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AREA BRIEFS

Police seek public's help in credit card thefts

GRAPEVINE — Police appealed for help Friday to identify a woman suspected of walking into two elementary schools and stealing credit cards from teachers. Police released a surveillance-camera photo of the woman as she was shopping with one of the credit cards at Super Target in Euless hours after the cards were stolen. The woman stole credit cards from five teachers at two schools Wednesday, officials said. She was first confronted about 1 p.m. at Grapevine Elementary School, 1801 Hall-Johnson Road, by a teacher who told the woman she needed to leave or report to the office. Four teachers at the school later discovered items missing. A short time later, a teacher at Heritage Elementary, 4500 Heritage Ave., confronted a similar-looking woman in the hallway, police said. The teacher discovered that some of her credit cards were missing, police said. Anyone with information is asked to call Grapevine police at 817-410-8127.



Grapevine police say this woman stole credit cards from teachers.

— Domingo Ramirez Jr.

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ELECTION FILINGS

Candidates to begin campaigns for offices

By JESSICA DeLEÓN
jdeleon@star-telegram.com

The local election season starts in earnest Monday.

Monday is the first day candidates can file for council and school district seats in the May 10 elections. Most local offices weren't open Saturday, the official first day.

In greater Northeast Tarrant County, 70 seats are open in six school districts and 16 communities. Only a handful of bond elections are expected, but some of the council races could get interesting.

In Bedford, two seats on the often-tied City Council are up for grabs.

Grapevine has a rare opening, ensuring the second change in a decade.

In Keller, Councilman Jim Carson, who nearly got kicked off the council last year, is up for re-election.

Trophy Club is holding its first election since last year's dust-up over town employees helping Mayor Nick Sanders move into a new home.

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GREATER NORTHEAST TARRANT ELECTIONS

The six school districts and 16 communities that make up most of greater Northeast Tarrant County will have elections May 10. Below are the seats up for election and where to apply if interested in running for office.

SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTIONS

Birdville school board

Length of term: 3 years

Pay: None

Open seats:

- Place 1, held by Joe Tolbert
- Place 2, held by Dolores Webb

Applications: Central administration building, staff & student service office, 6125 E. Belknap St., Haltom City

Other measures on ballot: None expected

Carroll school board

Length of term: 3 years

Pay: None

Open seats:

- Place 1, held by Craig Rothmeier
- Place 2, held by Bernie Ausdenmoore
- Place 3, held by Sue Armstrong

Applications: Administration center, 3051 Dove Road, Grapevine

Other measures on ballot: None expected

Grapevine-Colleyville school board

Length of term: 3 years

Pay: None

Open seats:

- Place 5, held by Jesse Rodriguez
- Place 6, held by Vince Rosen
- Place 7, held by Freda Ward

Applications: District administration office, 3051 Ira E. Woods Ave., Grapevine

Other measures on ballot: None expected

Hurst-Eules-Bedford school board

Length of term: 3 years

Pay: none

Open seats:

- Place 6, held by Tommy Taylor
- Place 7, held by Mark Cyrier

Applications: Administration building, 1849 Central Drive, Bedford

Other measures on ballot: None expected

Keller school board

Length of term: 3 years

Pay: none

Open seats:

- Place 4, held by Scott Brown
- Place 5, held by Lara Lee Hogg

Applications: Education center, superintendent's office, 350 Keller Parkway, Keller

Other measures on ballot: None expected

Northwest school board

Length of term: 3 years

Pay: none

Open seats:

- Place 5, held by Lynn Gamron
- Place 6, held by Davis Palmer
- Place 7, vacant. In August, Stephanie Trietsch resigned the position because her family was moving out of the area.

Applications: Administration building, 2001 Texan Drive, Fort Worth

Other measures on ballot:

The board is considering a \$260 million bond proposal that would go before voters in May, but trustees have not yet called for an election.

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MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Bedford City Council

Length of term: 3 years

Pay: none

Open seats:

■ Place 4, held by Charles Orean

■ Place 6, held by Bob Whistler

Applications: City secretary's office, 2000 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford

Other measures on ballot:

The council is considering a charter amendment election, but specifics likely won't be decided until the Feb. 26 council meeting.

