

# North Texas

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### ARLINGTON

#### Sesame Street brings free events to library, mall

*Sesame Street* will host an Elmo and Abby Cadabby meet-and-greet from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Friday at the Arlington Public Library Southwest, 900 SE Green Oaks Blvd.

A “*Sesame Street: F is for Friends*” live mall show will be from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at The Parks at Arlington Mall, 3811 S. Cooper St. Both events are free.

Deborah Fleck

### ARTS DISTRICT

#### NorthPark symphony event is moving to Meyerson

NorthPark Center’s presentation of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra in Concert has moved to the Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St., because of concerns about the weather.

The concert will be at 8 p.m. Saturday and doors will open at 7 p.m. Admission is free. Parking in the Hall Arts Center garage is \$15. For details, visit northparkcenter.com.

Deborah Fleck

### COPELL

#### Learn to identify frogs and toads by sight, sound

The Biodiversity Education Center, 367 Freeport Parkway, will present a program on “Frogs: They Are Calling. Are You Listening?” from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday.

Jessie Crowley, frog lover and lead naturalist educator for the Perot Museum, will offer tips and tricks on how to identify local frogs and toads by sight and sound.

For more information, visit coppeltx.gov/bec.

Deborah Fleck

### DOWNTOWN DALLAS

#### March will raise funds to help babies be born healthy

The March of Dimes March for Babies will be at 9 a.m. Saturday with registration at 8 a.m. at The

## Going head-to-head



Ron Baselice/Staff Photographer

**Uplift Luna Preparatory** student John Zuniga, 9, helped internationally acclaimed paleoanthropologist Dr. Lee Berger demonstrate the size of Neo, a *Homo naledi*, during a visit to the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas on Monday. *Homo naledi* is a new species of an ancient human relative that was discovered by Berger.

Lawn at Reunion Tower, 629 Sports St.

The event includes a Kids Zone, entertainment by DJ Souljah, a memory garden and more. The goal is to raise funds to help more babies be born healthy.

For details, visit marchforbabies.com/event/dallas.

com/event/dallas.

Deborah Fleck

### DUNCANVILLE

#### High school gets \$260K grant for architectural studies

Duncanville High School has

received a \$260,000 grant for its architectural design classes from the Texas Education Agency.

The Pathways in Technology Early College High School grant will allow the school to increase the capacity of its classes, hire additional support staff, provide equipment for classrooms and update computers and technology.

The district’s program offers the opportunity to earn certification and an associate’s degree in architectural design through a partnership with Mountain View College and the University of Texas at Arlington.

Loyd Brumfield

### IRVING

#### Teen Book Festival to feature top authors

The 2018 North Texas Teen Book Festival will start at 8 a.m. Saturday at the Irving Convention Center, 500 W. Las Colinas Blvd. Educator Day, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, will include a ticketed author luncheon with Leigh Bardugo, Sabaa Tahir, Renée Adhieh and National Book Award finalist Erika Sanchez.

The schedule for Saturday includes panel discussions and book signings. Admission is free. More than 70 authors are scheduled to attend. Learn more at nttbf.org.

Deborah Fleck

### LITTLE ELM

#### Mayor’s fitness challenge is starting up again

Mayor David Hillock is offering his fourth annual Fitness Challenge, a six-week program that starts this week.

Once registered, participants undergo a preliminary fitness assessment and are encouraged to join a Facebook group for support. A free personal training session is included, as are a T-shirt and a starter pack full of healthful recipes, tips and an eating-out guide.

The cost is \$25 for individuals and \$65 for families. The family rate covers six family members residing at the same address. Find more at <https://bit.ly/2qI7oEB>.

Deborah Fleck

### NORTHEAST DALLAS

#### Cancer support group offers Spanish-language event

Cancer Support Community North Texas will host a “Day of Salud (Health)” from 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday to mark April as Minority Health Awareness Month. The free event is geared to Hispanics facing cancer. Presentations will be in Spanish, and a light breakfast will be served.

The location is the Dallas County Clubhouse at Texas Health Resources Cancer Center, 8196 Walnut Hill Lane. Registration is requested. Call 214-345-8428.

