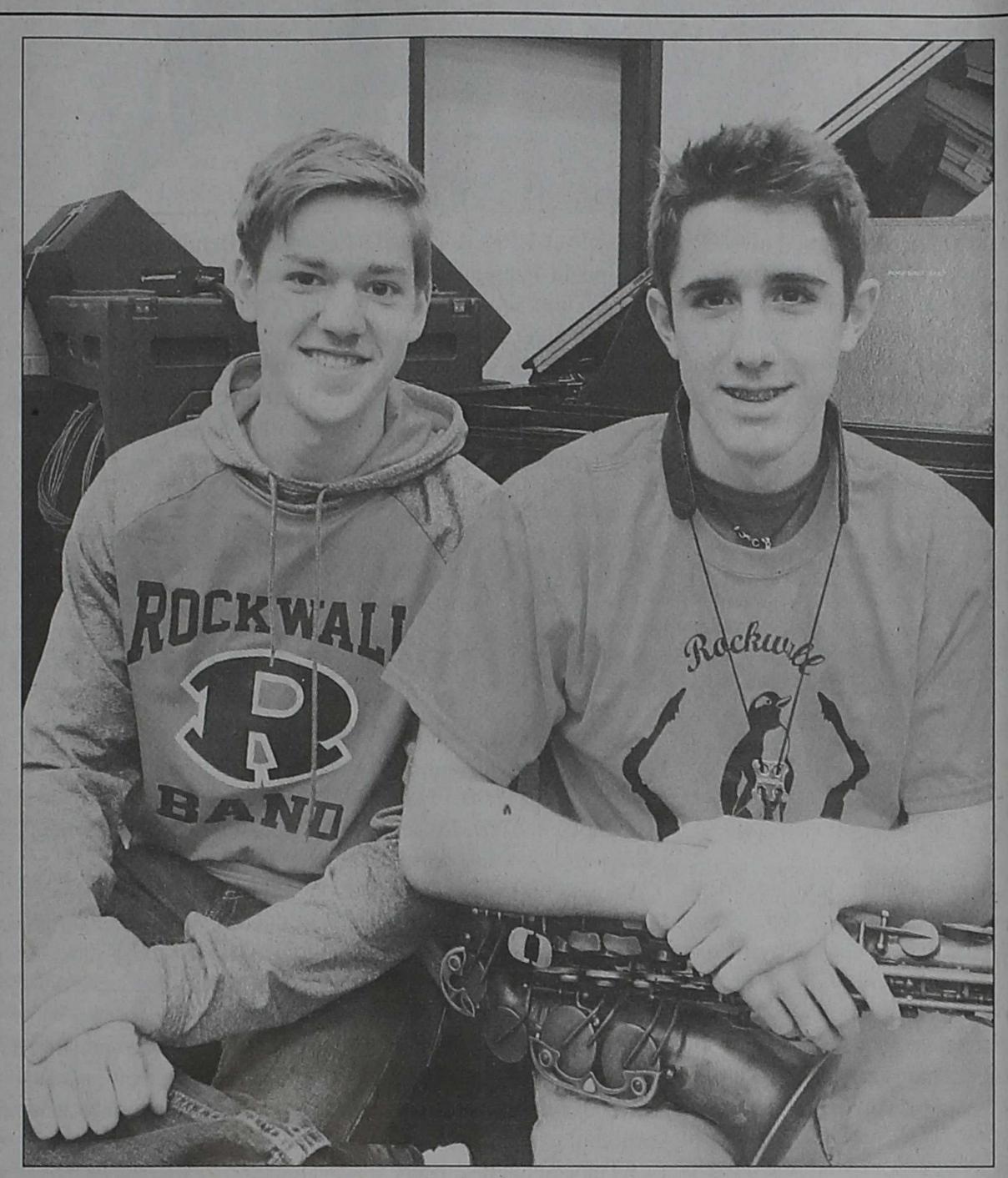
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Rockwall County News

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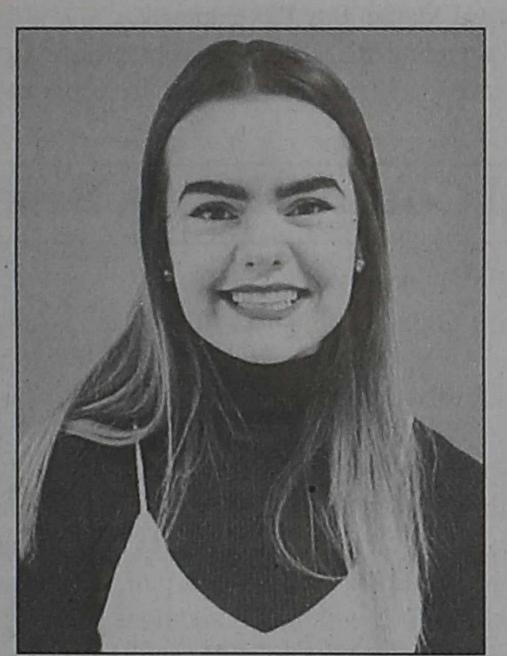
Rockwall High Orange Wave Band members Nick Messick (left) and Aren Moore (right), pictured above, recently earned chairs in the Texas Music Educators Association All State Jazz Ensemble 2. The two will travel to San Antonio next month to participate in the All State Clinic/Concert in conjunction with the annual TMEA convention. Under the direction of David Caffey (University of Northern Colorado) the concert is scheduled to begin 1:00 p.m., Sat. Feb. 11, 2017, in the Hemisfair Ballroom 2 of the San Antonio Convention Center.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News



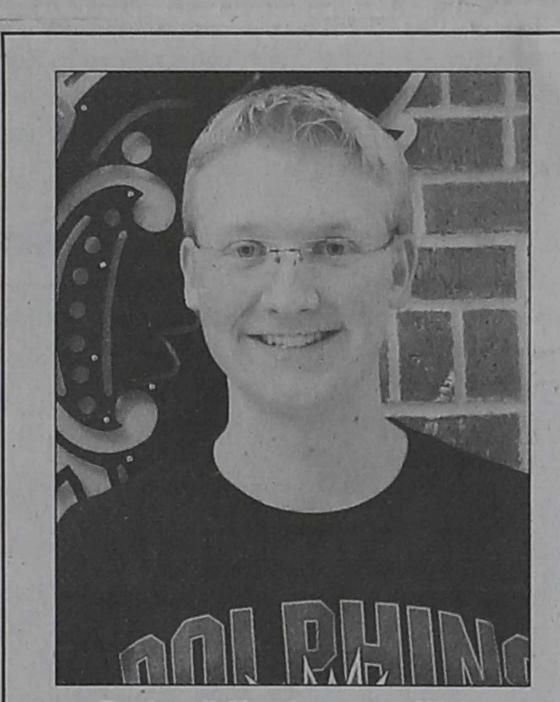
Alyson Davis (Sr) of Heath advanced to perform with the Texas Music Educators Association All State Symphony Orchestra, beginning 8:00 p.m., Sat. Feb. 11, 2017 in the Lila Cockrell Theater at the San Antonio Convention Center. Davis will be seated in chair 13 of the Cello section. The Symphony Orchestra will be directed by Donald Schleicher of the University of Illinois. Davis is a Senior at Rockwall-Heath High School

Courtesy photo/ Rockwall County News



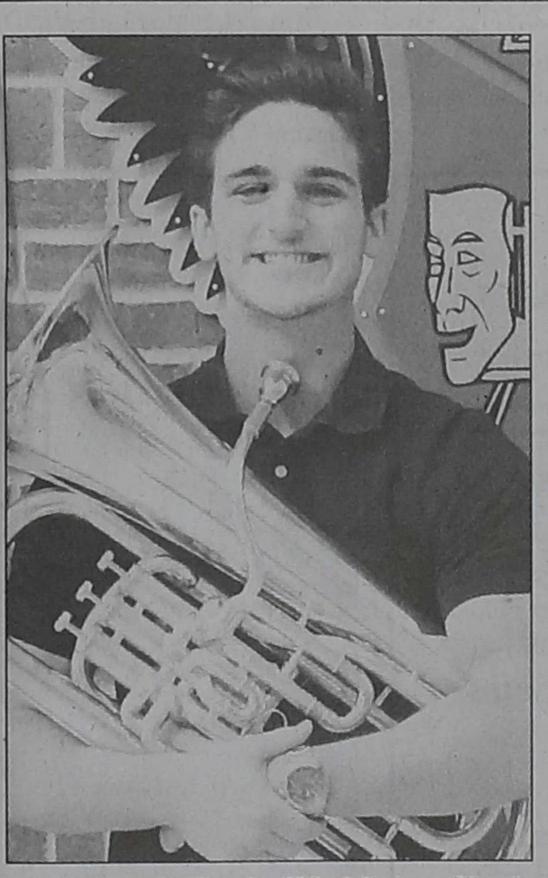
Makenzie Baird, Rockwall High School choir and Walk the Line member, recently earned a chair in the Texas Muisic Educators Association All-State Mixed Choir. She will sing second chair, first soprano. Conducted by Jonathan Reed (Michigan State University), the Mixed Choir will perform 12:00 p.m., Sat. Feb. 11, 2017, in the San Antonio Convention Center's Stars At Night Ballroom. Baird is a Junior at Rockwall High School.

