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Single parent children
select gifts at 'mall'
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Volunteers recognized at Awards Presentation

By Jess Paniszczyn

The City of Irving Park and Recreation Advisory Board, and the Parks and Recreation Department hosted the Annual Awards Presentation. A variety of people from every day volunteers to Parks and Recreation staff to IPAR Su-

perstars were recognized with awards.

"It's important to recognize what people do," said Dwight Pinnix, Recreation Manager for the City of Irving. "I don't think people volunteer for acknowledgement. The best way to keep

people involved and active is to recognize them. It is great to see all those folks.

"The award recipients are very worthy. Most of the people who received awards didn't do something one time. They work with us a lot. As a department, it is our re-

sponsibility to recognize these people, because we need them. We need help to grow. We can't do it with existing staff. It's a small price to pay," he said.

Last year, volunteers donated 16,274 to the recreation centers alone. Often volunteers enjoy working with the Parks and Recreation Department, because the activities are varied and entertaining.

"What we do is fun. People volunteering have fun, because they interact with so many people.

It is not like they are stuck in some storage room working," he said. "Volunteers can get out and be involved with people and actually participate in some of the things they would do anyway. I think that is very rewarding. You can have fun and work while being around other people, it's kind of exhilarating."

Mr. Pinnix also discussed being the recipient of this year's Chairman Award.

See **PARKS**, Page 9



Winning through giving, recipients of this year's City of Irving Park and Recreation Advisory Board, and the Parks and Recreation Department's Annual Awards Presentation gather following the ceremony.

Fraternity reaches youth

By Jess Paniszczyn

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity hosted African Americans in Baseball: Then and Now on Dec. 12. The event was designed to introduce youngsters to the history of the Ne-

gro leagues while celebrating the fraternity's new partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Texas.

"Mentoring is one of our thrusts," said Ryan Mitchell, Director of the Guide Right Foundation of Dallas. "We definitely want to help in our individual communities to build on that thrust. Big Brothers Big Sisters is already doing something about mentoring. We don't want to reinvent the wheel. We would rather have a deeper impact to reach thousands and thousands of children who need help in the DFW area.

"If we can partner with Big Brothers Big Sisters, they already have the background checks in place

See **BASEBALL**, Page 4

Memorandum of understanding to negotiate sale of water approved

Irving City Council members approved a legal memorandum of understanding on Dec. 17 that requires all negotiations regarding prospective purchase of Hugo Reservoir water be made with and through the City of Irving.

Irving, a long-time leader in proactively securing, developing and managing water resources and related infrastructure facilities, and for the region, initiated the possible acquisition of water resources from the Hugo Reservoir in 2008.

"Irving has a long-standing tradition of providing water to the North Texas region," said Councilman Rick Stopfer. "With the completion of the pipeline, our existing partnerships with Upper Trinity, Dallas and the North Texas region have been strengthened, and we look forward to a regional approach with Tarrant County Regional Water District (TRWD). This cooperative agreement would provide benefits to all participants by leveraging existing assets."

If legal conditions are met and

the project is executed, Irving would purchase water from Hugo, OK and potentially make it available to other regional suppliers in North Texas, such as TRWD. The project would require Irving to construct a pipeline extension to the Hugo Reservoir.

In addition, the City of Irving would assist in the preservation of Hugo's resource, maintaining specific water levels so as not to deplete the reservoir, which offers numerous recreational and tourism opportunities.

Kids in shelters celebrate holidays early

By Jess Paniszczyn

Children housed in shelters through the North Texas Shelter Coalition had a rare opportunity to get out and celebrate the holidays. The Irving Family YMCA organized Holiday Joy: Overnight Celebrity on Dec. 12.

"Today we invited kids from shelters here for a fun day," said Tanisha Clark, Teen Director for the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas. "The focus of the event was to make every child feel like a star, to make them feel special. We know a lot of the situations they face and a lot of the things they've been through sometimes have a way of tearing

down kids. We came here today to build up.

"We want these kids to take away hope from this event. We want them to know they can overcome any obstacle they face, and they need to know that lots of people around them love them and care about them. Everyone who volunteered, everyone who came did so because of the hearts they have for the kids, and we hope the kids felt that and take that knowledge away with them.

"The kids came in and they were so full of life. That was encouraging and shocking to me, because they have been through so much. They came in here and a lot of them

were smiling, and they just had a good time," she said.

Glenda Nacalwalla, Director of Precious Children's Emergency Shelter, hopes the kids left with a sense that the community cares for them.

"We really appreciate the event. From the time we walked in the door till the evening, the event was full of fun and activity. The kids enjoyed it. It gave them time to get away from the shelter and it was a long time, which was really good," Ms. Nacalwalla said.

"I hope the kids take away a sense of community. I hope they un-

See **HOLIDAYS**, Page 3

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**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from the Irving Rambler**

We print 51 weeks a year and will be taking our annual vacation on 12-26-2009. Our next issue is the "Year In Review" issue 1-2-2010

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

December 19

All Wrapped Up - Irving Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd., will sponsor All Wrapped Up from noon to 5 p.m. Enjoy free holiday gift wrapping services, entertainment and snacks provided by the Young Adult Action Council and student volunteers. Choose from a unique selection of tags and gift wrap for a limit of five small- to medium-sized items per person. Boxes will not be provided. Call 972-721-2606 for additional information.

