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Rockwall County News



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Mary Davis, Royse City teacher, celebrates 100th birthday

by Millie Jean Coppedge

A citywide birthday party for Mary Nesbitt Davis took place at the Royse City First Baptist Church on Sunday, Jan. 1. On Monday, Jan. 2, the honoree was 100 years old.

Her three daughters -- Robbie Howell, Ann Davis and Sandra Donaho -- hosted the celebration.

The room was filled with laughter and stories from all of the families boasting about Davis teaching their children, grandchildren and other family members. Everyone enjoyed refreshments and talking about old times when the town was small in population and size and everyone knew everyone else.

Davis was born in 1917 in Whitesboro and earned her bachelor's degree at South East Teacher's College in Durant, Oklahoma, before earning her master's degree at East Texas State University in Commerce.

"Just seeing children learn to read, write and spell was so rewarding, just watching them learn. Everything is memorable when you work with small children," Davis said. She saved the letters, pictures and notes her students have given her, she said with great emotion. A large bulletin board displayed some of the memorabilia from her teaching days.

"I taught first grade for 27 years and second grade for seven years," she said, "all 34 years in just those two grades."

She laughed when she talked about how everywhere she goes she runs into someone who will tell her she taught them or taught their parents or grandparents.

"They all think I remember them, but I taught for 34 years and that is a lot of children," Davis said. "If I don't remember them, I never let them know that. I just talk on like I remember exactly who they are."

Royse City Mayor Janet Nichol presented Davis with a proclamation proclaiming Jan. 1 as Mary Davis Day in Royse City.

"Mrs. Davis was my second-grade teacher," Nichol said as she bent to give the honoree a big hug.



Mary Nesbitt Davis, pictured above, was honored with a citywide party on Sunday, Jan. 1. Her birthday was Monday, Jan. 2, and she was 100 years old. She taught first and second grade students for 34 years.
Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/Rockwall County News

RBSL registration deadline is Jan. 9

The registration deadline for the Rockwall Baseball & Softball League, organized by the Rockwall Parks & Recreation Department, is Jan. 9.

The season, according to the city's website, will include:

- Girls softball – Feb. 20 through the week of May 15; coaches meeting 6:30 p.m. Jan. 10 at City Hall, 385 S. Goliad.

Divisions include 4-6UT-Baseball, Saturday games; 7-8U-Coach Pitch Softball, weekday games; 9-10U-Player Pitch Softball, weekday games; 11-12U-Player Pitch Softball, weekday games; and 13-14U-Player Pitch Softball, weekday games. Registration fee is \$99 or \$65 (discounted resident fee).

A blind draft is used to place players on teams. Players will fill out a questionnaire during registration and answers will help place athletes on teams. Players are given the opportunity to request to play with a specific friend, coach and/or team and the administration will attempt to meet these requests.

- Youth baseball – Feb. 20 through the week of May 9; Draft League coaches meeting 6:30 p.m. Jan. 24, Select League coaches meeting 6:30 p.m. Jan. 17 and Draft League spring tryouts, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 21. Coaches meetings will be conducted at City Hall, 385 S. Goliad.

Draft Division includes 4U/5U T-Ball, Saturday games; 6U T-Ball, Saturday games; 7U Coach Pitch, weekday games; 8U Coach Pitch, weekday games; 9U Kid Pitch, weekday games; 10U Kid Pitch, weekday games; 11/12U Kid Pitch, weekday games; and 13/14U Kid Pitch, weekday games. Registration cost for T-Ball costs \$99 or \$65 (discounted resident fee). Registration for all other age groups is \$120 or \$80 (discounted resident fee).

In the Draft Division, a blind draft process is used to place players on teams. During registration, players will fill out a questionnaire and answers help the administrators place athletes on teams. Players will be given the opportunity to make requests to play with a specific friend, coach and/or team and the administration does its best to meet those requests.

Select League includes 6U Modified Coach Pitch; 7U Coach Pitch, weekday games; 8U Coach Pitch, weekday games; 9U Kid Pitch, weekday games; 10U Kid Pitch, weekday games; 11/12U Kid Pitch, weekday games; and 13/14U Kid Pitch, weekday games. Registration for Modified Coach Pitch costs \$99 or \$65 (discounted resident fee). Cost for registration for all other age groups is \$120 or \$80 (discounted resident fee).

In the Select Division, teams select players and bring formed teams into the league.

Anyone interested in coaching should contact dwilson@rockwall.com or wyoung@rockwall.com for more information.

Heath issues crime alert

The Heath DPS responded to a robbery in progress early Tuesday morning, Jan. 3, in the Buffalo Creek area.

The male suspects, describes as late teens or early 20s, fled the scene on foot prior to officers' arrival, according to a city news release. As a result, the DPS is urging the public to remember to keep doors and windows locked and garage doors closed.

To report any criminal activity, the law enforcement officials urge the public to call 9-1-1.

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City of McLendon-Chisholm approves annual budget and ad valorem tax, fails to execute required notices

The approved minutes of the McLendon-Chisholm, Inc. City Council meetings for September 13 and 27, October 11 and 25, and November 8 and 15, were approved during the Dec. 13, 2016 regular meeting. The Nov. minutes were not posted in the city website as of Tues. Jan. 3.

Highlighting the meetings were the Sept. 27 passage of the city's annual budget for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, 2016 and ending September 30, 2017.

Attending the Sept. 27 meeting were Mayor Pro Tem Gary Lovell (presiding), Jerry Klutts, Wayne Orchard, Patrick Short, and Robert Steinhagen. Mayor Nathan Hodges was absent from the meeting.

The issue took a turn when Steinhagen suggested an allocation from the city's reserves in the amount of \$265,175 to the McLendon-Chisholm Volunteer Fire Department. According to the minutes, he stated that the MCVFD could end up being funded at \$320,650. Klutts agreed with Steinhagen's proposal.

During the citizens' comments, Gary Nickel expressed concern about transferring funds from reserves to balance the budget. During the Sept. 13 meeting, Nickel expressed his interest in a higher tax rate rather than use of reserve funds to balance the budget.

Steinhagen's motion with proposed amendments failed unanimously.

The original budget passed 3-2, with Klutts and Steinhagen opposing.

The council approved by a vote of 3-2, ordinance 2016-13 fixing, adopting and levying the ad valorem tax rate of \$.152025 per \$100 valuation on all taxable property for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, 2016 and ending Sept. 30, 2017; and providing for a penalty and interest for delinquent taxes. Opposing were Klutts and Steinhagen.

The council approved ordinance 2016-14 ratifying the property tax increase reflected in the city's annual budget for the same fiscal year, raising more revenue from property taxes than in the previous fiscal year. The measure passed 3-2, with Klutts and Steinhagen opposing.

As of Tues. Jan. 3, 2017, the required notices of the above three actions were not published in a newspaper of general circulation, as the term "newspaper" is defined in Texas Gov. Code 2051.044; and the same notices were not published in a newspaper that is published in Rockwall County as required by Texas Gov. Code 2051.048(c).

The Rockwall County News has requested copies of documents from City Secretary Stephanie Galanides certifying that the required notices were published in accordance with state law.

Short's motion to defer discussions about an ad-hoc audit review committee and auditing services to a future meeting for Mayor participation died for lack of a second.

