



Reduced to rubble

This is what was left of the old county courthouse on McDondald Street after the wrecking ball finished with the 32-year-old, six-story building that was sold to the City of McKinney. Meanwhile, across town, workers continue construction on the Bloomdale courthouse expansion. See story below for an update on where that project stands.

\$40M Courthouse expansion on track for initial fall move-in

We are six months into the 18-month, Phase-one schedule to add 170,000 square feet of office space to the north of the Courthouse on Bloomdale Road.

Turner Construction has been working long hours to finish this phase ahead of schedule. This phase expected to be finished by September 2011.

Once this phase is finished, we will move the District Attorney, District Clerk, and Central Jury Room from their current locations to their new locations into the new building.

Those departments operating out of the University Drive Courts Facility will remain there until Phase Two is complete, sometime around July 2012.

The \$40 million project will

also involve converting the empty office space in the courthouse into courtrooms to house Probate and the County Courts at Law.

One thing to be aware of during this construction is a “popping” sound, similar to gunfire. If it is coming from the job site, it is the contractors that are “shooting” anchors into the concrete.

— **Bill BURKE**



Rice earns TAC's CIO designation

Randall RICE, Collin County First Assistant Auditor, has earned the designation of certified County Investment Officer (CIO) from the Texas Association of Counties (TAC).

The CIO award is a professional credential presented to an elite group of county officials and employees who engage in approximately 40 hours of formal classroom instruction, successfully complete a comprehensive examination and continue to advance their professional competency through on-going education.

The objective of the program is to safeguard public funds through the introduction of modern operational techniques that provide the county with appropriate yield from taxpayer dollars.

To date, more than 50 percent of Texas counties have certified investment officers who are primarily responsible for handling the investment of their county's tax dollars.

With this certification, Rice joins this distinguished group of Texas county officials.



Pictured Left to Right: (Third Row): Tele YOUNG, Candy BLAIR, Vivian SPEARS, Carla CANNEDY (Second Row): Vicky MINTER, Christie HIX, Crystal CROSS, Jennifer BLANKENSHIP, Monica HAYWOOD (First Row): Patsy MORRIS, Dalia NINO, Madia RIVERA; not pictured: Dr. Muriel MARSHALL.

Immunization team's work recognized

Some people choose to do nothing.

Patsy MORRIS, Healthcare Coordinator and **Christie HIX**, RN, Immunization Program Manager and the immunization team chose to do something.

Healthcare Services just recently completed their immunization audit by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), which is performed every 2 years. The immunization team's hard work and dedication to promote the health of our county was recognized by DSHS.

The 2010 audit proved to be a success with 0 findings out of 88 areas of the

audit. Not only did the group score 100% but they set an example for other counties that it can be done even by the smallest group of individuals who have a passion for immunizations.

In 2010, it proved that the hard work and new methods were worth all the extra effort. The county immunization rate was 86%, compared to a state rating of 70%. The immunization team has also been recognized by DSHS with "Best Practices," which has been incorporated into the state's education to other counties to ensure Texas is protected against vaccine-preventable diseases. Way to go Patsy, Christie and team.

You can get extra copies of **The Connection** online at MyCollinCounty.com, or visit the [Human Resources](http://HumanResources.com) website.



Fire Marshal lauded

Texas Fire Marshal's Association Past President **Steve DOSSETT** (left) and Collin County Asst. Fire Marshal **Keiffer "Buddy" HARWELL, Jr.** (center), present the Roscoe Gibson Award to Collin County Fire Marshal **Steve DEFFIBAUGH**, one of the TFMA's highest annual awards. Steve, by the way, is retiring in January after 30 years with the county.

Facilities Maintenance names top employees

Each year the Facilities Maintenance Department names their "Employee's of the Year," chosen by their peers, and from various sections of the department, such as Detention Facilities, Renovations, HVAC, Grounds Maintenance, Control Room Operations and Supervisor of the Year.

These gentlemen have exceeded the departmental expectations and are being recognized on their good merit, work ethics, and positive attitudes.

