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# Rockwall County News

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Rockwall FFA projects fared well at the recent San Antonio Junior Ag Mechanics Show, which focuses on Texas 4-H and FFA members' projects. Judging focuses not only on the craftsmanship of the exhibitors, but also documentation and interaction with the judges' panel. The 2015 show had 773 entries representing 204 schools/clubs, with 1,822 students participating. Rockwall FFA projects included a 24' entry gate, third place out of 28 entries; 16' utility trailer, second out of 20 entries; 10' utility trailer, third out of 21 entries; and 12' dump trailer, first in class, Reserve Division and a \$12,000 scholarship. Pictured above, at back and from the left, are Matt Holland, Andrew Keils, John-Charles Terry, Jacob Hogue, Zach Thomasson, Will Morris and Bobby Fowler, instructor; second row, Hunter Harpst, Will Wilcoxson, Tristan Johnson, Ryan Ullom and Cade Herin; and third row, Aden Baker and Cole Schiebler. Not pictured are Christian Tunnel and Billy Fowler, instructor.  
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

## Rockwall delegates selected for 2015 Boys, Girls State

American Legion Post 117 of Rockwall is sponsoring six boys and eight girls to attend Boys and Girls State. The students were selected as delegates to a week-long leadership action program in June 2015. The selection was extremely difficult due to the quality of the candidates who were nominated, according to the release from the post. The delegates have the opportunity to learn and actively participate in mock local, county and state level governments. Delegates have the opportunity to run for political office at the local, county or state levels. The delegates will actively campaign, give speeches and present platforms for the office desired. The boys state will be June 7-13 at the University of Texas in Austin. The girls state will be June 14-20 at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin. American Legion Post 117 would like to thank the following individuals for their assistance in the selection of the 2015 Boy and Girl State delegates: Courtney Gober, principal, and Katie Duran, counselor, Rockwall High School; Ron Taylor, head master, and Jodie Benavidez, counselor, Rockwall Heritage High School; James Jones, counselor, Rockwall-Heath High School; and Gene Allen, American Legion Post 117, post commander.



Home-school student Caroline Pop, pictured above, is a 2015 American Legion Girls State delegate.  
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Graham Garrison, left, and Alex Robertson from Rockwall Heritage Christian Academy are 2015 American Legion Boys State delegates.  
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



American Legion Boys and Girls State delegates from Rockwall High School for 2015 are, at back, from the left, Corbin Quisenberry, Chris Daniels and Walker Knight and, at front, Cate Ghormely, Destinee De Hart and Maddie Lynch.  
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



American Legion Boys and Girls State delegates from Rockwall-Heath High School for 2015 are, from the left, Ben Burton, Regan Olmstead, Hanna Mullins, Tatiana Cordts and Isabella Burzair.  
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

## Apartment buildings to be built in Royse City

Millie Jean Coppedge  
A resolution was passed 6-0 during the Royse City Council meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 24, supporting the proposed Mariposa Apartment Homes to be built on Old Greenville Road. The resolution included an "application to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, authorizing an allocation by TDHCA of Housing Tax Credits for the development." Donner Carrington, a company that designs, constructs and manages apartment homes, said that upon the completion date, estimated to be in 2018, there will be 222 units. The apartment homes to be built on the 12.81-acre spot will offer one- and two-bedroom homes for adults 55 and up. The community will be exclusively for seniors, no children. The proposal to build a 12-inch waterline extension on South FM 35 from the Woodland Creek addition to County Road 2526 also passed 6-0. Currently, there are no waterlines there. If new subdivisions should be built in the future, the waterline would be in place and ready for hook-up. The price for the design, engineering and installation of the 5,000 feet of waterlines are estimated to cost \$361,586. The Sabine Creek Community Plan was approved with no changes made. The target area neighborhood file is "bounded by I-30 to the north, Cemetery Road to the east, the Sabine Creek to the south, South FM 35 to the west."  
(Continued on Page 2)

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## Rockwall County News Briefs

RCP plans STAR Players Spring Workshop  
The Rockwall Community Playhouse will again offer its STAR (Special Theater at Rockwall) Players Spring Workshop for teens (16 and older) and adults with Down syndrome and autism. The 10-week program will focus on theater basics, stage movement,  
(Continued on Page 5)





## Rockwall County Obituaries

### Bobby G. Brackeen

Services for Bobby G. Brackeen, 77, of Roysse City were conducted at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 1, 2015, in the Eastridge Church of Christ in Rockwall with Jim Barnett officiating. Burial followed in the Rest Haven Memorial Park. The Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

He died Feb. 26 in Rockwall. Born Aug. 3, 1937, in Commerce to Leve and Martha (Turner) Brackeen, he worked at Texland Petroleum in Fort Worth for 40 years and was a production manager. He was a member of the Eastridge Church of Christ.

