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Ft. Hood shootings hit close to home for local veterans

By Jess Paniszczyn

Military veterans and their families gathered at VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) Post 2494 and like many Americans watched as news reports on the shootings at Ft. Hood slowly unfolded on a television screen. Less than a week away from anticipated celebrations and memorials designed to honor service men and women on Veteran's Day, Army Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan opened fire at a Soldier Readiness Center killing 13 and injuring 30 others.

"Ft. Hood is the world's largest Army base or service base of any kind," said Bill Oaks, VFW Department of Texas District 3 Commander. "It covers in the vicinity of 340 square miles. It is absolutely huge. They have close to 50,000 troops at that base, and it has had at other times over 50,000."

"The problem with a scenario like we've seen today is there is no way the military can check everybody thoroughly going on and off the base. It can't happen, especially at a base that size where they

have so many people going on and off every day.

"A Major in the Army is the last guy you would expect something like this from. I've been watching the news pretty closely. The shooter was an Army Major. Apparently, he was a psychiatrist

working at an Army hospital at Ft. Hood.

"The two other guys that were down there that they took into custody, they haven't said yet what the deal is with them. It makes you think automatically that there is something going on there, a con-

spiracy of some sort. I think it would almost have to be."

Beyond the anger and sadness, there are real concerns about the safety of military personnel.

"This is the type of thing I don't believe there is any way you

See *SOLDIERS*, Page 4

Irving Police awarded honor for professionalism

Voting Results

Voters across Texas went to the polls on Nov. 3 to determine whether or not to adopt new amendments to the Texas State Constitution.

In Dallas County, 5.89 percent of the county's 1,124,066 registered voters chose to vote. Throughout Texas the turnout was a little higher with 8.14 percent of the 12,952,562 registered voters attending the polls.

The following unofficial cumulative results compare the decisions made by Dallas County

voters with those made by all Texas voters.

Prop 1 Finance buffer areas adjacent to military install

Dallas County	For 38,601
	Against 24,944
Texas	For 578,155
	Against 469,282

Prop 2 Regulate homestead ad valorem tax calculation

Dallas County	For 45,735
	Against 18,6358
Texas	For 720,130
	Against 335,400

Prop 3 Provide uniform standards for appraising property

Dallas County	For 44,997
	Against 19,076
Texas	For 689,158
	Against 362,223

Prop 4 University fund to assist emerging research Univs

Dallas County	For 40,923
	Against 22,852
Texas	For 592,080
	Against 451,561

See *TEXAS*, Page 9



During Thursday's City Council meeting, the Irving Police Department received the award of "Recognized Law Enforcement Agency" from the Texas Police Chiefs Association (TPCA) Law Enforcement Recognition Program. TPCA representatives David James and Marlin Price presented the award to Mayor Gears, Chief Boyd and Lt. Gilmette.

The Irving Police Department received the award of "Recognized Law Enforcement Agency" from the Texas Police Chiefs Association (TPCA) Law Enforcement Recognition Program during the City Council meeting on Nov. 4. The Irving Police Department was the 20th law enforcement agency in Texas to earn the Recognized status.

Begun in 2007, the Recognition Program evaluates a Police Department's compliance with over 150 Best Business Practices for Texas Law Enforcement.

"This was a rigorous process that verifies the Irving Police Department is following best prac-

tices and standards as it relates to our policies," said Larry Boyd, Irving's Chief of Police. "It is an effort that we went through to ensure we are providing the best services that we can possibly provide for our community."

"I would like to recognize Lt. Richard Gilmette, because he was responsible for working this process for us for the better part of two years. He spent a significant amount of time ensuring every, single policy we have fit the criteria for best practice standards."

"With a department as large as Irving's, we have quite a number of policies and general orders we

had to go through painstakingly to ensure each and every one of them fit the standards. We had to change a number of standards and improve some of the things we did."

"The public recognition is kind of an added benefit for going through the process. It also allows the public to be aware that their police department has gone through rigorous, validation criteria to show every policy we have fits the standard of best practices," he said.

This voluntary process required the Irving Police Department to conduct a critical self-re-

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POLICE & FIRE

Results released in misconduct, excessive force investigation

Provided by David Tull

The Irving Police Department is releasing the following statement pertaining to recent allegations of police misconduct and use

of excessive force. These allegations were brought forth by family members, a special interest group, and a local reporter.

Due to departmental policy/procedure police could not discuss specific detail of the investigation until all the facts were known and

the investigation concluded. To do so or to speculate on any possible outcome would have been irresponsible and inappropriate. The department maintained however

that upon completion the facts of the investigation would be released. Keeping with that promise, the following summation is being relayed.

Internal Affairs conducted a thorough exhaustive investigation into these allegations, which included interviews with, and statements from, involved parties and interviews with all witnesses. After a review of the facts they determined that all allegations were unfounded. The force used was objectively reasonable for the situation the officers faced and no vio-

See **POLICE**, Page 4

BRIEFINGS

Burglary Arrest: 10-28-09 Patrol and Gang officers observed the defendant riding a bike in the 1200 block of Ichabod, the area of several burglaries which have occurred in the last couple months. Upon contact, they believed him to be the person committing the burglaries in the area, as he has been arrested in the past for burglary. They took him into custody and found burglary tools in his possession. Upon speaking with the defendant in CID, he admitted to six burglaries that he was involved in and gave suspect in-

formation reference 12 burglaries all together. Investigation is ongoing at this time.

Aggravated Robbery: 10-29-09 at 11:42 a.m. Two males entered Top Dollar Pawn wearing masks and raincoats and displayed handguns and demanded money. As the suspects were leaving the store, a patrol element saw them and gave chase to the white SUV that was waiting outside for the two suspects. They fled north bound on Loop 12 and threw the money box out of the vehicle. The primary

vehicle was involved in a minor accident North Bound Loop 12 near Texas Stadium. Support elements lost the suspect vehicle in the area of Harry Hines and Shady Trail. No Injuries.

Burglary of Building (arrests x2): 10-30-09 at 12:33 a.m. Suspects were observed driving without headlights as they were leav-

ing the Public Storage in the 1200 block of N. Loop 12. They were stopped a short distance away. The suspects were arrested and placed in jail. An inventory of the suspect vehicle revealed bolt cutters, gloves, slide hammer and ski-masks. The public storage had three apparent burglaries in the area.

Beware telemarketing fraud

Callers claiming to represent everyone from police officers to the disabled take advantage of the public's sympathy and generosity to the tune of billions of dollars each year. They also offer chances to earn enormous profits from no-risk, high-yield business and investment opportunities, miracle cures for everything from baldness to cancer, vacation homes, sweepstakes prizes, etc. Be suspicious of all solicitors, especially if the caller:

Says you have won a prize, but asks you to send money first or provide bank account information.

Says you have to act right away. Remember, if it's a good

deal today it will still be a good deal tomorrow. Don't let anyone rush you into signing anything.

-- Fails to identify the sponsor, uses a variation of an official or nationally-recognized name, e.g., Salvation League instead of Salvation Army.

-- Offers to have someone pick up a cash payment from your home.

-- Says he or she is a law enforcement officer who will help you for a fee.

-- Requires you to attend a sales meeting.

-- Directs you to dial a pay-per-call 900 number.

-- Delays the delivery of a product or prize, etc.

-- Says he or she is calling from

the Security and Fraud Department of your credit card company and asks you for the 3-digit security number on the back of your credit card to verify your possession of the card to aid it in a fraud investigation.

-- Says that Medicare now requires a National ID Card and offers to provide one for a fee.

-- Says he or she is a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) agent or official and that you must pay a fine because you have bought or attempted to buy discounted prescription drugs from a foreign pharmacy.

Report such calls to the FDA Office of Criminal Investigations at 800-521-5783.

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WORSHIP

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Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.

Presbyterian USA

St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church
1621 W. Grauwlyer Road, Irving, 75061
972-259-8744
email: secretary@ststephenspres.com
website: www.ststephensirving.org
Sunday Worship 10:50 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

United Methodist

Oak Haven United Methodist Church
1600 N. Irving Heights 75061
972.438.1431
www.oakhavenumc.org
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.

