

Blue Ribbon News

ROCKWALL/HEATH

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Volume 10, Issue 8 | Holiday Edition 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. 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.

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Adventures with the Editor Stepping out in style with Friends



What a treat to be invited to the Holiday Fashion Show presented by Bella's House and Friends of the Rockwall County Library on Nov 15. Moderated by Debbie Deitelbaum, the seasonal showcase featured FOL models Becky Achenbach, Nancy Barnett, Jasmine Conley, Dr. Jean Conway, Lynette Coughlin, Madelyn Hill, Joy Hosey, Barbara Jackson, Dr. Camille Malone, Carrie Pickell, Cindy Ramsey, and Dr. Joan M. Terry.

Special thanks to Sandy Johnson and Bella's House for the fashions on display; to Willis Jewelers for donating a watch for auction; and to Toyota of Rockwall, event sponsor; Kay Seamayer, music; Nancy Beaty, auctioneer; and Cindy Ramsey, decorations. Lunch was provided by Ana's Catering. Edie Zehr and Milly Cundy gave opening remarks; they co-chair the FOL fundraising committee that also includes Nancy Barnett, Judy Buffington, and Susan Laszynski.

FOL members serve as a voice and advocate for the library in the community. They support life-long learning



and literacy for people of all ages; raise resources for the library; volunteer; and connect folks who love the library! Meetings are held at the library the second Tuesday of September, October, February, April and May. To learn more, visit friendsrockwall.com.

By Dawn Redig, Blue Ribbon News.

ON THE COVER: Tidings of comfort and joy by guest columnist Sally Kilgore (and Bob the cat), page 9. Photo by Sally Kilgore.





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6:00 - Program, Dinner, Live Music
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That's the spirit



Helping Hands' 13th Annual Festival of Trees included a fashion show luncheon, gala and holiday market, raising funds to help ensure no one in Rockwall County goes to bed hungry, without a roof overhead, or is deprived of medical care. See more photos at BlueRibbonNews.com.



Merry Christmas
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Texas Health Rockwall’s \$92.3 million expansion includes new Level II NICU

GOOD HEALTH An estimated \$92.3 million expansion and renovation at Texas Health Hospital Rockwall is nearly doubling the size of the hospital and bringing a Level II Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, a Cardiac Catheterization Lab and an expanded Emergency Department to our growing North Texas community.

By expanding, Texas Health Rockwall, a joint venture between Texas Health Resources and area physicians, is increasing healthcare services to Rockwall and nearby communities.

“We are growing Texas Health Rockwall to better serve our patients and their families,” said Cindy Perrin, hospital president. “We are especially proud of our new NICU, which will help meet the health needs of our tiniest patients closer to their homes. Proximity to a hospital that can address critical care needs will bring greater comfort to families living in the communities we serve.”

A new two-story addition transforms an inpatient wing into a four-story bed tower. The project will add 32,000 sq. ft. of new space and 51,000 sq. ft. of renovated interior

areas. These additions and renovations are being constructed in phases, with final completion expected in summer 2023.

Once the project is completed, the hospital is expected to deliver an estimated 1,200 babies a year, up from 400 or 200% today.

The project is an investment in the future health of families and residents in a high growth area. The hospital, which began as a small community hospital with a focus on surgery in December 2007, serves patients and families from various counties, including Rockwall, Kaufman, Hunt, eastern Dallas County and southern Collin County.

“Our caregivers live in these communities,” said Jason Linscott, chief operating officer and chief financial officer at Texas Health Rockwall. “We want to provide the best care for our neighbors, friends and family members. This expansion allows us to bring greater access to medical services to families living east of Lake Ray Hubbard.”

The estimated population of Rockwall County was listed as 116,381 according to 2021 U.S. Census figures, an increase of more than 38,000 since the 2010 Census. Rockwall and nearby communities have been attracting businesses as North Texas continues to grow.

The new eight-bed NICU includes two private rooms and a separate room for parents who need to stay overnight to care for their babies. This addition brings a NICU to the hospital for the first time.

- Once completed, Texas Health Rockwall's project will include:
- ✓ New NICU
 - ✓ Two C-Section rooms up from one
 - ✓ Ten new Labor & Delivery Rooms in an expanded Labor & Delivery area – up from seven
 - ✓ Twenty-four postpartum rooms up from 10
 - ✓ Twelve Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds up from six
 - ✓ Renovation of the Post Anesthesia Care Unit
 - ✓ Expanded Emergency Department with 14 emergency room beds – up from seven
 - ✓ New Cardiac cath lab and Interventional Radiology lab
 - ✓ New kitchen
 - ✓ New central plant and additional parking



Photos above are views of the new spaces on the fourth floor, taken in July. The new fourth floor began serving mothers and babies in September. Submitted photos by Texas Health.

