



THIS WEEK



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Happy Holidays



Home sweet home. Santa greets visitors outside an impressive gingerbread cottage in the main lobby of the Omni Mandalay Hotel.

Editor's Note:

This is the last issue of *The Irving Rambler* for 2007. 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 2007. 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.

Wreaths Across America honors fallen soldiers

Despite temperatures in the 30s and gusting winds, the Civil Air Patrol Texas Wing Group 3 conducted a Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery on Dec. 15.

During the ceremony, seven ceremonial wreaths were placed to remember those who gave their lives in service for our country. Specially made wreaths for Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines and POW/MIA were also placed on memorials during a ceremony.

"This was a way for us to honor the men and women who have served our country," Charlotte Chism Waldrum, president of the North Texas Funeral Directors Association, said. "All of the men and women who died in active duty in Iraq were honored with wreaths. There are some dignitaries buried

in the cemetery and wreaths were placed on their graves. Wreaths were also placed on the graves of representatives of each war represented at the cemetery. There is at least one World War One grave in

the DFW National Cemetery.

"The wreaths give us a chance to let these families know that we are thinking about them and we care. I think it is a nice tribute. We

See **WREATHS**, Page 4



Following a ceremony at the DFW National Cemetery honoring the fallen, Susan Hicks places a wreath on her son's grave.

Research In Motion selects Irving for U.S. headquarters

BlackBerry® maker, Research In Motion Limited (RIM) recently selected Irving as its U.S. headquarters. RIM is expected to employ over 1,000 people in the region over the next several years, including positions in research and development, technical support,

business operations and administration.

RIM is a leading designer, manufacturer and marketer of innovative wireless solutions for the worldwide mobile communications market. Since launching the industry leading BlackBerry solu-

tion in 1999, RIM's customer base has grown to over 11 million subscribers and is supported on over 325 carrier networks in over 125 countries around the world.

The company's expansion was announced on Dec. 17 by Senator Florence Shapiro, Secretary of

State Phil Wilson, Irving Mayor Herbert Gears, Jim Balsillie, Co-CEO of Research In Motion and Greater Dallas Chamber Chairman Ron Gafford at RIM's new offices.

"RIM is a world-class organization widely recognized for its innovation and business excellence. We are thrilled that the company has selected our region as the location of its U.S. headquarters," Ron Gafford, chairman of the Greater Dallas Chamber and president and CEO of Austin Industries, Inc. said. "Our region is a magnet for international companies and this announcement illustrates, once again, our region's merits as a prime location for corporate America."

"RIM continues to expand its

operations to help address the growing market opportunity for BlackBerry products and services around the world," Jim Balsillie, Co-CEO at RIM, said. "With its talented workforce and strong infrastructure, Irving, Texas is an excellent location for RIM and we're very excited to be investing in this region."

The site chosen for RIM's U.S. headquarters is within Las Colinas' Riverside Commons, 5000 Riverside Drive, Brazos Building East, Irving. RIM will be initially occupying over 100,000 square feet. Riverside

"This is a great day for North Texas as we welcome this wonder-

See **BLACKBERRY**, Page 5

Shopping spree gives children of single mothers a merry Christmas

By Jess Paniszczyn

Roy Williams Safety Net Foundation joined with Irving's Wal-Mart Supercenters and Sam's Club to provide 15 single mothers and their children with a Christ-

mas shopping spree in the Wal-Mart Supercenter located on Market Place Blvd.

Each mother received a \$100 gift card specifically to purchase toys and games to create a special

Christmas for their children. Following the shopping spree, Wal-Mart surprised the families with a gift basket containing all of the essential elements for a turkey dinner.

"We are honored that Roy and Wal-Mart were able to join together for a great foundation," Kevin Belcoff, the Wal-Mart store manger, said. "He really cares about helping the single mothers in our community. It is well worth the effort of helping him grow this foundation through Wal-Mart in this area. Growing the foundation into Oklahoma is the next step. We are happy to be a partner.

"Single mothers are struggling with everyday life with gas prices going up and everything else. For a single mother raising kids, it is tough out there. It doesn't take a whole bunch to help people. It doesn't take much to make

See **FOUNDATION**, Page 6



Roy Williams and staff members of the local Wal-Mart Supercenters and Sam's Club say their good-byes as single mother families prepare to leave the shopping spree event.

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Vandals try to deflate homeowners' Christmas spirit

By Jess Paniszczyn

As Christmas approaches, many of Irving's citizens have elected to decorate the outside of their homes with a wide variety of items including lights, inflatable characters and cutouts. Whether the decorating is limited to a single wreath or a light display that can be seen from outer space, the effort, time and expense of decorating is a boon to the whole community.

Sadly, some individuals have taken it upon themselves to damage these displays of goodwill. One night early last week, several inflatables in front of homes in the University Hills area were slashed.

One of the inflatables that bore the brunt of the attack was Barbara Rosenthal's snowman. An older model, the snowman is no longer in production and cannot be replaced.

"I decorate the house for little children, poor people who come to our neighborhood to look at the lights, and old people. It is a shame that someone would do that to people. Not only to me, but to all the people who enjoy what we do."

"It hurts my feelings. I loved that snowman. We will try to fix him and see if he will hold air. Otherwise, we will buy something new next year," Ms. Rosenthal said.

Her daughter, Lisa Morelli, tried to make sense of the snowman's destruction.

"I am just wondering who does this. A couple of people didn't like some of the Halloween things. And sometimes at Halloween some vandalizing goes on. But not at Christmas. Christmas is not Halloween. Christmas is the high Christian holiday."

"I hope those kids get coal in their stockings," Ms. Morelli said. Three years ago, Linda Wollenman had metal figures covered in lights stolen out of her front yard.

"There is a wire running through all of my metal decorations. They are locked to a tree. If they have a bolt cutter, they will be able to cut it, but they can't just grab and run," Ms. Wollenman said.

She has a lot of sympathy for her neighbors whose decorations were damaged this year.

"Whoever did this is not very considerate. They are not very nice. I think things like this make people scared to put things out. It is really pathetic when you can't put anything out for fear of having it damaged or stolen," she said.

Las Colinas Association security officers reported the vandalism to the Irving Police Department.

"We also had some vandalism



Unhappy tidings. A fallen Santa lays in a neighborhood yard beside the faux snow that spilled on the ground when this inflatable decoration was cut by vandals.

in Hackberry Creek the other night," Jan McKenzie, security assistant for the Las Colinas Association said. "The Irving police said they would patrol the areas more. And patrolling the areas more is about all we can do too. We will just patrol more and see if we can catch the little boogers who are doing this. I would like to get my hands on them."

"We see most of our vandalism at Christmas and Halloween

when people want to decorate and make things nice for the kids. Other people want to come in here and ruin it. I was raised that you don't bother other people's stuff. But kids these days don't seem to get the hint.

"This is private property and people are supposed to stay where they belong. I think if the people who vandalized these properties are caught, charges should be filed against them," she said.

Irving Fire Department

Activity summary Dec 13-19, 2007

Irving Fire Department responded to 353 incidents.

The Fire incidents	Medical calls
92 Miscellaneous Fire and Rescue Calls	37 Major Accidents
10 Structure Fires	88 Major Medical
3 Special Operations	20 Heart Attacks
1 Vehicle Fires	41 Difficulty Breathing
	42 Trauma Related
	19 CPR Situations

Comments:

- 12-13:** Ambulances went into overload four times.
- 12-14:** Structure fire was a "fully involved" mobile home. The fire was extinguished with 1st alarm companies. No injuries were reported.
- 12-15:** Ambulances went into overload four times.
- 12-18:** Ambulances went into overload once.
- 12-19:** At 8:50 a.m., the Irving Fire Department responded to a reported structure fire at 924 Hilltop Drive. The first emergency personnel were on-scene at 8:55 a.m. with a total of two alarms being called. Total number of pieces of major equipment was 12. Thirty-five Fire Fighters and three Chief Officers were utilized in bringing the emergency under control. There were no injuries at this emergency. Ambulances went into overload twice.