Sept. 13 regular meeting

During the Sept. 13 regular meeting, Steinhagen presented his case for amending the City's Code of Ordinances to repeal provisions

(Continued on Page 2)

Rockwall County News Briefs

Hope Mobile returns to Rockwall

Area residents can have male dogs or cats at a cost of \$20 per animal on Jan. 10; no restriction on location. Dogs must be under 60 pounds. Drop-off will be at the Mobile Animal Surgical Spay/Neuter Hospital at the Wal-Mart Supercenter, 782 I-30, Rockwall. This notice must be mentioned when appointment is made; appointment availability is limited. Call 972-472-3500. Visit spayneuternet.org for other low-cost services and schedule.

Newcomers & Friends to meet Jan. 12

Rockwall County Newcomers & Friends will meet at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 12, at Occasions at Stone River in Royse City. Luncheon reservations must be made by Jan. 2. Call Becky at 712-202-6916 or Cathy at 972-400-9934. Newcomers & Friends is a social organization for all women who reside in Rockwall County; new residents and women who have lived in Rockwall County for many years are welcome.

Grief workshop set Jan. 12-Feb. 16

The Faith and Grief Ministries will conduct its second group workshop at the First Presbyterian Church of Rockwall, 602 White Hills Drive, Jan. 12 through Feb. 16 from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Thursdays. Bonnie Brophy King will facilitate the workshop. Fee for the six-week workshop is \$25. Last day for registration is Jan. 4. Call the church office at 972-771-5701 to sign up.



Parents Sierra and Dontee Carter are shown with their newborn, Keri, who was the first baby of 2017 at Baylor Scott & White Medical Center-Lake Pointe in Rowlett. The infant arrived at 4:31 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 1, and weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces. She was 19 inches long.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



Rockwall County Obituaries

Juanita Catherine Choat

Private family services for Juanita Catherine Choat, 95, of Rockwall will be conducted at a later date. The Rest Haven Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

She died Monday, Dec. 26, 2016.

Born Jan. 7, 1921, in Dallas to Green Lonzo Reaves and Minnie Charlotte (Newman) Reaves, she was a Baptist and attended the Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church while her children were young. In her later years, she spent most of her career as a sales secretary at Smith Corona, working evenings and weekends at 7-11. She retired at the age of 70. She had a record typing speed of more than 100 wpm.

She was an avid reader and made frequent trips to the local library, selecting novels and filling up more book bags than she could carry. She loved her many cats and dogs. She enjoyed watching the squirrels race up and down the trees and the "big, white, puffy clouds" roll by. She also enjoyed attending line-dancing classes at the Harry Stone Recreation Center. Her favorite drink was Dr Pepper.

She was a loving, caring mother.

Survivors include her three children, Carol Crawford and her husband, Rick, Jerry Choat and his wife, Lisa, and Wanda Gillenwater and her husband, Stace; four grandchildren, Kristina Fenimore, Jessica Hardy, Daryl Harris and Brooke Jones; and numerous great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her son, Carl Truett Harris and his wife, Debra; a son-in-law, Bobby Joe Kelley; and her seven siblings, Nola, Sadie, Lois, Charlie, Ernest, Archie and Eddie.



C.C. Oswalt

Memorial services for C.C. Oswalt, 79, of Rockwall were conducted at 10 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 30, 2016, at the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel.

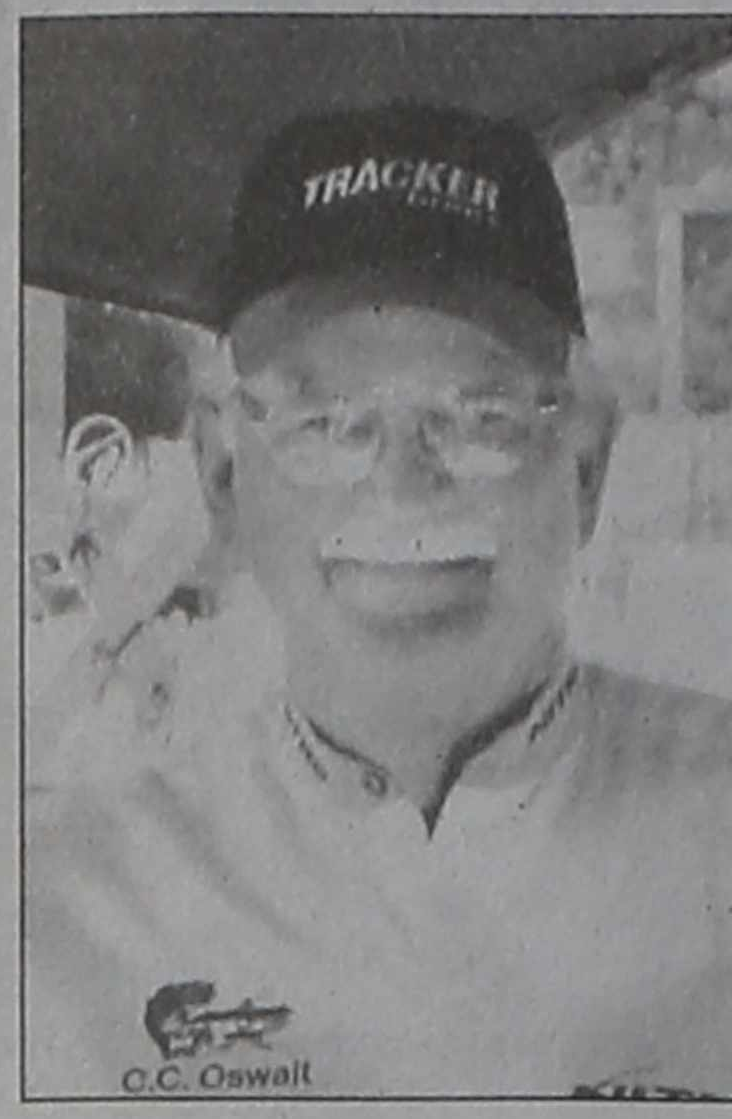
He died Monday, Dec. 26.

Born March 24, 1937, in Greenville, Mississippi, to Ulis S. and Clara Bell (Westbrook) Oswalt, he founded an auto shop, Oswalt Bug Repair, in 1967. The business later was renamed Oswalt Foreign Car. He also owned and operated C.C.'s Lake Fork Motel and ran a fishing guide service at Lake Fork for 17 years and at Lake Ray Hubbard for four years.

Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Helen Oswalt of Rockwall; his children, Mike Oswalt and his wife, Kathy, of Rockwall and Michelle Roberts and her husband, Terry, of Forney; his sister, Ora Johnson, of Liberty; his grandchildren, Mitch Oswalt and his wife, Natalie, of Royse City, Marshall Oswalt and his wife, Stacey, of Heath, Taslow Roberts and his wife, Erica, of Rockwall and Micah Roberts of Dallas; and six great-grandchildren, Max, Mason, Ava, Maddox, Avery and Madilyn.

His parents; two brothers, Raymond and James; and a sister, Mary Metrajean, preceded him in death.

The family has suggested memorials may be made in his name to the Alzheimer's Association at alz.org/greaterdallas or by mail to Alzheimer's Association, P.O. Box 96011, Washington, D.C. 20090-6011.



Helena Durica Slaughter

Memorial services for Helena Durica Slaughter will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017, in the First United Methodist Church, 1200 E. Yellow Jacket Dr., Rockwall. The Rev. Joe Pool will officiate the services, which will be under the direction of the Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Chapel.

She died Dec. 28.

Born Feb. 22, 1920, to Stephen and Helena Volchko Durica in Porač Czechoslovakia, she graduated from James Ford Rhodes High School on June 16, 1939, and on Sept. 24, 1942, from the City Hospital School of Nursing in Cleveland, Ohio. She enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps and served her country from Feb. 25, 1943, to March 31, 1945, obtaining the rank of second lieutenant.

