



THIS WEEK

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TxDOT delay threatens businesses along 183

By Jess Paniszczyn

Less than 10 days after DART disclosed a \$900 million shortfall affecting the new construction of light rail lines to Irving and Rowlett, TxDOT delayed right of way purchases along state highway 183 because of a funding shortfall.

"The problem is the Irving project was pulled over a year ago," State Representative Linda Harper Brown said. "We knew the project had moved over to the west side of 183 into the Tarrant county area, because they wanted to add 35W into the plan. Why they decided to go ahead and try to start buying right-of-way, I don't know. Except than in talking with Jim Cline (Irving's Public Works Director) he said it was better to go ahead and try to get the right-of-way out of the way, because the right-of-way

is where you get tied up in the courts.

"TxDOT has pulled the money to, I think, starve the system. When they started looking at their money farther out in their scheduling they saw there was going to be a shortfall. So they decided to pull back and not buy as much right-of-way. That is indicative to me of saying they have some money now, they just decided not to spend it, because the future looked grim. I think it shows TxDOT is deliberately starving the system to try to get the legislature to give them more money. It is a power play. They are trying to blackmail us in to giving them what they want in the next legislative session.

"This is not just happening here in Irving, it is happening across the state. TxDOT is leav-

ing people hanging like they did on 183. They are taking the lives of the citizens of Texas in their hands in order to get what they want. They are manipulating

people to prove the point they have no money. I think that is wrong."

This latest shortfall may have unintended consequences for TxDOT.

"TxDOT falls under Sunset this year. The system needs to be looked at very carefully to determine whether or not their processes and procedures are right, See *BUSINESSES*, Page 4

Winfree Academy awarded state's top anti-drug program

Winfree Academy of Irving's Courage Program was awarded the State's top Anti-Drug Program by Associated Texans Against Crime (ATAC). Winfree's Courage Program is a free tuition, self-contained public high school sobriety program.

"Parents are often left in the dilemma of sending their student back into the school environment they found themselves in while using drugs and/or alcohol," Winfree Academy founder Melody Chalkley said. "Peer pressure and 'using friends' make the difficult

process of recovery dangerously stressful. Placing a recovering teen in a supportive environment with other recovering students who have a desire for sobriety provides further opportunity for success."

Courage offers a safe, supportive environment for students who are in recovery and wish to graduate with a state recognized diploma.

"Four years ago a vision of promise and hope inspired us to develop this unique program for

See *STUDENTS*, Page 11



State Representative Linda Harper-Brown and Congressman Pete Sessions speak with students enrolled in the Courage Program.

Light rail concerns strain partnership between Irving, DART

By Jess Paniszczyn

The City Council Conference Room was filled to overflowing as politicians, activists, business owners and citizens listened to Gary Thomas, President/Executive Director of DART, explain DART's current financial position and the future of Irving's Orange Line. Irving's Orange Line is a highly anticipated proposed light rail line connecting DFW Airport to Dallas through the Las Colinas Urban Center.

Mr. Thomas explained DART's construction figures add four percent to each year for inflation. Over the past few years, the four percent number has not been adequate to keep up with the increased costs of labor and construction materials.

"If we plugged the numbers in the 1999-2000 time frame, we probably would have plugged in \$40 million a mile," Mr. Thomas said during the discussion. "Right now the estimates for Irving One and Two at 10% design completion are \$81 million a mile. Irving One and Two are a little bit more complex there is a lot of elevated structure and a lot of new terrain we need to go through. I am not saying we didn't kind of anticipate that.

"We used average unit prices, dollars per mile and once we got the 10% design done we could be a lot more specific about what was happening in those particular corridors. Elevated structures, having to go through and around things, we were able to put numbers more specifically to them. That combined with the fact construction costs are escalating far, far faster than anybody anticipated or could have anticipated. Those things combined together puts us where we are."

City Council members not only expressed frustration with the current situation, but also empha-



sized their desire as partners to help DART find solutions.

"It is in the spirit of partnership that I make the comments," Councilman Joe Philipp said. "I don't think this discussion is about pitting Rowlett against Irving, or Irving against Dallas. Any contextual reference to that, that we have to make tradeoffs and give up something over here for over there, I find absurd. I don't want to entertain any of that possibility in

deciding how we are going to have a matrix discussion where to find the money.

"Frankly, you ignited a firestorm Gary with your comments last week. I suspect you understand that now. From my perspective, a great deal of economic developmental city planning dollar investments have been made by many, many, many parties in this

See *PUBLIC*, Page 12

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POLICE & FIRE

Irving Fire Department

Activity summary Dec 4-11, 2007

Irving Fire Department responded to 290 incidents.

The Fire incidents	Medical calls
80 Miscellaneous Fire and Rescue Calls	24 Major Accidents
3 Structure Fires	81 Major Medical
0 Special Operations	16 Heart Attacks
4 Vehicle Fires	33 Difficulty Breathing
	36 Trauma Related
	16 CPR Situations

Comments:
12-07: Ambulances went into overload once.
12-08: Ambulances went into overload once.
12-09: At 12:40 a.m. on the Irving Fire Department responded to a reported structure fire at 505 Nottingham. The first emergency personnel were on-scene at 12:42 a.m. with a total of two alarms being called. Total number of pieces of major equipment was 11. They were M2, E2, E5, E6, T2, T7, E7, E4, T8, 555, M11. 35 Fire Fighters and three Chief Officers were utilized in bringing the emergency under control. There were two injuries at this emergency. Ambulances went into overload three times.
12-11: Ambulances went into overload twice.

WEEKLY BIZ BRIEF

A business activity report by the Irving Economic Development Partnership.

DART ANNOUNCES SHORTFALL IN LAS COLINAS LIGHT RAIL LINE

DART advised the City of Irving of a \$900 million shortfall in construction cost funding which may delay the arrival of the DART light rail into the Las Colinas Urban Center. The City Council expressed outrage at any delays based upon Irving being an early partner and supporter of DART including Irving having funded this service for approximately 20 years. More than \$7.5 million of new development is underway in Irving that is directly tied to the arrival of commuter rail service. The Chamber is working with City leaders on this matter. Buses are being chartered to take as many business leaders and residents as possible to a DART Board briefing Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 11th. The buses will depart the Las Colinas Country Club at 2:45 p.m. and return no later than 6:00 p.m. To reserve a seat on one of the buses, please call the Chamber office at 214-217-8484.

IHFC BREAKS GROUND ON NEW DEVELOPMENT

The Irving Housing Finance Corporation broke ground on Nov. 28th on a new 8-home, in-fill development on Jackson Street across from the Jackie Townsell Bear Creek Heritage Center. Homes in Jackson Court will be built in 2008.

UNIVERSITY RECOGNIZES IRVING RESTAURANT

Sul Ross State University and Rio Grande College recognized Rudy and Nina Garcia, owners of Rudy's Mexican Restaurant at 3301 W. Rochelle (just east of Belt Line Road) for their entrepreneurial success. The Garcia's have successfully operated the restaurant since 1976.

REGENT FROM IRVING NAMED CHAIRMAN

Robert Rowling, Chairman of Irving-based TRT Holdings, has been elected chairman of the University of Texas Investment Management Company's (UTIMCO) Board of Directors. UTIMCO is the first investment corporation formed by a public university system and oversees the investments in the University of Texas' Permanent University Fund and other assets.

COOKSEY COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVES MARCOM AWARDS FOR IRVING WORK

Irving-based Cooksey Communications received two Platinum MarCom Awards for work with the City of Irving in securing a feature story on CNN that addressed controversial immigration issues in Irving as well as for writing an editorial in the Dallas Morning News addressing the 24/7 Criminal Alien Program of the City. Additionally, Cooksey won a Gold MarCom for securing a feature article in Momentum to celebrate an important milestone for the University of Dallas School of Ministry.

COFFEE BREAK

Irving businesses are encouraged to take a Coffee Break, Thursday, Dec. 13th, 8:30 a.m. at Receptions on the Main, 109 S. Main Street in Downtown Irving. This is a FREE networking opportunity for the business community. Participants are asked to bring canned goods for Irving Cares. Coffee and refreshments are served. These events are held the second Thursday of each month.

STATE OF THE CITY

Jan. 29th at the Dallas Marriott at Las Colinas will be the annual State of the City where Mayor Gears will discuss 2007 accomplishments and plans for the future.

The Irving Economic Development Partnership has initiated 11 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.

NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTORS

New Economic Development Investors include: Las Colinas Country Club, NEC Corporation of America and Triple L Management Corp. The Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber provides opportunities for private investment into its economic development program. The Economic Development Investors program allows companies to participate in exclusive updates on economic development activity, provides access to new companies into the city and offers relationship building opportunities with the elite businesses of Irving.

NEW RESTAURANT IN HERITAGE DISTRICT

Villa's Open Fire Grill & Catering is open at 137 S. Main Street in the heart of the Heritage District. The restaurant features Portuguese cuisine and is open 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Monday - Saturday and 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Sunday. Villa's features a daily lunch buffet, which provides customers an opportunity to sample numerous entree dishes. The restaurant will begin offering breakfast in the near future, including Starbucks coffee.

TEXAS MONTHLY RECOGNIZES NORTH HILLS PREPARATORY

North Hills Preparatory (formerly North Hills School) was recognized in the December issue of Texas Monthly magazine as being one of the best public middle and high schools in the State.

IRVING RESIDENT NAMED TO EX-IM BANK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Irving resident Graciela M. Davis, President and CEO of Omega Environmental Technologies, has been named to the Advisory Committee of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTORS

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

DIAMOND INVESTORS City of Irving Las Colinas Marketing Alliance	Properties Services GOLD INVESTORS Aviall, Inc. Carrington Laboratories Coldwell Banker RIM	The Staubach Company Oncor Electric Delivery
PLATINUM INVESTORS Flowerserve Corporation Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP Irving Convention & Visitors Bureau TIAA Realty, Inc./Cousins	SILVER INVESTORS Allstate Insurance Atmos Energy Classic Fare Catering Comerica Bank Friedel Photographic Granite Properties Medco Health Solutions Quantum Custom Homes	BRONZE INVESTORS Archon Group AT&T Crow Holdings/Apollo R. E. EF Johnson, Inc. ExxonMobil Frymire Services Imlach & Collins Brothers James Hardie Building Products Knight Security Systems, LLC Koll Development Company Office Resource Group Prediction Analytics PS Business Parks Reliant Energy San Jacinto Public Affairs

To share in the benefits enjoyed by these entities, please call us at 214.217.8484 or visit www.irvingchamber.com.

Fatality Accident:

12-06-07 at 4:43 p.m. The driver of unit #2 was east bound on 635 in the left lane when the driver of unit # 1, a cab traveling at a high rate of speed, began following him too closely. The driver of #2 maintained speed and "flipped off" the driver of the cab. The cab passed unit #2 and rolled down his window, but driver of #2 ignored him. The driver of the cab then attempted to cut in front of unit #2 and clipped the front of unit #2. This caused the cab to spin approx 180 degrees and impact a concrete barricade on the inside shoulder. This ejected the driver who was killed immediately.

Aggravated Assault (Stabbing):

12-08-07 at 11:43 p.m. The victim and his stepfather were playing pool at Reyes Bar when a male started a fight after losing a game to the victim. They were separated by bystanders, but started fighting again and the suspect stabbed the victim with an unknown type of knife. The victim suffered a 1/2" puncture wound to the right side of his torso. The victim drove himself to Baylor Irving and the suspect fled the scene.

House Fire:

12-09-07 at 12:37 a.m. Officers were dispatched to a 911 call open line in the 500 block of Nottingham. When officers arrived the structure was on fire. The residents were out of the house when officers arrived, but the house ended up fully engulfed and appeared to be a total loss. The residents were taken to Baylor Irving for smoke inhalation. It is unknown what started the fire. The Red Cross was notified and were responding to Baylor Irving.

Aggravated Robbery:

12-12-07 at 5:30 p.m. Officers were dispatched to a shooting in the parking lot of Hope Lumber and Supply. The complainant reported that a White male with a shotgun approached him and ordered him out of his vehicle. The suspect demanded the victim's vehicle and wallet. The complainant ran from the suspect toward the business where he is employed. The suspect fired two rounds at the complainant, striking him once in the left shoulder and face. The suspect fled in a dark blue mini-van with a loud exhaust. The complainant was transported to Parkland where he was listed in stable condition.

Aggravated Robbery:

12-12-07 at 6:07 p.m. The same suspect from the above referenced shooting approached the complainant in the parking lot of Exxon, 8375 N. Belt Line Rd., and demanded the complainant's wallet at gunpoint. The suspect fled in a vehicle matching the description from the first robbery.

Aggravated Robbery: 12-12-07 at 6:31 p.m. The same suspect from the above robberies approached the complainant at Diamond Shamrock, 5401 N. MacArthur Blvd., with a shotgun and demanded his wallet. The suspect fled the scene southbound on MacArthur Blvd. in the same dark blue mini-van reportedly used in the first two robberies. Minutes later, a suspicious vehicle call at the Chevron at Rochelle and MacArthur led Investigator Bailey, who was working a special assignment, to the suspect vehicle, which he observed leaving the Chevron. Patrol units assisted as the vehicle was followed to the Knights Inn, where three suspects were taken into custody for investigation of Aggravated Robbery. A shotgun was recovered from the van.

Officer Injury: 12-12-07 at 7:49 p.m. Officer Haak stopped a vehicle leaving a known drug house in the 1200 block of W. Shady Grove Rd. When the driver of the vehicle pulled over he immediately got out and began running from Officer Haak. The officer was able to catch the suspect and a fight ensued. The suspect bit Officer Haak on the left side of his face during the fight. The officer was eventually able to subdue the suspect with the taser in drive stun mode. Officer Haak was treated at the scene by IFD and the suspect was taken to PMH to have blood drawn to determine if he has a communicable disease.

Aggravated Robbery: 12-12-07 at 11:48 p.m. The complainant was confronted at gunpoint by three Black male suspects who ordered him to get out of his vehicle at Esters and Walnut Hill Ln. The suspects fled in the victim's 2007 Acura TL, west bound on Walnut Hill toward DFW airport. The vehicle was not located.

United States Flag of Honor flies over Las Colinas

It has flown over Ground Zero, in the war zones of Kuwait, Iraq, Qatar and Afghanistan, and in sports areas such as the American Airlines Center and US Airways Center. It has been in countless motorcades and for more than six years has served as a tribute to thousands of American heroes. More than a dozen Dallas Fort Worth area police, fire, and federal agencies, along with U.S. Military personnel, escorted the United States Flag of Honor from Texas Stadium to Flag Pole Knoll in Las Colinas on Dec. 12.

The Hurst-Eules-Bedford Independent School District Band and the San Antonio Police Trumpet, as well local bagpipe and drum

musicians performed during the occasion.

Shortly after the tragic Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, The Texas House of Representatives entrusted a United States flag that had flown over the State Capital on Sept. 11, to Chris Heisler. Like many Americans, Heisler felt compelled to take action during a horrific time for the United States and with the flag in tow, he set out for Ground Zero. Along the way, Heisler helped organize one of the longest police motorcades in the history of the United States.

At Ground Zero, the officers and Honor Guard presented the flag to honor the fallen fireman and police officers to New York's Governor, George Pataki. An in-

spired decision was made for the flag to continuously be used to honor all American heroes.

After joining the military service, Heisler carried the flag to Kuwait, Qatar and Iraq to fly with American Soldiers in combat zones. Upon seeing the flag flying among the soldiers in Iraq, Command Sergeant Major Denson named the flag the United States Flag of Honor.

Since September 2001, the United States Flag of Honor has paid tribute to thousands American heroes and continues to honor heroes all over the land of the free and the home of the brave.

The United States Flag of Honor will be presented during a pre-game ceremony at the Dallas

Cowboys football game at Texas home sideline during the game on Stadium, and will remain on the Dec. 16.

Mungles on Movies

By Matt Mungle
Title: *The Kite Runner*
Rated: PG-13

Every now and then a film comes along that captures the true essence of personal redemption. We all know what it is like to fail miserably. The statement, all have sinned and fall short, is exact and unwavering. The problem is that none of us ever get the opportunity to make it up to those we sinned against. Sure we can apologize and cause no future wrong, but that is the normal limit. In *The Kite Runner* the main character gets the chance to "be good again" and it is a passionate story of that journey. Filled with Oscar winning performances *The Kite Runner*

The Kite Runner soars

soars higher than any foreign language film in years.

