

# Blue Ribbon News

ROCKWALL/HEATH

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Volume 10, Issue 6 | October 2022

REAL. GOOD. NEWS.



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*"At Blue Ribbon News, we shine the spotlight on people, places, and events that impact our community in a positive way. We believe that if we tell your story – big or small – it can truly make a difference, and more 'good' will follow."*  
~Dawn Redig  
Publisher/Managing Editor

### About Blue Ribbon News

Blue Ribbon News is Rockwall County's No. 1 source for positive hometown news and events, in print and online at [BlueRibbonNews.com](http://BlueRibbonNews.com). Our Rockwall/Heath print edition is published 8x/year and delivered to about 17,500 homes and businesses throughout Rockwall County. Pick up free copies while supplies last at the Rockwall County Library, Chamber of Commerce, YMCA, and various local businesses.

Our small but mighty team comprises professional journalists, contributing writers, guest columnists, social media managers, graphic designers and marketing experts who share a passion for local business and community.

**Submit your good news & events to:** [editor@blueribbonnews.com](mailto:editor@blueribbonnews.com)

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### About BRN Media

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## Adventures with BRN

### Taking the Reins



so we jumped at the opportunity. We didn't have to drive very far at all to enjoy a unique, equine experience.

Hannah greeted us right away with a bright and cheerful smile. She was everything you would want out of a trainer: kind, bubbly, and super attentive to our young children. She welcomed us into the stables and introduced us to all the amazing horses they have, and it took a while because my kids had to see every horse.



After taking the time to say hello, we saddled up 'Dolly' and brought her out to the arena to start the lesson. I thought I was going to have to watch as Hannah demonstrated the sport

of carriage driving, but she immediately sat me down and gave me the reins.

I had ridden horses before, and although it had been a while, I was pretty confident in my ability to do this. To be truthful, I probably didn't even have to do anything as Dolly was a seasoned veteran! We started out at a walk and quickly brought up the level to a quick trot as I rounded the arena. After getting the hang of it, Hannah took my kids around to let them have a chance at riding Dolly; the smiles on their faces were that of pure joy.

Afterwards, we took Dolly back to the stable to feed her treats and show our appreciation for her hard work. You could see that Dolly was just as happy to eat an apple and carrots as it was for my children to feed her, and then they had to feed the rest of the horses.

Laurel Ridge Stables opened its doors in 2021 as a full-service American Saddlebred training and show facility. In addition to driving lessons, they offer English riding lessons, holiday camps, weekend camps, spring and summer camps, and tiny tot camp. Learn more at [laurelridgestables.com](http://laurelridgestables.com).

Story and photos by Blue Ribbon News Man Around Town "JR", Lead Designer and Layout Editor, shown here enjoying time at Laurel Ridge Stables with his wife, son, and daughter.





# How to throw a Backyard Harvest Festival



## Homemade Apple Cider

- 6 red apples (such as Gala)
- 4 green apples (such as Granny Smith)
- 1 orange
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 4-6 cinnamon sticks
- 1 whole nutmeg
- Optional: apple slices, cinnamon stick for garnish



### GOOD TIMES

Want a different way to celebrate the fall season? Host your very own backyard Harvest Festival!

I set up carnival tic-tac-toe using a card table, tablecloth, electrical tape laid out in a grid, and two kinds of pumpkins. Have baskets next to the table for the pumpkins and then play tic-tac-toe as you normally would. Kids will love it!



I served a super simple menu that wouldn't require any utensils: *Apple Butter & Pumpkin Butter Sandwiches*, *Vermont Cheddar Popcorn* served in adorable fall bags, plus grapes, apples, and nuts, and my delicious *Maple Rice Krispy Treats* for dessert. Everything was set up on a 6' folding table styled with a checkered Halloween tablecloth, pumpkins, white lanterns, and festive mums.

For the drink, I served homemade apple cider. If you've never made *Apple Cider* before, you're in for a treat. It makes the whole house smell like fall! It's so easy to make too. This is a kid-friendly version for

our very family-friendly harvest festival, but you could of course add a splash of bourbon for a cocktail! For more Halloween party inspiration, visit [therosetable.com](http://therosetable.com).

1. Quarter apples and orange. Place in a large stock pot and add enough water to cover by at least two inches. Add sugar and cinnamon sticks and give it a stir. Grate a bit of nutmeg over the pot and give it a stir.
2. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer for two hours. Use a wooden spoon to gently mash the apples the apples against the side of the pot. Let simmer for another hour.
3. Remove from heat and strain through a fine mesh sieve. Serve immediately with additional cinnamon sticks and apple slices for garnish. Refrigerate leftovers for up to five days.



