

Blue Ribbon News

ROCKWALL/HEATH

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Volume 11, Issue 3 | May 2023

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~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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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 Writers: Amy Busch, Melanie Mayfield

Designer/Photographer: JR

Layout/Design: Amy Sidebottom

Video Editor: Alicia Guadarrama

Guest Columnists:
Jerry Hogan, Sally Kilgore, Erin Kincaid, Patti Richter, Melissa Tate, Katie-Rose Watson

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



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Remembering Sandra
A Constant Presence in Rockwall



Rockwall lost a friend this Spring. Sandra Cullins Holland was a wife, mother, sister, friend and a "constant presence in the lives of many" as was so eloquently stated during her service.

What made Sandra special to her family and our community? She was the type of person that many strive to be – honest, loving, and faithful.

Rockwall's Regal Realtors was her home where she worked with her husband and high school sweetheart, Lance, up until his passing in 2011. They built the agency around a deep appreciation for Rockwall, where they grew up learning the value of family and community. She loved Rockwall and wanted others to love and serve the community too.

Her family was her life. As a mother, her legacy lives

in our State Representative, Justin Holland, his wife, Neely, and daughters Wiley Beth and Cullie, who were her most favorite people in the world. Justin passionately serves the Rockwall area on the same foundation and values his mother and father lived.

"Mom was the glue that held our family together. She led us with caring, love and faith," says Justin. "She had an amazing strength which was evident in watching her transition from my dad's passing to grandmother and how she took on that role. That became the most important job to her. Family was everything!"



Sandra had an unwavering faith. She lived out her faith in actionable ways and was sustained by faith when she needed to be.

Her sisters, Dana Macalik and Terri Ferguson, know Sandra just about better than anyone and say "She had a personal style and unpretentious devotion that people wanted to be around, and she made them feel comfortable. She was always willing to open her house to anyone that needed a place to stay. She was a very smart, intuitive thinker and wise beyond her years." But, most importantly, Sandra had a fierce love of God, family and friends – and as she neared her final days was "committed, confirmed and content."

As a friend, Sandra was solid. One of those life-long friends you may not see every day but when you do it is as if no time has passed.

Jennifer Reinhart Rainey became friends with Sandra in 1978 when they were in high school. They worked together at Rockwall Success, the local newspaper at that time, and often babysat together. Sharing many memories, laughter and experiences over the years, Jennifer remembers her friend as "one of a kind", fondly remembering that Sandra had a way about her. She could cut her eyes at you, and you knew immediately what she meant.

Sandra Cullins Holland left her mark on Rockwall – its past, present and surely its future – because of the impact she made on the people in her life. Sandra showed others how to live and live big. She especially showed others how to love – and love is eternal.

By Melanie Mayfield, Blue Ribbon News.



ON THE COVER: Meet Rockwall's Butterfly Brigade. Story, pg. 5.

Lone Star Chapter of National Charity League hosts 2023 Senior Presentation



The Lone Star Chapter of National Charity League, Inc. recently honored the members of the graduating class of 2023 for their successful completion of the NCL experience and requirements along with their commitment to the organization and the community. The 25 members represent Rockwall and Rockwall-Heath high schools.

Highlights of the celebratory formal event, which was held at the Omni Hotel in Dallas, included individual presentation of each girl and her accomplishments, dinner and dancing, complete with the traditional father-daughter waltz. The ceremony included sentiments from their class president Tess Rodden, the co-presidents of the NCL Lone Star Chapter, Andrea Jones-Henderson and Tiffany Bortz, as well as a video presentation. Senior Presentation is a time-honored tradition which serves as the finale to six years of learning and charitable endeavors.

