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Rockwall County News

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Warrant round-up nets \$44,000 to date

by Millie Jean Coppedge

The City Council of Roysie City met March 24 with news about people with outstanding fines. On March 7, Roysie City, along with 200 other law enforcement agencies from across Texas, began the Great Warrant Round-up for 2015. The round-up is organized by the Municipal Courts of Austin and is carried out once a year.

The round-up letters, stating "Arrests will begin March 7, 2015," were sent from the Roysie City Municipal Court, with Municipal Judge Paul Liston presiding, to the designated defendants with parking, traffic, penal code, city ordinance and higher charge warrants from participating jurisdictions. Complete information and instructions were included in the letter sent to the defendants.

According to the 2014 Texas Municipal Courts Education Center faculty roster, Judge Liston also serves as Municipal Court Judge for the cities of Rockwall, Little Elm, Mesquite, and Heath, Presiding Judge of the City of Anna, and Associate Judge for the city of Fairview.

The first letters were all mailed by Feb. 20. A week later, the second notices were mailed out. When a case is pending for two to three months, the state will begin to hold the defendant's driver's license and/or car registration, or a warrant for the person's arrest will be issued.

If a warrant is issued, the defendant can, according to the round-up letter, "be arrested at their place of residence, school, place of employment, or any time they come in contact with a law enforcement officer" such as being pulled over for a traffic stop. Should they be stopped by law enforcement, they will be taken straight to court. Until the court charges are paid in full, the arrest warrant will not be cleared.

City Manager Alsbrook said at the end of the city council meeting that Roysie City had mailed out about 400 warrant notices and already had collected more than \$44,000.

City Manager Jeff Stapleton said out of the 400 delinquent fine notices, 85 people responded. Although 85 is a good number, that still leaves 315 who have not yet responded.

Also on the city council agenda, was Business Item 6 to "consider and act concerning a Resolution regarding the location/site/plan/design of property at 617 E. Interstate 30 per Ordinance 12-02-879-Section 5-3 Interstate Corridor Overlay District (1-30 COD), E- Design Standards, requiring plans to be submitted to staff of the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council for approval."

Lead Buck, owner of the Bulldog Transmission Shop at 812 FM 548, also owns Buck's Greenville in Greenville. He said that the pre-mentioned resolution had already passed the P&Z Commission.

(Continued on Page 3)



Rodrigo Favela and Brody Vanley take turns playing a larger than life game of chess at the Fit & Fun in the Park event on Saturday, April 4.
Photo by Brittany Williams/Rockwall County News

Rockwall city council 'hands tied' on golf cart regulation issue

by Timothy W. Burnett

During the Mon. April 6, 2015 regular meeting, the City of Rockwall city council heard comments from citizens about the regulation of golf cart use within the boundaries of the Stone Creek subdivision, as well as within other Master Plan communities.

Councilmember Mike Townsend was absent from the meeting.

The agenda item was related to "appointment with representatives of the Stone Creek subdivision for a meeting regarding golf carts."

After listening to comments, City Attorney Frank Garza fielded questions from the council members. The questions focused on the city's authority under state law to regulate the use of golf carts.

Garza summarized the issue by explaining that state law does not authorize the city to regulate the use of golf carts inside subdivisions, but may regulate their use on public streets outside of the subdivisions.

Councilmember David White requested a list of calls to the police department involving golf carts. White asked Garza "even if we propose an ordinance, it would not apply to communities?" Garza answered, "Yes."

Councilmember Scott Milder tossed out the observation, "so our hands are tied?"

On Mon. March 30, 2015, Garza issued a memorandum to City Manager Rick Crowley, with "clarification on operation of golf carts."

The memorandum stated that Texas Transportation Code 551.403(a) allows golf carts to "be driven on a street if the street is: (1) in a master planned community that meets certain conditions; (2) on a golf course; or (3) on a public or private beach."

The memo further explains that "because state law provides no definition of 'master planned community,' and the attorney general declined to define the term in Texas Attorney General Opinion GA-0966, each city will likely have to look at its own definition of master planned community within its subdivision and zoning regulations."