By Katie-Rose Watson, who often covers Rockwall on [therosetable.com](http://therosetable.com), from the Farmers Market to Founder's Day Festival. The Rose Table has over 200,000 fans on Facebook ([fb.com/therosetable](https://www.facebook.com/therosetable)), millions of video views, and can be found on Instagram, TikTok, Twitter, and Pinterest @ [therosetable.com](http://therosetable.com).

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Menu

Exterior view of Dodie's Cajun Diner at night. The building is lit up with warm lights, and the sign "DODIE'S CAJUN DINER" is visible. There are trees and a body of water in the background.

A QR code with a decorative border, located in the bottom right corner of the advertisement.



# Rockwall County teen angler wins National Championship Title

## GOOD SPORTS

Over the course of just one year, 14-year-old Gus Richardson of Fate has taken his fishing passion from a part-time hobby to a national championship win. Originally from San Marcos, and previously New Braunfels, Richardson and his family relocated to Fate about a year ago so his father could begin post as Senior Pastor at Christ Church Rockwall.



The team of Mark Cerja Jr. (left) of Aledo and Gus Richardson (far right) of Fate celebrate with their winning trophies at the recent Bassmaster Junior National Championship in Tennessee. Center is Mark Cerja, Mark's father and boat captain.  
*Photo by Laura Agee, B.A.S.S.*

Though somewhat new to Rockwall County, Richardson is no stranger to fishing. Aside from his recent state and national championship wins, he has extensive experience fishing in local South Texas fishing derbies, as well as after school every day and on weekends.

"It's good being out in God's green Earth," said Richardson. When asked what he loves most about fishing, "I've just always loved catching fish. It's a challenge, but it's so satisfying."

Describing himself as almost completely self-taught, Richardson began to fish at the age of four and ventured into tournament fishing about two years ago.

"If you live in Woodcreek you would see him on his bike with the fishing poles in hand, riding to the pond after school every day," said his mother, Robyn Richardson.

After moving to Rockwall County and completing an online search for local fishing teams, Richardson connected with Lonestar Junior Bassmasters – a DFW not-for-profit club encouraging Juniors in Bass Fishing.

"It's a wonderful club," Mrs. Richardson said.

Through the club, Richardson partnered with Mark Cerja Jr. from Aledo, TX. Together, they finished second at the Texas state tournament at Cedar Creek Reservoir with a two-day total weight in of 21.95 pounds. They were then awarded the coveted invitation to continue on to nationals the following month in Huntingdon, Tennessee.

"It was a big deal," said Richardson, "not as big as winning nationals but still a lot of fun and hard work."

Their hard work and team effort paid off big time when Richardson and Cerja came in first place at the 2022 Bassmaster Junior National Championship. They finished with a total weight caught of 18 pounds, 5 ounces, with Richardson catching the pair's largest fish in the last three minutes of fishing on the first day.

"It was a tough day," explained Richardson, "and the lake was a pretty hard lake. We were working hard and had come up to this one spot and our captain tells us, you have five minutes left. We keep casting, four minutes left. With three minutes left, I felt a fish on, I set the hook and brought out our biggest fish of the tournament which was over four pounds."

The intensity of the competition didn't stop once the boys got out of the water. Richardson and Cerja were one of the first groups to weigh in that day, which meant the boys sat for a total of two hours in the "hot seats" on the stage waiting for another team to beat their score.

"We think of fishing as relaxing, which it is," said Mrs. Richardson, "but these tournaments are very fast-paced, high intensity. They're fishing and

casting all day."

Richardson recalled the combination of stress and enthusiasm that was felt during the weigh-in leading up to the moment that he realized they won.

"It was nerve-wracking," said Richardson, "I remember looking at the scale, when I realized that they didn't beat us, I was just so thankful to God, I couldn't believe my eyes."

In addition to winning the national championship title, Richardson and Cerja were awarded a \$2,000 scholarship, which they will share. The duo was also awarded a trip to the Bassmasters Classic on March 24-26 in Tennessee, where they will meet the pros on stage and fish in the high school division.

