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# Rockwall County News

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## Gone too soon - A special tribute to Ouida Ruth Baley

by Millie Jean Coppedge

No one often does someone come along in our lives that cheers us with every smile, melts our heart with the twinkle of her eyes, and makes us cry just thinking of her. Sunday morning, Feb. 16, such a person, Ouida Ruth Baley, age 64, of Roysse City passed away after a very brief illness. Her death grieves with the family as almost everyone in town knew her.

Ouida was kind, smart, clever, involved in every organization in Roysse City that she could work into her unbelievably busy schedule, and she was definitely the life of any party or get-together she attended, whether it was a party or not. She had a big spot in her heart for children and people in Roysse City. She and Jerrell, Mayor of this wonderful little town, spent 44 years of their lives together and the joy of their lives were their two sons, their daughter-in-law, and their 4 grandsons, one who is only a few weeks ago.

Ouida served as a teacher's aide and school bus driver for 33 years for Roysse City Independent School District, where she became known as "Miss Ouida" to the students, and the name stuck. She was called the "Mayor" of Roysse City because her husband is the mayor. She served 5 years for the Meals on Wheels, participated in JAM (Jesus And Me), where she taught Christian classes and nurtured young children from ages approximately 5-12. She also served as a foster parent to children who needed a home.

This is not a sad tribute but is meant to make you laugh and help you know the real Ouida. She was a remarkable and funny woman, but she was also mischievous at times. She befriended everyone she met. Here are some memories from some of her friends.

Ruth Cherry, former principal of Ruth Cherry Intermediate School in Roysse City can only laugh when she talks about Ouida. She met Ouida in August, 1965 when Ouida, her twin brother Butch Howell, and Glenda walked into her English class, the first public education class Ruth taught. Their friendship has been a long and eventful one.

She tells the story of Ouida and Glenda who walked every day starting at 4:30 a.m. each morning and walked from the school complex surrounding the old football field, through downtown Roysse City, to the Housing Authority Complex.

About 2 or 3 years ago they estimated that they had walked the same distance as the circumference of the world, as was estimated by Glenda's son, Jack Carpenter, a mathematician.

"Ouida and Glenda decided to throw themselves a parade in honor of their accomplishment", Ruth said. "The parade began by the old football field and came onto 66 thru town to the Housing Authority Hospitality Center. All their friends lined the streets, cheering them on, and they even had a police escort. Then they threw themselves a reception honoring themselves, once again, we all stopped what we were doing and went to the party!!!!"

Another really funny memory Ruth has is "while Ouida, Glenda and Butch were in high school, they decided to climb the Roysse City water tower and paint their initials on it. The fire alarm that was used to call the volunteer firemen for a fire was located on the top of the tower. As they were painting their initials, the alarm went off and was so loud, especially since they were right there by it". Ruth says, "Did they stop their mission.....Absolutely not!"

Ruth also says that "Ouida and Glenda would joke that they shared the same brain. These girls experienced a friendship with such depth that few have ever known".

Ruth was hesitant to share this last memory as she does not want to give young people any ideas,--but she says "Ouida and Glenda drove their car on the railroad tracks from Caddo Mills to Greenville. A sheriff met them when they got to Greenville....big trouble".

(Continued on Page 2)



Ouida (Right) and her best friend Glenda Arnold walked together for many years beginning every morning at 4:30. About 2 or 3 years ago they estimated that they had walked the same distance as the circumference of the world, as was estimated by Glenda's son, Jack Carpenter, a mathematician. They even threw themselves their own parade with a police escort, then threw themselves a party to celebrate their accomplishment. This last week, Ouida walked for the last time. Now she is walking in heaven with that wonderful contagious smile on her face. Photo Courtesy of Ruth Cherry/Rockwall County News

## Fate's plans advanced for new community center, city hall

by Millie Jean Coppedge

On Feb. 17, Ron Hobbs of Hobbs Architecture addressed the Fate City Council, giving both descriptions regarding the community center/city hall project.

He displayed visuals as he described in a PowerPoint presentation his company's plans for all aspects of the proposed building, inside and outside, with a landscaped entrance. The landscaping includes trees with crushed granite mulch, two fountains, a grass courtyard, lighting and walkways.

He noted that public areas would contain 7,625 square feet, the City Council chambers would contain 1,100 square feet, the work areas would contain 7,000 square feet and the administration department would cover 5,500 square feet, for a total of 21,350 square feet. He said that he had conducted several meetings regarding the facilities needs, and there is leeway for some changes if needed.

Hobbs said the facility can be expanded without destroying the

original appearance of the facility.

There will be three flags gracing the front of the City Hall: the United States flag, the Texas flag and the City of Fate flag.

Mayor Bill Broderick and Councilwoman Sheri Garber both acknowledged that the plans look good and they are pleased with the progress.

During the citizens comment section of the meeting, Michael Draovich complimented the Council and Broderick for the senior citizen event conducted on Feb. 12. This was the first weekly get-together for senior citizens and their caregivers. Draovich said the food was good, the games were fun and everyone had a great time.

Draovich also asked the council why a bus from Arbor House brought so many senior citizens to an event that was specifically for Fate citizens. Broderick advised that all these seniors did live in Fate until they needed more care and are now residents of Arbor House. Broderick said they were welcome at the event. Many of

them have families living in Fate.

Also on the agenda was Resolution No. R-698 to discuss and consider appointing a replacement to serve as council member for Lorne Megyesi, who resigned recently from Place 1 to run for Fate mayor. Since no one had shown an interest in running for the position, Garber motioned that the matter be tabled until the March 3 meeting.

The item was tabled.

Michael Huggins, the information technology specialist for Fate, spoke about Resolution No. R-704, which, if passed, "would give the city manager the authority to enter into an agreement with My Computer Guy for the purchase of three Dell servers, peripheral equipment and a four-year warranty. He explained that the computers and servers for city hall were all outdated and very much needed replacing."

The resolution passed unanimously.

Brian Griffith, director of the Fate DPS, said Resolution No.