She married Army Air Force 2nd Lt. Ellison King Slaughter in Dallas on Dec. 26, 1944.

She worked at Methodist Hospital in Dallas and Seton Medical Center in Austin prior to moving to Rockwall in 1952, where she helped establish Rockwall Drug. Later, she launched the Rockwall School Nursing Program.

She was a 50-year member of the Rockwall Order of Eastern Star. She always was involved with family and friends. She was a world traveler, but home was her favorite place. She treasured the many hours she spent loving and caring for her husband, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include her children, Robin Leah Slaughter Stewart, Susan Marie Slaughter Roberts, Shula Beth Slaughter Watkins and her husband, Billy Frank, and Eldon Miles Slaughter and his wife, Suceama; her grandchildren, Billy Frank Jr. and his wife, Lori, Shawn Ellis Jennings and his wife, Teresa, Steven Keith Roberts and his wife, Sabrina, Wesley Barrett Watkins and his wife, Anne, and Whitney Alyson Watkins-Singleton and her husband, Michael; her great-grandchildren, Timothy Christopher, Christopher Ellis, Ryan Curtis Jennings, Billy Frank III "Trey," Kaylee Denise, Matthew Monroe and Caroline Shelby Watkins; her nieces, Kathy Ferencz, Eileen Buckosh and her husband, Butch, and Phyllis O'Brien and her husband, Tim; and a nephew, William Durica, and his wife, Lora.

Her husband; a brother, John Durica; and a sister, Marie "Mary" Durica Barbasck, preceded her in death.



Rockwall Christmas tree drop-off ends Friday

Rockwall residents who want to drop off live Christmas trees have until Friday to complete the task.

Trees may be deposited at the Tuttle Sports Complex parking lot, 1550 Airport Rd., according to information on the City of Rockwall's website. Before leaving a tree at the site, the tree should be stripped of all ornaments and lights and stands should be removed.

The city encouraged residents to secure their trees appropriately during transport.

McLendon-Chisholm meetings update ...

(Continued from Page 1)

establishing the Board of Adjustment and the Planning and Zoning Commission and relegating the responsibilities of both to the City Council. He explained that he receives feedback from surveys conducted on behalf of "his grassroots organization, Citizens for Representative Government." The organization is used for "citywide" surveys requesting citizen input regarding topics including vision and preferences for the City's future growth and development, budget priorities and property tax rates.

Steinhagen said he reviewed the state required procedures comparing cities that have commissions with those that do not have the same. He cited state law governing "General Law, Type A" cities, which provides city councils the "right" to conduct the business of both Commission and/or Board. Steinhagen expressed his belief that the Commissions and Boards "creates an unnecessary bureaucracy for citizens in a city with less than 2,000."

Short spoke on the difference between the terms "may" and "shall" related to the authority of the city regarding authority to take on Board and Commission responsibilities. Both members acknowledged the importance of the city government to comply with state law.

Steinhagen moved to direct staff to proceed with drafting of ordinances amending Chapter 14, Zoning of the Code of Ordinances to 1.) Repeal the section establishing a Board of Adjustment, and transfer all responsibilities of the Board to the City Council; and repeal the section establishing a planning and zoning commission, and transfer all responsibilities of the commission to the City Council.

After a second by Klutts, the motion was not approved with opposing votes by Lovell, Orchard and Short.

According to the minutes, public comments were offered by Nickel, Mark Kipphut, Herman Larkin, Robert Quinn and Michael Davis.

All commenting citizens expressed concerns about transferring funds from reserves to balance the budget. Quinn spoke on the importance of reserves for major storms or other events. Davis expressed surprise over the growth of the budget since the adoption of the 2015-16 annual budget, and cautioned against relying on new construction and increased valuations and deficit spending.

The council unanimously approved the minutes of the Aug. 9 meeting.

Oct. 11 regular meeting

The Oct. 11 meeting was attended by Mayor Hodges, Lovell, Klutts, Orchard, Short and Steinhagen.

The council unanimously approved setting the monthly sewer rate for the Sonoma Verde Subdivision to \$55 per month beginning the next billing cycle.

Steinhagen moved to defer the action related to a fire protection contract with the MC Volunteer Fire Department. The council unanimously approved an annual interlocal agreement with Rockwall County for fire protection services. He proposed revision of the contract to include provisions like those in the Hatch Act pertaining to political activity of federal employees. Herman Larkin said the proposed revisions may conflict with the MCVFD articles of incorporation.

The council unanimously approved authorization for Hodges to execute letters of engagement with Murry, Paschall & Caperton PC for audit of the financial statements of the city and the Sonoma Public Improvement District for fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2016, and direct staff to begin process of selecting a new firm to audit the city for fiscal year Sept. 30, 2017.

(Continued on Page 4)

Tickets remain available to Daddy-Daughter Dance

Tickets to the Daddy-Daughter Dance, organized by the City of Rockwall's Parks & Recreation Department, remain available, according to a city news release.

The event will run from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21, at the Hilton Bella Harbor.

Cost for tickets is \$99 for a father-and-daughter couple or \$65 (discounted resident fee). Cost for each additional child (must reside in the same household) is \$25.

Tickets may be purchased at The Center.

Rockwall County Entertainment

Library plans paining night fundraiser

The Friends of the Rockwall County Library will host a fundraising event from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 24, at Painting with a Twist, 513 E. I-30, Rockwall. Cost is \$55; supplies will be provided. Visit paintingwithatwist/rockwall to register online. For more details, call Edie Zehr at 972-310-0322.

Area Entertainment

Mesquite Arts Center Black Box Series

The Mesquite Arts Center's Black Box Series will include a performance by Cole Risner, 7:00 p.m., Fri. Jan. 6, 2017.

Garland Symphony Orchestra

The GSO will feature pianist Konstantine Valianatos, starting 8:00 p.m., Fri. Jan. 20, 2017, in the Granville Arts Center located at 300 N. Fifth Street in Garland. For more information call 972-926-0611, or email info@garlandsymphony.org.

Mesquite Arts Center Jan. performance

The Mesquite Arts Center will host a performance by The Light Crust Doughboys, 7:00 p.m., Sat. Jan. 21, 2017. The Center is located at 1527 N. Galloway Avenue, in Mesquite. For information and tickets call 972-216-8132.

Mesquite Arts Center Black Box Series

The Series will also include a performance by Jeremy Smith, 7:00 p.m., Fri. Jan. 27. For information and tickets call 972-216-8132.

Cold Blast Temporarily Halts Living Nativity

First Christian Church Rockwall leaders made the difficult decision not to hold its annual Living Nativity for the community on December 18, 2016. The wind chill was forecast to be in the single digits and it was felt to be a danger to both the cast and attendees to attempt to endure such conditions. It would have been the 11th production of the church's Living Nativity. Plans are to resume the pageant December 17, 2017 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. The congregation sees the Living Nativity as their annual Christmas gift to the Rockwall community.

RCP updates

The Rockwall Community Playhouse is recruiting Directors for the Spring 2017 Children's Workshops.

The workshop begins the week of Feb. 5, and classes will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The RCP began selling tickets for the play "Love, Loss, and What I Wore," by Delia Ephron and Nora Ephron.

Performances are scheduled for Feb. 10 - 12, 17 - 19, and 24 - 26. Fri. and Sat. shows will start at 8:00 p.m., and 2:00 p.m. on Sundays.

Auditions for the upcoming play, "The Wedding Singer" are scheduled for 1:00 p.m., Feb. 11, with 3:00 dance auditions; 7:00 p.m., Feb. 12 with 8:00 p.m. dance auditions.