Gus Richardson is a 14-year-old homeschool student who is looking for a fishing partner from Rockwall County as a part of a school team or independent. Gus' partner Mark Cerja will be fishing for Aledo High School. Contact richardson.robby@yahoo.com if you are interested in partnering or in helping start a Bassmasters community club.



Gus Richardson's largest fish was caught in the last three minutes on the first day of the tournament.  
*Photo by Laura Agee, B.A.S.S.*

*By Amy Busch, contributing writer/reporter, Blue Ribbon News.*

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Leadership Rockwall

The Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Rockwall Class of 2023 will engage in a nine-month program that includes planning and executing a formally approved, sustainable community project.

Members are Chair Shane Hollas, Maaco; Alumni Chair Sylvia Sotelo Kidd, Ebby; Class Co-Advisors Lauren Chambers, Benefit Writers; Lacy Deckard, Ebby Halliday; Gerald Hendrik, Rockwall Wealth Advisors; and Logan Lance, American National Bank. Also, Linda Bonin, Baylor Scott & White; Susan Burt, American National Bank; Desiree Dominguez, Rest Haven; Andrew Hawkes, Town of Sunnyvale; Beth Johnson, Frost Bank; Clarence Jorif, The Compound; Michelle Knight, HomeBank Texas; Dominique Komarek-Hall, Brady Z Hill Insurance; Suzy Lawrence, City of Fate; Henry Lee, City of Rockwall; Amy Renea Mitchell, Rockwall ISD; Christy Lynn Myers, Rockwall County Elections; Leigh Northcutt, All Care Comfort Solutions; George Ndegwa, M&D Real Estate; Mike Rannigan, Doc’s Roofing; Allen Robbins, City of Fate; Ann-Marie Samford, Jungle Trek; Rachael Schmidt, Avidea Social; Shawn Yerks, City of Rockwall; and Harold Young, YMCA. *Courtesy photo.*

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# Executive Director brings new ideas to Rockwall County Museum

The Rockwall County Historical Foundation welcomed Katie Conrad in June as their new Executive Director of the Rockwall County Museum. Conrad is the first to hold this position, since it is a new role initiated by the RCHF this past year. But according to Conrad, she is looking forward to the endless possibilities ahead.

"It's kind of like an open canvas," Conrad said. "I can be a curator, I can be an archivist, I can be an exhibit designer- I love being able to do all sorts of things in one day."

Conrad brings ten years of museum experience to the new role. Though she has worked for museums both big and small, she prefers the flexibility and potential of the smaller ones.

"I like being able to take an exhibit from an idea, all the way to installation," said Conrad.

Originally from Utah, Conrad received a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Utah State. During her studies, Conrad was part of a team that designed an exhibit from scratch for the on-campus Museum of Anthropology. After graduating, she accepted her first



*Katie Conrad, new Executive Director of the Rockwall County Museum, outside the Manson – LaMoreaux – Hartman house at 901 E. Washington St.*

museum job in 2012, digitizing and preserving old photographs.

Conrad later decided to go for her Master's in Museum Studies from Western Illinois University. She moved to Rockwall after her boyfriend received a promotion and was relocated here. Conrad spent six months teaching Kindergarten and volunteering at the British Flying Training School Museum in Terrell before landing her role at RCHF.

Conrad would like to create some semi-permanent exhibits in addition to adding ones that will change every six months.

In addition to plans to grow the museum and its exhibits, Conrad is also growing her staff. She added a new staff member, Holly Stevens, to serve as Programs Director. Stevens joins Marci Hall, Collections

Assistant, who has been with the museum for several years.

"Holly and Marci and I have just been brainstorming like crazy," said Conrad.

Among some of the exciting events to come are Photos with Santa in

November and a candlelight cemetery tour in December, the first in a series dubbed "Restless Rockwall." RCHF's popular Monthly Lecture Series has programming planned from now until June 2023.

Lectures take place monthly at noon in the third floor courtroom of the old Rockwall Courthouse. All lectures are free and open to the public. For lecture topics, visit the museum website or Facebook page.

"I think everywhere should have a museum," said Conrad. "If you don't learn your history, how do you know how you got to where you are today? We're built upon the past and that information needs to exist somewhere."

RCHF will host a Meet & Greet with Conrad from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, November 5.

The museum is located in Harry Myers Park at 901 E Washington St. Visits are always free and open to the public, Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Find membership options and donation opportunities at [rockwallcountymuseum.com](http://rockwallcountymuseum.com) or call 972-722-1507. All donations benefit the preservation of Rockwall County's historical buildings and collections.