December 19

Family Funday - Family Funday, Card Workshops and Visits with Santa Claus 2-4 p.m. in the Irving Arts Center. Create greeting cards to share with friends and family, take photos with Santa and take part in holiday-themed art projects. All supplies provided. Free.

December 19

Holiday at Sea - Celebrate the holidays with Las Colinas Symphony Orchestra and guest soprano Meghan Mazur. Evening includes

selections from *Messiah* and Paul McCartney's *The World You're Coming Into* from Liverpool Ontario in the Carpenter Performance Hall at 8 p.m. Don't miss the announcement of the winner of the Viewer's Choice Award for the 17th Annual Tree Decorating Competition during intermission. \$25-55, 972-252-2787 or www.irvingartscenter.com for tickets.

December 20

Nativity Play - The children will be presenting a nativity play 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary at First United Methodist Church, 211 W. Third. The church also invites you to attend one of the Christmas Eve Services. The church wishes all of Irving a wonderful Christmas.

December 24-25 & January 1 City Offices Closed - There will be no residential trash, curbside recycling or brush collection on those days.

All libraries and recreation centers will close at 5 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31, and will remain closed Dec. 25

and Jan. 1. Libraries also will be closed Dec. 26. Heritage Aquatic Center will close at 2 p.m. Dec. 24 and will remain closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. North Lake Aquatic Center will be closed Dec. 23-Jan. 3. The Hunter Ferrell Landfill also will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1. The city's drop-off recycling centers will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Irving Arts Center administration offices will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1. The box office and galleries will be open for normal business hours Dec. 26.

December 26 - January 10

Christmas Tree Roundup - 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 part of the city's weekly brush/bulky waste pickup Dec. 28-Jan. 8. For more information, call 972-721-2232. Residents also may take Christmas trees to any of the following drop-off locations Dec. 26-Jan. 10: Cottonwood Park, 4051 N. Story Road Southwest Park, 2800 Shady Grove Road Drop-Off Recycling Center, 8555 Home Depot Drive (The Home Depot parking lot) Hunter Ferrell Landfill, 220 W. Hunter Ferrell Road (drop off daily

Irving Fire Department

Activity summary Dec. 10-16, 2009

Irving Fire Department responded to 355 incidents.

The Fire incidents

- 98 Miscellaneous Fire and Rescue Calls
- 10 Structure Fires
- 1 Special Operations
- 11 Vehicle Fires

Medical calls

- 13 Major Accidents
- 100 Major Medical
- 25 Heart Attacks
- 40 Difficulty Breathing
- 40 Trauma Related
- 27 CPR Situations

Comments:

from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1) All Christmas trees collected will be mulched and made available for a nominal fee at the city landfill. Call 972-264-3772.

December 31

New Years Eve Dance - VFW Post 2494 & Auxiliaries will hold their annual New Years Eve Party and Dance from 9 PM to 1 AM at

the Post home. Cost of admission is just \$10 per person and includes party favors with black eyed peas & cornbread at midnight. There will be a live band with music provided by "Vinnie & the Jets". Reservations are not necessary, but are strongly recommended. VFW 2494 is located at 3375 Belt Line road, just south of Shady Grove. For further information, call the Post at 972-790-1611.

First United Methodist Church of IRVING



TogEtHeR in Christ--generations praying & worshipping TogEtHeR

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: 5:30p, 8p & 11 p—all different & all welcome for one or all 3 services on Thursday, December 24th.

5:30p in Sanctuary—Special Service for families & children with Carols, Communion & Candlelight. Message by Pastor David Turner. **8p in Sanctuary.** Service of Lessons & Carols with Communion & Candlelight. Presented by Choral Choir & Strings. **11p in Chapel** with Carols, Communion & Candlelight. Message by Sean Cavitt—Director of Youth & Evangelism. Nursery will be available for both 5:30p & 8p for children 4 years and younger.

For more information: Check us out on the web @ www.fumcirving.org Sunday Worship 10:30a in Sanctuary & 6:30p in Fellowship Hall We are located @ 211 W. Third in downtown/historic part of IRVING

First Christian Church Welcomes You



December 20-- Choir Cantata, 10:45am
Let Heaven and Nature Sing Gloria!

December 24-- Christmas Eve Worship, 6pm
Communion Served



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Irving 972-579-0911

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- 9:30am traditional worship (the chapel)
- 9:30 & 11:15am contemporary worship (worship center)
- 1:30pm hispanic worship (worship center)
- repati worship (the chapel)

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Colonial Baptist Church
1514 West Bardin, Grand Prairie, TX (972) 254-2188
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Presbyterian USA

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

United Methodist

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

Oak Haven United Methodist Church

1600 N. Irving Heights 75061 972.438.1431
www.oakhavenumc.org
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.

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



Hackberry Creek Church

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Christmas Eve

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Family Candlelight Service

8:00pm

Candlelight Communion Service

2000 Kinwest Parkway, Irving
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The Irving Rambler (214) 675-6493

irving@irvingrambler.com

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John Starkey - Publisher
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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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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.

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Easter Seals North Texas merges with DFW Center for Autism

The DFW Center for Autism, founded in 2003 and located in Grapevine merged with Easter Seals North Texas.