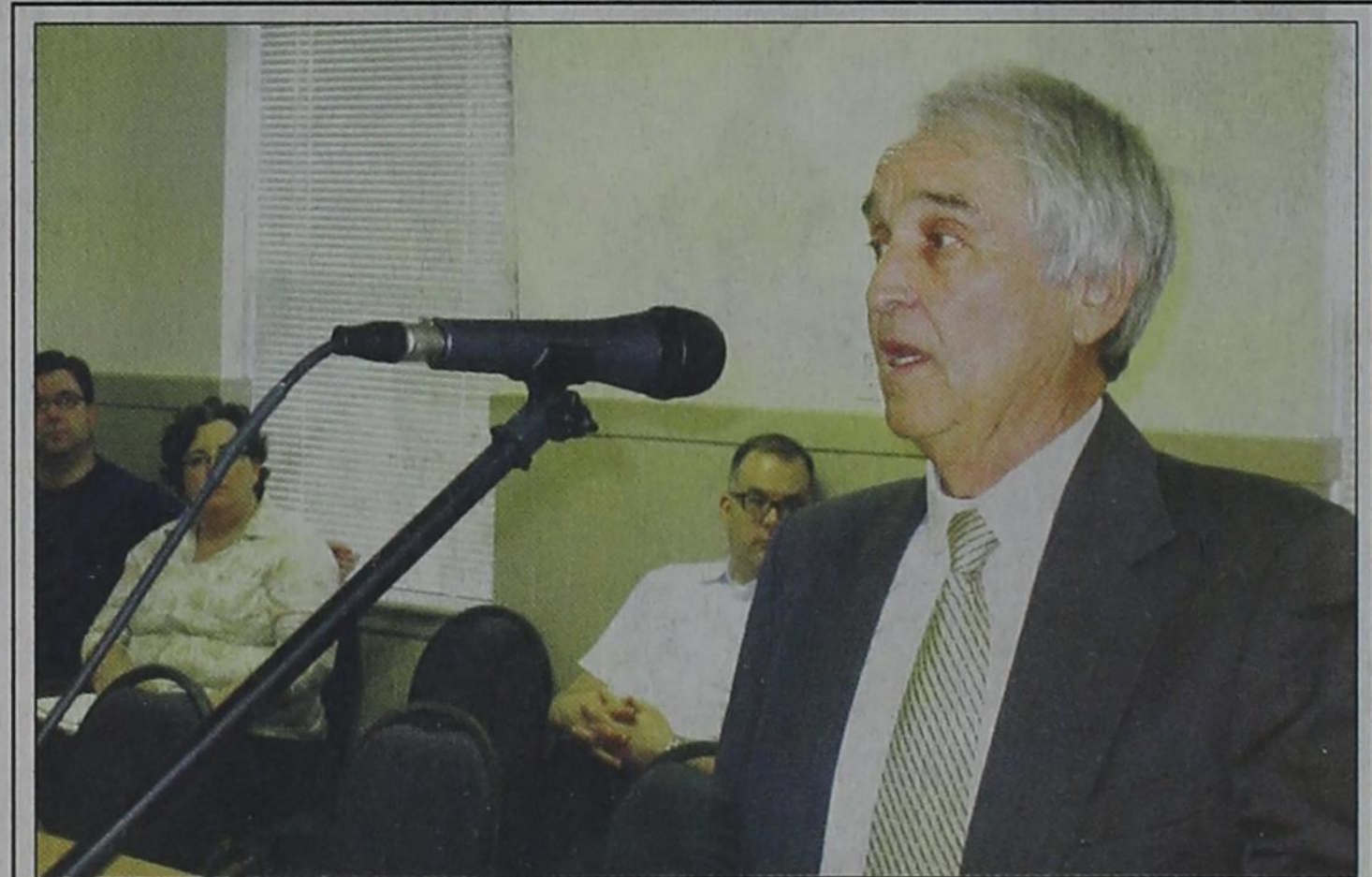
R-705, if passed, would "authorize the upgrade of the current fleet of fire apparatus to include the purchase of a 77-foot Aerial truck and commercial pumper. He told the council that some structures in Fate are now taller than two stories, which include schools and homes. He said their ladder truck simply

would not reach high enough to vent the roof to get the gases out of a structure. Griffith said the 77' Ariel truck would reach the roofline of a four-story structure and is desperately needed.

The resolution passed unanimously. All council and staff members

were present except Jim Thornhill, Place 3.

The next Fate City Council Meeting will be March 3 at the Fate Community Center, 104 S. W.E. Crawford.



Ron Hobbs of Hobbs Architecture spoke to the Fate City Council Feb. 17 regarding proposed plans for the new Fate Community Center/City Hall Project. Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/Rockwall County News

## Rockwall County News Briefs

### Get Healthy Rockwall potluck event slated

A come-and-go Get Healthy Rockwall potluck supper will run from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 27 at the Harry Myers Community Center, 815 E. Washington St., Rockwall. The event will be a "whole foods, plant-strong potluck" event; participants are asked to bring "healthy, plant-based" foods and copies of the recipes to share (no nuts so individuals with allergies can safely participate). Kathryn Lorusso, certified PCRM and Food For Life teacher, will give a cooking demonstration. For more details call Carol Miskin at 972-672-6679.

There is no fear in love.  
But perfect love casts out fear.  
1 John 4:18

### Candidate packets available at RISD

Candidate application packets for the 2014 Rockwall ISD Board election set for May 10 are available in the superintendent's office in the RISD Administration/ Education Center, 1050 Williams St. Three-year terms to be filled this year are in Place 6 and Place 7. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays. Candidate filing will run through 5 p.m. Feb. 28. For more details, call 972-771-0605.

### Annual meeting of Heath Cemetery Association set

The Heath Cemetery Association will conduct its annual meeting at 7 p.m. March 3 at the Heath Community Center, followed

by the annual Heath Community Association meeting.

### Library closed for Texas Independence Day

The Rockwall County Library will be closed March 3 in observance of Texas Independence Day, according to a library news release.

(Continued on Page 3)

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A number of Reinhardt Elementary students participated at the UIL competition on Feb. 8. Pictured above are division winners. At back, from the left, are Sam Wray, first place in Music Memory; Maya White, first place, Ready Writing; Stella Beaty, sixth place, Music Memory; Jordan Zellars, sixth place, Ready Writing; Seth Long, first, Maps, Graphs & Charts; Abby Kutac, fifth, Maps, Graphs & Charts; and Kavya Venugopalan, fifth, Reading Writing. Shown at front are Brynne Spivey, fifth, storytelling, and Maya Conway, sixth in Storytelling.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

# Royse City Council has questions about city signage, advertising

by Millie Jean Coppedge

The agenda for the Royse City Council was a brief one. Councilman James Branch told the Council that he would like to see signage along the highway welcoming people to Royse City. He said that the electronic sign in the present construction on I-30 reads Exit Now- FM 548, but people traveling through, might not know that this is the exit that will take them into Royse City. It needs to read Royse City Exit.

Councilman Tom Crowley added that he would like to check into what

a publicist would cost to help us advertise for Royse City. Mayor Jerrell Baley reaffirmed that travelers on the south side of the service road miss the digital exit sign to FM 548. It is confusing for travelers and even for hometown people as the construction and signs are constantly changing.

Branch said he wants the signage to read Downtown Royse City or Business Area.

City Manager Carl Alsbrook said he would check into the matter of changing the signs.

Crowley said he thinks the city needs to try to drum up more advertisement for the businesses on the south-side businesses, where Denny's Restaurant is located. He noted that it is now so difficult for travelers to get to the shopping center, the customers are bypassing the businesses and the business is suffering.

Councilman Branch also commented that the city needs to do something about the house on Houston Street House, formerly the Westbrook house, as it is just sitting there detraining. A few months ago, a Boy Scout took on the project of building a fence along the front of the house with plans to paint it, but no further plans have been finalized as to what to do with the house. Some have suggested turning it into a museum as it is the oldest house in Royse City, but those plans seemed to have stalled. Alsbrook said he would also check into the matter.

Alsbrook said plans have been approved for the north bound service road in the Erby Campbell Project. He also said that 100 percent of the tree limbs and brush from the recent ice storms have been cleaned up. Some of the equipment that arrived for the City Lake Park was damaged, so it had to be sent back to the company. He said he hopes to get new replacements and set another date to set up the playground equipment.

As a final note, the Austin-based developer Bonner Carrington, who wants to build Cypress Apartment Homes at Parker Creek South and Cypress Apartment Homes North, received a rejection of support from the Rockwall County Commissioners for building on the south side.

Casey Bump, president of Bonner Carrington, and Stuart Shaw, the executive officer, want the

apartment homes to be built inside the city limit of Royse City. The south side of I-30 is in the city limits, where as the south side is not. It might consider building on the south side if they could get the it annexed into the city later on.

