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Rockwall County News



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County Readers in • Fate • Heath • McLendon-Chisholm • Rockwall • Rowlett • Royse City

...s journey to benefit ailing 2-year-old

...n C...edge
...News ran an article on Kaitlyn Renee Johnson's story on June 22. She is the 2-year-old daughter of Mandy Johnson and was diagnosed with leukemia in November 2011. Kaitlyn keeps a daily journal as a way of coping with Kaitlyn's heart-wrenching pain and tears. On most days and her husband works nights. One parent or the other is with Kaitlyn most of the time. Mandy Johnson, Kaitlyn's grandmother, and her aunt help out in the in-between hours. Many expenses involved in caring for a sick child who must go to the hospital or doctor's office. Gas and food expenses can really mount in a hurry. Kaitlyn's regimen of treatment is very demanding. They must go more often than others. Mandy has been four fundraising events for the family: an online auction, a softball tournament in Royse City and a barbecue dinner and concert at the Wylie First Baptist Church. Mandy received an email from Kaitlyn's dad. In reference to the original article, he wrote, "Your article was an unexpected chain of events that have caught us by surprise. Your article sparked a blood drive at the Wylie Fire Department that raised 52 units of blood product and just over \$500. During the drive, a friend who had health issues of his own decided that a benefit for him would no longer be a priority and to continue the barbecue dinner for Kaitlyn." Mandy has had 18 blood transfusions and many chemotherapy treatments. A Kaitlyn Renee Benefit Bass Tournament will be conducted at the Bass Pro Shop on I-30 and the phone number is 469-221-2600 for more information. The pre registration is from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Entry fees are \$100 per team with 50/50 payback, \$10/person big bass-100 percent. The tournament will be at 3 p.m. and a raffle will be conducted after the weigh-in. For more information on the tournament, contact Mandy Johnson at @teamKaitlynRenee.

Anyone interested in organizing a fundraiser or helping Kaitlyn's family meet their needs may go to teamkaitlynrenee.com, push the donate button and pay through PayPal or visit any Wells Fargo Bank and make a donation by giving the bank her name or her parents' names. Donations also may be sent to Team Kaitlyn Renee, P.O. Box 1235, Royse City, TX 75189.



Kaitlyn Renee Johnson and her parents, James and Mandy Johnson, are enduring a long battle as the 2-year-old struggles with leukemia. An upcoming bass tournament has been scheduled to help raise funds for the family.
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

...ial burglary suspects ...ted in Rockwall

The Rockwall Police Department arrested four individuals at about 8:45 a.m. Sept. 6. The four have been involved in a series of residential burglaries that have occurred in recent weeks in Rockwall. The police release, police said that multiple reports of weekday burglaries had been received from residents in the area over the previous two and a half weeks. In each of these incidents, entry to the home was made through the front door. The burglaries reportedly occurred during morning hours. Based on witness information, authorities believe a group of suspects is responsible for the crimes, according to the news release. After officers were deployed to look into "suspicious activity" in the 1400 block of Rockwall, police made contact with four individuals found at the scene and determined they were the suspects. They were reported in Rockwall," according to the news release. The suspects were identified as Detrevious Turner, Marcus Duren, Decoreum Clater and Jesse Houston, all of whom were traveling in a vehicle that matched the description given by witnesses to the crimes. All four were arrested on the charge of engaging in organized criminal activity/burglary, according to the news release. The investigation to the crimes is ongoing and is being handled by the Rockwall Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division.

Rockwall City Council selects Jim Pruitt for Place 2 vacancy

Rockwall City Council has announced that the City council has appointed Jim Pruitt to the Rockwall City Council. The decision was made on Monday to fill the seat currently held by Mark Russo. Mr. Pruitt was recently elected as Republican Candidate to Justice of the Peace in the 14th Precinct. He earlier informed the council of his intent to resign from the position on September 19 and will serve until the May 2013 election. The on-to-be council member served the City of Rockwall on various boards and commissions, Rockwall Mayor David Frantz is well grounded and understands city government. Mr. Pruitt has a great understanding of how our process works," said City Manager Steve Swanson. "We interviewed 23 outstanding candidates." The council will appoint Mr. Pruitt.

