

# Lifestyle

## Community News Notes

### Birdwell to address ECRW

The Ellis County Republican Women will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15, at the historic Rogers Hotel in Waxahachie. This month's speaker will be Mel Birdwell, wife of Texas State Senator Brian Birdwell. The public is welcome to attend this free event.

Birdwell is a native of Davis, Okla., and is a graduate of Kansas State University. She and then 1st Lt. Brian Birdwell married in 1987, and their son Matthew was born in 1989. Mrs. Birdwell has served alongside her husband in many endeavors and duty stations, and performed the toughest job in the U.S. Army as a soldier's wife.



**Birdwell**

On Sept. 11, 2001, Birdwell responded so magnificently to her husband's life threatening injuries that she was awarded the 2002 Robertson McQuilkin Award for Commitment to Marriage by Family Life. In 2004, she co-authored "Refined by Fire" and co-founded Face the Fire Ministries, a non-profit organization which encourages and assists burn survivors and wounded servicemen and women.

In March of 2010, the Birdwells began working on the race for the Texas State Senate for District 22. Senator Birdwell was sworn in by Governor Perry on July 2, 2010, and won reelection on Nov. 22. Senator and Mrs. Birdwell reside in Granbury where they operate their ministry and serve the people of Texas.

### Friday Book Club to meet

The Friday Book Club will meet at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 11, at the home of Claire Crabb, 214 Oak Creek Drive. Nella Phillips will be the guest reviewer.

### Daddy/Daughter dance

The annual Daddy-Daughter Dance will held from 6-9 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 18, in the Parish Family Center of St Joseph Catholic Church in Waxahachie.

The event is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 8417 and is open to all girls ages 3-14.

The evening will begin with dinner followed by dancing, pictures, and prizes. Cost is \$35 per couple (\$5 each additional daughter). Pay at the door, but RSVP to Isaac Martinez at 972-921-4657.

### Invitation to join WJSL

The Waxahachie Junior Service League is dedicated to providing volunteer services for the women, children and families of Ellis County. The league's endeavors are entirely charitable and members share a commitment to building a better community. Women interested in and committed to volunteerism with JSL are invited to consider membership at an informational tea to be held from 2-3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 20, at First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin, Waxahachie. For more information, visit [www.waxahachiejssl.org](http://www.waxahachiejssl.org).

### Western Ellis County Retired School Personnel to hold 'Antique Roadshow'

West Ellis County Retired School Personnel resumes its regular meetings Tuesday, Feb. 8, at Ryan's Family Steakhouse.

Marsha Schaefer, a certified appraiser, will be the guest speaker. Schaefer has offered to hold an "Antique Roadshow" and appraise antiques as a part of her program. Members are invited to bring an antique they would like appraised to Ryan's by 11:30 a.m. This will give her time to examine the pieces while the members have their lunch. Following the lunch at 11:30 a.m., the business meeting will be held and Schaefer will present her program and give the results of her antique appraisals.

As a reminder, members of West Ellis County Retired School Personnel are still working toward providing every first-grader at one of the local elementary schools with a book of his or her own. Members should remember to bring a new book or a donation to support this project.

### Citizens Police Academy set to start

The Red Oak Police Department will conduct its Citizens Police Academy starting March 26. Participants will have the opportunity to meet with members of the S.W.A.T. team and 911 dispatchers. Attendees will learn about search and seizure and what it means to be a volunteer in policing. The class will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. one Saturday a month - March 26, April 30 and May 28 at the Red Oak police department.

Application deadline is March 7. The course is limited to 20 participants and free of charge. Participants must be 21 years of age. Apply online or you can contact Officer Nathan Bicknerstaff at 469-219-7710 or e-mail [nbicknerstaff@redoaktx.org](mailto:nbicknerstaff@redoaktx.org).

### Ellis County Genealogical Society to meet

Ellis County Genealogical Society will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 7, at Ellis County Woman's Building, 407 W. Jefferson St. The program topic is "GOOGLE Your Ancestor" by Lela Evans. Program chair, Sylvia Smith, urges anyone interested in family research to take advantage of this informative lesson for getting the most from Google.

Do a simple Google search on your surname and get 405,000 results. If your surname is common you may get 100,000,000 results. It would take years to go through all of those results. Learn how to do an advanced search which will narrow your results down to a manageable number. Then learn how to use some of Google's tools to help you in your genealogy research.

Evans volunteers with the TXGenWeb Project as the county coordinator for Parker and Palo Pinto Counties and is a regionally known genealogy speaker. She is one of the inaugural librarians for the new University of North Texas at Dallas and is an expert at search strategies. She is a member of the Lancaster Genealogical Society, The National Genealogical Society, Texas Library Association, American Library Association, and the Pleasant Run Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

All ECGS members and anyone interested in their heritage and family research are urged to attend. The meetings are free and open to the public.

### Collecting CDs for Children's Hospital

Miss Ellis County, Rachel Garrett, is collecting CDs to donate to Cook Children's Hospital in Fort Worth for its Pain Pain Go Away Program.

