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Collin County



FRISCO

Annual Earth Day cleanup event is Saturday

The annual Community Clean-Up and Earth Day Celebration will be on Saturday.

Volunteers can still sign up for the event. Registration is from 8 to 9 a.m. at Ikea, 7171 Ikea Drive. The cleanup will be from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

An Earth Day celebration will follow from 11 a.m. to noon at Ikea, with lunch provided for cleanup volunteers. Chunk Your Junk will be accepting items at Ikea from 8 a.m. to noon.

Learn more at friscotexas.gov.

Valerie Wigglesworth

Police seek \$35,000 grant to monitor social media

The Police Department is seeking a \$35,000 grant to purchase software and related computer equipment to monitor public social media posts for criminal activity and other intelligence-gathering purposes.

The application's submission was approved by the City Council on Tuesday, despite strong reservations from several residents who spoke out against the idea. Their concerns mostly revolved around privacy issues and possible infringement of rights.

But Police Chief John Bruce said the information is already public. The equipment simply makes intelligence gathering more efficient.

The grant is offered through the North Central Texas Council of Governments and the Homeland Security Urban Areas Security Initiative.

Valerie Wigglesworth

MCKINNEY

Performing Arts Center displays winning entries

The McKinney Performing Arts Center is displaying the winners of its annual juried art show through Saturday at the Gallery at the McKinney Performing Arts Center, 111 N. Tennessee St.

The show drew 150 entries from all over the state, with "Le Bleu Nuit" by

Winston Lee Mascarenhas taking home the top prize for large-scale artwork.

Other winners are Elena Nosyreva for composition; Dianne Smith for narrative; J.B. Phipps and Jo Clay for space; K.D. Hafley for observation; and Cheryl Wolfe for landscape. Ellie Erhart won the young artist award for accomplishment in narrative.

For more information, go to mckinneyperformingartscenter.com.

Charles Scudder

PLANO

Two arrested in string of aggravated robberies

Two men from Colombia have been arrested for their alleged roles in several burglaries as well as home-invasion robberies targeting Asian households.

Pier Alexander Pelaez, 44, and Edwin Riascos Romero, 32, are both being held at the Collin County Detention Center. Pelaez faces two charges of aggravated robbery and one count of marijuana possession. He was arrested in Dallas on Friday. Romero faces one count of aggravated robbery and one count of evading arrest. He was arrested in Plano on Tuesday. Both also have immigration detainers from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Their arrests are the result of a joint investigation that involved police in Plano, Frisco and Richardson as well as the U.S. Marshals Service and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The investigation is ongoing and more charges are possible.

Valerie Wigglesworth

Woman charged in fatal shooting of boyfriend

A 26-year-old woman was arrested after police say she fatally shot her boyfriend Tuesday morning.

Zandra Tarnesa Rushing was standing in front of a house in the 1500 block of Judy Drive when officers arrived to investigate a report of a shooting, police said.

She told officers she had shot her boyfriend and he was still inside the house.

It's wheels up at scooter competition

Below left: Jordan Fisher competed Saturday in the International Scooter Association's qualifying tournament at Allen Station Park. The qualifier is one of 20 worldwide tournaments before the World Scooter Championships this summer in Barcelona, Spain. **Below right:** Sam Bowen goes airborne. **Bottom right:** Chris Fisher was flipping out.



Photos by Brandon Wade/Special Contributor

Jerome Terrell Knox, 28, died after being taken to a hospital. He had a gunshot wound to the upper chest, according to police.

Rushing has been charged with murder and is being held at the Collin County Detention Center in lieu of \$50,000 bail.

Wendy Hundley

WYLIE

Unwanted prescription drugs to be collected

The Police Department will be collecting unwanted, unused and expired prescription drugs from 9

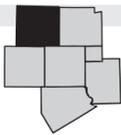
a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the police station, 2000 N. State Highway 78.

Residents can drop off medications for free, no questions asked. Syringes will not be accepted.

For more information, visit wylie.texas.gov.

Meredith Shamburger

Denton County



AREA

Group plans activities for National Poetry Month

April is National Poetry Month, and the Denton Poets Assembly will observe it with a number of activities. Member Patrick Lee Marshall will participate in a taste and talent event from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday at Byron Nelson High School in Trophy Club. Marshall will read poems in the library. The event benefits the school's scholarship program.

"Merging Visions, Collections V," a poetry and art catalog and exhibit, pairs poetry by assembly members with visual art by art society members. The catalog will be presented at a reception at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Meadows Gallery at the Patterson-Appleton Center for the Visual Arts, 400 E. Hickory St.

The assembly meets from 10 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday of the month at Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland St.

For more information, visit dentonpoetsassembly.weebly.com.

Les Cockrell,

Denton Record-Chronicle

DENTON

Council votes to expand smoking ban to e-cigs

A deeply divided City Council slogged through several amendments and procedural moves before voting 5-2 to expand Denton's smoking ban to e-cigarettes and similar devices.

The ban extends to all bars, with some getting until the end of 2017 to

neighbors go

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comply.

Any bars that have patios will have about 120 days to put an end to indoor smoking. Bars without patios have until the end of 2017 to comply, in order to give them a chance to rework their business plans. Those smoking bars will also have new sign requirements until they comply.

The council also reinstated a restriction prohibiting smoking within 30 feet of an entrance. No one will be allowed to use e-cigarettes or similar devices anywhere smoking is banned. Nor will vapor shops and other retailers be allowed to sell e-cigarettes and similar devices to minors.

Peggy Heinkel-Wolfe,
Denton Record-Chronicle

Police investigate alleged improper relationship

Investigations continue into an alleged improper relationship between an educator and student, Denton police said Tuesday.

Officer Ryan Grelle, spokesman for the department, said he can only confirm that Denton police were made aware of allegations Thursday after a school resource officer spoke to a Denton ISD employee.

Grelle said Tuesday he could not confirm the ages or genders of the subject of the investigation or the student named in the investigation.



Al Key/Denton Record-Chronicle

Oak split by lightning

Corinth neighbors Joe Novak (left) and Don Pajda look over a tree in Pajda's front yard that was struck by lightning about 11:30 a.m. Tuesday during a thunderstorm. The post oak was estimated to be about 75 feet tall before it was struck.

In addition, he could not confirm which Denton ISD school is involved in the investigation.

According to Mario Zavala, Denton ISD spokesman, the educator involved is a former Denton High

School assistant football coach who resigned the same day that Denton police opened their investigation into an improper relationship with a student.

Denton Record-Chronicle

DENTON ISD

Principals chosen for several district campuses

Five people were named to lead Denton schools at Tuesday's school board meeting.

The administrators will complete their contracts in their current roles and will officially start their new jobs July 1. The new leaders announced Tuesday are: Shaun Perry, Guyer High School; Lesli Guajardo, Braswell High School; Robin Brownell, Pecan Creek Elementary School; Rosie Oliveira, W.S. Ryan Elementary School; and Marcus Bourland, dean at the LaGrone Advanced Technology Complex.

The district was not prepared to name a new principal at Providence Elementary School at Tuesday's school board meeting but could do so within the next month.

Britney Tabor,
Denton Record-Chronicle

HICKORY CREEK

Outdoor family-friendly screening set for Saturday

The Hickory Creek Parks and Recreation Board will have a family-friendly movie at 8 p.m. Saturday at Sycamore Bend Park.

Night at the Museum 3 will be screened, and the event is open to all ages. Families should bring seats, drinks and snacks.

For more information, call 940-497-2528.

Les Cockrell,
Denton Record-Chronicle