

# Rockwall County News

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## Rockwall pet owners beware: don't teather dogs too long

**By Jo Anna Matejka**

Rockwall's dogs might be on the wrong side of the law if they stay outside for very long on a tether, chain, leash, cord or rope without the owners nearby according to an ordinance passed by the city council Dec. 21.

According to the city's director of building inspection, code enforcement and animal service, Jeffrey Widmer, the ordinance is needed for the protection of both animals and the public.

Councilman Mark Russo was alone in withholding an up vote on the new law saying he has always been opposed to it and wouldn't vote for it. Russo characterized the ordinance as a "heavy-handed government" that is picking on a part of town, Lake Rockwall Estates, where residents would be disproportionately burdened by the new law.

The law allows for dogs to be tethered unsupervised on private property for no more than two hours a day. It requires the use of properly fitted harnesses or collars and sets minimum requirements for yard or pen space.

The two-hour limit does not address time under which dogs are under the immediate control of owners and it does not prohibit walking dogs on leashes.

Russo said he takes issue with the city's ability to track and enforce the amount of time a dog is on tether and the imposition of a financial burden on residents who will either need to build fences or find other accommodations for pets.

"When you start to make rules that put people into positions of getting tickets where they can't prove their innocence when they are, it doesn't meet a goal of good government," Russo said. "The city should not make revenue that way."

Russo also said he disagrees with the notion that the ordinance will help the city achieve the goal of preventing animal cruelty.

"We already have laws on the books to address the humane treatment of animals," Russo said.

According to Widmer, research done by the Humane Society and Center for Disease Control indicates tethering leads to increased aggressive behavior among dogs.

The ordinance took effect December 22 and is enforced within the limits of the City of Rockwall. Breaking this law is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to \$500 for each offense; multiple tethered dogs constitute an offense for each animal.

Widmer's department will work on educating residents and no citations will be issued for at least the next 30 days, he said.



Dr. Chris Turner (second from left) was recently presented a certificate of appreciation by Rockwall County Committee on Aging board members Mary Joe Cason (left) Ann Cornelius and Executive Director Margie VerHagen. Turner was recognized for his donation to the Meals on Wheels program.  
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

## Looking ahead to another great year

**By Wesley W. Burnett**

It is my distinct pleasure to express a special end-of-year thank you to all of our loyal subscribers, readers and advertisers for the wonderful acceptance, support and encouragement we have enjoyed during 2009. We are reminded daily of God's presence and spirit in the community, seen and felt from your personal visits to our office, email messages and telephone calls.

We understand very clearly that we serve you, our readers and advertisers, as the steward of your community hometown newspaper. It is a tremendous privilege and honor. God led us to Rockwall, and He has sustained us in this highly competitive market.

I am personally thankful for those who help us produce your hometown newspaper. Each one has been led to us by God and have given outstanding dedication to publishing a top quality newspaper to you every week.

Through the economic difficulties in 2009, our advertisers and subscribers have joined us in a demonstration of what Rockwall County and Texas is all about ... we believe God will see us through all the turmoil ... and working together we have shown that no natural calamity can stop us from living lives aimed at serving God. That is what we believe. We pray you will continue to share that spirit with us as we step into the daily tasks ahead of us in 2010.

Whether we have proven that with God's love and mercy, we will prosper, both in spirit and in our daily lives.

As for your hometown newspaper, we remind you that this is your newspaper and we work for God to serve you. If we wander off course, we pray you will bring us back into line.

From all our family to you ... we pray and believe for a bright, prosperous and healthy 2010.



## White Rock Lake/Scottish Rite Hospital Marathon

A number of Cullins-Lake Pointe Elementary staff members participated in the White Rock Lake/Scottish Rite Hospital Marathon on Dec. 13. Pictured from the left are, top row, Cory White, Robert Erwin, Brenda Baskett, Jane Bruning, Debbie Schmucker, Kathy Riley, Tanya Chapman, Lisa Edmonson and Janet Caporaletti; second row from top, Michelle Cate, Sherrie Langford, Tanya Hunt, Cindy Knockel, Stephanie Rinkevich, Tracy Songer and Joseph Herrera; second row from bottom, Kristie Leavell, Kirsten Golden, Tina Hoepfner, Shelly Allen, Cynthia Johnson, Rhonda Salinas and Melissa Dorn; and, at bottom, Danielle Lynn, Kristi Groves, Patti Gudino, Julia Gragert and Holly Sanford.  
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

# It's All About Rockwall County

# Rockwall's Mollie Lee wins prestigious baking competition

A Rockwall resident recently was named winner of the Holiday Baking Challenge Starring California Walnuts competition.

Mollie Lee's recipe for Nutty Cranberry Muffins with Streusel

Topping won in the contest's SMART category, according to a news release issued by the California Walnut Board.

The contest was a national search for unique homemade holiday recipes that celebrate

the season. Lee's recipe was selected from hundreds of entries.

"My mother used to make fabulous rhubarb muffins when I was a kid," said Lee. "The Nutty Cranberry Muffins with Streusel Topping recipe was inspired by

those tart childhood favorites and designed to be a delicious and smart addition to the holiday table."

Lee's recipe follows:  
Nutty Cranberry Muffins with Streusel Topping

- 2 3/4 cups all-purpose flour, divided
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 3 tablespoons butter, chilled
- 2 1/2 cups chopped California walnuts, divided
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup canola oil
- 1 egg
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 cup low-fat buttermilk
- 1 teaspoon baking powder (low sodium)
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups coarsely chopped fresh cranberries

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In a small mixing bowl combine 1/4 cup of the flour with the brown sugar and cinnamon. Using a pastry blender, cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in 1/2 cup of the chopped walnuts. Set aside.

In a large mixing bowl, beat sugar and oil with a whisk. Whisk in egg, vanilla, and buttermilk, stirring until well blended. Sift together the remaining 2 1/2 cups flour, the baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Stir into buttermilk mixture using a wooden spoon and stirring just until moistened. Gently stir in cranberries and the remaining 2 cups chopped walnuts.

Lightly coat muffin cups with cooking spray or line with paper baking cups and fill about 3/4 full with muffin batter. Sprinkle streusel topping evenly over the top of muffins. Bake about 20 minutes, or until the muffins have risen and the tops spring back when pressed lightly. Cool for a moment in the pans, then remove and serve warm or at room temperature.

Servings: 18  
Prep time: 20 min  
Cook time: 20 min



Mollie Lee



Gene and Judy Lamberth, December 29, 1959.

## Lamberths celebrating 50 years of marriage

Gene and Judy Lamberth of Rockwall marked their golden anniversary this week, celebrating the 50th anniversary of their Dec. 29, 1959, marriage.

