



### Mental Health First Aid

Dr. **Ron TAYLOR** talks with **Jason LANE** during a 4-hour short course in early May for county employees on behavioral health education at LifePath Systems in McKinney. The course is an introduction for employees on how to best deal with — and get help for — people who may be undergoing some type of mental distress or crisis. Dr. Taylor also teaches a more intensive, two-day course based on the program Mental Health First Aid. He tailors the short course to pass as much basic information as possible to employees in a single, after-noon session.

## They walked ‘The Walk’ — across Texas

*33,433.19 miles.*

*That’s about 21 round trips between Texarkana and El Paso and the total miles reported by the 23 teams that participated in this year’s Walk Across Texas.*

On March 4, these teams, which were comprised of county employees, family and friends, began their trek across Texas in teams of eight to pool their miles for eight weeks and see if they could meet the challenge of walking the 800 miles across Texas. The program is sponsored by AgriLife Extension Service and Health Care Services.

Team members could select from several forms of physical activity, including gardening, dancing, jogging, bicycling, Pilates and swimming.

When we ended in late April, 33,433.19

miles were logged by the teams. Twenty teams met the 800-mile challenge.

The team that walked the most miles was the **Holy Walkamolies** comprised of employees and family members from Health Care Services, who logged 4,404.6 miles. The team consisted of captain **Angie ALLEN**, **Lorraine MARQUEZ**, **Sardae ROBERTS**, **Dondi ALLEN**, **Tatum ALLEN**, **Jessie OWENS**, **Kim NEAL** and **Enrique MARQUEZ**.

Right behind them, with 3,074.65 miles were the **Soles Sisters** from the McKinney Tax Office with team captain **Angelica RODRIGUEZ**, **Betty GARCIA**, **Debbie LARA**, **Glenda BEAUCHAMP**, **Katherin CHARRON**, **Melba MOYNIHAN**, **Stephanie HELLER** and **Tina BEAVERS**.

Other teams that met the challenge were:

**Valarie MILLER’s** Sweet Soles (2,414.66 miles); **Chris WINDSOR’s** Minimum Security Mountain Climbers (1,716)

*(Continued on page 2)*



## County Clerk lauded for innovative software use

In late March, the County Clerk's office received the 2011 Municipal Code Corporation Innovation Excellence Award for the creative use of the *Laserfiche* system for storing and archiving records used in Collin County by the Clerk's Genealogy Corner. From left, **Caren SKIPWORTH**, **Russell HADDOCK** of MCCI, **Tonya KELLOGG**, **Stacey KEMP**, **Paul ROSALES** and **Vicki TOLER**. Skipworth also recognized her staff for supporting the project which started with a searchable digital database of historical marriage licenses.

*(Continued from page 1)*

**Vicky MINTER's** WECNDUIT (1,649.02) **Bala PALANISWAMY's** Moon Walkers (1,573.21) **Tonya KELLOGG's** County Clerk Innovators (1,545.21) **Tracy CARR's** Sisters with Blisters (1,536.78) **Matthew HAWKINS' Elect** (1,516.85) **Christie HIX's** Great Divide (1,350.79) **Monica LOVE's** Fire Hose (1,315.37) **Delia MASON's** Texas Troopers (1,234.63) **Jennifer SNAILUM's** Walkin' for Rita #1 (1,207.25) **Laura ULFSPARRE's** Walkin' for Rita #2 (1,191.5) **Courtney WILKERSON's** Texas Heat (1,175.84) **Danny DAVIS' Go Fetch** (1,154.94) **Bonnie BOWERS' TC** (1,136) **Sharon ADAMS' Jail Walkers** (1,125) **Julie MONGE's** Huff and Puff (1,014.20) **Kathy BOUNDS' Walk this Weigh** (852.64)

*Walk Across Texas* is a physical activity program that can be started online at any time by individuals or teams. Contact **Carrie BRAZEAL** with the Extension Service at Ext. 4231 for details.



Some of the Holy Walkamolies team, from left: Captain **Angie ALLEN**, **Lorraine MARQUEZ** and **Sardae ROBERTS**.



