

Rockwall County News

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News Briefs

Collection box to aid Mott family

Roysse City residents Brian and Jeanette Mott lost virtually everything they owned in a recent fire, and Tangles & Tans on Main Street in Roysse City has established a collection box to assist the family. Clothing, toiletries and financial contributions are needed. For more information contact Lori Deweese at 469-338-6607.

Barbie birthday party set Saturday

The museum at Roysse City will host a birthday part on Saturday to celebrate the Barbie doll's first 50 years. The event will run from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and girls of all ages are urged to bring their Barbies to join in the celebration. Tiaras, birthday cupcakes and party favors will be distributed, and a display of Barbies will be featured.

RHHS PTA fundraiser at CiCi's Pizza

The Rockwall-Heath High School PTA will conduct a fundraising event Monday from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. at CiCi's Pizza in Rockwall. The restaurant will donate 10 percent of receipts from the evening to the PTA; participants should be sure to tell the cashier they are there to support the PTA fundraiser. Tickets to drawings for various prizes also will be available.

Golden Debs meeting slated

Individuals interested in tryouts for the high school drill team, the Golden Debs, must attend a 6:45 p.m. Tuesday meeting at the high school library. Tryout practices begin at 5 p.m. April 20; line tryouts will be at 5 p.m. April 24 in the high school auxiliary gym. Info packets available in the high school and middle school offices.

Game Night set at library

Game Night at the Rockwall County Library will run from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the big first-floor meeting room. Open free to youths in grades 7 through 12, the event will include free pizza for the first 30 participants. Door prizes, games and music will be part of the evening's activities.

Class in conversational Spanish offered

The continuation of the beginners' conversational class to learn and improve Spanish-speaking skills, Advanced Beginning Conversational Spanish, will begin at 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays from March 24 through April 28 in Room G206, Rockwall High School. Cost is \$60; adults only. For details visit rockwallisd.com; select Community tab.

Trip to Heritage Museum slated

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

Anime Group to meet

The Rockwall County Library's Anime Group will meet from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. March 28 in the big first-floor meeting room. Open to students in grades 7 through 12, the event will be offered free of charge.

'One for the Books' set March 29

"One for the Books," a revue featuring songs from Broadway shows, will be performed at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. March 29 at the library. Sponsored by the Capital Campaign of the Friends of the Library, event seating will be limited. For tickets or for more details e-mail cplagens65@aol.com. Tickets cost \$20.

Drum clinic offered

A drum clinic with Tommy Aldridge will begin at 7 p.m. March 30 at Lake Pointe Church. For more details contact Carlos Benson at 972-722-2493 or visit drummersforjesus.com.

Writers Group plans meeting

The Rockwall County Library's Writers Group will meet from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. March 31 in the big first-floor meeting room. The meeting will be free and open to students in grades 7 through 12.

RWL seeks grant requests

The Rockwall Women's League is accepting grant requests from nonprofit agencies serving Rockwall County. Grant requests (program name, description, beneficiaries and amount requested) should be mailed to P.O. Box 383, Rockwall, TX 75087, attn.: Carlil Johnson. For information call Johnson at 214-537-9475. Deadline is April 1.

'Iron Man' is Wednesday flick

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

RCC meeting set April 1

Lisa Frazier will continue her program at the Rockwall Computer Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. April 1 at The Center at Rockwall City Place, 108 E. Washington St., Rockwall. Anyone interested in computers - home or office - is invited to attend. For details call Joe Conrad at 972-771-8712.

Old-fashioned egg hunt slated

An old-fashioned Easter egg hunt, complete with egg dyeing, cooking decorating and hunting for hidden goodies, is set for 1 p.m. April 3 at The Center. Open to individuals ages 50 and older, the event will be free and will include a prize for the individual who brings the best-dressed basket. For more information call 972-771-7740.

Pullen to celebrate 10th anniversary

Pullen Elementary will observe a 10th anniversary celebration from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. April 3 at the school. An Italian dinner and silent auction will be conducted, and Pullen students past

(Continued on Page 2)



The American Legion Bikers rumbled into Harry Myers Park in Rockwall on Saturday, March 14 as part of their annual "Coffee Tour" throughout the district to raise funds for their Oratorical Contest and as a membership drive. The convoy, which visited Mabank, Rockwall, Plano, West Tawakoni, Rains County and Greenville, ended the day in Greenville with five bikes, 22 cars and about 60 people in the group. The bikers raised \$500 for the contest and picked up 40 membership renewals. Visiting with a group of the traveling group are (from left leaning on motorcycle) Wayne Thomas, 4th District Commander; (kneeling from left) Ray Walker, Post 117 Commander; (standing) Bob Long, Post 117 Vice Commander; Rockwall Mayor Bill Cecil, Post 117 Service Officer; Marvin Fleetwood, Post 117 Americanism Chair; (standing) Chuck Bealmear, Post 117 2nd Vice Commander. Standing second from right is Norman Selegman, Post 117 Adjutant and at right, Dan Selegman, Post 117 member.

Photo by Tim Burnett

Texas First Lady Anita Perry plans visit for March 24 Rockwall Main Street kickoff

Kathy Williams, Mayor of Rockwall, will announce Texas First Lady Anita Perry on Tuesday, March 24, when she visits to honor the Texas Main Street program. The First Lady's Texas Main Street Award and kicks off the Texas Main Street program. The ceremony will take place at 10:30 a.m. at the Rockwall Courthouse on the corner of Main Street and Main Square. A reception will follow at The Center, 108 E. Main Street.

Historic preservation program to help Texas cities bring back their downtown areas using preservation and economic development strategies. The award to be presented to Rockwall is sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission and the First Lady's office. It recognizes communities that "showcase a passionate dedication to community preservation efforts through their participation in THC programs," according to a statement released concerning the dedication. "Preserving Texas historic treasures ensures that our unique culture and rich heritage is saved for future generation," the First Lady said. "The Texas Treasures Award recognizes communities

who embrace the treasures of their past and protect them for the benefit and enjoyment of all Texans' futures." Rockwall Mayor Bill Cecil and newly appointed Rockwall Main Street Manager Bethany Golden will welcome Mrs. Perry. Also on hand with Mrs. Perry will be representatives from the Independent Bankers Association of Texas and the THC. Since being named a Texas Main Street City, Rockwall has made steady progress moving the program from a concept on paper to an active, community-wide initiative ready to revitalize and reenergize Rockwall's historic downtown. A seven member Main Street

Advisory Board has been appointed by the City Council. Bethany Golden has been hired as the Rockwall's first Main Street Manager. Golden has four years experience with the Main Street program, having held the same job in the town of Paris. Members of the Advisory Board are Sandra Whitley, Pat Coble, SuLaine Callaway, Barbara Coleson, Pat Turner, Chris Cameron and Laura Brosie. The Texas Main Street program was developed in 1981, an offshoot of the National Trust Main Street Center created in 1977. There are currently 88 Texas cities in the program. More than \$1.7B has been reinvested in Texas downtown areas, with 23,000-plus jobs created and more than 6,000 new businesses established since the Texas program was founded. As Rockwall prepares to begin the revitalization process as a Main Street city, it will receive the help of economic planners, historians and architects, designers, green space specialists and other experts from the TCH to ensure work done leads to preservation and economic development. The cost to the City is \$300 per year for membership in the program and the cost of employing the program manager. Golden said it is vital to the success of the program to have good, strong support from the community. "We rely on volunteers, community support and the support of the local governments. Our success depends on our ability to bring people together. There is already a lot in place here so we are ahead of the curve."



Mayor Bill Cecil (middle) and Leigh Plagens (right) meet and greet Rockwall's new Main Street Manager Bethany Golden (left) at last week's Brown Bag Lecture at the downtown courthouse. Golden was introduced to the community at the noon meeting by Sheri Fowler from the Rockwall County Historical Commission. She gave an outline of the Main Street Program, announced the seven member advisory board and met members of the community and future volunteers for the program. Photo Courtesy of Leigh Plagens

Roysse City Neighborhood Watch responds to alleged missing child

Kathy Williams, Mayor of Roysse City, announced that the Roysse City Hidden Creek Estates property manager brought a swift response from property managers, residents and local police. The child was quickly found by the parents. Search was called to a halt a mere 30 minutes after the first call was received. Ma Reeves, property manager for Hidden Creek Estates, said the parents reported the nine-year old child was not at home and not been seen since she got off the school bus at 3:15 p.m.

The initial call to the property manager's office was received at 5:15 p.m. Reeves said the family was told to immediately contact the Roysse City Police Department, and by 5:17 p.m., Louretta Moukhtar, also a property manager for Hidden Creek Estates, was checking vacant and abandoned homes in the area. The neighborhood has an emergency e-mail notification system in place, and at 5:23 p.m., e-mails were on their way throughout the neighborhood concerning the missing child. Heath Police Officer Brian Burton, a resident of Hidden Creek

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News Briefs

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and present, staff members, families and friends are welcome to attend. Reservations are required by e-mailing deeyoung@mac.com.

Easter Egg Hunt set April 4

The Rockwall Parks & Recreation Department's seventh annual Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 10 a.m. April 4 at the Tuttle Athletic Complex (Field 1, up to age 2; Field 3, ages 3-4; Field 2, ages 5-6; Field 4, ages 7-12). Candy and special prize eggs will be offered. Other activities are planned. For more information call 972-771-7740.

Noon Lions plan meeting

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

55-plus choir organizing in Rockwall

Russ Porter is organizing a new choir for musicians ages 55 and older. Weekly rehearsals will be at 1 p.m. every Monday beginning April 6, culminating with a Memorial Day performance on May 25. Rehearsals will take place at the Rockwall School of Music, 749 Justin Road. To register call 972-722-6874.

RISD plans job fair on April 4

The Rockwall Independent School District will host a job fair for openings in maintenance, custodial, grounds, transportation and child nutrition positions on April 4. The event will run from 9 a.m. to noon at the RISD Administration/Education Center Gymnasium, 1050 Williams St., Rockwall. For more details call 972-771-0605.

Class offered on saving for retirement

A workshop that will explore service credits, Social Security, health care, lump sums, divorce, annuity options and more pieces of the retirement puzzle will be offered from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on April 7 in Room D232, Rockwall High School Lecture Hall. Cost will be \$15. For details visit rockwallisd.com; select Community tab.

Handgun certification renewal offered

A Texas Concealed Handgun Certification Renewal class will meet from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on April 7 in Room C214 of Rockwall High School. Class meets state requirements for renewal of certification. Do not bring handgun to class. Cost is \$60. For details visit rockwallisd.com; select Community tab.

Class to explore building financial portfolios

Building Your Financial Portfolio on \$25 a Month or Less will be offered from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. April 7 in Room C215 of Rockwall High School. The workshop will show participants how to find investments without paying broker fees or expenses. Cost is \$30. For details visit rockwallisd.com; select Community tab.

April 8 workshop to cover skin

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

'How to Stay Young' seminar offered

The Rockwall County Committee on Aging will host a seminar entitled "How to Stay Young The First Hundred Years" with speaker

Dr. Dave Engelken from Rockwall Pro Health Chiropractic beginning at 1 p.m. April 9. The event will take place at the Evergreen Apartments, 1325 Goliad. RSVP by calling 972-771-9514.

Concealed Handgun Certification class set

A 10-hour Texas Concealed Handgun Certification class will be offered from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. April 9, 14 and 16 in Room C214 or Rockwall High School. Do not bring handgun to class. Class meets state requirements for renewal of certification; cost is \$120. For details visit rockwallisd.com; select Community tab.

April 10 is Out-to-Lunch event

The Rockwall Parks & Recreation Department's Out-to-Lunch Bunch for seniors will be at Love and War in Texas, Plano on April 10. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost will be \$7 for Rockwall residents, \$11 for non-residents. For more information call 972-771-7740.

RISD sets weather make-up days

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

FOL plan Spring Lunch Basket event

The Friends of the Library Spring Lunch Basket will begin at 11 a.m. April 14 at the Rockwall Rotary Hall, 408 S. Goliad. The program will be provided by RHS Spotlight Productions. Jose Molina will cater. RSVPs required by April 10: 872-771-8976 or cplagens65@aol.com.

Babysitter training offered

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

Casino trip for seniors scheduled

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

Littlest Angels plans open house

Littlest Angels Preschool will host an open house from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on April 16 at the Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, 1305 Damascus Road, Rockwall. Classroom tours will be offered; parents can observe music and chapel classes and sign up for next year's classes (open to children ages 18 months to 4 years). For more details, call 972-771-6671, ext. 104.

Family Fun Fridays begin April 17

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

Environmental Action Day set

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

Royse City Neighborhood Watch ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Estates, was reported to have joined the search between the receipt of the e-mail and 5:32 p.m.

Reeves said Neighborhood Watch Zone Leaders were contacted by phone and they in turn called the other known police officers living in the neighborhood for help with the search.

At 5:32 p.m., the parent making the original call notified property managers that the child had been found and was safe. No foul play was suspected - it was believed she simply did not let her family know where she was visiting after school.

In a message to Moukhtar and Reeves, Royse City Chief of Police Tom Shelton said, "I wish more neighborhoods would get plans of action like yours. I am glad the child was found fast. Those kinds of calls are critical."

Reeves sent a message to neighbors stating, "We apologize for the scare this afternoon, but when a child is thought to be missing, there is no time to second-guess ourselves. In this case, there was absolutely no foul play. The child was with a friend's parent, but was not on Hidden Creek property." Reeves praised residents for their quick action to the request for help. "Think of this as a drill and let's pray that we are never really tested."

Just say you saw it in the "County News"

Library to train volunteers April 18

A training for volunteer tutors for the Rockwall County Library Reading for Adults program will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 18 in the library's Community Room. Additional volunteers are needed. Registration is required. For more details or to sign up, contact Gloria Bishop at 972-214-7705 or e-mail gloriab4@verizon.net.

Noon Lions plan meeting

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

RHHS Fashion show set April 23

The Rockwall-Heath High School Family & Consumer Science Fashion Design classes will conduct their third annual fashion show at 7 p.m. April 23 in the RHHS cafeteria. The event will be open to the public; admission will be \$3. For more information contact J. Durst at 972-772-2474.

'Mortgage-free' class offered

A two-hour class entitled 'Mortgage-free in 10 Years of Less' will begin at 7 p.m. April 23 in Room C214, Rockwall High School. Learn how to pay off a mortgage without changing monthly spending, reduce income taxes and maximize tax deductions. Cost is \$30. For details visit rockwallisd.com; select Community tab.

Church to host awards banquet

The Meeks Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church will host its Community Servant Leadership Awards Banquet on April 23 at the Royce City Melody Banquet Hall, 305 N. Arch St., in Royce City. An auction and drawing will begin at 6 p.m., followed by a formal dining and awards at 7 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person. For more details call 972-636-2250.

Class to focus on effective disciplining

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

Animal shot, microchip clinic set

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

Relay for Life set May 1-2

The annual Relay for Life fundraising event for the American Cancer Society will run May 1-2 in Rockwall County. Register your team by calling 972-771-1605; become a sponsor by calling 972-524-9976; register as a survivor by calling 469-272-3097; or buy luminaria by calling 972-722-7998. To learn more about Relay for Life, visit relayforlife.org/rockwalltx.

Founders Day Festival set May 30

The annual Founders Day Festival will begin at 10 a.m. May 30 in Rockwall's historic downtown square. The celebration will include vendor booths, children's activities, food and day-long entertainment. A sundown concert also is planned. For more information call 972-771-7740.

Samantha Humphrey joins Rockwall Habitat board

Samantha Humphrey has been appointed to the Rockwall Area Habitat for Humanity board of directors.

Humphrey replaces Mary McClure, who has served in numerous RAHFH capacities during her more than 10 years of service to the nonprofit organization.

"For more than a decade, Mary McClure's dedication to Habitat has been unwavering and is an inspiration to all of us who volunteer," said Jim Beebe, RAHFH president. "On behalf of the board and all of the families who received a Habitat home during her tenure, I express heartfelt gratitude to Mary."

Humphrey, a clerk at the Rockwall County Sheriff's Department, joins the board following three years of volunteer service to the organization.

She said she was inspired to get involved with Habitat after her husband, Mike Humphrey, worked on some of the organization's homes.

"The Rockwall Area Habitat for Humanity truly helps families realize the American dream of home ownership, and to assist in the process is incredibly rewarding," she said.

RAHFH is constructing a home at 928 Joe Bailey St. in Royse City for members of the Culp family. Volunteers are needed for Saturday and each following Saturday until the house is completed. No experience is necessary. Work runs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Also needed are bottled or canned beverages for workers.

To get involved or make a contribution, contact volunteer.coordinator@yahoo.com.



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Rockwall High School senior Lang has been selected by Rockwall Sororist... Grieser (right). Lang rec... to the community. Courtesy of Erin Kincaid

thany Richards

High School senior Lang has been selected the Violet Richardson presented by the Sorop... of Rockwall. Lang... a \$1,000 scholar...

ng to Erin Kincaid of... Club, the Violet... Award recognizes... men between the ages... for participation in vol... within their com... or schools. Volunteer... d be efforts such as... against drugs, crime... nce, cleaning up the... ment and working to... mination and poverty... that make the commu... world a better place to

ptimist club of Rock... nizes young women

ass Tour plans at this month

ass Tour will host the... Lake Shootout pre... Legend Boats on... and Lake Ray Rob... arch 27-29.

ear anglers will com... both lakes for more... 0,000 in possible prize... and hourly prize... a big bass format event.


runner will receive a... dge Ram 1500 crew... up valued at \$32,000... dge City Dodge in... y.

ge registration is re... Anglers may register... at bigbasstour.com or... 977-958-8687. Reg... also will be conducted... Lake Fork Marina and... Lodge from noon to 9... March 26.

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A handful of area students recently were honored by the Rock Wall Chapter DAR at an awards tea conducted in the Rockwall home of Carolyn Duckworth, state treasurer for the Texas Society DAR. The students were recognized as Good Citizens. The DAR Good Citizen Contest is designed to promote and reward dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. Applicants must be seniors in high school and one senior from each high school is selected by his or her faculty to represent their school. Pictured from left are Amanda Kirstie Bellinger, The Fulton School; Noelle Paige DeFoe, Wylie High; Haley Constance Loftis, Rockwall High; McKenzie Michelle Turner, Royse City High; Audrey Elizabeth Salter, Heritage Christian Academy; and Hannah Michelle Elder, Finney High. Not pictured is Danielle Eloise Oliveria, Rockwall-Heath High School. These students now are in competition for the DAR scholarship award of \$1,000.

Say you saw it in the
"County News"



Rockwall High School senior Bethany Lang, center, is awarded the \$1,000 Violet Richardson Award by Rockwall Soroptimist member Paula Barlow (left) and Rockwall Soroptimist President Jan Grieser (right). Lang received the scholarship in recognition of her outstanding volunteer service to the community.
Photo Courtesy of Erin Kincaid

Bethany Lang earns Violet Richardson Scholarship

High School senior Bethany Lang has been selected to receive the Violet Richardson Award presented by the Soroptimist Club of Rockwall. Lang received a \$1,000 scholarship in recognition of her outstanding volunteer service to the community.

Lang is an outstanding community volunteer. In addition to other criteria, qualifications for the award are a young woman who is caring, compassionate, creative and most of all, committed to making the world a better place; a young woman who has demonstrated initiative in both identifying a problem and trying to solve it, and a young woman who has had significant and noteworthy accomplishments as a volunteer in her school and/or community.

Soroptimist International of Rockwall is a volunteer organization for professional and businesswomen who contribute time and financial support to community-based projects benefiting women and children.



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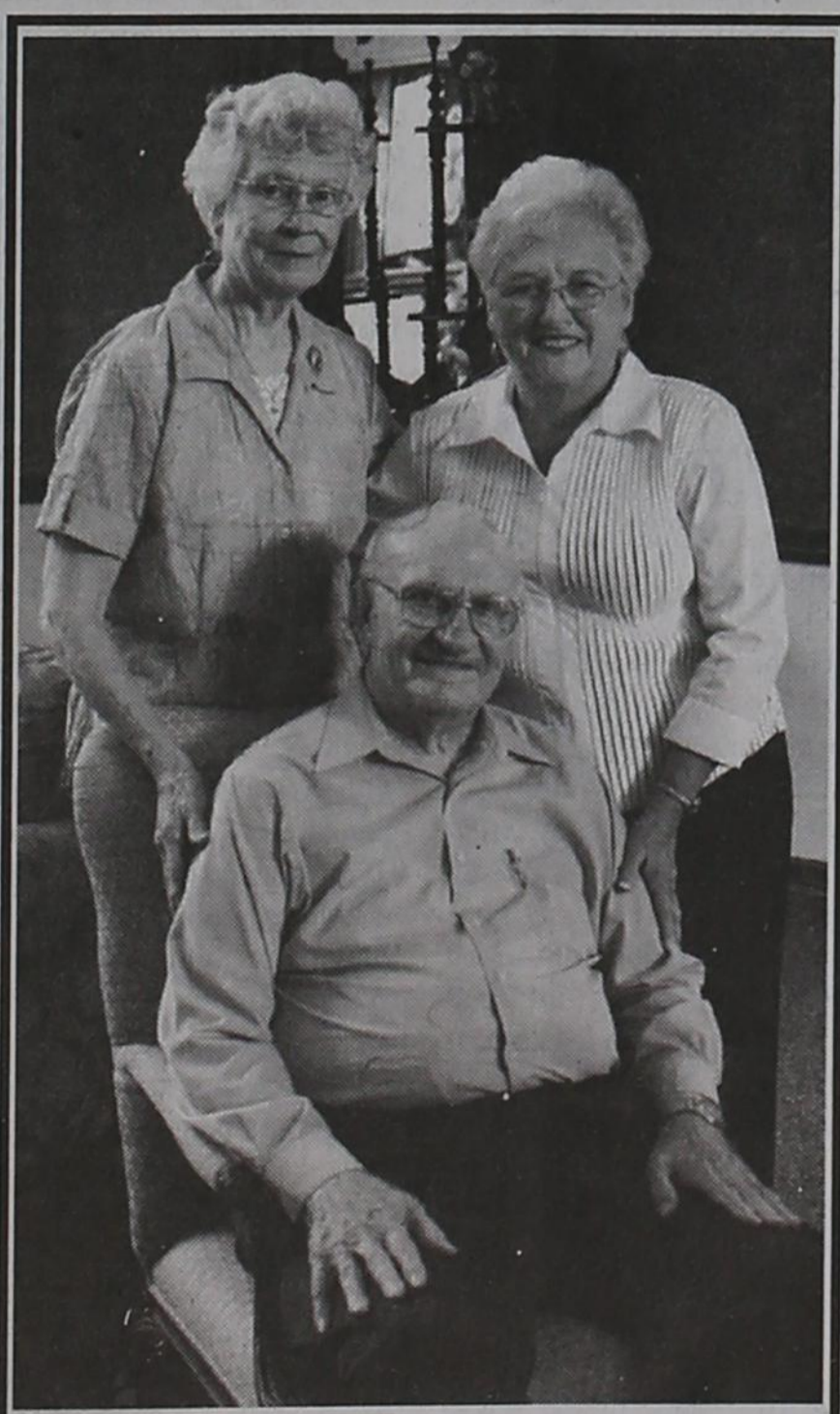
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Weldon Collier, his sister Guyrene Randles and niece Carolyn Bryan

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Rockwall ISD make-up days set

The Rockwall Independent School District has scheduled two inclement weather make-up days in April. Students should attend classes on April 10 and April 13, according to a RISD news release issued earlier this week. For more information concerning the RISD visit rockwallisd.com.

