



THIS WEEK

Students connect thru art Page 9

Classifieds	Page 5
Movies	Page 11
Obituaries	Page 8
Police	Page 2
Puzzles	Page 10
Worship	Page 4



The Rambler staff wishes you happy holidays

This is the last issue of *The Irving Rambler* for 2008. We would like to thank the thousands of readers and hundreds of businesses that have supported us for the last year. It has been a joy and a privilege to serve

the Irving community for 2008.

The first issue of *The Irving Rambler* for the new year will be released the first week in January. Our staff wishes you and yours the very best of Holidays and a great **New Year**.

Changes may be coming to city politics

By Jess Paniszczyn

Never being quite content with any government or ruling body may be as American as apple pie. Especially when you remember our coun-

try is founded on discontent with government. It really comes as no surprise that in a city of 200,000 where nine elected officials, the City Council members and the Mayor, make decisions for the entire community that some individuals and groups do not feel well represented.

where you have to live in that district to run. Under our plan, those districts would become single member districts. The representatives in those districts would be elected by the people who live in those districts," former Mayor, Joe Putnam said.

"Single-member districts is an idea whose time has come, because of the diversity of the city: ethnically, socially, racially, economically, geographically. The old at large system is no longer workable. We have outgrown the at large system where all of the candidates are elected by everyone in the city. We have people in Valley Ranch helping to elect our representative in south Irving, and people in Valley Ranch have voters in south Irving

See **PROPOSED**, Page 5

Bringing Christmas to the fallen



Through the Wreaths Across America program, cadets with the Civil Air Patrol Group Three lay wreaths on graves in the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery.

In an effort to make representation more personal and to encourage more people to run for city government, the Irving Single-Member District Committee is working to allow Irving citizens a chance to vote on single-member districts. Under Irving's current system, known as an at large system, each City Council seat and the Mayor's position are decided by all of the voters. To run for one of five City Council seats, Place 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, a candidate must live in a defined geographical area of the city. Candidates for the final three City Council members, Place 6, 7, 8 and the Mayor may live anywhere in Irving.

"We are asking for the City Council to allow the citizens to vote for a charter amendment that would institute a 5-3-1 plan (5 single member districts, 3 at large districts and 1 mayor elected at large.) We have five City Council districts now

Resident receives a Leader Dog partner



Best friends forever, Mary Vest and Pepper look forward to spending the holidays together.

Provided by Beverly Moody

It's a different way of seeing things, through the eyes of a Leader Dog. Recently, Irving resident, Mary Vest, returned home with a professionally-trained Leader Dog, "Pepper".

Vest has completed the 26-day, live-in training program at Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester Hills, MI. The non-profit school trains adult dogs to bring increased safety and independent mobility to blind and visually impaired individuals from all over the world. Leader Dog instructors go to great lengths to match students with dogs that fit their personality, needs and lifestyle.

"Both Mary and Pepper have been taught to work together through verbal commands, hand signals and a special harness," said Keith McGregor, director of training at Leader Dogs for the Blind. "Mary should experience an added level of independence and safety as she continues to enjoy every day activities, such as boarding a bus, shopping in a mall or crossing the street."

"My health improves when I have a Leader Dog. I exercise more and I feel better. Pepper really lifts my spirits," said Vest.

If you see Vest and Pepper traveling around town, remember not to pet Pepper without first getting

permission. Pepper's job is to keep Vest safe and has been trained to only focus on Vest while wearing the harness. Petting a Leader Dog is distracting for the team and could lead to unfortunate obedience and behavior problems for the dog.

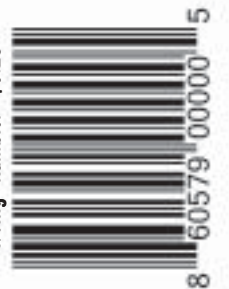
Leader Dogs are provided completely free to qualified individuals, including travel and 26 days of room and board at the Leader Dog facility. Leader Dogs for the Blind is funded by donations from Lions Club members, individuals, foundations and corporations dedicated to community service.

To find out more about obtaining a Leader Dog, contact 888-777-5332 or www.leaderdog.org.

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
IRVING TEXAS
PERMIT #024981

The Irving Rambler
P.O. Box 177731
Irving, TX 75017

Irving Rambler \$0.25



Coming in January



POLICE & FIRE



Aggravated Assault: 12-11-08 at 9:38 p.m. Officers were dispatched to Baylor Irving Hospital in reference to a gunshot victim. The complainant stated that he was walking along O'Connor when he walked by several males. One of the males yelled something, and the complainant heard a gunshot. He began to run and he heard two more shots. The complainant had been shot in the leg. His friends happened to be driving down the street and picked him up. There is no further information on the suspects.

Structure Fire: 12-13-08 Witnesses reported smoke coming from a residence in the 500 block of Roberts Ave. IFD discovered a small fire in an addition on the house. The damage was relatively minor and there were no injuries or displacement issues.

Weather Related Calls: 12-14-08 at 11:00 p.m. Several occupants in a pick up truck were north bound on Riverside (just south of the station) left the roadway striking a large utility pole. The driver a 47 year old male was killed. The others were transported to the hospital.

Aggravated Robbery: 12-15-08 at 9:33 p.m. The victim was in his home in the 2000 block of Meadow Crest. He heard a noise outside and went to investigate. He confronted two males stealing tools from his truck. He yelled at them, and one of the suspects produced a pistol and pointed it at the victim. The victim retreated and the two suspects drove away.

Officer Involved Shooting: 12-16-08 at 8:00 p.m. Irving Tactical Officers serving an arrest warrant in the 3300 block of Irving Blvd (Dallas address) resulted in the suspect being shot by officers. As the suspect was contacted and intent to arrest was announced, he attempted to flee. The suspect drove at and struck one officer, knocking the of-

ficer to the ground. Upon the officer being targeted and struck, two other tactical officers fired shots into the suspect vehicle striking the suspect several times, that action stopped the suspect's aggression and prevented any further attempts flee or assault the officers.

The suspect, James Munn Johnson (46) of Dallas, was taken to Parkland Memorial Hospital, his wounds are said to be non-life-threatening. The felony arrest warrant was for Possession Methamphetamine u/200g with Intent to Deliver.

The officer struck by the suspect vehicle was not injured. The two officers involved in the shooting (an 18-year-veteran and a 12-year-veteran) are currently on standard administrative leave pending investigation of the incident.

Police announce specific DWI enforcement periods

The current 5-year grant awarded to the Irving Police Department by TxDOT has been supplemented with additional grant (S.T.E.P. - I.D.M. Wave

Grant). Pursuant to that grant the following specific enforcement periods have been scheduled for the remainder of 2008 and part of 2009. During these dates additional officers will be added to the streets/highways with the sole task of D.W.I. enforcement/compliance.

Christmas/New Years
(Dec. 19 - Jan. 4)

Spring Break
(March 6 - 22)

Independence Day
(June 26 - 30 and July 1 - 5)

Labor Day
(Aug. 21 - Sep. 7)

To enhance the effectiveness of the increased enforcement, Irving officers will be targeting intoxicated drivers on New Year's Eve utilizing a "No Refusal" approach to DWI enforcement. Officers will offer blood only (no breath tests will be offered). There will also be a judge on duty to assist with search warrant authorization on all refusals and a nurse for all blood draw procedures.

"The heightened public awareness campaigns and enforcement efforts resulting from previous grants have resulted in a noticeable increase in compliance within the city and across the state," said Lt. Stephan Granberry of the Irving Police Department Traffic Section. "The ultimate goal of our efforts is to reduce the occurrence and severity of motor vehicle accidents and injuries and their all too often tragic results."

Irving Fire Department

Activity summary Dec. 11 - 17 2008

Irving Fire Department responded to 317 incidents.

The Fire incidents

- 95 Miscellaneous Fire and Rescue Calls
- 6 Structure Fires
- 3 Special Operations
- 3 Vehicle Fires

Medical calls

- 37 Major Accidents
- 79 Major Medical
- 17 Heart Attacks
- 35 Difficulty Breathing
- 33 Trauma Related
- 9 CPR Situations

Comments:

12-09: 12-18-08 at 6:03 a.m. The Irving Fire Department responded to a reported structure fire at 3613 N Beltline. First arriving emergency personnel were on-scene at 6:07 a.m. with a total of three alarms responding. The number of fire companies and/or major apparatus used to control this incident totaled 23. Thirty-nine Fire Fighters and six Chief Officers were utilized in bringing the emergency under control. There were no injuries at this emergency.

An unwelcome holiday surprise



After being called to the scene of a grease fire, an Irving fire fighter checks his equipment before entering an apartment on Sixth Street.

Owe Back Taxes?

OUR TAX TEAM WILL NEGOTIATE FOR YOU

The Nation's Largest Tax Resolution Firm
Over 200,000 taxpayers have chosen to benefit from the knowledge, experience, and proven tactics of our Tax Team.

Call Now 800-694-8439 | Se Habla Español



We can help with:

- Back Taxes
- Penalties & Interest
- IRS Liens and Levies
- Wage Garnishments
- Unpaid Payroll Taxes
- IRS Audit Representation

3 Simple Steps to Back Tax Relief

- 1) **Contact Us - 800-694-8439**
Call now for your free tax settlement analysis.
- 2) **Meet With Us - 425 Locations Nationwide***
Your JK Harris consultant will personalize a strategy to settle your tax case.
- 3) **Problem Solved - Get Your Life Back**
Let JK Harris help bring you peace of mind.

* JK Harris sales consultants are available to meet with consumers, by appointment only, in over 425 locations in 43 states.

Call 800-694-8439

KINGDOM SENIOR SOLUTIONS

469-713-1862

OPEN ENROLLMENT
NOVEMBER 15TH - DECEMBER 31ST

- CALL FOR APPOINTMENT NOW
- Qualified Medicare Supplements
- Medicare Advantage Plans
- PART D Prescription Drug Plans



Joan Black - Van Zandt

1400 W. Irving Blvd. Ste., 201
Irving, TX. 75061

Read the Irving Rambler

The Irving Rambler (214) 675-6493
irving@irvingrambler.com

Stacey Starkey - Director
John Starkey - Publisher

INTERNET www.irvingrambler.com
E-mail irving@irvingrambler.com

The entire contents of this newspaper are the sole property of The Irving Rambler, Inc., with all rights reserved. Reproduction or use, without permission, of editorial or graphic content in any manner is prohibited.

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

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

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

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

The Publication of columnists' views, as well as advertising, does not constitute endorsement. The Irving Rambler reserves the right to reject or edit any advertising. *The Irving Rambler*, its publisher, and editor are not responsible for errors in advertising.

The Irving Rambler Volume 5 Issue 51 is published weekly for \$25 dollars a year by The Irving Rambler, Inc. 627 S. Rogers, Irving, TX 75060. Periodicals postage prices paid at Irving, Texas. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Irving Rambler, P.O. Box 177731, Irving, TX 75017.

