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Fate slated to build new city hall, considers museum

by Timothy Downs

City Council listened to a presentation by long-time resident Mrs. Jo Leonard regarding a house and parking area for a City of Fate Museum at its Dec. 15 meeting.

"The Fate Girls are all that is left to preserve the history of Fate — the ones that really know the town," said Leonard.

"We were told the museum will be in the current city hall when the new city hall is built. ... but we need it to be alive then as the Fate Girls approach ninety."

"Most city museums are in a renovated old house. One of the oldest houses still standing is the old Vernon house at the end of Wood."

"When the Fate Girls are gone, the history is gone and we do not want it buried with us. We have many items for the museum needing identification and labeling. I appreciate your consideration," she said. The proposal was acknowledged by the council for future consideration.

On other matters, the council approved amending an ordinance, which provides for annual inspections, along with re-code enforcement, to allow the creation of the position of Fire Marshall and other needed clauses.

City manager Vicki Mikel will enter into 18-month lease agreement with Rodney and Kim Brown for property at 104 East Fate Place, Suite B, for the temporary housing of various City of Fate employees.

Broderick's mayor report focused on recent meetings regarding the drought and the city's ability to receive water and the impact on the community over the next 12 months. The city of Rockwall and other county localities reinforce negative reports.

North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) supplies 16 percent of water in northeast Texas accounting for 25 percent of the state's water use. NTMWD is negotiating with City of Dallas to purchase water. They have asked Austin to intercede, on their behalf, to work out an agreement with Oklahoma and Texas to receive water from sources other than Texhoma.

Algae mussels in area lakes present problems for piping water. As temperatures fall below 53 degrees, water will be pumped into Lavon. The city is to start late December through March.

The city will pump all they can; but are anticipating Lavon to be dry by next spring — just on normal conditions without the continuation of the current drought. If NTMWD buys from Dallas, it will impact on our community and our citizens need to understand this impact," said Broderick.

At the meeting, a workshop was held to discuss beginning the process for a new city hall — similar to the fire station.

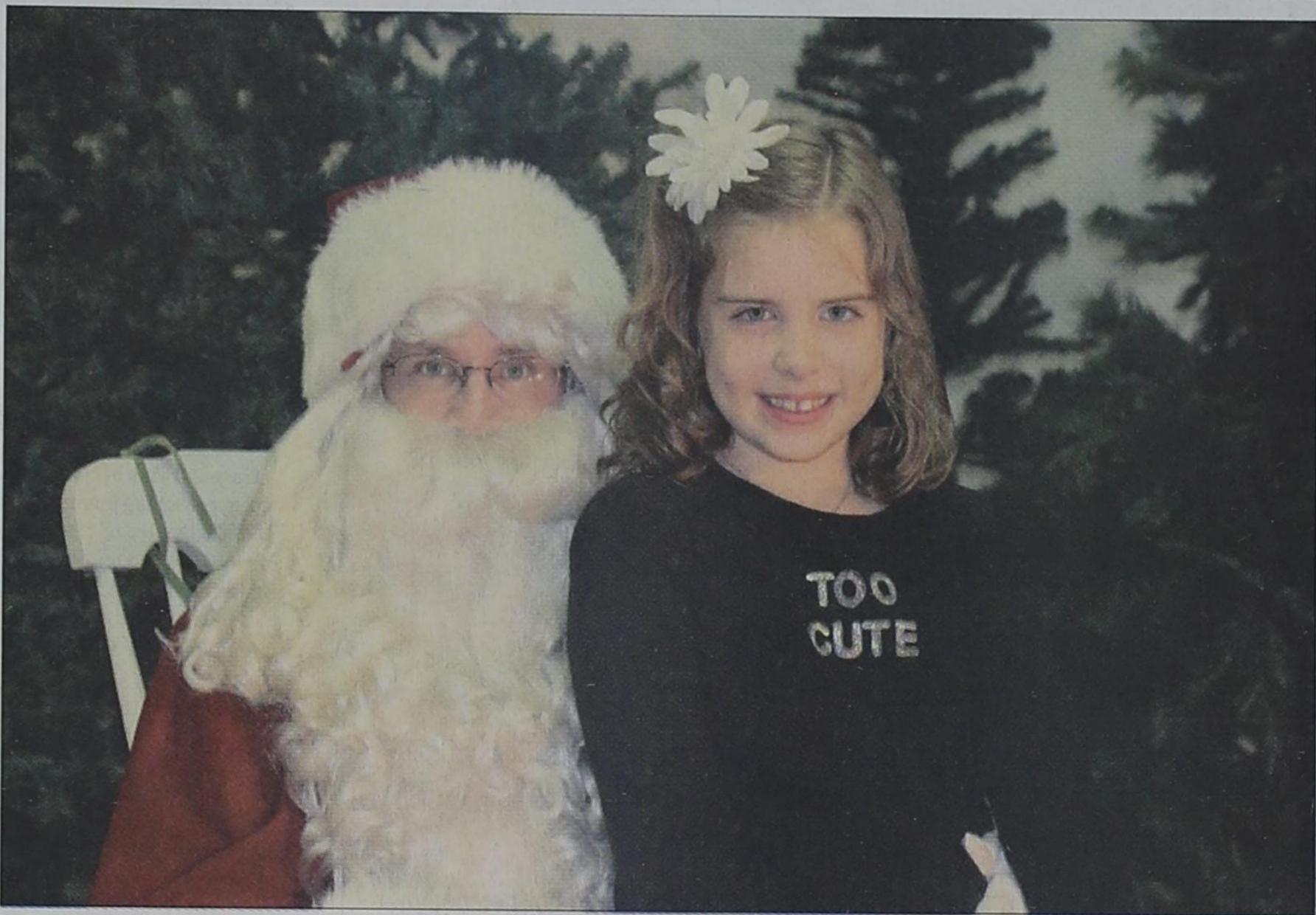
The city received \$2 million in funds from developers of Williamsburg subdivision to apply to the city hall project, of which \$250,000 was used to purchase the new fire-truck and \$50,000 will be used to convert the Williamsburg subdivision sign to a City of Fate sign.