Alsbrook told the Council that the city has about \$200,000 infrastructure costs that would cover upgrading water and sewer services in the area. He said it would not only held the apartment homes would be an investment to help the city for the future to come.

Councilman Branch said he thought that the council as a whole should send a letter to the Commissioner's Court, letting them know that the Council is disappointed that the south side was voted down.

Branch asked if there was any reason for the Commissioner's Court turning down the south side.

"No spoken reason," Alsbrook answered. No further comments were made on the subject.

All City Council and staff members were present at the meeting. Next meetings will be Feb. 25 and March 11 at the Police and Court Building, 100 W. Main Street.

## City: Rockwall crime rate dropping

Despite an almost 100 percent increase in population and commercial businesses along the I-30 corridor in the past decade, Rockwall realized a "tremendous reduction" in its overall crime rate.

According to a City of Rockwall news release, the overall crime rate in Rockwall in 2013 was 11.6 percent lower than in 2012. Police Officer Mark Moeller reported to the Rockwall City Council on Feb. 17 that the city has experienced a steady decline in crime from 2003 to 2013, the most significant statistical drop was in violence crime, which declined 66.3 percent, according to Moeller. The total crime rate dropped 18 percent during the same time period.

The reduction in crime, Moeller said, can be attributed to several factors, including a "strong and visible police presence, very active Citizens on Patrol volunteers and willingness by the community to participate in Neighborhood Crime Watch programs and to get involved in reporting suspicious behavior," according to the news release.

## A special tribute to Ouida Ruth Baley

(Continued from Page 1)

Lori Wright, another friend of Ouida and Glenda, says she remembers that "years ago, the Women's Circle from their church had a slumber party at Bonnie Faye Davis's house. Bonnie was also a teacher. Ouida suggested that they all go out and find some dog poop and put it under the mascot Bulldog that, at the time, was in front of the corner of the Royse City Fire Station. There were some who did not want to go out with her, but I never did find out if the mission was accomplished". This is the kind of funny ideas he came up with, whether the right thing to do or not. It was to Ouida."

Lori said Ouida wanted to make things to help out with the "Made With Love" group at the Rehab Center. She couldn't even sew but she cut out patterns. She wanted to do something to help the shut-in at the center. She dove right in

and completed the project even though she was so very involved in so many other things.

Lori says "She never had to think twice-the funny stuff just happened as did the very thoughtful things she did".

"Ouida's mother helped deliver me", said Vickie Edge. "We have been friends since the nursery at the church. When we were growing up, she was a little clumsy and would stumble and fall, but would bounce right back up and was ready to go again. There was never a dull moment around Ouida. She was a ray of sunshine to me and my family and we loved her dearly."

Jana Hebron who was friends with Ouida for the last 9 years says, "My favorite thing about Ouida was her cheerful and friendly spirit. When I first came

to church, she welcomed me a beloved sister. 'Hey baby-what's goin' on?' she would whenever we saw each other. No matter what we were doing whether we were exercising, cleaning, guiding kids, having coffee, or at bible study, she always came with a cheerful and a smile. She is my favorite picture of Christian living, was real and strong, down to earth and full of joy. She had a servant's heart of gold. Her heart was so solid, I could just lean to her and feel reassured. She was a wonderful friend and a beautiful role model."

The list of beloved loved ones and friends could certainly fill a book. It is very evident that Ouida was so cherished by everyone whose life she touched and who deeply missed her. She was a warrior strong in her faith.

Friday, Feb 21, downtown merchants and City employees participated in the "Hanging of Greens" in honor of Ouida. Green bows were placed all up down the downtown area. Ouida was Ouida's favorite color. Saturday, Feb 22, a memorial service was held for Ouida. The school auditorium, bulged the sides and overflowed the foyer. Chairs were brought in and still there was no room. Many huge photos of Ouida met one's eye as they entered the auditorium and a slide presentation played continuously showing childhood, school years, marriage, children and grandchildren. Flowers and county memorabilia (Ouida's favorite) set the tone celebrating a marvelous woman's life.

" God has let me share my life with this wild and crazy woman for over 44 years. My sweet Ouida was unable to fight any more, I was to be with the heavenly host high. I will miss her more than myself", Ouida's husband, Jeff Baley, Mayor of Royse City, posted on the Facebook.

May peace lay over you, Jeff, and your family. Ouida is an entertaining those in heaven. Do you know they are all having a good time and happy to have her there?



Chase Conley, a student at Herman E. Utley Middle School, was presented with the Rockwall Student of Honor award at the Feb. 20 Rotary Club lunch meeting. Shown above presenting the awards is David Girardi, assistant principal at the school. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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**Evelyn Burkett (right) and her Daughter Kathy Bass**

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## Rockwall County Obituaries

### Bobby Glenn Blaxton

Monday February 16, 2014 Bobby Glenn Blaxton left this earth to his heavenly home. He was born on December 24, 1940 in Arg, Arkansas. He was a resident of Royse City for 30 years, since 1984. He was survived by his wife of 47 years Maria Rosalinda (Rosey), sons Eric with daughter in law Krista, grandchildren Rocky, Cloey and nine; daughter Cassandra with son in law Larry Begay and niece Risk, nephew Zack Parra; brothers Johnie and Shortie Blaxton and Carol Armstrong of Arkansas. He served both in the Army and the U.S. Coastguard for 24 years. Memorial Service will be held on Saturday March 1, at 1:00 p.m. at the Church 5575 State Highway 205 in Rockwall. The flowers family has requested donations may be made in his name to The Wounded Warrior Project or St. Jukes Children's Research

### Hunter Mackenzie Coleman

Services for Hunter Mackenzie Coleman, 19, of Rockwall were held at 10 a.m. Feb. 26, 2014, at the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel with Pastor Matt officiating. The Rest Haven Home-Rockwall Chapel was in charge of arrangements. He was born June 27, 1994, in Garland and Holly Hunter, he was a graduate of Rockwall for seven years. He attended Lake Pointe Church, Middle School and Rockwall High School. He was fun-loving and charismatic and enjoyed being around people. He was a talented artist. Survivors include his father, Todd Coleman; his mother, Holly Hatfield; his husband, Jaason; his sisters, Haley and Hannah Grace Coleman; grandparents, Barbara Helton, Debbie Birdsong and Don and Betsy Sawyer; his great-grandmother, Georgia Ann Stapleton; and many uncles and cousins.



### Norman E. Glover

No services are scheduled for Norman E. Glover, 83, of Rockwall. The Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

He died Feb. 18, 2014. Born Feb. 19, 1930, in Hartney Manitoba, Canada, to Alfred and Mary (Morden) Glover, he served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War and worked as an accountant in the telecomm industry. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Rockwall.

Survivors include his wife, Lorraine Glover of Rockwall; his daughters, Susan McRitchie of Raleigh, N.C., and Catherine Chandler and her husband, Brian, of Mesquite; his son, John Glover of Scotts Valley, Calif.; and his grandchildren, Candice, Jimmie, Jared, Alexandra and Savannah.

The family has suggested memorials may be made to the Faith Presbyterian Hospice, 4350 Sigma Rd., #400, Dallas, TX 75244.

### Mary Elaine 'Jane' (Richmond) Page

Graveside services for Mary Elaine "Jane" (Richmond) Page, 90, of Nevada, Texas, were conducted at 11 a.m. Feb. 26, 2014, at the Nevada Cemetery with Pastor Justin Hillhouse officiating. The Rest Haven Funeral Home-Royse City Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

She died Feb. 23.