Courtesy photo/ Rockwall County News



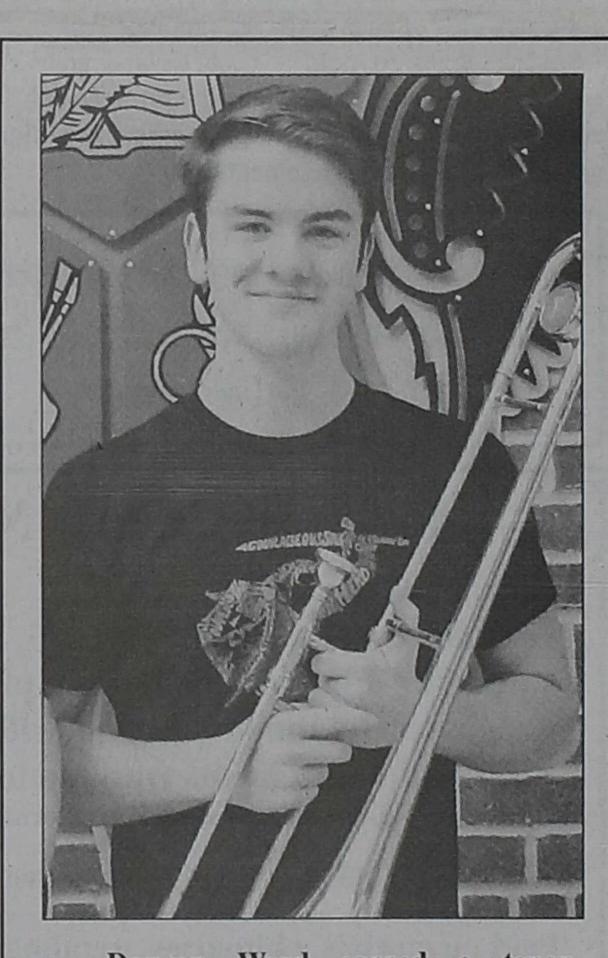
Rockwall-Heath High School choir member Charlton Anthony recently earned a chair in the Texas Music Educators Association All-State Mixed Choir. The Rockwall-Heath High School Senior will sing second chair, tenor 2 at the Convention in San Antonio. Under the direction of Conductor Janathan Reed (Michigan State University, the Mixed Choir is set to begin 12:00 p.m., Sat. Feb. 11, 2017, in the San Antonio Convention Center's Stars At Night Ballroom.

Courtesy photo/ Rockwall County News



Rockwall-Heath HS Mighty Hawk Band Member Tyler Burden (Sr) earned a chair in the Texas Music Educators Association All-State Band, Saturday, January 7. The All State Concert Band will perform 3:30 p.m., Sat. Feb. 11, 2017 in the Lila Cockrell Theater, and the Symphonic Band will begin 6:30 p.m., Sat., also in the same theater.

Courtesy photo/ Rockwall County News



Dawson Ward earned a tenor trombone chair in the Texas Music Educators Association All State Jazz Ensemble 1. Conducted by Denis DiBlasio (Rowan University), the group will perform 2:30 p.m., Sat. Feb. 11, 2017, in the Hemisfair Ballroom 1, at the San Antonio Convention Center's.

Courtesy photo/ Rockwall County News

University scholastic honors

Locals named to UNT President's, Dean's lists

Many local residents were among those named to the University of North Texas President's and Dean's lists for the fall semester, according to a news release from the Denton university.

President's List honorees include Shelby R. Kissane and Matthew A. Pelletier from Fate and Megan L. Burton, Erin Kathleen Connolly, Laurissa Ann Huffstetler, Josh T. Kinnear, Samantha Nicole McDanel, Erika Alaina Mendoza and Alec Allen Roberson of Royse City.

Also, Rockwall residents Peyton M. Aston, Diana Marisa Avila, Payton Wade Barker, Theresa Casillas, Brooke Christine Edsall, Jessica T. Gomez, Lauren Diane Ham, Soriah Vashti Hassanizadeh, Hannah Rhnea Hill, Jesse D. Jines, Marlena Kay Jordan, Jade Keath, Nicholas Mercado, Corinne Elise Miller, Samuel Abram Miramontes and Brooke Ashley Parent.

Rounding out the list of Rockwall residents were Shelby Lauren Plato, Regan Elizabeth Reeves, Alexandra K. Rhone, Holly Anne Romero, Caroline P. Sears, Rachel A. Shafer, Brandt R. Smith, Alyssa A. Stephens, Kennedy Lanae Thornton, Stuart Lamar Tollison and Jamie Nicole Wagoner.

To be named to the President's List, undergraduates must complete a minimum of 12 academic hours with a perfect 4.0 grade-point average.

Dean's List honorees include, from Fate, Collier Andrew Clark, Michelle Gomez, Haley R. Price, Lauren Renee Segura, Xavier

Spencer, Paige M. Williamson and Laura Nicole Yepez, and from Heath, Mikaiah Franklin Olsen.

Rockwall residents named to the list were Dylan Asher, Marco Armando Avila, Maeson Lynn Ballou, Briana Ilene Banuelos, Brianna E. Bell, Michael Bonfante, Kiala Ellese Brookins, Lauryn Louise Bruffett, Shana Marie Callirgos, Nia Cruz, Madison Ray Deaton, Aidan W. Demuth, Selena Yesenia Garcia, Matthew James Horner, Erin M. Howard, Curran Jordan Hubert, Josey Marie Jagielo, Hannah Milica Jelic, Dakota Johnson, Hollie Marie Kissane, Natalie E. Krusz, Emily P. Madie and Paola Alejandra Marroquin.

Also, Amanda Claire McMillan, Christopher James Morel, Thomas Austin Nelson, Aubree A. Norton, Haley Faith Pettit, Chad Loring Pflieger, Rebecca L. Powell, Dalia C. Rodriguez, Nicholas Anthony Rohrig, Megan Rose Scarnati, Candace L. Schmucker, Jessalyn Sparks, Ingrid Sivelez Stenvall, Kaitlyn E. Stoddart, Chelsea Lou Sumpon, Ashley Taylor, Huy Tran, Tyler Paul Fornberg and Payton L. Walker.

Royse City residents named to the Dean's List were Adam B. Bohn, Zaira Estefany Cruz, Robert T. Ehrlish, Victoria Ann Finley, Kendal Micaela Hall, Seraphina E. Martinez, Sabrina J.D. Reetz, Cierra Raejainae Richardson and Victoria E. Shaw.

To be named to the Dean's List, undergraduate students must complete at least 12 academic hours with a grade-point average of 3.5 to 3.9, according to the news release.

Rockwall County News Briefs

Rockwall Habitat needs volunteers

The Rockwall Habitat for Humanity is in need of volunteers – groups or individuals – to help out on Saturday mornings. There are many open dates on the calendar, so those interested should call 972-839-3046 to sign up. Groups should schedule in advance so work can be planned according to group size; individuals can let Habitat know the day before they plan to come. Current location is 801 Lamar (don't rely on technology; traveling north on South Goliad, turn right on East Ross Street and right on Lamar – look for the site at the end of the street).

RCP to offer children's acting workshop

The Rockwall Community Playhouse, located at 609 E. Rusk, two blocks off the square in downtown Rockwall, will offer a spring children's acting workshop beginning Feb. 5. Classes will take place Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tuition cost is \$150. For more details call 972-722-3399 or visit rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org.

Newcomers & Friends to meet Feb. 9

The Rockwall County Newcomers & Friends will meet at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 9, at Occasions at Stone River in Royse City. Luncheon reservations must be made by

(Continued on Page 3)



Rockwall County Obituaries

Dorothy Payne

Dorothy Payne, age 82 and a resident of Rockwall, Texas, for 39 years, passed away Jan. 21, 2017.

She was born July 4, 1934, in Montgomery, Louisiana, to Daniel Bennett Horn and Alma (Kieffer) Horn. Mrs. Payne, a member of First United Methodist Church in Rockwall, was an avid gardener and

cook whose greatest joy came from entertaining family and friends. She is survived by three daughters: Aprile Wicker and husband Cary, Karen Payne and Susan Bernal and husband, Ken; three grandchildren: Jake Wicker and wife, Kelly, Ben Wicker and wife, Janell, and Josh Bernal; seven great-grandchildren: Bailee, Clayton, Ryan May, Wyatt, Grayson, Casey and Emma; and one brother: Donald Horn.