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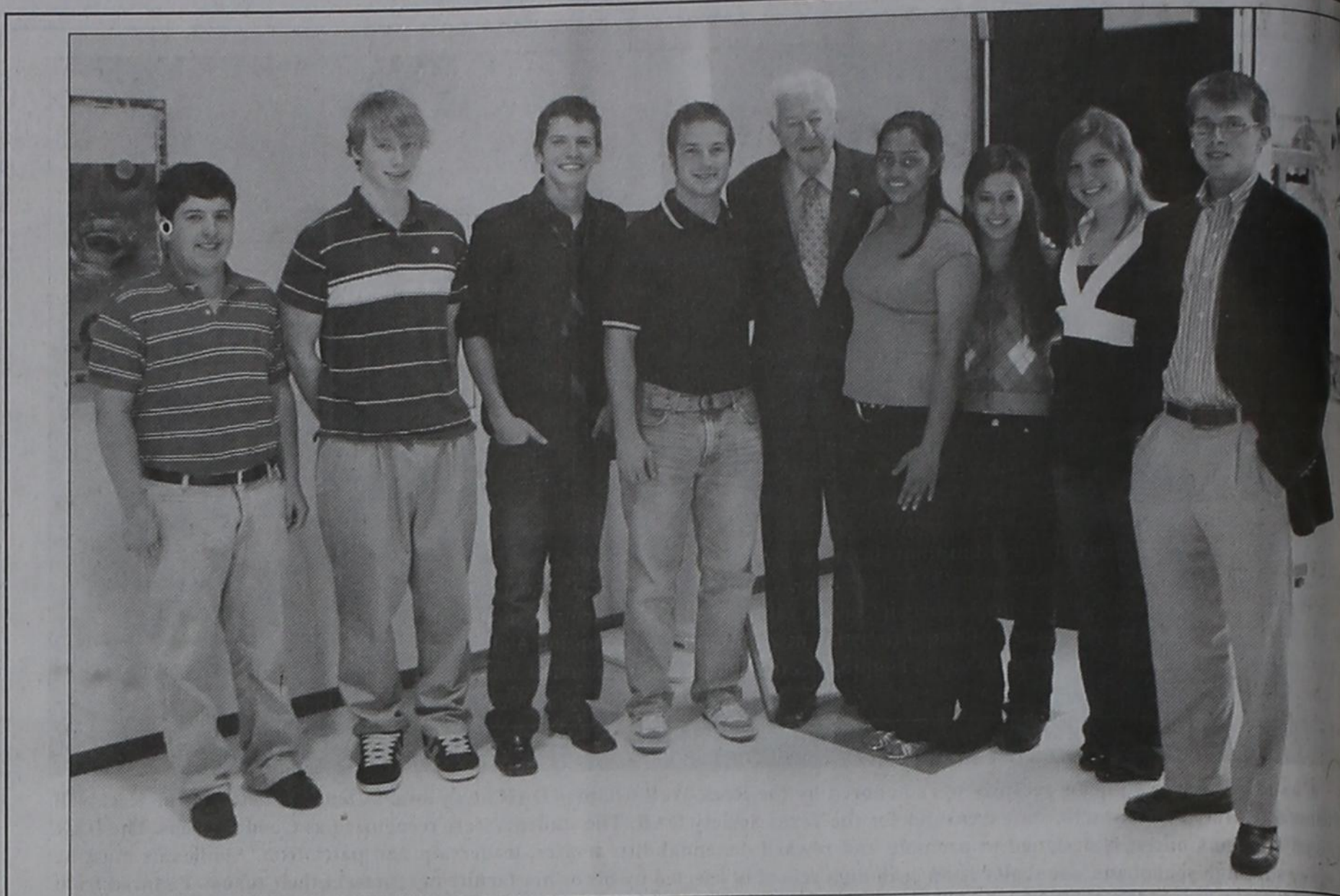
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Congressman Ralph Hall, center, visits with the 2008 Boys State and Girls State delegates at the American Legion's 90th Birthday Luncheon hosted by Rockwall Post 117 on Sunday, March 15 at The Center. Delegates and their elected positions were (left to right) Brian Dicus, state senator; Taylor Bloomquist, lawyer and Justice of the Peace; Jonathan Blake, county judge, Jacob Way, Governor; Avnee Kumar, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; Cady Dicus, city treasurer; Madeline Stone, chairwoman of the County Affairs committee for the House of Representatives, appointee to the Texas Music Commission and county reporter. Not pictured is delegate Mitchell Blom, who served as a State Representative. Jacob Way was the first delegate ever from Rockwall to be elected Governor of Boys State, the highest office at the convention.
Staff Photo by Kathy Williams

Say You Saw It In The County News

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***WILL, PROBATE & REAL ESTATE SECTION**

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--Uncontested Divorces (Terms are agreed)
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***CRIMINAL LAW SECTION**

--Contested Divorces
(Terms are not agreed)



Dewayne Cain, right, of Rest Haven Funeral Home in Rockwall, receives the Great American Award from Rockwall's American Legion Post 117 Commander Ray Walker (left) at Sunday's luncheon honoring the 90th Birthday of the American Legion. The Great American Award is given to a non-military community member who publicly supports service men and women. Cain was honored for his many years of support of the American Legion and its activities.
Staff Photo by Kathy Williams

Woodcreek Neighborhood Watch director nominated for Award of Excellence

by Kathy Williams

The Rockwall County Sheriff's Department has nominated Woodcreek Neighborhood Watch directors Richard and Tammie Lewis for the National Sheriff's Association's Neighborhood Watch Award of Excellence. The Woodcreek Addition is in Fate and has approximately 1,000 occupied homes with about 2,400 residents.

In his nomination statement, Rockwall County Sheriff Harold Eavenson said the City of Fate grew by 10 times in population between the years 2000 and 2008. Without its own police department, the City and the Sheriff's Office contractually joined forces, with the Sheriff's Office providing police service to help maintain Fate's family friendly, crime free status.

He said one of the unique features of the Woodcreek Watch program is the use of the Internet to keep neighbors informed of important safety information. His nomination statement said, "Due to the large size and population of Woodcreek, it was decided to utilize an Internet-based communications system for Crime Watch members and coordinators. To maintain the integrity of the information, it was designed so that only the Crime Watch coordinators could post criminal activity messages which would originate from the Sheriff's Office."

"This is one of the first Crime Watch programs to use this Internet-based information system. Because of the speed, ease and accessibility of information, the Watch grew to 257 members, which represents more than 10% of the area population. Directors Tammie Lewis, Richard Lewis and Sgt. Robert Mitchell were totally responsible for establishing the Watch and the Internet system."

Lt. David Davis, Jr. said in addition to the Lewis' and Sgt. Mitchell, Officer Jason Stefankiewicz has also been a contributing member of the Woodcreek Crime Watch team.

Tammie Lewis said she and her husband, Richard, were first the Safety Committee Chairs for their neighborhood's Homeowners Association, working with Sgt. Mitchell in that organization. Their work for the HOA developed into the Crime Watch program, "because with two young children, we wanted to make sure we were as safe as we could be. We were a new and developing community. If we can get neighbors on board, things are less likely to happen," she said.

Lewis agreed that the Internet communications system makes it easier to spread the word through the neighborhood when information of importance needs to be sent. "Everyone is so busy we don't have time to call like we used to and there's

no assurance we can reach everyone. With the Internet, though we can't be sure everyone will see the messages away, if there's something happens that needs immediate attention, they can get messages on their iPhones or other handheld devices."

Another feature of the program is the use of the information posted. As Sheriff Eavenson stated in his nomination, "The only information that has been released through the Sheriff's Office is passed to residents. Lewis said she is proud of the diligence everyone involved in the neighborhood's Crime Watch has shown to keep the integrity of the program at a high standard.

"I know that whatever posted comes from the Sheriff's Office or from Sgt. Mitchell for me to put the word out, because we want to post something that has happened, I ask 'did you report to the Sheriff?' If the Sheriff confirms it, I will pass it on. I don't just post everything that is told to us," Lewis said. "I don't want people to question what happened is real. We tried to make sure what we put out there is what we've told to post or have been confirmed by the Sheriff's Office."

Davis cited two incidents that were given in three categories for corporations, state agencies and individuals. The award will be presented at the Sheriff's Association's annual conference in June in Orlando. Lewis will be paid for a year.

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6th annual youth fair set April 1-4 in Rockwall

The 56th Annual Rockwall Youth Fair will take place April 1-4 in the Rockwall Independent School District Ag facility on Riding Club Road.

This year's event is the largest yet, featuring a cultural mechanics show, a livestock show, and a variety of other activities. About 30 schools are expected to participate, with the event running from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 1-4.

The fair will feature a variety of activities, including a cultural mechanics show, a livestock show, and a variety of other activities. About 30 schools are expected to participate, with the event running from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 1-4.

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tours of the animal project barn and discuss their experiences in raising livestock projects.

On April 4, events begin at 9 a.m. with market lambs, market goats, market swine and market steers showing. The livestock show will be followed by a noon barbecue lunch and the premium market sale at 1 p.m.

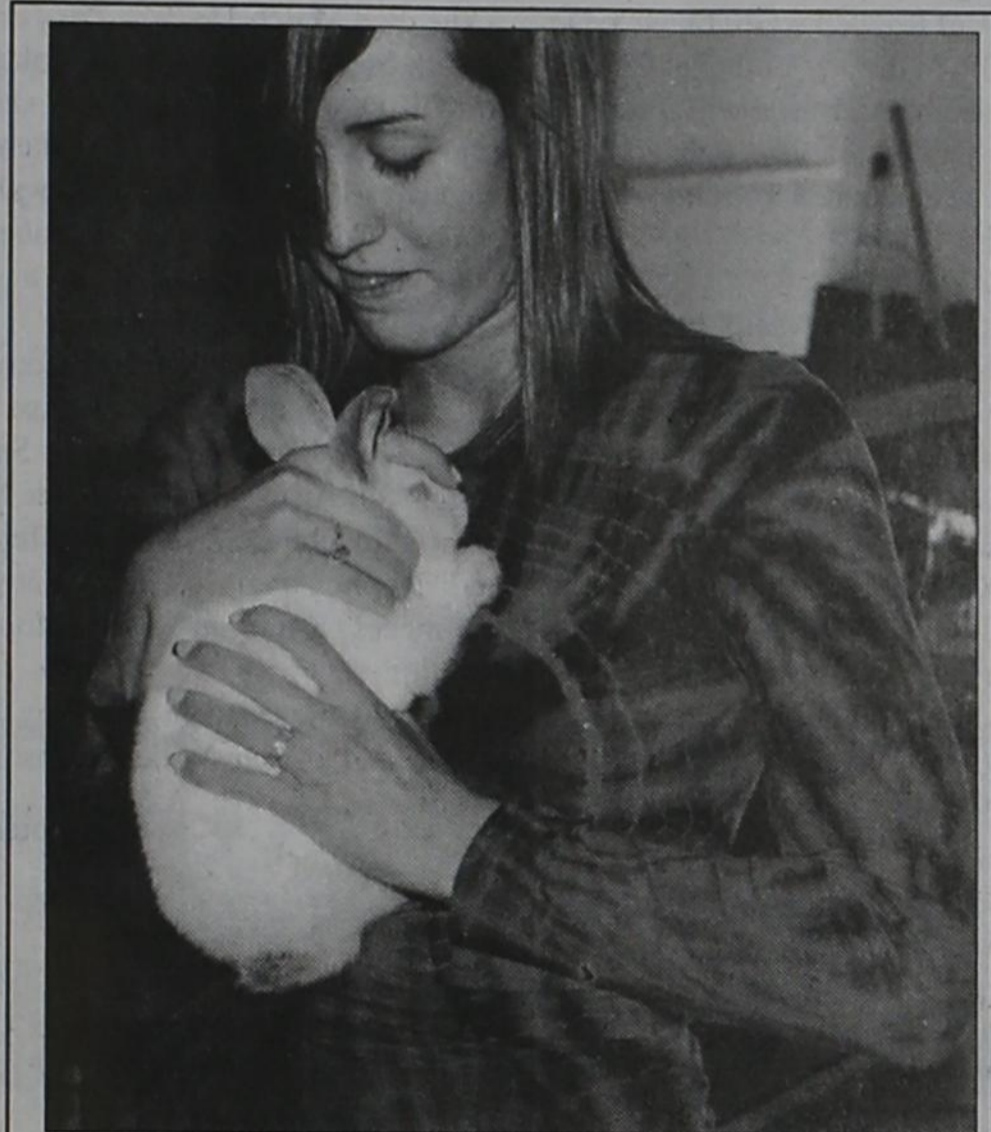
The sale will see market animals auctioned off to the highest bidders. Last year more than \$60,000 was given back to Rockwall youth as a result of the market auction. Premiums often are used as college savings or invested in projects to be undertaken next year.

"The Rockwall Youth Fair is a fine example of our young leaders of tomorrow presenting their hard work and dedication to success in their future of agriculture and agribusiness," said Travis Reynolds, Rockwall Youth Fair president. "It is our responsibility as leaders to offer support and guidance to these students to enable them to achieve their goals. We must always remember that the children are our future, and we are their guide."

Sidelining the livestock show is the art show, which is open to all RISD youth. It is comprised of artworks classified as painting, drawing, sculpture, craft and mixed media.



Saturday is the final day of council-organized Girl Scout cookie booth sales in this part of the state. Booths will be set up at the Wal-Mart Supercenter, Brookshire's, Bass Pro Shops, Tom Thumb, Kroger, Blockbuster, Albertson's and Lowe's. Pictured above are two area Girl Scouts selling cookies at a booth set up recently at Rockwall's Blockbuster location.



Rockwall High School FFA member Callie Merritt and her rabbit, Lindsey, are preparing for the 56th Annual Rockwall Youth Fair, which will begin at 5 p.m. April 1 with an agriculture mechanics show. Breeding heifers, goats, rabbits and market rabbits will compete on April 3, and on the following day market animals will go head to head. A barbeque luncheon will be served at noon, followed by the market sale. All activities will take place at the RISD ag facility on Riding Club Road.

Library seeks volunteers for fall tutoring

The Rockwall County Library is needing volunteer tutors for the Reading for Adults program.

Training will be conducted from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 18 in the library's Community Room.

Registration is required. For more details or to sign up, contact Gloria Bishop in the ESL classroom near the library entryway, call 972-214-7705 or e-mail gloriab4@verizon.net.

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Royce City Lions Club reactivating

The Royce City Lions Club is in the process of reactivating. Meetings will be from noon to 1 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

For location information or more details, contact Kate Tyre at irishkate@argontech.net or at 972-635-6177.

For more information on Lions Club International, visit lionsclub.org.

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ON TOTAL LAWN & GARDEN PURCHASES OVER \$299 WITH YOUR SEARS CARD

5% cash back offer excludes: Great Price items, outdoor storage, outdoor furniture and gas grills. 5% rebate calculated on purchase price of item, less all discounts, coupons and reward certificates, not including tax, installation or delivery. Returned and reconditioned merchandise not eligible for rebate. Offer not valid with Sears Commercial One® and Sears Home Improvement Accounts™ accounts. See store for details. Excludes Outlet Stores. Offer good thru 3/21/2009. See sears.com for online rebate details.

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Woodcreek nomination ...

(Continued from Page 4)

Woodcreek neighborhood that could have had a negative but, due to the innovative communication network in the apprehension of suspects and the recovery of

resident observed three males suspiciously looking into on Dec. 10, 2007. The resident called 911 and woke her off-duty police officer. He and the responding officers identified the three suspects and recovered property from five

glaries. told of an incident on July 20, 2008 in which the Sheriff received information from a Woodcreek Watch member van carrying several males might be responsible for an air conditioner unit from an unoccupied house. The was immediately sent to the membership through the

coordinators. week, another Crime Watch member reported a similar with male occupants stopped at another house. Deputies to catch the suspects removing an air conditioning unit the suspects were charged with criminal activity, felony

possession of cocaine. of the ease of using the system and the comfort of people, we have been able to sign up at least 257 members. "Between the fantastic to have that many," Davis said. "Between the people that we have and the fact that we use the Internet can rest comfortably knowing that they have a level of the system has worked really well."

Neighborhood Watch Awards of Excellence are given by National Sheriff's Association. The program was established to recognize and honor those law enforcement agencies, Wood Watches, states, organization and programs that are extraordinary things to promote Neighborhood Watches in communities.

ards are given in three categories: to a law enforcement neighborhood watch program or coordinators and in an category for corporations, states, or organizations that show ing commitment to the program. will be presented at the National Sheriff's Association conference in June in Orlando, Fl. Travel expenses for members will be paid for by a grant from the Bureau of Justice

Rockwall County Obituaries

Jeremy Alsobrook

Services for Jeremy Alsobrook, 15, a lifetime Rockwall resident, were conducted at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 15, 2009, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel with Pastor Kason Huddleston officiating. Burial followed in the Rest Haven Memorial Park.

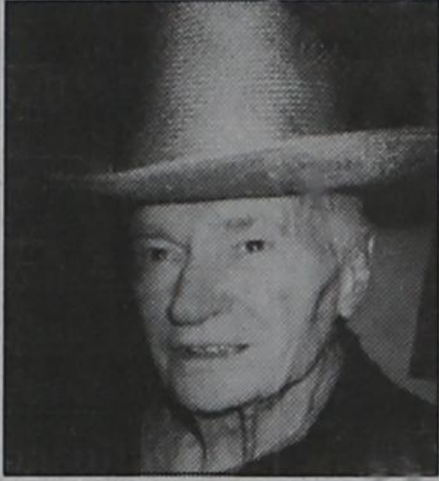


He died March 11.
Born Dec. 23, 1993, in Dallas, he was a Cain Middle School student.

Survivors include his mother, Carol Siller, and her husband, Mike, of Rockwall; his father, Brian Alsobrook of Rockwall; his brothers, Bret Alsobrook of Overland Park, Kansas, and Chad Aynesworth of Rockwall; his grandparents, Ronnie and Martha (Memaw) Smith of Rockwall, Nancy Ayers of Dallas and Harold Alsobrook of Tyler; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Frank Brown

Memorial services for Frank Lawhorn Brown were set for noon today, Thursday, March 19, 2009, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel with Dr. Aubrey Patterson officiating. Burial will follow in the Rockwall Memorial Cemetery.



The family will receive friends prior to the service beginning at 10 a.m.

He died March 11.

Born in Nevada, Texas, on Nov. 28, 1918, he was a farmer, a singer and a mechanic. He was retired from International Harvester and had a lifelong affiliation with the Baptist church.

Survivors include his children, Darnell Brown Bickley of West Des Moines, Iowa, Frank Nell Brown of Fort Worth, Sandra Brown Williams of Eugene, Ore., and Robert Eldon Brown of Mesquite; and members of his extended family, including Janet Lee Evans of Fort Worth, Tom Van Hon of Des Moines and Jeffrey Price Williams of Eugene. Also, his grandchildren, Karen Elizabeth Landa of Austin, Sondra Lynn Newkirk of Des Moines, Nathan Frank Brown of Fort Worth, Melissa Ann Rishel of Denton and Benjamin Jeffrey Williams of Portland, Ore., and his great-grandchildren, Rachel Loren Farris and Patrick Tyler Farris of Austin, Maxwell Spencer Newkirk, Alexander Parker Newkirk and Baxter Wayne Newkirk of Des Moines, Ire Mahar-Russo of Portland, Asa Neil Rishel and Cy Aden Rishel of Denton and Griffin Samuel Brown of Fort Worth.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Frankie Lelia Lawhorn Brown and Jeff Rufus Brown; a brother, Jeff Rufus Brown; and the mother of his children, Nella Vee Neil Trisdale.