Born May 21, 1923, in Jefferson, Mo., to Garvey and Libby (Hess) Richmond, she moved to Texas with her family when she was an infant. She married Totsy Clarence Page on Oct. 3, 1941, in Mercedes and they moved to Nevada, Texas, where she lived until her death.

Survivors include her children, Mubby Baley, and her husband, Teddy, of Nevada, Texas, Debbie Vasquez and her husband, Al, of Balch Springs and Clifford Page of Nevada, Texas; her grandchildren, Robin and Mike, Renee and Rex, Rebecca and Mike, Jason and Kristen, Chris and Sydney and Lindsey and Mike; her great-grandchildren, Michael, Kenneth, Kristina, Sarah, Samuel and Raylan; her sister, Eloise Best; numerous nieces and nephews; and her friend, Bob Crowell.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Totsy Clarence Page in 1967; and her sister, Francis Cooper.



## Rockwall County News Briefs

(Continued from Page 1)

### Library closed for Texas Independence Day

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### Annual meeting of Heath Cemetery Association set

The Heath Cemetery Association will conduct its annual meeting at 7 p.m. March 3 at the Heath Community Center, followed by the annual Heath Community Association meeting.

### Republican Lunch Bunch to meet

The Rockwall County Republican Lunch Bunch will meet at 11:30 a.m. March 5 at Luigi's Italian Café, Rockwall. Cost will be \$10, which includes lunch, beverage, tax and tip; pay at the door. No reservations required for this informational social gathering open to all area Republicans. For more details call Dalton Kennimer at 972-636-4034.

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## Rockwall plans Hazardous Waste Collection Day

The City of Rockwall's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 5 – rain or shine – at the Municipal Service Center, 1600 Airport Rd. Household quantities of pesticides, paint, products, household cleaners, herbicides, motor oil, auto chemicals, pool products and rimless tires will be accepted. Document shredding and electronic recycling also will be available.

Trained workers will unload hazardous waste from vehicles; however, the wait may be long, and those planning to participate should be patient. City residents must present a current utility bill or driver's license; no children or pets

should be brought to collection site.

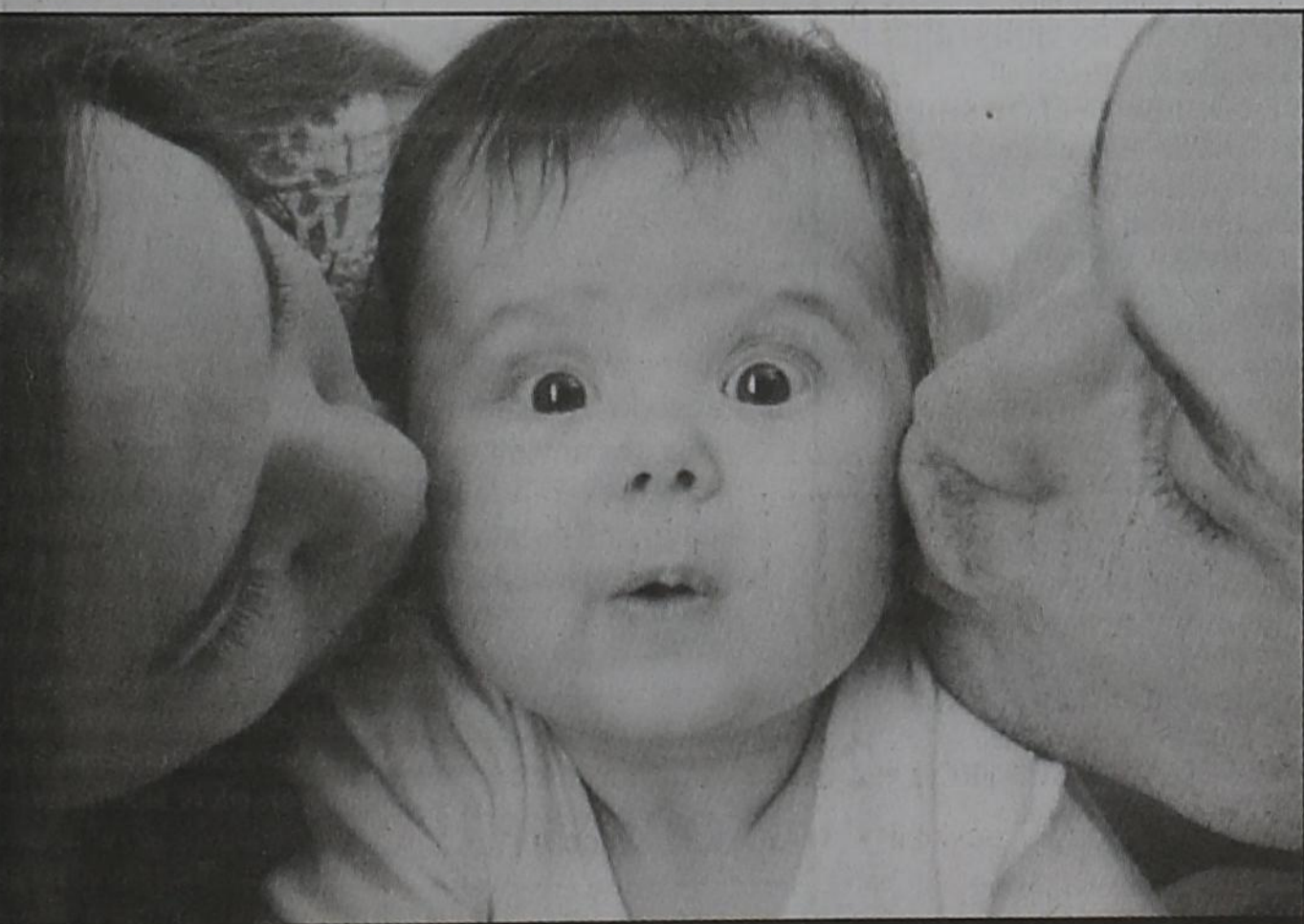
For more details call the Utility Billing Department at 972-771-7736.



Girl Scout Troop 2864 volunteers time each year to Buckner Children's Home-Shoes for Orphan Souls, donating a portion of cookie profits as well as spending time processing shoes and socks that are shipped throughout the U.S. and across the globe. Pictured are Toni Redfern, Sydney Tyler, Sierra Harrison, Gabi Andrade and Sidney Cantway. The girls experienced what children and adults from Peru, Ethiopia and Mexico do while walking in their environment.

(Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News)

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Bob Deuell is a family physician, conservative Republican leader and former local school board member.