## Crime Victims' Week

Collin County District Attorney **Greg WILLIS** and the Collin County Commissioners Court issued a joint proclamation marking Collin County's participation in the National Crime Victims' Rights Week (April 22 - 28, 2012). First established in 1981 by President Ronald Reagan, its purpose is to increase awareness of victims' rights, honor crime victims, and aid those who advocate on their behalf. Pictured above (l-r), Commissioners **Duncan WEBB** and **Joe JAYNES**, County Judge **Keith SELF**, the District Attorney, and Commissioners **Cheryl WILLIAMS** and **Matt SHAHEEN**.

## Special Appointment

State District Judge **Ray WHELESS** was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry in May to the Parental Rights Advisory Panel.

The Panel has been directed by the Legislature to address the desirability of potential legislation to clarify a parent's rights to possession and access to the parent's child in the absence of a current or pending court order for possession or access to the child.

The Panel will also address whether a new criminal offense should be established for depriving a parent of possession or access to the parent's child in the absence of a current or pending court order.

## Teen Court scholarships awarded to volunteer 'attorneys'

Collin County's Teen Court awarded scholarships in April to eight area seniors, totaling \$6,300, for their work with the program as teen attorneys. Pictured above are (l-r): **Blake OWENS** (West Point), **Felix WANGMANG** (St. Louis College of Pharmacy), **Ruan MEINTJES** (Patrick Henry College), **Lawrence LIU** (Princeton or Stanford), **Marcus STROUD** (Princeton), **Lindsey ZARA** (Collin College), **Megan PARRY** (Univ. of Arkansas); not pictured **Garrett McMILLAN** (Baylor), and **Nicholas KEYWORK** (Michigan State). Blake OWENS waived his scholarship money, since he is attending West Point, and requested it be distributed among the other winners.

Donations for the scholarships were provided by *Banowsky and Levine, The*



*Junior League of Plano, David McCALL, Philips and Epperson, Keith GORE, Hudson O'Leary, Bob DAVIS, Brian K. CUNNINGHAM, The Collin County Defense*

*Lawyers Association, County Administrator Bill BILYEU, The Shepherd Law Firm, Rosenthal and Wadas, Sheryl ADAMS, County Court at Law Judge Lance*

**BAXTER**, County Clerk **Stacey KEMP**, and County Commissioners **Matt SHAHEEN**, **Cheryl WILLIAMS**, **Joe JAYNES**, and **Duncan WEBB**.

# Recognition



## A year of hard work

*Tyler Technologies* presented an excellence award to Collin County in mid-May for its efficiency in implementing the *Odyssey* program over the last year. The makers of *Odyssey* recognized county officials **Stacey KEMP, Andrea THOMPSON, Greg WILLIS, Terry BOX, Paul RALEEH,**

**Jeff MAY and Caren SKIPWORTH;** plus, the project implementation team of **Jessica LIKNESS, Jessi WEST-MORELAND, Jessica GRIFFITH, Kristy LITRELL DUTY, Rhonda WATKINS, Misti BILDERBACK, Shannon ROBERTSON, Lanette SAETRE, Mike MALACK, Joe FIERRO, Bryan YATES, Robyn WINANS, Tracie TIDWELL, Mike ENGLISH, Mike JENKINS, Jerry HIGGINS, Sgt. William PURSER, Sgt. Chris GANN and Tonya SMITH.**



## 25 years service

**Pam DUGGER** (above) of the Treasury Department received her 25-year service pin in mid-May from **Stacey KEMP**, who described Pam as an asset to the Treasury Department.

## Never giving up

**Julie GONZALES** received the *Becky Sirmans Award* from the *Governmental Collectors Association of Texas* at their annual conference in San Marcos in May. The award is for getting the job done in spite of seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Julie is the program coordinator for the County Clerk's Court Collections office at the University Drive Courts Facility.



# Recent Graduate



District Clerk **Andrea THOMPSON** was thrilled to add **Amanda PER-MENTER's** (left) name as the inaugural entry on the District Clerk College Graduates Plaque which will hang in the District Clerk's office. Amanda received her Associates Degree in Business Management in May.



## 20 years service

**Tim NOLAN** (above, left) of Information Technology, received his 20-year service pin from IT Director **Caren SKIPWORTH**.



## They're certified

The Collin County **District Clerk's Office** underwent three days of passport recertification training so they can continue to meet the rising demand to process passport applications in our county. All clerks attending the training passed their exit exam with flying colors -- and got the certificates to prove it.