Community Calendar

www.irvingrambler.com

"The Newspaper Irving Reads"

December 18, 2008

**December 20 from 11am – 3 pm
2nd Chance Saturday** - Pete and Mac's Pet Resort's 2nd Chance Saturday benefits D/FW Humane Society. Find a new best friend - or a best friend for your best friend. Pete & Mac's Pet Resort, 6150 Riverside, opens its doors 11:00 am – 3:00 pm for pet adoptions in a partnership to save lives. Stop by and take a look at the great dogs & cats looking for a 2nd chance at life in a forever home.

**December 20 at 2:30pm
Stamp Crafts** - The Northwest Branch Public Library, 2928 North Beltline Road, is pleased to announce that the library will be hosting a program called, "Holiday Stamp Crafts For Kids" for children at the on at 2:30 p.m., the Children's Programming Room. Children will enjoy using a variety of holiday stamps to make cards, bookmarks, and other crafts. Refreshments will be served. All supplies are furnished. No registration is required. Free, for all ages. Children under age 8 should be accompanied by a guardian. For more information or questions, please call the Northwest Branch Library at 972-721-2691 or check the library website at www.cityofirving.org/library.

Museum public input

The City of Irving will build a museum in the Heritage District within the next few years. To plan for a permanent facility, residents have an opportunity to provide input online regarding preferred types of museums, location, exhibits and community programming. Visit www.cityofirving.org and click on "Public Input Opportunities" on the left. The survey will be available through the end of January.

**December 20 at 8pm
Brave Combo** - The Las Colinas Symphony Orchestra's Holiday Celebration with Brave Combo features a premier performance of Brave Combo with the LCSO performing holiday favorites in Brave Combo's unique style at 8 p.m. in Carpenter Hall. Selections will include Bach's Concerto for Violin, Oboe, and Orchestra, Krogstad's The Bells of Christmas, Anderson's Sleigh Ride, and the LCSO's annual holiday sing-a-long. Season Tickets are priced as low as \$53.00 and Single Tickets are priced at \$25, \$35, \$45, \$55 and all are available by telephone 972-252-4800 or email (info@lascalinasymphony.org). For more information on the Las Colinas Symphony Orchestra visit www.lascalinasymphony.org

**December 25-26
Office Closings** - City of Irving offices will be closed Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1. All offices will reopen at their regular hours Dec. 29 and Jan. 2. There will be no trash, brush or curbside recycling collection on these days. All full-service recycling drop-off centers are closed Dec. 23-25 and Jan. 1. The Hunter Ferrell Landfill will be closed Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1. Libraries will close at 5 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31, and will be closed Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1. The libraries will reopen at their regular hours Dec. 27 and Jan. 2. Recreation and aquatic centers will be closed Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1. The Irving Arts Center will be closed Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1. Box office and gallery hours resume Dec. 27.

**December 29
Christmas Tree Roundup** - Irving residents have an opportunity to properly dispose of fresh-cut Christmas trees for recycling during Irving's annual Christmas Tree Roundup. Bare Christmas trees will be picked up as part of the city's weekly brush/bulky waste collection Dec. 29-Jan. 15. For more information, call 972-721-2355.

Residents also may take their Christmas trees to any of the following drop-off locations Dec. 26-Jan. 11:

Cottonwood Park,
4051 N. Story Road

Southwest Park,
2800 Shady Grove Road
Drop-Off Recycling Center,
9940 W. Valley Ranch Parkway
(behind the Valero off of MacArthur Boulevard)
Hunter Ferrell Landfill,
220 W. Hunter Ferrell Road
(Drop off daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1)

Collected Christmas trees will be mulched and made available for a nominal fee at the city landfill. Call 972-264-3772.

**December 30 at 2:30pm
Yoga for Kids** - The Irving Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd., will host a yoga program designed for children at 2:30 p.m. Dec. 30. J' Ann Alvarado, children's librarian and yoga instructor, will lead participants through various yoga positions while telling stories, singing songs, stretching and teaching the benefits of yoga. Comfortable clothing is encouraged. Parents are urged to participate. Children younger than age 8 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Call 972-721-2458.

**December 31 from 9pm to 1am
New Years Eve Party**
VFW Post 2494 and Auxiliaries will hold their annual New Years Eve Dance and Party at the Post from 9 PM to 1 AM. Tickets are \$15 per person and include a dance, party favors and black-eyed peas & cornbread at midnight. Music will be provided by the "Pure Country Band". The public is invited to attend. Reservations are now being accepted and are strongly recommended. VFW Post 2494 is located at 3375 Belt Line Road, just south of Shady Grove. For directions to the Post and further information, call 972-790-1611.

Heating Repair or Replacement Program: Qualifying Irving residents with broken furnaces and fireplaces can receive assistance through the Heating Repair or Replacement Program offered by the Housing and Human Services Department. The program is available through a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. For details on the Heating Repair or Replacement Program and how to apply, call Housing and Human Services at 972-721-4800.

Police implement crime reduction initiatives, enhance burglary prevention

The Irving Police Department implemented a new approach to reducing specific criminal activities within the city on Oct. 1. These "Crime Prevention Initiatives" were developed as a part of the department's overall strategic plan to reduce thefts and vehicle burglaries. They are also in keeping with the department's mission statement to "Deliver exceptional services and promote a high quality of life for residents, visitors, and businesses."

The Crime Reduction Initiatives are being applied throughout Irving in areas/locations identified, by reported information and statistical analysis performed by the Crime Analysis Unit.

One of the initiatives being utilized is geared toward stopping/reducing retail theft (shoplifting). Beginning Oct. 1 individuals caught are arrested, regardless of the value of the stolen item(s) rather than being issued a citation or given other options and when applicable, misdemeanor theft charges are enhanced to felonies (when offender has two or more prior convictions of theft).

Another goal is to reduce vehicle burglaries in and around business/residential areas city wide. This is being accomplished through a number of methods including; high visibility through increased officer presence, deployment of seven Sky Watch Towers, saturation patrols, and various other methods.

The police' statistical analysis

and crime tracking abilities assist in addressing not only current crime trends and specific areas, but also allow for a measure of "high probability forecasting," enabling the initiation of preventative and/or proactive actions on a city wide scale.

The overall success of these initiatives is very promising as the police continue to build partner-

ships within the community through the cooperative efforts of police, citizens, and businesses.

A majority of criminals are aware of areas/cities where their criminal actions are less likely to result in arrest and/or prosecution. The City of Irving's position on this problem is to seek out the criminals who choose to commit the crimes and arrest/prosecute them to the fullest extent possible.



The Las Colinas Symphony Orchestra
Presents

Brave Combo

December 20, 2008

Irving Arts Center

8pm

Tickets on Sale Now!

P) 972-252-4800

F) 972-252-4877

Email: info@LasColinasSymphony.org

www.LasColinasSymphony.org

The Dallas Morning News
DallasNews.com

OMNI HOTEL



TxDOT is prepared for winter's worst

Provided by Mark Pettit

Long before the temperatures outside began to fall, TxDOT maintenance crews were implementing plans in preparation for winter's worst weather: snow and ice.

Hundreds of drivers, mechanics and support personnel have been hard-at-it installing, servicing and calibrating the vehicles and heavy equipment that help them keep the roadways clear during

emergent winter storms. Routes have been determined and crews are on standby and ready to work 12-hour shifts to keep the highways open and passable.

No one can guarantee ice and snow-free roadways, so motorists must always be cautious and are strongly encouraged to "know before you go" and prepare for winter driving conditions. For online road conditions, including traffic cam-

eras, visit http://apps.dot.state.tx.us/travel/road_conditions2.htm. For weather website, visit www.weather.gov. For additional winter driving tips and preparation, visit www.txdot.gov/travel/winter_driving.htm.

During winter storms, drivers should consider delaying trips that are not absolutely necessary. If travel is necessary, allow more time

and "know on the road." For current traffic and weather information call 1-800-452-9292, watch for roadway advisories and travel time information on electronic message signs and tune into local highway advisory radio stations. Stranded motorists should call the Texas Department of Public Safety at 1-800-525-5555.

TxDOT advises drivers keep a safe driving distance (approx-

mately 500 feet on highways), watch for icy surfaces and bridges, and avoid using cruise control and overdrive on automatic transmissions. Take it slow, slower speed, slower acceleration, slower steering and slower braking, it's not worth putting yourself and others in a dangerous situation.

Dallas saves water annually

Provided by Joan Schweighardt

Dallas Water Utilities teamed up with Niagara Conservation to save the city 264,538,200 gallons of water annually - and is on track to save nearly 1.5 billion gallons of water over a five-year period.

The water savings is the result of the Spray to Save Program, which installed high-efficiency pre-rinse spray nozzles in area commercial kitchens for free. Water conservation is a critical issue in the region due to population pressures and increasing agricultural and industrial needs.

During the course of the program, which took place between July 17, 2007 and Sep. 30, 2008, more than 1,200 Niagara "Power Spray" pre-rinse spray valves were installed at restaurants, schools and hospitals throughout the city and in surrounding communities. The Niagara spray washers meet or exceed all performance criteria established by The Food Service Technology Center for flow rate and cleaning ability, and are endorsed by the Green Restaurant Association.

"We're extremely proud of this product and of the substantial water savings we have helped Dallas Water Utilities achieve," said Carl Wehmeyer, executive vice president at Niagara. "We have already seen this program work in California and Canada, and it's gratifying to introduce these water-saving measures to more U.S. cities."

"After hearing about the Spray to Save program, I immediately signed up," said Debbie McSwain, owner of String Bean restaurant (one of the first participants in the City of Dallas Spray to Save Program), "The installer came out quickly and professionally installed my new pre-rinse spray valve with no down time and no problems. I would recommend this program to anyone in the business for saving money." More than 99.5% of program participants were satisfied with and recommended the program.

The Spray to Save Program is part of Dallas Water Utilities' five-year Strategic Plan on Water Conservation for FY2005-FY2009, which is designed to provide a long-term, disciplined approach to water conservation. The goal is to reduce the overall consumption of water, reduce the loss and waste of water, delay the need for development of costly new water sources, serve as an alternative water supply source to meet future water needs and address statewide mandates and new initiatives. Dallas is the ninth largest city in the U.S., and the not-for-profit DWU provides water and wastewater services to about 2.3 million people in Dallas and 27 nearby communities.

For more information about Niagara Conservation's utility partnerships and water-saving and energy-saving products, call 800-831-8383 or visit www.NiagaraConservation.com.

WORSHIP

Church of Christ

North Irving Church of Christ
727 Metker St. Irving, Texas 75062
972.252.9981
Sundays Bible Study - 9:00 a.m.
Worship - 10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
Wednesdays Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.