*By Amy Busch, Blue Ribbon News contributing writer/reporter. Courtesy photos.*



*Authentic friendship quilt and Oliver typewriter belonging to James W. Reese, located inside the Bailey House at Harry Myers Park.*

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# Aspasians Celebrates 50 Years with Fall Marketplace



## GOOD CAUSE

**A**spasians welcomes everyone to its Fall Marketplace from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15 at Wilkerson Sanders Memorial Stadium.

Rain or shine, over 200 vendors will be showcased, offering a variety of unique products and experiences. All booth rental fees and bottled water sales fund scholarships for Rockwall County high school seniors.

Since 1972, the ladies of Aspasians have worn their traditional navy blue aprons to host Marketplace. The bond of the group members is strong as they strive to create an atmosphere of social belonging and life-long friendships.

“Over the past 50 years, Aspasians has had the privilege of granting over \$1.5 million in college scholarships to Rockwall County students. This would not be possible without the support of our community who faithfully shop at Marketplace, our vendors whose participation in our Marketplace funds our scholarships, and every Aspasians member past and present who have poured their hearts and time into this organization,” said Ashley Farha, Aspasians president. “Thank you to each of you who have played a role in this success. And thank you to our founding members, who 50 years ago began this organization that gives women the opportunity to come together to love and support others in such a meaningful way.”

In addition to Farha, the Aspasians Executive Committee includes First VP/Programs Erica Easley, Second VP/Membership Lauren Wheeler, Treasurer Caitlin Coppler, Parliamentarian Kendra Nottingham, Scholarship Treasurer Shanan Richard, and Marketplace Chair Leslie Coppler. Appointed officers are April Hogan, Noelle Fontes, Megan Patterson, Lauren Wheeler, Ashley Cornwell, Amanda Davis, Candace Gillespie, and Jerolyn Finnell. Learn more at [aspasians.com](http://aspasians.com).

Aspasians is a volunteer group of women who live in Rockwall County and dedicate their time and talents to the service of others. Photo by Natalie Simpson.

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MARKETPLACE**

**SATURDAY  
OCT 15th  
9 AM - 5 PM**

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*Sponsored article.* All proceeds from the Aspasians Marketplace fund scholarships for Rockwall County high school graduates.



# Creating a Brighter World, One Senior at a Time

## So much more than a meal...

### Help 'Colour' Someone's World



Limited tickets remain for the In Colour Gala, set for Saturday, Oct. 22 at the Dallas Hilton/Rockwall Lakefront. The gala committee has been hard at work planning a colorful and scintillating soiree featuring a carefully curated menu, handcrafted cocktails, live art displays, live and silent auction, live entertainment and dancing.

The gala serves as the signature event of the year for Meals on Wheels Senior Services of Rockwall County. Your attendance helps raise awareness and funds for MOWSS' mission of keeping the elderly and disabled citizens of Rockwall County living in their homes as long as safely possible through nutritious meals, daily human contact and supportive services.

MOWSS has served this community faithfully for 44 years – through bitter cold winters, dangerously hot summers and global pandemics – thanks to the help of over 120 dedicated volunteers. MOWSS' oldest client is 100 and the youngest is 28 – because MOWSS serves those on disability under the age of 60. Currently, more than 50 local veterans are clients of MOWSS.

Through the Ani-Meals program, MOWSS also provides food for over 120 pets monthly – because without that assistance, many seniors would give up their own food to ensure their furry friends don't go hungry.

Help brighten the world of our elderly neighbors by joining MOWSS at the gala. For tickets and sponsorship information, visit [rockwallmealsonwheels.org](http://rockwallmealsonwheels.org) or call 972-771-9514. If you cannot attend personally, donations may be through their website. Just \$35 feeds one senior for a week; \$140 feeds one senior for a month; \$1680 feeds one senior for a year.

### Meet Charles and Wendy

Charles is a disabled Army veteran, and Wendy is his caregiver. Both became clients of Meals on Wheels during the height of the pandemic. In addition to nutritious meals, the pair received help with their utility bills, through MOWSS client assistance funds. Last year, holiday gifts and special meals were delivered to them over Thanksgiving and Christmas. During the heat of the summer, a MOWSS fan drive helped keep them cool.



Charles and Wendy look forward to daily contact with MOWSS staff and volunteers who check on them regularly. They even receive help with transportation to and from medical appointments.