The new name for the Grapevine location will be Easter Seals North Texas Center for Autism. It serves families and children with its Texas Star Academy pre-school and its research, training and behavior programs. Easter Seals North Texas serves families in 34 North Texas

counties overcoming challenges caused by disabilities.

"This merger provides a wonderful opportunity to build upon an already successful inclusion pre-school, and grow outreach and in-home parent education," said Monica Prather, Easter Seals North Texas President & CEO. "Nationally and locally, Easter Seals is at the forefront in providing autism services. By combining expertise, we

can make life better for families in North Texas."

Easter Seals is the country's leading provider of services for people with autism. During the last 20 years, Easter Seals North Texas has seen a dramatic increase in the number of people with autism that the organization serves through its services developed specifically for people with autism and through services that include children and adults with autism among other service recipients.

DFW Center for Autism founders Carrie Greer and Rebecca Morgan will join the management team of Easter Seals North Texas. Development director Lee Ann Embry will be part of the development staff.

The Center's mission is to improve the lives of children with autism through Applied Behavior Analysis, allowing them to reach their full potential and to gain the skills needed to build relationships with family, friends and peers. It is a community partner of the North Texas Autism Project and utilizes faculty support and treatment staff from its university affiliations.

"The Center's programs will remain fully intact and function just as we have in the past providing high-quality treatment and inclusive, intensive intervention using Applied Behavior Analysis. There will be no disruption in treatment or care," said Morgan, DFW Center for Autism co-founder and Executive Director. "Carrie and I are thrilled to be able to leverage the resources of both or-

ganizations to a greater good in the community."

The Texas Star Academy is unique because it is the only program in Texas that provides a full-inclusion preschool program. This aspect is critical because the Academy becomes a place where children, who already have deficits in their ability to communicate and interact, can learn socialization and language skills in a natural setting. This training includes 35 hours of Applied Behavior Analysis treatment a week as well as naturalistic or "incidental" teaching techniques that incorporate learning into a child's typical, everyday environment.

In addition, the Center in Grapevine will continue to offer and expand:

Research – It produces research that is socially significant.

Training – The Center provides support and training for public and private educational treatment entities.

Outreach – Services are designed to support and educate families and children on applied practices.

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New Panda Cafe
West Hwy 183 at Story

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Organizations are required to re-submit their information on a monthly basis to insure that the Irving Rambler will have accurate information.

Listings are limited to the Organization's name, meeting location and time. If an organization wishes to have more information than the free listing offers, we will continue to offer other advertising opportunities.

Holidays are difficult for kids in shelters

Continued from page 1

Understand the holiday season and the meaning of giving, caring and sharing. They haven't had a lot of love and protection in their lives, so hopefully they can see there are a lot of people who care, who want to help them and who give.

"These children are away from their families and it is a hard time for them during the holiday season, because they are in a shelter and are not able to celebrate Christmas in their own culture. We have children from all over the state of Texas, and

they are from all different types of cultures.

"The shelter doesn't get to express every child's culture, and make sure they celebrate as they normally would. I do think it is really hard for them.

"It was wonderful of Tanisha and the YMCA to put this event on for us. It was an opportunity for our children to celebrate the holiday season with other kids. I think they enjoyed it a lot more, because there were other kids from other shelters. They weren't competing with what they call 'the outside kids,'" she said.

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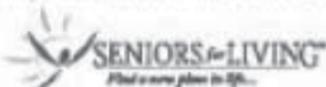
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FIND OUT WHAT SENIOR LIVING HAS TO OFFER TODAY!

Baseball legends discuss mentors in their lives

Continued from page 1

and different mechanisms in place to make sure we are putting forth the best effort. It saves us money and it increases our effectiveness."

Creating an event that focused on baseball's past accented the fraternity's focus on youngsters and preserving African American history.

"We wanted to educate our young boys in Kappa League about the Negro leagues. So when we said we were partnering with Big Brothers Big Sisters, we said why not come together, have a fundraiser, and an educational

event the kids would be interested in as well as contribute to our partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters," Mitchell said.

"I think its harder today for young people to find mentors. If you look at music videos, television, the Internet, there are a lot of negative influences. A lot of times young people are drawn to negativity, because it is popular.

"It's hard to have that person tell you to turn off the television and start opening those books. You don't want to hear from people like that. Sometimes teenagers need to

hear the things that will help them move forward in life.

"Mr. Biddle said, "There is power in having a positive attitude." If you are thinking about being a mentor, that is something you really want to consider. Make sure you have a positive attitude to help with kids," he said.

From '53 to '54, Dennis Biddle pitched for the Chicago American Giants. During the event, Biddle spoke about one of the older players who had a profound affect on him as a player and a person.

"Double Duty' Radcliffe could really play baseball," Biddle said. "He was the catcher whenever I pitched. There was a guy named Tread Longly, who played with the Memphis Red Sox. I didn't know his real name until years later. All I knew was that they called him 'Big Red.'

"Double Duty asked for the three finger drop. I shook him off, because I saw Big Red step up in front of the plate. He was going to hit the ball before it curved. He was looking for a curve ball.

"Double Duty came out and told me, 'You throw what I tell you.'

"He went back behind the plate. It looked like Big Red stepped up further. I shook Double Duty off again, and he signaled me to throw what I want. And I did. Big Red hit that ball out of the field, and I think it is still going today.

