

North Texas

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Honoring the fight for equality

DALLAS Cardinal Farrell to receive Catholic Foundation Award

Cardinal Kevin Farrell will receive the 36th Catholic Foundation Award in recognition of his servant leadership and Christian example for the Catholic community and the Dallas area during his time as Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Dallas. He now serves as Prefect of the newly established Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life at the Vatican.

Cardinal Farrell will travel to Dallas to be honored during the Catholic Foundation Award Dinner on Feb. 3 at the Hilton Anatole. Lydia and Dan Novakov join Mary and Rich Templeton as the 2018 dinner co-chairs.

Reservations can be made at catholicfoundation.com or call 972-661-9792.

Deborah Fleck

DALLAS COUNTY TxDOT awards two contracts for local projects

The Texas Department of Transportation approved two contracts for Dallas County projects to install protective devices on I-635 and rebuild a park road at Cedar Hill State Park.

The \$3.5 million contract to update the guardrail and metal guard fence along I-635 from the Tarrant County Line to just west of I-35E was awarded to SJ&J Construction LLC.

The \$1.03 million contract to reconstruct Park Road and the parking lots in Shady Ridge campground was given to Texas-Reyes Group LTD.

Construction dates will be established in upcoming meetings between TxDOT and the contractor.

Deborah Fleck

DENTON COUNTY DCTA makes changes, will offer free fares

The Denton County Transportation Authority will give A-train riders a free pass to ride at the end of the month.

The "free fare zone" promotion will begin Monday in conjunction with the first day of classes at local universities and colleges. Passengers who ride from the Downtown Denton Transit Center to MedPark Station or from Hebron Station to Trinity Mills Station won't have to pay a fee.

Those riding between MedPark Station and Hebron Station will still have to pay the usual regional or local fare.

The temporary promotion coincides with more permanent service changes starting Monday.

University of North Texas campus shuttles can now pick up students at two new transit centers



Deborah Fleck/Staff

Officials read a proclamation at Dallas City Hall on Wednesday in honor of Women's Equality Day and the 97th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which established a uniform rule for all states to guarantee women the right to vote. Women's Equality Day, officially Aug. 26, was established in 1971 to honor passage of the amendment and to call attention to the ongoing fight for equal rights for women. Many attendees wore white in honor of suffragettes who fought for women's right to vote.

at Fouts Field and Union Circle. Denton Connect routes 7 and 8 along Highland Street will move to Eagle Drive, and the schedules will be modified.

Riders on the Highland Village Connect shuttle route can now get on a bus without walking to an official stop. The "flag stops" allow riders to stand at a safe location on the road, wave to the driver and board the bus once it stops. Flag stopping is prohibited along the I-35E service road, FM407 and Village Parkway.

For more information, go to RideDCTA.net.

Denton Record-Chronicle

IRVING ISD District opens supply store for teachers

The Irving Schools Foundation hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening for the Community 2 Classroom Store at Crockett Middle School, 2431 Hancock St. The store stocks school supplies

and student uniforms that teachers can shop for by appointment at no personal cost.

Citi donated \$9,000 to purchase supplies and fixtures for the store, and volunteers from the corporation helped set up the store. Donations from Kroger and other local businesses and community members also helped stock the shelves with items collected through summer school supply drives.

Teachers and counselors can purchase classroom supplies, school supplies, backpacks, uniforms and undergarments at no charge, giving them access to critical supplies throughout the year.

To donate new or gently used supplies to the store, call 972-600-5018.

Deborah Fleck

MCKINNEY StarCenter at Craig Ranch to expand

Following approval from the City Council for a new 20-year lease agreement, the Dr Pepper StarCenter

at McKinney at Craig Ranch will expand to include an additional ice rink with 1,800 seats, as well as more parking and expanded locker rooms.

Funding for the 46,000-square-foot expansion will come from a \$3.5 million grant from the McKinney Community Development Corporation and \$5 million from the city of McKinney. According to the lease agreement, the StarCenter will pay \$60,000 per month for rent for years one through five, and \$65,000 per month for years six through 20.

The StarCenter brings about 250,000 visitors annually. In addition, the Dallas Stars Hockey Club practices there once a year. The next practice is scheduled for Oct. 4.

Deborah Fleck

NORTH DALLAS Indian Fine Arts group presents concert

The Indian Fine Arts Association will present a concert at 4 p.m. Sunday at Unity Church of Dallas,

6525 Forest Lane. Performing will be vocalist Abhishek Raghuram, violinist H.N. Bhaskar and Patri Satishkumar on a mridangam. Find more details at ifaadfw.org.

Deborah Fleck

PLANO DNC official to speak at Ann Richards Dinner

The Ann Richards Dinner will be at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Plano Event Center, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway. Doors will open at 6 p.m.

Democratic National Committee Deputy Chair Keith Ellison will be the speaker.

Tickets are \$75 per person and sponsorships range from \$500 to \$10,000. Find more at collidemocrats.org.

Deborah Fleck

RICHARDSON Chamber music group to host piano recital

Chamber Music International will host a recital featuring pianists Tong-Il Han and Helen Lee at 7:30 p.m. Friday at St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church, 1220 W. Belt Line Road. The event will include a display of paintings by Lee and a conversation with the artists. Proceeds will benefit the musical group.