The story covers 20 years or so in the life of Amir (Khalid Abdalla) from his early days in Afghanistan to his current life in the states. As he reflects back on his childhood and his best friend Hassan (Ahmad Khan Mahmudzada) we see a tale of friendship, loyalty and betrayal. Hassan is the son of Amir's father's servant and the young boys spend their days flying kites in their peaceful hometown. Due to wars both personal and political, they are soon separated and we pick up the story in later years with Amir having to return to a Taliban ruled Afghanistan in order to save the son of his childhood friend. Along the way we get a brilliant look at a culture much different than our own. From Amir and his father's escape to Pakistan to flee the Rus-

sian invasion, to the ceremony of courtship and marriage.

This film is brilliantly written and the acting is flawless. The young Hassan will capture your heart from scene to scene. The cast includes many unknowns to American audiences, yet each one delivers a memorable performance. The cinematography too is well done. From the Afghanistan in the 70's to the modern day Taliban-affected country each location adds a feel and element to the story. You sense the same dejection that Amir does as you see a homeland desolate and far removed from what it once was. I found myself thinking of how blessed we are in the states and what a privilege it is to offer a haven to those who have no hope.

The Kite Runner is rated PG-13 for strong thematic material including the rape of a child, violence and brief strong language. Keep in mind that this film is not made to offend but to tell a story. Of lives destroyed yet given a chance for renewal. The themes are heavy and the film is 90% subtitles so younger viewers may have a hard time keeping up. For the rest it is a soul stirring film and a must see. I give *The Kite Runner* 4.5 out of 5. It drags ever so slightly at the end and just a tick over two hours feels long. But that is no reason to not see this near perfect movie. Do not allow terms like arty, foreign and subtitles keep you from experiencing this story. You will certainly enjoy it, a thousand times over.

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 GOLDEN COMPASS PG13 12:45 1:45 3:30 4:30 6:45 7:45 9:15 10:15	AUGUST RUSH PG13 1:40 4:35 7:10 9:55
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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.

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Businesses struggle to survive mismanaged expansion

Continued from page 1

their manpower is correct, and how much money they have or they don't have," Representative Harper Brown said.

"Sunset is the process where we as an advisory committee made up by the Texas Senate and House members look at an agency and determine whether or not it can continue to exist. We can determine whether to abolish an agency or terminate the agency's responsibilities and move them to another agency. We can also look at opportunities to change the agency. We can downsize it, enlarge it, combine it with another agency or make changes within the agency.

"Until they rebuild their integrity with the public, I can't see giving them more dollars if they are not spending these dollars efficiently."

Those managing TxDOT want new sources of income.

"I think their ultimate goal is to toll the roads in Texas," Representative Harper Brown said. "TxDOT would like all the highways to be toll roads. I think they are trying to force the tolls, or force a gasoline tax increase, or to force some type of new revenue stream indexing the gas into TxDOT.

"I do believe TxDOT does not have the money to meet all of the needs of the State. But starving the system and doing this power play is not the way to get it. That is not the way to get our support and our help. Everything they have done recently has caused a loss of confidence in TxDOT by the public, the legislators, and the contractors. They are all questioning what TxDOT is doing. Until we can re-

build trust, there is no way we as legislators can give them more dollars.

"As I understand it, there are 300 parcels of land TxDOT is dealing with on 183. All of those parcels are affected. Projects all around the state have been stopped. So this is affecting millions of people and causing undue harm to businesses.

"Stopping those purchases abruptly really caused a lot of concern for some of the businesses on 183.

"I understand one business has already executed their deed. There are others who now don't know whether to move or stay. One of the entities was ready to close on a new piece of property, now they have no idea whether to move or not, because they don't need two locations in the same area. If the project is not going to be built, they should not buy the land. If the project is going to be built, they need to purchase the property before someone else buys it. Lenders don't know whether to lend to these businesses or not.

"This leaves everyone on 183 wondering what is going to happen," she said.

Vernon Schoemaker, president of Toyota Irving, has already spent over \$200,000 on lawyers, surveys and property to ensure his company survives the proposed 183 expansion.

"Two weeks ago they called me and said they would like to meet with me, because they had their appraisals. I said okay, I would have to call my attorney and see when he could meet. So they

called Monday morning and said they won't be able to meet, because they had delayed the project. He used the word 'delayed.' Later in the day, other people were saying the project was totally stopped," Mr. Schoemaker said.

"I have had conversations with other owners who were offered money, which they agreed to accept. Now TxDOT has to rescind those offers, because they are not going to honor those commitments.

"The word from my attorney that came from a guy high up in the appraisal end of TxDOT is the bottom line is this project is basically put off indefinitely."

Proposed changes caused by the 183 expansion have caused Toyota of Irving to delay upgrades to their facility.

"According to my franchise agreement, the first of November I was supposed to be ready to sit down with them (Toyota) and go through the procedure of determining what I have to do to bring my facility up to their new standards," Mr. Schoemaker said. "I can't do that, because I can't get a building

permit. I know how much land I can work with, and it is not enough. They will put me out of business basically. I am strictly in a hold pattern.

"The City doesn't want me to leave. Irving won't have a Toyota dealer if I close up shop, because I don't have enough land. There isn't enough land anywhere else in Irving to put another Toyota dealership together. I can't move by state law more than a mile. Otherwise I have to go through the re-application, which means the Toyota Dallas, or Grapevine or Richland Hills dealers can protest a new store so close to their dealerships. It is a way to force people out. Now you are messing with attorneys and it costs a lot of money and drags you through the wringers of trying to get settled again.

"Just like DART, TxDOT is finding this project is costing them more money than they ever dreamed it would cost. What you could do for five or six million dollars before, now you have to double the amount or more.

"I have spent too much money

bottom line is I am shut down. I am not going to spend any more money," he said.

Bob Hagestad, president of Metro Volkswagen, is frustrated because TxDOT's indecision is affecting his business.

"What can you do? Nobody can do anything until TxDOT and the City get their act together and get this thing decided on. Otherwise you are stuck," Mr. Hagestad said. "Businesses can't make plans for the future without them having some sort of a plan and a time period. Is this going to happen in five years, two years, three years or ten years?"

"I got a deal from one of the attorneys that says the story keeps changing, it never stays the same. Whoever puts the pressure on, is where things are changing. This attorney has a client who contacted him and said 'everything is off.' Then after all of this hoopla from Irving, TxDOT contacts him and says 'that is not what we meant. Everything is still on. We have the money. We are going to buy you out.' How does this work? What

See TxDOT, Page 11

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

December 15

Jazz Holiday Gala - Irving Black Arts Council in conjunction with Irving NAACP presents a holiday benefit featuring the band - The All Funk Radio Show in the Irving Arts Center, Suite 200 from 7 to 11 p.m. Admission: \$30 Those who can should bring school supplies to benefit the Jackie Townsell Elementary School. Jackie Townsell founded the Irving Black Arts Council in 1989. Come out and enjoy the festivities with a Cajun flair. This is a catered event - jambalaya, pralines and more. Please help make sure this event a success by purchasing tickets. Thank you for your continued support of the Arts.

December 15

Family Funday, Card Workshops and Visits with Papa Noel - Presented by Irving Arts Center at 2-4 p.m. inspired by the holiday season, create a festive art project or holiday card to take home and enjoy. Papa Noel will be on hand for FREE holiday photo opportunities in the gallery. 972 252-7558.

December 15

Holiday in Sound - Presented by Irving Symphonic Band at 7:30 p.m. in the Carpenter Performance Hall. Featuring Reflections Home School Choir, a DFW-based, 120-member choir established in 1997. \$12 adult, \$6 student/senior. 972-252-2787 for tickets.

December 18

Democratic Club Christmas Party - The Irving Democratic Club is having its annual Christmas Party on from 7 to 9 p.m. Featured guest is US Senate candidate and State Representative Rick Noriega as he leads us in prayer for our servicemen stationed overseas during the holidays. Party will be held at the Community Building, 135 S. Jefferson. Per city regulations this event is alcohol free. Please bring a covered dish to share with our guests and some canned goods to donate to the Salvation Army and Irving Cares to share

with the less fortunate. There is no admission fee. RSVP with Club President Michael McPhail at 972-513-9522 as soon as possible.

December 18

Free Well-Child and Immunization Clinic - Baylor Medical Center at Irving is sponsoring a well child and immunization clinic along with the Dallas County Department of Health and Human Services and Northgate United Methodist Church, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Northgate United Methodist Church, 3700 W. Northgate Dr. in Irving. Well-child exams for children ages birth to

four years-old and immunizations for children ages birth to 18 years-old, will be provided from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Immunizations only, will be given from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Immunization records must be provided for each child. The free services of this clinic are available to residents of Irving only. For more information call 972-579-4095.

