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Rockwall County News

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A bit of Texas wisdom: "After every drought there's usually a real good rain." Rockwall County was under a flood warning Wednesday morning following a night of heavy rainfall. Drivers on Hwy 276 a few miles north of FM 548 late Wednesday managed the high water over the roadway. Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

Heath Council hears plans for golf, yacht club development

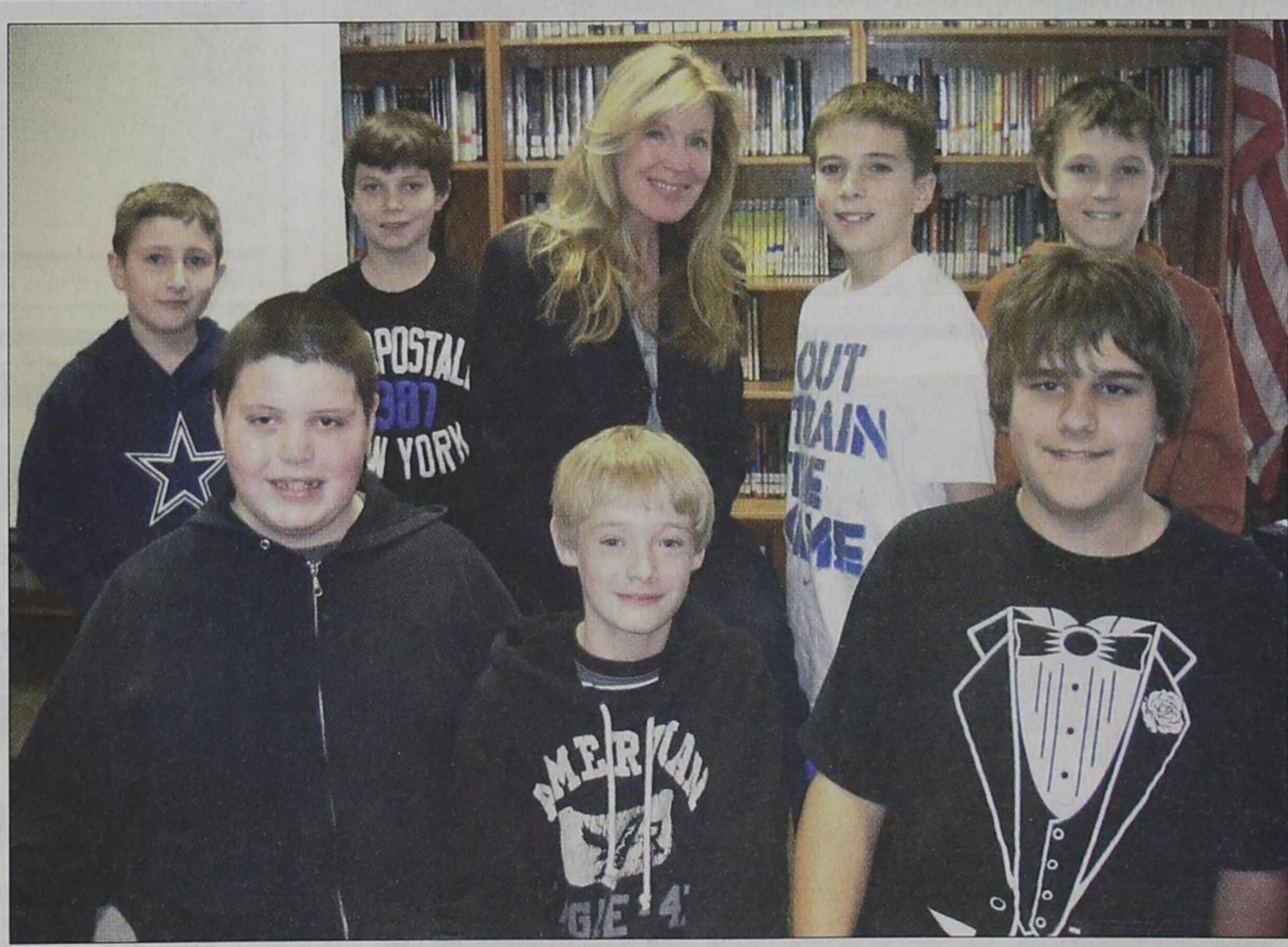
Darcy Rocha
Council member Rich Krause was absent from the Jan. 17 Heath Council meeting. The group moved quickly through the agenda and used the majority of their time on hearing plans for the forthcoming golf and yacht club.
Also present at the meeting was Matthew Graves, a young man working towards earning an Eagle Scout award. He was on hand to observe the council meeting as he works towards his citizenship in the community. After being introduced by Mayor John Ratcliffe, Graves drew a hearty applause from the council and those in attendance.
The Eagle Scout program is certainly one that should be encouraged and lauded. It teaches great character and attributes. Good luck to you in achieving that and we look forward to seeing you back here and celebrating your Eagle Scout award," said Ratcliffe.
The council voted in favor to approve a request to amend a plat to combine two lots in Heath Crossing to form a single lot. There was no discussion.
The council went on to review the city's investment policy, which is required to be updated annually. Council member Justin Holland was recused from the discussion and action because of his employment with HomeBank Texas, one of the qualified broker/dealers and financial institutions listed in the policy. The only change to the policy to be considered was language requiring quarterly reports to conform to generally accepted accounting principles that was removed in the last legislative session and thus removed from the investment policy. All voted in favor to accept the amendment.
The remainder of the meeting was consumed with presentations and discussion of the planned development of the Heath Golf and Yacht Club. The project is being developed by Rob and Sara Whittle, owners of the property. Whittle Development is known for its many Rockwall-area projects, including the Harbor and Buffalo Creek Country Club Estates. A co-developer of the proposed project is the Redstone Companies, a Houston-based investment firm specializing in the hospitality industry and developer of championship golf courses and planned communities.

Former Heath mayor Chris Cuny, president of the FC Cuny Corporation, a civil engineering and architectural design firm based in Heath, is the project engineer for the development.
On Dec. 28, Ratcliffe, council member Barry Brooks, Heath city manager Ed Thatcher, assistant city manager Kim Dobbs, city attorney Pete Eckert, city engineer Randall Dobbs and city finance director Laurie Mays toured Redstone projects in the Houston area. Brooks and Ratcliffe commented on

how impressed they were with the facility and how happy the employees of Redstone seemed to be.
The developers expressed their desire to start construction of the course first this May 2012, so that the grass for the course can be grown in during the April and May growing season of 2013. They would like to be able to open the course the following September, with the clubhouse opening
(Continued on Page 3)

John King Interchange closed for construction

A portion of John King Boulevard from Airport Road south to the I-30 service road will close to traffic Thursday to expedite the construction of the northern I-30 westbound service road.
According to a City of Rockwall news release, John King is scheduled to remain closed for five to six weeks, depending on weather conditions. One inbound lane of the service road will remain open.
The I-30/John King Boulevard Interchange Project is on schedule for completion in July.
For more details contact Chris Bruner, Texas Department of Transportation project manager, at 972-962-3617 or Chuck Todd, Rockwall city engineer, at 972-771-7746.



Children's author Kate Klise visited Rockwall Jan. 19-20 to give programs at Dobbs, Springer, Reinhardt and Hayes elementary schools. Her popular "43 Old Cemetery Road" books have been featured on the Texas Bluebonnet Award master list of nominated books. Pictured above with Klise are Dobbs students, at back, from the left, Caleb Link, Graeson Lynskey, Klise, Jordan Clement and Bryant Dimock. At front are Chase Barnett, Noah Dodd and Matthew McKnight.
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

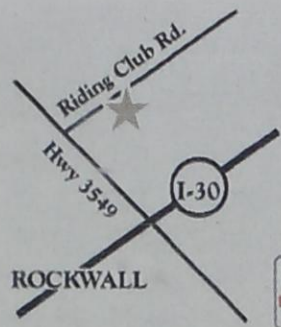


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Members of the Frigid Study Club recently met in the home of JoAnn Loftis, shown at left, for the organization's annual business meeting. Co-hostesses for the meeting were Carolyn Cullins, center, and Nita Walker. The club, organized in 1919, is Rockwall's oldest women's club.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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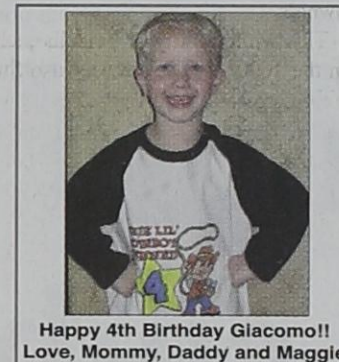
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Sue Norwood, a member of the First Methodist Church of Rockwall, is shown putting the finishing touches on a freshly painted wall in the Helping Hands Assistance and Referral Building. She and other church members donated their time during the church's recent Great Days of Service weekend. Helping Hands was one of about 30 agencies that benefitted from the church's generosity.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Happy 4th Birthday Giacomo!! Love, Mommy, Daddy and Maggie



Natalie Fernandez, daughter of Javier and Sylvia Fernandez, is an RHS senior and varsity cheerleader. A cheerleader since the seventh grade, she has received numerous awards, including All-American Nominee since her freshman year. She is involved in the Lakepoint Church Youth Ministry as Uprising Cause leader and high school leader at the Shore. Over summer she was a volunteer leader for the middle school Trek camp. She enjoys church mission trips and recently went to New Orleans to work with Habitat for Humanity. A member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Chorus, Reaction, Piano Club and Spanish Club, she is president of the TOU Club. She was a soccer team member during her freshman and sophomore years and in her junior year won Student Athlete Award. A member of the National Charity League, she plans to attend college and pursue a career in the medical field.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Rockwall Chamber of Commerce members celebrated the recent grand opening ceremony for Bullet Wraps, located at 1203 Beta Court, Suite.

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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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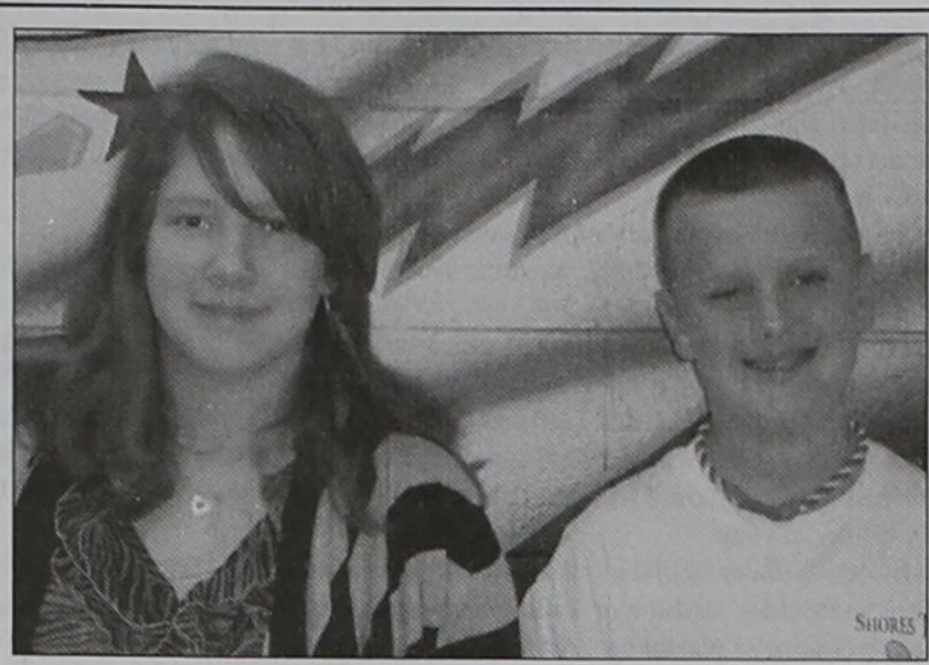


Members offering singing a group of choirs, a bag of Valentine's Day choristers - at Mata, Anne-M Reese Manor RCC member 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. order contact net. Order de Courtesy p

Strategies for Sustainable Living seminar Saturday

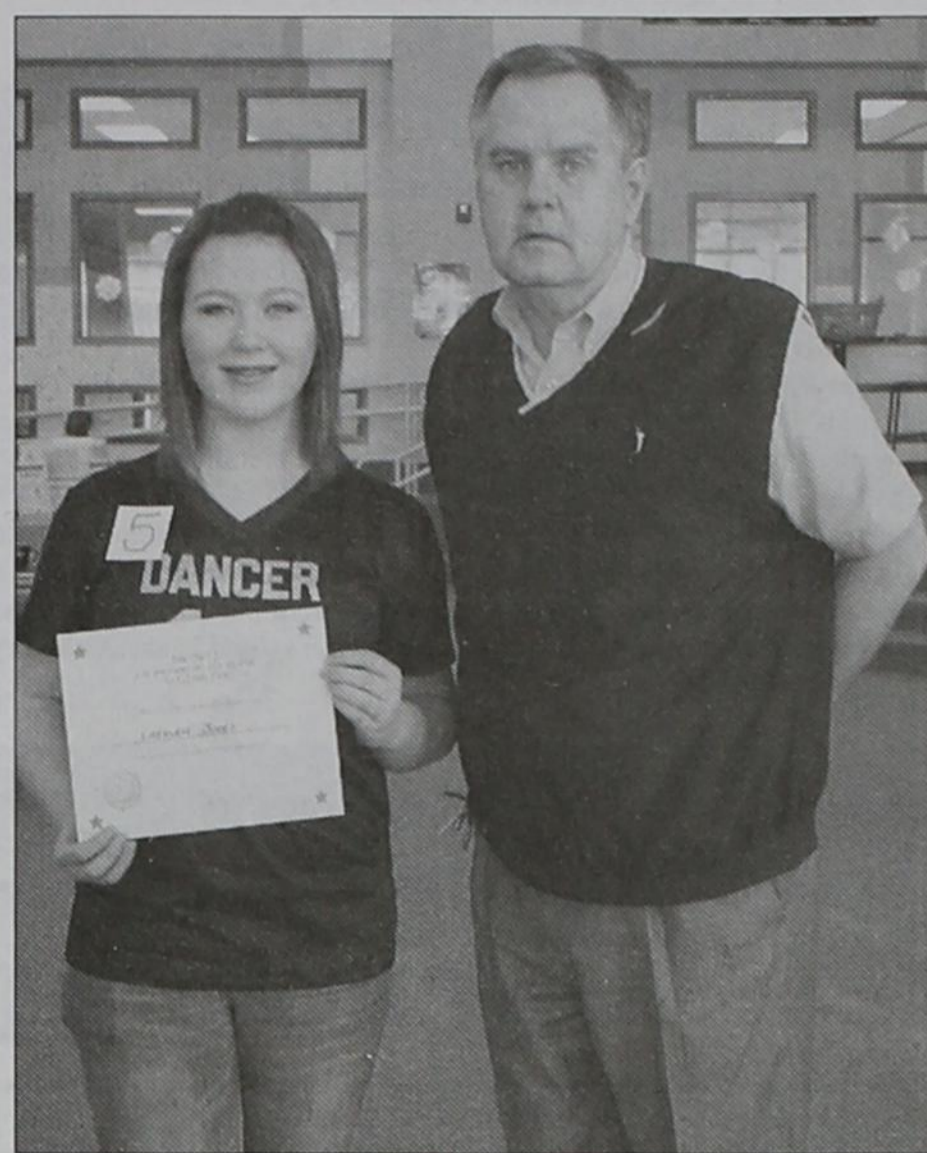
Terry Jensen – Sustainable East

are living at a time and place that many feel are in crisis or fast approaching crisis. Food and energy prices are escalating; we are with a potential long-term drought and water shortage; when consider potential alterations, we are not even certain what to do. Permaculture offers us natural ways out of our dilemmas. Sustainable East, a non-profit group with a mission of building businesses, local jobs, and local resilience using the principles and practices of sustainability through Permaculture. Permaculture strategies to all residents of Rockwall and surrounding areas on Saturday, January 28, 2012, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. This is a come-and-go series of free seminars, trades, and screenings held in place at the Rockwall County Library meeting room, 1215 E. Wajacket Lane, Rockwall 75087. No reservations or fees are necessary to attend.