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- Helped restore \$5.6 billion this past session to public education
- Helped eliminate high-stakes testing in high school
- Helped ensure all Texas students receive equitable education
- Authored and passed Jessica's Law to crack down on child molesters
- Helped pass drug testing requirement for state unemployment insurance
- Passed Pro-Life and Pro-Family legislation
- Strengthened property owner and gun owner rights
- Helped increase DPS & Texas Ranger state border security effort
- Helped pass new 50-year water plan for Texas
- Helped pass non-toll road solutions to improve traffic mobility
- Helped pass laws to crack down on repeat DWI offenders



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I will remain a constant voice of reason in our Nation's Capitol. My main focus remains ending ObamaCare, looking out for the taxpayer and small business owners who drive our economic engine.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Ralph M. Hall

## The Ralph Hall Congressional Record

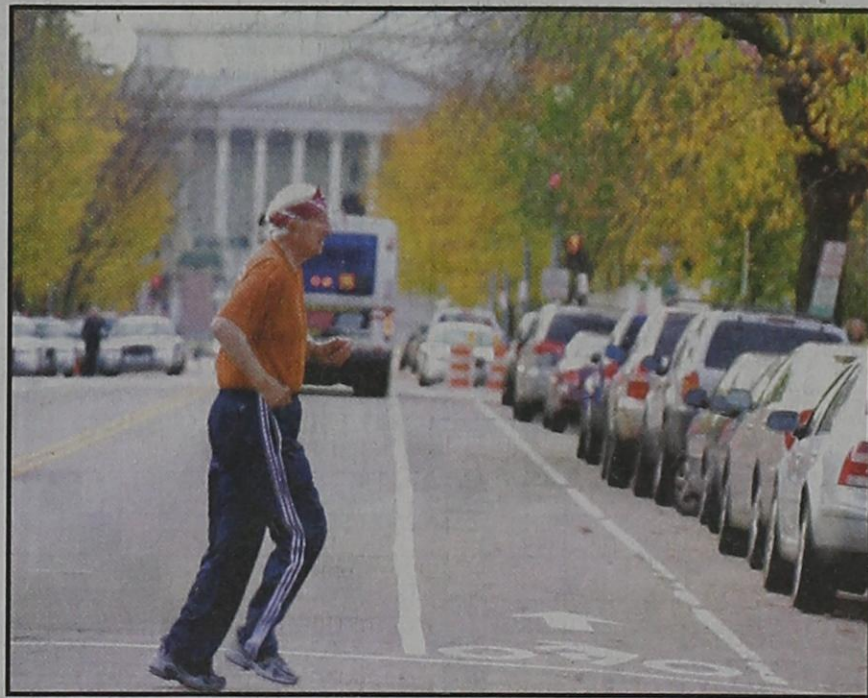
- ★ Co-Authored The President's tax cuts and economic growth package in the U.S. House
- ★ Voted against both government bailouts of Wall Street
- ★ Co-Authored legislation to protect our children from internet pornography
- ★ Co-Sponsored legislation and served as Floor leader in the House to add a provision for prescription drugs to the Medicare Bill
- ★ Sub-committee on healthcare and senior member of the energy and commerce committee

## Ralph Hall Goals for the Future

- ★ We must repeal and replace ObamaCare because it is a job killing entitlement
- ★ We must expand our economy through the private sector by keeping taxes to a minimum and balancing our budget through cuts in wasteful spending and economic growth
- ★ Develop an energy policy to make us less dependent on foreign oil without harming our environment



During the last election while opponents were calling Ralph Hall "too old" there were no takers when he invited them to go sky diving with him.



Ralph Hall jogging on Capital Hill. He is still in great shape and works harder than most people half his age.

**Early Voting February 18th-28th ★ Election Day March 4th**  
**www.ralphhall.com**

### Texas Constitution Article 1, Section 16

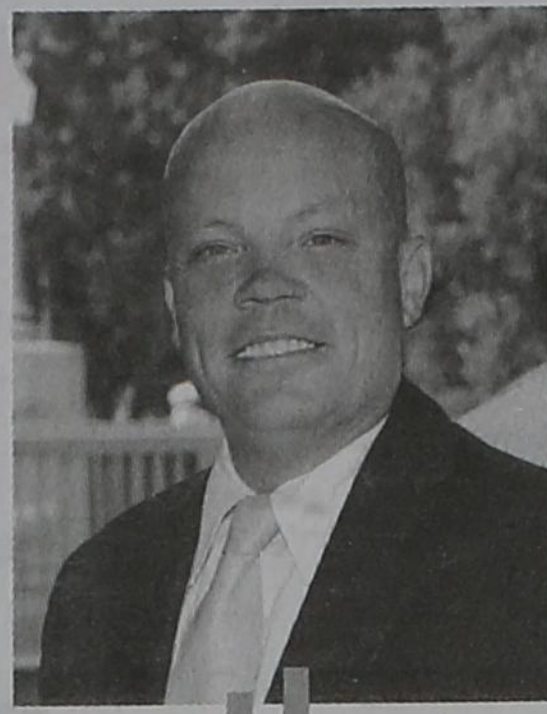
No bill of attainder, ex post facto law, retroactive law, or any law impairing the obligation of contracts, shall be made.

The act of forcing any business and natural person to purchase any kind of insurance for others who render services constitutes "impairing obligation of contracts." One exception are Federal Instrumentalities engaged in statutory "employment" on the soil of Texas.

See Tx. Labor Code Section 201.101 & 26 U.S.C. 3306 (c)(g) and (j)(1 & 2). Apply the definitions in (j) to the definitions in (c) and (g).

# David Sweet

for County Judge

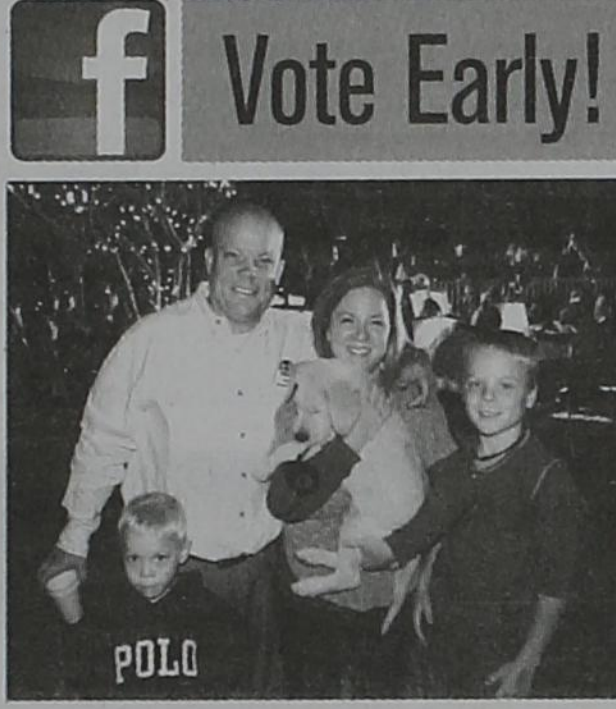


## Working towards the future Together

*"Our future has never been brighter and we need strong leadership with a fresh perspective."*

David is a solid proven conservative focused on effective spending of tax payers' money. His customer service approach established as mayor will benefit the county if he is elected. As a city leader, David has established relationships with elected officials throughout Rockwall County along with leaders in the city, Rockwall ISD, Austin and Washington. The following qualifications make David Sweet the right choice as your next County Judge.

- Currently the Mayor of Rockwall serving his second term
- Two-term member of the Rockwall City Council
- Voting member of the Rockwall County Road Consortium
- Voting member of the Rockwall County Emergency Services Corporation
- Rockwall Noon Rotary, Member of the YMCA Board of Directors as well as former board member of the Boys and Girls Club of Rockwall County
- Member and teacher at FBC Rockwall as well as broadcaster for RISD sporting events
- Almost twenty years of business experience managing huge budgets and staffs for four of the largest companies in the world
- Married to wife, Kim, for 13 years and have two boys, Austin and Brody, that attend schools in RISD



### Vote Early!

Early Voting Feb. 18-28 • Election Day March 4

Political Ad Paid For By Brenda Cross, Treasurer

# Opinions

## National takeover of school curriculum

by Phyllis Schlafly

Many people said ho-hum when President Barack Obama threatened to change any law with his pen or phone, and even use that power to personally alter Obamacare and the welfare law, and to "legislate" the Dream Act that Congress refused to pass. But Americans are rising up by the tens of thousands to stop Common Core, which is the current attempt to compel all U.S. children to be taught the same material and not other things parents might think important.