December 18

TeenScene Movie - Designed for grades 6 and up in the Central Library at 4:30 p.m. Popcorn and refreshments provided. No registration required.



Irving

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1997 HONDA ACCORD 4DR	NOW \$ 3988.00
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2007 ES GALANTS', 3 TO CHOOSE	NOW \$14888.00
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2003 DODGE RAM , 20" WHEELS	NOW \$11888.00
WAS \$15995.00	
2001 CHEVY 1500 PICK UP, ONLY 58K MILES	NOW \$8888.00
WAS \$11995.00	
2006 NISSAN MURANO, LEATHER, S.ROOF	

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Come Worship with Us

Advent Worship Schedule

December 2nd - 10:30a.m.

First Sunday of Advent and Celebration of Communion

December 9th - 10:30a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent and Commissioning of Stephen Ministers

December 9th - 7:00p.m.

Blue Christmas Worship: This year we are offering our first-ever "Blue Christmas" service. We realize that the holidays can be difficult days for some of us. Many people find they have trouble feeling "in the spirit" of things. Perhaps a loved one with whom they usually shared Christmas is no longer there. Maybe a marriage has ended or a job has ended. For many people, the Christmas season is a strange and difficult mixture of both grief and joy. This service will provide a holy time in which we can present all of that to our God.

December 16th - 10:30a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent and Celebration of the Baptismal Sacrament

December 23rd - 10:30a.m.

A Proclamation of the Christmas Gospel Through the Arts:

December 24th - 5:40p.m.

Harp Recital

December 24th - 6:00p.m.

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner.

Woodhaven Presbyterian Church

3650 North O'Connor Road

Irving, TX 75062

972.541.0747





DOING THE MOST GOODSM

Dallas Cowboy Darren Woodson to Speak at The Salvation Army Super Lunch in Irving

On Monday December 17, Darren Woodson will address the 15th Annual Salvation Army Super Lunch. The event raises funds to further the work of The Salvation Army Community Center in Irving.

For 12 years, Woodson served as the backbone of the Dallas Cowboys defense, earning three Super Bowl rings, and five Pro Bowl selections. Woodson is currently a football analyst for ESPN. Retired NBC Sports News Anchor Scott Murray will emcee the event.

The Salvation Army Community Center in Irving serves the community with programs and services that include a food pantry, emergency financial assistance, youth sports, performing arts, and Christian fellowship. The center is also home to the Gene and Jerry Jones Family Center.

"The Super Lunch is important to The Salvation Army and to the Irving Community because it is the one time of the year where we can say thank you to some of our donors and show them how

their donations impact the lives of needy Irving residents," Captain Matt Trayler said.

In 2006 The Salvation Army Super Lunch raised more than \$95,000 for the center.

WHEN: **NOON**
Monday, December 17 2007

WHERE: **Omni Mandalay Hotel at Las Colinas**
221 East Las Colinas Boulevard
Dallas (Irving), Texas 75039
Phone: 972-556-0800



Captain Rebecca Trayler

Captain Matt Trayler

The Gene & Jerry Jones Family Center for Children

The Salvation Army Community Center in Irving and the Child Care Group, Inc. maintain an ongoing partnership to operate the Gene & Jerry Jones Family Center

for Children.

This unique program is based on "relationship-centered" child care. Through this approach, each classroom functions as a family

unit. Children of different ages are placed together in classrooms, with siblings staying together just as they would at home. Each child is lovingly nurtured while away from their parents, some as many as 11 hours a day, 260 days a year.

The center offers a Preschool Program for ages 3 to 5 as well as an Early Head Start Program for ages 6 weeks to three years. Approximately 50 children are enrolled at the center at any given time. Cost is based on a sliding scale, depending on each family's income. Some parents pay as little as \$35 a week. To promote connection with the families and foster a sense of community, parents are asked to fulfill volunteer hours at the center.



Learning to read is more fun with your friends.

When Irving is in need The Salvation Army responds

Many underprivileged individuals often require help meeting their most basic needs. Working-poor families can experience a financial crisis if the unexpected occurs, such as a child needing medical attention or a car needing repairs.

The Salvation Army offers emergency assistance to those in financial crisis, to help pay rent, mortgage, and utility bills. In ad-

dition to financial assistance, each center maintains a food pantry stocked with nutritious items to help people get through tough times.

In 2006, 1,254 families received assistance in the form of groceries, clothing, and financial assistance to help pay rent and utility bills from The Salvation Army Community Center in Irving.

The Salvation Army Protecting Irving Children

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, children are at greater risk of being victims of violent crimes between the hours of 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

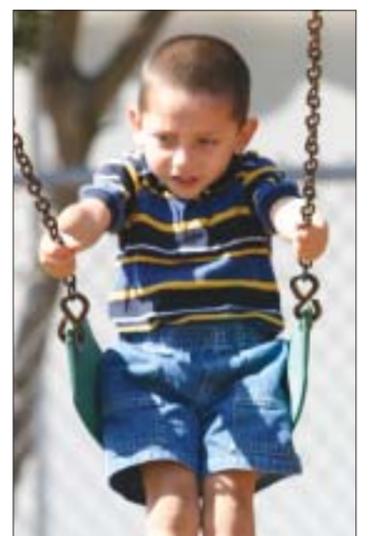
The Salvation Army's After School program in Irving provides children ages 6 to 12 a safe place to go in the afternoons while their parents work to support the family. Thanks to donations from individuals and businesses in Irving, The Salvation Army is able to offer after school care at an afford-

able rate. For many families, this reduced tuition is what prevents the child from staying home alone.

The after-school program helps children grow in all areas of their lives by providing a variety of activities, including:

- Homework support
- Recreational activities
- Arts & crafts
- Snacks

Children may remain at the center as late as 6 p.m. to allow their parents time to pick them up after work.



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Kelly & Allan Meager

City Councilman

As parents ourselves, we know the value of a safe place to learn and play in the lives of kids. By providing lower income youngsters with extracurricular activities and personal support the Salvation Army increases the hope that these kids will grow to be active, healthy and responsible adults.

Through afterschool, sports and arts programs, youngsters can learn new skills, become confident in themselves and gain a greater appreciation for being members of a caring community.

Youth is the opportunity to do something and to become somebody. - Theodore T. Munger

Irving Children Score with The Salvation Army's Sports Program

Research shows that children who spend one to four hours in constructive extracurricular activities per week are 49 percent less likely to use drugs and 37 percent less likely to become teen parents.

The Salvation Army's sports programs give children in low-income areas a safe place to learn

about sports and improve their athletic abilities. The Salvation Army Irving Community Center offers YMCA leagues in basketball, soccer, and baseball.

Not only are sports programs good for the children, they are also a unifying force in the communities. The low cost of The Salva-

tion Army's sports programs makes it possible for almost any child to be involved. The fee for a child to play one sport ranges from \$30 to \$100, which may include league fees, uniform, equipment and supplies. The actual cost per season is much higher, ranging from \$80 to \$676 per child.



Herbert A. Gears

Mayor

Awards

- Dallas County Volunteer of the Year Award
- JC Penney Golden Rule Award for Education
- U.S. President's Volunteer Action Award
- Texas State Life PTA Award
- City of Irving's High Spirited Citizen Award
- Irving Academy Community Services – Best Performance by Medium-sized company
- Salvation Army Ten Year Super Lunch Hall of Fame

We are proud to be a part of the the 15th Annual Salvation Army Super Lunch.

We believe the work of The Salvation Army Community Center in Irving is vital to the healthy development of young people in our area and the financial stability of those who have fallen on difficult times.

You are helping to meet the needs of Irving's future!

Put a Paw print in your heart and a best friend at home!



The precious pets at the DFW Humane Society would like to bring a lifetime of

love and happiness into your home!!

**1611 W, Irving Blvd.
Irving, Texas 75061**

972-253-3333 Hours of operation:
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 11-6
Saturday 11-5
Sunday 12-5

Come adopt a new family member today!

Teaching the world to sing

The Salvation Army's School of Performing Arts gives children in Irving an opportunity to explore and develop their musical talents. Music lessons are normally very expensive, averaging \$25- \$35 an hour, yet through The Salvation Army's program, children receive professional music instruction for \$5 a week.

