

Blue Ribbon News

ROCKWALL/HEATH

READ MORE at BlueRibbonNews.com



Volume 10, Issue 7 | November 2022

REAL. GOOD. NEWS.



Family Fun at Hometown Carnival 8

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Rockwall, TX
Permit No. 18

***ECRWSSDDM**

Local Postal
Customer



Festival of Trees 5



A Walk in the Garden 6



Hocus Pocus 12

Serving Rockwall County for Over 10 Years

Real.Good.News.



"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. 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

E-Newsletter & Subscriptions: Sign up for our e-newsletter at BlueRibbonNews.com. We'll send links to our hometown stories and events direct to your inbox. For those living outside our delivery area, an annual subscription is available for \$48 (to cover postage). Message us or mail a check to:

Blue Ribbon News, PO Box 967, Rockwall, TX 75087

**Look for our Facebook
LIVE broadcasts!
#RockwallLIVE**

About BRN Media

BRN Media is a multi-platform, creative boutique agency offering full-service marketing and design services, advertising, social media management, website development, and more.
972-360-9133 | info@BRNMedia.com

Blue Ribbon News, LLC
PO Box 967, Rockwall, TX 75087
info@blueribbonnews.com, 214-342-8000

Publisher/Managing Editor:
Dawn Redig, DawnRedig@blueribbonnews.com

News Desk: editor@blueribbonnews.com

Contributing Writer/Reporter: Amy Busch

Designer/Photographer: JR

Layout/Design: Amy Sidebottom

Guest Columnists:
Sally Kilgore, Patti Richter, Melissa Tate, Katie-Rose Watson

Advertising:
advertising@blueribbonnews.com | 214-342-8000



Copyright 2022 Blue Ribbon News, LLC. All rights reserved. Contents may not be reproduced without written permission. Advertisers and advertising agencies assume liability for content of all ads. Information published is the opinion of sourced authors.

'Deep in the Heart' with Empower7

Did you know...?

More than 20% of youth leaving foster care are incarcerated by age 21. Over 1,200 teens in foster care in Texas "age out" of the system every year when they turn 18. And nearly 20% of teens becomes homeless the moment they exit the foster care system.



Empower7, a local faith-based organization with the mission to provide strategic life solutions to empower the lives of vulnerable youth, recently hosted a fundraiser and auction at Boyd Farm,

located on North Highway 78 in Lavon. They plan to open a multi-acre ranch that will provide a place for at-risk youth to live, along with programs to help teens successfully complete their high school education and develop critical life skills, resources to pursue higher education, and personal growth strategies that will enable them to pursue happy, healthy adult lives.

The event was made possible by generous financial and in-kind donations from the community, including Platinum Sponsor Holy Trinity by the Lake (and a host of other sponsors you can find listed on page 7 of this issue!)



Blue Ribbon News was thrilled to be among the guests who to enjoy dinner, cocktails, a live and silent auction, music by Brandon Bamburg (whose album release party is coming up Nov. 11 at Southern Junction), and powerful testimony.

It was a great venue and great time for a great cause. To learn more about Empower7, visit empower7.org.

By Dawn Redig, Blue Ribbon News.



Left: Richard Redig, BRN Media; David and Sylvia Kidd, Ebby Halliday. **Center:** Dawn Redig, Blue Ribbon News; Melanie Cobb, Empower7 President. **Right:** Fate Mayor David Billings; Saralyn Hanford, Veterans Outpost.

ON THE COVER: Amy Parks-Heath Elementary Principal Amy Sparks and Assistant Principal Jana Cerra take turns in the dunk tank at APHE's Fall Carnival. Story, pgs. 8-9. Photo by Lindsey Spraggins.



Fate’s Food Haul a Finalist for Best Economic Game Changer Award

GOOD BUSINESS

Finalists for the 2022 President’s Awards Program were recently announced in Austin. For over 30 years the awards program, sponsored by Texas Downtown Association, has recognized outstanding projects, places, and people of downtowns across the state.

Fate’s Food Haul is being recognized as one of these outstanding projects. The Food Haul is a 1.4-acre outdoor food truck court that includes designated parking, public restrooms, a youth playground and adult outdoor game area, a music stage, and five anchored food trucks with a special permitting for visiting trucks. Through its successful launch and continued financial and social contributions, this creative use of previously stagnant land has become an “Economic Game Changer” for Fate’s economic development goals.

Texas Downtown Association was established in 1985 and its mission is to provide members with resources, advocacy, education, and connections to develop vibrant districts. The organization is an independent, statewide nonprofit that represents cities and towns of all sizes, economic development corporations, chambers of commerce, local associations, small businesses, and individuals.

Suzy Lawrence, Fate’s Economic and Community Development Manager, said, “By invigorating this downtown location, the Food Haul has brought opportunities to begin telling the story of Fate’s creative and pioneering spirit as residents and visitors enter downtown. Most importantly however, the Food Haul has invigorated the community to become even more vested in its overall health and resident-led development.”