A graduate of the University of Texas at Dallas with a degree in Political Science, Pruitt earned his Juris Doctorate degree from Baylor Law School in 1984. He is Board Certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. In 1994, he was elected as the judge for Dallas County Criminal Court 2. During his eight-year tenure, Judge Pruitt was elected by his judicial peers as the Presiding Judge for three years and as Local Administrative Judge for two years. He was also appointed to the First Administrative Judicial Region budget board, which included Rockwall County. After leaving the bench, he and his wife Kenda Culpepper opened Culpepper and Pruitt with offices in Rockwall and Dallas. When his wife was elected Rockwall County District Attorney in 2008, Mr. Pruitt created the Pruitt Law Firm, which practices in areas including mediation, family law and intellectual property law.

Other applicants for the position were Applicants include Greg Caffarel, Alison Cook, Martha Hardin, Janice Johnson, Michael Johnston, Johnathan McClintock, Richard Meyn, Glenn Carr, Clifford Linsey, David Schwartz, Bob Lewis, Becky Airheart, Scott Milder, Steve Mays, Jerry Hunter, Allen Biggs, Donna Strode-Olbrish, Earl Milner, David Waller, Kevin Stovall, Harry Green, Tom Richmond, Phillip Herbst, J. Chris White, Les Gray, Richard Clark, Daryl Wilkerson, Freddie Jackson, Robert Hill, Douglas Sullivant, Bruce A. Clark and James Rohrig. Pruitt was also a candidate for state representative, with Scott Turner winning the Republican primary election.

Heath City Council takes up wide variety of issues at recent meeting

- City Manager Department and Committee Reports were presented to the City of Heath City Council to council members for the August 21, 2012 Heath City Council meeting.
- Planning and Zoning Commission - Meeting Aug. 14, 2012
- Board of Adjustment - Meeting Aug. 13, 2012
- Park Board - Meeting May 22, 2012
- Department of Public Safety - Calls for Service/Offense Report - July 2012
- Criminal Investigations Division - Case Load - July 2012
- Animal Control Report - July 2012
- Building Permits - July 2012/Fiscal Year To Date/2011
- Public Works Requests - Year To Date Through August 2012
- Municipal Court - Monthly Activity Report - July 2012/2011 Comparison
- Health Department Statistical Summary - July 2012
- Financial Department License Report As Of July 31, 2012
- General Fund
- Water Utility Fund
- Waste Management Fund
- Public Safety Fund
- Economic Development Corporation
- Municipal Benefits Corporation

of Stoneleigh. There were still several outstanding issues to be negotiated as of the Aug. 21 council meeting. Efforts will continue until differences have been resolved. Although no outstanding issues exist related to the Final Plat of Stoneleigh Phase 5, it also was postponed, pending the Development Agreement resolution. In other business, the council adopted the 2009 International Fire Code of Ordinances with Option B amendments, as recommended by the North Central Texas Council of Governments, as the Official Fire Code of the City of Heath. The amendments are:

- Providing for Exceptions
- Providing for a Penalty Not to Exceed the Sum of \$2000 per offense, if convicted.
- Providing a Severability Clause
- Providing a Repealer Clause
- Providing an Effective Date

In another item, the council voted to authorize the City Manager to engage Freese and Nichols, Inc. to survey, design and provide environmental services for four Safe Routes to School projects. In April 2011, the city received grants totaling \$1,522,429 for the projects. It is estimated the total cost could be upwards of \$2,000,000, in which the city of Heath would bear responsibility for the difference. The four proposed projects are separate, meaning each has its own designated grant amount. The money for one project cannot be used for any of the other three. The city is required to make a final decision by April 2013, regarding which, if any, or all of the four, to pursue. Diagrams of the proposed Safe Routes can be accessed on the home

