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Volume 11, Issue 4 | June-July 2023

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Talk of the Town 2

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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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Adventures with BRN
SPEAKing of new restaurants...

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! There's a new restaurant in the heart of downtown Rockwall, but no one's allowed to say specifically where it is. The only way to know is to book a reservation.

From the creators of Ramen Head on San Jacinto, restaurateurs Tommy and Tamara Kolleck recently opened Speak – a modern rendition of a prohibition-era speakeasy, complete with hidden doors and secret passcodes. The couple has done an amazing job keeping the location a secret. The good news is that Blue Ribbon News was there for the soft launch before the official opening on June 3rd.

When we made our reservation at Speak, we did so without knowing where to go. When the day came, we received an email with everything we needed to know – the location, dress code, and password required to get in.

The restaurant is strictly 21+. When you walk in, it really does feel like you've stepped back in time. As most speakeasys were in the 20's, the place is small and cozy with dim lighting. The walls are original and the building itself has some amazing, exposed brick. There is 1920's themed lighting, a stage for entertainment, and servers and bartenders wearing traditional 20's outfits!



"Tommy and I are big foodies," she said. "We were tired of driving across the lake to go somewhere else for food that was a little different than the norm. I saw this location many years ago; the place was beautiful, but it wasn't available. The day it became available we immediately called and leased it. It was our dream concept and design."

The only issue, she added, was getting the place finished out. Speak was originally slated to open in late 2022, but the date was pushed back due to the volume of work needed for the inside. At the time of our visit, Tamara said they are waiting on licensing to be able to stay open later (maybe 2 a.m. on the weekends) so they can run a cocktail hour where they will serve appetizers and desserts.

If you're looking for an out of the ordinary, total sensory experience, Speak is the talk of the town!

By JR Joe, Blue Ribbon News.

ON THE COVER: PAWS recently hosted an emotional graduation ceremony for service dogs and their recipients. The Rockwall-based nonprofit helps restore independence to American veterans, first responders and others with injuries or illnesses that impair mobility, Post-Traumatic Stress, and Traumatic Brain Injuries. Story, page 7.



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The Rose Table: Snake Pit Pasta headlines this Indiana Jones-themed Disney dinner party

GOOD TIMES

For my latest episode of Disney Dinners, I hosted an Indiana Jones party to celebrate the release of the new movie. I transformed my dining room into an Egyptian temple for Indy to explore, complete with a boulder, cobwebs, snake decals, a hieroglyphic table runner, ancient map napkins, and Indy’s iconic hat as the centerpiece.

Enchanted Farmhouse made spectacular custom Indy signs for me that are now available on her Etsy store, and local Dallas artisan Marbleized Ceramics handcrafted holy grails for the occasion that stole the show when I served Last Crusade Sangria.

The menu has some of the most thematic dishes to date! I served delicious stuffed “good dates” and “bad dates” as an homage to Raiders of the Lost Ark. Then I made quick and easy Snake Pit Pasta with burrata boulders hidden inside.

For dessert, I made adorable Chocolate Boulders filled with ”dirt” no-bake cheesecake. It’s just like having dinner in Adventureland!

Watch all of my Disney Dinners on The Rose Table’s Facebook or YouTube channels and get all of the recipes on the rosetable.com.



- Snake Pit Pasta

Serves 4

1 pound bucatini pasta • 1 jar homemade pesto (recipe follows)

4 medium-sized burrata balls • 1/4 cup pine nuts

1. Make pesto and set aside.

2. Cook bucatini according to package directions, drain, and toss well with pesto.

3. Set a burrata ball in each bowl, then plate bucatini “snakes” around the burrata. Sprinkle pine nuts on top and enjoy!
- Homemade Pesto

2 cups packed fresh basil leaves • 1/4 cup pine nuts • 1 garlic clove

1/2 cup olive oil • 1/4 cup pecorino cheese • Salt, pepper

Process basil, pine nuts, and cloves in a food processor. Stream in olive oil. Season to your liking, then stir in cheese and serve immediately or freeze for later!