(Continued on Page 3)



Attending the Alice in Wonderland-Friends of the Roysie City Library Luncheon in costume on March 26 were, from the left, Shannon Pryor, McKenzie McMann, Anita Hudson, Debra Sichel, Mary Johnson, Linda Haygood and, in front, Kathy Medici. The luncheon was conducted to help financially with the C.F. Goodwin Library's Summer Reading Program.
Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/Rockwall County News

'Alice in Wonderland' event draws large crowd

by Millie Jean Coppedge

The Alice in Wonderland Luncheon sponsored by the Friends of the Roysie City Library (C.F. Goodwin Library), conducted at the Melody Room at the City Hall of Roysie City on Thursday, March 26, was attended by over 100 people.

Contributions from the sale of tickets, an auction of donated items and monetary donations of \$60 were collected and will benefit the library's Summer Reading Program. A drawing for door prizes was also conducted.

The tables were decorated beautifully in the theme of "Alice in Wonderland" and were sponsored by various businesses.

Food and chicken fajitas with all the fixings were provided by Gabriel Basilio of Joe's Meat Market. A variety of desserts were provided by various members of the Friends of the Library.

The mission statement of the Friends of the Library is: The Friends shall promote and support the library in generating current and long term funding for selected programs; establishing and maintaining public awareness of upcoming and current events held by the C. F. Goodwin Library and Friends of the Roysie City Library; developing volunteer involvement; assisting in a varied menu of programs for the continuing growth of literacy within the Roysie City community.

The library is located at 309 N. Arch St. and the Zaner Robison Historical Museum, located at 124 S. Arch St. are valuable to the education of the citizens of the city, and the museum offers the history of the community back to the 1800s. The museum is free, but donations are accepted.

Anyone wishing to join the Friends of the Roysie City Library or the Friends of the Zaner Robison Museum can come to the library to become a member of either or both.

Membership fees (no cash) for either or both may be mailed to Friends of the Roysie City Library, P.O. Box 100, Roysie City, TX 75189. The membership for individuals is \$10 with additional memberships for families, corporations, patrons, etc. For more information, call the library at 972-636-2772.



The Rockwall Soroptimists were presented a check by the staff of Painting With a Twist in Rockwall after members and guests participated in the fundraising event, Paint with a Purpose, on March 26. Holding the check for \$1,855 are the organization's president, Erin Atkins, and member, Sue Reeves. Also pictured are, at back, members Karen Straughan, Sandy Hansen, Kim Barry, Ariana Hargrove, Madelyn Hill and Lesa Walker. Pictured in the middle are, from the left, Mary Grace Frasier and Frances Egan. Shown at front are Cookie Ray, Karen Coughlin, Shelli Miller, Kim Sweet, Candice Banks, Judy Canterbury, Norma Morris. Funds raised will be used to support the group's ongoing projects, which serve women and children in the community. The club's next fundraiser will be the second annual Rockwall Country Fair on May 30. For more details visit rockwallcountryfair.com.
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Rockwall County News Briefs

- Heath students host Showcase**
Rockwall-Heath students conducted the first Heath Showcase on April 2. A video of a portion of the show can be viewed through this link: [youtube.com/watch?v=_1ltTBTrBw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_1ltTBTrBw).
- Republican Women to host mayoral debate**
The Rockwall County Republican Women will host a mayoral debate for candidates Jim Pruitt and Dennis Lewis on April 9 in the Rockwall High School cafeteria. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend to hear how the candidates stand on issues facing Rockwall.
- Hope Mobile spay/neuter hospital to visit**
The 45-foot hospital bus operated by the Spay/Neuter Network (spayneuternetwork.org) will be in Rockwall Friday, April 10, at the 1-30 Wal-Mart parking lot. Surgeries will be performed on site. Low-cost surgery packages are available and walk-up vaccinations will be offered at reduced prices from 10 a.m. to noon. Call 972-472-3500 for an appointment; space is limited. Be sure dog's collars cannot be slipped; cats must be in secure carriers. The service is sponsored by Rockwall PAWS, a local nonprofit agency that funds the treatment of heartworm-positive dogs (rockwallpaws.com).
- Pancake breakfast to benefit RFA**
An all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast benefiting the Rockwall County Reading for Adults program, will begin at 8 a.m. April 11 at Applebee's, 687 E. I-30, Rockwall. Volunteers and tutors will staff the restaurant for two hours, greeting and serving customers. Tickets may be purchased at the Literacy Center of the Rockwall County Library or at the door; cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 10 and younger. The RFA provides free adult educational services (English as a second language, GED studies and prep, citizenship prep and adult literacy) and serves more than 300 adults. For more details on the program call 972-204-7705.

