

PLANO ISD

Education foundation receives \$50,000 gift

SUBMITTED STORY

The Plano ISD Education Foundation announced recently that Alliance Data, a provider of loyalty marketing services headquartered in Plano, will support the foundation through a \$50,000 gift.

The funding contribution will benefit programs designed to boost educational achievement for Plano ISD students. The company will also provide employee volunteer support throughout the district.

“The Plano ISD Education Foundation greatly appreciates Alliance Data and their commitment to our students and teachers,” said Education Foundation president Jean Callison. “With this gift, the foundation is able to support important initiatives, for which taxpayer dollars are not available, and help Plano ISD succeed.”

This year’s funding will benefit Plano Family Literacy School, Grants to Educators and a leadership retreat for the college readiness program AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. The gift will also help provide support for Title I campuses in Plano ISD.

“Alliance Data believes the key to a

strong community is a strong education system. Accordingly, supporting Plano schools, right here in our own backyard, has been a natural fit for us,” said Dana Beckman, director of corporate affairs for Alliance Data.

Plano Family Literacy School helps students and their parents with literacy skills. This intergenerational approach to learning, requiring parent involvement, benefits children. The program assists 50 families and 200 children each year.

The Alliance Data gift will also fund a February 2016 leadership retreat for 90 students who participate in Plano ISD’s AVID program. AVID offers comprehensive, multi-year support through elective courses encouraging students’ successful participation in advanced courses.

Also, Alliance Data’s contribution will fund additional resources and teacher development at Plano ISD’s Title I schools. Plano ISD has 25 campuses classified as Title I for dense populations of low-income families whose children struggle academically.

Information provided by Lesley Range-Stanton on behalf of Plano ISD.

MURPHY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief sets public forum on new laws for Tuesday

SUBMITTED STORY

Making good on a pledge to engage the community in open, honest and frequent interaction, Chief Arthur “Trey” Cotten has scheduled a Coffee with the Chief on Tuesday and invites Murphy residents and business owners to attend.

“Almost every January, there are new laws or changes to existing laws that people might not be aware of, but that affect them directly or indirectly,” he said. “Coffee with the Chief is a way to share information, answer questions and perhaps dispel rumors.”

The inaugural Coffee with the Chief is from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the Murphy Activity Center, 205 North Murphy Road. The event is free and open to the public. In addition to the chief, other members of the Police Department will be present to meet resi-

dents and business owners.

Of particular interest will be the changes to the open carrying of weapons that went into effect Jan. 1. Cotten and his staff will present an overview of restrictions, as well as share the process by which area businesses are able to deal with the consequences of the new law.

“While open carry will be our main topic, we will entertain questions regarding any law enforcement matter,” he said.

The inaugural Coffee with the Chief may be followed by additional opportunities for casual conversation with police officials depending on the level of participation, as well as the importance of information requiring distribution.

Information provided by Celso Martinez on behalf of the city of Murphy.

WYLIE



Wylie Mayor Eric Hogue introduces himself in American Sign Language to students at the Texas School for the Deaf in

Photo submitted by Texas School for the Deaf Austin.

Mayor named head of board of Texas School for the Deaf

SUBMITTED STORY

Wylie Mayor Eric Hogue has been named president of the governing board of the Texas School for the Deaf.

Hogue, who is fluent in American Sign Language, was appointed to the board by the governor’s office in 2009.

“I am honored to support the deaf community and look forward to continuing my work with the board,” Hogue said.

He learned to sign when he was 10 to befriend his neighbors who were deaf.

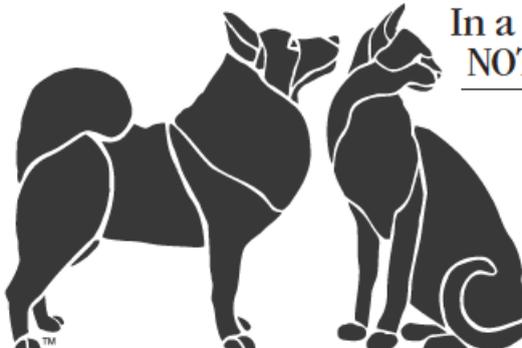
He interpreted church services at 12 years old and was a certified interpreter by 18, accompanying deaf and hearing-impaired people to city council meetings, classes and other functions.

Texas School for the Deaf provides educational services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students up to the age of 21. It opened in 1856, and 584 students are currently enrolled.

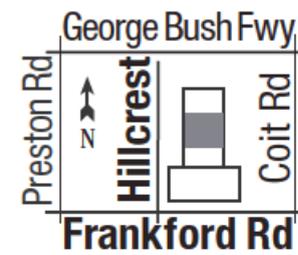
Information provided by Judy Truesdell on behalf of the City of Wylie.

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