People’s Choice Awards will be celebrated at the Awards Gala on Wednesday, Nov. 3 at the Texas Downtown Conference in San Marcos along with President’s Award winners that were selected by judging panels.



Story and photos by City of Fate, edited for publication.

Happy Thanksgiving

FROM ALL OF US AT

Since 1940

Hanby
Insurance

Contact us today to begin building an insurance relationship!

living MAGAZINE — best of —
ROCKWALL & ROWLETT
READERS' CHOICE
2016-2022

107 N. Goliad • Rockwall • 75087
www.HanbyInsurance.com • 972-771-4110

UPGRADE TODAY
— SAVE UP TO —
\$1,500

An Instant Rebate on Any Complete HVAC System.
Call Today for Details.

LYONS
AIR & HEAT
★★★★★ SERVICE
214-432-2859
www.acrepairsrockwall.com
Lic. TACLB26682E

Offer Expires 11/23/22

living MAGAZINE — best of —
ROCKWALL & ROWLETT
READERS' CHOICE
2013, 2015-2022

This is our Labor of Love

Did you know?

Blue Ribbon News is a labor of love for our small-but-mighty team of media professionals who live, work, play, pray and stay in the Rockwall County area.

The cost of publishing this paper you're reading has increased over 30% in the past year alone. For the 10+ years we've served this community – in print, in our online pub, through social media, live broadcasts and e-newsletters – we've relied on advertising support from local businesses, organizations and individuals who believe in our mission: to shine the spotlight on the people, places, and events that make our hometown special.

In turn, we work hard to share stories and events that impact our community in a positive way.



As we enter this season of thanks and giving, we want to express how much we appreciate your readership, engagement, and support. It's what makes this publication possible.

We deliver FREE to over 17,500 homes and businesses, and we reach over 100,000 loyal, local readers each month online.

And our sustainability depends heavily on advertising dollars and those who believe enough in our mission to support it.

REAL. GOOD. NEWS. | BlueRibbonNews.com

Advertising and Sponsorship Opportunities: 214-342-8000

That's the spirit!

The Rockwall Breakfast Rotary recently donated \$7,500 to the City of Rockwall to start a fund for the new American flag that welcomes visitors to our city. The money is earmarked to replace the 120-pound, 50'x80' flag as necessary. The City has the funds available, but contributions are always welcomed.

The City of Rockwall installed the flag in September to serve as a patriotic entry feature to the city for many years to come. In case you missed the 190' flagpole, it's located at the northeast corner of the I-30 access road between Laguna Drive and Horizon Road/Village Drive.

Courtesy photos.



Conway CPAs

CPASM

603 South Goliad • South of Downtown

- FREE Tax Consultation
- Full Service Accounting & Tax

Serving
Rockwall and
Hunt Counties

972-771-1065 • www.conwaycpas.com

Winter Wonderland: Festival of Trees returns to Hilton

GOOD CAUSE The 2022 Helping Hands Festival of Trees, with Title Sponsor Rob and Sara Whittle, will begin at 10 a.m. sharp Friday, Nov. 11 as folks flood the Hilton in Rockwall to kick-off holiday shopping at the Boutique of Helping Hands pop-up store.

Open free to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., shoppers will discover unique Christmas items, home décor, trees and

wreaths. It's a magical, festive event as the community comes together once again in the spirit of the season for a common cause — the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate in our community.

Highlighting the event will be numerous decorated trees and wreaths creating a whimsical winter wonderland, with hundreds of items for sale. All are donated by community members, local businesses and organizations.

Elaborate and fanciful, these one-of-a-kind pieces combined with live holiday entertainment will make for a memorable holiday experience!

Making an exciting return is the Annual Luncheon & Style Show presented by Texas Health Rockwall from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Nov. 11. The luncheon is the perfect place to enjoy friends, feast a little, relax at the



fashion show then finish the afternoon strong by shopping the boutique.

Sponsored article by Helping Hands.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS Hilton Dallas/Rockwall Lakefront

Friday, Nov. 11
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Shop the Holiday Market
FREE to the public

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Luncheon & Fashion Show

Tickets:
rockwallhelpinghands.com/festival

Saturday, Nov. 12
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Shop the Holiday Market
FREE to the public

6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.
Festival of Trees Gala

Tickets:
rockwallhelpinghands.com/festival





ROCKWALL COUNTY HELPING HANDS
invites you to attend the

Festival of Trees

Fashion show & luncheon

Hilton Dallas/Rockwall Lakefront
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2022
11:30 - 1:30
celebrity host!
Dr. Melanie Ross Mills

Crowned with the extraordinary gift of connection, Dr Mills is a relationship and friendship expert, life strategist and Creator of the Life Bonds Platform. Her list of accolades are a mile long including features on the Today show, US news and world report, Forbes, COSMOPOLITAN, Bravo and many others.

www.rockwallhelpinghands.com/festival
Special thanks to our Title Sponsor Texas Health Rockwall



Gala

NOVEMBER 12 TWENTY TWENTY-TWO
Hilton Dallas/Rockwall Lakefront

COCKTAIL HOUR SEATED DINNER
BENEFIT LIVE AUCTION ENTERTAINMENT & DANCING
SHOP THE HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE & TREES

Special thanks to our Title Sponsor Sara and Rob Whittle
WWW.ROCKWALLHELPINGHANDS.COM/FESTIVAL



Kudzu and That Other Creeping Threat

GOOD FAITH Horror films are not my genre, though, in my youth, I relished the Friday night “Chiller” feature on TV. Old movies like “Dracula,” “Frankenstein,” and “The Wolf Man” were part of my coming-of-age repertoire.

