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Tarrant County

County by County: Tarrant County briefs for May 24

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AREA

RECAP: Officer cleared

in killing of unarmed man

A Grapevine police officer will face no charges in the Feb. 20 shooting death of an unarmed Mexican immigrant, a case in which protesters raised questions of excessive use of force.

A grand jury heard expert testimony and evidence over two weeks before declining to indict Officer Robert W. Clark, 33, the Tarrant County district attorney's office said Monday.

The family of Rubén García Villalpando, 31, a mechanic and father of four, had hoped for an indictment.

"I feel so disappointed, so hurt with profound sadness in my heart," the widow, Martha Angelica Romero, said in Spanish. "We are going to keep searching for justice with the FBI and higher authorities."

Dianne Solís

ARLINGTON

RECAP: Engineers work to find most durable asphalt

Engineers at the University of Texas at Arlington are looking to give drivers a smoother ride while potentially saving the state tens of millions of dollars a year.

UTA's engineering department held a demonstration Tuesday of its year-old Accelerated Pavement Testing Center in an East Fort Worth industrial park. The university and the Texas Department of Transportation are working together to determine the most durable or cost-efficient asphalt mix.

Engineers can test different asphalt formulations in the lab. But at UTA's facility, the testing is done with wheels, pavement and computer controls.

Five to 10 years worth of wear and tear can be simulated in just a month, even though the wheels are only moving at 5 mph. That accelerates testing and allows engineers to experiment with more asphalt formulas.

This research comes at a time when cities and the state are struggling to keep up with road and highway repairs.

Jeff Mosier

RECAP: Suit filed against city in death of inmate

A wrongful-death lawsuit filed in federal court Wednesday blames the city for the death of an inmate this year.

The Police Department said Thursday that it had not been served with the suit and that it was still investigating the death of Jonathan Paul, 42, who was found unresponsive in his cell at the Arlington City Jail on March 12. He died at a hospital the next day.

The Tarrant County medical examiner's office said Paul's cause of death is still pending.

The lawsuit blames his death on detention officers who "are believed to have used excessive and undue force by physically restraining Jonathan Paul around the neck and compressing his airways, which caused him to stop breathing."

Robert Wilonsky

RECAP: Super Bowl? Not here until at least 2021

The Dallas area waited 44 years to host its first Super Bowl. It'll be at least another decade after that until the big game returns.

The National Football League decided Tuesday on four finalists for its 2019 and 2020 championships: Atlanta, New Orleans, South Florida and Tampa Bay.

The next Super Bowl the Dallas Cowboys could bid on is 2021, 10 years after the championship was played in Arlington.

Jeff Mosier

WESTLAKE

Westlake Academy

receives budget award

The Association of School Business Officials International gave Westlake Academy its Meritorious Budget Award for excellence in budget presentation.

The award is given to school districts that have met or exceeded the Meritorious Budget Award criteria.

The district’s 2014-15 budget was praised for having “excellent spreadsheets, charts and graphs to help the reader fully grasp the data presented” and for its easy-to-understand information.

Westlake Academy is a community-owned, public charter school, serving grades K-12. To learn more, visit westlakeacademy.org.

Deborah Fleck

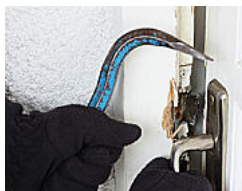
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