(Continued on Page 5)



Bonfante lauded by Marine Artists for YMAS success

Rockwall High School senior Michael Bonfante was presented with a \$500 check from the American Society of Marine Artists and the Rockwall Art League last month.

The award was in recognition of his success in the 2014 Young Marine Artists Search, sponsored by the American Society of Marine Artists, according to a RAL news release.

Bonfante's hand-painted stoneware sculpture, Tropical Fish, won honorable mention in the second annual contest. One of 34 entries, his entry was the only one submitted by a Texan.

Bonfante recently was elected president of the RHS' National Art Honor Society, which has a membership of about 35 students. He also is one of 11 members of the Nasher Sculpture Center's Student Advisory Board, which is charged with developing ideas for student programs and taking part in behind-the-scenes learning opportunities at the museum. Last year, he was one of 19 students tapped for the Marie Sharpe Walsh Foundation Summer Seminar, a college-level residential institute for gifted art students conducted on the Colorado College campus.

Bonfante said he became an artist "as soon as I could hold a pencil," according to the news release.

He is accomplished in both oil and acrylics, sculpts in clay and creates three-dimensional work from "cut and formed sheets of wood."

He already has plans to enter two art pieces in this year's Young Marine Artists Search, which is open to artists ages 16-23.

Bonfante is the son of Angela and Vittorio Bonfante of Rockwall.

For more information on the competition visit rockwallartleague.org/young-marine-artists-search. Deadline for 2015 entries is July 1.



Michael Bonfante, a Rockwall High senior, recently received a \$500 check in recognition of his honorable mention in the second annual Young Marine Artists Search. Shown presenting Bonfante with the check is Chris Kosterman, the Rockwall ISD's fine arts director. Also pictured are, from the left, Thom Loafman, Rockwall Art League president; Anne Foster, RHS art instructor, and Courtney Gober, RHS principal.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Today is deadline to register to vote May 9

Today, April 9, is the deadline to register to vote in the May 9 city and school district elections, according to a news release issued by the Rockwall County Elections Office.

To be eligible to vote in Texas, an individual must:

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be a resident of the county
- Be 18 years old (individuals may register at 17 years and 10 months)
- Not be a convicted felon (unless sentence is completed, including probation)
- Not be declared mentally incapacitated by a court of law

Applications to register to vote can be downloaded at rockwallcountytexas.com, or calling 972-204-6200. 915 Whitmore, The elections office is located at Suite D, Rockwall, TX 75087.



Pictured above is Tropical Fish, Rockwall High senior Michael Bonfante's hand-painted stoneware sculpture that captured an honorable mention in the 2014 Young Marine Artists Search. Bonfante's entry was one of 34 entries and the only one from Texas.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



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The Nebbie Williams Elementary PTA, in partnership with the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, hosted its 2nd Annual Science Fair on March 17. Volunteers from the Perot Museum served as judges and reviewed the projects and interview participants. Champions were, from the left, kindergarten; Zander Moore; first/second grade, Autumn Hughes; fifth/sixth grade, Hannah Moore; and third/fourth grade, Chaney Moore. Grand champion was third grade student Katharine Orgies for her project, Strawberry DNA - A Soapy Experiment.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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Tickets available for RSM's summer shows

Tickets for Rockwall Summer Musicals' summer productions "Guys and Dolls" and "West Side Story" - are now available.

Performances of "Guys and Dolls" are set for 7:30 p.m. June 25-27 and 2 p.m. June 28 at the RHS Performing Arts Center at Utey, 1201 T.L. Townsend Drive, Rockwall.

"Guys and Dolls," ripe with gamblers, gangsters and sass, showgirls, celebrates Broadway's golden era with fan favorites such as "Luck Be a Lady," "S Wonderful," "I've Got a Feeling About You," and "I've Never Been in Love Before."

"West Side Story" will be staged at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 13-15 and at 2 p.m. Aug. 16 at the same location.

"West Side Story" transports theatergoers to the vibrant, colorful, and tragic love story of the 1950s New York City west side. Inspired by Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," it follows the doomed trajectory of love for Tony and Maria as their rival gangs, the Jets and the Sharks, clash over territory and power. Well-known songs include "Somewhere's Coming," "Maria," "America" and "Tonight."