Disciples of Christ

First Christian Church
210 E. 6th Street, Irving 75060
972.579.0911
www.fccirving.org
Sundays
Bible Study for all ages - 9:30am
Traditional Worship - 10:45am

Independent Bible

Berean Memorial Church
1000 E. Sixth Street, Irving 75060
972.438.1440
www.bereanmemorialchurch.org
Sun. 10:45am 6:30pm
Sun. School 9:30 am

Word of God Christian Fellowship
Meeting at Plymouth Park Baptist Church
1714 N. Story Rd., Irving 75061
Fellowship Center
FH 103
214.404.1899
www.wordofgodchristianfellowship.com
Sundays 4:00 p.m.
Tuesdays 7:00 p.m.

Southern Baptist

Pioneer Drive Baptist Church
4034 W. Pioneer Drive
Irving, Texas 75061
972.790.8828
www.pdbcirving.com
Sundays Traditional Worship
11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Sun. School 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer Meeting
7:00 p.m.

Faith Temple Baptist Church
525 North Sowers Rd
Irving, TX 75061
972.253.5021
www.faithtemplecares.com
Sunday Worship 11a.m. & 6 p.m.
Bible Study All Ages 9:45 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study / Prayer Time 7 p.m.

United Methodist

First United Methodist Church
211 W. Third St, Irving 75060
972.253.3531
www.fumcirving.org
Sundays 10:30am Sanctuary
6:30pm Chapel

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

First Christian Church Invites You

December 24
Christmas Eve Worship, 6:00 p.m.
Communion, Carols and Candlelight

210 E. 6th Street, Irving
972-579-0911



Christmas Eve
PLYMOUTH PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Five Distinct Christmas Eve Worship Experiences

2:30 p.m. **Communion Service of Hope & Remembrance**
Service for persons who have experienced loss
Sermon Title: "O Holy Night"
Rev. Dana Norton preaching

5:00 p.m. **Children's Communion Christmas Eve Service**
Family Oriented Service enacting the Christmas Story
Sermon Title: "A Story That Claims Us"
Dr. William La Barr preaching

7:00 p.m. **Traditional Candlelight Communion Service**

9:00 p.m. **Non-Traditional Praise Communion Service**

*The People of Open Hearts,
Open Minds, Open Doors*

December 21st
Sunday Morning Worship

8:30 a.m.—Traditional Communion Worship Service


9:15 a.m.—Plymouth Park Praise is an All Christmas Music Worship Service this week

11:00 a.m.—Traditional Worship Service featuring excellent choral music.

Dr. William La Barr preaching: "Don't Be Afraid"

Fourth Sunday of Advent
6:30 p.m. PPUMC is proud to host a Celebration of Christmas featuring a variety of musicians

We're holding a place for you!
PLYMOUTH PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1615 W. Airport Freeway
Irving, Texas 75062
972-255-4185
(on the north side of 183 between MacArthur & Story Rd.)
Go to ppumc.org for more details



Buy the Irving Rambler WEEKLY

FAITH TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH
jody nichols - pastor

Sunday Worship 11 am Bible Study All Ages 9:45 am
Wed. Bible Study / Prayer Time 7pm

Message This Sunday
"Christmas...Comfort or Curse part 2"
Too often life's uncertainties and sufferings can feel like a curse during the Christmas season. But God truly wants this Christmas to be a "Comfort" not a curse for you and your family. Come and experience God's comfort with us this Sunday. **No Service this evening 6 pm**

address: 525 North Sowers Rd Irving, Tx. 75161 972-253-5021
<http://www.faithtemplecares.com/>



CALVARY CHURCH

Sunday | Dec. 21
9.30 & 11am

christmas eve celebration
Wednesday | Dec. 24
6pm

9.30am traditional worship (the chapel)
9.30 & 11am contemporary worship (worship center)
1.30pm spanish language worship (worship center)

J. Don George, D.D. senior pastor

hwy 161 @ walnut hill · irving 972.261.1897 calvarychurch.cc




Proposed changes may better serve some voters

Continued from page 1

voting on their representative. It makes no sense. People in Valley Ranch don't know what the issues are in south Irving."

One argument for changing the current system to the 5-3-1 system is the proposed system will better represent minorities.

"There are very few valid objections to single member districts. It needs to happen whether you are Hispanic, Black, White or Asian. The present system in my view represents about 20 percent of the actual citizens of this town. Nine White folks on the City Council representing a certain social and economic demographic part of the city," Mr. Putnam said. "The 2008 demographics of the city shows we are a 65 percent minority city: 35 percent of the citizens are White, 42 percent are Hispanic. It is just inconceivable with those demographics an at large system can be sustained.

"The 80 percent of the people who aren't part of the status quo or the establishment, which is all 65 percent of minorities and anyone who doesn't have money it doesn't matter what color you are, is shut out. The present system excludes 80 percent of the people from participating in the process in terms of being represented on the City Council. These people will never be represented unless the system is changed."

The at large system needs to change, because Irving itself has changed, according to members of the Irving Single-Member District Committee.

"In 1978 or '79, we had another charter amendment election on single member districts. I was against it at that time, because we were half the size we are now and more homogeneous. The city has changed," Mr. Putnam said.

"People are spending \$40,000 and \$50,000 on a City Council race. When I ran in 1973 for the first time, I spent \$1,400. And I had a regular election and a runoff. Three thousand people voted in that election total. We regularly have over 9,000 people voting in Irving today. In 1973, Irving stopped at Northgate. Now it extends all the way through Valley Ranch. Most people, it doesn't really matter what color you are, don't have the ability to run for City Council.

"If we had single member districts and you wanted to run for City Council, you could go out and knock doors, call on your neighbors, speak with homeowners associations, you might get elected, and you wouldn't have to spend a lot of money.

"Thirty years ago, someone in our neighborhood could pretty much identify with someone in another part of town. Back then in the at large system someone could pretty much represent people from other parts of town. That is not the case anymore. People who live in far south Irving don't really have a feel for the issues facing people living in Valley Ranch, Hackberry or the Las Colinas area. It is two different worlds.

"People in the neighborhoods believe they are really not being represented. They want someone in their neighborhood who is 100

percent loyal to them. Today, City Council members are so imposed upon by other parts of the city they don't have the time to devote to their own part of town."

Even though a new system may allow a larger variety of people to run for seats in the city government, to win a seat and represent a district will still be challenging work.

"Under any system, anyone who wants to get elected is going to have to work and get organized. With five single member districts, you are talking about 40,000 people in a district. That is a pretty good sized town.

"There are two reasons we run into from people who are against single member districts. Some people don't want a minority to get elected. We have the Hispanic paranoia in Irving," Mr. Putnam said. "We also have folks who like the plain old status quo. People who have influence in some position or power under the existing system don't want to see it changed. That's just the way it is everywhere.

"It is easier for a Hispanic candidate to be elected in an area that is 50 or 60 percent Hispanic than in an area that is 20 percent Hispanic. Its not just Hispanics, we have received support from all ethnic groups. They all feel disadvantaged under the present system.

"Having smaller districts gives people a better opportunity to participate no matter who you are. For most people, smaller districts are better if as a candidate you want to work and don't have a lot of money. In the at large system, the average person can't run, it just costs too much.

"Single-member districts will result in better quality candidates. Because there are people who will run who don't want to spend the money or go through the trouble to run at large in a city of 200,000 with 10,000 or more voters. But they are

willing to campaign in their neighborhoods. You will get people who will represent their district and who are very independent. They can take positions without worrying about pressure from special interest groups in other parts of the city. They can stand up for what they believe even if it is not the popular thing. Every City Council needs people who are secure enough to stand up and say, 'This is what I believe.' You don't have that much anymore in Irving.

"In Irving you have small special interest groups influencing the election throughout the entire city. It's not good for the city. It doesn't matter where you live, if you are not on their agenda, you could be in trouble," he said.

In September, the Irving Single-Member District Committee sent a letter to the Mayor and members of the City Council asking that a proposed Charter Amendment to adopt the 5, 3, 1 single-member election district plan be added to the Nov. 4 General Election ballot. When that did not happen, the Irving Single-Member District Committee began a petition drive. If they gather enough signatures, as of this time they claim to have 90 percent of the required signatures, the issue will be placed before the citizens for a vote, probably in November of 2009.

Councilwoman Beth Van Duyne, Place 2, believes the current at large system is the best system for Irving.

"I favor the current at-large/required residency system," Ms. Van Duyne said. "With the current council system that incorporates both open and resident-restricted seats, each councilmember is responsible for making decisions that are best for the entire city, not just their own district.

There may be pitfalls to incorporating single-member districts in Irving's political structure.

"I foresee power struggles amongst council members regarding who they represent - who has more voters, who represents more money, who represents more powerful constituents, etc. The proposed system does not encourage cooperation.

"I believe the proposed system would be less representative. If you were to study the number of people who actually vote compared to

those that are registered, you would see that any group could elect nearly anyone if they were consistent in their voting patterns.

Average citizens are encouraged to run for election under the current system, according to Ms. Van Duyne.

"We have a variety of different residents who run for council and who are elected," she said.

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!

If you can't adopt, please donate!

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

HELP WANTED

Delivery / Courier Computers, phone, Irving/Metroples area. Appointments only. 972-254-2603 Business dress and excellent driving record required.

ITEMS FOR FREE

LEGAL NOTICE

APARTMENT FOR SALE

WORK WANTED

LOST PETS

WANTED TO BUY

GARAGE SALES

HELP WANTED

DRIVERS WANTED

NEW REGIONAL FREIGHT

- .33 - .38 cents per mile
- Owner-ops welcome
- Lease/purchase 2004-2005 Freightliners
- Home most every week
- Major medical available
- Local orientation/dispatch

With us, you're a name, not a number! Class-A CDL req.

888-202-3569

Ext. 114
Nights & weekends:
**501-240-7348 or
501-247-7511**

Freight Systems, Inc

HELP WANTED

Part-Time Dog wash attendant 972-252-7908 Groom & Zomm Dog Wash

AUTO FOR SALE

1989 Chevrolet 2500 PICKUP Silverado Extended Cab, LOW MILES 1 owner \$2500. 469-450-7218

ANTIQUES FOR SALE

ITEMS FOR SALE

4 Window A/C units, about one year old. Your choice \$50 each 972-259-7000

1987 Chevy truck hood, left driver's door, right & left front fenders. \$15 each part. Call Bob 972-255-6932

White Amana Gas Stove 214-675-6493

ITEMS FOR SALE

FOR SALE-Hot Wheels Collection-Treasure Hunts, Final Runs and many other series 972-438-4522

APARTMENT FOR RENT

FOR RENT- Huge upstairs room, Pvt. bath, Kitch. Priv. All bills paid. \$550/month, \$275 deposit. Avail. 12/01/08. CALL 972 7903599

HOUSE FOR RENT

3/1/1 house for rent 123 Wanda Dr. \$950/month rent, \$900 deposit 972-259-7000

HOUSE FOR SALE

1716 John Smith Dr, Irving 972-254-7200 4 bedroom, huge family room, sunroom and workroom, large trees, fenced yard, move-in ready

The Irving Rambler is bringing buyers and sellers together. When you place a classified advertisement in the Rambler, we publish it online at no additional charge. The Irving Rambler does not accept submission of an advertisement as a commitment to publish. Publication of an advertisement does not create an obligation to continue publishing. The Irving Rambler reserves the right to refuse to publish any advertisement for any reason. Ads promoting hate groups, or including inappropriate material will not be published. E-mail addresses will only be published if included in the copy of your classified ad.

