



▲ (from left) **Tracy HOMFELD**, **Jim ADAMS**, **Pam DONNELL**, **Sheila NELSON** and **Cliff EDWARDS** were part of the winning Walk Across Texas team recognized in May. Not pictures are team members **Kelly WARRINGTON**, **Kim SHORT**, and **Kristin SPAIN**.

## They walked across Texas — about 13 times over

In late February, county employees and their friends and family members began *Walk Across Texas* to see how many teams of eight could walk the equivalent of the breadth of the Lone Star State --800 miles -- in eight weeks.

The annual event is sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension Service-Collin County and the Health Department. Fourteen teams started their trek and, when the event ended on April 24, twelve teams met the challenge. Participants logged a total of 21,413 miles, which represented about 13 round trips between Texarkana and El Paso, if you're counting.

Along the way, participants reported losing weight (one team member lost 2 pant sizes), lowering cholesterol levels, having more energy, sleeping better at night, and managing diabetes. As a result of participating, about two dozen participants could possibly avoid or delay diabetes, while the total net value for health care cost savings for their efforts could top \$1.2 million. All from walking a few miles each week.

Walking the most miles at 3,013 miles were the *Texas Trekkers*, captained by **Tracy HOM-**

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### Connection takes some cost-saving measures

Obviously, we've undergone a big change for the county newsletter to save some money. There are a whole lot less paper copies of the Connection being printed, starting with this edition.

A recent survey of county employees resulted

in less printed copies when quite a few of you suggested we move closer to a more paperless edition online. And we agree.

We'll be sending out a token amount of copies for break rooms in this and future editions, so be sure to leave the copies around for others to read.

Look for the Connection in MyCollinCounty on the intranet, or on the bottom of Human Resources webpage.



## New judges on County Courts at Law No. 4 & 6

Two newly appointed County Court at Law judges are now presiding over cases in their respective courts, having won party primaries in March and facing no opposition in the November election. **Jay A. BENDER**, of McKinney, (above, far right) began presiding over County Court at Law No. 6 in early May. **David RIPPEL**, of Plano (above, far left) took the bench of County Court at Law No. 4 a few weeks later. Both judges were appointed to their seats by the Collin County Commissioners Court in late April after winning the March primary and drawing no opposition in the fall election. Both will serve out the remainder of the unexpired terms of these elected offices before beginning full, four-year terms in January 2011. They are pictured here during their appointment ceremony in Commissioners Court, accompanied by family members.

### *... And now some time off*

► **Minnie Mae SPRINGS** of the County Clerk's office retired in late May, after 26 years with the county. Minnie worked as a Deputy Clerk in Public Assistance, and had a broad knowledge of the County Clerk's historical deed books. Minnie greeted customers when they entered the office, assisted them with deed searches, and land and plat research. She was very well liked by the customers she helped over the years.



## A little extra help for our friends at the CAC



**Lynne McLEAN**, (left) chief executive officer of the Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County is presented a check for \$30,095 in late May from County Commissioner, Pct. 4, **Kathy WARD** and State District Judge **Chris OLDNER**. The funds come to the county from the State of Texas Comptroller's Economic Development 2001 Fund. This is the second check for Collin County to issue to the Children's Advocacy Center from these funds.

## GFOA recognizes '09 Budget

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded Collin County's Budget and Finance Department its Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the sixth consecutive year in a row.

The award is based on how Budget's staff met the highest principles of governmental budgeting, based on nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentations. This included the Fiscal Year 2009's budget and how it served as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide, and communications device. Of course, our Budget folks are now revving up for the Fiscal Year 2011.

The Government Finance Officers Association is a non-profit professional association serving over 17,600 government finance professionals throughout North America. The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.

## Walk Across Texas

*(Continued from page 1)*

**FELD** from the Engineering Department. Her team members included **Sheila NELSON**, **Pam DONNELL**, **Jim ADAMS**, **Cliff EDWARDS**, **Kelly WARRINGTON**, **Kim SHORT** and **Kristen SPAIN**.

Hot on their heels (well, by about 160 miles) were the **SWAT Team** with **Jerry HIGGINS** (captain), **Marcia HIGGINS**, **Holly HELDT**, **Janna BENSON-CAPONERA**, **Tony WONG**, **Roxanne LEDBETTER**, **Craig SONODA** and **Steve BEMIS**. They logged 2,851 miles.