Survivors include his wife, Janette (Beach) Brackeen of Roysse City; the mother of his children, Armina (Skeen) Brackeen; his children, Leslie Feiock and her husband, Brian, of Fort Myers, Florida, Tanya Brackeen of Denton and David Brackeen of Los Angeles, California; his grandchildren, Matthew, Alex, Kevin, Ranae and Sarah; his stepchildren, Brooke and Chris Ludwig; and step-grandchildren, Bristol, Brock and Colt.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Leve Brackeen Jr. and Charles A. Bishop.

The family has suggested memorial contributions may be made to Christ's Haven for Children, 4200 Keller Haslet Road, Fort Worth, TX 76244 or christshaven.org.



## Royse City city council ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Bell Street to the west and covers about two square miles. The plan will address growth, transportation/infrastructure, public services and facilities, employment and diversity."

The SCCP will work toward continuing the mission of preserving the small-town atmosphere while offering a higher quality of life for the citizens of Roysse City.

City Manager Carl Alsbrook said that according to a study done by a company called ValuePenguin, Roysse City placed fifth as the safest small town in Texas and seventh out of the 210 towns ranked overall.

The study showed that Roysse City "has an exceptionally low rate of violent crime and relatively little property crime, which gives it its favorable ranking." The population was 10,132 at the time of the study.

The rankings were determined by using 2013 crime statistic data from FBI Crime Report, whereas 210 cities were broken down into three groups: small towns, with 20,000 or less in population; midsized towns, with 20,000- 50,000 in population; and large towns with more than 50,000 citizens.

Violent crimes included "murder/mauslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault, and property crimes included burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft and arson."

The top five safest places to live in Texas according to the study are: Murphy, Colleyville, Highland Village, Hutto and Memorial Village. Rockwall came in at number 27, Dallas at 199 with Houston at the bottom of the list.

As a reminder, early voting for the city council election was to have been April 27-May 5, with the general election May 9. But since there are no contested election -- all candidates unopposed -- there will be no city elections. Candidates are, for mayor, Janet Nichol; Council Place 1, Charles Houk; Place 3, Bruce Bradley; and Place 5, incumbent James Branch.

All members of the council were present for the meeting except Councilman Tom Crowley.

The next council meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, at the Police and Courts Building, 100 W. Main St.

## Births

Angela O'Kelley and Mazen Saleh of Garland are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Sehra Ava Saleh, at 6:41 p.m. Jan. 30, 2015, at Lake Pointe Hospital.

The infant weighed 5 pounds, 5 ounces and was 18 1/2 inches long at birth.

Grandparents are Teresa and Rick O'Kelley and Fatima and Wajih Saleh.



Sehra Ava Saleh

### Wayne Collins

A memorial service for Wayne Collins, 80, of Rockwall, formerly of Roysse City, will be conducted at 2 p.m. Friday, March 6, 2015, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel with Pastor Les Joslin officiating.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. prior to the service.

He died March 1 in Rowlett.

Born May 30, 1934, in Bogata, Texas, to Corbitt and Bonnie Davie (Burns) Collins, he was a truck driver of construction building materials and a member of the First Baptist Church of Roysse City. He was a longtime Roysse City resident.

Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Sherlie Claudine (Miller) Collins of Rockwall; his daughters, Karol Chesser, and her husband, David, of Baytown and Sharon Brockway and her husband, Mark, of Roysse City; his grandchildren, Kimberly Lombardi, and her husband, Greg, Nina Brockway, Stephen Chesser and his wife, Ashley, Cody Brockway and Clint Brockway; his great-grandchildren, Grant Upston and Logan Upston; numerous nieces; and one nephew.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Hal; and his sisters, Kat, Pete and Reese.

### Charles 'Charlie Brown' Hughes

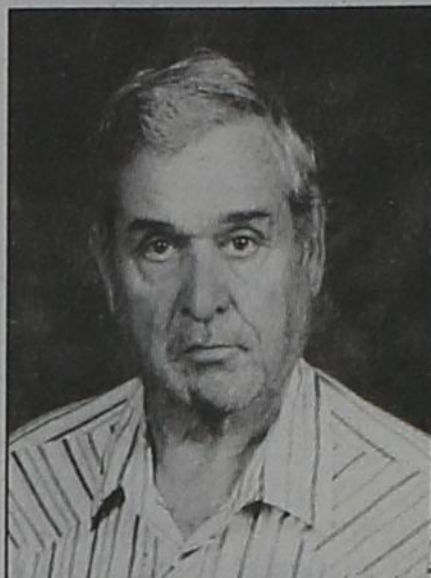
A memorial service for Charles "Charlie Brown" Hughes, 69, of Farmersville will be conducted at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 7, 2015, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel.

He died Feb. 27 in Greenville.