By Katie-Rose Watson, who often covers Rockwall on the rosetable.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.



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Rockwall Veterinary Hospital celebrates 65 years

GOOD LIVING

Today’s Rockwall Veterinary Hospital is a modern, small animal clinic, but the clinic’s history actually goes back 65 years! In 1958, Dr. Joe Loftis took over a downtown Rockwall vet clinic before moving to a newly constructed state-of-the-art facility in 1970, where today’s hospital remains.

In those early days, farm animals were a large part of the practice, and Joe’s wife, JoAnn (Rochell), used a short-wave radio to give direction for the next farm call. While much has changed, their mission has not.


Dr. David Loftis joined his father’s practice in 1990 upon graduation from Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine. When Joe retired in 2000, David continued to focus the clinic on the kind of personal care and work ethic his father and mother had established and become known for.

With integrity and honesty at the core, the Rockwall Veterinary Hospital mission is to provide great care with compassion for animals and owners, especially important on those difficult days. This in mind, having team members with a heart for pets and their owner is a clinic priority.


“I feel a tremendous obligation to the Rockwall community, and that certainly includes their 4-legged family members because I know pets help people live better lives,” said Dr. Loftis. “Service is the foundation of caring and that includes doing the right thing for our clients who put their trust in us, and I am confident that my entire team feels the same way.”

As a 4th generation native, David has long been committed to the future of the Rockwall area. Having served in many capacities and boards including Rotary, YMCA, Rockwall ISD, and as a lifelong member of First Baptist Church, the people of Rockwall are family. Today, David works with RISD’s Gene Burton College & Career Academy, providing clinic rotations as students prepare to obtain a Certified Veterinary Assistant (CVA) certification, the first step to becoming Vet Technicians. Helping young people develop interest and experience in vet medicine is rewarding knowing some day they may be caring for local pets too.


With the clinic’s 65th anniversary, David and his wife, Chrissie, reflect on the past and the many patients who have become friends, old and new, with great appreciation. They also fondly remember



Dr. Joe and JoAnn Loftis



An exam room and guests viewing the pet cages during the 1970 grand opening.



Dr. David Loftis and his team carry on his father's legacy.

Joe and JoAnn, the way they treated their clients, and the memories that make the history of Rockwall Veterinary Hospital. They also look toward the future, excited to meet new clients, pets and the growth to come.

Sponsored article. By Melanie Mayfield, Blue Ribbon News contributing writer.

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Patriot Paws helps veterans and others regain independence one dog at a time

GOOD CAUSE

Last month, an emotional and joyous event occurred placing American heroes with four-legged heroes through the devotion of Rockwall non-profit, Patriot PAWS Service Dogs. Arriving at this Service Dog Team graduation, you become immediately aware that this is a special occasion. Greeted with an upbeat, patriotic atmosphere you can't help but notice tissues placed along each aisle hinting at what is to come.

Patriot PAWS provides Service Dogs to military Veterans, First Responders and others who suffer with injuries or illnesses that impair mobility, Post-Traumatic Stress, and Traumatic Brain Injuries. Much more than a placement agency, Patriot PAWS raises and trains the puppies, selects recipients, and provides instruction and ongoing support to the Service Dog team. While recipients come from all over the United States these are Texas pups – raised and trained here! Training cycles through four programs, each providing specific and unique training settings, the local Patriot PAWS facility, one of three different prison units, AggieLand Puppy Raisers and DFW Puppy Raisers.

Once prepared to graduate, the dogs meet and work with recipients as a group over a two-week introduction and training period right here in Rockwall. During this time, Patriot PAWS staff provide guidance and watch for clues that a dog may be forming a bond with a specific recipient. Those bonds, as well as the skill set needed, help determine the matches. Yes, Patriot PAWS believes the dog should play a role in selecting their own partner!

At the conclusion of training, the partnerships are cemented in a matching ceremony. At last month's graduation, those present were treated to a video of the inmate trainers and band who wrote a song especially for the ceremony. The profound lyrics were a message to us about the impact this program has on everyone involved... In a world gone crazy... you will always be a special part of me... great example of how God really wants us to be. The tissues began to be passed around.