She was preceded in death by her husband: Al Payne; brothers: Huey Horn and Frank Horn; and her parents: Dan and Alma Horn.

Funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2017, at the First United Methodist Church, 1200 E. Yellow Jacket Lane, Rockwall, with Dr. Joe Pool officiating. Interment will follow in the Rockwall Memorial Cemetery. The family will receive friends Tuesday evening at the funeral home from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Reyes declares as candidate for Rockwall City Council

Enid Reyes has announced her candidacy for the Rockwall City Council.

Reyes, a longtime resident of the City of Rockwall, said she will ensure that existing neighborhoods are revitalized, while new developments are sustainable for future generations, according to a statement in her news release.

"As Rockwall continues to experience rapid growth, it is critical that the city's first

responders, who play a vital role in the community, received support," said Reyes.

Enid Reyes

Reyes explained she has successfully facilitated collaborations between city governments, school districts, police departments, community and faith-based organizations and other targeted communities in order to strengthen neighborhoods, improve quality of life and promote an environment where businesses can prosper, according to the news release.

As a small business owner, Reyes owned a printing company and served as a senior administrative manager for a Dallas company. She holds experience in strategic planning, project implementation and budgeting.

Reyes serves in several local charities and has been awarded the Diversity Leadership Award from the Rockwall Independent School Orchard, Patrick Short and Robert Steinhagen. District.

"Rockwall is a beautiful and great city," Reyes said in the release. "There is a reason why so many people have moved to Rockwall. It is a city where one can work, play and retire. I will be a voice for the community and make sure that government runs efficiently by being good stewards of each taxpayer's money."

Reyes alleges to hold a bachelor's degree in communications and theology and has obtained certifications in small business administration, family literacy, conflict resolution, counseling and nonprofit business management.

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Local author Carter Hopkins was a recent guest at the Rockwall READERS (Rockwall's Eating and Drinking Especially Fun Reading Society) book group. Carter's debut book, "The Lincoln Prophecy," was selected as the group's January selection. The author was invited to discuss his book with the group and brought his wife, Amie, who happens to be the main character's love interest in the book. The book starts when Michael Riley, a constitutional law professor at SMU, witnesses a (fictional) murder during an early morning run in Rockwall. He's plunged into a high stakes game of cat and mouse where he must run for his life. Pictured, kneeling, is Carrie Varner; second row, Cindy Meyers, Charla Granberry, Amie Hopkins, the author, Terri White, Cathy Bys, Lynne Minter, Pat Granger, Susan Morris and Nancy Underwood; and, third row, Amy Dwyer, Dell Osborn, Pam Boswell and Nancy Griffith Courte'sy photo/Rockwall County News

Volunteer Fire Department rejects city payment, "political activity" stipulation

According to the minutes of the Tues. Nov. 15, 2017, McLendon-Chisholm City Council meeting, Chief Robert Jones of the McLendon-Chisholm Volunteer Fire Department informed the council members that the MCVFD unanimously rejected the City Council's revised proposed Fire Protection Contract.

The revised contract would provide the volunteer fire department with \$265,175 to include stipulations "political activity" of FD personnel. The contract with stipulations was proposed by Robert Steinhagen.

Following Chief Jones' presentation, the city council went into the closed meeting, and returned to vote unanimously for approval the Fire Protection Contract with the MCVFD as presented on Oct. 25, 2016 to include a revision to specify that payment would be made on Jan. 10, 2017.

The volunteer fire department accepts donations from the citizens of McLendon-Chisholm and the surrounding area.

Attending the Nov. 15 meeting were elected representatives Nathan Hodges (Mayor), Gary Lovell (Mayor Pro Tem), Jerry Klutts, Wayne

The council unanimously deferred action related to the minutes of Sept. 13, 27, Oct. 11, and Oct. 25, 2016, to the Dec. 13 meeting.

During the Dec. 13 meeting, the council unanimously approved the minutes of Sept. 13, 27, Oct. 11, Oct. 25, and deferred action for the minutes of Nov. 8 and Nov. 15 meetings.

In other business during the Nov. 15 meeting the council:

• Approved Resolution 1016-14R to amend the Master Fee Schedule adopted by Resolution 2016-13R. City Administrator Dave butler explained the item was in response to a resident contractor that the current \$150 fee for trade permits was too high, and recommended a reduction to \$100 permit fee.

During the Dec. 13, 2017 regular meeting, the council went into closed meeting for unstated reasons. The closed meeting occurred after the council discussed appointments to the Ad-Hoc Audit Review



Nebbie Williams Elementary School sixth-grade student Morgan Crosby (left), and first runner-up, Robby White (center), a fifth-grade student recently won the school's spelling bee. The school-wide spelling bee featured the top two spellers from each fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade classroom. The district spelling bee will take

place in February. Shown at right is Nebbie Williams Principal Lisa Gielow Courtesy photo/ **Rockwall County News**

Fate City Hall grand opening set Feb. 4

The grand opening for the City of Fate's new City Hall has been scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 4 according to information on the municipality's website.

The event is set for 11 a.m. The public is invited to attend. The offices for Planning & Development, Public Works and city administration relocated to the new building beginning on Monday, Jan. 23. Utility billing and Finance will continue to operate at the downtown office,

104 E. Fate Main Place, until Friday, Jan. 27. Beginning next week these offices will be operating from the few facility,

according to the city's website. The new facility is located at 1900 C.D. Boren Parkway.

Committee; appointments to the Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustments; and adopting an investment policy in accordance with the Public Funds Investment Act, Chapter 2256, Government Code. No action was taken after the closed session, and no action was take on the above mention items.

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In other business, the council:

• Approved the preliminary plat of the M-C Business Park Phase 1 addition consisting of 6.649 acres located south of SH 205 and west of FM 550 behind the Lone Star Ranch Shell, as requested by Rob Whittle of Mariah Bay Development, Inc.

• No action was taken on a proposal by Lee Roberts and Dave Ellis for the service of inspecting buildings. Following their presentation, the council agreed by "consensus" to ask them to return with another proposal using a different compensation structure.

• The council also heard a presentation by Ty Chapman, Business Unit Manager for the DFW Division of Bureau Veritas for the services of building inspections. Bureau Veritas Director of Operations Brad Huffaker and Area Manager Alan Merritt offered comments and fielded questions during the discussion. No action was taken.

The city did not publish Request for Proposals for building inspection service providers in accordance with state law.

• Heard comments from citizen Michael Davis, who spoke on behalf of Chisholm Crossing Phases I and II Homeowners Association Board. According to the minutes, Davis said the HOA Board was neutral on the preliminary plat scheduled for council consideration, related to Rob Whittle of Mariah Bay Development.

Council members attending the Dec. 13 meeting were Hodges, Lovell, Klutts, Orchard and Steinhagen. Absent from the meeting was Short.

Rockwall County News Briefs

(Continued from Page 1)

at 712-202-6916 or Cathy at 972-400-9934. This is a social organization for women who live in Rockwall County; new residents and women who have lived in the county for many years are welcome.

RCP plans 'Wedding Singer' auditions

The Rockwall Community Playhouse will host auditions for its upcoming production of "The Wedding Singer" beginning at 1 p.m. on Feb. 11. Dance auditions will be at 3 p.m. Auditions will continue at 7 p.m. on Feb. 12, with dance auditions set for 8 p.m. Performances will be conducted March 24-26 and 31 and April 1-2 and 7-9. For more details visit rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org or call 972-722-3399.

Friends of the Library luncheon set Feb. 14

The February Friends of the Rockwall Library luncheon will begin at 11 a.m. on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, in the library's Community Room, 1215 E. Yellow Jacket Lane. Speaker will be Jill Rumbley Beam, an event management professional and seniors recreation programmer for the Rowlett Parks & Rec Department. Her topic will be You're Not Getting Older, You're Getting Better. Lunch reservations are required, but lunch is optional. Lunch cost is \$20 and may be ordered by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 7, by contacting Leigh Plagens at cplagens65@aol.com or 972-771-8976. Payment will be required unless cancelled by deadline.

Early release set for RISD schools

The Rockwall ISD will observe early releases from schools on Feb. 22. Elementary students will be dismissed at noon; secondary school students will be released at 1 p.m., according to the district's website. Students will return to classes on Feb 23.

Rockwall's Got Talent registration ends Feb. 28

Registration is underway for Rockwall's Got Talent, sponsored by the Rockwall Community Playhouse. Prizes include \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second and \$250 for third. Auditions will be Saturday, March 4, by appointment only. Schedule at rockwallcommunityplayhouse@gmail.com or call 972-722-3399. Registration fee is \$20 per person. Deadline for entries is Feb. 28. Semi-finals are set for 7 p.m. on Friday, March 10; finals will take place at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 24. Tickets will cost \$10. Auditions and performances will be conducted at Utley Middle School's cafeteria, 1201 T.L. Townsend Drive, Rockwall.