The NICU and other renovated areas have spacious waiting rooms in light blue and gray tones. Wave features are painted on the walls, alluding to the nearby lake. These features are intended to instill a sense of calm.

Most of the first floor is being renovated or refreshed. The facility’s front-line caregivers provided input into the design based on needs that came to light during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Life Lessons: *Holiday Spirit*

GOOD IDEA

Attend a dinner or an outing with me this month and you will most assuredly be asked this question, “What makes the holidays the holidays for you?” The anthropologist in me wants to know all about the traditions people hold dear, especially when they are people who are different from me. The counselor side of me is always listening to the answer behind the answer.

No one needs to be told that the holidays can bring on stress. And, no one needs to be told that stress can come in so many different forms. Can we afford the gifts? Will the family fight when we are together? What will this year be like without mom here? Whose house will we go to and do we want to go there in the first place?

The holidays are a time for joy, and color, and lights, and laughter while at the same time can be a time of grief, and loss, and tension, and worries.

The holidays, for many, are a true dichotomy; One where we live in two emotions or experiences at once.

The trick is to learn to live in the holidays no matter what they bring and to find your own joy and meaning in spite of the things the season can thrust upon us. Hence, my question – what makes this the holidays for you? If

you can anchor to what makes this season precious, then your brain is making a scape for itself to know when that goodness is near.

For example, if you love going to look at the Christmas lights, and that really drives up the cheer-o-meter for you, be on the lookout every evening when you drive home from work. If making cookies reminds you of times of yore, then by all means, plan yourself a day of baking with your favorite carols or holiday movie in the background. The idea is to tell our brains what brings us joy and then to allow ourselves to make time for it.

When facing a season where so much can pull at us, and where certain things may not live up to your expectations, it is a real blessing to have those anchors we love to stir up the serotonin and dopamine. Scaping the season is a powerful tool to bring yourself into a season that can bring you joy, just the way you perceive it.

Everyone celebrates this season differently, even within one home. If you ask five family members what they love about Christmas, you will get five different answers. That is what is so magical about this time of year. It carries such meaning for each of us. Determine what that meaning is for you and put in the effort to care for yourself by creating it. When we do this, we increase gratitude, we lessen expectations, and we get the benefits of a memorable holiday – one in which we had a say in creating our own holiday spirit.



Guest column by Erin Kincaid, Founder and Clinical Director of Rockwall Heath Counseling. She holds a host of degrees in Psychology, Christian Counseling, Anthropology and is working toward her PhD in Clinical Counseling. Erin lives in Rockwall with her husband and son. Look for more of her guest columns at blueribbonnews.com.

Happy Holidays

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Cooking with Ease

**GOOD
EATS**

Homemade Hot Chocolate

As we edge towards the New Year, my brain already starts going toward new goals. What do I want to do different next year? What do I want to do better? How can I support my people more? How can I use my gifts to spark joy in myself, and others?

The answers come pretty quickly. I want to cook more meals for myself, my family and my friends. I want to try new recipes and new ingredients. I want to take time to make a meal for a loved one that could use a little pick-me-up. For someone that writes about food and sells food and cooks food at big events, this past year I have rarely made meals at home. I have let myself get too busy to make meals for people in my life when they needed it. The desire to get back in my home kitchen has me pumped for the holidays and January.

Last month, I shared two easy recipes for homemade gifts. As I sat writing this story, I realized I had an even easier homemade gift recipe that I haven't shared. Getting excited about the new year does not negate the fact that this year is still very, very busy. I may not be able to pull out as many home-cooked meals and treats for friends in the next few weeks as I'd like, but there are some easy things I can do in the now. Homemade Hot Chocolate is one of those things.

I can't wait to have a big jar of this on the counter for the kids to scoop out of. And all the little jars that will finally be repurposed and turned into Homemade Hot Chocolate gifts.



This recipe has only three ingredients and a shelf life of up to 6 months. I suggest putting in glass jars with a tiny tag telling your loved one how to prepare each cup. Happy holidays friends, and Happy New Year dreaming!



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](https://www.instagram.com/melissatatetx) to follow the adventures. Headshot by Kelly Alexander Photography. Read more of her recipes online at BlueRibbonNews.com.

Homemade Hot Chocolate

Ingredients:

- 2 cups confectioners sugar
- 1 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2 cups powdered milk or instant nonfat dry milk

Directions:

In a large bowl, sift the confectioners sugar, then the unsweetened cocoa, to get rid of any lumps.

