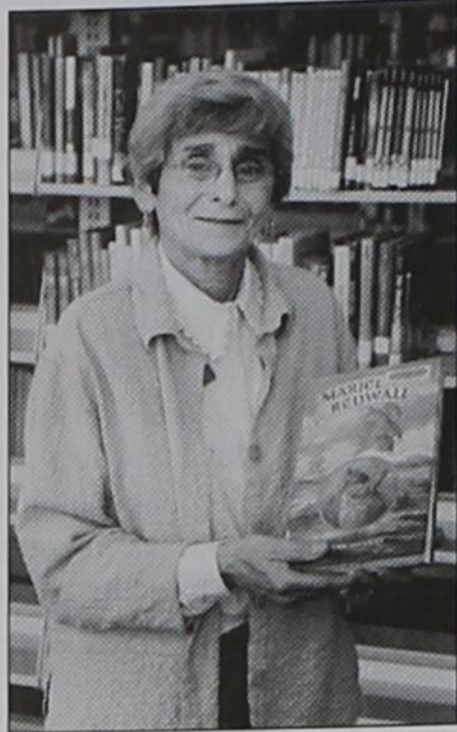
He promises to find the weapon and defeat the enemy (Cluny and his band of brothers). The hope of recovering the famous sword brings the peace-loving inhabitants of Redwall to join forces with Matthias in his quest.

As the story unfolds, we forget that the compelling and fascinating characters are not humans. Such is the case with the strong badger named Constance and Silent Sam whose knowledge of the forest is an asset. This book and the others in the series have all the excitement and elements of an action packed fantasy adventure. The series consists of twenty books.

In 2010 there will be another book added to the Redwall Series - "The Sable Queen." "Redwall" is not just for older children, but the books could definitely spark interest in the series for adults. In 2007 Brian Jacques and artist Christopher Denise transformed three of the "Redwall" books into picture books. A graphic novel was also published based on "Redwall."

Our world and lives are constantly changing and at times we find ourselves feeling the pressures and challenges that face us each day. It is great if we can relax and curl up with a good book. "Redwall" might be a book that will help you unwind and envision what is happening in the theater of your mind.

I would recommend this series for ages 10 and up (this includes adults). It is shelved in the juvenile fiction section at the Rockwall County Library.



# Rockwall County Responder

## Rockwall Sheriff's Office

- Calls (April 24-30): 262
- Arrests (April 24-30): 39
- Warrant unit arrests (week of April 27): 6

## Royse City Police Department

- Friday, 24 April: Alarm, 100 block E. Main Street; duct, 1300 block E. Main Street; Reckless driver, I-30 marker
- Saturday, 25 April: Accident, 1400 block Circle Lane; conduct, 100 block W. I-30; Hunt County warrant arrest, Main Street; Public intoxication arrest, 700 block Kimbrough; mischief, 600 block Baldwin Street; Theft, 200 block S. Main Street
- Sunday, 26 April: Criminal mischief, Circle Lane; Noisy neighbor, 300 block Medina Court; Welfare check, 500 block Jones; 2700 block Marsha Lane
- Monday, 27 April: Alarm, 200 block E. Main Street; block Northstar Drive; Major accident, I-30 at the 800 block Preston Drive
- Tuesday, 28 April: Alarm, 2300 block I-30; Suspicious person, block Peterson Street; Alarm, 2300 block E. I-30
- Wednesday, 29 April: Intoxication assault w/vehicle, at the 75 mile marker; Criminal trespass, 1300 block I-30; Disorderly conduct, 1300 block E. Main Street; Assault, Briar Oaks Drive
- Thursday, 30 April: Accident, I-30 at the 78.5 mile marker; disturbance, 100 block W. I-30; Domestic disturbance, Texoma Street; Suspicious activity, Overstreet Lane

## Rockwall Responders Calls for Service April 27 - May 3

### Rockwall Fire & EMS

- C/O alarm or poisoning 1, Dwelling 1, Fire alarm 12, sified 2, Smoke odor 1, Wires down 1.

### Rockwall Police Department

- Monday, 27 April: Burglary, 2100 block Summer Lee Drive; Burglary, 1 block Topside Drive; Theft, 500 block Blanchard; 300 block Ranch Trail; Theft, 200 block Kenway Drive; block Pontchartrain Drive; Theft, 200 block Parkway Court
- Tuesday, 28, April: Burglary, 500 block Dickey Street; block Ridge Road; Theft, 400 block Geary Drive; Theft, West Yellow Jacket Lane; Theft, 5400 block Horizon Road; Wembley Way.
- Wednesday, 29 April: Burglary, 2100 block Summer Lee Drive; Burglary, 1000 block IH 30; Burglary, 800 block IH 30; block IH 30; Theft, 100 block South San Jacinto Street; block Hampshire Lane; Theft, 1200 block SH 276; Theft, Goliad Street.
- Thursday, 30 April: Burglary, 800 block IH 30; Burglary, IH 30; Theft, 700 block IH 30; Theft, 2800 Market Center; 2900 block Ridge Road; Theft, 700 block Hail Drive.

Friday, 1 May: Burglary, 1400 block Coastal Drive; Theft, Summer Lee Drive.

- Saturday, 2 May: Burglary, 700 block Hail Drive; block South Goliad Drive; Theft, 700 block IH 30; Theft, Bristlecone Court; Theft, 2700 block Market Center Drive; block IH 30; Theft, 1100 block Ridge Road; Theft, 1600 block Drive.

- Sunday, 3 May: Burglary, 1500 block Laguna Drive; blocks Summer Lee Drive (2); Theft, 1900 block IH 30; block Ridge Road.

- Other calls: Abandoned property 5, Animal complaint (all) 57, Assist citizen 20, Civil matter 5, Criminal mischief 7, Drunk 1, Investigations 32, Major traffic accident 2, Meet complainant 40, Minor traffic accident 38, Missing person 3, Narcotics 1, Ordinance violation 25, Prowler 1, Shots fired/shooting hazard 7, Suspicious person 42, Welfare concern 8.

### Heath Department of Public Safety

- Wednesday, 29 April: Burglary, 6300 block FM 549; block Horizon Road; Theft, 800 block Laurence Drive.
- Friday, 1 May: Theft, 6600 block Horizon Road.
- Other calls: Abandoned property 1, Animal complaint (all) 27, Assist citizen 3, Criminal assault/rape 1, Criminal Fight 2, Fire call 6, Injured or sick person 5, Investigation complainant 5, Minor disturbance 1, Minor traffic accident 4, son 1, Ordinance violation 1, Suspicious person 7, Welfare



Poetry Community Christian School students recently participated in a sock drive to benefit orphans in Zambia through Family Missions International in Irving. During the school's "Sock It To Me Day" observance, students buried their administrator, Anne Knight, Lance Carter and Reagan McBride. At back are Jesse Mitchell and Joshua Glancy.

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## Rockwall ISD Council of PTAs promotes volunteerism

The Rockwall ISD Council of PTAs has teamed with the White House to become a certifying organization for the President's Volunteer Service Award, a national program recognizing Americans who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to volunteer service.

Established in 2003, the award was created by President George W. Bush to give presidential recognition to individuals, families and groups who meet requirements for volunteer service, measured by the number of service hours performed over 12 months.

The Rockwall Council PTA is one of thousands of organizations that have joined forces to deliver the President's Volunteer Service Award and honor the volunteers who strengthen the nation. As a certifying organization for the award, each school's PTA is responsible for verifying service hours, nominating potential recipients and delivering the Award.

"We are extremely proud to recognize our most outstanding volunteers with the President's Volunteer Service Award," said Valerie Sandman, Volunteer Coordinator for the Council of PTAs. "PTA volunteers are role models in our community, donating their time, energy and talent to bring us closer together as neighbors and a Nation. The award is our way of thanking these volunteers and inspiring everyone in our community to make volunteering a central part of their lives."

"Even if you've never volunteered before, the President's Volunteer Service Award is within your reach," Sandman said. "There are so many ways to contribute, and every volunteer hour makes a difference in improving the quality of life for others. We encourage everyone to get involved and to bring along your family, friends and neighbors. Together, we can strengthen America - one hour at a time."

The award is issued by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, a group convened by President George W. Bush to help foster and encourage a culture of volunteer service and civic participation among Americans. Chaired by two-time Super Bowl Champion Darrell Green, with former U.S. Senators Bob Dole and John Glenn as honorary co-chairs, the Council is composed of leaders in government, media, entertainment, business, education, nonprofit and volunteer service organizations and community volunteering.

For more information about volunteering with the Rockwall PTAs, contact Valerie Sandman at [www.sandmom@msn.com](mailto:www.sandmom@msn.com) or any PTA president.