Jewish & Gentile People

The Jewish Channel IPTV

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United Methodist

First United Methodist Church

211 W. Third St., Irving 75060
972.253.3531
www.fumcirving.org
Sundays 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Plymouth Park United Methodist Church

1615 W Airport Frwy, Irving 75062
(North side of Hwy 183 between MacArthur & Story)
972.255.4185
www.ppumc.org
Sundays 8:30, 9:15 & 11:00am



REACHOLUTION Sunday, Nov. 8

9:30am traditional worship - [the chapel]
9:30 & 11:15am contemporary worship - [worship center]
1:30pm hispanic worship - [worship center]
nepali worship - [the chapel]

CALVARY CHURCH
hwy 161 @ walnut hill . irving 972.261.1919 calvarychurch.cc

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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.

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Stacey Starkey - Director
John Starkey - Publisher
INTERNET www.irvingrambler.com

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

November 7 from 9am to 5pm Veterans Benefits Information - The D-A-V and the Harley-Davidson Foundation have teamed up to offer veterans help understanding and accessing their benefits. The DAV Mobile Service Office will be at the Longhorn Harley-Davidson, 2830 West I-20, Grand Prairie, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., to personally provide the best counseling and claim filing assistance available. This event is part of the nationwide Harley's Heroes tour and is free to all veterans and members of their families.

November 7 from 3 to 7pm Community Funfest - Hackberry Creek Church will host the 2nd annual Community Funfest from 3pm to 7pm. There will be two bands performing, free food and drinks, lots of fun activities for the kids and just a great time for all.

November 8 at 2:30pm Veterans Day Service - The Irving Veterans Memorial Park will have a Veterans Day Program 2:30 PM in the Irving Main Library. The Irving High Schools will provide the Honor Guard. State Representative Linda Harper Brown will be the guest speaker. A wreath will be laid at the wall in the Park after the program.

November 8 - 9 Auditions - ICT MainStage is holding auditions for the classic drama *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck at ICT Studio, 2333 Rochelle, Irving. Call for appointment 972-594-6104 or email to info@irvingtheatre.org. Performance dates Jan. 15 - 30. George - 30's - 40. Lennie - 30's - 40. Candy - 55 - 60's. The Boss - 50's. Curley's father. Curley - 25 - 35. Curley's Wife - 20's - 30. Slim - 30 - 40. Carlson - 30's - 40's. Whit - 30 - 40. Crooks - African American - 30-50's.

November 9 Golf Tournament - Annual Ben Brown Memorial Golf Tournament, hosted by the Irving Rotary Club which Ben was a longtime member and Jeanne is very active in as well. This event honors Ben both for his involvement in the Funeral Industry and in the great

Community of Irving.
November 9 from 6 to 8pm Living Simply - This class will provide a forum for residents to exchange ideas and suggestions to gain control and begin living simply and profoundly. Living Simply will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Nov. 9 at the Jaycee Center for the Arts, 2000 W. Airport Freeway.

November 9 at 7:30pm Beta Eta Master Chapter - The Beta Eta Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi will have their next meeting at 7:30pm at the home of Judy Pierson. Co-Hostesses are Mary Lou Harris and Jean Werry, Program by Marilyn Chandler. The Chapter meets the second Monday of each month. For more information contact Wanda Dale at 972-254-1062.

November 10 at 7:00pm Downtown Association - State Representative Linda Harper Brown will be the guest speaker for the Irving Downtown Association. The meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Building. Meetings are open to the public.

November 10 at 7:30pm Irving Silvertones - The Irving Silvertones will present a Celebration of America Concert and will honor all past and present military personnel. A former World War II P.O.W., Mr. O.M. Cherry, will be recognized for his heroism in defending the gates of freedom for our country. The concert will feature the Irving High School Marine, MacArthur High School Army and Nimitz High School Naval R.O.T.C.'s for the flag ceremony. The choir will perform a variety of Patriotic music selections honoring America. The concert will be held at Oak View Baptist Church, 1004 South Story, at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free. The choir is also collecting toiletries to send to soldiers who are on active duty at the present time. For further information, call Woody Schober at 972-790-4101.

November 10 - 14 Pet Vaccination Clinic - Animal Services will host its Annual Vaccine Clinic in November. Up to four pets per household may receive low-cost vaccinations at the

Irving Animal Shelter, 100 N. Briery Road. The clinic will welcome pets of all sizes and ages at the following dates and times:
Cats - 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 10-13 (seniors, ages 65 and up, and residents with disabilities may bring cats or dogs at this time)
Dogs - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 14
Vaccinations will be limited to the first 1,000 companion animals. Pets must be on a leash or in a carrier. For \$20 per animal, each pet will receive the following:
Rabies vaccination
Bordetella shot
General dewormer
FVRCP (cats)/DHPP or DHLPP (dogs)
For more information, call 972-721-2256.

November 11 from 1 to 3pm VNA Workshop - The Visiting Nurse Association will be conduct-

ing a free workshop from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on how to cope during the holidays while grieving the loss of a loved one. "Healing Through the Holidays" will offer strategies and support for individuals who are adjusting to the death of a family member or friend. The workshop will be held at the Visiting Nurse Association's headquarters building, The Patrick and Beatrice Haggerty Center, located at 1440 W. Mockingbird Lane in Dallas. There is no cost to attend the workshop, but reservations are requested and can be made by calling Sue Rafferty, a licensed social worker with the Visiting Nurse Association, at 214-689-2922.

November 11 at 3pm Veterans Day Ceremony - Veterans Day Ceremony at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery (Assembly Area, 2000 Mountain

Creek Parkway, Dallas. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Texas National Cemetery Foundation (TNCF) invite the public to attend at 3 p.m. Captain T.D. Smyers, commanding officer, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, will give keynote remarks. The ceremony will also feature a presentation of Gold Medal Remembrance to Children of Fallen Heroes and a fly over by the 457th Fighter Squadron.

November 11 at 7pm Let's Get Bizet - Let's Get Bizet at 7 p.m. in the Carpenter Performance Hall. The Lone Star Youth Orchestra presents classical selections that'll have you on your feet \$5-10, 972-252- 2787 or www.irvingartscenter.com for tickets.

November 12 World Diabetes Day Luncheon - Former surgeon general Dr. Kenneth Moritsugu joins the American Diabetes Association to discuss the state of the global diabetes epidemic; event will also feature presentations of McGarry and Luskey awards at Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie.

November 13 at 10:00am IRSPA - The IRSPA (Irving Retired School Personnel Association) will meet at 10:00 AM, at First Christian Church, 210 East Sixth Street, Irving. Our program will be Toni Gallegot, Irving Independant School District's Homeless Program Liaison. The meeting is open to all retired school personnel. If you have any questions, call 972-717-4213.

November 13-15 Motorcycle Show - Cycle World International Motorcycle Show calendar kicks-off at the Dallas Convention Center. Fuel efficient motorcycles and scooters are the hot trend and this is the perfect place to check out the latest gas-sipping rides on two wheels. Additionally, this motorcycle extravaganza will feature eye-popping tricked-out choppers, hundreds of the latest motorcycles/scooters, motorcycle action from the Ducati Stunt Team and more.

CLUBS

LISTINGS

Buttons & Bows Square & Round Dance Club
1st & 3rd Saturdays at 8:00 pm
Senter Park East
228 Chamberlain

Evening Lions Club
1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 7:00pm
Community Christian Church
2301 Texas Drive

Irving AMBUCS
Thursday at 11:30am
New Panda Cafe
West Hwy 183 service rd.

Irving Noonday Lions
2nd, 3rd & 4th Wednesday at Noon
New Panda Cafe
West Hwy 183 at Story

Irving Sunrise Rotary
Thursday at 7 am
Las Colinas Country Club
4400 N. O'Connor Rd.

Irving Shrine Club
2nd Thursday at 6:30pm
IHOP Restuarant- Bellline Rd.
1801 N. Bellline Rd.

Israel Club
Hwy 183 & McArthur
Inside Baylor Hospital Foodmart
Saturday Mornings 8:45

Las Colinas Rotary
Noon, Tuesdays
La CIMA Club
5215 N O Connor Blvd

Saturday Singles Lunch Bunch
1st & 3rd Saturdays
972-254-3525

Yellow Rose AMBUCS
Wednesday's at 6:00pm
IHOP Restuarant- Bellline Rd.
1801 N. Bellline Rd.