**Angie YOST's A Team** was right behind with 2,576 miles, followed by **Jeff FALEFIA's Mulishakers** (1,760 miles), **Denise BIGHAM's Sole Survivors** (1,536 miles), **Joe PELL's Frankie and the Jets** (1,456 miles), **Leslie HARPER's DeVilles** (1,395 miles), **Rita EDDS' Happy Feet** (1,367 miles), **Sharon ADAMS' Jay Walkers** (1,323 miles), **Cindy PRESSNELL's Foot of Attitude** (1,068 miles), **Susan WHITAKER's Globe Trekkers** (1,037 miles) and **Vicky MINTER's Trailblazers** (1,015 miles).



## New Doctor in town

▲ Texas AgriLife Extension Service/ Collin County would like to announce that **Rick MAXWELL** has completed his Doctorate in Agriculture Education from Texas Tech and Texas A&M Universities. We would like to congratulate him on his wonderful achievement. Way to go, *Doctor Maxwell*.

## Constable, Pct. 1

Constable **Paul ELKINS** (Pct. 1) attended the Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute Of Texas in April at the Sam Houston State University Criminal Justice Center for completion of his 40-hour Continuing Education for Constables.

Also, on April 20th the McKinney Chamber of Commerce celebrated a ribbon cutting ceremony at Constable Paul Elkins' office at 2300 Bloomdale Rd. Constable Elkins' has been active a member of the Chamber since 2007. During the ribbon cutting ceremony, Constable Elkins is accompanied by his wife Becky, 9 office staff members, 12 ambassadors from the Chamber and other elected officials. We would like to thank the Chamber and our friends for their attendance.

## Anniversaries in CSCD

**Teresa BRIGGS**, 5 years

**Robert NICHOLSON**, 5 years

## New in CSCD

CSCD's Felony Court Unit welcomes back **Julie HANSEN**, who comes to us from Tarrant County CSCD where she supervised a felony caseload. Julie was employed with Collin County CSCD from 1985-1998. She received her B.S. in Psychology from Mount Mercy College in Iowa and her M.A. in Rehabilitation Services from the University of North Texas. In her spare time Julie enjoys playing tennis and watching her son play football and baseball.

## Facilities

## Maintenance

### Promotion

**Charlie SCOTT** has been promoted to a Tech II, Generator Technician. He joined the Facilities team in August 2008. Charlie does weekly and monthly checks on 23 generators.

In his weekly checks he services the generators; checking switches, amps, hoses, oil levels, etc. are in good condition. During the monthly checks, Charlie does a full power transfer to ensure the equipment is able to handle the electrical load in case power glitches or outages. The generators at the Jail have an automated fuel system; Charlie checks automation to make sure the system is reading and working properly to prevent any fuel spills.

Charlie also has experience in maintenance and as a parts specialist. He has worked at Bonham Hospital and Sherman Community Hospital as a Maintenance Specialist for 13 years, plus another 15 years at Napa Parts.

Charlie has been married to Carla for 23 years, and they have two girls. Caitlin is 13 and Cassidy is 10. They live in Bells, and love the outdoors. Charlie and his girls have a few farm animals as pets and like to take care of them together. Charlie loves to hunt, fish, and camp, anything he can do outdoors with his family.

## New Employee

**Wesley STINSON** started in mid-April as a Tech I, whose primary responsibilities include service work in plumbing, mechanical, and electrical systems. Wesley has his State Plumbing Journeyman's license, with more than five years experience in operations and maintenance. Wesley has lived in Denison for 20-plus years. He and his wife, Consuella, have six children: Michael, Heather, Dylan, Logan, Morgan, and Kylan. Wesley likes to fish and raise show pigs. Wesley previously worked for Sisemore Services for 12 years as a plumber, and we at Facilities Maintenance are fortunate to have his talent and experience.



## Juvenile Probation

**Kyle PATTERSON** (above, left) receives his 5-year service pin from supervisor **Mike COMBEST**. Kyle is a Juvenile Probation Officer in the Plano Unit.

## Law Library notes National Law Day

The Collin County Law Library celebrated Law Day on April 29 by inviting county employees to stop by and have a cookie.