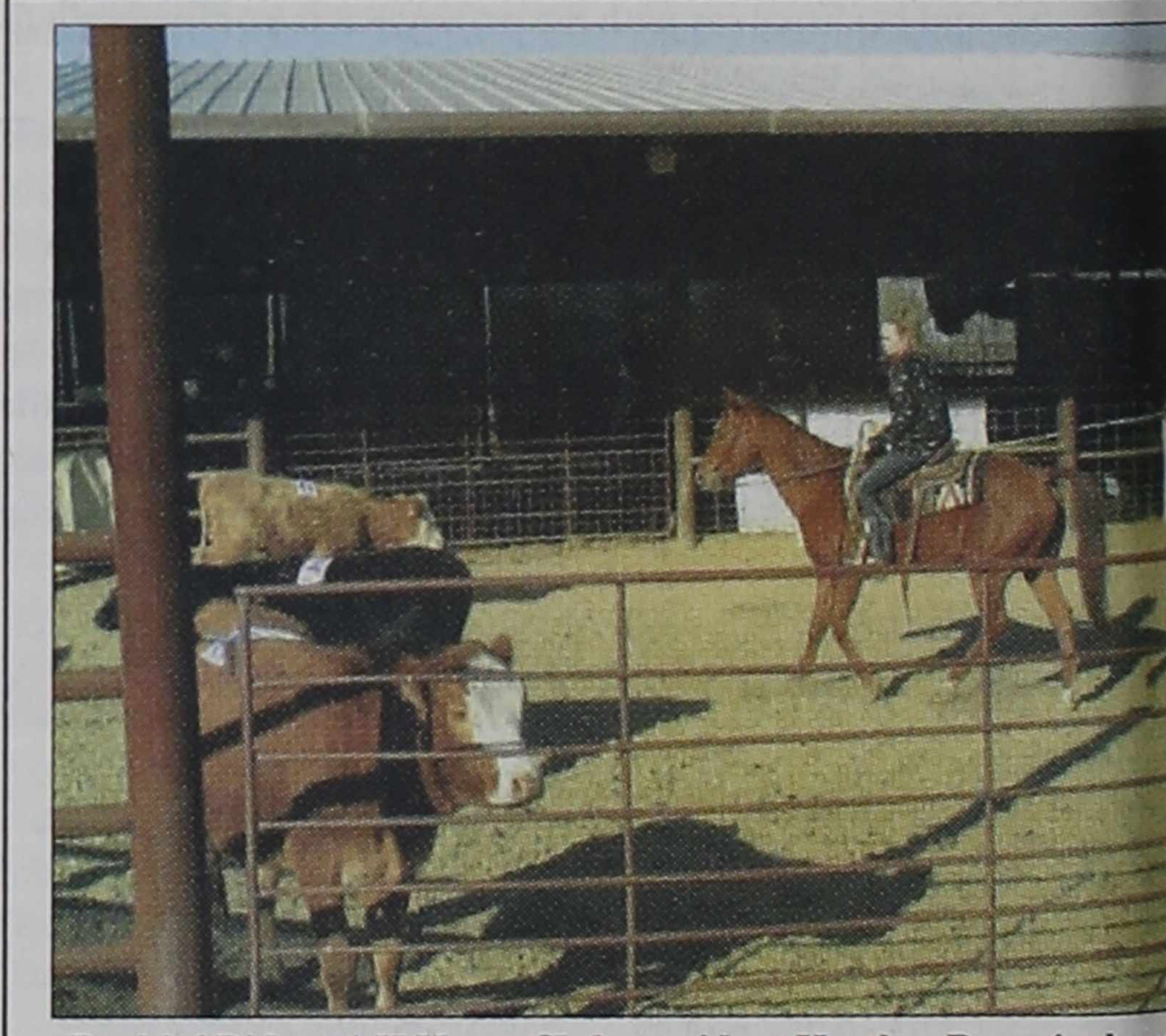
Gene Lamberth and Judy Mika were high school sweethearts in Brownsville prior to their marriage.

After they were married, he did his undergraduate work at AUS College, then attended Baylor Dental School in Dallas. She transferred from Texas A&I, Kingsville, to North Texas. While in dental school, she taught third grade classes in Dallas. The couple moved to Baltimore in 1962 where he served an internship with the U.S. Public Health Service. The couple returned to Texas live in Luling for four years before he decided to pursue his master's in orthodontics in Dallas.

The Lamberths have four children - Brad Lamberth and his wife Jennifer, and Kevin Lamberth and his wife, Tracee, of Rockwall. Stefani Lamberth Ragsdale and her husband, Ron, of Austin. Jennifer Lamberth Rucker and her husband, Jacob, of Dothan, Ala. - and 10 grandchildren. They are anticipating the birth of their 11th grandchild.

The Lamberths moved to Rockwall in 1976. They are now retired.

**Just Say You Saw It In "The County News"**



Rockin' Riders 4-H Horse Club president Heather Rowe is shown sorting cows aboard mare McCall's Smart Chick at an event conducted Dec. 19 at the Bar S Arena in Royse City. Club members learned to team pen and ranch sort as part of the day's activities. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

## City seeks input on land-use plan

by Jo Anna Matejka  
Members of the Rockwall City Council asked its planning and zoning board to step back and gather the input of residents before moving forward with changes to the city's land-use plan.

According to planning and zoning director Rober LaCroix, the city has grown in population and land mass over the past five years and it has been a while since officials have looked at its overall plans for the future land-use, roadways, and ordinances for subdivisions.

The city also may want to incorporate the parks department's plans for trails and open spaces into the comprehensive plan with updates, LaCroix said.

The plan is important for maintaining a vision for the look and character of the city and for providing services within the city as well as informing landowners and future landowners of the city's plans for roadways, open spaces and trails, LaCroix said.

LaCroix's department had wanted to get the planning process going in January to finish on a nine-month schedule, but council members, asking for more transparency and more community involvement, will be appointing people to participate in that process over the next one to two months.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Royse City Health & Rehabilitation Center

### Martha Taylor walking again

Martha Taylor is headed home after seven weeks of careful and attentive care at the Royse City Health and Rehabilitation center following a major ankle injury and surgery in October. "I can't say enough about how great the staff has been for me," she emphasizes. "They are very caring and helpful, helping me through all the stages of recovery, especially Martin."

Martha fell in her Rockwall home and broke her ankle. After surgery she was informed that she would need extensive rehabilitation

### Rehabilitation Services

- E-Stim Treatments (Electronic Stimulation Therapy)
- Omni 3000C Ultra Sound Therapy
- Megapulse Short Wave Diathermy Treatments
- Wii hab

assistance in order to return to normal activities. Of all the various choices available, she chose Royse City Health and Rehabilitation. "It was a very good decision," Martha explained that she started out with a cast, and with the daily rehab services, moved to a walking boot, then to a walker, and now able to put about 50 percent weight on the ankle. "If it weren't for the help I got here," she said, "I think I'd be in a wheel chair."

Martha Taylor is happy to be going home, and praises Royse City Health and Rehabilitation for making that possible.



Martin Espinosa, P.T. and Martha Taylor



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# In Our Opinion

## Iran Sanctions are Precursor to War

**by Bill Paul**

Last week the House overwhelmingly approved a measure to put a moratorium on the use of sanctions on Iran. If this measure passes the Senate, the United States could no longer do business with anyone who sold petroleum products to Iran or helped them develop their technology to refine their own petroleum. The sad thing is that many of my colleagues voted for this measure because they felt it would lead to military engagement with Iran. I would put the question to you: how would Congress react if another government threatened to cut off our oil supply? Would we not view it as a precursor to war?

This policy is pure isolationism. It is designed to foment war by cutting off trade and diplomacy. Too many forget that the quagmire in Vietnam began with an embargo. Sanctions are not diplomacy. They are a precursor to war and an embarrassment to a country that pays lip service to free trade. It is ironic that people who decry isolationism support actions like this.

