

By Noreen Lewis Cochran
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SAVED BY THE BELT

Cooperation, car seats lead to rescue

A Rockdale County Public Schools bus driver said she is uncomfortable being called a hero although her actions helped save a family.

"The attention should be put on the mom, because she put her babies in car seats," said Kelly McElroy, driver of school bus route 101. "It should be plastered all over the world."

According to the Rockdale County Sheriff's Office, on the morning of April 2, the mom, Terri Hines, driving a 1999 Toyota Corolla, and Alton Holcombe, driving a 2001 Ford F-250, collided on East Fairview Road.

Shortly afterward, the five-year school system employee, dubbed "Miss Kelly" by her K-12 riders, arrived on the scene on the way to Lorraine Elementary School. She notified dispatcher Betty Harper, who sent emergency assistance.

"It was a horrific accident," the bus driver said. "A head-on collision and then flipping."

Inside the inverted Toyota were Ms. Hines and her two children, 4-year-old Kavon and 8-month-old Keshon. Keeping them inside were restraints; a seat belt for Ms. Hines and child safety seats for the children.

"He was just sitting there upside down, the tears going down his face the wrong way," Mrs. McElroy said of Keshon.

While Mrs. McElroy, 35, said she was committed to saving the injured family, "if it's the last thing I did," she credits others with successful teamwork.

The fourth-grade students kept the younger ones calm. Her son Shane Winters, a Heritage High School student who rode Route 101, sprinted from the still-moving bus to pull Kavon from the wreck.

"All we had to do was look at each other," she said. "It was just amazing."

Mrs. McElroy, wife of Doraville Police Department Captain Tommy McElroy, received praise from former police officer Steve Davis.

Davis, director of the Conyers-based Georgia Traffic Injury Prevention Institute, a division of the University of Georgia that includes a fitting station for child car safety seats, said correct safety procedures prevented an even worse accident.

"We're thankful that this mother had done her part by making sure her children were properly secured in child safety seats," said Davis.

"We're also very impressed with the reaction of the bus driver and her son at this crash scene."

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Football game for second straight state playoff berth

Members celebrate 50th anniversary with concert

IRS employee follows new career as motorcycle instructor



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Saved by the belt

Cooperation, car seats lead to rescue

By Nancy Lewis Cochran
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A Rockdale County Police Officer has been named the "hero" for his role in a successful rescue of a young boy who was trapped in a car seat.

The incident took place on the morning of April 2, the same day that a 1997 Toyota Corolla was involved in a crash on I-205, about 10 miles from Rockdale.

The boy, who was 4 years old, was trapped in his car seat. The car seat was damaged, but the boy was not injured.

The boy was rescued by a police officer who used a hydraulic rescue tool to cut the car seat.



Rockdale County Police Officer Kelly McEneaney rescued a child from a car seat after a crash on I-205 last month.

"It was very strange. There were a lot of people there, but the boy was not hurt. He was just sitting in the car seat."

"We had to be careful not to hurt the boy. We had to be very careful. We had to be very careful."

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GRTA gives funds for intersections

By Nancy Lewis Cochran
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While the city is still in the process of negotiating an agreement to buy back 100,000 shares of Rockdale County stock, the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA) will pay for the construction of two intersections.

The GRTA will pay for the construction of two intersections: one at the intersection of I-205 and I-75, and another at the intersection of I-205 and I-85.

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Dixie native returns to Georgia for free seminar

By Nancy Lewis Cochran
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Living with diabetes in a changing world is the topic of a free seminar that will be held in Rockdale County on April 22.

The seminar will be held at the Rockdale County Center for the Arts, 1000 N. Main St., Rockdale, Ga. The seminar is free and open to the public.

"Diabetes is a chronic disease that can be managed, but it can be a challenge. We want to help you understand your diabetes better."

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Community unites for Relay fund-raiser

By Nancy Lewis Cochran
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A group of volunteers held a fund-raising event for the Relay for Life on April 18.

The event was held at the Rockdale County Center for the Arts. The event was a success and raised a lot of money for the Relay for Life.

The Relay for Life is a fund-raising event for the American Cancer Society. The event was a success and raised a lot of money for the Relay for Life.



"We are proud to have so many people participating in the Relay for Life. We are proud to have so many people participating in the Relay for Life."



As the fundraiser winds, Mike Pando's son, Mike, helps him with the proceeds from the fundraiser which benefits the United Way.