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May/June 2011

COLLIN COUNTY

Collin County Comection

"YOUR SOURCE FOR EMPLOYEE INFORMATION"

Getting closer ...

Construction workers are busy framing the interior of the atrium on the courthouse addition in April. The 2-story project, which will house the District Attorney, District Clerk, Law Library (plus a cafeteria) will add 170,000 square feet of office space, and is projected to be finished in September.

Walk Across Texas winners trekked 2,000-plus miles in 8-week program

19,483 miles.

That's 24 trips between Texarkana and El Paso and the total miles reported by the 20 teams that participated in this year's *Walk Across Texas*.

The program began on March 6, when county teams -- comprised of county employees, family and friends -- began their trek across Texas. This activity is designed for teams of eight to pool their miles for eight weeks, and see if they meet the challenge of walking the 800-mile breadth of the Lone Star State.

The annual event was sponsored by the Extension Service and Health Department. Team members were allowed to pick from several forms of physical activity to complete the task, including gardening, dancing, jogging, bicycling, Pilates and swimming.

When they ended in late April, 19,483 miles were logged by the teams, with 11 teams meeting the 800-mile challenge.

Along the way, team members reported their energy level increased, pounds were lost, cholesterol levels were lowered, stress levels were reduced and more time was spent with family members.

The team that walked the most miles was the *Tactical Team* comprised of employees from the Sheriff's Office, as they logged 2,060 miles alone (see photo on page 7). Team members were team captain **Scotty MORRISON**, **Robert LANGWELL**, **Robert RANKINS**, **Edward KENNEDY**, **Stephen DIAZ**, **Neil TOYE**, **Gene BLAYLOCK** and **Fernando ROBLEDO**.

-- Carrie BRAZEAL

Cleaning-up in Allen ...

Eight Constable Pct. 3 deputies worked with the City of Allen during the Great American Clean Up on April 30 -- and on their day off, no less. The deputies volunteered to assist the city by directing traffic and using their trucks and trailers, going to addresses in Allen and picking up unwanted items from the elderly and disabled. This is the 10th year Constable Pct. 3 has worked with Allen on the program.

Upper left: Reserve Deputy Constable **Stuart SMITH** , left, and Deputy Constable **Richard HARRIS .**

Left: Allen City Councilman **Gary CAPLINGER**, **Donna KLIEWER**, City of Allen Solid Waste Director; Constable **Chuck PRESLEY**; **Steven MASSEY**, Director of Community Services for the City of Allen and Sgt. **Tom WYLIE** of Constable Pct. 3's office.

... And at the office, too

Susan WHITAKER, our website's designer, likes to recycle, and one of the ways that she does that is by taking old boxes and using them as weed control in her garden. She lays the boxes down on the ground and then places the dirt over them. The cardboard will last long enough to kill anything underneath it, eventually decomposes and becomes part of the soil. By recycling these biodegradable materials in the garden, it not only controls weeds, but enriches the soil and reduces the amount of trash going to landfills. It's a proven fact that paper products buried under tons of garbage do not break down, as they are broken down by aerobic bacteria, which can't survive in landfills. It's a win-win situation for everyone when you recycle biodegradable materials into your garden.

-- John DANIELS

Warm fuzzies & heartbreak all part of the job

Animal Control Officer **Lisa DRUMMOND** spends most of her workday watching over the menagerie of abandoned and stray animals that find their way into the county's animal shelter.

The Texas native – and former hairdresser – has worked in the shelter for the past five years, sharing her love of animals with a professional role that involves a lot of work trying to find homes for strays.

"The best part of my job is being able to take an unloved, dumped pet and help give them a second chance for a happy life," Lisa explains. That part of the job frequently involves working with the number of animal rescue groups in North Texas.

"The rescue organizations we work with absolutely make my job easier. They are so awesome," Lisa says. "We all have a love of animals, and we want to save as many as possible – help them get out of bad situations and into loving care."

That partnership is credited with the shelter having a 12% euthanasia rate, which includes cases where pet owners brought in their pets to be euthanized or where the stray animal was gravely ill. Compare that to the 70%-plus euthanasia rates typical of other private or government-run shelters across the nation.