Deborah Fleck

### UPTOWN

#### Salman Rushdie book will be focus of program

The Dallas Institute, 2719 Routh St., will host a Classics at Court Regard program focusing on Salman Rushdie’s *Midnight’s Children* at 6:30 p.m. Friday.

Dallas Institute Fellow and Rushdie expert Dr. Jaina Sanga will join executive director Larry Allums to introduce the novel, and Blake Hackler will give a dramatic reading of an excerpt. Dr. Amie Maciszewski will play sitar, and Shantanu Bhat-tacharya will play the tabla. The evening will end with dancing by Iffat Hasan of Milaana Dance Academy.

The cost is \$60. To make a reservation, call 972-333-0284 or go to [dallasinstitute.org](http://dallasinstitute.org).

Deborah Fleck

### WHITE ROCK

#### C.C. Young to celebrate ‘Ageless’ contest winners

C.C. Young, 4847 W. Lawther Drive, will celebrate winners of its 2018 Spirit is Ageless Contest at 10:15 a.m. Saturday. JD Miller of Samuel Lynne Galleries will speak.

A reception at 10:15 a.m. will be followed by a program at 11 a.m. Admission is free, but seating is limited and registration is recommended. To register, call 214-841-2831 or email [rsvp@ccyoung.org](mailto:rsvp@ccyoung.org).

Deborah Fleck

## PUBLIC SAFETY BRIEFS

### AREA

#### Debt collectors face prison after \$2 million scam

Two debt collectors from North Texas face up to 20 years in prison after admitting they defrauded clients out of more than \$2 million, money they used to finance lavish lifestyles, federal prosecutors say.

Robert Marano, 53, of Dallas and Paul Dominguez, 32, of Carrollton agreed to collect debt on behalf of at least 200 contractors in exchange for a commission — but then kept all the money for themselves, according to a news release from the U.S. attorney’s office.

Both men were charged last month with one count of mail fraud. They pleaded guilty this month.

Court documents show Marano and Dominguez used their illegally obtained funds to support a costly lifestyle, traveling to Hawaii, Las Vegas and Miami and buying luxury vehicles: two Harley-Davidson motorcycles, a 2016 Kawasaki motorcycle, a 2015 Toyota Tundra and a 2015 Corvette Stingray.

The men are free on bond while they await sentencing. Dominguez is set to be sentenced on July 25 and Marano on Aug. 1.

Sarah Sarder

### BUCKNER TERRACE

#### Man arrested in shooting death of 17-year-old

A 19-year-old is accused of fatally shooting a 17-year-old in Buckner Terrace earlier this month, police said.

Ronny Nikile Robinson was arrested Wednesday and faces a capital murder charge in the death of Ophesious Fields Jr.

Fields died at a hospital after he was shot April 8 in the 8000 block of Rothington Road, not far from South Buckner Boulevard.

Witnesses told police that Fields was with several people about 8:20 p.m. when Robinson grabbed him while pointing a gun at him, shot him and took his bookbag, according to an arrest warrant affidavit.

Robinson was arrested Wednesday with the help of the Dallas Fugitive Unit.

He has been booked into the Dallas County Jail. Bail has not been set yet.

Claire Z. Cardona

### DALLAS ISD

#### Teacher accused of improper relationship with student

A Dallas ISD high school teacher had an improper relationship with a student in another district, and authorities say there may be other victims.

Garland police arrested Robert Lee Edgin, 49, on one count of improper relationship between educator and student. He was being held Thursday at the Garland jail, with bail set at \$10,000.

The victim was a 17-year-old student in Garland ISD, police said.

Police said that based on Edgin’s statements to detectives, additional charges may be filed.

Edgin, a theater teacher at W.T. White High School in Dallas, has been placed on administrative leave, according to the district.

Anyone with information is asked to call Garland police at 972-485-4840.

Tom Steele

### FAR EAST DALLAS

#### Help sought finding suspects in shooting death

A man was killed in a shooting in Far East Dallas on Wednesday night.