If a foreign government attempted to isolate the US economically, by cutting off our supply of gasoline, or starve us to death, would it cause us to admire that foreign entity? Or would we instead unite behind the flag for the survival of our country?

We would not tolerate foreign covert operations fomenting regime change in our government. Yet our CIA has been meddling in Iran for decades. Of course Iranians resent this. In fact, many in Iran still blame the CIA's involvement in overthrowing their democratically elected leader in 1953. The answer is not to cut off gasoline to the Iranian people. The answer is to stay out of their affairs and deal with them honestly. If our operatives were no longer in Iran, they would no longer be available as scapegoats for the regime to blame or wrongly, blame for every bad thing that happens. As bad as the current regimes may be, it is up to their own people to deal with them so they can achieve true self-determination. When foreigners instigate regime change, the new government they institute is always regarded as serving the interest of the overthrowing country, not the people of that country.

Thus we take the blame for bad governance twice. Instead of taking the blame for the actions of our government, we take the blame for the actions of the military industrial complex, we all want a peaceful world. Many are hysterical about the imminent threat of nuclear Iran. Here are the facts: Iran has never been found to be in compliance with the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) and is a signatory. However, being surrounded by nuclear powers one can understand why they might want to become nuclear capable if only to defend themselves and to be treated more respectfully. After all, we can't sanction nuclear capable countries. We take diplomatic negotiations a lot more seriously, and we frequently send money to them instead. The non-nuclear countries are the ones we bomb. Iran was attempting to violate the non-proliferation treaty, they should be blamed, since US foreign policy gives them every incentive to do so.



## Black education

**by Walter E. Williams**

Detroit's (predominantly black) public schools are the worst in the nation and it takes some doing to be worse than Washington, D.C. Only 3 percent of Detroit's fourth-graders scored proficient on the most recent National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) test, sometimes called "The Nation's Report Card." Twenty-eight percent scored basic and 69 percent below basic. "Below basic" is the NAEP category when students are unable to demonstrate even partial mastery of knowledge and skills fundamental for proficient work at their grade level. It's the same story for Detroit's eighth-graders. Four percent scored proficient, 18 percent basic and 77 percent below basic.

Michael Casserly, executive director of the D.C.-based Council on Great City Schools, in an article appearing in Crain's Detroit Business, (12/8/09) titled, "Detroit's Public Schools Post Worst Scores on Record in National Assessment," said, "There is no jurisdiction of any kind, at any level, at any time in the 30-year history of NAEP that has ever registered such low numbers." The academic performance of black students in other large cities such as Philadelphia, Chicago, New York and Los Angeles is not much better than Detroit and Washington.

What's to be done about this tragic state of black education? The education establishment and politicians tell us that we need to spend more for higher teacher pay and smaller class size. The fact of business is higher teacher salaries and smaller class sizes mean little or nothing in terms of academic achievement. Washington, D.C., for example spends over \$15,000 per student, has class sizes smaller than the nation's average, and with an average annual salary of \$61,195, its teachers are the most highly paid in the nation.

What about role models? Standard psychobabble asserts a positive relationship between the race of teachers and administrators and student performance. That's nonsense. Black academic performance is the worst in the very cities where large percentages of teachers and administrators are black, and often the school superintendent is black, the mayor is black, most of the city council is black and very often the chief of police is black.

Black people have accepted hare-brained ideas that have made large percentages of black youngsters virtually useless in an increasingly technological economy. This destruction will continue until the day comes when black people are willing to turn their backs on liberals and the education establishment's agenda and confront issues that are both embarrassing and uncomfortable. To a lesser extent, this also applies to whites because the educational performance of many white kids is nothing to write home about; it's just not the disaster that black education is.

Many black students are alien and hostile to the education process. They have parents with little interest in their education. These students not only sabotage the education process, but make schools unsafe as well. These students should not be permitted to destroy the education chances of others. They should be removed or those students who want to learn should be provided with a mechanism to go to another school.

Another issue deemed too delicate to discuss is the overall quality of people teaching our children. Students who have chosen education as their major have the lowest SAT scores of any other major. Students who have an education degree earn lower scores than any other major on graduate school admission tests such as the GRE, MCAT or LSAT. Schools of education, either graduate or undergraduate, represent the academic slums of most any university. They are home to the least able students and professors. Schools of education should be shut down.

Yet another issue is the academic fraud committed by teachers and administrators. After all, what is it when a student is granted a diploma certifying a 12th grade level of achievement when in fact he can't perform at the sixth- or seventh-grade level?

Prospects for improvement in black education are not likely given the cozy relationship between black politicians, civil rights organizations and teacher unions.

Walter E. Williams is a professor of economics at George Mason University. To find out more about Walter E. Williams and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).  
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## Partying with the President

**by Bill O'Reilly**

One of the good things about being a media loudmouth is that occasionally you get invited somewhere you actually want to go. This year, I was lucky enough to get an invitation to the White House holiday party, which would have been called a Christmas party if Grant were still president.

Anyway, this is the fourth time I've attended the annual event, and I must say I'm very fortunate. I love the White House -- it symbolizes the greatness of America. The courage and goodness that have been displayed inside this residence ever since John Adams moved in dramatically changed the world for the better.

Last year, President and Mrs. Bush hosted their final party, and it was fairly extravagant. This year, the crowd was much smaller and the atmosphere was toned down a bit, perhaps because of the government-spending controversy and the recession.

My brief meeting with President and Mrs. Obama went well. Even though I have challenged the president on a number of occasions, I believe I have been fair to him. We chatted briefly, and he said that I looked to be in better shape than the last time we saw each other. I told him that's because he's keeping me on my toes.

Michelle Obama, whom I had never met, was stunning. She was beautiful and kind to my 10-year-old daughter and gracious to me. My assessment of her: strong, charismatic and beautiful.

After greeting the Obamas, I ran into the president's cadre of advisers and gave them some jazz about the war on Fox News, a campaign that did not go well for the White House. Basically, I told them that the president's men and women that Americans love spirited conversation and if they have a beef with something on Fox News, they should come on my television program and hash it out. Look what happened to Al Sharpton. His appearances on Fox News have destroyed his image immensely. You may not agree with what the president says, but at least he has the guts to debate the issues.

Christmastime, we should all put politics aside. And that's what the Obamas did. There were a number of Republicans at the party, and everybody I talked with had a great time. I was pleased with the event and, again, feel privileged to have the vantage point.

I wish everybody could visit the White House in December. There's something about viewing all the portraits of past presidents, hearing the Marine Corps choir sing Christmas songs and seeing each White House room perfectly decorated for the season that is invigorating and thrilling.

So, I received my Christmas present early. Thanks for the party, Mr. President.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Who's Looking Out for You?" To find out more about Bill O'Reilly, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com). This column originates on the Web site [www.billoreilly.com](http://www.billoreilly.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, as well as those promoting political candidates. Letters must be signed and include telephone number or address for verification.

### Don't believe it's "hopeless"

Many people today look around at the mess we are in and feel it's all hopeless -- don't think they can possibly make a difference. All the bad news coming out of D.C. is enough to cause even the most optimistic to despair.

Sticking your head in the sand is not an option. Do you really want to look your grandchildren in the eye and tell them why you didn't fight to restore the republic for them? Because you didn't care or you were too scared?

I'm here to encourage you. Don't give up and don't give in. When you live in fear, enslaved by the government and feel powerless - then they have already won. They have you right where they want you. Only you can take responsibility for yourself and choose to be free, choose to live free and exercise your God-given rights.