Ana Tristan and Matthew Fewell, both sixth grade students, were the spelling bee finalists at Reinhardt Elementary on Jan. 18. About 60 fourth, fifth and sixth grade students participated. Tristan was named champion of the event and will represent the school at the county spelling bee on Feb. 7 at the Rockwall ISD Administration Building.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Lochlen Jones, an eighth grade student at Williams Middle School was winner of the annual National Scripts Spelling Bee conducted at her school. She is pictured with Billy Pringle, WMS principal. Lochlen will represent her school at the Rockwall County Spelling Bee to be conducted in February.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Rockwall City council hears details on water billing procedures

Timothy Downs

During past council meetings, citizens have expressed concern regarding the City's policy for water billing. Subsequently, the new City Code Ordinances for Water and Wastewater Billing Account Procedures were explained by assistant city manager/community development Janet Johnson at the Jan. 10 City Council meeting.

Water Billing Cycle

1st of month – Begin meter reading. Readings will determine the bill for the next month. This is a two to three day process.

7th of month – Bills processed by customer service. Any discrepancies noted and rereads are conducted based on customer service review.

14th of month – Bills are mailed, payable on the 15th. Billing questions; customer service. Rereads and meter tests are conducted.

16th of month – Cut-off notices are mailed. Late fee of \$10 assessed. Customers may ask for payment arrangements. Cut-offs on the 27th with a reconnect fee.

Residential customers inside the city limits will receive a minimum bill of \$9.80 per month.

Water usage in excess of 3,000 gallons

0,001 – 10,000 gallons = \$4.04/per thousand gallons

10,001 – 15,000 gallons = \$5.05/per thousand gallons

15,001 – 25,000 gallons = \$6.31/per thousand gallons

25,001 gallons and above = \$7.26/per thousand gallons

School customers inside the city limits will receive a minimum bill of \$107 per month.

Water usage in excess of 3,000 gallons

0,001 – 10,000 gallons = \$4.04/per thousand gallons

10,001 – 15,000 gallons = \$5.05/per thousand gallons

- 15,001 – 25,000 gallons = \$6.31/per thousand gallons
 - 25,001 gallons and above = \$7.26/per thousand gallons
- Commercial and industrial customers inside the city limits will receive a minimum bill of \$25.07 per month.
- Water usage in excess of 3,000 gallons
 - 3,001 gallons and above = \$5.73/per thousand gallons
- Water sold outside the city limits will be charged at 150 percent of the in-city charge.

Wholesale customers will be billed based upon contractual provisions entered into between the city and wholesale customers.

Wastewater rates in city

Residential minimum charge \$26.05

School minimum charge \$40.07

Commercial and industrial minimum charge \$40.07

Volume charge \$6.01/per thousand gallons

Customers receiving sewer service outside the city limits will be charged 150 percent of the in-city charge.

In other council business, council members approved a resolution in support of Teen Court launching this spring for first-time offenders of Class C misdemeanors. Youth, ages 10-17 may plead guilty or no-contest with trials held once per month. A jury of their peers will sentence violators to community service or to specific events.

Council member and seventh grade Texas history teacher Matt Wheatley said, "I think it will be good when peers set the terms of their probation or community service hours. Kids will be more likely to tell the truth about the violation to their friends, instead of bragging how they got away with it or did not do it."

Rockwall County will use the success of Teen Court to implement in other county school districts.

Black CA speaker to discuss life under 'Jim Crow' laws

Viola (Vi) Smith of Rockwall will discuss her life experiences regarding racial identity at 1:10 p.m. Feb. 23 in a Black History Month presentation to students and teachers of Rockwall Christian Academy.

Smith's family name is Yeldell. She is the descendant of slaves, yet her ancestor, Sterling Yeldell, was ingenious in providing all of the needs and many desires of his children during the period of time when Jim Crow laws were not only on the books, but enforced in Texas. This father and husband provided well for his family in terms of fresh foods, meats, a home, land and a college education for Smith and any of his children who wanted an education. He rarely spoke of race within the family circle, but emphasized the importance of hard work and personal effort in accomplishing goals.

His emphasis on personal effort did not negate the fact that Jim Crow laws in Texas were restrictive then when Smith was a child. Blacks were forced to ride in the back areas of buses. Blacks were disenfranchised by imposition of poll taxes. If a black person wanted to eat at a "white restaurant," it was required that they enter from the back and eat in a room reserved for them, often in storage rooms with boxes, furniture and other items. Blacks who wanted to see a movie were required to sit in the "colored section" of the theater. There were separate water fountains and restrooms. Laws were also legislated and upheld by federal law that all public transportation required separate seating. Laws were drawn up to restrict the freedoms and suppress the development and initiative of newly freed slaves.

The restrictions generally imposed in Texas under Jim Crow laws and the real fear that most blacks felt were based on the atmosphere that was created by the laws and the murders. Texas had the third highest number of lynchings during the period 1882 to 1968, including the burning at the stake of Anderson Ellis in 1909 by a Rockwall lynch mob.

Smith's family experienced the restrictions and dangers resulting from Jim Crow laws, yet were somehow able to survive – and in some ways

thrive. But there was another group of Yeldells, who also emphasized the importance of hard work and personal effort, but some of whom were slave owners.

This white family of Yeldells included a patriarch who came to America in the 1600s. His name was also Sterling Yeldell. As one descendant, Jack Yeldell, said recently in an attempt to explain, "The Yeldells are good people. Some Yeldells were slave owners before the Civil War, but they did not mistreat their slaves, although slavery was very wrong."

Some white Yeldells were Mennonites, which was the first religious group in the U.S. to raise objections to slavery. Perhaps it was this religious influence that caused the white Yeldells to give the newly freed slaves the option to travel to Texas as free men after the Civil War. In their new location, both black and white Yeldells acquired houses and a lot of property.

During the time after slavery and before the imposition of Jim Crow laws, blacks were able to accomplish many things in Texas including marrying (after being restricted from doing so during slavery), electing representatives, establishing schools in churches and increasing the literary rate exponentially.

But even after Jim Crow laws were imposed, some blacks used this opportunity to establish businesses such as personal care shops (barber and beauty), small restaurants and businesses that offered skilled labor services to serve their community. In the same manner, Sterling Yeldell (Smith's father) was able to take care of his family and operate efficiently in this restrictive environment using a combination of ingenuity and favor.

In an unusual twist of fate, Jack Yeldell and Viola Yeldell Smith not only have met one another, but have had a number of discussions about their common and well-documented history. Through the discussions, an emotional bond was formed – perhaps due to blood ties or a spiritual connection despite the history of being descendants of a slave and slave owner.

Heath City Council

(Continued from Page 1)

May 2014. Model luxury homes would be built and ready to start sales by February 2013.

In order to secure full investment and to proceed with the project, the group is asking for council to consider providing the area currently comprised of the MMD with taxing authority.

"They (Redstone) are seeking the conversion of the MMD, which is an assessment district, to an ad valorem district," Cuny said. "I know you guys went through a lot with this when the MMD was created last year, but the difference is that an MMD puts an assessment against property. An ad valorem gives the ability to place an ad valorem tax on the property, which is easier to collect and the bonds are more marketable."

"The only reason we are seeking the conversion or creation of a separate district is for finance reasons. It's the marketability of the bonds."

He explained that the developer is not trying to change any of the development regulations, any of the city ordinances or codes. The developer still wants the city to provide full municipal services, including water and sewer services.

"The only reason we're asking for this tweaking is so that we can have a financing mechanism that can bring the capital to do the type of development at the level that we want to do it," he said.

Brooks clarified that the change was being requested now because the developer would have to wait until the legislative session meets again for an amendment to the existing legislation, one year from now, to provide for the MMD to have taxing authority.

"So if we could get the MMD to have taxing authority today, then we wouldn't be here having this issue," he asked.

Following the presentation, council members met in executive session to consult with the city's legal counsel on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Chapter 551, Government Code. The staff was then directed to work with legal counsel.



Members of the Rockwall Children's Chorus are again offering singing valentines for the month of February. For \$25 a group of choristers will serenade the recipient, delivering three songs, a bag of homemade cookies and a card to help make Valentine's Day special. Pictured above are just a few of the choristers – at top, Keona Collins, Gabriella Mendez, Matthew Mata, Anne-Marie Thacker and Kaylee Chuang – along with Reese Manor resident Cleo Holland, shown holding honorary RCC member Nayely Mendez. Valentines will be delivered from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Feb. 10 and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 11. To order contact Karen at 972-772-0371 or email karen@slateria.net. Order deadline is Feb. 6.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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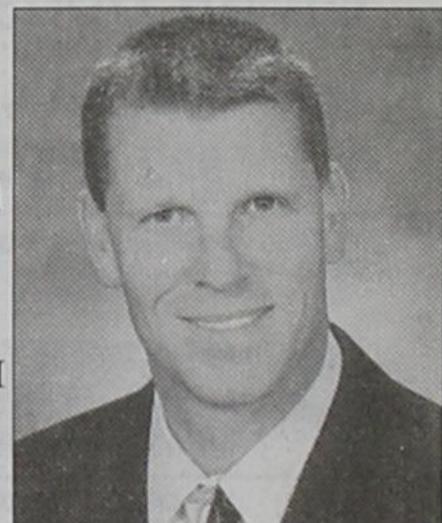


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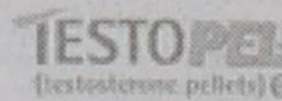
- Increased body fat and BMI
- Reduced muscle bulk and strength
- Low bone mineral density
- Anemia



Jeff Rickert, PA-C

- Symptoms of low testosterone are:
- Decreased energy and motivation
 - Diminished libido
 - Erectile dysfunction
 - Depressed mood
 - Sleep disturbances

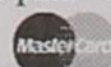
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On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

The veracity of the Bible as historical truth...

When talking about the love of God it is necessary to include the death and resurrection of Jesus. This is seen in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes on him shall not perish, but have everlasting life."

The above words were not only about Jesus, but were spoken by him. What bold words! All four Gospels include a detailed accounting of the death and resurrection of Jesus. The dynamics of Jesus' words and fulfillment are so highly charged that it is easy to simply say, "it's unbelievable."

One question in response to the story of Jesus' death and resurrection is, "why would anyone believe that a nonexistent entity called 'God' conceived a man in the womb of a woman, and then later raised him from the dead?" Notice that what's in question is not whether a man named Jesus existed in ancient history, but whether God exists.

In order to attack the existence of God, there is a need to attack and question the veracity of the accounts found in the writings that have been preserved, translated and compiled into the Bible. This book contains what is available of the accounts of God's words and works since the beginning of the earth, as we know it.

The following logical reasoning is often applied:
If God never really existed, then the whole Bible falls short of truth and is reduced to a fictional narrative; or,
If the Bible is a compilation of true historical accounts, then God must absolutely exist.

Both premises rely on the fact that the Bible is packed with the words and works of God. This creates a serious problem when attempting to argue that God never existed. If premise #1 is true, then the Bible cannot really be relied on for any historical value.

Historians understand the importance of words and the integrity of the writers when researching recent and ancient history. Criminal investigators understand the importance of matching testimony by multiple witnesses.

The Book, Magna Charta of King John, was published in 1285 by Leslie Adams, and is part of the Legal Classics Library. This book includes a copy of the Magna Charta of King John, The Charters of Liberties and Confirmations

Granted by Henry III and Edward I., The Original Charter of the Feo Explanatory Notes on their several Privileges, and a compilation of essays ten about the documents. The book includes a list of the people who signed various charters.

The documents and essays compiled in the above book are in essence a collection of words meant to describe a very important part of history that led to the Declaration of Independence of the American colonies against the Kingdom of England. Guess what? The events described in the book began during the 13th century. The events surrounding the Magna Charta were precisely documented and compiled into a book largely because of its impact on the world.

There is another book that historians agree to rely on for historical value—a collection of writings about events as far back as the beginning of mankind includes information that was passed down by word of mouth through teaching and which was later put in writing. That is the Bible.

If precise and systematic historians will not pick and choose what information to believe about the accounts of the Magna Charta, why would they pick and choose what historical information to not believe from the Bible?

To be continued next week.

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Exclusively in the
Rockwall County News
Nana Pat's Kitchen
by Pat Burnett

Hawaiian Bread
This one from my mother's collection
Ingredients:
3 small cans crushed pineapple
1 - 10 ounce package coconut
4 eggs, beaten
1 1/2 cups of sugar
4 cups flour
2 teaspoons salt
2 teaspoons soda
Mix pineapple and coconut in bowl, add eggs
Add sugar, mix well
Stir dry ingredients together, blend with moist ingredients
Pour into 3 loaf pans that have been greased in flour
Bake 350 degrees for 1 hour or until done

Habitat workday slated Saturday
The Rockwall Area Habitat for Humanity build will continue Saturday, according to a news release issued earlier this week.
Volunteers had a "great first day" at 304 E. Ross St. last weekend. Most exterior walls were placed.
On Saturday, volunteers will work to finish the exterior wall framing and interior framing interior walls, according to the news release.
Volunteers are urged to bring the following supplies when they come to participate: closed-toe shoes, gloves, safety glasses, tape measure, pencil, utility knife and hammer. Habitat does have a limited supply of community tool supplement those brought on the workday.
Start time will be 8 a.m. Paperwork and training will be done on site.
Volunteers must be at least 16 years old to work on site.

Two named to HSU honor rolls
Two Rockwall County residents were named to honor rolls at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, according to a university news release issued Jan. 23. Kyle Timmermann of Rockwall was named to the President's List, which comprised of students carrying 12 or more semester hours who obtain a perfect GPA of 4.0.
Audrey Salter of Royle City was included on the Dean's List. That list includes students who carry 12 or more semester hours with a GPA of 3.75 to 3.9.

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It is the mission of this newspaper to promote the rights of individuals, guided by the principles so eloquently described in the American Declaration of Independence. The right of life, liberty and ownership of property are the cornerstones of our freedom. The sole purpose of government is to enhance our liberty and freedom. Therefore, we hold every elected and appointed agent of government accountable to that standard.
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Rockwall County Obituaries

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Shirley A. Conner

Memorial service for Shirley A. Conner, 84, of Rockwall was conducted at Jan. 24, 2012, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel with Bobby Strong officiating.

She was born May 19, 1927, in Indianapolis, Ind., to Sam and Grace (Carr) Conner. She worked as a service department supervisor in the newspaper industry.

Survivors include her sons, George Mulkey Jr. of El Paso and David Conner; her daughter, Jorlee Scheesley of Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.; her grandchildren, Jon and Karey Mulkey, Cianna and Brooklyn Conner and Anne; and her great-grandchildren, Jack and Makena Mulkey.

Her family has suggested memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 560089, Dallas, TX 75256-0089 or at cancer.org.

Bertha Frances Crow

Services for Bertha Frances Crow, 91, were conducted at 2 p.m. Dec. 11, in the Goggans Funeral Home. Brother Jackie Deluca officiated. Burial followed in the White Rose Cemetery in Wills Point.

She was born Jan. 22, 1920, in Cedar Vale to Dool and Lou Ella (Taylor) Dool. She was married to Willie Crow Dec. 20, 1936, in Cedar Vale. She was a member of the First Baptist Church.

Survivors include four sons, James of Rockwall, Bill Crow and his wife, Christine, of Forney, Walter Crow and his wife, Kathy, of Forney and Paul of Houston; four daughters, Malinda Looney and her husband, Sam, of Saline, Floy Darden and her husband, John, of Forney, Gayla Cutrer and her husband, Rob, of Houston and Sue Gheen of Rockwall; 21 grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren; 15 great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, a sister, Virginia Stultz, and a brother, Lester Dool.