Colleyville City Council

Length of term: 3 years

Pay: none

Open seats:

■ Place 3, held by Rich Hendler

■ Place 4, held by Mayor Pro Tem Jon Ayers

Applications: City secretary's office, City Hall, 100 Main St., Colleyville

Other measures on ballot:

None expected

Eules City Council

Length of term: 3 years

Pay: none

Open seats: Mayor, held by Mary Lib Saleh

■ Place 2, held by Leon Hogg

■ Place 4, held by Charlie Miller. Miller has said he will not seek re-election.

Applications: City secretary's office, City Hall, 201 N. Ector Drive, Eules

Other measures on ballot:

None expected

Flower Mound council

Length of term: 2 years

Pay: none

Open seats:

■ Mayor, held by Jody Smith

■ Place 2, held by Al Filidoro

■ Place 4, held by Laurie Long. She has said she is not seeking re-election.

Applications: Town secretary's office, 2121 Cross Timbers Road, Flower Mound

Other measures on ballot:

None expected

Grapevine City Council

Length of term: 3 years

Pay: \$789 per month

Open seats:

■ Place 5, held by Mayor Pro Tem Ted Ware. He has said he will not seek re-election.

■ Place 6, held by Roy Stewart

Applications: City secretary's office, 200 S. Main St., Grapevine

Other measures on the ballot:

None expected

Haltom City council

Length of term: 2 years

Pay: \$10 per meeting

Open seats:

■ Place 3, held by Blakely Cabano

■ Place 4, held by Mayor Pro Tem Dale Clark

■ Place 5, held by Richard Hutchison

■ Place 6, held by Kim Reese

Applications: City secretary's office, City Hall, 5024 Broadway Ave., Haltom City

Other measures on ballot:

None expected

Haslet City Council

Length of term: 2 years

Pay: None

Open seats:

■ Place 1, held by Frank LaGrassa. He has said he will not seek re-election.

■ Place 3, held by Kathy Hopper

■ Place 5, held by Pat Richey

Applications: City Hall, 105 Main St., Haslet

Other measures on ballot:

None expected

Hurst City Council

Length of term: 2 years

Pay: \$10 per special session;

\$15 per regular session

Open seats:

■ Mayor, held by Richard Ward

■ Place 4, held by Anna Holzer

■ Place 5, held by Bill McLendor

■ Place 7, held by Nancy Welton

Applications: City secretary's office, City Hall, 1505 Precinct Line Road, Hurst

Other measures on ballot:

None expected

Keller City Council

Length of term: 2 years

Pay: None

Open seats:

■ Place 2, held by Mark Harness

■ Place 3, held by Bob Kirk

■ Place 4, held by Jim Carson

Applications: Town Hall, 1100 Bear Creek Parkway, Keller

Other measures on ballot:

None expected

North Richland Hills City Council

Length of term: 2 years

Pay: \$50 per meeting

Open seats:

■ Mayor, held by Oscar Trevino

■ Place 2, held by Ken Sapp

■ Place 4, held by Tim Barth

■ Place 6, held by Scott Turnage

Applications: City secretary's

Key election dates

March 4: Candidate filing deadline for special election

March 10: Candidate filing deadline for general election

April 10: Last day to register to vote

April 28-May 6: Early voting

May 10: Election day

office, City Hall, 7301 N.E. Loop 820, North Richland Hills

Other measures on ballot:

None expected

Richland Hills City Council

Length of term: 2 years

Pay: \$10 a month

Open seats:

■ Mayor, held by David Ragan

■ Place 2, held by Douglas Bell

■ Place 4, held by Donald Acker

Applications: City secretary's

office, City Hall, 3200 Diana

Drive, Richland Hills

Other measures on ballot:

None expected

Roanoke City Council

Length of term: 2 years

Pay: None

Open seats:

■ Ward 1, held by Brian Darby

■ Ward 2, held by Holly Gray-

McPherson

■ Ward 2, held by Lewis Rice

■ Ward 3, held by Steve Heath

Applications: City Hall, 108 S.

Oak St., Roanoke

Other measures on ballot:

Proposed charter amendments include increasing council terms to three years and paying the council members \$75 per meeting with a \$150 monthly maximum. The mayor would be paid \$125 per meeting, not to exceed \$250 a month. If the mayor is absent, the amendment calls for the mayor pro tem to receive the mayor's pay amount.