Broderick added the project is "fully funded" and will be started within the next few weeks.



Longtime Fate resident Jo Leonard pleads with Fate City Council members for museum location in historic house.

Photo by Timothy Downs
Rockwall County News



The Catholic Mothers Council recently hosted its annual Brunch with St. Nicholas to help kick off the Christmas season. Pictured above with Santa is Lauren Hunt, daughter of Stan and Faye Hunt. Children visited with Santa, played games and made crafts, while the adults were treated to a silent auction full of goods and services donated by local businesses. Event organizer Hope Collins said the event was well attended. The council welcomes all mothers to their group to enjoy fellowship and service to the parish and the community. For more details contact Darcy Rocha, president, at 214-771-1035.

Photo courtesy of J.B. Larsen Photography/Rockwall County News

Burn ban lifted, but firefighters urge continued attention to safety

by Jana Edwards

Though the drought continues, Rockwall County has lifted the burn ban enacted in July. Rockwall County Emergency Management issued the notification first by Twitter on Dec. 8, following the order issued by the Commissioners Court the previous day.

"We've had some wet weather, but we still have vegetation out there that was dead from the drought," said Rockwall fire chief Mark Poindexter, who said he had no issues with the county lifting the burn ban.

Poindexter said he believes there was enough moisture in the air and in the ground to make burning trash safe for the county-area residents, for now.

"If we get into a period of time this winter," said Poindexter, "where we are not getting any rain whatsoever, we may ask for it to be instituted again."

With Christmas trees in so many homes across the city, the fire department asks the public to turn its attention, instead, to the fire hazards created by dry conditions that have now been brought inside homes.

"If you have real trees, they were drier than what they normally are when they came in because of the drought situation," said Poindexter. He also pointed out that these drought-affected trees will dry out much faster than they normally would. The fire chief said to saw off the end of the trunk and make sure the trunk is covered with water at all times.

Spending extra to purchase a tree with fire retardant treatment is recommended, he said, and carefully select the freshest tree possible. One sure sign of a dangerously dry tree is "if needles fall off when you grab a hold of it, it's already in a state where it will dry out fast."

Poindexter said he remembers only two accidental fires involving artificial tree fires in his 31 years. The cause was attributed to oversized bulbs on the tree, extremely hot and too close the wrapping paper on presents.

Another mistake is placing the "real" trees under central heating vents, which will dry out the branches in a very short amount of time. Also, keep lights turned out when away from home or during sleeping hours.

Placement of the Christmas tree is a major safety factor, as well.

"It's scary to see one in the foyer or near the staircase," said Poindexter. "This will not only impede your escape route, it will impede the firefighters getting in."

Poindexter suggested watching fire department burn tests online to really understand how dangerous such a fire can be, and how quickly escape can become unlikely. A number of these demonstrations are

available on youtube.com by searching "Christmas tree burn test."

"They reach high temperature so quickly, it makes it difficult to vacate, even if your home is equipped with smoke detectors throughout," said Poindexter. A burning tree can raise temperature in a room to 1,200 to 1,300 degrees in a few minutes — twice the temperature of an oven broiler.

Despite the incidents of Christmas tree fires, scented candles have become one of the bigger hazards, according to Poindexter — usually because they are allowed to burn too long. Consumers will find a recommend burn time

(Continued on Page 4)

Rockwall ISD joins school finance lawsuit

Rockwall Independent School District announced Dec. 9 it is participating in the school finance lawsuit filed by members of the Texas School Finance Coalition, which is made up of revenue-contributing schools.

The lawsuit challenges the constitutionality of the Texas school finance law, claiming that it fails to provide schools with sufficient funding to meet state educational standards and that the system has become a statewide property tax, according to the school district's news release.

Based on the current state funding model, Rockwall ISD will lose \$15.7 million over the next biennium, 2011-12 and 2012-13," said Rockwall ISD Superintendent Jeff Bailey. "This year's budget resulted in the reduction of staff positions and the cutting of supplies and resources. When making budget reductions, our goal has been to not impact classrooms and programs, but the current funding model continues, school districts will no longer have the funds or the discretion to provide the programs that students and parents want."