# Recognition

## 15 years service

**Paul ANFOSSO** is the Chief Felony Prosecutor for the 199th and 366th District Courts. Paul graduated with honors from the University of Texas, taught high school history, then went on to graduate from South Texas College of Law in Houston. Paul finds great value in service, and that's a big reason why he loves his job.



do." Kathy is the lead post-conviction attorney on the quadruple murder in McKinney in 2004, is board certified in Criminal Appellate Law, and is the co-author of a widely used law book on expunctions and non-disclosures.

## 10 years service

District Attorney **Greg WILLIS** (right) with **Kathy DECKER** after she received her 10-year service pin. Kathy is an appellate attorney who graduated from Baylor's Honors Program in English and Chemistry, and earned her law degree from the University of Texas. In her own words, she "loves her job, and has a lot of joy and excitement about what I



## New attorneys in DA's Office



**Abby NETTLES** stands with 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant District Attorney **John SCHOMBERGER** (left) and District Attorney **Greg WILLIS**. Abby, who joined the office in February, attended Texas Christian University and then Baylor Law School, where she graduated in May 2010. After spending a year and a half with the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office, Abby is enjoying the transition to this county as well as being closer to her fiancé and family.



**Rachel TRAN** is extremely excited and proud to be working for the Collin County District Attorney in her new role as an Assistant Criminal District Attorney. She was practically born and raised in the Metroplex and is a graduate of Coppell High School. In 2008, Rachel graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Science in Human Biology and earned her law degree from Baylor Univer-

sity School of Law in April 2011.



After law school, he worked as an Assistant District Attorney for Grayson County.

**Matthew HAMILTON** was born and raised in Collin County and is ready to continue his prosecutorial career with the Collin County District Attorney's Office. Matthew received his BBA in accounting from the University of Iowa in 2005. He received his MBA and JD from Creighton University. While at Creighton, Matthew won the Creighton Moot Court competition.



attended law school at the SMU Dedman School of Law, where she served as both a student attorney and chief of the SMU Criminal Justice Clinic. She graduated cum laude in May 2011.

**Ashley RITTENMEYER** has begun her prosecutorial career with the Collin County District Attorney's Office. Ashley grew up in Plano and has lived in the Dallas area for most of her life. She attended undergraduate school at SMU where she earned a Bachelor's degree in both Business Administration and Liberal Arts. She then at-

## 10 years service

**Stephanie STRICKLAND** is an investigator with the Collin County District Attorney's office. Before she became a certified peace officer, Stephanie worked in the DA's office as a secretary. She loves her job because it puts a premium on her organization skills and on finding people



## 5 years service

Constable **Paul ELKINS** presents **Emmanuel GRIFFIN** with his 5-year service pin.



## 15 years service

District Clerk **Andrea THOMPSON** awards **Tina CHANDLER** her pin in late March for 15 years' service with the District Clerk's Office.



## 5 years service

**Jarod SAYE** (r.) received his 5-year service pin from Detention Superintendent **Lynn HADNOT**.



**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 kudos 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 13, 2012.**

## Records Dept.

### Scanning mountains of files to create paperless archives

The ebb and flow of transforming paper documents into searchable, digital images is never ending but, far from the public view, the County's Records staff keeps chugging along in their offices on McDonald Street.

As a group, the seven-person staff scans about 42,000 pages of documents and images a month, or about 6,000 pages each. At the same time, about 3,500-plus storage boxes packed with old receipts, ledgers, notes and minutes are packed off to the shredder.

These folks are the caretakers of information collected on behalf of Collin County residents for the past 165 years. It is painstakingly tedious and important, as clerks jump from county receipts from the 1990's to election rolls from the 1880's and then on to District Attorney files from a quarter century ago.

Methodically, a page at a time, workers remove staples and paperclips, tape small slips of receipts onto paper and break down file folders for scanning and indexing. And as if once is not enough, they then check to make sure every page is readable before marking the original for destruction – or sending it back to its storage box.

"At times, I'm sure our staff can be overwhelmed at the sheer volume to be done," says Record Manager **Margaret ANDERSON**, "but they always pull together and get the job done on time and within budget."

At another end of the small suite of offices, another group converts images and index information (metadata) from

an old computer system that dates back to the 1980's and uploads it into a new integrated file system.

or flood; some literally become the official record in digital form.



(l-r) **Cindy WEBB, Leilani JUDD, and Hope ROBINSON** stand in front of the Records Department's "shredder" room, where boxes of documents await destruction.

