

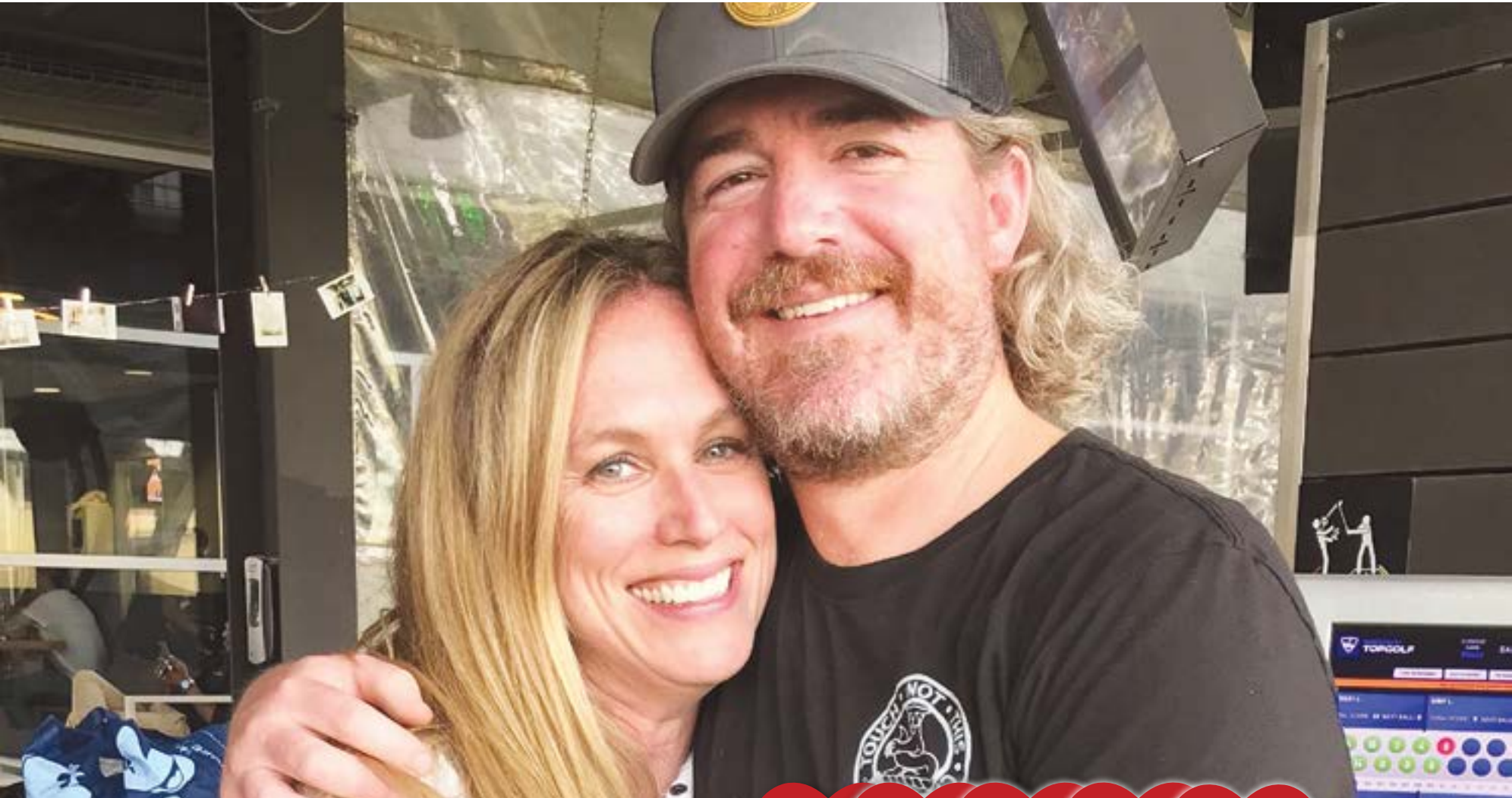
# Blue Ribbon News

ROCKWALL/HEATH

READ MORE at [BlueRibbonNews.com](http://BlueRibbonNews.com)



Volume 11, Issue 1 | February 2023 REAL. GOOD. NEWS.



## How I Met My Mate

Local couples share stories of how they found their true love

8

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

\*\*\*ECRWSSDDM\*\*

Local Postal  
Customer



King of the Court

2



Candy Sushi

6



Finally Home

13



Serving Rockwall County for Over 10 Years

Real.Good.News.



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

About Blue Ribbon News

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

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

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

**E-Newsletter & Subscriptions:** Sign up for our e-newsletter at [BlueRibbonNews.com](http://BlueRibbonNews.com). We'll send links to our hometown stories and events direct to your inbox. For those living outside our delivery area, an annual subscription is available for \$48 (to cover postage). Message us or mail a check to:  
**Blue Ribbon News, PO Box 967, Rockwall, TX 75087**

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

About BRN Media

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

Blue Ribbon News, LLC  
PO Box 967, Rockwall, TX 75087  
[info@blueribbonnews.com](mailto:info@blueribbonnews.com), 214-342-8000

**Publisher/Managing Editor:**  
Dawn Redig, [DawnRedig@blueribbonnews.com](mailto:DawnRedig@blueribbonnews.com)

**News Desk:**[editor@blueribbonnews.com](mailto: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

**Marketing Assistant:** Megan Newton

**Advertising:**  
[advertising@blueribbonnews.com](mailto:advertising@blueribbonnews.com) | 214-342-8000



Copyright 2023 Blue Ribbon News, LLC. All rights reserved. Contents may not be reproduced without written permission. Advertisers and advertising agencies assume liability for content of all ads. Information published is the opinion of sourced authors.

At 97, this Rockwall pickleball player is kind of a big dill

When it comes to adding life to your years, John Figliulo could be considered an expert. Born January 10, 1926, John recently celebrated his 97th birthday with his wife of nearly eight years, Evelyn, his nine children and over 80 family, friends, and neighbors. Spend a little time with John and you will quickly see he has a lot of life to celebrate!

John, a World War II Army veteran, attributes his long life to good genes and a lifetime of activity. A former swimmer and an avid walker, in recent years John added bridge and cribbage to his never-ending list of pastimes. However, one of his most interesting hobbies is the rapidly growing sport of pickleball.

John was first introduced to pickleball 15 years ago, long before the sport became widely known. Spending summers in Colorado, he routinely walked six miles a day. During one of those walks he encountered a group of senior citizens playing a then unknown game on an abandoned ice rink. They introduced him to pickleball and, needing another player, invited him to join. In a short time, a new hobby was found! He played regularly, only temporarily pausing to care for his first wife during her illness. Later he picked up his racquet again and even helped introduce Evelyn, who had been a tennis player, to the sport.

As the popularity of pickleball has grown so has the competition, which they are perfectly content with. In fact, truth be told, John doesn't shy away from a little competition; although he does admit that he and Evelyn rarely play doubles together. Today you can find them and their fellow pickleball companions several times a week at various courts all over Rockwall.

At 97, John is going strong and always ready to introduce new people to pickleball. If you want to learn from our local pickleball pioneer just visit the nearest court and ask for "Old John". Happy Birthday, John!