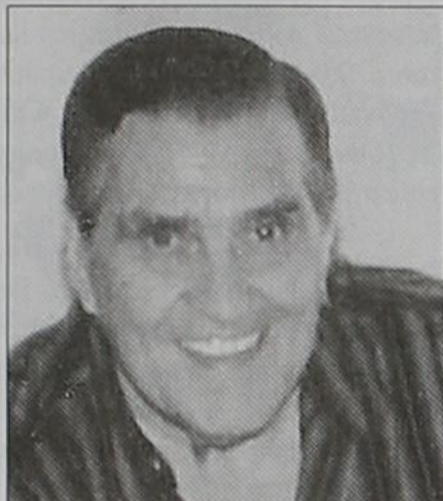
The funeral home's guestbook may be signed at goggansfh.com.



Raymond Leroy Decker

Services for Raymond Leroy Decker, 82, of Richardson were conducted at 1 p.m. Jan. 20, 2012, in the Rest Haven Memorial Park in Rockwall. Pastor David Shawyer officiating. Burial followed in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel. He was in charge of arrangements.

He was born May 3, 1929, in Quincy Township, Ohio, to Nicholas C. and Mary Verna (K) Decker, he served in the U.S. Army in Korea and worked as a regional manager in retail sales. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Richardson.



Survivors include his wife, Dorothy Decker of Richardson; his daughter, Polly Decker, and her husband, Tom, of Garland; his sister, Rosie Decker-Mitchell of Portland, Maine; his brother, Richard Decker, and his wife, Mattie, of San Diego; his grandchildren, Nick and Ally; a great-grandson, Kai; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter, Theresa Mina Decker; and a brother, Ralph Decker.

His family has suggested memorial contributions may be made to the SPCA of Texas, Attn.: Development, 2400 Lone Star Drive, Dallas, TX 75212 or at spca.org.

Katherine Perkins

Services for Katherine Perkins, 74, of Rockwall were conducted at 10 a.m. Jan. 24, 2012, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel with Pastor Mike Wainwright officiating. Burial followed in the Rest Haven Memorial Park.

She was born March 29, 1937, in Greenville, S.C., to Thomas and Annie (Read) Keller. She graduated from Greenville High School and was secretary/treasurer of the Class of 1955. She married W.E. Perkins on Jan. 28, 1963, in Dallas. She worked in the administration offices of the Garland Independent School District until her retirement and attended the Dallas County Cowboy Church in Balch Springs.

Survivors include her husband, Gene Perkins of Garland; one son, Benny Perkins of Richardson; one daughter, Cathy Perkins of Farmers Branch; a brother, Gene Keller of Greenville; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.



Extras needed Saturday for RC movie shoot

The producer of the movie "Creatures," which is being shot partially in Royse City, has informed officials with the Royse City Chamber of Commerce that some extras will be needed for a shoot scheduled for Saturday.

According to a news release issued Tuesday by the chamber, Kerri Navarro, the movie's producer, said the extras will play "civilians caught in the middle of mass destruction - being shot and killed."

Extras of all ages are needed. They will need to look "like they were out and about town, so no particular style of dress is needed," according to the news release.

Individuals tapped to serve as extras will be made up to look "bloodied, as no one lives" in the storyline being shot in Royse City, the news release states.

Shooting of the Black Irish Girl Productions sci-fi film began Tuesday on South Houston near the granary. Affected agencies and neighborhoods were notified prior to the start of filming.

The shoot involved street scenes with some military vehicles and firing of "weapons" filled with blanks.

"Creatures" is about a small group of people struggling to "survive a deadly creature inside and possibly an even more dangerous monster commanding the military operation" on the outside "war zone" surrounding a psychiatric hospital, according to a news release issued earlier this week.

Saturday's call location will be at the Police and Courts Building at the corner of Main and Elm streets. The exact call time has yet to be determined, but most likely will be at around 8 a.m. or 9 a.m., according to the news release.

Additional details will be released by the chamber as it is made available by the producer.

Masons to provide dental health kits to students

About 600 first grade students in six Rockwall elementary schools - Rochell, Springer, Amy Parks, Shannon, Dobbs and Cullins Lake Point - will receive free prevent tooth decay kits Feb. 3 and Feb. 17 thanks to the Fantastic Teeth Fan Club, a program of Masonic Children & Family Services.

The project is designed to prevent children from suffering with toothaches, reduce missed school days due to dental problems and cut costs for dental treatment, according to a news release issued by the program organizers, members of the East Trinity Masonic Lodge No. 157 and Fate Masonic Lodge No. 802.

Lodge members assembled and will deliver the kits. Each kit contains a toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, healthy teeth sticker, two-minute timer to help establish optimal brushing time, a "Tips for Healthy Teeth at Any Age" educational flier for parents (printed in both English and Spanish) and a summary of the MCFS services and grant opportunities.

Masonic Children & Family Services of Texas is a nonprofit organization with a history of more than 100 years of helping children throughout the state. Services include the Fantastic Teeth Fan Club, as well as the referral and funding of the following services for qualified children: medical, dental and prescription services; tutoring, career counseling, tuition assistance and educational scholarships; counseling and psychological services; information and referral services.

For more information call 1-877-203-9111, email info@mcfstx.org or visit mcfstx.org.

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UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING-3D R	X	1:20	3:25	5:30	7:35	
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS-A G	11:00	1:05	3:10	5:15	7:20	
CONTRABAND R	11:35	2:00	4:25	X	7:35	
WE BOUGHT A ZOO PG	11:10	1:55	4:40	X	7:25	
JOYFUL NOISE-A PG13	11:25	2:05	4:40	X	7:15	
RED TAILS PG13	11:30	2:10	4:50	X	7:30	
BEAUTY & THE BEAST 3D G	X	1:05	3:05	5:05	7:05	
BEAUTY & THE BEAST 2D G	11:05	X	X	X	X	
Mission Impossible Ghost Protocol-A PG13	X	1:20	4:10	X	7:00	
SHERLOCK HOLMES-A PG13	11:05	1:50	4:45	X	7:30	
HAYWIRE R	11:40	2:15	4:30	X	7:45	
EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE	12:00	X	4:00	X	7:10	
PG13						
THE DEVIL INSIDE-A R	11:20	1:25	3:30	5:35	7:40	

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 Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.

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Rockwall County Entertainment

Big Hat Bingo Bash slated Jan. 27

Tickets are now available for the Rockwall Women's League Big Hat Bingo Bash, set to run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 27 at the Dallas Athletics Club, 1000 Dallas Athletic Club Drive, in Dallas. The fundraising event will include a silent auction, bingo and prizes. Funds generated will be distributed to more than 35 charitable organizations in Rockwall County and scholarships to students at Rockwall and Royse City high schools. To purchase tickets visit rockwallwomensleague.org, email ballchair@rockwallwomensleague.org or call 469-757-1636.

Daddy/Daughter Dance tickets available

Tickets to the upcoming Daddy/Daughter Dance, sponsored by the City of Rockwall's Parks & Rec Department, are now available. The date of the event has been changed - it will run from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Jan. 28. Registration will be limited, so those interested in participating are encouraged to register early. Tickets per father/daughter couple cost \$45 for Rockwall residents and \$50 for non-residents; cost for each additional child is \$10.

USO Show set Feb. 3, 4 at Cain MS

The 13th annual USO Show presented by the Amy Parks-Heath Elementary Light Singers is set for Feb. 3, 4 at the Maurine Cain Middle School, 6620 W. 1552, Rockwall. The Feb. 3 performance will begin at 7 p.m. and feature a Dessert, Dance & Show. Cost for admission will be \$12 per person. On Feb. 4, the performance will be a USO Dinner, Dance & Show beginning at 7 p.m. Catered by Chiloso's, cost will be \$20 per person. Both shows will feature music from the World War II era. Special guests will include veterans and active service personnel representing the U.S. Armed Forces. Ticket sales will be held at Thurston70@yahoo.com for tickets or more details.

A&M Singing Cadets to perform locally

The Texas A&M Singing Cadets will perform in Rockwall at 7 p.m. Feb. 18 at the RHS Performing Arts Center on the Utley Middle School campus, 1201 Townsend Drive, in Rockwall. The performance, which will feature selections from "Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat" and the Beatles, will be presented by the Rockwall County Aggie Moms and marks the third straight year the group to perform locally. The concert is a fundraising event for the Aggie Moms, who present scholarships to Rockwall county students who attend the university. For scholarship information visit rockwallaggiemoms.com or contactaggiemomsrockwall@yahoo.com. Tickets to the event cost \$10 and may be purchased at the door beginning at 6 p.m.; seating will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information or to pre-order tickets contact Vickie Day at vday95@gmail.com or call 972-463-8921.

Just Say You Saw It In "The County News"
RockwallTexasOnline.com

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGES IN ELECTION PRECINCTS

Pursuant to §42.035, Texas Election Code, the Commissioners court of Rockwall County, Texas, herein provides notice of changes in County political boundaries as adopted by the Commissioners Court, and as precleared by the United States Department of Justice on 9th day of January, 2012.

Interested individuals may review the adopted changes in the office of the County Clerk during regular business hours.

The changes in county election precincts were necessitated by redistricting of County Commissioners Court precincts in compliance with the United States Constitution and 42 U.S.C. §1973, also known as the Voting Rights Act, following the release of 2010 census data. Changes in county election precincts were designed to achieve numerical balance between the four commissioners court precincts, and to insure the voting rights of all citizens of Rockwall County, Texas.

County Clerk - Jackson W.

AVISO PUBLICO DE CAMBIOS EN ELECCION RECINTOS

De conformidad con § 42.035, Código Electoral de Texas, la Corte de Comisionados del condado de Rockwall, Texas, este documento proporciona la notificación de cambios en los límites del Condado de política adoptadas por la Corte de Comisionados, y como precleared por el Departamento de Justicia el día 9 de enero, 2012.

Las personas interesadas pueden revisar los cambios adoptados en la oficina del secretario del condado durante las horas regulares de trabajo.

Los cambios en los precintos electorales del condado fueron necesarias por la redistribución de los distritos del Condado de la Corte de Comisionados de conformidad con la Constitución de los Estados Unidos y 42 USC § 1973, también conocida como la Ley de Derechos Electorales, tras la publicación de los datos del censo 2010. Los cambios en los precintos electorales del condado fueron diseñados para lograr un equilibrio numérico entre los cuatro distritos electorales comisionados judiciales, y para asegurar los derechos de voto de todos los ciudadanos del condado de Rockwall, Texas.

Oficial de Condado

This Week in Heath

RHHS Highstepper officers take awards at Dallas event

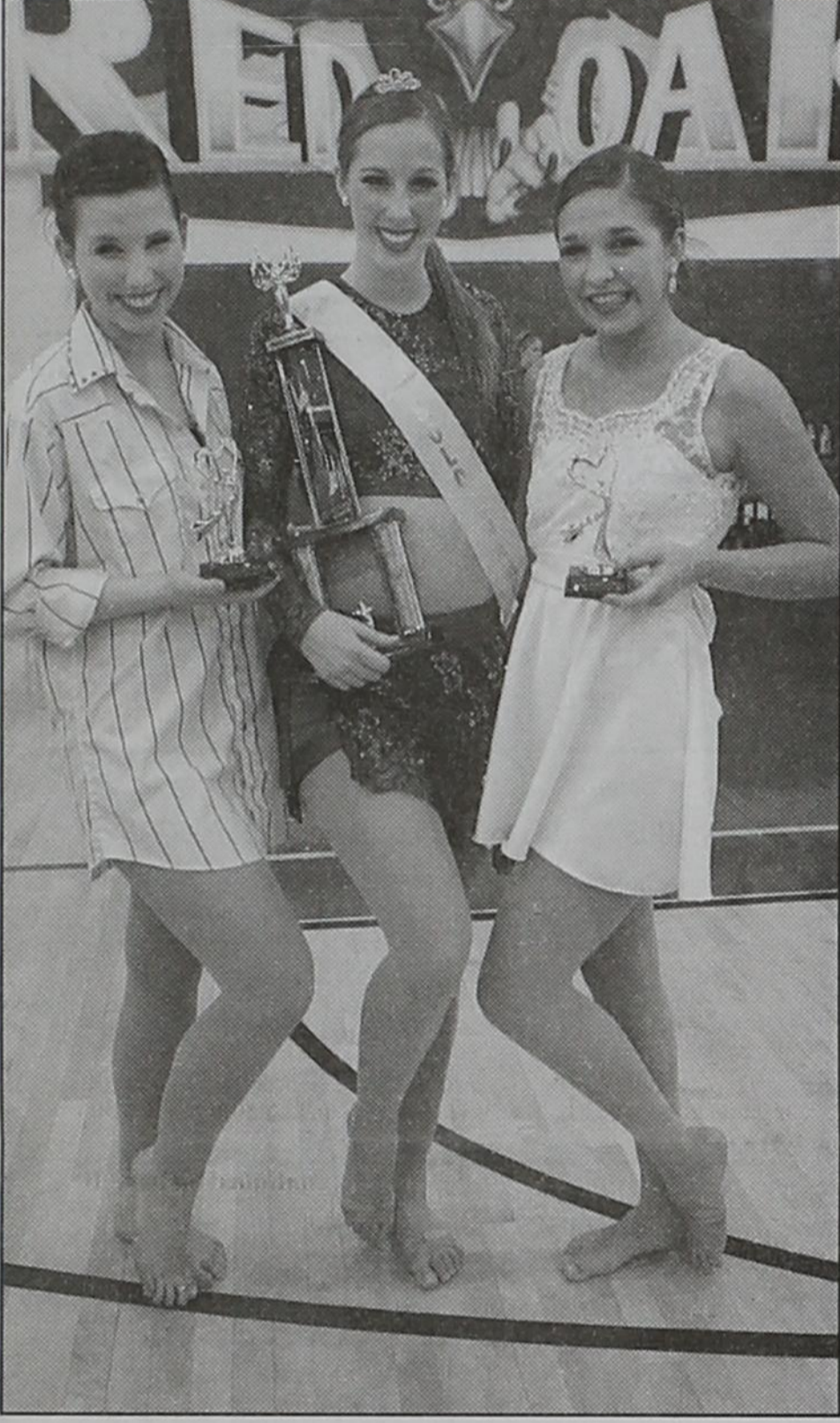
The officers of the Rockwall-Heath High School Highsteppers attended the Dallas Dane Premier hosted Jan. 21 by ShowTime International and the Red Oak High School Hawkettes.

The RHHS competitors fared quite well, winning Best in Category and Judges Awards in each category in which they were entered. They also captured a Sweepstakes Award, as well as a Champions Circle Award.

Along with the officer competition, the officers also entered the solo competition. Senior lieutenant Kurstin Hill won third place, junior lieutenant Maddie Mills won second place and captain Rachel Smith took first place in the solo contest.

An overall list of the awards won includes Sweepstakes Award; Best in Category-Jazz; Best in Category-Lyrical; Best in Category-Contemporary; Best in Category-Hip Hop; Judges Award-Jazz; Judges Award-Lyrical; Judges Award-Contemporary; Judges Award-Hip Hop; Champions Circle Award; and first, second and third place solo awards.

The team is led by RHHS drill team director Monica Lyon and assistant director Anna Blair.



The Rockwall-Heath Highstepper officers attended a Jan. 21 competition in Dallas. The girls pictured above were solo finalists in the contest. They are, from the left, Kurstin Hill, third place; Rachel Smith, first; and Maddie Mills, second place. As a group the girls won Best in Category and Judges Awards in every category of the competition entered, a Sweepstakes Award and a Champions Circle Award.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Victoria Steele and Sage Buchanan, students of a local dance studio, have been tapped to participate in the American Ballet Theatre's Summer Intensive Program.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Two tapped for American Ballet Theatre program

Sage Buchanan and Victoria Steele, both students at a classical ballet studio in Rockwall, have been selected to attend the American Ballet Theatre's Summer Intensive Program.

ABT's Summer Intensive Program has earned a reputation for being the "most thorough and rewarding dance experience a student can have during the summer," according to a news release.

"It is a great honor to attend the ABT Summer Intensive," said Sharon Steele, president and artistic director of the local studio. "Our dancers work long and hard to earn this special honor. They train exclusively in the Russian technique to achieve a level of artistic ability uncommon in today's dance world."