The county's Animal Services department isn't large by big-city standards, made up of seven animal control officers like Lisa, and an administrative staff of four who handle caring for animals in the shelter and the associated paperwork.

The shelter mainly handles unincorporated areas of the county, rounding up stray and lost pets, loose livestock, taking animal abuse complaints and picking up the occasional strange critter (possums, snakes, raccoons) that shows up on someone's doorstep.

They also contract with a handful of other smaller cities for animal control services, and shelter for animals from McKinney and Frisco.

That said, the shelter has racked up some impressive numbers since beginning operations in Fall 2006.

Here's a rundown of what this small group dealt with last year alone:

- Emergency Calls: 1,667 (4.5 / day)
- Non-emergency calls: 11,114 (30 / day)
- Bite & Rabies exposure cases: 224
- Rabies tests processed: 60
- Animals processed through shelter: 6,038 (16+ / day)
- Dogs or puppies processed & vaccinated: 3,863
- Cats or kittens processed & vaccinated: 1,725.

Though we do not have the staffing or an appropriate facility for adoptions, we have adopted 480 animals out of the Shelter in the past year. Since there is no veterinarian on staff, the shelter brings in local veterinarians to conduct low-cost spay/neuter clinics.

But for adoptions, the shelter staff relies heavily on the relationship with animal rescue groups.

Also pitching in are youth community service volunteers from the county's Teen Court, as well as donations of thousands of pounds of pet supplies from area merchants and citizens.

Misty BROWN, who's managed the shelter since its opening, says her staff couldn't do their jobs as well without the outside help.

"This has truly become a community effort by a lot of good people who truly care about these animals," she says. "I'm very proud of the work being done by our staff, the rescue folks, and our volunteers."

People

10 years' service

First Assistant County Auditor **Randall RICE** celebrated his 10-year service anniversary in April with County Auditor **Jeff MAY** in Commissioners Court.

Facilities Maintenance

Congratulations on 20 years' service

Jimmy PIERCE, Technical Coordinator over HVAC, received his 20-year service pin recently.

Jimmy has always worked in HVAC (air-conditioning and heating). He is a Universal certified HVAC and Refrigeration Technician, who started out at the County as a Tech I in HVAC and a year later was promoted. In 2000, Jimmy was promoted again to the Technical Coordinator position that he holds today, and is responsible for the heating and cooling issues that may arise at the County Buildings. His staff maintains the chillers, cooling towers, boilers, and all plant equipment.

Jimmy oversees five HVAC technicians, one Diagnostic HVAC, one generator specialist tech and one Maintenance Specialist. His team also maintains the ice machines and the refrigeration in the County buildings.

His team also takes care of HVAC and refrigeration problems tied to electrical, plumbing and welding when it comes to HVAC and refrigeration. They program and diagnose HVAC control issues, replace and rebuild air units, repair heating boilers, and install and repair ventilation. Jimmy's technicians are on an on-call rotation one week a month for after-hour calls and emergencies. Jimmy's team is trained in CPR and First Aid and is a part of the first response team in inclement weather situations.

We appreciate your service to the County employees and citizens. Congratulations, Jimmy, on your 20 years at the County.

New Crew Members

Clint HENDRICKS started in November 2010 as a Maintenance Specialist, under the supervision of Technical Coordinator, **Lloyd ROLLINS**. Clint delivers Housekeeping supplies every week to all the County buildings, assists in office moves and grounds maintenance.

He also does general maintenance and offers assistance to facility technicians. He takes part in the first response to inclement weather situations, and is one of those behind-the-scenes employees who is highly needed but rarely in the spotlight.

Clint has two children, Monica, 19, and Grant, 16. He has lived in Anna his entire life, and has been in the agricultural business since he was a teenager. Clint enjoys fishing and anything to do with sports.

Kyle DENT is Facilities' newest team member. He is a Control Room Operator on the first half of the week, under the supervision of **Mark CRULL**, Planner/Scheduler.

The control room is manned 24 hours a day and 7 days a week to maintain the energy management of each building, monitor cameras, security systems, fire systems, power management systems, the elevator systems and the UPS systems in the county. The Control Room Operators also take care of the input and output of work orders.