One night many full moons ago, all alone in the house, I stayed up late to watch a scary movie I’d seen years before. I remembered it as good and harmless—like a roller-coaster ride that heightens anticipation with each turn and then terrifies momentarily here and there before letting you go. But when I began to sense that creepy feeling of something lurking behind me, I turned off the TV. That’s when I imagined seeing a disembodied head staring out of a return-air vent and raced upstairs to bed.

Having forever sworn off horror films since that night, I’m no expert on them. But I’ve retained a well-informed memory of their opening scenes, with deceptively pleasant music playing. Just as you feel at ease, the volume suddenly rises, sending your heart racing. Maybe a violin screeches, or a gong strikes.

Based on my limited knowledge of scary movies, please allow me to suggest the following opening scene:

A young couple in a convertible drive toward the lush property they viewed and purchased online. (Soft music plays.) They arrive at the location after passing lovely country estates and turn down a long dirt road to discover their very own grove of hardwood trees—covered in verdant green ivy. Only it’s not ivy. (Panoramic close-up view; music distorts with eerie scraping sounds). They’ve arrived in the Kudzu Zone.

Kudzu is a coiling, invasive perennial plant in the pea family, which sounds tasty and is said to be edible. Introduced to the US in the late 1800s as an ornamental plant, it later became a remedy for soil erosion and was found useful as an herbal medication. But finally, due to its insidious growth, Kudzu was placed on the Federal Noxious Weed List in 1970.



In the accommodating soil of the Southeastern US, Kudzu consumes more than 100,000 acres per year. It flourishes in nitrogen-deficient soil; cold and drought do not stop it. It robs trees and plants of sunlight, causing them to die. Its strong tendrils break branches, push through buildings, and damage power lines.

Landowners and municipalities must deal with the blight Kudzu brings. It’s difficult and costly. Sort-of like dealing with the effects of evil in the world.

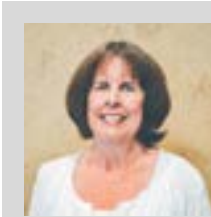
Evil often creeps in slowly before we see it full blown. At first it can appear attractive, or at least benign. It might even offer some benefit, like the promise of relieving a need. Evil typically seeks the deficient soil of a troubled life, or a bitter, angry soul. We regularly see the results of evil in the headlines, after its harmless appearance has turned ugly or its supposed benefit has turned sour.

Our world abounds with entrenched evil, and we sense it lurking all around us. God will one day destroy evil, but meanwhile, he has provided his Son for us.

Jesus said, “I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep” (John 10:9 – 11*).

Psalm 23:4 says, “I will fear no evil, for you are with me.” Through Christ, these words become our own.

**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.

Rockwall Rotary Club shoots for the stars

GOOD LIVING It was a perfect day to raise money and awareness for the Rockwall Rotary Club’s important causes when the club held its Clay Shoot fundraiser last month. The second annual event raised more than \$30,000, which will be given back to the community as well as to Rotary International causes.

There were 35 volunteer Rotarians on hand to support the effort on site, and many more worked tirelessly prior to the event preparing for the big day. The weather was perfect, and more than 80 shooters participated at the Texas Gun Ranch in Terrell.

A number of businesses helped make the fundraiser possible, including event sponsor Omi Crates, ammunition sponsor Liv Group, meal sponsor Warehouse Pro, beverage sponsor Z Constructors, lunch caterer Soulman’s BBQ, and 22 other various sponsors who helped ensure the event’s success.

There were many prizes awarded for the day’s activities. Top shooters were Richard Triplett with 90 of 100 targets hit; Paul Ramos with 87; and Robert Hilton and Diego Ramirez, both with 85. The top team was Glenn Thurman, with second place going

to Rockwall Oral Surgery. Winners received custom belt buckles.

Jason Lake won the top raffle prize, which was a Beretta A400 Xtreme Plus semi-automatic shotgun, and Rockwall Rotarian Beth McCrackin won the second raffle prize of a Charles Daly 335 field pump action shotgun.

By Lauri Dodd, Public Image Director, Rockwall Rotary Club.



'A Walk in the Garden' with Rockwall County Master Gardeners

GOOD LIVING

The Rockwall County Master Gardener Association is busy preparing for its upcoming 'Walk in the Garden' event from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29. This free, family-friendly event will take place at Rockwall County Discovery Garden, 875 Riding Club Road.