NCL is a nonprofit organization comprised of mothers and daughters, with membership beginning when the girls are in seventh grade and continuing through their senior year. Currently there are 290 chapters spread across 32 states and comprising 200,000 members. The Lone Star chapter was chartered in 1983 as the first chapter in the state of Texas and has 301 members. The mission of NCL is to foster the mother-daughter relationship through an ongoing commitment to philanthropy, culture and leadership. The program facilitates sharing the joy of helping



Front row seated, from left: Maya Conway, Sarah Adley, Laura White, Drew Sitterle, Sophia Hemker, Blakeley Lewis, Tess Rodden, Ainslee Seaman, Caroline Forman, Dibora Holland, Gracie Fleming, Kaitlyn Freel. Back row standing, from left: Kate English, Ainslee Jones, Holland-Rae Brewer, Tessa Tremback, Madeline Mueller, Brianna Bobst, Madelyn Lyon, Delaney Chip, Ellie Chapman, Lily Allen, Anne-Claire Jones, Avery Kinsey, Alexis Williamson. Photo by Carrie Cooley.

others, participation in meaningful activities and friendships while growing together. The young women of this class along with their mothers have contributed 6867 hours to Rockwall County philanthropies during their six years as members.

Submitted by Lane Seaman.

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Sowing Seeds with Rockwall's Butterfly Brigade

GOOD LIVING

The Rockwall Butterfly Brigade, originally formed in 2016 out of Laura Bush's movement to save the monarch butterfly, recently kicked off their spring season and is sowing seeds of growth.

While Ms. Bush's pledge focused on the declining population of monarchs, the purpose of the pledge and our local brigade is to create habitats that allow all pollinators such as butterflies, bees, moths, and other important insects to thrive. While some may find pollinators a nuisance, the reality is they play an important role in the reproduction of flowering plants, vegetables and fruits! Our world would not be the same without the pollinators!

What started locally with a couple small gardens now includes 40 active volunteers, seven gardens (with irrigation sources) and one meadow, which does not include irrigation. You may view the gardens at Pettinger, Breezy Hill, Harry Myers, North Shore, The Shores, Emerald Bay and Hickory Ridge and the meadow at Stone Creek. Cleverly marked with butterfly "signs" created by Rockwall ISD art students, you can see for yourself some of their work in progress. Here you will see many variations of plants and flowers including milkweed, a known favorite of pollinators.

The Butterfly Brigade, which serves as



a volunteer offshoot of the Rockwall Parks Department, held a Spring workday on April 1. Volunteers ventured out to the gardens and meadow cutting back dead growth and plants that didn't survive winter and planting new seeds to refresh the pollinator habitats. As Mary Carter, who has helped coordinate the brigade, says, "it's all about the pollinators!"

Fall is the best time for planting with spring and summer dedicated to maintenance and reaping the rewards of their work. And you can be certain that next year, as winter begins to settle in passionate volunteers will be thinking ahead to spring.

The Butterfly Brigade happily accepts new volunteers. Those that want to learn more are invited to attend the next meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 9. For meeting location or more information, email mcgreer@sbcglobal.net with the words "Butterfly Volunteer" in the subject line.

By Melanie Mayfield, Blue Ribbon News. Photos by Julie Simpson.

Open Spaces: The importance of preservation

GOOD PLAN On the south wall of the bottom floor of the Rockwall County Historical Courthouse, there are two framed pictures. Each is an aerial photo of a portion of the City of Rockwall and surrounding areas, one taken in 1971; the other in 2021. The differences over 50 years are remarkable! Areas that were once Open Spaces are now fully developed with houses, businesses and roads. Another aerial photograph taken by a friend, Clark Staggs, shows a large subdivision with dense housing on land previously used for farming or ranching.

To an extent, development is inevitable. I would guess that most people reading this article, like me, were not Rockwall County residents in 1971, and property development allowed us to move here. Mary and I moved to Heath in 1986. At that time Heath’s population was less than 2,000 and Rockwall County’s total population was less than 25,000, and we found the suburban/rural mix that was perfect for our family.

However, as people continue moving into our County, we face the challenge of balancing the rights of private property owners to use and develop their property, with the goal of our local governments to ensure development of communities consistent with residents’ desires. This is a delicate balancing act. In the past, most significant development issues involved land within city limits, and city governments have worked to determine appropriate development guidelines. However, recent legislation passed in Austin has shifted the focus of many developers to land in the County, but outside of city limits, often through the use of Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs). As the development



Aerial photo by Clark Staggs.

debate shifts to the County government, it is important to recognize that Rockwall County’s priorities have already been determined regarding the importance of Open Spaces.