## Lake Pointe plans activities to mark Nurses Week

A number of activities have been planned at Lake Pointe Medical Center in Rowlett to help celebrate National Nurses Week and National Hospital and Healthcare Week, which runs May 6-17.

"Our employees are dedicated to providing high quality care for our patients," said Carolyn Jackson, CEO of Lake Pointe Health Network. "They make a difference in the lives of our patients and their families. I am very proud of the work they do."

Since 1921, U.S. hospitals have celebrated National Hospital and Healthcare Week, inviting communities to help express thanks to the many healthcare workers who provide quality care throughout each year. Additionally, Nurses Week honors the work and dedication of nurses and begins on the birth date of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.

"I often hear our employees refer to their role as a calling," said Jackson. "That feeling is shown in every caring touch and the time they spend listening to our patients.... National Nurses Week and National Hospital and Healthcare Week allow us the chance to say thank you to these extraordinary people who care for our families and friends."

## Presbyterian Hospital plans celebrations for Nurses Week

Presbyterian Hospital of Rockwall will thank "the best employees" with food, fun and fellowship during National Nurses Week and National Hospital and Healthcare Week, which runs May 6-17.

The schedule of events will offer staff the opportunity to spend time together, have good meals and stretch their funny bones with fun activities.

From 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. Monday, May 11, staff making a minimum \$5 donation to the Angel Fund will have their car washed.

Tuesday, May 12 brings Donuts at the Time Clocks from 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

For another donation to the Angel Fund on Wednesday, May 13, staff can participate in a Pie Throwing Contest from Noon to 1 p.m.

Thursday, May 14 will bring SnoCones in the Courtyard at 2 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

The week's celebrations will finish on Friday, May 15 with a Cookout in the Courtyard. This is the hospital's "Thank You for all you do." The staff will be served burgers, chips and cookies from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

National Hospital and Healthcare Week was initiated in 1921. Communities are invited to give thanks to the multitude of healthcare workers who provide quality care. Nurse's Week is dedicated to nurses and their selfless, caring work and begin on the birth date of the founder of nursing, Florence Nightingale.

Online @ [www.rockwallcountynews.com](http://www.rockwallcountynews.com)



Volunteers from Boy Scout troops, family and friends were on hand to help plant a community fruit orchard at Rockwall's as part of Boy Scout Josh Bernal's Eagle Scout service project. In addition to the 32 trees, Bernal and his crews built an irrigation system with a spigot at each tree. In order to receive the Eagle Scout rank, the highest rank given by the Boy Scouts of America, a Scout must plan and carry out a service project, among other requirements. Bernal (center front in hat) is a member of Troop 1111.

by Kay Williams

## Rockwall's The Neckties win 2009 Mesquite festival Battle of the Bands

by Jennie Strain

The band, made up of three seventh graders, won the top prize at the Mesquite 2009 Real Battle of the Bands on April 25. The band members Fielder Whittington on drums, Blake Cheek on guitar, and Charlie Wiles on vocals. The band won a prize and were given a chance to meet the Texas Longhorns on Friday nights at Harbortown Rockwall.

The band specializes in 70s rock songs, and performs original pieces. The contest judges were professionals in their fields and noted that The Neckties' original songs were very strong and that they have a future, not only in playing, but also writing music.



Rockwall's own The Neckties, (left to right) lead singer Blake Cheek, Fielder Whittington on drums and Charlie Wiles on guitar, belt out an original tune to win the 2009 Mesquite Real Texas Festival Battle of the Bands on April 25. The future rock stars are all seventh graders at Heritage Christian Academy in Rockwall.

Photo Courtesy of Jeannie Strain

To learn more about The Neckties, visit [www.myspace.com/necktiesmusic](http://www.myspace.com/necktiesmusic) or call 210 410 5881.



High School students - Matt Stone and Tanner Coker, shown at back - recently visited with the Gifted and Talented students at Vernon Elementary School. The visit was the culmination of a yearlong investigation of different areas of study the elementary students were interested in and wanted to learn more about. Stone visited with the younger students about his experience in basketball and his artwork. Both talked about how the GT program differs at each level and recommended Pre-Advanced Placement and advanced classes. Other topics touched on included debate, one-act play, sports activities and others.

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Students and staff members of Rochelle Elementary recently pledged to save energy and reduce, reuse and recycle in an effort to help keep the earth clean. As part of the initiative, third grade students challenged the entire school to decorate their classroom doors with recycled materials. Pictured is the winning door decorated by Janene Blackburn's second grade class, which worked hard on producing a paper mache earth. Judging the event were Gene Burton, superintendent of schools; Michael Copeland, human resource director; Julie Farris, child nutrition director; Randall Talley; and Coy Worley. In addition to the fun of the competition, students learned about ways to save energy and water and reducing the trash produced each day.

## Rockwall Community Playhouse schedules youth show auditions, new author readings

The Rockwall Community Playhouse has several opportunities coming up for budding thespians to learn more about the theater and have fun as a cast member in a memorable show. *Seussical The Musical, Jr.* Auditions: 10 a.m., Saturday, May 16

"I can see that you've got quite a mind for your age! Why, one Think and you dragged me right onto the stage! Now, I'm here, there is no telling what may ensue With a Cat such as me, and a Thinker like you!"

So says the mischievous Cat in the Hat at the onset of this fantastical, magical, musical extravaganza. This summer, the RCP Summer Children's Theater will lovingly bring to life all of our favorite Dr. Seuss characters, including Horton the Elephant, Gertrude McFuzz,

Lazy Mayzie and all of the Whos of Whoville!

This is a tuition-based program every child will enjoy. Please bring a prepared song, preferably from a musical show and accompanying sheet music or a CD.

Also bring a prepared reading from any Dr. Seuss book or one will be provided.

No appointment is necessary. All roles are available for children ages 6-12. Everyone sings, acts and performs. Tuition: \$125 if cast (limited enrollment). Rehearsals: M-F after school: May 26-June 5; M-F 1 p.m. -5 p.m. June 8-19. Performances will be held June 23 through 28.

RCP Camp Broadway Teen Theater Auditions: 1 p.m., Saturday, June 6 or Sunday, June 7

Get Smart Auditions will be open, cold readings from the script. No ap-

pointment is necessary. All roles are available for this teenage cast, ages 12-19. Performance dates are July 24 through August 2.

The Rockwall Community Playhouse invites everyone to audition, no experience is necessary! Auditions are held at RCP, 609 E. Rusk in Rockwall 75087.

RCP ARENA STAGE Saturday, May 30 RCP introduces Arena Stage (aka Ground Zero) to promote new plays by local authors.

The first presentation is Saturday, May 30 with a performance/reading of *Garrulous Connections*, a new play written by Deb Ballard of Rockwall.

Admission is free and tickets will be available at the door on a first-come, first-served basis. The audience will be encouraged to offer feedback to the author by filling out a questionnaire or through e-mail.

## Pastor Norman Quintero on Saturday ballot for Rockwall ISD Place 2 seat

Pastor Norman Quintero, Ph.D., has announced his candidacy for the Rockwall ISD Place 2 seat. Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico-USA and educated in the public school system, he was fortunate to receive his Ph.D. in Humanities.

Quintero and his wife, Carolina, have six children. Four of the children currently attend Rockwall ISD schools. Their son, Gregory, is their special needs child, who is excelling in high school. Pablo is a high school senior and was a member of Rockwall-Heath HS marching band. Norman is the family's football and track and field All-Star at RHHS and Jose is their fifth Grader at Amy Parks-Heath Elementary School. He plays the cello in the Rockwall String Orchestra.

Pastor Norman's leadership

has been tested through his family, real estate and mortgage companies and his ministry, and has proven successful.