To purchase classified ads call 214-675-6493.

ADVERTISING PRICES

Per line \$1.20 Bold, Caps, border \$7.00

BIZ BRIEFS

A business activity report by the Irving Economic Development Partnership.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTORS

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

Strategic Investor

City of Irving
Irving Convention & Visitors Bureau
Las Colinas Marketing Alliance
TIAA Realty, Inc. / Cousins
US-Mexico Chamber of Commerce

Chairman's Investor

Aviall, Inc.
ExxonMobil
Flowerserve Corporation
Microsoft
NEC Corporation of America
RIM

President's Investor

AboveNet
Allstate Insurance
Atmos Energy
Avistas
Carrington Laboratories
Citi
Comerica Bank
DeVry University
EF Johnson Technologies, Inc.
Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP
IBM
Las Colinas Country Club
North Lake College
Oncor Electric Delivery
Reliant Energy
WaveTwo LLC
AboveNet

Commercial Real Estate Investor

Archon Group
Coldwell Banker
Crow Holdings / Apollo Real Estate
Granite Properties
Jones Lang LaSalle
Koll Development Company
PS Business Parks
Staffelbach Design Associates
The Woodmont Company
Triple L Management Corporation

Partner Investor

Akili
Avaya
Classic Fare Catering
Compass Bank
DeLaPorte & Associates
Driver Pipeline Co., Inc.
Eisenberg & Associates
Frymire Services
Imlach & Collins Brothers
Irving ISD
James Hardie Building Products, Inc.
Knight Security Systems, LLC
Las Colinas Medical Center
Medco Health Solutions
Northrup Grumman
Office Resource Group
Quantum Custom Homes
San Jacinto Public Affairs
University of Texas at Arlington /
College of Engineering
Villa's Grill & Catering

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

\$100 MILLION OF REDEVELOPMENT COMING INTO HERITAGE CROSSING

In the 2008 Progress Report to City Council, developer Delbert McDougal presented more than \$100 million of new residential, retail and restaurants that will be coming into Heritage Crossing, the area of the city from Pioneer on the north, Shady Grove on the south, MacArthur Boulevard on the west and Britain Road on the east. McDougal stated that he has 73 properties under control and that ground breaking will begin no later than late 2009 on one or more of his projects. The first will be a 40-townhome development on Delaware with units priced at around \$325,000, and he has already begun taking reservations on the "for sale" homes. This development will also include a small retail component on Second Street between Delaware and Britain Road. Residential units will be built off Main Street on the site of the former lumber yard as well as along Delaware Creek on Sixth Street. Two new restaurants are being planned to overlook Delaware Creek between Irving Boulevard and Second Street near the intersection at O'Connor. Other projects coming into the Heritage Crossing include a new bank building which is approximately 75% complete and the razing and rebuilding of the McDonald's restaurant on Irving Boulevard.

CITY APPROVES AGREEMENT FOR ENTERTAINMENT CENTER COMPLEX

The City Council took action approving the Entertainment Center Development Agreement establishing the relationship between the City of Irving and the Las Colinas Group, LLC as the developer of the Entertainment Venue. The Agreement includes provisions insuring the City's right to approve all design, development and construction decisions related to the development of the site. In addition, the City will commit \$5,000,000.00 of funding for pre-development work such as design development architectural drawings, economic feasibility studies, parking studies, preliminary engineering, and other necessary pre-development activities.

DART AWARDS CONTRACT FOR ORANGE LINE

DART Board members have awarded the design-build contract for the first two sections of the Irving corridor light rail project (Orange Line) to the joint venture of Kiewit, Stacy and Witbeck, Reyes, Parsons. The approximately \$430 million contract is for design and construction of a nine-mile, six-station rail line from Bachman Station on the Green Line in northwest Dallas to Belt Line Rd. on the southern portion of DFW International Airport. Funding for the project is included in DART's 20-year financial plan. Project design is scheduled to begin in January 2009 with major construction getting underway in May. The first phase of the project, from Bachman Station to the Las Colinas Urban Center is scheduled for completion in December 2011. The second phase, from Las Colinas to Belt Line, is scheduled to open one year later. A third section, from Belt Line to the DFW Airport terminals, is scheduled to open in December 2013.

CITY APPROVES AGREEMENT WITH GE AVIATION FOR BUSINESS RETENTION

GE Aviation received approval from Irving's City Council for a 1-year Chapter 380 agreement on its "freeport" eligible inventory at the company's current location in the DFW Freeport Park area of Irving. The agreement is contingent on GE Aviation entering into a signed lease agreement for a minimum of 5-years on a larger facility within the city limits of Irving by year-end 2009 in order to accommodate the company's need to expand its operations. The agreement approved by Council stipulates the minimum size of the building that must be leased and number of employees employed by year-end 2009.

HARPER-BROWN WINS IN VOTE RECOUNT

In a recount of votes from the November election, State Representative Linda Harper-Brown has maintained a 19-vote victory over challenger Bob Romano. There were more than 40,000 votes in the November election.

ONLY 20 DAYS LEFT TO PURCHASE TICKETS FOR STATE OF THE CITY

January 15, 2009
The State of the City Address
Presented by TXU Energy
Featuring Guest Speaker: The Honorable Herbert Gears, Mayor of the City of Irving
The Last Event at The Stadium Club of Texas Stadium
Welcome Reception begins at 6pm & Dinner begins at 7pm
For more information contact Vanessa Segovia at 214-217-8473 or vsegovia@irvingchamber.com

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP SPONSORS INDUSTRY OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

Nearly 800 business leaders attended the Dallas Business Journal's 2009 Industry Outlook event sponsored by the Irving Economic Development Partnership. Panelists included Ralph Babb-CEO Comerica Bank speaking on banking, Bob Best-CEO Atmos Energy speaking on energy, Stephen Jones-Executive Vice President and COO of the Irving-based Dallas Cowboys speaking on the sports industry, Doug Hawthorne-CEO Texas Health Resources speaking on healthcare, Gerard Arpey-CEO American Airlines speaking on the airlines industry, and Roger Staubach-Executive Chairman Jones Lang LaSalle Americas speaking on real estate. The overall consensus of these leaders was that 2009 will be another tough year in the Metroplex with recovery coming late in the 2009. Chris Wallace-President/CEO of the Chamber, delivered welcome remarks on behalf of the Irving Economic Development Partnership to the attendees.

LIBRARY ACQUIRES BUSINESS ELECTRONIC REFERENCE BOOKS

The Irving Public Library now offers electronic reference books through its business collection. The Friends of the Irving Public Library purchased 10 electronic reference books that include: Six volumes of the Business Plans Handbook, The Encyclopedia of Small Business, Everyday Finance, Know! Market Research for Small Businesses and Start-ups, and The Woman Entrepreneur's Guide to Financing a Business. All of the books can be accessed either through the library catalog or the Online Databases page of the library's Web site at www.cityofirving.org/library. Remote access requires a valid Irving Public Library card. Sections of the books may be printed, downloaded or e-mailed. The books were funded by the Friends of the Library.

CHAMBER BOARD HOLDS PLANNING MEETING

The Chamber's Board of Directors held an afternoon planning session to review its program accomplishments for 2008, confirm if its existing priorities and strategies are still relevant for continuation, and determine what new initiatives need to be added and undertaken in 2009. Several topic areas that were noted for inclusion in the 2009 goals of the Chamber are: (1) increased emphasis for programs and services to small businesses; (2) enhanced communications to members and the community through better utilization of newer technology; (3) increase Chamber membership; (4) improved/better coordinated brand communication through local, regional and national media outlets; (5) identify and find creative means to conserve and re-use Irving's water resources, (6) and focus on commercial development opportunities for the Irving Boulevard corridor.

JEFF FEGAN, CEO OF DFW AIRPORT ADDRESSES ROTARIANS

DFW Airport CEO Jeff Fegan was the speaker at a recent meeting of the Irving Rotary Club. Fegan highlighted the significant growth of the airport, by its being ranked third largest in the world in operations, and also addressed the airport's great partnership with the City of Irving and the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber.

EBM RELOCATES TO IRVING

EBM Corp, a consulting firm that helps companies start, manage and grow their online business, has relocated their office into Las Colinas at 1900 West Ridge Drive Ste 120. The company has been active in the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce. For additional information about services offered by EBM, go to www.EBM-corp.com.

UD PHARMACY SCHOOL TO CREATE PHARMACY SCHOOL

The University of Dallas (UD) announced plans to pursue the development of North Texas' first doctor of pharmacy (PharmD) degree program. The Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, the fourth-largest metropolitan area in the U.S., is the largest market in the country without an academic pharmacy program. The University plans to seek pre-candidate status for its School of Pharmacy from the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) and expects to enroll its first class in 2011. UD has named health sciences administrator and educator Dr. George E. MacKinnon III as founding dean and professor of the School of Pharmacy.

RANGER AEROSPACE & AERONAUTICS CHANGES NAME

Irving-based Ranger Aerospace & Aeronautics Inc, has changed its corporate name for better branding purposes to Ranger Rotorcraft Group, Inc. Ranger is a privately held investment and management holding company that partners with private equity institutions to acquire and grow companies in aviation services and aerospace support operations.

KNOCKOUTS EXPANDS TO HOUSTON

Knockouts Haircuts for Men is expanding its franchises into the Houston Metroplex. Since opening for business in 2004 in Irving, the company has more than 300 franchises and has been recognized as one of the fastest growing franchise operations in America.

BUSINESS INTERIORS EMPLOYEE EARNS LEED CERTIFICATION

Doug McAlister, an employee of Irving-based Business Interiors, has earned the Accredited Professional by passing the examination of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). Business Interiors is an Economic Development Investor in the Chamber.

THE IRVING CVB ANNOUNCES THE LAUNCH OF A NEW WEBSITE

Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau launched its new website last month. The site includes a bevy of new-and-improved components,



Please contact the Chamber at 214.217.8484 if we can assist you.