"Double Duty came out to that mound, jumping up and down in front of all those people cursing. 'Boy, I've been in this game 15 years. If I tell you to throw something, you throw it.' It really embarrassed me.

"But it kind of made me the man I am today, because I thought those old men have been around a long time. They knew things I didn't know, and I appreciate that," he said.

William "Bill" Blair began his baseball career at age 16 playing for a team from Mineola. After serving in the Army, he pitched from '46 to '51 for the Cincinnati Clowns and the Cincinnati Crescents.

"We didn't have the opportu-

nity, but they were better athletes 30 years ago," Blair said. "Those boys played. You have to play. Thirty years ago kids played. These kids don't play now. They take them to school, and the English teacher teaches them how to play baseball. The teacher probably doesn't know about baseball.

"You might have one or two boys out there that have exemplary ability. The rest of them have to be taught.

"They didn't look at ball players. They didn't take no one's word. They actually took participation. They would take you, put you down to the line, and hit the ball in front of you. They said three things: I want to see if you can catch the ball, can you throw it and can you run.

"They take these ball players now, and it takes them five years to find that out. That's a fact.

"The Big Brothers Big Sisters is a good system. I don't mind helping somebody. A lot of people helped me. You don't get anywhere by yourself," he said.



Former members of Negro League Baseball including Dennis Biddle and Bill Blair support Kappa Alpha Psi's mentoring initiative.

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS - PROPOSED ZONING CHANGES CITY OF IRVING PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND CITY COUNCIL

LOCATION, DATES & TIMES OF PUBLIC HEARINGS:
City Council Chambers of City Hall, 825 West Irving Blvd., Irving, Texas
Planning & Zoning Commission: December 21, 2009, 7 p.m.
City Council: January 14, 2009, 7 p.m.
These public hearings are held to consider the applications as amendments to the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of the City of Irving, Texas and the Official Zoning Map for the following described properties:

ZONING CASE ZC09-0051: 0.37 acres at the southwest corner of Shady Grove Road and Ronne Drive
The request is to rezone the property from C-N (Neighborhood Commercial) district to S-P-2 (Generalized Site Plan) for R-7.5 (Single Family) uses to allow single family development.

ZONING CASE ZC09-0063: 26.56 acres at 1413 E. Irving Blvd.
The request is to rezone the property from R-6 (Single Family) and S-P-2 (Generalized Site Plan) for cemetery uses to S-P-2 for R-6 (Single Family) uses to allow cemetery and related uses only.

ZONING CASE ZC09-0065: 29 sq. ft. at 1135 Kinwest Parkway Drive
The request is to rezone the property from S-P-2 (Generalized Site Plan) for C-O (Commercial Office) Uses and Assisted Living Facility to S-P-1 (Detailed Site Plan) for Monument Sign

ZONING CASE ZC09-0067: 2.96 acres at 4965 Hanson Road
The request is to rezone the property from IP-AR (Industrial Park - Airport Related) and S-P-2 (Generalized Site Plan) for ML-20 (Light Industrial) district uses to S-P-2 (Generalized Site Plan) for ML-20 (Light Industrial) district and Aircraft Engine Assembly and Disassembly uses to allow aircraft engine assembly, disassembly, and repair in an enclosed building.

All interested persons are encouraged to attend the public hearings and express their opinions on the zoning change requests. Written response for the record may also be submitted to: **City of Irving - Planning and Inspections Dept., PO Box 152288, Irving, TX 75015-2288.**

The applications are on file for public review in the Planning and Inspections Department at 825 West Irving Blvd., Irving, TX during normal business hours. For additional information, please contact the Department at 972-721-2424. Please reference the case number when requesting information.

This facility is wheelchair accessible. Accessible parking spaces are available. Requests for interpretation services or assistive hearing devices must be made 48 hours prior to the meeting. Contact the City Secretary's Office at (972) 721-2493 for assistance.

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR Boucher Place Addition St. George Malankara Orthodox Church Addition, 1st Revision

PUBLIC NOTICE BEFORE THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF IRVING, TEXAS, TO CONSIDER RESUBDIVISION OR REPLATTING OF A RECORDED SUBDIVISION WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF IRVING, DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS.

Notice is hereby given for the following public hearing to consider resubdivision or replatting of recorded subdivisions as hereinafter described which will be held in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 825 West Irving Boulevard, Irving, Texas:

Boucher Addition Preliminary/Final Plat (PL09-0044)
Being a replat of part of Lot 23, Trinity View Addition. This property is located at 1409 Shufford Street and is zoned R-6 (Single-Family).

St. George Malankara Orthodox Church Addition Preliminary/Final Plat (PL09-044)
Being a replat of part of Lot 2, Oakland Heights Addition and all of Lot 1, Block A, St. George Malankara Orthodox Church Addition. This property is located at 1623 and 1627 E. Shady Grove Road and is zoned R-TH (Townhouse).

Planning and Zoning Commission: January 4, 2010, 7 p.m.

You have received this notice of public hearing since State law requires that owners of property within a residential subdivision be notified if another property within the same subdivision is proposed to be replatted. State law also requires that the Planning and Zoning Commission must approve a plat that complies with the City's Subdivision regulations.