The organization is seeking sponsors for the 2017 Rockwall's Got Talent.

Auditions will take place Sat., March 4 at the RCP. Semi-Finals will be Fri. March 10, and Finals will be Fri. March 24.

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FEELING SLEEP-DEPRIVED?

Chronic sleep deprivation can put you at higher risk for chronic health problems such as high blood pressure, heart disease, and stroke. Oddly enough, the dentist is often the first person to diagnose a sleep disorder. In particular, "sleep apnea" is a condition that causes repeated breathing interruptions throughout the night. These breathing pauses can last anywhere from a few seconds to minutes, and may occur thirty or more times per hour. While snoring is the most common symptom of sleep apnea, tooth-grinding (bruxism) is also a reliable indicator of sleep apnea. If the dentist finds evidence of tooth wear and/or receding gums, it may be an indication of nightly tooth grinding related to a potentially serious sleep problem.

Chronic sleep deprivation can also raise your risk of gum disease - or make existing periodontal problems worse. Research suggests that it's more damaging than either chronic stress or daily alcohol use. To schedule a consultation, please call McNEW DENTAL at (972) 771-2213. We are proud to provide a state-of-the-art facility for the highest quality dental care available. The office is located at 1300 E. Ralph Hall Pkwy., Suite 114.

P.S. A small jaw, a tongue with scalloped edges, and redness in the throat (caused by excessive snoring) are indicators of bruxism and related problems.

www.mcnewdental.com

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- with 26-down, another state with a Huntsville
- TXism: "mean"
- old range cow
- TX Pulitzer winner: Mrs. _____ Brown
- Dallas FM
- TXism: "_____ pack" (leader)
- Grand _____ Opry
- captivated
- this Ford starred with TX Tommy Lee in "The Fugitive" (init.)
- TXism: "wake _____ when it's over" (disinterested)
- TX Gene Tierney film: "The Mating _____"
- in Lubbock County on highway 114
- org. for older persons (abbr.)
- TXism: "got two left _____" (clumsy)
- "momma!"
- UT has collection of this writer's work
- a TX fort or county
- hallucinogenic drug
- rake, e.g. (2 wds.)
- historic TX figure: Judge Roy _____
- a speck
- silent call to the fire dept. (2 wds.)
- ancient stringed instruments
- TXism: "chews his _____ cud" (loner)
- seat of Duval County: San _____
- more pallid
- X-mas egg drink
- TXism: "siesta"
- these Mexicans could be illegal
- seat of Hidalgo County
- San Antonio BB team
- O.J.'s judge
- arms bearing org. (abbr.)
- TX Tubbs' "Walking the Floor Over You"
- TXism: "plain as the _____ your face"
- TXism: "trapped like a _____ possum"
- TX summer certainty
- TX Perot's old co.
- Shirley of Houston-filmed "Terms of Endearment"
- TXism: "heavy as the front end of a John _____"
- Gulf catch
- lymph _____
- TXism: "keep _____ under your hat"
- Rio, TX
- first part of state in 1-across
- Rice Univ.'s 1st pres. Lovett (init.)
- TX Audie Murphy was one in WWII
- actress Sophia
- demonstration at TX Scottish Festival
- TXism: "you're pulling _____"
- TXism: "blazes the trail"
- critter den
- favorable factor
- out of the USA
- "Sweet" puts the "Diet" in TX Dr. Pepper
- old town absorbed into Mesquite
- TXism: "stands on his _____ feet"
- TXism: "can't teach _____ dog new tricks"
- TXism: "he's all beer and no _____"

On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

Conception of Jesus ... Luke, Part 2

Luke's written narrative of Jesus' life actually begins with the events surrounding the birth of the prophet John, who prepared many of Israel for Jesus, the Messiah from God. John was about 6 months older than his cousin Jesus. Although the accounts of how God worked mightily for Zachariah and Elizabeth are fantastic, this will begin with events surrounding the conception of Jesus.

As a reminder, the writer was very meticulous about his investigation, research and written narrative. It says that he compiled the eyewitness accounts of many people. Furthermore it says that Luke "had a perfect understanding of all things from the very first. Luke and others worked together to write the narrative for a prominent man of God, who was probably the apostle Paul. The Greek word Theophilus referred to a man of God.

After the angel Gabriel's encounter with John's Father, Zacharias, the same angel came to a "virgin" in Nazareth named Mary. The earliest known Hebrew name was Miriam.

It begins, "And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary" (Luke 1:27).

The word "virgin" is often misinterpreted in nativity stories. The word is translated from an ancient word that meant "young woman." It simply described Mary's growth phase, or age range of about 14 to 16 years. The word "man" was translated from a word that meant "husband" who was an honorable man. Joseph probably had years of experience as a grown man with family and trade responsibilities.

Being espoused meant they came to an agreement to seal the marriage about a year later. It doesn't mention this, but the agreement probably included communications with her parents. In the end, she would have been authorized to make the final decision. And she agreed to marry Joseph.

It would have begun about a year later when they sealed the marriage in a close intimate way that typically results in conceiving a child.

The angel came to Mary during the time that she was espoused or committed to eventually marry Joseph. This would logically mean she had not been with a man yet. And she drives in this point while talking with the angel.

Luke's narrative continues, "And the angel came in unto her, and said, 'Hail, you who are highly favored, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women'" (verses 27-28). The angel's greeting greatly startled her.

Mary was troubled and heavily thought on what kind of salutation she heard from the angel.

The angel continued, "Fear not, Mary: for you have found favor with God. And, behold, you shall conceive in your womb, and bring forth a son, and shall call his name Jesus" (verses 30-31). The word Jesus was translated from the ancient Hebrew word "Yeshua." A better translation might be "Joshua."

"He shall be great, and shall be called the son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of His father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (verses 32-33).

As a prudent young woman, Mary answered, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" She wisely answered with the obvious rhetorical question, how can this possibly happen considering she had not yet been with a man.