As they arrive at the back of the room, you see the dogs lock eyes on their new partner, waiting at the end of the aisle, and your heart melts. Yes, they are working dogs, but they do so with unconditional love and devotion. They serve faithfully, even heroically, and those lyrics from the inmate's song come back to mind. A few moments later, at the front of the room, a joyous, tail-wagging partnering takes place, and you see how quickly these dogs have embraced their assignment and their friend. And the tissues are shared again.

The bonds are lifelong and upon retirement the dogs are welcome to remain with the family. For those that pass away, the recipient will receive another partner because the commitment from Patriot PAWS is ongoing. The need and the value are worth the continued investment!

To date, Patriot PAWS has provided over 400 Service Dogs in 40 states and currently has

80 requests pending. Focusing on quality over speed, training lasts approximately 18-24 months at a cost of \$35,000+ per dog but the result is well worth the investment, proven through continued success and the requests received from across the country.

To continue their mission, Patriot PAWS hosts fundraising events throughout the year including a golf tournament in September and bi-annual gala in October. Sponsors and participants are always welcome and needed. Volunteer opportunities are also available as Patriot PAWS looks to expand their services.

To support Patriot Paws and play a significant role in restoring physical and emotional independence to American veterans and others visit <https://patriotpaws.org/>

By Melanie Mayfield, Blue Ribbon News contributing writer.

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Cooking with Ease



A Different Story: Oven Baked Brisket Tacos

Most people that read this will already know what my day job is. My husband and I run one of Rockwall County’s oldest family-owned cattle farms. We raise cattle, sell beef, and cook tasty beef-centric meals. Most of our cooking is done over open fire. This is, traditionally, how beef should be cooked. Burgers on a grill, brisket in a smoker. You know how it goes.

When we cook for crowds and some of our long-time clients, like Willie Nelson, we make everything in the meal outdoors. We cook the steaks to perfection on a charcoal grill, smoke the tri-tip to peak tenderness in an offset smoker, and roast the veggies to a deliciously bright, fragrant finish.

But at home, on a weeknight, after working all day, it is a different story. Before meeting my husband, Evan, I did 99% of my cooking indoors. I fancy myself a great home cook, so nothing was off-limits. But also, there were limits. And those limits included air conditioning and controlled cooking temperatures. One of my favorite meals to make in the oven was, and still is, brisket tacos. Brisket is great on an outdoor smoker, but it is also really,



really good straight from your oven.

This summer, I want to remind you that enjoying the food of the season does not require an open flame. You can grill your steaks, bake your brisket and roast your veggies in your own home and enjoy those flavors on a Tuesday at your kitchen table.

This recipe was inspired by Lisa Fain, The Homesick Texan. As a seventh-generation Texan, she created three cookbooks full of our favorite fare while living in New York City for two decades. My recipe follows closely but is even a bit easier. This brisket can be used for sandwiches, baked potatoes, with veggies and a dinner roll, or as the main star of a brisket taco, which is what I prefer.



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.

Oven Baked Brisket Tacos

Makes approx 12 tacos

Brisket Ingredients:
3 pounds brisket • Salt • Pepper • 1 Tbsp olive oil
1 large yellow onion, cut into quarters • 2 Tbsp garlic, minced
1/4 cup red wine vinegar • 2 cups beef broth • 1 teaspoon ground cumin
1 jalapeño, seeds and stems removed, cut in half, lengthwise
1 Tbsp cilantro paste or 2 fresh stems • 1 bay leaf

Taco Ingredients:
Corn or flour tortillas • Any of the following: Onion, diced • Cilantro, chopped
Limes, quartered • Cotija cheese • Pickled red onions

