



THIS WEEK

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Policy change ends deportation for Class C misdemeanors

By Jess Paniszczyn

For the last year, the Irving Police Department has worked with the Immigration Custom Enforcement Agency (ICE) in the development and implementation of the Criminal Alien Program (CAP). Through CAP everyone who was arrested and taken into custody was screened by ICE to determine his or her legal status in this country. Those found to be in America illegally were turned over to ICE for deportation.

On Tuesday, ICE implemented a significant policy change to CAP. ICE will no longer screen prisoners who are charged with Class C misdemeanors. In addition to most traffic violations, Class C misdemeanors include a number of minor violations such as disorderly conduct, criminal mischief, disturbing

the peace, drag racing, driver license expired, fictitious registration, discharging firearms in the city limits, possession of fireworks in the city limits, leaving the scene of an accident, littering, open container in vehicle, public intoxication – 1st and 2nd offense, and theft by check under \$50.

Those who are accused of Class B misdemeanors and more serious offenses will continue to be screened by ICE. As will, 'any foreign national arrested for ANY criminal offense that is in possession of a firearm at time of arrest.'

See ICE, Page 3

A rose by any other name may not be as sweet

By Jess Paniszczyn

Everyone takes some measure of pride in their last name. Not only do surnames link us to family members and those with whom

we share genetic characteristics. Some surnames link us to particular places and moments in time, such as Courtney, Kent and Franklin. Other surnames connect their owners with deeds of courage and strokes of genius, for example Quartermain, Villa, Bach and Edison.

Whether they are as common as Smith or as off the beaten path as Paniszczyn, our surnames are part of our identities.

The Census Bureau recently released a list of the top 1,000 surnames that appeared 100 or more times in the 2000 census returns. Because of the difficulties in creating such a list, this is only the second time the Census Bureau has created a surnames list.

See SURNAMES, Page 8



GET OUT OF JAIL FREE

Change in ICE policy means that persons in the country illegally will not be placed in ICE custody and deported for minor infractions including most traffic violations.

New pump station to provide water for future growth

By Jess Paniszczyn

City of Irving officials and staff as well as representatives from Archer Western Contractors Ltd. and Alan Plummer Associates Inc. gathered for the dedication of the Northgate Pump Station on Nov. 12. Designed to look like a railroad depot, the new station provides water to east and south Irving customers.

"When you add pump stations, you improve your reliability in your pumping system," Todd

Reck, Chief Utilities Officer, said during the dedication. "We have a couple of pump stations that can pump to this area, but as we continue to see growth it becomes harder and harder to meet demand. This station has made a big difference already with Texas Stadium and football games. It helps with our reliability in pressures. Especially in the summer time when we have high demand, and we are trying to keep up with it. The extra pumps make a big difference.

"With the cost of power, we try to make pump stations as efficient as possible. Millions of dollars a year can be spent on power. This station is not quite that big and it doesn't use that much horsepower. But it still is a big power user. Newer equipment, pumps and motors, are much more efficient than they were several years ago.

"The variable speed drives we incorporated in the design allow us to match exactly what the demand is in the system at any given time.

So they really help save on the power costs. We can let the pump run wide open, or we can ramp down the power feed to it and do a better job of matching what the true demand is at that time," he said.

The new pump station was designed to continue pumping water even if one pump fails or if the station loses power.

"There are three pumps in the pump station. Each one can pump

See PUMP, Page 12



Pumpstation designers and workers join city officials as they cut the ribbon in dedication of the Northgate Pump Station.

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POLICE & FIRE



Class A Accident: 11-18-07 at 12:49 p.m. A 50 year old male was operating his motorcycle at a

high rate of speed when he failed to control the bike and struck the inside curb of the roadway at Leland and O'Connor. The driver was ejected into a tree in the center median where he sustained critical class A injuries. He was not wearing a helmet.

Aggravated Robbery/ Home Invasion: 11-20-07 at 10:20 p.m. Three masked gunmen wearing gloves forced their way into the complainant's residence in the 4400 block of Windsor Ridge and

stole cash, jewelry, and other valuables. The suspects tied the victim up before fleeing on foot, possibly through the nearby golf course.

Aggravated Robbery: 11-20-07 at 8:50 p.m. Two suspects entered the Market Latina, 901 E. Irving Blvd, from an unlocked back door each displaying a handgun. One suspect fired a shot into the ceiling and the other demanded money from the register then from each of the patrons that were inside the location at the time. The two suspects fled out the back door and left in a vehicle that they parked in the alley. There were no injuries.

Officer Involved Shooting



11-17-07 at 2:27 a.m. Due to recent robberies and vehicle burglaries, officers were patrolling the streets and apartment complexes near Beltline Road and Walnut Hill Lane. Two officers located an individual in the back (north) parking lot of the Knollwood Apartments; 2743 W. Walnut Hill Ln. when they made contact with him (Calvin Moore, 31 of Irving). Moore fled on foot and was caught a short distance away. Attempts were made to control the individual and a struggle ensued. The officers deployed the TASER several times, but it was ineffective.

The man fought with the officers and attempted to take one of their guns.

During the assault of the officer and struggle for his gun the officer fired striking Moore twice. Moore was taken by ambulance to Parkland Memorial Hospital and the officer was transported to Baylor medical for injuries he received. At approximately 11:30 a.m. morning Moore was pronounced deceased at Parkland Memorial Hospital where he had undergone surgery.

It was later determined that Moore had active warrants for his arrest and a history of mental issues.

The officer was treated and released from Baylor.

Irving Fire Department

Activity summary Nov. 16 - 21, 2007

Irving Fire Department responded to 289 incidents.

The Fire incidents

- 80 Miscellaneous Fire and Rescue Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 2 Special Operations
- 1 Vehicle Fires

Medical calls

- 27 Major Accidents
- 78 Major Medical
- 23 Heart Attacks
- 22 Difficulty Breathing
- 35 Trauma Related
- 19 CPR Situations

Comments:

11-18: At 2:33 a.m. companies were dispatched to a person with a gunshot wound in the 200 block of Decker Dr., the patient was transported to Parkland Hospital. Ambulances went into overload once.

11-19: At 2:10 p.m. IFD was dispatched to a major accident on east bound John Carpenter Frwy at Hidden Ridge. First arriving units found a trapped victim and requested help for extrication. They also found diesel on the road and requested IFD's HAZ-MAT team. The victim was rescued and transported to the hospital. Ambulances went into overload once.

DSH Housing gives home to Gainesville flood victim

Provided by Brit Chambers

Lisa Arnett knows all too well what awaits those in Southern California as they return to their homes after the wildfires. Arnett's life was devastated on June 18 when massive flooding in Gainesville, TX swept her home off its foundation and down a creek bed.

The house, however, was not Arnett's largest loss. Her daughters Theresa and Makayla, aged five and two, were swept into the floodwaters and drowned, along with Arnett's mother-in-law Billie Mollenhour. Arnett fears returning to the scene of the disaster, and the young mother fights daily to regain her life after such great loss.

"We just want her to get her

footing and be able to start over again," said Brenda Helms, Arnett's mother, said. "I miss everyday with those girls. It's hard to be a grandparent one day, then not the next."

Irving based, DSH Housing Group, a leader in the manufactured home industry, wanted to reach out within the North Texas area to help. On Nov. 9, Arnett was handed the keys to a new home, built and customized just for her in DSH's manufacturing facilities.

"I can't imagine the loss and pain," DeVon S. Howard, president of DSH Housing Group, said. "It is our prayer that this new home provides Lisa with the means to move forward with her life, while paying tribute to the lives of her

beautiful daughters."

To make the house a true home, DSH has partnered with other corporate neighbors including Broyhill and Sleep Experts, to ensure Arnett has everything she needs to be comfortable. Arnett will work with DSH's design team throughout the next few weeks to create a design package that meets her specific needs and tastes. Her home will be delivered around Christmastime with a special visit from Deion and Pilar Sanders and their SandersClaus organization.

"We hope this gift will make Christmas special for Lisa this year," Howard said. "We're so thankful to be in a position where we can help such a deserving young lady."



Deion and Pilar Sanders with representatives from DSH Housing Group present home recipient Lisa Arnett with the floor plan and keys to her new home.

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If you have an upcoming event, game scores, a press release, or interesting story, please let us know. *The Irving Rambler* encourages submission of articles, facts, and photographs pertaining to the people, life, business, and entertainment of Irving, Texas.

The Irving Rambler is published weekly by Irving Rambler, Inc., P.O. Box 177731, Irving, TX 75017.

You can subscribe to *The Irving Rambler* for \$25 per year. *The Irving Rambler* is also distributed throughout Irving in businesses and public areas.

Deadline for the submission of articles and advertising is noon Monday, prior to the publication date. All submitted articles are subject to editing. Opinions expressed in submitted advertisements, articles, editorial, or commentary are those of the writer, and not necessarily those of *The Irving Rambler*, the publisher, editor, or any staff member. All articles, press releases, photographs and other materials submitted become the property of *The Irving Rambler*.

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The Irving Rambler Volume 4 Issue 31 is published weekly for \$25 dollars a year by The Irving Rambler, Inc. 627 S. Rogers, Irving, TX 75060. Periodicals postage pending at Washington, DC, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Irving Rambler, P.O. Box 177731, Irving, TX 75017.