The department is a service and support group for all county departments for every type of record created in the course of business.

Beyond storing paper records, they also handle all original microfilm for county departments, administer the electronic document management system, oversee shredding services, and coordinate the authorized destruction of records. Most importantly, the department staff keeps track of the very specific – and complicated – rules and laws about how long a record must be kept.

Each document has its own time-stamp for how long it must be kept on file, and specific guidelines for how and when it must be destroyed.

In some cases, the records can never be destroyed, such as District Court cases. In others, the retention schedule might only require a few years. Some are scanned as a backup in case of fire

Ms. Anderson, who will retire in June after nine years with the county (and a few years with Dallas County before that), said that her group's work in her span has gone from 39,000 scanned documents with limited access and search capabilities for employees to more than 3 million records available at more than 500 county desktop computers.

"It is often a thankless but necessary job," she says of her staff, "And it takes dedicated people with high quality standards to get it done right."

Here are a few examples of the record section's duties:

- ◆ Current accounts payable check runs are scanned by the Auditor's staff, and stored electronically for the Budget Office, Auditor, and County Commissioners Court to review before the checks are put in the mail.
- ◆ They support County Clerk's Genealogy Corner by storing marriage licenses and school census records that have been scanned and catalogued for online searching.
- ◆ Maintaining the District Clerk's historical scanned case files from 1847-1999, so that the clerks can find a case file from their desktop rather than having to go search through a box in the basement.
- ◆ Converting older Justice of the Peace records to scanned images to match up with the 131,000 documents currently scanned and available to the four offices; thus, avoiding having to scroll through old mi-

*(Continued on page 9)*

# Before & After



Several Juvenile Probation Department employees pose before – and after -- participating in the Warrior Dash on April 21 in Roanoke with staff from McKinney ISD and other friends and family members. They were: **Josh McBROOM, Rodney ALEXANDER, Anne SIBLEY, Pam HUFFMAN** and **Danielle ALDRIDGE**. The dash is a challenge-filled day of fun and mud, for those who dare.

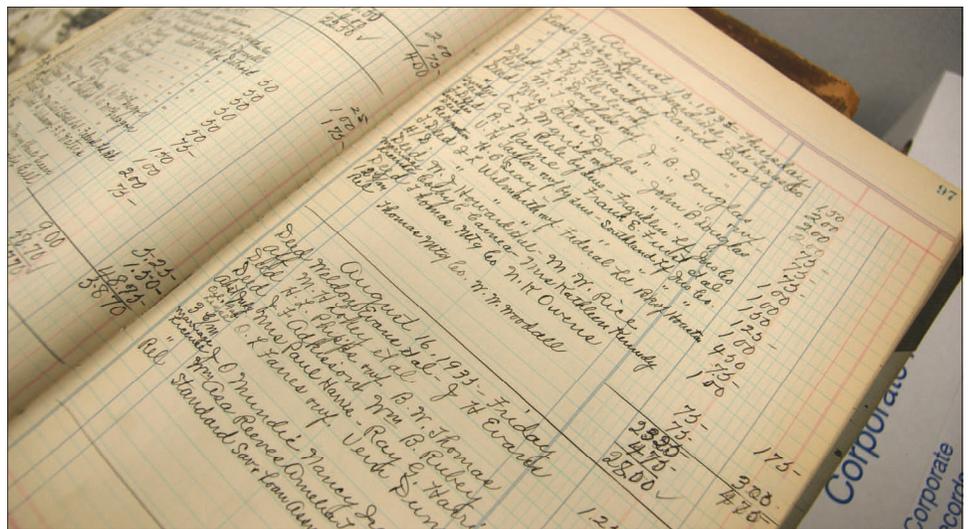
(Continued from page 8)

crofilm copies, and then print them off and ship them back to the offices.

In short, their work can reduce response time to retrieve records from a day of searching to seconds. And, as we said before, with 165 years of records to sort through, the department's scanning project still has plenty to do.

The earliest scanned document on file is an 1847 District Court case where Alfred Black sued several men for cutting down trees on his land. The most recent are copies of the checks approved for payment in the latest Commissioners Court.

