

## Council in-camera for fee schedule

After accusing the previous council of "not being able to do arithmetic" the new Guelph/Eramosa council has produced a heftier tax hike in one year than the old council did over three, and put less into municipal reserves, a Rockwood resident said Monday.

Former councillor Doug Breen said between 2001 and 2003 his council raised taxes a total of 35 cents on the average and were denounced for ignoring residents' (in)ability to pay that much. Yet the new council has upped the cost \$18.94 in one year. Despite that increase, this budget puts \$53,000 less into municipal reserves than the previous budget.

Breen also questioned the calling of a special public meeting on April 26 to hear residents' concerns about the proposed budget when there was no public notices about the meeting.

"There was absolutely no public consultation until seven

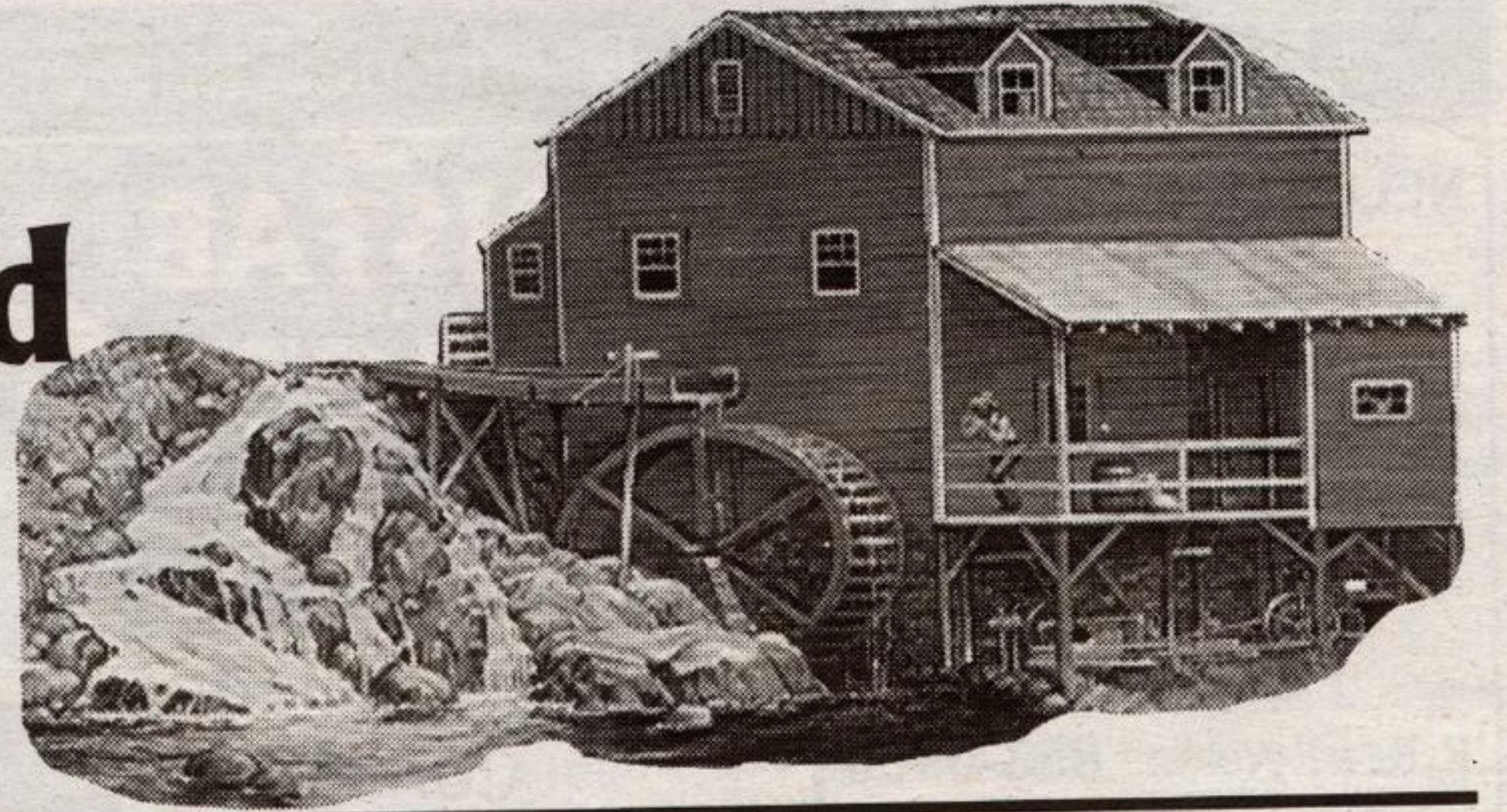
days before the budget was passed," Breen said. "The meeting was announced nowhere, posted nowhere. It was called Thursday (April 18)."