The ABT Summer Intensive focuses on the development of well-rounded dancers through exposure to a wide variety of disciplines with an emphasis on classical ballet technique and key elements of ABT's national training curriculum.

Buchanan, 12, is a sixth grade student at Springer Elementary.

Victoria Steele, 13, is an eighth grade student at Utley Middle School.

Royse City Police Blotter

Jan. 13-19

Friday, 13 Jan.: Possession of identifying information, 100 block W. Main Street; Delivery of controlled substance arrest, 700 block S. Bulldog Boulevard; Possession of marijuana arrest, 2300 block E. I-30; Criminal mischief, 1600 block Meadowlark Drive; Minor in possession of tobacco, 700 block S. Bulldog Boulevard; Disturbance, 800 block Loganwood Drive; Theft, 700 block S. Bulldog Boulevard; Welfare check, 200 block Howard Street; Suspicious person, 800 block Nancy Drive

Saturday, 14 Jan.: Possession/Delivery of drug paraphernalia arrest, Corner of Elm Street and Main Street; Disturbance, 1100 block Brazos Court; Medical assistance, 1200 block W. Hwy 66; Welfare check, I-30 at the 75 mile marker; Disturbance, Area of McKamy Boulevard; Criminal mischief, Area of Whispering Glen; Suspicious person, Corner of Live Oak Street and High Meadow Drive; Suspicious person, 100 block W. Main Street

Sunday, 15 Jan.: Driving while license invalid/City of Dallas warrants arrest, I-30 at the 79 mile marker; Noise disturbance, 100 block Starlight Lane; Criminal trespass, 600 block Baldwin Street; Medical assistance, 1700 block Kelly Lane; Noise disturbance, 300 block Northstar Drive; Criminal mischief, 1600 block Meadowlark Lane

Monday, 16 Jan.: Criminal mischief, 400 block Pin Oak Lane; Criminal mischief, 1200 block Evergreen Street; Suspicious person, 1300 block Brandon Drive; Suspicious person, 3200 block Overstreet Lane; Criminal mischief, 600 block Rosemary Drive

Tuesday, 17 Jan.: Medical assistance, 1200 block Mexia Court; Medical assistance, 500 block New Street; Noise disturbance, 3500 block Spruce Street

Wednesday, 18 Jan.: Burglary of motor vehicle, 400 block May Street; Suspicious person, I-30 SSR; Accident, I-30 at the 79 mile marker; Disturbance, 700 block FM 2642; Disturbance, 200 block Lakes Drive; Criminal mischief, Corner Erby Campbell Boulevard and I-30 SSR

Thursday, 19 Jan.: Welfare check, 1200 block Mexia Court; Suspicious person, 200 block Main Street; Alarm, 500 block Cookston Lane

Royse City ISD hear first semester reports

by Timothy Downs

Royse City Independent School District board members heard various reports from students and staff at the Jan. 9 meeting.

Nichole Hahn presented the Herndon Junior yearbook staff and explained the history of the Herndon yearbook, starting with emails sent from PTO to parents and staff, asking for help with the project. Subsequently, they produced the book in 30 days. However, since it was the students' yearbook, they decided future projects were to be completed by students.

Last year's high school yearbook students went to Herndon to help the student understand naming, setting up pages, themes and pictures. They told the junior yearbook staff they needed a name.

"Since we are the Herndon Heroes, we came up with the name DawgTags," said Hahn.

Each of the attending yearbook staff explained what they learned through the process.

Editor Shelby Muehlstein said, "Being editor has taught me many things: it is not easy to lead and it must be really hard being a teacher. Seriously, though, I am learning how to meet deadlines, be flexible and how to get us back on track."

This year's deadline is March 30, yet they are ahead of schedule, having already completed the cover and uploaded images.

Brenda Sherrell presented the Food Service Report. Whereas the schools have two health inspections per year, the first received an average of 97.5 for all nine schools. The inspector told Sherrell it is impressive and unusual for all schools in the district to have such high scores, especially with eight local health inspectors.

Theo McDonald presented the Technology Report explaining the computers were upgraded to Windows 7 and Office 2010. Five leases from Dell were added giving campuses new computers at set prices each year.

Campuses are testing the use of Citrix - a company that provides server and desktop virtualization, networking, software-as-a-services and Cloud computing technologies, including Xen open source products.

McDonald said, "This goes back about 20 years when servers or mainframes did all of the tasks of workstations."

The testing is working well and the district will fully implement Miss May Vernon campus next year. The cost is approximately \$150 per computer compared to approximately \$800 to \$900 currently. As the Dell leases expire, conversion to Citrix will add several additional years to each workstation.

"Other districts using Citrix district-wide report they love using it," said McDonald.

Other benefits of Citrix are virtual desktop client integration with smart devices such as iPads and Samsung Galaxy tablets, which the district is receiving quotes to implement.

The six techs have completed 90 percent of inventory this year on all computer related equipment and supplies.

Student information systems have upgraded and migrated to TEA hosted service centers and expect to upgrade again next year.

"We are still in discussion and are trying to move toward students being able to use their own devices with this system," Hancock said. "Unfortunately,

some districts spent a lot of money doing this and cannot maintain it ... causing some real problems. It is good that we did not jump too quickly with that."

Additionally, the board received reports on:

Advanced Placements (AP and Pre-AP courses) - presented by Chandra White

Education Foundation Update

Enrollment Update

Rutherford, Taylor CCP district financial audit for year ended Aug. 2011

Hancock announced general elections set for May 12 for board Places 3 (Dr. Rhonda Phillips - Black), 4 (Don Palmer) and 5 (Charles Carroll).

Dates for individuals wishing to run may pick up school board candidate packets between Feb. 4 and March 5.

Hancock reminded those present about School Board Appreciation Month, stating, "I've been in this business 34 years and have probably been to more board meetings than most people should ever have to. But I want you to know there have not been many Royse City board meetings I have walked out saying, I wish we did not have that meeting. You guys make it easy - you make it fun. What is good about this board is ... always what is in the best interest of the kids. Every issue and discussion is about the kids. You would like to think it is this way in every district ... it is not. Thank you for putting kids first and thank you for your dedication, commitment and time."



Members of the Herndon Intermediate School Junior yearbook staff, pictured left to right, Gabby Hernandez, Ashley Dreiling, Brim Lupercio, Devyn Johnson, Megan Leach, Robert Estrada and Shelby Muehlstein, are shown presenting their project to Royse City Independent School District board members at the trustees' Jan. 9 meeting.

Photo by Timothy Downs/Rockwall County News

Republican Lunch Bunch to meet

The Rockwall County Republican Lunch Bunch will meet at 11:30 Feb. 1 at Luigi's Italian Café, Rockwall. Cost will be \$10, which includes lunch, beverage, tax and tip; pay at the door. No reservations required for informal social gathering open to all area Republicans. For more details contact Dalton Kennimer, 972-636-4034.

HATS Valentine Tea set Feb. 1

The Heath Area Terrific Seniors Valentine Tea will begin at 1 p.m. Feb. 1 at the First United Methodist Church-Heath. Sheri Fowler will present and More - Fashions of Old Rockwall." For more details contact the center at 972-771-6732.

Computer classes set at library

The Rockwall County Library will offer computer classes for individuals who need an introduction to the use of a PC. A "mouserobics" exercise program will include instruction about the structure of PCs and peripheral equipment will run from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 16. An intermediate computer class will run from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. March 8. Call 972-204-7770 to register for either class.

MicroWorld Adventures exhibit slated

The Rockwall County Library will host an introduction to the Children's Science MicroWorld Adventures exhibit at a Family Night scheduled for Feb. 16. The come-and-go event will run from 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. The exhibit will include guided experiments and science crafts and activities. The exhibit is primarily geared for children in grades 3-6, adults and younger children may enjoy it as well.

Bridge tournament scheduled

A bridge tournament for individuals ages 55 and older will begin at 10 a.m. Feb. 17 at The Center. The tournament will feature Chicago-style social drinks and snacks will be provided. Participants must have a partner to play. Prizes will be awarded to the first place and runner-up winners. For details visit rockwall.com/parks.

Library to close for President's Day

The Rockwall County Library will be closed Feb. 20 in observance of President's Day.

Library, county offices to close March 2

The Rockwall County Library and other county offices will be closed March 2 in observance of Texas Independence Day. The library also will be closed March 3 for a computer system migration.

Rock through Spring Break

The Rockwall Parks & Rec Department will once again offer its annual Rock through Spring Break event for local youths ages 6-12. Explorers will venture to several nature-based destinations such as a state park, zoo, aquarium and more. Space is limited. Participants will be asked to bring a sack lunch, water and water each day. Activities will run from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. March 16 at the Harry Myers Community Center. Cost is \$113 or \$75 for Rockwall residents. Visit rockwall.com/parks for more details.

Easter Egg Hunt set March 31 in R'wall

The Rockwall Parks & Rec Department's 10th annual Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 10 a.m. March 31 at the Leon Tuttle Athletic Complex. The hunt is divided into three areas: Field 1 for children ages 5-6; Field 2 for children ages 3-4; and Field 4 for children ages 7-12. The hunt is free to the public and will feature prize eggs, a bounce house, games and other activities.

Founders Day Festival set May 19

Rockwall's annual Founders Day Festival will begin at 10 a.m. May 19 on the downtown square. The daylong event will feature live entertainment, food and other family-friendly activities. Admission will be free. For information visit rockwallfoundersday.com.

RISD to host Feb. 9 multi-cultural event

The Rockwall Independent School District will host its second annual Anti-Cultural Celebration beginning at 7 p.m. Feb. 9 in the Rockwall Heath High School Performing Arts Center, 801 Laurence Drive, in Heath. The event will celebrate the many cultures represented by the school district's student body of almost 14,000 students.

Last year's event featured student artwork, essays, cultural performances and a parade of flags. The center, which is able to seat 1,500, was closed during the event.

This year more than 100 students are expected to dress in costumes from their native countries and walk in a grade parade of nations that will represent more than 50 countries.

Admission will be free and open to the public.

For more details, visit rockwallisd.com or call 972-771-0605.

Volunteers sought for Rubber Duck Regatta

Planning is already under way for the Sept. 22 Rockwall Rubber Duck Regatta at The Harbor.

The event, the first of its kind, will serve as a fundraiser designed to benefit two organizations - The Rockwall County Boys & Girls Club and Rockwall County Meals on Wheels. The festival will take place at Lake Ray Hubbard at The Harbor, and raffle tickets "duck adoptions" will be sold leading up to the duck splashdown that afternoon. Plans call for the release of more than 5,000 blue rubber ducks at the top of the main fountains. The ducks will "race" to the finish line at the shore of the lake for chances of several prizes including a shot at a \$50,000 grand prize.

There are a number of ways to volunteer, including data entry (record duck adoptions); sponsor duck sales and party planning; marketing and support; prize solicitation; race day logistics; social media; and duck logistics, children's area, entertainment, etc. All volunteer shifts are flexible and the family event offers a number of volunteer opportunities for individuals of all ages, groups or corporate entities.

For more details email rockwallrubberduckregatta@gmail.com; Rockwall County Meals on Wheels at 950 William St., Rockwall; or 972-771-9514.

Two named to HSU honor rolls

Two Rockwall County residents were named to honor rolls at Hart Simmons University in Abilene, according to a university news release issued Jan. 23.

Kyle Timmermann of Rockwall was named to the President's List, which is comprised of students carrying 12 or more semester hours who obtain a perfect GPA of 4.0.

Audrey Salter of Royse City was included on the Dean's List. That includes students who carry 12 or more semester hours with a GPA of 3.99.

Rockwall County Sports Schedules

The Fulton School Falcons

Jan. 27 – JV boys' basketball: home vs. Athens Preparatory, Forney Center, 5 p.m.
 Boys' basketball: home vs. Irving StoneGate Christian Academy, Forney Center, 6 p.m.
 Jan. 31 – Boys' basketball: at Dallas Tyler Street Christian Academy, High White 5 p.m., Junior High Blue 6 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.
 Feb. 3 – Varsity boys' basketball: vs. Brownwood Victory Life Academy at Parkview Christian Academy, 6:30 p.m.

Heritage Christian Academy Eagles

Jan. 27 – Basketball: home vs. Greenville Christian School, RISE, JV 5 p.m., varsity girls 6 p.m. and varsity boys 7:30 p.m.
 Jan. 30 – Middle school basketball: home vs. Dallas Lakehill Prep, 6 p.m. and boys 6 p.m.
 Jan. 31 – Basketball: home vs. Gainesville Red River Christian School, JV boys 4:30 p.m., varsity girls 6 p.m. and varsity boys 7:30 p.m.
 Feb. 3 – Varsity basketball: home vs. Longview Trinity School of Texas, girls 6 p.m. and boys 7:30 p.m.

Rockwall Christian Academy Warriors

Jan. 27 – Basketball: at Dallas Thunder, First Baptist Church of Terrell, 5:30 p.m., varsity girls 6:30 p.m., varsity boys 8 p.m.
 Jan. 31 – Basketball: home vs. Christian Heritage School of Longview, 5:30 p.m., varsity girls 6 p.m. and varsity boys 7:30 p.m.
 Feb. 3 – Basketball: at Greenville Christian School, JV boys 4:30 p.m., girls 6 p.m. and varsity boys 7:30 p.m.

Rockwall High School Yellowjackets

Jan. 27 – Varsity boys' soccer: vs. Rowlett at North Forney Tournament, home for District 13-4A Championships, Rockwall ISD Aquatic Center, noon
 Basketball: at Rockwall-Heath, Rockwall-Heath High School, JV White

4:30 p.m., JV 6 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.
 JV girls' soccer: at McKinney Boyd, 5:15 p.m.
 Freshman boys' basketball: home vs. Rockwall-Heath, Utey Middle School, A 5:30 p.m. and B 7 p.m.
 Freshman girls' basketball: at Rockwall-Heath, Cain Middle School, A 5:30 p.m. and B 7 p.m.
 Varsity girls' soccer: vs. Lake Highlands at Carrollton Creekview Mustang Stampede, Standridge Stadium, 5:30 p.m.
 Boys' basketball: home vs. Rockwall-Heath, Rockwall High School, JV Orange 6 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.
 Saturday, Jan. 28 – Swimming: home for District 13-4A Championships, Rockwall ISD Aquatic Center, 9 a.m.
 JV wrestling: home for Rockwall JV Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Varsity girls' soccer: vs. Carrollton Creekview at Mustang Stampede, Standridge Stadium, noon
 Varsity boys' soccer: at North Forney Tournament
 Tuesday, Jan. 31 – Freshman boys' basketball: home vs. Wylie East, A 5:30 p.m. and B 7 p.m.
 Boys' basketball: home vs. Wylie East, JV Orange 6 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.
 Girls' basketball: at Wylie East, Freshman A 5:30 p.m., JV 6 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.
 Softball: Scrimmage at Carrollton Creekview, JV 5:30 p.m. and varsity 7 p.m.
 Boys' soccer: home vs. Dallas Kimball, JV 6:15 p.m. and varsity 7:45 p.m.
 Wednesday, Feb. 1 – JV powerlifting: home vs. Rowlett
 Thursday, Feb. 2 – JV tennis: at Ennis JV Tournament, 8 a.m.
 Gymnastics: home vs. Hurst L.D. Bell, Optional, 6:30 p.m.
 Friday, Feb. 3 – Varsity tennis: home for Rockwall Frozen Ball Tournament, Rockwall Tennis Facility, 8 a.m.
 JV softball: home scrimmages vs. Mesquite Potet and The Colony, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.
 Girls' soccer: home vs. Longview, JV 5:15 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.