Main Office
5221 N. O'Connor Blvd., Ste. 100
Irving, TX 75039

Heritage District Office
301 W. Irving Blvd.
Irving TX 75060

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

Women-owned businesses faring well in current economic environment

Provided by Kristine Tanzillo

Despite the economic slowdown that has gripped the nation and the world, most women business enterprises (WBE) will end 2008 with significantly more revenue than they earned in 2007, according to a survey completed by the Women's Business Council Southwest (WBCS).

In a survey taken among WBCS members with operations in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Arkansas, 61 percent said their 2008 revenue would be up by 26 percent or more, with 45 percent estimating their year-end revenue would be at least 50 percent higher than last year. The survey was conducted in November and December to gauge the level of success of WBEs in light of the recession.

In addition to increased revenue, most WBEs said they added

employees during 2008, and just under half of the companies said they expect to add employees in 2009. Specifically, during 2008, 42 percent reported adding one to nine new employees, while another 12 percent had added 10 to 20 or more employees. As far as 2009 projections, 36 percent of the surveyed WBEs say they plan to add one to nine new employees, while another 10 percent plan to add 10 to 20 or more. Another 42 percent plan to remain at their current size, while only 12 percent expect to reduce their number of employees.

"Despite challenging economic conditions, our members clearly did well in 2008 and are fairly optimistic about 2009," said Debbie Hurst, president of WBCS. "They are not surrendering to the generally dismal outlook that is so prevalent in so many sectors, and instead

are doing what it takes to make their businesses thrive, or at least remain viable."

For 2009, 67 percent of WBEs indicated they expect to generate more revenue than in 2008. Thirty-three percent of those surveyed anticipate to grow more than 25 percent over this year, while 34 percent expect more modest growth.

"We were not surprised by the results of the survey. In fact, at the end of October, our members reported a 30 percent increase in revenue – more than \$910 million – over 2007," Hurst said. "Twenty-seven percent of our sustaining members reported doing more than \$380 million in business with WBEs this year."

Separately, when asked about the most challenging issues they will face in 2009 as business own-

ers, the WBE survey respondents said access to potential clients/customers (45 percent), access to work-

ing capital (12 percent) and the reduction of their margin and profit (31 percent) as the most pressing.

Chamber installs officers



The New Year brings with it new officers as Judge Bob Whitney swears in Roland Medina as the new Chairman of the Board for the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Lakers named general manager at La Cima Club

La Cima Club, a member of the ClubCorp family, named Rich Lakers as the new general manager, replacing Rick Kroner. Kroner will relocate to Chicago and assume the role as general manager at the Metropolitan Club, the city's premiere business and dining club.

Lakers will manage the club's 50 employees and lead an outstanding membership of 950. In addition, Lakers will continue ClubCorp's Charity Classic, which annually raises close to \$2 million for charity.

Lakers began his career at ClubCorp more than 32 years ago as a tennis professional at the San Francisco Tennis Club. He has more than 15 years of management experience at the San Francisco Tennis Club, Courtside Club near San Francisco and Rivers Club in Pittsburgh. In addition, he has served in a variety of roles at the company's home office in Dallas, which included pride development officer, vice president of member and employee relations, and most recently as vice president, corpo-

rate communications.

As the vice president of corporate communications, Lakers led the national, newly redesigned *Private Clubs* magazine, creative services and Web services teams, and executed all media and public relations initiatives.

"Rich is an outstanding leader and brings substantial club management experience to his new role," said John Longstreet, executive vice president, business and sports club division. "We look forward to his continued leadership and are confident that the positive contributions he will make will take La Cima to new heights."

Lakers received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of California at Berkley. Lakers will assume his new role Jan. 5.

Pet spa owner places second

Provided by Tiffany Dale Hunter

Kimberley Andrews, local entrepreneur and owner of Groom & Zoom Pet Pampering Spa, was recently awarded \$3,500 for a second place win in the 6th Annual University of Dallas Business Plan Competition. Andrews' business plan was selected based on its thoroughness, creativity and viability of its concept.

"It is such an honor to be selected as a winner in such a coveted business competition," Andrews said. "I've gained so much valuable advice throughout this entire process and am excited to be in a position to effectively implement my business plan."

The University of Dallas Business Plan Competition is an annual event that is open to all undergraduate, graduate, and alumni of the University of Dallas. Participants present personal business proposals to a qualified panel of judges consisting of local successful entrepreneurs. For more information about the University of Dallas Business Plan Competition, contact jwatters@gsm.udallas.edu.

Allison's Clubhouse
 "The BEST In Your Child's Care"
 3425 Finley, Irving, Texas 75062

We have the largest infant center in Irving/Las Colinas!

Accepting Children Ages: 6 weeks thru 11 years of age

Owners: David and Becky Staley
 Director: Wendy Boozer

Call us: 972 258-1800
www.Allisonsclubhouse.com

1/2 off registration with this ad

Discount
RATES
 without discount
SERVICE.

It's no accident more people trust State Farm to insure their cars. Call today.

Jonathan S Jackson, Agent
 3401 W Airport Fwy
 Irving, TX 75062
 Bus: 972-579-0887 Fax: 972-579-4700
jonathan.jackson.mtws@statefarm.com

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM IS THERE.®

Providing Insurance and Financial Services

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company (Not in N.J., Bloomington, IL)
 PD48334 12/04

Irving Massage Therapy
 Warmest Thoughts and Best Wishes
 for a Wonderful Holiday Season
 and a Very Happy New Year

15% OFF on Every Visit
 Through the Month of December
 on All Services and Products (except Gift Certificates)

10% OFF of Gift Certificate Packages

(972) 256-3565 3325 W. Rachel Rd., Irving, TX 75062
www.irvingmassage.com

Gift Certificates Available for the Holidays !!!

Joe's

Family Dining
 Homestyle Cooking
 All You Can Eat Food Bar After 5 p.m.
 Lite-eaters Selection

Where Irving Meets & Eats

425 W. Irving Blvd. at O'Connor

BREAKFAST
LUNCH
DINNER

For Take Out Call

(972) 253-7335

SPECIALS
EVERY
DAY!

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 5:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.
 Sat. 5:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sun. 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Serving Irving For Over 35 Years

Visit Our Other Locations at
 5912 Denton Hwy., Watauga, TX
Metro (817) 498-7079
 And our new location at
 310 Mitchell Rd., Mansfield, TX
Metro (817) 477-3383
 IN GOD WE TRUST

Nominations sought for Texas freshwater fishing Hall of Fame

Provided by Larry Hodge

Individuals or organizations that have made a lasting contribu-

tion to freshwater fishing in Texas may be nominated through Feb. 27 for induction into the Texas Fresh-

water Fishing Hall of Fame.

Nominees may be anglers, fisheries professionals or organizations. The nominee must be a Texan or Texas organization. Individuals may be either living or deceased. One nominee will be chosen by an independent selection committee and formally inducted during the

annual Hall of Fame banquet at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens.

Prior inductees include Floyd Mabry, Jackie Hewlett, R.D. Hull, Bob Kemp, Nick Crème, Charlie Inman, Sugar Ferris, Leonard Ranne, Earl Golding, Kathy Magers, the Sabine River Authority, Skeeter

Boats, Michael ("Shorty") Powers, Ray Murski, Albert S. Bradley, Richard M. Hart, William B. ("Doc") Shelton and Charlie Pack.

Nomination forms and instructions are available on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department web site www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tffc/ or by calling 903-670-2228.

Sharing the love



During the annual Love Basket program, Calvary Church volunteers give those in need baskets filled with the ingredients to cook a traditional holiday turkey dinner. Volunteers gave away 600 Love Baskets.

DART delivers a train-load of help

Provided by Mark Ball

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) employees collected 31,260 pounds of various food items, or more than 15 tons of nonperishable food this year for the Union Gospel Mission of Dallas. Over the past six years, more than 120,000 pounds, or 60 tons, of food has been collected. That's equal to a single DART Rail vehicle or approximately four DART buses.

In addition to food, 'Friendly Food Fight' campaign generated more than \$1,000 to feed the hungry in North Texas. Sheltering and serving homeless men and women in Dallas and its surrounding areas since 1949, Union Gospel Mission is completely supported by individual, business and church donations.



Victor Burke, DART Executive Vice President of Operations, presents a check and 15 tons of donated food from transit employees to Bill Thompson, Union Gospel Mission Executive Director. Looking on is DART employee and event chairman David Perry.

OBITUARIES

ESTHA BRISCOESTOWE



Estha Briscoe Stowe, 92, passed away on Dec. 13, 2008 in Irving.

She was born on March 20, 1916 in Waldrip, TX to John H. and Vina Briscoe. She had been a resident of Irving since 1955, and a longtime member of First United Methodist Church. She was Past President of

W.S.C. and National League of American Pen Women, Dallas branch. She was a charter member of the "Writer's Connection" and member of N.T.T.C.

She was preceded in death by her husband, David L. "Dick" Stowe, son and daughter-in-law, John and Ann Stowe and her parents.

She is survived by her sister-in-law, Phyllis Stowe of Irving, two nieces, Denise Pool and Tammy McAnally and countless cousins

from the Briscoe and Bumgardner families.

Funeral services were held on Dec. 16 at Chapel of Roses Funeral Home. Interment followed at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers memorials maybe to First United Methodist Church of Irving.

MARTHA ANN TIBBETTS

Martha Ann Tibbetts passed away on Dec. 13, 2008. Martha was born March 30, 1968 in Russellville, AL to Clayton and Louise Moody.

She is survived by her husband of three years, Gene Pearce; son, Michael Tibbetts; brothers, Clay Moody and Joe Moody; sister, Linda Moody; and two grandchildren, Vinnie and Alex.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Service is private.

MARY TENNISON



Mary Tennison, of Irving, passed away Dec. 11, 2008.

She was born May 7, 1934 in Raton, NM. She was a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Grand Prairie and was a Lady Elk.

Preceded in death by her parents Mike G. Plumisto and Mamie Christina Ridenour Plumisto, survivors include her husband Edgar A. Tennison of Irving; daughter Helen R. Stahnke of Grand Prairie; son George A. Tennison and wife Jeanette of Marble Falls; daughter Deborah J. Beathard and husband Ronnie of Pilot Point; daughter Mildred J. French and husband Jamie of Pilot Point; sisters Helen Bolenbarker of Irving, Jane Smallwood of Elizabethtown, KY,

Ann Kendall of Houston, MS, and Anita Serra of Denver, CO; 12 grandchildren; and 3 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Dec. 16 at Faith Lutheran Church in Grand Prairie. Interment followed at DFW National Cemetery, Lane A, 2000 Mountain Creek Pkwy. in Dallas. Memorial donations may be made to VITAS Hospice.

ELLEN MARIE OLIVER

Ellen Marie Oliver, of Arlington, and formerly of Irving, passed away Dec. 11, 2008. She was born Nov. 6, 1946 in Hazen, AR.