The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

Advent & Christmas Special Services Schedule

Morning Prayer every Tuesday in Advent @ 9:30 a.m.

Sunday December 23rd Lessons & Carols @ 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Services:
 Monday December 24th - 5:00 p.m.
 Children's Pageant & Holy Eucharist with carols (nursery provided)
 10:00 p.m. Candlelight Eucharist of the Nativity with choir and carols

Tuesday December 25th @ 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist of the Nativity

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

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

December 22

Holiday Celebration - Presented by Las Colinas Symphony Orchestra presents a festive, holiday concert at 8 p.m. in Carpenter Performance Hall filled with Christmas carol favorites, a family sing-along and all of the traditions of the season. The Las Colinas Symphony Orchestra will also perform seasonal works such as Holst's *In the Bleak Midwinter* and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Polonaise from Christmas Eve*. \$25-55. 972-252-2787 for tickets.

December 24
Christmas Eve

December 25
Merry Christmas - The South MacArthur Church of Christ welcomes everyone to share in the

Community Christmas Dinner from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. free of charge. The church is located on the southwest corner of MacArthur Blvd. and Shady Grove.

December 30
Connie Jordan Exhibit - The Irving Jaycee Center for the Arts in conjunction with the Irving Arts Association will host an exhibit by Connie Jordan and an auction of her work to benefit research for Parkinson's disease. In addition works donated by various local artists, including some from the Irving Art Association will be auctioned. Her show will be displayed at the Irving Jaycee Center for the Arts from Dec. 30 through Jan. 24. A reception will be held Jan. 11 in the East Gallery at 2:00 p.m.

for "Painting for Parkinson's" with viewing artwork and meet the artist. The auction will begin at 7:00 p.m. till the final bid is taken.

January 1
New Year's Day - All libraries will be closed.

January 2
Midweek Mysteries - This book discussion group, which is open to the public, meets at 2 p.m. in the Central Library Auditorium the first Wednesday of every month. This month the group will focus on Lindsey Davis' "Marcus Didius Falco" mysteries. Bring a favorite title for discussion.

January 3
Little Bit of Science - For children ages 3-5. Hands-on activities

provide a foundation for future success in science education 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This month the class will explore the science of weights, balances and scales. Parents or caregivers must be present. No registration required.

January 3
JumpstART, Stories & ART - Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. The Irving Central Library and Irving Arts Center offer a family storytime and art activities held at 10 a.m. on the first Thursday of every month. In January, Donita Maligi from the Irving Central Library presents Cajun Folktales followed by an art program where kids can express their creativity. Call children's services at 972-721-2458 or the

Irving Arts Center at 972-252-7558.

January 3
Valley Ranch Live - Valley Ranch Library, 401 Cimarron Trail. Valley Ranch Live is a family program for all ages presented the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. This month the program will feature winter crafts. No registration required. Call 972-721-4669.

January 4
Teen Chess Club - Southwest Branch Library, 2216 W. Shady Grove Road at p.m. The chess club for teens, ages 12-18, meets the first Friday of every month. Call 972-721-2546 for more information.

Mungles on Movies

By Matt Mungle
Title: *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*
Rated: R

Tim Burton has a way with directing that places him in a class all his own. The little things he adds put his signature all over a project. If you even consider bringing the stage musical of *Sweeney Todd* to the big screen, and want it to work, there is no better man for the task. Burton's sense of "macabre as art" is necessary to elevate what would be a simple blood bath with singing, into an artistic and, well, enjoyable movie experience. Add to the mix his two favorite ingredients, Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter and you have the recipe for perfection. But as they say, the proof is in the pudding or in this case the meat pie. So does it serve up a must see film for the Holidays? Yes, though many will decline seconds.

Sweeney Todd A bloody good film

Sweeney Todd (Depp) is a man preoccupied with revenge. When he returns to London to seek out the people who tore his family apart, his bitterness turns him into a heartless killer. A barber by trade, he sets up shop over Mrs. Lovette's (Helena Bonham Carter) meat pie shop where the two twisted minds start a grotesque business venture while Todd plots his revenge. Like any unforgiveness left unchecked Todd's festers until he is totally consumed with vengeance. It controls him and manipulates his every action. Yet all of this happens while everyone is singing. Go figure.

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street is based on the Broadway musical and stays true to the genre. Ninety percent of all the dialogue comes in the form of a song. This may hinder many from enjoying another classic from Burton. But the songs and performances are what make *Sweeney Todd* stand out from other typical slasher stories. There is

something about the music and the singing that make it bearable. Todd is a warped individual and many times words sung evoke more emotion than when simply spoken. In conjunction, the spurting blood becomes part of the dance. It adds flavor and color to the mix. Depp has proven himself through out his career as a character actor who creates personable roles. Like Burton, Depp has a way of endearing you to the most detestable persons. Here he has to do that while singing. And he pulls it off. At first it was a little odd. It took me a few scenes to warm up to the crooning Depp. But once I knew he was serious I took him serious and was onboard the rest of the way through. Even better was Helena Bonham. Carter was amazing and combines vocal depth with comfortable character creation. You forget she is singing as her movements and delivery is smooth and fluid. She isn't acting and then singing. It is seamless in its transitions. The two combine to make

the musical to movie transformation succeed. Not an easy task. *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* is rated R for graphic bloody violence. All three of those words are prominent in this film. We aren't talking *Hairspray* here. This film is dark and sinister and graphic. The imagery is as powerful as the music and lyrics. It is an important element to the feel of the film. This is not one for the squeamish. Other than that the film is tame on all fronts. You will find no adult language save for a couple of very mild expletives. Fans of Depp will enjoy this new endeavor and Burton followers will not walk away feeling slighted. The only issue you have to deal with is the singing. If you hate musicals then you will not enjoy this. You can't overlook the singing. You can't put it aside and

rely on the remaining parts to sustain you. As much as I enjoyed this film and recommend it for fans of the Broadway version or musicals in general, I am not sure I would see it again. I loved every moment of the experience and I may change my mind later but for now I am satisfied with the single sampling. I give *Todd* 4 out of 5 thumbnails.

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.

Juno is dynamite

By Matt Mungle
Title: *Juno*
Rated: PG-13

I am often asked what makes a movie great in my eyes. What do I personally enjoy watching as a regular moviegoer. My answer is always the same. Enjoyable characters and creative dialogue. When I first saw the previews for *Juno*, I was hooked. This was one film I was dead set on seeing, regardless of time and scheduling. And I must say I was not disappointed. From the music, to the directing to the look and style, *Juno* delivers a movie with heart. This flick takes a humorous look at a serious circumstance and creates a love story colored far outside the lines.

Juno MacGuff (Ellen Page) finds herself pregnant at the age of 16 and is forced to make decisions and deal with issues that most adults struggle with. But she handles them with a depth and

maturity far above her high school pay grade. Juno is a character unlike any female role I can recall ever seeing. Diablo Cody (writer) created a young girl who is quirky and loveable yet overlaid with rapid fire wit and sarcasm. Since it takes two to make a baby there had to be the male counterpart to Juno. Enter Paulie Bleeker (Michael Cera). Cera is perfect as the puppy love interest. He is 90% nerd but in that cool, quiet, arty sort of way. There is gentleness about him that balances Juno's, "say what you are thinking" lifestyle.