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 250°F.
Generously sprinkle the brisket with salt and black pepper. We use Tate Farms Steak Shake. Generously sprinkle the brisket with salt and black pepper, such as a Dutch oven, heat Shake in place of salt and pepper. In a large ovenproof pot, about 5 minutes per side. Shake in place of salt and pepper. In a large ovenproof pot, about 5 minutes per side. the oil on medium, and brown the brisket on both sides, about 5 minutes per side. Remove the brisket from the pot and add the onions. Cook until they begin to brown, stirring occasionally. Add garlic and cook for another 2 minutes. Turn off the heat and pour in red wine vinegar, scraping along the bottom to loosen all of the pan drippings. This is called “fond” and is wonderful for flavor. Don’t skip this step.
Return brisket to the pot, fat-side up. Pour in the beef broth and add the cumin, jalapeño, cilantro and bay leaf. Cover the pot and place in the oven. Cook the brisket for 6 hours or until it’s fork tender. When you take the brisket out of the oven, let it rest in the pot uncovered for 15 minutes.
Now, shred the brisket with two forks until it is broken down to your desired taco-filling consistency. Warm your tortillas on a flat top or in the microwave, and load up with your favorite ingredients.
You can purchase Tate Farms brisket, Steak Shake and all of our other products at the Rockwall Farmers Market each Saturday from 8am-12pm or online at tatefarmstx.com.

The Confession of a Once-Pagan King



My wooded neighborhood features a mix of mature hardwood and pine trees – up to 100 feet tall. We welcome the rains that keep them green but worry about high winds that make them sway. Rain and wind are a dangerous combination since the added weight of wet leaves can bring down a tree rooted in saturated soil.

Tree experts warn us to remove trees that show signs of dying – broken branches, wounds, rot, fungus, or an obvious lean. But professional tree removal is quite expensive. My husband cut down a young tree that leaned toward our house, yet it seemed huge as it fell with a thunderous crash.

There’s an ancient story of an enormous tree that was cut down. Only this tree represented Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon (circa 600 B.C.), who survived his fall and wrote an account addressed to all people and nations of the earth. It’s found in the Old Testament book of Daniel.

The king was at ease until having this dream: A beautiful tree was chopped down and turned into a man with the mind of a beast. When his host of soothsayers could not interpret the dream’s meaning, Nebuchadnezzar’s “chief administrator over all the wise men,” Daniel, entered the room (Daniel 2:48; 4:18 – 19).

As a God-fearing exiled Israelite, Daniel grew troubled about the king’s dream. “My lord. . .,” he responded, “The tree that you saw . . . it is you, O king, . . . your greatness has grown and reaches to the heavens, and your dominion to the end of the earth. . . this is the decree of the Most High, . . . your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, . . . till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever he chooses” (Dan. 4:19 – 25).

Twelve months later, Nebuchadnezzar walked in his royal palace to admire, in his words, “this great Babylon, that I have built . . . for the honor of my majesty.” Before his lips closed, a voice from heaven said, “The kingdom has departed from you. . . .” The king was immediately driven from



civilization. He lived like an ox in the field until his hair grew long and his nails became like birds’ claws (Dan. 4:29 – 33).

Notice, however, that Nebuchadnezzar had been granted that one-year grace period before God’s ax struck the tree. After interpreting the dream, Daniel urged the king to break off his sins and practice righteousness, adding, “Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity” (Dan. 4:27).

Could our seemingly strong nation be in a grace period that is ticking away by the day? Our system of government, while superior to many others, is strained. Though still powerful to the end of the earth, it sways ominously from opposing winds. Laws once set in the stone of foundational truths have taken a pounding at the hands of so many judges and the combined weight of their gavels. Our country is no longer known for a “firm reliance on the protection of divine

Providence” that our founding fathers acknowledged.

The chastised king later testified, “I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me, and I blessed the Most High . . . His kingdom is from generation to generation” (Dan. 4:34).

In the fullness of time, all nations will acknowledge God Most High – as the kingdoms of this world “become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ” (Revelation 11:15).

Meanwhile, tree experts say that even a large tree might be saved with some intervention.



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.