Rockwall High School, JV 6 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.
 JV tennis: at Fair Oaks JV Tournament, Fair Oaks Tennis Center
 Saturday, Jan. 28 – Swimming: home for District 13-4A Championships, RISD Aquatic Center, 9 a.m.
 JV wrestling: at Rockwall JV Invitational, Rockwall High School, 9 a.m.
 Varsity powerlifting: at Sulphur Springs Powerlifting Meet
 Tuesday, Jan. 31 – Boys' soccer: home vs. Garland Lakeview Centennial, JV 5:30 p.m. and varsity 7:15 p.m.
 Freshman Red girls' basketball: home vs. Wylie, Cain Middle School, 5:30 p.m.
 Boys' basketball: at Wylie, Freshman A 5:30 p.m., JV 6 p.m., Freshman B 7 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.
 Girls' basketball: home vs. Wylie, JV Red 6 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.
 Wednesday, Feb. 1 – JV powerlifting: at Royse City
 Thursday, Feb. 2 – JV powerlifting: home vs. Garland Naaman Forest
 Friday, Feb. 3 – Varsity tennis: at Rockwall Frozen Ball Tournament, Rockwall Tennis Facility, 8 a.m.
 Softball: home scrimmage vs. Frisco Liberty, JV 5 p.m. and varsity 7 p.m.
 Freshman boys' basketball: home vs. Highland Park, Cain Middle School, A 5:30 p.m. and B 7 p.m.
 Girls' basketball: at Highland Park, Freshman Red 5:30 p.m., JV Red 6 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.
 Boys' basketball: home vs. Highland Park, JV 6 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.
 Varsity gymnastics: home vs. Birdville, Optional, 6:30 p.m.
 Varsity boys' soccer: at North Forney, 7:15 p.m.
 Saturday, Feb. 4 – Wrestling: at District 19 Championships, Henderson, 10 a.m.

Cain Middle School Mustangs

Friday, Jan. 27 – 7th grade B boys' basketball: vs. Wylie Burnett at B Team Tournament, Allen Ereckson, Gym 2, 5:30 p.m.
 7th grade B girls' basketball: vs. Utey at B Team Tournament, Lovejoy Sloan Creek, Main Gym, 5:30 p.m.
 8th grade B boys' basketball: vs. Allen Curtis at B Team Tournament, Wylie Cooper, Gym 1, 6:30 p.m.
 8th grade B girls' basketball: vs. Allen Ereckson at B Team Tournament, Williams, Main Gym, 6:30 p.m.
 Saturday, Jan. 28 – 7th grade B boys' basketball: at B Team Tournament, Allen Ereckson, 9 a.m.
 7th grade B girls' basketball: at B Team Tournament, Lovejoy Sloan Creek, 9 a.m.
 8th grade B boys' basketball: at B Team Tournament, Wylie Cooper, 9 a.m.
 8th grade B girls' basketball: at B Team Tournament, Williams, 9 a.m.
 Monday, Jan. 30 – 7th grade girls' basketball: home vs. Wylie Cooper, C 5:30 p.m., B 6:30 p.m. and A 7:30 p.m.
 7th grade boys' basketball: at Wylie Cooper, C 5:30 p.m., B 6:30 p.m. and A 7:30 p.m.
 Thursday, Feb. 2 – 8th grade boys' basketball: home vs. Wylie Cooper, C 5:30 p.m., B 6:30 p.m. and A 7:30 p.m.
 8th grade girls' basketball: at Wylie Cooper, C 5:30 p.m., B 6:30 p.m. and A 7:30 p.m.

Utey Middle School Wolves

Friday, Jan. 27 – 7th grade B boys' basketball: vs. Wylie Cooper at B Team Tournament, Allen Ereckson, Gym 1, 5:30 p.m.
 7th grade B girls' basketball: vs. Cain at B Team Tournament, Lovejoy Sloan Creek, Main Gym, 5:30 p.m.
 8th grade B boys' basketball: vs. Lovejoy Sloan Creek at B Team Tournament, Wylie Cooper, Gym 2, 6:30 p.m.
 8th grade B girls' basketball: vs. Lovejoy Sloan Creek at B Team Tournament, Williams, Side Gym, 6:30 p.m.
 Saturday, Jan. 28 – 7th grade B boys' basketball: at B Team Tournament, Allen Ereckson, 9 a.m.
 7th grade B girls' basketball: at B Team Tournament, Lovejoy Sloan Creek, 9 a.m.
 8th grade B boys' basketball: at B Team Tournament, Wylie Cooper, 9 a.m.
 8th grade B girls' basketball: at B Team Tournament, Williams, 9 a.m.
 Monday, Jan. 30 – 7th grade boys' basketball: home vs. Wylie McMillan, C 5:30 p.m., B 6:30 p.m. and A 7:30 p.m.
 7th grade girls' basketball: at Wylie McMillan, C 5:30 p.m., B 6:30 p.m. and A 7:30 p.m.

continued on page 10

ACROSS

1 floor supporter
2 "Dopehead"
3 Archer Co.'s "Lake Kickapoo" got its name from tribe
4 "I'm a little bit of stuff too much in TXism: "just trying to have water"
5 TX Blue Bell makes _____ cream
6 before TX Revolution
7 Mexicans did not have _____
8 of trial-by-jury
9 TXism: "that'll do nicely"
10 Big Astro or Ranger event: "grand _____"
11 TX coastal cities have one _____
12 profit _____
13 TXism: "mad enough to _____ nails"
14 artist's inspiration _____ Grange, TX
15 TXism: "_____ plow" (beat _____)
16 horse hair _____
17 western State is _____
18 in Wichita Falls
19 Sam Houston's 3rd wife, Lea
20 TXism: "_____ him packing" (kicked out)
21 TX Buddy Holly's "Not _____ Away"
22 UT's "Big Bertha" is world's _____ drum
23 Greek water nymph _____
24 a very strong wind

DOWN

1 newspaper in seat of Kimble Co.
2 TXism: "hard _____"
3 TX Kristofferson's "Help _____ It Through the Night"
4 Italian municipality
5 Waxahachie county
6 decayed vegetation
7 logo of this film co. has Leo the Lion
8 old Oiler slogan: "Luv _____ Blue"
9 TX oil tycoon whose family inspired TV series "Dallas"
10 TXism: wipe the slate clean"

39 TXism: "_____ no pay _____ no never mind"
40 pie _____ mode
41 1st U.S. battleship: "_____ Texas"
42 13-down was a billion _____ at time of his death in '74
43 1st interim president of TX, Burnet (init.)
44 hotel chain found in TX: "_____ inn"
45 swapped
46 what TXns do with watermelon seeds (2 wds.)
47 TX Ranger film: "Lone Wolf _____ Quade"
48 This Jeff was a DT for old Oilers ('90-'93)
49 Old San Antonio Road: "El Camino _____"
50 car shed

35 state of Kennebunkport, Bush summer home
37 TX Morgan Fairchild character in "Based on an Untrue Story"
38 TXism: "footloose and _____ free"
39 hay _____
40 TX Charlie who helped LA Dodgers win '59 title
41 TX Ginger's mom
42 TX Ginger's mom
43 "palms" south of the border
44 TXism: "the _____ wagging the dog"

TEXAS CROSSWORD
 by Charley & Guy Orbison
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Opinions

A Fitting Symbol of the American Empire

Sheldon Richman
 The image of four U.S. marines urinating on the corpses of Afghan fighters is a fitting symbol of American intervention in Central Asia and the Middle East. That picture will live forever in the memories of people in the region, along with the pictures from Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison.
 Most Americans aren't much interested in making fine distinctions in foreign affairs. As Republican presidential contender Ron Paul points out, the United States allies against the Soviets never wished the American people harm. What they oppose is a foreign presence in their country, Russian or American, and they have no desire to attack anyone who stays home and leads his own business.
 Other than Paul, the Republican candidates see the desecration of dead soldiers as an issue with which to score points on President Obama. The candidates and their supporters sympathize with the marines. After all, they are the Taliban kill Americans. They are the enemy. They all should be killed.
 This may be fodder for demagogues, but it's plain nonsense. The Taliban are the home team. The American forces are the visitors — invaders and occupiers, to be precise. As Ron Paul likes to ask, how would Americans feel if there were an occupying army in the United States propping up a corrupt government? Would they turn militant? Would they mount an insurgency? I think we can predict they would.
 Therefore, American belligerence toward Afghans who resent the presence of foreign occupiers is unjustified. That resentment is not anti-American, because behind it lies no wish to harm our society. When will the American people learn that?
 In his comments at the first South Carolina debate, Paul distinguished the Taliban from al-Qaeda, which took responsibility for the criminal attacks on 9/11. Apparently, to most Americans, "they" are all the same. But the distinction makes a difference. Al-Qaeda was largely made up of men from

various Arab nations, not Afghans.
 In the 1990s, the Taliban leadership allowed Osama bin Laden and other members of al-Qaeda to live in Afghanistan. Does that implicate the Taliban in 9/11? In pondering this question, it's helpful to realize that after the attacks, the Taliban leadership offered to turn bin Laden over to the U.S. government if given evidence of his guilt. The U.S. government refused. Maybe the Taliban leadership was bluffing, but we will never know what would have happened had they been tested. (This was one of many counterproductive moves committed by President George W. Bush. Iran's offer to cooperate after 9/11, before Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was elected president, was similarly rejected.)
 This is not to defend the Taliban regime. After the Soviets were beaten, it ran a brutal theocracy that engaged in inexcusable destruction. But two things should be kept in mind. Most people fighting the U.S. occupation today had nothing to do with the regime, al-Qaeda, or 9/11. And it's been reported that most Afghans know nothing about 9/11. All they know is that armed foreigners stalk their land, bursting into their homes in the night and dropping bombs from the sky. Some of the resisters may well believe the occupiers are Russians.
 Unfortunately, the Republican primary process is anything but conducive to a careful discussion of U.S. foreign policy. Except for Paul, the candidates see maximum advantage in sounding tough, no matter how irrational their claims and proposals are. So we saw Rick Perry (now gone from the race) condemn the leadership of Turkey as "Islamic terrorists" and Mitt Romney reject any diplomatic contact with the Taliban because "These people have declared war on us. They've killed Americans. We go anywhere they are and we kill them."
 But, as noted, the Taliban have not declared war on the United States, and when they kill Americans, they are killing invaders and occupiers. Does

Rockwall County Letters to the Editor

We encourage the submission of Letters to the Editor. The publishing of letters is at the sole discretion of the editor and may be edited for brevity, grammar and accuracy. Letters which are considered libelous or an attack on an individual's character will be rejected. Letters must be signed and include telephone number or address for verification.

Email rcn.news@yahoo.com
 Mail to P.O. Box 819, Rockwall, Texas 75087

Anybody want to pay more taxes?
 If there is a coterie of American citizens anywhere who find paying taxes exhilarating, they will be ecstatic to learn Bill Gates is obviously in agreement with them. Together they will be able to "give back to the world" by promoting "one of the only pieces of legislation ever introduced by Sen. Barack Obama ... while he was serving during his only term in the United States Senate."
 In November, as part of the G20 summit, Gates, representing his foundation, presented a report on a plan to eradicate world poverty: A financial transaction tax would provide the United Nations with... at least \$845 billion of taxpayer money in a massive redistribution of the wealth scheme "to help the poor of the world."
 Barack Obama's bill, the Global Poverty Act, died in Congress in 2008. Now Bill Gates has resurrected it.
 It is interesting to note "just after Bill Gates made his report to the G20 Summit calling for a financial transaction tax, Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Oregon) introduced legislation to put a tax on 'certain trading activities undertaken by banking and financial firms.'"
 Jacqueline Frank Strickland, Rockwall

Romney realize that U.S. forces are in their country?
 Here's the irony: The attacks on 9/11, as Ron Paul has explained many times, are comprehensible (though not justifiable) only as "blowback" from long years of violent U.S. intervention in the Arab world. Intervention creates enemies bent on vengeance, something the U.S. military leadership itself acknowledges.
 The upshot is that continued occupation of foreign lands can't make Americans safer. It simply invites further anti-American violence.
 Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation in Fairfax, Va., author of *Tethered Citizens: Time to Repeal the Welfare State*, and editor of *The Freeman* magazine. Visit his blog *Free Association* at www.sheldonrichman.com.

Is it right to steal property for oil pipeline?

Wesley W. Burnett
 Before we jump on the Canada to Houston oil pipeline bandwagon ... shouldn't we ask a fundamental question about the rights guaranteed by our Constitution, most notably, the right of property ownership?
 This pipeline across state lines was lobbied heavily by those who are to be the most financial benefit ... by using the power of government to force property owners to relinquish property against their will.
 This is one of the most dangerous examples of tyranny through "eminent domain" in modern history. The original intention of "eminent domain" was creation of highways, roads, bridges and government owned buildings and facilities. Privately owned facilities, no matter what the U.S. "supremes" are not in the original definitions for the use of "eminent domain."
 Those who support this cross country pipeline are simply disregarding danger to our rights that this unprecedented project threatens. This is a market issue, the private company should bargain with property owners and the best route and abide by each individual state's existing laws and

regulations.
 Congress has also disregarded its constitutional limits by (1) attempting to control a privately owned project; (2) ignoring the individual right of property ownership and (3) by delegating to the executive branch the approval or disapproval of the project.
 Supporters of the "Keystone Pipeline" also ignore the American principle so eloquently defined in the American Declaration of Independence: Government is created to secure the rights of individuals.
 How does this government grand theft program secure our property rights?
 Why Keystone Pipeline?
 "More jobs" they cry out ... "more oil" they shout.
 Do they think we are just plain stupid?
 Texans know there are untold millions of barrels of oil and uncounted caillions of natural gas reserves in Texas and the U.S. ... What we need is for government to get out of the way.

We know that in a free market, unfettered by government regulatory intrusion, we'd have more oil, more gas, more refineries and efficient distribution. Government restricts all the things we desperately need ... we'd be much better served if Congress abolished EPA and other regulatory agencies.
 Imagine this ... refineries built near the oil producers. According to recent news reports, there have been no new refineries constructed in the U.S. in the past 30 years or more. Why? Because state and federal regulations make it impossible.
 (See this link for details: http://www.slate.com/articles/business/moneybox/2004/06/the_great_refinery_shortage.html)
 We must stand against theft of property in the name of the bombastic justification: "more jobs, more oil." Using "eminent domain" to seize property by government force is a direct rejection of the great American principle guaranteeing security of our individual rights.

Rockwall County Classified Advertising

Legal Notices

City of Rockwall, Texas

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Airport Development Plan Request for Proposal

The City of Rockwall, Texas intends to engage an Aviation Professional Services Firm for services pursuant to Chapter 2254, Subchapter A, of the Government Code. The City of Rockwall will solicit and receive proposals for professional services as described below:

Scope: Prepare an Airport Development Plan which includes, and is not limited to information regarding existing and future conditions, proposed facility development to meet existing and future demand, constraints to develop, identify development alternatives, anticipated capital needs, financial considerations, management structure and options, local economic impact, as well as an updated Airport Layout Plan. The Airport Development Plan should be tailored to the individual needs of the Rockwall Municipal Airport.

All proposals should be sent to the City of Rockwall, 385 S. Goliad Street, Rockwall, Texas 75087 no later than Monday, February 27, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. Electronic facsimiles or forms sent by email will not be accepted. Please mark the envelope of the forms to the attention of Lea Ann Ewing, Purchasing Agent. The complete RFP packet is located on the City's website at www.rockwall.com.

If there are any procedural or technical questions please email Lea Ann Ewing, Purchasing Agent for the City of Rockwall at lewing@rockwall.com.

Any contact regarding this project with those associated with the City of Rockwall, Rockwall Economic Development Corporation, or Rockwall Municipal Airport, other than the individual listed above, prior to the submission of the RFP or during the evaluation period afterwards may result in disqualification for consideration.

Services and Repairs

Tree work/Handyman. 214-478-9269.

Help Wanted

Part-time/Full-time bookkeeping position at Rockwall bank. Banking experience helpful. Send resume to sue@LNBrockwall.com

Residential Lots for Sale

High Point Lake Estates-Lot9, RISD 1.5ac \$85K. 1-469-467-2219

Miscellaneous for Sale

Three fur coats for sale. Fox medium \$150, Minx large \$200, Imitation fur \$75. Call for details, 972-722-2605.

Fire Wood

Split Seasoned East Texas Oak. \$230 cord, \$135 rick. Stacked and delivered. 903-438-7478.

IK 501 Kicker Digital Stereo System. never been opened, \$250. 972-636-2837.