What I love most about this story is how Juno's family reacts and deals with her situation. There is a tone of mercy and grace, with a banner of support above all else. This film could have gone many different directions. But it allowed the characters to be decent at their core and with their dealings with each other. Juno has tough decisions to make and she just wants to do the right thing. Cody's script allowed her to do that. And that in itself makes this film endearing. It offers up the issues of marriage, adoption, abortion and love subtly.

It makes its point with humor void of cynicism. Jennifer Garner and Jason Bateman are the couple wanting to adopt a child and you get to see the struggle that process often is. Garner as always is adorable. Add great character actors like Allison Janney and J.K. Simmons as Juno's parents and you have an unbeatable cast.

Juno is rated PG-13 for mature thematic material, sexual content and language. Unlike most teenage movies there is not a hint of sex for shock or sophomoric humor. It is dealt with maturely and wonderfully. The language is mild though Juno has a descriptive way of referring to anatomy and the pregnancy as a whole. But it makes her character who she is. Those 15 and up will probably see this film 100 times so parents might as well go with them the first time or two. You will laugh out loud and it might even spark some dialogue between you and your kiddo. And can that ever be bad? I give *Juno* a solid 4 out of 5 tic-tacs. Jason Reitman has delivered another terrific film and to him I say thank you for directing! With a look at *Juno*, I'm Matt Mungle.



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

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Danish and Scott named High Spirited Citizens

The City of Irving recently honored longtime Irving residents John Danish and Barbara Scott with the High Spirited Citizen. Mayor Herbert Gears presented the



John Danish

award to Danish and Scott during recent Irving City Council meetings.

A three-term member of the Irving City Council, Danish held the position of Mayor Pro Tem during his tenure. A tireless supporter of public transportation, Danish is past chairman of the Irving Planning and Zoning Board, the Public Transportation Committee of the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce and the Irving Citizens Advisory Committee for the DART Board of Directors. He currently serves as the City Council-appointed Irving representative on the DART Board of Directors.

Danish is former board member for Irving's chapter of the American Heart Association, member of the Irving Heritage Society and, as an attorney, provided

his legal expertise to the Irving Teen Court. He was a founding member and first president of the domestic violence shelter, New Tomorrows (still in operation to-



Barbara Scott

day as Brighter Tomorrows) and an original member of the Excellence Now committee for the Irving Independent School District, where he proposed the Irving Celebration of Excellence - or ICE Awards - which annually recognizes Irving ISD students, classes and staff members for outstanding achievement. Danish played a major role in supporting a cultural exchange of a ballet dance performance group from Kiev to Irving, and helped make it possible for the Irving theater group Metro Players to travel to the Ukraine.

In the past few years, Danish served on the "Citizens for Texas Stadium development" and "For Irving's Future" committees, and was chairman and founder of Irving South Economic Resources, Values and Economics Committee (I-SERVE), which provided a blueprint for the future of Irving.

Currently, Danish is president of the Irving Democratic Club, founding director and chairman of the Irving Veterans Memorial Park Committee, and a member of Rotary International, the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce, and Berean Memorial Church, where he has served most of his life.

"John Danish is proud to live in Irving and has worked hard to help make it an even better community," said Mary Higbie, who nominated Danish for the award. "He sets a high standard of citizenship for himself as well as others."

Scott has donated countless hours of service to numerous organizations and events throughout Irving. She is a member of the Ir-

ving Community Theater League and a board member for the Lyric Stage League, an organization for which she raised thousand of dollars as the four-year chair of a progressive dinner event. Instrumental in raising thousands of dollars for the Irving Symphony as well, Scott served in many leadership roles with both the Irving Symphony Association and Irving Symphony League. She's worked on the Youth Concerts, which benefit Irving Independent School District 5th grade students, as well as with the Irving Symphony Belles.

A Life Member and former officer of Friends of the Library, Scott is the current president of Women of Rotary, and current president and 17-year member of the Las Colinas Women's Association. In addition, Scott has supported the Irving Baylor Healthcare Foundation Guild, Our Children's Place, Irving Cares, the Irving Advocacy Center, and the Irving Schools Foundation.

Councilman Joe Philipp nominated Scott for the award, and refers to her as "an inspiration, a life force and a beacon of excellence" within the community.

The High Spirited Citizen program was initiated in 1988 by the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau. Its purpose is to encourage the spirit of volunteerism. To date, more than 400 of Irving's "unsung" heroes have been honored with the award. To nominate an Irving resident for the award, contact Jane Kilburn at 972-252-7476 or download an application form at www.irvingtexas.com/Media/HighSpiritCitiz.

Meals on Wheels volunteers brave the chill to get Thanksgiving meals delivered

Provided by Robert Smith

The Visiting Nurse Association's Meals on Wheels program delivered a special Thanksgiving meal to more than 3,200 homebound frail elderly, sick, and disabled residents of Dallas County on a cold, blustery Nov. 22.

There were additional challenges this year, besides the low

temperatures, because Thanksgiving meal preparation began at 4 a.m. in VNA's temporary Meals on Wheels kitchen in Irving. The meals were then trucked over to the parking lot of the Comerica Bank service building in Dallas, where volunteers started arriving at 8:30 a.m. to pickup the Thanksgiving meals for delivery on 322 routes.

"Thousands of homebound elderly, sick, and disabled individuals were counting on Meals on Wheels volunteers to bring them a hot Thanksgiving meal, a few kind words, and the wish for a happy Thanksgiving," Robert Carpenter, VNA president and chief executive officer, said. "We did not want to disappoint them."

The Comerica site where volunteers gathered is adjacent to where construction has begun on the new VNA center and Meals on Wheels kitchen at 1440 W. Mockingbird Lane in Dallas. The new building will replace VNA's headquarters that was destroyed by fire in 2005. Construction is expected to be completed in March 2008.

Preparation has now started on organizing VNA Meals on Wheels deliveries for Christmas morning. Information about volunteering to deliver Christmas Meals on Wheels can be obtained by contacting Betsy Cox, VNA Director of Volunteers, at 214-689-2210 or coxbe@vnatexas.org.



Meals on Wheels volunteers huddle against cold wind and low temperatures Thanksgiving morning. More than 700 volunteers helped get 3,200 Meals on Wheels delivered for the Visiting Nurse Association.

State launches memorial sign program

Mark Ball

To help inform the public of the dangers of drinking and driving, a new program is being implemented by the Texas Department of Transportation that will allow friends and family members of DWI victims to purchase memorial signs to be placed near the location of fatal crashes. The program is the result of legislation aimed at reducing the more than 1,670 traffic fatalities in 2006 that involved drivers under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The 80th Texas Legislature created the program at the request of Julie Blasingame. A drunk driver was involved in the death of Mrs. Blasingame's daughter, Rachel. Ms. Blasingame is the first participant in the program.

"I would love to see these memorial signs all over Texas as constant reminders for our drivers to not drink and drive," said Blasingame. "So many grieving families will want to honor their

loved one's memory in this way because they know that good will come from it. They know their loved one won't be forgotten and it will cause many drivers to think about how their actions affect others. Nearly every family in Texas knows someone who has been affected by a drunk driver."

The legislation creating the program required TxDOT to develop administrative rules governing the operation of the program. Those rules became effective on Dec. 6 and the department has published a new web page, www.txdot.gov/services/traffic_operations/memorial_sign.htm, that contains all the information a person needs to participate in the program.

"I am pleased that TxDOT has taken this important step to help raise public awareness on the dangers of DWI," State Representative Betty Brown said. "Drunk driving continues to be one of our state's

most serious traffic safety issues and represents a real and serious danger to innocent law-abiding members of our communities. If this program deters even a single impaired driver from venturing out onto streets and highways, it will have served its purpose."