Ever since Congress began pouring federal tax dollars into public schools, parents have been solicitous to have Congress write into law a prohibition against the federal government writing curriculum or lesson plans, or imposing a uniform national curriculum. Parents want those decisions made at the local level by local school boards, which are, or should be, subject to the watchful eyes of local citizens and parents.

Parents are supported in this view by the U.S. Constitution, which gives the federal government no power over education. Here is some of the repetitive language included in federal school appropriation laws.

The 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the first federal attempt to regulate and finance schools, stated: "Nothing in this act" shall authorize any federal official to "mandate, direct, or control" school curriculum. The 1970 General Education Provisions Act stipulates that

"no provision of any applicable program shall be construed to authorize any" federal agency or official "to exercise any direction, supervision, or control over the curriculum, program of instruction or selection of instructional materials by any" school system.

The 1979 law that created the Department of Education forbids it to exercise "any direction, supervision, or control over the curriculum" or "program of instruction" of any school system. The amended Elementary and Secondary Education Act reiterates that no Education Department funds "may be used ... to endorse, approve, or sanction any curriculum designed to be used in" grades K-12.

Despite all those emphatic words, Obama's Department of Education, headed by an alumnus of the Chicago Democratic machine and other leftists, seeks to mold the minds of all our children into supporters of big government. Their vehicle to accomplish this is Common Core, which is artfully designed to impose de facto national uniformity while complying with all explicit federal prohibitions.

The mechanism of control is the tests all students must take, which will be written by the people who created Common Core.

If students haven't studied a curriculum "aligned" with Common Core, they will have a hard time passing the tests required for a high school diploma and entry into college.

As explained by education researcher and author Darcy

Pattison, the Common Core gang in 1996 gathered a cove group of rich big businessmen, six governors and a few other politicians, and founded organization called Achieve Inc. Working backward from the 12th grade down to kindergarten, this eventually morphed into the Common Core State Standards Initiative. Achieve Inc. started implementation of Common Core with 13 states, but a national curriculum was still the goal, and a congressional debate about it would have been a political rail. So the Common Core advocates bypassed most elected officials and went straight to each state Department of Education, and in 2009, 35 state curriculums, aligned with Common Core.

Common Core advocates the announced that "standards" have been developed "in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and experts ... to prepare our children for college and the workforce." By 2011, 45 states had signed up, even though the final draft of the standards was not yet available and had never been field-tested.

Still careful to skirt the law, barring federal control of curriculum, Education Secretary Arne Duncan used federal funds to bait the states to align with Common Core by offering grants from the federally funded Race to the Top program.

The Common Core promotes whose goal is a national curriculum for all U.S. children despite laws prohibiting federal government from requiring it, used the clever device of copyrighting the standards by a nongovernment organization, the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and Council of Chief State School Officers. This enables Common Core advocates to force uniform national standards while claiming that the laws prohibiting federal control of curriculum are violated.

No one may copy or reprint the standards without permission and states that sign on to Common Core may not change or modify the standards. The license agreement that states must sign in order to use Common Core states: "NGA/CSSO shall be acknowledged as the sole owners and developers of the Common Core State Standards."

Phyllis Schlafly is a lawyer, conservative political analyst and author of 20 books. She is the author, with George Neumayr, of the New York Times Bestseller titled "No Higher Power: Obama's War on Religious Freedom." She can be contacted by email at phyllis@eagleforum.org. To find out more about Phyllis Schlafly and read featured by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit Creators Syndicate Website: www.creators.com.

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### Rockwall County Letters to the Editor

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

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

Ugggggggely.  
We the people were finally shown a picture of the proposed entry feature on Ridge Road at Chandlers Landing. It was pictured in the February Heath newsletter that came with our sewer and garbage bill. (No kidding).

It is supposed to look like a stone sailboat with blue, green and purple lights, but looks more like a tall, L-shaped compost container, propped-up by a parasail tiered with light rings. Sound weird? It is.

If this is a sailboat then the outshod on my farm is the Taj Mahal. And the price tag is \$175,000 to \$300,000, plus another \$69,507 for professional services.

However, according to City Manager Ed Thatcher, the Heath Economic Development Corporation (HEDC) would foot the bill for up to \$150,000. What? No applause?

For those of you who don't know what the HEDC is, I shall provide some help. The HEDC is a corporation whose mission is "to attract and facilitate desirable business opportunities within the City of Heath ..." etc., etc. It is funded by our tax dollars (also see HEDC Meeting Jan. 29, 2013). Incidentally, Councilman Justin Holland is listed as a board member (heathtx.com, 2/23/2014).

Therefore, inasmuch as we the taxpayers are paying for this "amenity" that has been actively endorsed and promoted by Mayor Liechty and Council, why were we not collectively consulted from day one when this entry feature was first hatched? Our arts groups, our myriad citizens' groups, our taxpayers should have been invited, in writing, to a special meeting to discuss the idea before it was granted given-ship and "got legs."

Mayor Liechty and Council do not decide issues of this importance for us citizen taxpayers, nor do they at "snooze, we lose" council meetings.

Joan Ream  
Heath

## Rockwall County Entertainment

### Soroptimists to host luncheon, fashion show

The Rockwall Soroptimists will host the Eloise's Closet luncheon and fashion show from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 7 at the Rockwall County Library's Community Room. Models will showcase gently used clothing donated made available free to women in need re-entering the workplace. The Soroptimists will present their Violet Richardson Award, Women's Opportunity Award and Ruby Award winners. Tickets cost \$25 and may be purchased from club member, Cookie Ray at Republic Title or by calling Sue Reeves at 972-722-1646.

### 'Where the Wild Things Are' set at library

The Rockwall County Library will host a storytelling event featuring "Where the Wild Things Are" beginning at 11:15 a.m. March 10. Dorayne Breedlove will deliver the interactive and theatrical version of the classic. This free program will best serve children ages 3-8. For more details call the library's Children's Desk at 972-204-7740.

### Library to host jungle encounters

Jungle Jim Klingler will showcase reptiles, amphibians, insects and other live specimens beginning at

6:30 p.m. March 11 at the Rockwall County Library. Fossils and other exhibits also will be featured at the free March Family Night event. For more details call the library's Children's Desk at 972-204-7740.

### Puppeteer to offer program at library

Puppeteer Sandy Shroul will offer her comedic show, "The Three Little Pigs with a Texas Twist," beginning at 1:30 p.m. March 12 at the Rockwall County Library. The show is designed for children ages 3 and older and will be as much fun for adults as it is for children. For more details call the library's Children's Desk at 972-204-7740.

### TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

1 former president of Rice Univ., George

5 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ piece" (distant)

6 pie a la \_\_\_\_\_

7 \_\_\_\_\_ 83 covers 903 miles in TX

8 TX Roddenberry's genre: \_\_\_\_\_fi

9 "I \_\_\_\_\_ honest answer"

15 full truck

16 Batman's ride

19 TX Paula Prentiss '64 film: "The World \_\_\_\_\_ Orient"

21 Gulf eel

22 "\_\_\_\_\_ messaging" (online chat)

27 TXism: "fought tooth and \_\_\_\_\_"

28 TXism: "I \_\_\_\_\_ out" (tired)

29 not at all

30 actor Bottoms of TX-based film "The Last Picture Show"

32 noted band leader Lombardo who died in Houston (init.)