Mark Trachtenberg and John Turner of Haynes and Boone, LLP filed suit on behalf of six school districts. In addition to the six plaintiffs, over 54 school districts are represented by the law firm in connection with the case.

Most of the participating districts are members of the Texas School Finance Coalition, which is made up of revenue-contributing school. These districts have paid almost \$15 billion in local taxes to the state finance system since 1993 and are projected to pay more than \$1 billion this school year, according to the news release.

The lawsuit will demonstrate that school districts are not being provided the resources needed to meet the standards the State of Texas itself has identified as the measure of a constitutionally adequate education. And, the state's actions have left school districts without meaningful discretion to control their local property tax rates, which violates the constitutional provision against a statewide property tax," Trachtenberg said.

Each Texas school adding about 80,000 students annually, the Texas Department of Education failed for the first time in 60 years to fund enrollment growth by cutting \$5.4 billion from public education for the coming two-year budget cycle. This has forced districts to eliminate thousands of positions and other support staff.

(Continued on Page 5)



Rebecca Grace Moore (right), 17 year old senior at Rockwall Heath High School, is dancing the lead role for the Senior Company of Tuzer Ballet December 17 and 18 at the Eiseman Center for the Performing Arts in Richardson. Rebecca is the longest running Nutcracker in the metroplex and this will be their 27th year to perform their version of the Nutcracker. Guest Artists from Boston Ballet and Alumni dancers will also perform. There are three performances this weekend: 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturday, and a 2 p.m. show on Sunday. Rebecca has been dancing since she was four years old. This is her fifth year to study under Tanju and Patricia Tuzer. The emphasis is classical ballet, and she trains 5-6 days weekly. Last summer, she traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark for the Bartholin International Ballet Seminar. As part of her training in this month long seminar, she was selected to take master classes from Elizabeth Pathel, director of Paris Opera Ballet School. Tickets for the performances may be purchased at eisemanncenter.com. Look for the Tuzer Nutcracker to make your seat selections.

Courtesy Photo/Rockwall County News



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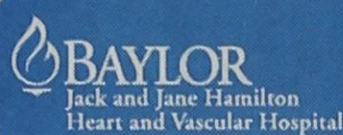
When she first had her heart attack at age 38, she had no signs. Becky Drake had little reason to suspect she was having a heart attack. She was active, was not overweight and worked out.

Heart disease is a silent killer. Being active and healthy might not be enough. Individuals can become more prone to develop heart disease based on their family history.

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Toy drive for foster children under 5

Rockwall resident Ara Hunt is again asking area residents to donate new, unwrapped toys or gift items to be given to Rockwall children in foster homes this Christmas season. Children of all ages and sizes are in need.

The items will be turned over to Rockwall County Child Protective Services office on Dec. 19.

Visit facebook.com/rockwallCPStoys or call Ara Hunt at 214-240-9655. Email teamhuntohomes@yahoo.com for drop-off locations or pick-up.

Animal Adoption Center offers gift certificates

The Rockwall Animal Adoption Center is offering gift certificates this Christmas season.

Gift certificates may be purchased for a dog adoption (\$85) or a cat adoption (\$60).

All adopted animals have been spayed or neutered, vaccinated, microchipped and have had rabies vaccinations.

Gift certificates may be purchased at the Animal Services Department, 1825 Airport Rd. For more details call 972-771-7750.



Melody Marie Millican and Sean Thomas Dooley

Melody Millican, Sean Dooley plan May wedding

Gary and Tina Millican of Rockwall are proud to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Melody Marie Millican, to Sean Thomas Dooley of Dallas, son of Thomas Dooley of Katy and Julie Dooley of North Carolina.

The bride-elect, a 2004 graduate of Rockwall High School, earned a bachelor's degree in science from the University of Texas in 2008. She is employed at Chartwells K-12 in the Commerce Independent School District.

The prospective bridegroom, a 2005 graduate of Cinco Ranch High in Katy, received a bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of Texas in 2009. He is employed by Veritas in Dallas.

A May 12, 2012, wedding is planned at Camp Lucy in Dripping Springs.

Katherine Strain celebrates 90th birthday

Katherine Ann Bischoff Strain will celebrate her 90th birthday at Emeritus at Summer Ridge, 3020 Ridge Rd. in Rockwall, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 18.

Born Dec. 2, 1921, in Chico, Calif., to August John and Ann Austin Bischoff, Katherine moved with her mother and her brother, August John (A.J.) III to Rockwall to live with her maternal grandparents, Judge Isham John and Kate Austin, in 1921 after her father died. The Austins had settled in Rockwall County in 1871 and Judge Austin's father, Captain Milton Stanhope Austin, had fought in the Battle of Gettysburg and moved his family to Rockwall following the Civil War. Captain Austin served in the 18th Texas Legislature from 1885 to 1886.

While her mother daughter school in the Rockwall area, Katherine and her brother attended Rockwall schools. She graduated from Rockwall High in 1940 and attended North Texas State University for two years.