Gateways to bring style to Irving's entrances

By Jess Paniszczyn

Two new gateways designed to welcome travelers to Irving and to enhance the beauty of the city are currently in the planning stages. The first gateway will be the intersection of Shady Grove and MacArthur and the other is the intersection of MacArthur and Weathered.

"Both gateways have a consistent design theme based on the Mustangs of Las Colinas," Casey Tate, Irving's Park Planning Superintendent, said. "Each will have an equestrian sculpture, and two masonry columns with a metal arch connecting them. They both have a plaza design with landscaping. This is all part of a process to

enhance the built environment in Irving and provide a better quality of life for the citizens.

"About a year ago we did a whole corridor/gateway review of the city. We looked at corridors that could be enhanced. Out of that study came seven locations where we will build these gateways over the course of time as funding becomes available. The seven will be major gateways into the city. As you travel through the Metroplex, it is kind of hard to tell when you are going from city to city. Travelers will know they are in Irving when they see one of these gateways.

"We didn't want to place the gateways at the city limits of Ir-

ving. We wanted to bring them in so they become part of a corridor enhancement. As you drive up MacArthur from I-30 the Shady Grove intersection is the first major intersection travelers come to."

The MacArthur, Shady Grove intersection will be designed to complement the proposed North Lake College campus.

"We have an agreement with the College District to use a small portion of their front corner for the gateway, so it will be built on their land. It will also serve as a pedestrian gateway into the campus. We are also going to redo the curbs, there will be an overlay with asphalt to put a decorative impression in the intersection, and we are

also placing the overhead power lines on both sides of the intersection underground. We are adding decorative street lighting for the intersection signals as well. All four corners will have decorative landscaping and low walls. So the entire intersection will be upgraded. We are trying to get all of this finished for the opening of the college, which is projected to be in January of 2009. Overall between the underground utilities, roadway improvements and gateway, that intersection will cost

around two million dollars. Most of that is for utilities.

"These are ground breaking gateways. A lot of cities will put up a masonry wall in the median or they will build a small wall with the city's name on it. There are so many subdivisions and developments that have those little walls that people just pass by without noticing. These gateways are designed to be a piece of art, to be more monumental, to catch your attention, and to make a statement," Mr. Tate said.

Irving ISD Holiday Adopt A Family program

Irving ISD will sponsor their annual Holiday Adopt A Family program through Dec. 7. This program gives individuals, organizations and companies the opportunity to "adopt" one or more Irving ISD students and their families for the holiday season. When someone "adopts a family" they will receive a wish list from a school counselor giving them a list of items that the family can use such as linens, clothing, toys and food. The list includes sizes and other details that will help the buyer make the purchases. Once they purchase the items, they will work with the school counselor to determine delivery date and whether the items will be delivered to the school or to the family. The project has been

very successful, resulting in many smiles and genuine appreciation for their generosity.

If you are interested in "adopting a family" contact Thelma

Cantu, Partnerships in Education Coordinator at 972-215-5017 or tcantu@irvingisd.net. She will connect you to a counselor at a participating school.

Ranchview pianist ranked in state

Ranchview High School Orchestra students competed in the All-State auditions on Nov. 3 - 4 at Southwestern University in Georgetown, TX. Of the over 700 entries into the competition, only 230 make it into the string sections of the orchestras. The All-State Orchestra system consists of three orchestras: Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonic Orchestra, and the String Orchestra.

Four Ranchview High School students advanced from regions to this audition.

Cindy Xu, pianist, is the ranked second in the State of Texas. She will perform with the 5A Concert Band in San Antonio in February.

Other Ranchview students advancing to the auditions were Hamilton Pyburn, Bassist - ranked 54th overall in the state, John Back, Cellist and Michelle Lim, Cellist.

ICE overwhelmed with our success

Continued from page 1

After learning of the policy change, Mayor Gears expressed some disappointment with the decision, but reassured citizens that the City of Irving will continue to work with ICE to make the CAP program successful.

"We have worked very hard to help ICE do their jobs, and we have gotten great results. We have been taking a lot of heat for it. And it seems like they left us out to dry a little bit. We overwhelmed them with our success. They just don't have the resources to keep up. It is disappointing to us, but we will continue to work with them and with their program however they structure it to continue to get the results we are getting.

"We will continue to screen every prisoner. But we now know about half of those who were detained by ICE in the past will no longer be interviewed by ICE. They will just go through the normal adjudication process," Mayor Gears said.

The policy change may have resulted from the CAP program enjoying too much success in Irving and other cities.

"Irving has been held up as a model for other cities throughout the country regarding how to ef-

fectively work with the Federal government to enforce the law. We were so successful that we revealed a weakness in the system. There are not enough resources to take on the task currently mandated by law, which is to remove those who are in the country illegally.

"I think the fact that so many other cities are emulating Irving's program has overwhelmed ICE because of the results they are getting. This division of ICE is responsible for 128 counties in Texas and all 77 counties of Oklahoma. They have in their purview 413 different facilities to house, detain and process people. And they are full to capacity. So ICE needed to make this change," Mayor Gears said. "That large part of the Federal government has essentially implemented a policy says they will enforce the law in some cases and not in other cases. This is very unusual.

"We will pursue getting back on track with the original program. We will ask that ICE find the resources they need to be able to continue the program. In any case, we will continue to work with them. It really is their program.

"I would suspect that ICE will be hearing from a lot of very unhappy people in Irving, around Texas, probably from all over

Oklahoma and maybe from around the country. When they feel pressure, they tend to find resources. In the mean time, we will continue to screen every person who comes into our jail."

A direct result of working with ICE to implement CAP is that Irving is a safer city.

"In a real sense, crime is down. Police report less criminal activity. Even in the Fire Department there are fewer calls for different types of disturbances. We had nine murders in the city last year; six of those were committed by people who were not in the country legally.

"We have learned that about 21% of the crime in our community is being committed by people who are not in the country legally. We know that the program we work with is attending to our responsibilities to make neighborhoods safer. We are really not engaging in the national debate. We are just thinking about what is good for Irving.

"Many life-long residents of Irving are proud to live in Irving again. They have not felt that way for a long, long time. For whatever reason, they feel proud now. I am very happy to be a part of providing that for some residents of Irving," he said.

Public transportation funding awarded

Provided by Mark Ball

State transportation officials today approved sending \$28.7 million to public transportation providers for fiscal year 2008.

The action follows recent work by legislative leaders to restore \$17.6 million in state grant funding for small urban and rural transit providers for the fiscal year 2008 - 2009 biennium.

"Legislative leaders restored funding for these transit providers to historical levels," Eric Gleason, TxDOT's director of public transportation, said.

The commission also approved a \$2.6 million award in transportation development credits for various public transportation capital projects.

Transportation development credits (TDCs)—formerly known as toll credits—became a stronger funding option as a result of federal legislation by U.S. Congressman Michael Burgess in 2005.

The credits are earned when

local and state funds are used to construct toll facilities. The federal government credits states for their investment in these projects by allowing them to be used to offset other transportation expenditures. State and federal law permit the substitution of toll credits as the required non-federal match for capital projects.

In December 2006, the transportation commission expressed its desire to award TDCs to transit providers for projects that comply with the department's five goals to reduce congestion, expand economic opportunity, enhance safety, improve air quality, and increase the value of transportation asset.

Examples of eligible projects would be the replacement and expansion of fleet vehicles and maintenance facilities.

During 2006, Texas' rural and small urban transit agencies provided nearly 22 million rides.

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Direct Energy's largest Texas offices win the Alfred P. Sloan Award

Provided by Sarah Kelleher

Direct Energy's U.S. headquarters in Houston, and its second-largest Texas office in Irving have both been named winners of the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility.

The two awards recognize Direct Energy for its workplace flexibility initiative, which allows for a better work/life balance and helps the company meet office space needs through growth periods. The company also was look-

ing for a way to address rising traffic congestion and air quality issues.

"Direct Energy wants to be the employer of choice in Houston," Jim Steffes, Vice President and General Manager, Texas Consumer Markets, said. "And ensuring balance in our employees' lives is the right thing to do. Our success as a retailer in Texas begins with our employees."

According to participating employees, work/life balance is only one of the benefits of Direct

Energy's program.

"The flexible policy at Direct Energy is one of the biggest employee retention tools. I have a toddler at home and the flex policy helps me to spend some precious time with my child in the evening rather than spend it commuting home in rush-hour," Runsi Sen, a marketing manager who works from home in the afternoons, said. "This reduces my stress and anxiety to a significant extent, and makes me a lot more productive and loyal to the company as an

employee."

Sen's comments were echoed by Ruth Noel, a senior administrator of Direct Energy's Office of the President, which manages escalated customer concerns. Noel, who accepted the award for the Houston office from Mayor Bill White at a luncheon in late October, works mainly from home, spending only two days a week in the office.

"Flex work gives me the opportunity to be immediately available to my three-year-old son should the need arise. On the two days I am in the office, I'm able to utilize the city's public transit system which allows me to save at least \$60 a week on gas because I only have to drive a short distance

to the park-and-ride," she said.

The Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility are part of the *When Work Works* project, an ongoing initiative of Families and Work Institute, the Institute for a Competitive Workforce (ICW), an affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the Twiga Foundation to recognize businesses that are dedicated to making work "work" for the employer and the employees. Through *When Work Works*, these partner organizations provide research, resources and recognition to businesses nationwide, and share the results of the research on creating effective and flexible workplaces that meet the needs of the 21st century.

Margaret's Corner



Hi Irving! Hope you and your family had a wonderful blessed Thanksgiving. It's a wonderful time that we set aside to honor our Lord with thankful hearts as we should. We are so blessed, so often we take it for granted. I hope you and your family were all together and celebrated your own traditions, which are priceless. I also hope you joined us, and the many people that kept our military families in your

prayers. We put our flag out in their honor.

I enjoy preparing the turkey, my famous dressing, homemade cranberry relish, the rest my wonderful daughters take care of, they are incredible cooks. Our Thanksgiving was great. We hope yours was as well.

It's true though that nothing is ever perfect, however, we can chose to rejoice and realize how blessed we are.

On another note, if you are interested in advertising, it will benefit you to do so before the end of

this year. You may call me 214 402 8000, or email me at maggie0720@juno.com as soon as you can.

Praying To Make A Difference. Attend Church Sunday God Bless You

Margaret Lopez is an independent writer for the Irving Rambler. An Irving resident for more than 12 years, she and her husband have been married for more than 40 years and have four daughters and four grandsons.

Opinions expressed in any commentary are those of the writer, and not necessarily those of The Irving Rambler, the publisher, editor, or any staff member.

Holiday Extravaganza to include Centennial Park

Celebrate the holiday season with the City of Irving's Holiday Extravaganza on Dec. 1. The free event will kick off at 4 p.m. with a Christmas parade in the Heritage District, followed by a tree-lighting ceremony at 5:30 p.m. at Irving City Hall, 825 W. Irving Blvd.

Additional entertainment includes holiday music by the Irving Symphonic Band, a fireworks show, Nimitz High Madrigal Choir, Santa Claus visits, outdoor games, a petting zoo, pony rides and food.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for families to begin their holiday season," Paul Gooch, managing

director of Community Services, said. "Everyone will enjoy the seasonal music, children's activities, visits by Santa, tree lighting and the fireworks celebration. We invite everyone to come and share in the holiday spirit."

An added feature to this year's holiday festivities is the holiday lights at Centennial Park, which will be on display during Holiday Extravaganza and will continue through the month of December. Centennial Park is located at 444 W. Second St.

For more information, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 972-721-2501.

Pump station to provide better service

Continued from page 1

about 7.75 million gallons per day. Only two of the pumps are operating at any given time. Because at any time we could have one of the pumps out of service," Mr. Reck said.

"The station is sized for future growth. There are bays for two future pumps. In the future, we could essentially double the capacity of this station as we see more development. On the site we have a five million gallon storage tank. We have room between the pump station and the existing tank to build a future tank.

"Stand by power is critical. We have a large generator, roughly 1,000 kilowatts. It can handle the entire load of this pump station. If we lose power, we can get the generator up and running and continue to run the pumps uninterrupted," he said.

James Cline, Jr., Irving's Public Works Director, was on hand for the dedication.

"This facility should increase our ability to keep better water pressure in this part of town. It gives us better redundancy in our system. All in all, it provides a whole lot better service for all of our customers.

"The facility has room for expansion. So we can address not only are needs today, but our needs in the future," Mr. Cline said.

Mayor Gears praised the efforts of those who helped make the pump station a reality.

"The city really does a first class job in everything that they do. I hope those of you who were a part of that are proud. We want to have our commitment to take care of the people in the same way that we take care of this type of public infrastructure. Projects like this will help our community for a long, long time to come. This facility will be important with regards to delivery of the services we provide in the areas where we are having a great deal of new development," Mayor Gears said.

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Mungles on Movies

By Matt Mungle
Title: *The Mist*
Rated: R

Human nature can be more terrifying than anything lurking under your bed or tucked away in your closet. You put normal, everyday people in a stressful environment and you have the opportunity to see the worst in mankind.

Stephen King has always been the master of that perspective look into human life. He has a way of using the scary creatures as a springboard for the real terror. How we react. The new film *The Mist* follows the mold that King forged in his 1985 short story of

Sometimes it is safer outside

the same name. Director and screenplay writer Frank Darabont was able to stay pretty true to the original, which is always a wise choice.

As a thick fog rolls through a small town the inhabitants discover that death itself is concealed in the mist. When the creatures start making themselves known death seems a welcomed relief. Holed up in a grocery store a handful of towns people must learn to survive each other as much as what threatens from outside. The character traits aren't unique, but it is their actions that drive the story. Almost like animation. They take a person and exaggerate their defining characteristics to a height-

ened point. The outcome is personalized horror.

This film has the elements to please most thriller horror fans but may be over the top for those who are squeamish and like their terror clean and tidy. The "creatures" are apocalyptic in design and a nice change to the normal fare. Again I think the story line is what makes this a decent film since there is only so much you can do with things that go bump in the night. Is this on the level with *The Shining*, *Carrie* or any of the earlier King classics? Not even close. But it is a well made film for the genre.

The Mist is rated R for violence, terror and gore, and language. This is not a film for those of soft eyes and ears. It is visually graphic and at times verbally and physically violent. The language too is very adult in nature. Unless you live in Tucumcari, NM and that is your only choice, there are

way better options for your Holiday viewing and you are better off choosing something for the whole family. I give it 3 out of 5. One, because Stephen King is the master, and I like that the movie played and felt like a King book reads. Two, the ending is unforgettable.

Matt is a member of the North Texas Film Critics Association (NTFCA) and hosts the weekly syndicated Indie Rock Radio Show Spin 180. Plus with his wife Cindy they do a weekly radio feature, *The Mungles on Movies*. For additional reviews and interview clips visit www.mungleshow.com.

Opinions expressed in any commentary are those of the writer, and not necessarily those of *The Irving Rambler*, the publisher, editor, or any staff member.

Writing about monsters

Lively Elementary School fourth grade students partnered with fourth graders at John Haley Elementary School for writing project. John Haley students created monsters, wrote descriptive stories about them, and sent the stories to their partner classes at Lively. Fourth

graders at Lively took the stories and recreated the monsters based on the descriptions provided. Students learned how important good writing and communication are to informing your reader. The classes at both schools shared the results via video conference.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

November 24

Cookie Madness & Puppet Show Day - Join the fun with an afternoon of cookie stories and the Gingerbread Man Puppet Show 2 p.m., Northwest Branch, 2928 N. Belt Line Road. Learn how to decorate a cookie, too. No registration required. For more information, call 972721-2691.

November 24 - December 31

Laissez les Bon Temps Roulez - Laissez les Bon Temps Roulez (Let the Good Times Roll): A Cajun Christmas! 15th Annual Holiday Exhibition and Tree Decorating Competition presented by Irving Arts Center - The theme for this year celebrates the rich and colorful Cajun culture and holiday traditions of Louisiana. Trees decorated by parent-teacher organizations/affiliations from Irving's schools as well as artwork by IISD elementary students will fill the Main Gallery with Cajun décor. The Holiday Open House on Dec. 7 will feature free family fun and a live concert with Beau Soleil avec Michael Doucet. FREE. www.IrvingArtsCenter.com.

November 26

Book Review Club - The Twentieth Century Book Review Club will meet at 9:30 a.m. Monday, November 26, 2007 at the Garden and Arts Center, 906 Senter St. Rose Mary Rumbley will review *The Snow Must go on from the South Pole to the North Pole with Three Stops in Between* by Molly Wigand.

November 27

Irving Women's Network - The Irving Women's Network meeting will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on at the Las Colinas Country Club at 4400 N. O'Connor Blvd. in Irving. There will be a networking opportunity structured to provide circulation

among members and guests. Soup and salad bar are \$13.50 and the full luncheon buffet is \$21.00. Please make your reservations no later than 10:00 a.m. on Nov. 23 by calling Jodi Reynolds at 972-253-8021 or emailing her at jodireynolds@yahoo.com.

November 30 - December 1

Auditions for world premiere of In Defense of Better Days by Bill Fountain - Nov. 30 7pm - 9pm Dec. 1 2pm to 5pm at the ICT Studio, 2333 W. Rochelle, Irving. Call 972-594-6104 for an appointment. About the play: A giant asteroid is a few days from slamming into the Earth and ending all life as we know it. *In Defense of Better Days* is the story of a family reunited in the midst of great hardship and challenge. An engaging and original story about survival, hope and most of all, the power of love. For more information about the play, see www.levelgroundfilms.com

November 30

Irving Symphony League - Irving Symphony League's 007 Diamond Gala at the La Cima Club. Champagne reception followed by dinner and entertainment. Call 972-257-1107 for more information. Tickets are \$150 per person.

November 30 - December 8

Annual Crèche (Nativity) Display - The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 120 E. Rochelle (four blocks east of O'Connor on Rochelle), Irving (www.redeemer-irving.org) will have their annual Crèche (Nativity) display. It is estimated that it will feature approximately 175 Crèches of all types, from simple children's nativity scenes to elaborate and beautiful antique ceramic, china and carved wooden displays from the personal collection of Redeemer members and friends. The display will be arranged by international, tradi-

tional, modern and children's Crèches. For more information, call the Church office at 972-255-4171.



