



Wyatt Young
in position for
breakout year at
wide receiver for
North Texas
»» Sports, 3A

Vol. 122, No. 20 || DentonRC.com || Denton, Texas

LOCAL

Denton woman killed in crash was a beacon to her loved ones

By Camila Gonzalez
Staff Writer

Family, friends and community members are mourning local chef Rossana Cacal.

"I want her to be remembered for being just a very warm, loving, very generous person," said her daughter Francesca Cacal. "That's who she was."

On Aug. 15 in Denton, Rossana Cacal was in the car with her husband, Ed, who was driving, when their vehicle was struck by an alleged drunk driver. Ed was injured and treated at a local hospital; Rossana died at 10:56 p.m.

Denton police charged 22-year-old Noah Kendrick with intoxication manslaughter with a vehicle and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon that night. He was released from jail the next day after posting a total bail of \$62,500.

As of Thursday, Kendrick's arrest affidavit was not available from the district clerk, but police reported they believed his intoxication, along with his speed, contributed to the cause of the crash.

Rossana was a chef who worked with local establishments on special events and tastings at the Chestnut Tree Teahouse & Bistro, Steve's Wine Bar and more. She was also the owner of Bread and Sweets by Rossana, the home bakery where she baked traditional European breads and pastries.

In more than 100 comments on social media, former customers shared photos of cakes made by Rossana for weddings and events.

Francesca also said that her mother helped establish the Fortuna Winery in Aubrey and was a "collaborative chef" at the Chestnut Tree, where she helped develop menu items for the Uncorked happy hour.

"If you were never able to have her food, my heart hurts for you," Chestnut Tree owner Suzanne Johnson said in a Facebook post. "Because you missed the opportunity of a lifetime."

Rossana was born and raised in Italy, which inspired her cooking, Francesca said, and many of her recipes put a unique twist on Italian classics.

"She always loved cooking," Francesca said. "It was her way of showing love."

Her daughter recalled that Rossana met Ed while he was in the military and stationed in Italy. The couple moved to Texas in 1993 after



ABOVE: Rossana Cacal, 58, was killed after a car crash that police believe was caused by an intoxicated driver traveling at an excessive speed.

Courtesy photo/
Francesca Cacal

RIGHT: The Chestnut Tree Teahouse & Bistro was one of the local restaurants Rossana Cacal worked with.

Courtesy photo/
Michelle Houston



he retired from the military. In her free time, Rossana enjoyed sewing, crocheting and making jewelry. She also had many friends in the Denton community, like Hormat Pourmorshed.

"She was my home," Hormat said. "My safe place. The only truly selfless person I've ever known of in this world."

Hormat referenced a Farsi saying that her mother often used to describe

the multi-talented Rossana: "Rossana has 1,000 talents for each one of the lines on her hands."

But above all, Francesca said, Rossana was passionate about her two daughters and three grandchildren.

"She loved raising us," Francesca said. "She loved being involved in our lives. Growing up, there wasn't a moment where she wasn't involved."

She described her mother as a kind, generous and active member of the local community.

"She was always a light," Francesca said. "She was a radiance. And that's how I want [her] to be remembered, for being a light in this community. A light that was taken way too soon."

CAMILA GONZALEZ can be reached at 940-566-6830 and cgonzalez@dentonrc.com.

EVENTS



This weekend around Denton: On the farm, in a classroom and on the pickleball court

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



Check out all 52 Denton-area alumni who are on 2025 FBS college football rosters

FLOOD RECOVERY



Texas House passes flood-relief bills as private donors announce \$40 million for housing aid



ONE STOP. FULL COMFORT.
BCI: ALL YOU NEED, JUST A CLICK AWAY.
(WITH ONLINE CONVENIENCE AND LOCAL SERVICE)

BCI
PLUMBING • HEATING • AIR
940.565.1010
LIC #TACLA 005013C M23894

