

# Rockwall County News

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## City of Rockwall holds Town Hall Meetings Lake Rockwall Estates development

Williams of Rockwall held the planned Town Hall on Thursday, July 23 to discuss its preliminary suggestions for improvements to Lake Rockwall Estates and hear from residents and the city.

At the meeting, city council members expressed concern with the proposed duplexes, tri-plexes and four-plexes being allowed in the neighborhood, the potential for vandalism, road detours caused by large trucks on neighborhood roads and the quality of drinking water.

LaCroix, Director of the City of Rockwall, said the suggestions made by the city council member and city staff, which worked in the city staff. He said he was to look at what the neighborhood – houses, floodplains, and a – and come up with an idea that will improve property and quality of life.

LaCroix said the first thing the committee had to do was to break the area into workable parts. Area 1 is east and west of the lake and is predominantly single family homes. It is accessible from

Tubbs Drive and Horizon Road. Area 2, accessible from County Line Road, is south and east of the lake. It is a mix of mobile homes, manufactured homes and single family homes. Area 3 is the floodplain and open space around the lake. Although there are some homes existing in the floodplain, LaCroix said future construction of homes or businesses there would not be allowed.

He did, however, say the area could be used for park land, walking trails, sports fields and other recreational uses. He said the city hopes that as the existing homes become available, they could be removed to allow for more open space.

As far as developing zoning for Lake Rockwall Estates, the subcommittee proposed the creation of a Planned Development District, which is allowable under the City's codes. A PDD allows the city council to permit "combines uses" in an area, with both residential and business uses.

"The Planned Development District allows the city council to make certain conditions and regulations that they may not make in a normal zoning district. And, a PDD is a little more regulated and has more conditions that make them usually tighter as to what you can and cannot do in



The next Town Hall meeting to discuss new zoning proposals and improvements to Lake Rockwall Estates will be from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 6 at the Lake Rockwall Estates Community Center, 375 Eva Place.  
 Staff Photo by Kathy Williams/Rockwall County News

them," LaCroix said.

### Residential vs. Business

In light of the PDD consideration, LaCroix said the consensus of the subcommittee and city council is that "Lake Rockwall Estates was intended to be a residential development – not

business or commercial. It was intended to be for homes. We have designated the area as a residential district and will zone it as such."

LaCroix said there are businesses mixed in with the homes and those may be Grandfathered or designated "Non-Conforming" and may apply to continue to do business in the community. The proposed PDD does not allow for non-residential land use, with an exception for "Home Occupations." Home Occupations are defined in the city code as a residence having a personal office where business is conducted out of the home without the need for any special equipment; no employees other than family members; no advertisements or signs on the residence; clients do not come to the home; no delivery trucks in and out on a daily basis, etc.

"You could have clients come in occasionally, but it has to remain like a normal home. It doesn't look like a business," he said.

Homes that are used for institutional purposes, such as in-home day care centers, churches and schools, would need to apply for a Special Use Permit (SUP) from the Rockwall city council.

The city would consider "Grandfathering" existing commercial businesses in the neighborhood. LaCroix said they may develop a permit or application that will identify the business as having existed at the time of annexation by the city. He said the business will then be permitted to continue to operate as long as it conducts that same type of business and doesn't change to offer a new service. He also said any existing business within LRE that shuts down for more than six months would lose the right to reopen in the neighborhood.

### SF7 Designation

All PDDs must have a base zoning in place and the city has designated Lake Rockwall Estates to be SF7 – Single Family residential dwellings, with '7' designating

## Rockwall County News Briefs

### Farmers Market open Saturday

The Farmers Market in downtown Rockwall will be open from 8 a.m. to noon, offering fresh produce, toffee, salad dressings, gourmet food mixes, roasted coffee, local honey, plants and herbs. The market will be open each Saturday through September. For details call 972-772-6400.

### Free immunization clinic scheduled

Get recommended immunizations, including newly required shots for first- and seventh-grade students, at a free clinic set for 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the First United Methodist Church, 1200 E. Yellow Jacket Lane, Rockwall. Children to age 18 will be served; no appointment required, but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Immunization records will be needed. For more details visit carevan.org or call 972-689-8285.

### Conservatives, coffee meeting slated

Rockwall County Conservatives and Coffee, a grassroots group of citizens dedicated to a belief in conservative values and the betterment of the community, will meet at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Texas Roast, 2435 Ridge Road, Rockwall. Sent. Bob Deuell will be on hand to discuss local, state and national issues with conservatives of all ages. For more information call 214-793-2923.

### Geocaching class scheduled

A class on geocaching – high-tech treasure hunting done outdoors through the use of GPS devices – will be offered at 11 a.m. on Saturday. Cost to participate will be \$5 for Rockwall residents, \$8 for non-residents. For more information call 972-771-7740 or visit rockwall.com/parks.

### Learn outdoor cooking in Myers Park class

An outdoor cooking class will be offered beginning at 1 p.m. Saturday. Participants will learn simple ways to prepare food – from propane cooking stoves to foil dinner packs with charcoal. Cost will be \$5 for Rockwall residents, \$8 for non-residents. To pre-register call 972-771-7740 or visit rockwall.com/parks.

### Church to introduce new pastor

The First Presbyterian Church, Rockwall, is inviting the community to meet its new pastor, Cheryl Taylor, who will preach her first sermon during the 11 a.m. Sunday service. A reception will immediately follow. The church is located near I-30 and Ridge Road at 602 White Hills Drive. Call 972-771-5702 for more details.

### Deadline nears for goody bag contributions

Monday is the deadline for contributions for the goody bags to be distributed at the Aug. 14 New Teacher/Employee Breakfast to be hosted by the Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce. Goody bag donations or prizes would be appreciated. Sponsorships are available. For information e-mail sharon@rockwallchamber.org.

### Rockwall church plans SWIM

The First Christian Church, Rockwall, will host SWIM (Sensational Worship in Motion), a creative arts camp designed

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Rockwall Blood Center phlebotomist Swigly DeLeon takes a blood donation from Circle C Sales owner, Keith Thornburg, on Monday, July 27, Alliance Bank of Heath blood drive benefiting their employee, Thrie Thornburg, who is battling breast cancer. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in October and has been undergoing treatment since then. It was recently determined she needed a blood transfusion and may need another in the future. Anyone not able to make Monday's blood drive can donate blood for Thornburg through the Carter Blood Care Life Plan Program by giving her patient ID number SPONO48246. Response to the call for donations from Chamber of Commerce members and the community was so great, Carter Blood Center sent not one, but two donation buses to the bank parking lot to handle the work load. The blood drive was sponsored by Alliance Bank.  
 Photo by Kathy Williams/Rockwall County News

# City of Heath DPS Sergeant Johnny Solis retires after 21 years

Contributed by The City of Heath

Johnny Solis had many career choices as a young man, but a desire to serve others led him to the City of Heath.

"I was going to college and running my own landscape company when I enrolled in the police academy in 1988," he said. "I kept up with my college and my business activities, but when I was offered one of the first full-time officer positions available in the City of Heath, the decision was easy."

Solis left college in his senior year to accept the job offer in Heath and served the growing community for the next 21 years.

"My career in Heath has been wonderful," says Solis, who officially retired as a sergeant from the City on June 30. "It has been exciting to see the community grow from fields where cotton grew to a town with streets, schools and parks. A lot of progress has been made, and there's going to be so much more in the next 10 years."

"We have been very fortunate to have an officer of Johnny's caliber serving our community for over two decades," said Heath Mayor John Ratcliffe as the City Council honored Solis during a recent council meeting. "While saving scores of lives and properties, he has been an integral part of the Department of Public Safety's development."

"Johnny started his career in Heath while the department was still in its formative stages. He was a leader who made many contributions and earned numerous commendations," said Terry Garrett, chief and director of the Heath Department of Public Safety. "Johnny always took his service to the community seriously, and he was always striving to find the best solution to a problem."

Different in structure than traditional Police and Fire Departments, Heath's Department of Public Safety combines fire rescue, police and

emergency medical services. That change was made in 2000, and Solis was the first officer to become triple certified in all three disciplines. That meant when he arrived as a first responder to a call for help, Solis was able to immediately begin doing whatever was required to save a life or property.

While Solis took his responsibilities to the community very seriously, he could always be counted on to lighten the mood when needed. Promoted to sergeant in 1991 and serving as interim Chief three times dur-

ing his tenure, Solis will best be remembered by colleagues and residents for his jovial nature and amusing stories.

"Johnny's sense of humor was always a welcome part of what can be a difficult job," said Chief Garrett. "Nick-named 'Mr. Heath' by a former chief, he was a well-liked officer among his peers and a recognized personality in the community. Residents would often ask for him specifically when they needed assistance."

And that's what Solis will miss the most in his retirement. "It was very rewarding to get to

know and become so many people."

Raised in Rowlett, Solis is now pursuing a business venture. He will spend more time for family, including his sons' basketball and his daughter's activities.

The City of Heath Department Safety Sergeant Johnny Solis, 21 years of service, retired June 30, 2009.

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Johnny Solis

## Free, reduced-cost immunization offered at several locations

A series of free or reduced-cost immunization clinics have been scheduled for next month as families prepare for the upcoming school year.

Free immunizations will be offered for children through the age of 18 on Aug. 1 at the Methodist Church of Rockwall, 1200 E. Yellow Jacket Lane. Provided by the Blue Cross and of Texas care van, vaccines will be made available from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for eligible children accompanied by a parent or guardian. Parents should bring their children's immunization records to this event, visit carevan.org.

The BC/BS of Texas care van will be at the Amanda Rochell Elementary School cafeteria, Ct., in Rockwall from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Aug. 13 to offer free immunizations. Eligible children through the age of 18 will be served. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Immunization records will be needed. Visit the Web site listed above for more information.

On Aug. 19, the Texas Department of State Health Services Region 2/3 Field Office will offer immunizations at a clinic at Utley Middle School, 1201 T.L. Townsend Drive, in Rockwall. Parents should bring their children's immunization records and any letters from school outlining immunization requirements. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Immunization fees for this clinic will be based on a sliding scale; Medicaid will be accepted. The clinic at Utley will run from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Physicals, shots offered by Helping Hands

The Health Center of Helping Hands is offering \$25 school and sports physicals for all children regardless of insurance or financial status.