page of the city's website at www.heathtx.com. The projects would benefit students at Pullen Elementary, Cain Middle School, Amy Parks Heath Elementary and Rockwall Heath High School by connecting, via sidewalks, to surrounding neighborhoods, including Buffalo Creek, Cobblestone Farms, Highlands of Heath and Stoneleigh. In other business, Verizon Wireless will be permitted to install three additional antennas to the water tower behind Towne Center Park, representing additional revenue of \$9,000 per year. Following up on an item from a previous council meeting, the council voted to add two additional TxDot road projects to an existing "wish list" of projects by the City of Heath. These projects, along with projects submitted by other county municipalities, will be considered by the Rockwall County Planning Consortium under the \$100 million bond package approved by voters in 2008. One is the widening, to a four-lane divided road, of FM 550 from FM 549 to the east city limit, near where Rabbit Ridge and McDonald Road intersect with FM 549. The other is FM 740 from its intersection with FM 1140 South (Smirl Dr.) to the Rockwall County Line. It is being recommended for straightening and widening to a six-lane, divided road. Although on the agenda, there were no additional discussion items related to the 2013 Annual Fiscal Budget. Pending the Public Hearing, a vote on the budget could take place at the Sept. 18, City Council meeting. After a presentation from Heath Director of Public Safety, Terry Garrett and considerable council and staff discussion on the threat of West Nile Virus, the council took action in a unanimous vote to initiate a trapping and sampling protocol to determine the city's likelihood of exposure to the virus. The process takes approximately two weeks. Results will be discussed at the next council meeting.



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Susan Segura's fourth grade bilingual class at Dobbs Elementary has enjoyed measuring the mass of matter using a triple beam balance. Pictured during class time are, from the left, Emilia Nunez, Aaron Olivarez, Katherine Hernandez (standing), Andrea Vega and Noemi Garcia.
 Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Royse City Police Blotter
 Aug. 31-Sept. 6

- Friday, 31 August: Assault, 800 block E. Old Greenville; Disturbance, 600 block E. Lamar Street; Suspicious vehicle, Area of Hidden Creek and FM 1777; Theft, 700 block FM 2642; Criminal mischief, Area of FM 35 and CR 2595; Accident, FM 548; Suspicious person, 100 block I-30 SSR; Reckless driver, FM 548
- Saturday, 1 September: Alarm, 100 block W. Main Street; Criminal mischief, Circle Lane; Alarm, 500 block E. Main Street; Suspicious vehicle, I-30 NSR near Erby Campbell; Reckless driver, 200 block W. I-30; Suspicious person, 1300 block E. Main Street; Accident, 100 block W. I-30; Driving while license invalid w/previous conviction arrest, 500 block E. Main Street
- Sunday, 2 September: Medical assistance, 900 block W. I-30; Accident, I-30 NSR near the 74-mile marker; Suspicious person, 600 block E. I-30; Suspicious vehicle, 1500 block E. I-30 SSR; Alarm, 1400 block Hunters Glen; Noise disturbance, 1000 block Oak Grove Lane; Two fail to identify/four Tarrant County arrests, Intersection of FM 35 and I-30 SSR; Driving while intoxicated arrest, 100 block W. I-30
- Monday, 3 September: Medical assistance, 1900 block Green Terrace Drive; Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound near the 77-mile marker; Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound near the 73-mile marker; Driving while intoxicated arrest, Intersection of FM 548 and I-30 SSR; Driving while license invalid w/previous conviction, 500 block Howard Street; Driving while intoxicated arrest, 100 block W. I-30; Evading arrest/detention arrest, I-30 eastbound