Research shows that children who participate in formal music and arts programs get better grades, score higher on SAT tests, develop better verbal and math abilities, have an increased motivation to learn, are less likely to be disruptive in school, and have a lower incidence of substance abuse. Musical study also devel-

ops critical-thinking skills and improves a child's early cognitive development.

Quality extra-curricular programs help a child develop a healthy self-image, which increases the likelihood that they will graduate from high school, and reduces the opportunity for them to become involved with gangs.



Future rock stars work to develop their musical talents and find their own unique voices.

The Salvation Army – Irving Raising Community Leaders

Project Tomorrow is a collaboration between The Salvation Army and Tyler Street Christian Acad-

emy to provide full scholarships for youth from low-income families to attend the academy, a college pre-

paratory school in North Oak Cliff.

Tyler Street Christian Academy takes promising children and trains them intellectually and spiritually to become contributing citizens and instruments of change in the very community where they grew up.

Boys and girls, grades 7-12, are recommended to receive a scholarship by their local Salvation Army Community Center.

Throughout the Metroplex, since 1991, 51 students have graduated from the Project Tomorrow program.

At the beginning of each school year The Salvation Army hosts a party for the students and their families at which school supplies and uniforms are provided for each student. At the end of each school year, The Salvation Army hosts a luncheon for graduating seniors who have received scholarships. Currently, The Salvation Army Community Center in Irving sponsors two Project Tomorrow scholars Jessica Arroyo (pictured) and Oscar Rosales.



Thank you Salvation Army for your dedication and service to our Irving community during 2007.

Your efforts and hard work in assisting Irving residents in need is immeasurable.



Irving Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

P. O. Box 177613

Irving, Texas 75016

(972) 943-4635

www.irvinghispanicchamber.org

The Salvation Army Irving Community Center

The Salvation Army is a part of the universal Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

As officers in The Salvation Army, Captains Matt and Rebecca Trayler are ordained ministers, who lead both spiritual programs and social services at The Salvation Army Community Center located on the corner of Britain Road and East Grauwlyer in southeast Irving.

Worship services for children and adults are conducted in the center's chapel as follows:

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 AM

Sunday School - 9:45 AM

Wednesday Bible Study - 6:00 PM

Although The Salvation Army is a faith-based organization, it is important to point out that there are no religious requirements whatsoever in order for a person to receive help and services. The Salvation Army's Mission Statement affirms our commitment to meet human needs in the name of Jesus Christ without discrimination.



DOING THE MOST GOOD™

Games and Puzzles

Super Crossword MUSIC STAND

ComParrot

by Bonnie J. Malcolm

Can you spot 12 differences between these pictures?



www.comparrotpuzzles.com

© 2007 Bonnie J. Malcolm



1. Pom-pom on boy's hat is missing. 2. Design appears on girl's pants is lower. 3. Stone on house is missing. 4. Musical note is reversed. 5. Girl's hand appears. 6. Snow on bush under window. 7. Laces appear on girl's boot. 8. Pocket on boy's coat has moved. 9. Fence is shorter. 10. Snow line on mountain is taller. 11. Stripe on mailbox is taller. 12. Branch on post is upside down.

ACROSS

- 1 Teatime treat
- 6 Thin coin
- 10 Nav. rank
- 13 Bother
- 19 Hook on a hawk
- 20 Klutz's cry
- 21 Jean- Godard
- 22 Fit for farming
- 23 Start of a definition of a perfectionist
- 26 Channel
- 27 Plead
- 28 Skeleton part
- 29 Elizabethan instruments
- 31 Yen
- 32 Relinquish
- 33 Occur earlier
- 35 To (perfectly)
- 36 El —, TX
- 39 Puppeteer Lewis
- 40 TV's "Street"
- 42 Part 2 of definition
- 48 WWII abbr.
- 51 Palm oil?
- 52 Aristocratic address
- 53 Duel tool
- 54 Metric measure

- 55 Relished a roast
- 56 Dismay
- 57 Chest material
- 59 Sun screen
- 60 Ulrich of Metallica
- 62 Caustic stuff
- 63 Ryan of "Boston Public"
- 64 Broke to smithereens
- 66 Thornfield governess
- 68 Part 3 of definition
- 69 Black
- 70 Sullivan's partner
- 73 — even keel
- 74 Heel
- 76 Impresses immensely
- 79 Confess
- 80 Helicopter part
- 82 Party present
- 84 Picnic pest
- 85 Authentic
- 86 Anapest, for one
- 87 Spanish title
- 88 Broadway letters
- 89 Prohibit
- 90 Part 4 of definition
- 94 Borscht ingredient

- 95 Diva Leontyne
- 96 Petty or Chandler
- 97 Stallion's sweetie
- 99 Mideastern kingdom
- 102 "The Ramayana," e.g.
- 105 — song (cheaply)
- 106 Casual cloth
- 107 School founded in 1440
- 108 Absorb, with "up"
- 111 "The Barber of Seville" heroine
- 114 End of definition
- 118 Carved a canyon
- 119 Sue — Langdon
- 120 — Linda, CA
- 121 Avid
- 122 Became rigid
- 123 Guitarist Paul
- 124 "— River" ('61 hit)
- 125 Be grateful

- 4 Negative correlative
- 5 Follow
- 6 Metaphysical poet
- 7 Nebraska neighbor
- 8 Speedometer abbr.
- 9 "— Beso" ('62 hit)
- 10 Pianist Arrau
- 11 — del Este
- 12 Mid-size band
- 13 Contains
- 14 — deco
- 15 One in a million
- 16 Diminish
- 17 Pizza serving
- 18 Son of Adam
- 24 Time-honored
- 25 Office worker
- 30 "Georgy Girl" group
- 32 Pigeon English?
- 33 Med. professional
- 34 Unwelcome visit?
- 35 Donkey
- 36 Pansy part
- 37 "West Side Story" role

- 38 "The New Yorker" humorist
- 39 Where to find a plover
- 41 Positive vote
- 43 Singer Sumac
- 44 Steering device
- 45 Potter's need
- 46 Ancient Sanskrit
- 47 Mineral spring
- 48 Indecisive
- 49 Burn remedy
- 50 Firewood measure
- 54 One of the Aleutians
- 57 Chavez or Romero
- 58 "— go braghi!"
- 59 Rocker Morrison
- 61 Astrologer Leek
- 63 Mrs. Jupiter
- 65 Skater Ito
- 67 Postal abbr.
- 68 Club creed
- 70 Apparel
- 71 Concept
- 72 Pulled a sulky
- 74 Hiawatha's transport
- 75 Declare
- 77 Join up

- 78 Abolitionist author
- 81 Aah's partner
- 82 Use
- 53 Across
- 83 Hurried
- 86 "Pshaw!"
- 87 Vaudeville bit
- 90 Elf
- 91 Revolts
- 92 Freddie the Freeloader, e.g.
- 93 Father Brown monogram
- 94 Pigtailed
- 97 Boxer Archie
- 98 Fiery felony
- 100 Copper or cobalt
- 101 — fell swoop
- 102 Patriot Allen
- 103 Luau dish
- 104 Map feature
- 105 Worry
- 107 Admiral Zumwalt
- 108 Adventure story
- 109 Portent
- 110 Company car, e.g.
- 112 Born
- 113 Slap on
- 115 Shady character?
- 116 Leeds lavatory
- 117 Uh-uh

- #### DOWN
- 1 Use a dirk
 - 2 Drac's wrap
 - 3 Couturier Cassini

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18				
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MAGIC MAZE

THEIR NAMES ARE ON A WASHINGTON D.C. BUILDING

SEBYVSPMJHREBYV
 TMQLOLNIGEDBYWT
 RPAM(LONGWORTH)NK
 TIFDNADOSFBYOWU
 SRLNAQHOSOMSOK
 IFALDNE SKRIDVEB
 ZCXHEWHURDERELS
 QONSL SJOAAHFRCF
 DCIAYWSMJVMTFC S
 QEPNLKIUHNAGAER
 FECBZYWNRUBYARJ

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

Cannon	Ford	Longworth	Reagan
Dirksen	Hart	Madison	Rios
Eccles	Jefferson	Marshall	Russell
Eisenhower	John Adams	Rayburn	

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Magic maze

Answers for 12-6-2007

Sudoku

Answers for 12-6-2007

6	2	7	1	3	5	9
8	9	3	2	7	4	5
4	1	5	9	6	8	2
9	6	2	3	8	1	4
5	4	8	6	2	7	1
3	7	1	4	5	9	6
1	8	6	5	4	3	7

Super Crossword

Answers for 12-6-2007

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

www.irvingrambler.com

"The Newspaper Irving Reads"

December 13, 2007

FRANCES "LOUISE" FREESTONE



Frances "Louise" Freestone, of Irving, passed away December 6, 2007.