(Continued on Page 4)

Rockwall County Entertainment

RISD to host Multi-cultural Celebration

The Rockwall ISD will host its annual Multi-cultural Celebration on Feb. 2. The event is designed to celebrate the diversity of cultures RISD students represent. For more information on the event, visit rockwall.esc11.net//site/Default.aspx?PageID=2&PageType=17&D omainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=1&EventDateID=53&CurrentVie w=month.

(Continued on Page 6)

There is no fear in love. But perfect love casts out fear. 1John 4:18

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On God's Word

by Timothy W. Burnett

Baby Jesus presented to the Lord ... Luke, Part 5

Following the events surrounding the angels and shepherds, Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to jerusalem, to present him to the Lord. This was done after Jesus was circumcised and Mary went through the purification process as described in the Laws from Moses.

Presenting Jesus to the Lord was a fulfillment of the words found in Exodus 13:2 and Numbers 18:15 which said, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord."

As a side note, this commandment was not meant only for one woman, but for all the women whose first-born child was a son. The term "open the womb" must absolutely refer to the woman's first child-birth experience.

Keep in mind that the couple was living under the Laws from Moses during that time. They loved God's will and followed His commandments faithfully.

It says they offered as a sacrifice two turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

While in Temple, they were approached by an elderly man named Simeon. It says it was revealed to him by the Holy Ghost that he would see the "Lord's Christ" before his death. So he waited patiently for that moment. And when they were nearby, he was led by the spirit of God into the Temple.

The term "Lord's Christ" is more accurately translated, "Lord's Messiah;" Messiah from the Creator on High with Highest authority.

Simeon took the baby Jesus in his hands and began to prophecy. Remember, the ability to prophecy is directly related to having holy spirit within. There's no other way to truly prophecy.

He said, "Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word: For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel."

The words about a light to lighten the Gentiles reflected a huge shift in future spiritual policy from on High, that was not understood during that time. The Gentiles were all other nations of people other than the people of Israel.

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It says that Joseph and Mary marvelled over what they heard from the mouth of God through His servant Simeon.

Notice how God was comforting and building up Joseph and Mary along the way. Anytime God joins a man and woman together in marriage, He is able to work mightily for them throughout their lives. These accounts are great examples of this truth.

Next, Simeon blessed Joseph and Mary and said to Mary, "Behold, this Child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yes, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Wow! Simeon was spiritually hot, and on track with God; and he even warned Mary about the day when her heart would be pierced. Let there be no mistaking of the piercing pain she must have experienced while watching her beloved son be reviled, railed, spit on, and finally nailed to a stake to die in front of his friends, family and enemies.

After encountering Simeon, the couple met Anna, who was identified as the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser. It says she was a prophetess, which meant she had the Holy Ghost upon her.

She had been a widow for nearly 44 years, and was married without children for nearly seven years from her years as a young woman. She served God day and night with fasting and prayers. This is a beautiful statement about what it means to serve God. It starts and continues with prayers day and night.

It says she came in to the Temple and gave thanks to the Lord God, and spoke of the Lord Jesus to all who looked for the redemption, the Messiah in Jerusalem.

After the couple performed all these things, they returned to Nazareth; and the child grew, and waxed strong, filled with wisdom:

and the grace of God his Father was upon him. These accounts can be found in Luke 2:21-40.

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Member Texas Press Association



Springer Stallions participated in a campaign to collect sock donations for the homeless. The sock drive was inspired by the Dr. Seuss book "Fox in Socks," which was featured in the school's recent third grade musical, "Open a Book." Pictured above, from the left, are Edrick Tuttle, Symone Gary, Alaina Collins and Shawn Gary. Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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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;"

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Everyone is invited to attend the "SAVING AMERICA THROUGH PRAYER" event, on the second Sunday of each month, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at Rockwall Bible Church located at the corner of Hwy 66 and Zion Circle, west of FM 3549, in Rockwall. The free event will include guest speakers. This is not church affiliated, and is open to everyone interested. For more information contact Mike Kennedy (972) 998-2680 or Kenneth Shores (214) 334-1206 or Jerry Minx (972) 896-7081

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Rockwall County News

Rockwall County Auditor

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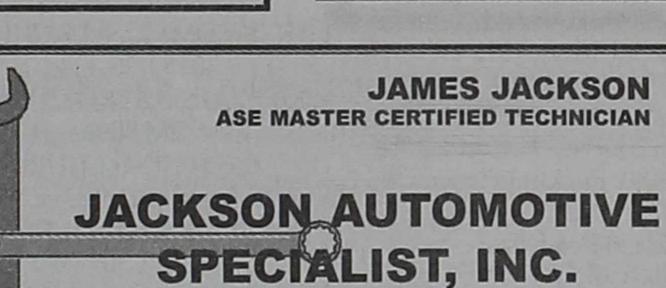
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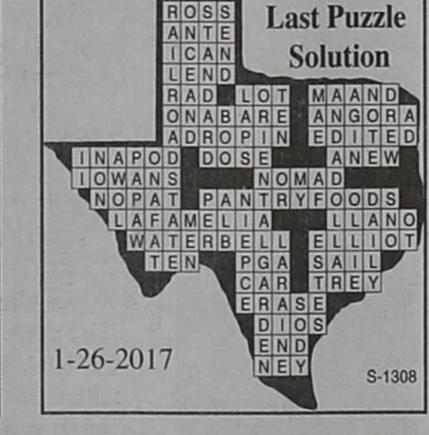
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TWC malenforcement of Unemployment **Compensation Act**

The below information is offered for all people, and/or companies created under the laws of the 52 states, who are targets of the

Texas Workforce Commission related to an alleged "State" Unemployment Tax.

Texas Constitution Article 1 Section 16

No bill of attainder, ex post facto law, retroactive law, or any law impairing the obligation of contracts, shall be made.

The practice of forcing businesses and people to purchase an Unemployment Compensation Insurance plan constitutes "impairing obligation of contracts."

The practice of enforcing a non-existent Texas Unemployment "Tax" constitutes administrative making of law. The Texas Comptrollers office can verify the existance of a Texas Unemployment Tax.

Federal Unemployment Tax Act

The TWC's enforcement scope is narrowly limited to underlying scope of the Federal Unemployment Tax Act. The scope of the federal tax is limited to entities that are required by District of Columbia Law, Common Wealth of Puerto Rico Law, Virgin Islands Law, to make payment into an unemployment fund.

Said entities may include Federal Instrumentalities, joint stock companies or joint stock associations, created under the laws of the above stated political bodies, that are engaged in statutory "employment" activity on the soil of Texas.

See Tx. Labor Code Section 201.101 (federal conformity clause) & 26 U.S.C. 3306 (c), (g), and (j)(1 & 2). The narrow scope of the Federal Unemployment Tax Act may be found by applying the definitions of the terms "State" and "United States" found in subsection (j), to the respective definitions in (c) "employment" and (g) "contributions."

All people are encouraged to contact their Texas Senator and:

1. Demand a full and exhaustive Legislative investigation and Attorney General Assessment of the Texas Workforce Commission to determine whether the agency has repeatedly engaged in illegal malenforcement practices against people and companies that do not fall within the narrow scope of the federal act, in direct violation of Texas Constitution Article 1 Section 16; and

2. Demand the Texas Governor to appoint a special Texas Rangers Task Force to launch a criminal investigation of each Commissioner, Lary Temple (Director), Lasha Lenzy (Director Unemployment Compensation), and all state officers in the Tax and Regulatory Integrity Divisions.

The Texas Rangers are authorized to charge each commissioner, director, and enforcement officer with criminal offenses of Official Oppression and Abuse of Official Capacity under Texas Penal Code Chapter 39, with intent to commit fraud and extortion as representatives of the State of Texas.