Despite the shortcomings Breen applauded the budget as doing what the municipality needs to get done.

Mayor Clint Martin admitted he telephone the Guelph Eramosa Taxpayers Association to invite them to the meeting. He questioned whose responsibility it is to notify the press of special meetings and how the Daily Mercury knew about the meeting when neither the Wellington Advertiser nor The New Tanner was told about it. He also questioned whether the press represents the public.

Martin made a point of praising GETA past chair Wally Mays and Eddie Thompson for their remarks at the public budget meeting and credited them with prompting whatever tightening did occur in the budget.

# The Rockwood MILLER



**SPRING CLEANING:** Guelph Township Horticultural Society members recently tackled reconstruction of the flowerbed in front of the township office at Bruce Dale. Group members from the left are Phil Sweet, Ruby Thompson, Alberta Auger and Ruth Robinson. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

## Council positive about plans for condominiums

Guelph/Eramosa council will send a positive motion to Wellington County concerning plans for condominiums in a new section of the Rockwood Ridge subdivision at the south end of Rockwood.

The plan calls for 39 freehold condominium units backing onto a common laneway to the north of the existing homes. Fourteen of the units will be bungalow/bungalow units and the rest will be regular street condominiums. All will have their garages to the rear.

The plan also includes a new exit for the adjacent house which had a right-of-way across the subdivision for its existing laneway.

Developer Jeremy Grant told council if an agreement can't be concluded with the home's owner before work begins, then the plan will have to change to accommodate the old lane.

While the municipality hosted the public meeting on the plan, Wellington County is the planning authority with the authority to approve condominiums.

## Torch Run in Wellington June 4

Ontario Special Olympics helps people with a mental disability become more active and involved members of society, through positive experiences in sport. There are 140 countries around the world, with over 2 million athletes, and Ontario alone has 11,000 Special Olympics Athletes.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run and events is the largest grass roots fundraiser

and public awareness vehicle that helps make participation at the games possible for these athletes. In fact, since 1987, the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police has recognized Special Olympics as their charity of choice.

The 2004 Law Enforcement Torch Run in Wellington County will take place on Friday, June 4 and the athletes along with OPP

officers will run through Mr. Forest, Arthur, Drayton, Harriston and Palmerston in the morning and Elora, Fergus, Erin and Rockwood in the afternoon. The times will be sent out in a future release.

Should you wish to pledge a runner or purchase a T-shirt please attend your local OPP Detachment Monday-Friday from 8:30 to 4:30

## Rockwood man charged with theft of pick-up

A 20-year-old Rockwood man was arrested by Wellington OPP and faces charges of Theft Under \$5,000 (2 counts) and Possession of Property Obtained by Crime following the report of a stolen vehicle in Guelph Twp. on Thursday, May 6 at 8:19 p.m.