She was born Sep. 19, 1926 in Falfurrias, TX. Louise especially loved her grandchildren and the Dallas Cowboys.

Survivors include her sons Timothy Freestone and wife Molly of Savannah, TX, and Ronald Freestone and wife Donna of Ennis; sisters Mary Riddle of Dallas, and Elizabeth Sandlin of Arlington; 7 grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Dec. 8, 2007 at Calvary Hill Chapel in Dallas. Interment followed at Calvary Hill Cemetery. Arrangements were made by Brown's Memorial Funeral Home.

BILLY JOE MORGAN



Billy Joe Morgan, age 76, of Dallas, formerly of Irving, died December 4, 2007.

Born July 28, 1931 in Paris, TX to Charlie Morgan and Grace Snider Morgan, he moved to Dallas at age 10. He married Mildred F. "Frankie" Miller, April 27, 1951 in Dallas. She preceded him in death Jan. 15, 1991. In 1992, he retired as a lineman and engineering technician for Texas Utilities Electric Company. He was known as a "maker of beautiful things". He lived in Irving from 1969 until moving to Dallas in 2004. He married

JoAnne Scott Mobley April 18 and 19, 1997 in Irving and in Meridian, MS. Billy Joe graduated from Crosier Tech High School in June of 1949. He was a member of Plymouth Park Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, JoAnne Morgan; daughters, Angela M. Peters and husband Greg of Argyle and Gina Kay Nelson and husband, Mike of Lewisville; step-sons, Gilbert Scott Mobley and wife, Heidi of Sanger and Michael C. Mobley and wife Khadijah of Euless; a brother James Morgan of Beaumont; two grandchildren; one great-grandson; and seven step-grandchildren.

Visitation was Friday at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home. Funeral service was Dec. 8 at Plymouth Park Baptist Church. Rev. Ken Branam and Dr. Kiely D. Young officiated. Burial followed at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.

NORMA LAGATHA KOCH

Norma Lagatha Koch, of Irving, passed away December 8, 2007. She was born Oct. 3, 1934 in Oklahoma City.

Preceded in death by her parents, husband, sister, and brother; survivors include her sons Victor Hutcherson, Michael Hutcherson, and Tony Hutcherson; daughter Nedra Edwards; 6 grandchildren; and 11 great grandchildren.

Brown's Memorial Funeral Home assisted the family.

LEWIS MAX ASHBURN

Lewis Max Ashburn, a long-time resident of Irving passed away after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's.

Preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Sarah. Survived by four children, Sue A. Matkin and husband Dan, David and Nancy Ashburn, Gary and Sally Ashburn, Hugh and Vondalena Ashburn; 9 grandchildren; and 2 great grandchildren.

Services were at Plymouth Park United Methodist Church on Dec. 10. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to Alzheimer's Association. Arrangements under the direction of Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home.

DOROTHY L. RUYLE STEARNS



Dorothy L. Ruyle Stearns, 71, homemaker, native of Dallas and long-time resident of Irving, died Dec. 10, 2007.

Dorothy was the consummate mother and grandmother, always watching and caring for her family. She was kind and compassionate, never speaking ill of anyone. When free time allowed, you might find her involved in one of her favorite hobbies, possibly playing Bingo or shopping.

Survivors; children, Eddie Stearns, Patricia Lopez and her husband Eli, Donald Stearns and wife Alice; 6 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; brothers, Jimmy, Albert, Donald, and Edward Ruyle; sister, Barbara Gilbert; sister-in-law, Brenda Ruyle; long-time friend, Barbara Duty.

Visitation was Friday. Funeral was Dec. 15 at Guerrero-Dean Funeral Home in Grand Prairie. Burial beside her husband, Bobby Joe Stearns followed at Shady Grove Cemetery.

MARK ALLEN WELTON



Mark Allen Welton, age 48, a resident of Irving for more than 40 years, died December 7, 2007 in Irving.

Born Dec. 28, 1958 in Dallas to Jack Raymond Welton and Celia Marie Vitale Welton, he was a 1977 graduate of MacArthur High School and a graduate of North Texas State University. Mark was an area manager at Trend Personnel Services in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. He was a member of Plymouth Park Baptist Church, an avid Dallas Cowboys fan and a loving son.

Preceded in death by his father, Jack Welton and a brother, Joseph Raymond Welton, he is survived by his mother, Celia "Toni" Welton of Irving; brother, Raymond Welton and wife Ann of Euless; sisters, Jackie Sharp and husband Tommy, Barbara Boney and husband Chuck, all of Palestine; uncle, Jim Vitale and wife Helen of Greeley, CO; aunt, Mary Alice Fredd of Dallas; as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Visitation was Dec. 12 until the service at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Ken Branam officiating. Interment followed at Laurel Land Memorial Park in Dallas. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Plymouth Park Baptist Church, 1714 N. Story Road, Irving, 75061.

DOROTHY OWEN



Dorothy Owen peacefully left her earthly existence on December 11, 2007 after a brief but serious illness.

Dorothy was a "domestic engineer," mother, grandmother, sister, cousin, friend, and neighbor. She was born Dorothy Wayne Palmer in Ft. Worth on Sep. 28, 1928, and grew up a bona-fide Ft. Worth Northsider. Dorothy, her sister Louise, and her brother Roy grew up in a single-parent household during the Depression, which at the time was very unusual. That experience gave her a fierce sense of independence, taught her the value of hard work, and imparted in her a fiery drive to protect those whom she loved. Although she had but the two siblings, Dorothy came from a very large and unusually close extended family, so family was always close at hand and close to her heart.

She married her soulmate and the love of her life, W. C. "Carroll" Owen, in 1928. Due to his job with the railroads and then in trucking, they lived in cities all over Texas. They lived for a time in Galveston, where their cottage was close enough to the beach to hear the rolling surf at night. They lived in Beaumont, where in their spare time they worked on their very own shrimp boat, the "Dotty Girl." They also lived for a while in Houston, and back in Fort Worth before settling, finally, on the "better" side of the Dallas/Tarrant County line, living in Oak Cliff before settling, finally, in Irving.

Dorothy and Carroll became parents in 1958 with the arrival of their son, William Wayne, and again in 1962 with the birth of Mark Lane. To no one's surprise, the two boys were blessed to have been born to two supportive, involved, and loving parents who were strict yet fun. They remained close to both of their sons as they grew into men starting their own lives. Dorothy and Carroll were also extremely close to their own brothers and sisters, and it can

honestly be said that their best friends were their siblings and their spouses. They took on the new and wonderful role of "grandparents" in 1984 with the birth of William Tyler Owen, and took enormous joy in helping shape the character of their new grandson. One could always find them in attendance at Tyler's t-ball games at the Irving Y and at his IBFA football games.

Dorothy lost her soulmate, Carroll, to a traffic accident on Oct. 20, 1991, and while that tragedy knocked her back, it didn't knock her down. Thanks to the loving support of her sons, her brothers and sisters, the multitudes of cousins, and her friends and neighbors, she moved on with her life, but she never stopped missing the man of her dreams. On Dec. 11, 2007, God called her home, and today in Heaven, Dorothy and Carroll are together again.

Dorothy is survived by her sons, Bill and Mark Owen, both of Irving; sisters, Louise Hatton of Hurst, Pat Palmer of Houston, and Ruth Appleby and Sue Wheeler of Irving. She is also survived by her grandson, Tyler Owen, of Jefferson, TX; and, numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Services will be at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home in Irving. Visitation was held on Wednesday evening, and a memorial celebration will be held Dec. 13 with interment immediately following at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens in Irving.

In lieu of flowers, Dorothy's family would invite contributions to be sent to the Nancy Smith Cemetery Association, at 9400 S. Longwood, Granbury, TX 76049.

Dorothy was a definite original...and will be missed.

DIANE MARY DURUDA



Diane Mary Duruda, of Irving, passed away December 5, 2007. She was born Aug. 20, 1955 in Providence, RI.