Stir in the powdered milk and whisk well until all is combined.

Add mini marshmallows to the container, if desired.

To prepare a cup of hot chocolate, add 1/2 cup of cocoa mix to cup and stir in 1/2 cup of hot water or milk.

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'Tis the season for...holiday pasta!

**GOOD
TIMES**

It's the most wonderful time of the year! For a cozy Christmas Dinner Party, I styled my table with freshly cut Christmas tree branches, birch tree vases, red roses, white hydrangeas, red tablecloths, gold flatware, and plaid holiday napkins for a rustic glam look. I had twinkling lights everywhere, Christmas carols playing softly in the background, and a festive menu inspired in part by one of my favorite movies, The Holiday.

I served my family's favorite Christmas Crab Salad to start followed by "a little Christmas fettuccine" a la Kate Winslet and Jack Black's adorable date in the movie alongside Loaded Focaccia, a gorgeous and delicious way to slop up the best fettuccine alfredo you've ever tasted.

Last but certainly not least, I served my signature Festive Fiori di Sicilia Cranberry Cake with sugar cranberries on top and Jingle Bell Punch to wash it all down.

Get all of the recipes and read more about this party on therosetable.com and watch the episode on The Rose Table's Facebook page or YouTube Channel.



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.



Christmas Fettuccine

- Ingredients:
- 1 lbs fettuccine
 - 1/2 cup unsalted butter
 - 2 garlic cloves, minced
 - 1 1/2 cups heavy whipping cream
 - 1/2 tsp salt
 - 1/4 tsp pepper
 - 1 cup freshly grated parmesan cheese
 - 1 cup freshly grated gruyere cheese
 - 1/4 tsp freshly grated nutmeg

- Directions:
1. Boil a pot of salted water over high heat. Add fettuccine and cook according to package directions.
 2. While pasta is boiling, melt one stick (1/2 cup) unsalted butter with minced garlic over low heat. Add heavy whipping cream, salt, and pepper, and stir until uniform in color.
 3. Add parmesan and grated gruyere and whisk over low heat until cheesy is completely melted. (Be patient!)
 4. Grate fresh nutmeg into the sauce, whisk, and add a pound of cooked fettuccine, using tongs to carefully coat the noodles with the sauce. Serve immediately.

Notice to Creditors for
The Estate of Kenneth Earl Talburt, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Kenneth Earl Talburt, Deceased were granted to the undersigned on the 20th of October, 2022 by the County Court of Rockwall County, Texas. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same to Ashlee Alden Reusink within the time prescribed by law.

My address is c/o Brian J. Hall, 5944 Luther Lane, Suite 755, Dallas, Texas 75225

Executor of the Estate of Kenneth Earl Talburt, Deceased
Cause No. PR1-22-0196

Kukka by Sally Kilgore: Comfort and Joy

**GOOD
LIVING**

We are rolling into the holidays. The garden is quiet. All has been tucked in for the long winter's nap. Birds are still in and out of the yard at the feeders, in the holly trees, and I try to keep the birdbath filled. Small potted pines that summered over from last holiday season, (shaded under the corner crape myrtle) fill baskets on the porches.

This season, there is extra beauty all around, with our home decorated for the holidays. Ornaments and trimmings from so many years past, return to our lives for a month or so. I pull them from the brown tissue paper and, just as for many of you, it's like opening a gift! The old baubles are best. My small collection of vintage Putz sheep is a shabby gathering of rubbed off coats, a missing hoof, chipped ear, sheepish smiles crooked with age. They flock on the shelves of the hutch, though one may venture out into a glass cloche arrangement. I purchased two, spanking new, reproduction sheep a few years ago. I much prefer the old, worn ones. Bob Kilgore displays kitty crazies as the boxes empty, and paper wrapping floods the floor. He leaps into piles of tissue, digs into boxes, stealth decorator. The B.O.B. helps me trim the tree, now that the grands are so very busy. Gifts are wrapped in brown paper with silky ribbons, with names inscribed in red and green ink.

A small, enameled bell hangs on the bottom bough, in hopes that Bob will act like a kitty and pat it with his paw, making it tinkle. When this rare event occurs after bedtime, the sound makes us smile as we lie under the comforter. Some years, as I grow older, I think perhaps I



won't decorate this year, it is such a task! It is impossible though, to give up the color, warm reflections, the light, and love of the season.

Just like you, we have our traditions, as well as our holiday madness - the madness mostly on my part. We'll enjoy the elaborate lighting displays in our neighborhood. We'll attend the gatherings, make at least one or two forays into the spirited mall traffic, hopefully attend a seasonal concert or two. We two, will spend many evenings in front of the fire, lights low, tree shining, a beacon of love and memories.