The family has suggested memorials be made to the donor's favorite charity.

Russ Kelly

Memorial services for Russ Kelly, 59, of Rowlett were conducted at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 18, 2009, in the Joy Lutheran Church in Rockwall with Pastor Paul Appel officiating. Burial will follow at a later date in Illinois.

A Night of Remembrance service was conducted Tuesday, March 17, at the church.

He died March 15.

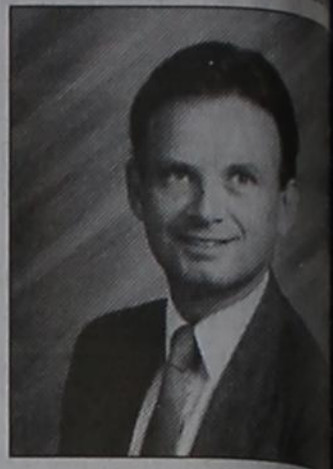
Born Dec. 7, 1949, in Sleepy Eye, Minn., to Neal Clifford and Leona Geneva (Mueller) Kelly, he served in the U.S. Marines during the Vietnam War. A retired police officer with the Rochelle, Ill., Police Department after 26 years of service, he enjoyed golfing, reading, fishing, crossword puzzles and spending time with his grandchildren. He was a fan of the Chicago Bears.

Survivors include his wife, Donna Kelly of Rowlett; his son, Sean and his wife, Crystal (Buehner) Kelly of Bloomingdale, Ill.; his daughter, Kim (Kelly) Knight and her husband, Jason, of Holcomb, Ill.; his grandchildren, Payton Kelly, Morgan Knight, Noah Knight and Ashley Knight; his sister, Jackie (Kelly) Schertner and her husband, Jim, of Norman, Okla.; and good friends Bob and Gail (Smith) Maxwell and a large extended family.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Philip L. Kienlen

Philip L. Kienlen

Services for Philip L. Kienlen, 60, of Rockwall were conducted 6 p.m. March 12, 2009, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel.



He died March 5.
Born July 27, 1948, in Fort Wayne, Ind., to Kenneth and Hattie M. (Letts) Kienlen, he worked with Raytheon in Garland and was an active youth sports volunteer.

Survivors include his sons, Andy and Alex Kienlen of Heath; a sister, Sharon Clark of Churubusco, Ind.; a sister-in-law, Linda Kienlen of Fort Wayne; and seven nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Stephen Kienlen; and a nephew, Chris.

The family has suggested memorial contributions be made to the Brown University School of Medicine Rhode Island Hospital c/o Stephen P. Salloway M.D., Alzheimer's Disease and Dementias Research Program, 593 Eddy St., Providence, R.I.

Louiza Lewis

Services for Louiza Lewis, 85, of Rockwall were conducted 11 a.m. Saturday, March 14, 2009, in the St. Paul AME Church in Rockwall with the Rev. Joe Robbins officiating. Burial followed in the Rest Haven Memorial Park.

She died March 11.

Born Sept. 13, 1923, in Coleman to Will Davis and Ida Gibson, she enjoyed sewing and was an excellent seamstress. A nurse at the Rockwall Nursing Center, she was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and the St. Paul AME Church.

Survivors include her son, Tommy Gibson and his wife, of Dallas; a daughter, Josephine Tinsley and her husband, of Garland; her grandchildren, Serita Williams of Dallas, Yvonne Faggins of Arlington and Valerie Storms of Lawrenceville, Ga.; great-grandchildren, Julius Waffer II, Camille Williams and L. and Brien Faggins; one great-great-grandchild, Justice; her nieces, Karen and Susie Moore; and a nephew, Wayne (Lottie).

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Lewis; and a sister, Willene Gibson-Davis.

(Continued on Page 7)

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Psalm 38:15

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you..."
Matthew 7:7

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

"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."
Matt. 28:20

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"That if you will confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord', and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."
Romans 10:8-10

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

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

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Rockwall Obituaries (Continued from Page 6)
Joel Keith Ragland, 71, of Rockwall, Texas, died Wednesday, March 18, 2009, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel with Pastor Kason Huddleston officiating. Burial followed in the Rest Haven Memorial Park.
Born July 22, 1962, in Dallas to the late Ragland Sr. and Linda Ragland, he attended the Rockwall High School where he was a football player.
Survivors include his wife, Lori Ragland; two sons, Jeremy Paul Swearingen and Tyler Rico, both of Roys City; a daughter, Stephanie Ragland; and a granddaughter, Ryan Rico and Braden Ragland, all of Rockwall; and her husband, Adrian; and a sister, Sandra, Rick Ragland and his wife, Annie.
He was preceded in death by his father.
Patsy Shank, 71, of Rockwall, Texas, died Wednesday, March 11, 2009, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home in Rockwall.
Born March 2, 1938, in Greenville, S.C., to Jesse Welch and Jessie Welch, she graduated from Roys City High School where she was a majorette. She attended...

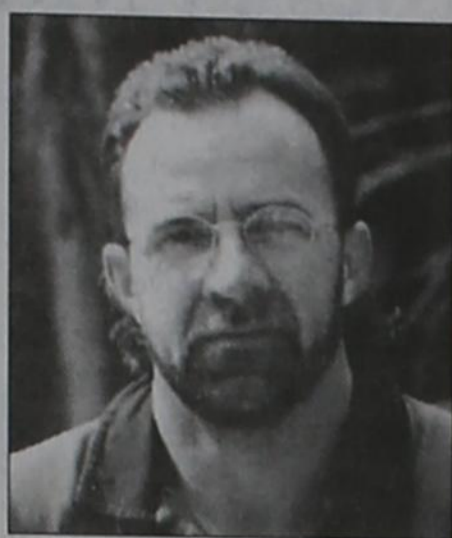
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Rockwall Texas 75...

Rockwall County Obituaries

(Continued from Page 6)

Joel Keith Ragland



Services for Joel Keith Ragland, of Rockwall, Texas, were conducted Wednesday, March 18, at the Rest Haven Funeral Home, 14801 Rockwall Chapel with Pastor Patterson officiating. Burial followed in the Rest Haven Memorial Park.

Mr. Ragland was born March 15, 1937, in Dallas, Texas, to the late C. L. Ragland Sr. and Linda E. Ragland. He attended the University of Texas at Dallas where he was a forklift operator.

Survivors include his wife, Lori Ann Ragland of Royse City; sons, Jeremy Paul Swearingen of Princeton, Texas, and Zack Tyler Rico, both of Royse City; his daughters, Whitney Shannon Ragland and Macie Ragland, all of Royse City; his children, Ryan Rico and Braden Joel Swearingen; his parents, a son and her husband, Byron, of Garland; a sister, Linda Lila, of her husband, Adrian; and his brothers, Billy Ragland, his wife, Sandra, Rick Ragland and his wife, Maria, and Jimmy and his wife, Annie.

He preceded in death by his father.

Patsy Shank



Services for Patsy Shank, 71, of Springfield, Mo., were conducted 10 a.m. March 6, 2009, at the Blawn Funeral Home in Springfield, Mo.

She died March 2 in her home. Mrs. Shank was born July 4, 1938, in Greenville, S.C., to the late Clarence and Jessie Welch. She grew up in Fate and graduated from Royse City High School where she was a majorette. She at-

tended business school in Dallas and married Ronald Dean Shank on Dec. 21, 1956. The couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2006. She worked as a bookkeeper until her retirement in 2006 and was known as MeMe to her grandchildren.

Survivors include her husband of Springfield; two daughters, Linda Whitener and Cinci and Clay Goddard of Springfield; six grandchildren, Brandon Goodwin, Tyler Whitener, Spencer Whitener, Alora Goddard, Bryson Kopica and Ashley Goddard; a sister, Joann and Art Garrison of Garland; and other family members and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two sons, Kenneth and Randy Shank.

In lieu of flowers, the family has suggested that donations be made to St. John's Hospital in Springfield.

On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett
For archives of On God's Word visit
geocities.com/christinyou7love

Jesus Christ prays to his Father...John 17:1-14

After teaching his disciples many things during their walk, Jesus looked up and began to pray to his Father in heaven. The record of his prayer is found in John chapter 17. Not unlike his other recorded prayers, this one is a perfect example for praying to our heavenly Father. Notice the close and personal relationship he had with his Father as reflected in the way he communicated with Him.

He started by saying, "Father, the hour is come; glorify Your son, that Your son also may glorify you. As you have given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as You have given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work that You gave me to do. And now, O Father, glorify me with Your own self with the glory which I had with You before the world was" (John 17:1-5).

Jesus knew God's will, and claimed it in prayer. He knew that his Father would back His word. This is why he prayed with such confidence. Notice he did not beg his Father, but instead came to Him with a bold and humble heart ready to receive the promise. According to verse four, he basically told his Father that he did his part, and he trusts Him to do His part.

"I have manifested Your name unto the men that You gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and You gave them to me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that whatever You have given me are from You. For I have given unto them the words that You gave me, and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from You, and they have believed that You did send

me" (verses 6-8). Once again he boldly tells his Father what he did for Him.

Continuing with verse 9, "I pray for them. I pray not for the world, but for them which You have given me, for they are Yours. And all mine are Yours, and Yours are mine. And I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your own name those whom You have given me, that they may be one, as we are" (verses 9-11).

Jesus knew that he would soon go to his Father, and his disciples would still be in the world. He reminded his Father that they were His, and boldly asked Him to guard and protect them so that they might be one just as he and his Father were one. This means to be one in purpose or will. Jesus and his Father were one in that Jesus always did his Father's will.

"While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those that You gave me I have kept, and none of them are lost, but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them Your word, and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world" (verses 12-14).

He prayed as if what was going to happen already happened. Again he reminded his Father that he guarded all who were his. He prayed that they would have the same joy that was in him. In the name of Jesus Christ it is still available today to have perfect joy in our lives!

RCN subscription campaign benefits City of Rockwall Animal Services Department

The City of Rockwall Animal Services Department has been designated as the beneficiary of a Rockwall County News (RCN) subscription campaign, which started this week. A portion of every new subscription payment during the campaign will be donated by the newspaper to the Animal Services Department.

"We'll be calling between the hours of 6 to 9 p.m. offering area residents the opportunity to sign up for a one-year subscription," RCN publisher Wesley W. Burnett explains. Donations to the Animal Services Department will assist with the wide variety of services provided in the housing and care of abandoned animals.

"Our new subscribers will appreciate the mailed delivery of their locally owned and operated hometown newspaper," Burnett adds, "and help a very important community service at the same time."

Rockwall County Health Matters



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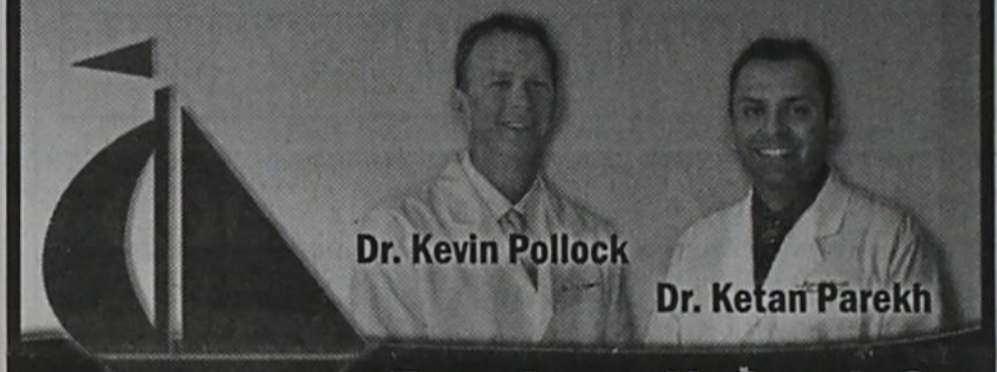
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The first step in the treatment sequence is careful planning. Thanks to recent advancements in implant techniques, most people with missing teeth qualify as candidates for implant treatment. Once you and your doctor have determined a dental implant is the right choice, your doctor will take x-rays and make models of your mouth in order to determine the best plan of treatment for your situation.

The next step is placing the implant in the jaw using a gentle surgical procedure. Many patients report having a dental implant placed is less traumatic than having a tooth removed. Healthy bone forms a strong bond to the implant after 6-12 weeks, providing a solid foundation for attaching a replacement tooth (called a crown). Because dental implants usually are not covered by gum during this step, the gum tissue and bone reshape and heal around the implant at the same time.

After the bone has bonded with the implant, the next step is to create the crown. In a few appointments, your dentist will attach a

post (called an abutment) to the implant, take impressions of your teeth, and check for proper fit and color of the crown.

Dr. Kevin Pollock, Dr. Ketan Parekh and the entire staff at Rockwall Oral & Facial Surgery strive to make sure every step of your dental implant procedure is a safe, comfortable and worry-free experience. When having an oral surgery, such as a dental implant it is important that the procedure is performed in an oral surgery facility under the care of a board certified specialist.

The offices of Rockwall Oral & Facial Surgery are equipped for both safety and comfort. Our building is designed specifically to support the needs of our patients as they receive surgical treatment. Qualified staff members are ready to serve our patients whether it is during a surgical procedure or assisting with financial and insurance arrangements.

For more information please contact Rockwall Oral & Facial Surgery. We are conveniently located in Rockwall at 960 West Ralph Hall Parkway. We also have offices in Wylie and Canton. Call today to schedule your complimentary dental implant consultation. Our staff will be happy to assist you when you call 469-698-9800 or find us on the web at www.dentalimplantsurgery.com



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Rockwall County Entertainment

Rockwall School of Music showcases guitar heroes at March 26 gig

Submitted by Russ Porter

What do a dentist, a city engineer, an attorney, a housing inspector, a territory manager and a DJ all have in common? The answer is simple, music. Each of these men lead secret

lives... business man by day, rock star by night. For several years, each of these daytime professionals, Duane Wilson, John Baker, Alan Struble, Mike Turner, David Adams and Lance Hicks, have practiced their guitar skills through private instruction

at the Rockwall School of Music. Their instructor, Chuck Pangburn, a recipient of two Grammy Awards for his teaching, has provided them with the opportunity to organize a band and play their first "gig" on Thursday,

March 26. The show will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Rockwall School of Music, 749 Justin Road in Rockwall. It is open to the public and is free of charge.

Most of the members have been playing guitar since their

teens. Some continued to play through the years and some have only recently picked up the instrument again to recapture the joy and fun they remember having when they first played.

Pangburn has been teaching

at the school since 2004 and more than 30 years of teaching experience. He has been the Director of Jazz and Electric Bass at Dallas Booker T. Washington School for the Performing Arts since 1976.

He was among the faculty of a school recognized for outstanding commitment to music education when they were awarded prestigious Grammy Awards and Gold Grammy Signature School. In addition, Chuck's students Arts Magnet have performed at the Monterey Jazz Festival the past three years.

A native of Dallas, Pangburn has also been a guitar instructor at Eastfield College, Mountain View College, Brook May College and Pangburn Studios.

The group has been rehearsing for their show for several months. David Adams of Murphy, Texas, played some guitar in college and said he picked up the instrument again "because it's something I can do all throughout my life. I spend a lot of time in airports and my job and this is something I can do for my whole life."



Dr. Duane Wilson, a member of the ensemble performing at the Rockwall School of Music on Thursday, March 26, entertains a patient while preparing for his first gig.

Photo Courtesy of Russ Porter

PUBLIC NOTICE

On March 6, 2009, Atmos Energy Corporation, Mid-Tex Division ("Atmos Energy" or "the Company"), filed a Rate Review Mechanism ("RRM") filing to increase its gas rates and implement a new schedule of rates and riders. This filing is applicable to all customers within all incorporated cities served by the Mid-Tex Division, with the exception of the City of Dallas. The proposed effective date of the requested rate changes is July 20, 2009. If approved, the proposed changes will affect approximately 1,186,634 residential, 97,855 commercial, and 790 industrial and transportation customers.

If approved, the proposed rates will increase the Company's annual revenues for the affected incorporated areas of its Mid-Tex Division by \$9,735,814, or 0.67% percent, including gas costs, or 3.40 percent, excluding gas cost. The proposed change in rates constitutes a "major change" as that term is defined by Section 104.101 of the Texas Utilities Code.

Based on the proposed rate design, the typical monthly bill for each customer class within the affected incorporated areas of the Mid-Tex Division will increase by the amount and percentage shown in the table below:

Customer Class	Current Bill	Proposed Bill**	Difference	Percentage Increase with Gas Cost	Percentage Increase without Gas Cost
Residential	\$85.97*	\$86.51*	\$0.54	0.63%	2.49%
Commercial	\$363.79*	\$364.88*	\$1.09	0.30%	2.39%
Industrial	\$3,724.55*	\$3,738.82*	\$14.27	0.38%	2.65%
Transportation	\$631.86	\$646.13	\$14.27	2.26%	2.65%

Note: Bill impact ranges are subject to varying tax rates among the cities.

* Includes Rider GCR Part A cost of \$9.48 per Mcf. ** The calculation of bill impacts assumes monthly consumption of 6 Mcf for residential, 30 Mcf for commercial and 300 MMBtu for industrial and transportation customers.

In addition to the rate revisions in Rate Schedules R, C, I, and T, other proposed tariff changes include updates to factors included in Rider WNA and revisions to the Rider GCR to allow the recovery of gains and losses, as well as transaction costs associated with financial hedging transactions.

Persons with specific questions or desiring additional information about this filing may contact Atmos Energy Corporation at 1-888-286-6700. Complete copies of the filed Rate Review Mechanism, including all proposed rates and schedule changes, are available for inspection at Atmos Energy's offices located at 5420 LBJ Freeway, Suite 1600, Dallas, Texas 75240 or on our Web site at www.atmosenergy.com/RRM. In addition, customers can contact their respective municipality for additional information regarding this rate request.

Este es un aviso a los clientes de Mid-Tex Division de Atmos Energy Corporation (la Compañía) que la Compañía está solicitando un aumento en la tarifa del gas. Este aumento afecta a todos los clientes en las áreas incorporadas y servidas por Mid-Tex Division excepto la Ciudad de Dallas. Si usted tiene preguntas con respecto a este aumento, por favor llame a Atmos Energy Corporation al 1-888-286-6700.



Nathan Leach, Jesika Emanuel and Brittany Santo (left to right) are the next three qualifiers for the title of Rockwall Idol, chosen at the Thursday, March 12 preliminary. One more preliminary competition will be held Thursday, March 19 at the Hilton Bella Harbor. The top three finishers from each of three qualifying rounds will compete to be named the newest Rockwall Idol at the club's WomenAid Banquet on Saturday, March 28 at the Hilton.

Staff Photo by Tim Burnett

Three more finalists added to 'Rockwall Idol' lineup for March 28 showdown

Three more finalists have been selected to sing for the title of Rockwall Idol at the final competition to be held during the Soroptimist's WomenAid Banquet on Saturday, March 28 at the Hilton Belle Harbor. The final preliminary competition

will begin at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 19 at the Hilton.

Last week, 24 contestants auditioned for one of nine total finalists spots to appear at the banquet.

Created in 2004, WomenAid provides healthcare, dental care and medical screenings for women and children in Rockwall County.

Contestants in the March 12 preliminary were Kimberly Perales, singing Sweet Dreams; Josh Miller, Falling Slowly; Bud Rager, Amazing Grace; Victoria Koepf, Miles of Silence; Amy Baker, So Simple; Alex Brandon, Amazing Grace; Mone' Watson, Testify; Paris Jones, A Place in this World; Danielle Lumsden, Some Hearts; Blaine Mitchell, Collide; Sara Rhone, Gunpowder and Lead, and Lauren Allison,

Call Me When You're Sober.

Also on the night's bill were Jaspreet Bains, Starlight; Tiffany Donham, When He Cheats; Amber Seed, Crazy; Brittany Santo, Anyway; Nathan Leach, I Can't Stand Still; Crixie Catoe, Take It Back; Emily Russell, I'd Lie; Kassandra Rivera, Put Your Records On; Courtney Haycraft, Crazy; Marissa Duff, What About Love; Jesika Emanuel, When God Fearin' Women Get the Blues, and Katie Brewer, She Talks to Angels.

Judges for the competition are Rachel Hiebert, a well-respected and seasoned artist in her local

church, Still Water Community Church, and in the D-FW area Greg Lackey, currently the time creative director and worship leader at Cornerstone Rock Church, and Will Kincaid, Soroptimist husband, professional musician and owner of Mission Apparel Company.

Assisting with the production is Kevin Waitkus, Director of Event Technology for the Hilton Bella Harbor.

Tickets for the banquet are available for \$60 from Shellie Miller. She can be reached at shellierocks@aol.com or 972-9923.

Choir organized for 55-plus

A community choir for musicians ages 55 and older is organizing in Rockwall.

Russ Porter, owner of Rockwall School of Music, is the organizer of the choir, which will observe weekly rehearsals at 7 p.m. beginning April 6. Rehearsals will culminate in a Memorial Day performance at the Rest Haven Funeral Home on May 25.

"This choir is specifically signed with senior musicians in mind," said Porter. "Being a part of a choir is tons of fun. Having a specific goal to sing for a community-wide Memorial Day service is an extra bonus."

Rehearsals will take place at the Rockwall School of Music, located at 749 Justin Road.

To register call 972-722-6800.

Entertainment Briefs

Dodds to make Friday appearance

Deryl Dodd will be in concert Friday at Southern Junction Nightclub & Steakhouse. Also appearing will be The Dirt Road Gypsies. Doors will open at 6 p.m.; show starts at 8:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 and \$15. For tickets or reservation information call 972-771-2418 or visit southernjunctionlive.com.