Katherine married Robert Ellis Strain in 1940. They lived in Royse City until his death in 2000.

The couple had two daughters, Kaye Smith of Dallas and the late Anne Priess; three grandchildren, Lisa Heath, Marc Smith and Ashley Horn; and three great-grandchildren.

Katherine worked for World Book Encyclopedia from 1956 to 1981. She excelled and was named top district manager in the world in 1969.

A member of the Red Hats, Captain Milton Stanhope Austin United Daughters of the Confederacy, Daughter of the American Revolution, Rockwall County Historical Club and the Rockwall Newcomers, she is a lifelong member of the First United Methodist Church of Royse City.

Everyone is invited to help celebrate her birthday. The family respectfully requests no gifts; however, cards will be welcomed.



Birthdays



Elizabeth Ruth Billingsley

Emily and Blake Billingsley of Rockwall are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Ruth Billingsley, at 6:59 p.m. on Dec. 30, 2011, at Lake Pointe Medical Center.

The infant weighed 7 pounds 10 ounces and was 20 inches long at birth.

Grandparents are Janet and Bill of Georgetown, Betsy and Bob of Waco and Brent and Billingsley of Quinlan. Other grandparents are Stan and Lily of Georgetown and Don and Claudia Anderson of Quinlan.

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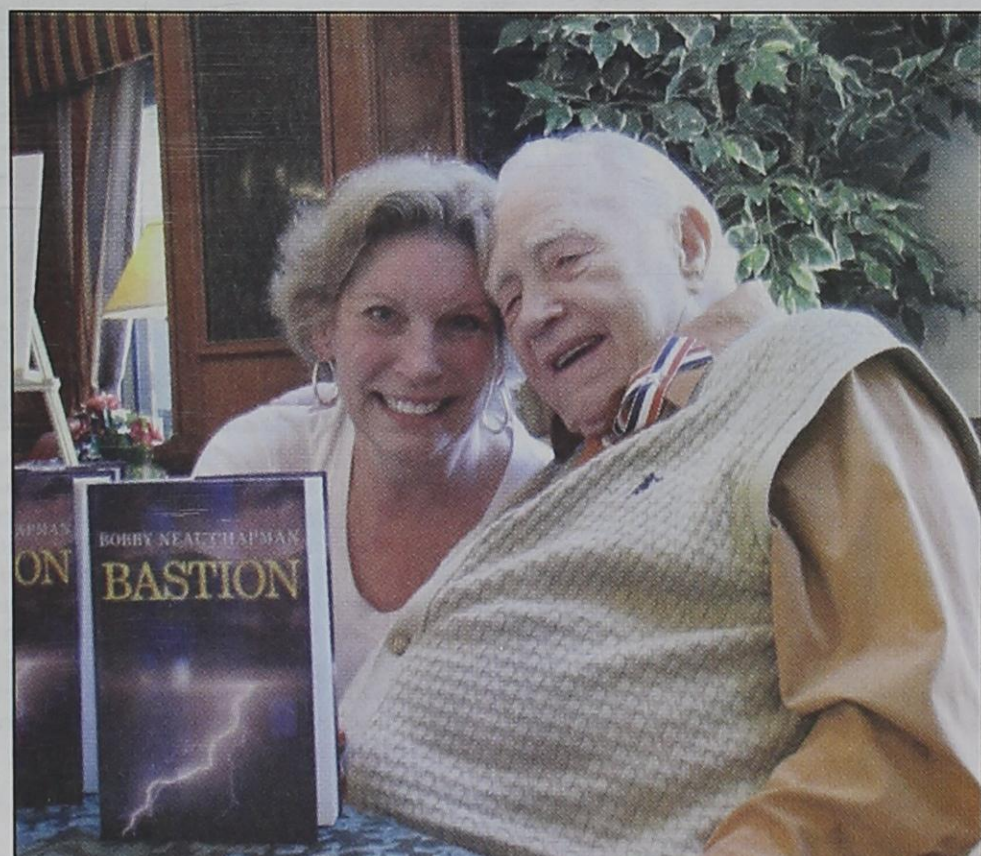


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Resident Bob Chapman with his daughter Degie during his recent book signing at Emeritus at Summer Ridge Assisted Living and Retirement Community.

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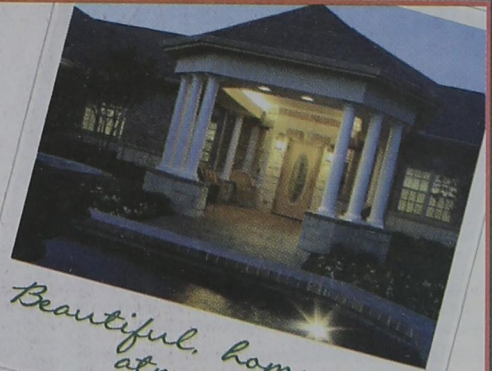
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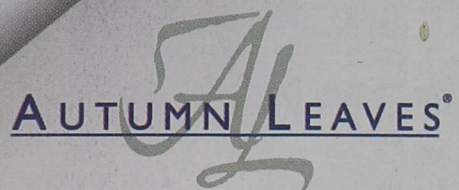
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Capt. Jonathan Aslan receives four end-of-service awards

Marine Capt. Jonathan Aslan, who grew up in Rockwall and attended Rockwall High, received four end-of-service award medals on Dec. 2.