These services are made possible through fundraisers like the MOWSS annual gala. Generous support from a caring community helps ensure that Rockwall County seniors and the disabled are never on a waiting list for help.

Sponsored article.

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### Volunteers Keep the Wheels Spinning



Bill and Barbara Wilson have been volunteering with Meals on Wheels for over a decade. When this amazing couple celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in August, MOWSS was there to honor them at a beautiful reception surrounded by family and friends.

Bill is a military veteran who served in the Army and Air Force. He and Barbara have servant hearts and are responsible for putting smiles on the faces and food on the table of so many fellow seniors in our community.

Volunteering is a great way to get out and help our homebound seniors and people with disabilities right here in Rockwall County. MOWSS delivers more than 95,000 nutritious meals annually to those whose health prevents them from fully caring for themselves.

If you can't volunteer to deliver meals, ask about Special Event Volunteer Program. These dedicated volunteers help plan, coordinate and carry out our fundraising and other special activities. You could be on a committee for the gala or help assemble emergency food boxes.



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- In addition to nutritious meals for our seniors, our Ani-Meals program feeds over 120 pets monthly, plus vet care as needed.
- Our seniors receive rides to doctor appointments courtesy of Toyota of Rockwall.
- Our oldest client is 100 and our youngest is 28, because we serve those on disability under the age of 60.
- Your support helps ensure our seniors are never on a waiting list.



BY THE NUMBERS

- Serving Rockwall County for 44 years
- 120+ faithful volunteers
- 95,000 meals delivered in 2021
- Over 50 veterans on our program
- 26,000 people are over the age of 60 in Rockwall County
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## Cooking with Ease

### Make the Most of Fall Food Holidays

**GOOD EATS**

October is an easy month to celebrate. It's the beginning of fall, State Fair season, high school football, cooler weather. But it also boasts a list of food holidays!

At this point, you may be wondering what a food holiday is. Well, it's a real-life designated holiday made to celebrate certain foods. You can honor these foods by trying out a new recipe, going to your favorite restaurant or even tasting it for the very first time. Any excuse to eat good food and have a bash with your people!

I've compiled a list of the best October food holidays; some days even have multiple foods! Happy celebrating!!

**October 1**

**National Pumpkin Spice Day**

**October 3**

**National Soft Taco Day**

If you have time for the line, Taco Casa has a pretty darn traditional soft taco.

**October 7**

**National Frappe Day**

**October 11**

**National Sausage Pizza Day**

The "Three Little Pigs" at Zanata would be a great pick!

**October 12**

**National Gumbo Day**

Dodie's at The Harbor has seafood gumbo and non-seafood gumbo!



**Pumpkin Pie Day**

Get the Pumpkin Smash at Bonafide Bettie's Pie Shop on Washington St. in Downtown Rockwall.

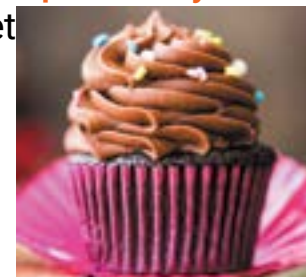
**October 17**

**National Pasta Day**

**October 18**

**National Chocolate Cupcake Day**

Have you tried Sweet Face Sugar Shoppe in Royse City? Their cupcakes are awesome.



**October 23**

**National Boston Cream Pie Day**

**October 24**

**National Bologna Day**

Make that sandwich!

**October 28**

**National Chocolate Day**

Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory at The Harbor has all the options.

**October 29**

**National Oatmeal Day**

**October 30**

**National Candy Corn Day**

Pro tip, mix candy corn and salted peanuts in a bowl. You can thank me later!



**October 31**

**National Caramel Apple Day**



Melissa Tate of Rockwall is a freelance food writer and owner of Photo-Wagon mobile photo booth. She also helps her husband run their family farm, Tate Farms, and event center, Summerfield at Tate Farms. They are currently managing the Smirl Chapel Relocation & Preservation Project. Find Melissa at melissatatetx.com, on Facebook or Instagram at @melissatatetx to follow the adventures. Headshot by Kelly Alexander Photography. Read more of her recipes online at BlueRibbonNews.com.



# In Autumn and Beyond: Reasons To Be Glad

## GOOD FAITH

At summer's end, we might hear someone express the sentiment, "Fall is my favorite season." Many of us will agree.

The abbreviated hours of heat and dialed-down humidity bring us relief. The mosquitoes have mostly perished, and we enjoy more time outside. The kids will do more cartwheels, and we'll leap along with them—at least in spirit.