Law Day was established by President Eisenhower in 1958 as a day of national

dedication to the principle of government under law. On Law Day, Americans from all walks of life, public figures and private individuals alike, reaffirm in words and deeds our shared national allegiance to the rule of law.

Law Day was a big success as many employees took advantage of the free cookie while also checking out the Law Library itself.

"It was great having so many employees from other departments stop in," said Assistant Law Librarian, Gina Zimmel. "It was a wonderful opportunity not just to meet them, but also show what the Law Library can offer them and other people in Collin County."

## Juvenile Detention Anniversaries

John R. Roach Juvenile Detention Center employees **Valarie TURNER** (Juvenile Detention Officer) and **Jeff FALAFIA** (Court Officer) were presented with their 10-Year Service Pins recently.



**Valarie TURNER**



**Jeff FALAFIA**



## Juvenile Detention Officer of the Year

Juvenile Detention Officer **Chris JONES** is Juvenile Detention Officer of the Year for 2009. Chris is an Assistant Supervisor on the night shift at the Juvenile Detention Center. His co-workers say that they rely quite a bit upon Chris and are grateful for his direction and dedicated service to the County. We are proud of Chris' selection as Officer of the Year. Pictured is Detention Superintendent **Danny MEEK** presenting Chris with the honorary plaque.



## Stellar Employee

James **MILLER** (right) was selected as the Star Employee for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter at the John R. Roach Juvenile Detention Center. Officer Miller has been employed as a Juvenile Detention Officer since March 2008. Presenting Officer Miller with a certificate is **Albert CERVANTEZ**, Assistant Superintendent.

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## Honor Guard participates in Crime Victims Rights Week



The Collin County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard Team participated in opening ceremonies of National Crime Victims' Rights Week in mid-April in Plano. For several years now the Collin County Honor Guard Team has opened National Crime Victims' Rights Week by posting the American and Texas Flags. Since 1981, National Crime Victims' Rights Week has been set aside as a time of national remembrance, and to build public awareness about challenges crime victims face. It's also a time to celebrate hard-won progress in victims' rights and services. Pictured above: Collin County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard with Asst. Chief **Randy CLARK** (left) & Sheriff **Terry BOX**.

## 20 Years of Service

Deputy **Jerry MEHMEN** celebrated 20 years of service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office in late April. Sheriff **Terry BOX** congratulated Deputy Mehmen for his achievement of this significant milestone in his career.





◀ Sheriff **Terry BOX**, left, presents Commendation Certificates & Challenge Coins to Deputy **Jason EV-ANS** and Coach **Jerry BYERS**, right.

## Deputy, coach turn youth's arrest into positive change

An awards ceremony was held in May to honor Deputy **Jason EV-ANS** and Coach **Jerry BYERS** for their intervention on behalf of a troubled 16-year-old boy. The boy had many disciplinary problems, including abusive behavior toward family members and was failing every class in school.

However, the boy's arrest one night by Deputy Evans changed the direction of his life in an unexpected way. Call it

fate, luck, or divine intervention, but the arrest proved to be a blessing for the boy.

Deputy Evans recognized the boy's potential, and contacted Coach Byers who owns a martial arts and boxing gym. Coach Byers took him on at his own expense and with time and effort, helped him turn his life around. The gamble paid off big time.

The young man has been accepted into the Honor Society at school, is a mem-

ber of the track team, will compete in the Regional Golden Gloves tournament, will graduate soon, and now treats his family with respect.

Both men truly deserve recognition for their actions that led the young man in a new direction and helped him turn his life around. Sheriff Box praised them both and presented commendation certificates & challenge coins for their humanitarian efforts.

**THE COLLIN COUNTY CONNECTION** is published six times a year for county employees by the Public Information Office, with a lot of technical assistance from the good people in Information Technology's GIS Department. Please submit your articles, anniversaries, announcements, classified ads, good deeds and atta-boys (and girls) in plain text email to: [publicrelations@collincountytx.gov](mailto:publicrelations@collincountytx.gov).

The deadline to submit material for the July-August edition is Friday, July 24, 2010.

# Announcements/Classifieds

## BIRTHS

**Taryn Ann MINZENMAYER**, born May 14, 2010, weighing 9 pounds, six ounces and measuring 21 ¼-inches long. Proud parents are **Stephanie and Justin MINZENMAYER**, and grandparents **Teresa** (Special Projects Dept.) & **Roy NELSON**. All reside in Whitewright.