Royse City Police Blotter Jan. 13-19

• Friday, 13 Jan.: Alarm, 400 block W. I-30 NSR; Medical assistance, 1200 block N. Houston Street; Alarm, 2800 block Redwood Street; Theft, 700 block FM 2642; Disturbance, 300 block Cookston Lane; Suspicious person, 1200 block Maverick Lane; Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound near the 73-mile marker; Assault arrest, 1000 block Pullen Street; Mesquite Police Department's warrants arrest, I-30 NSR at the 77-mile marker; Two possessions of drug paraphernalia, Area of Erby Campbell Boulevard and Skelton Street; Possession of drug paraphernalia, Area of FM 35

• Saturday, 14 Jan.: Disturbance, 1500 block Redman Drive; Assault, 900 block W. I-30 NSR; Medical assistance, 1100 block N. Houston Street; Alarm, 2800 block Redwood Street; Suspicious person, I-30 SSR near FM 548; Accident, I-30 westbound near the 77B exit; Welfare concern, 400 block W. I-30 NSR; Medical assistance, 700 block Valley Court; Suspicious vehicle, Area of Bell Street; Suspicious vehicle, 500 block Bell Street; Suspicious person, 500 block May Street; Welfare concern, 1800 block Green Terrace Drive; Noise disturbance, 700 block Nancy Drive; Noise disturbance, 300 block Rustic Meadow Drive; Driving while intoxicated/Public intoxication arrests, 100 block E. I-30 SSR; Two possessions of drug paraphernalia, Area of Creek Drive and FM 35

• Sunday, 15 Jan.: Medical assistance, 1700 block Kelly Lane; Suspicious person, 700 block Valley Court; Noise disturbance, 1100 block Falcon Court; Medical assistance, 2800 block Redwood Street

• Monday, 16 Jan.: Suspicious person, 900 block E. I-30 SSR; Suspicious person, 400 block W. I-30 NSR; Alarm, 100 block E. Old Greenville Road; Accident, 100 block W. I-30 NSR; Alarm, 900 block Erby Campbell Boulevard; Medical assistance, 1800 block Meadowlark Lane; Suspicious person, 300 block Cookston Lane; Accident, I-30 eastbound near the 81-mile marker; Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound near the 74-mile marker; Suspicious person, Area of Lavon Court and Lakes Drive; Medical assistance, 1500 block Hafner Drive; Four curfew violations, W. I-30 NSR near Erby Campbell Boulevard

• Tuesday, 17 Jan.: Medical assistance, 200 block Brookhaven Circle; Suspicious person, 100 block Erby Campbell Boulevard; Suspicious vehicle, Area of Preston Drive and Silverleaf Court; Welfare concern, Area of E. I-30 and FM 2642; Murder, 1400 block Laurel Lane; Burglary of a motor vehicle, 1500 block Audrey Drive; Burglary of a residence, 700 block Kim Lane; Reckless driver, I-30 eastbound near the 76-mile marker; Suspicious person, Area of Loganwood Drive; Forgery of a financial instrument, 500 block W. I-30 NSR; 911 hang up, 400 block W. I-30 NSR; Burglary of a motor vehicle, 200 block E. I-30 SSR; Noise disturbance, Area of Falcon Court; Suspicious vehicle, 3200 block Spruce Street; Welfare concern, 800 block Nancy Drive; Possession of drug paraphernalia, Area of I-30 SSR and Erby Campbell Boulevard

• Wednesday, 18 Jan.: Medical assistance, 1300 block E. Hwy 66; Forgery of a financial instrument, 100 block E. I-30 SSR; Alarm, 200 block Hidden Creek Court; Welfare concern, 200 block W. County Line Road; Reckless driver, I-30 westbound from the 86-mile marker; Alarm, 300 block Sandy Lane; Medical assistance, 200 block W. County Line Road; Collin County Sheriff's Office warrant arrest, 1700 block Kelly Lane

• Thursday, 19 Jan.: Suspicious vehicle, 700 block FM 2642; Suspicious vehicle, 100 block E. I-30 SSR; Suspicious vehicle, 300 block Howard Street; Accident, 700 block FM 2642; Burglary of a motor vehicle, 400 block Briaroaks Drive; Alarm, 1500 block Redman Drive; Welfare concern, Area of I-30 NSR and FM 2642; Medical assistance, 100 block E. I-30 SSR; Accident, Area of I-30 NSR and Erby Campbell Boulevard; Medical assistance, 800 block Valley Court; Criminal mischief, 700 block FM 2642; Welfare concern, 300 block Cookston Lane; Royse City Police Department's warrants arrest, 500 block Rustic Meadows Drive; Rockwall County Sheriff's Office warrants arrest, 500 block Baldwin Street; Assault/Public intoxication arrest, 600 block Skelton Street; Assault, 300 block Medina Court

Rockwall County News Briefs

(Continued from page 2)

RISD spring break schedule outlined

The Rockwall ISD will be closed March 13-17 for spring break, according to the district's website. All school and offices will be closed. Staff and students will return to campuses on Monday, March 20.

Vendors sought for Country Fair in June

The Rockwall Soroptimists are accepting applications for vendors for their fourth annual Country Fair from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, June 10, at the Rockwall County Courthouse, 1111 E. Yellow Jacket Lane. Admission will be free to the public. Live music, dancing, vendors, food, a kid zone, rides and vintage games are planned. Sign-ups will be first-come, first-served and sponsorships also are available. Proceeds will fund the Soroptimists' ongoing projects benefitting women and children, including the Children's Advocacy Center of Rockwall. For more details or to sign up visit rockwallcountryfair.com.

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Opinions

Economic ideas: David Ricardo on wealth, inflation, and freedom

by Richard Ebeling

Future Freedom Foundation

David Ricardo (1772-1823) was one of the most influential economic theorists of the first half of the nineteenth century. Born in London, England, his father's family were orthodox Jews originally from Portugal who had moved to England from Holland. His father was a highly successful stockbroker. David Ricardo learned the family business, and most likely would have inherited it from his father.

But he fell in love with an English Quaker, converted from Judaism to Christianity, and at the age of 21 eloped without his family's knowledge. His father disowned him and his mother never spoke to him again. He, therefore, had to go out on his own and set up his own brokerage company. He soon showed himself to be an expert at all financial and brokerage dealings. Making a fortune, including dealing in British government securities during Britain's long war with Revolutionary and then Napoleonic France, Ricardo retired from business in his early 40s to an estate in the English countryside.

Ricardo became interested in economics when he read Adam Smith's The Wealth of Nations during a holiday in 1799. He began to write on economic topics in 1809 with a series of articles and a monograph on the causes for inflation in Great Britain that gained him wide notoriety.

The publication of The Principles of Political Economy and Taxation in 1817 soon established his permanent reputation as one of the leading economists in the world.

He also served as a member of the House of Commons in the British Parliament from 1819 until his death in 1823, when he was 52 years old.

Ricardo's Method of Making Money

What was Ricardo's "secret" for success in business? Shortly before his death, a friend asked how he had been able to accumulate such a large fortune when he was still a relatively young man. Ricardo said it was all a matter of taking advantage of profit opportunities, while not waiting too long to gain the positive return:

"My whole art in getting rich lay in my always being contented with small profits; or, in other words, never holding on to the commodities or goods in my possession too long, when small profits could be had, in an ill-grounded expectation of realizing eventually a higher rate of profit. I had my eyes, for example, upon every new road, bank, or other joint stock concern, and, where I deemed the prospect of success to be a fair one, I was ever ready to buy a certain number of shares. These shares, from the nature of all new undertaking of a joint-stock character, seldom failed, after a short time, to rise in value beyond the point about which they would afterwards have a tendency to fluctuate. Before the full accomplishment of this rise, however, my shares were in most instances already disposed of to others, and the proceeds invested in a different manner."

This resulted in a reputation as a shrewd businessman who others attempted to emulate, often following his buying and selling to try to ride on his profit-making coattails. Explained Ricardo:

"It was then that a new element of success was spontaneously presented to me. Many persons, who had heretofore been unsuccessful in acting on the suggestions of their own judgments, preferred now to be guided in their speculations by what they supposed me to be doing. My example was continually referred to on change. One said not infrequently to another – 'Mr. Ricardo has purchased this and that article or stock, and depend on it, you cannot do better.' In this state of things, it must be manifest that I may often have created that very demand that enabled me to dispose of the article purchased, with a small profit, only a very short time afterwards. At length, such had my reputation as a successful speculator become, that I had sometimes thought it possible for me to have gone into the market and purchased at random, no matter what, with a good prospect of advantage to be gained by selling out again promptly."

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War, Government Debt and Paper Money Inflation

Ricardo's reputation as an economist emerged out of his writings during the long war that broke out between Great Britain and Revolutionary France in 1793, and which was almost continuous until 1815, with the defeat of Napoleon in the famous Battle of Waterloo in Belgium.

The British government's war costs increasingly grew to cover the expenses of its own fighting forces, and the subsidized war expenditures of other European countries that were fighting France, as well, at various times. By 1797, the British government was covering over 70 percent of its expenditures with borrowed money from the Bank of England, a private bank with the "privilege" of having a monopoly of issuing banknotes in Great Britain.

The Bank of England supplied the necessary loans by the issuance of increasing amounts of banknotes. As the government spent the banknotes, the paper money passed into the hands of people in the private sector, who proceeded to spend it, in turn, on desired goods and services. Prices began to rise, resulting in a growing demand to redeem the banknotes for gold from the Bank of England by people wishing to either hoard valuable gold rather than hold depreciating paper money or to export gold to buy less expensive goods from other countries.