Terry BABBITT is the Technical Coordinator over the Detention Facilities. His responsibility is inclusive of all maintenance service calls for the detention facilities 24/7. Terry's night and weekend technicians are responsible for issues that may arise over night for the Radio Towers and Detention Facilities. His team of technicians oversee the entry control system, state jail inspections and testing, emergency generators, and provide escorts for contractors within the secured confines of the detention facilities. Terry supervises our master plumber and a technician that is certified for installing cabling for data drops.

Travis MOUNGER works under the direction of **Terry BABBITT**. He is one of nine men who are imperative

to the daily operation of the Detention Facilities. Last year we passed the annual state certification inspection for the jail with high marks meeting all required criteria. The inspector noted that Collin County's Detention Facilities were "the best kept detention facilities in the state." Travis is also responsible for maintaining the general maintenance and operation of the Administration Building.

Greg SULLIVAN works under the direction of **Tim DOOLEY**, Technical Coordinator over renovations. Greg is our master electrician and his responsibilities include installation, service and preventative maintenance on electrical systems within County facilities. He has been involved in several permanent improvement projects and other project renovations within various county facilities. Also, thanks to Greg, we have power to all of our Christmas lighting.

Charlie SCOTT works under the direction of **Jimmy PIERCE**, Technical Coordinator over HVAC. Charlie is a generator technician and performs weekly and monthly checks on 23 generators. During the monthly checks, Charlie does a full power transfer to ensure the equipment is able to handle the electrical load. Charlie checks the automated fuel

systems on jail generators to assure the system is working properly to prevent any fuel spills.

William LITCHFORD works under the direction of **Lloyd ROLLINS**, Technical Coordinator over House-keeping and Grounds. William's responsibility includes irrigation, mowing, trimming, edging, landscaping, weeding, provides assistance with general maintenance when needed, delivers janitorial supplies to our county buildings and assists with installing the Christmas lighting and décor.

George KING works in the Control Room under the supervision of **Mark CRULL**, Planner/Scheduler. He is our day rover and is responsible for overseeing all control room operations, maintains the state jail inspection and health inspection paperwork, monitors our power usage, oversees utility billing and reporting, and oversees maintenance on all UPS.

All have received CPR training and certifications and are trained to respond to their assigned buildings during inclement weather and emergency situations. Facilities Director **Dan JAMES** and Staff would like to thank all of them for their hard work and dedication to Collin County.

Whipahol: The latest fad to keep out of underage hands

Attention parents of Collin County Teenagers: We have been through so much lately with K2, the Drank, and the readily available pharmaceuticals offered by their friends at school. Now there is another dangerous item that may find its way into underage hands, *Whipahol*.

Whipahol is alcohol-infused, flavored whip cream that is packaged in a fancy-looking whip cream can and sold in many beverage shops for about \$12 a can. It has the alcohol content of 4 beers at 15 percent and is not yet regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. These adult beverage dealers are to card anyone who looks to be under the age of 35 to detour under-ager's from consuming these drinks.



Despite strict laws and regulations by the U.S. Department of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms these alcoholic beverages still find their way into underage hands.

Recently, an alcohol-caffeine drink *Four Loco* was removed from store shelves due to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration determining that this type of beverage was cause for a public health concern.

"Several states, including Massachusetts, Michigan, New York and Washington have already banned the sale of drinks like Four Loco. Last week, the Food and Drug Administration proclaimed that such drinks "present a public health concern" and warned manufacturers that the fed-

eral government might begin seizing their products if they didn't stop mixing caffeine and alcohol."

There needs to be a call to every parent's attention about the dangers of these type of beverages. During a presentation of the most popular drugs and alcoholic beverages to a high school parent group a picture of an alcoholic beverage called *Drank* caused a stir. Hands were raised and the questions came. Apparently, the children of these parents were consuming this alcoholic beverage and telling their parents that it was an energy drink.



Education is the key. Our teenagers are constantly bombarded with these types of temptations. The manufacturers are purposely packaging these items to appeal to our youth.

So what do you do when your teen has consumed one of these or is caught at school or by the police and ticketed with a minor in possession or consumption? Have an "educated" conversation with them. There is no better counselor than you. Your kids have enough friends they really need a parent.