On a radiant October day, we may notice more smiles or an absence of weary sighs. Even those who suffer with pain in body or soul can benefit from the beauty and balm that autumn brings.

Indeed, this season makes the heart rejoice. As we celebrate our reprieve between the more extreme temperatures, we delight in the appearance of those signature shades of orange, yellow, purple, and red.

The glories that surround us on a crisp fall day point to our Creator. The apostle Paul wrote, "For his invisible attributes, namely his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made" (Romans 1:20).

Yet, autumn will wind down to winter all too soon; and even the brightest fall days cannot cure a truly

anxious or depressed soul. We need reasons to be glad that go beyond seasonal beauty, ones that will carry us through our personal valleys of concern.

In Ukraine, many churches are helping war-weary people to smile again. Members of one Kyiv congregation have united with partner churches to pack food and supplies for delivery to more damaged regions where people have lost family members, homes, and livelihoods. But viewing photos of these relief trips, it's clear to see that the ones who distribute the resources are wearing the bigger smiles.

Efforts such as those remind us to take seriously the words of Jesus, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

I have a friend who endured great stress due to false accusations, sudden job-loss, government seizure of his assets, and an unjust prison sentence. He could have packed away his naturally cheerful outlook. Instead, he found plenty of men in prison to encourage and help. While there, his caring ways brought joy to others and helped preserve his own.

Besides the sense of well-being that we receive from giving to those in need, there are other ways to restore us to the happy-hearted state we enjoyed in better

seasons. Though sorrow and fear cripple us and make us want to withdraw—or even depart prematurely—from life, a certain cure works within us if we'll remind ourselves that God is loving and compassionate, and he is present with those who draw near to him.

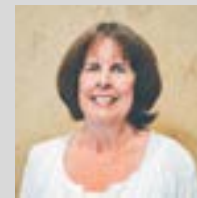
Psalm 16 says, "I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad.... In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (vv. 8, 9, 11).

Jesus' disciples discovered this fullness of joy while locked away in fear after his crucifixion. Suddenly, the Lord stood among them and showed them his pierced hands and side (John 20:19-20). Now they knew for sure that the words he had previously spoken to them were true.

Jesus had told them, "Because I live, you also will live.... I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you" (John 14:19; 16:22).

In Christ, we have the same sure promises of God. He himself will make us glad.

*\*Scriptures from the English Standard Version*



Patti Richter writes and edits Christian faith articles and has co-authored *Signs of His Presence: Experiencing God's Comfort in Times of Suffering*.

Read more of her essays at [BlueRibbonNews.com](http://BlueRibbonNews.com).

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# DUCK, DUCK, JEEP!

Thanks to everyone who came out for the Duck Fest at The Harbor, benefitting the Boys & Girls Club and Grace Clinic of Rockwall County!

1st place, JEEP WINNER, Andrew Prather  
2nd place, \$1,000 Rex Strowbridge  
3rd place, \$500 Lisa McClure



A Picture is worth 10,000 Ducks



## Bubbles & Bags

When tickets went on sale earlier this summer for the designer purse Bingo event held Sept. 10 at Southfork Ranch, seats sold out within hours. Each year, local first responders model designer handbags on the catwalk, raising funds and awareness for the Children's Advocacy Center for Rockwall County. Here's a few highlights.



Karen Larman was the lucky grand prize winner of a Louis Vuitton handbag, sponsored by Wendi Conley.



This cake fetched \$16,000 in a live auction, thanks to the overwhelming generosity of Gail Fletcher. Gail's donation will directly impact children in our community affected by physical and sexual abuse.



More than 80 volunteers, staff members, sponsors and local first responders worked tirelessly to make this year's event an overwhelming success.



Among the special guests modeling handbags on the catwalk were 'Goose and Maverick' and Yellowstone ranch hand 'Rip Wheeler.'





# Class Act



Tripp w/ football buddies, APHE



Andie, Reinhardt Elementary



Bella  
Heritage Christian



Mackenzie, Kindergarten



Anne and Karter  
Heritage Christian Academy



Livi  
Billie Stevenson Elementary

Thanks for sharing your First Day Photos!