When you are focused on some boogie man -- real or imaginary -- whether it's the opposite party or a leader of a foreign country or people whose religion is different from yours -- they win because you are distracted from what those in power are really doing, which is running the global empire using whatever presidential puppet they choose, looting our crumbling empire and using our boys to fight their self-serving wars.

We must stop focusing on what they would have us focus our attention on and look to REAL solutions that will be effective and give us hope.

1. If you want to see real change, then get involved in the party of your choice -- government of, by and for the people starts here at the local level. I don't mean just sending money or voting for their candidates, I mean running for precinct chair (or other local offices) -- that is where the system starts, where the control lies.

If we will quit complaining and worrying and get active we can turn the county around and bring it back to its constitutional foundations. Just replacing the corrupt or career politicians won't change anything long-term. But, by taking back the precincts, then the parties we can take back the nation. The deadline to file is Jan 4.

2. We don't need to live in fear of D.C. and wonder what they will do to us next. This healthcare "reform" disaster isn't the end of the world as we know it. We must call and send letters and demonstrate, but we must concentrate on our Texas public servants.

We hold the power to keep D.C. at bay -- it's called nullification. See what Jefferson and Madison said about it (notintexas.org and.tenthamentendmentcenter.com).

Texas decides if the fed government has overstepped its bounds, not the Supreme Court. We call for a special session and we tell our legislators and governor to stand up and say no.

Texas is known for leading the way. Let's get busy. Other states are

working on this as well. Please feel free to e-mail or call me if you'd like to discuss either of these plans.

For liberty and justice for all.  
Debbie McKee, Campbell

### Aggressive city fees

The City of Fate has initiated a new billing process, adding collection of refuse/garbage to the water bill, instead of paying the garbage collection directly to the contracted company providing that service.

I informed city officials in two separate letters that I never had any service for refuse/garbage collection and did not want that service. I have received no reply to my letters.

I am not using the service and the vacant houses that are empty do not need this service, but we're told we have to pay the bill to the city anyway.

The City of Fate is charging it residents for service that are not needed or wanted by some of its residents.

Michael Drayovittel Jr.

### RCISD introduces new support group

Royse City ISD students have a new support group -- The Royse City ISD Education Foundation. This 501(c)3 non-profit foundation is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors that is representative of the communities and businesses served by Royse City ISD. The Education Foundation will provide educational enrichment opportunities for students and faculty above what is provided within the budget of Royse City ISD.

In this founding year of the foundation you have a unique opportunity. Anyone who donates \$250 or above to the foundation will become founding donors and they will be recognized in all future publications and on our Web site (RCISDFoundation.com) as supporters of Royse City ISD students and the Royse City ISD Education Foundation.

Your founding donor gift can be made in honor or memory of a student, a teacher or a family member, and that tribute will be forever engraved on a special monument that will be determined at the end of this Founding Drive in January 2010.

Many employers have matching funds opportunities, so if you give at least \$125 and your employer matches that gift, then your total contribution will meet the requirements of a founding donor. Check with the human resources department at your place of employment for details about a possible matching funds program.

Donations of lesser values can again be made in honor or memory of a student, a teacher, a family member and that tribute will be recognized by our foundation office, sending a letter to the person or family declaring that a donation has been made in their honor.

Your contribution of any value to the foundation will be gratefully received and carefully appropriated to provide innovative opportunities for Royse City ISD students.

Jo Nell Melody  
Education Foundation Executive Director  
Community Relations Director

### Open Meetings, Open Records

In Texas the law is clear. Governing bodies must conduct the people's business in public or else face some serious penalties. This statute has protected the public and elected representatives alike for the past 42 years with a basic premise: public bodies should deliberate in public.

The days of making backroom good ol' boy deals in private are a thing of the past because the Texas Legislature outlawed it by passing the Open Meetings Act in 1967, and strengthening it in 1973 after the

infamous "Sharpstown Scandal."

Yet, there are some serious and troubling attempts underway that would open the door for that very thing to occur. At least three Texas cities and the Texas Municipal League are endorsing a legal challenge in courts that will render Texas' Open Meetings laws ineffective. TML is urging more than 1,100 Texas cities to sign on to a federal lawsuit.

The details of the challenge are stated simply: These public officials claim the Texas Open Meetings Act unconstitutionally restricts their right of free speech under the First Amendment. Of course, they're free to say anything they wish to anyone they wish at any time. However, when they are meeting as a quorum of a governmental body, they must say it in front of the public at an open meeting.

Even more importantly, the First Amendment cannot be a shield to prevent accountability of public officials, but guarantees access to the workings of these governmental bodies just like it does to our courts. TML wants criminal penalties such as jail time stripped from the statute that has protected the public for more than four decades. They believe the current language is too punitive and argue "less restrictive penalties would not only continue to preserve the integrity of the Texas Open Meetings Act but would also recognize the fundamental right of officials to free speech."

In other words, if public officials break the law in the future by conducting business in secret -- i.e., exercising their rights to "free speech" behind closed doors, a slap on the wrist should be punishment enough. It simply defies logic and apparently not all of TML's own members agree with this position. As reported in The Brownsville Herald, 12/21/2009, TML board member and Mercedes Mayor Joel Quintar said, "Either I misunderstood the entire meeting or something is happening. The way I understood it, we all (board members) voted in favor of keeping the restrictive penalties, not lessening them." Quintar went on to say, "We didn't want elected officials to get comfortable."

He's not the only one apparently confused by TML's action. Mercedes Commissioner Ruben Guajardo is also quoted as saying, "The consensus (of the TML Resolutions Committee) was that things were fine the way they were (with the Texas Open Meetings Act) and that trying to reinvent the wheel was not in the best interest of everyone involved. We (the resolutions committee) felt that to change something (in the meetings act) was just not correct. It really wasn't right. The consensus was to leave the Texas Meetings Act the way it is."

I couldn't agree with Commissioner Guajardo or Mayor Quintar more. As a member of the public, I am left confused by what is happening and why. But I do know this. I don't want elected officials to be too comfortable either because I have seen firsthand what can happen if they do.

I hope you will join me in supporting the idea that the Open Meetings Act should be left intact and open government, without any strings attached, should continue to be the law in Texas. I also urge you to contact your city leaders and encourage them not to join in this effort that could weaken the Texas Open meetings laws.

If clarifications are needed to address modern day changes such as electronic and digital communications, then they should be made at statehouse -- not city hall. And, at a minimum, you should point to your public servants that any discussion on this or any other issue involving "free speech" should be debated in a public meeting instead of a rubber-stamp style vote to please Austin lobbyists.

Bill Hobby  
Texas Lt. Governor, 1973-1991

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First Presbyterian Church of Rockwall is located at 602 White Hills Drive, just north of the intersection of I30 and Ridge Road. The congregation, which is dedicated to local and global mission work, is led by Pastor Cheryl Taylor. Visitors are invited to attend Sunday school at 10am and worship at 11am. For more information call 972-771-5702.