Aslan was awarded with the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the third highest military award bestowed by the Department of Defense; the Joint Service Commendation Medal; the Afghanistan Campaign Medal; and the NATO Medal after serving a 15-month tour in Afghanistan.

While in Afghanistan, Aslan trained a team to guard the command headquarters while under gunfire and the threat of makeshift bombs. Additionally, he was in charge of the operation command, running the Joint Action Review Board that controlled \$8 billion in support of the war. Aslan's actions resulted in revamping the process, saving \$37 million. His commander described him as a "godsend."

While at Rockwall High, Aslan was on the school's state championship wrestling team for two years. He attributes much of his success to the examples of his teachers, coach Steve Ellis and mentor John Weidman (USNA, Ret.).

After leaving Rockwall, Aslan graduated from the Naval Academy and received a MBA from Boston University. He is the son of Mary Akin of Rockwall.



Marine Capt. Jonathan Aslan, who grew up in Rockwall and attended Rockwall High, received was awarded four end-of-service medals, including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the third highest military award given by the Department of Defense. Aslan served a 15-month tour in Afghanistan.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Burn Ban lifted

(Continued from Page 1)

on bottom of candle, which they should follow, he said. Beyond that time, when the candles turn to liquid, they can actually burn through and ignite furniture.

Rockwall Fire Department responded to two candle-ignited fires last year. One was left burning too long and burned through to the tabletop, and the other one was left burning near a wicker basket full of pinecones.

"You need to be very cautious with candles," said Poindexter. "We see more candle fires than Christmas tree fires this time of year."

Say You Saw It In The County News



Rockwall native Sgt. Jon Whittle is one of 12 competitors in Operation Rising Star, a talent showcase for military members.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Rockwall native grabs spot in Operation Rising Star

A Rockwall native is among 12 competitors from around the globe tapped to participate in Operation Rising Star, a competition modeled after "American Idol" that showcases musical talent within the military.

Missouri Sgt. Jon Whittle, who graduated from Rockwall High and was captain of the Yellow Jackets football team, one of those selected for the competition.

Whittle spent 18 months serving in Afghanistan and 12 months in Cuba prior to returning to the U.S. He now is stationed at Fort Leonardwood, Mo.

"I love being a part of the Rising Star competition," Whittle said in a news release. "It allows me to represent my family, the FSC 94th ENBN and my hometown of Rockwall, Texas, while I do something I love. This show is able to reach soldiers all over the world. I feel honored to be part of such a great tradition as Army entertainment."

Whittle is the father of three daughters. He and the girls attend a Missouri church where Whittle is part of the praise worship team.

Whittle hopes his vocal talents will help him land the ORS grand prize – an all-expense paid recording package at EMI/Capitol Records Studio in Las Angeles, Calif., to record three songs.

Performances of ORS have been ongoing this week and will wrap up at 8 p.m. EST Dec. 17. Host for the program is Genienne Samuels, SMA (Ret.) Jack Tilley, Debra Byrd of "American Idol" and country recording artist M. Peterson. Also joining the panel this year is an EMI/Capitol Records producer who will arrange for performances by artists.

Visit armymwr.com and click on Operation Rising Star for more information, to view contestants and to vote. Voters may vote as many times as they would like for up to 24 hours after each performance.

RISD challenge

(Continued from Page 1)

"These severe funding reductions come at a time when Texas is trying to get school districts to implement new and more rigorous testing and accountability regime. The school finance system is not merely drifting toward constitutional inadequacy. It has arrived," said Turner.

Also, previous court rulings, including the successful West Orange II case in 2006 brought by Coppell, have made it clear that school districts must have a meaningful ability to use local property funds for local enrichment.

"The level of state funding has fallen to such a point that many even most, school districts must effectively use all of the local property tax they can raise just to meet basic standards. Local tax revenue raised above a certain level should not be used to compensate for the state's failure to provide adequate funding. We will argue that the state has effectively co-opted the taxing capacity of school districts, resulting in a de facto property tax, which is prohibited by the Texas Constitution," Turner said.

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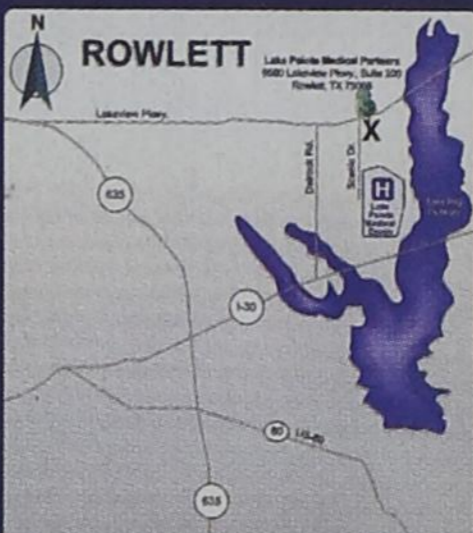
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Rockwall County News Briefs

Adopt a pet during Red Collar Sale

The City of Rockwall Animal Services Department is offering a Red Collar Sale. Cost for adoption is discounted by \$25 through Dec. 25. For more information, contact Animal Services at 972-771-7750.