The application is on file for public examination in the Planning and Inspections Department at 825 West Irving Boulevard, Irving, Texas. For additional information, please contact Sheba Ward, Planner in the Planning and Inspections Department at (972) 721-2424. Please reference the name of the plat when requesting information.

All citizens or interested parties desiring to be heard concerning this replat may speak. This facility is wheelchair accessible and accessible parking spaces are available. Requests for interpretation services or assistive hearing devices must be made 48 hours prior to the meeting. Contact the City Secretary's Office at (972) 721-2493 for assistance.

Buy your Advertising before the rate increase January 1, call 214-675-6493

Baylor Irving nurses seek prestigious credential for hospital

Baylor Medical Center at Irving has begun the journey of "Making a Magnet Difference." "Magnet" is a national recognition that is granted from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). ANCC is part of the American Nurses Association, which recognizes excellence and identifies health care organizations that epitomize outstanding quality and professionalism.

Earning Magnet recognition will be a prestigious achievement for Irving's only nonprofit hospital. Less than 6 percent of all health care organizations in the United States have achieved ANCC Magnet Recognition status.

A Magnet hospital is one where the organization proves that it delivers quality patient care and excellent patient outcomes. The staff has a high level of job satisfaction and there is a low staff turnover rate. The recognition also indicates nursing involvement in data collection and decision-making in patient care delivery.

The empowerment and excitement created through the Magnet credentialing process is shared by nurses, physicians, board members, staff and the community.

In order to apply for Magnet recognition, Baylor Irving needs two years of research data and proof of improved staff retention, patient satisfaction and engagement of staff. A comprehensive analysis of what is needed to achieve Magnet status was completed this fall.

Brenda Blain, Chief Nursing Officer and Chief Operating Officer at Baylor Medical Center at Irving, has set expectations to increase the number of certified staff nurses and

nurses obtaining higher level degrees. In addition, a significant portion of the nursing team must be certified.

"Our donors have been so generous to meet our nursing education needs in the past. Their gifts are even more important than ever as we now seek Magnet recognition," Blain said.

The Irving Healthcare Foundation has granted more than \$160,000 to fund nursing education in the last 18 months. Donors' gifts have supported nurses in obtaining higher level degrees, as well as certifications in their specialty areas. Monies have also been used to provide staff the ability to maintain continuing education credits through an online learning system.

Continued financial support through gifts from the community will enable Baylor Medical Center at Irving to obtain Magnet recognition. Since budgeted dollars remaining after expenses each year at Baylor Irving are reinvested in new and replacement equipment and facilities improvements, the hospital relies on the foundation to fund all staff continuing education needs.

The Foundation is working to raise \$80,000 in 2010 to help meet the hospital's education needs.

"Some donors can give \$20 and some can give \$20,000, and every gift regardless of amount is appreciated. The dollars given truly benefit our community specifically," said foundation President John Drake.

Drake adds that donors can make year-end gifts securely online to help Baylor Irving's nurses lead the hospital to Magnet recognition. The foundation's website is www.irvinghealthcare.org.

Irving's Great Nurses Need Your Help This Holiday Season



The nurses at Baylor Medical Center at Irving are seeking to do something extraordinary for our city - but they need your help! They're seeking Magnet recognition for Baylor Irving, one of the highest accreditations any hospital can achieve.

In order to become a Magnet hospital, however, more staff continuing education is required. Please consider a year-end gift to help Baylor Irving nurses attend conferences, seminars and certification trainings.

All gifts made here stay in Irving.

Nurses bless us with their compassion and care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Please consider a tax-deductible gift this year to help them better serve Irving.



Please Give!

Make a gift in honor of a nurse online at www.irvinghealthcare.org or send a gift to

**Irving Healthcare Foundation
Baylor Medical Center at Irving
1901 N. MacArthur Blvd.
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Questions? Call 972-579-4390

The Irving Healthcare Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity whose beneficiaries include Baylor Medical Center at Irving.

A little-known story Handel and Bach Share

The beautiful strains of George Frideric Handel's *Messiah* and Johann Sebastian Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* evoke a very different picture from the dark bond the two composers shared: each was blinded by botched eye surgery at the hands of a flamboyant quack.

A University of Wisconsin-Madison ophthalmologist says both Handel and Bach underwent eye surgery at the hands of

an "oculist" called the Chevalier John Taylor.

"Taylor was the poster child for 18th century quackery," said Dr. Daniel Albert.

Handel, who died 250 years ago this year, lived with declining vision for the last decade of his life following failed cataract surgery by Taylor. Bach died a few months after his surgery for what was described as a painful eye condition, which Albert

believes may have been cataracts and a detached retina. A post-operative infection likely killed Bach.

And probably, neither expected the operations to work out well, says Albert, professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. At the time, physicians had no concept of bacteria, and no anesthesia, so the idea was to operate as quickly as possible.

"If you had a good result a third of the time, it was par for the course," Albert said of 18th century techniques. "People didn't expect a good outcome; they knew if they put themselves in the hands of an eye surgeon, they were taking a big chance."

Of course, the risks may have been greater with a charlatan like Taylor. Albert describes him as "the most infamous of all ophthalmic quacks." His arrival into town would be heralded by placards and handbills, and his coach was decorated with paintings of eyeballs and the motto: "Qui dat videre dat viver" (He who gives sight, gives life.)