¹NKJV Bible;

²Declaration of Independence

Area educators welcome at Teachers Prayer Breakfast



The annual JER Chilton YMCA Teachers Prayer Breakfast, dedicated to the professional educators who serve area districts, is scheduled for Wednesday, July 26. Breakfast will be served at 6:45 a.m. with a special program to follow at 7.

An open invitation is extended to all Rockwall County area educators to join community members and YMCA leaders for this time of prayer, reflection and celebration to usher in the new school year.

Each year, JER Chilton YMCA board members put considerable time into planning the annual event. Rockwall Fire Chief Kenneth Cullins, Chairperson of this year’s planning committee, spoke to the significance for them as well as the YMCA organization saying, “The YMCA recognizes the importance of a quality education system and values the tremendous impact that teachers and administrators have on the development of the future of our city, state and country. We want to use this opportunity to express our gratitude for their hard work and dedication and provide them with prayer and encouragement as they prepare for a new year.”

This year’s scriptural theme, “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” (Proverbs 27:17) addresses the critical role of an educator in the life of others, children as well as fellow teachers, parents, and school districts as a whole.

The catered breakfast includes a keynote presentation by Dr. Amy Anderson, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum for Royse City ISD. Joining RCISD in 2022 after serving Rockwall schools for 20 years, Dr. Anderson is well known to focus on the importance of developing strong relationships.

Prize raffles from a variety of local businesses are also included and onsite childcare is available by reservation.



For more information visit ymcadallas.org/locations/jerchiltonymca/programs/teachers-breakfast. Tickets are free to all educators and can be obtained online at eventbrite.com/e/teachers-prayer-breakfast-2023-tickets-623713522937.

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!



Father of the Year

Tim Herriage of Rockwall, shown here with his sons, was honored as Father of the Year by the JER Chilton YMCA, an annual Y tradition since Father's Day originated in 1910 at the Spokane, WA YMCA. Tim's wife, Jennifer, wrote: "As a former marine, Tim embodies the values of accountability, integrity, honesty, and hard work, and he instills these values in his children through his coaching and guidance. Tim's dedication to his sons is unparalleled, and he makes spending time with them a top priority even with his busy schedule as an executive at a National Lending Company." *Courtesy photo.*



Sunset Swings

The Terry Park Sunset Swings were recently installed – a project made possible by the Parks and Trails of Heath (PATH) fundraising program, and the Heath Economic Development/Municipal Benefits Corporations, which contribute 25% of the annual sales tax collected by the organizations back into community/quality of life projects. *Courtesy photos.*



Much Needed Makeover

With the support of 33 generous sponsors throughout Rockwall County, the Leadership Rockwall Class of 2023 recently wrapped up a year-long effort to renovate the historic Fate Community Center. The center hosts senior programs and is available for rent for birthdays, family reunions, holiday parties and more. *Courtesy photos.*



Sworn In

The Rockwall City Council selected Sedric Thomas (center) to fill the Place 4 vacancy left when Trace Johannesen was elected as Mayor. Thomas most recently served as Chairman of the Rockwall Planning & Zoning Commission. His family was there to support him when he was sworn in during a special meeting on May 23. *Courtesy photo.*

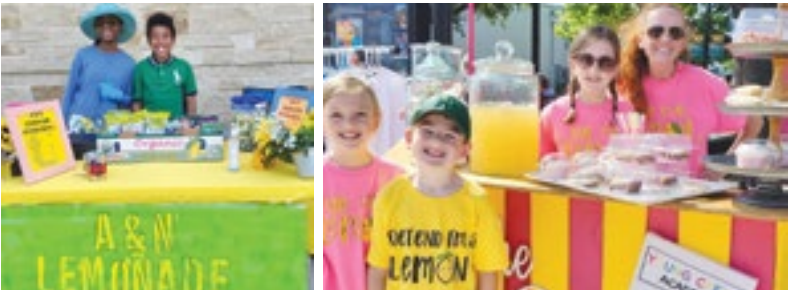


Older Americans Day

Meals on Wheels Senior Services of Rockwall County recently celebrated Older Americans Day by honoring seniors, as well as several outstanding volunteers who serve them – for their positive impact on our community. *Courtesy photo.*