Chesnutt performance set Saturday

Mark Chesnutt will appear in concert at Southern Junction Nightclub & Steakhouse on Saturday. Also appearing will be The Dirt Road Gypsies. Doors will open at 6 p.m.; show starts at 8:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$16.50 and \$33. For tickets or reservation information call 972-771-2418 or visit southernjunctionlive.com.

Mark Owen appearing at SJ

Mark Owen will perform April 10 at the Southern Junction Nightclub & Steakhouse, with Coby McDonald also slated to perform. Doors will open at 6 p.m.; show starts at 8:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 and \$18. For tickets or reservation information call 972-771-2418 or visit southernjunctionlive.com.

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 Dallas's "Energy Plaza" was originally the "Tower"

5 Kids drink: "...-Aid"

6 TX VP Garner said his job "... worth a bucket of warm spit"

7 new car with miles

8 TXism: "scarce as a wildcatter with ..."

17 San Angelo was named after a Catholic

18 Sul Ross was the ... TX governor

21 bad military discharge (abbr.)

22 TXism: "not worth a red ..."

23 "boy" in Scotland

24 TXism: "... wet hen"

29 these can be Roths

30 Plainview is seat of this county

31 TX singer Trini (init.)

32 TX heroes were ... inside

34 too curious about somebody else

35 Lake El ... del Rey

36 TX Dobie book: "... England"

37 orphan boy in TX

38 Larry McMurry's "Lonesome Dove"

38 TX or RV town

39 teaching method you can find in TX

41 Cowboys planned to make Super Bowl ... '09

42 TXism: "tie up the loose ..."

43 Phillips & Kubiak are ... coaches

44 lose weight

45 TX sculptor Elisabet

46 curved shape

47 "... pole"

48 candy once sold at minor league Houston games for player Joe Medwick

53 "tit for ..."

50 Dumas is seat of this county

51 fictional sister of TX Irma Hogg

52 this pitcher Robb played in TX in '93

53 "tit for ..."

13 Obama '09 popular inaugural dance song (2 wds.)

14 this Ed was a Spurs forward (86-'88)

15 give up territory

16 tune by TX Roy Orbison group

19 TX "RO Ranch" founder Rowe died on this ship in 1912

20 Wichita Falls bicycle race: "HotterN ... Hundred"

22 this TX Ben won The Masters twice

24 this Matthew was in film "WarGames" with TX Dabney Coleman (init.)

25 Mineola h.s. class

26 TX Republic "daughters" organization (abbr.)

27 TX Garner joke book: "How Like Noodles?"

28 TXism: "... of half a dozen of the other"

29 TX Tanya Tucker song: "Texas When ..."

30 TX Byron Nelson autobiography: "... Played the Game"

33 TXism: "got in his pants" (lidgey)

34 socially inept

35 ornamental TX plant

37 TXism for "worthless" (2 wds.)

38 horseman

40 immunity provider

41 TX barbed wire king: "... Million" Gates

44 judge's attire

47 harsh ruler

49 many TXns fought here ('50-'53)

Rockwall Religion
Lakeshore Church Host
Friday, March 23, Lakeshore C
Cathedral Choir in a concert
offering will be taken. Pleas
music.
also invited on Good Friday
worship beginning at 7 p.m. in
for ages three and younger. D
prayer.
with Lakeshore at one of o
on April 12. Service time
more information, visit www.lakepointe.org
5575 S. State Highway 20
1942.
"The Passion of the C
mission of the Christ" will be sh
4:19 Auditorium at Lake Poi
In addition, Chuck's studen
Arts Magnet have performe
the Monterey Jazz Festive
the past three years.
A native of Dallas, Pang
has also been a guitar instr
at Eastfield College, Moun
View College, Brook May
Pangburn Studios.
The group has been rehear
for their show for several mo
David Adams of Murphy,
played some guitar in colle
said he picked up the instr
again "because it's somethin
can do all throughout my li
spend a lot of time in airpor
my job and this is somethin
can do for my whole life."
Friday, April 10:
p.m. Church open for praye
Sunday: 6:45 a.m. Sunrise Se
(live), traditional flowering of t
Worship
Brunch
m. Easter Egg Hunt for child
m. Worship
Joy Lutheran Chu
Palm Sunday, 10:30 a.m. We
to Jerusalem.
Maundy Thursday, 7 p.m. We
his disciples.
Good Friday, 7 p.m. Worst
save us from sin.
Easter Sunday, Worship at 8
m.; Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30
eran Church is located at 30
one block north of the Rock
appel is Joy's pastor. He ca
his website is joylutheranchu
First Baptist Ch
ist Church of Heath will ho
9 a.m. on Easter Sunday.
Ridgeview C
w Church is undergoing a
day, they will begin offerin
beginning April 12 will
view.net for more informati
First United Methodis
Monday, April 5: "The Seven La
el Choir in the Sanctuary at
Worship in the Commons, S
Scripture, Music, and Comm
Thursday, April 9: A Servi
Worship, Rev. Joe Pool preac
Monday, April 10: A Service of
extinguishing of candles.
April 11: Children's Easter
Sunday, April 12: 6:30 a.m.
on.
9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.: Tradition
Pool's sermon: "Who Are Yo
Open Door Worship in the C
the Englert's sermon: "From
United Methodist Church, Rock
in Rockwall.
Lake Pointe
Church will hold East
at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.; and Sun
visit www.lakepointe.org.
HCA Students F
at Heritage Christian Acc
applies as part of Mission HC
as and school supplies will tra
International Mission Team in J
children in the village of Sar
Only in
ometown M
James
Painting
Interior
35 Years
Days: 2
Nights:
Voted Rockwall's F

Rockwall County Religious Life

LakeShore Church Hosts Cathedral Choir
 Monday, March 23, LakeShore Church will host the John Brown Cathedral Choir in a concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A offering will be taken. Please come join us for a wonderful musical evening.

Also invited on Good Friday for a special hour of solemn remembrance and prayer beginning at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Childcare will be provided for ages three and younger. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for a time of prayer and reflection.

'The Passion of the Christ' Showing
 The Passion of the Christ will be shown at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 10 at the 19 Auditorium at Lake Pointe Church. We will be showing the movie in its entirety, but please keep in mind the graphic and intense nature of the film when considering bringing children. No childcare is provided. The running time is 126 minutes. Lake Pointe Church is located at 701 Rockwall. The Pier 4:19 Student Center is on the south side of the lot.

Easter Service Times - Area Churches
First Christian Church, Rockwall
 April 4: 12 p.m.-2 p.m. Outdoor walking tour through scenes from Palm Sunday through Easter. Each walk-thru is 15 minutes.
 April 5: 10 a.m. Worship with indoor drama and Sunday School for all ages. 11 a.m. Worship with outdoor drama and palm procession.
Thursday, April 9:
 7 p.m. Soup Supper
 8 p.m. Worship with Tenebrae Service featuring Chancel Choir and organ.
Friday, April 10:
 7 p.m. Church open for prayer and devotions
 8 a.m. Sunrise Service (indoors, with glass wall to sunrise), traditional flowering of the cross.
 9 a.m. Worship
 10 a.m. Brunch
 11 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt for children through elementary age
 12 p.m. Worship

Joy Lutheran Church, April 5-12
 April 5: Palm Sunday, 10:30 a.m. Worship, celebrating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
 April 9: Maundy Thursday, 7 p.m. Worship commemorating Jesus' last supper with his disciples.
 April 10: Good Friday, 7 p.m. Worship remembering Jesus' death on the cross and his sacrifice for us.
 April 11: Easter Sunday, Worship at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.; free breakfast 9 a.m.; Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 a.m.
 Joy Lutheran Church is located at 302 N. Goliad Street (Hwy. 205) in Rockwall, one block north of the Rockwall County Courthouse. The Pastor, Paul Appel is Joy's pastor. He can be contacted at 972-771-4161. The church's website is joylutheranchurch.org

First Baptist Church, Heath
 The First Baptist Church of Heath will host a special church-wide pancake breakfast: 9 a.m. on Easter Sunday.
Ridgeview Church
 Ridgeview Church is undergoing an exciting time of growth! On Sunday, they will begin offering two weekend services. The new services beginning April 12 will be 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Visit ridgeview.net for more information.

First United Methodist Church, Rockwall
 Sunday, April 5: "The Seven Last Words of Christ" presented by the Cathedral Choir in the Sanctuary at 8:15, 9:30 and 11 a.m. At 11 a.m.: A Service of Communion, second floor of ECCEB, a service of scripture, music, and Communion.
 Thursday, April 9: A Service of Communion, featuring the Cathedral Choir, Rev. Joe Pool preaching.
 Sunday, April 10: A Service of Tenebrae, featuring readings, scripture, and extinguishing of candles.
 Sunday, April 11: Children's Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. on the church grounds.
 Sunday, April 12: 6:30 a.m.: Youth-led Sunrise Service with music.
 Sunday, April 13: 3:30 a.m., 11 a.m.: Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary with Joe Pool's sermon: "Who Are You Looking For?"
 Sunday, April 19: Open Door Worship in the Commons, second floor of ECCEB, featuring Valere Englert's sermon: "From Darkness to Light."
 First United Methodist Church, Rockwall, is located at 1200 E. Yellow Creek Lane in Rockwall.

Lake Pointe Church
 Lake Pointe Church will hold Easter weekend services on Saturday, April 11 at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.; and Sunday, April 12, at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. For more information, visit www.lakepointe.org.
HCA Students Pack the Sack
 Students at Heritage Christian Academy filled 100 backpacks with school supplies as part of Mission HCA's 'Pack the Sack' project. These backpacks and school supplies will travel to Ghana, West Africa, with the International Mission Team in June 2009. They will be distributed to children in the village of Sankpem, a remote mud-hut village.

Only in Your Hometown Newspaper!



Heritage Christian Academy students Elise Norlie, Carter Lyon, and Loran Reiter (left to right) with the school supply-filled backpacks that will soon be on their way to students in Ghana, West Africa as part of the school's ongoing mission there. Photo Courtesy of Cheryl Read

Rockwall County Responders

Rockwall County Sheriff's Department
 • Calls (March 3-12) -- 221
 • Arrests (March 3-12) -- 46
 • Warrant unit arrests (week of March 9) -- 9

Royse City Police Department
 • Friday, 6 March: Noise disturbance, 400 block Singleton Drive; Noise disturbance, 200 block Texoma Street; Marijuana possession arrest, 800 block I-30; Burglary of a building, 200 block N. Sorrells Road
 • Saturday, 7 March: Reckless driver, I-30 at the 78 mile marker; Alarm, 1200 block High Meadow Drive; Criminal mischief, 200 block Cookston Lane; Alarm, 1000 block I-30; Marijuana possession arrest, 100 block Doris Drive; Welfare concern, 800 block I-30; 2 Controlled substance arrests (3 grams Cocaine/8.11 grams Meth), corner FM 2642 and I-30 SSR
 • Sunday, 8 March: Assault, 600 block Timberhaven Trail; Suspicious activity, 700 block Loganwood Drive; Criminal mischief, 1300 block Live Oak Street; Criminal mischief, 500 block New Street; Greenville warrant arrest, Corner of FM 2642 and I-30 NSR; Driving under the influence arrest, Corner of FM 548 and I-30 SSR
 • Monday, 9 March: Theft, 1300 block E. Main Street; Alarm, 1500 block I-30; 3 Marijuana possession arrests (300 lbs), I-30 at the 80 mile marker
 • Tuesday, 10 March: Assault, 1300 block E. Main Street; Theft, 1000 block Industrial Drive; Alarm, 200 block E. Main Street; Criminal mischief, 800 block Meadowdale Lane
 • Wednesday, 11 March: Accident, I-30 near the 77.5 mile marker; Accident, 200 block Texoma Street
 • Thursday, 12 March: Disorderly conduct, 1600 block Kelly Lane; Accident, I-30 at the 77A mile marker; Accident, I-30 at the 75 mile marker; Reckless driver, I-30 after the 76 mile marker; Alarm, 700 block FM 548; Assault, 1300 block E. Main Street

Rockwall Responders Calls for Service March 2-8
Rockwall Fire & EMS
 • Alarm or poisoning 1, Car fire 2, Dwelling 2, Fire alarm 3, Fuel spill 1, Grass fire 2, Motor vehicle accident/rescue 1, Natural gas leak 2, Other fire not yet classified 4, Other rescue 1.

Rockwall Police Department
 • Monday, 2 March: Burglary, 100 block Landshire Drive; Burglary, 300 block Cresthaven Drive; Burglary, 100 block Cresthaven Drive; Burglary, 3100 block Market Center Drive; Burglary, 100 block Windmill Ridge Street (2); Burglary, 100 block Maywood Drive; Burglary, 100 block Southwood Drive; Burglary, 2000 block Christy Lane.
 • Tuesday, 3 March: Theft, 900 block West Yellow Jacket Lane; Theft, 205 West Rusk Street; Theft, 2800 block Market Center Drive; Theft, 700 block IH 30.
 • Wednesday, 4 March: Theft, 900 block West Yellow Jacket Lane; Theft, 1200 block SH 276; Theft, 800 block IH 30.
 • Thursday, 5 March: Burglary, 300 block Eva Place; Burglary, 1100 block Skylar Drive.
 • Friday, 6 March: Burglary, 100 block Pinion Lane; Burglary, 300 block Julian Drive; Burglary, 100 block Landshire Drive; Burglary, 3800 block Sycamore Lane (2); Burglary, 200 block West Rusk Drive; Theft, 2300 block Summer Lee Drive; Theft, 2300 block South Goliad Street.
 • Saturday, 7 March: Burglary, 1600 block Hickory Creek Lane; Burglary, 2000 block Summer Lee Drive; Theft, 1300 block Ridge Road; Theft, 2800 block Market Center Drive.
 • Sunday, 8 March: Theft, 1200 block Horizon Road; Theft, 4700 block Secret Cove Drive.
 • Abandoned Property 4, Animal complaint 10, Alarm (all) 41, Assist Citizen 26, Criminal assault/rape 1, Criminal mischief 14, Criminal trespass 1, Fight 3, Investigation (all) 38, Forgery 3, Injured/sick person 39, Major traffic accident 1, Meet complainant 35, Minor disturbance 19, Minor traffic accident 27, Missing person 3, Narcotics 3, Open building 7, Ordinance violation 20, Possible DWI 23, Shots fired/shooting 2, Street hazard 10, Suspicious person 54, Welfare concern 10.

Heath DPS
 • Animal complaint 8, Alarm (all) 8, Assist citizen 2, Criminal assault/rape 1, Criminal mischief 1, Fight 1, Fire Call 3, Injured/sick person 8, Meet complainant 6, Minor disturbance 1, Minor traffic accident 1, Open building 2, Possible DWI 2, Suspicious person 2.

Rockwall County Yesteryears

Compiled by Judy Schneider
 From the archives of the Rockwall County Library
10 Years Ago
March 16, 1999

Six Rockwall High School varsity boys' basketball players were named All-District from District 9-5A. Nathan Doudney, who played guard, was named Sophomore of the Year. Senior point guard Josh Goellner was named to a First Team spot. Guards James Reinhardt, Curt Tyszko and Rob Appling were received Honorable Mention from the district's coaches. Rockwall finished the season with a record of 23-10.

Sean C. Bennett, son of William and Joan Bennett of Rockwall, enlisted in the Coast Guard, was halfway through a two-month deployment to the Caribbean Sea while assigned to the USCGC Tampa. While on deployment, Bennett's ship participated in Joint Interagency Task Force East patrols in the South Caribbean. Bennett joined the Coast Guard after graduating from Rockwall High School and graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1997.

20 Years Ago
March 17, 1989

Many Royse City and Rockwall athletes participated in the Special Olympics Track Meet. Royse City winners included Omes Gray, Anthony White and Robert White. Rockwall athletes receiving medals were Chris Cox, Scott Tokoly, Anne Rinkevich, Delilah Hillary, Kim King and Steven Throgmorton. All the athletes were presented victory ribbons from Dallas Cowboys Quarterback Steve Pelluer and Bobo the Clown.

Randal Sparks, D.O., founder of Rockwall Family Health Center, was elected Chief of Medical Staff at Lake Pointe Medical Center. Sparks has specialized in Family Practice since 1977.

30 Years Ago
March 16, 1979

Bob Lauffer announced his candidacy for Mayor of McLendon-Chisholm. A resident of McLendon-Chisholm, he previously served as Secretary-Treasurer for the Fire Department and also as Municipal Judge. Lauffer was the Director of the Rockwall County YMCA.

District 6-AAA basketball coaches met to decide All-District selections. The Rockwall Yellowjacket selected to the 6-AAA North Zone Team was Jeff Grinnan, Sr. Ernest Landy and Jon Rickenback were named Honorable Mention and Scott Stout was named Sophomore of the Year.

40 Years Ago
March 14, 1969

The Rockwall ISD School Board allowed the Rockwall High School Student Council to charge students a parking fee of \$1.75 to use the school parking lot. The School Board contributed up to \$400 to the Student Council. The students were also required to buy a parking decal for 50 cents.

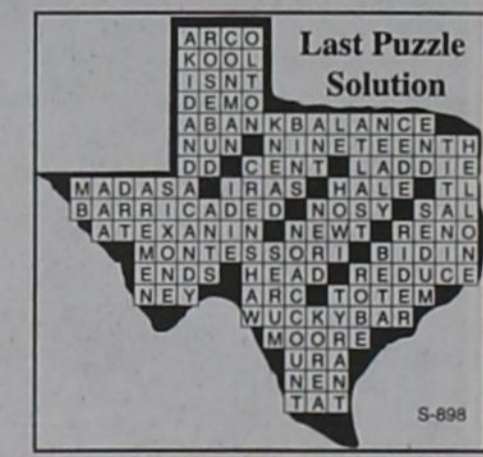
John Young, Assistant Football Coach at SMU, spoke at the annual Football Banquet at Rockwall High School. The ticket prices were \$2 each and were sold at Rockwall Drug.

60 Years Ago
March 18, 1949

Many Rockwall residents pulled up roots and left the area for Grand Rapids, Michigan, where they were employed by the Oklahoma Construction Company to work laying a pipeline. Rockwall residents who made the change included Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Hall, Hugh Olen Hall, E.W. Hall, Reagan Hall, Johnny Hogg, Roy Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Nichols, Bennie D. Willess, Bob Williams and E.O. Gaines.

Mrs. J.D. McDonald was ill with the flu at her home on East Washington Street.

April 9, 1886
 Mr. Frank Clark sent his brothers in Missouri several specimens of Texas products, including Johnson and Bermuda grass and sweet potatoes. He was informed the specimens arrived safely. The newspaper suspected that Mr. Clark was trying to entice his brothers to come to Texas.



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The Shoe Bank provides shoes to needy around the world

by Kathy Williams
Mike Barringer knows what it's like to have people walk a mile in his shoes. The founder of The Shoe Bank, based in Rockwall, has been collecting and distributing shoes to the homeless, underprivileged and victims of disasters since 1989.

More than 150,000 pairs of his shoes now grace the feet of people in need around the world. He began his mission as a social worker at the Stew Pot, a meal depot and resource center for homeless and at-risk individuals run by First Presbyterian Church in Dallas. Barringer noticed many of the visitors had ill fitting or worn out shoes. Wanting to help, he searched the center's clothes closet for shoes to hand out, only to discover they had none.

He asked if he could put collection boxes for gently used or new shoes at the center to give to those in need. The church agreed and, armed with cardboard boxes, his mission took off.

Barringer, a 1967 graduate of Rockwall High School, said he couldn't get more affluent businesses like the Cooper Center in Dallas to display a cardboard

collection box, so he solicited donations of plywood and other materials and built sturdier boxes.

He said there are currently 175 schools in the North Texas area with collection boxes, including 10 schools in Rockwall. "Having the boxes in the schools helps kids learn about caring for others," he said. Collection boxes in the Rockwall area are located at the Rockwall YMCA, Ridge Point Athletic Club on Yellowjacket Drive and in the New Balance Store in I-30.

Barringer said his organization provides shoes to Terrell State Hospital and Parkland Hospital in Dallas for patients in the rehabilitation centers. Rehab is part of the therapy programs, he said, and patients are fitted with good shoes that are sent home with them.

He also provides around 90% of the shoes for Austin Street Centre and Dallas Life Foundation shelters in Dallas.

To help get shoes to those in need in some of the most desperate countries, Barringer has partnered with Orphans of the World and its founder, Cameron Gray. Together, they have sent

shoes and supplies to victims of disasters and wars around the world, often times through the Airline Ambassador program at American Airlines.