"He practiced in the most flamboyant way, drawing crowds to watch procedures in the town square, and then getting out of town before the patients took their bandages off," said Albert, who is Emmett A. Humble Distinguished Director of the UW Eye Research Institute

In Bach's case, not only did his surgery and a second one fail, but he developed a painful post-operative infection and was treated with laxatives and the favorite cure of his day: bleeding. He was blind when he dictated his final work, and died a few months later.

Handel also underwent the cataract procedure known as "couching," in which a needle was poked into the eye and the cataract-clouded lens pushed into the rear, out of the field of vision. He had the surgery several times, probably the last one at the hands of Taylor. None of the surgeries worked and he grew blind. The lyrics to *Samson*: "Total eclipse. No sun, no moon, all dark" were written as Handel's eyesight failed. Today, surgeries in which cataracts are removed and the lens replaced are among ophthalmology's most successful procedures.

Why didn't these two Georgian-era celebrities seek out someone better? Quite simply, there wasn't much alternative.

"At that time, even the best surgeons of the day practiced a very crude type of medicine," Albert said.

So when you hear the *Hallelujah Chorus* this season, give thanks that the standard of care for ophthalmology has improved so much since the golden age of the great composers.

Dr. Daniel Albert is the author of *Men of Vision*, a history of ophthalmology. The book has a chapter on Taylor's colorful, if gruesome, career.

'Twas the Night Before Thursday

'Twas the night before Thursday, my dinner I ate.
When all of the sudden, a tooth fell on my plate.
Oh horror, no insurance my salary fed.
All I need is another hole in my head.

As the pain steadily grew,
to the Interfaith Clinic quickly I flew,
a place of mercy with doctors and dentists, I knew.
Here they cared for those like me
having a difficult financial time for a small fee.

The door was closed no doctors I found,
the place was empty with few around.
Lilly with tears told the sad tale.
I listened in shock, my face turning pale.

Late in the night, the clinic was quiet
when the silence was broke by a loud riot.
With such a force the back door was shattered,
pieces of glass fell and clattered.

Through the new opening the thieves all ran,
gathering supplies and medicines in hand.
Computers, faxes and lights they stole.
They dug through every drawer and every small hole.

Under the cover of darkness they fled,
Cowards like cockroaches under rocks they tread.
In their wake, what sorrow they left
the poor of Irving, no healthcare, bereft.

With a flick wrists, so lively and quick,
cell phones, emails and fax keys did click.
More rapid than eagles, the community came,
friends and businesses and churches by name:
"Now South Mac! Now IBC!

Now, American Legion and Belmont Foundation!
On, NEC! On, Las Colinas Medical Center!
On, Citi and friends of every kind!
Bringing phones and computers!
Bringing aspirin and tape!
Now give your best! Give your all!
Give what you can both great and small!"

So many gave anonymous it seems,
wealthy and poor they all built the dream.
Together they see the need for healthcare it's true,
and looking after their brother is their job too.

Today, Jennings would be so full of pride
to see his community all on one side.
The clinic is open, luck's turning 'round,
the people have spoken, their goodwill abounds.

Life has gone full circle, from sorrow to anger to concern to joy.

These thieves the whole community seemed to annoy.
If you by chance these cockroaches you know or be,
you may find forgiveness from one much greater than me.

Here is the story short and true.
The community of Irving knew just what to do.
To protect their clinic and the least among us too,
they pulled together and gave from their want,
a testament to the courage of Irving undaunt.

Merry Christmas! Happy Holidays!
May God bless your ways!
Hear now this important bit of advice,
should your teeth fall out, should you trip on some ice,
Irving's Interfaith Clinic is open five days a week,
go there if doctors and dentists you seek.

Revised by Jess Paniszczyn with apologies to Clement Clarke Moore

Friends indeed



J. Wayne (Sir Duck) Duckworth, Commander of American Legion Post 218, delivers two computers to Lilly Juarez, Executive Director of the Irving Interfaith Clinic, and Dr. Scott Wang.

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Eating breakfast with Santa



Pancakes and waffles and sausage, oh my. Members of the Irving Fire Department and their supporters host a breakfast with Santa to benefit Blue Christmas.

Children enjoy selecting gifts for parents



Being creative with glitter, a group of children work to get as much glitter on each other as on their craft projects.

By Jess Paniszczyn

Through its Kids Night Out program, Irving Bible Church presented the Christmas Mall for children of single parents. The morning event included breakfast, crafts, cookie decorating, Christmas movies as well as an opportunity for the children to choose and wrap gifts for their parents.

"This event gives kids the opportunity to do something they normally wouldn't get to do," said Jennifer Erlenbusch, Director of Single Parent Ministries. "Usually because of income, single parent kids don't have the opportunity to go out and buy presents for their parents.

"Through this program, they can go through a mall and pick out

an item for each of their parents. They can decorate sugar cookies and just have fun, and not feel the family stresses that may be going on especially during the holidays.

"I think our final count for kids was 145, and we had 64 volunteers. Kids from the community and the church were invited. This is an outreach to the community, but it is one of those where we try to be careful on our numbers. We want every child to be able to get everything. We were prepared for 200 kids.

"The kids are having fun. They are out sometimes with teenage leaders, sometimes with their friends, and they get to hangout and be wild and crazy," she said.