Born Jan. 20, 1946, in Waco to Henry Anthony and Marcileen (Graves) Hughes, he served in the U.S. Navy and was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He was a builder in the construction industry.

Survivors include his wife, Dana Sue (Cobb) Hughes of Farmersville; his son, Bradley Hughes, and his wife, Theresa, of Roysse City; his daughter, Stephanie Manire, and her husband, Lonnie, of Mesquite; his grandchildren, Nicholas Bolin, Dana Bolin and Kinley Hughes; his "man's best friend," Butterball; his "grand-dog," Pippy; his sisters, Roselyn Saffle and her husband, Jimmie, LaVerne Conaway and Linda Worley and her husband, Wayne; and numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a baby brother.



## Sawyer Brown named headliner for May 16 Founders Day Festival

Country music band Sawyer Brown has been announced as the headlining act for Rockwall's Founders Day Festival set for May 16.

Sawyer Brown's performance will begin at 7 p.m., according to a City of Rockwall news release.

Other live performances scheduled for the event include Cole Risner, 10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.; Memphis Soul, 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.; Railhead, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Clay McClinton, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and King Buck's, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

For more details, visit ockwallfoundersday.com.



Rockwall County Constable Randy Parks (Precinct 4) was recognized by the Texas Senate for assisting in saving the life of Jack Keys, Nov. 19, 2014 on Highway 276 near the FM 548 intersection. The Senate passed a proclamation honoring Parks for taking "quick and decisive action." Parks observed Keys' van traveling fast and erratically. After the van came to a stop, Parks approached the scene without presuming the driver as drunk, but instead approached with concern for the driver. Because of Parks initial handling of the matter as a fist responder, EMS was able to stabilize Keys and treat for diabetic shock. Constable Parks has been called to return to Austin, Thursday March 12, 2015, to be honored by the Texas House of Representatives and Rep. Scott Turner. Shown above are (left to right) Texas Senator Bob Hall, Parks, Gloria Parks and Randi Parks.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

### Wilma Jones

Services for Wilma Jones, 91, of Garland were conducted at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 4, 2015, in the First United Methodist Church in Roysse City with the Rev. Tim Marks officiating. Burial followed in the Campground Cemetery in Poetry. The Rest Haven Funeral Home-Royse City Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

She died Feb. 27.

Born Aug. 24, 1923, in Quinlan to Boyd and Allie (Parks) Adams, she loved everyone and never met a stranger. Her home was open to anyone. She was pure of heart and willing to donate funds to any cause.

She enjoyed sewing, needlework and having family and friends over the house. She was a quilter extraordinaire, a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, a 59-year member of the Easter Star member of the Pleasant Grove Assembly of God.

Survivors include her children, Paul Fisk, and his wife, Fraya, John Fiske and his wife, Frieda, John Fiske and his wife, Elizabeth, Laura and her husband, Calvin, Laverne Ketcherside and her husband, Mark, and Gary Fisk, and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John Jones, in 2003 and sons, Charles and Bob Jones.

The family has suggested that memorial contributions may be made to the First United Methodist Church of Roysse City.

### Howard Alden 'Smitty' Smith

Services for Howard Alden "Smitty" Smith of Roysse City were conducted at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015, in the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel with Bobby Forbes officiating. The Tri-County Honor Guard provided military honors.

He died Feb. 25.

Born Nov. 22, 1921, in Kansas City, Missouri, to Floyd Sr. and Irene (Partridge) Smith, he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He retired after many years at South Central Bell, now AT&T, as a central office supervisor, then went to work at Bank of America, a job he loved. He was a Baptist, a Mason and a member of the American Legion.

Survivors include his wife, Ginger (Philpot) Smith of Roysse City; his children, Charles Smith and his wife, DeeDee, of Lake Charles, Louisiana, Sheryl Forbes and her husband, Bobby, of Kingwood, De Prudhomme and her husband, Mike, of Shreveport, Louisiana, Michael Ridout and her husband, James, of Fate, Michael Roland and his wife, Shirley, of Henderson, Nevada, Mark Roland and his wife, Donna, of Arcia Bonanno and Glen Parker of Shreveport; 15 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; his brother, Leonard Smith, of Union, California; and his dog, Oscar Romo.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers, Floyd Smith and Clayton Smith; his sister, Caroll Sydonna Smith; and his dogs, Cliff and Randee.

The family would like to extend special thanks to Hospice Selma Debbie Chester, Griswald Home Care and Jamie and David George (grandchildren).

The family has suggested that memorial contributions may be made to the Disabled American Veterans, VA Regional Office, 1 Veterans Plaza, 701 Clay St., Waco, TX 76799 or dav.org.

## Body discovered on Lake Ray Hubbard I-30 bridge

A Dallas Fire Department boat found a body along the rocks of the eastbound I-30 bridge over Lake Ray Hubbard at about 1:04 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, according to a Rockwall Police Department news release.