near the 76-mile marker

- Tuesday, 4 September: Suspicious person, 1700 block Kelly Lane; Suspicious vehicle, 1100 block Live Oak; Two burglary of motor vehicles, 1500 block Lorena Drive; Suspicious person, 3100 block Overstreet Lane; Criminal trespass, 1200 block Mexia Court; Suspicious person, 1400 block Erby Campbell Boulevard; Suspicious person, Area of High Meadow Drive; Burglary of motor vehicle, 200 block Singleton Drive; Suspicious vehicle, Area of Erby Campbell and Church Street; Alarm, 3300 block Taylor Drive; Accident, FM 35 near Chestnut Court; Alarm, 100 block E. I-30; Criminal mischief, 200 block West Creek Drive; Accident, Hwy 66 near N. Erby Campbell Boulevard; Disturbance, 300 block N. Erby Campbell Boulevard; Disturbance, 200 block W. Gail Lane; Dallas Police Department warrant arrest, Corner of Howard Street and Front Street
- Wednesday, 5 September: Noise disturbance, 1400 block Evergreen Street; Suspicious person, West Creek Drive; Medical assistance, 1000 block Brookhaven Drive; Alarm, 200 block E. Main Street; Suspicious person, Area of N. Houston Street and Church Street; Suspicious vehicle, 1200 block Tyler Court
- Thursday, 6 September: Noise disturbance, 500 block Autumn Trail; Reckless driver I-30 eastbound near the 73-mile marker; Suspicious person, Area of Lamar Street and Burton Street; Suspicious vehicle, Cyprus Drive; Welfare concern, 1500 Bob Drive; Welfare concern, 100 block E. I-30 SSR; Alarm, 2300 block E. I-30 NSR; Welfare concern, 100 block E. I-30 NSR; Driving while intoxicated arrest, I-30 NSR near the 78-mile marker; Driving while license invalid w/previous conviction, E. I-30 near the 76-mile marker; Possession of marijuana arrest, E. I-30 near the 78-mile marker; Public intoxication arrest, 300 block Cookston Lane

FunFest scheduled Oct. 20 in Royse

The Royse City Chamber of Commerce is gearing up for FunFest, a day filled with food, fun and festivities for all. Activities will run from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. along Main Street. The schedule of events is as follows:

- 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. – Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast, Methodist Church
 - 8 a.m. – Annual Stick Robinson Memorial Run
 - 8 a.m. to noon – Carter Blood Care Blood Drive
 - 9:30 a.m. – Opening ceremonies at the main stage
 - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Arts and crafts, food vendors
 - 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. – Carnival rides, children's rides
 - 11:30 a.m. – Truck pull behind the main stage
 - Noon – Pie-eating contest, main stage
 - 12:30 p.m. – Hula Hoop contest, main stage
 - 1 p.m. – Arabian dancer, main stage
 - 1:30 p.m. – Martial arts demonstration, main stage
 - 2 p.m. – Children's pageant, main stage
 - 3:45 p.m. – Raffle winners announced, main stage
 - 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – Annual Girl Scouts Meeting
- First United Methodist Church
 Food vendors will offer corn dogs, funnel cakes, candy ice cream, floats, turkey legs, fried foods, roasted corn. Prizes for all contests have been donated by area merchants. Vendor spaces remain available. Log on to roysecitychamber.com or call 972-636-5000 or email info@roysecitychamber.com

Three locals are semifinalists in National Merit Scholarship Program

Three local students are among the 16,000 semifinalists in the 58th annual National Merit Scholarship Program, according to a news release from the National Merit Scholarship Corp. Semifinalists include Alexander W. Chase of Royse City High School and Jacob R. Cariker and Steven A. Shepherd of Royse City High. Each of these high school seniors has the opportunity to win more than \$32 million to be awarded in the spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship, a student must meet several requirements to advance to the finalist level. More than half of the semifinalists are expected to attain finalist status, according to the news release. The NMSC is a nonprofit organization that provides government assistance. Scholarships are underwritten by funds and by approximately 440 business organizations and education institutions that share the corporation's goal of promoting the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging academic excellence.

