

North Texas

ARTS DISTRICT

Dallas Institute hosting annual MLK symposium

The Dallas Institute is hosting the *Forward Together: 13th Annual MLK Symposium* at 7 p.m. Jan. 15 at Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora Ave.

The symposium will feature Bishop William J. Barber II and other local city leaders. It's named after the title of Barber's 2014 book in which he relates the story of a justice movement born in North Carolina that spread throughout the nation.

Others scheduled to participate include Rev. Dr. Michael W. Waters, the Rev. Larry M. James, and the Rev. Dr. Sheron C. Patterson. Dallas Institute executive director Dr. J. Larry Allums will moderate a conversation with them.

General admission is \$20, \$10 for educators and free for students. Tickets can be purchased at dallasinstitute.org or by phone at 214-871-2440.

Deborah Fleck

CARROLLTON

MLK Jr. Day parade set for Saturday

A free memorial parade to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day will start at 10 a.m. Saturday on Rainwater Lane (behind Carrollton City Hall) and proceed west to Josey Lane; south on Josey Lane to Keller Springs Road; east on Keller Springs Road to Kelly Boulevard; south on

Kelly Boulevard to end at Ted Polk Middle School, 2001 Kelly Blvd.

The parade is sponsored by Christ Community Connection Inc., in partnership with the City of Carrollton. Call 972-242-0933 for more information, or visit cityofcarrollton.com/calendar.

Deborah Fleck

COPPELL

City to participate in community challenge

Living Well in Coppell is once again locally sponsoring the statewide wellness initiative called "It's Time Texas Community Challenge." The program challenges cities across the state to demonstrate their commitment to healthy living while competing against cities of similar size.

Coppell has participated and won in its category the last three years, earning \$1,500 for Coppell ISD schools.

The challenge runs from Monday through March 4. Register online at ittcommunitychallenge.com and choose Coppell as your community.

Deborah Fleck

DALLAS

Dallas invites residents to engagement events

The city of Dallas invites residents to participate in community engagement events to provide them with an opportunity to inform city

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

leaders on how they want their tax dollars spent.

Staff from the Office of Budget, the Resiliency Office, Fair Housing and Community Development will offer several ways for citizens to voice their opinions. Fair Housing and Community Development will host community town halls through Feb. 24.

Comments received from these groups will be used to inform budget recommendations for the FY 2018-19 Consolidated Plan Budget.

A schedule of upcoming town halls is posted at dallascitynews.net/city-seeking-public-input-neighborhood-public-hearings.

Deborah Fleck

DOWNTOWN DALLAS

Program on poverty will be Thursday

The Anti-Poverty Coalition of Greater Dallas has organized an event from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday for stakeholders, community leaders and members to come together and receive a progress report from Dallas City Manager T.C. Broadnax. Following Broadnax's remarks, there will be a panel-led community conversation on tackling poverty through a focus on workforce development, financial stability and equity.

The panelists are Florencia Velasco Fortner, chief executive officer of The Concilio, The Rev. Gerald Britt of CitySquare and Wende Burton, di-

rector of community philanthropy at Communities Foundation of Texas.

The event will be at First Presbyterian of Dallas, 1835 Young St.

Deborah Fleck

IRVING

Arts Center presents photography exhibit

"This Light of Ours: Activist Photographers of the Civil Rights Movement" will be on display from Saturday through March 4 at the Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd.

This major traveling exhibition presents the Civil Rights Movement (also called the Southern Freedom Movement) through the work and voices of nine activist photographers.

An opening gallery talk will be at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 14 by Leslie Kelen, director of the Center for Documentary Expression and Art.

The exhibit and talk are free.

Learn more at irvingartscenter.com.

Deborah Fleck

PLANO

Chamber announces its 2018 board members

The Plano Chamber of Commerce has announced its 2018 board of directors. Board chair is Jeff Beckley, chair-elect is Joan Calhoun, first vice chair is LaMonte Thomas, treasurer is Patrick Doyle, secretary is Debra Austin, executive committee director

designee is Craig Perry and immediate past chair is Craig Perry.

Serving on the board are Nancy Baumgarten, Joe Camarena, Suzanne Drotman, Matt Foster, Nick Goellner, Sandy Haire, Mary Lavelle, Jon Lineberger, Steve McSwain, Kalpana Murthy, Pete Patel, Amanda Rockow, Jesse Sanchez, Ron Schoof, Ashley Simpson, Dawn Wolverton and Rachel Yzaguirre.