Preceded in death by her father Samuel Werley, survivors include her mother Hazel Werley of Irving; sons Ron Alley of Burleson, and Scott Alley of Miami, OK;

daughter Jana Barley of Winston, GA; brother S. Gary Werley of Fort Worth; sister Karen Nelson of Benbrook; 7 grandchildren; and 2 great grandchildren.

The family received friends Dec. 12 at the funeral home.

WAID OSCAR WILLCOX

Waid Oscar Willcox, of Irving, passed away Dec. 11, 2008.

He was born March 21, 1919 in Merritt, TX. He was a member of Plymouth Park Baptist Church in Irving.

Preceded in death by his son-in-law Ernest Gallatin, survivors include his wife Martha Willcox, son Mark Willcox, and daughter Judy Gallatin, all of Irving; daughter Vicki Miller and husband Todd of



DONNELLY'S Colonial Funeral Home

606 West Airport Freeway
Irving, Texas 75062

(972) 579-1313

www.donnellyscolonial.com

Serving Irving families
since 1963



Ben F. Brown

Continuing The Tradition

"The Right Choice
for Over 50 Years."

BROWN'S MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

Church & Chapel Services
Local, Out of Town Services & Burials
Memorials
Cremation
Memories Flowers

Funeral Directors: Gary Westerman
Michael McVey
Jason Rand

972-254-4242

www.brownmem.com

Brown Family Owned and Operated.

Program teaches students about art and life

By Jess Paniszczyn

Students at Houston Middle School celebrated their completion of the Make a Connection Thru Art program with an afternoon gathering, which featured an art unveiling and students performing origi-

nal poetry, on Dec. 18.

"Make a Connection Thru Art is a partnership with Nokia, the Pearson Foundation, Big Thought and the middle schools in Irving ISD," said Lisa Schmidt, the program director for Big Thought. "The

purpose of this project is to combine creative thinking, critical thinking, communication skills and respect, and to build those through the arts. We hire professional artists to come out to the schools to work with the kids. The kids create original works of art either spoken word poetry, ceramics or painting. As the kids are making the art, they are improving their life skills.

"One of the great things about this program, let's say with the creative writing, is the kids are getting an opportunity to write, but they aren't locked into grades. It's not about the grammar. It's not about passing a test. It is really about taking a look at what you want to say, creative thinking and what you want to communicate. Kids become very excited about doing the poetry and writing, because they are expressing their own words," she said.

During a 10 day residency, Will Richey, creative arts educator and spoken word artist, encourages kids to write and speak in their own voice.

"I encourage students to write to be heard. They have a right to be heard, to express themselves and to share their thoughts with other people. I encourage them to write words on paper as they would speak them rather than hide behind metaphor or simile. Our 10 day goal is for the students to have two final pieces they have typed. Each of my creative writing kids will go home with a book that they have created collaboratively.

"Through this program students are really empowered not only with the tools, but with the inspiration to speak exactly who they are," Mr. Richey said.

Susan Candelaria, the GT English teacher for Houston Middle School, believes Make a Connection Thru Art enhances her students' learning.

"Being an English teacher, I

hope they get the tools to write better for the TAKS test," Ms. Candelaria said. "The life skills are important too. Will teaches them not only to write, create, perform, but to listen. As they are performing and as they are hearing other people perform, they are learning how to be good audiences and good listeners. I think all of us could benefit from that life skill.

"My students are really enriched by this experience. Will Richey is a person who cares about children, and the kids know it. He gives them tools to help them to write. They enjoy knowing him, and in that atmosphere, they learn so much," she said.

Over time, Make a Connection Thru Art has allowed thousands of Irving students experience learning

in a new way. However, this school year is the final year for the program.

"This is the last official year of this grant. We have been working with Irving for six years. We did three years of pilot, three years of the program, and now it is coming to its natural end," Ms. Schmidt said. "We are hopefully going to be providing some professional development to the teachers so they can continue this work on their own in the classroom."

Ms. Schmidt said there is good reason for people to be proud of the Irving public schools.

"The public schools in Irving are just outstanding. We love working in these middle schools. People need to know there is a lot of good work going on out here," she said.



Creativity and inspiration go a long way for Houston Middle School students involved in the annual Make a Connection Thru Art program as original ceramic art creations are unveiled during the end of program celebration.

HOUSE FOR SALE



\$85000 Two bedroom home , ready for you

This little home is just waiting for the right family. Perfect for a single person or a newly married couple or a retired couple or a parent with one child. Low maintenance. Low utility bills. Low monthly payments with good credit. It can be as low as \$720 a month for principle and interest. It is in South Irving. It has two bedroom, one bath with a detached one car garage. Another house that is the same size and shape sold on the same street for \$99,000. This house is shown by appointment only. If you don't have a loan in place , I have several referral sources that can provide a loan if necessary. The owner will not be able to hold the note. The owner might consider a lease purchase if the buyer is qualified for a loan. It would lease for \$950 a month while the loan is being completed 2 months maximum lease. It is ready to be occupied TODAY!

This IS A GOOD DEAL! The address is 221 West 12th Street. Drive by and take a look. Then . . . **Call 972-259-7000**

OBITUARIES

Carrollton; 7 grandchildren; and 8 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Dec. 13 at Plymouth Park Baptist Church. Interment followed at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens. Arrangements made by Brown's Memorial Funeral Home.

VIVIANPEARL HOUGHTON
Vivian Pearl Houghton, age 90, a former longtime resident of Irving, passed into the loving arms of Jesus on Dec. 17, 2008 with her family by her side.

She was born on April 3, 1918 in Fisher County, TX to William James and Maggie Mae (Lewis) Madden. She married L. C. Houghton on Oct. 15, 1939 in

Abilene, he preceded her in death on Nov. 20, 1987. Vivian was a member of Eastern Star and a model for Thorton's Department Store. She began her career in Abilene at Grissom's Department Store and retired in Dallas from Wolf Brother's Men's Clothing Store.

Survivors include sons, Roy Houghton and wife Rita of Euless, Lloyd Houghton and wife Vicki of Irving; twin brother, Lewis Madden of Loveland, CO; grandchildren, Roy (Monty) Houghton, Christi Byrd, Nicole Houghton, Betty Bearden, Bobby Rivet; great-grandchildren, Britnie, Josh, Tyler, Lily, Justin, Chaney, Riley, Colton, Christopher; great-great-grandchildren, Amyia and Braylen.

The family would like to thank Odyssey Hospice of Fort Worth for all of their loving care. A graveside service was held on Dec. 19 at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens in Irving. Chism-Smith Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

ANITA M. VINSON

Anita M. Vinson, 84, passed away Dec. 16, 2008 in Irving.

She was preceded in death by

her husband H.B. Vinson, two sisters, Frances Miller and Barbara Boyd, and brother Ed Roberts. She is survived by her two sons, Ronald Vinson and Donald Vinson and wife Teresa; and sister Sue Dilda. Also surviving her are stepchildren Ann McGahee, Martha Mullins, Jerry Vinson and wife Linda, Russell Vinson and wife Becky, along with numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

During her working career, Anita was active in the family business, Texas Driving School that she and her husband H.B. Vinson started in 1946. She will be missed by all that knew and loved her.

Graveside services were held Dec. 19 at Laurel Land Memorial Park in Dallas. Arrangements made by Brown's Memorial Funeral Home.

CHISM-SMITH FUNERAL HOME
Irving's oldest funeral home



We Provide The Personal Touch
David & Carla Davis,
Owners & Licenced Funeral Directors

129 S. O'Connor
Irving, TX 75060

972-259-7644

Chapel of Roses Funeral Home



Owned & Operated by the Chism & Crouch Families

972-554-1031

1225 E. Irving Blvd. 75060

www.ChapelofRosesfh.com

Directors:
Charlotte Chism Waldrum
Harrell Chism
Austin E. Raney

Offering:
Traditional Funeral Services
Cremation
Military Services

ACCEPTING ALL Pre-Need Funerals

Super Crossword

JOB REQUIREMENTS

ACROSS

- 1 Summer stinger
- 5 Say "Hey!"
- 9 It rhymes with doom!
- 14 Jamaican cultist
- 19 — podrida
- 20 Garfield's pal
- 21 Slowly, to Sibelius
- 22 Field marshal Rommel
- 23 Exclude
- 24 FARMER WANTED!
- 27 Passe
- 29 Roman statesman
- 30 Mare's morsel
- 31 Florida county
- 32 Darling dog
- 34 It's a long story
- 38 Gum gob
- 40 Musical syllables
- 41 GAS STATION ATTENDANT WANTED!
- 47 Actress Hagen
- 48 "— Got Tonight" ('83 tune)
- 49 Air bear?

- 50 Buck's "The Good —"
- 55 Most spirited
- 58 Descend upon
- 60 Slick
- 61 Tiller
- 62 Agitated state
- 63 Oklahoma city
- 65 Bristol brews
- 66 Novelist O'Flaherty
- 68 TV's "Happy —"
- 71 Burn remedy
- 73 — and outs
- 74 MAIL CARRIER WANTED!
- 79 Outlaw
- 80 Barbara of "Perry Mason"
- 81 — St. Vincent Millay
- 82 Dweeb
- 83 Move like molasses
- 85 Attempt
- 87 Stare sarcastically
- 89 97 Across ingredients
- 92 Weaken, in a way
- 94 Daydream
- 97 Brunch offering
- 99 Tantrum
- 100 Sedaka or Simon

- 101 Out-of-this-world org.
- 103 "Hi, Horace!"
- 104 CHANDELIER SALESMAN WANTED!
- 110 Singer Davis
- 113 Paid player
- 114 Actor McGregor
- 115 Reunion attendee
- 116 "Zip- — -Doo-Dah"
- 118 Wildebeest
- 120 Earl — Biggers
- 123 Get teed off?
- 127 MILLINER WANTED!
- 133 Privy to
- 134 Rod Stewart's ex
- 135 Pageant prop
- 136 — -friendly
- 137 Short on looks
- 138 Get side-tracked
- 139 Ski center
- 140 Pedestal part
- 141 — Hari