Standing Ovation at Park Bench

Friends and community members gathered at the Historic Downtown Courthouse recently as the Rockwall County Republican Party hosted a bench dedication ceremony in honor of Dalton and Laverne Kennimer, longtime Republican stalwarts of Rockwall County. *Courtesy photo.*



Easy Peasy Lemon Squeezy

Over 80 lemonade stand businesses were established by young entrepreneurs with more than \$10,000 in sales and \$7400 in profit on Lemonade Day in Rockwall County – a program presented by the Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce and local businesses. Noel and Antonio (pictured left) said they were surprised their customers preferred the sparkling pinkberry flavor. Berkeley, with Young Chefs Academy, made a variety of treats donating proceeds to National Kidney Foundation. *Photos by BRN Media.*



Rewed Up for CASA Kids

The very first Cars for CASA event in 2005 featured 80 cars and raised \$2,600. This year's show hosted by Metro East Division of the Dallas Builders Association featured over 400 vehicles – from vintage autos to cutting-edge cars – and raised over \$102,000 for Lone Star CASA! For all the 'best of' winners, see our follow-up at blueribbonnews.com. *Courtesy photos.*



I DO!

This was a big day at Downtown Rockwall's Historic Courthouse. Claree Henderson (2nd from left) was married 65 years ago by Judge Ralph Hall in this very courtroom. On June 14, 2023 the legacy of that commitment was honored with the wedding of Claree's grandchild. County Judge Frank New officiated. *Courtesy photo.*

AROUND TOWN

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

Grease | Friday, June 23

Opening night of Rockwall Summer Musicals' Grease directed by Becky Henderson. Shows are June 23-25 and June 30-July 2. Info: rockwallsummermusicals.org.

Junk Prom | Saturday, June 24

Helping Hands and The Helping Hands Thrift Store and Boutique will host Junk Prom with new items throughout the store, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 950 Williams St.

PTSD911 | Saturday, June 24

All local first responders, friends, family and community members are invited to PTSD911, a fundraising event presented by A Badge of Honor and the City of Garland, at the historic Plaza Theater in Garland. Funds from tickets sales and silent auction will provide scholarships for first responders to attend Wellness & Resiliency Training. Info and tickets: abadgeofhonor.com

Royse City Celebrating Freedom | Saturday, June 24

6 to 10 p.m. at Royse City High School with live music, food trucks, and Kid Zone.

Bluegrass on Ballard & Car Show | Saturday, June 24

200 cars will line Ballard Ave from Oak St. to Brown St. in Historic Downtown Wylie. Bluegrass on Ballard schedule: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. arts & crafts, children's activities; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Battle of the Badges Blood Drive; 1 to 9 p.m. bluegrass bands; 4-9 p.m. car show.

Sweet Taste of Pride | Wednesday, June 28

The Rowlett Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee invites the community to join them from 7 to 9 p.m. in Downtown Rowlett for the lighting of the tower and to enjoy green peach cobbler, banana pudding and ice cream.

Red, White & Blue Blast | Monday, July 3

Sachse's Annual Red, White & Blue Blast begins at 6 p.m. at Heritage Park, 4408 Hudson Drive with live entertainment by the Party Machine, food trucks, vendors, games, a Splashdown by Sachse Fire and Rescue and fireworks show at 9:30.

Heath Independence Day Celebration | Tuesday, July 4

City of Heath Special Events Board presents a patriotic hometown experience with a parade beginning at 9 a.m. (staging at 8 a.m. at Amy Parks Heath Elementary), followed by a celebration in Towne Center Park featuring a live barbershop quartet, free popsicles and pie. Details: heathtx.com/independence-day/.

Rockwall Parade | Tuesday, July 4

Rockwall's annual Independence Day parade will begin at 11 a.m. from Wilkinson-Sanders stadium. The parade will go north on Townsend, take a left on Boydston, right on Fannin, and will conclude with a right turn on Rusk ending at Dobbs Elementary School.