Cost are \$19.95 for adults, \$17.95 for seniors/students. Tickets are available online at showclix.com/events/9148 or by calling 1-888-71-TICKETS.



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RHS' Hinton wins 3 events at Rockin' "R" Relays

Hinton won three events to help host Rockwall finish third among 15 girls' teams on Thursday, April 8, at Rockin' "R" Relays at Wilkerson-Sanders Memorial Stadium.

Hinton placed first in the 100-meter hurdles in 14.35 seconds, the high jump at 5 feet, 6 inches and the long jump at 19-10 1/2 -- nearly a foot longer than the 19-0 1/4 that had earned third place for her at the Texas Relays in Austin on April 23.

Other Lady Jackets each won an event to help them total 70 points. Mesquite Horn won the meet with 106 points.

Amelia Thornton knocked more than 5 seconds off her seeding time to win the girls' 800-meter run in 2:32.37 seconds, with teammate Emily Drewery second in 2:33.46. Maiya Collins represented Rockwall in the 1,600-meter run, and placed sixth in 5:28.59.

McKee won the 1,600 in 5:56.83, Sarah Graves took the pole vault at 10-6 and Alex Patterson improved to 20 feet to win the discus at 119-11.

RHS' Kaitlyn Stark competed in two elite races, placing second in the 1,600 at 5:37.84 and fifth in the 3,200 at 12:48.84.

The Rockwall boys finished sixth with 40.25 points. Mesquite Horn also won the boys' competition with 106.

For the Jackets, Damon Lewis won the 1,600 in 4:52.62. The 4X200-meter relay team of Micah Njoku, Cameron Crayton, John Wright and Chris Warren won in 1:30.12, almost 4 seconds better than their seeding time.

SOFTBALL: Rockwall remained undefeated (13-0-1 overall, 8-0 in District 11-6A) with a 13-1 victory at North Garland on Thursday, April 2.

The Lady Jackets, ranked second in the Texas Girls' Coaches Association 6A poll and ninth among maxpreps.com's national Xcellent 25, have outscored their last three opponents by a combined score of 41-2. For the season, their average score has been about 12-2.

RHS was scheduled to play at Garland Lakeview Centennial on Tuesday and at Garland Naaman Forest at 4 p.m. on Friday. The Lady Jackets could face a challenge at home at 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 14, against Sachse. The Lady Mustangs equaled the opponents' season high for runs in a 9-6 loss to Rockwall the first time through the district.

BASEBALL: The Yellowjackets dropped to 9-5 overall, 4-2 in District 11-6A and into a tie for third place by losing 5-1 at Tyler Lee on April 2.

RHS outhit the Red Raiders 6-4, but five errors undermined losing pitcher Chris Hatcher.

GYMNASTICS: Rockwall is scheduled to host the Region 1 Championships Monday and Tuesday. The RHS boys won their sixth consecutive district championship to qualify. The Lady Jackets also qualified by placing second in the district.

Rockwall-Heath also will compete. The RHHS girls won the district championship, and the Hawks qualified as the district runners-up.

GOLF: The Rockwall boys' and girls' teams both won District 11-6A championships to qualify for the Region II-6A championships at Cottonwood Creek in Waco. The boys are scheduled to play on Monday and Tuesday, and the girls on Wednesday and Thursday, April 15 and 16.

GIRLS' SOCCER: Long-time rival Highland Park eliminated the Lady Jackets from the playoffs with a 4-0 victory in the Area round on Friday night at Wildcat-Ram Stadium in Richardson. Kate Summers scored two goals for the Lady Scots.

