



“YOUR SOURCE FOR EMPLOYEE INFORMATION”

Collin County Connection



Froggy Bottom Boys

This quartet of frogs are just part of a collection that Animal Services had to make room for while during a “custody” dispute over ownership in Princeton in September, turning one of their rooms into a herpetarium for a few days. *More on Page 4.*

A recap of benefit changes Made for the new fiscal year

During Fiscal Year 2011 Budget process this summer, the Commissioners Court voted to make the following changes to Collin County’s benefits package and medical insurance plans. What follows is a summary of those changes.

Be sure to keep an eye out for your open enrollment package in November for all the details on the health insurance coverage.

First off, the Court voted to change the county match for employee retirement to a \$2 match for every \$1 contributed by employees to their TCDRS accounts. This applies to all employees and elected officials. The old match rate of

\$2.50 to \$1 will remain in effect until Jan. 1. All contributions made *before* that date will be matched at the old rate (\$2.50 per \$1 contribution). The 7-percent employee contribution earnings rate is unchanged.

As for medical coverage, the following changes affect both the *Advantage* and *Advantage Plus* medical plans unless otherwise stated. All of these changes will also take effect on Jan. 1.

Specialized Diabetes Medical Plan- Employees or family members who have been diagnosed with diabetes or pre-diabetes may be eligible to enroll in a special medical plan. This special plan will provide

reduced out-of-pocket costs for diabetes related services and supplies.

Out-of Network Coverage Eliminated- Coverage will no longer be available for *most* services performed by an out-of-network provider or facility. Coverage for out-of-network services performed by providers such as anesthesiologists and mental health providers *may* still be available under certain circumstances.

Annual Deductible Changes- The calendar year deductibles for both medical plans will change to the amounts listed below.

**For limited benefit provi-*

(Continued on page 3)



Bench Appointment for Becker in 219th

Former prosecutor **Scott BECKER** (above) was appointed by the Governor to take over the bench of the 219th Judicial District Court in early October upon Judge **Curt HENDERSON's** retirement.

Judge Becker, a senior felony prosecutor in the Collin County District Attorney's office for more than seven years, won his party's nomination in March and is unopposed in the November election.

Judge Henderson served more than 22 years in the 219th, the longest for any jurist in this county.

Teen Court gets some International attention for innovative program

The county's Teen Court Program got some international recognition in early September when the International Visitor Leadership Program stopped in to watch our teen volunteers in action.

The visitors included **Svetlana CHIFA**, Chief of the Municipal Directorate for Protection of Children's Rights, and **Valentin CRUDU**, Head of Directory for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Education from Moldova, Europe.

Dignitaries from other countries are invited to the U.S. under the auspices of the Department of State's International Program. Tours are arranged by the Institute of International Education, the idea being to have visitors meet with professional counterparts and to gain an appreciation of the ethnic, cultural, political and socio-economic diversity.

Ms. Chifa and Mr. Crudu were in

the U.S. to examine the legal framework regarding international adoption in the U.S. and how the process works at the federal, state and local levels. They were also exploring the child protection system and studying the training of social workers and case managers involving the court system and responsible agencies.

Ms. Svetlana and Mr. Crudu interviewed the Teen Court Coordinator concerning how the Teen Court system operates. They were fascinated by the process of teens running such an adult program. They explained this is a foreign concept in their country, but would be something to consider using.

Next on the agenda for September the Teen Court hosted **Frederique DUBOST**, Head of Research and Criminal Justice of France.

— Yolanda SAUCEDA



Judge Rippel invested in October ceremony

Judge **David RIPPEL** was invested as Judge of County Court at Law No. 4 in early October.

The judge was appointed to his seat by the Collin County Commissioners Court in late April after winning the March primary and drawing no opposition in the November election, and began hearing cases in May.

He will serve out the remainder of the unexpired term of office before beginning a full, four-year term in January 2011.

Judge Rippel, who lives in Plano, was formally sworn in during a ceremony in the Bloomdale Courthouse by Judge **Jerry LEWIS** of County Court at Law No. 2, in front of family and friends.

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



‘New Auditor’ gets his 15-year pin

Collin County Auditor **Jeff MAY** (right) receives his 15-years service pin from state District Judge **Mark RUSCH** during a Commissioners court meeting in late September. May was appointed to county auditor just a year ago, but put in 13 years in the Auditor’s Office and one year in Budget before taking up his current position.