Preceded in death by parents

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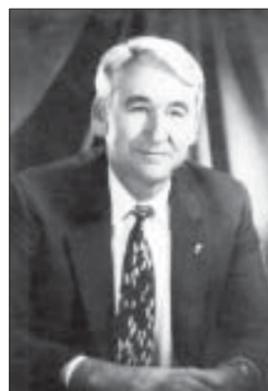
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Tree decorating contest winners announced

Provided by Jennifer Hall

The Irving Arts Center announced the winners of its 15th annual tree decorating competition during Holiday Open House on Dec. 7.



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The annual competition featured 20 trees decorated by Irving ISD parent teacher groups. This year's theme was a Cajun Christmas, and the trees were adorned with alligators, crawfish, Mardi Gras beads and other Cajun-themed ornaments. Mayor Herbert Gears presented the winners with a keepsake ornament and a certificate during a special ceremony. The winners also received cash awards for their organization.

"We had beautifully decorated trees this year," Richard Huff, executive director of the Arts Center, said. "The parent teacher groups and children did a wonderful job reflecting our Cajun theme in their décor."

Special guest judges voted on trees for 1st through 3rd place and Best in Show based on overall attractiveness, student participation and how well the décor reflected the Cajun theme.

BEST IN SHOW - \$350: T.J. Lee Elementary PTA
1st PLACE - \$250: Lamar Middle School PTA
2nd PLACE - \$200: Redeemer Montessori School Faculty Club
3rd PLACE - \$150: Nimitz High School PTA

Community members were given a chance to vote for their favorite tree during the Viewer's Choice competition. More than 250 people voted, and the award, along with \$250, was presented to T.J. Lee Elementary PTA.

The decorated trees will be on display through Dec. 31 in the Main Gallery along with several other holiday-themed exhibits. The Arts Center is also hosting a Family Funday and Greeting Card Workshop on Dec. 15 from 2-4

p.m. Children will create a Cajun folk art project and holiday cards with the Irving Art Association. For more information visit www.irvingartscenter.com or call 972-252-7558.

Holiday Open House is the Arts Center's annual family event featuring performances, art activities, visits with Santa Claus, train rides, cookies and much more. Each year a new theme is showcased. More than 1,500 people attended this year's event.



Christmas trees fill Irving Arts Center.

Margaret's Corner



Hi Irving,

Have you heard that Irving's light rail service (provided by DART) may not be on schedule? It appears that DART has made a mistake in their cost estimates and now the rail service from Irving to DFW airport may be delayed. Thankfully, we have dedicated people like our Mayor, City Council and State Representative to find out what is going on. I recently learned that Linda Harper-Brown wrote a letter to DART officials inquiring about the errors. I sincerely appreciate

all our city and state officials looking out for the citizens of Irving. After all, we do contribute to this project via our sales taxes.

On another note, I hope everyone is having a wonderful time with their Christmas preparations and parties. Recently I attended a Christmas party and saw a beautiful candy cane cake. Now I'm planning to have one at our family get together. We always have a cake. After all, we are celebrating a birthday... Jesus' birthday.

If you missed the Irving Arts Center's open house last week, you missed a really fun event, but it's not too late to enjoy it. Every year the center displays several trees

that are decorated with a specific theme. The trees are decorated by the children who attend Irving schools. They are beautiful and will be on display all month. So stop by with your family sometime. 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.

OBITUARIES

Manuel and Mary Duruda, survivors include nieces Christine Duruda and husband Walter Lundy of Garland, Carol Duruda and husband Kip Claridge of Lake Worth, FL, and Gina Duruda of Irving; brother Gary Duruda, Sr. of Irving; nephew Gary Duruda, Jr. and great nieces Heaven, Alexis, and Miracle Lundy.

A memorial service will be held on Dec. 17 at 7 PM at Family Worship Center, 1715 N. Britain Rd, Irving. Brown's Memorial Funeral Home assisted the family.

MATT LaMARQUE

Mr. Matt LaMarque, 92, passed away December 5, 2007 in Irving.

He was born on July 15, 1915 in Bogalua, LA to parents, Matt LaMarque and Lucy Lamey LaMarque. Matt was reared in Groesbeck and attended Groesbeck High School. On Nov. 21, 1935 he married Hillery Whatford, and they made their home in Mexia. In 1946, they moved to Ennis. Mr. LaMarque was a switchman for Southern Pacific Railroad for 33 years. He retired in 1979. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge #369, and a member of the Tabernacle Baptist Church.

He is survived by one daughter Sandra LaMarque of Irving;

three grandchildren; Lacey LaMarque; Nicole Davenport and Herbert LaMarque, Jr. two great-grandchildren Jaqueline Parker and Mallory Davenport.

He is preceded in death by his wife Hillery on Dec. 23, 1983 and son Herbert "Sleepy" LaMarque Aug. 16, 1988.

Services were in Keever Chapel on Dec. 8. Richard Moody presided. Visitation was Friday. Internment followed in Myrtle Cemetery under the direction of J. E. Keever Mortuary.

JAMES W.

"JIMMY" KENNEDY



James W. "Jimmy" Kennedy passed away on December 7, 2007, in Grand Prairie.

James, mostly known as Jimmy, was born on Sep. 29, 1943, in Uniontown, PA. He married Billie Jean Owens of Grand Prairie on Feb. 4, 1972. Jimmy owned Roadside Grocery on Beltline Road in Irving from 1972-1992. In those years at Roadside, Jimmy became more than the owner of Roadside. He was a friend and a confidant, always willing to help anyone. If you needed a dime,

he gave you a dollar. He helped his community, going out of his way to do all he could. He was always there when someone needed a hand. He was always honest, trustworthy, and true at heart. He never met a stranger. He was always kidding and joking, bringing laughter and smiles. He will never be forgotten. He was also in the military, serving his country as a member of the Air Force. Jimmy was truly an asset to this world and is already deeply missed.

Jimmy had been very ill for many years, battling several different health problems. He was very devoted to his wife, who has been right by his side through it all. He was a devoted, loving, caring, and gentle husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, uncle, brother-in-law, and much more.

Jimmy was preceded in death by his father John (Jack) Kennedy of Grand Prairie. He is survived by his mother, Mildred Kennedy; his wife of 35 years, Billie Kennedy; son, James Kennedy Jr. and wife Stephanie; daughter, Laurie Stausing; brother, Jackie Kennedy; sisters, Karen Chitty, and Debra Brisco and husband Jim; 5 grandchildren; and many more relatives.

Funeral Services were held at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home on Dec. 11. Viewing and visitation was also at the funeral home on Dec. 9 and also on Dec. 10. Friends were received by the family on Monday.

RUBY SCOTT



Ruby Scott, age 82, a resident of Irving for 51 years, died December 12, 2007 in Savoy, TX.

Born Dec. 11, 1925

in Culleoka, TX to George W. Eubanks and Ora Crabtree Eubanks, she was raised in the Baptist faith. Because of her daughter, Sherri Diane Scott, Ruby was active in the Spina Bifida Association in Dallas.

Preceded in death by her daughter Diane; and, husbands, Ernest Marion McDowell and James Malcolm Scott, she is survived by her children, Shirley Dorrell and husband Roger of Leonard, Carde Craft and husband Doug of Savoy, David Scott and wife Linda of Irving, Gary Scott and wife Kathy of Watauga, Robert Scott and wife Connie of Hurst and Donna Scott of Irving; fifteen grandchildren; twenty-two great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

A visitation was held Friday at the funeral home. Service will be 11 a.m., Dec. 15 at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home Chapel with Dr. Jim Gerlach officiating. Interment to follow at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens in Irving. Memorial contributions may be made to the Spina Bifida Association of Dallas, 705 West Avenue B, #409, Garland, TX 75040.

FRED B. SMITHSON, JR.

Fred B. Smithson, Jr., age 63, a resident of Irving for 19 years,



formerly of Cedar Hill, TX, died December 10, 2007 at home.

Born September 9, 1944 in Sherman, TX to Fred Bush Smithson, Sr. and Tommie Louise Elliott Smithson, he married Maria "Terri" Franco on March 21, 1970 in the Philippines. One of his most passionate hobbies was amateur radio. He was known by many as ham radio operator NSUQA. Fred was a member of Holy Family of Nazareth Catholic Church.

Preceded in death by his wife, Terri and his father, Fred Smithson, Sr., he is survived by his son, Ron Smithson and wife Denise; daughter, Catherine Smithson; grandson, Drew Smithson, all of Coppell; mother, Tommie Smithson of Grand Prairie; aunt, B. Hancock; and cousin, Kirk Barto, both of California.