In 2008, the Rockwall County Commissioners Court adopted a policy position on Open Space, stating that “The dynamics of Rockwall County’s geography and its rapid population growth present a very small window of opportunity to act on the quality of its future. Therefore, our future is now.” Three primary objectives related to Open Spaces were identified: (1) to preserve quality stormwater corridors (i.e., protect floodplains and greenbelts); (2) to protect and establish corridors essential for countywide open space connectivity for non-motorized mobility modes (i.e., build trails); and (3) to explore development of a major preserve/public amenity that could potentially be developed in the future (i.e., develop a large public park).

The Commissioners Court subsequently commissioned a study on Open Spaces, which culminated in the issuance of the Rockwall County Open Space Master Plan in December 2015. The Master Plan was developed by an Executive Committee and a Steering Committee that included concerned citizens from throughout our County, and was delivered to the Commissioners Court with great anticipation that action would be taken to achieve the goals and objectives specified in the Master Plan – goals and objectives that were generally agreed upon by Rockwall County residents. For example, the Master Plan stated that 95% of survey respondents indicated that it would be beneficial to have a connected trail network linking key locations across the County.



It has now been over 7 years since the delivery of the Master Plan. During that time our population has grown, new neighborhoods have been developed, and Open Space opportunities have diminished – which brings me back to the pictures in the Historic Courthouse. Unless we resolve to implement the Open Space Master Plan, future pictures will show that the remainder of our County developed without planning the trails, greenbelts and view corridors we all want.

We need to make sure that development within the County incorporates the goals of the Master Plan in order to preserve the rural, open environment that we all enjoy. We must encourage our County Commissioners to work with landowners to

include significant Open Spaces in future developments, and support efforts to keep control of development at the local level. Those efforts include legislation introduced by State Representative Justin Holland, and recently endorsed by our Commissioners Court, to limit the development of MUDs without County approval. Local governments answer to local citizens, and must be given the authority and assume the responsibility to make sure that development is consistent with community standards – including the preservation of Open Spaces.

One more resource is the Rockwall County Open Space Alliance, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, which is dedicated to protecting Rockwall County’s Open Spaces and connecting communities through Open Spaces. The Alliance can work with the County to begin implementation of the Master Plan.

Next time you are stuck in traffic, think about how our County has changed during the last 50 years, and think about where we will be 50 years from now. Preserving Open Spaces for future generations will require commitments from both the public and private sectors, but the goal is well worth the price that needs to be paid! Each of us can help. Please join me in fighting for our future!

Submitted by Lorne Liechty, former Mayor of Heath, TX.



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Circle 10 Scouting Camps

CAMP JAMES RAY

Start your overnight camp experience at Camp James Ray on Lake Texoma! Cub Scouts enjoy swimming, outdoor skills, sports, canoeing and boating, and shooting sports! Cub Scout Resident Camp is a 3 day, 2 night stay for rising 2nd and 3rd grade Scouts. Webelos Resident Camp is a 4 day, 3 night stay. \$125-\$185. Cub Scout Session 1 June 4-6; Webelos Session 1 (4th-5th grade) June 7-10 – waitlist; Cub Scout Session 2 June 11-13; Webelos Session 2 (4th-5th grade) June 14-17 – waitlist; Webelos Session 3 (4th-5th grade) June 18-21; Webelos Session 4 (4th-5th grade) June 21-24; Webelos Session 5 (4th-5th grade) June 25-28; Webelos Session 6 (4th-5th grade) June 28-July 1.

2026 Mill Creek Road, Pottsboro 75076

c10bsa.org/experience-scouting/camping/resident-camp
brandi.mantz@scouting.org

JACK D. FURST AQUATIC BASE AT CAMP CONSTANTIN

Scouts enjoy fun-filled summers at Camp Constantin and the Jack D. Furst Aquatic Base. Every June and July, Camp Constantin provides youth the opportunity to enjoy boating, water skiing, swimming, conservation, outdoor skills, archery, rifle shooting, shotgun shooting, and an assortment of merit badges. \$430.

Week 1: June 4-10; Week 2: June 11-17; Week 3: June 18-24; Week 4: June 25-July 1; Week 5: July 2-8; Week 6: July 9-15.