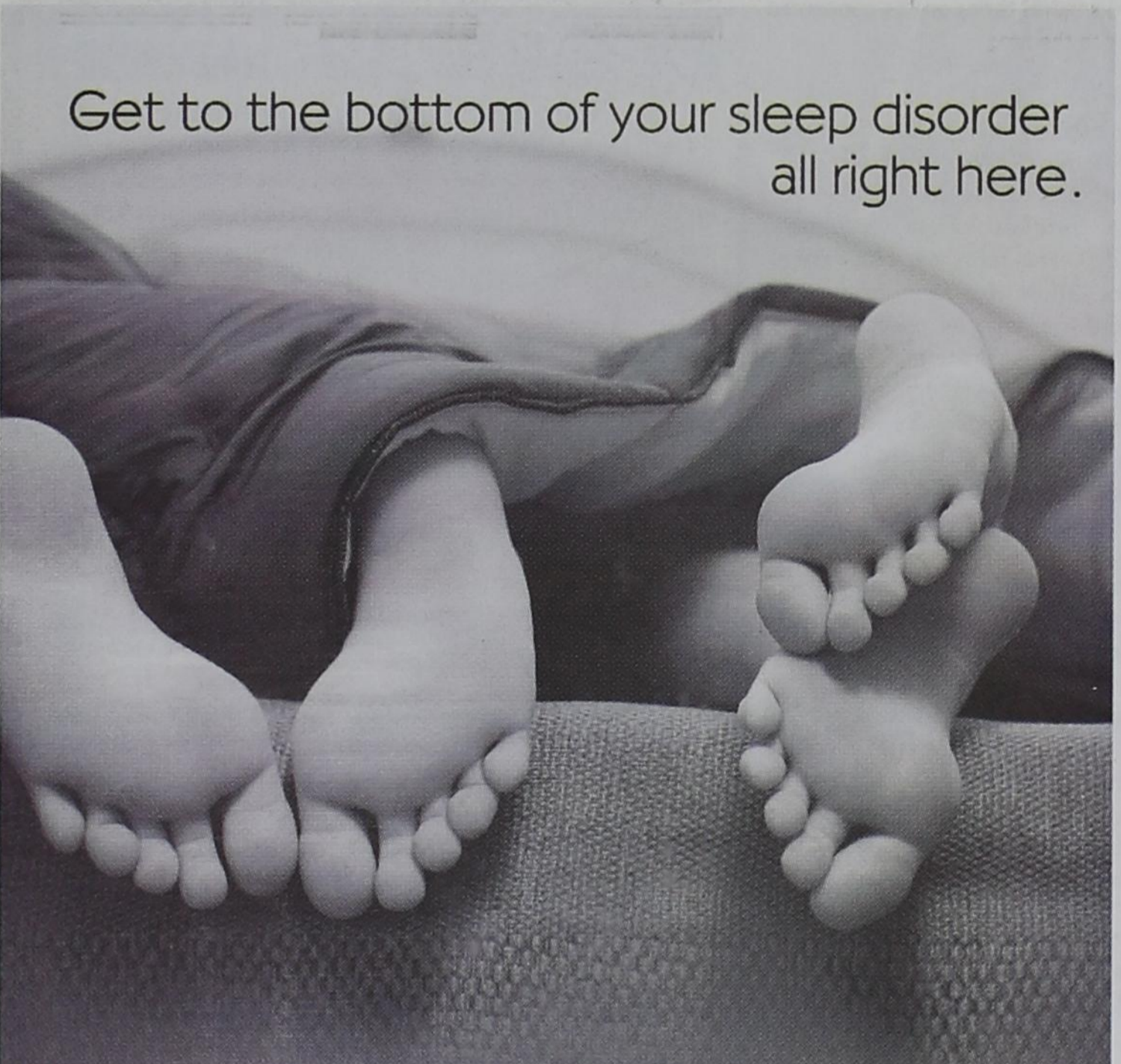
Vaccinations are also available at the center for children who are uninsured, on Medicaid, or whose families cannot afford insurance co-pays. Restrictions on shot recipients are dictated by federal regulations. Shots range in cost from \$14.85 for one to \$35 for five or more.

Parents should take note that each student entering the seventh grade will be required to have a meningococcal vaccine and a second dose of chickenpox vaccine if these immunizations have not been administered.

Also, if it's been more than five years since a seventh-grade student has had a tetanus booster, a tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis vaccine is required. Previous boosters did not include pertussis.

Kindergartners will need two doses of hepatitis A and a second dose of the chickenpox vaccine with all previous requirements. Children who have not previously had the hepatitis A vaccine

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# Rockwall Library planning week of celebration for first anniversary

The Rockwall County Library is planning to celebrate its one-year anniversary in September with a week of fun activities for families. The celebration will take place Tuesday, September 8 through Saturday, September 12, 2009.

Children ages two through 12 can register that week for a chance to win a cuddly Faehound stuffed dog, along with a bag of books. The drawing will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12. You need not be present to win.

While the library will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7, for Labor Day, the rest of the week will be jammed packed with activities, shows

and surprises to celebrate the library's first birthday in its beautiful new home.

The activities planned so far are:

Tuesday, Sept. 8, 11 a.m.: Our dear friend and popular puppeteer Sandy Shroust is back—this time with the story of "How the Dragon Got His Fire." For good listeners ages four and up.

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 11 a.m.: The Creature Teacher brings live animals for show-and-tell. For good listeners ages three and up.

Thursday, Sept. 10, 7 p.m.: Stories with Head Children's Librarian Doreen Miller about libraries, followed by a scavenger hunt. Children

under the age of seven will need adult assistance when they enter the hunt.

Friday, Sept. 11, 11 a.m.: Massai Maggie will be heretofore "Wild about Reading." This 45-minute show of stories and surprises is fun for good listeners ages three and up.

Saturday, Sept. 12, 2 p.m.: Local storyteller Leslie Bue will tell a lightful story of the pleasures of summer, friends, and fun. After the story, join us as we say good-bye to summer with a treat. The library staff invites patrons to bring the whole family to this memorable event.

## Church assists in teaching ESL, literacy classes

First Presbyterian Church of Rockwall has completed its goals to teach English as a Second Language and advanced literacy classes to individuals from four different countries.

This achievement is just one of many community service projects the church has been involved with over the years. In previous years, the church's minister, the Rev. Robert Reeves, helped coordinate the church's response to the 2004-2005 fuel tax. Handmade cards were distributed to signal their anger to the Legislature. The church also helped a friend from Eules, Texas, who was in need of a job. "Why are you doing this for me?" she asked. "Why are you doing this for me?" she asked. "Why are you doing this for me?" she asked.

With financial assistance from a Title III grant through the Independent School District; tutor and evaluator training through Rockwall County Library; and assistance from the Grace First Presbyterian Church of Rockwall, FPC has entered a collaborative effort that has achieved many results, according to a news release from the church. The church's minister, the Rev. Robert Reeves, helped coordinate the church's response to the 2004-2005 fuel tax. Handmade cards were distributed to signal their anger to the Legislature. The church also helped a friend from Eules, Texas, who was in need of a job. "Why are you doing this for me?" she asked. "Why are you doing this for me?" she asked. "Why are you doing this for me?" she asked.

Each month ESL network coordinators from various churches exchange ideas and support and map out plans to present to more than 700 participants.

Classes vary in the days and hours offered, and the church is tailored to make the most of each student's learning. Child care is available in the classes provided by the church.

On Aug. 29, individuals interested in participating in the related classes offered in the 2009-2010 school year can visit the church from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for registration and Child Care will be available for registrants.

## Emergency farm loan apps now being accepted

Applications for emergency farm loans for losses caused by freezing temperatures are being accepted at the Farm Service Agency in Waxahachie, according to a news release issued Tuesday.

Rockwall County is one of 265 Texas counties recently designated as eligible for loans to cover part of the losses resulting from freezing temperatures.

Farmers may be eligible for loans of up to 100 percent of the losses or the operating loan needed to continue the business, whichever is less. For farmers unable to obtain private commercial lenders, the interest rate will be 3.75 percent.

A farmer must have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of production to be eligible for an emergency loan, according to FSA. Farmers participating in the Federal Crop Insurance Program can consider proceeds from those programs in determining their losses.

Applications will be accepted through March 15, 2010, and farmers should apply as soon as possible.

The FSA is a credit agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture authorized to provide disaster emergency loans to recognize farmers who work at and rely on farming for a substantial part of their living. Eligibility is extended to individual farmers who are citizens of the United States and to farming partnerships, corporations or cooperatives in which U.S. citizenship requirements are met by individuals holding a majority interest.

The FSA office is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. For more details, visit [disaster.fsa.usda.gov](http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov).

## Duke to address Grief Support Group

The Grief Support Group offered through Lake Pointe Church of Rockwall will host author Susan Duke at its Aug. 13 meeting.

Duke is a wife, mother, best-selling author, motivational speaker and singer who has been involved in the writing of 15 books. Her most recent release, "Grieving Forward, Embracing Beyond Loss." Her writing also has appeared in numerous magazines, including Home Life, The Greenville Herald-Breeze and Cross and Quill, Lifestream and two magazines, Country and Flowers are Forever.

She is also the founder of Grieving Forward outreach group.

Duke uses humor, sensitivity, transparency and Bible verses to deliver her testimony of God's restoration in tragedy.

The meeting will run from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the 1000 Room.

For more details contact the Lake Pointe Counseling Center at 698-2250 or visit [lakepointe.org](http://lakepointe.org).

## Contestants needed for Mrs. Rockwall County

Married individuals between the ages of 21 and 56 are invited to apply for the title of 2010 Mrs. Rockwall County, who will represent the area at the Mrs. Texas International Pageant in San Antonio, Texas.

The woman selected to serve will be the ambassador for Rockwall County area, receiving an official title and sash. Contestants will compete in personal interview, fitness, evening gown. There are no talent or swimsuit competition requirements. No prior pageant experience is required.

The winner of the Mrs. Texas title will receive a prize valued at more than \$15,000, as well as the opportunity to represent Rockwall County at the 2010 Mrs. International Pageant in Chicago.

For an application, write Mrs. Texas International Pageant, Brookhollow, Suite 197, San Antonio, TX 78232; call 512-589-1111; e-mail [Kristin@TexasInternationalPageants.com](mailto:Kristin@TexasInternationalPageants.com); or visit [mrxstexasinternational.com](http://mrxstexasinternational.com).