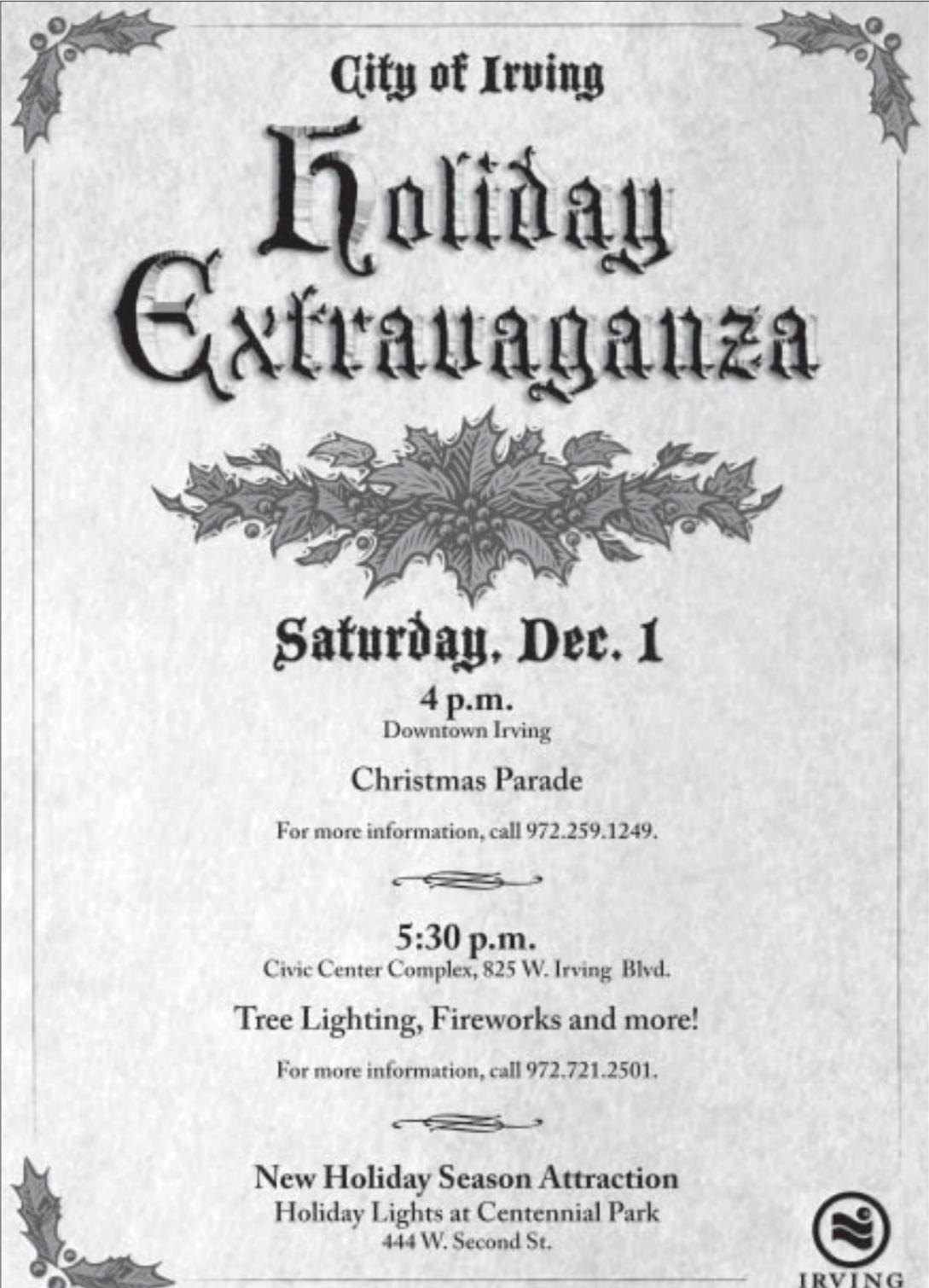
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#ENCHANTED PG 11:55 12:55 2:30 4:05 5:05 6:55 7:35 9:30 10:10	MR. MAGORIAM'S WONDER EMPORIUM G 12:15 2:35 5:10 7:30 9:50
#HITMAN R 12:20 2:35 5:10 7:30 9:50	BEE MOVIE PG 12:30 1:05 2:45 3:15 4:50 5:20 7:30 9:45
THE MIST PG13 1:10 4:10 7:15 10:20	LIONS FOR LAMBS R 7:40 10:00
*AUGUST RUSH PG13 1:40 4:35 7:10 9:55	AMERICAN GANGSTER R 12:05 3:25 6:50 10:15
*THIS CHRISTMAS PG 1:10 4:10 7:15 10:20	DAN IN REAL LIFE R 1:45 4:30 6:45 9:05
*BEOWULF PG13 12:00 12:45 2:40 3:40 5:20 7:00 7:55 9:40 10:25	*FRED CLAUSE PG 1:00 4:00 7:05 9:20

NO PASSES * FULLY RESTRICTED

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City of Irving
Holiday Extravaganza

Saturday, Dec. 1
4 p.m.
Downtown Irving
Christmas Parade

For more information, call 972.259.1249.

5:30 p.m.
Civic Center Complex, 825 W. Irving Blvd.
Tree Lighting, Fireworks and more!

For more information, call 972.721.2501.

New Holiday Season Attraction
Holiday Lights at Centennial Park
444 W. Second St.

IRVING

Barbara Bush Middle school winners awarded field trip to art museums

Thirty Barbara Bush Middle school students were awarded a special field trip to the Crow Collection of Asian Art and the Dallas Museum of Art by the Parent Teacher Association for creatively expressing themselves through the arts with winning entries in the annual PTA Reflections contest. Each year students across the country submit photographs, paintings, drawings, songs, stories, dance videos and film productions to the Reflections Program. These works can be completed at home or school and prizes are awarded at first at school, then district level, state level and all the way to National PTA levels. Works are judged by local artisans for their creativity, originality and interpretation of a theme, which was "I Can Make A Difference By..." for 2007. Some of the student's entries proposed that they could make a difference by: "Lending a Helping Hand," "Being a Good Role Model for My Sister," "Pursuing My Passion," "Clearing Away the Darkness,"

and "Showing that Friendship Has No Color."

The entries which earned an award of excellence will be forwarded on to district judging in December. They are as follows:

Film/Video
Sheida Karami

Dance Choreography
Hannah Pierce

Photography
Brianna Torres, Hannah Pierce, Katie Killian, Grace Drake, Paulena Lynch, Kazuomi Motoike, Corey Herndon

Visual Arts
Alexa Stewart, Silvia Villanueva, Sabrina Chowdhury, Heather Jang, Min Seon, Caroline Killian, Rupal Sanghavi

Literature
Kendall Richards, Chang Ko, Alexa Stewart, Cody Wienholz, Audra LaCroix, Ashley Kim



Winners of the PTA Reflections Art Contest from Barbara Bush Middle School are awarded a field trip to the Dallas Museum of Art and the Crow Collection of Asian Art. Thirty students are accompanied by Art Teacher Lisa Ward and BBMS Principal Lynda Opitz.

Funds for Phoenix Project



Lamar Middle School students raised \$1,016 during Red Ribbon Week for the Phoenix Project, which is a non-profit organization designed to provide drug and alcohol prevention and intervention strategies for youth.

Bright Lights Cool Sights
2007-08
IRVING ARTS CENTER

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The Nutcracker
Momentum Dance Company
Carpenter Performance Hall
7:30 PM & 2 PM Sunday

Fri-Sun, Nov. 30 - Dec. 2
The Nutcracker
Ballet Ensemble of Texas
Carpenter Performance Hall
2:30 & 7:30 PM

Sat. 1, 8 & 15
Family Funday and Papa Noël Visit
Irving Arts Center
Main Gallery • 2 - 4 PM • FREE

Tuesday, December 4
Inspiring Excellence - Irving ISD Orchestras
New Philharmonic Orchestra of Irving
Carpenter Performance Hall • 8 PM

¡CAJÓN CHRISTMAS
and Bayou Bash Concert & Dance
BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet
Irving Arts Center Carpenter Performance Hall 8:30 PM

Let the Good Times Roll!
Irving Arts Center
FREE 15th Annual Holiday Open House
Friday, Dec. 7 from 5-7 PM

BeauSoleil

IRVING ARTS CENTER

www.IrvingArtsCenter.com
Box Office, 972.252.ARTS
3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. Irving, TX 75062

Advanced Placement scores increase

The College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) program offers students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school, and receive college credit for successful performance on AP exams.

Over the past three years, Irving ISD has seen a steady increase in the number of high school students who receive a score of 3 or higher on AP exams. Exams are scored on a scale of 1 to 5.

For 2004-2005, 522 IISD high school students scored grades of 3 or higher on AP exams. The number jumped to 651 in 2005-2006, followed by another increase to 671 in 2006-2007.

The IISD also ensures access to all advanced academic and elective classes for all students. In that regard, the participation of minority students in AP courses has continued to increase over the past several years. In 2002, 40% of minority students, who graduated from an IISD high school, participated in AP courses. By 2007, the number had increased to 64%.