Fearing insolvency, or even eventual bankruptcy, the Bank of England said it could no longer extend loans to the government under these conditions. As a consequence, the British government passed the Restriction Act of May 3, 1797, freeing the Bank of England from redeeming banknotes for gold. The banknotes, therefore, were no longer claims to gold previously left on deposit by bank customers, but were de facto legal tender – irredeemable paper money.

The Restriction Act of 1797 remained in affect until May 1, 1823. During the remaining war years, the government continued borrowing from the Bank of England. Between 1797 and 1801, the quantity of Bank of England notes in circulation had almost doubled from 9.7 million to nearly 17 million. The value of the paper pound fell nearly 10 percent against gold, while the foreign exchange rate of the paper pound lost more than 13 percent of its value.

The supply of Bank of England notes continued to expand until 1817, two years after the defeat of Napoleon and the end of the wars with France, when it reached nearly 30 million, three times the money supply twenty years earlier when the Restriction Act had been imposed. The Bank of England notes reached their greatest degree of loss of value against gold in 1813, when it had decreased by 36 percent; that same year saw the foreign exchange value of the paper pound down by 30 percent on the Hamburg exchange market. The gold and foreign exchange value of the paper pound only returned to near par value in 1819

Between 1819 and 1823, the British government ran budget surpluses, paid back many of the banknotes it had borrowed bringing about a monetary deflation, until the implementing of the Resumption Act of May 1, 1823 that again put Great Britain on a gold standard by legally requiring the Bank of England to redeem its notes for gold on demand.

Controversies Concerning the Cause of Inflation

From the time of the Restriction Act of 1797 to the Resumption Act of 1823, a great debate went on in Great Britain about the causes for

the depreciation of the paper pound and the rise in prices. On the one hand, the officials of the Bank of England and its supporters insisted that the price inflation it had nothing to do with the issuance of banknotes to cover the government's war borrowing.

It was insisted that the paper pound's fall in value was due to: A shortage of goods caused by the war; speculators betting against the pound in terms of Great Britain winning the wars with France; and, the demand for foreign goods, which created a "premium" on gold and other currencies relative to the paper pound.

On the other hand, there were those who traced the fall in the paper pound's value precisely to the increase in the quantity of Bank of England notes in circulation.

It was argued that: The increase in the banknote supply put upward pressure on domestic prices; this resulted in profitability from importing less expensive foreign goods; greater amounts of paper pounds were offered for either gold (to hoard or illegally export), or for foreign currencies in whose monies goods could be purchased in other countries for import into Great Britain; hence, the increased quantity of paper pounds caused prices to rise at home, and for the paper pound to lose value against gold and other currencies on the foreign exchange markets.

Ricardo on the "High Price of Bullion"

Ricardo took the side of those who argued that the price inflation had its origin and cause in the expansion of the banknote money supply to cover the British government's war expenditures. In 1809, he published his famous essay, "The High Price of Bullion," and explained the workings of the inflationary process:

"If . . . a bank were established, such as the Bank of England, with the power of issuing its notes for a circulating medium; after a large amount had been issued, either by way of loans to merchants or by advances to Government, thereby adding considerably to the sum of the currency, the effect [would be that] . . . the circulating medium would be lowered in value, and goods would experience a proportionate rise. The equilibrium between that and other nations would only be restored by the exportation of part of the [gold or silver] coin. The establishment of the bank, and the consequent issue of its notes, therefore . . . operate as an inducement to the exportation of either bullion or coin . . .

"It is evident, then, that a depreciation of the circulating medium is the necessary consequence of its redundance [i.e., its excess, increased supply]; and that in the common state of the national currency this depreciation is counteracted by the exportation of the precious metals

"Parliament by restricting the Bank from paying in specie, have enabled the conductors of that concern [the managers of the Bank of England] to increase or decrease at pleasure the quantity and amount of their notes; and the previously existing checks against an over-issue [i.e., gold redemption on demand] having been thereby removed, those conductors have acquired the power of increasing or decreasing the value of the paper currency . . . There can be no limit to the depreciation which may arise from a constantly increasing quantity of paper .

. . Every increase in its quantity degrades it below the value of gold and silver bullion, and below the value of the currencies of other countries."

Gold Redemption and Monetary Deflation

Ricardo's policy proposal was to restore gold redemption to end the Bank of England's unlimited ability to expand the supply of paper pounds. But realizing the need for an "adjustment period" if prices were to be brought down to their former, pre-inflationary level with minimal economic disruption, he proposed a gradual reduction in the money supply over a period of years.

"The remedy which I propose for all the evils in our currency, is that the Bank [of England] should gradually decrease the amount of their notes in circulation until they have rendered the remainder of equal value with the coins they represent, or in other words, till the prices of gold and silver be brought back to the Mint price.

"I am well aware that the total failure of paper credit [a rapid decrease in the quantity of banknotes] would be attended with the most disastrous consequences to the trade and commerce of the country, and even its sudden limitation would occasion so much ruin and distress, that it would be highly inexpedient to have recourse to it as the means of restoring our currency to its just and equitable value . . .

If gradually done, little inconvenience would be felt; so that the principle were fairly admitted, it would be for future consideration whether the object should be accomplished in one year or in five.

"To prevent the evil consequences which may attend the perseverance in this system, we must keep our eyes steadily on the repeal of the restriction bill. The only legitimate security which the public can possess against the indiscretion of the Bank [of England] is to oblige them to pay their notes on demand in specie [gold]; and this can only be effected by diminishing the amount of bank notes in circulation till the nominal price of gold be lowered to the Mint price."

Ricardo, therefore, was well aware that a monetary contraction could also, like a monetary expansion, distort and temporarily imbalance various market relationships through the period of falling prices meant to raise the value of the paper currency to its previous gold parity level for reestablishing redemption at the old rate of banknotes for a fixed quantity of gold.

If the degree of depreciation had fallen by 30 percent or more from its previous par value, Ricardo suggested that it would be better to reestablish gold redemption at a new lower rate, rather than generate the degree of price deflation necessary to restore the old parity. In a letter to a parliamentary associate, in September 1821, Ricardo said:

"I perceive that you rather misconceive my opinions on this question – I never should advise a government to restore a currency, which was depreciated 30 percent to par; I should recommend, as you propose, but not in the same manner, that the currency should be fixed at the depreciated value by lowering the standard, and that no further deviations should take place."

But as a factual matter, Ricardo went on to say, when the paper pound was still protected by the Restriction Act of 1797, it had returned by 1819 to within five percent of the pre-restriction parity. Thus, the amount of monetary contraction needed to return to full parity was, he argued, a relatively small amount to reinstitute gold redemption.

Ricardo on Democratic Reform and a Free Press

Ricardo was also a strong proponent of civil liberties and the security of private property rights. This was shown most clearly in his post-humously published "Observations on Parliamentary Reform" (1824). He was an advocate of widening the voting franchise for election of representatives to the British House of Commons. Ricardo considered it a source of corruption and abuse of power when the landed aristocracy not only made up the membership of upper House of Lords, but also controlled and manipulated those who were members in the House of Commons.

An essential check against this one-sided concentration of power and privilege, Ricardo reasoned, was to have the House of Commons the reflect a far greater number of voters among the general society, and especially from the middle class. He did not call for an immediate universal suffrage, but considered that that might be the eventual goal as all.

learning and understanding of the essential institutions of a free society grew among the general population.

But regardless of a narrower or wider extension of the voting franchise, a free society was unsustainable without an independent and free press. Said Ricardo:

"The check on this government, which operates on behalf of the people, is the good sense and information of the people themselves, operating through the means of a free press, which controls not only the Sovereign and his Ministers, but the Aristocracy, and the House of Commons, which is under its influence.

"Every transaction of the great functionaries of the state is, by means of the press, conveyed in two days to the extremities of the kingdom, and the alarm is sounded if any measure is adopted, or even proposed, which might in its tendency be hurtful to the community.

"This check, then, like others that we have been speaking of, resolves itself into the fear which government and the aristocracy have of an insurrection by the people, by which their power would be overturned, and which alone keeps them within the bounds which now appear to arrest them.

"The press, amongst an enlightened and well-informed people, is a powerful instrument to prevent misrule, because it can quickly organize a formidable opposition to any encroachment on the people's

But Ricardo admitted that often people are not easily aroused to pay attention to every possible unjustifiable extension of government abuse and misuse of its power. The only way to remedy the frequency of such actions by those in political authority and decision-making was to allow more of the people, themselves, to participate in the voting process to assure a greater accountability of those holding political power to those who they are supposed to represent, for the protection of people's rights rather than a violation of them.