The body was discovered within the jurisdiction of the City of Dallas and the Dallas Police are handling the related investigation.

The identity of the individual has not been released pending family notification, according to the news release.

The discovery was made during a search prompted Feb. 27 when the Rockwall Police Department received notification concerning a missing person in the Harbor area.

The area was searched for several hours, but the missing person was not located.

On Feb. 28, the Rockwall Police continued their search and a report pertaining to the missing person was entered into the national database of missing individuals. Additionally, the local police requested assistance from Dallas Police and Fire departments in searching the Lake Ray Hubbard shoreline.

No other details pertaining to the missing person were included in the news release.

## Local GOP to host Reagan Day 2015

Tickets are available for Reagan Day 2015, sponsored by the Rockwall County GOP. The annual fundraising dinner and program will be Saturday, March 21, at the Hilton Dallas Rockwall Lakefront and will feature keynote speaker J.C. Watts, former U.S. Congressman and national known political analyst.

Watts delivered the Republican response to Bill Clinton's 1992 State of the Union address and was elected chair of the House Republican Conference in 1993. He retired in 2003 and turned to lobbying and business work, also occasionally serving as a political commentator.

Watts was elected House Republican Conference Chair in 1998, replacing John Boehner after a vote of 121-93. Watts assumed the position in 1999 and was the first African-American Republican elected to a leadership post.

Doors will open at 5 p.m. VIP Room access will be available beginning at 6 p.m. The dinner and program will begin at 7 p.m. A silent and live auction will also be part of the evening festivities. Table sponsorships are also available.

For more information, call Jerry Fisher at 214-478-6100 or jlf\_fisher@hotmail.com.



Joe Gilbert

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## Rock Wall DAR group presents annual awards

The Rock Wall Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution conducted its annual awards presentation tea Sunday, March 1, in the home of Carolyn Duckworth in Heath. Regent Mindy Lovell welcomed guests and recipients. Corresponding secretary Julia McCormack introduced the award recipients and their guests. Chaplain Faye Heil provided the invocation. Recognized as the American history essay award recipients were middle school students Abigail Mayfield, Heritage Christian Academy, Lydia Knight, Faith Academy, Rockwall. The DAR Good Citizen Committee chair, Margaret Davidson, presented six senior high school recipients their awards. Senior Courtney Hill of North Forney High School will represent the organization as state-level representative. Other honorees include Marissa Terese Dusek, Roysie City High School; Mackenzie Grace Long, Rockwall High School; Meredith Avery Pollock, Fulton School; Madeline Elizabeth Smith, Heritage Christian Academy; and Jennifer Lynne Hiddink, Wylie High School.



The Rock Wall Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution hosted its annual awards presentation tea March 1 in the Heath. Pictured above are DAR Good Citizens Award recipients Courtney R. Hill, Madeline Elizabeth Smith, DAR Regent Mindy Lovell, Good Citizen Committee chair Margaret Davidson, Marissa Terese Dusek, Mackenzie Grace Long and Meredith Avery Pollock. Not pictured is Jennifer Lynne Hiddink.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



The Rock Wall Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution hosted its annual awards presentation tea March 1 in the Heath. Pictured are Linda Smith, vice-regent, with American history essay honoree Lydia Knight.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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 Romans 10: 9-10

"Have I not commanded you; be strong and of a good courage. Be not afraid, neither be dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee wherever you go."  
 Joshua 1:9

"Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord."  
 Psalm 150:6

"A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul."  
 Proverbs 18:7

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding;"  
 Proverbs 3:5

"In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy path;"  
 Proverbs 3:6

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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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### AA Meetings

Rockwall, 7 days a week, Big Book Group, 213 Rusk St., 972-722-6366.

### Al-Anon Meetings

Call for information and locations in Dallas area, 214-363-0461.

### Al-Anon Garland

Meetings Monday & Friday, 8 p.m. at 2206 South Jupiter St., Suite 130, Garland.

Call 972-722-3099

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Sons of the American Revolution East Fork-Trinity Chapter meets 6:00 p.m., second Thursday each month, 4881 Bass Pro Dr. Garland, Texas. Guests & family welcome. <http://www.txssar.org/> EastForkTrinity.

Rockwall County Kiwanis Club Meets every Tuesday at noon at the Rockwall Wedding Chapel, and we recently added an evening meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., also at the Rockwall Wedding Chapel, 203 S. Fannin. For more information call 972-772-6001

### Senior Services

If you are interested in delivering weekday meals to homebound seniors in Rockwall County, we will be holding volunteer training sessions the second Wednesday each month at 1 p.m. Please call 972-771-9514 for location.