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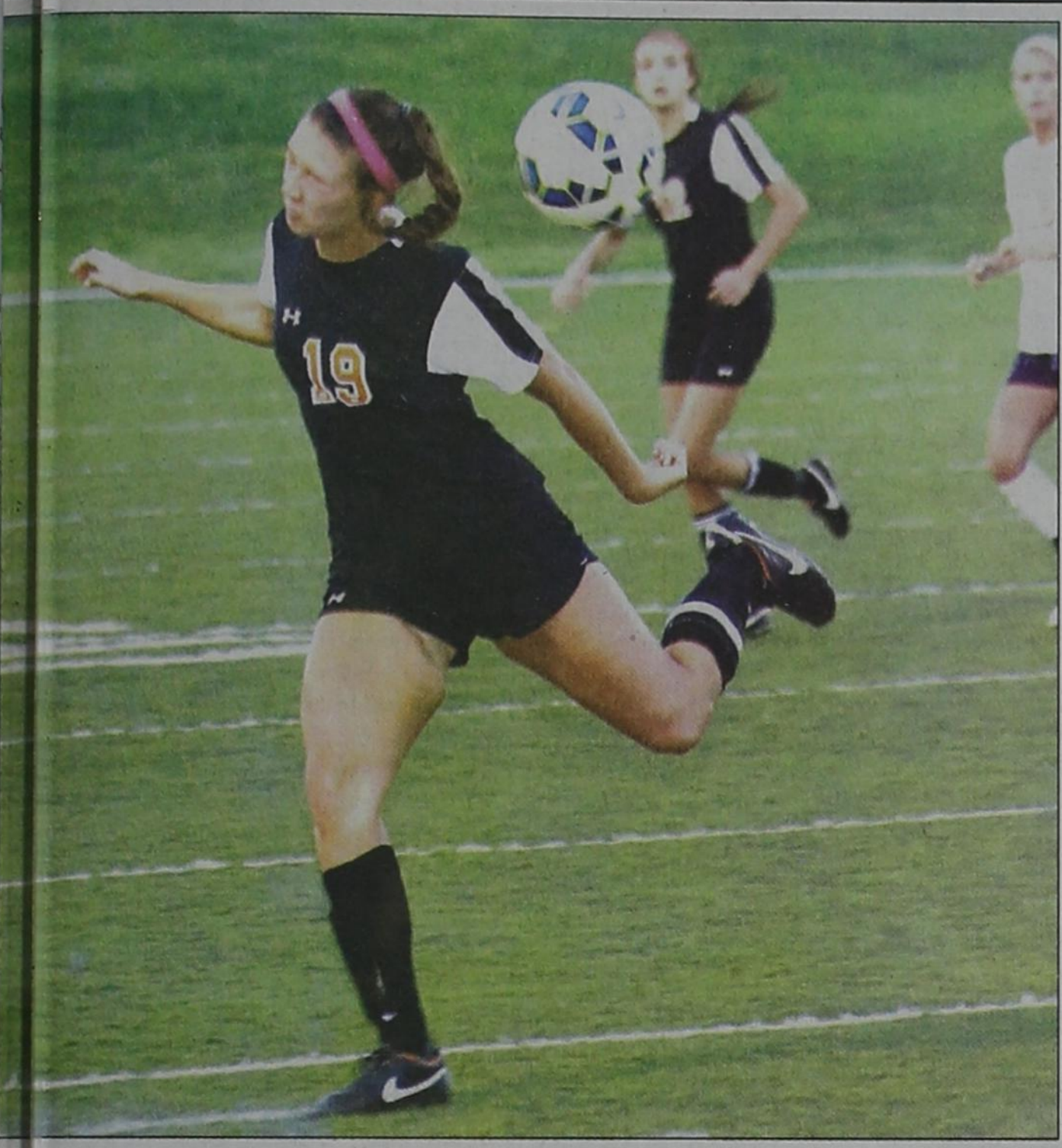
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Lady Jackets Senior Midfielder Makaela de Laura changes the direction of play with a header, Fri. April 3, during the UIL Area playoff game against Highland Park at Wildcat-Ram Stadium in Dallas.
Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

Lady Eagles still unbeaten in district

The first-place Heritage Christian Academy softball team won 18-0 at Red Oak Ovilla Christian School on Monday to improve to 4-0 in TAPPS District 2-3A this season.

The Lady Eagles have been dominant in their first 3A season. They are scheduled to play at Dallas First Baptist at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday and against McKinney Christian Academy at Craig Ranch at 4:30 p.m. on Friday.

TRACK AND FIELD: HCA's Ben Breeden tied for sixth place in the pole vault on Thursday, April 2, in the Rockin' "R" Relays at Wilkerson-Sanders Memorial Stadium.

Breeden represented the Eagles against 16 other schools, some from UIL 6A, and cleared 12 feet, 6 inches to finish in a four-way tie. The winning height was 17-0; his best has been 13-0.