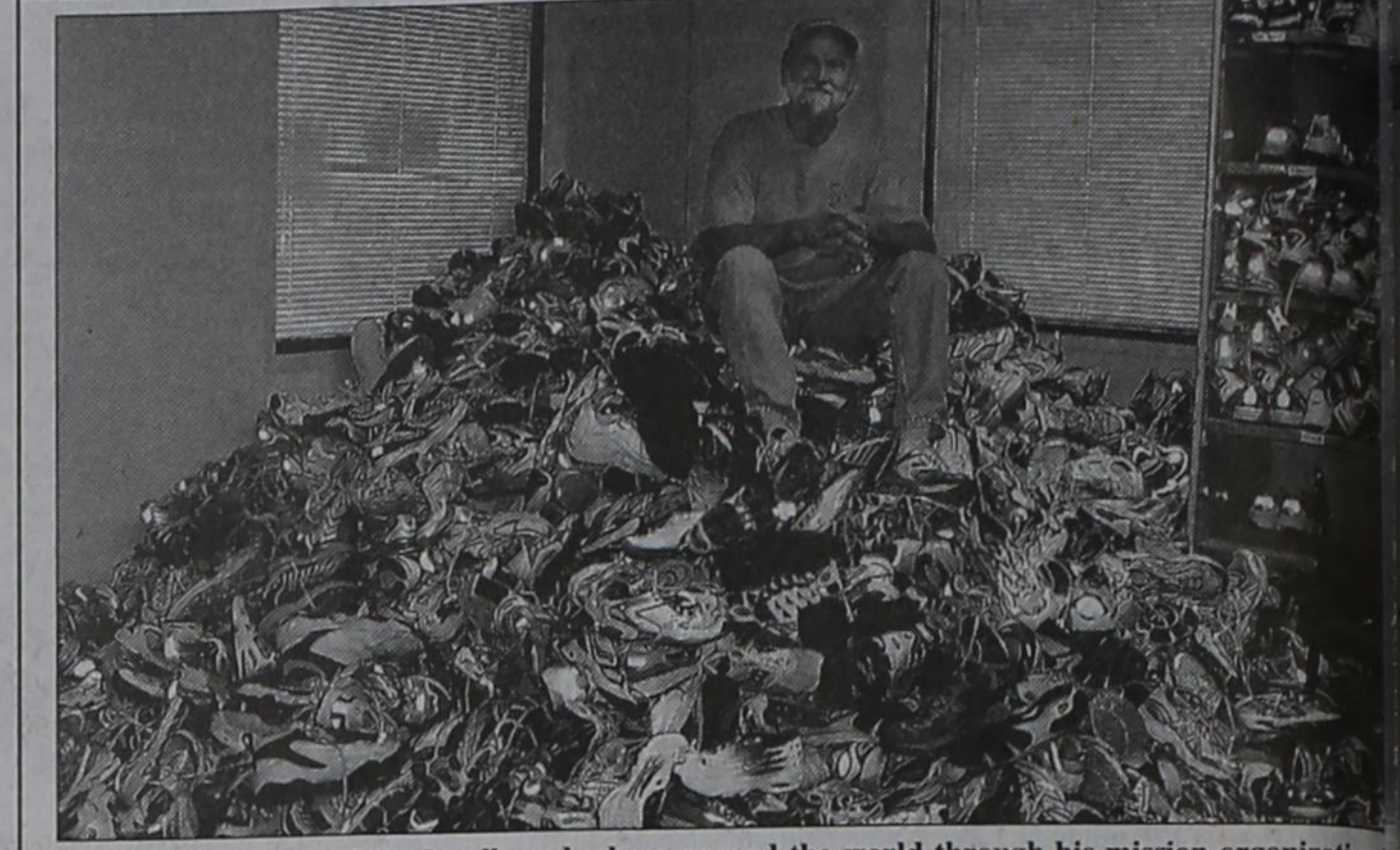
One of the many problems those in distressed areas have is contracting diseases and parasites through their feet. Barringer said providing shoes is just one small barrier against disease and illness.

"When Hurricane Mitch hit Central America in 1998, we sent 6,000 pairs of shoes to Nicaragua, Guatemala and Honduras.

We also sent 4,000 pairs to war orphans in Burundi, Kenya and Mozambique in 2000, sent 7,000 pairs to El Salvador after the 2001 earthquake and in 2006, more than 5,000 children in Sri Lanka, India and Thailand received shoes following the tsunami."

Closer to home, The Shoe Bank recently donated 1,000 pairs of athletic cleats to the Boys and Girls Club of Dallas for distribution to children in clubs around the area.

Barringer closely inspects donated shoes to ensure they are still fit to wear. Any shoes not passing inspection are sent to Nike, which has a program to grind



Mike Barringer of Rockwall sends shoes around the world through his mission organization, Shoe Bank, to help victims of war, disasters and the homeless. Photo Courtesy of Mike Barringer

up old shoes and recycle them into basketball courts and other sports surfaces, playgrounds and other Nike products.

The Shoe Bank has received donations from all 50 states. Barringer said a lady in California sends him \$1 with each pair of shoes she donates. She recently sent 100 pairs of shoes with \$100. Children have sent shoes they collected at birthday parties

instead of receiving personal gifts, he said.

Shoe donations continue to be strong in spite of the economic difficulties plaguing the country, Barringer said, but cash donations to the organization are down. He runs his organization by himself and has made several appearances at community events around North Texas to

boost support for his mission. Fish City Grill at Fire Town Center will donate 10% of its May 5 receipts to the organization. They have plans to have the fundraiser next year.

To make a donation to Shoe Bank, contact Barringer at MichaelBarringer@sbcglobal.net or at 972-771-7658.

Rockwall American Legion Post 117 candidates for 2009 Boys and Girls State delegation

Rockwall's American Legion Post 117 has announced its candidates for the summer 2009 Boys State and Girls State delegations. Interviews have already been conducted with the high school students and the selected delegates will be named soon.

High School students in their junior year are offered the opportunity to attend Boys/Girls State, which is a one-week leadership action program. Delegates have the opportunity to learn the structure and operation of the democratic government process while participating in the operation of

political campaigns and mock state and local governments.

The local program is sponsored by Rockwall Post 117 and underwritten by several community banks. Funds for travel expenses and supplies needed at the convention are provided through the Post and underwriters.

Boys State will be June 6-12 at the University of Texas in Austin. Girls State will be from June 14-20 at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin.

This year's nominees for Girls State are, from Rockwall High School, Chinemerem

Nkalari, Vertashia Dean and Chelsea Ramirez, and from Rockwall-Heath High School, Kylie Robinett, Patricia Bayle, Corol Davenport, Natalie Tarski, Courtney Murphy and Esinne Anizor.

Boys State candidates are, from Rockwall High School, Bo Bittle, Tyler Wimpee and Connor Defebaugh, and from Rockwall-Heath High School, Chris Gaines, Sean Wong and Tyler Fassett.

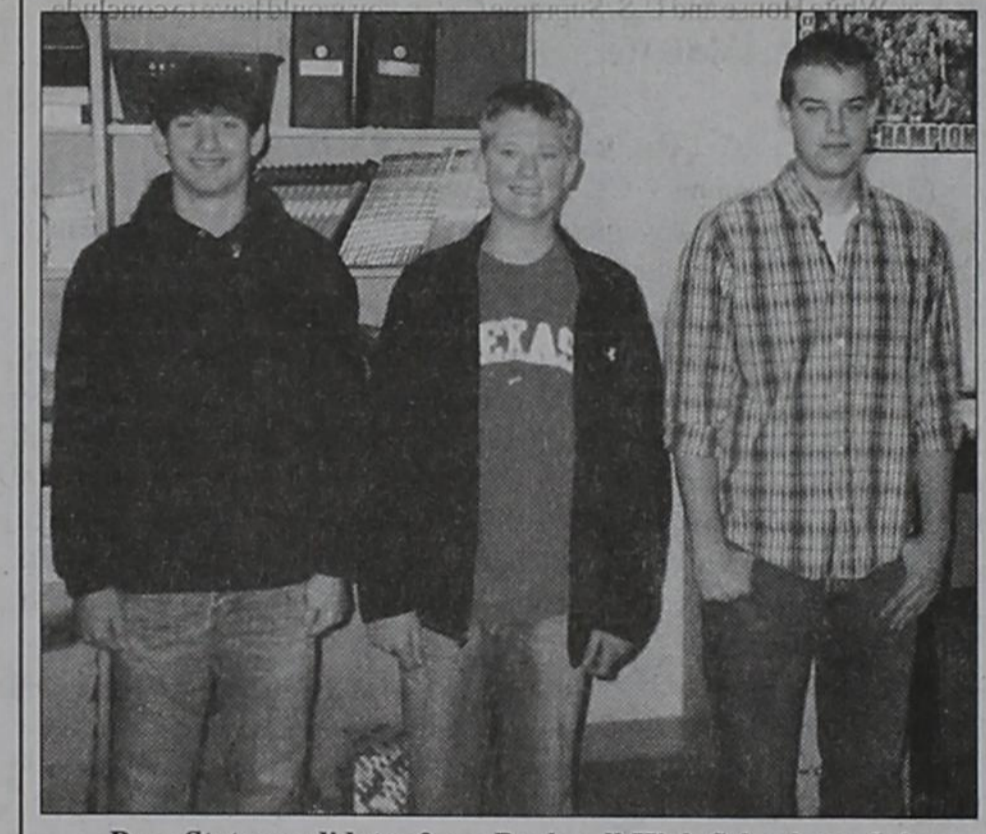
Four boys and four girls, plus an alternate, will be chosen from the candidates to represent American Legion Post 117.



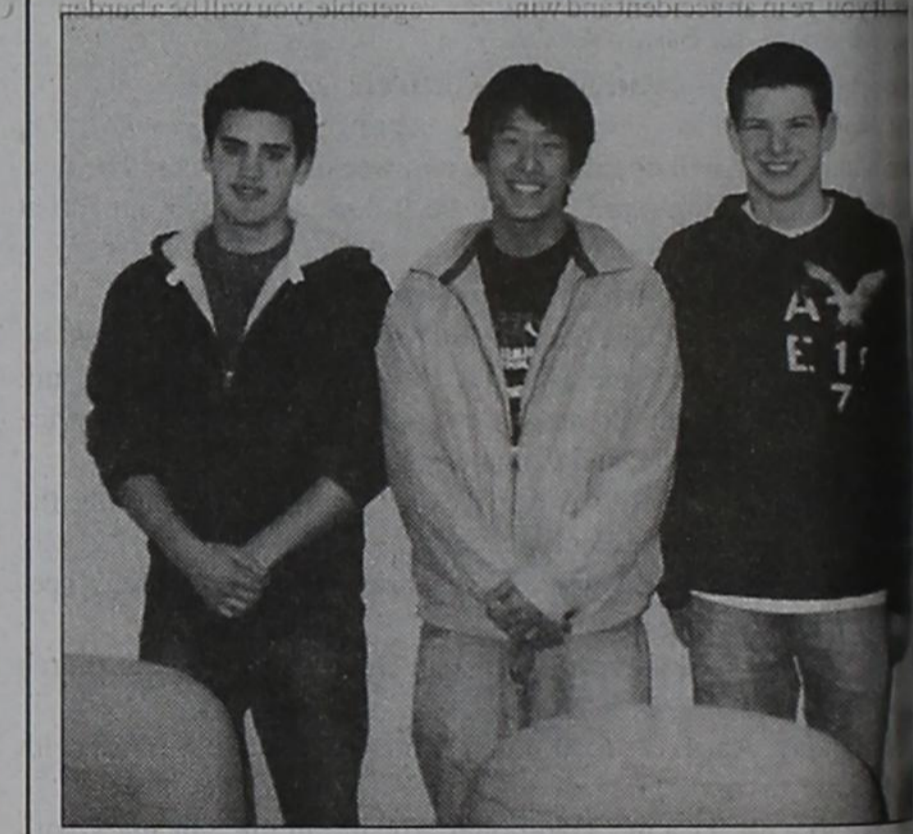
The six candidates for Girls State from Rockwall-Heath High School are (left to right) Kylie Robinett, Patricia Bayle, Corol Davenport, Natalie Tarski, Courtney Murphy, and pictured separately is Esinne Anizor. Selected delegates will attend the annual Girls State Leadership Conference June 14-20, 2009 at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin. Photo Courtesy of American Legion Post 117



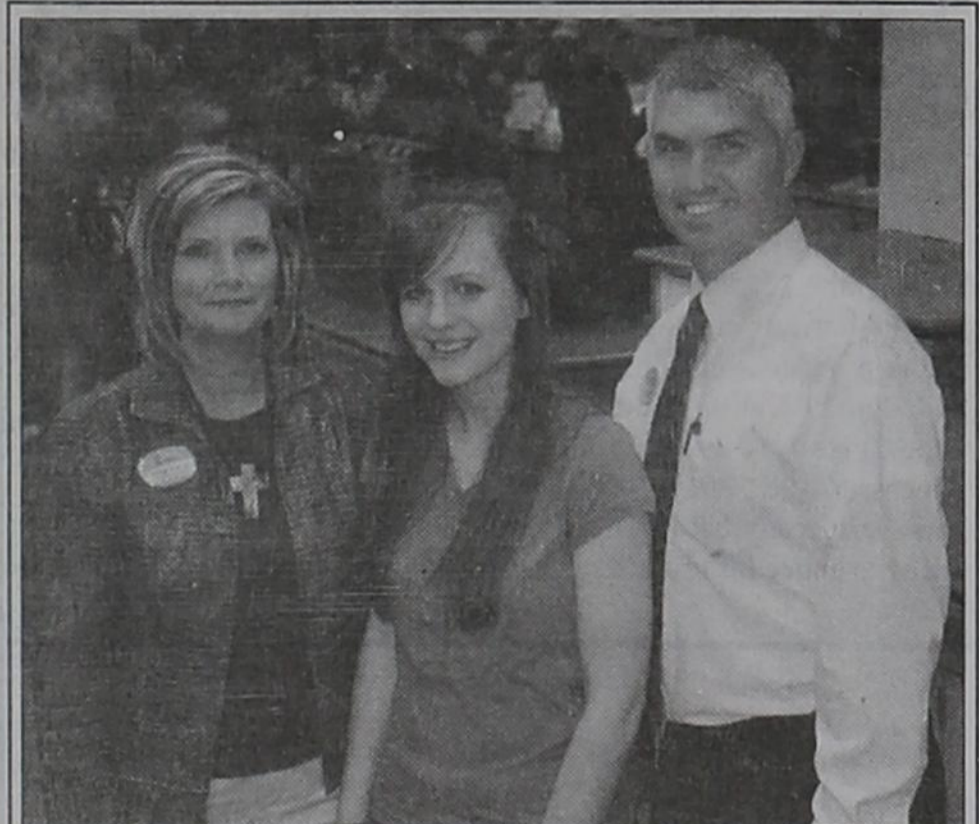
The three candidates for Girls State from Rockwall High School are (left to right) Chinemerem Nkalari, Vertashia Dean and Chelsea Ramirez. Selected delegates will attend the annual Girls State Leadership Conference June 14-20, 2009 at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin. Photo Courtesy of American Legion Post 117



Boys State candidates from Rockwall High School are (left to right) Bo Bittle, Tyler Wimpee and Connor Defebaugh. Selected delegates will attend the annual Boys State Leadership Conference June 6-12, 2009 at The University of Texas in Austin. Photo Courtesy of American Legion Post 117



Boys State candidates from Rockwall-Heath High School are (left to right) Chris Gaines, Sean Wong and Tyler Fassett. Selected delegates will attend the annual Boys State Leadership Conference June 6-12, 2009 at The University of Texas in Austin. Photo Courtesy of American Legion Post 117



Rebekah Neds (center) was recently awarded a \$1,000 Chick-fil-A National Leadership Scholarship to help her continue her education at Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina. She is studying counseling and hopes to be able to use her education in a ministry setting. Neds, a two-and-a-half year employee of the Rockwall Chick-fil-A, was presented the scholarship by franchise operators Tim and Melissa Moseley, shown with her. Neds' sisters, Hannah and Lydia, are also Chick-fil-A employees. A brother expects to join the crew soon. Neds is the daughter of Keith and Joy Neds of Rockwall. Staff Photo by Tim Burnett

Meeks Chapel plans April awards banquet

The Meeks Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church will host its Community Servant Leadership Awards Banquet on April 25 at the Roysie City Melody Banquet Hall, 305 N. Arch St.

The pre-event auction and drawing will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the formal dining and awards ceremony at 7 p.m.

Attire is black and white. Co-hosts are Darla Miles, WFAA-TV reporter, and Bob Ray Sanders, editor for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Tickets cost \$25 per person. For information call 972-636-2250.

Rebecca Tomko and Jen Childers chosen for Abilene art show

Two area students attending Hardin Simmons University have been selected to have their work displayed in a graphics arts show in Abilene. Jen Childers from Rockwall and Rebecca Tomko from Rowlett are two of nine student artists chosen for the show.

The Cockerell Gallery & Studios "Upstairs" and curator Carolyn Cockerell will present "Sundry," a show featuring collections from the University. In addition to Childers and Tomko, the other artists are Lori Hail, Rachael Durrett, Kyle Carter, Canon Cleveland, Tyler Powell, Kelly Watson, and Ashley Spelce. Sundry denotes the mixture of graphic design and visual art, as well as the variations be-

tween the individual artist's collections that have been combined for a common exhibition.

The exhibition is a way for the students to get both exposure and real world experience prior to graduation. Studio art majors in participation are Hail, Durrett, and Watson. Graphic Designers include Childers, Carter, Cleveland, Powell, Spelce, and Tomko.

Of her style, Childers said, "I am a true believer in 'less is more.' My designs can be classified as clean geometric shapes organized elegantly and interestingly on a grid. I am passionate about typography and vintage references."

Tomko added, "My artwork is influenced by the interaction

and fusion of color. I am always amazed at the impact that colors have on emotions, and I draw on that for inspiration of my art and design."

Show dates are March 26-31.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The gallery address is 1001 North 2nd Street, Abilene, 829-7975, www.cockerellgalleries.com.



Dobbs Teacher of the Year

Erika Manning recently was selected by the Howard Dobbs Elementary School staff as Teacher of the Year for 2008-2009. Manning has participated in several extracurricular activities on behalf of the school and, according to her co-workers, is an "exemplary teacher." Earlier this year, Manning was tapped to receive the Office Max Outstanding Teacher Award: A Day Made Better.

VIP needs volunteers for Saturday exercise

The Rockwall County Cities Readiness Initiative: Volunteering Informed and Prepared (VIP) and the Rockwall County Sheriff's Department will conduct a full-scale pod site activation exercise from 8 a.m. to noon on March 21 in the Rockwall High School parking lot.

Three teams of volunteers are needed for planning, exercise and exercise participation. Various types of volunteer positions will be available for individuals with varying levels of interest. The exercise will simulate the drive-through mass dispensation of "antibiotics" through the distribution of M&M candies. The exercise will provide dispensing time and process improvement data, and volunteers are free to enjoy the candy.

The Rockwall County VIP program is a volunteer organization developed to support officials during county public health emergencies where local hospitals and medical providers may be unable to prevent or handle the number of individuals seeking preventive care. The program operates under the direction and guidance of county judge, the county's public health coordinator and the sheriff's office.

Volunteers need not reside in Rockwall County to be eligible to participate.

For more information, call 972-204-7001, visit rockwallcrr.org, write Rockwall County VIP, Attn.: Volunteer Coordinator, 972 Townsend Drive, Rockwall, TX 75087.

Blame Republicans for Big Government

by Sheldon Richman

Government power is growing, and unless President Barack Obama and the majority in Congress have a libertarian epiphany, it will continue to grow for years. If the expansion of intrusive government (a redundancy) gives you the willies — it should; the cost is freedom and prosperity — you may be tempted to direct your anger at Obama and the rest of the Democratic leadership. That would be myopic, however.

Blame the Republicans, beginning with former President George W. Bush. (We could go back further, but time and space are limited.)

The reason can be illustrated by an extraordinary moment that took place just after Obama unveiled his \$3.55 trillion 2010 budget. Contemplating the budget, Republican House leader John Boehner went before the media microphones and declared, "The era of big government is back."

For Boehner to make such a statement suggests two possibilities, although both could be true: he thinks Americans are morons, or he's been in a coma since January 20, 2001, when Bush took office.

Note that he didn't say, "Uh oh, government is going to get even bigger than it is now." No, he said, "The era of big government is back." Back — as in: returned after having gone away.

When did it go away? And does Boehner really believe that the American people don't realize how much government grew under Bush?

It was Bill Clinton who declared the era of big government over in 1996, more than a year after his party lost control of Congress to the GOP. He hadn't become a libertarian, but he was lucky enough to be president during a period of economic growth, when the public wanted a balanced budget and some retrenchment of the welfare state.

But in fact, big government did not disappear in the Clinton years, even if the rate of growth slowed.

Explosion of big government growth

Under Bush and a Republican Congress we had an explosion of growth on all fronts: spending that put Lyndon Johnson to shame, huge deficits and a doubling of the national debt, corporate bailouts, further centralization of education, protectionism, expansion of Medicare, increased regulation, undeclared wars, civil liberties violations and other unchecked executive power, and more.

Bush did not veto a single spending bill in eight years. His cutting of tax rates in 2001 and 2003 has to be judged in the context of growing spending. Milton Friedman pointed out that the level of spending, not taxation, is the truer gauge of the government burden. The money has to come from somewhere. Removing it from the economy through borrowing is as economically damaging as taxation — more so when you figure that the government will perpetrate inflation to manage the debt.

That was bad enough, but the Republicans added rank hypocrisy to the mix by claiming to favor free markets.

In light of this, Boehner's remark is more than a little absurd. It's dishonest, even demagogic.

Unknown consequences for years

And it will have consequences beyond the moment. Advocates of government control of the economy have a stake in persuading the public that the current financial turmoil is mostly the result of the Bush administration's alleged laissez-faire approach to governing. This is an outrageous lie. There was no laissez faire — quite the contrary.

The Federal Register, which catalogues new regulations, grew apace in the Bush years. The last banking deregulation of any significance — repeal of the New Deal's separation of investment and commercial banking — was signed by Clinton while Larry Summers was Treasury secretary. Summers today is Obama's top economic advisor.

Boehner's statement, however, sounds as though he accepts the charge that our troubles come from too little government, not too much, in the Bush years. As a result, his words have the effect of making free-market, small-government rhetoric sound incredible, even ridiculous. Anyone who believes Boehner's (false) story would have to reject his opposition to Obama's program as purely political. After all, if big government really disappeared from 2001 to 2009, it can't be blamed for the economic meltdown.