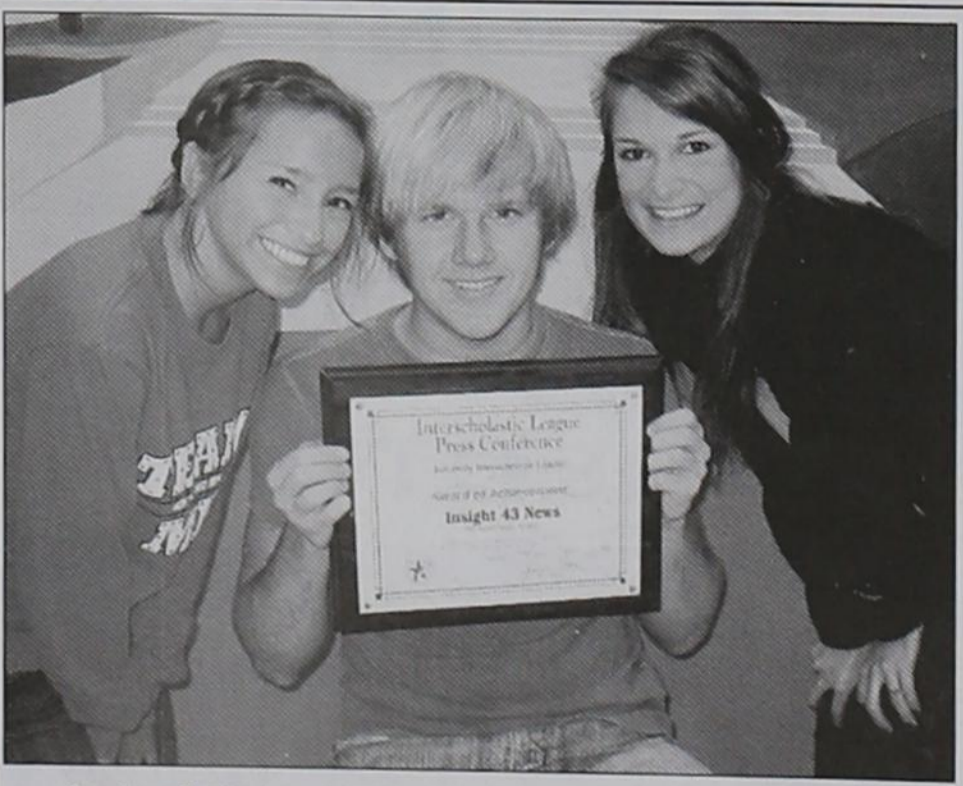
His history of overcoming great challenges has identified him as a man able to succeed where others have failed. His integrity and commitment to serve have been recognized from the President of the United States to the cities where he has business operations. His vision has set the path for positive changes on behalf of the community and has enabled him to be recognized as a true leader for these difficult times.

The Board of Directors and Honorary Board of Advisors of the 2009 National Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C recently recognized Pastor Norman for his academic achievement, extracurricular involvements and



Dr. Norman Quintero

leadership ability. Quintero truly believes in unleashing the power of every child to receive a higher education and achievement of their dreams.



Rockwall High's Media Technology "InSight 43 News/Video Announcement Show" earned a fourth-place finish last month at state from the Interscholastic League Press Conference, which operates in association with the UIL. RHS media students received an Award of Achievement for their December Video Announcement Show. The anchors pictured received the highest rating: Distinguished Award of Merit. Seniors Nicci Flores, Cody Barber and Allie Hinds also received fifth place for a public service announcement they produced. Pictured from the left are Flores, Barber and Hinds. This marks the third year the RHS Media Technology show has placed at ILPC.

# Sales tax payments show local economy in flux

The economy may be struggling, but information provided recently by the Texas Comptroller's office indicates that spending has remained fairly constant in Rockwall County.

According to the comptroller's Monthly Sales Tax Allocation Comparison reports issued last month, spending across Rockwall County appeared to be holding steady during the month of March. Rockwall County's total payments for the period were \$1,024,737, compared to \$1,003,405 at the same point a year ago. That reflects an increase of 2.12 percent.

Year-to-date payments in 2009 have totaled slightly more than \$5.06 million, compared to slightly more than \$4.93 million paid to this point a year ago. The year-to-date increase stands at 2.61 percent.

The cities of Rockwall and Fate posted increases, according to the report, while Royse City,

Heath, McLendon-Chisholm and Mobile City showed drops in their payments.

An overview of payments made by the comptroller's office this period to Rockwall County municipalities is as follows:

• Rockwall -- \$889,508 paid this period, compared to \$869,783 one year ago, for an increase of 2.26 percent. Payments to date in 2009 are \$4,390,487, compared to \$4,275,394 one year ago, for an increase of 2.69 percent.

• Royse City -- \$72,662 paid this period, compared to \$74,658 one year ago, for a decrease of 2.67 percent. Payments to date in 2009 are \$349,690, compared to \$327,973 in 2008, for an increase of 6.62 percent.

• Fate -- \$22,826 paid this period, compared to \$12,360 one year ago, for an increase of 84.66 percent. Payments to date in 2009 are \$83,294, compared to \$70,174 in 2008, for an increase of 18.69 percent.

• Heath -- \$34,000 paid this period, compared to \$35,000 one year ago, for a decrease of 2.86 percent. Payments to date in 2009 are \$1,597,103, compared to \$1,611,000 in 2008, for a decrease of 0.86 percent.

• McLendon-Chisholm -- \$209,000 paid this period, compared to \$217,606 one year ago, for a decrease of 3.96 percent. Payments to date in 2009 are \$2,652,000, compared to \$2,662,000 in 2008, for a decrease of 0.37 percent.

• Mobile City -- \$12,662 paid this period, compared to \$12,662 one year ago, for a decrease of 0 percent. Payments to date in 2009 are \$24,000, compared to \$37,479 in 2008, for a decrease of 34.79 percent.

Payments in Rockwall were down by 11 percent with \$341,773 paid this period, compared to \$400,000 one year ago. Payments to date in 2009 were \$1,597,103, compared to \$1,843,590 in 2008, for a decrease of 13.36 percent.



The members of the Dance Force Studio Drill Teams show off the trophies they won in various categories at the April 24-26 Showtime International Fiesta Texas Competition in San Antonio. Photo Courtesy of Margaret Kochan

## Dance Force Drill Team wins at competition in San Antonio

by Margaret Kochan  
DFS Publicity Chair

The weekend of April 24-26 promised to be an exciting one for 76 members of the Dance Force Studio's Drill Team. The girls had anticipated a challenging, yet fun filled trip to San Antonio to participate in the Showtime International Fiesta Texas Competition. This would be the fourth meet of this school year and the expectations for some awesome dancing were high.

The group gathered at 7:30 a.m. at the Sea World Park ready to compete. The Angels (Kindergarten), Dreamers (grades 1-3), Sweethearts (grades 4-6) and Seniors (grades 7-11) performed a total of 46 dances, including group, select team, duet and solo routines. There were many wonderful exhibitions that Saturday, which were fully recognized by the judges.

At the completion of the contest, the DFS was awarded a total of 40 prizes. Some of the most prestigious were Grand Champion Winners in Lyrical, Pom, Novelty, Prop and Jazz Division.

"Dance Force Studio came home with 30-plus trophies. All the dancers had a blast competing and seeing Shamu at Sea World," said Gina Dale, a Team Mom for the Angels.

"My daughter, Zoe, was awarded a Solo Winner trophy. There were also Duet Winner, Team First Division and Best in Kindergarten Category Prop awards given to the Angels Team," she said. "Not bad for our youngest competitors."

After a busy morning, the performers and their families enjoyed a fabulous afternoon at Sea World Amusement Park. "Not only was this a truly successful dance experience, but also a

great celebration of friendship and fellowship."

Janette Krecke, DFS Publicity Chair, said, "The last opportunity to see some fantastic dancing as well as beautiful costumes will take place Saturday, May 30, at an end-of-the-year Dance Recital. To date a large number of dances, two shows at 9 a.m. for Show 1 and 2 p.m. for Show 2. The recital will be held at the Royse School.

For more information contact Janette or Valerie Krecke at 972-772-1111 or e-mail at danceforce@msn.com.

## Say You Saw It In "The County News"

**Rockwall County Letters to the Editor**  
We encourage the submission of Letters to the Editor. The publishing of letters is at the sole discretion of the editor. Letters may be edited for brevity, grammar and accuracy. Letters which are considered libelous or an attack on an individual character will be rejected, as well as those promoting political candidates. Letters must be signed and include a telephone number or address for verification.

## National Nurses Week May 6-12

National Nurses Week begins May 6 and concludes May 12, the birth date of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. The theme of this year's celebration is "Nurses: Building a Better America," reflecting the commitment nurses make every day to patients, communities, and nation.

It's no surprise that for the seventh straight year, America's top nursing first among occupations for honesty and ethics in a survey conducted by USA Today/Gallup.

Home care nursing in the United States started in the 1930s when public health nurses traveled to patients' homes to care for them, teach family members how to provide care, suggest ways to improve health, and comfort the dying. The Visiting Nurse Association of Texas has been part of this proud tradition since 1934.

There are more than two and a half million registered nurses in the United States. The number of Americans age 65 and older is expected to increase to more than 70 million by 2030. As America's population rapidly grows, nurses will play a pivotal role in the success of our health care system.

National Nurses Week is an opportunity for all Americans to honor and appreciate nursing professionals. Although nurses are officially honored during this week of celebration, their invaluable contribution to our country continues each and every day of the year.