Last year, Garrett collected enough CDs to make two large donations of more than 150 CDs each to Children's Medical Center in Dallas and Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, Monroe Carell Jr. Hospital, in Nashville, Tenn.

Those who wish to donate to Garrett's efforts can send CDs to Sherry Hanson, executive director for the Miss Ellis County program, 326 Shadowwood Trail, Ovilla, TX 75154. For more information, e-mail [elliscty@sbcglobal.net](mailto:elliscty@sbcglobal.net) or visit [www.rachelgarrett.com](http://www.rachelgarrett.com).

## Engagement



**Randy Jay McBroom Jr. and Amanda Mesheal Moon**

### Moon-McBroom

Rick Moon of Ormond, Fla. and Karen Moon of Waxahachie, are proud to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Amanda Mesheal Moon, to Randy Jay McBroom Jr., son of Randy and Dee Dee McBroom of Italy, Texas and Daffine Evans of Waxahachie.

The bride-elect is a gradu-

ate of Waxahachie High School and is employed at Re/Max of Ennis.

The prospective groom is a graduate of Italy High School and is employed by Ash Grove Cement.

The couple plans to exchange vows at 6 p.m. April 2, at Old Bison Ranch in Forreton.

## Engagement



**Chase Allen and Lindsey Wilkerson**

### Wilkerson-Allen

Jessie and Tammy Reynolds of Batesville, Ark., are proud to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Lindsey Wilkerson of Midlothian, to Chase Allen of Midlothian, son of Rusty and Carla Allen of Midlothian.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Charlotte and the late Donald Floyd of Batesville, Ark.; Ray Dean and Waldean Floyd of Batesville, Ark.; and Charlie and Marie Hurlley of Cushman, Ark. She is a graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington with

a bachelor's of arts degree in psychology. She is employed as the office manager for Baker Drywall of Fort Worth.

The prospective groom is the grandson of Albert and Waynette Baze of Midland, Texas; and C.A. and Donna Wilder of Combine, Texas. He is a graduate of Midlothian High School and is self employed at Chase Allen Motorsports.

The couple plans to exchange vows at 6 p.m. April 16, at Old Bison Ranch in Forreton.

## Wedding



**Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Joshua Quinn**

### Hoffman-Quinn

Katie Michelle Hoffman and Matthew Joshua Quinn were united in marriage on Sept. 18, 2010, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Dallas, Texas.

A beautiful reception was held following the ceremony at The Pavilion at The Belo Mansion in Dallas.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Hoffman of Ovilla. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Hoffman of

Garland and the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Anderson of Duncanville.

The groom is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Mark Quinn of Melissa. He is the grandson of Mary R. Kasmiersky and the late Robert L. Kasmiersky Sr. of Fayetteville and the late Mr. and Mrs. John Quinn of LaGrange.

The couple has made their first home in Calgary, AB, Canada.

## Birth Announcement

### Clark

Russell and Ashli Clark of Waxahachie are proud to announce the arrival of their son, Camden Lane Clark, born at 4:57 a.m. on Oct. 6, 2010, at Methodist Mansfield Medical Center. He weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces, and was 21.5 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents are David and Sandra Yowell of



Waxahachie.

Paternal grandparents are Len and Joan Clark of Sawbridgeworth, England.

## Birth Announcement

### Esselman

Evan and Linda Esselman of Waxahachie are proud to announce the arrival of their daughter, Ayla Grace Esselman, born at 12:39 p.m. on Jan. 26, 2011, at Methodist Mansfield Medical Center. She weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces, and was 19 3/4 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents are Carlos and Rosey Martinez of McKinney.

Paternal grandparents are Steven and Ellise Esselman of Waxahachie.

She was welcomed home by her brother, Asher.



Photo by Michelle L. Burks/Special to the Daily Light

**Young violinists from Canterbury Episcopal School and surrounding schools come together for the Hanington Strings Winter Concert held at the Canterbury Episcopal School.**

## Winter concert held at Canterbury

By **MICHELLE L. BURKS**  
Canterbury Episcopal School

On Jan. 25, the music students of Hanington Strings performed their annual Winter Concert at The Canterbury Episcopal School. With approximately one hundred musicians from beginner to advanced levels, the concert was an opportunity to showcase the talent of students in all stages of musical learning. The two hundred guests who at-

tended the concert enjoyed music selections from the entire orchestra, along with selections performed by the intermediate and advanced orchestras. The evening ended with a reception hosted by the parents of the students of Hanington Strings, complete with home-made root beer.

Beginning in September, the Canterbury Episcopal School added private and group string lessons to their

After School Program.

Lessons in violin, fiddle, viola and cello are taught by the skilled instructors of Hanington Strings each Tuesday in the Chafin Learning Center on the Canterbury Campus.

The Canterbury Episcopal School is a private K-12 school, with a proven college preparatory program, strong fine arts program, and state championship sports program, all offered

in a faith-based environment on 37 beautiful acres in DeSoto.

Canterbury is currently enrolling for the 2011-2012 school year.

For more information about Canterbury, visit the website at [www.TheCanterburySchool.org](http://www.TheCanterburySchool.org) or contact Libby Tadlock at 972-572-7200 ext. 106.