3003 Park Road 36 Graford 76449

c10bsa.org/experience-adventure-at-camp-constantin
brandi.mantz@scouting.org

TREVOR REES-JONES SCOUT CAMP

Saddle up on horses and ATVs. Scout Camp provides opportunities to enjoy horseback riding, ATVs, canoeing, fishing, climbing, rappelling, archery, rifle shooting, shotgun shooting, and an assortment of merit badges. \$430.

Week 1: June 4-10; Week 2: June 11-17; Week 3: June 18-24; Week 4: June 25-July 1; Week 5: July 2-8; Week 6: July 9-15.

11217 FM 2970 Athens 75751

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Rockwall Gymnastics Academy

RGA SUMMER CAMP 2023

Ages 5 & Up. Gymnastics rotations and courses, arts & crafts, games, open gym/free play at the end of the day. Snack provided. Bring your own lunch. *No makeup tokens M-F, June 5 – August 4; 9am-2pm. \$200/week or \$45/day 1201 Ridge Rd., Ste. 103, Rockwall 75087

469-209-6496 | rockwallgymnasticsacademy.com



Greater Rockwall Tennis Association

TENNIS CAMP

For players from beginner to advanced levels, ages 5-19. Learn from Rockwall and Heath high school coaches and teaching coaches of the GRTA. \$95 per player for each camp

801 Laurence Drive, Heath TX 75032

Camps at Heath High: June 5-8, 12-15, and July 17-20

Camps at Wilkerson Stadium Courts: June 19-22 and July 10-13

playtennis.com.usta.rhtennis

Rockwall Community Playhouse

CHILDREN'S SUMMER MUSICAL (AGES 6-12)

Auditions for RCP Children's Summer Musical, The Little Mermaid, will be 10 a.m. Saturday, May 13. Performance dates are June 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25 (Thurs/Fri/Sat 7:30pm, Sun 2pm).

Info: rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org/rcp-youth-programs/childrens-summer-musical-ages-6-12

TEEN SUMMER PRODUCTION (AGES 13-19)

Guys & Dolls, Jr performances will be July 22-30 (Fri/Sat 7:30pm, Sun 2pm). Audition information to be announced soon: rockwallcommunityplayhouse.org/rcp-youth-programs/teen-summer-production.

Greater Rockwall Youth Symphony

SUMMER INTENSIVE 2023

Offering string orchestra, full orchestra and chamber music for ages 6-18. Students will immerse themselves in musical training for 10 days. Beginner & intermediate programs meet M-F for 60-75 min. (depending on age group). Advanced program meets M-Sat 9am-3pm. Accepting Brass, Woodwinds & Strings. If you play piano or percussion, email Amanda Casper: acasper@greaterrockwallyouthsymphony.org. We are also providing Masterclasses, All-State Prep, Mock Auditions and will have a performance on the final day of camp. June 21-30

St. Benedict's Church has generously offered to host our Beginner & Intermediate summer programs: 1616 N. Lakeshore Drive Rockwall 75087.

First United Methodist Church of Royse City has generously offered to host our Advanced Summer program: 200 Plum St. Royse City 75189. greaterrockwallyouthsymphony.org



Rockwall ISD

SUMMER ROCK

Students enjoy field trips, themed arts and crafts, gym games, computer time, board games, playground fun and Spanish lessons.

May 30-Aug 10 (closed July 3 and Aug 11) 7am-6pm (closed at 4pm Aug 10)

Registration fee \$125/child

\$180/week per child; \$160/week per child for current free/reduced lunch recipients

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JER Chilton YMCA at Rockwall

ANGEL CAMP

Camp experience designed for children with special needs, ages 5-18. Activities include archery, riflery (BBs), swimming, canoeing, crafts, group games, field trips and more. Six one-week sessions beginning June 12-16, 8am-3pm M-F.

Info & application: ymcadallas.org/locations/jerchiltonymca/angel_camp
972-772-9622

CAMP DAKOTAH – ROCKWALL

Weekly theme-based enrichment, nature/outdoor learning, creative and performing arts, improvisation games, fitness/conditioning, community service projects, global diversity efforts, field trips, swimming and more.

