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Rockwall County News

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This group of seventh and eighth grade students representing Williams Middle School recently captured the school's 12th straight district UIL academic championship. Academic contests ranged from Calculator Applications to Spelling, Art, Science, Editorial Writing and Maps, Graphs & Charts. See related story for contestant names.
Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

WMS students earn 12th straight UIL academic championship

For the 12th straight year, Williams Middle School seventh and eighth grade students captured the district UIL academic championship on Jan. 22.

Students competed in a variety of competitions, according to a news release from the school.

Winners included:

- Art (seventh grade) – Madlynn Davis, first place; Edith Juarez, third place; Drew Sherrard, fourth; and Emma Bonner, fifth place
- Art (eighth grade) – Alissa Dearing, first place; Tessa Thurlkill, second; Abigail Cory and Diana Tran, third place
- Calculator Applications (seventh grade) – Mary Sutton, first place; Michelle Leek, third place; Jules Pickren, fourth
- Calculator Applications (eighth grade) – Tyler Gilroyad, fourth place
- Dictionary Skills (seventh grade) – Amelia Vu, first place; Iphnathan Pang, second
- Dictionary Skills (eighth grade) – Marybeth Hamilton, first place; Mekinna Knight, second; and Ryan King, third

- Editorial Writing (seventh grade) – Robin Briddle, first place; Amrit Singh, second; Maddie Hesser, third place
- Editorial writing (eighth grade) – Olivia Kade, first place; Kaitlyn Niesen, second place; Tyler Gilroyed, fifth place
- Listening Skills (seventh grade) – Madison Josephson, first place; Grace Hicks, second place; Austin Knoff, third place
- Listening Skills (eighth grade) – Marybeth Hamilton, second

- place; Kaitlyn Niesen, fourth place; and Fort Bennett, sixth place
- Maps, Graphs & Charts (seventh grade) – Luke Saaverda, first place; Harrison Delong, second place; Hannah Moore, third place
- Maps, Graphs & Charts (eighth grade) – Dakota Fatkhe, first place, and Brianna Kearns, fourth place
- Mathematics (seventh grade) – Angela Walters, first place; Noella Barron, second place; and Michelle Leek, fifth place
- Mathematics (eighth grade) – Parker Gage, first place; Seth Choi, third; and Claire Bennett, fourth
- Impromptu Speaking (seventh grade) – Brighton Riley, first place; Jules Pickren, second; Marry Sutton, third
- Impromptu Speaking (eighth grade) – Brittany Sterling, third place; Ricky Peraza, fifth place
- Modern Oratory (seventh grade) – Hayden Johnson, second place; Ryleigh Mullins, third place; Chima Nwadage, fourth place
- Modern Oratory (eighth grade) – Randell Klaver, first place; Joseph Halkuff, third place
- Number Sense (seventh grade) – Elias Hernandez, first place; Michael Collins, third place; and Alexander Hoang, sixth place
- Number Sense (eighth grade) – Braden Wills, first place; Seth Choi, second place; and Caden Williams, third place
- Oral Reading (seventh grade) – Elisa Davis, first place; Noella Barron, fourth place; and Hannah Moore, sixth place
- Oral Reading (eighth grade) – Mekinna Knight, second place; Hope Wilding, third place; and Hayley Dopkins, fourth place
- Ready Writing (seventh grade) – Apryl Henry, second place
- Ready Writing (eighth grade) – Camira Fomung and Jaden Dougal, fifth place
- Science (seventh grade) – Julieanna Garcia, second place; Alexander Hoang, third place; and Amelia Vu, fourth place
- Science (eighth grade) – Jaden Dougal and Zachery Flowers, fifth place
- Social Studies (seventh grade) – Noah Arsmussen, fifth place
- Social Studies (eighth grade) – Brianna Kearns, third place; Sarah Lawton, fifth place
- Spelling (seventh grade) – Christi Ninan, first place; Amelia Vu, second place; and Madylynn Wright, fourth place
- Spelling (eighth grade) – Gabrelle Feria, fifth place; Graysen Mann, sixth place

University scholastic honors

Atwell named to President's List

Ashton Atwell of Roysse City was named to the President's List at Southern Arkansas University for the fall semester, according to a news release from the Magnolia, Arkansas, university.