Advisory board members are Sally Bane, Sara Bonser, Bruce Glasscock and Dr. Mary McRae.

Deborah Fleck

WYLIE

TxDOT to host public hearing on FM 2514 project

The Texas Department of Transportation will hold a public hearing on proposed improvements to FM 2514 at 6 p.m. on Thursday at the Frank McMillan Junior High School cafeteria, 1050 Park Blvd. Displays will be available for viewing at 6 p.m., with the formal hearing starting at 7 p.m.

The proposed project would reconstruct and widen about 3.34 miles of FM 2514 from a two-lane undivided roadway to a four-lane urban roadway from Valley Mills Drive to Brown Street. The cost of the project is approximately \$20 million and construction is expected to begin in 2021 and end in 2023. Learn more at txdot.gov or call 214-319-3634.

Deborah Fleck

Work to refresh Cruz's image after presidential run may be paying off

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Polyansky has returned to Houston to lead Clout Public Affairs, a division of Axiom Strategies — the consulting firm run by Cruz's long-time campaign manager, Jeff Roe. Prerak Shah, Cruz's top attorney, is replacing Polyansky as chief of staff.

Ahead of his departure, *The Dallas Morning News* spoke with Polyansky about Cruz's evolution.

After the race

Polyansky, who previously worked for two of Cruz's rivals — 2012 Senate primary challenger Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and presidential opponent Scott Walker, governor of Wisconsin — said the first priority was refreshing Cruz's image back in Texas.

The senator has been criticized in his first term for putting presidential ambitions ahead of Texas' needs, especially by his Democratic opponent, El Paso Rep. Beto O'Rourke, who has broadcast several "road trips" across Texas in a bid to raise his own statewide profile.

"When you run for president, you pay a penalty at home," Polyansky said. "You're just not able to do the things that people would like you to do."

He and Cruz "purged talk of presidential politics" in the office, and made sure to be front and center with Texas issues at home.

Cruz scheduled a blitz of stops across Texas in August, signaling that his campaign engine was revving. And later that month, he became one of the most visible Texas lawmakers in the early days of Hurricane Harvey, spending nearly two weeks with constituents as the recovery began.

Beyond his base, Cruz's office has made overtures to business and advocacy organizations so that "anybody who employs Texans" or needs to "come in and talk about regulatory issues or tax issues" will be heard, Polyansky said.

Evolving style

In the Senate, Cruz has taken more of a behind-the-scenes approach. Less confrontation, more cooperation.

The style is a departure from his first few years in office, when he made his name with a 21-hour filibuster over the Affordable Care Act and had a hand in the government shutdown. And few will forget that



Smiley N. Pool/Staff Photographer

Sen. Ted Cruz consoled Hurricane Harvey evacuee Jennifer Nixon at NRG Center in Houston in September.

Cruz once accused Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of lying.

"You can't change Ted Cruz and you shouldn't change Ted Cruz from being a dominant conservative in philosophy and approach; it's who he is," Polyansky said. "But what you can do is [adjust] how he operates."

To pass legislation, "he had to have a functional relationship with his peers and ability to interact with leadership."

Polyansky notes that, after the filibuster and criticizing McConnell, Senate colleagues admonished Cruz and withheld their support for some of his proposals.

Fast forward to the tax debate last month, when leadership agreed to include Cruz's amendment on a tax change he touted as a win for private school education, and the Texan was able to cobble together support from his Republican peers.

"If you look at the footage on C-SPAN, Ted's working the room with a smile, backslapping folks and high-fiving, having a good time," Polyansky said. "He wouldn't have been able to do that if he hadn't taken the time to build the relationships and repair them in some cases."

Aides say this side of Cruz, a former litigator, has always been there, but is only being revealed in this new political environment.

"When you have every lever of government, you can't operate" in a confrontational way, Polyansky said. "You have to be willing to negotiate."

Polyansky said Cruz's office also sought to build a stronger relationship with Texas' other senator, John

Cornyn.

Before this year, the men had a less-than-stellar rapport — as evidenced by Cruz's refusal to back Cornyn in his 2014 primary, and Cornyn initially withholding his endorsement of Cruz's 2018 reelection campaign.

But in September, Cornyn announced his support for Cruz's bid. And in December, he praised him as "constructive" in the tax debate. "I like Ted Cruz 2.0," Cornyn told *The News* last month.

A Cornyn aide noted that Cruz has been Cornyn's most frequent partner on legislation in the past year, co-sponsoring 13 of his bills, while Cornyn co-sponsored seven of Cruz's.

