

North Texas

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Celebrating education



Carly Geraci/Staff Photographer

From left: Highland Park ISD Superintendent Tom Trigg, University Park Mayor Olin Lane, Board of Trustees vice president Kelly Walker, board president Jim Hitzelberger and trustee Stacy Kelly cut the ribbon last week to celebrate the new building at University Park Elementary School.

GARLAND ISD

District donates land for environmental center

Property at 6301 Chiesa Road in Rowlett will be donated for use as an environmental learning center when the Garland school board meets in regular session at 6 p.m. Tuesday. The 2019-20 choice of school calendar and an update on 2014 bond election projects are also planned.

Board members will also meet at 1 p.m. Tuesday for team training and to discuss revisions to board policy.

The meetings will be at the dis-

trict's administrative headquarters, 501 S. Jupiter Road.

Ray Leszczynski

NORTH DALLAS

Celebrities to visit Richland College for voting rally

A youth voter rally featuring America Ferrera, Alicia Keys and Zoe Kravitz will be from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at Richland College. The event, "RLC Votes with America," is hosted by the Richland College Student Government Association, the Student Voter Initiative and Voto Latino.

The rally will be in the Fannin Hall

breezeway. Following the rally, Ferrera, Keys and Kravitz will lead students on a parade to the college's early voting location in Guadalupe Hall.

The campus is at 12800 Abrams Road. Find more at richlandcollege.edu.

Deborah Fleck

PRINCETON

Meeting to discuss U.S. 380 changes

The Texas Department of Transportation's proposed improvements to U.S. Highway 380 will be shown from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Princeton High School, 1000 E.

Princeton Drive.

Proposed improvements include widening the 7-mile stretch of four-lane roadway in the area to a six-lane divided highway with a raised median and new curb and gutters.

Ray Leszczynski

ROCKWALL COUNTY

Commissioners to address fire service contract

An agreement with the city of McLendon-Chisholm to provide fire protection to unincorporated areas of the Rockwall County will be considered when Rockwall County commissioners meet in regular session at 9 a.m. Tuesday. Power lines and distribution facilities near FM548 will also be discussed.

County growth and road issues will be discussed at the monthly meeting of the Rockwall County Road Consortium at 6 p.m. Wednesday. The meetings will be at the county's Historic Courthouse, 101 E. Rusk St., in Rockwall.

Ray Leszczynski

UPTOWN

Program is on 'Dallas: The Spiritual City'

The Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture, 2719 Routh St., in partnership with the Dallas Thanks-Giving Foundation, will host a program on "Dallas: The Spiritual City" from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday with a 6 p.m. reception.

Presenters will be Almas Muscatwalla of the Thanks-Giving Foundation and Gail Thomas, founding executive director of the Institute. Tickets are \$25 for the public, \$20 for members and \$10 for educator members. To purchase, visit dallasinstitute.org.

Deborah Fleck

PUBLIC SAFETY BRIEFS

ARLINGTON

Man given 45-month term in money-laundering scheme

An Arlington man was sentenced to nearly four years in prison for his involvement in a money-laundering scheme that defrauded victims in 16 states and seven countries.

Orefo Okeke, 40, was sentenced to 45 months in prison, followed by one year of supervised release. He also was ordered to pay nearly \$583,000 in restitution.

Okeke, who is a Nigerian citizen and could be deported after his sentence is completed, pleaded guilty to an indictment that charged him and Clement Onuama with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and money laundering.

The indictment charged that the two participated in romance frauds, business email compromises, identity theft, bank account takeovers and credit card fraud.

Onuama, also of Arlington, has pleaded guilty to federal charges and will be sentenced Oct. 30.

Lloyd Brumfield

Man found fatally shot Friday night

A man was shot to death Friday night in Arlington, police said Saturday.

Officers were called shortly after 11:30 p.m. to the 1700 block of Florence Street, where they found the man shot in the lower body. A bicycle was found nearby, and officials believe it belonged to the victim.

The man, who was believed to be in his mid-20s and was not identified, died later at a local hospital.

LaVendrick Smith

FORT WORTH

Killer's execution delayed for schizophrenia evaluation

A Tarrant County man's execution has been delayed, less than a week before he was scheduled to be put to death for a deadly 2010 robbery at a Fort Worth gas station.

Kwame Kwaakye, 42, was to be executed Wednesday, but judges on

the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals ordered a mental evaluation to determine whether he's competent for execution because he has schizophrenia, the Texas Tribune reported.

In 2010, Rockwell and two other men robbed a Valero gas station in Fort Worth. Rockwell shot the gas station clerk, who died at the scene. A delivery truck driver was also shot and died later.

Rockwell was convicted in 2012 and sentenced to death. He was diagnosed with schizophrenia while in prison, according to the Texas Tribune.

LaVendrick Smith

Toddler dies after 2 admit hitting her to stop seizures

A 2-year-old girl died in a Fort Worth hospital Friday after she was abused by her mother and her mother's boyfriend, authorities say.