But it didn't disappear, and it can be blamed for the meltdown. The Republicans' cynicism and lack of principle are as responsible for what's going on as any Democrat's — even more, because they have undermined sound economic reasoning by their hypocrisy.

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

Imagine

by Congressman Ron Paul

Imagine for a moment that somewhere in the middle of Texas there was a large foreign military base, say Chinese or Russian. Imagine that thousands of armed foreign troops were constantly patrolling American streets in military vehicles. Imagine they were here under the auspices of "keeping us safe" or "promoting democracy" or "protecting their strategic interests."

Imagine that they operated outside of US law, and that the Constitution did not apply to them. Imagine that every now and then they made mistakes or acted on bad information and accidentally killed or terrorized innocent Americans, including women and children, most of the time with little to no repercussions or consequences. Imagine that they set up check points on our soil and routinely searched and ransacked entire neighborhoods of homes. Imagine if Americans were fearful of these foreign troops, and overwhelmingly thought America would be better off without their presence.

Imagine if some Americans were so angry about them being in Texas that they actually joined together to fight them off, in defense of our soil and sovereignty, because leadership in government refused or were unable to do so. Imagine that those Americans were labeled terrorists or insurgents for their defensive actions, and routinely killed, or captured and tortured by the foreign troops on our land.

Imagine that the occupiers' attitude was that if they just killed enough Americans, the resistance would stop, but instead, for every American killed, ten more would take up arms against them, resulting in perpetual bloodshed. Imagine if most of the citizens of the foreign land also wanted these troops to return home. Imagine if they elected a leader who promised to bring them home and put an end to this horror.

Imagine if that leader changed his mind once he took office.

The reality is that our military presence on foreign soil is as offensive to the people that live there as armed Chinese troops would be if they were stationed in Texas. We would not stand for it here, but we have had a globe straddling empire and a very intrusive foreign policy for decades that incites a lot of hatred and resentment towards us.

According to our own CIA, our meddling in the Middle East was the prime motivation for the horrific attacks on 9/11. But instead of re-evaluating our foreign policy, we have simply escalated it. We had a right to go after those responsible for 9/11, to be sure, but why do so many Americans feel as if we have a right to a military presence in some 160 countries when we wouldn't stand for even one foreign base on our soil, for any reason?

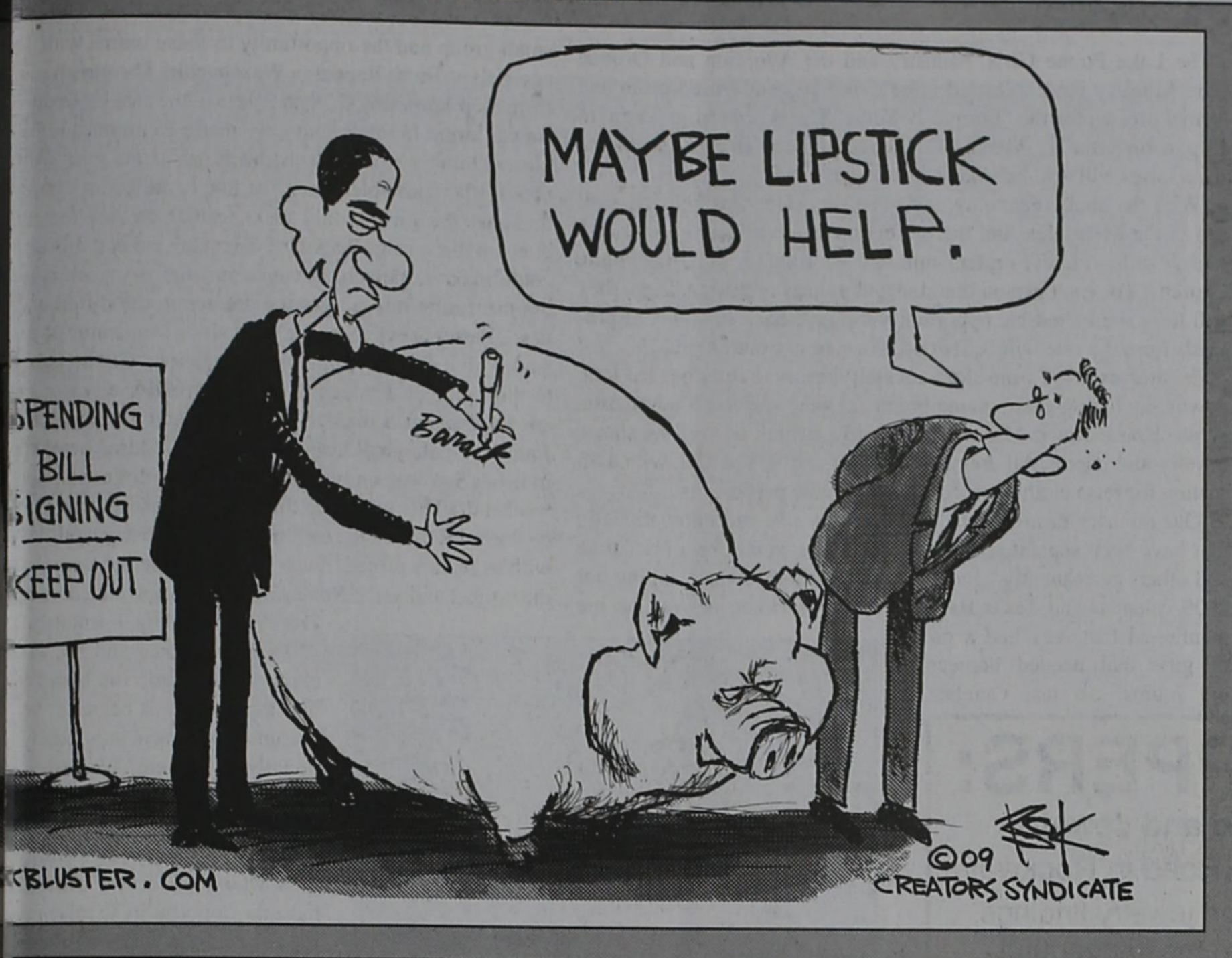
These are not embassies, mind you, these are military installations. The new administration is not materially changing anything about this. Shuffling troops around and playing with semantics does not accomplish the goals of the American people, who simply want our men and women to come home. 50,000 troops left behind in Iraq is not conducive to peace any more than 50,000 Russian soldiers would be in the United States.

Shutting down military bases and ceasing to deal with other nations with threats and violence is not isolationism. It is the opposite. Opening ourselves up to friendship, honest trade and diplomacy is the foreign policy of peace and prosperity.

It is the only foreign policy that will not bankrupt us in short order, as our current actions most definitely will. I share the disappointment of the American people in the foreign policy rhetoric coming from the administration.

The sad thing is, our foreign policy WILL change eventually, as Rome's did, when all budgetary and monetary tricks to fund it are exhausted.

Opinions



Good ideas ... should they be mandated by government?

Walter E. Williams

For the past few months, I work out 10 minutes on the treadmill and lift weights three or four mornings a week. Over the years, during the spring months, I racked up about 2,000 miles on my road bike. This level of exercise helps account for why, at 73 years, I'm in such good health and feel fine. So my question to you is whether you think regular exercise is a good idea. I think the answer is definitely yes, if nothing other than its effects on health care costs. Since exercise is a good idea, would you support a congressional mandate that all Americans engage in regular exercise? Simply saying, "Williams, you're a lunatic!" and rejecting such a mandate out of hand, let's ask why it should be rejected. We know in our mind that there's precedent for congressionally mandated health care laws. Seatbelt and helmet laws are examples. If you're in an accident and wind up a vegetable, you will be a burden on society, therefore, it's argued, Congress has a right to mandate seatbelt use. Wouldn't the same reasoning apply to people who might overburden our health care system because of obesity or sedentary lifestyles? If you support Congress to force us to buckle up and wear a helmet on a motorcycle, isn't it also a good idea to force us to regularly exercise?

It's really one question to ask where there to be a debate whether Congress should mandate regular exercise. Whether regular exercise is a good idea or a bad idea is irrelevant. The only relevant question is: Is it permissible under the Constitution? That means we must examine the Constitution to see whether Congress has the authority to mandate exercise. From my reading, the Constitution does not give Congress that authority.

Aha, Williams, you've blown it this time. What about Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution, which says Congress shall provide for the general welfare of the United States? Surely, healthy Americans contribute to the general welfare. That's precisely the response I'd expect from

your average law professor, congressman or derelict U.S. Supreme Court justice. Let's look at what the men who wrote the Constitution had to say about its general welfare clause. In a letter to Edmund Pendleton, James Madison, the father of the Constitution, said, "If Congress can do whatever in their discretion can be done by money, and will promote the General Welfare, the Government is no longer a limited one, possessing enumerated powers, but an indefinite one..." Madison also said, "With respect to the two words 'general welfare,' I have always regarded them as qualified by the detail of powers connected with them. To take them in a literal and unlimited sense would be a metamorphosis of the Constitution into a character which there is a host of proofs was not contemplated by its creators." Thomas Jefferson said, "Congress has not unlimited powers to provide for the general welfare, but only those specifically enumerated."

If you compare the vision of our nation's founders to the behavior of today's Congress, White House and U.S. Supreme Court, you would have to conclude that there is no longer rule of law where there is a set of general rules applicable to all persons. Today, we are commanded by legislative thugs who, with Supreme Court sanction, issue orders commanding particular people to do particular things. Most Americans neither understand nor appreciate the spirit and letter of the Constitution and accept Congress' arbitrary orders and privileges based upon status.

What to do? Thomas Jefferson advised, "Whosoever the General (federal) Government assumes undelegated powers, its acts are unauthoritative, void, and of no force." That bit of Jeffersonian advice is dangerous. While Congress does not have constitutional authority for most of what it does, it does have police and military power to inflict great pain and punishment for disobedience.

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

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Shared sacrifice?

Bill O'Reilly

In these tough economic times, the left is calling for "shared sacrifice." It's a nice phrase for soaking affluent folks as much as possible. You may have heard that the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) is asking Americans to support higher taxes on corporations and the wealthy to "share" the economic pain. The message is incredibly stupid. Higher taxes on corporations will lead to even more worker layoffs. Also, the less money the affluent have, the less they will spend in places where service employees actually work and live.

It seems to be a major "duh" factor in the sacrifice call by the SEIU. The union doesn't just want you to share their sacrifice, whatever it is, they want to take your furniture.

SEIU's favorite politicians is Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. But these days it doesn't look like Pelosi is doing much. According to documents obtained by the watchdog group Judicial Watch, Pelosi is racking up enormous expenses on Air Force Gulfstream V jets, costing the taxpayers millions. I asked Pelosi spokesman Brendan Daly exactly how many Air Force jets she's used since becoming speaker in January 2007. Daly said he didn't know that information.

It's not that many Americans getting hammered financially and billions of dollars being spent to counter the recession. Speaker Pelosi might be on track of her taxpayer-funded trips. Am I wrong?

What they said in 1913 about the income tax...

"It'll just be a tax on the rich..."

The definition of "rich" now includes almost all working Americans

To be fair, Pelosi is legally entitled to the perk. After 9/11, the government decided that the speaker of the House, third in line for the presidency, should not fly commercial. OK. But does anyone think Pelosi is not milking this jet deal? Anyone?

If that's shared sacrifice, I would like to become the speaker's friend. After all, she recently flew to Rome with an entourage. I assume it was aboard an Air Force jet, but I don't know for sure because even though I asked, Pelosi won't tell. (By the way, the Pope scolded Pelosi over abortion during their meeting.)

Are you feeling the sacrifice being made by Pelosi and many other politicians who are living large on the Hill? I'm not feeling it. But like the SEIU, I believe that sharing is good. And with my tax rates going up big time, I have no doubt I'll soon be paying more than my share.

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

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The Rockwall County Library's citizenship classes recently assisted four area residents in becoming U.S. citizens. The library's Reading for Adults program conducts citizenship prep classes, and ESL and GED classes also are offered through the library. Rep. Ralph Hall recently presented the new citizens with U.S. flags. Pictured from the left are Hall; Jim Baird, tutor; Claudia Valenzuela; Gloria Bishop, the library's ESL coordinator; Seyed Bassampour; and Sonia Barron. Anyone interested in enrolling in citizenship classes should register at the library in the ESL classroom area off the lobby. Classes are conducted from 10 a.m. to noon Friday mornings and from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays. For more details about this class or other library offerings call 972-204-7705 or see Gloria at the library.

Prom dress sale benefits local girls and African mission

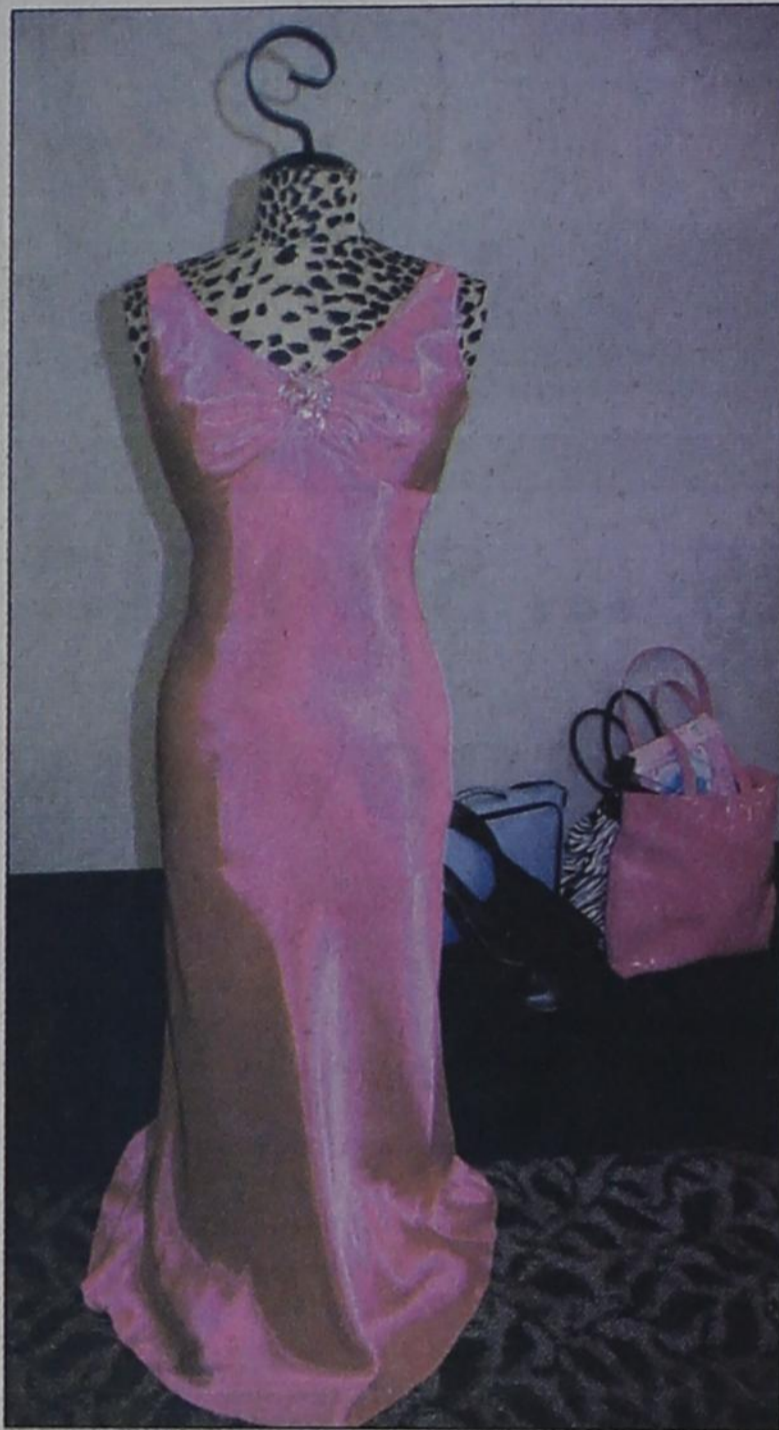
The Lake Pointe Girls' Ministry and the Adoption and Orphan Care Ministry have collected more than 650 gently used prom and formal dresses for the "Formal-ly Yours" Dress Sale from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, March 21 at the Hilton Bella Harbor. Shoes and accessories will also be sold at a discount.

"With the shaky economy, we hope this sale will help girls all across the Metroplex find the perfect dress at an incredible price," said Jennifer Piercy, orphan ministry coordinator at Lake Pointe Church. "For each person that donated a dress or buys a dress, they will have the incredible opportunity to 'give back in style' as proceeds from the sale will benefit orphan care in South Africa."

The dresses range from short cocktail dresses to fully beaded long gowns, including many name-brand dresses, such as Terry Costa, White House Black Market and David's Bridal, as well as shoes, jewelry and purses. All dresses will be priced \$25 to \$50, with a \$5 section for retro clothes for costume or theme parties.

"Our ministry desires to help children locally and internationally that have been separated from their families, some for a brief time and others permanently," Piercy said. "Last fall, I was planning our 2009 calendar and Texas Baptist Children's Home in Waxahachie mentioned that they had a group of girls that needed homecoming mums. So last October, a

small group had the opportunity to make mums with 15 high school age girls at Texas Baptist in Waxahachie. The girls had been removed from their homes by CPS and were in the care of Texas Baptist for Children. In three hours, we made 15 mums and had an amazing time. I think we had just as much fun as the girls. When I thought about other possible needs for 2009, the event coordinator mentioned that the girls would need formal dresses for prom and homecoming in the spring. Buckner Foster care echoed this need. I thought I could make it happen. Because our ministry team is small, I started brainstorming how to get the dresses in the different sizes we needed. Pastor Steve (Stroope) had always encouraged us to have a mission with a BHAG (Big Hairy Audacious Goal). This prompted me to think bigger. I talked to my sister and she was a great source of encouragement. I then contacted a friend named Jodie with the Juniors, a volleyball league, who has a kindred heart for the girls in need. She was on board. (They held a collection drive for the weekend.) This made me think of the Lake Pointe Girls' Ministry. I contacted Rebecca to see if the Girls' Ministry would want to help with us on this project. I was excited to see her shared enthusiasm for the project and since November, it has snowballed into the "Formal-ly Yours" Prom Dress and the Formal-ly Yours



"DeeDee Choate and her 11th grade class quickly got on board. This was like the perfect fit because we have the opportunity to reach out locally and internationally in tandem. We had a shared goal because DeeDee had been to South Africa and several of the girls are going to Africa this summer. In addition to the girls who will receive dresses for homecoming, they will have the opportunity to raise money for children suffering with HIV/AIDS in South Africa.

"We hope for this to be an annual event. The Lake Pointe Girls' Ministry and orphan ministry will continue to seek creative ways to help children locally and internationally," she said.

Proceeds from the Formal-ly Yours will go to the Themba Foundation, which supports needs of children in Africa. One of the students involved in preparing for the sale are going to South Africa this summer and will have a chance to see first-hand how the money raised will benefit African children and communities.

The sponsoring groups appreciate the Hilton Bella Harbor's generous donation of the community sale. They also thank the students at Rockwall-Heath High School, the orphan ministry team, LPC members, the Junior Volleyball league, SMU, and friends and family who have supported, advertised and promoted this event.

ATTENTION SHOPPERS:

Let your creative juices flow at **Bally Bead and Jewelry**. Located 1/2 mile north of I-30 at 2304 Ridge Road in Rockwall, Bally Bead has thousands of beautiful beads and jewelry findings. Discover how easy, economical and fun it is to make beautiful earrings, necklaces, bracelets, anklets, rosaries and more for yourself, friends and family.

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

Be a part of a Whimsical night



Last year Rockwall Women's League presented \$130,000 in scholarships to deserving seniors graduating from Rockwall High School, Rockwall-Heath High School and Roysse City High School.

Back: Mason Galloway, Ashley Titus, Jessica Crabtree, Kelsey Stone, Kali Katzman, Rebekah Radney, Zachary... Front: Tanner Rottman, Travis Cunningham, Andrew Young, Nathan Ennis, Andrew Hester, Jose Zaldivar

Saturday, April 18, 2009 • The Hilton Anatole Hotel, Dallas
Cocktail Reception, 6:00 pm • Seated Dinner, 7:30 pm
Live & Silent Auction



To serve as a sponsor or auction item donor for this year's ball, Mystique, to be held April 18, 2009 at the Anatole Hotel, please contact Kendra Jones at 972-772-8052.

Go to www.rockwallwomensleague.org to purchase tickets!

Rockwall County Sports

After sweeping 5 in softball tourney, RC falls at Rockwall



Royse City Lady Bulldogs' first baseman Kourtney Kelly beats Lady Jackets' Haley Lemons to the bag for the out during the Tuesday, March 10 matchup at RHS field.
Staff photo by Tim Burnett

Bulldogs lose first 2 in district baseball

of the game, Royse City was on the way to an upset over the Bulldogs' first District 10-4A baseball game. The team head coach Clay Wolfe called one of the district's two "rhinos" 1-0 after 3 1/2 innings on Tuesday, March 10. Then what Royse City had built up went away during a half-hour inning at Rockwall.

Yellowjackets came back to win 4-1, but the powerhouse managed to score four runs. All four runs were unearned.

"I told the team we can't afford to take one pitch off. Most errors, even if they are physical, are mental errors."

"We have a good group. I'd say our strength is our athleticism. When we get going, we can hit pretty well. We already have seven home runs."

Wolfe continued, "We're going to be battling for a spot and trying to get into the playoffs. Royse City has always been a football town. We don't want that to continue. We still want it to be a football town; we just want it to be more." In other words, also a baseball town.