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Cancer survivors gathered at the May 1 Rockwall Relay for Life to celebrate their successful battles against the disease and to honor those who have passed on.

## Despite challenges, Rockwall Relay for Life exceeds \$100,000 mark

rain, a slug- my a pandemic have threatened the his yr's Rockwall ay For Life, but the vent raised more 00 for the American ety's ongoing battle er.

Teams sold items and services to increase totals during the Silent Auction. The Soroptimists peddled cupcakes and "birthday gifts" marking the 25th anniversary of the Relay For Life event.

Tents were decorated in purple hues to denote the event's theme, Paint the Town Purple.

The Ceremony of Hope opened with an invocation by the Rev. Scott Holcomb-McClain and a performance by the Relay Choir, led by the First United Methodist Church choir director, Isiak Holiday. Luminarias lined the track as the stadium lights dimmed, and the names of those lost to cancer were read aloud. Hush Angels - little girls dressed as angels - circulated through the crowd, while across the field on the bleachers, luminarias spelled out the word 'hope.' As the ceremony progressed, the formation changed to read 'cure.'

Following the solemn ceremony, the mood lightened as the themed laps began: the Three-Legged Lap, the Bubble Gum Lap, the Pajama Lap and the Crazy Hat Lap. The most-

anticipated lap, the Miss-ter Relay Lap, involved male team members dressed in drag and parading around the track, collecting money in purses. There also were challenges such as the Frozen T-shirt Contest and the Biggest Bubble Gum Bubble Contest.

To refuel the crowd, Subway provided a late-night snack, and Wal-Mart donated a birthday cake. Coffee was provided by Starbucks and Texas Roast, and water was provided by Nestle.

At midnight, the Fight Back Ceremony, led by Lori Gerritsen, encouraged participants to fight against cancer through prevention and early detection.

Festivities wrapped up with the announcement of top fundraising teams and individuals. Mike Rask, Dwain Smith and Ike Thacker won top individual honors. Walkers of Light, the Soroptimists and the Presbyterian Pathfinders were the top teams.

For more information about next year's event, contact Gerritsen at 469-273-3377.

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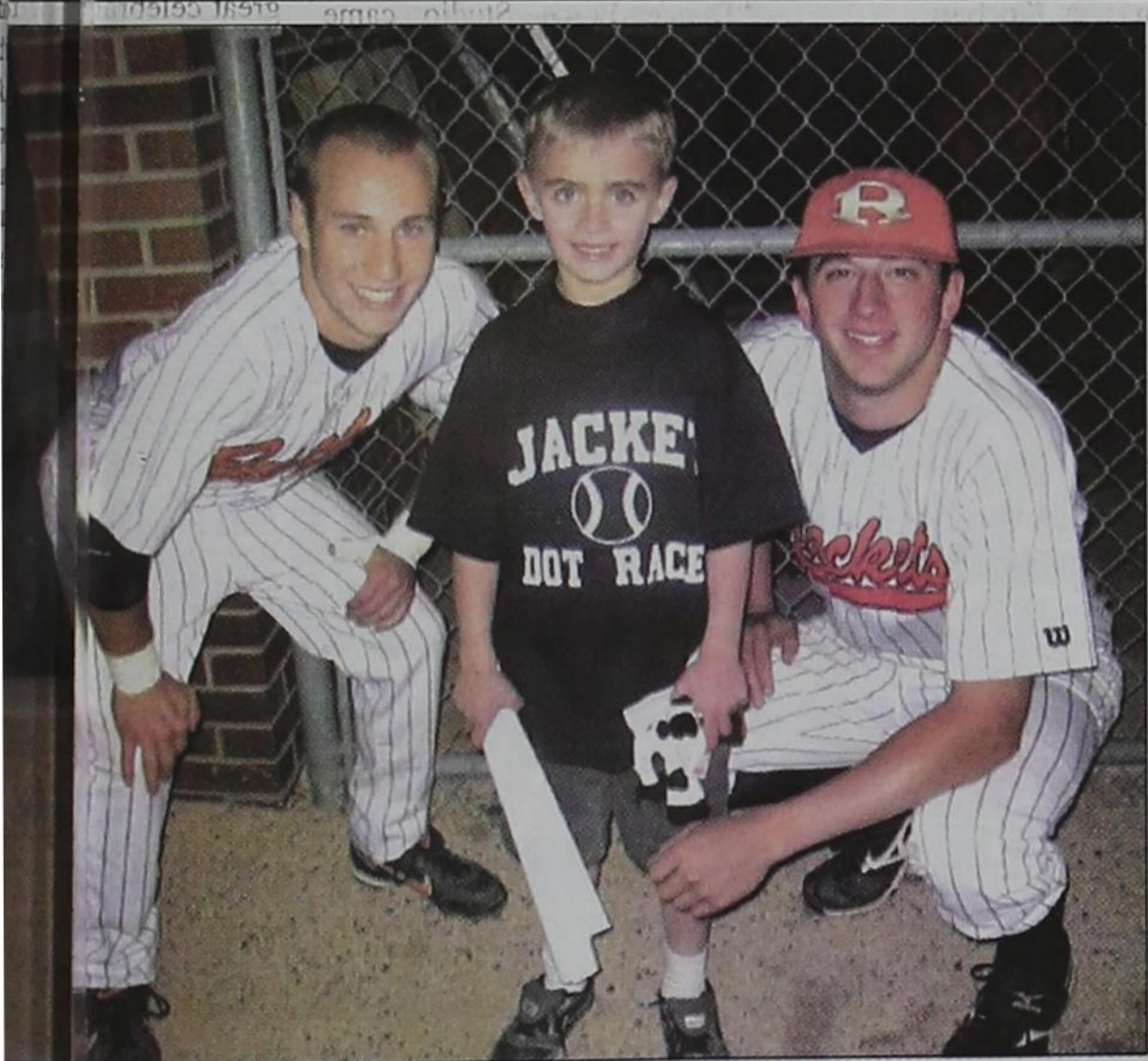
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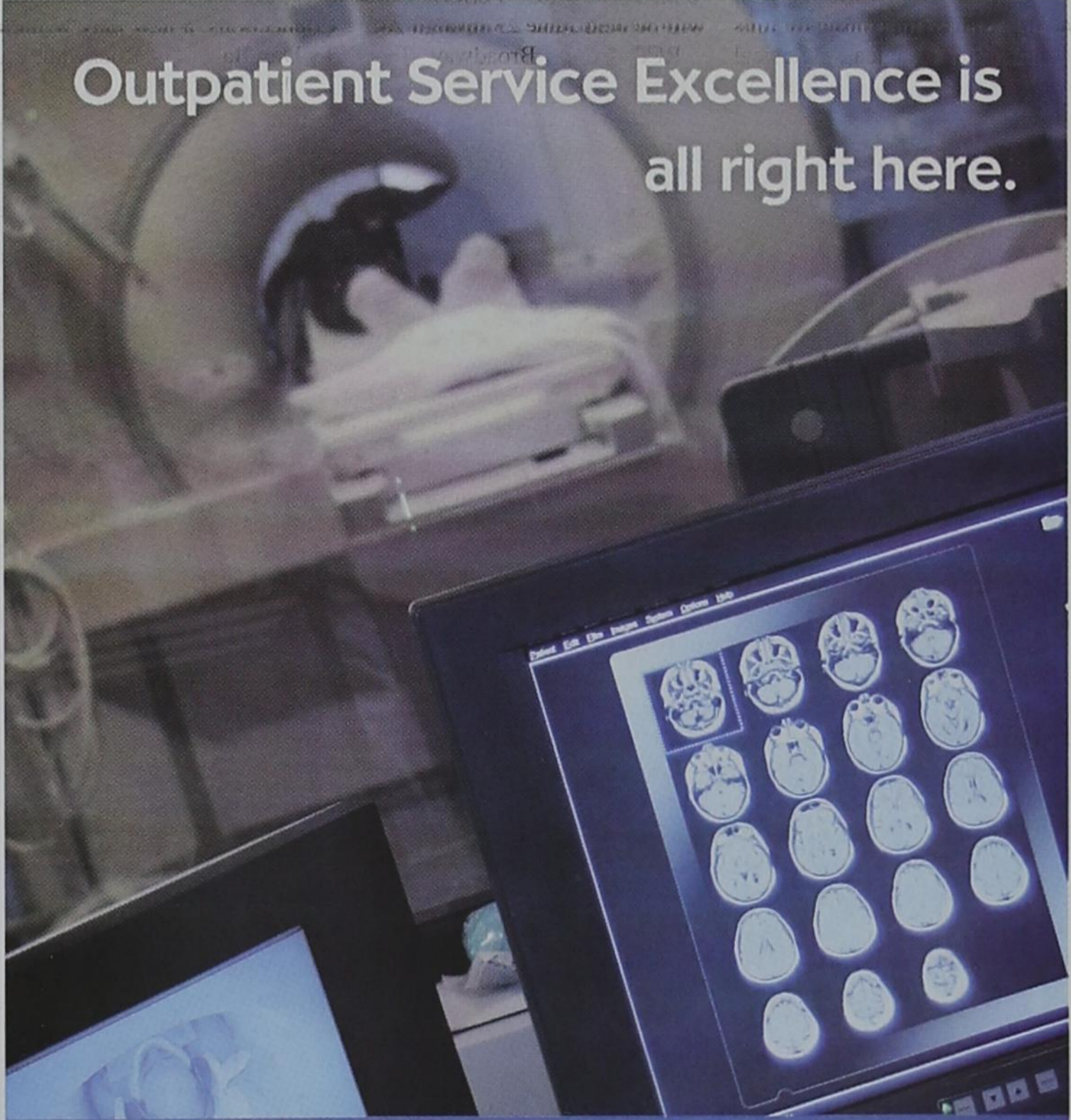
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Williams Elementary School student, Cody Rollins (center), takes a quick picture with a JJ Pearce School Jackets baseball players Klayton Estes (left) and Tim Parrish (right) following a Friday night baseball game. Rollins was the proud winner of the Friday night "Dot Race" at the game. Photo courtesy of Kimberly Stark.