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CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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FM 3097  
NEW HORIZONS FELLOWSHIP  
408 N. Goliad St., Rockwall  
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RIDGEVIEW CHURCH  
1362 FM 552, Rockwall  
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"That if you will confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord', and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."  
Romans 10: 9-10

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

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Experience - Not less than a year in a similar position  
Educational Qualification - Some Colledge / BSC in a related discipline  
Marketing Manager:  
In addition to general requirements, candidates must be a holder of an MBA. Have ability to work on a spread sheets  
Production and / operations manager:  
In addition to general requirements, minimum of 2 years experience in an art and galleries firm  
Admin / Account officer: See general requirement

Marketing Executive : See general requirement  
Stores Officer: See general requirement  
Secretary / Personal Assistant to CEO: See general requirement. Some accounting and admin background with ability to create spread sheet is a requirement  
Applicant should within 2 weeks of this publication, forward application letters and resume indicating post applied for to: shauncarter16@rocketmail.com

**Miscellaneous for Sale**  
**Firewood for Sale**  
1/2 cord \$135, 1 cord \$230. East Texas oak wood, 90% split, stacked and delivered. 903-438-7478.  
**Storage Buildings 10 x 16, \$1,450; 12 x 24, \$2,000. 214-869-1703.**

**Legal Notices**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**CITY OF ROCKWALL, TEXAS**  
**Request for Proposal**  
The City of Rockwall is requesting sealed proposals from qualified suppliers of communications equipment for the procurement of a monopole antenna structure, equipment shelter, and microwave link equipment. The procurement shall include all hardware, software, design, installation, warranty and maintenance, and all costs associated with providing the communications equipment and services as described in the Request for Proposals (RFP) document. Contractor bonds and insurance are required. Proposals will be received until January 29, 2010, at 3:00 P.M. local time delivered to Lea Ann Ewing, Purchasing Agent, City of Rockwall, 385 S. Goliad, Rockwall, TX 75087. Interested contractors may contact Lea Ann Ewing at 972-771-7700 for additional information or RFP package.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**SURPLUS and UNCLAIMED PROPERTY SALE**  
**CITY OF ROCKWALL, TEXAS**  
The City of Rockwall is holding an on line Surplus and Unclaimed Property Sale beginning January 18, 2010 and closing on January 29, 2010 at 10:00 am. The on line sale will be conducted by Rene Bates Auctioneers Inc., Texas License Number 6644 at www.renebates.com. Property includes 3 pick up trucks. All property will be sold as is, where is with no warranties or guarantees of any kind. The City cannot and will not guarantee that the vehicles included in this auction may or may not have a salvage title. The City reserves the right to remove and add property to this auction at any time. The auctioneer will determine forms of payment accepted. It is the buyer's responsibility to pay in full and remove the property purchased within 10 days of the auction closing date. Property not picked up after the 10 day period will be subject to re auction. For additional information contact Lea Ann Ewing or Lisa Frausto at 972-771-7700.

**Public Notice**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT JENNIFER DIANE BUTLER DBA HAPPY COUNTRY GROCERY STORE HAS FILED A WRITTEN APPLICATION DATED THE 22ND DAY OF DECEMBER, 2009 TO BE ISSUED A WINE AND BEER RETAILER'S OFF-PREMISE PERMIT, AT 179 COUNTY LINE RD, ROCKWALL, ROCKWALL

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twillamiller@rocketmail.com

COUNTY, TEXAS. OFFICERS OF HAPPY COUNTRY GROCERY STORE INCLUDE: JENNIFER DIANE BUTLER/OWNER. IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 61.38 OF THE "TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CODE", SAID APPLICATION WILL BE HEARD BEFORE THE HONORABLE CHRIS FLORANCE, COUNTY JUDGE OF ROCKWALL COUNTY TEXAS, LOCATED AT 101 EAST RUSK STREET, 3RD FLOOR, IN ROCKWALL, TEXAS ON THE 21ST DAY OF JANUARY, 2010 AT 8:30 O'CLOCK AM. WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE THIS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2009. LEA CARLSON, CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK, ROCKWALL COUNTY, TEXAS.  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The following Ordinance was passed by the City Council of the City of Fate, Texas on Monday, December 21, 2009.  
ORDINANCE NO. O-1135  
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND ALLOWING, UNDER THE ACT GOVERNING THE TEXAS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM, "UPDATED SERVICE CREDITS" IN SAID SYSTEM ON AN ANNUAL BASIS FOR SERVICE PERFORMED BY QUALIFYING MEMBERS OF SUCH SYSTEM WHO AT THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE ALLOWANCE ARE MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF FATE; INCREASE THE RATE OF DEPOSITS TO THE TEXAS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM BY THE EMPLOYEES; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THE ORDINANCE.  
The Ordinance, in its entirety, is available for review in the City Secretary's office at 105 E. Fate Main Place, Fate, Texas  
Jean Dwinnell, TRMC, CMC  
City Secretary  
City of Fate

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• Divorce Modifications (from \$150)  
• Durable Power of Attorney (From \$100)  
• Will Probate (From \$500 and court costs)  
• Criminal Trial Services  
• Real Estate Documents (From \$125)  
• Occupational Driver's License (From \$350 and court costs)  
**Famer County Judge and Criminal District Attorney of Rockwall County**

**Legal Notices**  
**- Public Notice -**  
The City of Rockwall Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, January 12, 2010** at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Rockwall City Hall, 385 South Goliad, Rockwall, Texas, and the Rockwall City Council will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, January 12, 2010** at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Rockwall City Hall, 385 South Goliad, Rockwall, Texas, to consider the following items:

**Z2009-025: Proposed Accessory Structure 2730 N FM 549 - SUP**  
Hold a public hearing and consider a request by James W. Valk for approval of a Specific Use Permit (SUP) to allow for an accessory building exceeding the maximum size requirement of 2,000-sf (proposed 4,000-sf), exceeding the maximum height requirement of 15-feet (proposed 18-feet) and not meeting the exterior materials requirements, specifically on his 8.54-acre property located at 2730 N. FM 549 and currently described as Tract 3-1, Abstract 193, J E Sherwood Survey, SF-E/4.0 Single Family Estate district.  
Interested parties are encouraged to attend. Please contact the City of Rockwall Planning and Zoning staff at (972) 771-7745 with any questions.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND CITY COUNCIL**  
**OF THE CITY OF FATE, TEXAS**  
An application has been received by the City of Fate, Texas for a:  
**PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE**  
Applicant: Raymond Jowers  
Location: 4646 E. I-30 being 1.96 Acres located on the south side of E. I-30 on east bound service road, approximately .41 miles west of Industrial Drive.  
Property Description: See attached Legal Description  
Present Zoning: Not Zoned  
Requested Zoning: "HC" Highway Commercial  
Intended Use: Landscape Business and potential additional uses consistent with "HC" Zoning allowances.

The request will be considered as follows:  
**Planning and Zoning Commission: January 21, 2010, 7:00 p.m.**  
**City Council: February 1, 2010, 7:00 p.m.**  
The public hearings will be held at:  
**Community Building**  
**104 S. W.E. Crawford Blvd. (FM 551)**  
**Fate, Texas**

This notice has been sent to all owners of real property within 200 feet of the request as such ownership appears on the last approved city tax roll. Action by the Planning and Zoning Commission serves as a recommendation to the City Council and is not a final action on the request. If the Commission recommends denial, a three-fourths majority vote by the City Council shall be required for approval. Zoning districts, amendments and conditions recommended by the Commission for approval by the City Council may be more restrictive than those described in this notice.  
All interested persons are encouraged to attend the public hearing and express their opinions on the zoning change request.

the property owners of 20% or more of the land within the 200 foot notification area file a written protest prior to the public hearing, state law provides that approval of the zoning change request shall require an affirmative ¾ vote of the members of the City Council.  
This application is on file for public examination in the City of Fate, City Hall at 105 E.