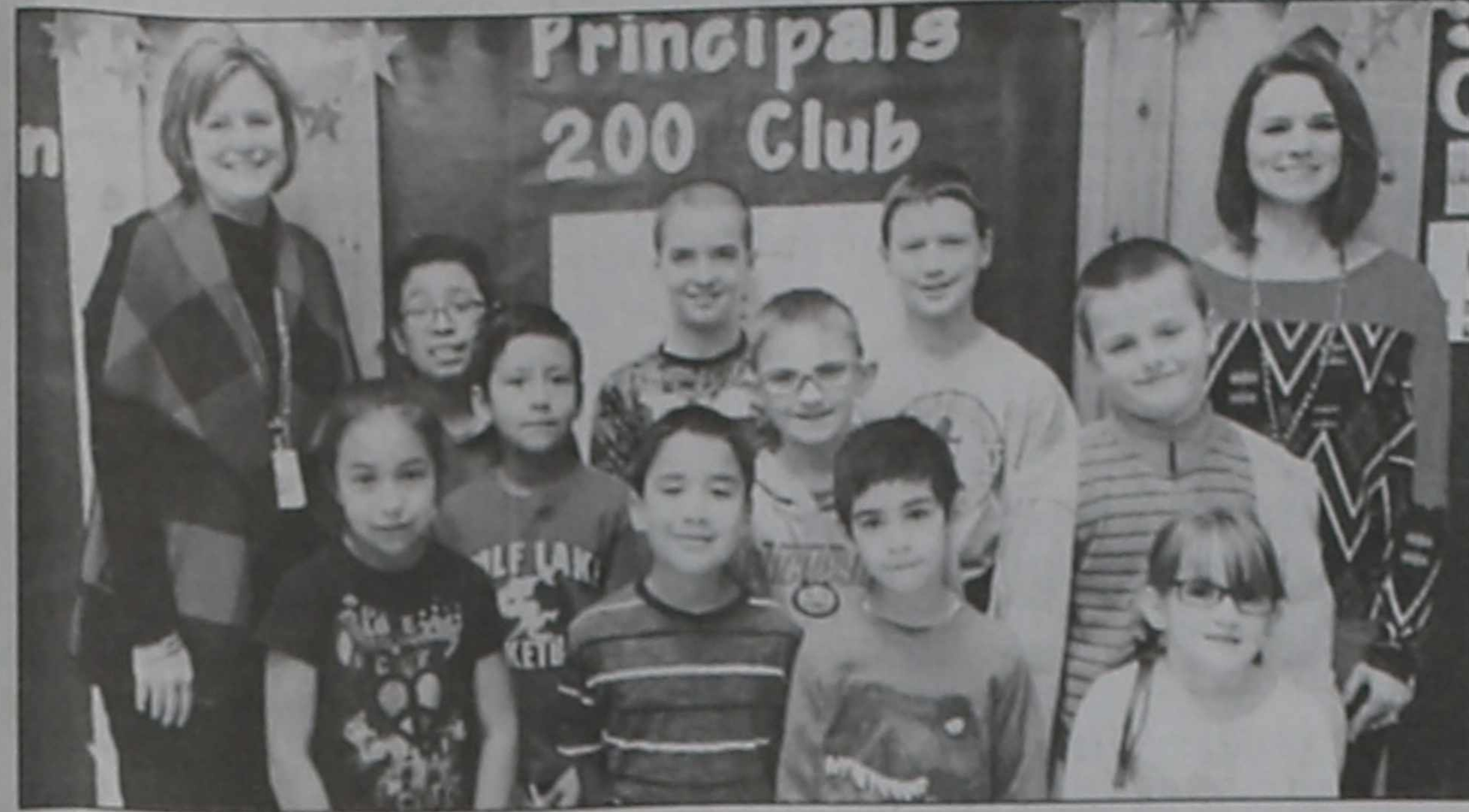
The angel answered with more information, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon you, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow you: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of you shall be called the son of God" (verse 35). The angel figuratively used language for what the man and woman does together. Throughout the Bible, readers will find the same language related to the man coming unto the woman in a way that results in conception. This language is different from the language used for the same act that does not result in conception. The angel was careful to use the right description because the end result was known in advance - She would conceive a son by the power of God.

After sharing about the pregnancy of her cousin Elizabeth, the angel said, "For with God nothing shall be impossible" (verse 37). The word "nothing" was translated from an ancient word that meant "no word." The term "impossible" was translated from an earlier word that meant "void of power."

The words fit perfectly when we plug in the more accurate translations, "For with God, no word shall be void of power."

Now, Mary's meek and humble response fits perfectly with the angel's words, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to your word" (verse 38).

There can be no doubt the conception occurred upon Mary's declaration with a meek and humble heart. She believed the words from the angel.



Ouida Springer Elementary School recently announced its most recent Principal's 200 Club Winners. The Principal's 200 Club is a positive behavior support system that rewards students for exhibiting their BEST behavior. Students 'caught' exhibiting their BEST behavior are given a golden ticket that is redeemed in the office for a spot on the Principal's 200 Club bingo board. When a row fills up, all the students in that row win the mystery motivator. The goal of the Principal's 200 Club is to increase positive behavior and to celebrate the choices Springer students make during the school day. Pictured at front, from the left, are Francisca Martinez, Caleb Santos, Santiago Lopez and Julia English; middle row, Emanuel Vigil, Logan Bauer and Dalton Harris and, at back, Principal Sara Reeves, Alexis Ramirez, Gage Crites, Quinten Moss and Assistant Principal Kelli Crossland.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

ROCKWALL COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

Jackson Automotive Specialist
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"Let the peace from God rule in your hearts, to the which also you are called in one body, and be thankful ..."
Colossians 3:15

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding;"

"In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy path;"
Proverbs 3:6

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Sunday School starts at 9:45 a.m., with worship led by Pastor Cheryl Taylor at 11 a.m. For more information, call 972-771-5702, or check out our website at www.firstpresrockwall.org

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It is the mission of this newspaper to promote the rights of individuals, guided by the principles so eloquently described in the American Declaration of Independence. The right of life, liberty and ownership of property are the cornerstones of our freedom. The sole purpose of government is to enhance our liberty and freedom. Therefore, we hold every elected and appointed agent of government accountable to that standard.



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Opinions

Good news: Washington frozen out of Syria peace plan

by Ron Paul
Ron Paul Institute

As the US mainstream media obsessed last week about Russia's supposed "hacking" of the US elections and President Obama's final round of Russia sanctions in response, something very important was taking place under the media radar. As a result of a meeting between foreign ministers of Russia, Iran, and Turkey last month, a ceasefire in Syria has been worked out and is being implemented. So far it appears to be holding, and after nearly six years of horrible warfare the people of Syria are finally facing the possibility of rebuilding their lives.

What is so important about this particular ceasefire? It was planned, agreed to, and implemented without the participation of the United States Government.

In fact it was frustration with Washington's refusal to separate its "moderates" from terrorist groups and its continued insistence on regime change for the Syrian government that led the three countries to pursue a solution on their own for Syria. They also included the Syrian

government and much of the opposition in the agreement, which the US government has been unwilling to do.

We have been told all along by the neocons and "humanitarian interventionists" that the United States must take a central role in every world crisis or nothing will ever be solved. We are the "indispensable nation," they say, and without our involvement the world will collapse. Our credibility is on the line, they claim, and if we don't step up no one will. All this is untrue, as we have seen last week.

The fact is, it is often US involvement in "solving" these crises that actually perpetuates them. Consider the 60-plus year state of war between North and South Korea. Has US intervention done anything to solve the problem? How about our decades of meddling in the Israel-Palestine dispute? Are we any closer to peace between the Israelis and Palestinians despite the billions we have spent bribing and interfering?

Non-intervention in the affairs of others does not damage US credibility overseas. It is US meddling, bombing, droneing, and regime-changing that damages our credibility overseas. US obstruction in Syria

kept the war going. As the Syrians and Russians were liberating east Aleppo from its four year siege by al-Qaeda, the Obama Administration was demanding a ceasefire. As Syrians began to move back into their homes in east Aleppo, the State Department continued to tell us that the Russians and Syrian government were slaughtering civilians for the fun of it.

So why all the media attention on unproven accusations of Russian hacking and President Obama's predictable, yet meaningless response? The mainstream media does the bidding of Washington's interventionists and they are desperate to divert attention from what may prove to be the beginning of the end of Syria's long nightmare. They don't want

Americans to know that the rest of the world can solve its own problems without the US global policemen in the center of the action. When it is finally understood that we don't need to be involved for crises to be solved overseas, the neocons will lose. Let's hope that happens soon!

Economic ideas: Adam Smith on moral sentiments, division of labor and the invisible hand

by Richard M. Ebeling
Future Freedom Foundation

Adam Smith is, without doubt, the most famous member of that group of Scottish Moral Philosophers who contributed to the development of social and economic understanding of the market economy and how economic liberty makes human prosperity possible.

He was born in Kirkcaldy, Scotland on June 5, 1723 and he died on July 17, 1790, at the age of 67. His father died two months after he was born, and was raised by his mother, with whom he remained close throughout her life.