Benefit changes for Fiscal Year 2011 to go into effect on Jan. 1

Calendar Year Deductibles	Advantage Plan		Advantage Plus Plan	
	In-Network	Out-of Network*	In-Network	Out-of Network*
Individual	\$750	\$1,250	\$250	\$500
Family	\$1,250	\$2,250	\$500	\$1,000

sions.

Specialist Office Visit Co-Payments: The co-payment amount for an office visit to a specialist will change to \$50 for those enrolled in the Advantage plan and \$40 for those enrolled in the Advantage Plus plan.

Secondary Coverage: Benefits will no longer be paid for enrolled family members who already have primary medical coverage.

Urgent Care Co-Payment: The Advantage plan urgent care co-payment will be reduced to \$25.

Emergency Room Accident Benefit: The Advantage Plus plan \$500 emergency room accident benefit will be eliminated.

	Advantage Plan*	Advantage Plus Plan*
Employee Only	\$25	\$50
Employee & Child	\$145	\$205
Employee & Spouse	\$185	\$250
Employee & Family	\$245	\$330

Employee Medical Premiums: The monthly medical insurance premiums for both plans will change to the amounts listed below.

*Monthly premiums will be reduced by \$25 per month for those employees who meet the requirements of the wellness discount program. If an employee decides not to participate in the wellness discount program, their monthly premiums will increase by

\$25 per month.

Please remember, additional details about *all* of these changes will be provided during Annual Enrollment in late November.

If you have any questions about your health care plan, please contact Human Resources at 972-548-4606.

Teen Court

Young volunteers receive scholarships for legal assists

BY Yolanda SAUCEDA

Collin County's Teen Court recently awarded scholarships to two volunteer "attorneys" for their dedication to the county program.

Merida THURMAN and **Haylee Neal TERRY** each received \$800 scholarships from the county's Teen Court scholarship fund for working mainly as prosecutors and defense attorneys in the peer-to-peer sentencing program.

Merida is a 2010 graduate of Frisco's Wakeland High School, and volunteered for Teen Court as a Juror, Attorney and Judge.

She was also involved in National Honor Society, played Varsity Tennis and was the Varsity Team Captain.

She was the first and sole recipient of the Volunteer Center of North Texas "Lone Star Salute" for her community service. She also has community service interests with Relay for Life, school service projects and fundraisers. She loves to travel and help others.



Merida is attending Southern Methodist University in Dallas, with plans to major in Business and is considering post graduate work in Human Resource Management or Finance. She plans to be an attorney.

Merida mentioned she has greatly benefited from Teen Court and appreciates the experience. She has been selected to join The SMU Honor Council that hears and makes disciplinary actions and implements punishment to students who have violated the school policies or the law.

She has also joined the SMU Phi Alpha Delta, an International Law Fraternity and she will be on the Club Tennis Team that competes with UT, A&M, Baylor, Texas Tech and other Texas colleges.

Haylee is a 2010 graduate of Farmersville High School. Her parents are Dale and Tina NEAL and she has sister, Haven, who is 9th-grader at Farmersville High School.

She volunteered her time in the community by serving on the Collin County Teen Court as a juror and an attorney and was a Silver Medalist on the 2009 North Texas Teen Court Competition Team.

She spent her summer working an internship for the Collin County Courthouse and for Justice of the Peace Precinct 3-2, Judge John Payton.

Haylee was also an honor graduate and was ranked in the top 10% of her class. While in high school, she was a member of the National Honor Society, captain of the varsity cheer squad, and played basketball, volleyball and golf.



Haylee is also an active member of Midway Baptist Church in McKinney, Texas.

Outside of school and volunteering, Haylee enjoys shopping, going to the lake, and spending time with her friends. Haylee is currently attending Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

The county's Teen Court program operates in Frisco, McKinney and Plano courtrooms, and uses teens and adults to decide punishment for teens charged with crimes from speeding to truancy to shoplifting.

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."

House of Slitherin'?



In September, the county's Animal Services staff had to quickly convert its intake room into a makeshift herpetarium for more than 100 reptiles and amphibians seized in a property dispute in Princeton. The lizards, frogs, turtles and snakes — plus a good supply of live food for the crew — filled the room for a week while the dispute was settled. Above, **Danny DAVIS** sets up heat lamps to keep some of the more cold-blooded critters comfortable, while **Misty BROWN** introduces a turtle for a close-up with the camera.



7-year-old shows the right attitude

Seven-year-old **Tatum CASS** (front) , daughter of **Richard & Rachel CASS**, was recently awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from Sheriff **Terry BOX** (left) during a special ceremony held at the Collin County Animal Shelter. Tatum was recognized for her charitable actions of donating over 400 pounds of pet food to the shelter. Tatum's recent birthday request was to feed the animals rather than receive gifts for herself. Her family and friends were happy to honor Tatum's request, resulting in a truck load of pet food being delivered to the Collin County Shelter in July. Great job, Tatum!