The cost to obtain a memorial sign is \$300, which will help TxDOT defray the cost of the sign. The sign will identify the victim (or family name), date of the crash, the phrase "Please Don't Drink and Drive", and the phrase "In Memory of..."

The program requires that fatal crashes must have occurred on a state highway and bans memorializing impaired drivers killed in a traffic crash.

An erected memorial sign will remain in place for one year, after which it will be offered to the person(s) who made the original application for participation in the program.

50th Wedding Anniversary

Joe and Wilma (Jones) Frye recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with a reception at First Baptist Church-Irving on Sunday, December 16th, given by their four married daughters, Janet Chism (John), Carolyn Tarver (Dale), Linda Fancker (Jeff) and Gail Pace (Jim) and their 8 grandchildren.. They were married on December 14th, 1957 in



the chapel of FBC-Irving with Dr. Henry Kinkeade officiating.

Joe is retired from LTV Corp (Vaught Corp) after 37 years of service. Wilma was a

homemaker. They are still active members of FBC-Irving and now reside in Grand Prairie, TX.

Wreaths remember fallen servicemen

Continued from page 1

don't want people to think that we have forgotten our service men and women.

"We have many, many veterans from Irving who have been buried in the DFW National Cemetery. This year 100 wreaths were placed. Next year they plan to place 1,000 wreaths in the cemetery.

Charlotte and her staff from

Chapel of the Roses participated in the formal ceremony and helped place wreaths afterwards.

"That Saturday was probably the coldest day we have had all year. They didn't have a large crowd, but the people we spoke to said the event meant a lot to them. My father was in service, and it meant a lot to him that we took the time to remember," she said.

Staff sends care packages to soldiers for the holidays

Provided by Anne Lardner

In keeping with the spirit of the season, staff members at Promotional Products Association International (PPAI) collected goodies for the troops deployed troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Spearheaded by business development manager, Pat Burgher, CAE, what started off as a small gesture of appreciation turned into a grand show of holiday cheer.

"While many soldiers receive packages all year round, some receive little, if anything, from home," Burgher said. "We all agree the troops deserve our thanks for putting their lives on the line for us every day, and this was a great chance to show every soldier just how appreciated they are."

Working through the PPAI Community Service Committee, employees collected everything from greeting cards to snacks, treats and books. The packages were shipped Dec. 10 in order to arrive in time for Christmas.

The original plan was to send 18 soldiers at least one box, but with the abundance of items the committee received, each soldier

will now receive two boxes filled with their most missed items from home.

"I was surprised by how many items were donated, but I should have known better. This team is a very generous group of people who are always willing to reach out," Burgher said.

PPAI participates in community outreach programs year-round. In the past 12 months, this staff of 70 has donated more than 50 winter coats for needy men, women and children, collected food to fill 15 Thanksgiving baskets, adopted more than 50 angels as part of the Salvation Army Angel Tree program, collected blankets for the homeless, donated minor-league baseball tickets to Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Texas, sponsored a blood drive that yielded 11 pints of blood—benefiting 33 people in North Texas, greeted returning troops at DFW Airport with smiles, snacks and waves and donated nearly one ton of food plus cash donations to Irving Cares, a local food pantry.

For more information about PPAI, visit www.ppai.org.

BlackBerry brand comes to Irving

Continued from page 1

ful company, and the jobs it will create, to Irving-Las Colinas," Sen. Shapiro said. "Technology is an important industry within this region's diverse economy and RIM, with its BlackBerry brand, is one of the leading wireless communications companies in the world. I am so proud to welcome RIM to North Texas and I am pleased to offer my support and congratulations on this new partnership. RIM is sure to become a keystone corporate citizen in our community."

"For the past several years, Texas has made a big deal about attracting new companies, creating well-paying jobs and promoting emerging technologies throughout the Lone Star State," Texas Secretary of State Phil Wilson said. "Research In Motion supports these three goals as they bring their U.S. headquarters to Irving. RIM has remained on the cutting edge of wireless communications for more than 20 years and will make a powerful impact in

this community and our state for many years to come."

"The City of Irving is proud to welcome RIM to our outstanding roster of Irving corporations. This is a big win for our region," Mayor Gears said.

"It is indeed good news to have such a well-known and respected company such as RIM join us among the ranks of Irving's dynamic business community," Peggy Masters, Chairwoman, Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce, said.



Jim Balsillie, Co-CEO of Research in Motion, discusses the company's move to Irving.



WEEKLY BIZ BRIEF

A business activity report by the Irving Economic Development Partnership.

RESEARCH IN MOTION (RIM) SELECTS IRVING FOR ITS U.S. HEADQUARTERS

RIM, the maker of BlackBerry, announced on Monday, Dec. 17, its selection of Irving as its U.S. headquarters. Present for the announcement were State Senator Florence Shapiro, State Representative Linda Harper-Brown, Secretary of State Phil Wilson, Mayor Herbert Gears and Jim Balsillie, Co-CEO of RIM. RIM is expected to employ more than 1,000 people in the region over the next several years, including roles in research and development, technical support, business operations and administration. RIM will initially occupy over 100,000 square feet. "With its talented workforce and strong infrastructure, Irving is an excellent location for RIM and we're very excited to be investing here," Balsillie said.

PROTERRA PROPERTIES TO EXPAND VALLEY VIEW BUSINESS CENTER

Proterra Properties Inc., a privately held Dallas-based real estate investment, development and management company with three existing buildings, totaling some 608,000 square feet, in Valley View Business Center, is planning additional developments in 2008 within the business park, to include a speculative 400,000 square foot building on a 25-acre parcel, and a 140,000 square foot building on an adjoining 7.5-acre parcel.

OMEGA ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES RECEIVES INCENTIVE FROM CITY.

The City Council approved an incentive package that will bring Omega Environmental Technologies, a world-wide distributor of automobile aftermarket air conditioning parts to Irving, the hometown of its owners Grace and Thom Davis. Omega is in final lease negotiations with Proterra for 100,000 sq ft of its recently announced 400,000 sq ft building in Valley View Business Center. Omega was named the 2007 Small Business Exporter of the Year by the Export/Import Bank of the United States.

CITY COUNCIL PAVES WAY FOR SANMAR DEVELOPMENT

With the approval of zoning changes and incentive agreement by the City Council, SanMar, Corp., a national distributor of name-brand sportswear, will break ground in early 2008 on its new 680,000 sq.ft. build-to-suit DFW regional distribution facility in Irving at the northwest corner of SH-161, Northgate Drive and Valley View Lane. Upon completion of the facility, approximately 150 existing jobs will be relocated to Irving. ProLogis, Inc., the world's largest owner, manager and developer of distribution facilities in 105 markets across North America, Asia and Europe, will serve as the developer of the project.

DART UPDATE

More than 135 Irving leaders joined the Mayor and City Council at a meeting of the DART Board where options were discussed for closing a financial gap identified by DART staff that would impact service arriving into the Las Colinas Urban Center by Dec. 31, 2011. Gary Thomas, president of DART, briefed City Council on Dec. 12th and committed to the rail service being available in

Irving by 2011. The DART staff identified through value engineering nearly half of the shortfall and will be exploring other alternatives including the outsourcing of design and build to a single contractor. The DART staff will provide another update to the DART Board on Jan. 8th with action to be taken by the Board scheduled for Jan. 22nd. Thomas assured Irving City and Chamber leaders that the DART staff would work diligently with the City to achieve our common goal of service to Las Colinas and to the Airport.