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## Legal Notices

ESTATE OF JENNY LYNN LANFORD DECEASED, Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Temporary Administration upon the Estate of Jenny Lynn Lanford, Deceased, were issued on February 4, 2015, in Cause No. PR14-157, pending in the County Court at Law of Rockwall County, Texas. All persons having claims against the Estate are hereby required

to present same within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Claims should be addressed in care of "Representative, Estate of Jenny Lynn Lanford, Deceased" and may be presented to the Representative at the following address: c/o Robert C. Wilmoth,

Farrow-Gillespie & Heath, LLP, 1700 Pacific Avenue, Suite 3700, Dallas, TX 75201. Temporary Administrator of the Estate of Jenny Lynn Lanford, Deceased. Cause NO. PR14-157.

## Legal Notices

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a BQ Wine and Beer Retailer's Off-Premise Permit EZ IN EZ OUT, INC., d/b/a Gateway #19, to be located at: 2205 HWY 276, Rockwall, TX, 75032, Rockwall County, TX. Officer of said corporation is SHIREE NICOLE PASLAY President & Secretary.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Private Club Registration Permit by AAKI's 19th Hole, to be located at 846 FM 2453, Royse City, ROCKWALL, Texas. Officers of said unincorporated association of persons are Kirk Froehlich, President/Director; Rie Froehlich, Secretary/Director and Yorikeo Ishikawa, Director.

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Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, (Advantage Storage Rockwall North), which is located at (4028 N. Hwy 205, Rockwall, Tx. 75087) will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien online at [www.StorageBattles.com](http://www.StorageBattles.com). The auction will end on or around 11:00am on 03-30-2015. Property will be sold to the highest bidder. Deposit for removal and cleanup may be required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of Colton Demoss, items included household items; Furniture. Contact Trey, 972-772-2051.

COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSAL ROCKWALL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Administration Building Generator CSP 15-03-01

Sealed proposals will be received until 2:00 PM (CST) March 24, 2015 The Rockwall Independent School District is receiving sealed proposals in regard to a generator project at the RISD Administration Building. Drawings and specifications may be examined at the Engineers' Office; TEXO/AGC/iSqFt (Lawton Reprographic Centers, 14305 Inwood Road, Dallas, Texas 75244, Phone: 800-364-2059); DFW Minority Business Council, 2710 N. Stemmons Freeway, Suite 900, North Stemmons Tower, Dallas, Texas 75207 (Phone: 214-630-0747); and The Builders' Exchange of Texas, Inc. (3 Lincoln Center, 5430 LBJ Freeway, Suite 1200, Dallas, Texas 75240 (Phone: 214-687-9000).

Drawings and specifications may be obtained electronically from the following website: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/dvhs3jkm0s98tb8/AADzXkUTOCgq9oAUM2yNhtMa?dl=0>

A pre-proposal conference will be held at the RISD Administration Building (1050 Williams Street) at 10:00 A.M. (CST) on March 17, 2015. It is highly recommended that companies submitting proposals attend.

Proposal documents should be submitted in a sealed envelope to the attention of the Rockwall Independent School District, Director of Purchasing and marked with the CSP number and name of respondent. Proposals will be received until 2:00 PM (CST) on March 24, 2015 at the Administration Center located at 1050 Williams Street, Rockwall TX 75087 at which time said responses will be publicly opened but not read.

The District reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any irregularities, technicalities or informalities in any proposal or the CSP process.

Engineer: Estes, McClure & Associates, Inc. 3608 West Way Tyler, TX 75703 Phone: 903-581-2677 Project Number: 99/488

Rockwall County News legally qualifies for publication of required legal notices for all government units located in Rockwall County as a newspaper of general circulation under Texas Government Code Section 2051.044, 2051.045, 2051.046 and 2051.048 (b) and (c).

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## Opinions

# Innocent family members receive sentences too

by Millie Jean Coppedge

On Dec. 1, the Eric Williams-Kaufman County murder trial began at the Rockwall County Courthouse.

Williams was accused of the capital murder of Cynthia McLelland of Kaufman. He was suspected of murdering Assistant District Attorney Mark Hasse and Cynthia's McLelland's husband, District Attorney Mike McLelland, but was only tried for the murder of Cynthia McLelland. Prosecutors left the door open to try him for the murders of Hasse and Mike McLelland at a later date in case something went wrong during the trial and Williams was not found guilty.

He was, however, found guilty of capital murder and sentenced to life in prison without parole. He is now awaiting an appeal.

Williams was suspected of murdering Hasse and the McLellands in 2013 in a "revenge killing" because the two prosecutors helped convict him of stealing two computer monitors from the federal courthouse. Cynthia McLelland was innocently murdered so she would not be able to testify against Williams, according to the testimony of Kim Williams, Eric Williams' estranged wife. Kim Williams testified in the sentencing portion of the trial. As of the conviction, Williams was marked as a felon, lost his license to practice law and his position in Kaufman as justice of the peace.

