



“YOUR SOURCE FOR EMPLOYEE INFORMATION”

Collin County Connection



Birthday request

Tatum **CASS**, daughter of Sheriff's Deputy **Richard CASS**, sits atop more than 400 pounds of pet food in the parking lot of the county's animal shelter on July 12. Tatum turned 7 in early July, but showed a degree of compassion way beyond her years when she asked family and friends to donate food to help feed animals, instead of receiving gifts at her birthday party.

"It was something that touched the hearts of our entire family," says her father. "Even brought a few of us to tears."

In the past, Richard says Tatum's birthday party draws 75 to 100 friends and family, and includes toys, dolls, clothes and gift cards.

"This year we thought it would be no different and people started to ask us what size clothes Tatum wears, or what toys she plays with," Richard says. But Tatum didn't give her parents a direct answer when they asked what she wanted for her birthday. Then, a week before the party, she asked to help feed the animals rather than receive gifts.

The Cass' sat down and came up with a plan for Tatum's guests to bring pet food and treats to her July 11 birthday party instead of clothes or toys. The next day, the Cass' loaded up a pickup truck with more than 400 pounds of dry and canned pet food and pulled into the animal shelter's parking lot with Tatum's birthday gift.

Odyssey headed to jail – and more

By Lanette SAETRE

The Odyssey journey continues to move forward, plowing new ground with an integrated file management system. The many teams involved in the Odyssey Jail, Law Enforcement, Criminal, and Prosecutor implementation are rapidly moving towards a Sept. 1 goal for implementing Odyssey.

We are well underway with four weeks of training behind us. If you currently access the Jail or Criminal AS400 system for view inquiry purposes and have not been contacted to receive training on Odyssey, please contact Information Technology's Service Desk at Ext. 4540 to be scheduled for training.

We have four more weeks of training planned and we will get you scheduled.

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Some extra training

(Left to right): Bailiffs **Rick WILLEY**, **Marvin ROUSSEAU**, and **Robert HINTON**; Lt. Col (Ret.) **Joe BIERLY**, USMC, President, Counterterrorism Training and Consulting Inc, and Investigator **Jared CLARK**. In June, Col. Bierly presented concepts and practices concerning terrorism threats, responses, awareness, and mitigation to the group. The colonel was in town from California for his son-in-law's investiture -- County Court at Law No. 6 Judge **Jay A. BENDER** – who also attended the class. Col. Bierly presented the class free of charge to county personnel.



Engineer appointed to head regional committee

The North Central Texas Council of Governments Executive Board appointed **Ruben E. DELGADO**, P.E., the county's Director of Engineering, to serve as Chairman of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) in June.

Ruben has served as Collin County's STTC representative since 1994, and will serve as the chairman for a one-year term.

The STTC reviews, comments on, and pre-

pares recommendations regarding surface transportation planning and funding improvements in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Also in June, the Texas Public Works Association recognized a joint Collin County/City of Richardson road project for a 2010 TPWA Public Works Project of the Year award.

The county-city project on Routh Creek Parkway won in the Transportation category for a project cost between \$2 and \$10 million.

Odyssey

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Shift schedules to support this monumental event are in draft form and beginning to take shape.

This being said, IT will be operating with a skeleton crew from Aug. 23 through Sept. 17 as the majority of our staff have been assigned support roles for the project implementation. IT will also "freeze" all moves, adds, and changes during this time and we ask for your patience .

This is an exciting time for Collin County as we move forward with this next-generation technology. The CIJS team has a lot to be proud of as they begin to reap the fruits of a great deal of labor. Thanks to all for your continued support in making Collin County great.

New People

- ◆ Collin County's Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD) recently welcomed community supervision officer **Molly DURRUM** to its Plano staff in July. Molly is an experienced officer coming to us from Gregg County CSCD, where she worked for the last year. She is a native Texan, born and raised in Gilmer, Texas, and has her Bachelor's in Political Science from the University of North Texas. Molly is engaged to Nick and they plan to marry in October 2012. She enjoys live music, photography and is a big fan of the Dallas Cowboys.
- ◆ In Administrative Services, **Yolanda SAUCEDA** took the reigns of the county's Teen Court in late July. Yolanda came to us from the Texas Department of Human Services, where she worked as an associate clinical psychologist. She holds a bachelors in Social Work from West Texas A&M, and a Masters of Education in Counseling from Tarleton State University. Yolanda's husband, Tommy, is a football and power-lifting coach at Frisco's Wakeland High School. They have two boys, ages 12 and 9.

Here's the S.C.O.R.E.

Re-entry program for offenders is making a difference

By Kimberly PALMER & April STANFORD

The shared vision of Collin County Sheriff **Terry BOX** and Community Supervision and Corrections Department Director **Bob HUGHES** is coming to fruition in the Sheriff's Convicted Offender Re-Entry Effort program – or, SCORE. Through the partnership of these two departments, a unified front has been formed to benefit the community as well as defendants enrolled in the program.