10 seniors earn Commended Status

Ten IISD seniors have been named Commended Students in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program.

The seniors selected as Commended Students are: Gretchen Geltemeyer, Luke Hamilton, Daniel McCalip, Pavel Nitchovski, and Rachel Smith of MacArthur High School; and Min-Young Kang, Kent Kirkman, Jaclyn Le, Jonathan Lewis, and Lee Poppell of Nimitz High School.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are recognized for their exceptional academic promise. They placed among the top five percent of more than 1.4 million students who entered the 2008 competition by taking the 2006 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Vocal Majority Chorus presents Christmas shows



Dallas' The Vocal Majority Chorus presents its 2007 Christmas Shows, "Believe," in a four-show series scheduled from Dec. 13-15 at the Eisemann Center in Richardson. Last year's shows were performed to more than 7,500 people.

Irving residents David Ennis (bass), Todd Montag (baritone), Martin Senstock (bass), and Brady Anderson (lead) will sing in the shows.

CF-B ISD announces Achievement Scholars

Cashe Donnerson, Reginald Nubine, and Lily Dela Fuente of Newman Smith High School are a part of 1,600 Black American high school seniors designated Semifinalists in the 44th annual Achievement Scholarship® competition. These scholastically talented students have an opportunity to continue in the competition for approximately 800 Achievement Scholarship awards, worth some \$2.5 million.

Semifinalists must fulfill several additional requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. Achievement Scholarship winners are selected from the Finalists on the basis of their abilities, accomplishments, and potential for success in college. Approximately 1,300 Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing in the 2008 National Achievement Program, and some 800 will become Achievement Scholar® awardees.

PTC recognizes company

Provided by Kelly Oliver

The Parents Television Council™ congratulated the Campbell Soup Company because the company “consistently avoids advertising on programming that contains graphic violence, excessive sexual content and foul language,” PTC Director of Advertiser Programs Glen Erickson, said.

“The Parents Television Council observes television content from all the major broadcast networks as well as original basic cable programming. Our analysts just recently released its rankings of best and worst advertisers with Campbell Soup scoring number thirty. Advertising in such family-friendly shows as *1, Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*, and *7th Heaven* have placed Campbell Soup in an exclusive

group of content-sensitive advertisers,” he said. “The Campbell Soup Company clearly understands what it means to be a good corporate citizen and the importance of adhering to a set of media guidelines for its advertising messages, which is why we would like to present you with the PTC Seal of Approval for the second time.

“On behalf of our 1.2 million members, I’d like to encourage the Campbell Soup Company to keep up the good work and to continue to offer leadership in making wise media choices. Thank you Chairman Golub and the entire Campbell Soup management team for what we see as an over-arching commitment to family-quality entertainment,” Mr. Erickson said.

Tree Dedication Ceremony

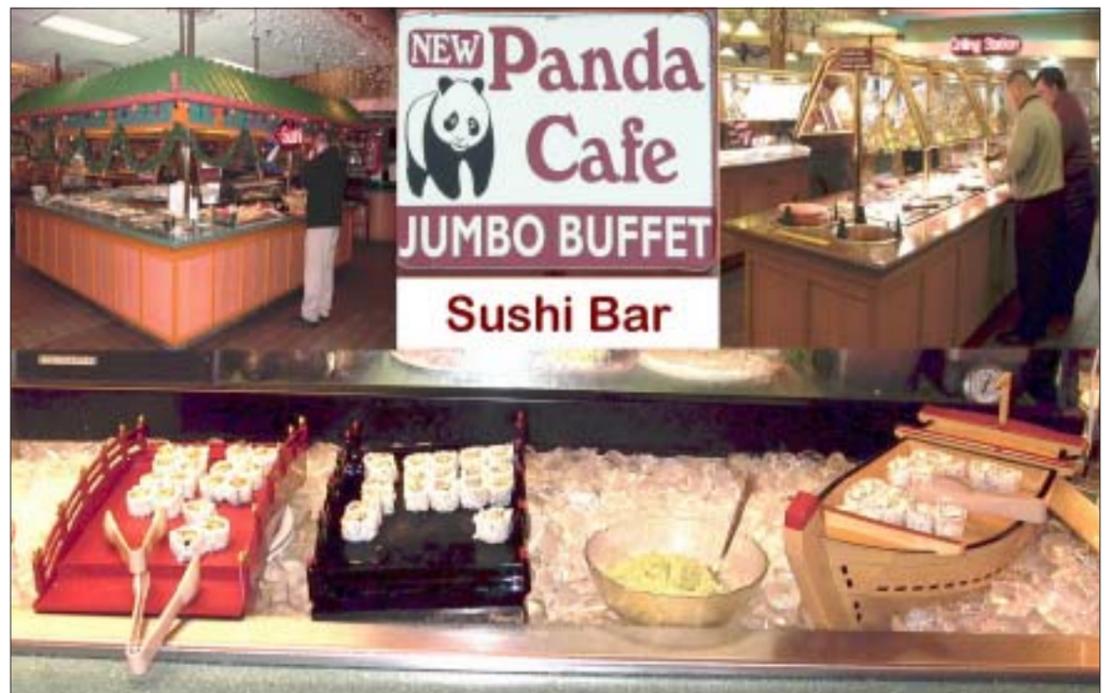


Thomas Haley Elementary School staff and students remembered Bruce McDole, former computer technician, with a tree dedication ceremony on Nov. 5.

Ratteree Hosts Army NASCAR



Ratteree Career Development Center automotive students are visited by the Army NASCAR. One of the crew speaks with students and answers questions.



New Panda Cafe will be closed Thanksgiving Day
We will re-open on Friday, November 23rd at 11:00am
Thank you for your patronage, Have a Happy Thanksgiving

Boiled Shrimp



Oysters On the Half Shell



Crab Claws Crab Legs



Mongolian Barbeque
Grilling Station
Create your own Dish
See it Grilled to Order



Desserts - Flan - Crème Brulee - Banana Pudding - Cakes
Cookies - Ice Cream - Make your own Sundae - Fresh Fruit - Jello

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Sundays & Holidays All Day \$9.50			
Private Party Room Available for Groups, Parties, Special Events Catering Available for Meetings, Receptions - Call 972-258-8338 Email: yuqihotmail@yahoo.com - 2535 W. Airport Fwy, Irving TX, 75062			
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE			

Two Irving tourism officials take top honors at inaugural HOSPYS Gala

Provided by Ken Benson

It was an evening of fun and celebration as hoteliers from across the North Texas gathered to honor the hotel industry's top performers over the past year on Nov. 10.

The event was Hotel Association of Greater Dallas' inaugural HOSPYS Award Gala held at the Hilton Anatole Hotel.

The hotel association's

Meals on Wheels training offered

Provided by Robert Smith

The Visiting Nurse Association needs Meals on Wheels volunteer drivers who want to help the homebound frail elderly, sick, and disabled.

Meals on Wheels volunteer training will take place Dec. 3 from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. on the fourth floor of the VNA headquarters at

1600 Viceroy Drive in Dallas. The training will be repeated on Dec. 17 at the same time. There is no cost to attend.

Volunteers are an essential part of the Meals on Wheels program that provides home-delivered nutritious meals to the homebound.

"HOSPYS" award recognizes the contribution of an individual or organization to the industry over the past year.

Two Irving tourism industry officials took top honors at the Gala.

Maura Gast, president of the Irving Visitors Convention & Visitors Bureau, was awarded the "Friend of the Industry" award for her support of the hotel industry and work in promoting tourism to North Texas.

Gail Jackson, General Manager of the Hilton Garden Inn DFW South, was chosen General Manager of the Year in the Select Service Hotel category for her contributions to the industry and the hotel community in North Texas.

In all, Fifteen "HOSPYS" a-

wards were presented individuals and hotels across North Texas recognizing their contribution to the industry over the past year.

"This is a night where we celebrated those who have helped make the North Texas hotel industry one of the best in the country," Brooke Dieterlen, executive director of the Hotel Association of Greater Dallas, said. "It is through their efforts, which are made on a

daily basis, that North Texas remains one of the top places to visit or hold meetings in the nation."

The Hotel Association of Greater Dallas is one of the largest hotel local hotel associations in the country representing more than 35,000 rooms in the market. Established in 1926, the association works to promote the interests of the hotel community in North Texas.

Surnames reflect demographic changes

Continued from page 1

Topping the list at over two million instances is the traditionally American name Smith followed by Johnson and Williams.

Entering the top ten surnames are two Hispanic surnames. Garcia, number eight, and Rodriguez, number nine rose on the list, as Taylor and Moore tumbled to number 13 and 16 respectfully. Further down the list, sandwiched between Lopez - 21 and Gonzales - 23, the traditionally Asian surname Lee holds number 22.