Ages 5-12 Day Camp, M-F May 30 to Aug 3 (closed May 29 & Aug 4) \$85 registration fee

Camp regular care (7:30am-5:30pm): \$165/week, members; \$185/week, non-members

Extended care (7am-6pm): \$205/week, members; \$225/non-members

Breakfast, lunch and PM snack provided

Info and registration: ymcadallas.org/locations/jerchiltonymca/programs/day-camps

SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS – ROYSE CITY

Our sports camps and clinics are designed to provide children of all ability levels the opportunity to improve their skills and learn new ones. Grades 1-8; member \$80, non-member \$100.

Basketball, June 19-22, Baley Middle School

Football, June 26-29, Bulldog Stadium

Volleyball, July 24-27, Baley Middle School

Soccer, July 17-20, Bulldog Stadium

Football, Volleyball, and Soccer

Info & registration: ymcadallas.org/locations/jerchiltonymca/sports/camps-and-clinics

Rockwall High School

SOCCER CAMP

Learn a variety of awesome soccer skills while having fun, playing games, meeting friends and getting better.

\$80 per camper. June 5 – 8

8-9:30am Incoming K-5/10-11:30am Incoming 6th-8th

901 Yellowjacket Lane, Rockwall 75087

bit.ly/rhssoccercamp

Rockwall School of Music

MUSIC SAMPLER CAMP

If your child would like to explore music this summer, this camp is for YOU! Children entering grades 2-5 will be introduced to piano, ukulele and drums daily as part of this camp curriculum.

June 26-29, July 10-13, July 17-20, July 24-27

Mon-Thurs 9am-11:45am

\$199 (instruments included)

1920 Mims Rd, Rockwall 75032

972-722-6874 | rockwallmusic.com/summer-music-

lessons-classes-and-ensembles/



Rush Creek Yacht Club

SAILING SUMMER CAMP

Youth ages 5-18 years develop sailing skills and have an awesome experience in an environment that fosters confidence, independence, teamwork, problem solving and sportsmanship. Sailing instruction levels beginner to advanced. Learn racing basics, boat maneuvering and teamwork.

\$220-\$400 per week.

Week 1: June 5-9; Week 2: June 19-23; Week 3: June 26-30; Week 4: July 10-14; Week 5: July 17-21; Week 6: July 24-28; Week 7: July 31-Aug 4.

320 Rush Creek Drive, Heath 75032

education@rcyc.org | rcyc.org/summer-camp



Mathnasium of Rockwall/Heath

SUMMER MATH PROGRAM

A Mathnasium summer can help your child excel in math in the fall! Our fun summer program starts June 1 and includes snacks and games for every math session, plus contests and rewards! Assessments can be done in May so students hit the ground running June 1. Open M-F 2-7pm. Just one more reason we've been voted BEST TUTORING CENTER for five years straight!

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Do you want to learn how to play in a band or write songs? We offer a wide variety of music camps and workshops, perfect for musicians of any skill level who want to play guitar, bass, drums, keyboard and vocals. \$100 non-refundable deposit to secure your spot. Camp cost: \$549.

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June 19-23: 80s ROCK CAMP

July 10-14: ROCK 101 CAMP (ages 7-12)

July 17-21: METAL CAMP (experience required)

July 31-Aug 4: Y2Kamp

206 E. Washington St., Rockwall 75087

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Rockwall Police Department

POLICE SUMMER CAMP

For students going into 4th, 5th, and 6th grade. Topics include: first aid, gun safety, fitness, traffic, SWAT, fire department, school behavior, drugs, bicycle safety, and K9. Pizza party Thursdays. Physical fitness daily. Hosted by SRO's from Rockwall PD and Heath DPS.

Weekly starting June 5-July 27, M-Thu 8am-2:30pm

Utley Middle School

Online registration and waiver: rockwallpolice.org

The Fulton School

FULTON SUMMER CAMP

Ready for a 'Wild Summer'? Calling all kids 2 years to 5th grade! Weekly themes include STEM and art activities, splash days, waterslide, swimming, field trips, Creature Teachers, Nzone Sports, magic show and more. Snacks and lunch provided at no additional charge.

Schoolers \$200/week; Preschool \$250/week

May 30 – August 11, 7am-6pm

1626 Smirl Dr., Heath 75032

972-772-4445 | thefultonschool.com

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Ages 5&6; \$195 for 3 days

July 5-7 and Aug 2-4, 1-3pm

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This ‘MAY’ be all you need

May is the month of celebrations. We start with Cinco de Mayo, followed by Mother’s Day, Memorial Day, and all the graduations in between.