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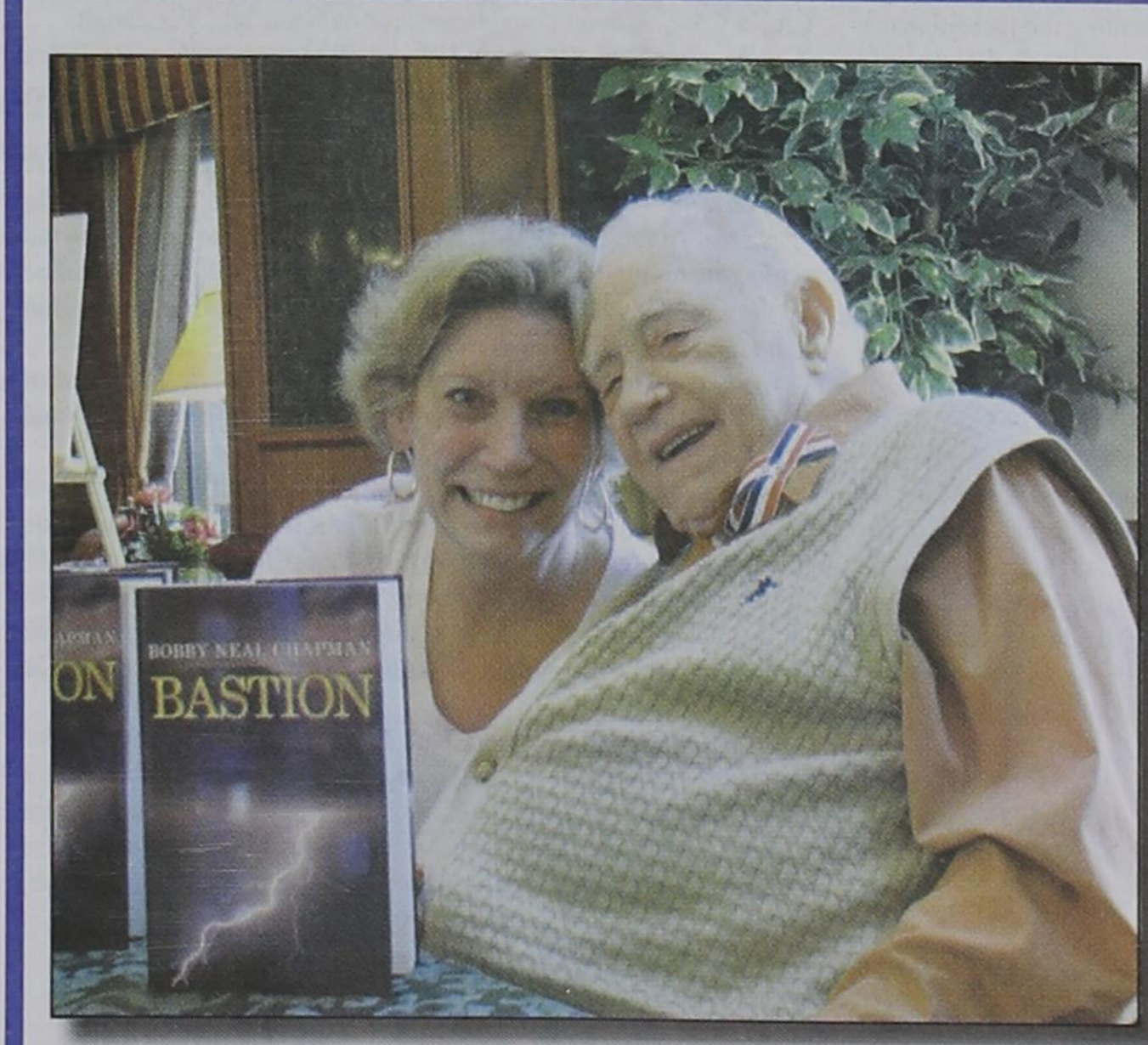
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Resident Bob Chapman with his daughter Degie during his recent book signing at Emeritus at Summer Ridge Assisted Living and Retirement Community.

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Royse City News

Small town shows love, compassion

MILLIE JEAN COPPEDGE
Reminiscing
Royse City

the most thoughtful and caring person you will ever meet.”

Frankie D. works at Ronnie's Dry Clean Center, next to the police station. Karen McDonald, the manager, reaffirmed Frankie's love for caps. She said he had a large collection. Everywhere he goes, people give him a cap.

“He usually wears the one that says Police,” she said. “That’s his favorite.”

Douglas and Nell Bostick also claim a life-long friendship with Frankie D.

“Douglas takes Frankie D. to buy groceries once or twice week and any other errands he needs to take care of,” said Nell. “Doug and I took him to shop for church clothes recently. He knows exactly what he likes and wants when it comes to clothes. He has good taste in style. We helped him buy five nice suits. He always wants matching shirts and ties for each outfit.”