I'll enjoy a happy tradition of my own. I buy gift cards in five or ten dollar amounts for local stores, coffee shops, burger joints. I hand them to folks who least expect it - the person at the drive-in window, the grocery clerk, a stranger at the gas station. The joy of making someone's day, giving a gift, sharing the hope, in itself a gift. The season of lifting others.

On Christmas Day, I give myself the gift of reading Paul Crume's essay, Angels Among Us, in the Dallas News, as I have for many years. The column first published in 1967. I recommend it.

Not every moment is charming, some certainly not delightful. Nonetheless, the sentiment that returns each year, the love that burns warmly,

the people who embrace us: these are gifts of the season that carry us past loneliness.

I wish you warmth, love, and light to shine the way. Joy.

Photo by Sally Kilgore.




Sally Kilgore is a resident of Fate, transplanted from Rowlett, across the lake. She is married to her long-time flame, Judge Chris Kilgore. When not writing, gardening, filling in at the local flower shop or hanging out with grandkids, Sally devotes her time to serving Bob Kilgore, a well sized, Tuxedo cat with panache. You can contact Sally at SallyAKilgore@gmail.com, or via her website SallyAKilgore.com.

Tree-mendous Celebration

Did you know? The City of Rockwall has planted over 468 trees in the last four years in parks, medians and along trails. Although severe weather delayed the city's 4th annual Arbor Day celebration, city staff planted this Ginkgo tree at The Park at Emerald Bay after the storm cleared.

The Ginkgo Biloba is one of the oldest living organisms on the planet and is referred to as a living fossil from the time of dinosaurs.

Rockwall Mayor Kevin Fowler proclaimed Nov. 4, 2022 as Arbor Day in the City of Rockwall. The proclamation shared that the City of Rockwall has tree preservation and landscape ordinances in place to enhance and protect our urban forest since trees increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community.



Courtesy Facebook photo by Rockwall Parks and Recreation.

*Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year*



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Echoing Their Joyous Strains – Glory in the Highest

GOOD FAITH

We live in an age of skepticism. If the news commentators pitch a scenario in a light we don't appreciate, we turn them off. Even so, people fall to the left and right for all manner of scams and half-truths. Clearly, we want to believe the things we hope are true.

But then something comes along that's either wonderfully true or the most perpetuated falsehood in history, and multitudes from east to west pay attention. It's something more contagious than the flu in early December: Christmas.



Believing their eyes and ears, the shepherds did not debate the message they heard but went to check it out.

They went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. . . . And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God. (Luke 2:16, 17, 20)

These unnamed shepherds were likely the first evangelists. They heard the good news, verified it, and then ran with it, echoing their joyous strains: Gloria in excelsis Deo!2

At the close of Jesus' ministry, as he entered the city of Jerusalem in the days before his crucifixion, a crowd of followers welcomed him by chanting words similar to the angels at his birth: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (Luke 19:38).

It almost seems that pixie dust fills the air at Christmastime. And though porch pirates seem immune to the atmosphere, countless others write big checks to charities and bake treats for the neighbors, including the ones who play their music too loud. Some folks anonymously visit department stores and hand out cash to strangers.

Charles Dickens, through his character Tiny Tim in A Christmas Carol, explained what might have made the hard-hearted, tight-fisted Ebenezer Scrooge send Tim's poor family a turkey: "Christmas."

The shepherds in the Gospel of Luke experienced more than pixie dust on that first Christmas night. They paid attention (knees knocking, no doubt) when an angel appeared to them bathed in glorious light.

Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord . . . you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. (Luke 2:10-12)

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!' (Luke 2:13, 14)

The local leaders, unlike the humble shepherds who heard the angels' words and rejoiced, did not like the crowd's refrain. "Teacher," they said to Jesus, "rebuke your disciples." Jesus answered them by saying, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out" (Luke 19:39-40).

Not everyone welcomes the good news that began with Christmas: "The Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world" (1 John 4:14). But for those who do, the gladness—even a bit of the madness—that comes with Christmas should be seen in us year-round since, through Jesus Christ, God is always with us.

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us).

—Matthew 1:23

¹All scriptures from the English Standard Version;

²Angels We Have Heard on High



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.

A FREE DRIVE-THROUGH LIVE NATIVITY EVENT!