ACE CASH EXPRESS NAMED BEST BUYOUT OR CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP (UNDER \$1 BILLION)

Las Colinas-based Ace Cash Express, a provider of financial services including check cashing, money transfers, prepaid debit cards, money orders and short-term, high-yield loans, was recognized as the Best Buyout or Change of Ownership in the recent Dallas Business Journal's Merger & Acquisition Awards for the buyout of the company by management and JLL Partners. The transaction was valued at \$455 million.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ANCHIA RECEIVES AWARD

State Representative Rafael Anchia, who represents a small portion of Irving, was recognized by the North Texas Commission as its Legislative Crime Fighter of the Year. Representative Anchia was cited for sponsoring legislation that strengthens law enforcement.

SHERMCO INDUSTRIES NAMES SAFETY ENGINEER

Roger Boos has been named corporate safety director for Shermco Industries, the Irving company since 1974 to call for all your electrical service needs, from high voltage lines to the smallest electric motors. Shermco has been recognized as one of the Best Places to Work in the Metroplex.

JPI NAMES VICE PRESIDENT

Irving-based JPI, one of the largest luxury apartment developers in the US, has named Christine Schoellhorn to the position of vice president, business development.

NEW \$5 BILL TO ENTER CIRCULATION

On March 13, 2008, the U.S. Treasury will introduce a new \$5 bill. The Federal Reserve Board is advising businesses that manufacture or use automated checkout and vending machines to update bill scanners to accept the new currency. The \$5 bill is used extensively in vending and self-checkout machines.

STATE OF THE CITY

January 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

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.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTORS

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

- | | |
|---|--|
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Partners to provide financial education

Provided by Helen Rodriguez

Money Management International (MMI), the nation's largest, non-profit credit counseling firm, was named the recipient of a \$50,000 education grant awarded by Comerica Bank. MMI will use the grant money to hold financial education workshops for an estimated 1,300 residents in Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston and Austin.

The banking initiative will focus on bringing basic financial education to under-banked and un-banked consumers, and will assist individuals and families that meet the Low- to moderate-income, which is considered to be at 80% or less of area median income. Through workshops, such as Understanding Money and Credit, Your Credit Report Reference

Guide and CheckWi\$e, participants will understand the benefits of working with a mainstream financial institution for their financial needs.

"We believe that financial and credit education is the answer to many of the challenges consumers face today," Rudy Cavazos, Texas Regional Director of Education and Community Relations for MMI, said. "These workshops will teach the fundamental skills necessary to understand budgeting, saving strategies, credit and money management, and choosing and managing a checking account responsibly."

To learn more about this initiative and other free educational workshops and seminars, call 1-800-308-2227 ext. 3048.

Sharing the Christmas love



Volunteers at Calvary Church prepare to hand out Baskets of Love during the church's annual community sharing program. Each of the 500 baskets contain a frozen turkey and all of the ingredients for a traditional Christmas feast.

Come Worship with Us

Advent Worship Schedule

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.

Christmas Eve Worship with Communion and Candlelight

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner.

Woodhaven Presbyterian Church

3650 North O'Connor Road

Irving, TX 75062

972.541.0747

Woodhaven News Line :: Extension 211



Foundation supports single mothers throughout year

Continued from page 1

Christmas special for children and to let those who are struggling know there is hope out there for them. This is one of many community foundations that Wal-Mart is involved with."

Mr. Williams was inspired by watching his sister cope with single parenthood to create the Roy Williams Safety Net Foundation.

"It is important that people know that I am more than a football player," Mr. Williams said. "I am a person who gives back to the community and I care about single parent mothers."

"The foundation is now going on its fourth year. We are watching it grow into a beautiful flower. I am so privileged to be a part of this foundation. Through our screening process, we choose the more needy mothers who really need more help."

"We help wonderful mothers. Next year we hope to be able to help 20 moms. Each year we add more and more events. A shopping spree at Wal-Mart is a beautiful thing. I appreciate Wal-Mart stepping up and helping our foundation," he said.

As Tynisa Hill shopped with her 20-month-old son, her cart contained such items as a Sponge Bob table and chairs set, and a container of blocks.

"These are his first blocks. This is the first time he will play with blocks of his own. My son is a blessed little boy," Tynisa said.

"There are no words to describe it. Roy Williams and his foundation have been a special blessing. I thank God for what he is doing for the single moms in the community. The opportunities are just unbelievable."

"This is wonderful, exciting and special," Carla, a single mother of two, said as she shopped with her children. "It is a dream come true to be able to get them all the things I couldn't afford to get them. They are picking out all of the things they want. This is a blessing."

Kim Hunt is a foundation volunteer, who helps moms with parenting advice.

"This is finally a chance to give back. You see the joy in their faces, and you reflect about people who helped you in the past. Today we delivered furniture to over half of the moms. We delivered things that most people take for granted: beds, coffee tables, end tables, and things of that nature," Ms. Hunt said.

"Tonight means more to these families than you will ever know. To get Christmas, to have money just for toys is wonderful. There were moms crying because Christmas was just going to be another day for them."

In addition to special events, the foundation's activities help single mothers cope with everyday life.

"Every month the foundation has a designated activity. They have the designated lecture, moms can speak with me if they need to, and there is a CPA available to help them with budgeting. This helps with every day of their lives, not just one quarter of the year."

"The foundation offers a year-round giving back program. After these mothers graduate in June, they will come back and be mentors for the next fall. The year after that they come back and volunteer," she said.

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New study reveals rampant fraud in calling-card industry

Provided by Gus West

A new study by the Hispanic Institute unearthed fraud in the pre-paid calling-card industry.

"We have discovered that the average calling card delivers only 60% of the minutes promised," Gus West, president of the Hispanic Institute, said. "American consumers lose up to a million dollars a day because of fraudulent phone cards."

The Hispanic Institute, in conjunction with independent tele-

communications expert Network Analytics, tested 45 different international pre-paid calling cards for efficacy and value to see whether they lived up to the promises of their advertising.

Here are a few of the study's findings:

--- Only one-third of the 45 cards tested delivered the full call-time promised.

--- Seven of the 45 cards (15.6%)

tested didn't work at all.

--- Eight of the cards tested had call completion rates of 50% or less. Three cards provided less than 20% of the minutes promised.

--- Dropped calls, poor listening quality and post-dial delays of up to 50 seconds were hallmarks of the majority of cards tested. Fifteen cards did allow for the caller to utilize the entire time balance.

--- Pre-paid phone cards have emerged as a cost-effective option for those calling abroad. They are

especially popular among recent immigrants who use calling cards to keep in touch with friends and family.

According to West, many calling-card firms employ scams that involve deceptive advertising, publicizing a certain number of minutes but delivering far fewer. West says that Hispanics are hit particularly hard.

"Our findings quantify the unfortunately widespread nature of

these scams," West said.

Prepaid phone cards have grown into a \$4 billion industry, responsible for 11 billion calls in 2004.

"Fraudulent companies need to get the message that we will not stand for this sort of double-dealing," West said. "Armed with the findings of our new study, I'm hopeful that we'll be able to affect change on this important consumer issue."

Playing with all his might



Concentrating on the task at hand, Daniel Beltran, a seven-year-old student of the Salvation Army's Performing Arts School plays piano with his instructor, Jesse Fry, during the Salvation Army's annual Super Lunch hosted in the Omni Mandalay on Dec. 17.

OPINION

Salvation Army bears English language lawsuit as Republicans remain silent

Remarks by Daniel Gilbert

After top Republican Presidential Candidates spent weeks attempting to convince voters that they are the most conservative of the group, all have remained mum on a winning issue for Conservatives: the right of businesses and faith-based organizations to require employees to speak English while on the job.

My position is clear. English should be made the official language of the United States. English language should be a requirement for citizenship and a requirement in any job where two spoken languages would be a safety or customer service problem. The American people and the conservative leadership have become so worn down by the politically correct police that we cannot even stand in the gap for a Christian organization that does nothing but help others across the globe. What does that say about us and our leaders?