This is the perfect opportunity to tour the Discovery Garden and ask Master Gardeners questions. Enjoy short lessons on pollinators, pond life and soil. There will be plant and seed giveaways (first come, first served), as well as raffle tickets for beautiful garden-themed quilts.

Kids will love exploring the grounds, especially the Children's Garden. Bring your camera; photo opportunities are plentiful. After your visit, you'll have a chance to win a \$25 Kroger or Lowes gift card when you complete a short evaluation.



Officer for the Day

Hays Elementary student Malachi McMillan recently enjoyed a special tour of Rockwall Police Department facilities. He met Interim Chief Ed Fowler, who presented Malachi with a patch, challenge coin, and a pin. Malachi got to check out SWAT equipment, dispatch, a police motorcycle and even some fire equipment. *Courtesy photos.*



Thank You

2022 DEEP IN THE HEART EVENT VOLUNTEERS & SPONSORS

EVENT CHAIRS

Cindi Garcia, Cindy Sumrall, Makesa Stovall, Melanie Prda, Nicole Smith & Tiffany Demien

PLATINUM SPONSOR



GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS

Robert Moehler • Rick and Trisha Allen



Empowering at-risk teens to become thriving young adults
EMPOWER7.ORG





Take me out to the fair!

Texas-sized family fun at APHE Fall Carnival

GOOD TIMES

Amy Parks-Heath Elementary students, staff and families gathered Oct. 13 for APHE’s 2nd Annual Fall Carnival featuring Midway games, an inflatable corn maze, fair-themed food, and the chance to drop Principal Amy Sparks and Assistant Principal Jana Cerra into the dunk tank.

Students enjoyed pumpkin painting, face painting, balloon art, a photo booth, and a “Spin Cycle” carnival ride. The Boardwalk Bites food truck rolled in offering corn dogs, chicken tenders, and funnel cakes.

“It felt like our own little State Fair here at home!” said Katie Davis, APHE PTO president. The Carnival was chaired by Samantha Cullins, whose outstanding efforts helped ensure the second annual event was even bigger and better than APHE’s inaugural festival in 2021.

“The APHE Fall Carnival is a great opportunity for our school to come together and enjoy an evening of family fun! We are so grateful to this year’s Carnival Chair, Samantha Cullins, our PTO volunteers and all of the generous sponsors who have made this event possible,” Davis said.

Blue Ribbon News staff report. Photos by Lindsey Spraggins.



*Thank You
to our
Sponsors*



Photobooth Spousor

WELBORN
GARAGE

Top Kuot Spousors

THE
CULLINS
FAMILY

Signature
Signs & Graphics

Furniture
one

DAVIS
REAL ESTATE
SERVICES

Special Thanks to: Samantha Cullins
Fall Carnival Chair
for her outstanding work!

Patriot PAWS Service Dogs presents Fall 2022 Veteran/Service Dog Graduation

GOOD
JOB

Patriot PAWS recently celebrated the placement and graduation of five new Veteran/Service Dog Teams at their Rockwall campus located at 254 Ranch Trail.

Founded in 2006 by Lori Stevens, the national non-profit organization trains and provides Service Dogs of the highest quality at no cost to disabled American Veterans, and others, who suffer from Mobile Disabilities, Post-Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injuries.

Each Patriot PAWS Service Dog takes 18 – 24 months to train at a cost of \$35,000; however, recipients will never receive a bill as Patriot PAWS firmly believes they have already made such sacrifices for our freedoms.

In addition to their main Rockwall facility, dogs are trained through the Patriot PAWS of Aggieland program in College Station; with Dallas-Fort Worth Volunteer Puppy Raisers; and through a partnership with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, where inmate trainers work with program dogs within their prison units. For more information, or to donate to Patriot PAWS, visit patriotpaws.org.

Photos courtesy of Donna Dicksson Photography.



Fall 2022 Patriot PAWS Service Dog graduates. All photos by Donna Dicksson Photography.



Civilian Dr. Dominique, DVM and Patriot PAWS Service Dog Caliber



U.S. Army Veteran Frank and Patriot PAWS Service Dog Roxie



U.S. Army Veteran Javier and Patriot PAWS Service Dog Winnie



USMC Veteran Jeremy and Patriot PAWS Service Dog Chopper



U.S. Army Veteran Steven and Patriot PAWS Service Dog Gypsy

VOTED BEST REHAB IN
ROCKWALL AND ROWLETT
TWO YEARS IN A ROW!

1870 John King Blvd.
Rockwall, TX, 75032
Phone: (972) 722-7408



HighlandMeadowsHealth.com



Highland
Meadows
health & rehab

Rockwall County gains two new U.S. Citizens



Gianni Fontanot, and his wife, Carlet Zarraga-Fontanot of Rockwall, originally from Mexico and Venezuela, recently became U.S. citizens. Gianni visited the U.S. 30 years ago on a work-related assignment. After learning more about the country, the heroes, the struggles, and the seeking of justice for all, he dreamed of becoming a U.S. citizen.