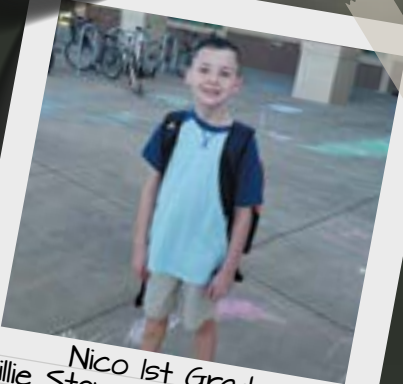
Lillian (center) & friends  
Cain Middle School



Grace, Thomas, & Elizabeth  
Reinhardt Elementary



Hudson and JoJo  
Billie Stevenson Elementary



Nico 1st Grade  
Billie Stevenson Elementary

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# BLUE RIBBON REPLAY

So much good news and only so much space! See [blueribbonnews.com](http://blueribbonnews.com) and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for more highlights from our schools, clubs, and community!

## Kidzone Grand Opening

There was a ribbon cutting Sept. 17 for the new Kidzone at Harry Myers Park. Families joined Rockwall Mayor Kevin Fowler, Director of Parks and Recreation Travis Sales, members of the Park Board, city management, Breakfast Rotary and Ebby Halliday for the grand opening celebration.

*Photos by JR.*



## Bikes for Tykes

The bear pit was full as hundreds of motorcycles rolled out of the Rockwall County Courthouse Sept. 18 for the Teddy Bear Ride benefiting the Children's Advocacy Center for Rockwall County. Pictured are CAC president Patricia Mejia and Rockwall County District Attorney Kendra Culpepper. The ride is hosted annually by America's Guardians, a motorcycle club for law enforcement, public safety personnel and military veterans. The event raised over \$44,000 for the CAC. *Courtesy photos.*



## Gnome Home

What an adorable Gnome Home one Rockwall resident made for their neighbor's tree stump! Patti Muggeo dreamed up the idea over a year ago when she had to cut down a tree from her yard, but she "never got around to getting it done." While Patti was away for the summer, neighbors Bill and Edie Smith surprised her by creating this charming little abode and attaching it to Patti's tree stump. *Courtesy photo.*

## D-Day for V-Day

As a result of a requested proclamation by Terry Fisher American Legion Post #117, Rockwall County Commissioners Court declared Nov. 11 as 'D-Day for V-Day'. Dr. Stan Lowrance of Lowrance Dental sponsors a program where veterans in Rockwall County can receive free dental care on Veterans Day. Call or text 'I want an appointment' to 520-609-4145 for an appointment. *Courtesy photo.*



## Silver Award

Katie Jacobs, Savannah Page and Kaitlyn Hodges of Girl Scout Troop 6541-Service Unit 148 worked tirelessly to upgrade this Information Station at In-Sync Exotics Wildlife Rescue in Wylie, home to over 75 big cats. A ribbon cutting was held to unveil their Silver Award project which included homemade pawprint stepping stones, a newly painted sign, power washing and staining, two glass-front informational frames, and fence installation. *Photo submitted by Lori Ricker.*



## Celebrate Fate

Community members enjoyed live music, rides, slides, games and fireworks at Fate City Hall Sept. 17. The Rockwall 7ers pro basketball team demonstrated their skills, and there was a pickleball competition, blood drive, free burgers and giveaways. *Photo by JR.*

## Top One Percent

Rockwall High School seniors Madison Angelo and Leah Shrage are top 1% in the country! As National Merit Scholar semifinalists they have the opportunity to compete for a National Merit Scholarship. They were recently honored at a recent RISD Board of Trustees meeting. *Courtesy photo.*





# AROUND TOWN

 **OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH** & **OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH** 

## Ghost Walk | Now through Oct. 29

Join the Rockwall History/Ghost Walk which leaves from the Rockwall County Historic Courthouse. Multiple dates and times: [tickettailor.com/events/bom/759190#](https://tickettailor.com/events/bom/759190#)

## Pumpkin Patch at Blase Family Farm | Now through Oct. 30

Petting zoo, hayrides, haymaze and pumpkins, pumpkins, pumpkins! 1232 E. Fork in Rockwall. Info: [blasefamilyfarm.com](https://blasefamilyfarm.com).

## State Fair of Texas Opens | Friday, Sept. 30

## Patriot Paws Golf Tournament | Friday, Sept. 30

At Firewheel Golf Course, hosted by Brotherhood of St. Andrew: [brothersandrewdallas.org/golfer-registration](https://brothersandrewdallas.org/golfer-registration).