BASEBALL: The Eagles remained winless in TAPPS District 3-3A after a 20-5 home loss to Trinity Christian Academy-Cedar Hill on April 2 at Baseball Nation. HCA is scheduled for district games at Baseball Nation at 4 p.m. on Thursday against Ovilla Christian and at 7 p.m. Monday vs. Dallas First Baptist Academy.

Malak, 'Orion' take 1st Wednesday race

Yet another sign of spring showed up on Lake Ray Hubbard on Wednesday evening, April 1.

It was when Race 1 of the 2015 Spring Wednesday Night Series drew nine sailboats to compete.

The big winners were Dan Malak, first in the A Fleet aboard "Orion," and a new MacGregor 26 boat, "Miss Kitty," which won in the B Fleet.

Following Malak across the finish line were Chris Hunke, second in "Swale," and George Conklin, third with "Aucity." Second place in the B Fleet went to David Lawson and "Respite."

After 2 weeks when racing was canceled because of inclement weather, the Sunday Founders Series resumed with Race 7 on March 15. Marshall Mackenzie won that race with "Superman's Cape." Malak and "Orion" took second.

Races 8 and 9 on the final two Sundays of March drew five competitors.

Mackenzie also won Race 8 with "Superman's Cape." Malak sailed "Orion" to second place, with Kathy Kuipers third in "Rij Jik of Jik Ik."

"Orion" won Race 9 with Malak at the helm, followed by Kathy Kuipers, second with "Three Sheets," and Mackenzie bringing "Superman's Cape" home in third place.



Third place and top overall female winner of the Heart of Rockwall 5K run was 13-year-old Maddie Hatfield, shown above. Hatfield's time for the race was 18:17. Second place in the 5K went to Ben Williams, not pictured, who posted a time of 18:08. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Rockwall County Sports Notes

Little Kickers Soccer continues

The Little Kickers Soccer program, open to children ages 3-5, will offer its second session April 20-May 25 and its third session June 8-July 20. For more information or to register, contact the Rockwall Parks & Rec department at rockwall.com/athletics.

Preschool Flag Football sessions offered

The second and third sessions of the Preschool Flag Football program offered by the Rockwall Parks & Rec department will run April 22-May 27 and June 10-July 22. To register or for more details, visit rockwall.com/athletics.

Royse City sports ...

(continued from Page 6)

Moseley shot 85-87-172, good for fifth place among 52 golfers at Waterview Golf Course, on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 31 and April 1. His score led Royse City's A team to sixth place among eight teams at 372-172-144.

Other scores for the Bulldogs' A team were Zach Arredondo 89-93-182, Brad Moseley 96-95-191, Drew Williams 105-97-202 and Ryan Hellmuth 102-104-206.

The Lady Bulldogs placed third at 408-391-799, but just the top two teams qualified for Regionals. Horn placed third among the 21 golfers 15 96-91-187, and Gornto shot 102-96-198 for eighth place.

The Royse City boys' B team finished eighth at 447-436-883. Jacob Jackson led those Bulldogs with 109-107-16.

Public Announcement

Rockwall Central Appraisal District will begin mailing Notices of Appraised Value to residential homestead property owners in early April; non-homestead, commercial, industrial and business personal property value notices will follow in May. Notices of Appraised Value are mailed to property owners who are new owners, property owners who have filed a rendition, and properties that have increased more than one thousand dollars in value over the 2014 certified value.

Rockwall Central Appraisal District's objective is to appraise all property at 100% of market value as of January 1, as is required by law and in compliance with the Appraisal Foundations Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practices. Methods of appraisal include, but are not limited to, physical inspection of properties, cost application, sales and lease analysis, and agriculture productivity review.

The residential market as a whole is strong for 2015. Rockwall County experienced an overall growth in value of 9% with 4.8% contributed to new growth and 4.2% market value increase. Average days on market for residential homes in the county is 38 days.

Homestead Exemptions can provide significant relief for some homeowners by reducing the taxable value. Property owners should check their properties online at www.rockwallcad.com to ensure all exemptions to which they are entitled are in place. Application forms may be downloaded from the district website.

Property owners who disagree with the appraisal district's determination of value should contact the district by filing the protest notice enclosed with the notice or follow the instructions to protest online.

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