Tickets are \$50. To order, call 972-385-7267 or visit chambermusicinternational.org.

Deborah Fleck

SOUTHEAST OAK CLIFF Paul Quinn College to host town hall

Paul Quinn College and Dupree Miller will host a town hall meeting on Voices That Matter at 7 p.m. Monday in the Student Union Building at Paul Quinn College, 3837 Simpson Stuart Road.

The topic will be "Issues that Matter: Ending Sexual Violence on College Campuses." Speakers include Adriane Birdine and journalists Paula Lavigne and Mark Schlabach.

Find more at pqc.edu.

Deborah Fleck

SOUTHLAKE Candidates open house set for Wednesday

The Community Engagement Committee will host a Candidates Open House for City Council candidates from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in Legends Hall at The Marq, 285 Shady Oaks Drive.

The moderator will select questions submitted by candidates and residents. Residents can submit questions at bit.ly/2vd6uQI. Questions must be submitted by 3 p.m. Tuesday.

Deborah Fleck

PUBLIC SAFETY BRIEFS

EAST OAK CLIFF 18-year-old added to most wanted list

An 18-year-old gang member from Dallas who is accused in a number of home invasion robberies has been added to the Texas Department of Public Safety's most wanted list, authorities say.

A reward of up to \$5,000 is being offered for information about Christopher Ricardo Gonzalez.

He was involved in a number of aggravated robbery home invasions in Dallas-Fort Worth from October to February of this year, authorities say.

He is wanted on charges of aggravated robbery and engaging in organized crime. Gonzalez's criminal history also includes unlawful carrying of a weapon, making terroristic threats and evading arrest.

Gonzalez is 5-11, about 170 pounds and has a tattoo on his right leg. His last known address was in east Oak Cliff.

He should be considered armed and dangerous, DPS says.



CHRISTOPHER GONZALEZ

Anyone with tips can call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 1-800-252-8477.

Kylie Madry

ELLIS COUNTY Serial burglar shot by homeowner gets 99 years

A serial burglar who was shot by an Ellis County homeowner who confronted him was sentenced last week to 99 years in prison, authorities say.

Trenton Eugene Sinyard, 37, of Ovilla was on parole for a previous burglary and had other burglary convictions when he forced his way into a home next to one where he was staying with relatives, the Ellis County district attorney's office said.

Sinyard rang the doorbell on June 2, 2015. The homeowner was there, but didn't answer. Sinyard then went to the backyard, pounded on the patio door and jiggled the handle, DA officials said.

The homeowner called the sheriff's office and armed herself with a pistol. A couple minutes later, Sinyard forced the door open and came in.

The homeowner fired at Sinyard about seven times, grazing the back of his head and hitting him in the upper back, officials said. He fled, but

a K-9 unit tracked him next door to a crawl space behind a fireplace.

Staff reports

FAR NORTH DALLAS 2 who robbed store at knifepoint sought

Dallas police are looking for two knife-wielding men who robbed a Far North Dallas store this week.

The men walked into the Mundo Latino store in the 13000 block of Montfort Place, near Valley View Center, around 9 p.m. Sunday. They took money from the cash registers while holding employees at knifepoint.

No one was injured during the robbery.

The first robber was described as a Hispanic man in his early 20s who is about 5-foot-7 and 150 pounds. He was wearing a gray zip-up hoodie, white tank top, black pants and blue Southern Methodist University cap.

The second robber was described as a Hispanic man in his early 20s who is about 5-foot-7 and 185 pounds. He was wearing a black T-shirt with a white design and red pants.

The robbers left the store in a dark SUV.

Anyone with information is asked to call 214-671-3645.

Tom Steele

PLEASANT GROVE

Street racing continues to plague neighborhood

By NAHEED RAJWANI
Staff Writer
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A crowd of rowdy street racers in Pleasant Grove got a visit from the police yet again Sunday night, but residents say the problem of street racing coupled with random gunfire extends beyond that stretch of Buckner and has no easy fix.

Just before 11 p.m. Sunday, police were investigating reports of racing and gunfire in the 2200 block of South Buckner Boulevard when they spotted someone in a white Ford Crown Victoria firing a gun.

Eric Richardson, 29, was arrested on outstanding warrants and a charge of discharging a firearm in a municipality.

Police said they will work with the manager of the property to install stop signs and speed bumps to curb the racing.

But street racers often hop from one area to another, making it hard for cops to quash them completely.

In June, police arrested five street racing suspects in their late

teens and early 20s on Eastpoint Drive. Investigators believe the men used to race on Forney Road but moved a few blocks north after arrests were made in the area.

Bonnie Mathias said her neighborhood, about three miles from where Richardson was arrested, sounds like a drag strip some nights.

There's no use calling 911, she said, because it's hard to discern where the gunfire is coming from.

Mathias, who chairs the Texas Organizing Project of Pleasant Grove, is also mindful of the fact that Dallas cops are strapped for resources these days.

So she brings her dogs inside and stays put.

Celebratory gunfire and fireworks tormented Mathias and her neighbors for nearly a week around the Fourth of July, she said.

"When those shots go up," she said, "you don't know where those bullets might come down. Might be someone smoking a cigarette on their front porch."

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