The story has been told that when he was four years old a band of gypsies stole him away while visiting his grandfather. A posse was formed, the gypsy band was caught and put up with, and little Adam was soon returned to his mother. How different the history of economic ideas might have been if instead of his mother, Adam Smith had grown up among the gypsies and made a living reading tarot cards and picking pockets!

Adam Smith studied at the University of Glasgow and Oxford University, after which he lectured for a time at the University of Edinburgh, and then for thirteen years at the University of Glasgow (1751-1763) as Professor of Moral Philosophy. During this time he published his first book, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* (1759).

For three years (1763-1766) he traveled throughout Europe as the private tutor of a young British nobleman, including almost two years in France, during which time Adam Smith came to know many of the leading French Philosophers in Paris.

He then returned to Scotland for private study and writing, the culmination of which was the publication of *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* on March 9, 1776. In later years, Adam Smith was a commissioner of customs in Edinburgh, and rector of the University of Glasgow.

Adam Smith is reported to have been a very polite absent-minded professor, with one historian of economic thought describing how "once he had fallen into a tanning pit while walking along in earnest [conversation] with a friend, and it was said that he had brewed himself a beverage of bread and butter and pronounced it the worst cup of tea he had ever tasted."

But as a professor he was greatly admired by his students at the University of Glasgow. One of these students recalled his impressions of Adam Smith, the teacher:

[Adam Smith's] manner, though not graceful, was plain and unaffected, and as he seemed to be always interested in the subject, he never failed to interest his hearers. Every discourse consisted commonly of several distinct propositions, which he successively endeavored to prove and illustrate. These propositions when announced in general terms had, from their extent, not infrequently something of an air of paradox.

In his attempts to explain them, he often appeared at first not to be sufficiently possessed of the subject, and spoke with some hesitation. As he advanced, however, the matter seemed to crowd upon him, his manner became warm and animated, and his expression easy and fluent.

Adam Smith's Theory of Moral Sentiments

His first book, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* (1759), attempts to explain the origin, nature and purpose of man's "moral sense" that guides and restrains his conduct in his own life and in his interaction with others. Following the "spontaneous order" concept of his fellow Scottish philosophers, Adam Smith believed that man's ethical sense is based on the moral principles and values of the society in which the individual is born.

"The senses of 'right' and 'wrong,' 'good' and 'bad,' and 'virtue' and 'vice,' are the ones the child absorbs from those around him as he develops consciousness and reflection about the (social) world in which he lives. This fosters the "inner voice" of our conscience – which he called the "impartial spectator" – a voice that judges our actions and our conduct towards others. It praises or condemns all that we do or do not do.

It judges whether we truly deserve the praise or credit we may get for some act or outcome connected with it. Or whether we have been "justly" punished or criticized for something we have said or done, or not said and not done. It also teaches us empathy and sympathy in judging what others do as well as the successes or misfortunes that may befall them.

Men, by their nature, think and act in terms of their perceived "self-interest." But this pursuit of self-interest is restrained and confined, as well as guided, by the "moral sense" concerning how we should act in our deeds toward others and ourselves.

Adam Smith's System of Natural Liberty

In *The Wealth of Nations*, Adam Smith applied Francis Hutcheson's idea of "natural liberty" in formulating a conception of the meaning of individual freedom and the role and functions of limited government in a free society. He argued that each individual should be at liberty to live his life his own way, guided by his own goals and purposes, and in peaceful association and competition with his own and all others.

"In this system of natural liberty government's role would be narrow and limited to national defense, domestic law enforcement, and a small handful of what today goes under the name of "public goods."

In Adam Smith's own words:

All systems either of [government] preference or of restraint, therefore, being thus completely taken away, the obvious and simple system of natural liberty establishes itself of its own accord. Every man, as long as he does not violate the laws of justice, is left perfectly free to pursue his own interest his own way, and to bring both his industry and capital into competition with those of any other man, or order of men.

According to the system of natural liberty, the sovereign has only three duties to attend to: First, the duty of protecting the society from violence and invasion of other independent societies. Secondly, the duty of protecting, as far as possible, every member of the society from the injustice or oppression of every other member of it, or the duty of establishing an exact administration of justice. And, thirdly, the duty of erecting and maintaining certain public works and certain public institutions which can never be for the interest of any individual, or small number of individuals, to erect and maintain; because the profit could never repay the expense to any individual or small number of individuals, though it may frequently do much more than repay it to a great society.

Division of Labor and Spontaneous Order

Adam Smith begins his study of society and human association with an analysis of the benefits from a system of division of labor: By cooperating in a system of specialization, individuals are able to dramatically increase their potential productivity in comparison to self-sufficient production; under which each individual attempts to produce all that he needs through his own labor.

Through specialization of tasks, men develop speed, dexterity, and technical precision with the assistance of machines that focus their activities on one or a small handful of tasks. The productivity of labor – and output of goods available – increases, as a result, the quantities, qualities, and varieties of products workable. He used the imagery of a small enterprise such as pen factory to show the gains from division of labor:

... The trade of a pin-maker; a workman not educated to this business ... nor acquainted with the use of machinery employed in it ... could scarce, perhaps, with his utmost industry make one pin in a day and certainly could not make twenty. But in the way in which this business is now carried on ... the important business of making a pin is divided into about 18 distinct operations ...

I have seen a small factory of this kind where ten men only were employed ... But though they were very poor, and indifferently accommodated with the necessary machinery, they could, when they exerted themselves ... make among them upwards of 48,000 pins in a day.

The huge benefit and human betterment that comes from this division of tasks, Adam Smith emphasized, is not the result of any planned or imposed economic order on humanity to bring this improvement about. Instead, it is a part of the spontaneous emergent outcome of the interactive associations among men. Said Smith:

This division of labor, from which so many advantages are derived, is not originally the effect of any human wisdom, which foresees and intends that general opulence to which it gives occasion. It is the necessary, though very slow and gradual, consequence of a certain propensity in human nature which has in view no such extensive utility; the propensity to truck, barter, and exchange one thing for another.

Through the method of what many of the Scottish Philosophers called "conjunctural history," Smith asks us to imagine a small primitive tribe in which one man has a particular knack and ability to make sturdy bows and straight arrows the awareness of which led his fellow tribesmen to offer him in exchange some other simple tools and products that they, in turn, have a productive advantage in making. Over time each, without any conscious intention of bringing about a social system of division of labor, discover the self-interested gain from increasingly specializing their labor in one or a few tasks and trading their specialized outputs for the wares of their neighbors.

Only retrospectively, indeed long after the societal fact, can it be seen and understood how the social system of division of labor, from which we all so much benefit, has emerged and taken form out of the cumulative interactions of multitudes of individual's decisions to focus their, respective, efforts on a particular task for which they possess a productive advantage over others in their society.

Adam Smith marveled at the complexity of the provision of people's wants through this developed system of division of labor, and which generates the prosperity that raises standards of living to amazing heights. In the 1770s, he pointed out the intricate network of already global commerce and trade that was brought to bear to produce even the simple and crude coat of an unskilled day laborer. In Adam Smith's own words:

It is the great multiplication of the productions of all the different arts, in consequence of the division of labor, which occasions, in a well-governed society, that universal opulence which extends itself to the lowest ranks of the people.

Observe the accommodation of the most common artificer or day-laborer in a civilized and thriving country, and you will perceive that the number of people of whose industry a part, though but a small part, has been employed in procuring him this accommodation, exceeds all computation.