Story and photos by Melanie Mayfield, Blue Ribbon News contributing writer.



ON THE COVER: Marcy and Alidor Lefere, who many may know from Zanata, are among the couples who shared their love stories this year as part of Blue Ribbon News' annual 'How I Met My Mate' Valentine's feature, pg 8-11.



Women in Need celebrates 40 years with Chocolate Indulgence



Women in Need is thrilled to announce their 11th Annual Chocolate Indulgence fundraiser which will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, February 10, 2023 at Hidden Creek in Heath. This will be exceptionally special as they celebrate their 40th year as an organization.

Women in Need, Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that offers both residential and non-residential services for victims of domestic violence in Rockwall, Hunt, and Rains counties.

WIN fulfills its mission by providing a 24/7 emergency hotline and shelter. WIN remains dedicated to protecting and advocating for survivors of domestic violence. They provide continued education on healthy relationships in the school systems of all the counties they serve. At its core, WIN strives to offer refuge, empowerment, and restoration to keep our communities and families safe. Your sponsorship and contributions help continue their fight to promote a secure today and safer tomorrow.

To recognize this milestone, the community is welcome to join WIN as they honor three individuals who have been instrumental in helping them achieve their goals while providing unparalleled support: Connie Pettitt, previous Executive Director of WIN; Father Keith Turberville, Rector at Holy Trinity By the Lake Episcopal Church; and Paul Renfro, of PRR Development and Classic Homes.

The theme of this year's event is Roaring 20's! Plan now to put on your best glad rags (appropriately 1920's themed cocktail attire) and join them at the best juice joint around where you'll enjoy great giggle juice while cutting a rug. You do not want to miss this shindig!

Festivities will include a Rollin' Smoke Cigar Bar, ProviDance Performing Arts Center, DJ Kelly Hooper, a 4-foot Chocolate Fountain with a multitude of chocolate delicacies, photo booth provided by Rayson's Creations, decorations provided by Kendall Kreationz, raffles, live auction and more.

Limited sponsorship/tickets can be purchased at: <https://winintx.harnessgiving.org/events/134>. For more information and ways to become involved with WIN, email Jody Wright at [jwright@wintexas.org](mailto:jwright@wintexas.org).

Sponsored content by Women in Need. Blue Ribbon News is a proud sponsor of Women in Need's Chocolate Indulgence.



History in the Making

The Rockwall County Historical Foundation recently added new history-loving folks from Rockwall County to their Board of Trustees – Wayne Baxter, Mitchell Brown, James Canup, and Patty Griffin. Evan Tate is the 2023 Board President; Johnny Myers, President-Elect. Katie Conrad serves as Executive Director.

Among the Board's goals: create a county-wide community calendar and fundraising opportunities, as well as remodeling of collections storage, more public programming, digitizing collections, working on ADA accessible programming and virtual field trips, expanding research files, and activities for the County's sesquicentennial.

Over the past year Rockwall County Historical Museum, located at Harry Myers Park, had visitors from 32 Texas cities, 14 states, and 4 countries. It is open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. The RCHF is not affiliated with the City or County; the houses, gazebo, tenant cabin, rock wall, well, windmill, and carriage house are private property. The gazebo is available to rent all year round.

Rockwall Women's League to host 50th Anniversary Celebration

With great excitement, Rockwall Women's League announces our 50th year of service to Rockwall County. Rockwall Women's League began its mission in 1973, and thanks to the generosity and support of our donors, we continue to thrive. Rockwall Women's League has distributed several million dollars throughout our philanthropic history.



We proudly present to you our Annual Charity Ball and 50th Anniversary Celebration,

Rhythm of the Night

We hope you will join us at The Fairmont Dallas on April 01, 2023, for this one-of-a-kind event. You will be transported through a rhythmic experience to remember forever.

*Rhythm of the Night* will launch with an elegant welcome reception where guests mix and mingle with friends and family. Our guests will then be transported to an exciting night of fine dining, live and silent auctions, engaging experiences, and top-notch musical entertainment that will keep your feet moving all night long. Finally, for those wanting to continue the celebration and festivities, we offer an opportunity to attend our Rhythmic After-Party.

Prior to the *Rhythm of the Night* Charity Ball, we will host a private Red Carpet VIP event in honor of our Sapphire, Emerald, Diamond, and Legendary donors. You will want to take advantage of it.

The *Rhythm of the Night* Charity Ball offers you the opportunity to help our Rockwall County students and valuable local charitable organizations fulfill future dreams and goals. Join us as we support our community through an ad in our program, a corporate table, a donated auctioned item, or a generous cash donation.

Please visit our website at [rockwallwomensleague.org](http://rockwallwomensleague.org) for additional information on how you can be part of this experience. You are also welcome to contact us at [rockwallwl@gmail.com](mailto:rockwallwl@gmail.com) with further inquiries. Thank you in advance for your continued and generous support.

We look forward to seeing you at the April 2023 *Rhythm of the Night* Charity Ball!

Anna Campbell  
2022-2023 RWL Ball Chairperson

Tiffany L Miller  
2022-2023 RWL President

Sponsored content by Rockwall Women's League. Blue Ribbon News is a proud Media Sponsor of the Rhythm of the Night Charity Ball.



Rockwall County Historical Foundation 2023 Board of Trustees (back row): Amanda Ravetta, Mark Russo, Mitchell Brown; (middle row) Linda DeBree, Sarah Keeney, Evan Tate; (front row) Jessica Burgess, Patty Griffin, Johnny Myers. Not pictured: Wayne Baxter, James Canup, Jennifer Rumbo Drake and Dalton Tassett. Also pictured is State Representative Justin Holland, who swore in the new board.



On Saturday, Nov. 5th, the Rockwall Breakfast Rotary Club, in conjunction with Rockwall ISD and the Rainbow Room, provided 380 NEW coats through our 2022 Coats for Kids program.

We would like to thank and recognize the many sponsors who helped make this possible.

**\$5000 + PLATINUM DONOR**

KAREN WILLIAMSON, DDS, PA  
MICHAEL A. LAUN, DDS, INC.

**\$1000 GOLD DONOR**

ALLIANCE BANK, ROCKWALL

**\$500 SILVER DONORS**

ALTURA HOMES  
CONSELMAN FAMILY  
GMR ELECTRICAL  
PACKER BRICK  
PINNACLE ORAL SURGERY  
ROCKWALL ORAL AND FACIAL SURGERY



Sponsorship opportunities  
are available for  
this year's 2023 event.

**\$250-\$300 BRONZE DONORS**

AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK OF TEXAS  
SOULMAN'S BBQ  
THERMO SENSOR CORPORATION  
MIKE OLIVER, CPA, LLC  
RHONDA EMMONS, DDS, PLLC  
NATHAN HODGES, DDS, MS, PA  
DANETTE MCNEW, DDS

**\$100 FRIEND OF THE KIDS DONORS**

WINONA WALKER CLARK  
ROCKWALL-HEATH ENDODONTICS  
ERICKA SAMPLE, DDS, PA  
DAVID M. MCGAFFIN, DDS, PA

Special Thanks to  
Marc Alveras, Manager  
of Costco, and their  
associates who donated their  
time to have a smooth coat  
distribution day; to CHILOSO  
MEXICAN BISTRO  
who provided 400 breakfast  
burritos for the event;  
and to ROCKWALL ISD  
administration - many  
thanks to Missy Wall and  
teachers who assisted  
our efforts.