RC had won one game and lost two in the Mesquite tournament March 5-7. The highlight was a 2-1 victory over Mesquite, with Nichols holding the Skeeters to two hits.

who held the 'Dawgs to two hits. "If there's a better pitcher than that in the district, I'll be surprised," Wolfe said.

In each of the last two seasons, he has guided the Bulldogs to the Area round of the 3A playoffs. He knows the competition will be fierce in a traditionally strong 4A district, especially with Rockwall and Carrollton Newman Smith dropping down from 5A.

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Royse City Bulldogs upset of Wranglers highlighted boys' soccer season

line on Royse City's first year in a boys' soccer district. The team looked good, but by season's end, the team was looking good to compete with District 23-4A's top teams.

The season ended Friday, March 13, with a 1-0 loss at home to Mesquite. That must have seemed like a moral victory. At Poteet on Friday, Feb. 24, the district's first-place team (9-1 in 23-4A, 16-4-3 overall) defeated the Bulldogs 6-0.

After that 6-0 loss, Royse City scored the first district win in the program's history Friday, Feb. 27, with a major upset of West Mesquite 2-1.

RC's 2-1 victory knocked the second-place Wranglers two games behind Poteet in the district standings, and they never caught up even though they won over West Mesquite the following Tuesday.

The Bulldogs, playing in a soccer district for the first year, had lost their district opener at West Mesquite 6-0 on Feb. 9.

After that, their offense improved. The 'Dawgs also stepped up their defense against the Wranglers, holding them to one goal. That made Royse City's goals by Abraham Ponce and Dustin Gibson hold up for the victory.

And the second time around the district, Royse City also lost to third-place Kaufman 1-0, another improvement over a 6-3 home loss to the Lions.

During the season's first half, RC went 0-3 against the district's top three teams, losing by a combined margin of 18-3. In the second half, the record improved just to 1-2, but the combined score was down to 3-2, an 83 per cent decrease in goals allowed.

Royse City Bulldogs' schedule

- Monday, March 21 - Freshman baseball: home vs. Forney, noon
- Monday, March 23 - Varsity and JV girls' golf: at Denison
- Tuesday, March 24 - Varsity and JV tennis: home vs. Terrell, 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 24 - Varsity and JV softball: at Highland Park, 4:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 25 - Freshman baseball: home vs. Rockwall-Heath, 4:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 25 - Varsity and JV baseball: at Rockwall-Heath, varsity 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, March 26 - Varsity boys' golf: at Rowlett Invitational
- Friday, March 27 - Middle school boys' track: at Terrell
- Friday, March 28 - Middle school girls' track: at Terrell, 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, March 29 - Varsity girls' golf: at Rockwall-Heath Invitational, Waterview Golf Course, 8 a.m.
- Saturday, March 29 - Freshman boys' baseball: home vs. Highland Park, 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, March 29 - Varsity boys' baseball: at Carrollton Newman Smith, freshman 5 p.m. and varsity 7 p.m.
- Sunday, March 30 - Varsity and JV baseball: at Highland Park, varsity 7:30 p.m.



Heritage Christian Academy senior Brandi Hawkins gets a hit during the Thursday, March 5 game against Denton at Denton.
Photo courtesy of Heritage Christian Academy

by Lary Bump

Royse City head coach James Bain was feeling pretty good about his team when the Lady Bulldogs broke out of an early season slump to win five games in the 15th annual McKinney ISD High School Softball Tournament March 5-7.

That seemed to set the Lady Bulldogs up well for their inaugural game in District 10-4A Tuesday, March 10, at Rockwall.

Instead, they came out flat and lost 7-0. RC handed the Lady Jackets most of their runs with the help of four errors. Royse City out-hit the home team 7-5, including three doubles to only one for Rockwall. But when the Lady Bulldogs had runners on base, they failed to bring them home every time.

"I thought we were playing real well, but we got some kids who came to play and some who thought they just had to show up," Bain said. "We had too many errors. We beat ourselves."

Three of those errors came in the second inning, when Rockwall took a 2-0 lead. A dropped throw on a sacrifice bunt, a wild throw on an attempted force and a catcher's interference made both runs unearned. Another misplay led to the Lady Jackets' final three runs in the sixth inning.

"Some people kind of gave up then. That surprised me," Bain said.

Bain said of Rockwall, "They were exactly what we thought they were. They make contact and put the ball in play."

The Lady Bulldogs' failure to make some defensive plays led to problems for Royse City's ace pitcher, Alicia Pille. Bain said, "She lost her composure at some times. When you have errors that can start to happen. The pitcher starts to think, 'My team let me down.'"

There was no letdown in McKinney. Following a 2-0 non-district victory Tuesday at Paris North Lamar, Royse City's winning streak reached six games. The Lady Bulldogs defeated Hudson 9-0 Thursday, then Sherman 2-0 and Van Alstyne 8-3 on Friday. They opened Saturday with an 8-3 decision over Midlothian, ranked second in the state, and finished by defeating Nevada Community.

Other than that tournament, Bain said, "We're just not hitting the ball. We've left a lot of runners on base."

Against Sherman, Pille pitched a one-hitter, allowing only a seventh-inning double, and struck out 15 batters.

Bain said, "Everybody did great against Midlothian. Alicia pitched a good game. We jumped out to a 1-0 lead. They went ahead 3-1 because of some of those errors that are killing us, but we came back to take the lead 4-3 and kept on building it."

Julia Zielinski had led the Lady Bulldogs' offense against Hudson by hitting a home run into the teeth of a howling wind.

She appeared close to having another homer at Rockwall. Leading off the second inning, she belted a pitch well over the wall down the left field line, but it was just foul. Zielinski grounded out that time and later doubled. But just as teammates Ashley Heinaman and Courtney Kelly were when they doubled, she was stranded on base.

The Lady Bulldogs (0-1 in District 10-4A, 7-6-2 overall) were scheduled to play at home Wednesday against Richardson Pearce (1-1, 12-1-1) and Thursday against Rockwall-Heath, which also won its opening district game.

The Lady Bulldogs earned their first District 10-4A victory Tuesday, winning 7-1 at Greenville.

RC girls improve despite winless record

Royse City finished its first season in a girls' soccer district without a win, but showed great improvement during the second half of its District 23-4A schedule.

The Lady Bulldogs' season ended Friday, March 13, with a 5-0 loss at Mesquite Poteet.

That might not sound like much, but the Lady Pirates are one of the area's best 4A teams. They were 10-0 in winning the district title, and enter the playoffs with a 21-1-1 overall record.

For a direct comparison, during the first half of the district schedule, Poteet won at Royse City 8-0.

That wasn't an isolated example. RC went 0-5 each time through the district schedule. However, the Lady Bulldogs were outscored 43-1 the first time around, and reduced the deficit by more than half (21-1) in the second half.

The last three games showed an even greater contrast. Terrell, Forney and Poteet outscored Royse City by a combined score of 33-1 the first time they played, but just 13-0 in the second meeting. That's an average margin of about 4-0, compared to 11-0.

Sports Notes

Ping-pong tourney slated Friday

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

Special needs open gym March 27

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

Junior Olympic Skills contest set

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

Blazing Balls golf tourney slated

The Rowlett Women's Club will host the Blazing Balls Charity Golf Tournament from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on March 30 at the Buffalo Creek Golf Course. Funds raised through the four-person scramble will help provide educational scholarships for women in need. Cost is \$110 per person, \$400 per team; cost includes dinner, snacks, prizes and more. Visit rowlettclub.com or e-mail info@rowlettclub.com for more details.

Heath to host 5k event on Easter weekend

The City of Heath will host the 2009 Heart of Heath 5k Run/Walk on April 11. The family-friendly event is open to individuals of all ages and athletic abilities. The run will begin at 8:30 a.m., rain or shine, at the Heath City Hall, followed by a pancake breakfast in the Community Room. For details on race categories and registration, visit heathtx.com or City Hall.

continued on page 2B

Rockwall County Sports

Lady Jackets take first 2 district games

by Lary Bump

With two hurdles cleared in the first two district games, the Rockwall softball team continued into a busy week.

On Monday, RHS handed Richardson Pearce (1-1 in District 10-4A, 12-1-1 overall) its first loss this season, 6-5. Kat Brown was the winning pitcher. Amanda Harmon's double was the only extra-base hit among Rockwall's nine hits against the Lady Mustangs.

The Lady Jackets had played perfect defense Tuesday, March 10, to carry them to a 7-0 victory over Roysie City in the teams' first game in 10-4A.

After the game at Pearce, Rockwall faced games Tuesday at home against Carrollton R.L. Turner and Wednesday at Rockwall-Heath, which also won its first district game. The Lady Jackets are scheduled to play in the Garland Varsity Tournament Thursday-Saturday.

Roysie City had out-hit Rockwall 7-5, but RHS took advantage of four Roysie City errors that led to five unearned runs.

Winning pitcher Brown allowed seven hits, including three doubles, but the errorless defense around

her prevented any Lady Bulldogs from scoring.

The Lady Jackets took a 2-0 lead on only one hit, Brown's leadoff single, in the bottom of the second inning. Three errors, including a catcher's interference, and a passed ball contributed to the two runs.

After a half-hour delay because of lightning in the top of the third inning, the Lady Jackets added single runs in the fourth and fifth. They sent home three unearned runs on another RC error in the sixth. Haley Lemons' double was Rockwall's only extra-base hit.

"It was a good start," said head coach Shadie Acosta. "Kat adapted through the lineup. Some kids who had hard hits against her early, she was able to get them out after that. She did a great job."

Brown was starting in place of Laycee Holcomb, who suffered a fractured tailbone while sliding during the Wylie Varsity Tournament Saturday. Acosta said she expected that Holcomb would miss another week.

The coach added, "Our hitting is not where we want it to be, but I think we can step it up. Their

pitcher (Alicia Pille, like Holcomb a sophomore) is pretty good. She had some defensive errors behind her.

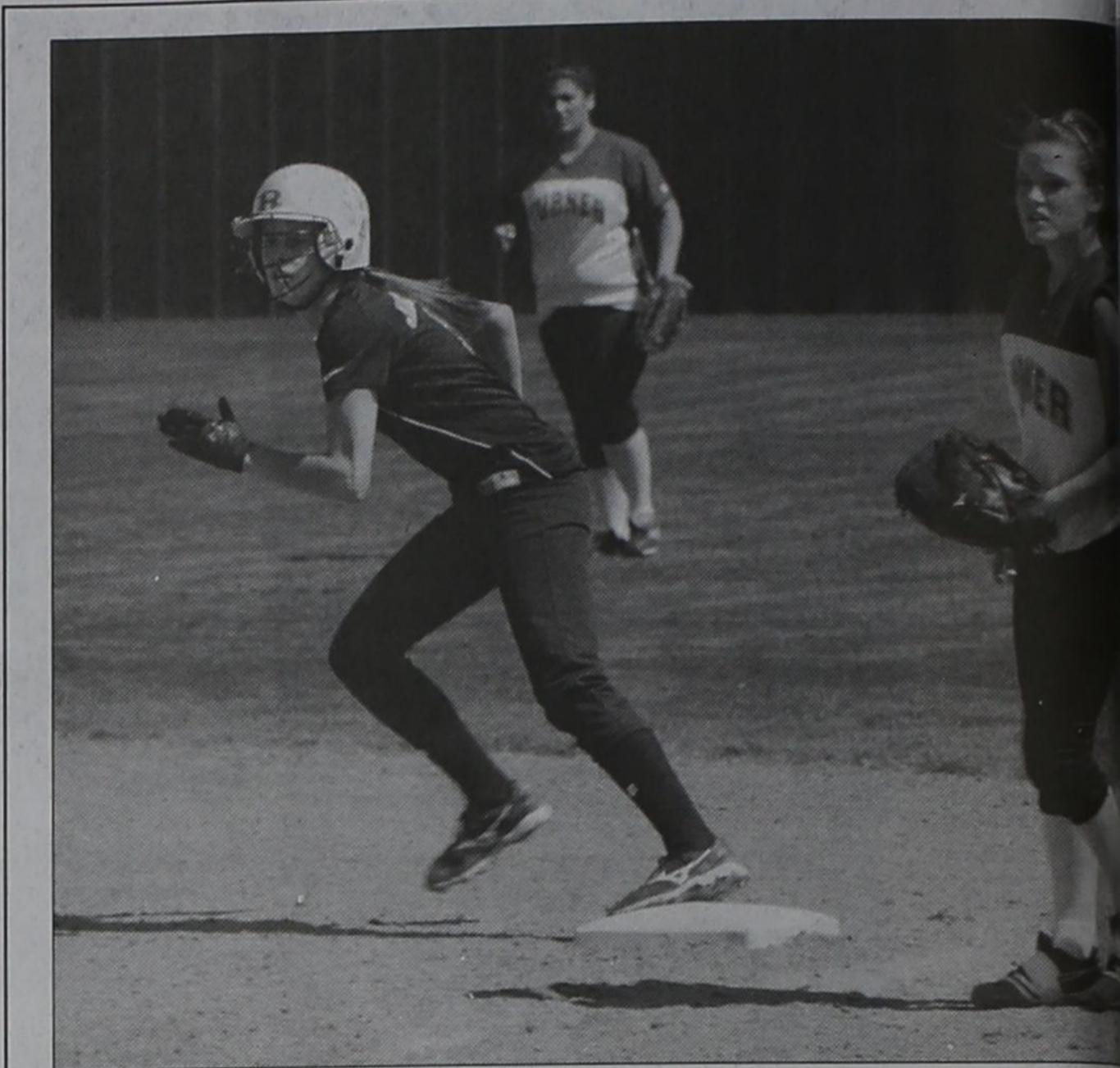
"We tried to adapt and change things up, but we couldn't do that very well. It's good to start off with an opponent we knew would be a tough opponent, and then another one in Pearce and Rockwall-Heath."

The Lady Jackets played six games in the Wylie tournament. They started off with a 7-4 loss to Richland, then won four games in a row before Leander broke away from a 2-2 tie with a run in the fifth inning and three in the sixth to win 6-2.

In between the losses, Rockwall defeated Mesquite Horn 4-1, Bishop Lynch 12-1, Springtown 17-1 and Magnolia 10-3.

Of the team's play in the tournament, Acosta said, "We were inconsistent. The weaker teams we put away but we didn't play well against the teams that were more competitive. Defensively as well as offensively, we weren't on."

The Lady Jackets improved their record to 13-4 overall and 3-0 in 10-4A by routing Carrollton R.L. Turner 15-0 Tuesday. Brown pitched a two-hit shutout.



Lady Jackets' Shelby Frierson (2) takes off to third base during Tuesday's game against R.L. Turner in the RHS softball field. The Lady Jackets won 15-0 because of the mercy rule. Staff photo by Tim Burnett

Sports Notes

continued from page 1B

RC Chamber golf tourney set

The eighth annual Roysie City Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament will feature a 1 p.m. shotgun start on April 24 at the Stone River Golf Club. The event will include a four-person team scramble format; entry costs \$75 per person. Cash prizes and goody bags will be awarded. Hospitality will be provided by Twins Peaks Restaurant in Mesquite. For more information call 972-636-5000 or e-mail info@roysecitychamber.com.

Kayak class set April 25

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

Little Kickers Soccer begins in April

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

Little Sluggers T-ball program slated

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

Disc Golf Weekend slated May 2-3

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

YR to host charity sporting clays event

The Rockwall County Young Republicans will host the 1st Annual Charity Sporting Clays Challenge May 9 at the Elm Fork Shooting Club, 10751 Luna Rd. in Dallas. The event will begin at 9:30 a.m.; sign-in begins at 8 a.m. The event will benefit Helping Hands, Habitat for Humanity and the Pregnancy Resource Center. For more details or to register contact Aaron Moore at 972-489-3648, amooeyr@yahoo.com or visit rockwallyr.org.

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Jackets avenge only loss, beat Bulldogs in district opener

by Lary Bump

Rockwall's season-opening winning streak came to an end at six games, but after a loss to Dallas Jesuit Friday, March 6, the Yellowjackets bounced back with a four-game winning streak.

Included in the streak were victories over Jesuit Saturday to avenge the only loss and over Roysie City 4-1 Tuesday, March 10, in the teams' first game in District 10-4A.

Through their first 12 games, RHS is 11-1 overall. The Jackets scored nine or more runs in eight of those games, failing to reach that level only in the Roysie City game, in the 5-4 loss and 5-1 victory against Jesuit and in Tuesday's 3-1 victory at Rockwall-Heath.

Even without big scoring output in those four games, Rockwall still is averaging better than nine runs per game and allowing opponents just under two per contest.

After rain and wet grounds canceled the 1-30 Classic tournament scheduled last weekend at RHS, Rockwall-Heath and Roysie City, the Jackets came back Monday to defeat Mesquite Horn 9-1. Because Rockwall's field still was wet, the game was moved to Richardson Berkner. Wesley Cox was the winning pitcher, and Derrek Clinard had the only extra-base hit, a double.

The next night, pitching carried the Jackets past Rockwall-Heath. Travis Ballew was the winning pitcher, with Tim Parish shutting down the Hawks in the bottom of the seventh inning for a save. Spencer Edwards and Josh Steward hit doubles for Rockwall.

Pitching and defense have held up all of this season for the Jackets. Those features were apparent against Roysie City. Ballew, who had pitched a no-hitter March 6 in a 9-1 victory at the Jesuit

Tournament, held Roysie City to two hits. The Bulldogs' run was unearned because of Rockwall's only error of the game, in the first inning.

RHS head coach Jeff Payne said after that game, "Ballew finished with 14 strikeouts. He was clutch again for us."

Ballew wasn't flustered by a 30-minute delay because of lightning midway through the game. In fact, he was even better after the breaking, striking out eight batters in the final three innings.

Rockwall's bats came to life just enough to turn a 1-0 deficit into its 4-1 victory. The Jackets totaled just three hits for the game, and only one after 3 1/2 innings. That was Steward's fourth-inning single that eluded Roysie City left fielder Eric Schneider. Ballew, who had walked, scored on the play with Steward ending up at third base.

He then scored the go-ahead run on losing pitcher Cameron Nichols' balk.

In the Jesuit Tournament, the Jackets opened with its victory over Prestonwood Christian Thursday. On Friday, the host school edged Rockwall 5-4. On Saturday, RHS routed Dallas Carter 16-0 before taking on Jesuit again.

Payne said the Jackets had to play Jesuit a second time because the brackets had been changed to accommodate a team visiting from Little Rock, Ark.

Days later, the lone loss bothered the coach. He said, "They won the first game on four unearned runs. Tim Parish pitched great, but we didn't catch the ball behind him."

The victory over Jesuit was even sweeter because Rockwall had to use all of its game to come from behind and defeat the Rangers.

RHS trailed 1-0 entering the seventh inning, but scored a run

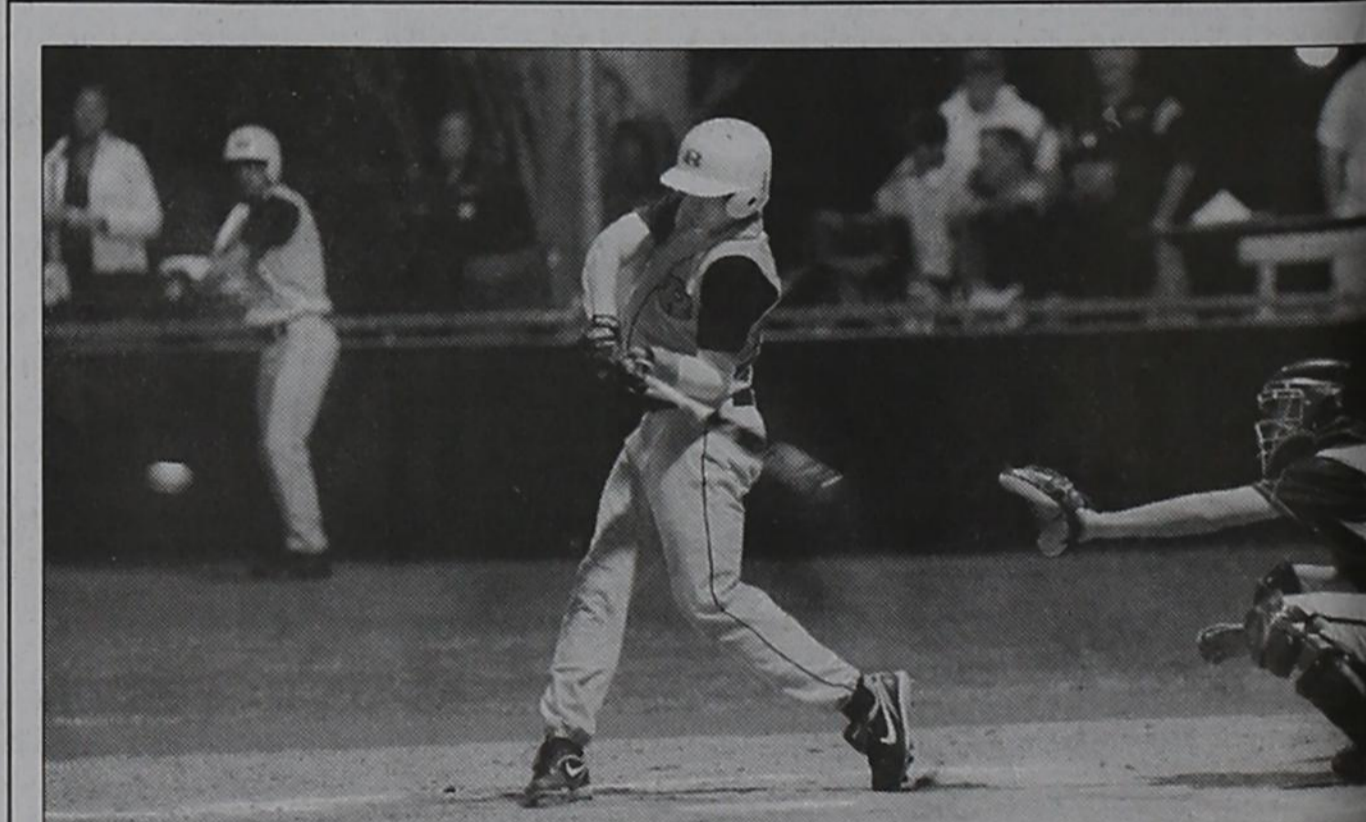
to tie the game. Jesuit didn't in the bottom of the inning. The game went to an extra inning. The Jackets broke loose for four and a 5-1 victory.