Frigidaire upright freezer, excellent condition, \$150. 972-771-6753.

New Wrangler 37X12.5R16.5 Military Tires 4 for \$900.00. Call (972) 635-7868

Belsaw 20" depth Floor Model Scroll Saw, \$800.00. Call (972) 635-7868

Joe Weider 3 station exerciser, \$200. 972-722-0664

Vehicles for Sale

2007 Dodge Caravan
Only 69k miles, 4 cyl., great fuel economy, USB radio, original owner, perfect condition, body looks good, see Craigslist. \$7,200, call 903-367-7172.

Restored Classic Cars
1962 F100, 1953 4 Door, 1952 Victoria. Call 214-356-8067.

Commercial Property

1-30 Royse City, TX shopping ctr 4 lease. Next to Family Dollar Store. Starting @ \$1500-\$2500/month: c-store, nails, donuts, medical, dental 960 SF-3360 SF avail. 214-253-9276, Robert (RE Broker)

Legal Notices

STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

382nd District Court OF ROCKWALL COUNTY, TEXAS
CAUSE NO: 1-11-614

TO: JAMES D. HIGINBOTHAM, DAWN TERESA HIGINBOTHAM, DIANE LYNN HIGINBOTHAM AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF RUBY A. HIGINBOTHAM, DECEASED ADDRESS UNKNOWN

You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two (42) days after you were served this, before the Honorable 382nd District Court of Rockwall County, Texas, at the Rockwall County Courthouse, 1111 E. Yellowjacket Lane, Suite 200, Rockwall, Texas, a default judgment may be taken against you.

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Original Petition, at or before ten o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days after the date of issuance of this Citation, on MONDAY, 13TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2012 BEFORE

10:00 AM before the Honorable 382nd District Court of Rockwall County, Texas at the Rockwall County Courthouse, 1111 E. Yellowjacket Lane of said County in Rockwall, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition, filed in said Court on JUNE 9, A.D., in this case numbered 614 on the docket of said court styled, **ESB MORTGAGE COMPANY vs. JAMES D. HIGINBOTHAM, DAWN TERESA HIGINBOTHAM, DIANE LYNN HIGINBOTHAM, DONNA WYLIE, DEBRA K. COLE, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT 1 OF RUBY A. HIGINBOTHAM RE: 101 POINT ROYAL DRIVE ROWLETT, TEXAS 75087.**

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: **FOR CLOSURE**

The officer executing this writ is directed to promptly serve the same according to the requirements of law, and the dates thereof, and make due return to the law directs.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT AT Office, this 28th day of December, 2011.

KAY MCDANIEL, District Clerk of Rockwall County, Texas
1111 E. Yellowjacket Lane, Suite 200

Rockwall, Texas 75087
By: **AMANDA WEBB**, Deputy District Clerk of Rockwall County, Texas
107 E. BOURN AVENUE, ROCKWALL, TEXAS 75087 (Newspaper)
Issued at the request of:
Thomas L. Brackett
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972-386-5040

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS:

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF

MINGSHENG LI, Deceased

CAUSE NO. PR10-103

COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF ROCKWALL COUNTY, TEXAS

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and for Letters of Independent Administration in this estate on December 27, 2011, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs of Mingsheng Li, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application may be heard and acted on by said Court at any call of the docket on or after 10:00 A.M. on the first Monday following the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the Rockwall County Courthouse, 1111 E. Yellowjacket Lane, Suite 403, in Rockwall, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written contest or answer to this application should they desire to do so. To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any objection, intervention or response in writing with the County Clerk of Rockwall County, Texas on or before the above noted date and time.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

ISSUED UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at the office of the Rockwall County Clerk in Rockwall, Texas, this December 28, 2011.

Shelli Miller, County Clerk

Rockwall County, Texas

By: Sina McClaine, Deputy



Rockwall County's Newspaper of Record

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Rockwall County Sports

Royse City Bulldogs lock down on Sulphur Springs for 59-36 win

After recovering from a difficult first half, the Royse City Bulldogs slowed down Sulphur Springs for a 59-36 win during last Friday's out of town varsity basketball game. The win pushed the team to a 5-1 record, while holding a first place position in 4A Region 2 District 13 basketball standings.

"I was real proud of our guys the second half, and our bench came in for us in the fourth quarter," said Head Coach Anthony Howerton.

Starting the second half with an 8-point lead at 22-14, the Bulldogs beefed up their defensive pressure forcing a total of 37 turn-overs, and established an offensive rhythm resulting in 36 additional points.

Springs' guards, while Matt Stone, David Frye and Cayce Dahmer got in the passing lanes real well to force turnovers."

Dahmer also lead the team with 25 total points scored, including three 3-point shots.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RCHS	7	15	6	31	59
SSHS	7	7	9	13 3	6

Individual

Hayes (3 points, 2 rebounds, 2 turn-overs, 7 steals); Webb (5 PTS, 5 REB, 2 TO, 2 STL); Stone (2 PTS, 6 REB, 1 TO, 3 STL); Wes Brookshire (2 PTS, 3 REB, 1 TO); Dahmer (25 PTS, 4 REB, 1 TO, 5 STL); Briceno (6 PTS, 1 REB, 2 TO, 2 STL); Frye (7 PTS, 6 REB, 4 TO, 3 STL); Aaron Disroe (2 PTS); CJ Wanton (1 PT, 1 STL); JR Arredondo (6 PTS, 2 REB).

Royse City Bulldogs Schedules

Friday, Jan. 27 - Boys' soccer: home vs. Paris North Lamar, JV 5:30 p.m. and varsity 7 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 30 - Boys' soccer: home vs. Forney, JV 5:30 p.m. and varsity 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 31 - Boys' basketball: home vs. Denison, freshman 5 p.m., JV 6:15 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.

Girls' basketball: at Denison, freshman 5 p.m., JV 6:15 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.

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

Thursday, Feb. 2 - JV tennis: at North Forney

Friday, Feb. 3 - Girls' basketball: home vs. Sherman, freshman 5 p.m., JV 6:15 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.

Boys' basketball: at Sherman, freshman 5 p.m., JV 6:15 p.m. and varsity 7:30 p.m.

Girls' soccer: home vs. Mabank, JV 5:30 p.m. and varsity 7:15 p.m.

Varsity tennis: at North Forney

Lady Bulldogs defeat Sulphur Springs 59-39 after quick-start 1st half

Without looking back, the Royse City Lady Bulldogs jumped out to a 29-14 halftime lead to ultimately defeat the visiting Sulphur Springs Lady Cats 59-39 last Friday night.

The Lady Bulldogs' attack was led by Senior guard with 22 points, 4 assists, and 4 steals. Also putting on a strong game performance were Junior guard Krystal Pickron with 19 points followed by fellow Junior guard Halesa McCarroll's 11 points.

"This was a big win for us. Sulphur Springs is a good basketball team and has played well all season. The girls are really starting to come together and play some good basketball," said Head Coach Dallas Bookout.

Shooting only 25% in the game, the Sulphur Springs team struggled to find their rhythm under Royse City's suffocating press.

Adding salt to the sore, the Lady Bulldogs hit 14 of 18 with precision shooting from the foul line. Bookout encouraged the team to continue this level of improvement as they make a push into the playoffs.

Also scoring in the game were Lady Bulldogs' Nina Gaines (4 PTS) and Sydnie Erbe (3 PTS).

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Royse City	15	14	20	10	59
Sulphur Springs	7	7	8	17	39

Bulldogs' strong defensive stand falls short of win against Texas High

The Royse City Bulldogs fell to Texas High 36-34 in a hard fought defensive game Tuesday night at Texarkana. With the loss, the Bulldogs' continue to hold first place in District 4A-13 with a 5-2 standing.

"I was proud of our defense; it was excellent; and Texas High played a good ballgame," said Coach Anthony Howerton.

The Bulldogs prevailed on defense with a game total of 2 blocks, 9 steals, and 7 deflections in contrast with Texas High's 1 BLK, 3 STLs, and 4 DFLs. Texas High showed a whopping 26 turn-overs to the Bulldogs' 9 TOs. Texas High won the rebound contest by a 30-26 small margin.

Both teams took turns with the lead with a 14-14 end of the first half.

First half scorers for the Bulldogs were CJ Wanton (2), Cayce Dahmer (4), Michael Webb (4), Tre Hayes (2), David Frye (2).

In the second half, the Bulldogs kept the game alive with two big 3-point shots by Jamie Brecino and Frye. With about a minute to go in the game Briceno gave the Bulldogs a 34-33 lead with a 2-point field goal. But Royse City fouls allowed Texas High three more free points for the 36-34 last minute win.

Second half scorers were Dahmer (4), Briceno (9, including 3-point), Frye (5, including 3-point), Matt Stone (2). The difference in the game rested in the shots. Even with a strong Bulldogs' defense, Texas High shot 11 for 26 in field goals which included four 3-point shots. Royse City struggled with 13 for 49 field goals with two 3-point makes. Both teams were fairly even in free throws with 60% for the Bulldogs and 67% for Texas High.

"We have too many scorers to only finish with 34 points. They are a good shooting team and will bounce back." Continued Howerton.

Due to a Friday open schedule, the Bulldogs' will travel meet Denison at home next Tuesday.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Royse City	8	6	9	11	34
Texas High	11	3	14	8	36

Hawks take another close, tough loss

1-2-3 is supposed to be so easy, like taking candy from a baby. But for this season's Rockwall-Heath boys' basketball team, that progression has been anything but easy.

1 was a one-point loss at home to Wylie, with the Pirates scoring the winning basket with 3 seconds left.

2 was a two-point defeat at Highland Park against District 10-4A's undefeated first-place team, ranked 12th among Texas' 4A teams. The Hawks had shots to win or tie that game during the closing seconds.

3 came Tuesday night at home against McKinney North, the district's third-place team. The game was tied after three quarters, but the Bulldogs eked out a 43-40 victory.

RHHS had taken a 9-8 lead after the first quarter, but North came back to take a one-point lead, 22-21, at halftime. After a defensive-minded third quarter, the Hawks had pulled even again at 26-26.

Cameron Martin (17 points) and Christian Nwabuko (15) combined for all but eight of RHHS' points.

The Hawks (8-17 overall, 1-7 in the district) also led after one quarter Friday, Jan. 20, against 10-4A's second-place team, high-flying, high-scoring McKinney.

However, from a 15-13 deficit, the Lions roared to a 27-12 second-quarter advantage and a 40-27 halftime lead. The final score was 83-63.

RHHS head coach Brad Waters had gone into the game knowing he had to try to beat McKinney's press and to slow down the backcourt of A.J. Moutry and Jonathan Shannon. The Hawks did a reasonably good job holding Shannon to 14 points, but Moutry hurt them with 35.

Nwabuko was RHHS' high scorer with 21 points. Martin had 11, and six other Hawks contributed to their total.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
McKinney	13	27	25	18	83
RHHS	15	12	20	16	63

McKinney (15-8, 6-1) - A.J. Moutry 35, Jonathan Shannon 14, Nate Higgins 7, Raynell Denny 6, Connor Fuentes 6, Tracy Miles 6, Darrin Donaldson 5, Tanner Holland 4.

RHHS (8-16, 1-6) - Christian Nwabuko 21, Cameron Martin 11, Jordan Points 9, Jared Webber 7, Matt Greene 5, Tyler McKay 2, Brett Schuster 2, Luke Ramirez 1.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
McKinney North	8	14	4	17	43
RHHS	9	12	5	14	40

McKinney North (19-8, 6-2) - Julian Pearre 12, Bryson Brown 8, Collin Curran 8, Alexander Ridley 7, Jola Otubu 5, Alex Pelton 3.

RHHS (8-17, 1-7) - Cameron Martin 17, Christian Nwabuko 15, Matt Greene 6, Jared Webber 2.

Rockwall High School swimmers top Hawks at RISD Aquatic Center

On the strength of its girls' performance, the combined Rockwall swimming team defeated Rockwall-Heath in a triangular meet Tuesday, Jan. 17, at the RISD Aquatic Center.

Neither RHS' girls nor boys were able to defeat Highland Park in the head-to-head competition.

Freshman Raena Eldridge set another RHS record with a 53.90-second clocking in the 100-yard freestyle while swimming the leadoff leg in the 400 free relay. She also won the 50 free in 24.44 and 100 butterfly in 58.97.

The other first-place finisher for the Lady Jackets, who defeated RHHS 63-30 and lost 49-40 to Highland Park, was Rebecca Voth in the 200 individual medley with a time of 2 minutes, 25.39 seconds. Voth placed third in the 100 backstroke in 1:07.76.



Rockwall Christian Academy Lady Warriors' Ashlee Poland (3) drives up for a basket against Heritage Christian Lady Eagles' Madeline Schroeffer (5) and Whitney Willis (24) during last Friday's game in Rockwall.

Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

The Yellowjackets' boys lost a close decision to the Hawks 45-43, and fell to HP 60-28. RHS' Justin Tokuz won the boys' 200 IM in 2:07.62. Tokuz also finished second in the 100 fly (57.02).

Other second-place finishers for the Rockwall boys were Evan Scown in the 100 breaststroke (1:06.51) and Collin Vu in the 500 free (5:10.41). For the Lady Jackets, Morgan Barnes placed second in both the 50 free (26.25) and 100 free (57.15), and Jordan Hummingbird was second in the 100 fly (1:09.25).

In third place for the RHS girls was Megan Conner in the 100 free (1:02.56) and 500 free (6:06.76).

Rockwall's combined score against RHHS was 106-75. The Jackets lost 119-68 to the Scots' combined teams.

Rockwall Christian Academy Lady Warriors score 1st district win

Rockwall Christian Academy has had to play girls' basketball shorthanded at times this season, but the Lady Warriors had just enough for their first TAPPS District 4-2A victory Tuesday.

After having no more than five players, and at times four, available for its game against Heritage Christian Academy Friday, Jan. 20, RCA came back four nights later to win 28-27 in overtime at Longview Trinity School of Texas.

Ashlee Poland scored 16 points to lead the Lady Warriors (2-10 overall, 1-3 in the district) in that game. Her total was more than the team had scored in its 48-11 loss to HCA at the Rockwall Indoor Sports Expo.

That night, the Lady Warriors persuaded a former player whose name still was on the roster of eligible players to suit up to prevent having to forfeit because the team wouldn't have had five players to start the game. She couldn't continue playing for much of the second half, so RCA played four against first-place Heritage Christian's five.

Rockwall Christian also played a game with five starters and no bench players at the Boles Tournament in December.



Bulldogs' Cayse Dahmer (20) slips under the basket for a shot against Mt. Pleasant on Tuesday, January 17 in Royse City. Photo by Pat Corl/Rockwall County News

Royse City ladies' stop Texas High 57-46

The Lady Bulldogs of Royse City had a fight on their hands Tuesday night, but turned back a hard charging Texas team 57-46.

Royse City lost the rebounding battle but won the battle behind their lead scoring Senior Krystal Pickron pounding points, and Senior Tayler Young's 21 points with 13 for 14 from the free throw line, and 8 steals. Krystal and Tayler were huge for us tonight. They are our leading scorers for the season, but tonight they really led us offensively," said Coach Dallas Bookout.

Nina Gaines added more spice to the Lady Bulldogs' game with 12 big points, including 3 for 4 from three point range.

The Lady Bulldogs shot a blistering 21 for 29 from the free throw line on the night to take advantage of a very defensive Texas High team.

The game rocked back and forth during the entire first half with Texas High holding a 21-19 lead at halftime. In the deciding 3rd quarter was all Royse City, outscoring the visiting Lady Tigers 22-9 in the 8 minute stretch.

This was a huge win for us, clinching a playoff spot and putting us in a solid 2nd place spot in the district, sized Bookout.

We still have work to do and that starts with a trip to Denison on Tuesday. These girls are hungry and they are going better and better. Hopefully we are peaking at the right time," continued the excited Coach Bookout.