Gianni also wanted to be a teacher someday in his life, so in 2010 they enrolled in a one-year special training program at a university in Mexico. They each obtained Teacher



Certificates issued by the Texas State Board for Educator Certification. The couple moved to America the next summer and started as bilingual elementary teachers in Dallas ISD and Garland ISD. In 2017, they saw an opportunity to buy a house in beautiful Rockwall and jumped at the chance.

Check out the Q&A to learn more about their journey!

Q: What are some things that you found most challenging about the citizenship process?

A: The process is long. It took more than 10 years to complete.

Q: What did you find most rewarding?

A: Being a U.S. citizen is like being a citizen of the world. The essence of America is to fight for what is fair, for what is right, and for what is good. And it would be an honor to contribute our bit.

Q: What do you love most about living in Rockwall?

A: One of the things we love the most is living so close to nature, having this beautiful Lake Ray Hubbard and the buzzing Harbor is like living in a movie.

Q: What advice would you give to others who are pursuing U.S. Citizenship?

A: US citizenship is a privilege granted as a result of being a contributing member of society. Showing excellent behavior is paramount.

Q: In your own words, why is immigration important to the citizens and community members of Rockwall?


A: Legal immigration supports the community's progress and growth.


Gianni switched back to his original field of computer programming about a year ago.

"I love to teach, and I did it for about 10 years, but I also wanted to experience the great opportunities that this country offers," he said.

Currently, he works as a contractor at American Airlines. Gianni and Carlet reside in the Caruth Lakes neighborhood of Rockwall.

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

**OUTPOST
DYSSEY**



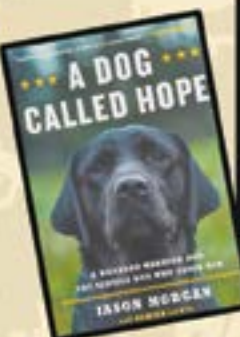
Nov. 10th, 2022


Gala & Auction

**Serving Our Veteran
& Law Enforcement
Community!**


VetOutpost.org

(972) 771-7280






DINNER DESIGNED BY:



**EDDIE
DEEN**

**Best Selling Author
SSGT. (Ret) Jason Morgan
and his dog Yago!**





Rockwall Police Department to host DEA Drug Take Back event

Turn in unneeded meds for safe disposal

The Rockwall Police Department will participate in the Drug Take Back Initiative from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, October 29. You may drop off unused or expired medication at the Rockwall Police Department, 205 W. Rusk St. in Rockwall. They are not able to take liquids, aerosol containers or needles.

The Drug Enforcement Administration is also accepting vape pens to be disposed of. The batteries must be removed from the vape pen. For more information about disposal of vape pens or other e-cigarette devices, go to: deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/vaping_disposal.pdf.

If you are not able to drop off your unused or expired medications on that day, there is a drop box located at the police station that is available 24 hours a day. The address is 205 W. Rusk St. and it is a red box that is to the right of the "Communications Center" entrance.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. | Sat. Oct. 29
Rockwall Police Dept. | 205 W. Rusk St.

Eat, Drink, & ^{be} SCARY Hocus Pocus Cocktail party

What better way to celebrate spooky season than with a Hocus Pocus party?

For the latest episode of The Rose Table, I served a witchy menu inspired by the Sanderson Sisters in my dining room lit up with their signature green magic. For dinner, I served my Apple Season Salad, Witches Brew Stew with adorable edible eyeballs inspired by Winifred's spell book, and Hocus Pocus Cupcakes decorated to look like our favorite witches' hair.

I decorated the dining room with all sorts of spooktacular items, including handmade Halloween mugs designed by local craftsman Marbleized Ceramics, an antique broom hung up on the



wall just like in the movie, and custom-made Hocus Pocus signs by Enchanted Farmhouse.

For the adult beverage, I served a spooky cocktail that's sure to cast a spell on you. If you've never used dry ice before, don't be scared. While you shouldn't touch or consume dry ice in its solid form, dry ice is perfectly safe to use in drinks because it evaporates.

You have about 5-10 minutes of smoking before the dry ice fully evaporates leaving you with a delicious (and well-chilled!) drink.

For my tips on how to safely use dry ice in drinks, click on The Hocus Pocus recipe on therosetable.com or find my dry ice video on The Rose Table's YouTube channel.

The Hocus Pocus

2 oz Empress Gin
4 oz lemonade
Dry ice

1. Add Empress gin to a highball glass. Add lemonade and 'ooh' and 'ahh' as the color changes.
2. Set bag of dry ice on a large towel. Tear bag open slightly. Wrap towel around dry ice and bash with a hammer. Unwrap and use tongs to place a chunk of dry ice in each cocktail. The drink will immediately start smoking. The smoke will last for approximately 5-10 minutes.

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

12lb injected w/ Cajun spices

Family Style Sides Available

CAJUN FRIED TURKEYS

\$89.99

OR

\$149.99

*Note: Fried in peanut oil.