Form 50-211

(Rev. 05-06/8)

### 2009 Property Tax Rates in Rockwall County

This notice concerns 2009 property tax rates for County of Rockwall, Texas. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

#### Last year's tax rate: M&O and I&S Funds

Last year's operating taxes	\$ 19,953,072
Last year's debt taxes	\$ 4,505,717
Last year's total taxes	\$ 24,458,789
Last year's tax base	\$ 6,189,736,924
Last year's total tax rate	\$ 0.3750 / \$100

#### This year's effective tax rate:

Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$ 22,858,229
Divided by this year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$ 6,015,371,962
= This year's effective tax rate	\$ 0.3799 / \$100
Total effective tax rate	\$ 0.3799 / \$100

(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings.)

#### This year's rollback tax rate:

Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for any transferred function, tax increment financing, state criminal justice mandate, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures)	\$ 18,352,301
Divided by this year's adjusted tax base	\$ 6,015,371,962
= This year's effective tax rate	\$ 0.3050 / \$100
x 1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate	\$ 0.3294 / \$100
+ This year's debt rate	\$ 0.0781 / \$100
= This year's rollback rate	\$ 0.4075 / \$100
This year's total rollback rate	\$ 0.4075 / \$100

Form 50-179  
(Rev. 06-09/3)

### Statement of Increase/Decrease

If County of Rockwall adopts a 2009 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$ 0.3799 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2008 taxes by \$ 734,837.

### Schedule A - Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Maintenance & Operations (M&O)	\$18,290,000
Debt Service (I&S)	1,109,000

### Schedule B - 2009 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal Payment	Interest Payment	Admin Fees	Total Payments
\$ 4,500,000 Law Enforcement CO 1998	240,000.00	118,802.50	1,000.00	359,802.50
\$ 3,900,000 Land & Improvements PIB 2001	175,000.00	136,757.50	1,000.00	312,757.50
\$ 850,000 Capital Projects LTN 2003	155,000.00	2,208.75	1,000.00	158,208.75
\$ 950,000 Capital Projects LTN 2004	170,000.00	9,126.00	1,000.00	180,126.00
\$ 550,000 Capital Projects LTN 2005	95,000.00	9,721.25	1,000.00	105,721.25
\$11,500,000 County Library PIB 2007	400,000.00	472,605.00	1,000.00	873,605.00
\$ 1,250,000 Land & Capital Projects LTN 2007	170,000.00	32,965.00	1,000.00	203,965.00
\$30,000,000 Justice Center LTN Series 2008	845,000.00	147,500.00	1,000.00	993,500.00
\$ 2,000,000 Whitmore Building LTN Series 2008A	260,000.00	65,644.50	1,000.00	326,644.50
\$24,705,000 Courts Building LTN Refunding Bond	455,000.00	1,211,182.30	1,000.00	1,667,182.30
\$10,620,000 Road Improvements Unlimited Tax Bonds	185,000.00	539,097.92	1,000.00	725,097.92

Total required for 2009 debt service	\$	5,906,610.72
- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A	\$	1,000,000.00
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources	\$	0.00
- Excess collections last year	\$	0.00
= Total to be paid from taxes in 2009	\$	4,906,610.72
Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100.0% of its taxes in 2009	\$	0.00
= Total Debt Levy	\$	4,906,610.72

### Schedule D - State Criminal Justice Mandate (For Counties)

The County of Rockwall County Auditor certifies that Rockwall County has spent \$ 0.00 in the previous 12 months beginning January 1st, 2008 for the maintenance and operations cost of keeping inmates sentenced to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Rockwall County Sheriff has provided information on these costs, minus the state revenues received for reimbursement of such costs.

### Schedule F - Enhanced Indigent Health Care Expenditures

The County of Rockwall spent \$ 303,945.47 from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 on enhanced indigent health care at the increased minimum eligibility standards, less the amount of state assistance. For the current tax year, the amount of decrease from last year's enhanced indigent health care expenditures is \$ 9,594.78.

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates' calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at 841 Justin Road, Rockwall, TX 75087.

Name of person preparing the data supporting this notice: Ray E. Helm.

Title: Chief Appraiser.

Date supporting data prepared July 27, 2009.

## Rockwall County Letters to the Editor

Encourage the submission of Letters to the Editor. The editing of letters is at the sole discretion of the editor and is for brevity, grammar and accuracy. Letters considered libelous or an attack of an individual's character will be rejected, as well as those promoting candidates. Letters must be signed and include a phone number or address for verification.

### Taking issue with Sen. Hutchison

Representatives from across the D-FW Metroplex converged at the office of Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison. Approximately 300 citizens gathered to protest the socialization of healthcare and to oppose the gas tax. Handmade posters of every sort expressed their opposition. A continuous stream of supportive motorists honked their horns to signal their agreement. A new friend from Euless, arrived early to be told by Sen. Hutchison's office manager that she would accept only one visitor. In reality, we collectively and separately chose this site for a protest, hoping for media coverage due to the senator's tentative support of Gov. Rick Perry. We all knew Sen. Hutchison's position on two critical issues – unfortunately, she is apparently out of touch with her constituency. The protest manager called Dallas PD who quickly swarmed the protest. The Dallas police officers, led us like cattle away from the office to the adjoining shopping center to the south. The building became very unhappy when I photographed her as we departed. "Why are you doing this?" she yelled. We explained our confusion over the hostile reception. We were not people who share organic common sense with respect to the socialization of our national treasury, the socialization of healthcare, the one-sided so-called Cap-and-Trade fuel tax that will harm the manner of industry offshore to China, India and other nations. We will not participate in restriction of carbon emissions. My 10-year-old granddaughter Kristen worked the night before to create protest posters for us to use and for sharing with other protesters. She stood herself alongside the roadway under a very hot sun. When I suggested she sit under nearby shade, she refused its comfort and remained standing. I sense a new generation of Esther, Josiah, Joash and David. Praise the Lord. The protesters with ACORN or other leftist organizations would not be acceptable, even uneventful, reactions. As a whole, we were not a triple whammy of hostility by the senator's office, the building manager and the Dallas Police Department. I spoke with a senior Dallas police officer, asking why we were being taken away from the office building. He replied that "these are not protesters we put in place when (Cindy) Shahan was here." Perhaps the Dallas Police Department we were nothing more than a bunch

You know, I liked the America I grew up in better than what our country is becoming.

John N. White  
TEA Party Organizer, Rockwall

### Royse City litter is a city problem

Recently, while I was reviewing various discussion threads on topix.com, something caught my eye. I noticed that the Royse City mayor, Jerrell Baley, posted comments pertaining to the handling of litter in Royse City. In that particular thread Mayor Bailey indicated that litter was not a government problem.

Our mayor may need to reorient himself with the Royse City code because litter is indeed a city problem and we have proactive measures in place that allow the city to enforce litter violators.

Additionally, could the littered landscape contribute to the lack of progress in retail, commercial and grocery stores? I am sure this is not the only factor, but it certainly would not entice one to invest here.

Enforcing our litter ordinance is quite simple, e.g., if a property owner has litter along their fence line, it is the owner's responsibility to abate it or the city can issue a notice of violation. If the local business, i.e., gas station fails to maintain their property from litter the city can take action to get it abated as well.

I have read numerous comment threads on topix.com from our mayor where he routinely criticizes citizens for bringing issues forward. For example, our mayor recently wrote he authorizes any Royse City citizen to drive the city and pick up trash that is located on private property. Well, the majority of us do our share for the benefit of the city; however, that is an inappropriate response to taxpayer concerns.

Many of us do not appreciate Mayor Bailey's approach to addressing public concerns. I am sure the person on the receiving end did not appreciate that type of response either.

Many of us are not satisfied with this type of response from a new administration. Our mayor is not fulfilling the role of a public official. Next time our mayor should obtain the necessary information from the concerned citizen, and, pass it along to the appropriate city staff. In dealing with litter it would easily be referred to a code inspector to investigate. The mayor should have tried to obtain as much information as possible instead of belittling a resident that cares who took the time to write.

If we can not get city to address something as simple as litter on private property then how will we ever get them to address the properties in this city that are not up to code. For example, substandard structures, peeling paint, fences that are falling down, junk all over their property, high weeds and the list goes on.

Our mayor's response is for us to go around and clean up someone else's property.

Well, that's not what our mayor campaigned for during his campaign speech that many of us attended.

I close in saying that Royse City mayor should enroll himself in some basic 101 municipal customer service training and immerse

himself in it.

Ray R. Irvine  
Starlight Ranch Community, Royse City

### Kiwanis Convention chooses Hilton Bella Harbor

Rockwall is well known as a friendly and helpful town. Aug. 6-9 it will host 1,000 visitors also known for their friendliness and helpfulness – Kiwanians. Those are the dates of the 2009 Texas Oklahoma Kiwanis Convention, headquartered at the Hilton Bella Harbor.

With this convention coming to town, it has led many to ask "Just what is Kiwanis?"

To answer that question, look no further than the local Rockwall County Kiwanis. Chartered in 1998, the club currently has 50 members. These men and women come from a variety of backgrounds and professions, but one thing they all share in common is a heart for service. Their love for service is combined with wide ranging talents and good old fashioned hard work in performing service projects throughout the community.

Serving children is the primary mission for all of the Kiwanis Clubs, as exemplified by the projects performed by the Rockwall Chapter. Their roster of annual projects includes the Terrific Kids school recognition program, organizing the Rockwall Christmas Parade, mentoring a high school Key Club and operating both a fall and spring session of the Angel League. The Angel League is an organized baseball league for special needs children and young adults.

Not all of the projects involve children. Kiwanis also serve other members of the community. Recently the club has partnered with Texas Ramps to build wheelchair ramps for needy homes that require handicapped access. They have also been involved with support of other organizations like Helping Hands and Meals on Wheels.

Club members stay organized through weekly lunch meetings, held each Tuesday at noon. At these meetings, members stay up to speed on club activities and stay connected to the community by inviting speakers to address events, activities and needs in the community.

The local club is one of over 400 Kiwanis clubs throughout Texas and Oklahoma and 8,600 Kiwanis clubs around the world. With a combined total membership of over 600,000, you can find Kiwanians or Kiwanis projects in virtually every part of the world.

In this part of the world, you'll find them all over Rockwall on Aug. 6-9. When you bump into one, give them a warm Rockwall welcome and ask them about their Kiwanis experience. If you like what you hear and want to find out more about joining Rockwall's local club, visit [www.rockwallkiwanis.org](http://www.rockwallkiwanis.org) or call the club hotline at 972-722-6001.