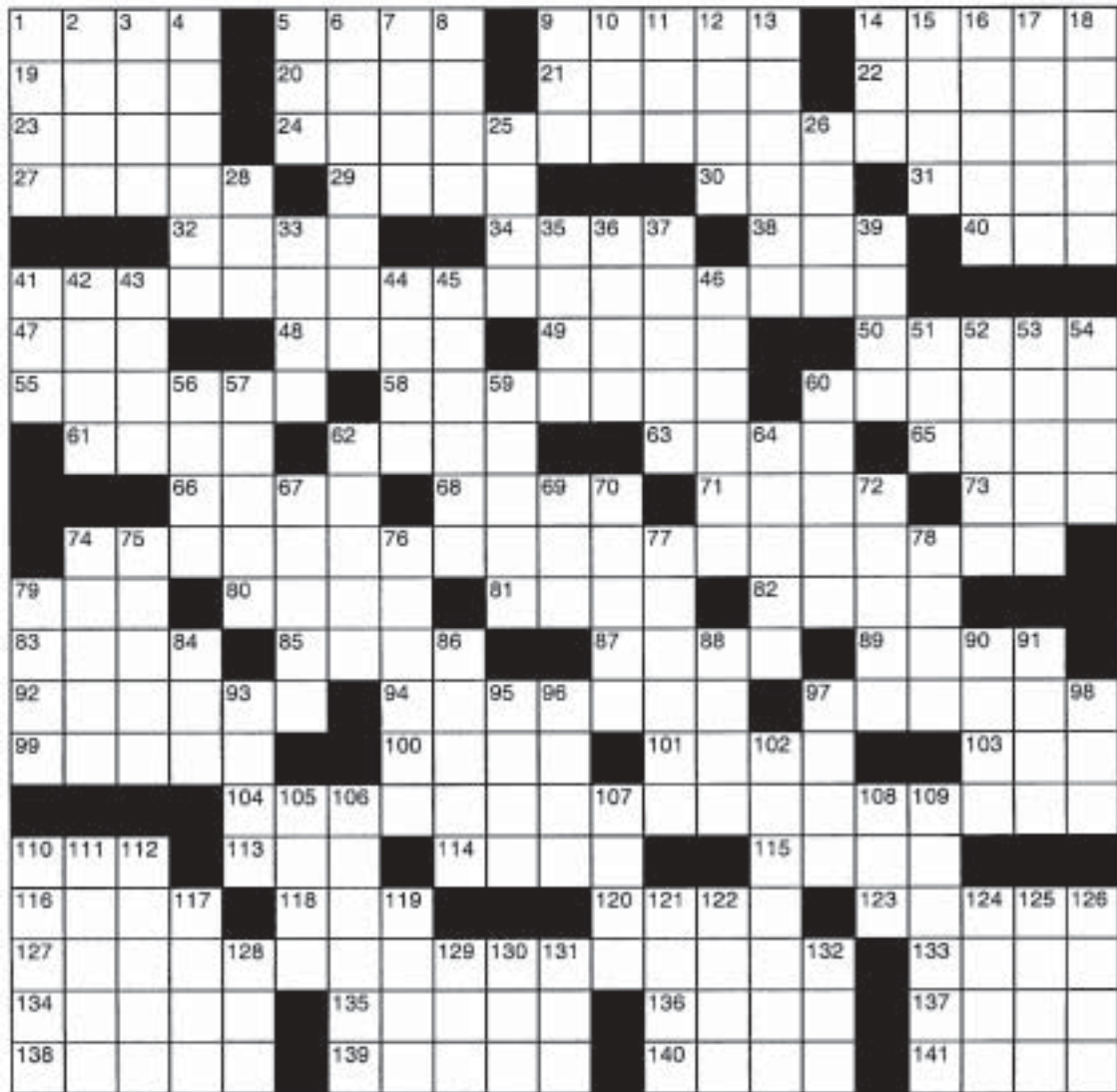
DOWN

- 1 Lumber
- 2 — mater
- 3 Skirt feature
- 4 Crystal-clear

- 5 — Kippur
- 6 Train
- 7 Bonnet or Whelchel
- 8 Rigs resident
- 9 Day- —
- 10 Clerical abbr.
- 11 Indefinite pronoun
- 12 Henry the Fowler's son
- 13 New York river
- 14 Ump's kin
- 15 Parched
- 16 Vow
- 17 Diacritical mark
- 18 Llama turf
- 25 Word with face or heart
- 26 And others
- 28 Patriotic org.
- 33 Salamander
- 35 Blue hue
- 36 Spiritual guide
- 37 Usher's beat
- 39 Stained
- 41 Toby, for one
- 42 Neighbor of Idaho
- 43 Identical
- 44 A Karamazov brother
- 45 Dwell

- 46 Sylvester's snooze
- 51 "Gotcha!"
- 52 Antique
- 53 Senator Lott
- 54 Musical Myra
- 56 Building wings
- 57 Jaclyn of "Charlie's Angels"
- 59 Declare
- 60 Cherish
- 62 Food fish
- 64 Actress Graff
- 67 Put down
- 69 Accounting abbr.
- 70 Murcia mister
- 72 Roger's '77 Sunset Strip' co-star
- 74 Hyper
- 75 Quitter's cry
- 76 Found out
- 77 "— Bulf" ('80 film)
- 78 Brink
- 79 Auction actions
- 84 Savage sort
- 86 Former Buffalo Bills player Don
- 88 Rachel's sister
- 90 Elated
- 91 Goller Ballesteros
- 93 Short-timer

- 95 Survey
- 96 Joyce of "Roc"
- 97 Neighbor of Molokai
- 98 Lapidus or Lewis
- 102 Began
- 105 Press
- 106 Beethoven's "Moonlight —"
- 107 The — 500
- 108 Remnant
- 109 Impressive lobby
- 110 "— Pearl" ('71 hit)
- 111 Mature
- 112 Romero or Franck
- 117 Sicily's highest point
- 119 "QB VII" author
- 121 Israel's Barak
- 122 Tabula —
- 124 Swenson of "Benson"
- 125 Electrical measure
- 126 "Only Time" singer
- 128 Method player Don
- 129 Atlas feature
- 130 Is for two
- 131 Actress Grey
- 132 Theater sign

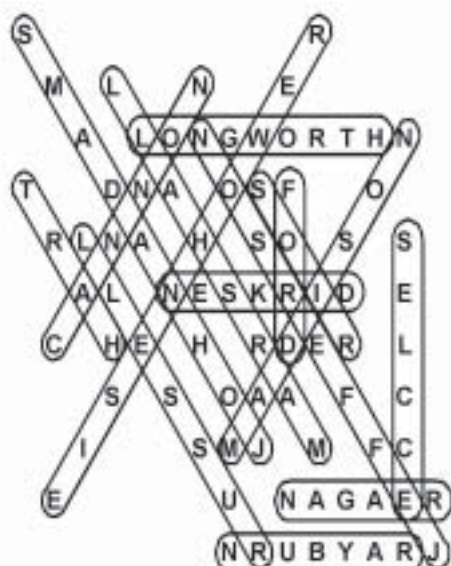


©2005 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Answers for 12-11-2008



Answers for 12-11-2008



Answers for 12-11-2008

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

ComParrot by Bonnie J. Malcolm
Can you spot 12 differences between these pictures?



www.comparrotpuzzles.com © 2008 Bonnie J. Malcolm



Solution: 1. Strap on lady's sandal is missing; 2. Medallion on costume is colored in; 3. Knothole on manger is colored in; 4. Bulb in spotlight is colored in; 5. Star in background has moved; 6. Patch on man's robe has moved; 7. The on robe has moved; 8. Man's robe is longer; 9. Elbow patch is larger; 10. Stripe on robe pocket is different; 11. Headress is longer; 12. Bush is different.

WORDS WITH A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF FAT
MAGIC MAZE



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

- Arafat
- Butterfat
- Fatal
- Fatback
- Fateful
- Fathom
- Fatigue
- Fatima
- Fatten
- Fatty
- Infatuated
- Moffat
- Nonfat
- Prefatory
- Sulfate

©2005 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

SNAP/Food Stamps usage in Texas on the rise

Thousands of Texans struggling during these tough economic times are turning to SNAP/Food Stamps in record numbers. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, SNAP/Food Stamp participation increased in Texas from 2,683,648 to 2,952,749 from August 2008 to September 2008. As times grow tighter for Texas families, it is likely that participation will continue

to increase in the coming months. "Texas ranks 47th in the nation in the number of food secure families, meaning we have more people wondering where their next meal will come from than almost any other state," said Celia Hagert, Senior Policy Analyst at the Texas Center for Public Policy Priorities. "That's roughly 1.3 million households, and that number will undoubtedly swell

as the full effects of the recession hit Texas families. We need to shore up the Food Stamp Program to keep more families from going hungry during this crisis."

The rapid rise in SNAP/Food Stamp participation should serve as a wakeup call to both Texas and national leaders – far too many Texas families are struggling to put food on the table, and the problem requires immediate attention. More than 36.2 million people nationwide are struggling against hunger.

Nationally, SNAP/Food Stamp participation reached a record high in September, with more than 31.5

million people receiving the benefit. The increase was driven by economic factors, as well as by the impact of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Previously, participation peaked in November 2005, serving more than 29.85 million in the wake of three hurricanes.

"The strength of SNAP/Food Stamps lies in its ability to respond quickly to meet increased need, whether due to economic downturns or natural disasters," said Jim Weill, president of the Food Research and Action Center. "Caseloads will continue to rise as more people grapple with rising

unemployment, falling wages, rising food costs, and growing hunger. With this ongoing growth in participation, it is critical that Congress quickly passes a boost in benefits as part of economic recovery legislation, as well as more administrative funds to help states cope with growing caseloads.

"Not only will this increase help the most vulnerable citizens, but it is the most effective economic stimulus, dollar-for-dollar. Every dollar spent in federal SNAP/Food Stamps generates nearly double that in the local economy."

After 35 years
Going Out of Business
 Irving Antique Mall
 129 S. Main
 972-254-0339
Great Sales

FREE Home Security System!
 At no cost to you for parts and activation with only a \$99 installation fee and the purchase of alarm monitoring services. Terms & Conditions below.

\$850 Value!

- ✓ Front and Back doors protected
- ✓ Infrared Motion Detection Sensor
- ✓ Digital Keypad with Police, Fire, Medical, and Emergency buttons
- ✓ Warning Siren
- ✓ Control Panel with battery back-up
- ✓ Lawn Sign and Window decals

CALL NOW and Receive a **FREE** Wireless remote control with **PANIC BUTTON!**

1-877-505-3157
 Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm, Saturday 10am - 5pm, Sunday 11am - 4pm

ADT Protect Your Home

ADT provided by Media 818.com • 1-800-236-2201

\$99.00 (includes installation charge, 30 Month Monitoring Agreement required of \$29.99 per month (\$1,199.00). Term of payment must be by credit card or electronic charge to your checking or savings account. Offer applies to homeowners only. Local permit fees may be required. Additional small hourly charges. Certain restrictions may apply. Offer valid for new ADT Authorized Dealer customers only and not on purchases from ADT Security Services, Inc. Offer ends 12/31/08. Cannot be combined with any other offer. License: AL 08-1184, AZ 08-17317, CA 08-04226, CO 10-01291, CT 08-01291, DE 07-012, FL 08-12082481, GA 08-12082481, HI 08-12082481, IL 08-12082481, IN 08-12082481, IA 08-12082481, KS 08-12082481, KY 08-12082481, LA 08-12082481, MA 08-12082481, MD 08-12082481, MI 08-12082481, MN 08-12082481, MO 08-12082481, MS 08-12082481, MT 08-12082481, NC 08-12082481, ND 08-12082481, NE 08-12082481, NH 08-12082481, NJ 08-12082481, NM 08-12082481, NV 08-12082481, NY 08-12082481, OH 08-12082481, OK 08-12082481, OR 08-12082481, PA 08-12082481, RI 08-12082481, SC 08-12082481, SD 08-12082481, TN 08-12082481, TX 08-12082481, UT 08-12082481, VA 08-12082481, VT 08-12082481, WA 08-12082481, WI 08-12082481, WY 08-12082481

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging

Mungles on Movies

By Matt Mungle
 Title: *The Day the Earth Stood Still*
 Rated: PG-13

I love flipping by the HD Monster Channel when they are showing all the great 50's and 60's sci-fi thrillers. Movies created when the average American knew we would be easily attacked by aliens or nuclear missiles before the 70's ever got here. How the future was full of space travel and the horrors that came from what we would discover on other planets. It is humorous now in 2008 to see how the movie makers of that day perceived us to live and function. But one thing has remained unchanged and that is human nature. The thing that makes us fear that which we do not understand; to want to destroy before being destroyed.