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For more information, go to [www.rockwallwomensleague.org](http://www.rockwallwomensleague.org).



Placing first in race #6 of the Dam Series last Saturday, the crew of the Orion (Hunter) sailed through high winds and rain while tracking an in-coming thunderstorm with the use of special radar, I-phones and Blackberries. Enjoying the sailing challenge on the Orion are (left to right) Alicia of Coppell, helmsman Dan Malak of Chandlers Landing (boat owner), Dawn Nelson of Heath and Papiiez of Dallas. The Dam Series race tracked from Chandlers of Rockwall to Sunnyvale for a total of 8.5 miles. According to reports, approximately ten minutes after the last boat arrived at the lake, a massive downpour of nearly 2 inches of rain blew in with 40-50 miles per hour winds. Courtesy of Daniel Malak



The second grade students in Susan Hansley's class at The Fulton School took to the stage for a play about the rain forest. The story is about a man who cut down the Kapok tree and is confronted by the animals that depend on it for food and shelter. The cast of characters included Jasmine Cloud as the Toucan and Bob Crawford as the Tree Frog and Native Child; Hayden Davenport as the Bee and Porcupine; Hunter Jeffrey as the Bat and Little Man; Remington Miller as the Boa Constrictor and Jaguar; Kayden Steen as the Narrator and Kayden Steen as the Big Man. Staff Photo by Kathy Williams

## 18th Annual Sheriff's Posse Trail Ride set for May 16

The 18th Annual Rockwall County Sheriff's Posse Trail Ride begins at 1 p.m., Saturday, May 16 at Sabine Creek Ranch in Royse City. The rain out date for the event is May 30. Riders will begin gathering at 11 a.m., with a BBQ lunch provided at 11:30 a.m. The ride begins at 1 p.m. Long and short rides are available. Start times are the same, with the short ride ending at approximately 2:30 p.m. and the long ride finishing at 4:30 p.m. Cost of the event is \$5 for adult riders and \$5 for children under 12. In addition to the prizes will be awarded, a new saddle will be given to the winner. The ride rules, map of Sabine Creek Ranch and information can be found on the trail ride web site at [www.rockwallcountysheriff.com](http://www.rockwallcountysheriff.com) or by contacting Kayden Steen at 972-886-8131.

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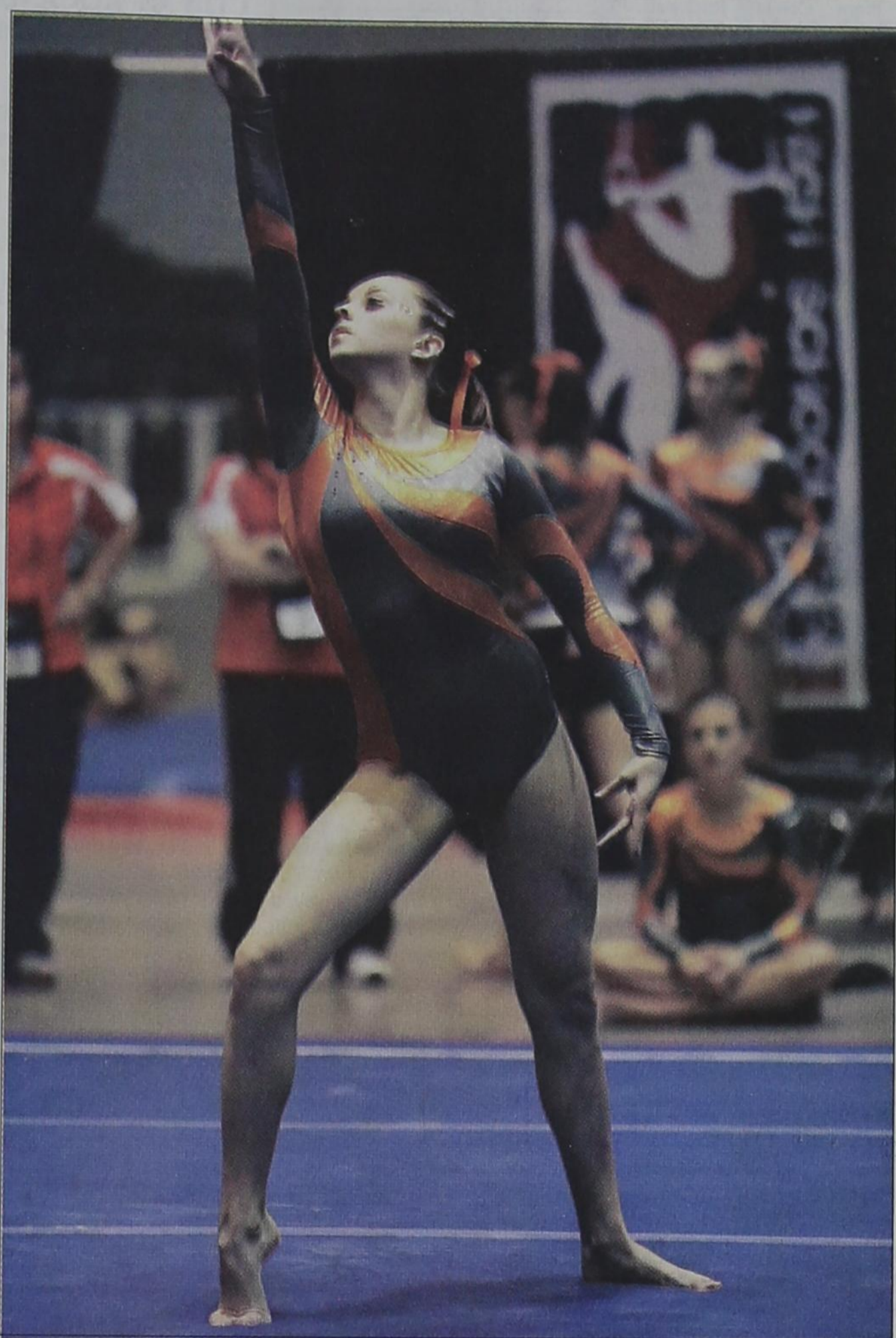
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# Rockwall County Sports

## Both helped RHS Lady Jackets to best gymnastics finish



Lady Jackets' Sarah Beasley gracefully moves through the Floor routine during the UIL State Gymnastics Meet, Saturday, April 25 at the Garland Special Events Center. Based on the official event results, Beasley finished highest among all the Rockwall County public school gymnastics individual team members with a 9th place All Around score of 76.175. In the Floor routine, Beasley scored a total of 19.425 points tying for sixth place with Keller's Tiffany Martinez.  
Photo by Marcia Hasenyager

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) and was 23rd on the  
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Lady Jackets on the  
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was Rockwall's deep-  
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ween 1st and 25th.  
t was 5th at 18.775.  
l for 4th on the floor  
that event, Kara Miller  
(19.20).