For more details, please contact:  
Gary Piepenburg at 214-608-1756  
email: GaryPiepenburg@gmail.com  
John Adams at 469-387-0585  
email: jadamsmusic2012@gmail.com

# Bring the Bayou home for Mardi Gras!



The second episode of The Rose Table's Disney Dinners series was Princess and the Frog, a glamorous bayou dinner party featuring loads of New Orleans cuisine.



I recreated the swamp setting of the movie with dim lighting, lanterns, and a twinkle light curtain hung in the doorway to mimic the fireflies in the film. I styled the table with lily pads, floating candles, and a mint green tablecloth reminiscent of Tiana's iconic dress. White roses and green carnations were arranged in bottles as a nod to Mama Odie's place in the movie, which has loads of glass bottles hanging from the ceiling.

As for the food, this is one of my all-time favorite Disney Dinners menus! After all, I had to make Tiana proud. I served chargrilled oysters, my famous Chicken and Sausage Gumbo, French bread, and a stunning Bananas Fosters Layer Cake with French 75's to wash it all down.

Here's my recipe for Chargrilled Oysters – perfect for Mardi Gras! Watch all of my Disney Dinners on The Rose Table's Facebook or YouTube channels. See them all on the rosetable.com. Laissez les bons temps rouler!

## Chargrilled Oysters

- 1 dozen Connecticut Blue Point Oysters (or similar large east coast oysters)
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup grated mozzarella cheese
- 2 small lemons, zested and juiced
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1/4 cup Italian parsley, chopped
- For the sauce (optional):**
- 1 stick unsalted butter
- 1/4 cup Italian parsley
- 2-4 garlic cloves, chopped (depending on your garlic preference)
- 2 Tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp salt
- 1. Shuck oysters.
- 2. Make the sauce, if using: Melt butter in a small saucepan, then stir in the garlic and let cook for 1-2 minutes, until garlic is fragrant. Add parsley, lemon juice, and salt. Remove from heat.
- 3. Preheat grill to 400 degrees.
- 4. Mix cheeses, lemon juice and zest, olive oil, and parsley.
- 5. Throw oysters on the grill for 2 minutes until they open slightly.
- 6. Remove from heat. Shuck oysters using an oyster knife. Disconnect the oyster from the shell. Place oysters back on cupped shells and top with cheese mixture. Set on grill and carefully pour butter sauce over them, if using. Grill on high for 5-10 minutes or until oysters are puffed up and cheese is bubbly.
- 7. Serve with more garlic sauce and French bread.



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.

We keep you covered  
– in all your adventures, all of your life.

HOME | AUTO | COMMERCIAL



107 N. Goliad St.  
Rockwall • 75087  
972.771.4110



Erin Neill Agent

www.HanbyInsurance.com

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

5th Annual  
**Go Blue for Kids Kickoff Party**

Cotton Candy • Balloon Artist • Rock Climbing Wall • Photo Booth • Teddy Bear Mobile • Live Entertainment

March 30th, 2023  
**Free Event**  
3:30pm - 7pm | Standard Service - Heath

Want your company to be on our Go Blue for Kids shirts? SPONSOR!



RSVP for a Chance to Win a Giveaway!



Want to be a Go Blue for Kids Business Supporter?  
Visit RockwallCAC.org to learn more!

Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC



Can I withdraw funds? Can I convert my account? How can I generate income?

To find out options to keep your money working for you, call or email me today.



Kelly D Connel, CFP®  
Financial Advisor  
1309 Ridge Rd Suite 100  
Rockwall, TX 75087-4206  
972-722-7052

IRT-4395H-A

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER  
FOR ROCKWALL COUNTY

7th Annual  
*Go Blue for Kids Gala*

Saturday  
April 29th, 2023  
The Venue at Boyd Farm

Scan to Sponsor or Buy Tickets



www.KATC AutoRepair.com

# KATC

## AUTO REPAIR

### GET READY FOR COLD WEATHER

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



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

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

# 214-893-9323

www.KATC AutoRepair.com



## insurance services

Serving The Rockwall Area For Over 31 Years

SPECIALIZING IN:

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

www.filipinsurance.com

# 972-771-6043



**Rick Filip**

# Cooking with Ease

## GOOD EATS

### Candy Sushi for the kiddos (and the kid in you!)

We have made it past the New Year and are headed straight into Valentine’s Day. A day designed for lovers. All the hearts, candy, flowers, balloons and stuffed animals.

You are now probably wondering how Candy Sushi fits into this category. Well, it fits for a few reasons. Let me explain. Lots of people actually go out for sushi on Valentine’s Day because it is considered somewhat of a treat for most. Making Candy Sushi is combining a fancy treat, sushi, AND a Valentine favorite, candy, into one activity. It is also the perfect way to spend time with your kids before or after a mushy Valentine’s date.

Giving extra love to your little ones is exactly what they want on this sappy day, oh, and, the candy! Lastly, some of the ingredients in Candy Sushi are just downright nostalgic. Twinkies, powdered donuts, Fruit by the Foot... this is my childhood.

Now, honestly, I am sort of kidding about naming all the reasons you should make Candy Sushi but also, not. Valentine’s is about love. Love of our special someone. Love of our favorite fancy restaurant. Love of our children. And love of our past. My hope for you on this loving day of 2023, is that you love yourself, love others and accept love from others. Sitting down at a table full of sugary sweets to create confections that look like rice and fish may seem



silly, but it also may be just what you need to channel love in those three ways: to yourself, to others, and from others. Happy Valentine’s Day, friends.



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](http://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](http://BlueRibbonNews.com).

## Candy Sushi

Ingredients:


- Twinkies
- Powdered Donuts
- Fruit by the Foot
- Swedish Fish
- Mike & Ike’s Candy
- Hershey’s Chocolate Syrup
- And any other candy you want!

Directions:

Cut Twinkies into 1/3’s (see picture). Trim ends so they lay flat. Eat the part you trimmed off!

Cut a piece of Fruit by the Foot and wrap it around the Twinkie. Stuff cream filling with more candy!

Cut powdered donut in half (see picture). Cut a piece of Fruit by the Foot horizontally and vertically. Place a Swedish Fish on the rounded part of half a donut and wrap with half a Fruit by the Foot. Place all candy sushi in a platter and enjoy with Hershey Syrup dipping sauce...aka soy sauce!



# Life Lessons: The Trick to Love

## GOOD ADVICE

I begin my articles long before I sit down to pound them out on my keyboard. I mull them around for days, sometimes weeks at a time. With this being the “Season of Love” and my editor’s goal to provide meaningful content on the subject, I’ve wrestled with what to say to you. Writing about love and relationships is no easy task. Truth is, for some, the next great holiday is not Valentine’s Day, but what many have dubbed, ‘Single’s Awareness Day.’ So the trick is then to make sure that my relationship counsel is fitting for everyone: those lucky in love and those who get to choose which side of the bed they will sleep on tonight.