I always love a dessert I can make and serve several times throughout the month. Something with ingredients that last a while in the fridge and easy to prepare and great to eat hot, cold, or room temp. I buy what I need early, so I have everything on hand and can pop a homemade treat in the oven for any occasion.

Inspired by my love for Tex-Mex, these Sopapilla Cheesecake Bars are just what you need for all of your May happenings.



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.



Sopapilla Cheesecake Bars

Makes 12 servings Prep Time: 10 mins Cook Time: 30 mins Total Time: 40 mins

Ingredients:

- 2 (8oz packages) cream cheese, room temperature
- 2 (8 oz cans) crescent rolls • 1 1/2 cups sugar (divided)
- 1 tsp vanilla extract • 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 cup butter, melted • 2 Tbsp honey, optional


Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 9x13 baking dish with cooking spray. Unroll one can of crescent rolls and press it into the bottom of baking dish pinching to seal perforations.

In a small bowl blend the cream cheese, 1 cup of sugar and vanilla. Spread evenly over the top of the crescent dough. Unroll second can of crescent roll and place on top of cream cheese mixture. Again, pinch to seal perforations and pull to cover all mixture. Pour melted butter on top of the crescent dough.

Combine remaining 1/2 cup of sugar and cinnamon. Sprinkle evenly over the melted butter. Bake for 25-30 minutes until bubbly and bottom crust is slightly browned.

Remove from oven and drizzle honey on top. Let cool then cut into squares and serve.



Someone’s Knocking at the Door



If there’s anything that symbolizes a new adventure, it’s a door. Suspense movies often include them. Amusement parks feature them in a range of shapes, sizes, and colors to fit a particular theme.

Photographers and antique buyers like old doors. Homeowners prefer new ones. They will replace their original, builder-installed front door to fit their style – from grand to minimalistic.

We are also intrigued by the intangible doors, and most of us appreciate the one that’s open. Unless we’re a confirmed hermit, we like to be invited, welcomed, chosen. This open door could be an opportunity or prospect such as a college acceptance, or a new relationship that fills a void. It might be another job to replace a lost or unpleasant one.

However, when opportunity knocks, we will face a challenge if more than one door beckons us. Consider for example the job search that yields two good offers. While both appeal to us, each will take us in a different direction. Knowing our future is at stake, we may lose sleep as we consider which one to choose.

In the late ‘80s film, *Indiana Jones and The Last Crusade*, the hero is faced with a life-or-death choice. From among a large selection of ancient drinking goblets before him, Jones must select the chalice that



Jesus supposedly drank from. He watches as his companion grabs an ornate cup such as a king might have used, drinks from it, and quickly dies. The observant hero pauses to consider the humility of Christ, selects the simplest cup, and (of course) lives to embark on further adventures.

Jesus uses simple wording to invite us into the kingdom of Heaven, saying, “I am the door of the sheep... If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture” (John 10:7, 9*); “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20).

Our conundrum in accepting this invitation comes as we consider some of his other words, such as, “Do not love the world or the things in the world” (1 John 2:15). While we truly desire the eternal kingdom Jesus offers, we may struggle against the beguiling refrains of the here-and-now: Follow your heart! Live your own truth!

Many sincere folks will tell us the kingdom of God is already ours via other means – sacred tradition, personal goodness, zeal for God, or through revering a certain religious icon. However, any of these supposed ladders to Heaven negate the exclusive claim of Jesus, who said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).

There are dearer reasons that make us pause at the door Jesus has placed before us. Friends and family members we love may resent or even ridicule our desire to follow Christ. Embracing the gospel means turning away from the pleasant-looking, popular path. “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction” (Matthew 7:13).

Entering the narrow gate requires that we humble ourselves through repenting of our sins and believing in Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21). This choice will mark the culmination of our futile search for meaning and bring us to “the new and living way that he opened for us” (Hebrews 10:20).

Eternal life is the one great adventure that no one should miss.

**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.

THEIR JOURNEY HELP

Support our county by lending a helping hand to a struggling neighbor in need. YOUR GIFT helps build a healthy and strong community and supports the 2023 Annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors Fund.