The top twenty surnames are:

Rank	Name	Number of occurrences
1	Smith	2,376,206
2	Johnson	1,857,160
3	Williams	1,534,042
4	Brown	1,380,145
5	Jones	1,362,755
6	Miller	1,127,803
7	Davis	1,072,335
8	Garcia	858,289
9	Rodriguez	804,240
10	Wilson	783,051
11	Martinez	775,072
12	Anderson	762,394
13	Taylor	720,370
14	Thomas	710,696
15	Hernandez	706,372
16	Moore	698,671
17	Martin	672,711
18	Jackson	666,125
19	Thompson	644,368
20	White	639,515

To view a complete list of the top 1,000 surnames, visit www.census.gov/genealogy/www/freqnames2k.html.

MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

On Nov. 21, 1877, Thomas Edison announces his invention of the phonograph, a way to record and play back sound. The machine was a stylus on a tinfoil cylinder, which played back a short song he had recorded, "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

On Nov. 23, 1888, Adolph Marx (later known as Arthur, then as Harpo) is born in New York City. Along with brothers Chico, Groucho, Zeppo and Gummo, he began performing at the encouragement of their mother, Minna, who came from a vaudeville family.

On Nov. 26, 1922, in Egypt's Valley of the Kings, British archaeologists become the first souls to

enter King Tutankhamen's tomb in more than 3,000 years. Tutankhamen's sealed burial chambers held a gold coffin containing the mummy of the teenage king.

On Nov. 24, 1932, the FBI Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory officially opens in Washington, D.C. The lab, chosen because it had a sink, operated out of a single room with one full-time employee and borrowed equipment.

On Nov. 25, 1941, Adm. Harold R. Stark, U.S. chief of naval operations, tells Adm. Husband E. Kimmel, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, that President Roosevelt thinks a Japanese surprise attack is a distinct

possibility. But no one expected the target would be Hawaii, which was attacked 12 days later.

On Nov. 22, 1955, record company RCA announces that it has purchased the recording contract for Elvis Presley from Sun Records. RCA paid \$35,000 for the contract — a record sum at the time. Presley also received a \$5,000 advance, which he used to buy a pink Cadillac for his mother.

On Nov. 27, 1968, Steppenwolf's first album, featuring the hit "Born to Be Wild," is certified gold with sales in excess of 500,000 copies. "Born to Be Wild" was a well-known example of the ongoing love affair of rock 'n' roll with fast driving.

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3 bedroom house, fenced yard, MacArthur/Rochelle area 1105 Fairfield St. Call 972-293-9768

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Mike Overby, PE/CMC Principal & Owner Express Personnel Services Dallas Metro Office 4070 N. Beltline Rd #126 Irving, TX 75038 972-258-4981 - Office 469-222-5559 - Cell An ISO 9001-2000 Certified Company "Helping People Succeed" Link to our monthly newsletter: www.expresspersonnel.com/newsletters/e_exchange.htm HRTips: <http://employers.expresspersonnel.com/us/solutions/hr-tip-archives.aspx>

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214-247-4544

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Please call today for more information.
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Each additional word \$0.20

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		3	2			9	1	
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging

Games and Puzzles

ComParrot by Bonnie J. Malcolm

Can you spot 12 differences between these pictures?



www.comparrotpuzzles.com © 2007 Bonnie J. Malcolm



Solution: 1. Grass under iguana is missing. 2. Bridge appears on guitar. 3. Tuft of grass on cliff is missing. 4. Medalion on girl's tie is colored in. 5. Extra string appears on guitar. 6. Iguana's tail has moved. 7. Palm tree has moved. 8. Musical note has moved. 9. Shirt sleeve is wrinkled. 10. Flame from fire has moved. 11. Label on coffee pot is different. 12. Cactus behind girl is reversed.

MAGIC MAZE — SANDWICH

H C Z W U R P O M J H E C P Z
 X U S R Q J N L R J G E I C Z
 X V C T E & R P N E L D J H E
 R C H P A B U L C Y H A W V T
 E R I P A P M A H C N L L K I
 U L C G E S F U N C B A Z F X
 B W K (M O N T E C R I S T O)
 E S E C E R R R P U O A M L L
 N J N P U F I G A E C N D R B
 B A O Y E N I R A M B U S A X
 W U T S Q P K O N L I T K E J

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

BLT	French dip	Monte Cristo	Reuben
Chicken	Ham	Open-face	Submarine
Cucumber	Hero	Pastrami	Tuna salad
Earl of	Knuckle	PB&J	

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Contact us at 214-675-6493 if your business would like to sponsor the games section of the Irving Rambler. Almost everyone likes to play games giving advertisers a captive and entertained audience. We are considering a variety games and puzzles. Sponsoring this section would guarantee you could play your favorite game every week.

Super Crossword THEY'RE DRIVEN

- ACROSS**
- 1 Din from dynamite
 - 5 Iceberg kin
 - 9 Exclude
 - 13 Platonic character
 - 18 South Seas novel
 - 19 Steber solo
 - 20 Iago or Othello
 - 21 Alligator relative
 - 22 Driven President?
 - 25 Procure
 - 26 "Rawhide" rope
 - 27 Muslim deity
 - 28 Select, with "for"
 - 30 Pig — poke
 - 31 Fluffy female
 - 33 Driven novelist?
 - 38 Might
 - 43 Art deco designer
 - 44 Caution
 - 45 Rush
 - 46 Son of Zeus
 - 48 Big man on campus
 - 50 Paris' pop
 - 53 Driven humorist?
 - 56 Shorten a skirt
 - 58 Aquatic mammal
 - 60 Trattoria treat
 - 61 "L'—, c'est moi"
 - 65 Longfellow subject
 - 67 "Carmina Burana" composer
 - 70 Take the tube
 - 71 "Kidnapped" monogram
 - 72 Prepares to dine
 - 73 Part of EST
 - 76 Driven actress?
 - 80 Mushroom part
 - 81 Meat cut
 - 83 Thompson or Salonga
 - 84 — breve
 - 85 Barbecue
 - 87 Pangolin, for one
 - 89 Slender
 - 90 Heel type
 - 94 Mideastern pockets
 - 95 Smidgen
 - 97 Driven actor?
 - 101 Terra —
 - 103 Lauder powder
 - 106 Garment feature
 - 107 Accomplished
 - 108 Time to evolve?
 - 110 Valuable
 - 112 Rite
 - 115 Driven explorer?
 - 118 Be in debt
 - 119 "— Nidre"
 - 120 Pallid
 - 121 Victorian wit
 - 125 At attention
 - 129 Sheik spot
 - 132 Driven rock star?
 - 136 Real thing
 - 137 Actress
 - 138 — mater
 - 139 King or Sable
 - 140 Gibbons of "Entertainment Tonight"
 - 141 Rocker
 - 142 Parent
 - 143 Dressing gown
- DOWN**
- 1 Piglet's papa
 - 2 Prefix meaning "both"
 - 3 Author
 - 4 Ephron
 - 4 Mitch Miller's trademark
 - 5 Remark from 31
 - 6 Role for Shirley
 - 7 "Show Boat" song
 - 8 It's often jumped
 - 9 Chekhov's "The Cherry —"
 - 10 — juice
 - 11 Springfield's st.
 - 12 Caruso or Corelli
 - 13 Use a shuttle
 - 14 Thwack
 - 15 Monitor message
 - 16 Contaminate
 - 17 Moflo of the Met
 - 21 Afternoon refresher
 - 23 "Cactus Flower" star
 - 24 Christen
 - 29 Basilica bench
 - 32 Richard of "Love Me Tender"
 - 34 Hwy.
 - 35 Beatles refrain
 - 36 Cupid's missile
 - 37 Legendary
 - 38 Have a ball at the mall
 - 39 Buster Brown's dog
 - 40 Some wines
 - 41 Singing syllable
 - 42 "— a Rebel" ("62 hit)
 - 47 Sociologist
 - 49 Indira Gandhi's father
 - 51 Tall story?
 - 52 Maestro
 - 54 Ike's domain
 - 55 "Cheers" patron
 - 57 Jazzman
 - 59 Kind of file
 - 62 — wave
 - 63 Mr. Rochester's ward
 - 64 Electrical inventor
 - 66 '68 US Open winner
 - 68 Fedora fabric
 - 69 Cut loose
 - 73 Blow for a bounder
 - 74 Pick-me-up
 - 75 "Same here!"
 - 77 Jeweler's weight
 - 78 All legs
 - 79 Suburban obsession
 - 82 Tidy up
 - 86 Ring counter
 - 88 Philanthropist
 - 91 Extinct bird
 - 92 Prepare to bear it
 - 93 Whirlpool
 - 96 Poet in the past
 - 98 Rapper
 - 99 Scrape by, with "out"
 - 100 Pianist
 - 102 Regardless
 - 104 — Cruces, NM
 - 105 Dense
 - 109 — Na Na
 - 111 Oklahoma city
 - 113 Kind of pitcher
 - 114 Lyricist
 - 115 Mezzo
 - 116 Make one's day
 - 117 Incompetent
 - 119 Film critic
 - 122 Inventive sort?
 - 123 Take-out order?
 - 124 Austen's Miss
 - 126 Continental currency
 - 127 Farm structure
 - 128 Little guy
 - 130 Show —
 - 131 "Make — double!"
 - 133 Milne creature
 - 134 Remnant
 - 135 Teacup part

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— Magic maze — Answers for 11-15-2007

— Sudoku — Answers for 11-15-2007

— Super Crossword — Answers for 11-15-2007

GARLIC

STINKING ROSE
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Why do women stay in abusive relationships?

