

Why a council mainstay won't be running again

I never figured Pleasant Grove's Rickey Don Callahan for one to quit the game with plenty of time left on the clock. But I figured wrong.

Callahan announced Tuesday that he's giving up his shot at a fourth — and final — term as a Dallas City Council member.

That means he'll leave in June after six years of fighting vociferously for his Pleasant Grove district.

During his tenure, Callahan and I have strongly



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disagreed on some Big Stuff — the Trinity River toll road and Confederate monuments, both of which he'd still like under the Christmas tree. And he often seemed to think all economic development was good economic development, even if that meant voting in favor of concrete batch plants near people's homes.

And there was that time he said we maybe ought to

shoot "feral animals." And the time he said the only way to stop panhandlers was to "break their backs, break their spirits."

But Callahan, too, always struck me as a man who came to City Hall hoping to do some good. He fought for what he believed was best for the Grove. And I did once call him the most affable man on the council.

"I didn't do it for an ego trip, and I didn't come here for my agenda," he said in an interview before he announced his farewell tour at the Southeast Dallas Chamber of Commerce. "I came here for the community's

See **CALLAHAN** Page 5B

DALLAS

Tougher oversight of police weighed

Botham Jean case fuels calls to strengthen citizen review board

By **CASSANDRA JARAMILLO** and **CORBETT SMITH**
Staff Writers

Dallas officials will soon weigh whether to give broad new powers to the Citizens Police Review Board, a little-known city panel that reviews allegations of police misconduct.

Activists demanded changes to the board in September — their protests temporarily

halted a City Council meeting on one occasion — after an officer fatally shot 26-year-old Botham Jean, a PricewaterhouseCoopers analyst, in his own Cedars apartment.

In a memo sent to council members and released publicly last week, City Manager T.C. Broadnax wrote that community groups had made a series of recommendations for new accountability measures and a stronger review board. Those proposals included allowing residents to submit complaints in person and online, giving the review board an independent investigative arm and

a budget, and allowing the board to subpoena officers.

The Police Department has already implemented the complaint submission process. And the council is scheduled to decide on new procedures early next year. But efforts to boost the board's powers are likely to meet stiff resistance from police groups, who say the extra oversight is unwarranted.

Dallas Police Association president Mike Mata said he felt that the board, if granted investigative power, would

See **DALLAS** Page 5B



Photos by Shaban Athuman/Staff Photographer

DART spokesman Mark A. Ball said if passengers are ever in an emergency situation in the tunnels, which don't have cell service, they should remain on the train. There are also call boxes, and security guards or police are always on site.

TRANSPORTATION

TRE racing to beat deadline

More time sought on safety tech upgrade to avoid shutdown

By **RAY LESZCZYNSKI**
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Crunch time continues for the Trinity Railway Express, which is among a handful of commuter railroads nationwide racing to beat a deadline to avoid a federal shutdown over implementation of Positive Train Control safety equipment.

An extension of the Dec. 31 deadline will be requested for the TRE, which carries 6,500 passengers a day between downtown Dallas and Fort Worth.

While Dallas Area Rapid Transit believes it will be granted the extension, which would allow service to continue uninterrupted, it has a contingency plan for shuttle bus service. DART runs the TRE in partnership with Fort Worth's Trinity Metro transit agency.

Positive Train Control

technology was the result of 2008 federal legislation. It requires commuter lines to be equipped to monitor and control train movements using GPS, Wi-Fi and high-band radio to reduce the chance of human error.

As of Oct. 31, PTC equipment has been fully installed on TRE cars and track segments. Radio towers are installed and requisite band spectrum is available. Four PTC-required tests have been completed since September.

But employee training is less than two-thirds complete, and none of 32 miles of track was in actual PTC operation.

The federal mandate also calls for the TRE system to be interoperable with five other railroads that have access to the TRE corridor. That hasn't happened yet.

In a Sept. 13 Federal Railroad Administration update to Congress, nine commuter rail lines were listed as at-risk over PTC implementation issues. One is MetroRail,

See **DART** Page 3B

Digging deep for answers

Why don't DART tunnels have cell service?