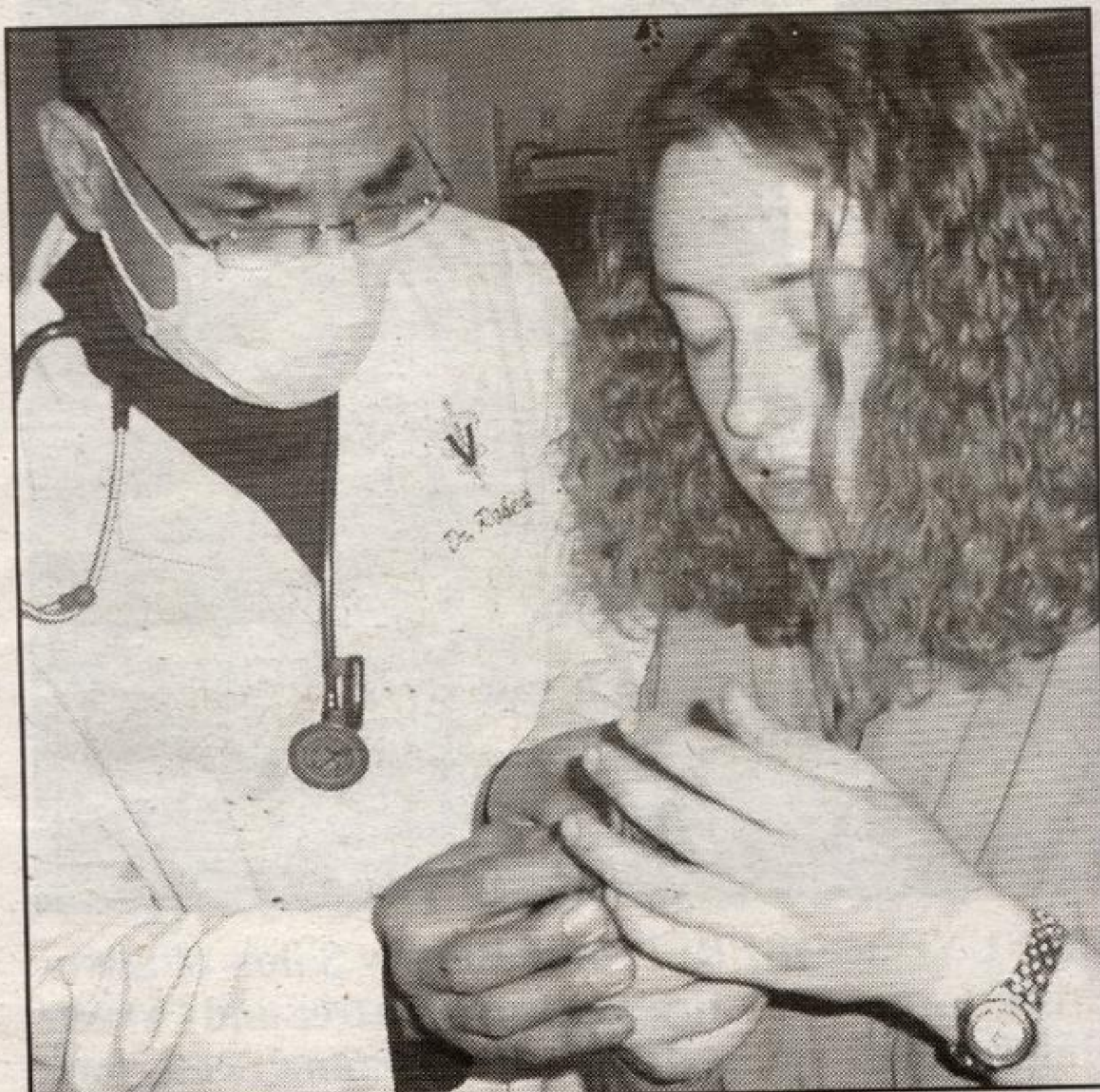
An officer responded to a report of a missing pick-up on Mill Road in Guelph Twp. and was able to locate the Chev pick-up at a Rockwood residence later Thursday evening.

The accused was held in custody until hearing the next morning in Guelph Court.

Speeder of the Week Constable Theodore Oderkirk of the Guelph Detachment of the Wellington OPP was conducting speed enforcement exercises on the 10<sup>th</sup> Line of Erin Twp. on Friday, May 7 when he observed a 1997 Grand Am travelling at a high rate of speed southbound on the 10<sup>th</sup> Line of Erin Township. He activated his moving radar and the vehicle entered the beam and recorded a speed of 111-km/h in a posted 40 km/h zone.

A 16-year-old Georgetown girl faces a charge of speeding and is scheduled to appear in Guelph POA Court June 2.

## Fire strikes Four D's Pets, in old Schneider building - puppies, kittens victims of smoke



**TRAGIC FIRE:** A fire Tuesday evening at Four D's Pets on Main St., Rockwood, was a great loss to owner Dwayne Hitchcock. Rockwood/Eramosa firefighters who took them to the Veterinary Clinic up the street where Dr. Roberts, left, and his assistant Jill tried their best to save them. - Ted Tyler photo

Fire struck the Four D's Pet Store in Rockwood on Tuesday night. The pet store is located in the 110 year old Schneider Sweets building across from the river.