Kyle is married to Amanda and they have a 3-year-old girl, Taylor. Kyle and his family live in Wylie. Kyle has worked for Dick's Sporting Goods, Tradesman's International, and he worked for the Sheriff's Office as a Detention Officer in the past. Kyle is an outdoorsman, who loves to fish and hunt.

Welcome Kyle and Clint when you get the opportunity. We are glad to welcome them aboard our team.

A century of service to Collin County ...

That is what you get by multiplying the 25 years each of the members of the team who have worked together in County Court at Law No. 2.

When he was sworn in June 1986, Judge **Jerry LEWIS** hired his Court Coordinator, **Lisa TODD**; his Bailiff, **Doyle DENISON**; and his Reporter, **Marigay BLACK**. They're all still here, serving the people.

On June 8, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., the four are celebrating their unusual anniversary by hosting a reception in chambers at the University Drive courthouse. Everyone is invited to drop by and share a cookie and a memory or two.

From left, **Lisa TODD**, **Doyle DENISON**, Judge **Jerry LEWIS** and **Marigay BLACK**. *Photo courtesy of Paul ERNEST*.

"In the history of Texas," Judge Lewis says, "I feel certain no other court has enjoyed the same judge and the same three staff members this long, maybe two or three, but not all four.

"The reason they stayed is not me; although, I've done everything I can to keep them here," Judge Lewis continues. "Instead, from day one, they became fast friends. Lisa, Doyle and Marigay truly enjoy working with each other; and, equally important, they continue to serve the county in their own unique ways.

"It's the perfect example of 'the whole is worth more than the sum of its parts.' They know this, and help each other do their jobs better every day. It is a tremendous honor to have been associated with people like this for a quarter of a century. I hold true to the fact that I'm still in office to them."

Award

Leesa COOK, County Clerk Court Collections, was awarded Collector of the Year by the *Government Collectors Association of Texas* at the Annual GCAT conference in San Antonio in May.

CSCD Anniversaries:

Ceci AVOGARO, Supervision Officer, UDCF: 5 years.

5 years service

Camesha BAILEY, a clerk in Judge **Paul RALEEH**'s Office, celebrated 5 years of service with Collin County in May. Judge Raleeh commented how great Ms. Bailey is with the public and praised her for her ability to multi-task around the office. Camesha earned her Associates Degree in Business at the Bailey Military Institute in 2009. Some of her duties include; handling the public at the court's front counter and setting examining trials.

Recognition

65 years on the road(s)

Public Works Director **Jon KLEINHEKSEL** (left) congratulates four of his staff for celebrating service anniversaries last month: (l-r) **David DOAN**, 20 years; **Charles ATTEBERRY**, 10 years; **Larry BLAKEMORE**, 20 years; **Gregory CHAPMAN**, 15 years.

Training time

Paul ELKINS (left), Constable Pct. 1, presents **Emmanuel GRIFFIN**, **Chris FILLINE** and **Clete BURNS** a certificate for completing a course on Manufactured Home Evictions. The class was hosted by the TJPCA at the Grand Hotel in McKinney in early May. The deputies learned how manufactured home evictions differ from standard residential evictions in filing and service areas.

Juvenile Supervision Officer of the year

The Juvenile Supervision Officer of the Year for 2010 is **Cshniqua DIXON** (center). Officer Dixon has been employed as a Juvenile Supervision Officer since November 2006. Her supervisor, **Raymond THEODORE** (left), says Cshniqua is very cordial and has a positive affect at work at all times. She is approachable and exhibits a great deal of respect for her peers, and she pays close attention to details and possesses great organizational skills. Cshniqua shows great concern to detained youth and continues to be an asset to the detention program. These things made her an obvious choice to be selected as the employee of the year. Congratulations, Cshniqua. Also pictured are **Danny MEEK** and **Albert CERVANTEZ**.

CCSO kitchen staff honored for perfect health inspection

Congratulations to the Collin County Sheriff's Office Kitchen Staff, who recently received a perfect rating of 100% Compliance from the City of McKinney Health Inspectors during a recent health inspection. This is the first time ever that all three areas inspected — Staff Dining, the Main Jail Kitchen and the Minimum Security Kitchen, have simultaneously earned a perfect score.