VFW Post 2494 IRVING
Post Meeting - 1st Thursday at 7pm
Ladies' Auxiliary - 1st & 3rd Wed at 7pm
Men's Auxiliary - 4th Wed at 7pm
Junior Girls - 2nd Sunday at 12:30pm
3375 Belt Line Rd
Just South of Shady Grove

Organizations to re-submit their information on a monthly basis to insure that the Irving Rambler will have accurate information. Listings are limited to the Organization's name, meeting location and time. If an organization wishes to have more information than the free listing offers, we will continue to offer other advertising opportunities.

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The Dallas Morning News
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Soldiers, families not safe in home posts on U.S. soil

Continued from Page 1

are going to stop it. If somebody wants to do it bad enough, they are going to do it, especially if the person doing it, is a reasonably senior Army officer," Mr. Oaks said.

"I guess if it was a conspiracy, Ft. Hood would have been the obvious place for it to be, because it is so large, and there are so many people coming and going. You can only do so much.

"It is obviously a really, really sad day for not only the military, but for the country. If our soldiers

aren't safe in their home posts on American soil, we have real problems," he said.

Frank, a VFW Post member and former Marine, was visibly shaken by the day's events. His son-in-law currently serves in the Army after being honorably discharged from the Navy. Frank's daughter and grandchildren live near Ft. Hood in Killeen.

"At first, I was actually hoping it was terrorists, because I couldn't believe a military guy could do it," Frank said. "But on

the other hand, I spent 18 months in Vietnam during the Vietnam War, and I came back with a lot of problems.

"My son-in-law has already spent two tours at eight months a tour (one in Iraq and one in Afghanistan). That's 16 months. We have men and women out there who are doing three to four tours at eight months a shot. The human mind can only take so much misery before it breaks. Evidently, we had a break. We got some people that lost it.

"When I heard about this guy, I thought, how did he get into this thing, and how was he allowed to instigate this thing? That's not good."

Though he knew his family members were not involved in the incident, Frank remained concerned for their safety.

"I don't feel my family is safe. Not when they can get onto a U.S. military base to kill and wound that many people. How can the rest of us civilians feel safe when they can do that on a military base that is supposed to have a lot more protocol and security?"

"They say be aware of your surroundings, be aware of what's going on. This happened on a military base for crying out loud. How much more aware can you get?"

"I'm just thankful that my daughter and two grandkids weren't on base doing a family function. On base, they do family functions all the time, because they try to take care of their military families. They are always doing little picnics and gatherings. This could have happened during one of those functions. That's scary stuff," he said.

"The United States has always tried to be fair, and now we've become very passive. You got these people who want equality for everybody and don't want to step on anybody's toes. Yet I have to call my son-in-law and ask if he and my family are okay, if my grandkids are okay.

"They let this guy on base. He's a Major, they felt he was okay, but how do you know? They don't wear signs saying 'I'm okay. You don't got to worry about me.' During war time or during a political conflict, you don't know. That's why you got to take measures to make sure something like this don't happen. This happened on a military base. This is supposed to be a secured area. I've got my doubts that we are running this right."

MAS Freedom responds to attack

Editor:

This is to notify you of our response of condemnation in response to the shootings at Fort Hood, Texas that resulted in the deaths of eleven individuals and the wounding of 31 more people, including both military personnel and civilians.

A copy of our letter of condolences to Lt. General Robert W. Cone, the Commandant of the Ft. Hood military base, follows:

5 November 2009

Lt. General Robert W. Cone Commandant, Ft. Hood Military Base, Ft. Hood, Texas

Dear General Hood:

I am writing on behalf of the Muslim American Society (MAS), and our thousands of members throughout the United States, to express both our shock and our deep sadness in the aftermath of the shooting at Fort Hood that killed eleven individuals and left many more wounded. This unprovoked and unconscionable act of violence against American military personnel and civilians alike is utterly reprehensible, and against every tenet of faith and morality.

We offer our prayers and condolences to you, to the Fort Hood community, and especially to the families of loved ones of those who were killed and injured in this attack. May God Almighty comfort all of you in this time of great loss and sorrow.

Sincerely yours,
Imam Mahdi Bray - Executive Director
MAS Freedom (Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation)

Police take allegations seriously

Continued from Page 2

lation of law, policy or procedure was found.

The investigation resulted in many points of fact that the department could not discuss prior to the completion of the investigation, inclusive of the following:

Mr. and Mrs. Campoy, with prior knowledge of their son's history of combative behavior with police officers chose to take him out of school and intentionally interject him into this situation. Their actions transformed a routine burglary report into a violent situation.

The officers faced an extremely volatile situation and were

forced to restrain an individual exhibiting extremely violent threats and actions, including threats to shoot people. That individual was restrained in an effort to prevent injury to him or any others at the location, including the residents. After being restrained, the individual continued to actively and violently resist and in the process managed to maneuver his cuffed hands from behind his back, to the front, which greatly increased the chance for him to injure the officer.

The situation also involved a family member physically attempting to interfere, and the officers used discretion in not placing her under arrest. The force used by the officer at that point was determined to be objectively reasonable and the injury sustained by the individual was a result of his own behavior. Had the individual been fully cooperative, the risk for everyone would have been greatly reduced and no injuries would have occurred.

Internal Affairs also determined that the family made many inaccurate and greatly embellished statements regarding the events. In some cases stories changed, were

recanted, or simply conflicted with other witness testimony. These findings seriously impaired their value and credibility as witnesses.

Investigating further, all "witnesses" to the situation (cited by the family, their representatives, or seen on news reports or located by the investigators) were contacted and interviewed during the continued efforts to determine the facts of the incident. Many of the witnesses gave investigators written statements that differed significantly from accounts given to the media. Many were found to have provided embellished and inaccurate accounts of what had occurred when they re-canted and/or changed their account of the incident or admitted that they didn't actually see what they had claimed previously.

"The Irving Police Department takes allegations such as this very seriously and we hold our officers strictly accountable to our policies and the law," said Chief of Police, Larry Boyd. "We also recognize that officers work in a very difficult environment where, unfortunately circumstances sometimes require the use of force. We are confident that this case was thoroughly investigated and the force used was objectively reasonable."



David Ferneding, MBA
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LEGAL NOTICE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

In the Matter of the Adoption Petition of JOSEPH E. RATH and SHIRLEY G. RATH to Declare RANDY MICHAEL RATH, a minor, Free from the Custody and Control of JOSEFINA VINSON

CASE NO. 08 AD 00377
CITATION TO APPEAR

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO: JOSEFINA VINSON

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED TO appear at 8:30 a.m. on JANUARY 14, 2010, in DEPARTMENT 123 of the above entitled Court, located at 3341 POWER INN ROAD, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA, then and there to show cause, if any you have, why the Petition of JOSEPH E. RATH and SHIRLEY G. RATH, to declare the minor child, RANDY MICHAEL RATH, born on August 26, 1996, free from your parental custody and control should not be granted without your consent in the above-entitled proceeding, on the ground that you have abandoned that child. The above-referenced Petition alleges that for a period of six months after March 21, 1998, you willfully failed to communicate with, and to pay for the care, support, and education of, the above child. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR, THE COURT WILL TERMINATE YOUR RIGHTS FORTHWITH.



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The Irving Economic Development Partnership would like to thank the following entities for their continued support and investment in our program:

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To see a list of all of our investors or to share in the benefits enjoyed by these entities go to www.IrvingChamber.com

Economic Development Partnership Helps to Bring Technical Training Institute to Irving

Universal Technical Institute Inc. (UTI), the leading provider of technical training for students seeking careers as professional automotive, diesel, collision repair, motorcycle and marine technicians, has announced plans to open a campus in Irving in the summer of 2010. The new Irving location will provide a training curriculum that focuses on automotive and diesel technology, employ a staff of more than 80, serve 750 students a year at capacity and will expand the many education options available for Irving's highly educated workforce. The Irving Economic Development Partnership has worked with UTI since May, to bring this project to fruition.

"Irving's central location was a critical factor in UTI's decision to locate a facility in

Irving, as well as having several great options in which to choose from for their facility requirements," said John Bonnot, vice president of economic development for the Chamber. "Located just north of DFW Airport at 5151 Regent Boulevard, the building ultimately chosen by UTI provides convenient access for students from Irving and surrounding cities. UTI is bringing a much needed, productive use to this asset that was constructed in 2006 by Myers-Crow."