Neil Turner  
Rockwall County Kiwanis Publicity Chair

Just Say You Saw It In "The County News"

# Rockwall County Health Matters



**Do you know someone who?**

- Spends a great deal of time alone at home without much interaction with others?
- Forgets to take medications or get prescriptions filled?
- Has a hard time bathing and getting dressed some days?
- Needs assistance with a loved one because you live in a different city?
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**IS A DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE?**  
Osteopathic Medicine is concerned with the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of human illness, disease and injury. The Doctor of Osteopathy, D.O., is a fully trained physician who prescribes drugs, performs surgery, and selectively utilizes all accepted scientific methods to maintain and restore health. Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine practice a "whole person" approach to medicine. Instead of treating specific symptoms, osteopathic physicians concentrate on you as a whole. The whole person concept makes D.O.'s highly skilled at preventing health problems from affecting other parts of the body. This same approach is useful in recommending diet and changes in diet to help maintain overall health.

**IS A PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT?**  
The American Academy of Physician Assistants defines a

Physician Assistants, PA, as a health care professional who is licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision. As part of their comprehensive responsibilities, PAs provide patients with services ranging from primary care medicine to specialized surgical care. PAs are often the first health care provider to examine patients. They perform a variety of tasks including collecting patient histories, performing physical examinations and ordering preliminary laboratory tests.

Working with the physician, the PA summarizes the information gathered and participates in formulating and executing a treatment plan to meet the patient's needs. Under physician supervision, the PA makes assessments and provides therapy for basic health-related problems. Also the PA can evaluate the psychological aspect of a patient's problems. With physician approval, the PA makes referrals

when indicated. The PA can perform technical skills such as EKGs, venipuncture, minor suturing, and giving injections.

**WHAT IS A FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER?**  
A Family Nurse Practitioner, FNP, has a Master's Degree in Nursing and is a registered nurse who has an advanced education and the clinical training necessary for the delivery of primary medical care. The FNP can perform physicals, treat acute and chronic conditions and interpret diagnostic tests, make referrals to other health care providers and prescribe medications and treatments. The FNP really cares about you as an individual, your health, your family and the community where you live. The FNP can perform technical skills such as EKGs, venipuncture, minor suturing, and giving injections.

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# Friday Opinions

## Barack Obama's To Understand America

Bill O'Reilly  
The collapse in public opinion for President Obama's administration demonstrates a weakness in the president's overall understanding of a new Gallup Poll, 55 percent of Americans believe Obama is doing a poor job on health care reform, his administration. The main reason for this is that few understand what is going on. I analyze the news for a living, and I can't believe the House bill would do. It's more than a thousand people crying out loud, and reading it could cause your head to explode.

Obama was elected to change things that are failing, but that the health industry is in chaos. Price gouging, ridiculous lawsuits and poorly run hospitals all add to the frustration of the regular folks. But the president is not reforming, he is rigging. He wants the government to set up a parallel health system, a giant entanglement of entitlements. The confusion that no one can explain it?

Obama's confusion that is causing Americans to bail on him. Most of us value freedom and have a healthy distrust of government. Time after time, we have seen the feds screw things up. Immigration, Vietnam, the war on drugs, public safety, the list is endless. And we are going to put our troubled country in the hands of these people?

Obama's plan were clearly presented with the costs, but I believe it would have a chance of passing. But just as you know the USA might be facing bankruptcy, which would affect Americans far more than a troubled health care system, though he will not admit it, there is huge financial risk involved in health care vision, and Americans are starting to wise up.

Obama's freedom factor. Your health is obviously your own, you want to have as much control as possible when you get sick, where the government runs the health care industry, making lists for treatment in some places and a shortage of doctors. Americans fear that if medical choices are dictated by the government, that kind of chaos will happen here.

Obama's health care means all of your medical records are in the government. Do you want that? Obama is surprised if the federal health care plan goes down, Obama is dealt his first major setback. This whole thing is a mess, rushed and full of peril.

Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The Bill Engvall Show" and author of the book "Who's Looking Out for Me?" He is also the author of "The 10,000 Hour Rule" and "The 10,000 Hour Rule 2.0". He is a syndicated columnist and has written for Time, Newsweek, and the Wall Street Journal. He is also a frequent guest on Fox News and other television programs.



## Exploiting public ignorance

Walter E. Williams  
How can political commentators, politicians and academics get away with statements like "Reagan budget deficits," "Clinton budget surplus," "Bush budget deficits" or "Obama's tax increases"? The only answer is that they, or the people who believe such statements, are ignorant, conniving or just plain stupid. Article I, Section 7 of the U.S. Constitution reads: "All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other Bills." A president has no power to raise or lower taxes. He can propose tax measures or veto them but since Congress can ignore presidential proposals and override a presidential veto, it has the ultimate taxing power. The same principle applies to spending. A president cannot spend a dime that Congress does not first appropriate. As such, presidents cannot be held responsible for budget deficits or surpluses. That means that credit for a budget surplus or blame for budget deficits rests on the congressional majority at the time.

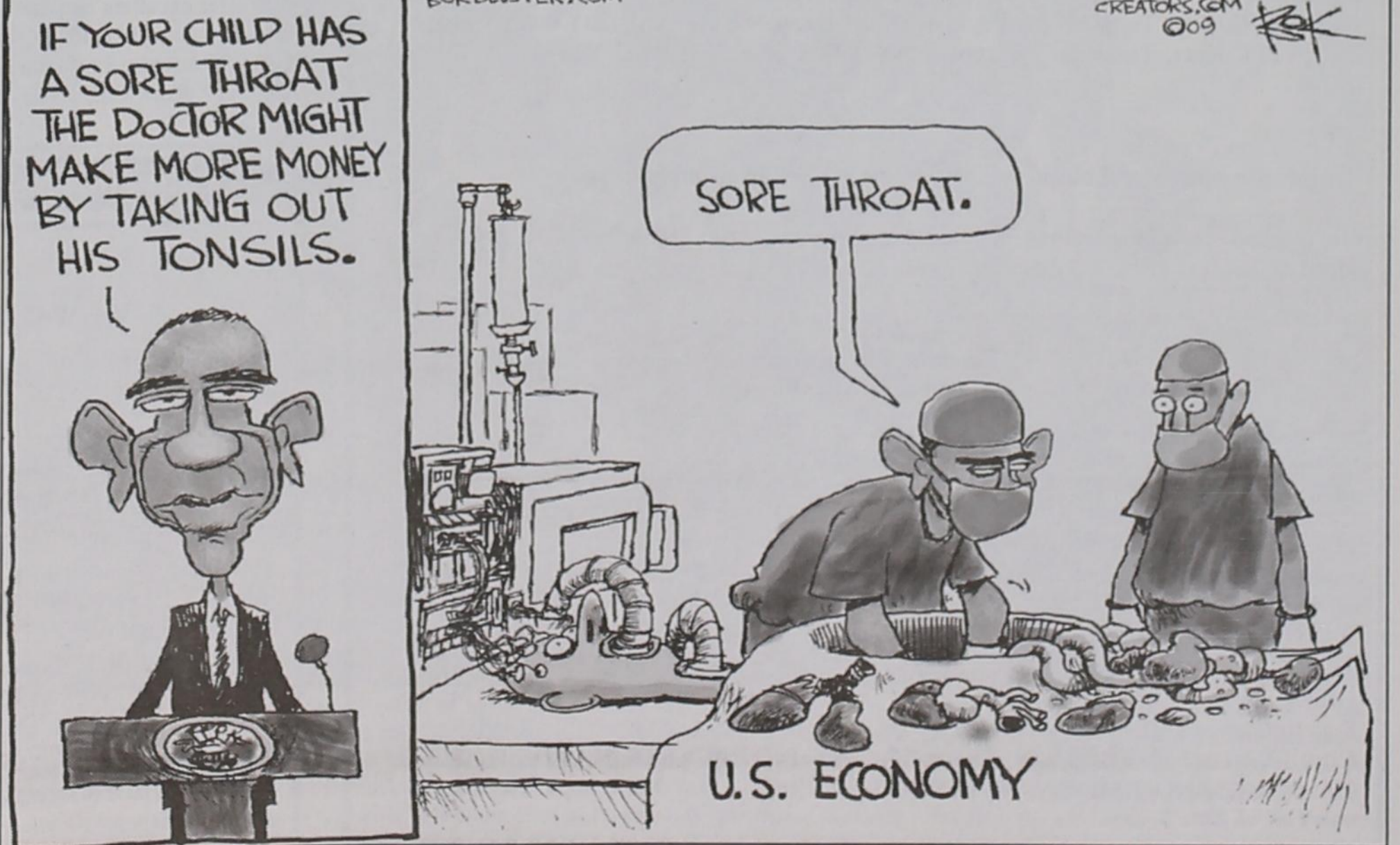
mild and severe economic downturns that have ranged from one to seven years. During that time there was no thought that Congress should enact New Deal legislation or stimulus packages along with massive corporate handouts. It took the Herbert Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt administrations to massively intervene in the economy. As a result, they turned what might have been a two or three-year sharp downturn into a 16-year depression that ended in 1946. How they accomplished that is covered very well in a book authored by Jim Powell titled "FDR's Folly." Here's my question: Were the presidents in office and congresses assembled from 1787 to 1930 ignorant of their constitutional authority to manage and save the economy? If you asked President Obama or a congressman to cite the specific constitutional authority for the bailouts, handouts and corporate takeover, I'd bet the rent money that they would say that their authority lies in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution that reads: "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Impost, Excises to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States." They'd tell you that their authority comes from the Constitution's "general welfare" clause. James Madison, the father of our constitution, explained, "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 subject to particular exceptions." He later added, "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." That means only those powers listed.