Two universal truths on love are this: everyone has a different love story to tell and relationships take effort. I, by no means, am an expert of the perfect relationship as my own have been known to struggle through hard seasons – but I have loved and lost and I know both the good and the hard side of love so I will do my very best to keep your heart in mind as I pour out my “relationship advice.”

All relationships involve two different people, from two different backgrounds, with two different to see things more often relationships begin to dissolve can no longer see things from one another. Values change, new change, and sometimes, hearts change and don’t feel what they once did. So then, relationship advice, the really good kind, must take into consideration universal truths if it is going to be valuable to everyone.

I refuse to provide you a love checklist, the kind you might find in a fashion magazine, as they are mostly shaped to fit one-size and do not take in consideration the whole human experience when it comes to love and relationships. Instead, I am going to ask you to look at the kind of person you are in your relationships because this is what it comes down to – if everyone began immediately working on their *own ability* to love one another and to do that love well, to care for each other in a balanced and meaningful way, we’d solve many of the heartaches and trauma we put one another through. This is not a “get the love you want” conversation but, rather, a “give the love they need” one. This is what I have learned and how I put my best foot forward in relationships, and this truth is rooted in the foundational human behaviors that motivate us to behave as we do.

At the core, we all want to protect what we love. We usually love ourselves, to some capacity or another, (no matter what the world is busy telling us about how we need to practice more self-love, trust me, our self-centered society has that all locked up) and we want to protect that. Think about it. When you get into an argument with your partner, spouse, family member or friend, what are you busy doing? Protecting yourself, protecting your truth, protecting what you love. Usually, at some level that is a protection of self-mode. This is not bad, that is the business of humans, we are designed to protect ourselves; it’s the basis of evolutionary theory and being the fittest does not just stop at basic human survival. We are designed to work at being the fittest to survive in relationships, too. So our foundational human nature is to protect that which we love.

So the next question must be, *what do we love?* I believe that love, true love, is sacrificial. Before you cringe and stop reading, hear me out here. Sacrificial love does not entail you being a doormat or that you are to sacrifice your well-being for love. It means that if we are to follow a model of love that looks out for the well-being of others, which since love is a choice, a decision, an action and not a feeling, sometimes that means we sacrifice.

Look at the love of a healthy mother. She sacrifices her body, she sacrifices her schedule and possibly part of her career, all so her kids might have a chance at thriving and doing more than just surviving. Real love, the



experiences attempting from eye to eye than not. When is when the two different people a perspective that compliments information is presented and minds

kind that carries us through life and builds one another up is sacrificial. It means that I get busy looking after you and you being the thing I want to protect. The part that messes up this model is that our relationships are often out of balance.

Where most relationships go south is at the axis point where what one person has chosen to love no longer provides the yin-yang experience that the sacrificial model requires. Sacrificial love only really works out when both people sign on. The basis of the theory resides in this truth: if we are both busy loving each other well, sometimes even more than we love ourselves, then no one loses. In any relationship, that means when *both* people spend time protecting their friend, parent, partner, spouse from harm then we are living out true love. We may still have conflict because we have to learn how to love other people in ways that are meaningful to them, but that is the beauty of the sacrificial love model: we commit to loving the person we choose to do life with in ways that build them up and make their lives rich with support, kindness, effort and dignity. And if we have found someone worthy of us, they are committed to doing the same thing in return.

At the end of the day, you don’t need any more love advice than that. There is no longer a need for the “10 Step to Creating The Perfect Relationship.” First of all, there are no perfect relationships so stop looking for them. True love is going to stumble sometimes. You are going to bump up against misunderstandings and differences of opinions.

Remember at the beginning where I said we come from different backgrounds? That means we are autonomous and each individual has their own life’s experience and expectations. Naturally, that is going to lead to some bumps. But if you can find someone, or you can be the kind of person who loves your tribe in the way I have described, and they love you back to the best of their ability, then you have found the secret to it all. In this model of giving and receiving love that puts one another first, whether family or friend, single or hitched, we have found the balance that every heart desires and deserves.

# Share the love with a child in need.

Visit [lonestarcasa.org](http://lonestarcasa.org) to volunteer or give today



SCAN ME!





# How I Met My Mate

Each year around Valentine's Day, Blue Ribbon News asks local couples how they met. Sharing their sweet and funny tales of true love has become one of our favorite traditions. To read all of our submitted stories, visit [BlueRibbonNews.com](http://BlueRibbonNews.com). Stay tuned to our Facebook page as Valentine's Day approaches. The names of several lucky participating couples will be randomly drawn to win gifts from our local prize sponsors!



Ariana and Kelly Kistner

## Love Ignites

It wasn't exactly love at first sight – not even like at first sight, to be honest. Our first encounter was in 2012 at the hotel bar where we were both attending a Fire Marshal conference. Kelly came walking into the bar and he caught my eye immediately. He was tall, handsome, and scanning the room for someone special. He walked right up to my table, completely ignored me, and asked the friend I was with to go talk. I thought what a shame, all those good looks wasted on a guy who was so rude.

Our paths continued to cross due to work and we were cordial but not exactly friends, but it all changed in 2015, leaning up against a pool table at the National Fire Academy. We stood there talking for hours. We spent the next few years as just friends; we were both happily married at the time, we just became each other's wingman and standing lunch and dinner partner when we were traveling for work.

Then in 2018, after I had lost my husband to cancer and his marriage had ended. He was traveling through Rockwall for business and asked to meet for lunch. We met at Zanata's and spent over three hours just talking. They say that love finds you when the time is right, and the timing was perfect for us that day. Our great friendship turned in to love over a wood-fired pizza. We eloped in the Valley of Fire State Park in the fall of 2019.

Submitted by Ariana Kistner, Assistant Chief/Fire Marshall at Rockwall Fire Department.

## Game of Love

"Do you like to play board games?" was one of the first questions Ruben asked me, as we sat down over espressos outside a coffee shop on a clear Saturday evening. Unbeknownst to passersby, we were meeting in person for the first time. We had been MySpace friends (before Facebook was ever a thing) for four months prior to meeting that night. In the months leading up to our first date, emails would fly back and forth, prompting chuckles, deep questions, and honest answers. It was an online friendship that had started out purely platonic. After all, meeting "someone from the internet" was still considered taboo at that time. But on a whim that day, we agreed to meet anyway, in an effort to continue our entertaining and thought-provoking email conversations. What we were not prepared for was a coffee date which changed the trajectory of our friendship forever. We knew that it was more than just the caffeine causing our hearts to race.

"Actually, yes! Puzzles, too. How about you?" I replied. Fifteen years and three kids later, Ruben and I still sip coffee as we pour over puzzle pieces and break out challenging board games, grateful for the love and great friendship we unexpectedly found.

Submitted by Jannette Flores. Ruben and Jannette have resided in Fate for over 5 years with their three children. Ruben is an Assessment Coordinator at A&M Commerce and Jannette is the Dean of Learning, Innovation, and Teaching Excellence at Westcliff University.