"We believe, especially in this economy, that it's important to open campuses that take education closer to the potential student, so they don't have to relocate away from their families and give up their jobs," said Eugene

Putnam, executive vice president and chief financial officer for UTI.

The Irving campus is the 11th campus in the nation for the Phoenix-based organization, with its only other Texas campus in Houston. Automotive technology and diesel technology training programs will be the primary areas of instruction.

Irving's City Council voted unanimously on October 8 in support of a five-year economic incentive agreement for the capital investment Universal Technical Institute is making in both real and business personal property. UTI was represented by Jones Lang LaSalle and its tenant representatives Jim Sadler of Phoenix and Josh White of Dallas.

BIZ BRIEFS

A business activity report by the Irving Economic Development Partnership.

RMS LOGISTICS RELOCATES TO IRVING

RMS Logistics, a privately held company offering complete service solutions to the wireless industry, will be relocating to Irving in early November. The company will be bringing more than 50 employees into their facility to be located on Skyway Circle in Las Colinas.

TAVERNA PIZZERIA & RISOTTERIA TO OPEN IN LAS COLINAS

Alberto Lombardi is opening a Taverna Pizzeria & Risotteria at Las Colinas Village Center located at the intersection of N. MacArthur and Hwy 114. The shopping plaza is also home to Taco Diner and Ali Baba Mediterranean Grill. An opening date has not been announced.

NEW BUSINESSES ON MAIN STREET

Jo Ann Goin has opened Glory House Bistro at 109 S. Main Street. The restaurant features a specialty buffet with salad bar, and a different menu each day of the month. The menu can be viewed on-line at www.gloryhousecatering.com. Also, opening in Irving's Heritage District are two new businesses at 124 S. Main Street. Fabulous Frugale is a home décor consignment shop that is currently accepting furniture consignments. At this same location, Phantastic Photos is available to meet all your photography needs. Both businesses are open Thursday and Friday from 10-6 and Saturday from 10-3.

NEC TAKES TOP HONORS IN STUDY, ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP

NEC Corporation of America, a leading provider and integrator of advanced communications solutions, has announced that the TM Forum Business Benchmarking Program has awarded NEC's Network Operations Center (NOC) first place in a study designed to help participants optimize the effectiveness of their NOC. Additionally, the company has announced a new partnership with Tidebreak, Inc., a leader in interactive workplace and learning space technologies, to provide new, collaborative university classroom solutions.

SBA SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

The Small Business Administration is seeking nominations for Small Business of the Year. Information about the nomination process may be found at www.sba.gov/nominations/index.html. Any Chamber members interested in competing for this award should contact Don Williams at 214-507-5091 or dwilliams@irvingchamber.com. Applications are due to the SBA District office by November 13.

CARIS DIAGNOSTICS APPOINTS SENIOR VP, CFO

Irving-based Caris Diagnostics, a leading provider of integrated anatomic pathology and oncology testing services, has announced the appointment of Jerry Martino as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

VHA INC. NAMED SEVENTH BEST PLACE TO WORK

VHA Inc., a national health care network based in Irving, has been named the seventh best place to work in health care by Modern Healthcare magazine. This is the second consecutive year VHA was ranked in the Top 100.

AQUIRE ANNOUNCES FEATURES FOR LATEST RELEASE

Aquire, the leader in workforce planning and management solutions, announced today that the latest release of OrgPublisher Premier 9.1 will include valuable new Span of Control and Layer Metrics capabilities. This organizational charting product is the most powerful workforce analytics solution on the market today. The software allows organizations to instantly visualize and identify points in an organization's hierarchy that can be flattened or extended to create optimal organizational structure. Aquire's North American headquarters is located in Las Colinas.

OMNI HOTELS RECOGNIZED

Omni Hotels, headquartered in Irving since 1997, has three properties on Conde Nast Traveler's 2009 Readers' Choice List of the Top Hotels in the U.S. The Watermark Hotel & Spa in San Antonio, the Omni Chicago Hotel and the Omni La Mansion del Rio in San Antonio made the prestigious list. With a 35 increase in local employment, the company received the Dallas Regional Chamber's Momentum Award in the category of local employment growth by percentage, including staff at Irving's Omni Mandalay Hotel in Las Colinas.

HEALTHSMART UNVEILS NEW HEALTHCARE BENEFIT, HOSTS LEARN EVENT

Irving-based HealthSmart will be unveiling a new healthcare benefit that will meet the basic medical needs of employees at a very reasonable cost to Irving employers. The product will be attractive to small businesses currently not offering healthcare benefits as well as larger companies seeking wellness options. A "learn event" and breakfast will be held at 7:30 a.m., November 17, at the Urban Towers, 222 W. Las Colinas Blvd, North Tower, Suite 200. There is no charge to attend.

DALLAS BUSINESS JOURNAL RECOGNIZES IRVING CFOS

The Dallas Business Journal recently recognized several CFOs of organizations with ties to Irving. Max Duplant from the City of Irving was named a finalist along with David Glover of the Buxton Company, William J. Mays from Uplift Education and Beth Acton from Comerica Bank. Rick Linder from AT&T won the award in the large public company category. Irving-based DG FastChannel's Omar Choucair was named the Chief Financial Officer of the Year for small to mid-size public companies. DG FastChannel is an internet marketing company that ranked as fifth fastest growing small public company in the world by Fortune magazine.

THOMAS GROUP RELEASES STUDY RESULTS

Thomas Group, Inc., a global consulting firm based in Irving, has announced the results of its study, Hospital-Physician Alignment: A Model for Success. The group finds a direct relationship between a hospital's alignment score and its reported revenue growth and cost savings.

UNITE FOR TROOPS

On Saturday, November 14, the public is invited to attend, Unite for Troops, an event that benefits our deployed troops. This event will be held at Porter's Army-Navy Store, 600 E. Irving Blvd. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Donations are currently being accepted. To learn more, and to view a list of items needed, visit www.unitefortroops.com.

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Biz Briefs is provided by the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce which is solely responsible for its content.



Celebrating Halloween in true Texas fa

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dents across the city celebrated Halloween with fun, costumes and sty



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IN GOD WE TRUST



Irving to honor local veterans with two events

Two recognition events for veterans will take place in Irving during the month of November.

The Irving Veterans Memorial Park Committee will host a memorial service in observance of Veterans Day at 2:30 p.m. Nov. 8 at the Central Library Auditorium,

801 W. Irving Blvd. Refreshments will be served and attendees will gather at Irving Veterans Memorial Park following the service for personal moments of reflection.

The Irving Public Library will present Celebrate our Veterans at 2 p.m. Nov. 14 at the Central Li-

brary. Stephen Neal Manning, author of "The Courage of Common Men: Texans Remember World War II," will serve as the guest speaker for the commemoration.

"This program gives us the opportunity to pay tribute to the veterans who have served our

country and to highlight the beautiful Veterans Memorial Park adjacent to the library," said Mary Archer, program coordinator.

Following a performance of patriotic music by the Fire and Drum Corps of the Irving Fire Department, Manning will discuss ex-

periences of Texan servicemen during the World War II era and the personal stories of the war heroes he interviewed for his book.

In addition, Bob Moffatt, secretary of the Veterans Memorial Park Committee, will provide details on the Irving Veterans Memorial Park commemorative brick program.

Celebrate our Veterans is part of the Irving Chautauqua series offered at the Central Library Auditorium on the second Saturday of the month. The programs, designed for the entire family, are intended to bring the community together through cultural performances. Programs are free and open to all ages. For more information, call 972-721-2606 or visit www.cityofirving.org/library.

Short film's star got her start in Irving

Provided by Eric Miller

Irving native Claire Buckingham plays a leading role in a new short film recently shot and produced in Brooklyn. Set in New Jersey, *Before We Get to Seattle* is built around Buckingham's character Chloe, her friend Michelle (played by Claire Natale) and Chloe's desire to head to Seattle at the height of the Grunge

movement. In addition, John Cappelli plays the loudmouth antagonist Leo.

Buckingham, who now lives in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Park Slope, graduated from the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

"It's a coming of age story about a couple of tough working

class girls. It's set in the 90's to a classic grunge rock soundtrack," said April Mosquos who co-wrote and directed the film with Adam Linn.

The film was shot at two Brooklyn locations including a former high school in Greene Point and the 24-Hour Prospect Park Deli in the Park Slope neighborhood.