EVENING IN BETHLEHEM

Friday, December 9
Saturday, December 10
6:00 - 8:30 PM

EVENING IN BETHLEHEM

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**Ridgeview Church
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Christmas

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Campus expansion to feature competition gym, additional classrooms

Heritage Christian Academy is tucked away in Rockwall on the busy corner of Goliad and Damascus. Construction of an \$8.5 million dollar building, consisting of a competition gym and classrooms, began this summer, and is now visible above the tree line as you drive south on Goliad.

With the completion of this new facility, scheduled for May 2023, HCA will be able to serve current and future students and families, as well as more of the Rockwall community that desires to provide their children with a high-quality education that is influenced by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

More than 75 percent of HCA secondary students participate in athletics, and currently these students are transported to other facilities for practice, games, and tournaments. The new gym will include basketball and volleyball competition courts, two home team and two visitor team locker rooms, weight room, athletic training room, and athletic offices. The stands will seat approximately 450 fans, plus space for concessions and a large foyer.

“This competition gym has been a dream for 27 years and in the works for 5 years.

It’s going to be transforming to the school. It will give our kids a sense a pride because they have something to call their own,” said Don McEvoy, Director of Athletics.

Enrollment was up 30 percent for the 2022-23 school year and is expected to continue to grow, with more students participating in the TAPPS sports program (Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools). As more students enroll, there is an even greater need for a sports complex on the school grounds, as well as additional classroom space. The new



facility will include six academic classrooms, moving students from portables into a permanent space, and equipping HCA students with the tools that they need to learn, perform, and compete at an even higher level than in the past. The multi-purpose room, which serves as our current gym space, will be renovated, allowing expanded support for fine arts, school events, and weekly chapel services.

“We are blessed to be able to see the expansion of our campus, and we give all the glory to God for providing HCA with facilities that will give current and future students and their families with an even more enriching Christ-centered education. From the beginning, we have trusted God with the growth and expansion of Heritage Christian Academy, and our desire is to serve our community well with what God gives us, and that includes the students that are entrusted to us. Enrollment for the 2023-24 school year will begin soon, and we are excited to see what God has in store for our school,” said Dr. Brad Helmer, Head of School.

For more information on enrollment or for a tour of the campus, call 972-772-3003.

Sponsored article and photos by Heritage Christian Academy

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New after-school program in Rockwall helps transform students into ‘Men and Ladies of Honor’

GOOD THINKING

Honor changes everything. That’s the basis for the new after-school program known as Men and Ladies of Honor, presented by Honor Ministries.

“We have a goal to launch Men and Ladies of Honor groups in each 6th through 8th grade school in the Rockwall ISD this year,” said Weldon Davis, Regional Director for Rockwall/Heath Men of Honor and Ambassador to Honduras. “Our vision is to foster young men and ladies who are balanced in their souls and bold in their spirits, prepared to demonstrate to those around them a culture of courage, civility, kindness and compassion.”

Though new to Rockwall, Men and Ladies of Honor is a world-wide organization that launched nearly two decades ago, when founder and executive director Tony Rorie – then a principal at an at-risk school in Dallas – had concerns about four boys who were repeatedly in his office. He realized that what he had been doing wasn’t helping, and decided to mentor the boys in respect, honor and Christ-like manhood.

Rorie started with giving the boys simple directions, such as saying “Yes sir” and “Yes ma’am” and opening doors for their teachers.

“Over time, these young men saw their grades increase and earned the respect of their peers as honorable leaders in the school,” Davis said. “Not only had their lives been changed, but their example affected the entire student body to such a degree that the administration approached Mr. Rorie about what he was doing and asked could he replicate it in their other schools. This was the beginning of Honor Ministries, and The Men and Ladies of Honor after-school program.”

Davis explained that Men and Ladies of Honor creates an atmosphere for change through weekly mentoring and training in principles of chivalry, honor, moral excellence, compassion, character, honesty and more – which reflect an honorable life. It is a two-year comprehensive mentoring and training program for all young people ages 11 – 17.

Weekly sessions include lessons on character qualities and call-and-response axioms which help remind students of who they are becoming. A few of the boy’s axioms are: “I’m a winner; I am Man of Honor!” and “I do the right thing...because it’s the right thing to do.” For the girls: “I am a leader! I am a Lady of Honor.” And “My attitude...is my choice.”

“These qualities and attributes were also reflected in the life of Christ. The Gospel message of salvation is also introduced to the students,” Davis added. “Once they can memorize and recite their full axioms, they are given an Honor shirt and the privilege of attending a life-changing camp at Broken Bow, Oklahoma – a new facility constructed this year by Honor Ministries. They also receive their first of three curriculum magazines which they complete on their own, with coaching from Leaders. These magazines are filled with short lessons on character traits, biographical examples of heroes found in the Bible and in history, puzzles and questions for them to answer about what they’ve learned. The second and third magazines are given to them after completion of each one.”