### Yellowjackets' schedule

**Monday, May 11** – Varsity girls' golf: at State Championships, Jimmy Clay Golf Course, Austin, 7:30 p.m.  
**Tuesday, May 12** – Varsity girls' golf: at State Championships, Jimmy Clay Golf Course, Austin, 7:30 p.m.  
 Varsity baseball: at Greenville, 7 p.m.  
 Varsity softball: Bi-District playoff, at McKinney North, 7 p.m.  
 Varsity track and field: at Region II-4A meet, Fouts Field, University of North Texas, Denton  
**Wednesday, May 13** -- Varsity track and field: at Region II-4A meet, Fouts Field, University of North Texas, Denton  
**Friday, May 15** – Varsity softball: Bi-District playoff, home vs. McKinney North, 7 p.m.

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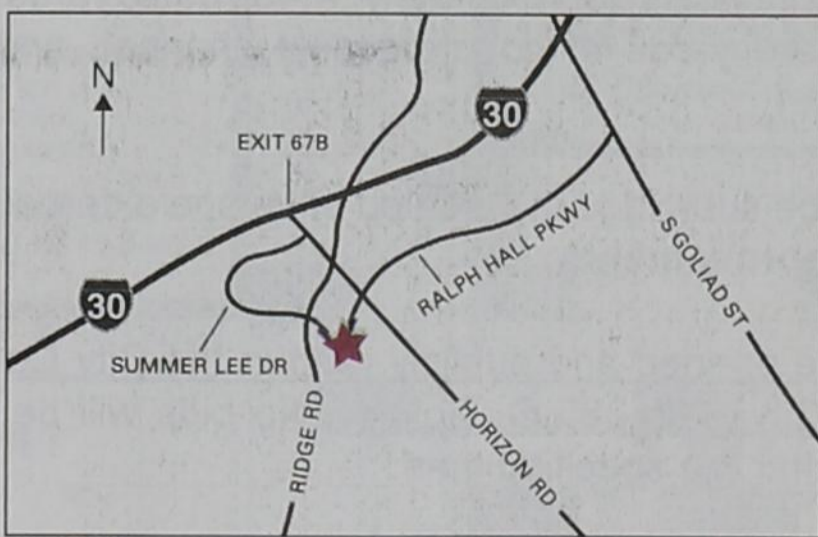
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Rockwall County  
 continued on  
 page 3B

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# Rockwall County Sports

## Previewing the Lady Jackets' playoff series

Rockwall Lady Jackets will face McKinney North's Lady Bulldogs next week in a best-of-three Bi-District softball playoff

Tuesday, Rockwall at McKinney North, 7 p.m.; Friday, McKinney North at Rockwall, 7 p.m.; Saturday, May 16 (if necessary), Rockwall at McKinney North, 7:30 p.m.

Rockwall 13-1 district, 23-10 overall; McKinney North 22-4. The Lady Jackets are the District 10-4A champion, finishing fourth in the extremely close, competitive 9-4A

playoff. The Lady Bulldogs played each other twice in

February, with the Lady Jackets winning both games. In the season-opening game at Rockwall, the home team won 5-2. In the Allen tournament, the score was 3-1. In addition, RHS' volleyball team defeated North in the Bi-District playoffs.

Leading players: McKinney North's lineup features senior shortstop Kathy Shelton, Haley Wagner and Meghan Knowles. Shelton has a .407 batting average, Wagner is at .473, and Knowles has driven in 37 runs. The Lady Bulldogs have two strong pitchers, Lindsay Collings (12-3) and Megan Dunn (10-5). They're very comparable to the Lady Jackets' sophomore Laycee Holcomb (12-4, 1.35 earned run average) and Kat Brown (10-6, 2.66). Rockwall's senior leader-

ship includes Brown, first baseman Haley Lemons (.500 average, 29 runs batted in) and shortstop Shelby Frierson (.414, 32 RBI, a team-high 15 stolen bases). Complementing them are a strong freshman class - outfielder Carlie Jenkins (.422, 18 RBI); second baseman Cyndi Bertrand (.352, 20 RBI); third baseman Ashton Atwell and outfielder Bailey Frierson.

What to expect: Neither is a power team, either at bat or on the mound. That means these games should feature defense and building runs. The Lady Jackets have a balanced lineup, so they don't have to depend on the middle of the order to produce runs. McKinney North uses its speed. Wagner has stolen 41 bases, and Shelton has 36.

## Rockwall Yellowjackets can clinch after 11-day delay

University Interscholastic League's suspension of UIL activities Monday, after 10 days.

Rockwall baseball team will have to wait one day beyond Tuesday, for the game that could clinch the District 10-4A title.

The Yellowjackets (12-1 in the district, 24-3 overall) will visit Frisco Centennial (11-2, 18) for a 7 p.m. game Tuesday. That game was scheduled for Monday. A win there or a loss by Rockwall-Heath in regular-season game would clinch first place for Rockwall.

Head coach Jeff Payne has chosen senior right-hander Tim Ballew (9-0, 1.18 earned run average) to start the game.

"Obviously, everybody's rested. The regular position players have're trying to lock up the district title. The game is the merit of the pitching plans on that day."

Senior right-handed ace, Travis Ballew (9-0, 1.21) will

be among the pitchers available in the bullpen.

Greenville is likely to counter with senior Kevin Long (2-4, 4.69). Leading the Lions' offense is sophomore Miguel Saavedra, with a .415 batting average.

RHS will begin the playoffs with a Bi-District round the following

## Previewing the Lady Bulldogs' playoff series

The Roysie City Lady Bulldogs will face Frisco Centennial's Lady Titans next week in a best-of-three Bi-District softball playoff series.

Schedule: Thursday, May 14, Frisco Centennial at Roysie City, 7 p.m.; Friday, May 15, Roysie City at Frisco Centennial, 7 p.m.; Saturday, May 16 (if necessary), Roysie City at Frisco Centennial, 7 p.m.

Team records: Roysie City 11-3 district, 22-10-2 overall; Frisco Centennial 11-3, 18-14. The Lady Bulldogs finished third in District 10-4A; Centennial placed second in the tight District 9-4A standings.

History: These teams haven't played each other this season, but RC has played three close games against 9-4A champion Frisco Wakeland. That makes Lady Bulldogs head coach James Bain confident that his team matches up well with Centennial. The Lady Titans have not played a 10-4A team this season.

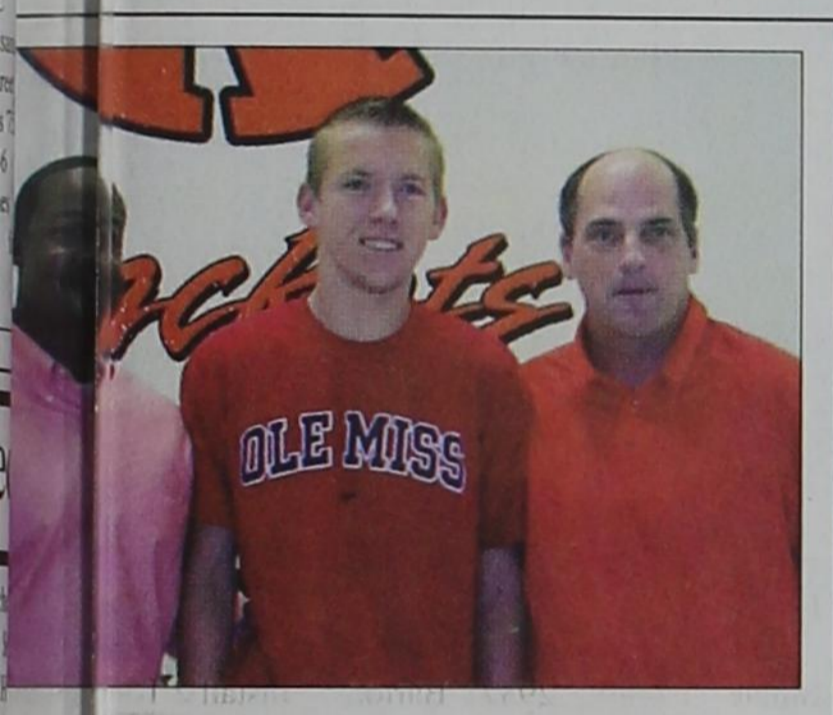
Leading players: Each team has a sophomore starting pitcher

who has worked in almost every game. Roysie City's Alicia Pille has a 21-9 record and a 1.06 earned run average. She has struck out more than two batters per inning (330 in 158 innings). The Lady Titans' Shelby McCoy is 17-14 with an 0.71 ERA and 320 strikeouts in 206 innings. Two other sophomores, infielder Allie Cranfill (.360 batting average, seven home runs, 18 runs batted in) and Bethany Broussard (11 stolen bases), lead Centennial's offense. RC can counter with senior center fielder Shelby Pille (.343, 15 RBI, 11 stolen bases) and senior third baseman Julia Zielinski (.289, seven homers, 23 RBI). Alicia Pille also has contributed offensively, with 19 RBI.