Against Prestonwood, Baker belted two doubles. Parish had a triple.

The next day came the rematch with Jesuit. Rockwall outscored the Rangers 8-4, including a triple by Steward and Parish. The Jackets also committed two errors. Clinard was the winning pitcher in the three-hit shutout.

Carter, in which Edwards' was the game's only extra-base hit, again had the advantage. Steward hit a triple. Clinard was the winning pitcher.

"We were just glad to play (tournament) games and win the last one," Payne said.



Yellowjackets' outfielder Josh Steward nails a hit during Tuesday night's game against the Hawks at the RHHS field. Ready for the pitch is Hawks' catcher Drew Benefield. Staff photo by Carl McClung

Rockwall Yellowjackets' schedule

Thursday, March 19 - Varsity girls' soccer vs. Dallas Bryan Adams at Homer B. Johnson Stadium in Garland, UIL Bi-District.

Friday, March 20 - Varsity boys' soccer vs. Dallas Thomas Jefferson at Homer B. Johnson Stadium in Garland, UIL Bi-District.

Saturday, March 21 - JV White baseball: home vs. Plano Vines, 2 games, noon

Monday, March 23 - Black and freshman 2 boys' golf: at Rowlett Invitational, Waterview Golf Club, 8 a.m.

Girls' soccer: Area round, Monday or Tuesday

Tuesday, March 24 - Varsity or White boys' golf: at Rowlett Invitational, Waterview Golf Club, 8 a.m.

JV White baseball: home vs. Richardson Pearce, 4:30 p.m.

Baseball: at Richardson Pearce, JV Orange 4:30 p.m. and varsity 7 p.m.

Softball: at Carrollton Newman Smith, JV 5 p.m. and varsity 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 25 - JV tennis: at JV Tournament, Mansfield Summit

Thursday, March 26 - Gymnastics: District Championships Compulsories at Brandenburg Middle School, 2 p.m.

Varsity 1 and 2 girls' golf: at Rockwall-Heath Invitational, Waterview Golf Club

Friday, March 27 - Varsity softball: at Highland Park, 4 p.m.

Baseball: home vs. Carrollton Newman Smith, JV Orange 4:30 p.m. and varsity 7 p.m.

Gymnastics: District Championships Optionals at Brandenburg Middle School, 6 p.m.

Varsity tennis: at Embassy Suites Invitational, San Marcos

Track and field: at Allen Eagle Relays, Allen Track Complex

Williams Wildcats' schedule

Tuesday, March 24 - Tennis: vs. Greenville at Greenville School, 4 p.m.

A gymnastics: at Brandenburg, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 26 - Girls' and boys' track and field: with Wylie Burnett and Wylie McMillan at Lovejoy, 4:30 p.m.

Say You Saw It In "The County News"

Rockwall County Sports

Lady Hawks gymnastics team closes out regular season by winning at home, district meet

by Matt McGillen

Capping Senior Night by winning their own meet, the Rockwall-Heath gymnastics team scored 108.20 points to win at home March 12.

Jade Bowerman took second in the all-around with a score of 37.45, including a first in the vault (8.95), second on bars (9.70), beam (9.55) and floor (9.25).

Lauren Vandiver, the first and only senior Lady Hawk, placed fourth all-around with a combined mark of 35.45, taking fourth on bars (9.10), third on beam (9.25), fifth on floor (8.80). Right behind Vandiver was Megan Hasenyager, who finished fifth in the all-around with 33.80 points, including fifth on vault (8.80).

Naje' Watkins tied for second on vault (8.90) and sixth on beam (8.35) while Regan Allen tied for second on vault (8.90) and fifth on bars (8.65). Also scoring were Lauren Statham, who placed fifth on floor (8.80) and Elia Carey, who wound up seventh on floor (9.50). Next up for the Lady Hawks will be the district championships March 26-27 at Brandenburg Middle School at 6:30 p.m. The top three teams from district will advance to the regional championships April 7-8 at Highland Park.

"Last year was our second year to have a varsity gymnastics team at Heath High School and we advanced all the way to the State Championships," said coach Jennifer Bolli. "We have been working very hard all year to make it to state again."

RHHS athletes earn UIL all-state swimming honors

Jacey Hodan, Coral Davenport and Mitchell Foster all collected multiple All-State swimming awards following the 2009 season.

Also honored were both a boys and girls 200 medley relay teams, based on times they turned in at either the regional or the state meet.

Hodan, who finished second in the 100 breast stroke at the 4A state meet by a mere .04, made first team All-State in not only that event but as part of the girls 200 medley relay team as well.

Other members of the relay team included Morgan Madrid, Katie Langdon and Davenport, who was also named to the second team All-State squad in the 100 butterfly.

Leading the boys was Mitchell, who was named second-team All-State in two events, the 50 freestyle and the 100 backstroke as well as being part of the second-team All-State 200 medley relay team which included Taylor Prothro, Zach Crumpley and Jon Sherwin.

Eddy throws no-hitter and 1- hitter as Lady Hawks open District with 2 wins

by Matt McGillen

With their offense producing 34 hits and their ace Chelsey Eddy surrendering just a single hit herself in two games, the Rockwall-Heath Lady Hawks softball team opened District 10-4A action with a pair of easy wins, thumping Newman Smith 10-0 March 17 after crushing Greenville 20-0 March 18.

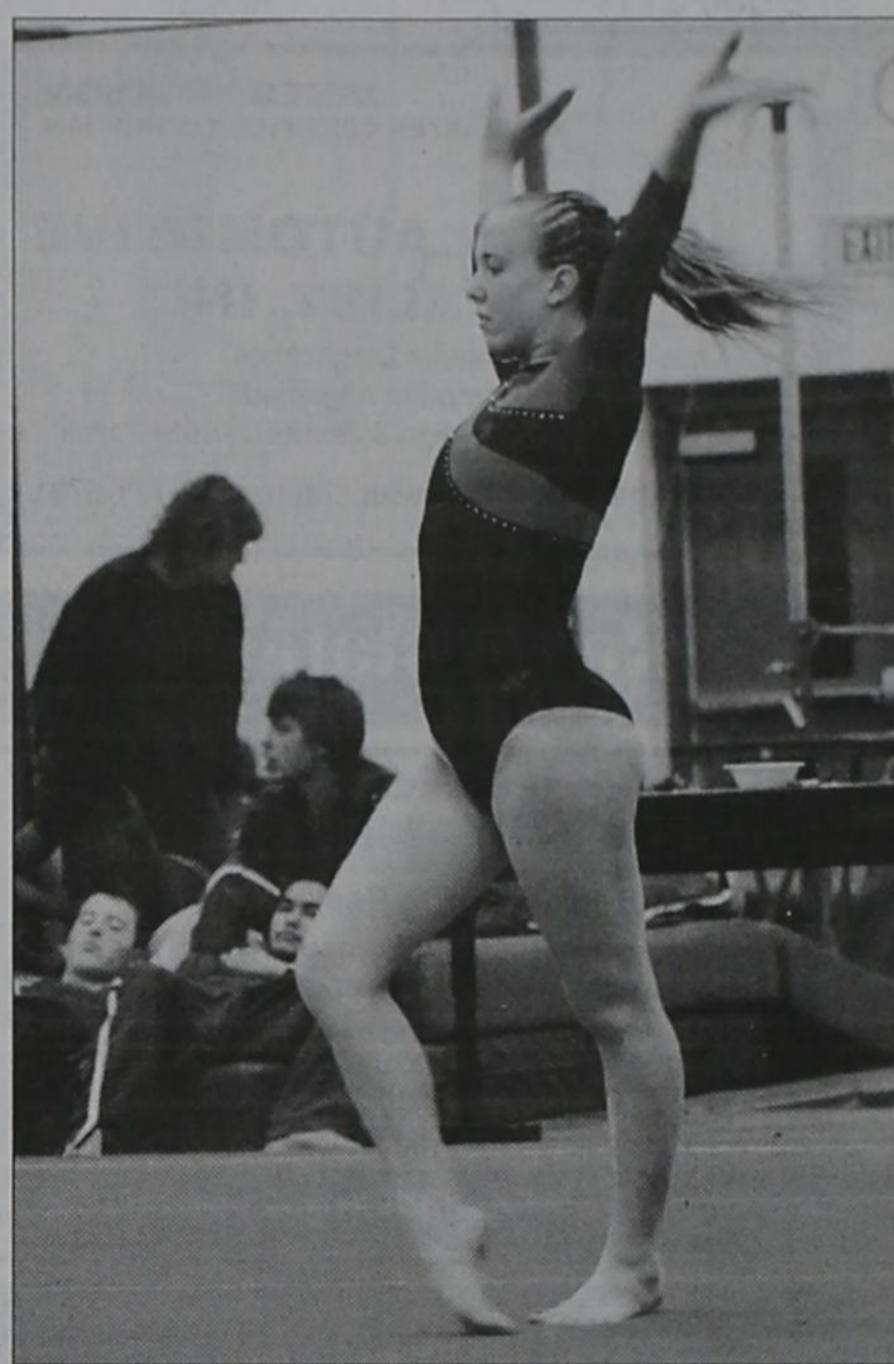
Now 2-0 in district and 10-5 overall, Heath was scheduled to host Rockwall March 18 before taking to the road to take on Royse City March 19 in a pair of makeup games caused by last week's rain.

Eddy, who opened the district season with a five-inning no-hitter against the overmatched Lady Lions, gave up just a long double to opposing pitcher Lisa Chevera in the fourth inning against Smith.

It might be the only bad pitch she threw in either game, as she struck out 10 and didn't walk a single Smith batter in another game shortened by the mercy rule.

She also helped herself at the plate, going 2-for-3, driving in a run in a three-run fourth inning that put Heath up 7-0.

The Lady Hawks got on the board in the first inning on a pair of singles, an error, a wild pitch and Kaeleigh Lutz's sacrifice fly to go up 2-0 and give Eddy all the offense she would need.



Lady Hawks' gymnast Jade Bowerman places second in the floor routine during last Thursday's meet against Saginaw, Lake Highlands, JJ Pearce and Richardson, in the RHHS gymnastics facility. Bowerman earned an overall second place rating in the meet with a score of 37.45.

Staff photo by Tim Burnett



Lady Hawks' gymnast Megan Hasenyager strikes a phone conversation pose in her floor routine during Thursday's meet against Saginaw, Lake Highlands, JJ Pearce and Richardson, in the RHHS gymnastics facility. Enjoying the performance is RHHS gymnastics coach Jennifer Bolli (back). Hasenyager scored 33.80 points for a fifth place overall finish.

Staff photo by Tim Burnett

Lady Hawks baseball crushes Greenville 20-0, then falls to

Against Prestonville, Matt McGillen Baker belted two during the first-inning, the first-ever Parish had a triple during the game between the Rockwall and Jesuit. Rockwall's offense looked like it was going to Rangers 8-4, including a classic. Scoreless and error-free by Steward and Park, it had all the makings of a Jackets also committed to a pitching duel between rors. Clinard was the Jackets' Travis Ballew and the pitcher in the three-inning game Baune.

Carter, in which Edward was the top of the sixth the was the game's only error. Heats' defense in the Jesuit rematch in the bottom of the frame the again had the advantage. shouldn't come up with the 11-6. Steward hit a triple hit when they needed it, even- the winning pitcher, by hitting 3-1 to Rockwall at "We were just glad HHS March 17 in a District 10- (tournament) games against one," Payne said.

As part of big innings do, the kept half of the sixth started in conspicuously enough with a dis- speed ground ball back to ma- The ball scooted between a- legs for an error, how- er, a put a runner on first. he next batter laid down a r- bunt back to the mound, a- committed another error, o- high to first allowing the me- to advance to second and rd- none out.

The jacket's Spencer Edwards en- a sharp grounder just in- e- bag at third past a drawn H- infield to make it 2-0 ck- 1. Spear advanced to second on t- way to the plate and then me- ound to score on the next t- all when the Hawks' third sen- fielded a slow roller up e- l- and threw wildly to first r- ing- get the third out of the n- ing.

In the bottom of the sixth Ballew low- a hard single by Drew r- h- a but then struck out two t- a row before he yielded i- d hit and a walk by pinch

Just Say You Saw It In The County News"

hitter Jovan Hernandez to load the bases.

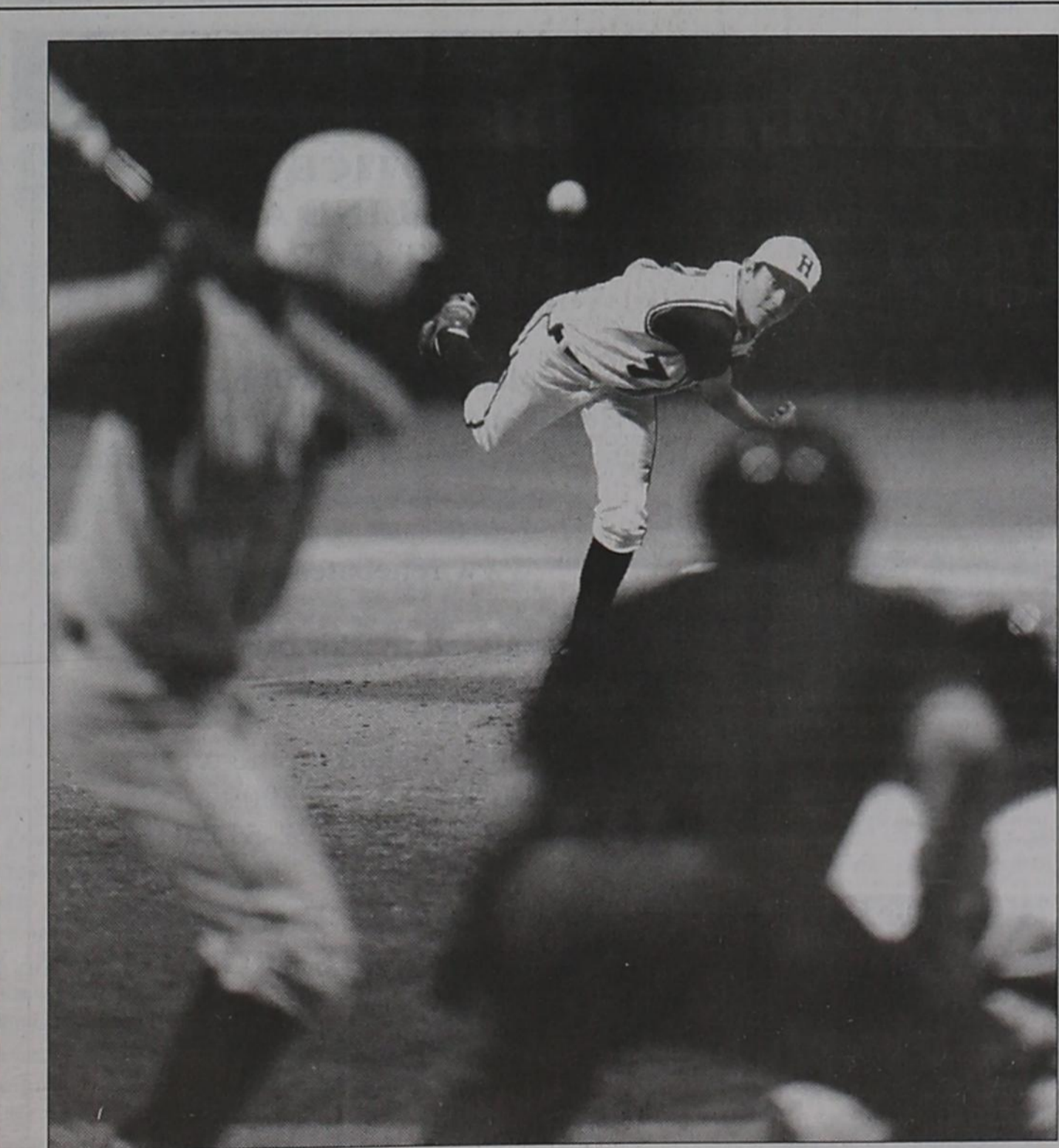
He then struck out Charlie Martin, but the ball got away from the Rockwall catcher allowing Verhagen to score to make it 3-1 with bases still loaded for Matt Bielski.

Bielski battled to a 2-2 count before Ballew blew a waist high fastball by him for his fourth strikeout of the inning.

The Hawks had one more chance, but went quietly in the seventh with Connor Lewis and Drew Benefield both striking out before Verhagen grounded out to second to end the game.

Against Greenville, the Hawks pounded out 13 hit, including a triple by John Branum and a double by Verhagen.

Braune scattered three hits to get the win for Heath, which met Lake Highlands at The Ballpark in Arlington, home of the Texas Rangers March 18 and will host Newman Smith March 20.



Rockwall-Heath Hawks' James Baune unleashes a pitch to Yellowjackets' batter Wesley Cox during Tuesday night's game in the RHHS field.

Staff photo by Carl McClung

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Rockwall County Sports



Matt Jones (left) and Tyler Johnson (right) talk strategy during the March 7-8 Roadrunner Regatta on Lake Travis in Austin. The team placed second at the competition.
Photo Courtesy of Jennifer L. Courbier

Rockwall County sailing students place in Austin Roadrunner Regatta

Sailing students from Rockwall-Heath High School and The School participated in the Roadrunner Regatta March 7-8 on Lake Travis in Austin.

Matthew Jones, a senior at RHHS, and Tyler Johnson, a sophomore at The Fulton School, took second place out of 18 boats in the competitive regatta so far this year, according to sailing club member Jennifer L. Courbier of Rockwall-Heath High School. Mark Jay Kendall Johnson, both sophomores at The Fulton School, took a commendable fifth place at the race.

Courbier said conditions during the regatta were extreme, with gusting upwards of 20 miles per hours on Saturday, yet little to no wind on Sunday.

Other students who participated in the regatta were Alexander and Stephen Nelson from Rockwall-Heath High School and Stewart from The Fulton School.

Both teams practice with Coach Hunter Farris at Rush Creek Club as a part of the club's junior sailing program

Hawks soccer ties Lovejoy

Although they won just two games all year, the Rockwall-Heath soccer team missed making the playoffs by just a single point, closed out the regular season with a 1-1 tie against Lovejoy in a 21-4A game March 13.

Sergiu Postolache had the lone score of the Hawks, who earned a district 2-4-4, good for 10 points (three for a win and one for tie) behind Rockwall's 11 (3-5-2), which earned the Yellow Jackets the final postseason spot.

Richardson Peace finished as district champion with 8-1-1 record followed by The Colony at 4-2-4 and Highland Park with a 4-3-3 record. The Hawks ended the season 2-12-5 while Lovejoy finished 1-11-6.



Rockwall High School senior Joey Ullman (middle) aims for the puck during recent action in an 8-1 victory over Frisco. Ullman scored one point during the contest for a total of 14 points this season.
Photo by Shawn Rogers

Rockwall Hockey overpowers Frisco 8-1

by Shawn Rogers

The Rockwall varsity hockey team vented their frustration for last week's disappointing loss to Bishop Lynch last week on a young Frisco team by overpowering the Raccoons 8-1 at the Frisco Star Center March 14. The win keeps the Jackets in 3rd place with two games remaining in the regular season.

"We out skated them and controlled the game, especially in the second period on", said Mark Thirion, assistant coach. "Morgan Cook had stellar games for us."

The Wylie duo of junior Morgan Cook and senior Stefan Skinner led the offense with team scoring leader Cook logging a hat trick and playmaker Skinner contributing three assists.

The defense returned to form as well contributing three short handed goals and holding Frisco to only 12 shots on goal.

But the blow out had a slow start as the first period was dominated by both defenses. The Jackets managed seven shots with one goal. Rockwall sophomore Preston Roberts set up by Rockwall-Heath defenseman Clark Pope and Skinner, while the Raccoons were held to only five shots.

In the second period, the Jackets took charge and added two goals in the first minute. Cook netted a power play goal on the first possession with support from Skinner and Rockwall senior Chris Thirion. Rockwall junior Joey Ullmann buried the puck home with help from Skinner.

Frisco got on the board mid way through the frame with a 3rd period goal with a man advantage.

But from then on it was all Rockwall as the Jackets responded with five unanswered goals, one more in the second and four in the third period.

Rockwall sophomore Josh Kinnear netted the first of two short handed goals as time was expiring in the middle period.

Cook scored early in the third period with some deft puck handling on a penalty shot. He followed that up on the next possession with a rocket from the blue line that completed his hat trick circuit (power play, even strength, and penalty shot goals). Pope was in on the assist.

The Rockwall special teams capped the scoring with both Thirion and Kinnear dropping in short handed goals.

Rockwall-Heath junior goalie David White improved his record to 9-1-0 and save average to 0.889 with a fine performance in the game.

"This was a much needed win and showed how we are capable of controlling a game," said White. "This is good going into the playoffs."

The Jackets (17-4-1) will next face Colleyville Heritage on Tuesday, March 24, at the Ice Training Center in Richardson.

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

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