In the remake of the 1951 film *The Day the Earth Stood Still* director Scott Derrickson has made this classic tale relevant while paying homage to the original. With modern day scenarios he mixes the campy dialogue that you would expect from 50's sci-fi. Klaatu (Keanu Reeves) and his big buddy GORT

We are all aliens and strangers

have come to Earth on behalf of civilizations elsewhere to talk to our leader about their plans for our planet. When he discovers that which he feared to be true there is no other option than to destroy the human race. It is up to a scientist (Jennifer Connelly) and her bratty step son (Jaden Smith) to convince him otherwise, before it is too late.

As hokey as this film is at times it is easily enjoyable if you allow yourself to be entertained. The opening scenes are reminiscent of *Independence Day* as the Earth is under attack from who knows where and for who knows what reason. All nations are looking to America to see what should be done. And our answer is as it always is when we discover something we don't fully understand. Blow it up! The arrogance of our leaders is always a bit embarrassing in these films. The pompousness of anyone to think that they have the right to rule anything on the scale of a planet is just silly. The conversations between Klaatu and the Secretary of Defense (Kathy Bates) show that in the large scheme of things like

galaxies and universes we are such miniscule beings. We have created nothing yet we feel we have the right to use it as our own, however we see fit. And when faced with the guilt of how we have handled these creations we would rather fight than change.

You can call this a tree hugger film if you want, but I think the script brings up some good points about how we are taking care of our home planet. Klaatu's solution seems justified in an alien's point of view, "If the Earth dies, you die. If you die, the Earth survives." If that is the only way to save something as grand as a planet, well it seems like a no brainer to wipe out an entire human race. We had our shot and blew it. The movie speaks a lot about change and will people ever change even in the face of alien destruction. Sadly as I watched this film I knew that we wouldn't. Once the danger was over we would go right back to the selfish, proud, arrogant humans we were before it started. But that is the beauty of movies. In movies we can write the script however we want.

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!

★ **MACARTHUR MARKETPLACE 16** ★
 8505 Walton Blvd (Behind Walmart) • (972) 401-FILM

* YES MAN PG13 11:50 1:50 2:30 4:25 5:00 7:05 7:40 9:35 10:10	AUSTRALIA PG13 1:45 5:30 9:00
* SEVEN POUNDS PG13 1:20 4:20 7:15 10:05	NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS PG13 12:15 2:45 5:10 7:35 9:55
# THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX PG 12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:30	FOUR CHRISTMASSES PG13 12:25 1:10 2:40 3:20 4:55 5:35 7:10 8:00 9:25 10:15
# DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL PG13 11:50 1:00 2:20 4:00 4:50 6:50 7:20 9:20 9:50	TWILIGHT PG13 1:05 4:10 6:55 9:45
DELGO PG 11:50 2:15 4:40 6:55 9:10	BOLT PG 11:55 2:10 4:35 7:15 9:40
QUANTUM OF SOLACE PG13 12:05 2:25 4:50 7:30 10:00	

* FULLY RESTRICTED # NO PASSES

Tickets on sale NOW! - Online or at the Theater

Why wait in lines? PURCHASE TICKETS AT HOME www.gohollywood.com

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.

CVS Pharmacy supports Irving Cares

Provided by Leigh Eitson

CVS Pharmacy recently granted \$1,000 to Irving Cares for the Patient Transportation Program. The purpose of the grant is to support Irving Cares in its effort to eliminate barriers that prevent access to health care by the poor, frail, elderly and disabled. The Patient Transportation Program is for Irving residents who need door-to-door transportation.

Clients can schedule rides to Parkland and other clinics or pharmacies in the Parkland system, Children's Medical Center, St. Paul, Scottish Rite, the Irving Health Center, Baylor Medical Center at Irving, Baylor Irving-Coppell and Irving Dialysis Center. Once clients are registered in the program, they call to schedule rides and arrange for prescription deliveries. To learn more or enroll in the program, Irving residents should call 972-721-9181. A Spanish translator is available.

"CVS Caremark Community Grants are an effective way for us to give back to the communities where we do business," said Eileen Howard Dunn, Vice President of the CVS Caremark Charitable Trust. "We are proud to support the work that Irving Cares does in the community."

The CVS Caremark Community

Grant to Irving Cares is part of CVS/Pharmacy's commitment to its communities throughout the country. Irving Cares was selected to receive a grant through the CVS/Pharmacy Community Grants 2008 grant application process. Grants were

awarded to organizations that share a common vision with CVS Caremark to provide healthcare to the uninsured.

"Through this grant, we are assuring that more uninsured individuals in Irving receive needed

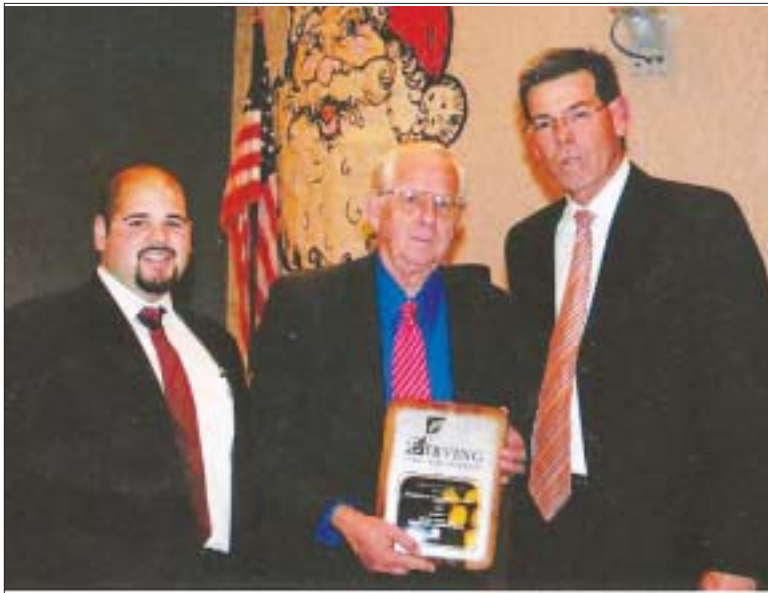
care, that the care received is of high quality, and that the uninsured are served by medical providers and professionals who are dedicated to improving their lives and the lives of others," said Denny Tewell, Area Vice President, Texas, CVS/Pharmacy.

Holiday partying with Santa



During the Baylor Medical Center at Irving's Children's Christmas Party, Emma Bradley, daughter of Baylor Irving employee Donald Bradley, visits with Santa. More than 150 children and grandchildren of Baylor Irving employees enjoyed the festivities including cookie and ornament decorating, face painting and a visit from Santa Claus on Dec. 13.

Knights receive award



The local Knights of Columbus Council 5243 received the Irving Parks and Recreation's Community Service Award on Dec. 8. The award was presented by Chris Michalski, director of Parks and Recreation (rt), to Frank Horak, the Knights is Chairman for Committee

Affairs, as Grand Knight Justin Azcona (lt) looked on.

The Knights have been in Irving since 1962 and perform various acts in the community and charity functions. The Knights have served the senior community for 26 years.

NOBODY takes care of you **LIKE STATE FARM.**

I'm dedicated to helping you get the coverage that's right for you and the discounts you deserve. Call me today.

Kerri Miene, Agent
210 South O Connor Road
Irving, TX 75060-2948
Bus: 972-253-1866
kerri.miene.st167@statefarm.com

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR, STATE FARM IS THERE.™

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
(not in NJ) • Bloomington, IL • statefarm.com
FD50056 2/05

Read the Irving Rambler

ONLINE

-IRVING ANNOUNCEMENT-

Exercise your voice
Ask questions!
Give an opinion & make it count!
Share some answers!
Make your voices heard!

Irving Voices Unite!

www.irvingvoices.com
Call: 469-450-3936
Email: info@irvingvoices.com
Write: Irving Voices
2505 Texas Drive, Suite 10420
Irving, TX 75062

Songbird Hearing Inc. 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed

Better Hearing Made Easy

Get the world's first disposable hearing aid

If you or your loved one has mild to moderate hearing loss, the all-new Songbird® flexfit™ is the ideal solution. Easy and affordable, it offers a revolutionary alternative to costly traditional hearing aids. Use it only when you need it, just like reading glasses. Adjustable for a personal fit, it's perfect for those who want to improve hearing on their own terms—without sacrificing quality or comfort.

Improve your hearing without hassle or major expense

- Crystal-Clear Digital Sound Quality
- Lasts for 400 Hours of Active Use*
- No In-Office Fittings or Maintenance
- No Batteries to Replace
- Order from Home—by Phone or Online

ALL NEW!

Two Payments of **\$39⁹⁵**

You may not always need help hearing. For the times you do, trust Songbird.

ASK HOW TO GET FREE SHIPPING!

Not available in stores
Try It Now Risk-Free†
Call 1-800-905-1070

Compact design as shown in hand

Product worn as shown—fits discreetly behind the ear

*Under typical use patterns, battery lasts for 400 hours of active use (when turned on). Make sure to turn the device off when not in use to maximize battery life. †Less shipping and handling. The Songbird flexfit™ disposable hearing aid is for mild to moderate hearing loss. Not intended for use by anyone under 18 years of age. Hearing loss can be a symptom of a medically treatable condition. Consult your doctor prior to using any hearing aid.

PR07220835

In Texas, you have the right to choose your repair shop, whether it is for collision or hail damage.

Chuck's **body shop**

972-438-8525

Collision Repair & Refinishing Specialists

GUARANTEED WORKMANSHIP
INSURANCE CLAIMS WELCOMED

404 Mavis, Irving, Texas 75061

All Makes & Models