Order our Thanksgiving Family Dinner Pack

for \$149.99

- 12lb. Cajun Fried Turkey
- Garlic and Green Onion Mashed Potatoes
- Green Beans Amandine
- Charred Bourbon Corn
- Rosemary Mushroom Brown Gravy
- Cornbread Stuffing
- Homemade Cranberry Sauce
- French Bread
- Dodie's Famous Bread Pudding

Cooking with Ease

GOOD EATS

Holidays are for giving – snacks!

Snack mix is my favorite food group. Yes, it is a food group. And at times it is a food group that contains all of the other food groups: peanuts (protein), cheese crisps (dairy), cereal (grains), raisins (fruit), and potato chips (vegetables).

I have come to find that many people don't make their own snack mixes. I am fine with that because it means I can gift them snack mix and they will be completely overjoyed.

As we enter the season of gifting, I'm sharing two recipes that are my go-to food gifts for the holidays. They can be made ahead, they do not require much time and they hold well. One is sweet and one is salty, making everyone happy. I love to find cute little containers or recycled jars and tie a big ribbon on them.

I've noticed in the years that I do not make gifts to give people, the holidays feel a bit less festive. I feel a bit less like the version of myself I want to be in those days. The version that takes the time to make something with my own hands for a loved one or even an acquaintance.

Giving makes us feel happy. Studies show it is good for our health, evokes gratitude and is even contagious. The good contagious!

You do not have to make homemade gifts. I repeat, you do not have to make homemade gifts. Some years, we just cannot do it. And that is OK. But, if time allows, I think you will feel that extra flutter of holiday



happiness if you are able to. And so will your gift recipients. Enjoy! *Melissa Tate*



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 melissatate.tx.com, on Facebook or Instagram at [@melissatate.tx](https://www.instagram.com/melissatate.tx) to follow the adventures. Headshot by Kelly Alexander Photography. Read more of her recipes online at BlueRibbonNews.com.

Muddy Buddies

Ingredients:

9 cups Chex rice cereal 2 cups powdered sugar
1/2 cup creamy peanut butter 4 Tbsp butter
1 cup semi sweet chocolate chips 1 tsp vanilla
one large bowl one large trash bag

Directions:

Place Chex cereal in a large microwaveable bowl, combine peanut butter, chocolate chips and butter. Microwave in 30 second intervals, stirring in between each interval until completely melted and combined. Stir in vanilla extract.

Pour chocolate mixture over cereal and gently stir until all cereal is evenly coated. Trust the process... they will eventually all be covered!

Place 2 cups of powdered sugar in large trash bag.

Place coated cereal mixture in trash bag with powdered sugar. Secure opening with a knot and shake! This will get powdered sugar on each and every chocolately cereal piece!

Place wax paper on a large flat surface. Pour muddy buddy mixture onto wax paper. Settle into one layer and let cool for 10 minutes.

Store in an air-tight container like a Ziploc or sealed bowl. Enjoy! Mix will stay fresh up to 2 weeks.

Tate Farms Snack Mix

Ingredients:

1 bag (14.5oz) Gardetto's Original Recipe snack mix
3 cups Snyder's Honey Mustard and Onion Pretzel Pieces
2 cups fried onions (like what you put on green bean casserole!)
3 cups Gardetto's rye chips 2 cups mixed nuts 2 sticks butter
8 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce 2 Tbsp season salt
2 Tbsp Garlic Powder 2 Tbsp Onion Powder 2 large foil pans
2 Tbsp Tate Farms Steak Shake (equal parts salt, pepper, garlic powder, onion powder, red pepper flake)

Directions:

Set oven temperature to 250 degrees. Place butter in large foil pan and let melt in oven. While butter is melting, prepare mix. In 2nd foil pan combine cereals, snack mix, rye chips, pretzel pieces, fried onions and nuts.

Once butter is melted, add in Worcestershire sauce and all powder seasonings. Stir until combined.

Now, gradually add dry snack mix from foil pan #2 to the buttery mixture in foil pan #1. Using gloved hands, tongues, spoons... whatever you want to make sure all dry mix gets covered in the buttery mixture.

Place foil pan full of coated mixture into the oven. Bake at 250 for one hour, STIRRING EVERY 15 MINUTES. Set your timer for 15 minutes and stir every 15 minutes for one hour!

Place paper towels on a large flat surface. Once mix is done baking pour it onto the paper toweled surface and let cool 20 minutes.

Store in an air-tight container like large ziploc bags or sealed bowls. Enjoy! Snack mix will stay fresh up to 2 weeks.

— filip insurance services

Serving The Rockwall Area For Over 30 Years

Everyone Needs **Health Insurance NOW!**

WE CAN HELP

Get it BEFORE you need it.