The SCORE program seeks to assist defendants with education, work ethic, cognitive self change, substance abuse treatment, life skills and overall self worth in three phases: while in jail, work release, and aftercare.

Inmate Programs Coordinator **Wendell "Skip" PILGRIM** has played an integral part in implementing GED Testing. The first GED tests last May helped seven SCORE participants earn their high school diploma equivalent. Each participant was very excited and proud of their accomplishment.

A second test was completed in July, with seven more participants who are still awaiting their results.

A mentoring program has also been added to SCORE that provides the presence of a positive role model, peer support and community guidance.

Below are excerpts from a letter from a SCORE participant himself who has recently completed the first two phases:

"I have been battling addiction off and on for the past seven years. During this time I have made some terrible decisions that always landed me in jail ... So I came to S.C.O.R.E.

"This program has given me the knowledge and the tools I need to be sober and successful in life. I got my GED, I really needed this, thank you April Stanford. I now have tools to correct errors in my thinking process that will ensure

that I am making the right decisions, thank you Elizabeth Agan. I have also learned to see and stop problem situations before they escalate, thank you Kim Palmer and Mrs. Cure.

"The Men's Counseling has taught me to deal with issues in a respectful manner to have a positive outcome, thank you Bob Alterman.

"Mrs. Brazeal is the best teacher I have ever known. Thank you for the Lifeskills/Parenting classes, I really learned a lot.

"The AA classes started off slow but has really progressed to the point that I actually believe is really effective now. Thank you Brandon, John S., Dewayne, and Joe.

"The Bible Study has been a turning point in my life. I have found a peace in myself that I had to have to stay on the right track, thank you Mitch. God Bless You. The Mentor Counseling with Patti English was probably the most eye opening experience that I have ever had.

"I also gained a lot of experience on the work crew. Skills I can use in life. Thank you,

Officer Lewis, for treating us like men.

"Mrs. Even always reminded us that we were in jail and that you have to prove yourself to gain respect, thank you Mrs. E.

"Now I am going on to the next phase... to test these skills and tools that I have gained in this program. I know I will be tested and that things are not going to fall right into place. I am ready, I will use all I have to overcome and maintain success and sobriety. Thank you."

We are pleased to share these successes with you and it is our hope that by instilling these values, it will lead to a safer and more productive community.



International recognition for this local composer's inspirational church music

George VARGHESE of the Auditor's Office recently received an award for one of his music compositions from the *Kuwait Mar Thoma Parish Choir*. George was recognized for his compositions of spiritual and inspirational songs. One of his songs, "Fear Not, Oh Zion Traveler..." was chosen as International Song of the Year by the Mar Thoma Parish Choir, and became very popular among South Indian Christian Communities around the world. It is sung in revival meetings everywhere. George composes Christian Devotional Songs, based on his meditations on the Word of God and personal experiences. All the proceeds from sale of George's music are forwarded to Christian missionary activities in India.



20 years' Service

Sharon BOWIE (left) is congratulated by supervisor **Michelle PATRICK** after receiving her 20-year service pin in Commissioners Court in July. Sharon works in the McKinney offices of WIC (Women, Infants & Children).

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."



CSCD honors officers, caseworkers

The Community Supervision and Corrections Department hosted their annual awards luncheon in late July, naming some of the top caseworkers and officers for the year. (From left) **Jenni BALL** (McKinney offices), Caseworker of the Year; **Denise AYERS** (McKinney offices), Support Staff of the Year; **Joey ARENDT**, Plano Officer of the Year; and **Jerry DeCROO**, McKinney Officer of the Year.



A few 'decades' in Public Works

Matt BUSH (left) and **Tony COOK** were recognized for their 10 years of service to the county in Commissioners Court in July. Public Works director **Jon KLEIN-HEKSEL** presented Matt and Tony their service pins in Commissioners Court.



Honoring the fallen

What was once a blank wall space has now become a memorial tribute in the main hallway of the Sheriff's Office Administration, honoring five fallen officers of the Collin County Sheriff's Office. Please take the time to visit this memorial gallery and reflect on the ultimate sacrifices made by these gallant law enforcement officers and the countless others who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Thomas SHAIN

Deputy Shain was shot and killed on July 2, 1860, by a man suspected of a series of robberies. Deputy Shain located the suspect feeding horses & recognized the brand on one of his horses. He attempted to arrest him and was fatally shot by the suspect. He was survived by his wife and four children.

William C. HALL

Deputy Hall was shot and killed on April 24, 1869, as he and several posse members attempted to arrest three men on a murder warrant. A gunfight ensued, resulting in the death of Deputy Hall and two of the suspects. Deputy Hall was 37, and was survived by his wife.

Leon THOMPSON

Deputy Thompson died on August 19, 1961, in an automobile accident while in pursuit of a traffic violator. Another vehicle crossed the center line and struck the deputy's patrol car head on. He was 46 years old, and was survived by his wife and three children.