Provided by Rachel Friedman

Domestic violence is one of the dirty secrets that many people like to ignore. They convince themselves it only happens to strangers. But the truth is that three women a day are killed by the hands of their husband or boyfriends.

Nearly one-third of American women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives, according to the Family Violence Prevention Fund. They come from all walks of life and could be your daughter, sister, friend or neighbor. So why would a woman stay with a man who is hurting her?

Aurea McGarry believes that many women become stuck in physically and verbally abusive relationships because they don't immediately recognize what's happening.

"The first thing an abusive man does is separate his spouse from her friends and family and keep her isolated," McGarry said. "By the time you begin to understand that you're in an abusive relationship, he's cut out the legs of your support system."

McGarry speaks from experience. Her first marriage to a pastor's son ended badly. She says her ex-husband was physically and verbally abusive. Prior to their wedding when they were just dating, she misinterpreted his jealousy for attentiveness.

That naiveté is a contributing factor to the current epidemic of teen dating violence. Often, teenage girls don't realize that their boyfriend's behavior is abusive; they believe it is normal or a part of being in love so they continue the relationship.

Health experts point to the growing problem of teen domestic

violence as a link in a vicious cycle. An estimated three million American women are abused each year. Because children witness verbal or physical abuse in their homes, they begin to believe it is acceptable. Once they begin dating, many of them emulate the relationships they saw as kids.

"I think we need to begin as early as elementary school, teaching children what is acceptable and unacceptable treatment of their fellow humans," McGarry said. "It should be instilled in young girls that violence is not acceptable and love is not supposed to hurt you."

Another factor that often keeps women trapped—aside from

fear—is a lack of self-esteem. They may believe they deserve this type of treatment; that if they only did things better the abuse would stop. McGarry says starting her own business gave her a sense of accomplishment and self-worth. The recognition she received from colleagues boosted her self-esteem and helped push her in a different direction; away from her husband. She says after leaving him, she came to an amazing realization: no matter what she tried doing to please him, it wouldn't change his abusive ways.

Aurea McGarry is the author of the new book "I Won't Survive...I'll Thrive."



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OBITUARIES

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"The Newspaper Irving Reads"

October 18, 2007

TOMIE BRATCHER

Tomie Bratcher, of Irving, passed away November 17, 2007. She was born Oct. 6, 1914 in Cooper, TX.

Preceded in death by her son Billy Ray Pamplin; survivors include her sister Doris Nichols of Irving; grandson Shelby Pamplin; and great grandson Christian Ray Pamplin.

RITA JoANN ARNOLD



Rita JoAnn Arnold, of Ft. Worth, passed away November 17, 2007.

She was born Nov. 6, 1936 in Dallas. She was a member of South MacArthur Church of Christ.

Preceded in death by her parents William Thomas Sitton and mother Geraldine Monkton; survivors include her son Thomas Arnold and wife Cindy, and daughter Mary Cooper and husband Tim, all of Irving; sister Martha Stanphill of Pilot Point; aunt Ardinell Hill; and grandchildren Amy Arnold, and Marissa and Megan Cooper, all of Irving.

Funeral services were held Nov. 20 at South MacArthur Church of Christ. Interment followed at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens. Arrangements were made by Brown's Memorial Funeral Home.

GENEVA TIPPIE

Geneva Tippie, age 73, a life-long resident of Irving died November 19, 2007 at an Irving hospital.

Born May 18, 1934 in Dallas to George M. and Beatrice Reeder Andrews, Geneva married Leo Artis Tippie on Feb. 6, 1965 in Dallas. She was a member of the Baptist church. Geneva devoted her life to caring for children. From her own home, she babysat over three generations of children from the Irving area.

Preceded in death by her husband, Leo in 1982, she is survived by her sons, Gary Smith and wife Ranu of Mesquite, Richard Smith of Azle, Jeff Smith of Irving, Roger Smith and wife Denise of Azle, Lawrence Smith of Huntsville and Artis Tippie and wife Theresa of Flower Mound; brothers, Charles Andrews and wife Janice of Dallas, Durwood Andrews of Dallas and David Watkins of Wichita Falls; fourteen grandchildren; and twenty-four great grandchildren.

Viewing was Tuesday with formal visitation at the funeral home. The service was held Nov. 21 at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Terry Barnett officiating. Interment to follow at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens in Irving. Memorial contributions may be made to Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, P.O. Box 1890, Amarillo, TX 79174-0001.

MAURITA "RITA" J. HAMMER



Maurita "Rita" J. Hammer, 61, of Irving, passed away at her home on Nov. 20, 2007.

She was born March 15, 1946 in Hollis, OK to Buster and Donna Mills of Childress, TX. She was employed by the Irving Police Dept. for the past 19 years. She began her employment with the Police Dept. as

a 911 operator and progressed to Computer Systems Coordinator. Rita was chosen as IPD Civilian of Fourth Quarter 2006 and Civilian of the Year 2006. She earned a Bachelor Degree in Business from Dallas Baptist University.

Preceded in death by her parents, survivors include her husband of 40 years, William A. Hammer, son Michael Hammer, and grandchildren Alex and Alison Hammer, all of Irving; and sister Sandi Churchill of Rosanky, TX.

A memorial service will be held at Nov. 27 at Brown's Memorial Funeral Home. If desired, memorial donations may be made to the IPD Officers Foundation, American Cancer Research, or Irving Humane Society.

JO DELL RITTER



After completing her life's work with love, compassion and dignity, a country girl at heart has gone home to her Heavenly Father. Jo Dell Ritter, loving mother, grandmother, wife, sister, mother-in-law, aunt, friend and neighbor received her glorious reward on 11/19/2007. We unite to celebrate her life, and the love she gave so freely.

Family was her passion, while cooking, gardening, reading and gambling (slot machines) were her joys and hobbies. Her life was truly

an example of the scriptures as she loved her neighbors, treated everyone as she herself would like to be treated, and forgave without limits.

Preceded in death by Robert W. Hood and Ruth Elizabeth McCutcheon. Survived by husband Raymond Ozell Ritter of Irving; son Randy Ozell Ritter and Katherine -Musick of Irving; son and wife Raymond Dale and Samantha Ritter of Lewisville, TX; brother Jimmy Hood of Wolff City, TX; sister Mary Ruth Hinsley of Quinlan, TX; grandchildren Ryan and Kristen Ritter of Irving.

Her warm smile and beautiful blue eyes will be missed, but the

love she provided us, compassion that she shared with us and strength that she showed us will remain in our hearts and minds forever. We celebrate this beautiful woman's life that was so well lived and cherish the love and memories that will always be with us.

Funeral services were held Nov. 21 at Brown's Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Wally Williams officiating. Interment at Smith Cemetery, Irving. Graveside services were held Nov. 20 at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens. Arrangements were made by Brown's Memorial Funeral Home.

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Campaign spotlights challenges to the U.S. Health Care System

Provided by Lori Soderbergh
The American Cancer Society recently announced a nationwide initiative to call attention to the urgent need for quality, affordable health care for all Americans. As part of this unprecedented effort, the Society will devote significant resources toward an aggressive public awareness campaign highlighting the barriers that average

Americans confront when facing cancer. Nationwide, 47 million Americans are without health insurance and Texas has the highest percentage of uninsured people – 24.1%. “The American Cancer Society believes that, after tobacco use, lack of access to quality health care could be the biggest barrier to con-

tinued progress in the fight against cancer,” Tom Peck, Secretary of the Dallas board of directors of the Society, said. “Cancer is the number one personal health concern of Americans. Reducing suffering and death from cancer may only truly be possible if all Americans are able to visit their doctor for regular check ups, early detection screening tests and prompt, qual-

ity cancer treatment if and when they need it.” Through an advertising campaign, which includes television, print and online components, the Society tells the stories of real people who faced cancer diagnoses and typify the all-too-real stories of millions of others. One ad features “Kathy” who had no insurance when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Another ad tells the story of “Raina” who had insurance when she faced thyroid cancer, but still faced financial debt that resulted in her medical bills being turned over to collection agencies.

telephone specialists help cancer patients and their caregivers to navigate the health insurance system and understand available options to pay for care. As a non-profit organization with limited resources, the American Cancer Society is only able to currently provide the service in 28 states, and so far, can only successfully help one in every five callers resolve their health insurance problems. The peer-reviewed journal CANCER has shown that people who are uninsured, and people with certain types of public health insurance, are more likely to be diagnosed with more advanced cancer compared to those with private insurance, and as a result, are at greater risk of death. These patients face much more difficult and far more expensive medical treatments, as well as a diminished quality of life.

“To make the next significant leap, we have to make it easier for Americans to get the tests and treatments they need to fight cancer,” Peck said. “It’s a battle the American Cancer Society is fighting on behalf of every American.”

Trustees receive honors for equity, diversity efforts

Provided by Ann Hatch
Members of the Dallas County Community College District’s (DCCCD) Board of Trustees were honored collectively by the Association of Community College Trustees for their efforts to support and promote equity and diversity within the district. The trustees received the ACCT Western Region Equity Award for 2007 and were recently acknowledged during the association’s annual conference in San Diego, CA.

of the DCCCD board of trustees. Those goals and objectives are the guidelines by which the district operates, conducts business, seeks to recruit students and works within the variety of diverse communities that comprise Dallas County,” Prater said.