## Texas bankers seek congressional help to protect traditional banking

Olivia Carmichael Solis  
Traditional leaders in Washington have responded to arguments from Texas bankers that traditional banks are the lifeblood of their state and the key to economic recovery. Representatives of the Texas Bankers Association (TBA) told the Texas Congressional Delegation that proposed legislation would strangle the one part of the economy that is still helping grow small businesses, promote homeownership and consumer spending. Texas bankers had a positive meeting with Chairman Barney Frank of the bill, which was arranged by Congressman Ruben Hinojosa. I believe that the meeting I arranged between myself and the Texas Bankers Association with Financial Services Committee Chairman Barney Frank was a huge success. I am very pleased with the information Chairman Frank imparted important information on the bill. H.R. 3126, the 'Consumer Financial Agency Act of 2009' to the benefit of Texas banks, and its constituents," said Hinojosa. As leaders presented discussion points that demonstrated the bill, as it now stands, would result in increased costs to consumers, thus reducing consumer financial product choices. They noted that H.R. 3126 would impose federally mandated and this would reduce product offerings to consumers. TBA representatives argued the measure, as currently written, would result in weakened capital in an already capital-starved industry. The vote on H.R. 3126 has now been postponed until after the August Congressional recess to allow for additional discussion and debate. The bill, which included six bankers and two members of the Texas Congressional Delegation, also met with Congressmen Henry Cuellar, Silvestre Reyes, Gene Green, Charles Gonzalez, Lloyd Doggett, Al Green, and others. It is extremely important that my colleagues and I in the House of Representatives listen to the concerns of organizations such as TBA and their constituents. I want to reassure TBA and all banks with an interest in H.R. 3126 that my door remains open to their ideas," concluded Hinojosa. At the meeting, Chairman Frank presented Chairman Frank with a letter signed by 510 Texas bankers opposing the bill. Bankers agreed to work with Congress on issues that would improve transparency in lending disclosures, which protect consumers from predatory transactions by requiring clear disclosure of key terms of financing arrangements and all costs, as well as other forms of credit disclosures and other issues of mutual benefit to consumers and banking services. Congressman Hinojosa, a senior member of the Finance Committee, understands Texas bankers and our needs," said TBA Chairman Wes Hoskins. "He helped educate Chairman Frank and the Committee on our concerns with the bill, and he has

made his staff available to help us understand the process and the bill. He has done an outstanding job for Texas bankers." Bankers attending the meetings included Hoskins, president and CEO of First Community Bank, Corpus Christi; TBA Past Chairman Vic Pierson, president of Moody National Bank, Galveston; Government Relations Council Chair Mike Mauldin, president and CEO of First Financial Bank, Hereford; Government Relations Council Vice-Chair Julie Cripe, president and CEO of OMNIBANK, N.A., Houston; Member-at-Large Eddie Aldrete, senior vice president, International Bank of Commerce, San Antonio; and American Bankers Association Board member Mike Hensley, chairman and CEO, Western Bank, Lubbock. TBA President and CEO Eric Sandberg and General Counsel John Heasley joined the bankers. TBA represents the Texas banking industry -- with members ranging from the smallest bank in the nation to the largest bank in the nation. This includes 85 percent of Texas banks, 5,000 bank branches and 95 percent of deposits. Texas Bankers Association 203 West Tenth Street Austin, Texas 78701 (512) 472-8388 Fax (512) 473-2560

The Constitution provides, through Article V, a means by which the Constitution can be altered. My question to my fellow Americans whether they are liberal or conservative: Has the Constitution been amended to permit Congress to manage the economy? I'd also ask that question to members of the U.S. Supreme Court. I personally know of no such amendment. What we're witnessing today is nothing less than a massive escalation in White House and congressional thuggery. Secure in the knowledge that the American people are compliant and willing to cast off the limitations imposed on Washington by the nation's founders, future administrations are probably going to be even more emboldened than Obama and the current Congress. 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. COPYRIGHT 2009 CREATORS.COM



# Rockwall County Classified Advertising

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only. Send your classified word ad to rcn.advertising@yahoo.com. Deadlines: 5 p.m. Tuesday (for Friday edition) and 5 p.m. Thursday for Tuesday edition. Or fax to 972-722-2199, or call 972-722-3099.

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 Candidate must be an organized self-starter professional, multi-tasked while maintaining degree of accuracy and attention to detail, with high levels of diplomacy and tact and many details of a confidential nature.  
 We offer excellent benefits including paid training, health and life insurance, paid holiday vacation and PTO, 401 (k) and defined benefit. Salary based on qualifications. Send letter of interest, resume, 3 references and salary requirements to: Resume, c/o Rockwall News, P. Box 819, Rockwall, Texas 75087. Inquiries must be post-marked no later than August 14

**Legal Notices**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**ROCKWALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
**ROCKWALL, TEXAS**  
**INVITATION TO BID**

Sealed bids addressed to the Rockwall Economic Development Corporation (REDC) ATTN: Ken Keeton, Project Manager, will be received at the REDC offices, 697 Interstate 30, Rockwall, Texas 75087 until 2:00 PM on Friday, August 21, 2009 annual Grounds and Irrigation System Maintenance in the Rockwall Technology All submitted bids duly received will be publicly opened and read aloud on August 2009 after 2:00 PM in the Rockwall Economic Development Corporation offices. Liability and Workers Compensation insurances are required. The REDC reserves right to reject any or all bids, waive formalities, re-advertise, re-bid and consider advantageous bid thereof. The bid packet may be obtained without charge at the offices, 697 East Interstate 30, Rockwall, Texas 75087. The REDC phone number is 972-772-0025.

**Misc. for Sale**

**HUGE SAMPLE LIGHTING SALE**  
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with the after school childcare program. Experience in childcare preferred. Must be able to work Monday - Friday 2 PM - 6:30 PM. Apply online at [rockwallymca.org](http://rockwallymca.org) and click on employment and click on site director position.

**Miscellaneous for Sale**  
 Coin collection for sale. Call for appointment, 469-698-0844.

**Legal Notices**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 The following property owners are hereby notified that their property contains a vacated structure and has been declared dangerous by the Building Official of the City of Rockwall. According to the Rockwall County Appraisal District, you are the registered owners of the following properties.  
 Property owner: George Palin & Mary Ford; 199 Mohawk Trl; Point, TX 75472  
 Property address: 112 Chris, Rockwall, TX 75032  
 Legal Description: Rockwall Lake Est. #2, Lot 984A  
 You are hereby ordered to appear before the City Council

on August 17, 2009 a show cause, if any y the building or stru part thereof, should n demolished, or reme conclusion of the he Council may order repaired, demolished, the Council deems ne

**United States District Northern District Dallas Division**  
 The American National Bank vs. Vessel Rosie "O" 3:09-CV-0745-N  
 The F/V Rosie "O" 972203) was arrested Marshal on June 6, 2009 United States Mar. Earl Cabell Federal 1100 Commerce 1657 Dallas, TX 75242 (214) 767-0836  
 Counsel for Plaintiff: Michael P. Mentor SettlePou 3333 Lee Parkway Dallas, Texas 7521 (214)520-3300  
 Any person with ownership interest in or a right of possession Supplemental Rule C a statement of such the Clerk of Court at the attorney for the p 10 calendar days of of process or within time as may be all court and must serve within 20 days after their statements of in at the United States in Dallas, Texas and do not, default may b condemnation order application of interv FRCVP 24 by pers maritime liens or othe be untimely if not w allowed for claims to

**Cal 972-722-9999**  
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**ROYSE CITY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**NOTICE TO OFFERORS**

Pursuant to Section 272.001 of the Texas Local Government Code, the Roysse City Independent School District (RCISD) hereby offers for sale an approximate 1.300 acre tract generally situated at 115 East I-30 Road; Roysse City, Texas and more particularly described as:

**Property:** 115 East I-30 BEING a tract of land situated in the City of Roysse City, Rockwall County, Texas out of the J.D.F. McCasland Survey, Abstract No. 150 and being part of Lot E, First Baptist Church Addition according to the plat thereof recorded in Cabinet F, Page 200, Plate Records, Rockwall County, Texas.

The precise acreage and boundaries will be determined by a current survey.

Bid packets may be obtained beginning 10:00 a.m., July 21, 2009 at the following location:

RCISD  
 Superintendent Office  
 810 Old Greenville Road  
 Roysse City, TX 75189

The property is sold subject to any conditions, covenants, easements, mineral interests and restrictions of record in the Deed Records of Rockwall, County, Texas. Conveyance of the property to the successful offeror shall be by a no warranty deed. The deed is subject to the approval of the Texas Education Agency. RCISD reserves the right to reject all bids. ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS OF SALE ARE CONTAINED IN THE EARNEST MONEY CONTRACT FORM AND BID PACKET MATERIALS.

Offers must be submitted in a sealed envelope and must be received at the Superintendent's office of the Roysse City ISD located at 810 Old Greenville Road, Roysse City, TX on or before 4:00 p.m., August 17, 2009. BID PACKETS RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE AND TIME CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.

**ROYSE CITY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**NOTICE TO OFFERORS**

Pursuant to Section 272.001 of the Texas Local Government Code, the Roysse City Independent School District (RCISD) hereby offers for sale an approximate .217 acre tract generally situated at 918 Old Greenville Road; Roysse City, Texas and more particularly described as:

918 Old Greenville Road, page number 372, Volume 46, Deed Records of Rockwall County, Texas (Account #R12229), full legal description is as: .217 acre, more or less out of the W. H. Adams Addition, being the remainder of a .251 acre tract described in Volume 44, Page 40, Deed Records; save and except a .034 acre tract conveyed by Volume 46, Page 372, Deed Records of Rockwall County, Texas, (Account #R12229), A0185 J B Ratliff, Tract 6, acres 0.111, ADDITION to the City of Roysse City, Rockwall County, Texas, as per the map or plat thereof on file with the County Clerk of Rockwall County, Texas, locally known as 918 Old Greenville Road, Roysse City, Texas 75189.

The precise acreage and boundaries will be determined by a current survey.