Before We get to Seattle is currently undergoing sound editing. A grunge guitar solo is being composed by Matt Wrobel.

Learn more at, www.indieego.com/Before-We-Get-To-Seattle.

Irving Police Department adheres to best practices

Continued from Page 1

view of the agency's policies, procedures, facilities and operations. Upon completion of the internal review, an outside audit and on-site review was completed. Irving becomes the largest agency in the state to achieve the "Recognized Law Enforcement Agency" status.

"The task of going through and reviewing all of the policies is a strenuous one," said David James, Chief of Police for Carrollton and the TPCA's immediate Past President. "The larger the agency, the more attention has to be paid to being sure everybody within the department also is aware of the process of best practices. The larger departments normally have more policies and procedures in place than smaller agencies will.

"They also have the requirement that they educate the officers to be sure they are aware of these best practices. When an onsite, final review team comes in, they visit with and interview people from throughout the department to gauge whether or not these practices are merely on paper or are incorporated and understood by the agency. The larger the agency, the bigger the challenge is for that to happen.

"Three people came in to review Irving, because it is such a large agency. They were very assured that the individuals within the agency who were selected randomly for them to interview were

aware of the process and were aware of what the program was about. That means the people within the agency are going to ensure this quality organization not only has best practices on paper, but they are prepared to meet those best practices in daily operations."

The Irving Police Department has always considered itself to be one of the best in the state. This process provided for an independent review of the department's operations and should assure the citizens of Irving that its Police Department is conforming to the current state of the art in law enforcement.

"The best practices were designed by some of the most professional police officers in the state of Texas," said Marlin Price, TPCA's Recognition Program Coordinator. "Police chiefs and command level officers together in a combined process developed these standards. The standards cover everything from the use of force to investigations to vehicle pursuits. They don't tell an agency what they have to do, they say you must have a policy on this and it must include these elements in it. So it leaves a city the option of how they perform those tasks, but they ensure the policy is in place.

"What that means to a citizen is, the Irving Police Department does have policies in place that meet the best practices in law en-

forcement in this country and in our state. It prevents officers from just going out and doing things the way they want to. It is a police department that operates professionally, controls their officers and responds to citizen concerns. When an agency becomes recognized, it assures the citizens, city manager, mayor, the city council and everybody that this police department has been viewed by professionals and they have policies in place that meet the national standard. That should give the citizens of Irving a little bit more comfortable feeling about how their police department operates.

"We were very impressed. The report we received from the onsite committee for the Irving Police Department was an outstanding report. They identified a number of special projects that Irving does that are going to be shared with other police agencies around the state.

"I think the citizens of Irving should be very proud of their police department and the leadership they have here," he said.

For more information, visit www.texaspolicechiefs.org.

I-35E from Loop 12 to Harry Hines closing

Provided by Cynthia Northrop White

The Texas Department of Transportation is cooperating with DART, allowing the full closure of northbound I-35E between Regal Row and Loop 12 on Nov. 8 from 9 pm through Nov. 9 at 5 a.m. Southbound I-35E from Loop 12 and Regal Row will be closed on Nov. 9 at 9 p.m. through Nov. 10 at 5 a.m.

The closure is necessary to set/erect bridge girders over I-35E.

TxDOT asks motorists to drive carefully through the work zone, and placed electronic message boards to notify the public of the scheduled closures. Police officers will also be present to monitor traffic during the closure. Motorists traveling southbound on I-35E will be rerouted to Loop 12,

Highway 114, and then north on Storey Lane/Spur 482, underneath I-35E to southbound Harry Hines and back onto I-35E. Motorists traveling northbound will be rerouted to Harry Hines and then Northwest Highway back to I-35E.

DART is constructing the Orange Line to North Irving/DFW. This portion includes a bridge structure from the junction with the Green Line at the Bachman Station over Harry Hines Boulevard and I-35E, then along Storey Lane/Spur 482, finally across the Trinity River, landing alongside the southbound Spur 482 frontage road.

For additional information about this project go to www.dart.org/about/expansion/orangeline.asp

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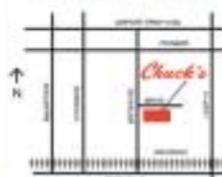
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Texas Constitutional amendments election results

Continued from Page 1

Prop 5 Single appraisal review board adjoining entities
 Dallas County
 For 42,537
 Against 19,498
 Texas
 For 629,470
 Against 388,504

Prop 6 Authorize the Veterans' Land Board to issue bonds
 Dallas County
 For 44,629
 Against 17,876
 Texas
 For 670,044
 Against 349,637

Dallas County
 For 48,806
 Against 14,905
 Texas
 For 762,429
 Against 280,802

Prop 8 Authorize state to contribute to Veterans Hosp.
 Dallas County
 For 49,432

Prop 7 St. Guard officer/member may hold other civil off.

Against 14,965
 Texas
 For 787,102
 Against 264,625

Prop 9 Protect right of public to access public beaches

Dallas County
 For 49,313
 Against 13,531
 Texas
 For 802,731
 Against 240,583

Dallas County
 For 48,294
 Against 14,172
 Texas
 For 756,624
 Against 278,444

Prop 11 Limits on power of eminent domain

Dallas County
 For 53,351
 Against 9,884
 Texas
 For 845,770
 Against 198,120

Prop 10 ESD board members' terms may not exceed four yrs

OBITUARIES

HEATHER CHRISTINA IRENE REIL

Heather Christina Irene Reil, 15, of Arlington, died Monday, October 26, 2009 in Louisiana. She was born July 21, 1994 in Dallas. Visitation was Friday at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home. Service was Saturday, October 31, 2009 at Fundamental Baptist Church, Irving. Burial at Bear Creek Cemetery in Euless.

R. V. "VAL" LEBEL

R.V. "Val" LeBel passed away peacefully at his home on Tuesday, October 20, 2009. Val was born in Somersworth, NH in 1915 to Valeda Valle and Rene LeBel. He had one brother, Richard, and one sister, Blanche. He married Isabelle Willett, also from Somersworth, in 1939. Val graduated from Somersworth High School and went on to graduate from the University of New Hampshire, majoring in chemistry. He did post graduate work at Northeastern University, Boston University and Simmons. Val took a job with the Rexall drug company in Boston as a chemist, control chemist, research chemist and assistant supervisor in manufacturing. The family relocated to Highland, NY in 1950, where he remained with Rexall. Val was president and general manager of the Hudson Valley Food Co. in Highland, a Rexall subsidiary, and president of the Highland Chamber of Commerce from 1954-1955. Seneca bought that Rexall division, and Val remained with Seneca until 1958, when the family moved to Dallas, TX. Val took a job with Frito Lay as the national quality control manager. He was responsible for initiating and developing its national quality control program. In 1965, the family moved to Irving, TX. Val remained with Frito Lay until his retirement in 1978. He continued to do consulting work for Frito

Lay for several more years. Val loved his job and took much pride in his work. He had a long and healthy retirement, enjoying travelling, golf, bridge and the many dogs in his life. Val was also an avid sports fan. In 2004, Val and Isabelle moved to Virginia City Highlands, NV to live with their daughter, Valerie LeBel-Flatley. Val is survived by his loving wife of 70 years, Isabelle; his brother, Richard; daughter, Valerie LeBel-Flatley and son-in-law, Martin Flatley; daughter, Suzanne Griffin and son-in-law, A.D. Griffin; grandchildren, Paul Newman, Jeff Newman and Michele Wilson; great-grandchildren, Zach Newman, Marilyn Newman, Emily Newman, David Newman, Chelsea Cook, Charity Barrett and Megan Atkinson; nephew, Fred Willett; nieces and nephews, extended families and numerous friends. We love you and will miss you terribly. A memorial mass was said for Val at St. Mary's in the Mountains Catholic Church in Virginia City, NV on Saturday, October 31, 2009. If you wish, contributions in Val's memory can be made to St. Mary's in the Mountains, P.O. Box 510, Virginia City, NV 89440, designated for the restoration fund. Val's remains were returned to Dallas, TX, where he will be interred at Calvary Hill Cemetery, 3235 Lombardy Lane, Dallas, TX. A memorial mass will also be said at the cemetery on November 11, 2009 at 12 noon.