Royse City will be off this week due to the bye's built into their district 13-4A schedule. The Ladies will travel to Denison on Tuesday night to face a Lady Yellowjacket team desperately trying to stay in the playoff race.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Royse City	8	11	22	16	57
Texas High	6	15	9	16	46

Two district meets this weekend at Rockwall ISD Aquatic Center

A busy championship season at Rockwall ISD Aquatic Center continues this weekend with high school swimming championships of one, but two districts.

The weekend is beginning at 11 p.m. Friday with the District 10-4A swimming championships. That district includes Rockwall and Rockwall-H, along with Mesquite Potect, Mesquite and Richardson.

On Saturday, swimming events begin at 9 a.m. for both District 11-A and District 11-5A, which include Mesquite, Mesquite, North Mesquite, DeSoto, and Tyler Lee.

The championship season at the Aquatic Center began last weekend with the Linda Price-Appelwick Memorial Swim Meet. That meet honored the memory of the late Linda Price-Appelwick, a coach with the Rockwall Aquatics Center of Excellence team. She lost a battle with pancreatic cancer last September.

RACE sponsored the B/C Short Course event that drew more than 100 swimmers from Rockwall as well as others from clubs throughout North Texas.

Age-group swimmers are scheduled to return Feb. 3-5 for the

Rockwall County Sports Notes

RBA spring registration slated
Spring registration for the Rockwall Baseball Association will run through Feb. 1. The spring baseball season begins the week of March 5. To register, visit rockwallbaseballassociation.com or call 972-772-6324 for more info.

St. Patrick's Day Jog slated
Dwight Elementary will host its first St. Patrick's Day Jog 5K Run & Walk on March 3. Races start at 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. Cost is \$5 for individuals ages 13 and older, \$5 for ages 12 and under. Registration deadline is Feb. 20. To sign up, visit djones.txpta.org.

Adult softball registration set
The TAAF/USSSA slow-pitch adult softball league will feature divisions based by level of ability. Divisions will include co-ed recreational on Wednesdays. The season will include eight games, with the top four teams will have a final night of playoffs to determine division winners. This season also will feature a pick-up team category for individual registrations. Games will be played at the Leon Tuttle Athletic Complex. Registration deadline is Feb. 21; play begins the week of Feb. 27. The fee is \$349; individual pick-up team fee is \$35 per person. For more info visit rockwall.com/parks.

RGSA registration under way
Spring registration for the Rockwall Girls Softball Association is now under way and will run through Feb. 26. The spring season will run March 1-May 31. To register, visit rockwallgirlssoftball.com or call 972-841-2939 for more details.

Angel League season set
The spring 2012 Angel League season will begin March 21, with games set for 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday for nine weeks. Registration and additional information can be found at angelleague.org or by calling 972-722-6001.

Little Kickers Soccer scheduled
Little Kickers soccer for children ages 3.5 to 6 years of age will run from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Mondays April 16-May 21 at the Harry Myers Park field. Participants will learn soccer skills in a fun interactive team environment. Registration fee is \$45 or \$29 for Rockwall residents. For more details visit rockwall.com/parks.

Photo by Pat Corl/Rockwall County News

Rockwall County Sports

Smith helps Lady Jackets hold off Wylie in 48-42 overtime win

by Lary Bump

Kayla Smith had a message for her Rockwall teammates when their game against Wylie, as usual, was entering overtime Friday, Jan. 20.

"It's 4 minutes on our home court. We win this game," she told them. The Lady Jackets dominated play for the first 3 of those minutes, but all they had to show for the effort was a free throw and a driving layup from Alyssa Lang, and four missed foul shots.

Thus, their lead was a shaky three points at 42-39 when Smith stepped to the foul line with 1 minute, 2 seconds remaining. RHS had a similar three-point lead 28 seconds before regulation ended, but Wylie's Sydnie Whitworth leaned into Smith while taking a wild 3-point attempt to draw a foul.

Whitworth made all three of those free throws, so the Lady Jackets were well aware that one trip down the court could have tied not only the game but also the District 10-4A race. A victory for the Lady Pirates would have been their second overtime win this season over Rockwall, giving Wylie a tiebreaker.

As it turned out, that didn't matter. Smith swished one foul shot and had a soft enough touch on the other that it bounced on the rim and fell in. Twenty-six seconds later, she made two more free throws, helping RHS to a 48-42 victory.

Each of the last four games between the teams has gone into overtime, with the Lady Jackets winning three. The most recent was the largest margin of victory, but every bit as tight as the others.

"Kayla again came through at the end with free throws," said RHS head coach Jill McDill. "She's done that in several games this year."

Before Smith and Lang, Rockwall's senior captains, came through with six consecutive points at the foul line, the Lady Jackets had been just 7-for-15 on free throws.

McDill said, "Kayla showed great leadership, her and Alyssa. And Alyssa

always comes up with big rebounds."

Lang scored 21 points and unofficially pulled down 15 rebounds and blocked three shots. Smith added 12 points.

Freshman Sara Williamson scored just two points, but played a huge role in the third quarter — with three assists, three rebounds and two steals as the Lady Jackets went from a 19-17 halftime deficit to a 31-25 lead entering the fourth quarter. That six-point lead corresponded to the 3-point shots Smith made to end both the second and third quarters.

At home again Tuesday, RHS had an easier time against another tough opponent, McKinney.

Rockwall's defense, which had held Wylie to 27 per cent shooting, had a big first half against the Lionettes, leading the team to a 21-12 lead. The Lady Jackets stretched their lead only slightly in the second half to win 46-36.

Smith was the game's high scorer against McKinney (21-9 overall, 6-4 in the district), and Williamson scored 10. "A year ago, Sara was an eighth-grader at Williams," McDill pointed out as if the statement almost didn't compute.

Rockwall (25-6, 9-1) has a two-game lead with four games to play, but still hasn't clinched a playoff berth. McKinney North is in second place with a 7-3 district record, with three teams — McKinney, Wylie and Highland — tied for third just three games behind RHS.

Jackets 'OK' after hard-fought loss at

by Lary Bump

After a rocky first quarter, Rockwall played McKinney just about even in a boys' basketball game on the road Tuesday night.

The Lions scored the game's first seven points, and led by as many as 11 points (19-8) in the first quarter.

District 10-4A's second-place team had to work hard to hold off the Yellowjackets, who twice took the lead during the third quarter. Even after McKinney scored eight points in the fourth quarter's first minute and went back ahead by 10, RHS clawed back within 67-64 with 4 1/2 minutes to play.

In the final two minutes, Rockwall had to foul to try to stay in the game. The Lions made seven free throws and scored twice off steals with their pressing defense to extend a 74-68 lead to an 85-72 final margin.

"That wasn't a double-digit game," said RHS head coach Alan Simmons. "If we can get that kind of effort Friday and the rest of the season, we'll be OK."

Despite the loss, the Jackets (16-9 overall, 3-5 in the district) remained in a tie for its fourth and final playoff berth. Richardson Pearce lost Tuesday to Wylie East, putting all three of those teams in the tie.

Against McKinney, Rockwall reached a tie midway through the third quarter when Jared Ragland's 3-point shot made the score 42-42. The Jackets went ahead 45-44 on Elijah Thomas' three-point play, and Clay Marley extended the lead to three points on a put-back. RHS' final lead came at 49-48 when Austin Grandstaff tipped in his own missed shot.

Thomas dominated the game inside with 22 points, 12 rebounds and three blocked shots.

However, the Lions' quick backcourt dictated the pace of the game and eventually wore down the Jackets.

Simmons said, "They've gotten better since the last time we played them, but we got better too. The way they play defensively forced us to do some things we don't normally do, like turnovers when we were throwing the ball inbounds."

"At halftime it was 19-5 in turnovers, but we were only down three." Simmons also said, "They shoot the ball well."

Rockwall's defense held McKinney to 44 per cent shooting (14-for-33) in the first half, but the Lions improved to 56 per cent (19-for-34) after that. Avery Knutson and Andrew Hinckley combined to hold guard A.J. Moutry below his season average with 22 points, but guard Jonathan Shannon scored 16 fourth-quarter points to finish with 26.

Helping Thomas on the offensive end were Grandstaff with 13 points, Knutson with 12 and Marley with 11.

RHS had finished the first half of the district season with a 77-51 victory at Wylie Friday, Jan. 20. The Jackets outscored the Pirates 19-9 in the first quarter and 48-23 in the first half.

The Lady Jackets, ranked 14th in the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches 4A state poll, have won seven consecutive games, all in the district games. During that span they've outscored opponents by an average net of 54-33.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT
Wylie	10	9	6	14	3
RHS	7	10	14	8	9

Wylie (14-7) — Sydnie Whitworth 13, Colby Davis 8, Kennedy Foreman 8, Makaila Jordan 8, Shae Stewart 5.

RHS (24-6, 8-1) — Alyssa Lang 21, Kayla Smith 12, Morghen Day 7, Turner 6, Sara Williamson 2.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
McKinney	4	8	9	15	36
RHS	8	13	8	17	46

McKinney (21-9, 6-4) — Mariah Mitchell 10, Breana Smalls 10, P. Brenham 6, Nicole Quincy 3, Mika Stutts 3, Brianna Blackburn 2, Jaz Nelson 2.

RHS (25-6, 9-1) — Kayla Smith 18, Sara Williamson 10, Alyssa Lang 10, Ellen Baker 4, Morghen Day 3, Paige Turner 3.

Dunk, defense help Falcons stay unbeaten

Bottom line: The Fulton School boys' basketball team remained undefeated in TAPPS District 2-1A with two victories last week.

The Falcons began the second half of their district schedule by ripping Denton The Selwyn School 55-15 Friday, Jan. 20, and McKinney Cornerstone Christian Academy 62-26 Tuesday.

However, there was something remarkable about both Fulton's sixth and seventh consecutive wins.

During the first minute of the Selwyn game at the Forney Sports Center, 6-foot-5 Jaston Reese delighted the home crowd with the first in-game dunk in Fulton's history.

The road game against Cornerstone at McKinney's Ridge Road YMCA didn't start as well for the Falcons, but it certainly finished well.

Cornerstone scored the game's first five points and still was in the game at halftime, trailing just 20-18.

"It was anybody's game in the first half. Our offense struggled a little bit," said Fulton head coach Josh Johnson.

"I never once thought we'd lose the game. We came out in that second half, and went on a 36-2 run.

"We got after it. We looked better than we looked all season in that second half. I could see one extreme to the other."

The Falcons ran their fast break well in the second half, but according to Johnson the biggest difference was on defense. Terrence Kennel keyed the defensive surge while playing him man-to-man, in a triangle-and-two defense and as the point man in a 1-3-1 zone.

"T.K. was kind of sick, so he was in and out of the game in the first half. In the second half, he came in and shut down Matt Dugan, one of the best athletes in our district," Johnson said.

The victories improved Fulton's record to 12-8 overall and 10-0 in the district.

Johnson said, "16-0 is our goal, but we have seven games left, and only one at home. It's not going to be easy."

The Falcons were scheduled to play at Waxahachie Prep Thursday, against Irving StoneGate Friday at Forney Sports Center and at defending champion Dallas Tyler Street Christian Academy Tuesday.

Heritage Christian Eagles make turn in 2nd place against RCA

The only blemish on Heritage Christian Academy's record at the halfway point of the TAPPS District 4-2A boys' basketball season is a home loss Friday, Jan. 20, to Rockwall Christian Academy.

As blemishes go, it's a major zit. HCA fell behind 18-1 after the first quarter and lost 60-33 to the first-place Warriors (12-9 overall, 4-0 in the district). RCA held the Eagles to 30 per cent field goal shooting and helped cause 25 turnovers. HCA made just 7 of 30 free throws (23 per cent).

Garrett Blankenship led HCA with 11 points and three assists. Nathan Mateer contributed 10 points, and Preston Smalley had a team-high seven rebounds.

Where 33 points were far from enough against RCA, that total was just enough to win Tuesday at Christian Heritage School of Longview.

The Eagles raced to a 14-2 lead after the first quarter, but Christian Heritage chipped away at the lead and trailed just 31-28 after three quarters. Neither team produced much offense in the fourth quarter, and Heritage Christian (7-8 and 3-1, good for second place behind RCA) survived with a 33-31 victory.

Again, foul shooting was a problem. HCA missed all seven attempts. Smalley paced the Eagles with eight points and seven rebounds. Mateer had a team-high four assists, and Erik Tamez produced three steals.

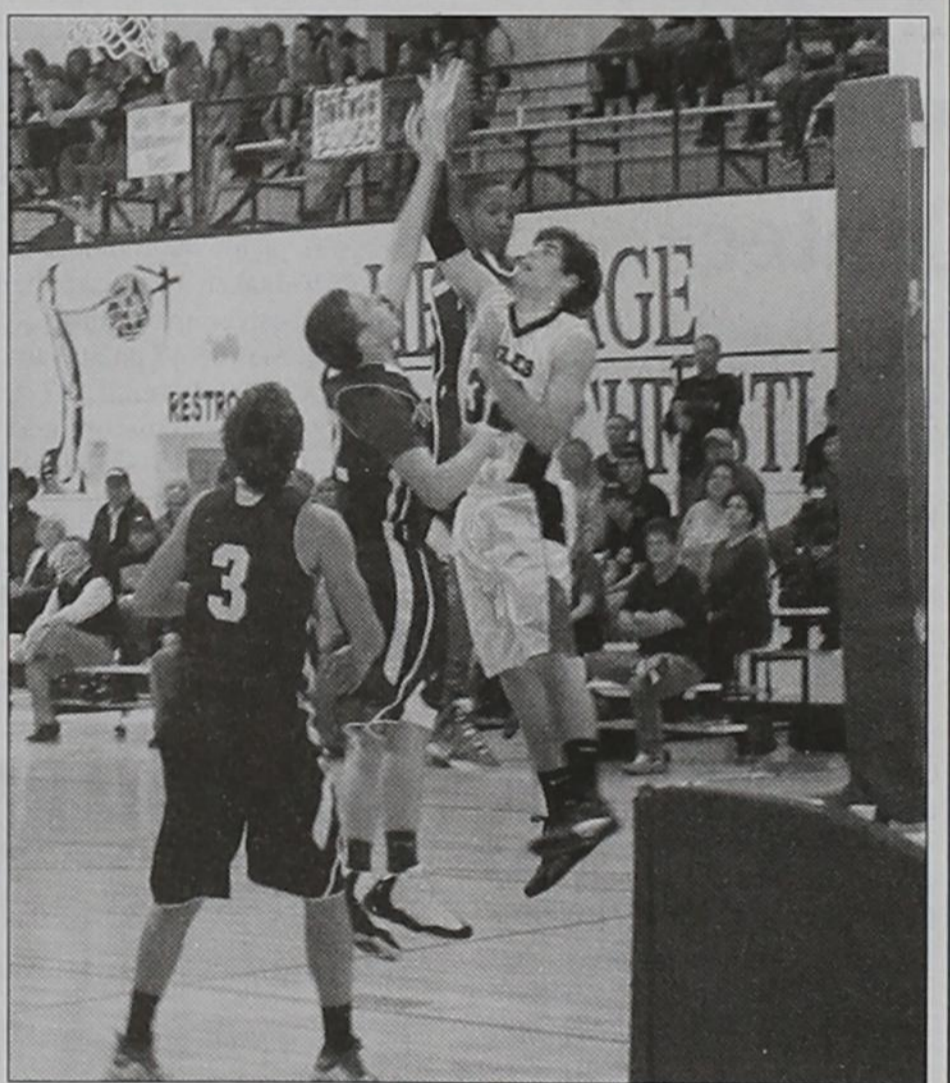
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RCA	18	15	17	10	60
Heritage	1	8	14	10	33

RCA (11-9, 3-0) — Chris Stephens 20, Daniel Rorie 16, Colton Jones 6, Brett Brinner 4, Taylor Corbin 4, Cameron Carroccia 3, Jameson Lee 3, John Stanley 2, Tony Warren 2.