If the Bush administration's failure to protect our borders wasn't enough, now we have a loving and effective humanitarian organization who has to defend itself in a lawsuit that stems from these very same failed policies.

Not a single Top Republican Candidate has publicly weighed in on this issue or expressed support for the Salvation Army, which is currently being sued by the EEOC for requiring its employees to speak English. Yet, 77% of Americans agree that businesses have the right to demand their employees speak English while on the clock. Moreover, a summer 2006 Rasmussen poll stated that 85% of Americans (92% of Republicans and 79% of Democrats) believe English should be the official language of the United States.

The case revolves around two Salvation Army employees in Framingham, MA, who had the opportunity to learn English for five years, and were required to learn the language by the sixth year. The employees were fired and subsequently petitioned the EEOC to file suit against the Salvation Army for wrongful termination.

Nancy Pelosi and her House Democrats, under pressure from the Hispanic Caucus, attempted to defeat (unsuccessfully) an amendment attached to an appropriations bill to protect prosecuting such an organization by voting against the

motion 218 to 186. Senator Lamar Alexander (R-ND) led the charge in defense of the Salvation Army.

Immigration will undoubtedly be a deciding factor in 2008. According to a recent Rasmussen poll in NH, immigration ranked higher than national security, our economy and Iraq among voters, particularly among Republicans. If immigration is a major factor, why is all quiet on the Republican front regarding the Salvation Army?

GOP front-runners may lack the political courage to support a Christian organization which is historically one of the largest social care programs in the world; Democrat front runners are safely dancing around the immigration issue because their party is so fractured on this subject.

If any of the top candidates wanted to separate themselves from the moderate bunch and emerge as the true conservative, they would have demanded other

candidates reveal their position on this issue, in the likes of the feeding frenzy with Senator Clinton and driver's licenses for illegals in New York.

All top GOP candidates have publicly provided to voters, thus far, was to not raise their hand when Wolf Blitzer asked if any of them disagreed with English as the official language in the U.S. Their tough talk on this issue was underwhelming.

Unfortunately, the top candidates have a weak history regarding immigration policies. Rudy Giuliani kept sanctuary cities in NYC, John McCain co-sponsored the Amnesty Bill and Mitt Romney is a notorious flip-flopper on abortion, amnesty and gay marriage, so we really don't know where he stands, even if he takes a stand.

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Healthy holidays: Tips for making smart food choices

The holidays offer tempting challenges to your healthy-eating plan. Parties have you eating away from home more often, and sweet treats appear unbidden at your office or doorstep. It's enticing to relax your efforts over the holidays, but your health depends on your diet. Here are some tips from Karen Klatte,

M.D., a cardiologist on the medical staff at Baylor Medical Center at Waxahachie.

Make healthy food choices. Try to stay away from the foods that are heavy in simple carbohydrates, especially sweets and pastries. Typically entrées that don't have a lot of sauce will be healthier. Choosing turkey breast is fine, but

cover it with gravy and you'll be adding a lot of carbohydrates. There are also hidden carbohydrates in starchy vegetables, such as potatoes, that are converted to sugar, so avoid or limit those foods.

Limit calories by choosing smaller portions. Then, if you make healthy choices, reward yourself with a small piece of

candy or dessert so you don't feel deprived.

Exercise. Holidays are a busy time and exercise can help reduce stress, so remember to take time for a brisk walk.

Watch your alcohol intake. Moderate drinking (a glass a day for women; two for men) is fine. More than that can lead to health problems.



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Attorney General honors hospitals giving Texas children a good start in life



Nicole McCann (left) of the Texas Attorney General's Office presents a certificate to Carol Chauvin from the Las Colinas Medical Center.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott recently recognized seven area hospitals for improving young Texans' lives by successfully working to establish legal paternity when a child is born to unmarried parents. The top performing hospitals were selected based on the percentage of births for which paternity was established thanks to the hospitals' efforts in fiscal year 2007.

Among small hospitals, Las Colinas Medical Center in Irving, Presbyterian Hospital of Plano, and Wise Regional Health System in Decatur were recognized as top performers after establishing paternity for 79% of children born to unmarried parents. Also standing out among small hospitals are Lake Pointe Medical Center in Rowlett for establishing paternity in 83% of its out-of-wedlock births and Palo Pinto General Hospital in Mineral Wells after establishing paternity for 81% of children born to unmarried parents.

Among medium-sized hospitals, Harris Methodist H-E-B Hospital in Bedford stands out after establishing paternity for 79% of children born to unmarried parents. Parkland Health & Hospital System in Dallas stands out among large hospitals by establishing paternity for 80% of children born to unmarried parents.

The statewide average for paternity establishment among birthing hospitals in Texas is 71%. Thirty-one hospitals in the state were recognized for exemplary achievement.

"Both parents' active involvement in a child's life is critically important," Attorney General Abbott said. "Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of these seven hospitals, more children will ben-

efit from their parents' emotional and financial support. The Office of the Attorney General is proud to partner with hospitals across the state as we strive to secure a bright future for Texas children."

Under Texas law, a child born to a man and woman who are not married has no legal father. Voluntary acknowledgment of paternity (AOP) is one way to establish legal fatherhood, so children are eligible for child support and benefits such as Social Security, veteran's survivor benefits and health insurance. Equally important, legal paternity guarantees a father's parental rights.

Hospitals must provide unwed parents with the opportunity to establish paternity and with information about the rights and responsibilities involved. The Paternity Opportunity Program (POP), which was developed by the Attorney General's Child Support Division, trains and certifies employees of hospitals and birthing centers to assist parents with the AOP process while the mother and child are still in the hospital. POP provides hospitals with brochures and a video that discuss the benefits and responsibilities of paternity establishment. Hospital staff, in turn, gives this information to unmarried parents.

In addition to the 31 hospitals singled out for exemplary achievement, Attorney General Abbott also recognized 13 hospitals across the state for achieving six percentage points above the average. Eighty-nine hospitals were recognized for meeting the statewide average of helping 71% of unmarried parents legally acknowledge paternity at the time their children were born.

Rhonda Huston named Outstanding Graduate

Rhonda Huston, a 1987 graduate of MacArthur High School, was honored as an Outstanding Graduate.

Ms. Huston earned an Associate of Arts degree in business from Blinn College and a Bachelor of Arts degree in accounting

from North Central College. She is a certified public accountant and a certified fraud examiner.

Ms. Huston began her career as a commercial division accountant for Berkshire Property Management in Rosemont, Illinois. Three years later, she joined

Shepard Schwartz & Harris, LLP in Chicago as an audit manager where she performed corporate audits for real estate developers, home builders, and property management companies for 12 years.

In February of this year, Ms. Huston became chief financial of-

ficer for Lakewood Homes, Inc., based in Hoffman Estates, IL. Lakewood is one of the Chicago's largest and most respected homebuilders. Prior to joining Lakewood, she served as outside CPA for the company for several years.

At Lakewood, Ms. Huston is responsible for preparing cash flow projections, coordinating cash availability, developing and adjusting the annual business plan, supervising accounting staff, maintaining banking relationships and working capital financing, coordinating investor contributions, preparing financial statements, and managing payroll reporting. Incidentally, she is the first woman to join the Lakewood executive team.

Ms. Huston is a member of American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Illinois CPA Society, and Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

Margaret's Corner



Hi Irving!

I hope you all enjoy a beautiful and blessed holiday season as we celebrate Christmas and the New Year. If you are behind with your shopping, remember that it is just stuff.