SGT. STEPHEN CRAIG HILLERY

Sgt. Stephen Craig Hillery, 54, passed away on October 27, 2009 in Arlington, TX. He was born on February 09, 1955 to William N. Hillery, Jr. & Norma Ann (Albrecht) Hillery in Dallas, TX. Steve was a 1973 graduate of Duncanville High School, 1977 graduate of Texas A&M University and a member of St. Alban's Episcopal Church. Steve joined the Irving Police Dept. in 1980 where he served as a motorcycle officer

for many years obtaining the rank of sergeant. He is survived by his adoring wife, Rebecca Hillery, four children, Sean Craig Hillery, Natalie Roseann Hillery, Corey Pagitt, Carrie Reinoso and husband, Mario, four grandchildren, Niko Pagitt, Lucca Reinoso, Maya Reinoso, and Jensen Stone Pagitt, brother, Jeffrey Hillery and wife, Peggy, sister, Jennifer Stevens and husband, Paul, and three nieces, Charlotte, Sophie and Summer. Funeral services were held on Friday, October 30, 2009 at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 911 S. Davis St., Arlington, TX. Interment followed at Little Bethel Cemetery in Duncaville, TX. Chapel of Roses Funeral Home, 1225 E. Irving Blvd., Irving, TX. 75060, (972)554-1031.

MARY KATHRYN WILSON

Mary Kathryn Wilson, of Irving, passed away Monday, November 2, 2009. She was born May 16, 1923 in Edmond, OK. Funeral services were held on Thursday, November 5, 2009 at Brown's Memorial Chapel with Rev. Brian Hatcher officiating. Interment followed at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.

JAMES V. GERMANY

James V. Germany, 53, passed away on October 30, 2009. He was born on November 27, 1955 in Oklahoma City, OK. Funeral services were held on Friday, November 6, 2009 at Chapel of Roses Funeral Home. Interment followed at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.

WADE GIAMPA

Wade Giampa, scenic designer for Lyric Stage and Irving Community Theater, passed away on Fri., Oct. 30. He is survived by his son Jason and granddaughter Jacklyn of Lynn, MA. Services were held Fri., Nov. 6th at 12:30 PM in the Dupree Theater at the Irving Arts Center, 3333 North MacArthur Blvd., Irving, TX 75062.



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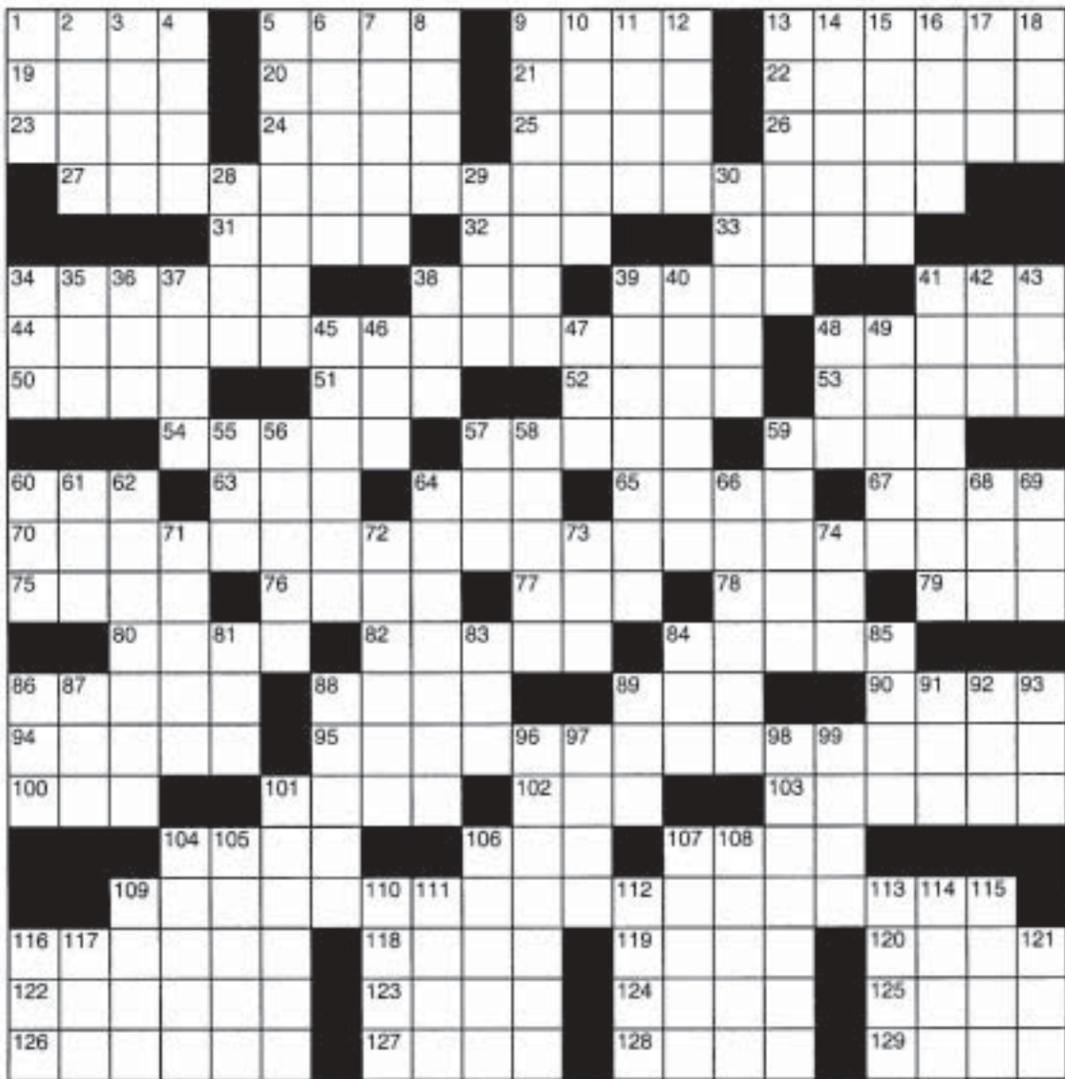
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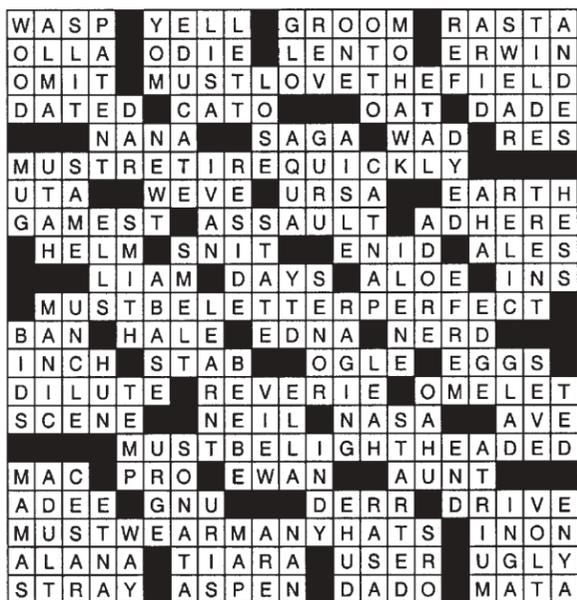
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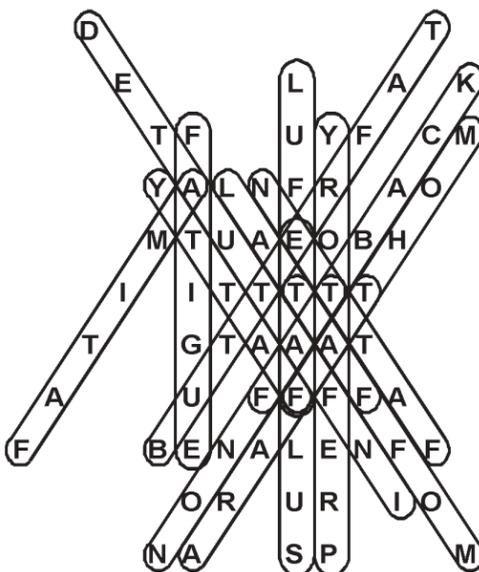
- ACROSS**
- 1 From the top
 - 5 Pride of the pumped-up
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 - 13 Dirty
 - 19 118 Across' mistress
 - 20 Way off base?
 - 21 Director Kazan
 - 22 Agenda item
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 - 31 Form a cylinder
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 - 38 It may be strapless
 - 39 Emulates Simon
 - 41 Hibiscus garland
 - 44 She became a pharmacist because ...
 - 48 — squash
 - 50 Tropical tree
- DOWN**
- 51 Wrinkly dog
 - 52 Diva
 - 53 Halloween happening
 - 54 Raptor feature
 - 57 Texas landmark
 - 59 Out of gas
 - 60 — Na Na
 - 63 Scold and scold
 - 64 Bolted the beans
 - 65 Formerly
 - 67 Dispel
 - 70 He became an explorer because ...
 - 75 Get wind of
 - 76 Cad
 - 77 Watching machines?
 - 78 Season firewood
 - 79 Rock's — Leopard
 - 80 Formal ceremony
 - 82 Backslide
 - 84 Exhausted
 - 86 Euripidean tragedy
 - 88 Lhasa —
 - 89 Clarke or West
 - 90 Model Carre
 - 94 Simpson of fashion
 - 95 She became a baker because ...
 - 100 Horde of humpbacks
 - 101 Not that
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 - 103 Least light-hearted
 - 104 Wet blanket
 - 106 Address abbr.
 - 107 — vu
 - 109 He became an electrician because ...
 - 116 — out (aided)
 - 118 Hammett hound
 - 119 Small businessman?
 - 120 Vociferate
 - 122 Elevated
 - 123 Author Uris
 - 124 "— She Sweet" ('27 song)
 - 125 Cooper's tool
 - 126 Size up
 - 127 Drops the ball
 - 128 Family members, to many
 - 129 Part of Q.E.D.
- DOWN**
- 1 Clause connector
 - 2 Wordy Webster
 - 3 Part of HOMES
 - 4 Cleanse
 - 5 Excuses
 - 6 Tom of "Baretta"
 - 7 Computer language
 - 8 Thin strip
 - 9 Dislodgment
 - 10 Isolated
 - 11 Ho Chi —
 - 12 Literary pen name
 - 13 Poet Heaney
 - 14 Senator Hatch
 - 15 Jeremy of "Waterland"
 - 16 Praise
 - 17 USNA grad
 - 18 HST's successor
 - 28 Schipa solo
 - 29 Writer Paretzky
 - 30 With diffidence
 - 34 "For shame!"
 - 35 Palindromic cry
 - 36 "Fantasia" frame
 - 37 Nab a gnat
 - 38 Plead
 - 39 Exercise expert Richard
 - 40 Cashew kin
 - 41 Couldn't stand
 - 42 Directional suffix
 - 43 Calligraphy supply
 - 45 Highest point
 - 46 Pantyhose problem
 - 47 Soup veggie
 - 48 Gibbon or gorilla
 - 49 Vulgar
 - 55 Comic Sothern
 - 56 Woodworking tool
 - 57 From — Z
 - 58 Boxing blows
 - 59 Neutral tone
 - 60 "Quiet!"
 - 61 TV's "— Haw"
 - 62 Bestowed
 - 64 Reference volumes
 - 66 "— of Love" ('64 smash)
 - 68 Grand — Opry
 - 69 Mistaken
 - 71 Historian Durant
 - 72 Oracle site
 - 73 "— had it!"
 - 74 Rock's — at Work
 - 81 — kwon do
 - 83 Neighbor of Ger.
 - 84 Dejected
 - 85 Soybean product
 - 86 Traveler's aid
 - 87 Maestro de Waart
 - 88 Grate stuff
 - 89 Ryan or Foster
 - 91 Knot it!
 - 92 — and outs
 - 93 NCO
 - 96 Dondi and Annie
 - 97 "Ars longa, — brevis"
 - 98 Protests
 - 99 "There oughta be —!"
 - 101 Exchanges
 - 104 Contradict
 - 105 61 Down host
 - 106 Play boy?
 - 107 D.D. Emmett tune
 - 108 Happening
 - 109 They're sometimes hugged?
 - 110 Auction
 - 111 — -friendly
 - 112 Act like an antelope
 - 113 Basra's locale
 - 114 Pianist Lupu
 - 115 Signor Ferrari
 - 116 Herd word
 - 117 Oerter and Unser
 - 121 TV's "Father —"