## Rib Rub Run & Roll | Saturday, Oct. 1

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Harry Myers Park and Downtown Rockwall, BBQ competition, car show, live music and more.

## Pink Party | Thursday, Oct. 6

7 to 9 p.m. at Willis Fine Jewelry, benefiting The Health Center of Helping Hands and funding women's health and mammograms. Join them in person or virtually on the Helping Hands Facebook page.

## Deep in the Heart | Saturday, Oct. 8

Empower7 fundraiser with dinner, auction and live music at Boyd Farm, 5:30 to 10 p.m., benefiting the ranch building campaign and programs for at-risk teens.



## APHE Fall Festival | Thursday, Oct. 13

Amy-Parks Heath students and family will enjoy carnival fun with midway games, corn maze and a dunk tank.

## Rockwall Newcomers Luncheon | Thursday, Oct. 13

Social time begins at 10 a.m. followed by a business meeting, program and lunch at Occasions at Stone River: [newcomersrock.com](https://newcomersrock.com).

## Historical Foundation Lecture | Friday, Oct. 14

Rockwall County Historical Foundation presents a brief History of Bricks in Texas at noon at the Historic Courthouse.

## Aspasians Fall Marketplace | Saturday, Oct. 15

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Wilkerson-Sanders Stadium.

## Royse City FunFest | Saturday, Oct. 15

Downtown Royse City, 12 to 6 p.m. Info: [roysecitychamber.com/funfest](https://roysecitychamber.com/funfest).



## RHS Orchestra Spirit Night | Tuesday, Oct. 18

Support the Rockwall High School Orchestra, 5 to 8 p.m. at La Madeleine. Learn more: [rockwallorchestra.com/hundredx.html](https://rockwallorchestra.com/hundredx.html).

## On the Wings of Hope Vigil | Wednesday, Oct. 19

Celebration and remembrance of domestic violence victims and survivors, 8:30 a.m. on Rockwall County Courthouse steps, presented by Women in Need.

## Ben Parks Golf Classic | Friday, Oct. 21

Noon at Buffalo Creek Golf Club, benefiting Boys and Girls Club. Info: [begreatnext.org](https://begreatnext.org).

## Family Fall Festival | Saturday, Oct. 22

Trunk-or-Treat, chili cookoff, animal adoptions, bounce houses, food and more, 3 p.m. at First United Methodist Church-Heath, 140 Smirl Drive.

## Fire Dept. Open House | Saturday, Oct. 22

Family fun from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fire Station #2, 920 Rockwall Parkway. Free food, bounce houses, fire safety tips, live demos and fire apparatus.

## Glow Run | Saturday, Oct. 22

Women in Need 5K, costume contest and vendor fair, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Harry Myers Park. Meet the Rockwall 7ers pro basketball team. Info: [WINTexas.org](https://WINTexas.org).

## In Colour Gala | Saturday, Oct. 22

Meals on Wheels 5th Annual Gala, 6:30 p.m. at the Hilton Dallas/Rockwall Lakefront. Tickets: [rockwallmealsonwheels.org](https://rockwallmealsonwheels.org).

## Halloween Extravaganza at The Harbor | Saturday Oct. 22

6 to 9 p.m. at The Harbor with carnival games, bounce houses, DJ, and costume contest: [playrockwall.com](https://playrockwall.com).

## Early Voting Begins | Monday, Oct. 24

Early voting runs Oct. 24-Nov. 4 for the Rockwall County General Election on Nov. 8. Info: [rockwallvotes.com](https://rockwallvotes.com).

## Clue | Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 27-29

Rockwall High School Theatre presents Clue at RHS Little Theatre. Follow them on FB & IG for ticket information.

## Scare on the Square | Saturday, Oct. 29

Downtown Rockwall businesses will open their doors to welcome your little ghosts and goblins for trick-or-treating in the Square, 2-5 p.m.

## Black & White Casino Night | Friday, Nov. 4



Wine & Beer Cash Bar | Wine Pull | Cigar Bar | Live Music  
TICKETS: [eventbrite.com/e/328405498687](https://eventbrite.com/e/328405498687)

## Christmas Bazaar | Saturday, Nov. 5

First United Methodist Church-Rockwall, 1200 E. Yellow Jacket Lane, presents 35 vendors and Texas pecans, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The bazaar helps charities and missions in the Rockwall area.

## Election Day | Tuesday, Nov. 8

Rockwall County General Election Day, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Info: [rockwallvotes.com](https://rockwallvotes.com)



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