I know that sometimes we really want to find that perfect gift to show someone special how much they mean to us, but don't forget that sometimes those things that don't cost anything can be the most valuable commodity. A poem from the heart, catching a movie with your spouse or teenager, or volunteering at the Salvation

Army—all don't cost much if anything at all, but could mean the world to someone.

For me, the peaceful loving atmosphere with family and friends is one of the best ways to celebrate our Savior's Birthday. The other day I saw a commercial on TV that said "you can't have too much family during the Christmas season." I agree 100% and then some.

When someone is absent on special days, it is difficult. Let's remember to keep our courageous military men and women in our thoughts and especially prayers this Christmas season. Over the weekend I read a report that the U.S. Military had lost 10 troops in Iraq during December. If this pace

is sustained it could make this month the least deadly in four years.

On a different note, I wanted to mention a great resource for conservative books and other literature: the American Compass Book Club. They have recently been acquired by the Conservative Book Club and are offering new member specials. If you are looking for one good source of books that affirm your conservative beliefs and principals at reasonable prices, consider this book club. Log on to www.AmericanCompassBookClub.com for more information. I always say that we must stand for something or we will fall for anything.

May you and your family enjoy a beautiful holiday season as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and enter into a new year. This is the last issue of the year for the Irving Rambler so I guess I'll talk to you next year. Merry Christmas.

God Bless You.

Attend Church Sunday.

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.

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OBITUARIES

www.irvingrambler.com

"The Newspaper Irving Reads"

December 20, 2007

PAULINE PRICE



Pauline Price, age 90, a resident of Irving for 50 years, died December 17, 2007 at an Irving nursing center.

Born Feb. 14, 1917 on a farm in Maverick, TX to Lewis Vernon Jones and Cora Lee Jones, she lived there until she was 25 then moved to Fort Worth. A long time member of MacArthur Blvd Baptist Church, she loved her Sunday School Class Members.

Pauline had two cats, Buddy & Sissy. They were a tremendous company to her in her last years and now need a home. A gifted gardener, she could grow anything outside or inside the house. She had many beautiful African violets and all different varieties of roses

in her yard, many she had cut from plants she had seen and rooted.

Pauline loved to stay busy using her hands and made many afghans. She had many antique items.

A mall walker for more than 10 years, she used to get up every morning, go to the mall and walk it three times covering every in and out of every entrance recess. She looked forward to seeing and talking with the other Mall Walkers.

One of her favorite pastimes was playing bingo because she loved to see all her friends. She played senior bingo at MacDonald's, the Heritage Center and monthly at the Elks Lodge. She loved people and visiting. Since she was hearing impaired, this became such a struggle for her.

She really enjoyed traveling and took many trips in her 70's and 80's. One of her favorite places to go was Branson, MO.

Preceded in death by her husband, Robert "Shorty" Herman Price and by her parents, she is survived by her son, James Anthony Price and wife Patricia of Detroit, MI; daughter, Paula Gwen Baxter and husband William of Irving; and, four grandchildren, West, Blake, Daphne and Natalie.

The family received friends Friday, at the funeral home. A service will be held 11 a.m., Dec. 22 at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Josh Smith officiating. Interment will follow at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens in Irving.

HATSUNE (HATTIE) YAMADA



Hatsune (Hattie) Yamada, age 105, and formerly of Irving, died peacefully at home with her daughter at her side, on 12/13/07.

Hattie was born March 8, 1902, to Monnosuke Higuchi, born in Nishinomiya, Japan, and Tani Yamamura Higuchi, born in Hiroshima, Japan. She was preceded in death by Koichi (Kay) Yamada, her husband of 43 years, son Keizo Yamada, sister Momowe Higuchi, and brother Mitsuzi Higuchi.

Hattie and her husband lived in Ohio for 12 years and in Irving for 53 years. She moved to Houston in 2000 to be near her daughter and son-in-law, Yuri and Charles Streat, and together they moved to Casa Grande, AZ in August of this year to be near other family members.

Hattie was most proud of her long career as a Sunday School teacher, beginning with a class of young boys when she was baptized and became a member of First Re-

formed Church in College Point, NY at age 17, and ending with a class of senior citizens at First United Methodist Church in Irving when the class dwindled (due to age) to only one member. Then the two of them joined another class together. Hattie joined the Methodist Church when they moved to Ohio and then joined the church in Irving. Her last church home was at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Houston. She was a Lifetime Member of United Methodist Women.

Hattie worked as a secretary for the federal government in the Office of Personnel Management for 15 years, where she won praise and respect, and retired at age 70. She was a member of several service and special interest organizations, and loved her volunteer work, which kept her busy for many years. After retirement, she traveled extensively worldwide.

Hattie, the matriarch of five generations is survived by (in addition to her daughter and son-in-law) three grandchildren, Tani Delicia Salazar (Amir Motamedi), Toshi Hernan Salazar (Julia Yee Salazar), and Tami Kay Salazar Terry (Mike Terry), nine great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren. She is also survived by brother Norimi Higuchi of Flushing, NY, nephew Donald

Higuchi (Hilde Higuchi) and family of Yaphank, NY, cousin Martha Takata of Burlington, Ontario, Canada, nephew Fred Sakuda (Eiko Sakuda) and family of Montebello, CA, and a host of friends.

The family wishes to express gratitude to Trinity Hospice of Houston, and especially Amy O'Neil, RN, Monica Hernandez, CAN, and Dr. Darryl R. Brown, and also to caregivers Esther O'Connor of Casa Grande, Esther Grant, and Shirley Mayon of Houston for their exceptionally tender and loving care.

RAMONA "MONA" BRUCE



Ramona "Mona" Bruce, age 66, a resident of Irving for 37 years, died December 15, 2007 at home.

Born June 6, 1941 in Gladstone, MI, she is survived by her husband of 44 years, W. W. Bruce; daughters, Tammy Sue Trevino of Irving, Christine Nesky and husband James of Fort Worth, Rebecca Lynn O'Donnell and husband Thomas of Grapevine; ten grandchildren; one great grandchild; brothers and sister, James

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Regifting: It's time to ask, why not?

Provided by Jordan Gibennus

Regifting has arrived. If you haven't regifted, you are in the minority, according to a recent survey by Money Management International (MMI).

What was once a shameful secret is now a mainstream practice that receives increased attention during the holidays, when consumers are inspired or guilted into buying for everyone from family members to the dog walker. MMI's holiday site, www.regiftable.com, is a forum for all things regifting, including more than 700 consumer stories running the gamut from the heartwarming to the horrifying.

This year, there are more reasons than ever to regift:

Everyone is doing it. Well, nearly. 58% of respondents to the survey say they regift, or are considering doing so.

Times are tough. Rising gas and energy prices, home foreclosure rates, rising credit card minimum payments, the list goes on.

42% of respondents regift to save money. With consumers expected to spend an average of \$900 this holiday season (according to the National Retail Federation), many will accrue credit card debt that lingers well into the New Year.

Go Green. For the first time in history, consumers are considering the impact of the holidays not only on their pocketbook, but on the environment. The good news is that "going green" doesn't mean forgoing all gift-giving and decorating. Regifting is a small step towards reducing this holiday's environmental impact.

It's the thought that counts. Regifters have good intentions. 62% regift because they think it is something the recipient would really like.

"Whatever reason you choose, being a savvy regifter is key. When people say, 'really, you shouldn't have,' you don't want them to mean it," Marianne Gray D'Aquila, president for Consumer Credit Counseling Services of

Greater Fort Worth, said. "With a little care and common sense, you can help keep your holiday spending under control, and participate in the holiday tradition of gift-giving."

For regifting dos and don'ts, interesting facts and figures, games, and more, visit Regiftable.com. You can also share your regifting stories for a chance to win a prize.