Under the existing parliamentary system in Great Britain, Ricardo declared:

"In spite of the thunders of the press men continue to be placed in parliament whose interests are often in direct variance with the interest of the people. The offices of state, and the lucrative situations under government, are not bestowed according to merit; bad laws continue to disgrace our statute-book; and good ones are rejected, because they would interfere with particular interests – wars are entered into for the sake of private advantage, and the nation is borne down with great and unnecessary expenditures . . .

"Nothing can be effectual to that purpose [of more honest and less abusive government] but placing the check in a more regular manner in the people, by making the House of Commons really and truly the representative of the people."

Ricardo on the Importance of Private Property in a Free Society

A primary argument made by those opposing any significant increase in democratic participation by "the people" was that the ignorant and impassioned masses could easily by aroused by demagogies and potential tyrants to pillage and plunder the private property of others, thus threatening the foundations of society.

Ricardo did not deny this, and for this reason he was unwilling, as yet, to extend the voting franchise to all. But he believed that anyone who had accumulated even the most modest amount of property could be made to understand that there would be little personal gain to him by expropriating and dividing up the wealth and property of those better off than himself. Indeed, reflection should make him conscious of the fact that any redistributive scheme that disposed of the property and wealth of others, once accepted as a principle, might be at anytime extended to threaten his own ownership and possessions.

Furthermore, education and intelligent reflection by a growing number of people in society should inform them that to undermine the security of property would weaken the motives and incentives for the work, savings and investment without which all in the society would be made far worse off. Private property and private enterprise were the foundations of a prosperous society. Explained Ricardo:

"The quantity of employment in the country must depend, not only on the quantity of capital, but upon its advantageous distribution [among alternative productive uses], and above all, on the conviction of each capitalist that he will be allowed to enjoy unmolested the fruits of his capital, his skill, and his enterprise.

"To take away from him this conviction is at once to annihilate half the productive industry of the country, and would be more fatal to the poor laborer than to the rich capitalist himself. This is so self-evident, that men very little advanced beyond the lowest stations in the country cannot be ignorant of it, and it may be doubted whether any large number even of the lowest would, if they could, promote a division of property."

Ricardo's sided on almost every Parliamentary issues with the cause of liberalization of markets and support for personal liberty won him respect from virtually members in the House of Commons, even those who disagreed with him. As Henry Lord Brougham expressed it not long after Ricardo's death:

"His speaking, his conduct, his manner, were all unexceptionable.

There was something about him, chiefly a want of all affectation as well as pretension in everything he said and did, that won the respect of every party...

"Whether you agreed or differed with him, you were well pleased to have it brought out and made to bear upon the question, if indeed the pursuit of right and truth was your object . . . He was uniformly and universally respected for the sterling qualities of his capacity and his character, which were acknowledged by all . . . Few men have, accordingly, had more weight in Parliament; certainly none who, finding but a very small body of his fellow-members to agree with his leading opinions . . . ever commanded a more patient or even favorable hearing."

David Ricardo and the Classical Liberal Spirit

After almost two hundred more years of human history, friends of freedom may consider naïve David Ricardo's confident innocence that a free press never might be corrupted or serve narrow ideological purposes inconsistent with the preservation of liberty; or that the educated and property-owning members of society, great and small, might never see avenues and advantages from violating the possessions and freedom of others for their own purposes through the democratic process.

But nonetheless, what is clear is that David Ricardo was a representative of the classical liberal spirit in the early decades of the nineteenth century. Political power needed to be reined in to prevent abuse through competing sources of influence and power in society.

Essential to this was a free press serving as a public watchdog investigating and reporting on the plundering and privileges of those in government. Democratic representation was a means of making those holding political office answerable to those over whom they ruled. And property ownership among a growing number of members of society could and should be used as an educational meanings of informing them on the importance of respecting private property and a free market, both as a protection of their own rights and productive possessions and as the institutional prerequisite for the wealth and prosperity of



The Rockwall Community Playhouse, 609 E. Rusk (two blocks off the square in downtown Rockwall) will present "Love, Loss and What I Wore," in performances set for Feb. 10-12, 17-19 and 24-26. Pictured above are cast members Joetta Curie, Abby McKinney, Randy Wiley, Terry McBay, Ashley Reeves, Marie Bull, Deb Ballard, Darlene Singleton, Nancy Archibald, Stephanie Cearley, Monica Phillips and Cathryn Harris. The production is a "touching series of monologues covering relationships, wardrobes and the music of the time, using the female wardrobe as a time capsule of a woman's life story." Friday and Saturday shows will be at 8 p.m., Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets will cost \$20 (general admission), \$15 for seniors and may be purchased at the box office a half-hour prior to show time, online at rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org or by calling 972-722-3399.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

Pruitt seeks re-election as Rockwall mayor

County Judge.

government," he said.

Rockwall Mayor Jim Pruitt has filed for re-election to his mayoral seat in the May city elections.

Pruitt, 60, has served as Rockwall mayor since December 2014. Prior to becoming mayor he served on the Rockwall City Council as a councilman and as mayor pro-tem.

"I have been honored to serve as mayor of this vibrant community. I am extremely proud of our hometown and all that we have been able to accomplish together," Pruitt said in a news release. "I look forward to working with each of you to continue making Rockwall a great place to live, work and play."

A fiscal conservative, Pruitt said in the news release announcing his candidacy that officials must concentrate on fiscal responsibility.

"I am proud that I was part of the last two city councils that decreased the tax rate paid by our citizens in each of the past two years," he said. "I assure you that I will work hard to continue this conservative trend."

Pruitt has been active in city issues for a number of years and serves on the Rockwall Emergency Services Corporation, the Rockwall County Road Consortium and the Rockwall Airport Board.

This will be the incumbents first candidacy for the mayor position.

Rockwall County basketball update

The Lady Jackets defeated Rockwall-Heath Lady Hawks 58-40, Fri. Jan. 20, 2017, at the RHHS gym.

According to Coach Lacey Yankie, leading scorers for Rockwall were Alena Johnston with 17 points, Jordan Mathis with 13 points, Haley Hicks with 11 points, and Faith Mason-Vestal with 10 points.

Mya Culiver had 9 assists. The Lady Jackets are 7-2 in district. The Rockwall Junior Varsity team won 53-16 against RHHS. With a team effort in scoring, Mikki Witcher lead the way with 11 points. The team is 8-0 in district.

The Lady Jackets Freshman team defeated Rockwall-Heath 44-10. With everyone scoring, Emma Stelzer led with 13 points. The Freshmen are 8-0 in district.

On Tues. Jan. 17, the Lady Jackets defeated John Tyler 62-47 at the

Leading scorers were Jordan Mathis with 19 points, Alena Johnston with 16 points, and Faith Mason-Vestal with 13 points.

Mya Culiver had 10 assists. JV won 39-8. Scoring was Mikki Witcher with 15 points. We are

7-0 in district. The Rockwall Yellowjackets traveled to John Tyler, Tues. Jan. 17,

to continue district play. According to Coach Josh Goellner the Varsity, who was losing most of the game, exploded with 32 fourth quarter points for a 66-63

dramatic come-back win. Sam Williamson led all scorers with 24 points, followed by Cameron

Crayton with 14 points, and Alec Grandstaff's 12 points. The Freshmen B team won 38-34, and the A team dropped 35-36

close to the end of play.

Sat., 1/28

Chisholm Trail.

Tues., 1/31

Lee at RHS.

Lee.

at WSS.

The JV boys fell to John Tyler 43-65.

Sports schedule

Rockwall HS

5:30 p.m., Gymnastics v. Hi-

6:30 p.m., Basketball (women)

7:00 p.m., Bskb (men) at Lon-

7:15 p.m., Soccer (w) at Roc-

7:15 p.m., Scr (m) v. RHHS at

8:00 a.m., Tennis, Frozen Ball

Varsity All day tour at Wilk-

ghland Park and Lakeview at

Thurs., 1/26,

RHS.

gview.

Courts.

Fri., 1/27

kwall-Heath.

RHS turf field.

v. Longview at RHS.

6:00 p.m., Wrestling at Hi-

ghland Park. 6:30 p.m., Bskb (w) v. John Tyler at RHHS.

7:00 p.m., Bskb (m) at John Tyler.

Sat., 1/28

9:00 a.m., Wrestling at Highland Park.

Tues., 1/31 6:30 p.m., Bskb (w) at Mes-7:15 p.m., Scr (m) at Lonquite Horn.

quite at RHHS.

gview. **Rockwall-Heath**

9:00 a.m., Wrestling, Quad at

6:30 p.m., Bskb (w) v. Tyler

7:00 p.m., Bskb (m) at Tyler

7:15 p.m., Scr (w) v. Longview

Thurs., 1/26

6:00 p.m., Gym, Saginaw HS Optional.

Fri., 1/27 5:30 p.m., Scr (w) v. Rockwall erson-Sanders Stadium Tennis at RHHS.