“He has always wanted (a) white suit. We couldn't find a white one but did get a beautiful cream-colored one. When he dresses for church, he always looks nice and is so proud of his new clothes.”

“Whenever he hears a siren such as an ambulance or police car, he always goes outside if he is in a building, takes his cap off and puts it over his heart and stands at attention until they are gone? That’s a touching thing to see,” she said.

Ruth Cherry, former principal of Ruth Cherry Intermediate School in Royse City, said, “My husband, Ben, and I just love Frankie D. He is a kind, good man, just a good man. Anybody who knows him loves him. He collects cans and any type of scrap metal. As he is walking over town, if he sees anything that people put out on garbage

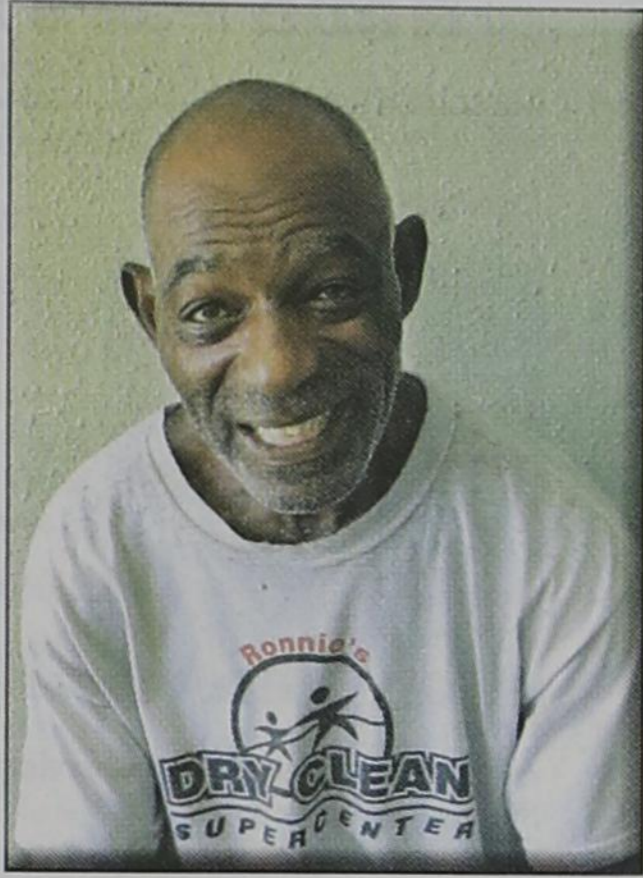
day, he gets it and takes it home. One day, he called Ben and asked home to bring his pickup over and help him load his scrap metal and cans to take to the scrap yard to sell. He told Ben to come right now. Frankie D. always wants things done immediately. He doesn't like to wait.

“Much to Ben's surprise, when he got to Frankie's house and saw everything this sweet man had collected, he could only stand there and laugh. It wasn't just a few cans and small pieces of scrap metal. Once it was all loaded, it went over the cab of his truck, a full load to be sure.

“He is a hard worker and will help anybody,” Ruth said. “Everyone in Royse City loves him and try to do everything they can to help him. He is truly ours.”

interviewing people for a possible column about Frankie D., I was totally amazed at the outpouring of love and affection. Everyone shared the same sentiments although in different ways.

“My daughter, Wendy, a good friend and I stopped by Jimmie's Donut Shop on Main Street in Royse City. As we were leaving, he greeted us from his table and continued an outpouring of love with the biggest smile on his face that simply lit up the