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
All that certain lot, tract or parcel of land situated in the GEORGE W. RIDLIN SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 184, Rockwall County, Texas, and being all of a 1.96 acres tract of land as described in a Warranty deed from Bobby J. Crowell to James Wagoner and wife, Shannon Wagoner, dated August 24, 1998 and being recorded in Volume 1454, Page 25 of the Real Property Records of Rockwall County, Texas, and being more particularly described as follows:

- BEGINNING at a 1/2" iron rod found for corner in the southeast right-of-way line of Interstate Highway 30, at the northwest corner of said 1.96 acres tract and being at the northeast corner of a 2.00 acres tract of land as described in a Warranty deed to Dennis A. Vierling, as recorded in Volume 1217, Page 96 of the Real Property Records of Rockwall County, Texas;
- THENCE N. 64 deg. 34 min. 30 sec. E. along said right-of-way line, a distance of 183.31 feet to a 1/2" iron rod found for corner;
- THENCE S. 13 deg. 58 min. 22 sec. E. a distance of 59.94 feet to a 1/2" iron rod found for corner;
- THENCE N. 76 deg. 57 min. 43 sec. E. a distance of 25.25 feet to a 1/2" iron rod found for corner at the east most northeast corner of said 1.96 acres tract of land and in the west line of a 1.50 acres tract of land as described in a Warranty deed to Michael Asbury, as recorded in Volume 2453, Page 157, of the Official Public Records of Rockwall County, Texas;
- THENCE S. 13 deg. 56 min. 48 sec. E. along the common line between said 1.96 acres tract and said 1.50 acres tract, a distance of 528.26 feet to a 1/2" iron rod found for corner;
- THENCE S. 64 deg. 39 min. 13 sec. W. a distance of 90.98 feet to a 1/2" iron rod found for corner at the southwest corner of said 1.96 acres tract and the southeast corner of said 2.00 acres tract;
- THENCE N. 25 deg. 25 min. 18 sec. W. a distance of 581.74 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING and containing 1.96 acres of land.

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
Copyright 2009 by Orbison Bros.

**ACROSS**  
1 TXism: "take a off"  
5 TX 40s actress Gwynne gets "hitched"  
7 this Cola is now made by TX Dr. Pepper co.  
8 TX George Jones hit: "He Stopped Loving Today"  
9 recorded sound  
14 TX Byron Nelson book: "Played the Game"  
15 no-shows  
19 Ed White: 1st TXn to walk  
21 TXism: "plucked cleaner"  
22 military policy: "don't tell"  
27 TXism: "hot enough to sunburn a horny"  
28 TX B.J. Thomas '77 album: "Home Belong"  
29 evil spirits  
30 TXism: "jumped from the fryin' pan"  
32 TX "Monkee" (init.)  
33 desk of poet Edgar is at UT  
36 cowtown bumper sticker: "Wuth, I Luv You"  
37 meaning of 1-across  
38 TXism: "it it a snake it would have bit you"  
39 TX Willie's IRS album: "Who'll Buy My \_\_\_\_\_?"  
41 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ a soul"  
42 this Warren was in film "Tough Enough" with TX Dennis Quaid  
45 TX historical events: cattle \_\_\_\_\_  
46 TXism: "in a pig's \_\_\_\_\_"  
47 animal skins  
48 Mexican prison mafia: "La \_\_\_\_\_"  
49 TX Don Henley co-wrote song "Sunrise"  
52 this Al was Astro pitcher ('90-'93)  
53 "sister" informally  
54 Love or Hobby abbr.  
55 actress Susan in TV film "Blue River" with TX Nick Stahl  
**DOWN**  
1 TV series for 55-across: "L.A. \_\_\_\_\_"  
2 TX Willie tune: "\_\_\_\_\_ in a Row"  
3 county right above Ector Co.  
4 "Lady Bird" Johnson got her nickname from her nursemaid's \_\_\_\_\_  
8 car toot  
9 TXism: "hot as \_\_\_\_\_ coals"  
10 \_\_\_\_\_ Hwy. 385 runs through 3-down seat  
11 \_\_\_\_\_ Leon, TX  
12 TXism: "threw \_\_\_\_\_ (gave up)"  
13 "Lake \_\_\_\_\_ Pines"  
14 TXism: "he's rattlin' \_\_\_\_\_ (threat)"  
15 feline (2 wds.)  
16 TXism: "within \_\_\_\_\_ shot" (near)  
17 NFC East teams, to the Cowboys  
18 pro team of TX QB Drew Brees  
20 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ loop man" (good roper)  
22 TX Dobie who sang "In Crowd" (init.)  
23 TX Roy Orbison hit: "Pretty Woman"  
24 Genesis ark builder  
25 Houston beat this school in '73 Bluebonnet Bowl  
26 TXism: "can ride \_\_\_\_\_ and dance all night" (stamina)  
28 "\_\_\_\_\_ bam"  
31 TXism: "it'll make your \_\_\_\_\_ curl"  
34 noted TX sculptor Elisabet  
35 school recreation (abbr.)  
37 horse's father  
40 Austin's "Flora \_\_\_\_\_" is for plant enthusiasts  
43 TX 1st registered an \_\_\_\_\_ in 1907  
44 "\_\_\_\_\_ for the occasion" (apt hair style)  
50 take back words? \_\_\_\_\_  
51 state where TX Holly died (abbr.)