Dr. Wright Lassiter, DCCCD’s chancellor, nominated the trustees for the award and accepted it on behalf of the district and the board members. ACCT’s Equity Award is based on the following criteria:

enrollment, including growth in a diverse student population; successful completion of students; participation in better-paying, higher-mobility college majors through curriculum offerings, partnerships/transfer agreements and/or financial assistance; campus environment that meets the needs of a diverse student population; employment and promotion practices that include a commitment to the employment of a diverse staff and the provision of resources and the proper environment for all students to succeed; involvement of the district in minority communities; diversity of representation on the

“We are honored to receive the Western Region ACCT Equity Award on behalf of the Dallas County Community College District,” Jerry Prater, chair of DCCCD’s board of trustees, said. “Our board has focused on issues of equity and diversity for years in terms of students, faculty, staff, administrators, the community, area businesses and our partners in K-12 and higher education. I am excited to see that those efforts were acknowledged by a national organization and that we are leading the way in this area of the country.”

enrollment, including growth in a diverse student population; successful completion of students; participation in better-paying, higher-mobility college majors through curriculum offerings, partnerships/transfer agreements and/or financial assistance; campus environment that meets the needs of a diverse student population; employment and promotion practices that include a commitment to the employment of a diverse staff and the provision of resources and the proper environment for all students to succeed; involvement of the district in minority communities; diversity of representation on the

district’s board of trustees, committees and advisory groups; and diversity among contracting and vendor participation in the district. DCCCD’s significant achievements were submitted in the nomination for ACCT’s Equity Award. Some examples are listed below: DCCCD’s trustees adopted goals for achieving student success (including access, retention, skills attainment, graduation and transfer); employee success (including recruitment, hiring, retention and professional development); economic and workforce development (including strategic alliances, contracts and grants); community development and partnerships; business/fiscal affairs; and organizational effectiveness.

The Rising Star program, a national model that assists students who graduate from a public Dallas County high school with a “B” average or better and who show economic need, provides funds for tuition and books (up to two or three years). By fall 2006, the program had enrolled more than 2,900 students.

Minority students receive assistance from federal programs such as TRIO and Upward Bound.

The district offers dual credit courses, tuition free (as authorized by DCCCD trustees), to area high schools that participate - saving students time and money.

Over the past 10 years, the percentage of minority students who completed a DCCCD degree or certificate increased 142% for African Americans, 298% for Latino students, 107% for Asians and 129% for American Indians.

Fall 2006 enrollment reflected the diversity of the student body, which comprised the following ethnic groups: 38.7% Anglo; 24.1% African American; 25.5% Hispanic; 8.5% Asian/Pacific Islander; 0.5% Native American; and 2.6% international.

Equity and diversity efforts among DCCCD employees include the Visiting Scholars program, which brings more diversity to the faculty ranks; Visions of Excellence, a mentoring program for new faculty; and minority hiring.

District hiring from 1999 to 2006 for full-time employees included increases in the number of African Americans (66%) Latinos (72%), Asians (117%), American Indians (17%) and Anglos (64%). Among faculty members, that trend continued with increases in African Americans (82%), Latinos (124%), Asians (163%) and Anglos (1%).

For more information, contact the DCCCD office of public and governmental affairs, at 214-860-2478.

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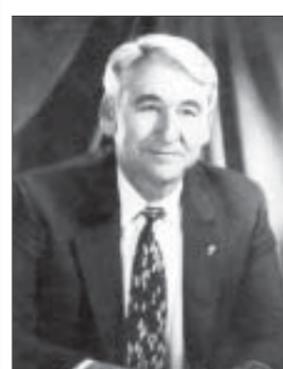


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Carnival at Good



Son Luu, fourth grader at Good Elementary School, puts his mark on a car at the Beat the Car booth during annual Family Faculty Club Carnival.

Awards honor community heroes

By Jess Paniszczyn

DCET, Believe in Yourself, Inc., hosted its third annual Silent Hero Awards luncheon in the Central Library on Nov. 15.

Ray Cerda, Angela Leal and Juan Carlos Reynoso were honored as Silent Heroes. Additionally, Beverly Adams, Katherine Chang-Dress and Fletcher Yates were recognized with DCET's first Awards for Outstanding Community Service.

"The Silent Hero event is uniting the diversity of Irving," Elvia Wallace-Martinez, executive director of DCET, said. "We honored the three heroes, Angela, Ray and Juan Carlos, for their community service, which ties into DCET. But then Beverly, Katherine and Fletcher have not worked directly with DCET. They have been instrumental in volunteer service to the community by being on boards and organizing special events. So we are now one family. The mission is not only to contribute to the welfare of our community with their unwavering and self-less support, but be part of it so we can all grow as one family. We are all diverse.

"We opened nominations for the Silent Hero award through our newsletter on the Internet. We were bombarded with nominations. It was hard to come up with one Silent Hero. Finally, we decided that if the event is going to grow to be a fundraising event, it would help

us to work with more people," she said.

DCET's past president Sharon Barbosa-Crain believes DCET fills a void for immigrants who come to Irving in the hope of becoming part of the community.

"DCET is a significant organization. It was the first organization of its kind in the city of Irving. This organization concentrates on helping immigrants assimilate into the community," Barbosa-Crain said.

"It is a myth that immigrants come into this country and into the city of Irving and do not want to assimilate or learn the language. DCET's programs are always full. In fact, the library's programs, the city's programs, the churches' programs and other organization's programs that teach language skills are always full and have waiting lists. DCET is part of that great movement to help people.

"The awards that were given today were presented to people who are sometimes overlooked. These folks are people who have devoted many hours to activities they don't get paid for. They don't always get the recognition that one might want to see. Today was an opportunity for this organization to reach out and pull together a group of people who are making a significant difference in the life of this community and recognize them. This also allows us to clearly see the good things that are happening in our community," she said.



Fletcher Yates says a few words after being recognized by DCET.

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WEEKLY BIZ BRIEF

A business activity report by the Irving Economic Development Partnership.

TXU ENERGY IN TM ADVERTISING OUT
TXU Energy announced plans to relocate its downtown Dallas operations to Irving-Las Colinas in the TM Advertising building at 6555 Sierra Drive (adjacent to Microsoft's Las Colinas campus on SH-161). On the flipside of the transaction, TM Advertising will relocate from Irving to Comerica Bank Tower in downtown Dallas, which formerly housed part of TXU Energy. TXU Energy will lease the entire 247,000 sq ft of the Sierra Drive location, which TM Advertising had been trying to sublease for the past two years. TXU Energy has reportedly signed a 12-year lease in Las Colinas and TM Advertising signed a three-year lease in Comerica Bank Tower. TM Advertising will be out of the Las Colinas building by the end of the year. TXU Energy will move into Las Colinas' facility in the first quarter of 2008. TXU Energy is a competitive retailer that provides electricity and related services to more than 2.1 million electricity customers in Texas. The employment base of the building will more than double with TXU Energy's relocation to Irving.

BOTELER, MAHONEY & GRAY RELOCATES
The Boteler, Mahoney & Gray law firm relocated from Dallas into new offices in the Summit office building at 545 E. John Carpenter Freeway, Suite 300. Bill Mahoney serves on Irving's Economic Development Advisory Council.

RETAIL CENTER CHANGES OWNERSHIP
RNHB Corporation purchased a 21,000 sq ft retail center at 3701 N. Belt Line Road from Atlantic Oil and Gas. Major tenants include Blockbuster, Papa John's Pizza and John Pace Allstate Agency.

PEKOWSKI WINS ANGEL OF GRACE AWARD
Linda Pekowski of Irving-based Expo Group received the Angel of Grace Award from Grapevine Relief and Community Exchange. She was honored for her work with the nonprofit group, including her help with the Grace Gala.

IRVING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TAKES FIRST PLACE
The Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce received the first place award in Economic Development from the Texas Chamber of Commerce for its new Irving-Las Colinas Marketing Center.

MARGIN TAX SEMINAR
The State Comptroller's office will host a free seminar in Arlington on Nov. 13th to introduce taxpayers to the revised Texas franchise tax and help them learn how to calculate the tax. The seminars will benefit current franchise taxpayers and the approximately 200,000 new entities that will file franchise tax reports ("margin tax") for the first time, beginning with reports due on or after Jan. 1, 2008. Three hours of CPE and CLE credit are available for each presentation. To reserve a seat, contact the Arlington Chamber of Commerce at 817-543-4301 or e-mail lgriffin@arlingtontx.com. The seminar is from 8:30 a.m. until noon in the Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center Street.

DEVRY UNIVERSITY CAREER FAIR
DeVry University will hold its Network Connection Career Fair on Wednesday, Dec. 12th, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at its Irving Campus. To participate in the Career Fair, please contact Terrence Hood at 972-929-9358. The focus of the Fair will be DeVry's February 2008 graduates, alumni and Keller Graduate School.

The Irving Economic Development Partnership initiated six new projects this fiscal year for either relocation or expansion in Irving, and continues to manage 21 similar projects carried over from the previous fiscal year.

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