Rudolph and friends deliver happiness



Rudolph the red nose motorcycle leads the way as Hope Fellowship Riders deliver presents to the children of prisoners in their parents' names to make the holidays a little merrier.

A caroling we go



The Lamar Middle School girls choir brings some merriment and holiday joy early in the morning to the Irving Sunrise Rotary.

What's Happenin' at the Y

-- **AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS** On-Site - Lively, Townley, Townsell, Lee, Good, Brown. Transportation available from other schools. Call for details. Holiday Camp Open Dec. 21-23 and Dec. 28-30, from 7AM thru 6:30PM ages 5-10 \$25 per child per day.

-- **REGISTRATION FOR TEEN** After-School Programs located at YMCA. Transportation provided from all middle schools. Call for details.

-- **WINTER SPORTS REGISTRATION** Ends December 21st with a \$10 late fee: Basketball ages 3-12 - Cheerleading ages 4-12

COMMUNITY EVENT: Spice of Irving: First of 12 monthly events, featuring FREE food, free games, FREE bounce house fun and FREE entertainment. For a chance to win prizes such as: a free 6 month membership, a free week of summer camp or a free session with a personal trainer, sign up to compete in our variety show. Accepting all acts including: Bands, Drama Teams, Dance Teams, Comedic Performers etc.

-- **ZUMBA WEDNESDAY NIGHTS** \$4member & \$7 non-member. Nutrition Classes - Free to Members, Non-Members \$10 (6 week course)

-- **EXCITING NEW PROGRAM!!!** - PLAY & LEARN is a Free Program now offered at the Irving YMCA. Designed for parents, grandparents or caregivers and their children. (Birth to 6 yrs.) We invite you to come play, create, explore & learn together. Every Wednesday from 10:30 - 12:30 at Irving YMCA Beginning 11/16. Contact: Shaye Fox for more details.

Check out our NEW Income-Based Membership Rates "Pay the Day" - Joiner fee equal to day of the month (1st = \$1, 12th = \$12, etc...)"
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ADDITIONAL FEES MAY APPLY

(limited availability)

DFW International Airport hosts career expo

Provided by Sarah McDaniel

DFW International Airport hosted more than 3,300 students at its sixth annual Aviation & Transportation Career Expo, one of the largest educational events of the year in North Texas. The Expo gives students from Dallas, Fort Worth and the neighboring communities an opportunity to learn about careers in a variety of aviation and transportation fields from piloting a plane to managing a rail line and responding to emergencies.

This year's Expo encouraged students to see the latest technology from many transportation fields, as well as view demonstrations from over 30 representatives. Students also took part in interactive games using a flight simulator, participated in a trivia treasure hunt and made flying paper airplanes.

"The Career Expo demonstrates DFW's commitment to the community and provides students with the chance to learn about dozens of careers in just one day," said Jeff

Fegan, CEO of DFW. "We are pleased to provide a setting for students to imagine themselves designing solutions to today's transportation challenges."

Representatives from industry, government and academia joined forces to introduce youth and educators to a multitude of career paths offered by the aviation and transportation industry. Numerous static aircraft, including a DC-3 bomber from World War II; the Flagship Detroit, and a U.S. Navy C-40 Clipper.



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OBITUARIES

ALICE REID CHAMBERS

Alice Reid Chambers, 80, passed away on December 13, 2009 in Palestine, TX. She was born on April 10, 1929 in Cameron, TX. to Phillip & Beryl Reid. She was a longtime prior resident of Irving and had lived in Palestine for the past six years. She is survived by her husband, Ralph Chambers of Palestine, son, Reid Chambers, daughter, Alice Chambers, three grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at Chapel of Roses Funeral Home. Interment followed at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.

BEN BROD

Ben Brod, 89, passed away on December 12, 2009 in his Irving home. He was born on December 20, 1919 in Hallettsville, TX. to Ben Brod & Mary (Breska) Brod. He was a resident of Irving since 1949, a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps before joining the US Army where he served during World War II. He was a retired Superintendent of Bitulithic where he was in the highway construction department. He was preceded in death by his wife,

Juanita White Brod. He is survived by his daughter, Anell Shipman and husband, Ralph of Dallas, TX., three grandchildren, Ben Brian Shipman and wife, Teri of Midlothian, TX., Steven Andrew Shipman and wife, Carla of Mansfield, TX., and Jennifer Suzanne Johnson and husband, Chris of Midlothian, TX., and six great grandchildren. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at Chapel of Roses Funeral Home. Interment followed at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.

BILLY KEYE BRITTON



Billy Keye Britton, of Irving, passed away Wednesday, December 16, 2009. He was born September 1, 1930 in Nash, Texas. He served 4 years in the US Navy onboard the USS Doyle, a mine sweeper. He served as president of the Board of Directors for Irving Cares, and president of Irving Noonday Kiwanis Club. He ranked as Sergeant for the Irving Police Department for 11 years then retired with Farmers Insurance

Group after 28 years. Billy was a member of Plymouth Park Baptist Church in Irving. Survivors include his wife Patsy Britton; children Melanie Britton Compton, Larry Harrington, James Harrington, Alyson Groves, and Kevin Britton; 12 grandchildren; and 5 great grandchildren. Funeral services will be held at 10 AM Tuesday, December 22, 2009 at Plymouth Park Baptist Church. The family will receive friends 6-8 PM Monday at Brown's Memorial Funeral Home. Memorial donations may be made to Plymouth Park Baptist Church, BBMOI Food Pantry, 1714 N. Story Rd., Irving, TX 75061.