Sheriff **Terry BOX** praised and congratulated the Kitchen Staff and Kitchen Supervisor **Delores MORRIS** for this outstanding accomplishment. Also receiving recognition were the Kitchen Supervisory Personnel, Capt. **Jim MOODY** and Lt. **Micky FRIZELL**. Each employee was awarded a certificate of appreciation from the Sheriff. Kitchen Supervisor **Delores MORRIS** also received special recognition from Sheriff Box and was presented a challenge coin along with her certificate.

Pictured above, (L-R): Front Row: **Johnna WERNER**, **Rita COOK**, and **Gail TOULMIN**. Back Row: Capt. **Jim MOODY**, **Monty GORDON**, **Kay WILLARD**, **Donna TAYLOR**, **Oscar MARROQUIN**, Kitchen Supervisor **Delores MORRIS**, **Kathy TURNER**, Lt. **Micky FRIZELL**, and Sheriff **Terry BOX**.

Walk Across Texas' winning team from the Sheriff's Office (see page 1): l-r, **Gene BLAYLOCK**, Dr. **Robert RANKINS**, **Fernando ROBLEDO**, **Scotty MORRISON**, **Neil TOYE**, **Robert LANGWELL**, **Edward KENNEDY**, and **Stephen DIAZ**.

Promotion

Sheriff **Terry BOX**, recently swore in Detention Sergeant **Casey CLOPTON** (above), who received a promotion from Detention Officer.

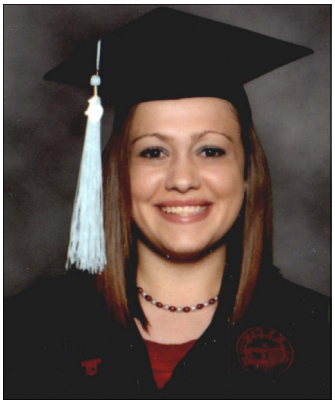
Announcements/Classified

Announcements

Karsen Wayne GRIFFITH ▸ was born Jan. 27, 2011, at 11:54 p.m., weighing in at 8 pounds, 6 ounces, and measuring 19 ½" long. The proud new parents are **Jessica** (County Clerk's Office) and **Robert GRIFFITH**.

◂ ***Shelby Katherine BROOKS**, daughter of **Mike** and **Jennifer BROOKS** (CSCD), born Nov. 8, 2010, weighing 6 pounds, one-half ounce at 1:51 p.m.*

Amanda LEGGIERI ▸ graduated with honors from the University of Oklahoma in December, with a degree in Early Childhood Education. Amanda was a member of the *Alpha Omicron Pi* sorority, and will be teaching 1st grade at Tinker Elementary School in Oklahoma City beginning in August. Amanda is the daughter of **Paul** and **Cece LEGGIERI** (County Clerk's office).



Tracie Lee WATKINS ▸ (right), daughter of **Rhonda WATKINS** of the District Attorney's Office and **Jeffery WATKINS** of the IT Department, graduated from *U.S. Air Force* officer's training and is now stationed at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, NM, with her daughter, **Allie**.

Classified Ads

WEEDS: North Texas Weed Control can help you take back control of your lawn. We offer weed, lawn insect treatments along with fertilization and seeding. Visit our website at www.nortexweed.com for a complete list of treatments and call us today for your free estimate. 469-525-7102. Mention this ad for a discount.

WANTED: Running and non-running riding mowers. Call 214-726-5780.

SERVICES: Need your apartment or home to sparkle? Traci and Lorrie have teamed up to help you clean up. Great weekend rates. Call 903-267-2500.

SALSA: I have been taking beginner salsa dance class in Plano off of Custer and Spring Creek and it has been really fun and a great way to get into shape. Beginner salsa dance classes are Fridays at 7 p.m., with Sal: 214-566-0873. Ballroom, Cha-Cha and Children's Dance Summer Camp with Oksana are also taking students: 215-400-0233. All classes are at *The Dance Studio*, located at 6324 Custer Rd. Plano, TX 75023 *(most classes are $10 a session).*

CANDLES: Scentsy Wickless Candles are great gift ideas. This great product is also good for your **office** since there are no open flames. Go to my website at www.scentsy.com/jenniferbrooks and check out the Latest/Greatest thing. Order online or call me with an order. I will be happy to help you out. 469-323-4681.

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.

The deadline to submit material for the July-August edition is Friday, July 15, 2011.