Heritage (6-8, 2-1) — Garrett Blankenship 11, Nathan Mateer 10, Erik Tamez 6, Caleb Cathey 4, Preston Smalley 2.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Heritage	14	7	10	2	33
Christian Heritage	2	11	15	3	31

Heritage (7-8, 3-1) — Preston Smalley 8, Garrett Blankenship 7, Erik Tamez 6, Nathan Mateer 4, Joshua Edge 4, Zach Clarke 2, Chris Webb 2. Christian Heritage School of Longview — N/A.



Heritage Christian Academy Eagles' Preston Smalley takes a shot against a strong Rockwall Christian Academy defense during last Friday's game in Rockwall.

Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

Rockwall County Sports Schedule

(Continued from Page 7)

Gymnastics: vs. Williams, Rockwall High School, Levels 4/5/6, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2 — 8th grade girls' basketball: home vs. Wylie McMillan, C 5:30 p.m., B 6:30 p.m. and A 7:30 p.m.

8th grade boys' basketball: at Wylie McMillan, C 5:30 p.m., B 6:30 p.m. and A 7:30 p.m.

Williams Middle School Wildcats

Friday, Jan. 27 — 8th grade B girls' basketball: home vs. Wylie McMillan at B Team Tournament, Main Gym, 5:30 p.m.

7th grade B boys' basketball: vs. Wylie McMillan at B Team Tournament, Allen Erickson, Gym 2, 6:30 p.m.

7th grade B girls' basketball: vs. Wylie Cooper at B Team Tournament, Lovejoy Sloan Creek, Main Gym, 6:30 p.m.

8th grade B boys' basketball: vs. Wylie McMillan at B Team Tournament, Wylie Cooper, Gym 1, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 28 — 8th grade B girls' basketball: home for B Team Tournament, 9 a.m.

7th grade B boys' basketball: at B Team Tournament, Allen Erickson, 9 a.m.

7th grade B girls' basketball: at B Team Tournament, Lovejoy Sloan Creek, 9 a.m.

8th grade B boys' basketball: at B Team Tournament, Wylie Cooper, 9 a.m.

Monday, Jan. 30 — 7th grade boys' basketball: home vs. Allen Curtis, C 5:30 p.m., B 6:30 p.m. and A 7:30 p.m.

7th grade girls' basketball: at Allen Curtis, C 5:30 p.m., B 6:30 p.m. and A 7:30 p.m.

Gymnastics: vs. Utey, Rockwall High School, Levels 4/5/6, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 2 — 8th grade girls' basketball: home vs. Allen Curtis, C 5:30 p.m., B 6:30 p.m. and A 7:30 p.m.

8th grade boys' basketball: at Allen Curtis, C 5:30 p.m., B 6:30 p.m. and A 7:30 p.m.

Rockwall-Heath Lady Hawks face hard losses to McKinney teams

Rockwall-Heath stayed with the McKinney girls' basketball team for the first quarter Friday, Jan. 20.

After the game's first 8 minutes, RHHS trailed just 12-7. Then the Lionettes scored 22 points for a 34-14 lead, and kept scoring in the 20s for each quarter in the second half for a 77-35 victory.

At McKinney North Tuesday, there was no staying with the Lady Bulldogs. District 10-4A's second-place team broke out to a 19-3 first-quarter lead and went on to rip the Lady Hawks 69-20.

The silver linings in a lost week for RHHS (7-16 overall, 2-7 in the district) were Jordan Mitchell's 11 points against McKinney (20-9, 6-3) and Alexis Fisher's 10 against North.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
McKinney	12	22	20	23	77
RHHS	7	7	13	8	35

McKinney (20-9, 6-3) — Breana Smalls 25, Brianna Blackburn 12, Mariah Mitchell 12, Payton Brenham 11, Jazmin Nelson 5, Jessica Porter 4, Krissy Fontillas 3, Mika Stutts 3, Leslie Zupanic 2.

RHHS (7-16, 2-7) — Jordan Mitchell 11, April Brown 8, Rylee Maldonado 5, Alexis Fisher 4, Jillian Granstaff 3, Brooke Garner 2, Katie Webster 2.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RHHS	3	7	4	6	20
McKinney North	19	16	20	14	69

RHHS (7-16, 2-8) — Alexis Fisher 10, Brittany Helms 4, Jordan Mitchell 2, Katie Webster 2, Brooke Garner 1, Kenzie Mammeli 1.

McKinney North (17-10, 7-3) — Danielle Coleman 15, Alexis Mason 15, Mikaehia Connor 11, Amy Kleynhans 10, Chanterria Jackson 6, Viona Vraniqi 6, KorKor Ollennu 4, Kayla Shadden 2.

Grandstaff and Thomas each scored 14 points, and Wes Davis added

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
RHS	19	29	12	17
Wylie	9	14	16	12

RHS (16-8, 3-4) — Austin Grandstaff 14, Elijah Thomas 14, Wes Davis 8, Jared Ragland 9, Josh Campbell 8, Weston Richey 6, Clay Marley 5, P. Giador 4, Zach Rhodes 4, Avery Knutson 2, Kerry Anderson 1.

Wylie (10-14, 1-6) — Freddy Gibbs 14, Chad Hamilton 11, Conner 7, An Nguyen 5, David Strickland 4, Trevor Harper 3, Ivan Holmes 3, Jaynes 2, Kameron Kelly 2.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
RHS	12	21	17	22
McKinney	19	17	18	31

RHS (16-9, 3-5) — Elijah Thomas 22, Austin Grandstaff 13, Avery Knutson 12, Clay Marley 11, Wes Davis 6, Jared Ragland 5, Zach Rhodes 3.

McKinney (16-8, 7-1) — Jonathan Shannon 26, A.J. Moutry 22, Higgins 11, Tanner Holland 11, Raynell Denny 6, Connor Fuentes 5, Donaldson 2.

Warriors unbeaten through 1st half of district play

Rockwall Christian Academy completed an all-too-easy first half of TAPPS District 4-2A boys' basketball season with two victories last week.

With freshman Chris Stephens totaling 53 points by himself, RCA won 33 over Heritage Christian Academy Friday, Jan. 20, and 80-44 at Longview Trinity School of Texas Tuesday.

The Warriors (12-9 overall, 4-0 in the district) arrived at those places in different directions.

They had an 18-1 lead after one quarter over HCA at the Rockwall Sports Expo, but four nights later RCA trailed Trinity 20-19 after 8 minutes.

That lead didn't last long. The Warriors outscored their hosts 61-24 in the final three quarters. Stephens finished with 33 points, and Daniel I scored 23 for Rockwall Christian.

Stephens and Rorie also had big games against Heritage Christian. Stephens scored 20 points and tied Brett Brinner for the team lead with three steals.

Rorie combined 16 points with 10 rebounds. Head coach Ryan Hancock noted that Rorie has become more aggressive driving to the basket.

Taylor Corbin had three assists to lead RCA.

On defense, the Warriors held HCA to 30 per cent field goal shooting second-place Eagles (7-8, 3-1) trailed at halftime 33-9. Over the first half of the district schedule, RCA outscored its opponent an average of 72-37. The Warriors will resume district play Tuesday at Heritage Christian School of Longview, a 68-31 victim the first around.

Before that, Rockwall Christian will play Dallas Thunder the last Tuesday night, but they'll have to defeat the Warriors, Friday at First Baptist Church of Terrell.

For the RCA-Heritage box score, see the Eagles' game story.

Lady Hawks defeat HP, take 3rd at Richardson

The Rockwall-Heath girls' gymnastics team won a dual meet at home at Highland Park by a narrow margin, and placed third a week later despite a better score in a four-way meet.

Against HP Jan. 12, sophomore Carolyn Sherwin finished second around and freshman Morgan Hines was third to help the Lady Hawks 111.80-111.25 victory.

Sherwin's margin over her teammate also was narrow. She totaled 38 to 38.00 for Hines. Sherwin won the floor exercise at 9.5, placed second on the uneven bars with 9.7 and was third in both the vault (9.3) and balance beam (9.6).

Hines finished first in the vault (9.45) and was third in the bars (9.6), but second on the beam (9.35).

Another RHHS freshman, Audrey Grammer, was sixth all-around. She was a consistent fourth in the vault (9.4), fifth on the floor (8.7) and sixth on both the beam (9.3) and bars (8.5).

Still another freshman, Allison Leuer, was seventh all-around and on bars, and placed eighth on the floor and balance beam.

On Wednesday, Jan. 19, the Lady Hawks placed third at Richardson. The score of 113.0 was less than a point behind that competition's leading team.

RHHS Hawks take 5th in state dual wrestling

Rockwall-Heath won four of five wrestling matches to place fifth among 16 qualifying teams in the Dual State Championships at Cedar Park Valley Ridge High School Jan. 13 and 14.

The Hawks lost only to Lake Highlands in their final match of pool play. That put RHHS into the Silver Bracket, which it won by defeating Klein (41-23 and Frisco 48-18).

All of Rockwall-Heath's victories were relatively easy. The Hawks won over El Paso Chapin 57-21 and San Antonio Johnson 60-12 in their pool play. The loss to Lake Highlands, which finished fourth in the state, wasn't close.

RHHS had success up and down its lineup. The most successful Hawk was freshman Jonathon Brawner at 132 pounds, who won over Glstad at 160 and Troy Mercer at 195.

They weren't the only RHHS wrestlers who performed well. Winning 5 of five were Grant Rose (106), B.K. Sanford (113), Jacob Black (126), Ty Gaddis (138) and Jay Arnold (heavyweight). Peter Scheele (170) and Garret Birleson (220) both were 3-1.

"Definitely, the kids wrestled well," said Hawks head coach Steve Seleznoff.

"It has been a pretty good year. We have 10 seniors who all kind of started wrestling together and have come up together."

Lake Highlands again stood in the Hawks' way at last weekend's Dal Jesuit Ranger Classic. RHHS finished a close third with 159 points to Lake Highlands' first-place total of 178.5.

Rockwall-Heath had just 10 wrestlers, but six of them finished among the top three in their weight class.

Runners-up were Black at 126, Brawner (132), Glstad (160) and Mercer (195). Placing third were Sanford (113) and Arnold (285).

Just Say You Saw It In the "County News"

Royse City News

Outgoing ISD superintendent reflects on education career, future

Timothy Downs
 In the final moments of an eminent retirement, Royse City Independent School District superintendent Randy Hancock savors the end of an exciting career and looks forward to future opportunities. At the Dec. 12 school board meeting, quoting, "It is a tremendous mixed emotion that I submit this notification of my resignation and retirement... What an honor it has been doing something I truly love."



Randy Hancock,

Hancock instills a sense of extreme dedication for what he truly loves – educating and enabling children with passion, perseverance and pride. He seized the opportunity to rebuild a district in turmoil, understanding challenges facing the district began with morale – having a good feeling about coming to work and trust – trust in the school district, trust in the school board, and trust in the superintendent's office.

Reflecting on goals and accomplishments during the tenure, he said he considers staff morale as good or excellent.

"The job that every employee in this school district does is tough and challenging, but people do it and they do it well," he said. "Staff and district were put in situations they had not created or caused; the results impacted trust and respect of the community ... and rightfully so."

The task has not been easy and has taken time, but Hancock said he is pleased with where the district stands in the community.

Wounded several times, it was not easy getting people on-board to trust again. However, with renewed interest and emphasis on children: putting them first, meeting their needs with honor, integrity and trust and treating parents with respect, the district is working hard to ensure that which was lost.

Hancock said children are the parents' most valuable resource and the district owes it to them to take care of their education. This has always been very important to Hancock and is important to the district.

Hancock said he has enjoyed a unique relationship with the board. During changes, the board backed Hancock with support in disagreements they worked extremely well together as a team of eight.

"They have always been willing to listen to new ideas, gather information and make good sound decisions ... again in the best interest of the kids at heart," he said. "That is what impressed me most about them; there are not any hidden agendas ... they really want to do what is best for our kids."

Hancock said he always had a desire for an education foundation. At Royse City, he believed staff was in place to take care of the community and was willing to support it.

"Amazing the job staff has done with this foundation. The entire board of directors and key people in the community stepped up saying they were going to make a difference for kids, and they have," he said.

The Education Foundation has proved to be unprecedented considering the difficulty with state education finances and the continued reduction in funding. Understanding the need to secure funds outside of government, three years ago, the district positioned itself well.

"It is a stressful time in our business, but it has always been stressful. It is the nature of the business as is all jobs, I am sure," he said. "The environment with the legislature and the economy makes it tough, but you buckle up and do it."

Hancock said he measured financial success by the protection of jobs. The district's goal never was to take away jobs; however, some people were moved around and some jobs were eliminated when the position came open, thus not being a job for them anymore."

"It is hard to fire someone when they deserve it. It is really hard to take away someone when they do not deserve it." Hancock said. "Ultimately, there has been no need to do that. Hancock and the district's goal was to work hard to continue in this and saddle the new superintendent with that task."

"Whether, we have a fiscal plan in place that has positioned this district to best meet the continued financial challenges districts face across the state," he said.

"After 34 years in education, Hancock looks back on a career beginning as an agriculture teacher in Lancaster during his time attending college at East Texas State University, currently Texas A & M Commerce, while serving the last 10 years as a superintendent."

"In the prospect, he believes his career is much more than a person could have imagined or wished and there is nothing more than walking away from a long career."

"Looking forward to a break, while keeping his options open, he will stay connected to education as a consultant two days per week."

"I have not made a decision on any of that yet. I am still young at 55 and do not intend on playing golf, fishing and traveling all the time. Even though I would like to do that, I know I would tire of those things very quickly. After getting a good feeling refreshed, I will make a decision, if the right opportunity opened, but I am certainly not prepared to make that decision yet," he said.

"Now, he will remain until the end of the June, offering his support during the transition."

Hancock said he is pleased at the early interest regarding the filling of his position and expect many qualified candidates to be interviewed, numerous calls, emails and questions. The district has received more than 15 applications.

"There are always a lot of questions when the process starts," said Hancock. "People want to know if there is a shoe-in for the position. There is not -- the position is absolutely wide open."

"We are looking for the best fit, and we believe that is the best candidate for the Royse City Independent School District."

"The deadline for applications is Feb. 27. We are having candidates plenty of time to submit the position."

Hancock said he will help the board by organizing information, resumes, letters of interest, applications and applications, making sure all criteria and qualifications are met to yield viable candidates who are good matches for the district."

"It is not my job to select the next superintendent. That is the job of the school board," he said.

The Board of Trustees will determine how many will be interviewed, tentatively scheduled for Feb. 20-24, with follow-ups Feb. 27 through March 2. The finalist is expected to be announced March 5. The law requires the board to announce the lone finalist, after a 21-day waiting period to allow for follow-up before officially hiring a person. During that time, the board must follow due diligence by potentially visiting the school to meet the candidate is from, meeting with people and staff members, verifying the validity of information, and conducting background checks of criminal history, Google and other sources.

"You do not expect to find someone in this caliber of a position, and you never know," Hancock said. "I do it anyway because you just do it to make sure."

"The official vote to hire the new superintendent is expected by March 27. Hancock will frequently, the new superintendent will come on board, working with Hancock to understand staff and responsibilities and introducing Hancock to key people in the community, along with getting them involved in events for people to meet the new superintendent."

"This gives me time to share what I have learned over five years and what they might expect to learn, but I do not mean to tell them what Hancock said. "It just becomes a transition time at that point."

Hancock said he'd like to thank the district for his experience in Royse City.

"Being a Royse City Bulldog is an honor and I thank you for allowing me the opportunity of being one. I will forever be a Bulldog," he said. "My services and support will continue to be available to this district. I pray for nothing but the best as I continue to educate our students with passion, perseverance and

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The Royse City Chamber of Commerce enjoyed a wonderful lunch at the ribbon cutting for Union Valley Academy private school on January 20th. Their goal is to provide an experience in which students grades 7-12 and teachers interact and pursue knowledge in a close-knit learning community. The students are highly involved, participating in many academic, community service, and social activities, which help to create well-rounded, vibrant young people. They are located on the campus of Union Valley Church of Christ at 9424 FM 35, Royse City, TX 75189. Contact Dr. Joe Vaughn for more information at 214-244-5250 or visit their website at <http://www.unionvalleyacademy.org>.

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