Bid packets may be obtained beginning 10:00 a.m., July 21, 2009 at the following location:

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 Superintendent Office  
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# Rockwall County Classified Advertising

## Legal Notices

(Continued from Page 8)

### Notice

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## Rockwall County News

### The Only Newspaper in Rockwall County qualified to publish legal notices

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION** of property to satisfy landlord's lien. Public sale - August 12 at 10 am at 2740 St. Hwy 276, #100, Rockwall Tx. 972-772- property auctioned to highest bidder for cash. Seller reserves right to not bid and to withdraw property from sale. Auction will include contents of following tenants: JIM ANDERSON - misc. garage items, golf clubs, sports equip. / STU HARVEY - small boat motor, truck tool box, table, furniture, boxes / MISTY RODRIGUEZ - misc. bags / DELMER SBY - portable air compressor, misc. boxes, tool boxes, ladder, garage / AMANDA WEATHERS - misc. household items

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**Rockwall County Commissioners Court invites on-line bids to purchase surplus equipment to be sold includes but is not limited to the following: equipment including voice mail and 1992 Ford Tractor (1). Equipment to be sold "AS IS" with no warranty written or implied.**

**Items will be available for inspection by appointment only. To make an appointment, please call John A. Blackwood in the County Auditor's office at 75087.**

**Bids will take place via the internet by logging on to [www.govdeals.com](http://www.govdeals.com). New users must register online to bid. Search by Zip Code 75087, then click on Rockwall County, Tx. Bids must be submitted on or before Wednesday, August 12, at the specific times designated on the Govdeals website.**

**Rockwall County reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.**

**CLERK OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT  
 County, Texas  
 Blackwood  
 County Auditor**

### Advertisement for Proposal

City of Fate, Texas will accept, at the City Hall Office, 105 E. Fate Main Street, TX. 75132, sealed proposals for Employee Group Health and Dental Insurance Coverage, until 10:30 A.M., August 6, 2009. Late proposals will not be accepted, and will be returned unopened.

Copies of the sealed proposals will be accepted until the date and local time. Each proposal must be in a sealed envelope and labeled with "Employee Group Health and Dental Insurance" on the outside of the envelope.

A copy of Specifications and any other Request for Proposal documents may be obtained on or after Friday, July 24, 2009 from the City Hall Office, 105 E. Main Place, Fate, TX. 75132.

In award by the City Council, the City of Fate reserves the right to reject any proposals, waive minor technicalities or to proceed otherwise when in the best interest of the City.

**Direct all inquiries to: Joe A. McFadin, LHIC, Wellspring Insurance Company, Inc., 817-430-7102.**

City of Fate, Texas

# Rockwall native Matthew Porter serving in Alaska with U.S. Air Force

by Michael Tolzmann  
**Joint Hometown News Service**  
 Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska - When the son of a Rockwall couple steps outside, inhaling crisp air on a base surrounded by mountains and pristine wilderness in America's "last frontier," he is far more likely to run into a bear or moose than an enemy of the United States.

But Air Force Airman 1st Class Matthew S. Porter, son of Russell and Melinda Porter of Harlan Drive, Rockwall, and the rest of his colleagues, are strategically as close to North Korea as they are to Washington D.C.

Porter recently participated in a massive American military exercise called "Northern Edge," where more than 9,000 U.S. service members sharpened their skills for responding to crises throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

Porter is a crew chief with the 90th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. "I maintain our F-22 aircraft. My duties are to maintain the Raptor to its highest potential, so it can provide air superiority for the United States of America," said Porter, a 2004 graduate of Rockwall High School.

Military maneuvers over the Gulf of Alaska and areas of the Alaskan wilderness, in an area the size of New Mexico, allowed for aircraft to conduct maneuvers in ways that cannot be done anywhere else.

Air Force, Navy, Army, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel participated with aircraft flying in simulated air combat, many times flying in excess of the speed of sound, a restriction found nearly everywhere else in the United States. Naval warships and land-based forces also synchronized with aircraft in creating a large combined force.

For Porter, this important exercise provides an opportunity for his unit to better itself in combat situations and in working with other American military services.

"This exercise was important for us to keep the Raptors fully functional, so the pilots can keep their important training and missions," said Porter.

With Alaska situated between Russia and Canada, and within a good part of the Arctic Circle, the region provides a unique setting for both professional and personal experiences.

"I like Alaska's summers. It's just like any other place, except that it's colder in the winter," said Porter.

Porter's personal military background illustrates why his experience is ideal for military operations in Alaska, such as this one.

"I have been in the military for a year and a half, but have not served in a war zone yet," said Porter.

With the sounds of jet aircraft screaming overhead, wildlife such as moose and bears are undeterred from randomly appearing at this frontier base. But with vigilance found by service members serving in this geographically important location, their efforts will help keep the region's greater threats at bay.



Air Force Airman 1st Class Matthew S. Porter is a crew chief with the 90th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. Porter recently participated in a massive American military exercise called "Northern Edge," where more than 9,000 American military men and women sharpened their skills for responding to crises throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Photo Courtesy of Air Force Senior Airman Christopher Griffin/Rockwall County News

# Elvis Tribute debuts in Rockwall

by Kat Donnell

Kenny King was recently hailed as "Elvis Fans' #1 Tribute Artist" by Boss 95.5 radio. The popular Elvis tribute has been in the area for the past couple of years and has garnered an impressive following. From favorite tunes such as "A Big Hunk O' Love to Can't Help Falling in Love," the audience becomes a part of the energy that flows from the stage.

"The energy that I get back fuels my enthusiasm," said Kenny. "To be able to re create an Elvis show from the jumpsuits and body movements to the electrifying sound enables me to put on a vigorous performance."

Kenny King started preparing for the stage at age 13, when he recognized his calling to honor Elvis. Honing his craft took many years and included playing the trumpet in his high school and church bands, performing in retirement centers, private parties, weddings and holiday parties. He has been known, on more than one occasion, to bring the elderly and those who are ill, out of their wheelchair and rooms when he is around. He brings great joy to all he encounters and has also been known to give scarves, teddy bears and necklaces as keepsakes of a wonderful evening. Between Oklahoma and Texas, he has performed at state fairs, clubs and restaurants. In early fall, he will be performing on an evening cruise on Lake Lavon.

On August 6, Kenny King will be performing at local Rockwall hotspot, Scoreboard.

"We are looking forward to bringing this talented tribute to Elvis to our club," said Scoreboard owner Loretta McGee. "What a fitting way to honor the King during the anniversary month of his death."

Scoreboard is located at 2410 S. Goliad. The show will be from 8pm-midnight. There is no cover, but you can reserve a seat by calling 972-771-4201. For more information visit [www.kennyastheking.com](http://www.kennyastheking.com).

# High speed bicycle racing comes to Rockwall August 9

Riders are gearing up to compete against riders from D-FW Metroplex and the state in a "crit" race, where they will approach 50 miles per hour. The Sunday, August 9 race will start from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Rockwall Technology Center at Hwy. 276 and FM 549.

Crit racing is the most popular style of bicycle racing in the United States because it is high speed and easily viewable by spectators. The race consists of packs of 40-80 riders racing each other on a loop course for 30- to 75 minutes per race. Some have called it "NASCAR on bikes."

According to a press release, this is believed to be the first crit race held by USA Cycling to be held in Rockwall. Spectators are invited to watch the race for free. Plus, there will be a free "Kids Lap" race for kids under 14, with medals for all finishers. For more information on the race or to register for the race, visit [www.usacycling.com](http://www.usacycling.com) and view the "Rockwall Crit Race" page.

The race is produced by the Rockwall Cycling Club, an official cycling club. Notably, in only its second year of existence, the Rockwall Cycling Club has more than 50 race team members and is ranked as the #7 team in Texas road racing by the Texas Cycling Association.

The race is sponsored by the local bike shop, Rockwall Cycles. The race is also made possible thanks to support from the Rockwall Economic Development Corporation, Chiloso Mexican Restaurant of Rockwall, David McGaffin DDS, Alliance Bank, Everybody Massage, and others.

The race is to benefit the formation of the youth/juniors cycling club in Rockwall.



Rockwall's DC Kings placed fourth out of 96 teams in the Prime Time Sports 2009 National Championship held at several sites around the Dallas-Ft. Worth Metroplex July 23-26. The team competed in the Seventh Grade Boys Division. Prime Time Sports is a youth sports organization founded by former Dallas Cowboys player Deion Sanders and encourages teamwork, skills improvement and professionalism in youth sports. Team members are (back row from left) Coach Jeff O'Dell, Junious Clark (JC), Noah Westerfield, Austin Enloe, Seth Jackson, and Coach Jeff Hoy, (front row from left) William Butter, Jordan Hoy and Bruce Brookins. Not pictured are Austin O'Dell, Justin Peters, Xavier Castille and Luke Ramirez.

# Rockwall County Sports



Riders participated in the 2008 Rotary Hot Rocks Bike Race, winding their way through the streets of Rockwall. The 2009 Race is set for August 8.

## Hot Rocks Bicycle Race takes off August 8

Rockwall Rotary's 23rd Annual Hot Rocks Bicycle Race and Ride is scheduled for Aug. 8. Forms are available on the Rotary web site at [www.rockwallrotary.org](http://www.rockwallrotary.org).

This year's race chairman is Tim Hartley.

Proceeds from the ride benefit Rotary college scholarships. According to the Rotary web site, the ride attracts all levels of riders, from aggressive to children and offers 10, 20, 43, and 57-mile routes.

The Ride will start and end at Wilkerson-Sanders Stadium, located at 1201 T.L. Towns in Rockwall. A route map is on the Rotary web site.

Volunteers provide rest stops every eight to 10 miles, serving drinks, ice and fruit. All entrants receive a T-shirt and lunch.

The top three male and female finishers of the 57-mile ride receive cash awards, including first place, \$175 for second place and \$100 for third place.

There will also be gift certificates for the top three finishers in the family races, including a male rider under age 14, and families with a female rider under age 14.

The first 600 registrants to pick up their ride packets will be given a 24 oz. custom water bottle by Ride sponsor Rockwall Cycling Club.

Early packet pickup and registration will be from Noon to 7 p.m., Friday, Aug. 7, at Rockwall located at 832 Steger Towne Drive.

For the past few years, Ride routes have been interrupted by and detoured around road construction but this year's Ride committee says the route will finally be construction free.

This year's race start time has been moved up to 7:30 a.m. to take advantage of cooler temperatures. Another change for 2009 will be Staged Start Waves.

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill between people of all nationalities. In more than 160 countries worldwide, approximately 1.2 million Rotarians are members of Rotary clubs.

The main objective of Rotary is service-in the community, in the workplace and throughout the world. Rotarians develop community service projects that address many of today's most critical issues such as children at risk, poverty and hunger, the environment, illiteracy, and violence.

They also support programs for youth, educational opportunities and international exchange students, teachers, and other professionals, and vocational and career development. The Rotary motto is Service Above Self.

For more information on the 2009 Hot Rocks Bike Ride, contact race chairman Tim Hartley at 754-4844 or [thartleylaw@aol.com](mailto:thartleylaw@aol.com). Information can also be found on the Rockwall Rotary web site at [www.rockwallrotary.com](http://www.rockwallrotary.com).