The department also recently completed scanning Justice of the Peace Inquest records that ranged from the 1950's through the mid-1970's. They've since moved on to scanning historical certified election books from 1880's, and historical County Clerk marks and brand books,



A snapshot of the County's filing fee collection for Aug. 15, 1935, where total fees for deeds and marriage licenses at the County Clerk's office came to a whopping \$28.00. By the way, fees for filing deeds and leases ranged from 75 cents to \$1.50. A marriage license was \$1.75.

while also assisting the Development Services staff to add new septic permit documents to their database each week.

## Environmental Effort

### Illegal dumpsites cut in half through cooperative program

Going into the third year of operations, Deputy Sheriff **Lee HOWE** and his counterparts in the Public Works department have made some impressive gains when it comes to cleaning up illegal dump sites along rural county roads, fields and creek beds: 29,000-plus pounds of refuse cleaned up, and more than 800 investigations. And then there are the citations and charges that follow, the bite that comes from dumping trash on roadways and in creek beds. Since 2010, Deputy Howe has issued more than 140 warning citations, 176 Justice of the Peace citations, many of which result in violators paying clean-up costs as part of their court case or cleaning up the mess themselves.

Meanwhile, probationers from the Community Services and Corrections Department are recruited to pitch in on clean-up projects, saving thousands of dollars in labor and freeing up the Public Works staff to spend more time improving and repairing roads instead of picking up trash.

"We're into our third year now, and I'd like to believe this effort is having a big impact on the problem," Deputy Howe says, pausing to answer his phone to take a resident's complaint. "In many ways, it has – with an occasional spike here and there."

Spring and summer brings garage clean-outs and home remodeling projects where refuse ends up on roadsides and in creek beds, while fall and winter



months don't appear to generate as many dumpsites, he says.

So far, the Environmental Enforcement program has saved taxpayers more than \$450,000 in clean-up and labor costs. The biggest result, however, has been the decline of more than 900 illegal dump sites in rural Collin County. Previous years, these numbered upwards of 2,000 or more.

"The bottom line is, in a single year's time, we've cut the number of illegal dumps in half," says **Jon KLEINHEKSEL**, Public Works director. "I think that Lee getting out and about, and the public education programs we've employed on recycling and solid waste disposal



really have made a difference.

"Thanks to everyone's efforts in this, we saved almost a half-million dollars since the program began," he adds.

Slowly but surely, word appears to be getting around that a midnight trash run on a rural road could be costly. And, on occasion, Deputy Howe gets some help from residents – and even some violators themselves – to combat the litter.

In January, a resident spotted two people throwing trash out of their pickup truck, wrote down their license plate number and called police. Two Public Works employees spotted a passenger throw trash into a creek near State Highway 78 in February. A Farmersville police officer pulled over the truck minutes later.

A helicopter pilot flying over a remote area spotted a large dump on private land that wasn't visible from the road, and called it in.

In many cases, the trash leads straight back to the owners.

A letter jacket with a student's name and school was found at one dump site, the result of someone cleaning out their parent's garage. Not only did the litterer have to go back and pick up the trash, he was also charged with illegal dumping.

In early February, three separate piles of household trash and debris were found at three different sites throughout the county, each with paperwork identifying the person at the same address. When day laborers who were allegedly responsible for the dumping couldn't be found, three cases were filed against the homeowner where the trash originated.

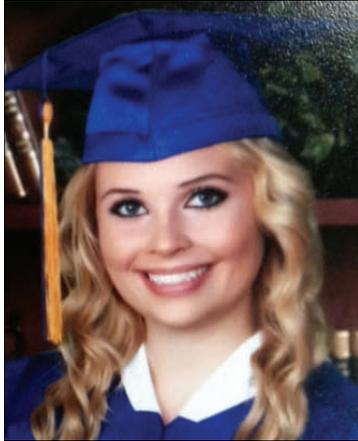
Deputy Howe spends a lot of time driving the county's back roads, a lot of time on the phone, and a lot of time sorting through trash to track down violators.

"There is no end to what people will throw away," he says. "And it almost always leads me directly to them."

To report illegal dumping, please call our 24-hour hotline at 972-547-5350.

## High school grads from the Collin County family ...

**Tiffany PENNINGTON**, daughter of **Janet PENNINGTON** (County Clerk) is graduating from Frisco High School. Tiffany played on the volleyball and softball teams Frisco High, and plans to attend Collin County Community College after high school and earn a degree in accounting.



at

**Randy AGAN** (McKinney PD) and **Liz AGAN** (CSCD) are proud to announce the graduation of their son **Marshall Stewart AGAN** from McKinney High School. Marshall will be attending Hardin-Simmons University in the Fall where he will major in Business Administration and minor in Criminal Justice Administration. He will also be playing football for the Hardin-Simmons Cowboys.