Ruben and Jannette Flores



David and Alicia Vega

## 'I Call Her My Angel'

In the Spring of 2003, I was sitting in a Whataburger in San Antonio, TX with my brother and sister-in-law. My sister-in-law asked, "So are you seeing anyone special?" I said no but I believe she is out there, and I can't wait to meet her. I don't know why but I believe I will just know it when I meet her. My sister-in-law jokingly said it sounds like you are holding your hopes too high, but you should do what you trust is right for you.

Fast forward a couple seasons later and I am on my way to a Fall business/social function. I didn't feel like socializing but thought to myself "what if she is there tonight?" Lo and behold my vision came to life. I was immediately struck by her presence; approached with great anticipation and learned she was in fact a beautiful soul. We were amongst a hundred or more people but as we engaged with one and other everyone seemed to disappear. We spent the next several hours together and ended the evening with a simple, yet powerful, kiss. The rest as they say is history. I call her my angel because it felt like we met through divine intervention. Almost two decades later we have had our ups and downs, but I am happy to report we continue to share the same level of enthusiasm for each other. Our friends sometimes tease us about being too "lovey-dovey," but we live a blessed life.

Submitted by David Vega, Founder & CEO of Rockwall Capital Group.

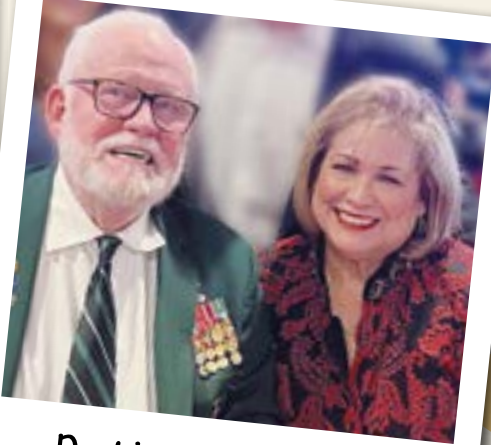
## Book of Love

In so many ways, luck played a role when David and I met in San Antonio. I had just moved into my new apartment, and David was walking his Great Dane. Many of my friends knew him, and they stopped to talk with him. Me, I was not impressed and wanted to move on! However, we repeatedly ran into each other over the coming weeks. Shortly thereafter, he asked me if I wanted to go to dinner to celebrate my 21st birthday. Well, who doesn't want to go to a fancy dinner to celebrate their 21st birthday?

When we met that evening, I noticed he had a book in his bookcase that housed a book that I was currently reading, *Nicholas and Alexandria* by Robert K. Massie. Who reads Russian history?! The story is of the Romanov Family, and Nicholas was the last Russian Tsar. I love history, and finding someone with the same interest as me was truly wonderful. One of David's degrees is in History. David had traveled to many parts of the world, and we began discussing the different books we had read and how similar our taste in books was.

The rest is history...we had so much in common! We had a military wedding at Fort Sam Houston. Shortly thereafter, we were transferred to Bamberg, Germany, and I was an Army Captain's bride. That was 45 years ago! We still read a lot and discuss what we've learned. So, to say that I am thoroughly impressed by David Kidd is an understatement!

Submitted by Rockwall resident Sylvia Kidd with Ebby Halliday.



David and Sylvia Kidd

Join us in celebrating  
**WIN'S 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

- Rollin' Smoke Cigar Lounge
- ProviDance Performing Arts Center
- Silent & Live Auction
- And more...

Chocolate Indulgence  
Feb 10, 2023  
6:00PM - 9:00PM  
EXPERIENCE AN EVENING OF  
**ROARING**  
Indulgence

HIDDEN CREEK | 215 CHRIS CUNY PKWY | HEATH, TX 75032

We can't wait to see  
you decked out in your  
1920's cocktail attire!



Tickets  
on sale  
now!





Eva and Cory Cannon

Destiny

It was the early 90's grunge era. I was the pretty, popular drill team dancer with a major wild streak and "reputation." He was the hot, moody saxophone playing band guy with long hair who was secretly scared of me and wouldn't give me the time of day. He drove a black 1956 Chevy C-10 with a white stripe that was rare for a high schooler but very noticeable, and I worked at Albertson's and would stalk him every time I saw that truck in the parking lot, much to his chagrin.

The summer after graduation in 1994, he took a college photography class and needed a model for a project. Who would be crazy enough to take pics in the middle of the night in a park, soaking wet? EVA! This led to us finally starting to date...only for me to run off a few weeks later like the wild 18 year old I was, on to another adventure.

So life went on for us both for the next 15 years. We both got married and had kids and got divorced. In 2009, as I was going to bed one night I got a Facebook friend request from Cory Cannon and my heart dropped. Within a week, we had reconnected. Six months later we were together, a year later we moved in together, and in 2011 we got married. The life we have is amazingly beautiful and our love is uniquely boundless. We truly were meant to be.

Submitted by Eva Cannon, Founder/VP Marketing of Siren Rock Brewing Company.

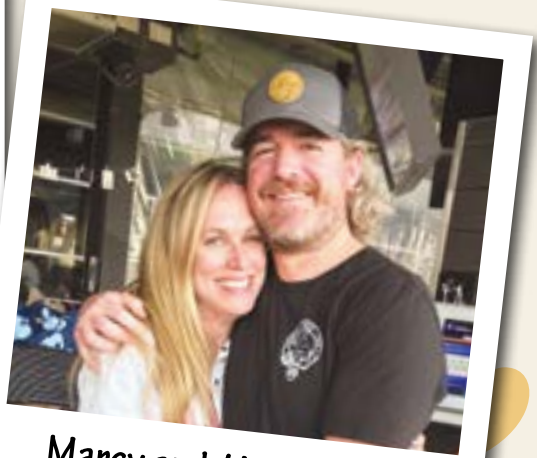
Restaurant Romance

Marcy actually saw me at church with my kids. This woman (now my wife) then started coming to the bar [Zanata] for her spinach and gorgonzola with salmon entrée. She asked the bartender if I was dating anyone. So I went up to say hi, as I hadn't seen her in years, to see how she was doing. She started talking about this camp where her kids go each summer and suggested my kids may like to go there. I listened to her talking about this camp, thinking she was beautiful, so didn't really pay attention to what she was saying.

Well, later that evening, she messaged me, an essay, on Facebook about that camp, even sent me a link. I replied thank you and remembered how beautiful she was that night. She continued to visit the bar and we talked more there and again via Messenger. Then, during one of our lunch visits at the bar, it clicked. I should ask her out to get to know her better.

Don't forget I'm a man; it took me a minute to figure out what was happening. I'm lucky that I went to church that day to be married to this beautiful woman who was determined. I proposed to her at the restaurant and my kids are going to that camp this summer.

Alidor Lefere owns Zanata in Downtown Rockwall.



Marcy and Alidor Lefere

Love's a Funny Thing

Many years ago – 45 to be exact, in a land far, far away, in Sioux City, Iowa, (well, it seems far when you're driving the 14 hours to get there from Dallas), there lived a young girl who worked as an inventory clerk at an automotive warehouse. Her responsibility was to keep track of what came in and out of the warehouse. Something a computer does now. Her name was Lissa. Yes, there are 2 s's. It's Melissa without the m-e.

Lissa became friends with Pam in accounts receivable. Pam had a brother named Steve she wanted Lissa to meet. Pam kept saying, "You need to meet my brother; he's crazy just like you." What did she mean by that? So the meeting got pushed back – by Lissa. No need to rush into meeting someone who was "crazy".