## New club swim team to organize locally

A new club swim team will organize locally in coming weeks to coincide with the opening of the new Rockwall Independent School District natatorium.

The team, Rockwall Aquatics, has named Olympic medalist Neil Walker as its head coach.

Walker coached Austin's Longhorn Aquatics, one of the nation's most successful club swim teams.

Rounding out the coaching staff will be current Rockwall and Heath high school coaches and former University of Texas swimmers Tommy Sacco and Paul Wallace, as well as former Rockwall YMCA swim coach Tom Applegate. Also joining the staff is Rockwall ISD aquatics director Mike Sorrels, a well known Texas high school swim coach and recipient of the Theron Pickle Lifetime Achievement Award given by the Texas Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association.

Tryouts for the Rockwall Aquatics team will be conducted at the natatorium in the first few weeks of the new school year. For more details and tryout information, visit the Rockwall ISD Web site at [rockwallisd.com](http://rockwallisd.com).



Neil Walker

## Rockwall Riptides place second at Lone Star meet

The Rockwall Riptides placed second in a two team contest at the Lone Star YMCA State Championships, coming in behind the Coppell YMCA Cruisers. The Riptides sent 91 swimmers. Teams from across the state competed in the meet.

High Points Trophy Winners were:

Girls:

6 & Under-Sam Wang, second place; 9-10-Brooke Arnold, second place; 11-12-Raena Eldridge, first place; 13-14-Haley Brenchley, first place; 15 & Up-Aly Heuer, first place.

Boys: 13-14-Justin Tokuz, third place; 15 & Up-Ryan Lang, first place.

At least 11 meet records were set, including 11 individual team records, three relay team records, seven new TAGS times (Texas Age Group Swim), four new AAA times, 12 new AA times, 21 new A times, 33 new BB times and 53 new B times. Seventy percent of the swims were best times.

To understand the time system, B times are better than average, BB is better than B and A is next level up to AAAA.

Riptides coach James Hummingbird said the team is still in training and is already looking forward to regaining the title next year.

"We, the coaches, would like to thank everyone for an exciting Lone Star meet. We were very proud of the way our kids swam and handled themselves. We would also like to thank all the parents that helped volunteer."

## Fighting Irish 9U Baseball tryouts set

The Rockwall Fighting Irish baseball team will be holding tryouts to fill its roster for the 9- and Under team. Tryouts will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Aug. 3, 4, and 5 at Harry Myers Field.

Player's birth date must be after May 1, 2000 to be eligible.

The coaching staff teaches the players solid fundamentals, respect for the game, and excellent sportsmanship through positive reinforcement and encouragement.

For more information, contact Billy Nies @ [thenies6@sbgglobal.net](mailto:thenies6@sbgglobal.net) or visit [www.leaguelineup.com/rockwallirish](http://www.leaguelineup.com/rockwallirish).

## Texans Red soccer is national runner-up

The Dallas Texans Red 15-and-under girls soccer team, featuring Rockwall High School's Shelby Soldat, placed second in the US Youth Soccer championships.

Texans Red held the San Diego Surf scoreless throughout the final game, including two overtime periods, but it remained a scoreless tie. The California team then scored on six penalty kicks to Texans Red's five to take the title.

Soldat played defense for a team that allowed just two goals in four games. Texans Red out-scored its opponents 3-2 while compiling a 2-1-1 record.



Rockwall Riptides swimmer Shannon Lockhart snaps a picture of (left-right) team member Jim Hummingbird; Special Olympics swimmer Mason Sevier and his father, Rockwall City member Cliff Sevier; and Council member Mark Russo at a Thursday, July 22 pep rally. The pep rally was held at the Rockwall YMCA in preparation for the 2009 Lone Star State Championship last weekend. The pep rally was organized by Hummingbird and sponsored by Wal-Mart of Rockwall, Ability Services Network and the Rockwall YMCA. The Riptides were for their eighth straight state championship but were edged out by the Coppell team and placed close second at the Lone Star meet. "It was somebody else's turn this year," Hummingbird said. Photo by Elizabeth Fudge/Rockwall County News

## Christian schools open football practice Monday

With August comes the beginning of high school football practice. For players, the opening practice means the dreaded two-a-days.

Texas teams can begin their practices as early as Monday, and work out in pads for the first time on Thursday.

New Rockwall Christian Academy head coach Caleb Palmer said he expects as many as 150 players to show up for his team's first practice Monday at 8 a.m. The Warriors will work on the field from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., then have a one-hour chalk-talk session, take an hour off and hold the second of their two-a-days from noon to 2 p.m.

Heritage Christian Academy also will begin its preseason practices Monday.

"We expect the players to come into two-a-days in shape," said Robert Huckabee, head coach of the six-man team.

Most players have been working out informally or in more structured conditioning programs at their school. Huckabee said those sessions help the coaches maintain contact with their players. "We'll have them lift weights and get acclimated to the heat. They'll come in and play some games outside."

Rockwall and Royse City high schools will begin their practice sessions Monday, Aug. 10.

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# Home Reading for the Dog Days of Summer

## Rockwall County Book Review

Exclusively in Your Hometown Newspaper

Miller, librarian at Rockwall County Library, says of summer between early September and the "dog days" of summer, "Our recent hot weather was the perfect stay indoors in air conditioning and reading books." She recommends dog books for children's interest so the "summer" took on a dog story. My ones with a lovable, quirky kid, and a happy ending always the case for children. I enjoy the boy-loves-girl, dog-able. I don't like after I come to and I've learned children feel the same rarely appreciate reading. "A Dog on His" by Jane Auch, a for children and many books I've past. "A Dog" tells the story of because he is a rt survivor, K-10 rs running away and doing time in He prides himself ndence from hu- other dogs. K-10 inadver- gles up literally r dogs, Pearl and ags them along to any adventures, is, and daring re- are learned and realize the gift of yed this dog book o get the opinion

of an expert: a real, live juvenile reader! I happen to know a few. I asked Sarah McCulley, an animal lover and seventh grader, to read "A Dog on His Own" and give me her take on the story. Sarah recently emailed me, "I liked this book because it is really funny. It is from the dog's point of view and lets you see what life as a dog would be like. The book reminds you that you have to work to get what you want. And it has a happy ending, which you don't find very often in dog books! I recommend it for anyone who likes funny books or books about animals." There you have it: the thumbs-up from an actual young reader. Enough said! The second book I read, "Tango: The Tale of an Island Dog" by Eileen Beha, was the most complex and would be best for readers ages 10 and up. Although the author's liberal use of metaphors and similes was a bit overdone, Tango was a good story. Tango, a pampered and adored Yorkie from New York, falls overboard in a storm while sailing with his wealthy owners but miraculously washes ashore in a village on Prince Edward Island. Tango, bedraggled, scared, and confused, wants nothing more than to return home. But how can a little dog accomplish such a feat? Ms. Beha's other characters, a mysterious island fox, a three-legged cat fallen on hard times, a brokenhearted widow, and a runaway girl searching for a permanent home of her own, are all well-developed and it wasn't long before I cared about all of them. The ending has drama as well as a few surprises but is entirely satisfying. My favorite of the three books was "The Dog Days of Charlotte Hayes" by Marlane Kennedy, perhaps because I could easily

identify with Charlotte, the main character. Charlotte's father buys a purebred Saint Bernard puppy on a whim because he gets a really good price which he can never resist. By her own admission, Charlotte doesn't dislike dogs; she just doesn't see why everyone loves them so much. But Charlotte has a tender heart and compassion for the drooling dog named Beauregard who spends lonely days chained up in the backyard. She sets out to "rescue" her family's dog and find him a better home. After a few unsuccessful schemes, Charlotte makes a deal with her father, promising to earn the money to purchase the dog from him for \$325 before a new year's deadline. How Charlotte earns the money and grows along the way is entirely believable and heart-warming. Does Charlotte find the perfect home for Beauregard? The book doesn't turn out as you might expect but the conclusion is happy for dog lovers and those like Charlotte, kids with big hearts for all creatures. If these books are out when you visit the Rockwall County Library, look for some of my other favorite dog stories including "Robert and the Great Pepperoni" by Barbara Seuling, "The Green Dog" by Suzanne Fisher Staples, "Angus and Sadie" by Cynthia Voigt, and "Tornado" and "Wanted...Mud Blossom" by Betsy Byars. And if you've never read "Because of Winn Dixie" by Kate DiCamillo, don't miss it—it really is better than the movie. All of these stories are full of winsome dogs, interesting human characters and all have happy endings. I promise!



Doreen Miller

### Sports Notes

**RCISD season ticket renewals begin**  
 Rockwall City ISD season ticket holders can pick up their 2009-10 season tickets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. through today at the RCISD administration center. New group reserved seating ticket sales will run from Friday, Aug. 3-7. New season reserved seating ticket sales will run from Friday, Aug. 10-28.

**Free physicals offered at RHS**  
 Rockwall High School will offer free physicals from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday for all RHS students and incoming freshmen. Physicals will be offered in the Williams Middle School gym. For more information on the Rockwall ISD Web site.

**Adult tennis lessons offered**  
 Tennis Unlimited will offer an adult beginner's class for men, 18 and older, at 9 a.m. on Saturdays at Rockwall High School. The class is beginning this week. Basic strokes and rules will be covered. Membership not required, but available upon request. Cost is \$48 for four clinics or \$15 for individual clinics. For more information, contact J.R. Rahmzadeh at 972-771-8883 or e-mail rahmzadeh@sbglobal.net.

**Archery class set at Myers Park**  
 A friendly class on archery will be offered at 9 a.m. on Saturdays at Myers Park. Participants will learn safety and proper use of the bow. Opportunity to practice what is learned. Supplies are provided. Cost will be \$5 for Rockwall residents, \$8 for non-residents. For more information, contact Billy Nies at 972-771-7740 or visit rockwall.com.

**Fighting Irish to conduct baseball tryouts**  
 The Rockwall Fighting Irish baseball team will conduct tryouts for the 2009-10 season. Tryouts will be held on Monday, Aug. 24, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Harry Myers field. A player's birth date must be May 1, 2000, or later to be eligible. The Irish coaching staff will evaluate players on solid fundamentals, respect for the game and sportsmanship. Positive reinforcement and encouragement. For more information, contact Billy Nies at thenies6@sbglobal.net or visit rockwall.com/rockwallirish.