Southlake City Council

Length of term: 2 years

Pay: None

Open seats:

■ Place 1, held by Laura Hill

■ Place 6, held by Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Morris

Applications: Southlake Town Hall, 1400 Main St., Southlake

Other measures on ballot:

None expected

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Trophy Club council

Length of term: 2 years

Pay: None

Open seats:

- At-large seat, held by Susan Edstrom
- At-large seat, held by Pam Cates
- At-large seat, held by Philip Sterling

Applications: Town secretary's office, Svore Municipal Building, 100 Municipal Drive, Trophy Club

Other measures on ballot: None expected

Trophy Club Municipal Utility Districts

The primary responsibility of a municipal utility district is to provide water and sewer service in an area not initially inside a municipality. There are two MUDs in Trophy Club.

Length of term: 4 years

Pay: \$100 per meeting

Open seats:

- MUD No. 1 director seat, held by Jim Hase
- MUD No. 1 director seat, held by Dean Henry
- MUD No. 2 director seat, held by James Budarf
- MUD No. 2 director seat, held by Kevin Carr
- MUD No. 2 director seat, held by James Thomas

Applications: Town secretary's office, Svore Municipal Building, 100 Municipal Drive, Trophy Club

Other measures on ballot: Directors are considering putting a bond proposal on the ballot.

Watauga City Council

Length of term: 2 years

Pay: None

Open seats:

- Place 1, held by Ernie Koontz
- Place 2, held by Richard Helmick
- Place 6, held by Lee Griffin
- Place 7, held by Jerry Adams

Applications: City secretary's office, City Hall, 7105 Whitley Road, Watauga

Other measures on ballot: None expected

Westlake Board of Aldermen

The mayor and three board of aldermen seats will be chosen in a general election and special election. Aldermen also serve as trustees for the town's charter school, Westlake Academy, and the mayor is the school board president.

Length of term: 2 years

Pay: None

Open seats:

- Mayor, held by Scott Bradley
- At-large seat, held by Bob Timmerman
- At-large seat, held by Pete Steger

Special election: At-large seat held by Kevin Maynard. He was appointed in December 2007 to fill the vacated seat until the May 2008 election. April Gallagher was elected in May 2007 but moved out of the country. The winner of the special election will serve the remainder of the term, which expires in 2009.

Applications: Town Hall, 3 Village Circle, Suite 207, Westlake, or www.westlake-tx.org

Other measures on ballot: None expected

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For these musicians, parks and libraries are their scene

Intimate settings a cornerstone of group's MasterWorks series

By JESSICA DeLEÓN
jdeleon@star-telegram.com

SOUTHLAKE — The three musicians of 2-Tone sat onstage in the children's section of the Southlake Public Library, performing against a backdrop of a colorful forest scene.

About 30 chairs were set up below, but only 10 people sat in them on a cold night in January.

Harpist Cindy Horstman didn't mind the unusual venue or the small audience.

"Oh, no, not at all," she said. "When I play in this group, it doesn't matter if there are two people or 2,000."

The concert was the first of 112 performances by a variety of musicians scheduled this year for the MasterWorks series sponsored by ARTSNET, the arts council for Northeast Tarrant County.

Musicians — or sometimes a storyteller or children's theater troupe — perform in libraries and parks to as many as 500 spectators. But occasionally fewer than a dozen people attend.

ARTSNET officials believe that the free series is the only one of its kind in the Metroplex and the largest in the state.

Audiences and musicians love the concerts for the same reason — the intimate venues.

'Great place' for a show

At 2-Tone's concert, audience members asked Horstman about her electric harp and the calluses on her fingers.

The crowd included Kel and Jody Forbush of Grapevine, who had seen Horstman at a MasterWorks concert at the Colleyville Public Library.

"I love the music," Kel Forbush said. "I love the small venue. The intimacy is real nice, being able to talk to the artists."

George Hutton, a marketing consultant, came from Dallas with his friend Linda McKinney.

"What a great place to have a show," he said. "It's better than some loud, high-ceilinged nightclub."

"And a free concert," McKinney said. "You can't beat that."

Only a handful of concerts take place in January and February, but the number starts picking up in March.

"April, May and June are killer," ARTSNET program director Lisa McNamara said. "We'll have as much as nine concerts in one night."

The cities usually prefer family-oriented acts that play songs familiar to audiences. In past audience evaluations, given at the end of concerts, people have requested younger bands.

ARTSNET chooses the bands from a list of more than 2,000 performers, most of whom are from the Metroplex.

"Why pull somebody from clear out of state when we have talent right here in Tarrant County?" McNamara said.