Answers for 10-31-2009



Answers for 10-31-2009



Answers for 10-31-2009



ComParrot[®] by Bonnie J. Malcolm

Can you spot 12 differences between these pictures?



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Solution: 1. Pocket on girl's pants is missing. 2. Man's tie appears. 3. Leaf on monument is missing. 4. Pocket on lady's coat is colored in. 5. Toe on girl's shoe is colored in. 6. Leaf behind man is colored in. 7. Medals on lady's sleeve have moved. 8. Grass behind lady has moved. 9. Badge on sleeve is upside down. 10. Flag stick is longer. 11. Lady's shirt is longer. 12. Flag is larger.

NEW YORK CITY MAYORS

MAGIC MAZE

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

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

- Beame
- Bloomberg
- Dinkins
- Giuliani
- Gunther
- Hewitt
- Hylan
- Impellitteri
- LaGuardia
- Lindsay
- McKee
- Peartree
- Van Wyck
- Walker
- Willett

Mungles on Movies

By Matt Mungle

Title: *The Men Who Stare at Goats*
 Rated: R

There came a time in my life when I was okay with simply admitting when I don't "get" something. I stopped pretending to understand certain music, writers or artists simply to seem cool and hip. Therefore, I can easily say that although I liked *The Men Who Stare at Goats*, I am pretty certain I didn't get it. And if I did get it, then

The Men Who Stare at Goats is a real trip

that means it is not as good a film as I think it is. Because what I got out of it was not very deep and profound. I almost want there to be something that eluded me. That way I can feel better about walking out of there confused and missing out. I can only hope that this movie is not as silly as it appears to be on the surface.

A down and out reporter (Ewan McGregor) heads to Iraq to try and jump start his life. While there he runs in to Lyn Cassady (George Clooney) who as legend has it was one of the original mem-

bers of the US Army's controversial unit, The First Earth Battalion. A group of military men led by Bill Django (Jeff Bridges) and believed to train in the art of psychic and paranormal powers. The two trek across the desert in search of a mission that has yet to be revealed. Along the way they get kidnapped, shot at and nearly blown up. All for a reason that still escapes me. Writer Peter Straughan and director Grant Heslov have created a film that is unique. That is a fact.

I laughed a lot at this film. The humorous moments come around

often, and Clooney as always uses his quirkiness to his advantage. At times McGregor and Clooney seem more like Bob Hope and Bing Crosby on the road to Iraq, but they work well together and balance each other nicely. I wonder if there is an inner joke that goes deeper than the surface humor. The film might be making more fun of itself than we know. But it does it subtly for sure. Sadly, it feels longer than its 93 minutes. Mainly due to the fact that when you take away the comedy, there is little or no plot to carry you from

moment to moment. During those times the film bogs down heavily, and you find yourself hanging around for the next site gag or one liner. All the characters are random and there is absolutely no synergy to their presence.

The Men Who Stare at Goats is rated R for language, some drug content and brief nudity. The drug content consists mainly of LSD trips and some experimental concoctions. The language isn't perverse and if I remember correctly not rampant. It is easy for me to give this flick 3.5 out of 5 jedi mind tricks. The cast is brilliant in spite of the lack of depth to the script. The humor is strong and current enough to make up for the slow parts. That in itself makes this one to see, just be careful not to try and look too deep. There is no shame in saying you don't get it. None of the cool kids did. So says Matt Mungle.

The assistant needs a little help

By Matt Mungle

Title: *Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant*
 Rated: PG-13

The new film, *Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant*, based on a popular book series has a lot to offer. I am not saying it lives up to its full potential, but only that it has a lot to offer.

Vampires are a big hit these days thanks to book series like this and *Twilight*. Problem is that many times the transition from the page to the screen misses the mark. Ask any if the die hard Edward fans what they thought of that first *Twilight* flick if you doubt my theory. Not having read *TVA* for myself I

wanted a good script, stunning imagery and imaginative characters. Eh, two out of three ain't bad.

The story revolves around two teenage boys who sneak out one night to visit a traveling carnival freak show. Steve (Josh Hutcherson) is the troubled mischievous one and his best friend Darren (Chris Massoglia) the straight laced smart guy with good grades and the model family. While at the show they meet the vampire Larten Crepsley (John C. Reilly). It is that meeting and subsequent events that lead them on separate paths into the dark underworld. There they discover an ongoing confrontation between the Vampires and the Vampaneze.