**Jessie OWENS** will graduate from Tom Bean High School in June as a Texas Scholar and a member of the National Honor Society. Jessie has enlisted in the U.S. Navy, and will be leaving for training later in June. She is the daughter of **Dondi and Angie ALLEN** (Health Care Services). As you close one chapter in your life, a new one opens with hope and promise.



**Shelby McCRAW** is the graduating salutatorian from Crandall High School. Shelby is the daughter of Capt. **Terry McCRAW** (Sheriff's Office). She has been a member of the National Honor Society for three years and currently serves as president. She is a member of Student Council, Nu Alpha Theta, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Shelby



lettered four years on the softball team and received multiple MVP and District Honors as their pitcher. She also served as the school mascot her sophomore year. Shelby's goal is to become a pediatrician. She will attend UTD to major in Chemistry.



**Justin Heath WILSON**, son of **Valerie MILLER** (Collin County DA's office) and **Rodney WILSON** (Public Works) will Graduate from Van Alstyne High School in June. Justin plans on attending Grayson County College in the fall and will be applying for an internship with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Warden program.

# Announcements/Classifieds

## New Arrivals

**Saydee Lynn GIDNEY**, born Feb. 14, 2012 at 10:38 a.m.; 6 pounds, 8.8 Ounces and 18 1/2 inches long. Her parents are Matt and **Ashley GIDNEY** (Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1).



**EMBROIDERY, ETC:** For all your embroidery, appliqué, rhinestone and screen print needs for your business, sports team/group, booster group, church group, etc., please give me a call at 903-821-3664. You may also visit my website [www.the-stitch-witch.com](http://www.the-stitch-witch.com) for samples and ideas.



## For Sale / Services

**FURNITURE:** Antique rocker, \$15.00; Very large antique trunk, \$25.; Solid wood high school shop cabinet \$100. Contents not included. Measures 8'x6'x2' and very heavy. Call Pam at 214-908-9219, or email [pamdonnell@att.net](mailto:pamdonnell@att.net).



**MOTORCYCLE:** 2008 Yamaha V-Star 1100, the bike only has 6,000 miles, and I am the original owner. It also has Cobra exhaust on it. Asking

\$6,000. Call me at 469-667-9204 or e-mail me at [ken-neth34.ks@gmail.com](mailto:ken-neth34.ks@gmail.com).

**HOUSEHOLD ITEMS:** I'm down-sizing and no longer have room for: Like-new Solid Oak entertainment center, was \$675 new, now \$200; 2 Sansui 5-ay speakers in beautiful walnut cabinets, sound wonderful, just no room for them, new \$425, now \$200; 2 fused Polk Audio large bookshelf 3-way speakers, very well taken care of, new \$475, now \$275; Kenwood turntable in mint condition with brand new \$150 magnetic cartridge. New \$250, now \$100; Kenwood double cassette play/record pro deck with many bells and whistles, new \$250, now \$100; Kenwood 6-CD Cassette-style Player, plays but no longer changes from one CD to another, new \$375, now \$100; Old school 27-in. color TV, works great, \$50; Beautiful Banjo, like new condition, comes with picks and hard case, \$275. Will consider trades or best offers. Call Ext. 3663, or 972-548-3663.

**WANTED:** Looking for running and non-running riding mowers. Call 214-726-2226.

**GET MOVING:** Medi Moves Fitness Studio, located at 717 S. Greenville #122 in Allen offers group exercise classes in Zumba®, Pilates, Tai Chi, Yoga, Brazilian Rhythms, Latin Grooves, Capoeira and more. We also offer Personal Training and Nutrition guidance. Collin County employees get 10% off the cost of class passes. Check our website at [www.medimoves.com](http://www.medimoves.com) or call 972-908-3500 for more information. No membership required.

**REALTOR:** Dynamic Realty Group. Looking to sell, buy, or lease a property? We can help. Call Sheila SHAW (972) 527-2922 or email [sshaw@dynamicrealtygrp.com](mailto:sshaw@dynamicrealtygrp.com). Make Dynamic Realty Group your real estate solution for all your residential real estate needs.

# PAPPY'S

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