George BRAKEFIELD

Chief Deputy Brakefield was killed in an automobile accident on January 11, 1982, when his patrol car left the roadway and overturned in a culvert. He was thrown from the vehicle and sustained fatal injuries. He was 54 years old at the time of his death and was survived by his wife, three children and three grandchildren.



Joe STEENBURGEN

Sheriff Steenburgen was the 37th Sheriff of the Collin County Sheriff's Office, serving as Sheriff from 1981 to 1985. He was seriously injured when his patrol car was struck by a vehicle whose driver failed to yield the right-of-way. He was hospitalized for seven months and was unable to recover from his injuries. He died on February 5, 1985, at the age of 36, and was survived by his wife and two daughters.

Retiring after 22 years

Detention Officer **Ricky WEBSTER** was honored recently with a Retirement Reception in celebration of 22 years of dedicated service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office. On hand to help him celebrate were numerous friends, along with Sheriff **Terry BOX** who presented Officer Webster with his retirement plaque.



Detention facility passes inspection for 23rd straight year

Inspectors from the Texas Commission on Jail Standards arrived here in late June, unannounced, to conduct their annual inspection of the Collin County Detention Facility. And for the 23rd straight time, the county passed.

Fred St. AMANT and **Mark WILSON** took three days to cover more than 600 standards of responsibility under the state's minimum jail standards, including the main Jail Facility & Minimum Security, as well as District Court Holding at the Courthouse and County court at Law Holding at the University Drive

Courts Facility.

"Needless to say, I am extremely pleased," said Sheriff **Terry BOX**. "This successful inspection once again demonstrates the hard work and professionalism of the Detention Staff and the efforts of the County's Facilities Personnel who worked together to realize this accomplishment."

Adan MUNOZ, Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, said Collin County has always been an efficiently managed jail facility.

"My compliments go out to Jail Administrator **Randy CLARK** and his staff," MUNOZ said. "This is exactly what a surprised and unannounced visit should produce."

"The Collin County Detention Facility has the rare distinction of being one of the very few facilities in the state with such a successful track record," he added.

There are fewer than 10 facilities throughout the state of Texas that have passed inspections for double digit years.

Juvenile Probation



35 years service

Detention Superintendent **Danny MEEK** is presented his 35-year service pin by Juvenile Probation Director **Joe SCOTT**. Danny began his career with Collin County serving as Bailiff for the 199th Judicial District Court under District Judge Tom RYAN. In 1978, Danny switched gears and began working with the Juvenile Probation Department as a Juvenile Probation Officer, and was appointed to his current position as Detention Superintendent in 1995.

Retired after 26 years

Juvenile Supervision Officer **Carolyn HENDRICKS** retired after 26 years with Collin County. During her tenure, Carolyn

served as Juvenile Supervision Officer and helped many children and families along the way. Carolyn also serves the community of Gainesville a member of the City Council.

10 years service

Juvenile Supervision Officer **Binom THOMPSON** received his 10-year service pin. Officer Binom works at the Juvenile Detention Center as a Building Control Officer, and completed a 30-year career as a school teacher and Coach before coming to Collin County.



Juvenile Supervision Officer **Valerie TURNER** was presented her 10-year pin. Valerie works closely with the female residents at the Juvenile Detention Center. Her experience and commitment to youth has proven to be valuable to the children and families we serve.



5 years service

Mike COMBEST, Unit Supervisor, awards Juvenile Probation Officer **Angela DANIEL** her 5-year service pin. Angela works in Juvenile Probation's Plano office.



Historical Commission Awards Grants

Collin County's historical commission (some members shown here with grant awardees after a July Commissioners Court meeting) help preserve our local history by awarding over \$19,000 in grants to local historical organizations' preservation and education efforts. This is the grant program's second year.

Announcements/Classified

WANTED

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

FOR SALE

FINCHES: Fancy white and gray zebra, society, shafttail and Gouldian finches, some proven breeders, \$5 - \$60 each. Cages also will be sold once birds are sold. Contact Pete at pete-harper1@yahoo.com, or Leslie at LJHarper3640@yahoo.com, or call (972) 442-9928.

HOME GYM: Like new, *Bow-Flex Extreme II* Home Gym. \$700 Firm. Call Sandra Godwin at 972-548-3692 or 214-537-1048.



TREADMILL: *Proform 380* for \$300. Like new. Please call 214-620-6199.

CAR: 2000 Mitsubishi Mirage DE, 113,500 miles, 4-door sedan (white), auto., 26 mpg (city)/ 33 mpg (hwy), Clean record (zero accidents), Fully working A/C, Power door locks; \$2,000. Call Joseph, 469-235-3450 or email iosephigm@hotmail.com.

FURNITURE: King Size Head Board with Frame, Stained Glass Cabinets, Mirror for the middle section, asking \$200. Call Brian, 972-548-4106.

HOUSE: 209 Pheasant Run, Melissa, Offered at \$168,000; Contact Brandi NORTON-ROBERSON, Ext. 6448 or **Meranda DANIELS**, 903-821-5084.