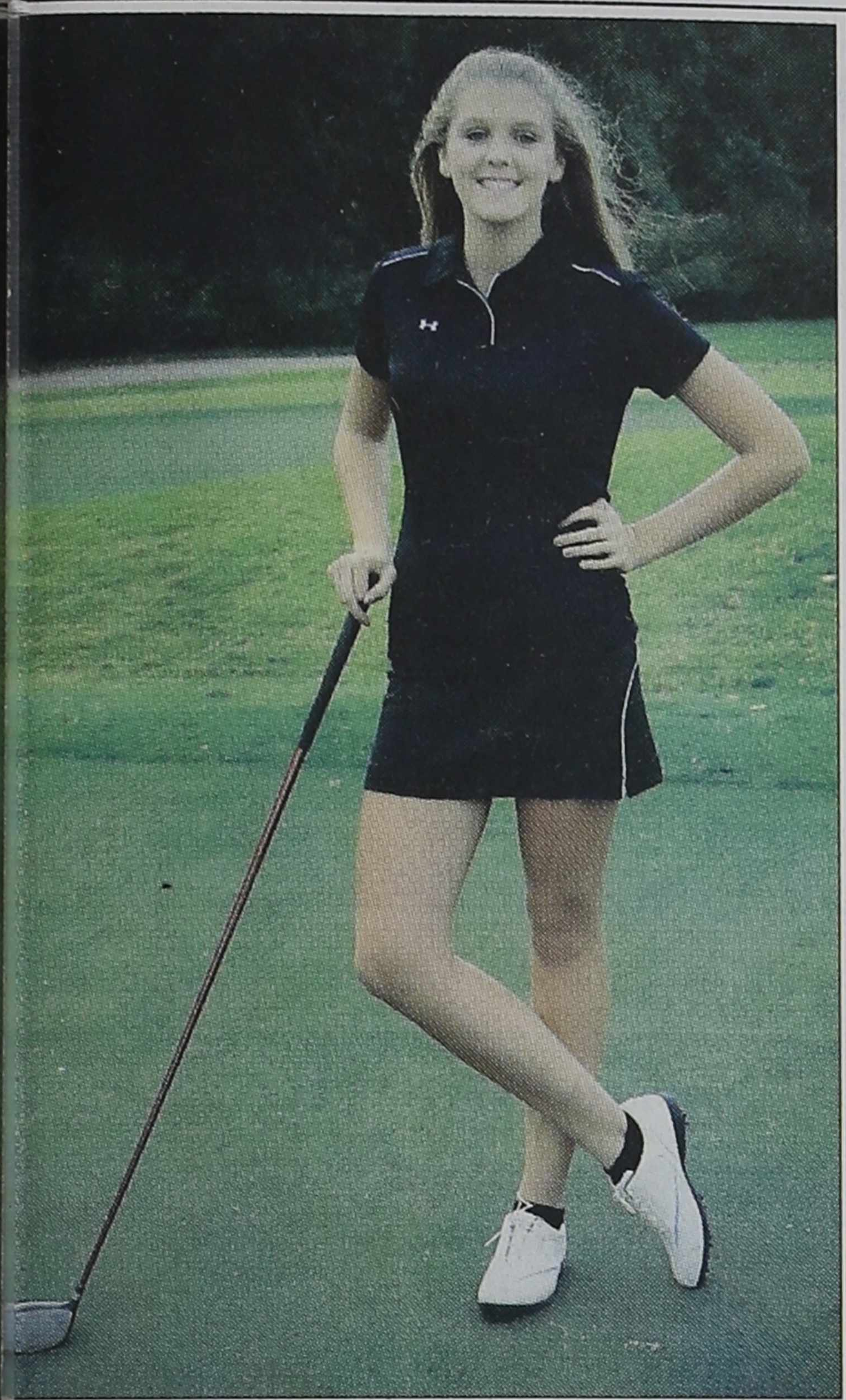
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# Rockwall County Sports

## Lady Jackets win opener in Duncanville tourney



Jessie Goodwin

The matchup of Texas' sixth-ranked 4A girls' basketball team and the eighth-ranked 3A team Monday was close – for one quarter.

No. 6 Rockwall led just 19-17 after eight minutes of play. But with Peyton Adamson scoring 10 of her game-high 41 points in the second quarter, the Lady Jackets stretched their advantage over Kennedale to 37-24 at half-time.

Adamson popped in another dozen points in the third quarter, leaving little doubt about the outcome as RHs ran to a 58-31 lead. The final score was 73-47 in the first-round game at the prestigious Sandra Meadows Classic at Duncanville.

In her third game with more than 40 points this season, the Lady Jackets' career scoring leader had plenty of help from Alyssa Lang with 16 points and Vertashia Dean with 12. Lang had 11 in the first half.

The Lady Jackets were scheduled to play Tuesday against Amarillo Palo Duro in a round-of-16 game. Win or lose, Rockwall would face a tough op-

ponent in its third game – Euless Trinity if RHS won or DeSoto, 14th in the state 5A rankings, if the Lady Jackets lost.

Rockwall's bracket also included Dallas Bishop Lynch, once again the top-ranked TAPPS large school; Fayetteville, Ark., which hasn't lost a game in two seasons, and Mesquite Horn, 20th in the Texas 5A poll.

The opposite bracket included unbeaten Duncanville, Texas' top-ranked 5A team, along with Frisco and West Mesquite, both among the top eight 4A teams.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
RHS	19	18	21	15	73
Kennedale	17	7	7	16	47

Rockwall (17-3): Peyton Adamson 41, Alyssa Lang 16, Vertashia Dean 12, Caitlin White 2, Mary Hinton 2.

Kennedale (10-6): Keira Phipps 14, Jamaika Hughes 10, Desiree Scott 8, Travanti Downes 8, Breanna Dorsey 6, Chandler Thornton 1.

## Rockwall girls' soccer hopes to build on success

by Lary Bump

A year after making the deepest girls' soccer playoff run in Rockwall High School history, the Lady Jackets are looking forward to more success when their 2010 season begins next week.

"We lost three very valuable seniors last year, and we will each of them. But we have 11 returning players from last year's history-making squad!" said head coach Melissa Garcia.

"We are hoping to take the experience from last year and the excited feelings we ended with and carry them into this season."

The Jackets won two playoff games before losing 2-1 to District 21-4A rival Highland Park.

That team was loaded with underclassmen who form the nucleus of this year's squad, which includes just four seniors – All-District player Randi Soldat, Karen Arzola, Jessie Givens and Emily Weller.

Other leading returnees are goalie Rebekah Barton, Nicole Salom and Allie Wentzel, all juniors, and sophomores Shelby Soldat, Evan Gonzales and Bethany Schomin.

"Right now, the Soldats are both banged up from their club teams," Garcia said.

Three freshmen have moved up to the varsity roster: Maddie Bertrand, Miranda Larkin and Berkley Talley.

"The returning players having experienced the playoffs last year will definitely be a great strength. We have added move-ins and freshmen, and we are so excited about the potential! We will obviously have to spend some time getting the newbies and the vets working together, but we have such a great group of kids it will happen in no time at all."

Rockwall will need all of that help.

"Our district is one of the toughest in the area!" Garcia said with her characteristic enthusiasm. "All four (playoff) teams ended up meeting in rounds 2 and 3 last year. With the returning state champion (Richardson Pearce), our district

will be even more powerful. I believe that Pearce, Highland Park, The Colony and Rockwall-Heath all prove to be great competition. As Lovejoy continues to build their program, they too are going to add to the mix."

The Lady Jackets will have mini-scrimmages Tuesday against McKinney and McKinney Boyd, then will play their first games in the Allen Tournament Thursday-Saturday, Jan. 7-9.

[www.rockwallcountynews.com](http://www.rockwallcountynews.com)

## Jessie Goodwin scores hole-in-one

Contributed by Walter Goodwin

Jessie Goodwin, a sophomore member of the Rockwall Heath High School golf team, sank her first hole-in-one last month during a tournament at the Wrenview Golf Club in Rowlett.

She was playing for the RHHS Lady Hawk varsity golf team, coach by Bill Johnson.

Jessie was on the third hole on the front nine, a 136 yard par three. She had an 18 iron on the tee box, there was a strong breeze in her face and she decided to go back to her bag and get a 7 iron.

She swung the ball, it bounced on the green one time and rolled into the hole. From the tee box no one could tell that the ball fell into the hole. An Irving player who drove up to the green, came back and announced the hole-in-one to the crowd.

Others golfing in the foursome, along with Coach Epperson, Coach Zack and Coach Irving congratulated Jessie on the shot. Coach Zack said, "Did that go in?" She replied, "Yes!" with the biggest smile on her face.

Jessie has been playing golf for three years. She started at a summer camp last year by Coach Zack at A1 Golf. Jessie earned a varsity team position her first year and is looking forward to the remainder of this year, as well as her junior and senior years at Rockwall Heath High School.

## YMCA sets spring sports registration

Registration for the Rockwall

YMCA spring sports gets underway in January.

The early registration period will run from Friday and run through Jan. 15.