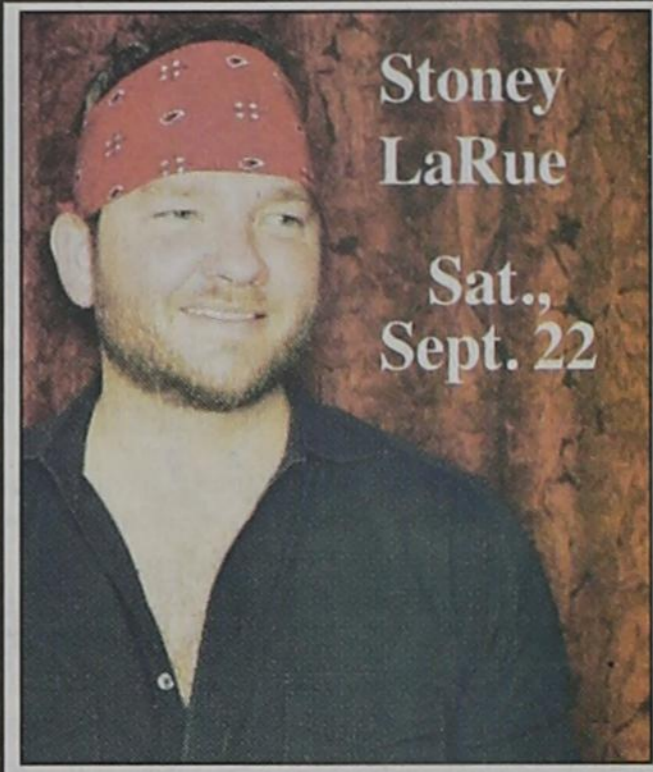
Frankie D. Colbert of Royse City is a much-loved man who has touched the hearts of all who know him.

Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/
Rockwall County News

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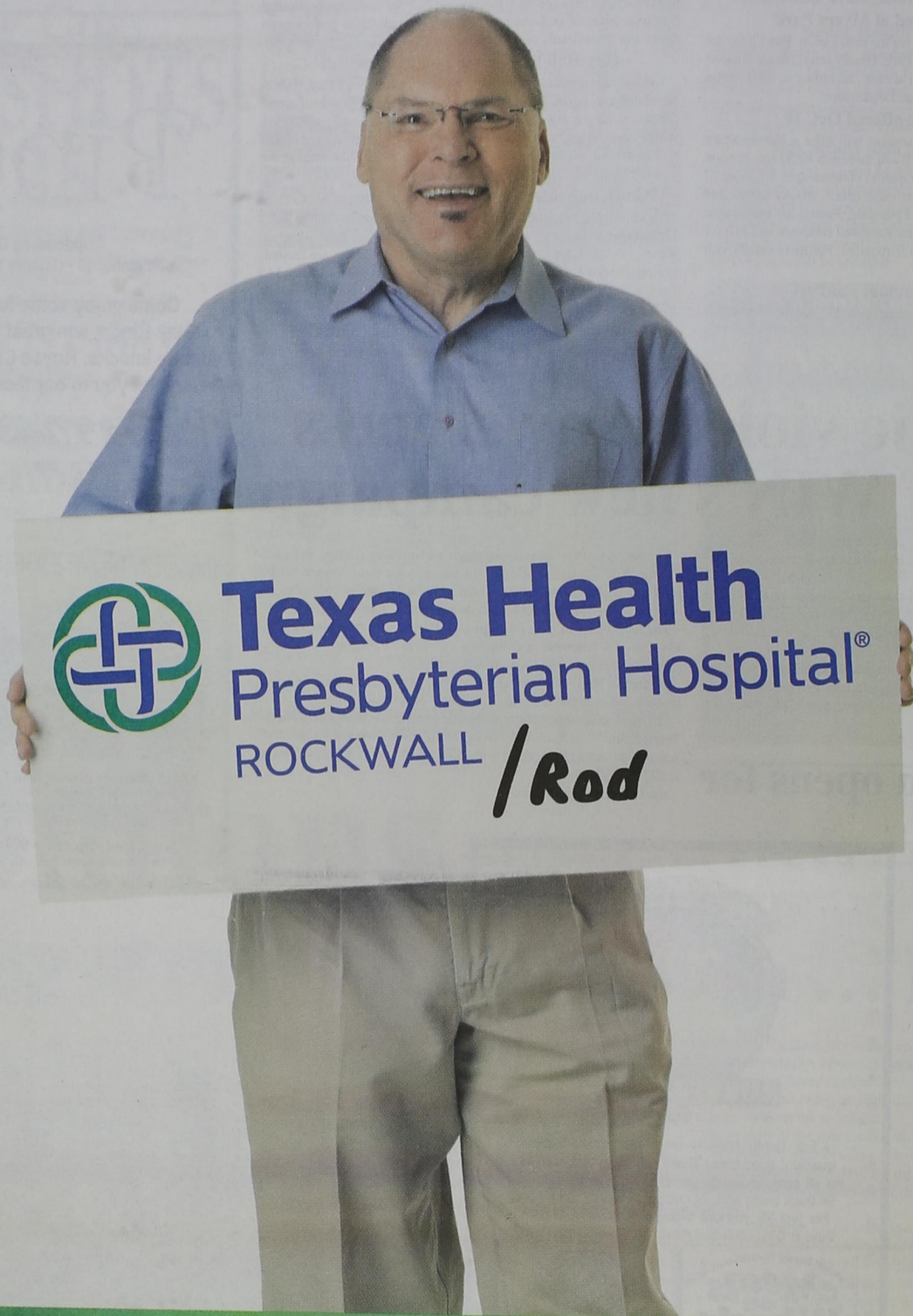
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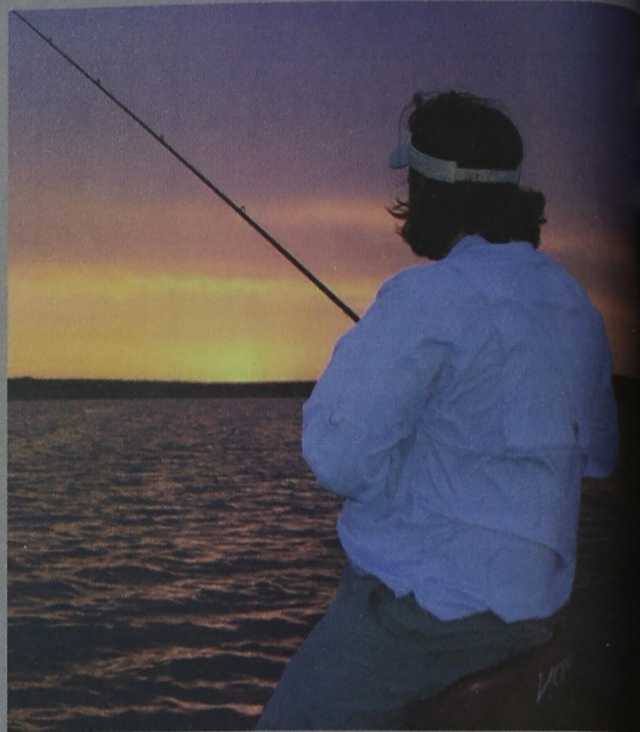
BRENNEN CHASE TEEL