On Tuesday, September 27, 1977 Pam took matters into her own hands. She and Lissa were headed out for lunch. Driving her Ford Pinto, Pam said she had to make a stop. She pulls up in front of this carwash and out walks this good-looking dude. He was tall, had broad shoulders, muscular arms, beautiful sandy colored, wavy hair down to his shoulders with a smile and walk that told you, this guy was fun. You guessed it – Steve.

After quick introductions they headed for Scottie's Restaurant where they talked, laughed and ate chili dogs. Not only was this guy fun, he was also funny. Lissa remembered her mom saying "make sure you marry a guy with a good sense of humor, it makes the hard times in life a little easier."

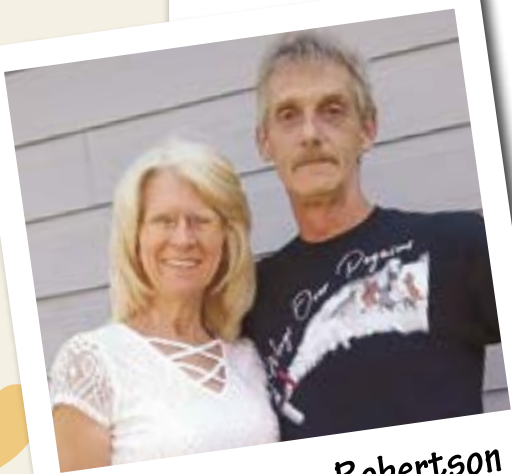
Marrying Steve wasn't on her mind right then, but seeing him again sure was. So they made plans to meet that evening at Rudy's, a little bar on the west side of Sioux City. There Lissa discovered Steve was also a good dancer, in a '70's sort of way.

On Wednesday they talked on the phone for hours. Lissa could not believe there was a guy that could carry on a conversation for that long and not sound bored or be boring. They made plans to meet at Rudy's again.

At the time, Steve shared a place in North Sioux City, South Dakota with his brother and his brother's girlfriend. They were looking to move to Sioux City, Iowa before winter set in. He was telling Lissa this while at Rudy's on Thursday when all of a sudden she says, "Why don't you just move in with me?" She wasn't sure why she said that, but she did. And he did.

Yes, they moved in together two days after they met. Five months later they were married. And yes, her mother was right, being married to someone with a good sense of humor does make the hard times in life a little easier.

Submitted by Lissa Robertson, who works as Activities Director at Highland Meadows Health & Rehab in Rockwall.



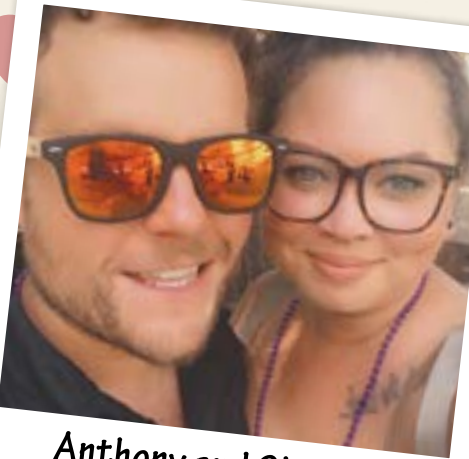
Lissa and Steve Robertson

Match-Up at the Museum

Anthony and I met like any other millennial couple – Tinder. I (36) moved to Texas from Minnesota in May and he (34) moved from Washington in September. We had both been divorced for three years and we both had two boys. We matched, talked for about a month before we decided to meet. With having kids, it's hard to find time to date. Our first date was at the Perot Museum with his boys. It was love at first sight. We hugged, he stole a kiss while his boys weren't looking, and we entered the museum. We had such a good time and didn't want the date to end. We ended up seeing each other the next day and we've been inseparable ever since.

We now share a home with our four boys (ages 17, 16, 9 and 7) as well as our two cats and a pug named Dwight. This picture is from that first date and will always be one of my favorites.

Submitted by Shawna Holewinski, Rockwall resident.



Anthony and Shawna Holewinski



**DODIE'S**  
CAJUN DINER  
AT THE HARBOR

# Sweetheart Menu

Saturday, Feb. 11 - Tuesday, Feb. 14

Reservations recommended for  
Four Course Prix Fixe Menu

*\$69.99  
per couple*



2067 Summer Lee Dr | (972) 771-0004  
DodiesAtTheHarbor.com

## Heartfelt thanks to our 'How I Met My Mate' Valentine's prize sponsors!



Dodie's Cajun Diner  
\$50 Gift Certificate



Lakeside Florist  
Bouquet of Dozen Red Roses



Rockwall Body & Soul Massage  
Couples 'Date Night' Massage



ZANATA  
Zanata  
\$50 Gift Card



Samee's Place  
\$25 Gift Certificate

Stay tuned for the lucky winning couples to be announced on Facebook! Visit [blueribbonnews.com](http://blueribbonnews.com) for more local love stories.



# Great – And Not So Great – Expectations

**GOOD FAITH** A young woman sat at her desk in an office that served university professors. She smiled at the sight of each vase of flowers delivered to her throughout the day – Valentine’s Day. She hadn’t expected this show of appreciation from those she worked for.

Even so, she did hope for a bouquet from one certain young man; but it never came through the office door.

Arriving home in the early darkness of mid-winter, she carried a cardboard box that held the day’s bounty. As she set it down on the dining room table, her roommate pointed to the fireplace mantle and said, “You received one more.”

She might have been happy – or at least appreciative – of this show of affection from the man she wanted to marry. Instead, she took the vase of flowers, read the signature-only note attached, and, without smiling, placed it with the others.

If that long-ago Valentine’s Day included a test titled, *Readiness for Marriage*, the woman failed. I failed.

When my soon-to-be fiancé, Jim, visited later that evening, he saw the small sea of red on the table and asked if I had received his flowers. I acknowledged their arrival and thanked him in a matter-of-fact tone. Then it was his turn to fail that test. Instead of asking why I seemed disappointed, he responded with uncharacteristic anger.

Having behaved so poorly on a day that typically fuels both male and female expectations (which can be planets apart), we saw our need for wisdom.

Many of us bring to relationships both good and bad behaviors we observed growing up. We can claim our parents were imperfect and that we naturally respond as they did. Some others benefited from the example of very loving parents. Yet, no matter our background, marriage pairs us up in a way that reconfigures the challenge to love one another.

A man marries a woman who may not cook, clean, or dress as well as his mother did.

A woman marries a man who might not wield a hammer or keep the cars and appliances running as her father did. Considering these factors, those who grew up with Leave-It-to-Beaver parents may have the greater handicap in loving well since their parents had made it all look so easy.

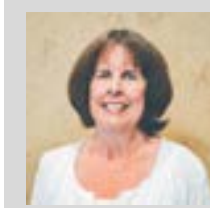
Whatever our stumbling blocks in the area of love and marriage, God’s word offers a clear path forward. In the apostle Paul’s first letter to Corinthian believers, we find “a more excellent way” (1 Corinthians 12:31\*). Our relationships can stand on solid ground if we remember what constitutes love and what does not.