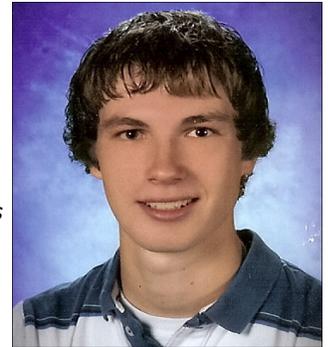
**Tyler Price ABLES**, born April 12, 2010, at Allen Presbyterian; 9 pounds, four ounces; 20 1/5 inches long. Parents are **Josh** (Facilities Maintenance) and **Stephanie** (County Court at Law) **ABLES**. Proud Grandpa is **Price ABLES** (Road and Bridge).

National Honor Society, The Spanish Honor Society and The Family Career & Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). Ashley has also volunteered with Homework Help, TAKS Tutoring, Habitat for Humanity, Relay for Life, NHS Induction Ceremony and SHS Induction Ceremony. Ashley's true love is in the Culinary Arts. She took 1<sup>st</sup> place for Culinary Management at ProStart State Competition as a national qualifier this year. She has yet to decide where she will attend in the fall, but feels a strong pull towards The Johnson & Wells School of Culinary Arts in Providence, R.I.



**Christian Connor EDDS**, son of **Brent and Rita EDDS**

(Plano Tax Office), graduated from Wylie High School in June. Christian was on Wylie High's Honor Roll and is in Advanced Placement Math. He also excelled in other classes such as Welding, Building Trades and Computer Tech. Christian works for *Little Caesar's* and *Tyler's Custom Cars* where he puts his welding skills to work and still makes time to attend church at First Baptist in Wylie. Christian plans to attend Brookhaven College in the fall to pursue a career in the automotive field, however, he has recently realized he is interested in and has natural talent in architectural design, so those plans may change. Regardless of which way he ventures, his parents, family and friends are very proud of him.



## GRADUATES

Congratulations to **Chris QUINN** for receiving his Bachelor of Science Degree in Kinesiology with an emphasis in Sport Management and minors in Business Administration and Sociology. Chris graduated from the University of Texas in Austin on May 21, 2010 and will continue his education by entering Graduate School in the fall. Chris is the son of Chuck and Anne SIBLEY (Juvenile Probation).



**Alexandria "Alex" WHITELEY**, daughter of **Regina WHITELEY** (Plano Tax Office), will be graduating Distinguished from Garland High School on June 5. Alex is a very gifted individual. In spite of the fact that she has Dyslexia and Dysgraphia, Alex has spent her high school career taking advanced placement classes such as Physics, Latin and Greek. Alex is also a member of The Texas State Junior Classic League

(TSJCL), The National Society of High School Scholars, The United States Achievement Academy, The Anime' Club, The Art Club and an active member of Northside Baptist Church where she assists with running the sound equipment. Alex has been accepted to Texas A&M Commerce where she will be pursuing a degree in Industrial Engineering.

**Ashley MORTON**, daughter of **Angela MORTON** (Plano Tax Office), graduated from Wylie High School in June. Her family and friends are very proud of her. Ashley is ranked 4th among her classmates, and won many Academic Excellence Awards in Advanced Placement Classes such as English, World History and Chemistry. Ashley is a member of The

## FOR SALE

**MOWERS:** Husky riding mower for sale, call 214-726-5780. Looking for running or non-running riding mowers and tillers. Also do repair work. Please call 214-726-5780. Also, looking for Treadmill or StairStepper to buy, and am looking for horse- or goat-panels (or a big dog run).

**BIG-SCREEN TV:** Hitachi 51-inch rear projection TV, about 5 years old, still works great. Call 903-436-2928.

**HOUSE:** 4BR/2B frame house, 1,872 sq. ft on 2 acres 8 mi. north of Bonham: \$82,500. 1½ acres in pasture, Fenced-in yard, 12 X 16 Storage shed, and dog kennels. Please contact Bryan at ext. 4516.

**VAN:** '05 Ford Freestar SES, 96,000 miles, very clean, rear air, white with gray interior, anti-lock brakes, dual front air bags, tinted windows, cruise, power door locks, keyless entry. Asking \$6,800. Contact Carrie BRAZEAL, 214-686-7138.