Uplift a Rockwall neighbor in need with any of these donation options:

- Monetary
- Food Pantry
- Thrift Store Donations

Your GIFT starts **THEIR JOURNEY**

MAKE A DONATION





401 W. Rusk St., Ste 100 Rockwall, Texas 75087 972-772-8194

401 W. Rusk St., Ste 200 Rockwall, Texas 75087 972-771-4357

401 W. Rusk St., Ste 100 Rockwall, Texas 75087 972-771-1655

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!



▲ Nourishing Souls
Meals on Wheels recently honored its many volunteers during an appreciation luncheon hosted by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Awards were presented for years of dedicated service. Volunteers deliver more than 95,000 meals throughout Rockwall County annually. *Courtesy photos.*



▲ Love for Librarians
In a special ceremony hosted by Friends of the Rockwall County Library, Rockwall ISD and Royse City ISD librarians were celebrated during National Library Week. With principals, school board members, community leaders and county officials present, the librarians were honored with gift-filled book bags and bouquets from The Flower Box to take home. *Photos by BRN Media.*



▲ EveryBUNNY Loves Tea
Children's librarian Doreen Miller and Friends of the Library presented its first ever Mother/Daughter/Granddaughter/Friend Tea, sponsored by Toyota of Rockwall. They donned Easter bonnets and enjoyed hot tea from Heart of Texas Tea and a buffet by Ana's Catering. There were photo ops with the Easter Bunny (Jan Self) and Jasmine Conley won a spa basket from Cate's Touch. *Submitted by Edie Zehr and Milly Cundy, FOL.*



Food for Kids
Volunteers from Rockwall Women's League, the City of Rockwall, YMCA and Grace Clinic packed 740 bags for kids in need in Rockwall ISD as part of Rockwall Kiwanis' Food for Kids program. Join them next time at 12 p.m. May 9 at Divine Peace Church. *Courtesy photo.*



▲ Discovery Statue
A dedication ceremony was held April 13 for the Rockwall founders' sculpture which was recently installed on the southeast corner of the Rockwall Historic Courthouse. The statue, created by local artist Jim Bryant, depicts pioneers Benjamin Boydston, Terry Utley Wade and William Clay Stevenson discovering the rock wall for which our city is named. *Photo by Melanie Mayfield.*



▲ Community Comes Together
Frost Bank's new Rockwall Financial Center (3092 Horizon Road) hosted a grand opening celebration in which they presented generous check donations to Meals on Wheels Senior Services of Rockwall County and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Texas. *Photos by BRN Media.*

AROUND TOWN

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



Aspasians Spring Marketplace | Saturday, April 22
Free admission. Wilkerson-Sanders Memorial Stadium. Aspasians.com.

Texas Pie Fest | Saturday, April 22
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Tate Farms Rockwall. \$5 admission, children 10 & under free. Dogs welcome. Features pie vendors, pie eating and pie baking contests, vendor market.


Early Voting Begins | Monday, April 24
Info: rockwallvotes.com. 

Go Blue Proclamation | Tuesday, April 25
McLendon-Chisholm, City Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Caddy Shack Golf Tournament | Thursday, April 27
Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce will host its annual golf tournament at Buffalo Creek Golf Club.

5K, Fun Run | Saturday, April 29
Raise funds for the Empower7 Ranch building campaign and programs for at-risk teens in North Texas, 7:30 a.m. 1-mile Fun Run start; 7:45 a.m. 5K start; 8:45 a.m. awards at Wilkerson-Sanders Memorial Stadium, 1215 TL Townsend Drive. Register: <https://empower7.org/5krun/>.

Go Blue for Kids Gala | Saturday, April 29
Benefiting Children's Advocacy Center for Rockwall County, 6 to 11 p.m. at The Venue at Boyd Farm. Tickets: one.bidpal.net/goblueforkids/ticketing.

Blue Sunday | Sunday, April 30
Join the Children's Advocacy Center in prayer for the victims of child abuse and for those working to provide hope and healing for them. 



San Jacinto Plaza Music Series
Friday, May 5
Opening night for the San Jacinto Plaza Music Series in Downtown Rockwall. Free shows run 7-9:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through October.