Political future

Despite banishing talk of presidential ambition, Polyansky is coy about whether Cruz has his eye on a future White House run.

"You have to do the best you can in the moment you find yourself, and right now his moment is being the conservative leader ... and helping drive an agenda he's developed since he first ran for office," Polyansky said.

The outgoing chief recalls a conversation he had with Cruz the morning after Trump seized the presidency, when Cruz said that despite losing the primary, they still have an opportunity to accomplish long-held legislative goals.

The Texan told him: "The difference is, these are bills I'm not going to sign. President Trump is."

Twitter: @katiesliens

PUBLIC SAFETY BRIEFS

DENTON COUNTY

Crews fight grass fire that burned more than 65 acres

A grass fire burned more than 65 acres Saturday in Denton County, fire officials said.

Crews were called about 11 a.m. to the fire in the 5400 block of Duck Creek Road in Sanger.

The fire may have started from some coals on an area resident's property. The homeowner told fire officials he had doused the coals with water and went to take a shower. When he went back outside the fire had rekindled and spread.

No injuries were reported.

Several fire departments across the county, including Argyle, Flower Mound and Krum, were called to assist.

Claire Z. Cardona

GARLAND

Man held on murder charge after body is found in home

A man was arrested after police found another man dead on the kitchen floor of a Garland home Saturday morning.

Garland officers responded to a call around 6:45 a.m. regarding an unconscious person in the 1900 block of Place One Lane and found the dead man, police said. The victim has not been identified.

Also at the home was 60-year-old Kent Alan Hall.

Garland police issued a statement that said Hall had gotten into a verbal argument with the man and it "escalated, resulting in the death of the victim."

Hall was taken into custody and is being held at the Garland Jail on a charge of murder, police said.

Claire Ballor

LAKE HIGHLANDS

Over 20 apartments damaged in fire, displacing residents

Residents were displaced Saturday after a fire at a three-story apartment complex in Lake Highlands.

Dallas Fire-Rescue responded about 9:30 a.m. to the fire at the Villa Vista Apartment in the 11300 block of Amanda Lane, near Walnut Hill Lane, spokesman Jason Evans said.

No injuries have been reported.

At least 16 apartment units were damaged in the building the fire started in, and four or five more in an adjacent building had some exposure damage, he said. The American Red Cross was called to help the displaced residents.

The 911 caller reported that the fire was in an upper-floor apartment of the complex, Evans said. When firefighters

arrived, flames were coming out of the roof of the building.

The fire quickly rose to four alarms because of the size of the building. Crews extinguished it by 11 a.m.

The cause of the fire has not been determined. The fire is thought to have started in a third-floor apartment, and the flames spread to the attic, Evans said.

Claire Z. Cardona

PLEASANT GROVE

Man sought in armed robberies at 4 businesses

Police are looking for an armed man they say has robbed four Pleasant Grove businesses in the past two weeks.

On Dec. 22, he robbed La Familia Auto Insurance in the 2600 block of South Buckner Boulevard around 6:30 p.m. On Dec. 31, he struck the Shell gas station in the 2400 block of South Buckner around 5:30 a.m.

On Tuesday, he robbed Carl's Jr. restaurant in the 2900 block of South Buckner, and on Thursday, he hit Anita's Beauty Salon in the 7000 block of Military Parkway.

The robber is described as a black man who is 6-1 and 170 pounds. He was wearing the same clothes during each robbery, police said: a black jacket, gray hoodie, black jeans, black ski mask and black-and-white Adidas sneakers. He also was wearing either a black Nike or North Face backpack.

Anyone with information about the robberies is asked to call Detective Brow at 214-671-4296 or Detective Lacy at 214-671-3636. People who wish to remain anonymous can call Crime Stoppers at 214-373-8477.

Tom Steele

SOUTHEAST DALLAS

Man's body found near McCommas Bluff Preserve

Dallas police are looking for leads after a man's body was found at the edge of the McCommas Bluff Preserve in southeast Dallas.

Officers were called to the 7100 block of Fairport Road, which dead-ends into the eastern side of the reserve, around 11:40 a.m. Dec. 30. They found the body of 33-year-old Fredrick Dashun Ware, who had been shot dead sometime after 7 p.m. the previous day.

Anyone with information about the case is asked to contact Detective Andrea Isom at 214-671-3701 or andrea.isom@dallascityhall.com.

People who wish to remain anonymous can call Crime Stoppers at 214-373-8477. Crime Stoppers is offering a reward of up to \$5,000 for information that leads to an arrest and indictment.

Tom Steele