SPECIALIZING IN: Rick Filip

- Individual Health and Short Term Plans
- Medicare Supplements
- Small Group (PPOs & HMOs)

www.filipinsurance.com

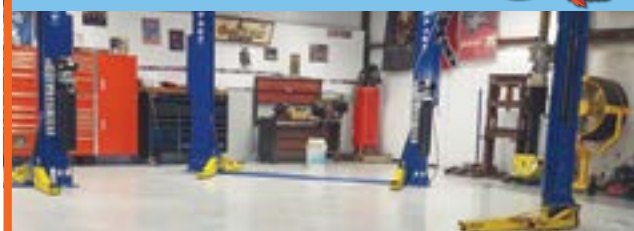
972-771-6043

www.KATC AutoRepair.com

KATC AUTO REPAIR

GET READY FOR COOLER WEATHER

Battery, Brakes, Cooling System, Radiators, Water Pump, Belts, Hoses, Heater



**Radiators • Transmissions • Tune-Ups
Brakes • Heat • Air Conditioning • Axles
Check Engine Light Diagnostics • Shocks
Window Motors • Timing Belts • Struts**

**314 Old Millwood Road (at Hwy 552)
Rockwall, TX 75087**

214-893-9323

www.KATC AutoRepair.com

BLUE RIBBON REPLAY

So much good news and only so much space! See blueribbonnews.com and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for more highlights from our schools, clubs, and community!



Wolves and Rats
Utley Middle School (Wolves) 7th grade Honors Science students recently performed a “rat” dissection, getting a first-hand look at major internal organs with this lesson which supported learning about body systems. *Courtesy FB photo.*



Orange You Happy
It’s Pumpkin Day for 6th graders at Amanda Rochelle Elementary! Students counted pumpkin seeds for real world application of multiplication and division of fractions and decimals. *Courtesy FB photo.*



Bluebonnet Stomp
The 6th grade choir led students in song and dance at the Bluebonnet Stomp, an annual tradition at Amy Parks-Heath Elementary where students stomp seeds into the ground to see them bloom in the spring. *Courtesy FB photos.*



Aspasians Fall Marketplace
Shoppers enjoyed discovering treasures galore while visiting over 200 vendor booths at Wilkerson Sanders Memorial Stadium Oct. 15 for the Aspasians Fall Marketplace. *Courtesy FB photo.*



Denim & Diamonds
AMICA hosted its annual charity gala at Culpepper Steakhouse Oct. 15, raising funds for student scholarships and local charities. *Courtesy FB photo.*



FunFest
The Royse City Chamber of Commerce’s 32nd Annual FunFest drew about 10,000 festival-goers to Main Street Oct. 15 for family-fun which included a 5K, vendor booths, corn hole tournament, carnival games, bounce houses, train rides, live music and more. *Courtesy FB photos.*



Think Pink
Residents of Liberty Heights in Rockwall dressed in pink in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Day. *Courtesy FB photo.*



Silver Club
The Rockwall ISD Silver Club met with students to learn how technology is used to support student learning. Silver Club members even got the chance to fly drones and make creations using 3D pens. *Courtesy FB photo.*



DiversCity
‘Celebrate DiversCity’ drew performers, food trucks and crowds of event-goers to the Village of Rowlett Downtown to learn about the different cultures of the local community. *Photo by Jeff Winget Photography.*

AROUND TOWN

To submit your events, email editor@BlueRibbonNews.com. Events are subject to change.

Ghost Walk | Through Saturday, Oct. 29

Join the Rockwall History/Ghost Walk which leaves from the Rockwall County Historic Courthouse: tickettrailor.com/events/bom/759190#.

Pumpkin Patch at Blase Family Farm | Through Sunday, Oct. 30

Petting zoo, hayrides, hay maze and pumpkins! 1232 E. Fork in Rockwall: blasefamilyfarm.com.

Early Voting | Through Friday, Nov. 4

Early voting runs through Nov. 4 for the Nov. 8 Rockwall County General Election: rockwallvotes.com

Ebby's Trunk or Treat | Thursday, Oct. 27

Bring the kids to Ebby Halliday's Trunk or Treat event for candy and games, 5 to 7 p.m., 2900 Ridge Road, Rockwall.



Rowlett Trunk or Treat | Saturday, Oct. 29

5 to 8 p.m. at Pecan Grove Park, 5300 Main St., with trunks, food trucks, and a costume contest.

FUMC Rockwall Fall Fun Fest | Sunday, Oct. 30

Trunk or Treat and Fall Festival, 4 p.m., First United Methodist Church 1200 E. Yellow Jacket.

Black & White Casino Night | Friday, Nov. 4

Wine & Beer Cash Bar | Wine Pull | Cigar Bar | Live Music
TICKETS: eventbrite.com/e/328405498687

Black & White Casino Night | Friday, Nov. 4



Rockwall Community Blood Drive | Saturday, Nov. 5

7:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. with Carter BloodCare at Lakepointe Church, 701 E. I-30: ww3.greatpartners.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/126300.

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.

Pop Up Gallery | Sunday, Nov. 6

The work of 14 local artists will be featured for sale at the Rockwall Springhill Suites by Marriot through Nov. 10. Artists reception 5:30 to 8:30 Nov. 10. Presented by Rockwall Art League.