There are several websites that can update you on drug and alcohol trends. I have a copy of these websites here in my office and can fax or email them to you upon request. Give us a call or stop by. We are always happy to provide you what ever information we can to help you become an "educated" parent.

— **Grace J. RAULSTON**, LCDC, Collin County Substance Abuse Program

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. We print as few editions of Connection as possible to save on paper, so don't forget there's an online version on MyCollinCounty.



And remember, Collin County's on *Facebook* & *Twitter*. Check out our links from the county's main website and become a "Fan."



Meals on Wheels

Tonya KELLOGG, **Brenda CAVENDER** and **Mary COLLINS** of the County Clerk's office present 30 gift cards to **Juli SMITH** of the Committee on Aging for the Meals on Wheels program. The Clerk's staff collected \$300 and purchased 30, \$10 gift cards from Walmart. The cards will be given to those who are added to the program late in the year and will not receive a gift or package from other donors.



15 years with county

Anne SIBLEY received her 15-year pin from Supervisor **Mike COMBEST**. Anne works as a Juvenile probation officer in the Plano unit of Juvenile Probation and specializes in working with Juvenile Sex offenders.

Examiner's Exam?

Dr. **Victor WEEDN** of the Maryland State Medical Examiner's Office, center, with Dr. **Sheila SPOTSWOOD** and Dr. **William ROHR**, recently visited the Medical Examiner's Office in October when it underwent inspection for accreditation by the National Association of Medical Examiners.

CSCD Anniversaries:

- **Leticia GIBBS**, 25 years
- **April STANFORD**, 5 years
- **Amanda GROUNDS**, 5 years



Sheriff **Terry BOX**, **Carolyn RICE** of Geriatric Wellness Center, **Susan ETHERIDGE** of CASA of Collin County, **Lynne McLEAN** of Children's Advocacy Center, and **Sy SHAHID** of Heard Natural Science Museum.

Sheriff's charity tournament tops \$1 million milestone in donations

Sheriff **Terry BOX** presented checks in mid-October totaling \$123,600 to representatives of the following Collin County Charities: Children's Advocacy Center, Geriatric Wellness Center of Collin County, CASA of Collin County, and the Heard Natural Science Museum.

The donation was divided equally among the four charities with each charity receiving a check for \$30,900, the result of proceeds from the *18th Annual Sheriff Box Shoot-Out 'Fore' Kids* charity golf tournament.

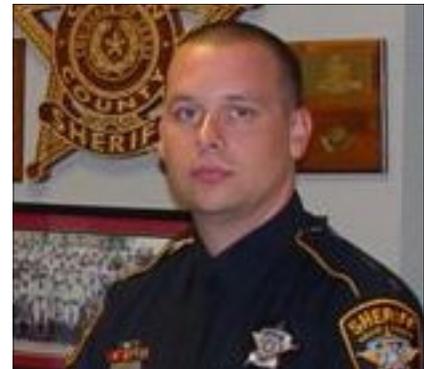
"The grand total raised over the past

18 years benefiting Collin County charitable organizations comes to \$1,094,600," said Sheriff Box. "This year is a truly remarkable event since we have topped the \$1 million milestone in fund-raising for these charities."



Life-saving award to Deputy Peebles

Sheriff Box presented a Life Saving Bar & Certificate to Deputy **Joe PEEBLES** for saving a man's life at the scene of a major accident. Deputy Peebles' quick response with CPR & the use of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) saved a man's life.



Newly promoted Detention Sergeant, **Casey CLOPTON**.



Honors for Explorer program

Congratulations to Sgt. Diane STUBBS, who recently received the *William H. Spurgeon Award* from the Boy Scouts of America, Circle 10 Council. The award is the highest recognition to an individual who has contributed significant leadership to the Exploring Program. Sergeant Stubbs accepted this award in late October at the Boy Scouts of America "Learning for Life, 2010 Character Luncheon."