2023 CONCERT BY THE LAKE SERIES			
Play 4	Rockwall Philharmonic	June 8	Bidi Bidi Banda
Play 11	Fleetwood X	June 15	Infinite Journey
Play 18	The Herries	June 22	Texas Flood
Play 25	Lauren Carolee	June 29	Walk This Way
June 1	Memphis Soul	July 6	Turnpike
		July 13	Def Legend
		July 20	Loud Yashan
		July 27	David Whitman

Concert by the Lake | Thursday, May 4
Rockwall Philharmonic May the 4th Star Wars Concert. 7-9 p.m. at The Harbor. The 2023 Concert by the Lake Series runs Thursday nights May thru July. Info: playrockwall.com.

Cinco de Mayo | Friday, May 5

Lemonade Day | Saturday, May 6
Presented by the Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce, this free, fun experiential learning program teaches youth how to start, own and operate their own business — a lemonade stand, 9 a.m. to noon. Details: rockwallchamber.org.

Election Day | Saturday, May 6 



Rockwall Farmers Market
OPENS MAY 6!
8am-Noon Saturdays thru Sept. 30
Historic Downtown Rockwall

Rockwall: The Wall | Friday, May 12
Sheri Stodghill Lecture Series, free and open to all, at noon on the 3rd floor of the old Rockwall courthouse.

Golf Tournament | Friday, May 12
East Trinity Masonic Lodge No. 157 will host its annual scholarship golf tournament at Buffalo Creek Golf Club with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. Registration: <https://app.eventcaddy.com/events/9th-2-0-annual-east-trinity-masonic-lodge-scholarship-golf-classic>

CPR Training | Saturday, May 13
9 a.m. at Fate City Hall, presented by Fate DPS. Registration opens April 14.

Leadership Rockwall Graduation | Wednesday, May 17
11:30 a.m. at Lakepointe Church. Partnership luncheon program with guest speaker Dan Henry, Fox4.

History Happy Hour | Thursday, May 18
Rockwall County Historical Foundation Happy Hour, "The Wall, The Fair, The Mystery" at Rosini Vineyards, 6:30 p.m.


Older Americans Day | Friday, May 19
1 p.m. at Divine Peace Church.

Founders Day Festival | Saturday, May 20
Celebrate Rockwall Founders Day at Harry Myers Park with daytime festivities and kid zone beginning at 1 p.m., with a 6 p.m. performance from the Bellamy Brothers followed by headliner Easton Corbin at 8: playrockwall.com.

Cars for CASA | Sunday, May 21
18th annual car show hosted by Metro East Division of Dallas Builders Association, benefiting Lone Star CASA. Enjoy 50/50 raffle, good food, and viewing vintage autos and cutting-edge cars at the Rockwall County Court House: lonestarcasa.org/cars-for-casa.




TIN CUP TOURNAMENT
Friday May 26th, 2023
Buffalo Creek Golf Club
624 Country Club Dr
Heath, TX 75032
1 p.m. Shotgun Start
Sponsorship & registration:
rockwallmealsonwheels.org

Quest Graduation | Thursday, May 25
Rockwall Quest Academy graduation ceremony, 6 p.m. at Rockwall-Heath High School Performing Arts Center. 

Memorial Event | Monday, May 29
Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony with music, games and family fun day 10 a.m. to noon at Rest Haven Memorial Park, 2500 Hwy 66 East in Rockwall.

Heath Graduation | Wednesday, May 31
Rockwall-Heath High School graduation ceremony, 7 p.m. at Curtis Culwell Center in Garland. 

Rockwall Graduation | Thursday, June 1
Rockwall High School graduation ceremony, 7 p.m. at Curtis Culwell Center in Garland. 

Brunch & Bunco | Saturday, June 10
Rockwall Soroptimist annual fundraiser 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Springhill Suites by Marriott Dallas. Tickets: eventbrite.com/e/526813582607.

★★★★ *Re-Elect* ★★★★★



APRIL 24

IS THE FIRST DAY OF EARLY VOTING

Election Date: May 06, 2023



JOHN BRANDT

for

PLACE 2 FATE CITY COUNCIL



214-592-2015



john@keepjohn.com



www.keepjohn.com



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Pol. Adv. by John P. Brandt