DAR items featured in library display

During the month of December, the display cases of the Rockwall County Library feature an exhibit of items from the Daughters of the American Revolution and the wood-burning picture plates of Ann Goyne.

Local TEA Party to meet

The Rockwall County TEA Party will meet from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Dec. 17 at the Well Coffee Lounge, 103 E. Main St., Royse City. There is no charge to attend the family-friendly meeting. Parking is offered along Main Street, as well as behind the coffee shop; enter from the street or the rear parking area. For more information email retcparty@gmail.com.

TV giveaway to benefit MOW

The Rockwall County Committee on Aging's Meals on Wheels program will benefit from a TV giveaway planned for Dec. 21. A 42-inch Vizio 1080P LCD television will be given away. Tickets cost \$5 each or five for \$20. All proceeds will benefit the MOW program, which feeds homebound and disabled residents of Rockwall, Royse City, Heath and Fate. For tickets or more details call 972-771-9514.

Library to close for holidays

The Rockwall County Library will be closed Dec. 23-26 for the Christmas holidays.

Intro to Round Dancing class set

An introductory class in round dancing, a form of social ballroom dancing in which steps are choreographed precisely to the music, will be offered from 7:45 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 5 through April 12, at The Center. Participants ages 55 and older will dance the same types of steps and rhythms as the waltz, fox trot, cha-cha and rumba. For more details about this Rockwall Parks & Rec-sponsored class, call 972-771-7740.

Youth oil painting class set

An oil painting class for youths ages 5-13 will be offered from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Jan. 11 at the Harry Myers Community Center through the Rockwall Parks & Rec Department. Cost is \$15 for Rockwall residents, \$25 for non-residents, plus a \$12 supply fee (which will cover the cost of paints, palette, canvases, brushes, painting medium and a detailed lesson plan). Additional classes are set for Feb. 13, March 5 and April 9. For more details visit rockwall.com/parks.

Cheer 101 classes scheduled

The Rockwall Parks & Rec Department will host a series of classes, Cheer 101, on Mondays Jan. 23-Feb. 27 at The Center. Open to youngsters ages 4-6, each class will begin at 6:15 p.m. and will teach cheers, chants and jumps while improving self confidence, listening skills and teamwork. For more information call 972-771-7740.

This Week in Heath

Beer or not to beer, that is the question in Heath

Just past the Shell station in Heath you might have noticed a sign out on a large banner across the street, urging you to help keep our town in Heath. It might not be close to election time, but this is an issue that folks in Heath are hoping to see on the next general ballot in May.

The sale of beer or wine for off-premise consumption is not allowed in Heath. That's why you can't stop in for beer before a Cowboys game at the Shell station, the type of establishment that's usually a mainstay of beer and wine sales.

Restriction as it stands is also a substantial part of why it's been hard to attract a grocery store, like Tom Thumb, to bring their business to Heath. For some in Heath, the lack of economic development is what has kept Heath its small-town charm and country appeal. For others, it's holding back our potential for growth and revenue to do bigger things.

"Appropriate regulations and thoughtful planning, Heath can have a strong and supplement its tax base," Heath resident and Economic Development Corporation president Alma Williams Howard said.

According to the more than 660 Heath citizens who responded to the recent Survey, 63 percent would vote to allow beer and wine sales in order to support an effort to attract retail development. 73 percent felt that retail and retail development such as grocery stores, restaurants, drug stores and personal/professional service businesses are important to Heath.

In bringing the issue to a citywide vote, a petition must be circulated to the necessary 844 valid signatures before it can be presented to city officials. If enough signatures are obtained and all the information is validated and accurate (to make sure all signers are registered voters and citizens of Heath) then the city council will be required to call an election, and you will have to see this on the ballot May 12.

The issue of off-premise beer and wine sales has not been on a ballot in Heath before, according to Rockwall county election administrator Glenda Gandy, unless it happened far back in our historical record. Other cities in the area such as Rockwall and Fate held similar elections in the past years, with Rockwall voting to allow the sales and Fate citizens voting to allow.

A search on the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission website that since September, 32 of the 34 cities in Texas that have put alcohol on a ballot to vote have successfully passed.

The current petition circulating in Heath has a tight timeline. Only a 60-day window is allotted to collect the required 844 valid signatures. That means petitions must be returned to our Heath city secretary no later than 11 p.m. to be considered, which is quickly approaching.

Station manager Mary Makvandi said that the petition is available for citizens to sign inside the market during their hours of operation from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. She said she believes that currently there are around 600 signatures that have been collected. The petition is also being circulated door-to-door by citizens volunteering their time.