There are issues with this movie that you need to be made aware of. I do not tell you these things to keep you from seeing it, but rather so that you can enjoy it more if you do see it. Be prepared; at times this film looks and feels more like an after school miniseries than a big screen feature. It gets all Nickelodeon on you, but then tries to convince you it is a dark and twisted tale. The script is splotchy and seems to never find its footing. If anything it made me want to read the books to find out what was left on the cutting room floor. Or left out completely.

The second problem I had was with the casting of Hutcherson as the troubled youth. I'm sorry but he just can't pull off the tough guy. When he swears and tries to act tough, it is comical and unbelievable. Josh is a good actor, but this was just not the right role. The rest of the cast is superb, Willem Dafoe, Salma Hayek, Ken Watanabe, Orlando Jones and Patrick Fugit make for some fanciful freaks.

This story is intriguing regardless of how the script butchers it. The "Freaks" are all very unique and cleverly developed. They add plenty of color and fantasy to the film that I wanted to see more of. Director Paul Weitz does a decent job of balancing the story and moving the action along. I have to wonder how a script like this would be in the hands of a Tim Burton but for the most part Paul succeeds. He co-wrote the screenplay though and that is the shakiest part of the project. There are a good many tongue in cheek moments regarding the stereotypes surrounding vampires, but they were tossed about haphazardly with no real grounding.

Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant is rated PG-13 for sequences of intense supernatu-

ral violence and action, disturbing images, thematic elements and some language. That is a fair rating and even though it has the Nickelodisney moments it is a film for older audiences. The language alone is the main thing that parents will be concerned about. Though the expletives are mild, they occur often. Add that to the theme of freaks, vampires and the antics they are known for and you have a movie best suited for the 13 and up crowd. Sure your 10 year old will think it is the coolest movie ever, I am just not so sure it is one he should see. I give this freak circus 3 out of 5 cloves of garlic. Not a terrible time at the theater, but a story and characters I would rather Tivo once a week rather than try and cram into 90 minutes. So says Matt Mungle.

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.



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* THE FOURTH KIND PG13 12:30 2:55 5:25 7:50 10:20	ASTRO BOY PG 12:45 3:40 6:50
# MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT PG 1:40 4:15 7:10 9:40	WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE PG 1:20 3:45 7:00 9:25
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Irving named technologically advanced city

The City of Irving has been recognized as one of the most technologically advanced cities in the United States for the fifth consecutive year according to the 2009 Digital Cities Survey. Irving achieved its highest rating ever, placing third for cities in the 125,000 to 249,999 population category. In addition, Irving is the only Texas city to secure a top-10 spot in this category.

"Our goal has always been to provide the Irving community with access to the latest and most cut-

ting-edge technology," said Information Technology Department Director David Galvan. "We are delighted to be recognized for our investments in technology and we look forward to ensuring that technology continues to be used as a vehicle to improve the quality of life for our residents, visitors and businesses."

The survey, which was conducted by the Center for Digital Government based in Sacramento, CA, recognizes cities for their use

of technology and examines how municipalities incorporate information technology into operations that better serve residents engaging with local government. All United States cities, towns, villages and consolidated city/county governments with populations of 30,000 or greater were invited to participate in this survey.

The City of Irving will officially be recognized for its achievement Nov. 12 at a special awards ceremony in San Antonio.

Young Masters scholarships available to exceptional young Texas artists

Provided by Laura Kunz

The Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) is now accepting applications for the 2010 class of the Young Masters scholarship program. The scholarships will help promising young school-aged students in Texas to excel in the arts.

The Young Masters Program will provide exemplary arts students in grades 8-12 with the financial help they need to pursue advanced study in the areas of visual arts, literature, music, theatre, dance and media arts.

Only the most talented young artists will receive the title of Young Master and will be granted \$2,500 scholarships per year to further their studies in their chosen arts disciplines. All proposed artistic training programs should be completed during the period of May 1 through August 31, 2010. Students are eligible to receive the scholarship for up to three years,

but they must reapply annually. Young Masters scholarships are not available for collegiate study.

"We have seen impressive artistic advancement among Young Masters who attended such prestigious summer programs as the School of Visual Arts in New York, the Chicago Art Institute, Julliard, the American Dance Festival, Ann Reinking's Broadway Theatre Project and Tanglewood," said TCA Executive Director Gary Gibbs. "The Commission takes great pride in helping these young people become prominent artists of the next generation."

All Texas students who are U.S. citizens and who are participating in a school-based program, a summer institute, or a specialized course of study; or who are receiving private lessons from a qualified professional instructor are encouraged to apply. In order to be considered, students must maintain passing grades in all academic areas, and it's important to note that the applicants compete against a standard of excellence, not each

other.

A brief narrative describing an applicant's course of study and detailing how the student will use the scholarship to advance his/her artistic abilities must accompany all applications. A budget indicating anticipated expenditures will also be required. Applicants must also provide evidence of their previous efforts in the arts by submitting a portfolio, a cassette tape, videotape, slides or some other representation of their creative work.

Applications for the Young Masters program may be obtained by calling TCA at 512-936-6563 or by visiting www.arts.state.tx.us. All applications and support documents must be postmarked by November 15.

Students will be selected by a citizen panel of experts from across the state based on level of potential, level of commitment and quality of their proposed plan of action. Notification of awards for this fourth class of Young Masters will begin in April 2010.

Honoring Veterans



In preparation for Veterans Day, Nov. 11, students and staff at Stipes Elementary School have been collecting photos of relatives who are also military veterans and posting them on a wall at the school.

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Holiday Grapefruit Sales Will Fund Sunrise Rotary's 2010 Grants

Irving Sunrise Rotary recommends a sweet, healthy and TOTALLY TEXAN holiday gift this year: Rio Star Grapefruit.

The Irving service club is accepting orders for boxes of this citrus fruit throughout November in time for a mid-December delivery. The cost is \$17 per 20-pound box. The boxes contain 18 grapefruits. There also is shipping available to anywhere in the United States for an additional fee.

Easy ordering is available by calling Las Colinas Pharmacy at (972) 580-1814 and pressing extension one when prompted. Customers can order using a credit card by phone or can pay with check or cash in person at the Las Colinas Pharmacy, which is located at 4835 N. O'Connor Road in Irving. Orders can be placed by phone or in person between 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sat-

urdays. All orders must be received by 7 p.m. on November 30.

"These Rio Star Grapefruit are from the heart of the Texas' Rio Grand Valley. This variety of grapefruit can only be grown there because the soil, sun and climate are perfect. The result is a grapefruit that is sweet enough to be sectioned and eaten like an orange. They really are a delicious and are a unique gift," explains Jim Hrcncir, chairman of the Sunrise Rotary Club's grapefruit sales drive.

Club President Ronda Huffstetler notes that grapefruit sales help fund the Sunrise Rotary Club's charitable efforts. This includes sending several Irving public school students to a week-long leadership camp sponsored by Rotary. The club also has used funds raised by grapefruit sales to buy wheelchairs for needy people in both Mexico and South Africa. "A significant amount of the money we raise also funds our annual back-to-school supply drive. This year, more than 1,200 needy Irving students received school supplies that were purchased through the sales of these amazingly delicious grapefruit," she notes.

Projects planned for 2010 include helping to build a guest home near the

Dallas Veterans Administration Hospital where families of Iraq war veterans can stay while their love ones receive medical treatment. The club also plans to help fund the drilling of a water well in Africa. "When you buy these grapefruit—whether one box or one hundred boxes—you're helping us live out Rotary's goal of helping and serving mankind, both locally and around the world," Huffstetler added.

Hrcncir also noted, "This is a great and healthy gift for yourself or for someone you love. It's also really fun to send a little bit of the sweetness of Texas to family and friends around the country. Most folks who give our grapefruits as gifts come back year after year because the recipients love it. We even have several businesses who send boxes of these Rio Star Grapefruit to their clients as appreciation gifts during the holidays."

Irving Sunrise Rotary Club meets at 7 a.m. each Thursday at Las Colinas Country Club, which is at 4900 O'Connor Road in Irving. The club welcomes visitors who want to learn more about Rotary's outstanding weekly programs, business networking and community service initiatives.