Atwell earned a 4.0 grade-point average for the semester, according to the release.
She is a senior exercise science major.

Royse City officer earns commendation



Royse City Chief of Police Jeff Stapleton presents the Life Saving Award to RCPD Officer William Alan Potter at the Feb. 14 council meeting.

Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/
Rockwall County News

by Millie Jean Coppedge

Royse City Police Officer William Alan Potter was presented a Life Saving Award Commendation at the Feb. 14 Royse City Council meeting. Chief of Police Jeff Stapleton made the presentation.

Fifteen to 20 Royse City firefighters, as well as many others, were on hand to honor Potter.

Potter was one of the officers dispatched to Lakes Drive on Jan. 28 at approximately 9:01 a.m. when authorities received a call regarding "a person with a gun." At the scene, Potter found the suspect sitting in a vehicle with his estranged wife, their young child and his sister-in-law.

"Potter approached with his weapon drawn and gave commands for the suspect to keep his hands visible and exit the vehicle," Stapleton said in his description of the situation. "The suspect momentarily complied, but then lunged from Officer Potter's grasp and retrieved a small handgun from the passenger floorboard of the vehicle."

After a struggle between the suspect and the officer, the suspect threatened suicide as he put the gun to his head before entering his vehicle and trying to leave the scene.

"Undeterred, Officer Potter re-engaged the suspect and ultimately took the weapon from the suspect with assistance from Officer (John) Bivins," the award given to the officer states. "Officer Potter demonstrated tremendous courage and composure during this incident. Officer Potter's actions were instrumental in saving this individual's life."

Old Town Block Party set in RC

Historic Downtown Royse City will host an Old Town Block Party from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 4.

The event will include live music, seasonal vendors and a kid zone, according to information on the city's website.

Rockwall County News Briefs

Parkinson's Support Group to meet

A Parkinson's Support Group will meet from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. today, Feb. 23, at Rock Ridge Assisted Living & Memory Care, 720 E Ralph Hall Parkway, Rockwall. The group meets the fourth Wednesday of each month. Meetings are free and open to the public. For more details contact Amanda at 903-285-0995.

ARC plans Feb. 26 blood drive in Rockwall

The American Red Cross will conduct a blood drive from noon to 6 p.m. on Feb. 26 at Half Price Books Rockwall, 959 I-30. To make an appointment to give blood, download the Red Cross blood drive donor app, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-73302767). Everyone who donates by Feb. 26 is eligible to receive a \$5 amazon.com gift card via email.

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On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett
Rightly dividing the

conception of Jesus -- Identity

During the past several weeks, we have been reviewing the accounts of Matthew and Luke surrounding the conception and birth of Jesus. Both accounts set the stage for understanding the extreme importance of Jesus' overall life and ministry.

There are numerous accounts of Jesus telling others that he always did the will of his Father. When people called him the "good master," he referred them to his Father who is the source of true goodness.

Jesus demonstrated precise knowledge of the identity of his Father. Jesus clearly understood his identity in relation to his Father. Jesus knew the numerous good works he did as his Father.

The ancient prophecies of the Messiah revealed he would be born out of Israel, more specifically -- out of the line of Judah.

Genesis 49:8-12 includes Israel's final blessing to his son, "Judah, you are he whom your brethren shall praise: your hand shall be in the neck of your enemies; your father's children shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's whelp; from the prey, my son, you are gone up; he stopped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?

The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes:

His eyes shall be red with wine, and his teeth white with milk." Israel's blessing was a prophecy about the Messiah who would be born out of the line of Judah. This reveals the importance of Jesus' genealogy found in Matthew's and Luke's accounts.