The young men and ladies also experience other rewards for their diligence, such as lapel pins for the boys and a charm bracelet and charms for the girls. These lapel pins and charms represent the five tenets they learn from the magazines: Courage, Leadership, Character, Compassion and Diligence.

They not only learn about these tenets but carry out projects of their choosing to

demonstrate them. Their accomplishments are acknowledged and celebrated at the yearly Men and Ladies of Honor Gala.

The Mesquite School District has embraced the Honors program for their students, with most eligible schools holding weekly meetings. Davis is hoping to build on their momentum here in Rockwall.

According to the RISD, to form a student-led group, board policy requires a student application. It must be signed by a teacher or employee who monitors and acts as a campus sponsor. Student groups must have an employee monitor who must be a District employee and assigned to the student’s campus. The monitor shall attend and monitor each student group meeting, maintain order, and protect school property. The monitor is not a participating member of the group.

It is important to note the Honors program comes at no cost to the student or the school.

Strategic planning, organizational and training sessions will be scheduled as Men and Ladies of Honor begins to launch groups in each of the 22 schools in Rockwall ISD. Stay tuned for dates and details.

For more information, visit Honor Ministries | Dallas (honorchangeseverything.com) or email weldon@themenofhonor.org.



Sponsored article by Blue Ribbon News in collaboration with Men & Ladies of Honor. Photo courtesy of Men and Ladies of Honor.

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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!



▲ Lasting Tribute

Rockwall Women's League hosted a dedication ceremony in honor of RWL founder Patsy Hendrickson. This memorial bench will be a reminder of all those positively impacted by Patsy's servant-leader heart and the RWL. *Photo by Blue Ribbon News.*



▲ Sheriff's Posse RoundUp

Downtown Rockwall was filled with live music and a marketplace Nov. 12 as families gathered for a celebration of our western heritage, hosted by Rockwall County Sheriff's Posse. *Courtesy Facebook photos.*



▲ Gifts for Great Ideas

Each year, the Rockwall ISD Education Foundation invites teachers to submit a grant application for an innovative project. This year's recipients were surprised at their campus accompanied by Rockwall-Heath High School drum line for the South campuses and Rockwall High School drum line for the North campuses. *RISD courtesy photo.*



▲ Record-setting sur-PRIZE!

To the beat of the Royse City High School Drumline, Royse City ISD teachers and students were surprised with innovative teaching grant awards by the RCISD Education Foundation. More than \$105,000 was distributed to 10 campuses for a total of 34 individual grants — the highest total awarded in a single grant year in the Foundation's history. *RCISD courtesy photo.*



▲ D-Day for V-Day

Dr. Stan Lowrance of Lowrance Dental in Rockwall, in partnership Terry Fisher American Legion Post 117, continues to sponsor a program where veterans in Rockwall County can receive free dental care on Veterans Day. *Photo by Blue Ribbon News.*



▲ Lovely Landscape

Jackson Reid, with the help of Rockwall Boy Scout Troop 83, installed a new landscape at Rockwall Fire Station No. 2 as part of his Eagle Scout project! *Courtesy Facebook photo, Rockwall Parks and Recreation.*



▲ Storybook Pumpkin Patch

The library at Celia Hays Elementary was transformed with more than 100 student-decorated pumpkins resembling storybook characters. *Courtesy Facebook photo.*



▲ Fun with Fauna

Grace Hartman Elementary students created wild and wonderful animal habitat dioramas for their class project with critters. *Courtesy Facebook photo.*

AROUND TOWN

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

Happy Thanksgiving! | Thursday, Nov. 24



Shop Small | Saturday, Nov. 26

Kick off your holiday shopping and support local during the Shop Small event and Donut Stroll in Historic Downtown Rockwall. Stores open at 9 a.m.

Nutcracker Ballet | Saturday, Nov. 26 & Sunday, Nov. 27

Presented by Rockwall Ballet Company and CK Studio, 6 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday at Granville Arts Center, 300 N. 5th St. in Garland. Tickets: www.ckdance.net.

12 Days of Christmas | Monday, Nov. 28 – Friday, Dec. 9

Rowlett Parks and Recreation presents 12 days of holiday activities from DIY ornaments and a scavenger hunt to Christmas Movie Night, reindeer games and gingerbread house decorating. Visit their Facebook page for details.

Royse City Tree Lighting & Concert | Tuesday, Nov. 29

6 p.m. at Cookston Court, 111 E. Main St. featuring entertainment by the Baley Middle School and Royse City High School choirs.