Sergeant Stubbs has served as Executive Advisor of the Collin County Explorer Post 660 for 15 years. Under her direction, Explorer Post 660 has logged thousands of community service hours and achieved 78 awards & trophies from regional, state and national competitions. During this time, the Post has served 109 Explorers with 16 Explorers entering a career in Law Enforcement.

Sergeant Stubbs' dedication to the Boy Scouts of America goes back a long way. She grew up around Scouting with her father and brother and was a Law Enforcement Explorer in the early 1970's. She has received numerous awards during her 20-year tenure as Sergeant with Crime Scene Investigations & Evidence Management and has a total of 33 years experience as a Peace Officer.



And more life-saving ...

Sheriff Box presented Life Saving awards to (l-r) **Mitch OTT**, Sgt. **Russell DRIVER**, **Matt BURKHART** and **Curtis JOHNSON** for offering immediate first aid to an unconscious fisherman at Lake Lavon. The men administered CPR to the victim until Sergeant Driver arrived on scene with an AED to revive the victim. Not pictured is **Joey LEDBETTER**, the fifth person to assist.



Announcements/Classified

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brynli Tayah BURGESS: Born Oct. 11, 2010, at 12:57 p.m., weighing 9.2 pounds and measuring 23.5 inches long. She is the granddaughter of **Monica LOVE**, Fire Marshal's Office, and the great granddaughter of **Laura HIGGINBOTHAM**, County Clerk's Office. Her proud parents are **Jaron BURGESS** and **Amber HIGGINBOTHAM**.

THANK YOU: My family and I would like to express our thanks to everyone for the cards, flowers and all the kind words that I have received since the death of my mother. Your kindness made a very tough time easier. My family will never forget my mother and we will, IN TURN, never forget all of you, especially the good people at the UDCF.
-- **Lisa Ann BROCKMAN, James HILL, Michael HILL**



Brianna JONES, daughter of **Larry JONES** in IT, is in the 4th grade at Eddins Elementary School in McKinney, and is a soprano in the CT Eddins Honor Choir. For the third consecutive year, McKinney ISD will be represented at the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) Convention as the Eddins Elementary School Honor Choir has been chosen as an Invited Choir by TMEA officials. This is the highest honor that can be given to any musical group in the state of

Texas.

CLASSIFIED ADS

PRE-PAID LEGAL: You have car insurance and medical insurance but do you have "Lawyer Insurance?" Pre-Paid Legal Services, Inc., **Grace J. RAULSTON**, Independent Associate. 214-289-2874 or www.graceraulston.com or email me at gjraulston@prepaidlegal.com.

BIRDS: Fancy white and gray zebra, society, shafttail and Gouldian finches, some proven breeders, \$5 - \$60 each. Cages and feeders will also be sold. Contact Pete at peteharper1@yahoo.com, or Leslie at LJHarper3640@yahoo.com, or call 469-734-7469.

NEEDED: running or non-running riding mowers. Please call 214-726-5780.

FURNITURE: Dinette table with wood and tile top, only two of the chairs are any good. \$45 OBO. Call 903-436-2928.

TAXIDERMY: Alexander's Taxidermy- Serving all of your Taxidermy needs. Please visit us at

www.alexanderstaxidermy.com or contact Rodney at 903-640-3508 or Billy at 972-658-5632.

FURNITURE: 2 solid oak bar stools, Windsor-style, 24-inches high. \$60 for the pair. Call Ext. 4144 or 972-658-8540.

FURNITURE: solid oak coffee table and 2 end tables, medium honey oak color, standard sizes and heights. \$125 or bo. Can send a photo and dimensions, if you're interested. Call Ext. 4146.

REFRIGERATOR: Kenmore Refrigerator, Top Freezer, Used 1 year, 2 year extended warranty left; \$300.; also, Weider Cross Bow Gym, Excellent condition, Best offer. 214-686-7187.



Ironman

State District Judge **John ROACH, Jr.**, recently completed the Ironman Arizona, an Ironman triathlon that includes a 2.4 -mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile run. Judge Roach completed the event in 13 hours and 44 minutes. He entered the triathlon as a result of losing more than 70 pounds over the last 20 months -- and a return to healthy living.