2023 CONCERT BY THE LAKE SERIES			
May 4	Rockwall Philharmonia	June 8	Bidi Bidi Banda
May 11	Philly's Philly's	June 15	Infinite Journey
May 18	Fleetwood & Friends	June 22	Texas Flood
May 25	The Herriens	June 29	Walk This Way
June 1	Lauren Corrine	July 6	Turnpike
	Memphis Soul	July 13	Def Legend
		July 20	Local Yaakam
		July 27	David Whitman Band

Rockwall Fireworks | Tuesday, July 4



Fourth of July family festivities and fireworks at dusk at Harry Myers Park. The best viewing areas are Harry Myers Park, Dobbs Elementary, Tuttle Athletic Complex, and the RISD Admin Building.

Fireworks on Main | Tuesday, July 4

City of Rowlett Parks & Recreation presents live music, Kid Zone, and fireworks 5 to 10 p.m. at Pecan Grove Park. Emerald City Band will headline beginning at 8 p.m.



Rowlett Freedom 5K | Tuesday, July 4

Rowlett Area Chamber and Rowlett Freedom 5K presents a 5K and 1 mile fun run with a virtual 5K option, finisher medals, goody bags, and Tech t-shirts for 5K runners, 7 to 9 a.m.: rowlett5k.com.

Bottle Rocket Bash | Tuesday, July 4

Beginning at 6 p.m. in Greenville Sports Park, the City of Greenville will have food trucks, games, kid zone, live entertainment from DJ Chris Reeves and the Big Daddy Band followed by a fireworks show.

La Tee Da: Downtown Divas | Thursday, July 13

The Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Rockwall Association and Professional Women's Alliance will host a downtown Rockwall shopping event, 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., complete with wine, fellowship, raffle prizes and a special visit from the North Pole. Tickets and sponsorships: kelsey@rockwallchamber.org.



San Jacinto Plaza Music Series

Downtown Rockwall
Free shows run
7-9:30 p.m.
Fridays and Saturdays
through October.



Rockwall Farmers Market

8am-Noon Saturdays
thru Sept. 30
Historic Downtown Rockwall

Lunch & Learn | Thursday, July 20

Free lunch program on skilled nursing and rehab presented by Highland Meadows Health & Rehab at JER Chilton YMCA. Free and open to the public, lunch included, starts at noon.

Teacher Prayer Breakfast | Wednesday, July 26

Hosted by JER Chilton YMCA. Breakfast served at 6:45 a.m.; program at 7 featuring keynote speaker Dr. Amy Anderson, Royse City ISD Deputy Superintendent. See story in this issue.

New Teacher & Employee Welcome Expo | Tuesday, Aug. 1

The Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce will host the Rockwall ISD New Teacher & Employee Welcome Expo from 7 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Aug. 1 at Dr. Gene Burton College & Career Academy. Sponsorship opportunities available. Contact kate@rockwallchamber.org.

Fashion, Music & Art Luncheon | Saturday, Aug. 5

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Chandlers Landing Yacht Club. Proceeds benefit the Rockwall Art League. Visit Eventbrite for tickets.

CRASE Training | Wednesday, Aug. 16

Presented by Fate Department of Public Safety, Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) training provides strategies, guidance and a proven plan for surviving an active shooter event. Ages 14+. 6 p.m. at Fate City Hall. Registration begins July 1.

CALL TO ARTISTS • SAVE THE DATES



RAL Fine Art Show
Sept. 22-30
Cavender Nissan
Artists Reception 5-7pm
Sept. 23

Go to RockwallArtLeague.org for a prospectus and information to enter.



SAVE THE DATE

Rubber Duck Regatta | Saturday, Oct. 14
DUCK SALES START JULY 4TH

The Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Texas and Grace Clinic will present the 11th Annual Rockwall Rubber Duck Regatta and Jeep Festival at The Harbor. Look for them in the Rockwall Independence Day Parade and stay tuned for more details!



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