20 years service with Sheriff

(From left to right) Lt. **Tony BRADLEY**, **Tonya SMITH**, and Sgt. **Mike DAVIS** recently celebrated 20 years of service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office. They were honored with a 20-Year Reception, and presented with plaques by Sheriff Box, who congratulated each one individually for reaching this significant milestone in their respective careers.



'Silent Hero' award given to tech coordinator

Geo-Code Technical Coordinator **Stacy MOODY** (left) received recognition in September at the 2010 Texas National Emergency Number Association Conference. She was selected as a Silent Hero award winner for the Collin County Sheriff's Office. The conference and awards luncheon was held in Dallas and hosted by the Commission on State Emergency Communications. Stacy has been employed with the Collin County Sheriff's Office for 14 years, serving as dispatcher, trainer and was promoted to her current position in 2006.





Promotions, new officers ...

(Above) Sheriff Box congratulates recently promoted Transfer Deputies **Sherrille HOWELL** and **Andrew GOSS** (right). They were each presented their Deputy badges in a recent ceremony at the Collin County Sheriff's Office. (Above left) Detention Lieutenant **Michael SEPULVADO** received his Lieutenant's badge upon his recent promotion. (Left) New Transfer Deputy **Kristoffer LEA** was sworn in by Sheriff Box.



25 Years of Service

The Homeland Security Department hosted a luncheon in celebration of 25-years of service by Kelley Stone. Kelley was hired as a Deputy Sheriff on August 25th, 1985, promoted to Major of the Operations Division, and later accepted the position of Director of the Homeland Security Department in October of 2002. The event was enjoyed by family, friends, and co-workers who contributed and shared many stories of the years past. Congratulations, Kelley!

CSCD anniversaries

- ◆ **Larry PINTAR**, Assistant Director, 25 years
- ◆ **Felix NNAJI**, Supervision Officer, 20 years
- ◆ **Cathy WIEGHAT**, Supervision Officer, 20 years
- ◆ **Samantha KRAMBEER**, Supervision Officer, 5 years
- ◆ **Edgar ESPINOZA**, Supervision Officer, 5 years

Announcements/Classified

NEW ARRIVALS

JESSE MARIE

LEDBETTER: Born Sept. 17, 2010, 8 pounds, one ounce, 20 3/4 inches long, to **Roxanne** (Auditor's Office) and **David LEDBETTER**, and big brother Jonathan.



AMELIA MARIE LUSTER

TER: We are delighted to announce that **Ramona LUSTER**, our Addressing Coordinator is a new Mom. Amelia was born on July 30, 2010, weighing 6 pounds, 11 ounces and 19 inches long. In a recent email, Ramona noted, "We were surprised at Amelia's early delivery, and now we're trying to cope with sleep deprivation on top of that. I probably won't spend much time on the computer anytime soon, but email might be easier than the telephone for chatting – can't tell you when our sleep/wake cycles are, that's all up to Amelia!"



WANTED

LAWN MOWERS: Running or non-running riding lawn mowers and tillers. Call 214-726-5780.

HOUSEMATE: Mature female, no kids, no pets. \$700 per month excluding food. Deposit and Proof of Income required. Contact Uni, 972-832-1068.

FOR SALE

PIANO: Pearl River Vertical Piano 2008. It was bought new and barely used. Model number UP108 Size 42.5; \$2200. Contact Cherish at Ext. 4613.



CAMERA: Nikon N80 35mm camera with lens covers, filters and Nikon sectional camera bag, \$175 o.b.o. Call 903-436-2928

TV: Hitachi 51-inch rear projection with picture-in-picture, about five years old; \$400. Call 903-436-2928

PUPPIES: Golden Retrievers, \$175.00 Each. They are full blood and 9 weeks old. Contact Chris at 214-205-7316.



CAR: Responsible person needed to take over loan on a 2009 Kia Rio. It is a 4-cylinder, white with black trim and 6,789 miles. Great on gas and very easy to maneuver. The remaining balance is \$14,484.31. If interested please call Uni. 972-832-1068.



This just in ...

Public Works employees were recognized for their service in an October Commissioners Court. From left, **Stanley BAKER**, 15 years service; **Wayne MOORE**, 10 years service; **Don WATSON**, who is retiring after working 23 years in Road & Bridge; and, Public Works Director **Jon KLEIN-HEKSEL**.