What to expect: Pitching should dominate this series. One or more games could be decided by home runs from Zielinski or Cranfill.

week, with all games to be played by Saturday, May 23.

Payne said, "We're waiting for McKinney North, Frisco Centennial and Frisco Wakeland to sort things out in 9-4A, to figure out what Round 1 will look like the following weekend."



## Jack Hammond commits to University of Mississippi

Rockwall Yellowjackets' Jack Hammond (center) committed to play cross country for the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss). A three-time varsity letterman in each sport, Hammond is the 2008 RHS country team to a District Championship title, was the 2008 District Champion in the 1600M run and USA Track & Field National Junior Olympian. Standing Hammond are Track Head Coach Marteis Rogers (left) and Scott Smith (RHS Interim Athletic Director, RHS Athletic Director). Photo by Robbie Hammond

## Rockwall County Public Records

- 707)**
- BLDG2008-1306 3/18/2009 Multi Family 1650 John King Blvd. L.S. Western Rim Investors Mansions Custom Homes II \$0 fees: \$0 Mansions at Rockwall, Family Apt (Bldg 8, units 801-807).
  - BLDG2008-1307 3/18/2009 Multi Family 1650 John King Blvd. S. Western Rim Investors Good Heating & Air \$0 fees: \$0 Mansions at Rockwall, Family Apt. (Bldg 9, units 901-907).
  - BLDG2008-1308 3/18/2009 Multi Family 1650 John King Blvd. S. Western Rim Investors Mansions Custom Homes II \$0 fees: \$0 Mansions at Rockwall, Family Apt. (Bldg 10, units 1001-1007).
  - BLDG2008-1309 3/18/2009 Multi Family 1650 John King Blvd. S. Western Rim Investors Mansions Custom Homes II \$0 fees: \$0 Mansions at Rockwall, Family Apt (Bldg 11, units 1101-1107).
  - BLDG2008-1310 3/18/2009 Multi Family 1650 John King Blvd. S. Western Rim Investors Mansions Custom Homes II \$0 fees: \$0 Mansions at Rockwall, Family Apt Bldg 12 Units 1201-1207.
  - BLDG2008-1311 3/18/2009 Multi Family 1650 John King Blvd. S. Western Rim Investors Mansions Custom Homes II \$0 fees: \$0 Mansions at Rockwall, Family Apt. Bldg 13, units 1301-1307.

## Bulldogs visit R.L Turner for baseball finale

Roysie City will finish its baseball season on the day when the University Interscholastic League's suspension of UIL activities ends.

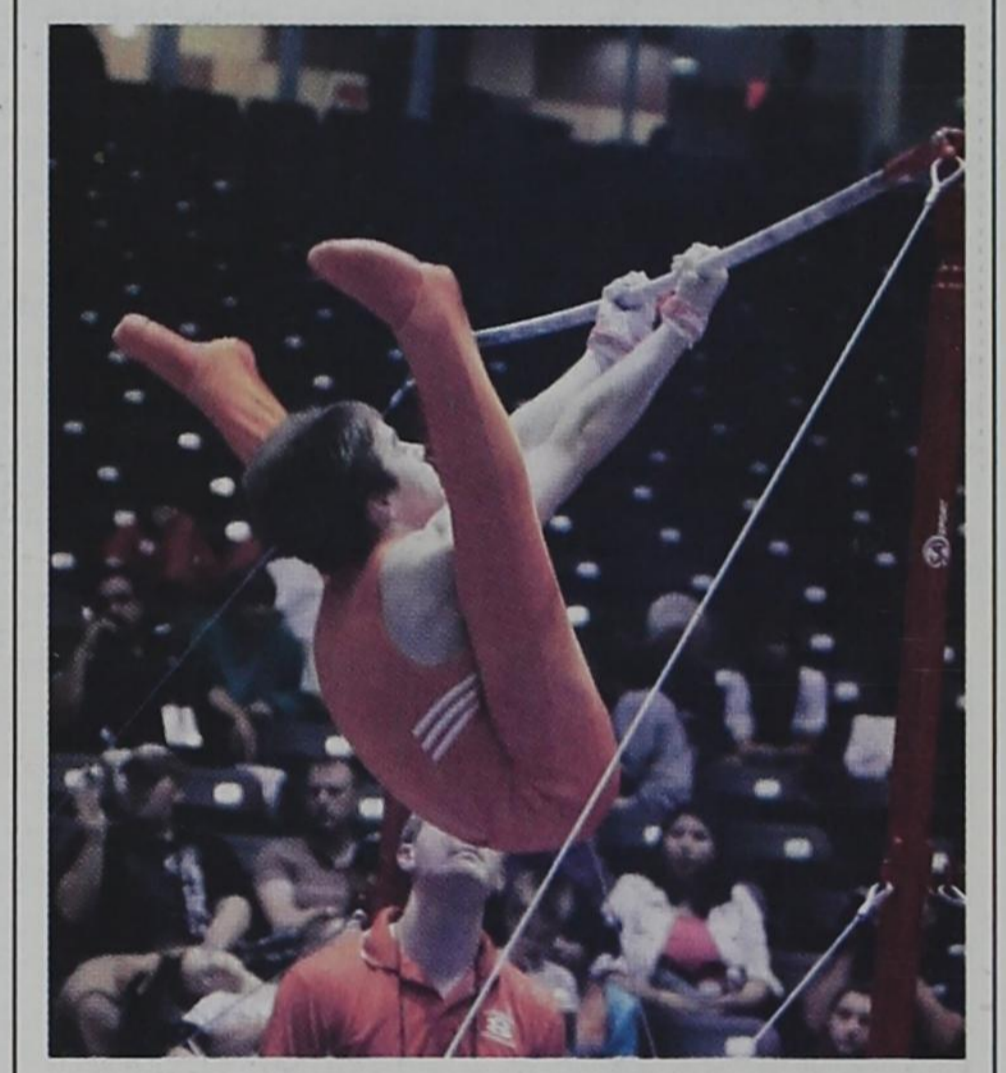
That will be Monday, when the Bulldogs will visit Carrollton R.L. Turner for a 7:30 p.m. game.

RC (3-10 in District 10-4A, 8-17 overall) will finish sixth in the district, but a victory over the Lions (1-12, 2-16) would make the Bulldogs' final record more respectable. They defeated Turner 4-0 at home behind Richard Morrison's no-hitter.

Morrison and Scot Lane have been Roysie City's leaders. Lane paces the team in batting average (.406) and runs batted in (18), and is tied with Dalton McAden and Wesley DeBona for the most homers by a 'Dawg with three. Lane also has a 3-5 pitching record and a 2.80 ERA. Morrison, who also plays center field, is batting .298 with a team-high nine stolen bases to go with his 3-4 pitching record and 4.11 ERA.

### Royse City Bulldogs' schedule

- Monday, May 11** - Varsity baseball: at Carrollton R.L. Turner, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 12** - Varsity track and field: at Region II-4A meet, Fouts Field, University of North Texas, Denton
- Wednesday, May 13** - Varsity track and field: at Region II-4A meet, Fouts Field, University of North Texas, Denton
- Thursday, May 14** - Varsity softball: Bi-District playoff, home vs. Frisco Centennial, 7 p.m.



Bradley Meyer, of the Rockwall Yellowjackets, swings to a tie for 10th place with Garland SG's Nathan Young, in the High Bar routine during the UIL State Gymnastics Meet at the Garland Special Events Center on Saturday, April 25. Meyer finished with an All Around 13th place score of 110.4 and an overall score of 18.8 in the High Bar. In Meet 1, Meyer scored 9.650 and in Meet 2, he scored 9.15. Photo by Marcia Hasenyager



Rockwall High School Lady Jackets' gymnastics team members placing third at the UIL State meet on Saturday, April 25 in the Garland Special Events Center are (back row left to right) Jessica DeLatta, Kara Miller, Alex Burchyett, Laura Robertson, (third row) Emily Pettett, Jessica Moore, Allison Pettett, Crysta Hollins, (second row) Krystal Haynes, Brityn Gilman, Ellie Moses, Sarah Beasley, (front row) Ali Arguelles and Lindsay Loy. Photo by Marcia Hasenyager