Joshua Thomas Fulbright and Sarah Elizabeth Newsom, both 21, were arrested Tuesday after they took an unconscious Olivia Newsom to the hospital, KFDX-TV reported.

Hospital staff told Clay County officials the girl had a severe bruise on her head, and Fulbright admitted he hit the toddler in front of Newsom, the station reported.

Olivia suffered seizures the day after the assault and fell unconscious after Newsom slapped her in an attempt to stop the seizures, according to KDFX.

Olivia was transferred to Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth.

She was taken off life support Thursday and died Friday, a relative told the *Times Record News* in Wichita Falls.

Fulbright and Newsom are being held in the Clay County Jail on charges of injury to a child. Their charges had not changed as of Saturday afternoon, jail records showed.

LaVendrick Smith

Motorcyclist's remains found in drainage ditch

The remains of an unidentified motorcyclist were discovered Friday in a drainage ditch in Fort Worth,

police say.

The man's body was found about 8:30 a.m. in the 2600 block of Northeast Loop 820, according to the Tarrant County medical examiner's office.

Evidence showed the motorcyclist was riding west on the access road when he hit a guardrail and lost control, landing in the ditch, police said. There were no witnesses to the crash, police said.

It's unclear how long the body had been in the ditch. The man's identity has not been determined.

Claire Z. Cardona

Woman wakes up to find man on top of her

A woman woke up in her apartment to find a man lying on top of her Wednesday morning, the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* reported.

The man ran after the woman screamed for help in a home invasion reported about 3:30 a.m. in the 4500 block of Campus Drive, according to the newspaper.

The suspect was quickly found and arrested and faces burglary charges, Fort Worth police spokesman Jimmy Pollozani said. His name was not released.

One apartment resident said break-ins are not unusual at the complex, which recently added security cameras.

Lloyd Brumfield

PRINCETON

Man who set Walmart fire not guilty by reason of insanity

A Princeton man accused of setting a fire inside a Walmart last year was found not guilty Thursday by reason of insanity.

Jairo Briceno-Barrientos, 30, was charged with arson and criminal mischief in connection with the store fire in Princeton, east of McKinney. The criminal mischief charge was a first-degree felony because it caused losses of more than \$300,000, court records state.

State District Judge Richard Davis issued the insanity ruling during a hearing Thursday. He also issued

MOUNTAIN CREEK

Officer hit by car while placing road flares

Driver accused of aggravated assault on a public servant

A Dallas police officer was in critical condition Sunday after a car hit him on Interstate 20.

The officer, a two-year veteran of the department, was hit about 6:30 a.m. while he was placing flares in the far right lane of westbound I-20 near Mountain Creek Parkway, police said.

Police were called to the location in response to a possible hit-and-run at 5:45 a.m. and officers decided to shut down the far right lane.

Witnesses said a Toyota Venza drove around a squad car with its emergency lights on and onto the right emergency shoulder. When the driver drove back onto the interstate, he struck the officer, who was standing in the far right lane.

The officer, whose name was not released Sunday, was taken to Methodist Dallas Medical Center in critical condition but is improving, police say.

The driver, Boniface Madubuko, 57, remained at the scene and was arrested, police said. He was booked into the Dallas County Jail on a charge of aggravated assault against a public servant. His bail had not been set Sunday evening.

The Dallas Police Association asked for prayers for the injured officer.

Dana Branham

a finding of dangerousness, which means there is likely a risk to others if Briceno-Barrientos is not provided with treatment and supervision.

Briceno-Barrientos will remain in the Collin County Detention Center while he's evaluated. A hearing on the results of that evaluation is set for Nov. 13.

Valerie Wigglesworth

RED BIRD

Gunman escapes after shooting 3 in home

Police jailed several people after a Sunday morning shooting, but the man who entered a Red Bird home and shot the occupants hasn't been found.

The gunman fled the 5200 block of Darlene Street, near Thurgood Marshall Park, shortly after the shooting about 1:20 a.m., police said. Officers detained several people but determined they were not involved in the shooting, Dallas police spokesman Warren Mitchell said. Some of them were taken to jail on outstanding warrants.

Two men and a woman were shot several times but did not have life-threatening wounds, Mitchell said. They were taken to Methodist Dallas Medical Center.

Sara Coello

WEST OAK CLIFF

Police seek info in slaying of 25-year-old

Dallas police are asking for the public's help after a 25-year-old man was killed Saturday in west Oak Cliff.

Officers were called to the 300 block of North Cockrell Hill Road about 6:30 p.m. Saturday about a shooting. When they arrived, they found Jesse Valero wounded on the ground, police said. He died at a hospital.

Police said Valero was a victim of homicidal violence, but they did not specify how he had been hurt.

Anyone with information about Valero's death may contact Detective David Grubbs at 214-671-3675 or david.grubbsjr@dallascityhall.com and refer to case 230462-2018.

Dana Branham