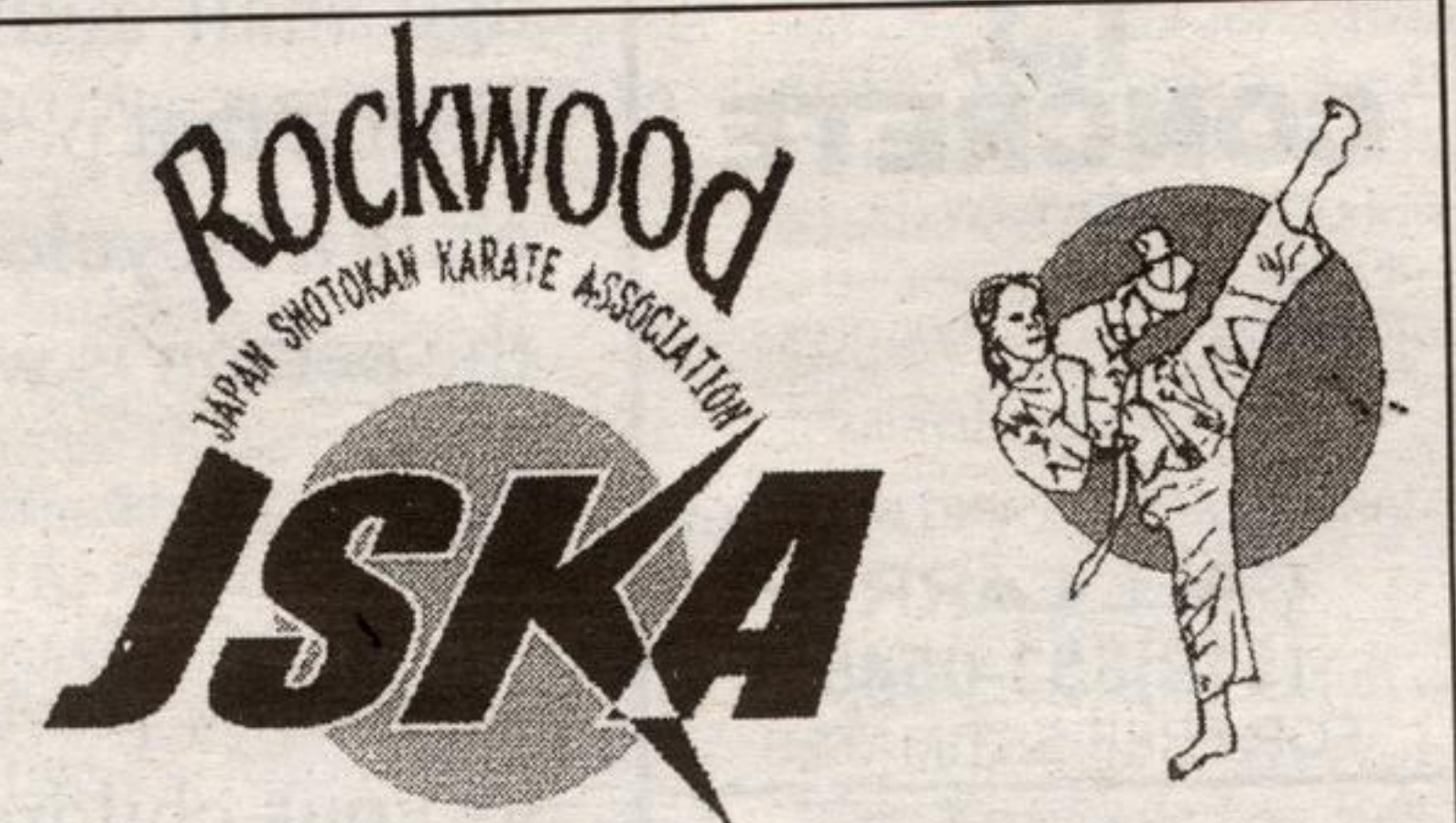
Owner, Dwayne Hitchcock, who opened the store two years ago, arrived at his Rockwood residence around 8 p.m., within minutes he received a telephone call informing him his pet store was on fire.

The Rockwood Fire Department responded to the call with several trucks on hand and along with Hitchcock, found the building engulfed in black smoke. Rescuers worked to save the animals that Hitchcock had at

the store. However, all of the larger animals, including several dogs, cats and puppies were victims to smoke inhalation and did not survive.

Staff of the Rockwood Veterinary Clinic and other area residents raced many of the smaller animals to the clinic for treatment. At press time, the smaller animals, such as rabbits, turtles and guinea pigs were showing signs of improvement.

The building also housed two other businesses; Rockwood Convenience Store and Rockwood Laundromat. All business in the building are closed currently as a result of smoke damage.



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