Neighborhood holds Christmas party

The Cardinal Village Neighborhood held their annual Christmas Party on Dec. 6 at the First Church of Christ. Friends and neighbors were welcomed by President, Oscar Ward and Associate Pastor, Frank Bargainer. About 60 neighbors attended including several new families with children. Neighbors



Brenda and Carlos Nieves and "Molly" (dog) attend the annual Christmas party.

brought food sang Christmas Carols. Each family brought DVDs

and telephone cards to send to the troops.



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OBITUARIES

McCormick, Roy McCormick, Donna Hutchinson, Alvin Dale McCormick, all of Michigan and Bernard McCormick of The Colony.

Friends were received by the family before and after the Rosary on Wednesday at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home Chapel. Mass of Christian Burial was Dec. 20 at Holy Family of Nazareth Catholic Church in Irving where Mona was a member of the Altar Guild. Rev. Msgr. Jerome Duesman, celebrant. Interment was at Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Mary Crowley Cancer Research Center.

LORENE TERRY



Lorene Terry, of Irving, passed away December 13, 2007.

She was born Jan. 9, 1928 in Tatum, TX. She was a member of Loners On Wheels, and enjoyed traveling, hiking, yard work, watching and cheering on the Dallas Cowboys, and doing things for others.

CECIL FULMER



Cecil Fulmer passed away on December 19, 2007 to be reunited with his parents, Marcus and

Betsy Fulmer and his daughter LeAnne.

He was born March 24, 1926 in Royce City, TX. Cecil's career was spent in the chemical fertil-

izer business, serving in managerial positions with Armour, Inc. and Nipak, Inc. of Dallas. He served in Germany and France in World War II as a member the 75th Infantry Division.

He is survived by his wife Glenda, son Mark, and his sister Frances Hamrick.

Services were held Dec. 21 at First Baptist Church - Irving, 403 S. Main with Rev. John Durham officiating. Interment followed at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens. Arrangements were made by Brown's Memorial Funeral Home.

Funeral services were held Dec. 17 at Brown's Memorial Chapel. Interment followed at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.

RHOLAND HENRY "HANK" CARROLL

Rholand Henry "Hank" Carroll, of Irving, passed away December 16, 2007.

He was born Sep. 19, 1926 in Yarnaby, OK. He enjoyed fishing, playing 42 and dominoes and swapping stories with family and friends.

Survivors include his wife Charlene Carroll of Irving; sons Wade Carroll and wife Becky of Keller, and Dusty Carroll of Elmo, TX; daughter Gaylen Carroll of Keller; grandchildren Durenda, Todd, and Greg Jonas, and Cory, Cody & Bobby Carroll; and 10 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Dec. 19 at Church of Christ Beltline with Don Hatch officiating. Interment followed at Roselawn Memorial Park in Denton.

MARIANNA MUSICK

Marianna Musick, age 71, a resident of Irving since 1967, died December 13, 2007 in Dallas.

Born Oct. 10, 1936 in Waxahachie, she grew up there.

Marianna attended East Texas State College. She married James R. Musick Sep. 18, 1977 in Irving. A microbiologist, she spent most of her career at Irving Community Hospital (Baylor). She was an avid gardener, painter and birdwatcher.

She is survived by her husband James; daughters, Catherine Schmidt and husband Kevin of Red Oak, Jennifer Cliborn and

husband David of Arlington; brother, John Lane Washington and wife Faye Marie of Waxahachie; grandchildren, Sara Marie Schmidt, Jason Charles Schmidt, David Gene Schmidt and Rachel Nicole Cliborn.

A visitation was held Dec. 17 with service following, both at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Gail Gateley officiated.

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CITY SPECTRUM EXTRA

December 20, 2007

An Official Publication of the City of Irving

www.cityofirving.org

Residents Encouraged to Participate in Christmas Tree Recycling

Residents will have an opportunity to properly dispose of their fresh-cut Christmas trees for recycling during Irving's annual Christmas Tree Roundup. Bare Christmas trees will be collected as a regular part of Irving's weekly brush/bulky waste pickup Dec. 26-Jan. 13. For more information about curbside recycling and weekly brush/bulky waste collection, call (972) 721-8059.

Residents may also take their Christmas trees to any of the following drop-off locations between Dec. 26-Jan. 13:



- Cottonwood Park, 4051 N. Story Road
- Southwest Park, 2800 Shady Grove Road
- Drop-Off Recycling Center on the northeast corner of MacArthur and Las Colinas boulevards
- Hunter Ferrell Landfill, 220 W. Hunter Ferrell Road (open daily from 7 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.; closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1)

All Christmas trees collected will be mulched. Residents may access wood mulch at the city landfill. Call (972) 264-3772.

Library Introduces New Children's Program Series

The Irving Public Library has started a new children's program series, Storytelling Around the World, to support healthy reading habits and provide diversity education for children in grades 2-5. Every month the series will showcase storytellers who will bring the oral traditions of other countries and regions to different library locations.

"Storytelling is a wonderful art form that can help to build understanding by breaking through cultural and generational barriers to focus on the similarities we all share," said Debbie Vaden, children's services manager.

The series is made possible by a Texas Reads grant, which is administered by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission to promote reading and literacy. The grants are funded

through the sale of Texas Reads specialty license plates, which can be purchased through the Texas Department of Transportation. For more about library programs for kids, visit www.cityofirving.org/library and click on "KidSpace."

Storytelling Around the World

- East Branch - Jan. 5, 1 p.m., Hispanic Stories with Charlene Bearskin
- Northwest Branch - Jan. 19, 2 p.m., African-American Stories with Cathy Whiteman and Len Barnett
- Southwest Branch - Feb. 15, 4:30 p.m., Stories of Africa with Esther Malone
- Valley Ranch Library - Feb. 21, 6:30 p.m., African-American Stories with Melody Bell



REGISTRATION FOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES TO BEGIN JAN. 8

Recreation center registration for the winter session will be held beginning at 6 p.m. Jan. 8 at all full-time and school recreation centers, except Mustang Recreation Center, which will be held at 6:30 p.m.

Classes will begin Jan. 14 and end March 8. Registration for the Heritage Senior Center classes begins at 10 a.m. the first business day of the month.

Every season, the Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of activities, programs and workshops for Irving children, teens, adults and seniors.

Call the Parks and Recreation Department at (972) 721-2501 for more information.



News Notes

City Spectrum Newsletter

In an effort to keep Irving residents better informed about city news, programs and activities, *City Spectrum*, the city's resident newsletter, will be published monthly beginning in January. The newsletter, which is mailed to every Irving household, is currently published bimonthly and delivered mid-month. Residents will now receive monthly issues around the first of every month. Issues of *City Spectrum* also are available online at www.cityofirving.org.

Angel Tree Fundraiser

Through the month of December, the Friends of the Irving Public Library will provide an opportunity for residents to play Santa Claus. Visit any library location and choose an envelope from the Angel Tree, place a donation in it, and drop off the envelope at any library service desk. Tax-deductible donations can be directed toward a particular library program or the Dream Machine Bookmobile. Since 1996, this program has enabled the Friends of the Irving Public Library to purchase books and other materials for the libraries. For more information, call (972) 721-2606.

Office Closings

City offices will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1. All offices will reopen at their regular hours Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. There will be no trash, brush or curbside recycling pickup on these days. All full-service recycling centers are closed Dec. 24-26 and Dec. 31-Jan. 2. The Hunter Ferrell Landfill will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1. Call (972) 264-3772 to confirm. Libraries will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1, and will reopen at their regular hours Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. Recreation centers and North Lake and Heritage aquatic centers will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1. The Irving Arts Center will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1.