33 Biblical woman who married King David this Bill was an Odessa oilman and philanthropist

37 TXns have been known to \_\_\_\_\_ about their state

38 region of west-central TX: "\_\_\_\_\_ Edwards"

39 Moody, TX festival

41 Yu Darvish stat.

**DOWN**

1 Dodge truck

2 flying saucer (abbr.)

3 seat of Cottle Co.

4 either TX George H. or George W. (2 wds.)

8 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ as a baby's bottom"

9 this TXn sang "The Dukes of Hazard" theme

10 Austin band: "Asleep \_\_\_\_\_ the Wheel"

11 neighbor to the west (abbr.)

12 this Alabama FB tackled Rice's Dickey Moggie from the bench in '54 Cotton Bowl

13 some TXns hunt with \_\_\_\_\_ and arrow

14 Robert De \_\_\_\_\_ was in '91 "Cape Fear" with TX Joe Don Baker

15 "\_\_\_\_\_ State"

16 front of a cowboy hat

17 TX is a \_\_\_\_\_ state

18 you put a shoelace through this

20 athletic assn. for Texas A & I (abbr.)

22 TXism: "throw \_\_\_\_\_ with" (join)

23 slang for "head"

24 do a trade

25 TX George Foreman held heavyweight \_\_\_\_\_

26 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ as dodging rice at a wedding"

28 TXism: "active as a fox in \_\_\_\_\_ house"

1 \_\_\_\_\_ (rancher)

46 TX soda: \_\_\_\_\_ Pepper

47 last line of "Eyes of Texas": "Till Gabriel blows his \_\_\_\_\_"

48 agcy. we love to hate

49 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ as a calf crying for mamma"

52 this catcher Manwaring played for Astros in '96

31 several TXns are on the PGA \_\_\_\_\_

34 TX grocer: \_\_\_\_\_ Butt

35 this Ames was "Mingo" on TV show with TX Fess Parker (init.)

37 "\_\_\_\_\_ rodeo!"

40 wild anger

43 TXism: "he's kin \_\_\_\_\_ rattler" (mean)

44 this '50s pitcher Carl endorsed TX Nokona gloves

50 "Believe It \_\_\_\_\_!"

51 TX Henley co-wrote "Take \_\_\_\_\_ to the Limit"

### TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

1 Fronia newspaper

5 Maureen O' \_\_\_\_\_ was in TX-based film "Rio Grande"

6 Tech women won BB championship in this arena (1993)

7 ball-\_\_\_\_\_ hammer

8 "he \_\_\_\_\_ I was standing still" (speeded)

17 road curve

18 do nothing (2 wds.)

21 Andrews, TX was named for this 1st fatality of the TX Revolution (init.)

22 a plan allowing employees to buy co. stock (abbr.)

23 TX-born "Petticoat" actress, Meredith

24 TX Carolyn Jones was "Morticia" on "The \_\_\_\_\_ Family"

29 boot aroma

30 ark builder

31 Tony Romo played college ball in this state (abbr.)

32 Dallas Zoo is run by "Dallas \_\_\_\_\_ Society"

34 Huckleberry \_\_\_\_\_

35 state of the "hanging chads" during 2000 election (abbr.)

36 "Texas Tastings" \_\_\_\_\_ in Gruene, TX

37 TXism: "he \_\_\_\_\_ hear thunder" (deaf)

38 country singer, Keith

**DOWN**

1 newspaper insert (2 wds.)

2 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ a lap dog"

3 this James was Marshal Matt Dillon

4 newspaper: "\_\_\_\_\_ County Leader"

9 "the sun" south of the border

10 "Texas," Palo Duro out \_\_\_\_\_ drama

11 graphic of TX roads

12 TX-born Debbie Reynolds 1st hubby, Fisher (init.)

13 TX jazz pianist, Johnson

14 in Pecos Co. on 190 Heckler & \_\_\_\_\_ is a German gunmaker

15 historically important continent (abbr.)

19 hardware store feature (2 wds.)

20 domed arenas never have rain

22 actor in "Hard Rain" with TX Randy Quaid

24 home of the NFC Cardinals (abbr.)

25 TX Dennis Quaid '88 film with Meg Reynolds

26 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ go off half cocked"

27 Houston suburb

28 Matador is seat of this county

29 Old \_\_\_\_\_, TX

30 a baseball team corporation abbr.

33 \_\_\_\_\_ on 79

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# Heath alum VerHagen starts Tigers' spring schedule

**Ryan Garrett**  
 Rockwall-Heath alumus and pitching prospect Drew Heath started Detroit's first Spring Training against Southern College February 20 at the J. Paulson Stadium in Lakeland, Florida. The Tigers took to top prospects for the first time with the Mocs.

Taking the mound this past Tuesday in the team's traditional opening exhibition, Drew pitched two scoreless innings. He faced six batters and struck out two. Detroit went on to beat the Mocs 8-0.  
 "It's very easy to get excited over VerHagen," Tigers assistant general manager Al Avila told mlive.com. "He's one guy that

I believe could be very special. He's got the size, he's got the arm strength, and he's got the arsenal."  
 The 23-year-old right-hander was a fourth-round pick by Detroit out of Vanderbilt University in 2012. Splitting time between Single-A Lakeland Flying Tigers and Double-A Erie SeaWolves, he went 7-8 with a 2.90 ERA in 24

appearances (23 starts) in 2013. Drew pitched some for Heath his junior year in 2008, but an arm injury and surgery limited him to just 25 innings. Unable to pitch his senior year in 2009, VerHagen played at first base and was a big

offensive presence in the lineup, hitting .333 with nine doubles, four triples and four homers.  
 During his senior season at Heath, he and the other seniors led the Hawks to the school's first-ever playoff berth, which turned

out to be a deep run in the post-season. The Hawks were knocked off in the Regional Semi Finals by Texas High School (Texarkana), the 4A state champions that year.

## Lady Hawk soccer top of district

**Ryan Garrett**  
 The Rockwall-Heath Lady Hawks soccer team had a strong showing last week to pull into first place at the halfway mark of the season. Heath leads District 1 with a record of 4-1-1 in the regular season.

Senior Taryn Wheeler scored the Hawks' first goal. Junior Lindsey Gardner scored the second goal assisted by Jayden Wheeler, and the third came from freshman Addie Urbanus with an assist by Jayden Wheeler.  
 On Friday, Heath downed the Mesquite Skeeters 2-1 in a thrilling overtime contest.

