



# SMASHING *Good Times*

## Thrall Community Education Foundation revives Harvest Festival

As the spotlight lit them from head to toe, and the trumpeter played the fanfare, the host announced: "From the 8th grade, Queen Alexandria from the House of Dollins, escorted by King Nahum from the House of Patschke." The crowd cheered as Dollins navigated up the stairs, her regal train making it difficult. Kneeling on a pillow, her heart pounding in her chest, Superintendent Tommy Hooker placed the crown on the queen's head.

"When I found out we had won, I felt like I was on top of the world," Dollins said.

For the first time since 2010, Thrall celebrated the Harvest Festival tradition on Oct. 25, 2014. The Thrall Community Education Foundation, TCEF, hosted the event and raised a record amount of money, over \$50,000.

"I knew the numbers would be good," TCEF President Ron Randig said, "but what we raised

was crazy good."

The TCEF is a non-profit organization established in April 2013 to provide scholarships and enhance educational opportunities for students. The community gathered to put together the event which, along with the coronation, included a turkey dinner, carnival games, a costume contest, and silent and live auctions.

"I am so glad that we brought back the program that had not happened in 4 years," Randig said. "It's a part of our history and is unique to Thrall."

The students were happy to help keep the tradition alive.

"It was good that we brought it back, and I was glad that Alex and I kind of started it up again," Patschke said.

The future of the festival looks promising. "This is just the beginning for a bright and productive future," Hooker said.

*Story by Alyssa Kramer*