It's been said, "Work diligently to show yourselves approved unto God, a workman who needs not to be ashamed; rightly dividing the words of truth." The workman is not shamed because God is faithful. Mary was not shamed by a God that cannot back his promise, but instead, by her meek and humble believing, God's word came to pass. A son was conceived in her by the mighty Creator.

It's extremely important to understand that the Messiah began to be formed and made after his Father conceived him in Mary's womb. Why? Because this important knowledge goes toward correctly understanding his death, and how he was raised from the dead.

From the beginning, God established a fundamental law of reproduction. He commanded the first man and woman to multiply. It's not necessary to cover the details, but in short, man provides that which causes the egg in woman to start growing and developing into a living person that eventually comes out of the womb and breaths its first breath of life. That person does not exist prior to conception.

God did not break the basic law of reproduction when He conceived a son in Mary. That's right -- God caused the egg in Mary to start growing and developing in her womb. His spirit is life-giving.

Unlike man, God did not pass on genetic information to his son. He simply gave life to the egg, and passed down something else of greater importance -- incorruptible blood, and authority as the first-born son of the Highest and Mighty Creator of the heavens and the earth. Jesus was the final and true sacrificial Lamb whose incorruptible blood was the final sacrifice and price for all of mankind.

The angel told Mary that she was highly favored in God's eyes, who knew that she would meekly and humbly raise the Messiah in the ways of his Father in heaven. He knew that Joseph would meekly and humbly care for and protect Mary and her child. He knew that she would meekly and humbly receive His promise as told by the angel, and be conceived.

Why is this so important? The same one who brought the Messiah into existence, was the same one raised the same Messiah from the dead; and the same who caused his son, the Messiah, to be seated at His right hand of all power and authority in heaven and in earth.

Correctly understand the conception of the Messiah, goes toward correctly understanding the resurrection of the Messiah; and correctly understanding the resurrection of the Messiah, results in being filled with holy spirit.

In Romans 10:9-10, it basically teaches, believing with the heart that God raised Jesus from the dead is unto righteousness. The first example of people being made righteous is found in Acts 2:4 where it says they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. Being made righteous is the state that exists when people are filled with holy spirit. People who are made righteous are also considered to be cleansed by the blood of the Lamb.

God's rightly divided word is not ambiguous. There is only one answer for the question of Jesus' identity, then and now.

Jesus endured the terrible sufferings with complete trust that his Father was able to judge righteously, and was able to raise him from the dead.

Remember what he told Peter who tried to fight for him? Jesus declared his authority to cry out to his Father for help, and He would send legions to his rescue. Now, we can memorialize the death of Jesus the Messiah with a clear and single mind about his identity.



Students at Springer Elementary recently participated in Jump Rope for Heart to help raise funds for the American Heart Association and learn about the importance of maintaining a healthy heart. Pictured above is one of the student participants, Presley Helton (left), and PE teacher Steve Kelly. Students raised more than \$4,000 and many students got to participate in jump rope competitions. *Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News*

Rockwall County Church Briefs

First Christian Church Rockwall sets new schedule

Beginning February 26, First Christian Church Rockwall will follow a new schedule. Worship is at 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study classes will meet at 8:45 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.. All children and youth classes will meet at 11:00. This Sunday Feb. 26, the guest preacher will be Dr. Larry Ross, North Texas Area Minister for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). First Christian Church is located at 3375 Ridge Road.

First Presbyterian plans Ashes to Go

Pastor Cheryl Taylor will offer a unique alternative for individuals who may not have time for a traditional Ash Wednesday service. The First Presbyterian Church of Rockwall, 602 White Hills Dr., will provide Ashes to Go from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on March 1, weather permitting. Taylor will be out in front of the church in the drive-through circle by the cross to greet people, administer ashes and offer prayers. For more details call 972-771-5702 or email welcome@firstpresrockwall.org. The traditional Ash Wednesday service will be at 7:00 p.m., that evening in the sanctuary.

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"Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord."

Psalm 150:6

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

Rockwall County News

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