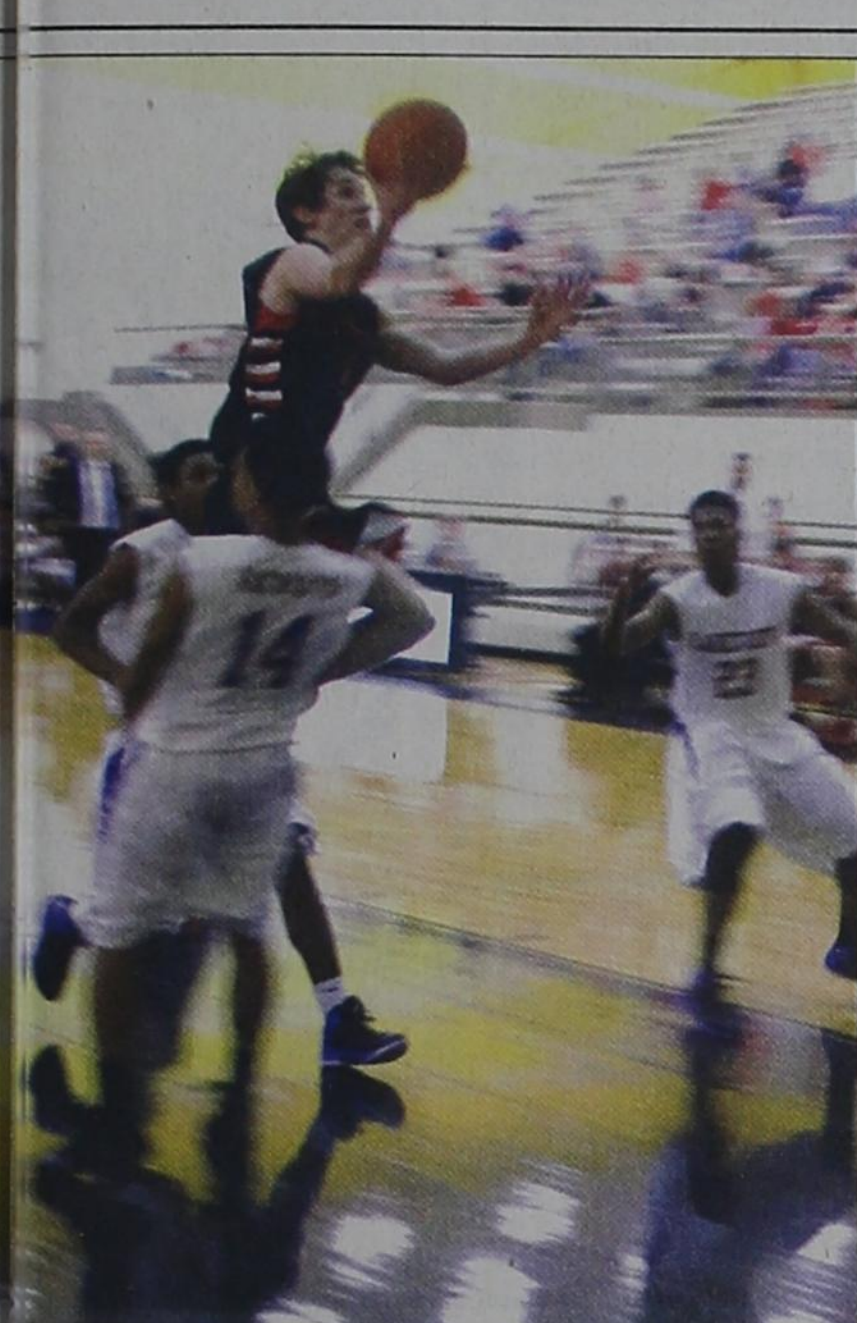
Scoreless at the end of regulation, Reace Cano-Garcia scored the first goal, assisted by Taryn Wheeler. Jayden Wheeler knocked in the winning goal. Heath began the second round of district play traveling to Tyler Lee on Tuesday and will play Mesquite Horn at 7:15 on Friday at the RHHS field.

**by Ryan Garrett**  
 Heath powerlifter Lauren Higbee and Yellowjacket Megan Inglis both competed in the Regional Powerlifting meet on Saturday at Wylie.  
 Higbee placed second in her weight class to become the first girl to represent Rockwall ISD in the State Powerlifting meet, marking

her best totals of the season to achieve this finish. Inglis is the first girl from Rockwall High School to ever qualify for the Regional meet in powerlifting. Although she missed making state, Megan gave a strong performance, lifting a total of 640 pounds, which was a new personal best, and a 20-pound improvement

from the previous week at the Bulldog Invitational in Quitman. In the past, four Rockwall ISD girls have advanced to the Girls Powerlifting Regionals, but none have ever qualified for State until this past weekend. Lauren will compete in the State Powerlifting Meet on March 14 in Corpus Christi.

## State rally falls short, Hawks unable to erase early deficit



Hawks' junior Jackson Zivney (4) soars up for a lay-up shot against Lakeview Centennial, Tuesday February 18 during the UIL Bi-District game at Royse City. Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

**by Ryan Garrett**  
 In the school's first-ever playoff push, Rockwall-Heath went down in defeat to Lakeview Centennial 78-65 in the 5A Bi District Championship at Royse City High School on Tuesday, February 18.

Heath took an early 7-4 lead on three-pointers by Jackson Zivney and Cameron Talley before Lakeview took control. Using the size advantage with 7'1 post Elber Robinson along with speed and full-court pressure, the Patriots built a 27-20 lead after the first quarter, and a 42-30 lead at the half.

After being outscored twenty-nine in the third quarter trailing 62-39, Heath picked up their intensity, cutting Lakeview's lead to ten points with just under four minutes remaining in the game. The Hawks outscored the Patriots 26-16 in the final period, but were unable to erase the lead Lakeview had built.

Jackson Zivney led Heath in scoring with 21 points including six of the team's eight three-pointers. Cameron Talley knocked down nine of his 15 points in the fourth quarter. With the loss, Rockwall-Heath ended their season with a 19-9 record, and Lakeview advanced to the 5A Area playoff round.

## Berkner outlasts Jackets in overtime

**Ryan Garrett**  
 The Rockwall Yellowjackets defeated Richardson-Berkner in the UIL Area playoff game on Friday night in the area, falling just short in a overtime loss.  
 The Jackets kept the game close in a back-and-forth contest. Berkner trailed the Rams 11-16 at the end of the first quarter, and then Berkner pulled away in the final

minute to seal the game. Grandstaff, who was coming off a 45-point night against Sachse and a 51-point effort against Wilmer-Hutchins, finished with 25 points, 11 rebounds and four 3-pointers. John Tully knocked down 14 points with four 3-pointers, while Skyler Simmons added 11 points, including three 3-pointers. Rockwall finished the season 2nd in district with an 8-4 record, and won the Bi District playoff game on February 18.

down 46-52 with 1:26 in the fourth. Rockwall put on the pressure. The Yellowjackets tied the contest 52-52 with a 3-pointer by Austin Grandstaff with three second remaining in regulation.  
 In an exciting overtime in which the Jackets couldn't catch a break, Berkner knocked down five quick points, and the Rams stayed in front with several free throws. Rockwall got back to within four on a 3-pointer by Grandstaff, but Berkner pulled away in the final



Yellowjackets' senior John Tully (34) launches the ball for 3 points, Friday February 21, during the UIL Area playoff game against Richardson Berkner at Allen High School. Watching the shot is teammate Skyler Simmons (3). Photo by Tim Burnett/Rockwall County News

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- \*YES we have full time Life Enrichment coordinator who develops stimulating activities and social programs for our residents, and a van for outings and medical visits
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- \*YES we do have a Geriatric Specialist over Quality and Clinical Services, Dr. Sandy Petersen DNP APRN, FP-BC GNP-C
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- \*YES we love pets so bring your best friend

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## Daniel Elam cares because people are his priority.

After changing careers to nursing in 2009, Daniel's high level of care, compassion and patient advocacy have earned him honors as the Employee of the Quarter in 2012. He says, "Nursing gives me the opportunity to help people." Daniel gets to know his patients personally, going beyond what they might expect in responding to every physical, emotional and spiritual need. He says, "Each patient should feel like they're my only patient." Find out who cares at [texashealthrockwall.com](http://texashealthrockwall.com).



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.

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