A 'listening environment'

One of those musicians is Arlington guitarist Jan Ryberg, 54, who teaches guitar and plays at restaurants and weddings.

He likes performing at MasterWorks functions, such as the recent classical guitar concert he gave with Arlington resident Pat Bohn at the Hurst Public Library.

"It's a real listening environment," Ryberg said. "When I'm playing at a restaurant, it's semilisting. It's background."

The leader of Razzmajazz, a six-piece band that performs Dixieland jazz, said the concert audiences can be diverse.

"The way we do our shows, it's designed for" people ages 3 to 80, said Jon Stutler of Arlington, who plays clarinet and soprano sax. "Not all music is like that. Ours is. That's cool, to provide a show for everyone."

Stutler makes his living partially through the band. He is also regional program director for Cherrydale Fundraising, which schools and churches can use to raise money. He is a former high school and junior high school band director.

Horstman, the harpist, lives in Plano, has been a full-time musician for 30 years and has put out eight compact discs.

She and bassist Michael Medina, an Irving resident, have performed together as 2-Tone for 13 years. Medina has been a professional musician for 20 years and has a recording studio.

They occasionally invite a percussionist to perform with them. For the Southlake concert, it was Ricardo Bozas, who teaches kindergarten at Rankin Elementary School in Arlington. Horstman, who ferries her harp in the back of her Nissan Xterra SUV, looks forward to every performance.

"As a musician, that's what you live to do," she said.

Online: www.artsnetc.org, cindyhorstman.com, www.janryberg.com, www.razzmajazz.com

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Concert schedule

- Monday:** Dueling Harps (lyric harps), 7 p.m., Euless Public Library, 201 N. Ector Drive
- Feb. 21:** Jan Ryberg and Pat Bohn (acoustic guitar duo), 7 p.m., Colleyville Center, 5301 Riverwalk Drive
- Feb. 21:** Storybook Theater: *Goldilocks and the 2 Hares*, 7 p.m., Southlake Public Library, 1400 Main St., No. 130
- Feb. 28:** Razzmajazz (Dixieland), 7 p.m., Hurst Public Library, 901 Precinct Line Road
- March 6:** Threadneedle Street (Celtic), 6:30 p.m., Watauga Public Library, 7109 Whitley Road
- March 10:** Behan (Celtic), 7 p.m., Euless Public Library, 201 N. Ector Drive
- March 14:** Behan (Celtic), 7 p.m., Hurst Public Library, 901 Precinct Line Road
- March 15:** Steve Tenpenny (new country), 3 p.m., Watauga Fest, 7901 Indian Springs Road, Watauga
- March 20:** Brothers 3 (Celtic), 7 p.m., Colleyville Center, 5301 Riverwalk Drive
- March 20:** Mood Indigo (jazz duo), 7 p.m., Southlake Public Library, 1400 Main St., No. 130
- March 27:** Beyond the Pale (Celtic/world roots), 7 p.m., Hurst Public Library, 901 Precinct Line Road

About MasterWorks

- Ten participating cities, most of them in Northeast Tarrant County, help pay for the concerts. ARTSNET also applies for grants from the Texas Commission on the Arts for additional funding.
- The musical groups' fees range from \$850 to \$3,500 per event, ARTSNET program director Lisa McNamara said.
- Last year, more than 18,300 people attended 88 concerts. The average audience numbers 350.
- The high-energy stomp band Vocal Trash drew last year's largest crowd — 532 people — in Saginaw. The Les Elgart Orchestra, playing music from the 1940s to the '70s popularized by the TV show *Dancing With the Stars*, attracted 517 people at the Old Bedford School in Bedford.

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COMMISSIONER

Fickes awaiting a new liver

By JOHN KIRSCH
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Tarrant County Commissioner Gary Fickes said Tuesday that he has a hereditary blood disorder called hemochromatosis and is awaiting a liver transplant at a Dallas hospital.

In a phone interview from the hospital, he said he hopes to undergo surgery in eight days. He said he



Fickes

feels good and "absolutely" plans to run for re-election.

According to the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Hemochromatosis occurs when the body absorbs too much iron from foods This disease causes extra iron to gradually build up in the body's tissues and organs, and . . . can, over many years, damage the body's organs."

Fickes, 58, is unopposed in the March 4 Republican primary for another term in Place 3, which covers Northeast Tarrant County.

Jerry Lee Phillips is running for the seat in the Democratic primary.