Spring sports include Small Fry Soccer (co-ed, age 3); Soccer (boys and girls, ages 4-12); and Volleyball (ages 8-12). Programs are open to students in grades pre-K through sixth grade only.

Registration must be completed by a parent or guardian in person at the YMCA. No mailed or faxed registrations can be accepted. Small Fry Soccer takes place on Wednesdays of each week. One team will be divided into a half-hour practice and a half-hour scrimmage. Coaches meetings will take place on February and March for all sports.

Teams play a total of eight games with 11 points per Tuesday, and much more value.

Final 37

Below 9, Ray

Zach Moer 15, C

Eric Neal 2, B

Final 68

Final 37

Final 68

Final 37

Final 68

Final 37

Final 68

Final 37

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Final 68

mes; each player receives a participation medal at the completion of the season. Games can be played on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays or Saturdays at any time.

Cost is \$30 for family member, \$90 for activity member. Financial assistance is available.

For more information, call 972-772-9622, visit [rockwallymca.org](http://rockwallymca.org) or go by the YMCA at 1210 N. Goliad, Rockwall.

## Local dancers fare well at Carrollton competition

More than 100 dancers representing the Dance Force Studio competed in Carrollton on Dec. 12 in team, solo and duet categories, bringing home 61 trophies.

Representing Rockwall were the Cherubs, Angels, Dreamers, Sweethearts and Seniors. The grand champion trophy was awarded to the Dreamers, Sweethearts, Elite and Seniors teams.

"We went to Carrollton with solid, well-rehearsed routines and good attitudes," said Valerie Krecke, one of the owners of Dance Force Studios. "The girls stayed focused and did a beautiful job performing. We are very excited about this year and look forward to our next event in Keller on Jan. 30..."

Valerie credited the team mothers for playing a role in the success of the group.

The kickoff meet of the year, sponsored by Showtime International, was conducted at Creekview High.



Weldon Collier, his sister Guyrene Randles and niece Carolyn Bryan

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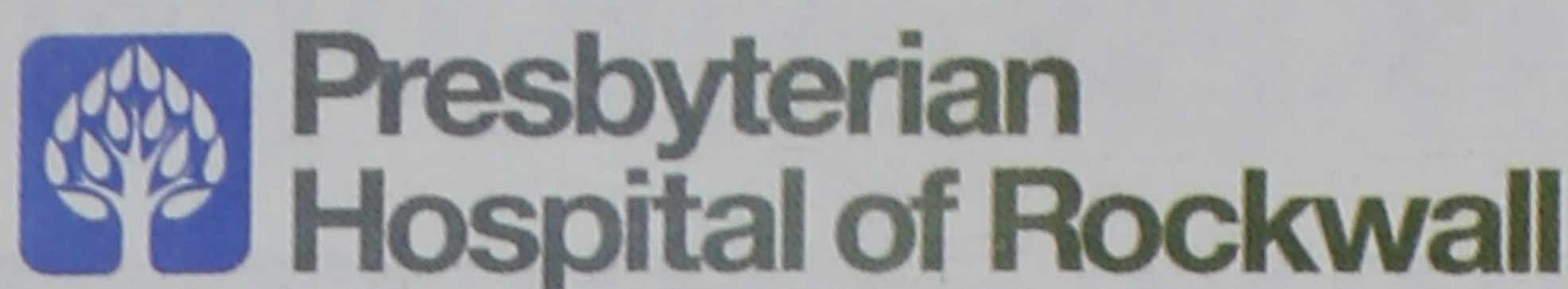


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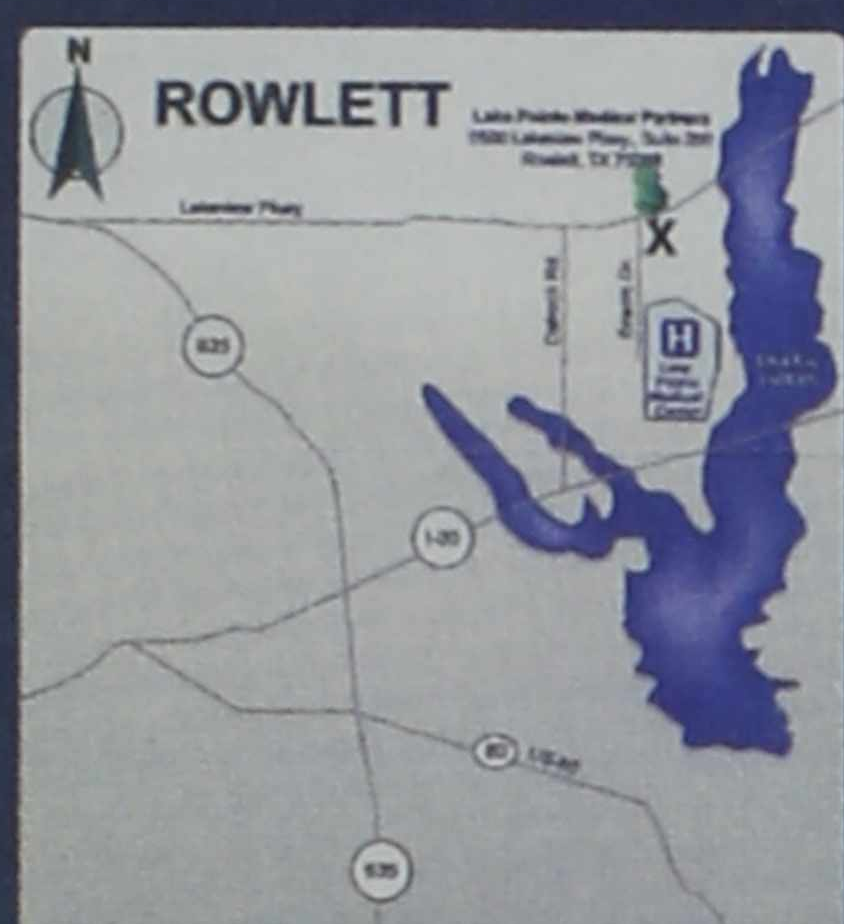


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## EyeCare of Royse City: Correction Versus Cataract

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If you have a cataract, however, this means that there is a clouding of the lens in your eye. This condition, which can be detected in an eye examination, usually affects older people and comes on slowly. When it causes poor vision, surgery is usually recommended to remove the lens. This loss is compensated by the implantation of a new lens, cataract glasses or contact lenses so you can see clearly again. If you think you may be developing a cataract, have your eyes examined as soon as possible.

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### WHAT IS A PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT?

The American Academy of Physician Assistants defines a Physician Assistant, PA, as a health care professional who is licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision. As part of their comprehensive responsibilities, PAs provide patients with services ranging from primary care medicine to specialized surgical care. PAs are often the first health care provider to examine patients. They perform a variety of tasks including collecting patient histories, performing physical examinations and ordering preliminary laboratory tests.

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A Family Nurse Practitioner, FNP, has a Master's Degree in Nursing and is a registered nurse who has an advanced education and the clinical training necessary for the delivery of primary medical care. The FNP can perform physicals, treat acute and chronic conditions, order and interpret diagnostic tests, make referrals to other health care providers and prescribe medications and treatments. The FNP really cares about you as an individual, your health, your family and the community where you live. The FNP can perform technical skills such as EKGs, venipuncture, minor suturing, and giving injections.



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