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TO THE RESCUE

Unlikely hero rescues stranded kite from tree

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — A rescue of sorts took place on Thursday.

No, it didn't require a daring act of bravery, but it did reunite a boy and his new favorite toy — his kite.

Ever since the Swanborough family went to the Independence library, they've had kite fever.

"They had an event where they built kites," Tracy Swanborough said. "They (her children) had a lot of fun, but when the kids tried to fly the kites, they didn't fly very well. It reminded me of how fun it was to fly a kite. The ones we have are beat up. My mom asked me for Easter basket ideas for the kids, and so she got each of them a kite. Lachlan fell in love with it the most. He's wanted to fly it every day."

Whether at a park or in the street, Lachlan, 8, can be seen running this way and that to make his kite go.

"It's my first kite," he said. "I got it on Easter. I like that you can go high and it can stay up in the air. The more wind you have, the higher it can go. I realized that this is fun."

On Thursday, Lachlan's kite got into a little pickle. "I was flying the kite on the street and I didn't notice I was about to hit a tree," Lachlan said.

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TRACY SWANBOROUGH/for the Itemizer-Observer

Lachlan Swanborough, 8, left, stands with his hero of the day, Minet technician Ruban Ulloa, who rescued his kite from the clutches of a tree.

Two men arrested on assault

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Police arrested two men in Dallas Thursday on assault and menacing charges following an early morning fight.

At about 7:14 a.m. Thursday, Dallas officers responded to 911 calls reporting two men fighting with another man in the 200 block of Southwest Walnut Avenue, according a Dallas Police report.

Witnesses told dispatch that one of the men had a gun in his hand.

According to court documents, suspects Carlos Homil Escalera, 31 of Willamina, and his brother, Emanuel Escalera Lopez, 29, of Portland, spotted the victim of the assault, Kenneth D. Edwards, getting out of his car near their sister's house.

Edwards had a "no contact" order with their sister, according to the probable cause affidavit filed on the arrests by Dallas police. The order is part of a separate case.

The pair confronted Edwards, reportedly punching him in the head and then got back in Lopez's car. According to the report, they returned and punched and kicked him for up to three minutes, a witness said.

They returned to the vehicle, and then pulled up to Edwards. This time, Escalera pointed a gun at him.

"Multiple witnesses saw Carlos pull out a black pistol and point it at Kenneth and start backing him up," the report read.

See ASSAULT, Page 3A

IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS

American Gas & Tech to name school after former Tyco building owner.

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FALLS CITY

Budget committee approves 2017-18 budget.

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INDEPENDENCE

Central senior Chris Polanco honors family on tennis court.

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MONMOUTH

Applebox Children's Theater, city council butt heads.

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SPORTS

Falls City track and field team eyes qualifying multiple athletes for state.

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EDUCATION

Students get a chance to experience new cultures.

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Dallas High presents 'Bully Plays'

Itemizer-Observer staff report

DALLAS — Dallas High School will present a series of student-directed plays Thursday and Friday.

The Bully Plays are a collection of short plays set in different places and times showing the many different types of bullying and the way they affect people.

The shows are at 7 p.m. in DHS' Bollman Auditorium, 1250 SE Holman Ave., Dallas.

Advanced theater students are directing the plays as an exercise for the class.

The plays are recommended for audiences 13 and older because of the content which deals with suicide, suggested nudity and some language.

General admission is \$4. Tickets are available at the door.

RECYCLE

A little effort.
A big difference.

Costs outpace revenue in DSD budget

General fund cuts necessary, but no layoffs in Dallas School District's 2017-18 proposal

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Dallas schools 2017-18 budget proposal, introduced to the district's budget committee Monday, features more money, but that is countered by rising costs.

Tami Montague, the district's director of fiscal services, said the district based the 2017-18 budget on the plan presented by the co-chairs of the Legislative Joint Ways & Means Committee, which allocates \$7.8 billion to schools in the 2017-19 biennium.

That is lower than Gov. Kate Brown's proposal of sending \$8.01 billion to schools, which state officials said still wouldn't prevent cuts.

Montague said it's unusual for the co-chairs to propose less than the governor, but there isn't much indication that figure will change at this point in the legislative session.

DSD 2017-18 proposed budget

General fund — \$33,340,400
Special Revenue Grants & Projects — \$3,793,642
Capital Construction Bond Projects — \$14,550,000
Food Services — \$1,030,150
Student Activity Funds — \$1,200,000
Debt Service Fund, general obligation bonds — \$2,465,130

"They are sticking hard to that number because there's a huge deficit at the state level they are trying to fill," she said. "We decided as a district that we would take a conservative approach, and base our budget on the \$7.8 billion because feel like we won't get less than that. There is a chance we could get more."

The district's total budget is about \$9 million more than the current budget, but most of that is accounted for in building maintenance projects paid for with a 2014 voter-approved bond. Bond projects will jump from \$8.095 million this year to \$14.5 million in 2017-18.

"We also have our bond

dollars coming in, so while we are talking reduction on this side, we are spending a lot of money on specific projects where we have targeted dollars for," Montague said.

General fund revenue is proposed to increase nearly \$1.9 million, mostly through growth in state support and a beginning fund balance that's higher than was expected.

"We are actually going to get more revenue next year, but with our PERS cost increases and just inflationary costs increases, we fell short," Montague said.

PERS costs amount to \$699,331, up from the expected \$660,000.

"Even though it feels like

there's a ton of volatility in that system, we do have some markers that let us make some predictions that were fairly accurate," Montague said. "We were able to tell a while ago that was coming, which led us to make some plans for last year. That's why we didn't add a ton of extra stuff and we held steady."

Another large part of the increase is due to enrollment growth at the charter schools the district sponsors, so most of \$293,543 in additional revenue will go to those schools.

Increases in transportation (\$107,164), staff salary 1 percent cost-of-living-adjustment (\$283,240), benefits (\$158,044) and an increase to the district's contingency fund (\$500,000) will claim the remainder — and then some.

That means general fund reductions, though no layoffs are necessary.

"Any positions where we've had to reduce are done so through attrition,"

THE NEXT
7
DAYS
PLANNING
FOR YOUR
WEEK



wed

Need to take a break from your youngsters? Respite care offers free child care for parents to run errands or just relax. 1-3 p.m. Free.



Rain/showers
Hi: 56
Lo: 41

thu

Join other musicians at the Dallas Senior Center for an old-time, gospel music jam. Bring a favorite finger food. 6:30 p.m. Free.



Showers
Hi: 57
Lo: 38

fri

Do you love Batman? How about Wonder Woman? Show off your inner hero during National Superhero Day.



Partly cloudy
Hi: 58
Lo: 37

sat

Celebrate trees at Mount Fir Park as Independence marks five years as a Tree City, USA, and our Inspiration Garden. 1-4 p.m. Free.



Partly cloudy
Hi: 60
Lo: 42

sun

Answer every question asked of you today truthfully to mark National Honesty Day.



Partly sunny
Hi: 61
Lo: 43

mon

Get outside and celebrate spring during May Day!



Partly cloudy
Hi: 60
Lo: 43

tue

Young dancers will perform a variety of dance styles during the France School of Dance recital at DRV. 4:30 p.m. Free.



Partly cloudy
Hi: 65
Lo: 45