Mesquite Memorial Stadium. 7:15 p.m., Scr (m) v. North Mesquite at RHHS.

7:00 p.m., Bskb (m) v. Mes-

7:15 p.m., Scr (w) at North

the citizens will do me the honor of allowing me to continue serving in a position that I love." [Publisher's note: Based on research by the Rockwall County

Pruitt was sworn in as mayor after the previous Mayor David Sweet

was elected, during the November 2014 election, to serve as Rockwall

"It is important that citizens know that they have a voice in their

He has additionally spent time outlining his specific vision for

the future, which includes increasing the size and quality of new

homes; continuing to focus on improving roads and transportation;

emphasizing parks and recreation programs; and encouraging more

Pruitt practices family law and mediation. He is married to Rockwall

"I am so proud to be the mayor of this great city," he said. "I hope

County District Attorney Kenda Culpepper and has four children.

residents to get involved in city volunteer opportunities.

News, Pruitt has allowed City Manager Richard Crowley to release tax dollars as payments for alleged publication of required notices without confirming whether the selected newspaper is published in Rockwall, or in Rockwall County. Texas Gov. Code Section 2051.048 requires the City to publish each required notice in a newspaper that is published in the same City or County where the City is locate; and Section 2051.044 requires the City to select a newspaper that holds a USPS Second Class Periodical Permit in the City where the selected newspaper is published.]

Rockwall Fire Department to offer basic life support

The Rockwall City Council has voted to move forward with a limited First Responder Organization program to enhance services to citizens, according to a news release from the city.

Rockwall firefighters soon will provide additional basic life support through the new FRO program. This will help with delivering critical care on major medical and trauma calls where time is of the essence.

The City Council's approval of additional personnel in the fiscal year 2017 budget and an increased minimum staffing of two firefighters per fire station allows for this expansion of services. Preparations including training with the EMS provider on medical protocols and other work required to formally become a state registered first responder are currently underway.

"We're happy to be able to provide this expanded level of service," Rockwall Fire Chief Mark Poindexter said in the release. "We believe this move will help us make a difference in the overall safety and welfare of the residents of Rockwall."

The primary EMS response for the area still will be offered by a provider through contract with the Rockwall County Emergency Services Corporation.

The Rockwall Fire Department plans to begin performing first responder services this summer, according to the release.

Royse City HS

Fri., 1/27 7:00 p.m., Bskb (w) at North

Forney.

7:00 p.m., Bskb (m) v. North Forney at RCHS.

7:00 p.m., Scr (m) v. Forney at RCHS. 7:15 p.m., Scr (w) at Forney.

Tues., 1/31 7:00 p.m., Bskb (w) v. North Mesquite at RCHS.

7:00 p.m., Bskb (m) at Mesquite Poteet. 7:00 p.m., Scr (m) at Wylie

East. 7:15 p.m., Scr (w) v. Wylie East at RCHS.

Amy Parks-Heath to honor vets, active duty personnel

The Amy Parks-Heath Elementary School Starlight Singers will honor U.S. veterans and active duty servicemen and women at their 18h Annual USO Show Feb. 3-4.

The show will feature music from the Korean War, which has been a focus of study for the sixth grade students who comprise the Starlight Singers.

Current and past members of all five branches of the U.S. military will be represented and recognized at the performances.

The Friday, Feb. 3 show, begins at 7 p.m. and includes dessert from Nothing Bundt Cakes of Rockwall. Tickets cost \$15 each.

Tickets for the Saturday, Feb. 4, show include dinner catered by Chiloso Mexican Bistro and cost \$20 each. Both shows will take place at Cain Middle School, 6620 FM 3097

in Rockwall. The USO Show is the brainchild of the school's music director, Jan Stonestreet, who typically incorporates patriotism, world awareness and history in her teaching. Students not only put their knowledge

on tables. Stonestreet said she and her students come away from each show with a deeper appreciation of what veterans have done to ensure

and talent to use, singing and dancing, but also serve food and wait

Americans' freedom. "The kids learn more from the veterans than I could ever teach them," she said.

Due to the popularity of the show, advance ticket purchases are recommended. Contact Gina Allen at dkgrallen@gmail.com with questions.

Automobile burglaries investigated in Rockwall

The Rockwall Police Department worked nine incidents of motor vehicle burglaries along I-30 during the evening hours of Saturday, Jan. 14, according to a police department news release.

The suspects appear to have been driving through the parking lots of shopping centers and restaurants along the interstate, looking for items of value that were left in vehicles, according to the release. The subjects broke out windows to take items such as purses, laptops and other electronics.

Rockwall Police detectives are investigating the burglaries,

according to the release. Vehicle burglaries are prevalent during the holiday season, but can occur any time of the year, according to the release. To reduce chances of becoming a victim, lock vehicles, take keys and hike valuables.

The police department asked that anyone with information regarding these burglaries call 972-771-7724.

Rockwall County Entertainment

(Continued from Page 2)

Chocolate Indulgence to benefit WIN

Chocolate Indulgence, a celebration of dinner, dancing and chocolate, will begin at 6:15 p.m. on Feb. 3 at the Hidden Creek Event Center, 215 Chris Cuny Parkway, in Heath. The event will benefit local families served by WIN (Women in Need). Sponsors are needed, as are donors to the silent and/or live auctions. For more information contact Cheryl Bahm at 972-772-3000 or cbahm@wintexas.org. To purchase tickets or obtain a sponsorship visit wintexas.org/donation.php.

'Love, Loss and What I Wore' set at RCP

The Rockwall Community Playhouse, 609 E. Rusk (two blocks off the square in downtown Rockwall) will present "Love, Loss and What I Wore," in performances set for Feb. 10-12, 17-19 and 24-26. The production is a "touching series of monologues covering relationships, wardrobes and the music of the time, using the female wardrobe as a time capsule of a woman's life story." Friday and Saturday shows will be at 8 p.m., Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets will cost \$20 (general admission), \$15 for seniors and may be purchased at the box office a half-hour prior to show time, online at rockwallcommunityplayhouse. org or by calling 972-722-3399.

Love Notes event set Feb. 12

Love Notes, an evening of fine food and romantic love songs, will be presented by Rockwall Summer Musicals beginning at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 12, at The Crown Room at the Rockwall Golf & Athletic Club, 2600 Champions Drive, Rockwall. Performing will be cast members from previous RSM productions. A fundraising auction also will be conducted. Cost for the evening is \$50 per person. Tickets may be purchased at rockwallsummermusicals.org or by calling 972-771-3700.

Williams Middle School gymnastics update

The Williams Middle School boys gymnastics team competed Tues. Jan. 17, 2017, against rival Cain Middle School. According to Coach Cameron Sweny, the WMS level 5 and level 6 teams remain undefeated for the season.

WMS Level 5 team finished first place with 160.2 points, followed by Cain with 141.1 points. The Level 6 team finished in first place with 151 points.

LEVEL 5 TEAM: 1st - 160.2 Williams; 2nd - 141.1 Cain

LEVEL 6 TEAM: 1st - 151.0 Williams LEVEL 5 INDIVIDUAL: (Top 10 recognized)

Floor - David Raglin, 1st place; James Watkins, 2; Connor Sinks,

2; Coyt Huston, 5; Ryan Ferguson, 6.

P-Horse - Kyle Grimsley, 1; Watkins, 2; Huston, 3; Michael Gomez,

4; Raglin, 6; Ethan Channell, 7; Caden Iradi, 8. Rings - Gomez, 1; Huston, 2; Channell, 2; Watkins, 3; Raglin, 3;

Daniel Olivio-Villegas, 6; Ferguson, 7; Matthew Hafele, 8. Vault - Raglin, 1; Hunter Moore, 3; Watkins, 4; Huston, 5; Ferguson,

5; Hafele, 7; Gomez, 8; Sinks, 10. P-Bars - Gomez, 1; Watkins, 2; Grimsley, 2; Raglin, 4; Huston, 4;

Olivio-Villegas, 7; Hafele, 9. High Bar - Raglin, 1; Gomez, 2; Huston, 4; Grimsley, 4; Channell, 8; Olivio-Villegas, 10.

All Around - Gomez, 1; Raglin, 2; Watkins, 2; Huston, 5; Ferguson, 6; Grimsley, 9; Hafele, 10.

Floor - Will Campbell, 1; Gavin Figert, 2; Ben Ashcraft, 3. P-Horse - Jackson Hustings, 1; Campbell, 2; Figert, 3; Ashcraft, Rings - Campbell, 1; Ashcraft, 2; Figert, 3.

Vault - Campbell, 1; Ashcraft, 2; Figert, 3. P-Bars - Campbell, 1; Figert, 2; Ashcraft, 3. High Bar - Campbell, 1; Ashcraft, 2; Figert, 3.

LEVEL 6 INDIVIDUAL:

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