I was in the courtroom the first day when the murder trial began. As the case progressed, I took copious notes. This was the first trial I had ever attended, not to mention such a notorious case.

Day after day, I sat on the front row in the courtroom, next to the brother-in-law and 86-year-old father of Eric Williams. My seating in the courtroom was not planned, but on the first day, I sat on the back row and could neither see nor hear what was transpiring with the attorneys, witnesses, judge or jury. When the judge gave the court the first break, I quickly came back and asked a man sitting on the front row if anyone was sitting next to him in the empty space and if he minded if I sat there. He said no and that I was welcome to sit beside him. For the next 10 days, that was my view of the unbelievable court proceedings as they played out.

By the end of that first day, I realized I was sitting by Williams' brother-in-law (who was married to Williams' sister) and father. I debated, very seriously, if I should sit somewhere else the next day. I toiled over it all night and the next morning; only as I walked into the courtroom did I decide to sit there another day.

By the third day, I knew this was where I wanted to be. For some strange reason, I feared people in the courtroom would think I was part of Williams' family. But by that day, I didn't care. Williams' brother-in-law, father and I had begun, during the breaks, to share thoughts of the hell their lives had become since Williams was first found guilty of theft of governmental property. Now he was charged with capital murder.

Williams' father and brother-in-law were the only family members he had in the courtroom for most of the trial. I felt as if an invisible glass bubble was around them as if people couldn't even see them. The two men sat so sad, helpless to do anything except listen to the trial proceedings. The horrific deed had been done. Now they were destined to have to hear about it and learn what their son and brother-in-law was accused of having so maliciously and deviously carried out.

The Hasse and McLelland families and friends sat on the opposite side of the courtroom. The pain they were suffering was beyond words as they hugged and cried when especially sensitive testimony or visual evidence was presented.

Day after day as I watched Williams' father and brother-in-law wring their hands, bend over and put their heads between their knees and cry, my heart grew heavier and my mind weary. The anguish, pain and torture the two men were going through was so obvious as witness after witness was called to the stand to testify and lay out the life of their loved one for everyone to hear.

Yes, I understand and so humbly sympathize with the Hasse and McLelland families and friends. The vicious murders were evil, twisted and unbelievably cruel. There is no debating that what the murder victims went through before they died was heinous. My mind cannot even begin to understand such acts.

The last two days of the trial, I had a family emergency and was forced to miss those days and final verdict, which was given at the beginning of the third day of the third week of trial.

On Friday night, Feb. 27, almost three months after the trial began, the television show "Dateline" aired a two-hour documentary of the Kaufman County murders called "Vendetta." As the show came on, cold chills came over me, as did a feeling I have no words to describe. During the trial, I sat just a few feet from the accused "cold-blooded, psychopathic killer" as he was described by the head prosecutor in the case. But watching the whole episode replayed in the show and seeing things I did not see during the trial made the Kaufman murders so much more real.

I am sure this trial and all that unfolded during the investigation will always be in the back of my mind. But I cannot even begin to imagine what Williams' family members have been and will go through for the rest of their lives.

We so often forget or possibly don't realize the pain and suffering the family and friends go through in something like this. I have tried to understand what I would have to go through if one of my family members or even good friends was found guilty of such a horrible act and would spend the rest of their life in prison. We often think we know people, but something like this case just shows that people can have a dark side to their personalities that others don't see.

Williams' father, mother and other family members saw him as such a sweet, extremely smart young boy who grew to become an accomplished attorney and judge. They reportedly never saw the dark side of him and can't in any way fathom the crimes he was found guilty of committing.

When someone is convicted, especially in such a high-profile trial, we are so overwhelmed with the actions of the accused that we don't even stop to think of the devastation, torture and everlasting visions burned into the family's minds and hearts of the crime someone so close to them has perpetrated.

Williams' family members did nothing wrong, yet they will so innocently carry the burden for the rest of their lives for something over which they had no control or knowledge. They, too, received a life sentence. Unless something changes and Williams wins an appeal, no doubt his elderly parents and many of his family members will die while he is in prison. A sad thought.

The emotional suffering will hang over all involved in this case, including all those in the courtroom, the judge, attorneys, witnesses, jurors and those in attendance.

Justice was done, but justice doesn't mend broken hearts.



# Rockwall-Heath Hawks win 1st playoff game, then upset by Wylie

Rockwall-Heath's best boys' basketball season ever reached new heights when the Hawks recorded the first playoff victory in their history Wednesday, Feb. 25.

RHHS broke away in the second half to defeat Carrollton Newman Smith 88-77 in a Bi-District game at Lake Highlands.