The sale of beer and wine for off-premise consumption justly brings up a wide spectrum of opinions. If residents deem it so, this issue will come to the attention of the public of Heath at the next general election, most likely with more public discourse and participation at the polls.

Rockwall is the Heath community correspondent to the Rockwall County News. For your news and events about Heath, email her at rcn.darcyrocha@gmail.com or call 972-771-1035.

Heath council meeting draws no public input

Heath City Council meeting, which usually attracts at least 100 citizens, was only attended by council and staff. The agenda included four items that were tabled and one public hearing with no speakers, and wrapped up in 15 minutes.

Public input was required to hear input and vote on the taxation of goods-in-transit that is otherwise exempt from taxation by Texas. A property tax exemption, commonly known as the "Super Freeport" exemption, allows a local option exemption for traveling elsewhere in Texas and can be claimed when the goods are at certain locations not owned by the owner of the goods.

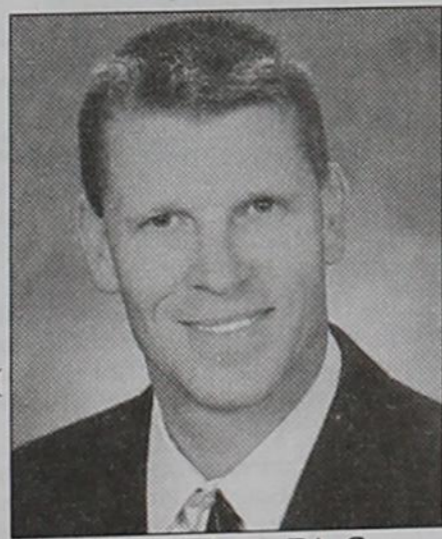
Currently there are no goods in Heath that qualify, but as council member Lorne pointed out, it would be good to keep options open for the future. The council voted to act on the resolution and was recommended for approval by city staff. The resolution passed with all in favor.

By garnering a unanimous vote by council was a resolution authorizing the city to renew city employee group health insurance, dental insurance and medical spending accounts. The renewal of the premium for the 2012 benefit year is an increase of 2.4 percent, but the cost is anticipated to be passed through to employees.

Council also voted to change the street name that had been platted at Spencer Court to Village Drive, which is located in Buffalo Creek. The filed plat has mistakenly shown the north/south portion of the L-shaped Tennis Village Drive as Spencer Court. The mistake stemmed from a change that occurred during the area's original platting according to the Rockwall County coordinator the name was already used elsewhere in the county. The passing vote will amend all records to the correct street name.

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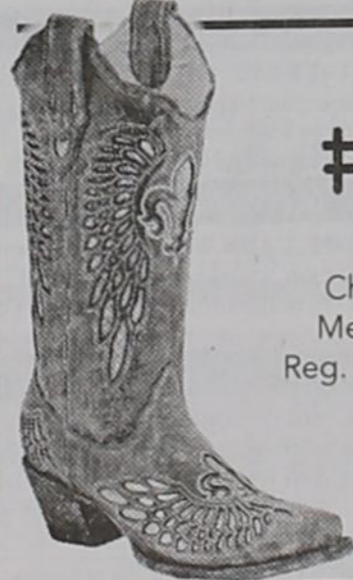
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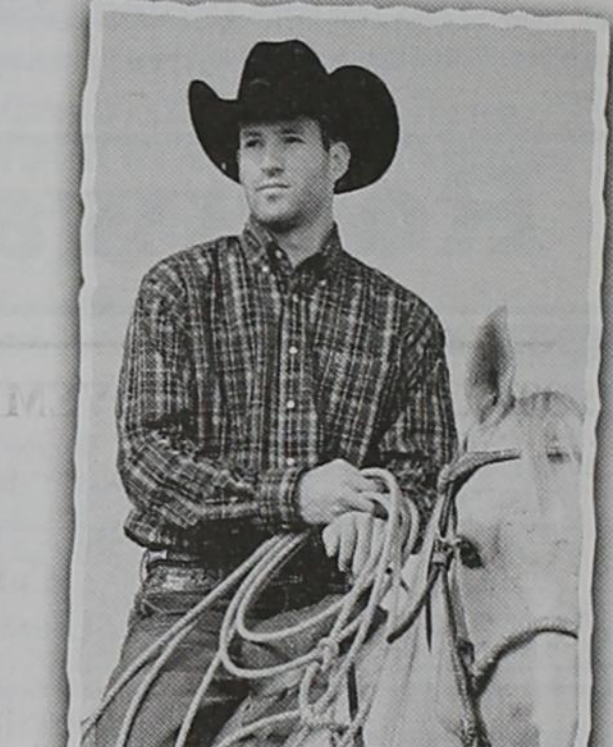
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Lady Bulldog Honorees Recognized by District

Lady Bulldogs' District volleyball honorees are (left to right) Girls Athletic Director Dallas Bookout, Brandi Hahn – Manager, Celine Mendoza – Sr., Brenna Cole – Sr., Schelly Stone – Jr., Tori Green – Jr., Sarah Verhagan – Jr., Autumn Quinn – Soph. Honors were given to Sarah Verhagan, Kyla Simmons, and Erica Poe for First Team All-District Players of the Year; Team captain Brenna Cole received Most Valuable Libero for the second-straight season. Second Team All-District Celine Mendoza, Schelly Stone, and Tori Green were acknowledged.