The woolen coat, for example, which covers the day-laborer, as coarse and rough as it may appear, is the produce of the joint labor of a great multitude of workmen. The shepherd, the sorter of the wool, the wool-comber or carder, the dyer, the scribbler, the spinner, the weaver, the fuller, the dresser, with many others, must all join their different arts in order to complete even this homely production.

How many merchants and carriers, besides, must have been employed in transporting the materials from some of these workmen to others who offer live in a very distant part of the country! How much commerce and navigation in particular, how many ship-builders, sailors, sail-makers, rope-makers, must have been employed in order to bring together the different drugs made use of by the dyer, which come from the remotest corners of the world!

What variety of labor too is necessary in order to produce the tools of the meanest of those workmen! To say nothing of such complicated machines as the ship of the sailor, the mill of the fuller, or even the loom of the weaver ...

If we examine, I say, all these things and consider what a variety of labor is employed about each of them, we shall be sensible that without the assistance and cooperation of many thousands, the very meanest person in a civilized country could not be provided, even according to, what we very falsely imagine, the easy and simple manner in which he is commonly accommodated.

Self-Interest and the Market Order

Adam Smith argued that through this system of division of labor and a rule of voluntary exchange, men become interdependent for all the necessities and luxuries of life. But precisely because the "system of natural liberty" excludes violence, theft, or fraud, the only way any individual can acquire from others that which he desires is by applying his own knowledge, abilities, and resources in a manner that offers to those others what they desire, so they will give in trade what they have, which that first individual wants to obtain.

Thus, though it is no part of their motivating intention to improve the conditions of the life of others, in their own self-interest each individual must devote his efforts to serving the wants of others as a means to his own ends. While this is no part of the individual's intention, the cumulative effect for society, Adam Smith argued, was that those goods most valued by others in society were the ones produced and offered on the market.

This outcome was far superior to any attempt by those in political power to consciously and intentionally guide production into various directions. Those in political authority possess neither the knowledge, wisdom, nor ability to do so better than each man in his own corner of society, who is most familiar with the surrounding circumstances and opportunities.

In one of the most famous passages in *The Wealth of Nations*, Adam Smith explained the logic and workings of the free market order: *Every individual who employs his capital in the support of domestic industry necessarily endeavors so to direct that industry, that its produce may be of the greatest possible value ... In proportion as the value of this produce is great or small, so will likewise be the profits of the employer. But it is only for the sake of profit that any man employs a capital in the support of industry; and he will always, therefore, endeavor to employ it in the support of that industry of which the produce is likely to be of the greatest value, or to exchange for the greatest quantity of money or of other goods ...*

As every individual, therefore, endeavors as much as he can both to employ his capital in support of domestic industry, and so to direct that industry that its produce may be of the greatest value; every individual necessarily labors to render the annual revenue of the society as great as he can.

He generally, indeed, neither intends to promote the public interest, nor knows how much he is promoting it ... By directing that industry in such a manner as its produce may be of the greatest value, he intends only his own gain, and he is in this, as in many other cases, led by an invisible hand to promote an end which was no part of his intention.

Nor is it always the worse for the society that it was no part of it. By pursuing his own interest he frequently promotes that of the society more effectually than when he really intends to promote it. I have never known much good done by those who are affected to trade for the public good ... What is the specific of domestic industry which his capital can employ, and of which the produce is likely to be of the greatest value, every individual, it is evident, can, in his own situation, judge much better than any statesman or legislator can do for him.

The statesman, who should attempt to direct private people in what manner they ought to employ their capitals, would not only load himself with a most unnecessary attention, but assume an authority which can safely be trusted, not only to no single person, but to no council or senate whatever, and which would nowhere be so dangerous as in the hands of a man who had folly and presumption enough to fancy himself fit to exercise it.

Adam Smith had already warned of the danger from the social engineer – "the man of system," as he calls him in *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* – who with great arrogance attempts to redesign society with little regard for the desires and goals of the members of that society. The end result, Smith warned, is resistance and conflict when the social engineer imposes his coercive power on the people whose wills are to be bent to the planner's design:

The man of system, on the contrary, is apt to be very wise in his own conceit, and is often so enamored with the supposed beauty of his own ideal plan of government that he cannot suffer the smallest deviation from any part of it.

He goes on to establish it completely and in all his parts, without any regard either to the great interests or to the strong prejudices which may oppose it; he seems to imagine that he can arrange the different members of a great society with as much ease as the hand arranges the different pieces upon a chess-board;

He does not consider that the pieces upon the chess-board have no other principle of motion besides that which the hand impresses upon them; but that, in the great chess-board of human society, every single piece has a principle of motion of its own, altogether different from that which the legislature might choose to impress upon it.

If these two principles coincide and act in the same direction, the game of human society will go on easily and harmoniously, and is very likely to be happy and successful. If they are opposite or different, the game will go on miserably, and the society must be at all times in the highest degree of disorder ...

To insist upon establishing, and upon establishing all at once, and in spite of all opposition, every thing which that idea may require, must often be the highest degree of arrogance. It is to erect his own judgment into the supreme standard of right and wrong. It is to fancy himself the only wise and worthy man in the commonwealth, and that his fellow citizens should accommodate themselves to him, and not him to them.

Here in its essence was a conception of a society of liberty not needing and potentially threatened by a controlling and dominating government, and nowhere so dangerous as in the arrogant and presumptuous hands of the social engineer and political planner who believes himself wise, knowledgeable and good enough to direct the affairs of all the others in society.

But this was not the end of his insights and arguments about the nature and workings of the social and economic order. Adam Smith also explained how and why government need not and cannot successfully direct the trading patterns of nations better than the individual citizens of these countries can do. He attempted to analyze what determined the values and prices of goods in the market, and how this brings about a coordinated balance between supply and demand. And he applied the logic of spontaneous order to demonstrate how freedom came increasingly to replace the status society of privilege and favoritism.

These themes will be discussed in part 2 on Adam Smith.

Price named Heath's Employee of the Year

The City of Heath recently honored employees for their performances in 2016, including Leisa Price, who was named City Employee of the Year.

Departmental Employees of the Year were also recognized and include Kristi Smith, Administrative Services; Randy Patton, Public Works; Brittnee Payne, Community Development; and Scott Trammell, Public Safety.

The employees chosen for the 2016 awards, according to a City of Heath news release, displayed "excellence in numerous areas including on-the-job performance, customer service, cooperation, integrity, dependability, judgment, initiative and workplace knowledge as well as noteworthy achievements within the year."

Price was hired by the city as code enforcement officer in 2013 and in 2016 was promoted to building inspector. However, she serves in many other ways as the city responds to tremendous growth, according to the news release. She continues to assist with code enforcement and also is secretary to the Board of Adjustment, where she coordinates meetings and prepares minutes. Additionally, she has filled in as secretary to the Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council when needed.

"Leisa has played a significant role in keeping us on track while continuing to provide excellent customer service to the citizens of Heath," said Robert LaCroix, director of Community Development. "She is always here at work early and brings a positive attitude and smile to every situation, which makes it a pleasure to work with her."



Students at Springer Elementary are participating in Hour of Code week to provide skills necessary in preparation for STEM work in the future. These skills may lead toward a new app design, video game design, 3D printing, website design, circuitry, robotics for the medical field, factory assembly or simulation training, all paving the way for bright futures. Pictured above are students Joseph Ndogo, Zaidun Edwards, Mellat Mebratu and Claire Nixon.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



The City of Heath recently honored employees for outstanding performances in 2016, including City Employee of the Year Leisa Price (right). Price, pictured above, received the award from City Manager Ed Thatcher (left).