Election Day | Tuesday, Nov. 8

Rockwall County General Election Day, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.: rockwallvotes.com.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial |

Monday, Nov. 7-Wednesday, Nov. 9

40th Anniversary, reading of Texan names, 6:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church, 300 N. Erby Campbell, hosted by Royce City American Legion Post #100.



Outpost Odyssey | Thursday, Nov. 10

Veterans Outpost, a Greenville-based Christian organization that assists veterans, military, first responders and their families will host a gala and auction at Edison's Dallas: murabid.com/tickets/veteran/tix.

Veterans Day | Friday, Nov. 11

D-Day for V-Day | Friday, Nov. 11

Free dental clinic for veterans provided by Lowrance Dental and Terry Fisher American Legion. Call or text 520-609-4145 for an appointment.

Festival of Trees Luncheon & Fashion Show | Friday, Nov. 11

Shop the Helping Hands Holiday Market at The Hilton Rockwall (free to the public 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and enjoy a luncheon and fashion show 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. Tickets: rockwallhelpinghands.com/festival.

Festival of Trees Gala | Saturday, Nov. 12

Shop the Holiday Market at The Hilton Rockwall (free to the public 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and enjoy the Festival of Trees gala 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. Tickets: rockwallhelpinghands.com/festival.

Sheriff's Posse Roundup | Saturday, Nov. 12

Bring the family to celebrate our western heritage, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Historic Downtown Rockwall. Live music, food, family fun.

Slice Out Cancer | Saturday, Nov. 12

2nd Annual CDF Services Scholarship Tennis Tournament at Wilkerson-Sanders Stadium, benefiting two Rockwall High School senior tennis players and two RHS senior wrestlers so they can further their education at a college or trade school. Info: iana.fulkerson@rockwallisd.org or app.universaltennis.com/events/125652.

FOL Fashion Show | Tuesday, Nov. 15

Friends of the Rockwall County Library Holiday Fashion Show featuring Bella's on the Square, \$30. Prepaid reservations: friendsrockwall.com.

RWL Big Hat | Friday, Nov. 18

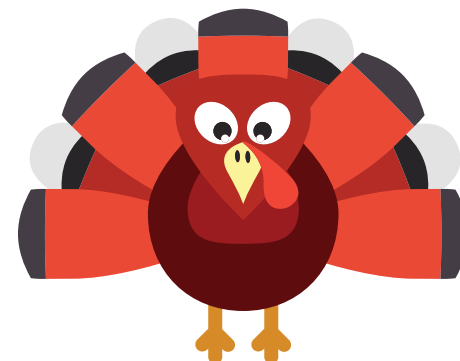
Rockwall Women's League Big Hat Affair 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Dallas Athletic Club. Info: one.bidpal.net/letthemwearbighats2022.

Free Shred Day | Saturday, Nov. 19

Rockwall residents needing household papers shredded may bring them to the parking lot behind The Center at City Place, 108 E. Washington, 8 a.m. to noon.

Happy Thanksgiving! | Thursday, Nov. 24

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE!

SCAN CODE BELOW

FOUR SHOWINGS TO PICK FROM!

[@jacketsact](https://t.me/jacketsact)

Rockwall High School Theatre PRESENTS...

Clue

On Stage

OCTOBER 27-29, 2022
RHS LITTLE THEATRE

Clue | Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 27-29
Rockwall High School Theatre presents Clue at RHS Little Theatre

Fall-O-Ween Jesus Festival | Saturday, Oct. 29

First Baptist Church Heath, 224 Smirl Drive, will host a free family-friendly event with food, bounce houses, hayrides, trunk-or-treat, cake walk, games and prizes.

Walk in the Garden | Saturday, Oct. 29

Free, family-friendly event at Rockwall Discovery Garden, 875 Riding Club Road, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with Rockwall County Master Gardeners.

Heath Farmers Market Finale | Saturday, Oct. 29

Free and open to the public, special Halloween market 2 to 6 p.m. at Town Center Park. The Vandoliers will perform live 6 to 8 p.m. with fireworks to follow.

Downtown Fate Walk & Treat | Saturday, Oct. 29

Bring the family to The Villages at Fate from 4 to 6 p.m. as businesses hand out candy down Main and at The Food Haul.

Scare on the Square | Saturday, Oct. 29

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

CARING LIVE-IN MANAGERS AVAILABLE 24/7 • MONTH-TO-MONTH RENT • RESTAURANT-STYLE DINING WITH 3 MEALS A DAY



LIBERTY HEIGHTS
Gracious Retirement Living

Pie Pick-Me-Up

TOUR & TAKE HOME PIE
DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Let's get better acquainted over coffee, conversation and pie! Schedule a tour of our community in November and take home a fresh-baked pie with our gratitude. You can meet our team and experience firsthand how we're all in for residents – sharing inspiration to change people's lives.

Schedule Your Tour Today!

CALL 972-843-9298

*Free pie with scheduled tour. One pie per household.

Liberty Heights | 963 W. Yellow Jacket Lane, Rockwall, TX 75087
Independent Living | retirementlivingdallas.com