By **ELVIA LIMÓN**
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Carlos Tapia said he regularly rides the DART trains to move around Dallas with his bike.

But each time he takes the trains that travel through the underground tunnels between Mockingbird and Cityplace/Uptown stations, he's noticed his cellphone will say it has "no service."

That is why he asked Curious Texas: Why is there no phone service in the DART trains between Mockingbird Station and Cityplace? In case of an accident in the tunnel, how are passengers supposed to communicate?

Curious Texas is an ongoing project from *The Dallas Morning News* that invites you to join our reporting process. The idea is simple: You have questions, and our journalists are trained to track answers.

Tapia reached us through our Curious Texas Texts group. Our texting group gives our readers an easy way to connect with our reporters and ask us questions. To ask a question, text "DMN" to 214-817-3868, follow the prompts and introduce yourself to us and share your story tip or ask questions. We'll text you with information as we report the story.

The tri-level Cityplace/Uptown Sta-



The Cityplace/Uptown Station, which is below North Central Expressway, is the only underground DART station.

tion is below North Central Expressway and can be entered through the Cityplace

See **WHY** Page 3B



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North Texas

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

ALLEN

Great Turkey Skate set for Saturday

The annual Great Turkey Skate will be from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday at Allen Community Ice Rink, 200 E. Stacy Road. All on-ice participants must wear skates.

The entrance fee is \$5, and skate rentals are \$3. Those who donate two or more non-perishable food items will receive a free skate rental.

For more information, call 972-912-1097.

Deborah Fleck

AREA

WFAA names replacement for retiring John McCaa

A longtime journalist from Washington, D.C., is set to take over for retiring WFAA-TV (Channel 8) anchor John McCaa next year.

WFAA announced Monday that Chris Lawrence, who currently works at WRC-TV, NBC's D.C. affiliate, will join the station in January. He will co-anchor evening newscasts with Cynthia Izaguirre.

McCaa, who has worked for more than 42 years in television news and nearly 35 years at WFAA, announced his retirement this summer and will be leaving the station March 1.

Lawrence joined WRC in 2014, after working for 10 years at CNN. He covered notable national stories including the BP oil spill, California wildfires, Boston Marathon bombing, the Michael Jackson trial and Hurricane Katrina. Lawrence's reporting in New Orleans contributed to a Peabody Award that CNN won for its coverage.

Lawrence also has worked for WXYZ-TV in Detroit, WTVH-TV in Syracuse and WDBB-TV in Tuscaloosa, Ala., as well as CBS Newspath.

Sara Magalio

CARROLLTON

Broken sewer line sends wastewater into creek

A broken sanitary sewer line sent over 151,000 gallons of wastewater into a Carrollton creek Monday, city officials said.

Crews were called about 11 a.m. to Hutton Branch Creek near the 2700 block of Winding Creek Drive and the Bush Turnpike, where the creek bank had given way, breaking



Photos by Daniel Carde/Staff Photographer



Above: Vehicles lined up to receive Thanksgiving meals at the Storehouse of Collin County in Plano on Friday. The Storehouse had 1,500 meals to give away, which included a turkey, green beans, corn, cranberry sauce, cooking oil, spinach and other food items.

Left: Volunteer Holly Dickerson-West placed a box of Thanksgiving ingredients in Diane Pittman's car during the Storehouse of Collin County's meal distribution day Friday.

Putting food on their tables

the 12-inch sanitary sewer line.

They fixed the line, vacuumed up the spill and treated the area with a neutralizing and deodorizing product by 6:30 p.m., the city said. Work was underway to stabilize the creek bank to prevent it from failing again.

City officials said they didn't anticipate any impact to drinking water. Crews from Carrollton Environmental Services will continue to monitor the site, and the engineering department will evaluate whether the line in the area should be replaced.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality plans to visit the site, the city said.

Claire Z. Cardona

COPPELL

Theater to present the comedy 'Inspecting Carol'

Theatre Coppel will present *Inspecting Carol* by Daniel Sullivan and the Seattle Repertory Theatre on weekends from Nov. 30 through Dec. 16 at the Center for the Arts, 157 S. Moore Road.

Performances will be at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$17 to \$20. To order, visit theatre Coppell.com or call 972-745-7719.