On Saturday in the Area round at Garland Lakeview Centennial, the Hawks' second quarter left Rockwall-Heath with a 10-point halftime deficit against Wylie. A second-half rally fell short, and the Pirates (19-10) held on for a 66-63 upset of the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches' eighth-ranked 5A team.

RHHS finished its season 29-2.

The Hawks led Newman Smith just 40-37 at halftime. Tyler Zivney, who was scoreless in the first half, hit three 3-pointers in the third quarter to help Rockwall-Heath's lead to 65-57 after three quarters.

Camron Talley led RHHS with 22 points. Jackson Zivney added 19 points and Kelden Pruitt had 14. Nathen Stover came off the bench to score 12.

The Hawks trailed Wylie just 20-18 after one quarter, but the second-quarter lapse put them in a 33-23 hole. Rockwall-Heath pulled within two points at 45-43 entering the fourth quarter, but couldn't catch up. A long 4-point attempt missed at the buzzer.

Jackson Zivney had a game-high 23 points, and Talley scored 17.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RHHS	18	22	23	25	88
Newman Smith	19	18	20	20	77

RHHS - Camron Talley 22, Jackson Zivney 19, Kelden Pruitt 14, Nathen Stover 12, Tyler Zivney 9, Jeremiah Sandidge 8, Colton Rashbrook 4.

Carrollton Newman Smith - Deondre Burns 29, Marquies Tinsley 17, Cameron McGee 10, Quintarius Robinson 9, T.J. Melntree 7, Charles Fortenberry 3, Mitchell Sullivan 2.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RHHS	18	5	20	20	63
Wylie	20	13	12	21	66

RHHS - Jackson Zivney 23, Camron Talley 17, Kelden Pruitt 9, Jeremiah Sandidge 8, Bryan Knotzman 3, Tyler Zivney 3.

Wylie - Myron Varmell 20, Noah Whitworth 15, Alen Dervisevic 9, Michael Gipson 7, David Strickland 6, Scott Garriga 5, Stewart Matthews 4.



Hawks Kelden Pruitt (34) protects the ball from a Newman Smith defender, Wed. Feb. 25, during the Region 2-5A Bi-District playoff game at Lake Highlands High School. Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

## Gillentine takes 2nd and 3rd; Lady Hawks 13th in state

Rockwall-Heath's Harper Gillentine posted career bests in two events, taking second place in the 50-yard freestyle and third in the 100 free, in the girls' state swimming and diving championships Feb. 20 and 21.

The junior also anchored the Lady Hawks' 200 free relay team that placed 12th in 1 minute, 42.83 seconds. She earned 35 1/2 of RHHS' 51 points. The team placed 13th in the state.

Gillentine finished second behind Bryan's Julia Cook in the 50 in 23.1 seconds, 0.82 second better than her qualifying time. In the 100, Gillentine's time of 51.38 was .43 quicker than when she qualified.

Freshman Amber Conrad was 12th in the 100 free (53.84) and 14th in the 200 breaststroke (1:10.44), and swam on the 200 free relay team with freshman Sarah Houser, junior Bailey Lockaby and Gillentine.

The RHHS boys tied for 53rd in the state with 3 points from senior Earl Perlitz's 14th place in the 100 free (48.68). The 200 free relay team of Perlitz, seniors Kyle Butler and Eliseo Villarreal and sophomore Tyler Kinski was disqualified.

Talen Widener. The RHHS junior (30-16) was 3-2 in the state championships at Garland's Curtis Culwell Center.

Senior Jacob Makelke (37-12) placed sixth at 126 with a 3-3 record that included an 11-0 loss to Cedar Park's Mason Vidrine in the fifth-place match.

Going 1-2 for the Hawks were junior Zack Dobbins (32-12) at 195 and senior J.J. Nwigwe (21-11) at 285.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL: Carrollton Creekview's big second quarter doomed RHHS in a Bi-District playoff game Tuesday, Feb. 17, at Wylie.

The Lady Hawks (19-9) trailed just 11-10 after the first quarter, but Creekview outscored them 27-9 in the second quarter. It was 51-29 entering the fourth quarter, when even Rockwall-Heath's 33 points were too little, too late.

Katie Webster, who has signed to play at Long Beach State, scored 27 points in her last game for RHHS. Nicole Gleason added 16.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RHHS girls	10	9	10	33	62
Creekview	11	27	13	25	76

RHHS - Katie Webster 27, Nicole Gleason 16, Kendall Williams 5, Sophie Keith 5, Caitlyn Lozano 4, Kristina Lindsey 4, Morgan Talley 1.

Carrollton Creekview - Carissa Moody 20, Raela Hudson 18, Maddie Majering 12, Makayla Bonner 10, Ariel Page 7, Amarissa Raley 4, Sara Perez 3, Brianna Caughron 2.