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

- 1 professional cowboys assoc. (abbr.)
- 5 Granbury is seat of this county
- 6 TXism: "pay \_\_\_ never mind"
- 7 this K.D. & TX Roy Orbison won a "Crying" Grammy
- 8 retirement tool for some TXns
- 9 "W" to Laura Bush
- 16 San Antonio street: "Gomer \_\_\_"
- 18 TXism: "if it ain't true, there ain't \_\_\_ in Texas"
- 21 this Liam starred with TX Martin in "Leap of Faith" (init.)
- 22 Dallas public transportation co. (abbr.)
- 23 TX Wiley Post airplane: "Winnie \_\_\_"
- 24 in Collin Co. on hwy. 289
- 30 TXism: "fast enough to catch \_\_\_"
- 34 he danced with TX Ginger (init.)
- 35 where TX kids rarely get to play? (2 wds.)
- 36 lion sound
- 37 DeNiro action thriller film ('98)
- 39 TXism: "cautious as a \_\_\_ big bone"
- 43 cattle fat
- 44 final one of "Dallas" was on 5/3/91
- 45 TXism: "\_\_\_ two-steps to his own beat"
- 46 Gov. \_\_\_ Lanham (1902-06)
- 47 TXism: "got \_\_\_ (inclined)"
- 49 to make excited
- 52 TXism: "\_\_\_ his hide"
- 53 TX Debbie film: "Singing \_\_\_ the Rain"
- 54 milk farm
- 55 TX George H. chose this Supreme Ct. Justice Thomas
- 58 TX Kenny Rogers sang "Through the \_\_\_"
- 59 bro's sib
- 60 "bear" south of the border
- 61 TXism: "\_\_\_ pusher" (writer)
- 9 TX Wills: "Ah \_\_\_ take it away Leon"
- 10 TXism: "a hard dog to keep \_\_\_ porch"
- 11 fly high
- 12 LBJ & Lady \_\_\_
- 13 religious tables dir. to Abilene from Austin (abbr.)
- 15 LBJ's party (abbr.)
- 17 TXism: "he's a frisky fiddler"
- 19 famous Galveston pirate Jean \_\_\_
- 20 "\_\_\_ and mean"
- 24 TX Roddenberry genre: sci-\_\_\_
- 25 doctor assistants (abbr.)
- 26 "woe \_\_\_"
- 9 \_\_\_ Hank
- 10 \_\_\_ Baker
- 11 \_\_\_ Baker
- 12 \_\_\_ Baker
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- 28 \_\_\_ Baker
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- 30 \_\_\_ Baker
- 31 \_\_\_ Baker
- 32 \_\_\_ Baker
- 33 TX Waylor's "Are \_\_\_ Hank
- 34 full of information
- 35 \_\_\_ Baker
- 36 \_\_\_ Baker
- 37 \_\_\_ Baker
- 38 \_\_\_ Baker
- 39 \_\_\_ Baker
- 40 \_\_\_ Baker
- 41 \_\_\_ Baker
- 42 Rusk Co. seat
- 43 \_\_\_ Baker
- 44 \_\_\_ Baker
- 45 \_\_\_ Baker
- 46 \_\_\_ Baker
- 47 \_\_\_ Baker
- 48 TX Roy Orbison's "\_\_\_ the Lonely"
- 49 \_\_\_ Baker
- 50 converts hides into leather
- 51 with "cup," an inhalation spasm
- 52 \_\_\_ Baker
- 53 \_\_\_ Baker
- 54 \_\_\_ Baker
- 55 \_\_\_ Baker
- 56 Greek fable teller
- 57 TXism: "\_\_\_ a little cane" (celebrate)

# Rockwall County Sports

## Heath baseball, softball and track all on line due to UIL response to influenza outbreak

by Matt McGillen  
All dressed up and no place to go.

Well, that's not exactly the situation for the Rockwall-Heath baseball, softball and track teams that have had their seasons put in neutral by the UIL, which suspended all high school sports until at least May 11, in response to the outbreak of don't-call-it-the-swine-flu.

But then, it's not that far off either.

"It is unfortunate that we have to have this interruption in our season," said Heath baseball coach Greg Harvey, whose red-hot squad had run off a school-record 14 wins in a row en route to securing a first-ever playoff berth before the UIL took the bats from their hands as effectively as a high inside fastball. "Since there is absolutely nothing we can do to change it, we're using it as a positive for our team."

Perhaps the silverest of linings that can be found in the unexpected break in action, Harvey said, is that his team, which stands second in District 10-4A with an 11-2 record and is 21-7 for the year, will have a chance to get completely healthy.

"This time off will allow a couple

of our key guys to get healthy," Harvey said. "Drew Benefield is using this time to heal his injured hamstring and Drew VerHagen is able to continue throwing his bullpen sessions and simulated games. There is a chance that both of these guys will be ready to roll by the time the playoffs get here. (And) James Baune is getting some needed rest for his injured back."

Benefield, normally the Hawks' catcher, has hit just .233 in only 30 at bats due to off-season surgery, but has made the most of his appearances on the mound since getting back into the lineup.

The senior has fashioned a 2-0 record, including a sparkling two-hitter in an 11-0 win against Rockwall that handed the Jackets (12-1, 24-3) their only district loss.

VerHagen, meanwhile, has not thrown all year in an actual game, choosing instead to slowly work his lively arm — he has been clocked in the low 90s on the radar gun — back from an injury that occurred last season.

The 6-4 senior has been

playing first and acting as the DH for the Hawks, hitting .318 and driving in 18 runs. Baune, another senior, has proven to be the ace of the staff, putting up a 7-1 record with a 1.16 ERA. For the rest of the Hawks, it's business not quite as usual, as Harvey and his staff work to maintain the momentum of the current winning streak.

"Right now, we are keeping the practices short and crisp," said Harvey. "We are having a couple of intersquad scrimmages each week to maintain some of the competitive edge. These players know where we are at and they realize that this break in action will help our team. I don't have any doubt that when we are able to resume, we will hit the ground running and pick up right where we left off: playing good baseball."

The Hawks are scheduled to travel to Highland Park (8-5, 20-11) in their district finale when the season does resume.

For the Heath softball team, which won its last five district games in a row to wind up 12-2 and in second place in 10-4A (25-8 overall) behind Rockwall (13-1, 23-8-1), the Lady Hawks are also on a roll, winning 11 of their last 12 games on the way to earning their third straight playoff berth.

Initially scheduled to play McKinney in a best-of-three series in the opening round of the playoffs starting on May 1, the Lady Hawks are just waiting for the post season to get underway when they will face the Lady

Lions May 14 at Heath.

The second game will be played at McKinney on May 15 with a third game, if necessary, to be played at Plano East May 16. All three games will start at 7 p.m.

The Lady Hawks are led by pitcher Chelsey Eddy, who is 20-6 with an ERA of just 1.05. The senior righthander ended the regular season by throwing 26 consecutive shutout innings, including back-to-back perfect games, and has registered 244 strikeouts this year to push her career total to over 800.

Offensively, the Lady Hawks are topped Kaeligh Lutz and her eye-popping .494 average, followed closely by shortstops Sarah Deimling's .487.

The track team, meanwhile, not only had its season suspended, but it looked like the UIL was going to eliminate the regional round of meets and simply take the top four qualifiers from the district meets and seed them directly into an expanded state meet.

A state-wide protest, however, prompted the UIL to reverse course and reinstate the regional meets, including the one Heath, which qualified five individuals and two relay teams from the girls team as well as two individuals from the boys squad, will attend at the University of North Texas May 12-13.

The state meet will be held in Austin June 5-6.

Regional qualifiers: girls —

Cybill Owusu, Brianna Rich jump (38-9.5), 1. 100 (12.32), 3. 200 (25.06) — 2. 300 hurdle, Moeller 2. 320 relay (49.60) — Jasmine Wil Pratt, Brianna Sarah McKim, Rachel Garcia (4:08 — Shame Huggett, Jacki Richardson, Al Sarah McKim Williams)

Boys — David (125-5), and C high jump (5-11)

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Jade Bowerman leads the way in Lady Hawks gymnastics

Rockwall-Heath Lady Hawks' Jade Bowerman soars to a 12th place All Around with a combined score of 76, during the UIL State Gymnastics Meet on Saturday, at the Garland Special Events Center. In the Beam routine, Bowerman (above) tied place with Keller's Shelby Frank, scoring 18.8, and also finished 8th in the Floor routine with a score of 19.4 tying with Rachel Abrams of Humble-Kingwood. Bowerman returned second All Around score among the public school gymnasts in Rockwall County.

Photo by Marcia Hasenyager

## Rockwall County News

**Salute to the Class of 2009**  
Thursday, May 29  
Deadline: 5 p.m., May 21, 2009



Make sure your favorite Rockwall County Graduating Senior is included in this special "Salute to the Class of 2009" to be published Thursday, May 28, 2009. Send us the photographic high resolution image as an attachment by email to ren.advertising@yahoo.com, along with the name of the graduate and congratulations from message.

Deadline: 5 p.m. May 21, 2009.

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