Police said the incident happened around 10:30 p.m. in the 2500 block of Healey Drive, near Ferguson Road and Oates Drive.

Four or five men approached Leonardo Vazquez-Barcenas, 57, who was fatally shot. The men fled in two vehicles, one of them a dark-colored sedan.

Police did not release any more information about the incident or detailed descriptions of the attackers. Anyone with information about the shooting is asked to call 214-671-3675.

Tom Steele

### FORT WORTH

#### 13-year-old fights off attacker on walk to school bus

A Fort Worth teenager was left bloodied and bruised after fending off an abduction attempt as she was walking to a school bus Thursday morning.

The attack happened just before 7 a.m. near Calmont Avenue and Laredo Drive in West Fort Worth. The bus driver called 911 to report that a 13-year-old student had gotten on the bus and was bleeding and unresponsive.

A Fort Worth ISD official told the Fort Worth

*Star-Telegram* that a man approached the girl, who attends International Newcomer Academy, as she walked to the bus.

“He attacked her,” district spokesman Clint Bond told the newspaper. “But she fought him off.”

No description of the man was available.

Authorities said the girl had cuts and bruises and was taken to Cook Children’s Medical Center for treatment. Her condition has not been released.

Tom Steele

### LANCASTER

#### Motorists pull passenger from burning pickup on I-35E

Three bystanders pulled a passenger from a burning pickup after it hit an 18-wheeler Wednesday night in Lancaster.

The crash occurred around 10:30 p.m. in the 2700 block of northbound Interstate 35E when the pickup rear-ended the 18-wheeler and caught fire.

The pickup’s driver crawled from the wreckage, but the passenger was unconscious, police said. An off-duty Dallas police officer and two other bystanders helped Lancaster police free the passenger, who was taken to an area hospital along with the driver.

Their conditions are not known, nor is it known whether the driver of the 18-wheeler was hurt.

Loyd Brumfield

### NORTHEAST DALLAS

#### Man, 69, beaten, robbed outside Home Depot

A 69-year-old man was hospitalized after he was beaten and robbed outside a northeast Dallas Home Depot, police said.

The man was involved in a verbal altercation with Amber Gray about 3:30 p.m. April 11 at the store in the 6000 block of Skillman Street, when Lataurus Murphy saw the dispute, police said.

Murphy reportedly approached the man from behind and assaulted him. The man fell to the ground, and Murphy took items from his pockets, police said.

Murphy and Gray, both 39, fled but were found at a nearby apartment complex and arrested. The man was taken to a local hospital.

Both were taken to the Dallas County Jail and charged with aggravated robbery. Bail has been set at \$150,000 for Murphy and \$50,000 for Gray.

Claire Z. Cardona

### CRIME

## Man gets 10 years in attack

#### He pleads guilty to stabbing of 2 women in downtown Dallas

By TASHA TSIAPERAS  
Staff Writer  
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A 23-year-old man was sentenced to 10 years in prison for slashing two women with a pocket knife in downtown Dallas.

Branden Antwon Holbert pleaded guilty to two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon for the Sept. 17 attack.

Holbert was ranting and shouting expletives at pedestrians while standing in the middle of Main Street around noon, police records show.

At one point, he ripped off his shirt and then accused a woman of stealing his phone.

The woman told Holbert she didn’t know him and didn’t have his phone. He punched her in the face, and she tried to run to safety in the Wilson Building, records show.

She ran onto an elevator, where two other women already were, and Holbert chased her inside. Holbert stabbed her several times with the pocket knife and punched one of the other women in the elevator.

Witnesses held the door of the Wilson Building closed, trapping Holbert until police officers arrived.

Officers found him lying down “with his hands spread out screaming and yelling at himself,” according to the arrest warrant affidavit.

Holbert still has two pending misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance.

Officers found him passed out the month before the knife attacks in front of the Downtown Safety Patrol office on Akard Street. They found what appeared to be a K2 cigarette near his hands, according to the arrest warrant.

K2 is a synthetic cannabinoid known to make some people behave violently and erratically.

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