Mass of Christian Burial was Dec. 14 at Holy Family of Nazareth Catholic Church. Rev. Msgr. Jerome Duesman as celebrant. Interment was Friday at Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery, lane B. Memorial contributions may be made to Holy Family of Nazareth Catholic Church, 2323 Cheyenne, Irving 75062.



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Students work towards a brighter future

Continued from page 1

students that traditional school settings deemed at risk," Bridget Jaecks, director of Courage Program, said. "These students were often left behind. Those individuals who were labeled at risk were failed by these schools. But at Winfree Academy these are the same students who accomplish our Courage Programs. They are identified as being bright, at promise students. These youth are encouraged to actively pursue their futures and are guided towards success. The Courage Program not only exists to enhance the academic success of these at promise

students, but also to support their addiction recovery. It has at times even saved some lives."

Associated Texans Against Crime (ATAC) is a statewide, public-policy organization that has as its goal reducing crime across Texas, and is a program of The Today Foundation.

"Our mission is to help young people succeed," Gary Griffith, president of the Today Foundation, said during the ceremony. "One of the ways we do that is through recognizing successful community programs. You give us the honor by letting us recognize you for

what you are doing here at Winfree Academy. We had more than 70 nominees this year. We looked at programs that are innovative, cost-effective, met the needs of the community and produced the kinds of results that make a difference in people's lives. You all are a testimony to that."

Congressman Pete Sessions, State Representative Linda Harper-Brown, officials from Associated Texans Against Crime, along with Winfree Academy leadership and students and their families participated in the awards ceremony on Dec. 10.

TxDOT in a state of flux

Continued from page 4

gives? Then they came back and said they were going to buy up strategic locations. What is strategic? What do they need to purchase? And what can they purchase for \$35 million? They had \$110 million, now they are cut to \$35 million. They don't have much left.

"This situation affects my business' planning. What are we planning for? There were plans we were working on, but we can't go forward with those until TxDOT comes along with some sort of answers. They have got to make some decisions as to what is going to happen and when it is going to happen. If some of those decisions push everything back eight or ten years, we have to look at a lot of stuff."

This situation threatens to hurt all of the businesses along 183.

"Every time we get a loan on our real estate it is a five year loan. We are at the end of five years. We have to renew our loan next year. Now Volkswagen Credit kind of knows what is going on down here. They are concerned about their loan, what the value of this property is going to be and how this

thing is going to play out," Mr. Hagestad said.

"If TxDOT does buy properties along 183, who is going to maintain those properties after they decide not to do this project for five or ten years? When they have all these empty buildings or empty pieces of ground, who will maintain them and make the highway look good? State highway 183 is going to look like Irving Boulevard, which is owned by TxDOT. This is a different highway and a different project all together.

"If there isn't some finality on what TxDOT is going to do and how they are going to do it, 183 is going to start losing tenants."

"We are all trying to come out of this thing whole and make it work," he said.

Jim Cline, Irving's Public Works Director, believes the City and people in general should be patient as TxDOT sorts out their current difficulty.

"TxDOT is going through a big funding shortage right now. They are looking at cutting back some of the right of way purchase dollars they have out on state highway 183 and not finalize that. That

is all being reviewed right now at the district," Mr. Cline said.

"I have talked to the district engineer and representatives at TxDOT, they have told me things are still in flux right now and no final decision has been made on withdrawing offers and things like that. There is a bunch of different information going around, and some of those things are still pending.

"Purchasing the right-of-way is a big step in the process. If we delay these purchases, ultimately it will delay the project. We want to look and see what is developing. Then we will be able to react better once we get more information. We have been working with TxDOT as they are trying to work through this. They are looking to make some strategic purchases on the right of way on state highway 183. When we have final answers, we will be reporting back to the city council," he said.

Pediatricians offer tips for parents before buying wheeled shoes

You see them roll by—kids are head over heels for them, but before you buying a pair of wheeled shoes, pediatricians have a warning. These shoes are now creating big concerns among pediatricians.

"It's actually becoming a little more common place to see bone injuries from children wearing wheeled shoes," Gregory Sonnen, M.D., pediatrician on the medical staff at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas, said. In fact, Dr. Sonnen and his colleagues say they see at least one or two broken bones a month from this latest fad.

"The problem with the wheeled shoes is that parents are buying them as casual footwear," Dr. Sonnen said.

These shoes should be treated like a skateboard or rollerblades, not everyday shoe wear.

"When your child is wearing their wheeled-shoes they should also wear their safety equipment as well," Dr. Sonnen said.

Most kids tend to injure their wrists and elbows when wearing wheeled shoes, but the injuries parents and pediatricians fear most are head injuries. Helmets should always be worn when wearing wheeled shoes.

Pediatricians also add that most of the injuries occur during the first

week kids wear them, so it's especially important for parents to make sure they are well protected.



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Public trust shaken in DART across Metroplex

Continued from page 1

room and outside this room. They were all contingent on promises made by your predecessor, promises made by you, by your management team and by your board.



"This topic is a discussion about public transportation and public trust. If trust is rooted in intent and motive to do the right thing and if it is rooted in competency and results, there are three strikes right now on the table. Because promises have been made, and now we are saying we suddenly discovered it is going to take more time than we thought. What have we been doing for two decades?"

"DART has violated my trust and the public trust of the citizens of Irving with what I have heard over the past 10 days. And I suspect the public trust in the Metroplex," he said.

Councilman Sam Smith also feels the public's trust in DART has been shaken.

"I was deeply, deeply disturbed to hear not only there was a \$900 million shortfall, but even had you had no financial shortfall, you might not have been able to deliver on the promise from a timing stand point, which was a real bolt out of the blue," Councilman Smith said.

"I will tell you in my frame of reference, keeping promises is about as fundamental to performing in an ethical manner and building public confidence as anything. Nothing is more important than that whether on a personal level and certainly on a business level. If you make a promise, you must deliver on the promise. Otherwise nothing else is valid. I sincerely

hope you can deliver on the promise. DART has an obligation to deliver on the promise they made to Irving," he said.

Mayor Gears stressed the importance of the Orange Line to the DART system as a whole.

"This really is a Dallas line. It starts in Dallas and it ends in Dallas. What happens in Irving provides ridership and revenues to support the connection between that economic engine and the city of Dallas. So there is a high value to Dallas in the completion of this line," Mayor Gears said.

"We are enrolled in the concept of the wheel and you have the center and little spokes reaching out. We are one of the spokes. And if you look at this spoke closer, it is an important one. First because of the airport, and now because of what we have created with the transit oriented development in the Las Colinas Urban Center.

"I would offer up a new way of thinking for DART with regards to being able to affect sales tax or not. I think DART can affect sales tax a great deal. We want to show you a development in Las Colinas that is going to provide a lot more sales tax revenue for DART. One way DART can affect sales tax is to emphasize more so the projects that have a higher added value to DART. Those projects will help you complete some of these other projects.

"If you can achieve honoring this commitment in Irving, most likely you will end up with a much greater flexibility for your organization in the future by going through this process. All of that will be validated by meeting the commitment and making it by 2011. Otherwise, if it is not validated with those kinds of results, then you are just another big bureaucracy that always wants more

money. And we know that is not the case. We know about the success of DART. We are enrolled, we are partners.

"The important thing is the commitment we made in '96. What it resulted in, in reality, now we are so many years down the road, is the new Dallas Cowboys stadium is going to be built in Arlington, where they didn't make the commitment to DART. They are using the money they would have used on DART for the purposes of taking that facility out of Dallas County. That is all water under the bridge and fine. We are convinced in our decision to better use those taxpayer dollars. So you are really our champion. You are our Tony Romo, and we need you to show some magic," he said.

Following the presentation and discussion, State Representative Linda Harper Brown expressed her hope DART can find solutions to its current problems.

"I think this really is question of the integrity of DART, the integrity of their numbers and their

processes. DART needs to substantially change their processes. I am hopeful they will do that. DART owes it to the taxpayers of Texas to prove they are changing their processes and procedures," Representative Harper Brown said. "If they do not, then I think the legislature has a right and a responsibility to step in and find out what exactly is going on, how deep this problem is, and how many other projects are delayed.



"This affects everybody, not just Irving. It affects everybody in the Metroplex, every member city of DART and those cities that want to come into DART. Are new cities going to come in just to pay for other lines and then find out their lines have been delayed just as ours has been? It affects the entire system, the Metroplex and millions of people. We need to find out what is going on."

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