Deborah Fleck

FRISCO ISD

District moves forward with 11th high school

Frisco ISD will start construction next year on its 11th high school, on the eastern side of the school district, a news release states.

Updated enrollment projections for the state's fastest-growing school district have moved up the school's expected opening date by one year — from 2022 to 2021, the release states. The campus will be near Stacy Road and Collin McKinney Parkway in McKinney.

According to the release, plans for the school are moving forward after voters approved the 2018 bond program and tax ratification election. The school will be funded under the 2014 bond program.

The district's 10th high school,

Memorial High School, opened this fall. The state's 13th largest school district is projected to add as many as 2,000 students each year for the next five years.

Todd Fouche, deputy superintendent for business and operations, said in the release that community feedback shows residents still favor Frisco ISD's approach to building more high schools but keeping enrollment lower — about 2,100 students in high school.

Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring, and rezoning for the school will occur in fall 2020.

Nanette Light

IRVING

Composting class set for Valley Ranch Library

Think Green Be Green will offer a class on composting from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 29 at the Valley Ranch Library, 401 Cimarron Trail. Participants will learn how to make high-quality compost at home using discardable materials.

The class is free, but registra-

PUBLIC SAFETY BRIEFS

BURLESON

79-year-old woman killed in head-on crash

A head-on crash on a Burleson service road Tuesday morning killed a woman days after her 79th birthday.

Judith Gazaway of Burleson was pronounced dead in the 2500 block of South Burleson Boulevard, which feeds into Interstate 35W, just before 10 a.m.

Two other people had minor injuries, according to MedStar.

Gazaway's vehicle collided with the other driver's as one of them headed north toward the ramp to I-35W and the other headed south, police told the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*.

Sara Coello

EAST OAK CLIFF

Driver arrested after crash that broke passenger's hip

A 42-year-old man faces charges of intoxication assault after the vehicle he was driving spun out and threw him out while his passenger suffered a broken hip Tuesday morning in east Oak Cliff.

The crash occurred about 2:45 a.m. on Interstate 45 between Overton Road and Illinois Avenue, police said.

The driver, whose name has not been released, veered left and hit the center median, police said. He then spun out and hit a guardrail.

The force of the impact redirected the vehicle onto the service road, where the driver was ejected.

He and the passenger were taken to Baylor University Medical Cen-

ter, where he was arrested.

Lloyd Brumfield

DUNCANVILLE

Alligators go flying when driver crashes into building

Before last week, Duncanville police Officer Doug Sisk had never dealt with alligators on the job.

Duncanville officers were called in to help the Texas Game Wardens on Friday evening as they tried to nab a man suspected of selling baby alligators on Craigslist.

When the man saw the game wardens in a marked vehicle, Sisk said, he took off, eventually losing control of his car and crashing into the Advance Auto Parts building in the 300 block of Camp Wisdom Road.

"When he wrecked out, he kind of threw alligators all over the car," Sisk said.

From there, the suspected alligator salesman was taken to the hospital for his injuries.

Officers helped scoop up the baby gators into a plastic bin with some water, Sisk said.

Game Warden Jamie Sanchez said it's illegal to have an alligator as a pet or to sell them without a permit. The man, whom Sanchez did not identify, was cited for not having an alligator retail dealer permit and was jailed on unrelated warrants.

Dana Branham

FORT WORTH

Tow-truck operator killed by hit-and-run driver

A 51-year-old tow-truck operator was killed when he was hit by

another vehicle as he tried to help a stranded driver early Tuesday in Fort Worth.

The man was struck about 12:15 a.m. on southbound Interstate 35W near Sycamore School Road in southern Fort Worth.

Charles McGough of Arlington was killed as he was trying to load a vehicle onto his truck. The driver of the stranded vehicle witnessed the crash but wasn't hurt, police said.

The vehicle that struck McGough is described as a white semi truck pulling a "grain-type" of trailer with a gray tarp, witnesses told police. The truck has damage to the front right, including the right headlight. It also has fiberglass body damage.

Anyone with information should call 817-392-4892.