"PAPA TEELIO"

July 7, 1981 - Forever

To all the friends and family who surrounded us, we will never be able to properly say our thanks. Please know that we are honored by your deeds.

- The Teel Family



*"You are embedded in who I am, where I am and what I am.
You are my brother. I love you."* - Adam Rice

"I couldn't have asked for more in a best friend. We are sad that you are gone but we will never forget you and will always thank God for the time we had with you." - Todd Hooper & friends

"If I am ever reincarnated, I want to come back as Brennen." - Tommy Singleton

"We're still three.." - Preston

"Brennen lived life extraordinarily. He learned at an early age what things are of importance. He spent his time building and nurturing relationships. The void in my life left by Brennen is almost unimaginable. I will always miss him and he will always be on my mind and in my heart. He was truly legendary." - Justin

*"Bren always made us more aware of the **ONE WHO MADE IT ALL**. He lived and loved, overcame and conquered, observed and shared. May we learn from his 31 years how to do the same and continue his legacy of his illustrious and sometimes envied life."* - Mom

"I always knew Brennen was special; however, I did not know how many people he touched with his life... so unselfishly! I will miss him for my lifetime... I will be proud of him for eternity." - Daddio



*Ascend may you find no resistance
Know that you made such a difference
All you leave behind will live to the end
The cycle of suffering goes on
But memories of you stay strong
Someday I too will fly
and find you again...*

- "Blackbird"
by Alter Bridge

With love,
Ken & Becky
Justin & Preston

We're Still Three