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Sports schedule (varsity)

Rockwall 1-6-2017

Bskb men, 7:00 p.m., Tyler Lee at RHS.
Bskb women, 6:30 p.m., at Tyler Lee.
Scr men, 9:45 a.m., Forney at RHS.
Scr women, 7:00 p.m. at College Station HS.
Wrestling, 9:00 a.m., Cy Fair Invitational at Berry Center.

1/7

Scr women, 10:00 a.m., at Clear Lake HS.

1/10

Bskb men, 7:00 p.m., Mesquite at RHS.

Bskb women, 6:30 p.m., at Mesquite.

Scr men, 7:15 p.m., Lake Highlands at RHS.

Scr women, 7:15 p.m., Sachse at Wilkerson-Sanders Std.

1/12

Gymnastics, 5:30 p.m., L.D. Bell and Heath at RHS.

Rockwall-Heath 1-6-2017

Bskb men, 7:00 p.m., at Mesquite.

Bskb women, 6:30 p.m., Mesquite at RHHS.

Scr men, 1:15 p.m., W. Mesquite, Forney Tourney,

6:30 p.m., Royse City, Forney Tourney.

Scr women, 6:00 p.m., Wylie at Wylie ISD Std.

Wrestling, 10:00 a.m., Cy Fair Invitational at Berry Center.

1/7

Scr women, 2:00 p.m., Mansfield at Wylie ISD Std.

1/10

Bskb men, 7:00 p.m., at Longview.

Bskb women, 6:30 p.m., Longview at RHHS.

1/12

Scr men, 3:30 p.m., Kimball, Rockwall Tourney at RHHS.

Gymnastics, 5:30 p.m., L.D. Bell and Rockwall at RHS.

Royse City 1/6

Bskb men, 7:00 p.m., Mesquite Poteet at RCHS.

Bskb women, 7:00 p.m., at Poteet.

1/7-9

Scr men, Forney Tourney.

1/10

Bskb men, 7:00 p.m., Highland Park at RCHS.

Bskb women, 7:00 p.m., at Highland Park.

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Water conservation workshops offered

Texas A&M AgriLife will conduct its 2017 workshops for Water Efficient Recognized Green Professionals starting Jan. 11 in Grapevine.

The five-day course will be from 8 a.m. to noon Jan. 11, Jan. 25, Feb. 8, Feb. 22 and March 8.

Cost for all five workshops is \$75, which includes breakfast and all course materials.

Seating will be limited to 35 people.

The Jan. 11, Jan. 25, Feb. 8 and March 8 events will be at the Grapevine Botanical Gardens, 411 Ball St. in Grapevine. The Feb. 22 event will be at the Grapevine Community Activities Center, 1175 Municipal Way.

Registration is requested by Jan. 5.



Fourth grade students at Cullins Elementary have been challenged to read 20 chapter books this year. Once a student finishes reading a book, he or she works on a short project to be presented to the class. Then the student receives a brag tag and the teachers encourage students to brag about their reading. Earlier this month students celebrated the half-way mark on this challenge. Pictured above from the left are teachers and students who have read 10 chapter books, including Gia Glaeser, Mikyla Owens, Lilly Rodriguez, Alyssa Catapano, Caitlin Marquis, Amy Hernandez, Cheryl Hankinson, Thomas Stevens, Landon Green, Kierra Wills and Grace Ankersheil.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Rockwall Lady Jackets defeats state ranked Hendrickson 51-50 in Aggieland Invitational

The Rockwall High School Yellowjackets basketball teams started District play as the Longview Lobos came to Rockwall, Wed. Dec. 21, 2017, according to Coach Josh Goellner.

The varsity team won 60-58.

Sam Williamson had 15 points and 7 rebounds, and Alec Grandstaff went 5 for 9 from the 3 point line to finish with 15 also. Tevin Williams added 11 points and Jarrod Winston cleaned up the boards with 9.

The Freshmen B team tied 34-34, and the Freshmen A team won 50-47. After an interesting night the JV team did not play.

The team got back into the action in the Allen Tournament Dec. 27-29. The Yellowjackets played their second district game Jan. 3, at Mesquite Horn.

Schedule

Fri. 1/6/2017, 7:00 p.m., Tyler Lee at RHS.

Tues. 1/10, 7:00 p.m., Mesquite at RHS.

Women

Rockwall Lady Jackets Coach Lacey Yankee reported that the team traveled to Longview to begin the Christmas holidays. They started the holiday break with a sweep.

The varsity team won a nail-biter 36-31 game, which came down to free throws in the final minute.

Leading the Lady Jackets was Alena Johnston with 14 points. We are 2-1 in district.

During the holidays the varsity traveled to College Station to play in the Aggieland Invitational Tournament.

The JV team defeated Longview 48-33. Scoring for Rockwall were Madeleine Hunt with 21 points and Mikki Witcher with 10 points.

The Freshman team won 46-24. Top scorers were Emma Stelzer with 14 points, Celia Straight with 10 points and Ella Laurence 10 points.

The Lady Jackets started the Aggieland Invitational with a 63-42 win over Bellaire High School. Leading the victory was Alena Johnston with 17 points followed by Haley Hicks with 14 points and Faith Mason-Vestal with 10.

The victory set the Lady Jackets up to play state ranked team Hendrickson High School.

According to Coach Heather Graham, the ladies "provided the fans with an edge of the seat game."

After leading the first quarter, Hendrickson came back to take control of the second and

The fourth quarter proved to be a nail biter, as the ladies brought down a four point deficit to tie up the game with less than a minute left in the game.

With only four seconds on the clock, Mya Culiver drove to the basket in a last minute attempt to get a shot off. She was fouled and claimed one free throw clenching the 51-50 win over Hendrickson.

Jordan Mathis led the team with 16 points, followed by Alena Johnston with 10. The win set up Rockwall for the next game against James Earl Rudder High School, at Bryan High School.

Coach Graham explained the game started off in Rudder's favor leading at half time. The Lady Jackets took control in the third to take the lead going into the fourth period.

Rudder brought a press against the Lady Jackets that helped them tie the game, sending it into overtime.

In overtime play, with 17 seconds left Mya Culiver went to the free-throw line to take the lead by one.

Alena Johnston also was fouled with seconds remaining to widen the lead to three points and the final 54-51 win over Rudder.

Leading scorers were Alena Johnston with 18, Mya Culiver with 12, Haley Hicks with 11, and Faith Mason-Vestal with 10. This game led the team to a 6:30 p.m. match-up against Seven Lakes High School.

The Lady Jackets lost 40-42 against Seven Lakes.

The Lady Jackets led going into halftime after a strong defensive first half.

Seven Lakes took the lead by six during the third quarter. The Lady Jackets tightened the margin to four points with seconds left in the game.

Rockwall added two more points off a foul behind the three-point circle, but were not able to get the ball back.

Leading the Lady Jacket against Seven Lakes were Jordan Mathis with 12, followed by Faith Mason-Vestal and Haley Hicks both with 9.

The Lady Jackets finished the tournament in third place with a 57-48 win over Copperas Cove, 11:00 a.m., Thurs. morning, Dec. 29.

The game was tied after the first quarter. The Lady Jackets led by three going into half time. Rockwall continued to hold on to the lead the remainder of the game.

Leading the Lady Jackets' victory was Alena Johnston with 15 points followed by Mya Culiver with 10 points.

The Lady Jackets resumed district play Tues., Jan. 3, against District undefeated Mesquite Horn at the RHS gym.

Schedule

Fri 1/6, 6:30 p.m., at Tyler Lee.

Tues 1/10, 6:30 p.m., at Mesquite.