Though Paul was not married, he pointed to our best example of love: “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another.... And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us” (Ephesians 4:32; 5:2).

The ability to love is not a gift we receive from God but, according to Galatians 5:22, a fruit of the Spirit that we must cultivate. And while some people enjoy richer soil, any of us can practice container gardening.

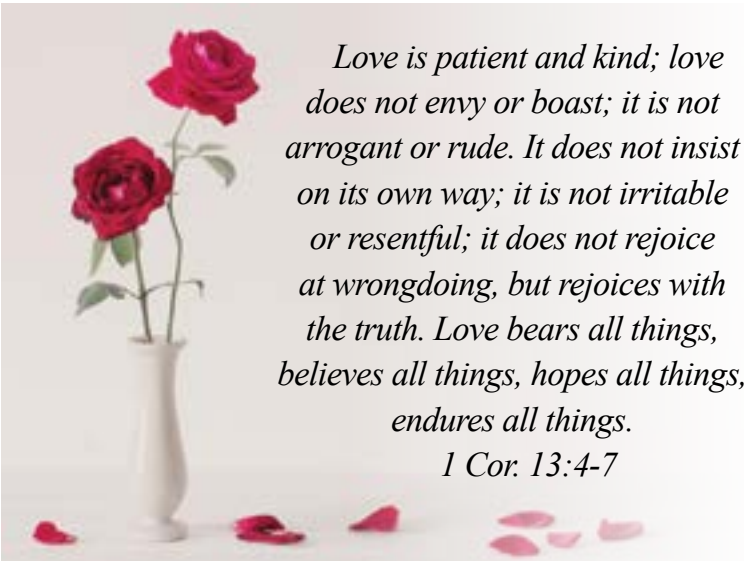
The Lord, “being rich in mercy” (Ephesians 2:4), knows what we have to work with. By following his ways, we can have great expectations.

*\*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.





CONWAY CPAs LLC  
ACCOUNTANTS & ADVISORS



603 South Goliad • South of Downtown

• FREE Tax Consultation

• Full Service Accounting & Tax

SERVING  
ROCKWALL AND  
HUNT COUNTIES

972-771-1065 • WWW.CONWAYCPAS.COM



Give your hvac unit a little  
Love.  
Join our Lyons Cool Club

- One pre-season performance check on your A/C
- One pre-season safety check on you heater
- Priority Servicing
- Discounts on service, new equipment and indoor air quality products
- We contact you when service is due

Extend the life of your home's comfort system and prevent breakdowns!

LYONS

AIR & HEAT

★★★★★SERVICE

214-432-2859

www.acrepairsrockwall.com

Lic. TACLB26682E

Happy Valentines Day

living MAGAZINE

best of ROCKWALL & ROWLETT READERS' CHOICE 2022

2022 best of the best

# Rockwall ISD celebrates return of Health Sciences Instructor following a sixth month deployment

**GOOD PEOPLE** Students and staff at the Gene Burton College and Career Academy and members of the Heath Band recently celebrated the return of a beloved teacher following a six-month deployment to Kuwait with the Air Force Reserves. Master Sergeant Tonja Coykendall, also known as Mrs. Coykendall to Rockwall ISD, returned to a rousing welcome on Thursday.

A Health Sciences instructor and Registered Dental Hygienist, Mrs. Coykendall said it was good to be back because her “passion lies in the classroom” and she is especially excited to give her students the additional hands-

on lab experience they have been seeking.

While deployed, Mrs. Coykendall’s commitment to the program back home and her professional development continued. While working 12-hour shifts abroad, she followed her students, graded papers, and stayed in communication with Mrs. Collins, a retired teacher who served as her long-term substitute. During this period, she also completed her White Belt in Lean Six Sigma Management for the district and Green Belt for the Air Force Reserves.

Joining RISD in 2017, she traveled between Rockwall High School and Heath High School teaching several classes. When the GBCCA opened the following year, she furthered the development of the Dental Assistant program which had no formal pathway at that time. Through devotion and hard work, the goal of developing an in-class dental lab became reality. Securing several large grants, this lab now serves 60 students seeking to pursue a career in dentistry. Additionally, today the program collaborates with over a dozen local dental offices to ensure students get true clinic exposure and experience.

Speaking of her first deployment, Mrs. Coykendall said “I knew it would come. It was my time.” Adding that deployment is hardest on those who are left behind. She knows first-hand as her husband, a Rowlett Police Officer also served as an Air Force Reserve Officer. This time it was his turn to take over the busy family schedule for their four children who range from college, high school and elementary grades.

Mrs. Coykendall has returned to the classroom full-time.

*Story and photos by Melanie Mayfield, contributing writer, Blue Ribbon News.*



Helping Hands  
ROCKWALL COUNTY

MAKE YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION  
TO GIVE A HAND UP TO YOUR ROCKWALL NEIGHBOR IN CRISIS  
ALL YEAR LONG.  
YOUR MONTHLY DONATION COULD PROVIDE...

JANUARY A heater for warmth	FEBRUARY A coat for your neighbor	MARCH Fresh fruit to reduce hunger	APRIL Much needed toiletries to families
MAY A birthday bag to bring happiness	JUNE A fan to keep a home cool	JULY A child with a sports physical	AUGUST A new school supply pack to a child
SEPTEMBER Immunizations for your community	OCTOBER Diapers for a newborn	NOVEMBER A family with their Thanksgiving meal	DECEMBER Toys for a child

Become a recurring donor at  
rockwallhelpinghands.com/donate  
today OR scan the QR Code below!



# 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!



### ▲ Downtown Dynamo

The Rockwall Main Street Advisory Board presented longtime Downtown Rockwall business owner and volunteer, Tammy Sharp, with a rare Main Street Legacy Award for her contributions to the vibrancy and economy of downtown. Tammy is in her third term as President of the Downtown Rockwall Association, and has helped ensure the success of events such as Hometown Christmas, Scare on the Square, Farm to Feast, Rib Rub, and Spring Fling. *Courtesy photo.*



### ▲ Dressed for Success

These Dorris Jones Elementary students were among many who wore their best threads for College Week. *Courtesy Facebook photos.*



### ▲ Labyrinth Walk

Rockwall High School Interact Club hosted a Labyrinth Walk at Holy Trinity by the Lake Episcopal Church in Heath, in partnership with Orant Charities – a foundation striving to support women in Africa. Monetary donations from the Walk will help fund one year of schooling for a Malawian girl. The labyrinth is a permanent installation at the church and remains open to the public 24/7. Read the full story at blueribbonnews.com. *Photo by Amy Busch, Blue Ribbon News.*



### ▲ Patriotic Partners

Rockwall-based Patriot PAWS recently celebrated the graduation of three new service dog teams, creating a total of nearly 400 service dogs placed from the program since its inception in 2006. Following the ceremony, there was a ribbon cutting to celebrate the facility's new 'Lieutenant Colonel William Cecil Veterans Lounge' dedicated to the memory of U.S. Air Force Veteran and former Rockwall Mayor, Bill Cecil. Read more at blueribbonnews.com. *Submitted photo.*