Also recognized by coach Faye Marshall was Lady's Cross Country with third overall in All-District. Special honors went to Team captain Taylor Neely with First Team All-District and Academic All-District, All-State Country Coaches Association of Texas and Texas Girls Coaches Association.

Superintendent Randy Hancock thanked the girls of the Cross Country and Volleyball teams during the December 12 Board of Trustees meeting.

"It's great to see the camaraderie the team-work what you do to help each other thank you for that. That's what being a good person is about," Hancock said.

Photo by Tim Downs/Rockwall County News

Bulldogs defeat Wills Point 46-41

Boys Basketball sought a win of 46-41 during bout with Wills Point Dec.13. The Tigers are a good defensive team, Cayce Dahmer played tough to lead the team to the win.

"Despite being a little under the weather, Cayce is a senior, a leader, and a great player for us," said Coach Anthony Howerton. The Bulldogs would take on Texas High School Dec. 20 @ 7:30 p.m. in Royse City.

Varsity Girls Basketball won during a very rough shooting night, not playing up to standards 48-37. However, the Lady Bulldogs are 1-0 in district. "Mt. Pleasant beat us both times in district last year, which was the only team to do this. It was good to start district off with a win against them," coach Dallas Bookout. Krystal Pickron led with 17 points followed by Tayler Young with 11. Nina Gaines was lead rebounder with seven.

The Bulldogs travel to Sulphur Springs Dec. 16 @ 7:30 p.m.

Royse City Police Blotter

- Dec. 2-8
- Friday, 2 Dec.: Driving while intoxicated arrest, I-30 at the 78-mile marker; Suspicious person, Area of Main Street; Alarm, 3400 block Taylor Drive; Disturbance, 100 block W. Main Street; Public intoxication, 100 block W. I-30; Reckless driver, I-30 at the 74-mile marker
- Saturday, 3 Dec.: Assault, 200 block E. Main Street; Noise disturbance, 1000 block Oak Grove Lane; Noise disturbance, 100 block Sandy Lane; Theft, 1200 block Northwood Lane; Alarm, 3400 block Overstreet Lane; Accident, I-30 at the 77-mile marker; Burglary of a motor vehicle, 700 block Lula Street
- Sunday, 4 Dec.: Burglary of a motor vehicle, 2800 block Mockingbird Street; Noise disturbance, Nancy Drive; Suspicious person, Orchid Lane; Noise disturbance, 300 block N. Houston Street; Medical assistance, 1000 block Brookhaven Drive; Suspicious person arrest, Corner of Live Oak Street and County Line Road
- Monday, 5 Dec.: Driving while license suspended/Possession of Dangerous drug arrest, I-30 at the 74-mile marker; Criminal mischief, 1600 block Nevers Drive; Theft, 100 block I-30 NSR; Alarm, 2300 block I-30; Noise disturbance, Corner of Walnut Street and County Line Road; Theft, 100 block W. I-30; Alarm, 1500 block E. I-30
- Tuesday, 6 Dec.: Reckless driver, I-30 at the 74-mile marker; Noise disturbance, 600 block Skelton Street; Medical assistance, 300 block Rustic Meadow Drive
- Wednesday, 7 Dec.: Driving while license suspended arrest, 300 block W. Main Street; Assault, 500 block Rosemary Drive
- Thursday, 8 Dec.: Possession of drug paraphernalia, 1000 block Peach Street; Harassment, 300 block Pin Oak Lane

Two inducted into JJC honor society

Two of Royse City residents recently were inducted into the Paris Junior Beta Zeta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the two-year academic honor society.

All honorees included Jessica Bass and Sonnie Laforce, both Royse City students, according to a news release from the college. Induction ceremonies were conducted in the Student Center Ballroom for the named members during the fall semester.



Lyndie Pokomy, art teacher for Herndon and Cherry Intermediate schools, is shown delivering a basket of cards to Tommy Worsen, the activities director for the Royse City Health & Rehabilitation Center. The schools' art students created more than 75 Christmas cards to be delivered to the center's residents to help spread holiday cheer.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Shuttle offers half-price pet spay/neuter services

Rockwall PAWS/KCAAP pet spay/neuter shuttle is offering a percent off special this month, according to a news release issued this week.

The shuttle will depart at 7:30 a.m. on Jan. 22 from the southeast corner of the I-30 Wal-Mart parking lot. It will return to the same location at 10 a.m. after work on the pets has been completed.

Pets must be on leashes and cats must be in carriers. To make an appointment, call 972-412-4100 (hablamos Español). To make an appointment online and view prices, visit spayneuternet.org. Reservations should be made early as the shuttle will fill up quickly. Future shuttle dates include Jan. 29, Feb. 16 and March 22.

For more details, call Rockwall at 972-310-1354.

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