**Camp to focus on agility, conditioning**  
 Rockwall Agility and Conditioning Camp will be offered in the Rockwall Recreation Center Gym. Weeklong camps for 10- to 12-year-olds will be held on Aug. 10-14, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., and 13- to 15-year-olds on Aug. 17-21, 11 a.m. to noon. Cost for Rockwall residents will be \$225. For more details, visit rockwall.com/rockwallagility.

**Triples Tournament at RTU**  
 Tennis Unlimited will host a Triples Tournament from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Aug. 15 at Rockwall-Heath High. Open to RTU members and non-members. Cost is \$15 if pre-registered (\$20 day of the tourney), the event is free for those registered and paid by Aug. 5. Friends are welcome to participate -- \$20 pre-registered, \$30 day of the tourney. Players can sign up in groups of three or four. Names will be drawn. To register visit rockwalltennis.com or call J.R. at 972-771-8883 or e-mail rahmzadeh@sbglobal.net. For more details contact Joe Taylor at lamajo@sbglobal.net or call 972-722-7848.

**Parent/athlete meeting set at Cain**  
 A parent/athlete meeting to discuss the 2009-2010 Cain girls' athletic policies, workouts and schedules will be held on Monday, Aug. 20 in the CMS gym. Parents who have students participating in a sport at Cain during the coming year should attend.

# ATTENTION Rockwall County schools and school organizations!

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# Laptop program merges technology and learning

**By Maura Metcalf-Kelly**  
 At the start of the 2008-2009 school year, each of the 1600 students at Williams and Cain Middle Schools received a \$499 Intel Companion PC laptop computer to aid them in their studies. An even larger scale project kicks off in August, when each of the two high schools in the Rockwall Independent School District will receive 600 Apple laptop computers for project-based learning, creating a ratio of three students to one computer.

The RISD is purchasing the laptops thanks to its 2006 bond issue, which included \$15.3 million for technology upgrades and improvements.

"Every campus has been touched by this money," said Donna Fisher, Director of Instructional Technology. "We want all secondary students to have one-to-one access to a computing device within the next five years. We wanted to start small—we thought middle school would be a good place."

According to Chris Gasaway, head of the RISD technology department, the middle-school

trial is actually the most recent of five years' worth of trials, all gauging the benefits of incorporating technology as an educational aid into the curriculum of all RISD students. The decision to implement the laptops at the high school level was also based upon three years of experience with the "inspired classroom," in which each classroom with students in grades three through six was allotted five computers.

"When we first put this [idea] out, we told the public that this was a pilot, and that the success or failure of the pilot would help us determine how we were going to roll it out into grades nine through twelve," Gasaway said.

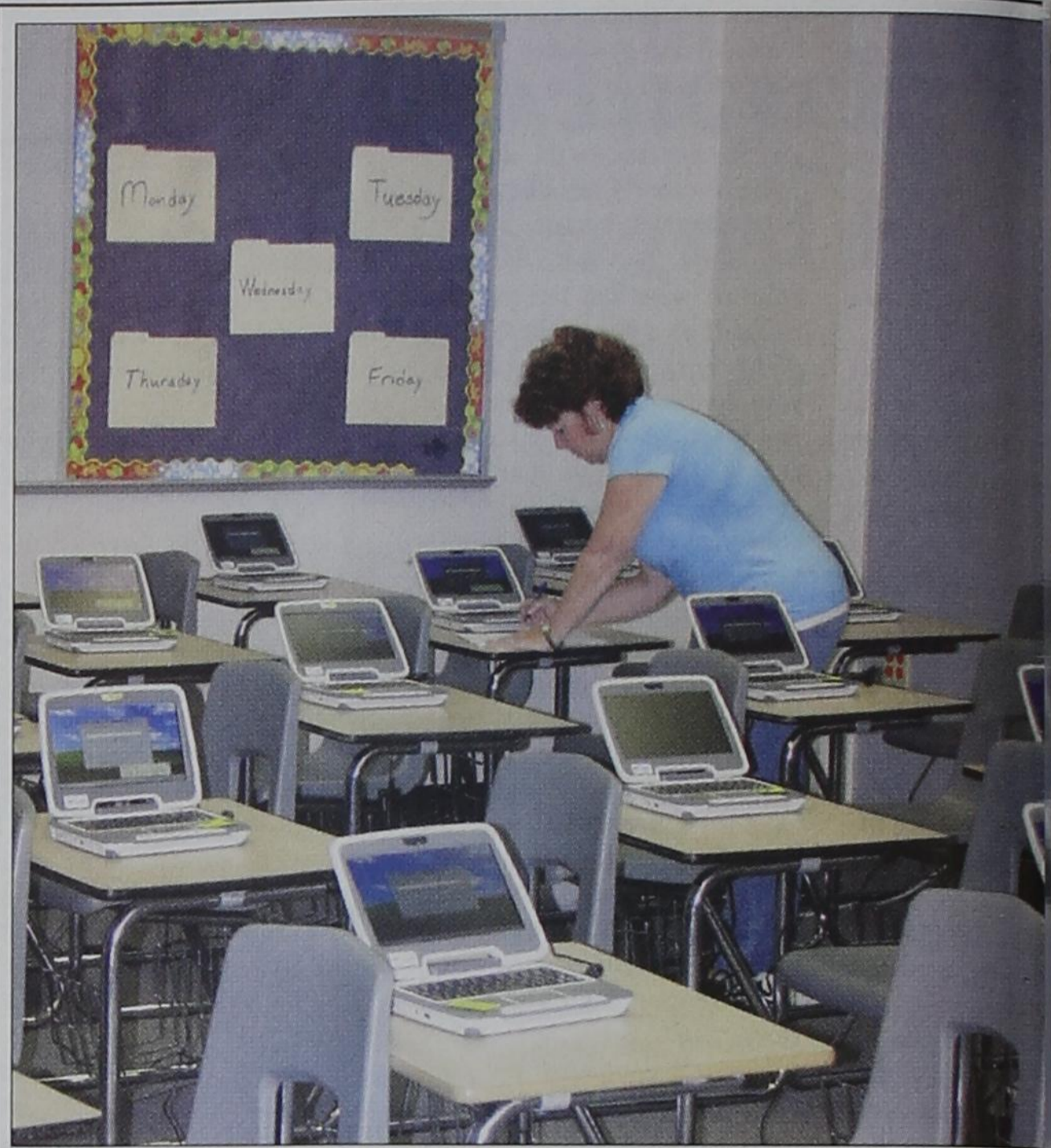
The middle school trial benefited the students themselves and helped to reveal flaws that would require modification before implementing the larger-scale program at the high school level the following year. For example, the filtering software on the computers, while successfully preventing students from downloading unapproved programs, ran slowly and still permitted students to upload instant mess-

aging programs on pin drives. In January of 2008, administrators recalled and re-imaged all of the students' computers to ensure that only approved systems would be able to run—even when uploaded. Thanks to Citrix Virtual Desktop, an application that students' laptops will be equipped with in the 2009-2010 school year, the boot time for the computers will be more reasonable, and the memory space will be doubled.

RISD's technology department anticipated encounters with broken hardware and created a system in which all files are saved to one server. If a student's laptop broke, he or she was able to simply accept another laptop and submit his or her own to be fixed, with projects still intact and accessible in cyberspace.

Fisher and Gasaway both emphasized the importance of the laptops both as learning tools for students' current studies and in preparation for their job success in a technology-driven world.

"The ultimate goal here is to prepare our students for the workplace in the 21st century,"



Cathy Crouch, campus technologist and grade book administrator at Cain Middle School, updates on laptop computers that will be given to high school students in Rockwall fall. Students at Cain and Williams Middle Schools used laptops last year in a trial to merge with learning.  
 Staff Photo by Kathy Williams/Rockwall County News

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Fisher said. "We feel that with this laptop program, we are attempting to give students the skills they will need when they go to college, [and will need] in the business world."

"We don't look to technology as something separate [from education] because in the real world, you don't view technology as something separate," Gasaway said. "Technology complements what you are doing; it is not something extra."

According to Fisher, results from 2008 show that 80 percent of RISD students are "technology-literate." Gasaway claimed technology plays a crucial role in the lives of teenagers and that because of this, the use of laptops in high school and middle school students' education will enhance their academic experience, as it will allow them to use tools they are already comfortable with.

"They don't even consider computers [to be] technology," Gasaway said. "To them, technology is a Wii or a PS2, or something that's new to them. But computers are just a part of their life. They accept it, and as a result, they are not scared of it... Kids are used to using computers—so why would we bring them into the classroom and not let them use these tools?"

In the coming school year, each of the RISD's two high schools will receive 600 Apple laptop computers, running both Apple and Windows operating systems. The three-to-one student to laptop ratio was determined as a result of the middle school trial

and the inspired classroom in elementary schools.

"We took a hybrid of both ideas—the inspired classroom and the one-to-one—and came in with three-to-one, and that's what we're doing in high school as a step towards one-to-one," Gasaway said.

Using Citrix Visual Desktop, students will be able to run both Windows and Apple operating systems; they may operate Windows while Mac is running in the background. When students save documents, they will be automatically saved to both the Mac and the Windows operating systems, making it easier to switch between the two. Gasaway said there is value in students having easy access to both operating systems at all time, because the operating systems are superior in different areas.

Before the 2008-2009 school year came to a close, every high school teacher received his or her own Macbook; during the summer months, middle school and high school teachers will attend workshops in computer development.

The Macbooks will be purchased with a four-year warranty under Apple's warranty program, AppleCare, until RISD technicians become Apple certified, at which point the high schools will have their own authorized Apple repair centers. When a warranty issue with a laptop arises, RISD technicians will be able to fix the laptops themselves—and Apple will pay them to do it. What ma-

kes the prospects of pair center for the even more exciting tunity for student While RISD middle- dents can currently come Apple certified—that is, computers running operating systems— students will be able to become Apple certified re, students who are careers in fields of will be able to become certified on both of tems before they go high school—a decision to a resume for a job. RISD technicians benefit from becoming certified; the RISD stipend raises to every certification level.

Both Fisher and Crouch are thrilled at the enormity of the trials, and are a continued positive RISD's future.

"I have seen an increase in proficiency in the whole. I have seen what students can do and the complexity of projects has increased over the years," Fisher said.

"Rockwall School District is making a name for itself in technology," Gasaway said. "They are wired differently, they are multitaskers, their world of what we could do is a fusion, but given the technology they can far surpass



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