## Rockwall County News Briefs

**Continued from Page 1)**

ditions, stage makeup, improve and acting techniques. The workshop will run from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturdays March 7-May 16. Tuition costs \$150; contact the RCP about the availability of tuition sponsors. For more details visit rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org or call 972-722-3399.

### Democratic men to meet March 7

The Democratic Men's Group of Rockwall County will host its next luncheon beginning at noon March 7 at Luigi's Italian Restaurant, 2002 S. Goliad St., Rockwall. The group meets on the first Saturday of each month at various local restaurants. Guest speaker will be Lorne Megyesi, Fate mayor. Open-minded, progressive men concerned about the future of Rockwall County and Texas are invited to attend.

### Republican Women to meet March 9

The Rockwall County Republican Women's Club will conduct its monthly meeting March 9 at Harry Myers Community Center. This will be a "getting to know you" meeting. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

## Rockwall County Entertainment

### March 5 concert to showcase RCISD talent

The Royse City ISD All-City Children's Chorus, comprised of about 50 RCISD elementary and intermediate school students, will perform at 7 p.m. March 5 in the Royse City High School auditorium. Tickets cost \$2 each and will be available at the door. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the RCISD Education Foundation.

### Program to focus on families' histories

The history of two landmark properties - the Florence Ranch on Barnes Bridge Road and the Lawrence Hoestead - will be explored during the Sheri Stodghill Lecture Series, formerly the Brown Bag Lecture Series, from noon to 1 p.m. March 13 in the third-floor courtroom at the historical downtown courthouse. Lectures are free and open to the public.

### 'Charlotte's Web' performances slated

A family favorite, "Charlotte's Web," will be performed by a cast of more than 40 cast and crew at Poetry Community Christian School at 7 p.m. Friday, March 13; 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 14; and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 15. Tickets cost \$10 for adults, \$7 for students; children under the age of 3 will be admitted free. All seats will be general seating; shows are expected to sell out. Will-call tickets available at events@poetrychristian.org or at the door if the performance is not sold out.

### Gardening Tea Luncheon to benefit MOW

Meals on Wheels of Rockwall County will host its second annual Gardening Tea Luncheon from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 27 at Nineteen at the Rockwall Golf & Athletic Club 2600 Champions Drive, Rockwall. Cost is \$32 per ticket, which is the cost to feed a senior for a week. Tickets must be purchased by March 20; visit www.mealsonwheels.org. Seating is limited for this event, which will benefit Meals on Wheels and Senior Services.

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 15 TX Tanya's "Can \_\_\_\_\_ You Tonight"  
 16 hoop attachment in Maverick game  
 19 TX Orbison's "\_\_\_\_ Woman"  
 20 TX Liz Smith's NY newspaper  
 22 TX Janine Turner was this Maggie on "Northern Exposure"  
 24 TX artist Ace (init.)  
 25 kitten sound  
 26 TX newspaper org.  
 27 threat to Cowboy Tony Romo  
 28 TX Byron Nelson was born \_\_\_\_\_  
 29 "Bold Venture" \_\_\_\_\_ 38-across  
 30 "legal eagle" abbr.  
 33 TX Martin sang about "King \_\_\_\_\_"  
 34 TXism: "between \_\_\_\_\_" (night)  
 35 angry  
 37 TX Pride's "My Eyes Can \_\_\_\_\_"  
 38 TXism: "spilled the \_\_\_\_\_" (revealed)  
 40 Atlanta h.s. class  
 41 started  
 44 "Permian \_\_\_\_\_"  
 47 TXism: "let the bag \_\_\_\_\_ of the bag"  
 49 west TX plants





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Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Rockwall is a joint venture owned by Texas Health Resources and physicians dedicated to the community, and meets the definition under federal law of a physician-owned hospital. Doctors on the medical staff practice independently and are not employees or agents of the hospital. \*Truven Health Analytics "100 Top Hospitals" 2014.

Ma  
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R  
Volume Num  
Nearly four in  
for fun in the snow  
Photo by Tim E  
Royse C  
Millie Jean Coppe  
Saturday, March  
North Texas Rotary  
er, left from DFW A  
country of Nicarag  
the official name for th  
his country, located in  
north and Costa Rica  
cluded in the group  
Michelle Dusek  
they prepared to be  
Nicaragua to delive  
Photo courtesy  
one Star  
part of March's N  
CASA recognizes  
of others. Social w  
all people, and CAS  
inter future for child  
ASA (Court Appoin  
the Department of F  
services and other key  
children who have b  
safety are placed in safe  
While social work  
appreciative of those i  
protecting abused and n  
Lucille Bell, execu  
ASA volunteers an  
assistants in court. They  
they all have one thi  
they get to know the  
involved in the child's  
adoption placement reco  
of the 71 CASA pr  
Classifieds, L  
Texas Crossw