### ▲ Celebrating Safety and Success

From infection control, hygiene and cleanliness to record-keeping, compliance and care plan reviews, Highland Meadows Health and Rehab, a skilled nursing and long term care facility located on S. John King Blvd. in Rockwall, once again earned the exemplary status of 'no deficiencies' following their annual state survey. All nursing homes that participate in Medicaid and Medicare programs are required to undergo this intensive review and subsequent certification process, overseen by the state Health Department. The leadership team hosted a celebration to thank staff for their dedication to providing quality, safe, and effective care. *Courtesy photo.*



### ▲ Panthers, Popsicles and Playgrounds

Pullen Elementary students have been working hard to earn 'Panther Paws' which includes following classroom and hallway expectations. Following recent Panther Paw draws, these students were treated to a popsicle party in the cafeteria and an extra 15 minute recess. *Courtesy Facebook photos.*



### Stay in the Light

With the help of a caring community, Rockwall residents Brenda and David Hughes collected \$6,210 in donations and loads of warm socks during their award-winning 'Stay in the Light' Christmas display at their home in The Shores. Each year the couple hosts the display in memory of their son, and they donate to Meals on Wheels Seniors Services of Rockwall County. Next up for MOWSS is their Annual Spring Luncheon & Fashion Show on March 23 at Hidden Creek, open to everyone who wishes to support seniors in our community. *Submitted photo.*



# AROUND TOWN

To submit your events, email [editor@BlueRibbonNews.com](mailto:editor@BlueRibbonNews.com). Events are subject to change.

### Chocolate Indulgence | Friday, Feb. 10

Experience an evening of Roaring Indulgence benefiting Women in Need, 6 to 9 p.m. at Hidden Creek. Details & tickets: [winintx.harnessgiving.org](http://winintx.harnessgiving.org).

### Panthers, Pumas & Pancakes | Saturday, Feb. 11

All-you-can-eat pancakes and a self-guided tour around In-Sync Exotics sanctuary in Wylie. Info: [weblink.donorperfect.com/ValDayPancakes](http://weblink.donorperfect.com/ValDayPancakes).

### Super Bowl | Sunday, Feb. 12

### Happy Valentine's Day | Tuesday, Feb. 14

### Maroon & White Casino Night | Saturday, Feb. 18

Hosted by Rockwall County Aggie Moms at Springhill Suites: [rockwallcoaggiemoms.org](http://rockwallcoaggiemoms.org).

### Triumph | Sunday, Feb. 19

Rockwall County Republican Party presents the 16th Annual Reagan Day event at Southern Junction: [one.bidpal.net/rd2023triumph/welcome](http://one.bidpal.net/rd2023triumph/welcome).

### Mardi Gras | Fat Tuesday, Feb. 21

Dodie's at the Harbor will host a weekend long Mardi Gras celebration with food and drink specials, culminating with a Fat Tuesday party with all day live music. Beads, beads, beads!



### Cheers for Charity | Friday, March 3

Drawing will be held for the Helping Hands 3rd Annual Cheers for Charity – The Great Whisky Raffle: [facebook.com/rockwallhelpinghands](http://facebook.com/rockwallhelpinghands).

### Royse City ISD Spring Break | Monday, March 6 – Friday, March 10

### Rockwall ISD Spring Break | Monday, March 6 – Monday, March 13

### Newcomers Luncheon | Thursday, March 9

10 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at Occasions at Stone River in Royse City, welcoming all women of Rockwall County whether new to the area or long-time residents. Program will be 'Amazing Women of Rockwall County' by Alma Howard. \$20. RSVP by Feb. 27. Info: [newcomersrock.com](http://newcomersrock.com).

### Downtown Spring Fling | Thursday, March 16

Complimentary wine, raffle prizes and shopping 5 to 9 p.m. in Downtown Rockwall. Learn more on the Downtown Rockwall Facebook page.

### St. Patrick's Day | Friday, March 17

### Rockwall Stars Banquet | Tuesday, March 21

Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce will recognize Rock Stars of Business and Community at its annual meeting and awards banquet at Southern Junction.

### MOWSS Fashion Show & Luncheon | Thursday, March 23

Meals on Wheels Spring Fashion Show & Luncheon at Hidden Creek.

### REF Bowling Classic | Friday, March 24

Rockwall ISD Education Foundation 5th Annual Bowling Classic, 7 to 10 p.m. at Shenaniganz. Tickets: [bit.ly/REF2023BowlingClassic](http://bit.ly/REF2023BowlingClassic).

### Bunco & Bubbles | Saturday, March 25

Registration underway for Bunco & Bubbles at Hidden Creek, benefiting Lone Star CASA: [lonestarcasa.org/bunco-and-bubbles](http://lonestarcasa.org/bunco-and-bubbles).

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

## Go Blue for Kids Kickoff Party

3:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 30

Standard Service - Heath

FREE | FAMILY-FRIENDLY

Cotton Candy | Balloon Artist | Twin Racing Slide

Live Entertainment

RockwallCAC.org



Rockwall Women's League Charity Ball  
50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
6 to 11 p.m.  
Saturday, April 1  
Fairmont Dallas

Tickets: [one.bidpal.net/rhythmofthenight/welcome](http://one.bidpal.net/rhythmofthenight/welcome)

### Friends of the Library Mother-Daughter Tea | Saturday, March 25

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at The Center, 108 E. Washington. Dressy event with hats open to all featuring Librarian Doreen Miller and entertaining events for children age 4 and up. \$15/age 4-12; \$30/adults: [friendsrockwall.com](http://friendsrockwall.com) or [txediez@aol.com](mailto:txediez@aol.com).

### Rockwall Spring Eggstravaganza | Saturday, April 1

1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at The Harbor. Bounce houses, Easter egg trail, carnival games, DJ. More info at: [playrockwall.com](http://playrockwall.com).

### April Fool's Casino Night | Saturday, April 1

Hosted by Royse City Chamber of Commerce at Caddo Creek Event Venue & Music Hall.

### Happy Easter! | Sunday, April 9

### Aspasians Spring Marketplace | Saturday, April 22

Free admission. Wilkerson-Sanders Memorial Stadium. [Aspasians.com](http://Aspasians.com).

### Caddy Shack Golf Tournament | Thursday, April 27

Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce will host its annual golf tournament at Buffalo Creek Golf Club.

### 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](http://one.bidpal.net/goblueforkids/ticketing).

Friday, Feb 18 *thru* Fat Tuesday

## CAJUN FOOD & DRINK SPECIALS ALL WEEKEND!

FAT TUESDAY PARTY 12PM - 12AM

Beads, Beads, Beads

DODIE'S CAJUN DINER AT THE HARBOR

# MARDI GRAS WEEKEND LONG PARTY





ROCKWALL PARKS  
& RECREATION

# SPRING EGGSTRAVAGANZA

SATURDAY, APRIL 1ST | THE HARBOR | FROM 1-4PM

- BOUNCE HOUSES
- EASTER EGG TRAIL
- CARNIVAL GAMES
- DJ

MORE INFO AT:

**PLAYROCKWALL.COM**



# FOUNDERS DAY FESTIVAL 2023 SAVE THE DATE! MAY 20th

6:00PM

8:00PM



**THE BELLAMY BROTHERS**



**EASTON CORBIN**