Lloyd Brumfield

Police arrest man in shooting of his mother, brother

A 21-year-old man is in custody after police say he shot his mother and brother Tuesday morning in east Fort Worth.

The incident took place just before 10 a.m. in the 5300 block of East Rosedale Street. The man shot his mother in the leg and his 17-year-old brother in the chest, police said.

The man's name has not been released.

The woman and teen were taken to a hospital and were in stable condition, police said.

Sarah Sarder

FRISCO

Man in house fires shots at police before surrendering

Frisco police arrested a 24-year-old man after he reportedly barricaded himself inside a home and fired shots at officers Monday night.

Jeremy Quaschnick faces a charge of aggravated assault of a public servant and remained in the Collin County jail Tuesday, with bail set at \$100,000.

The standoff started around 8 p.m. in the 2000 block of Donley Drive, near Legacy Drive, when officers responded for a welfare check, police said.

The man barricaded himself inside the house and pointed a rifle at officers. While they were negotiating with him, he fired an unknown number of shots, police said.

No one else was inside the home, and no one was injured.

Lloyd Brumfield

SOUTH DALLAS

Man dies after being hit by driver who didn't see him

A 62-year-old man died after he was struck by a car whose driver said she didn't see him in the street Monday in South Dallas.

The accident happened about 6 p.m. in the 5800 block of Second Avenue near C.F. Hawn Freeway, police said. The names of the pedestrian and the driver have not been released.

The driver told police she struck him with the right front of her car. He was taken to Baylor Medical Center and died later, police said.

Lloyd Brumfield

tion is required. To sign up, visit bit.ly/2Q82oXK or call 972-721-2687.

Deborah Fleck

RICHARDSON

World Peace student art on display at library

Richardson ISD fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade artists recently were honored at a reception at the Richardson Public Library.

The event marked the end of the fifth annual World Peace Art Contest and exhibition sponsored by Altrusa International of Richardson, the Richardson Civic Arts Society, the Richardson Public Library and the Richardson Arts Alliance. The contest celebrated the United Nations' International Day of Peace with the theme "Spread Peace Through Kindness and Compassion."

There were overall winners as well as winners at each school. Overall winners included first-place winner George Anagnostis of White Rock Elementary; second-place winner Ruby Oiveras of Mark Twain Elementary; and third-place winner Lena Graham of Northrich Elementary. Honorable mention went to Eli Worley from Mohawk Elementary.

The top three entries from each of the participating RISD elementary schools are on display in the library's third-floor gallery through Nov. 30.

Deborah Fleck

UNIVERSITY PARK

SMU to host its Celebration of Lights

Southern Methodist University will host a Celebration of Lights at 7 p.m. Monday on the Main Quad. The ceremony will feature student musicians performing songs of the season, SMU President R. Gerald Turner reading the Christmas story from the New Testament and the lighting of the SMU Christmas tree.

The celebration ends with participants bathed in the light of the candles they hold as they sing "Silent Night."

The public is invited to attend and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies before the ceremony begins. The annual event is sponsored by SMU's Student Foundation and supported by the SMU Student Senate and the Michael F. Miller Endowment for the Celebration of Lights. Find more at smu.edu.

Deborah Fleck

TARRANT COUNTY

'Affluenza' mom wants trial moved

Tonya Couch, the mother of "affluenza teen" Ethan Couch, wants her trial moved out of Tarrant County, according to media reports.

Her attorneys told a judge Tuesday that she would not be able to get a fair trial in Tarrant County because of media coverage, KXAS-TV (NBC5) reported.

They pointed to posts on social media that mock Couch as examples for why the trial, which was initially scheduled to begin earlier this month, should be moved, WFAA-TV (Channel 8) reported.

The state argued otherwise and said that media coverage has been factual and that qualified jurors can be found in Tarrant County, the station reported.

Couch has been charged with hindering apprehension and money laundering. She faces up to 10 years in state prison on each charge.

Authorities said she withdrew at least \$30,000 from a bank account before she fled to Mexico with her son after a video surfaced that appeared to show him violating the terms of his probation. They were arrested in late December 2015.

The judge will review social media posts and other factors before making a decision after Thanksgiving, WFAA reported.

Claire Z. Cardona