Heath Holiday Home Tour | Thursday, Dec. 1 & Friday, Dec. 2

Candlelight Tour, 5:30 to 8 p.m. Dec. 1. Daytime tour, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 2. Benefiting Heath Class of '23. Tickets: heath-class-of-2023-parent-fundraising.square.site.

Christmas in Heath

A HOMETOWN TRADITION

Christmas in Heath | Friday, Dec. 2

5:30 to 8:30PM | Towne Center Park

Food Trucks | Activity Booths | Miniature Train Rides

Complimentary Cocoa, Cookies, Fresh-Made Donuts

Photos with Santa | Live Reindeer

RHHS Jazz Band Ugly Sweater Drumline

Heath Holiday Shoppe

6PM Tree Lighting

RHHS Jazz Band

Choir Performances

Info: HEATHTX.COM

Fate Tree Lighting | Friday, Dec. 2

6 to 8 p.m. at 1900 CD Boren Parkway in Fate. Activities include the Polar Express, reindeer games, hot cocoa and cookies, crafts, yule log with s'mores, story time, choir performances, free In-N-Out burgers, and Santa.

Rowlett Main Street Fest & Holiday Parade | Saturday, Dec. 3

Parade of lights, holiday performances, food and craft vendors, and Santa, presented by Rowlett Parks and Recreation, 3 to 8 p.m., 4000 Main St.

Rockwall Kiwanis Christmas Parade | Saturday, Dec. 3

The 53rd annual parade is themed "Happiness is..." and begins at 9 a.m. at the Rockwall County Courthouse, 1111 E. Yellowjacket, and ends in Historic Downtown, where the heart of downtown will be decked out for Christmas festivities.

Rockwall Tree Lighting | Saturday, Dec. 3

Celebrate Rockwall's 39th annual Christmas tree lighting 6 to 8 p.m. on the lawn of City Hall, 385 S. Goliad, with holiday crafts, free cookies from Rockwall Women's League, coffee and hot chocolate bar, live music by Steve Story Band, and Santa.

TOY DRIVE AND CAR SHOW



Toy Drive & Car Show

Saturday, Dec. 3 | 11am-3pm

Wilkerson-Sanders Stadium | 1435 TL Townsend Drive

FREE event presented by Military Plumbing



Accepting donations of unwrapped gifts

BENEFITING ROCKWALL FOSTER KIDS

Car Show Entries \$25 plus unwrapped gift | Register: 469-632-6993

Skate the Lake | Friday, Dec. 2 – Monday, Jan. 2



Visit Rockwall in partnership with the City of Rockwall and the Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce present Rockwall on Ice at the Harbor fountain area. Hours: 4 to 9 p.m. Mon-Thur; 4 to 10 p.m. Friday; noon to 10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day at 6pm. \$15/hour per skater; skates included. Sponsored by Clay Cooley Hyundai of Rockwall.

For tickets and to reserve your time slot: visitrockwall.com/skate-the-lake-rockwall-on-ice/



Rockwall Hometown Christmas | Saturday, Dec. 3

After the Rockwall Kiwanis Christmas Parade, Hometown Christmas festivities begin in Historic Downtown Rockwall featuring:

Largest Santa Bounce House
Snow Globe Photos | Snow Play Area
Inflatable Slide | Santa & Sleigh
The Grinch | Puppet Show | Train Rides
Food Trucks | Gift Market



A collaborative celebration hosted by Rockwall Kiwanis, Downtown Rockwall Association and the City of Rockwall



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Helping Hands Toy Drive | Through Monday, Dec. 5

Final day to drop toys at Rockwall City Hall, Heath City Hall, Fate City Hall, McLendon-Chisholm Cit Hall, Royse City Police Department, Rockwall County Library, Helping Hands Food Pantry, and Helping Hands Thrift Store: rockwallhelpinghands.com/toy-drive.

Toys for Tots & Santa at Standard Service | Wednesday, Dec. 7

Bring a new unwrapped toy and enjoy photos with Santa, gingerbread house decorating, bounce houses and more, 5 to 8 p.m., 4240 Ridge Road in Heath. Donation go toward Toys for Tots Foundation.

Newcomers Luncheon | Thursday, Dec. 8

Rockwall County Newcomers & Friends will host a lunch program featuring a holiday performance by the Garland Symphony, 10 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at Occasions at Stone River in Royse City. RSVP by Nov. 28: newcomersrock.com. They welcome all Rockwall County women to join their social organization, whether new to the area or long-time residents.

Holiday Home Tour | Friday, Dec. 9 & Saturday, Dec. 10

Five homes will be featured in the Historic Downtown Rockwall Holiday Home Tour, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Tickets available online and at Bella's House and Bunches. See the facebook event page for more details.

Reindeer Run | Saturday, Dec. 10

Registration for the Heath Hawks Reindeer Run Christmas Light 5K and Fun Run is underway at heathreindeerrun.com.



Evening in Bethlehem
Friday, Dec. 9 & Saturday, Dec. 10

Experience Ridgeview Church's 8th annual drive-thru live nativity event, a tour through the Life of Jesus beginning in Bethlehem at the birth of Jesus and continuing through His life, death and resurrection, 6 to 8:30 p.m. at 1362 E FM 552 in Rockwall. Free and open to all.

Christmas Light Boat Parade | Saturday, Dec. 10

Join the light parade on Lake Ray Hubbard; boats leave Sapphire Bay at 6:30 p.m. Viewing available from Rockwall Harbor docks about 7 p.m. and Chandlers about 7:30.

Breakfast with Santa | Saturday, Dec. 10

8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. at The Center, 108 E. Washington in Rockwall.

Christmas at Sabine | Saturday, Dec. 10

Bring the family to Sabine Creek Ranch for Christmas festivities, 4 to 8 p.m. Games, music, vendors.

Royse City Parade of Lights | Saturday, Dec. 10

Royse City Main Street presents a Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree-themed light parade, leaving from Ouida Bailey Middle School at 6:15 p.m. and heading west on Hwy 66 expecting to arrive in downtown by 6:30. Downtown businesses will offer specials throughout the day.

**Live Nativity | Friday, Dec. 9 & Saturday, Dec. 10**

Finding Peace in Christ, a free nativity with live animals, musical performance and International Creche display, will be presented by local congregations of The Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints from 6 to 9 p.m. at 6819 S. FM 549 in Heath. Refreshments will be offered.

**Royse City Chamber Holidays & Heroes Luncheon | Tuesday, Dec. 13**

4th annual first responder awards for Firefighter of the Year and Police Officer of the Year for Royse City, Fate, Jopeline, as well as Firefighter of the Year for Nevada and Union Valley; at The Quest Church, 6107 I-30 Frontage Road, Royse City. Tickets/info: roysecitychamber.com.

Santa Cops 4 Kids | Saturday, Dec. 17

5K, Santa Chase and 1-Mile Fun Run, 8 a.m. at Wilkerson-Sanders Memorial Stadium, 1215 TL Townsend Drive, presented by Rockwall Police Officers Association and Rockwall Police Department, benefiting Children's Advocacy Center for Rockwall County: rockwallcac.org.

**Wreaths Across America |**

Saturday, Dec. 17

The community is welcome for a special ceremony to place wreaths on veterans' graves, 11 a.m. at Rest Haven, 2500 SH 66 East in Rockwall, hosted by Rest Haven and Civil Air Patrol Lakeshore Squadron. Wreaths available for purchase until Nov 28: wreathscrossamerica.org/txrhrv.

Living Nativity | Sunday, Dec. 18

First Christian Church Rockwall, 3375 Ridge Road, will reenact the Christmas nativity story for the public from 6 to 8 p.m. with a costumed cast of all ages performing every 20-30 minutes, followed by a group caroling session led by the church choir. Children may pet sheep, goats, a donkey and llama.

Chanukah | Sunday, Dec. 18

5 p.m. at Harbor Ampitheater with DJ Sababa, children's crafts, latkes, donuts, menorahs; jewishrockwall.com/chanukah

Christmas at Ridgeview | Saturday, Dec. 24 & Sunday, Dec. 25

Ridgeview Church will host Christmas Eve candlelight services at 3, 4:30, and 6 p.m. Dec. 24. Christmas morning service will be at 10 a.m. 1362 E FM 552 in Rockwall.

Merry Christmas! | Sunday, Dec. 25**Daddy Daughter Dance | Saturday, Jan. 21**

At the Hilton Dallas/Rockwall Lakefront. More info: rockwall.com, playrockwall.com.

**Chicago | Thursday, Jan. 26 through Saturday, Jan. 28**

Presented by Rockwall High School Theatre



Create fun Holiday crafts while you drink hot chocolate and enjoy tasty holiday cookies. Listen to live holiday music performed by the Steve Story Band as Jolly Ole St. Nick drops by to hear all your children's Christmas wishes. Bring your camera for a memorable picture with Santa!

ALSO HAPPENING AROUND ROCKWALL:

9:00 AM

CHRISTMAS PARADE
 Presented By: Rockwall Kiwanis

10:00AM-5:00PM

HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS
 Presented By: Downtown Association

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Independent Living | retirementlivingdallas.com