ERNEST B. RIEVES

Ernest B. Rieves, age 70, passed away on December 8, 2009 in Dallas. Born October 23, 1939 in DeWitt, Arkansas, he was a resident of Irving for 40 years and a member of the Irving Elks Lodge. A memorial service was 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home Chapel.

EVELYN MARGARET HAWKINS

Evelyn Margaret Hawkins, 94, of Irving died Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009. She was born Dec. 1, 1915 in England. She passed away peacefully at home with her daughter and her little dog "Mac" at her side. She is survived by her daughter Rosalind and sons Wayne and David. Graveside services were held on Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens. Arrange-

ments made by Brown's Memorial Funeral Home.

HOWARD "RUDY" BROWN

Howard "Rudy" Brown, of Kemp, left this earthly life on December 13, 2009 to join his beloved wife of 57 years, Stella Virginia Brown and grandson Clint Howard Brown.



He was born May 30, 1920 in Dallas and was the twelfth of thirteen children born to Emma and Fillmore Brown. Howard and his wife, Stella, made their home in Irving from the early 40's, where they raised their family with selfless devotion, until their retirement years when they moved to Kemp. He leaves behind three siblings, Hazel Shockley, E.F. "Bear" Brown, and Catheryn "Baybon" Abbott; children Gloria Brown Todesco and husband Andrew of Houston, Lewis Brown of Kemp, Clarence Brown and wife Vicki of Corsicana, Beverly Penn and husband Phillip of Saginaw, and Teddy Brown and wife Linda of Weatherford; grandchildren Dwayne Brown, Connie Oldfield, Kim Rodgers, Kristi King, Todd Spruce, Bradley Brown, Jennifer Hutson, Jeffrey Brown, Dusti Kirby, Jody Penn, and Katie Penn; 13 great grandchildren; 3 great-great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews whom he loved dearly. Funeral services were held at 11 AM Thursday, December 17, 2009 at Brown's Memorial Chapel with Pas-

tor Ron Graham officiating. Interment followed at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens with Dwayne Brown, Todd Spruce, Bradley Brown, Jeffrey Brown, Steve Rodgers, Rick King, Todd Hutson, and Tyler Rodgers serving as pall bearers. The family would like to thank his caregivers, including Ruby, Amy, and Jennifer for the kindness and compassion they showed him these last few years.

MARY JOY LAMB

Mary Joy Lamb, 74, passed away on December 15, 2009 in Arlington, TX. She was born on May 26, 1935 in Cooper, TX. She is survived by her husband, Don Lamb, two daughters, Mary Beckwith and Tawyna Leventis and one son, Michael Lamb, and three grandchildren. Funeral services were held on Friday, December 18, 2009 at Chapel of Roses Funeral Home. Interment followed at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.

MILDRED A. WOLFE

Mildred A. Wolfe, of Irving, went to heaven on Sunday afternoon, December 13, 2009. She was born November 9, 1928 in Aquilla, Texas. She lived in Irving, Texas for most of her adult life where she served the Lord in many capacities at Plymouth Park Baptist Church. Preceded in death by her husband Joe Mack Wolfe, survivors include her daughter Jolene Seabourn of Denton; grandson Justin Seabourn and wife Kylene and great grandson Brandon Seabourn, all of Ft. Worth; granddaughter Janessa Seabourn of



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Parks Department offers variety to volunteers

Continued from page 1

"I thought it was very nice," Mr. Pinnix said. "I was very surprised. I've been here 31 years, and I don't think I have ever received anything tangible like that."

"During the meeting, I took more from the award recipient's comments recognizing me, knowing who I am and what I do. The Chairman's Award just capped that off. I really took a lot more from the comments the citizens were making."

"I love what I do. I am really blessed, because I am a people person. I get to see people and kids of all ages smile. After 30 years, I get to see kids I used to instruct as a

supervisor, now their kids are coming. It is kind of strange. But it is wonderful in the sense that you've made that impact on a lot of lives. It's a great ride."

Chris Michalski, Director of Parks and Building Maintenance, served as the awards presentation's master of ceremonies.

"The awards ceremony is an opportunity that we take advantage of annually to recognize all of the different people who have given back to the city in which they reside," Mr. Michalski said. "More specifically, those who have given back to the Parks and Recreation Department in their roles as volunteers. It's our opportunity for the

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the staff to do that.

"Anybody who was there last night could see the incredible diversity of age, gender and everything that was involved. Our department is a very large department, and there are a lot of different ways for people to interact with us."

"I think a lot of the people we get to volunteer significant amounts of their disposable time back to us have gone through our programs. We had some senior

volunteers, college volunteers and high school volunteers. They enjoy working with Parks and Recreation and being in a positive and wholesome environment, and being able to make a difference with their disposable time. That is rewarding in and of itself."

"I think we provide those opportunities whether it is the seniors or the teens. Working special events, being able to say you were part of a group of people who came out and conducted the Fourth of July Parade. You were able to see

all the people and all the kids lined up and down the street, and draw satisfaction from being involved with something like that," he said.




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OBITUARIES

Denton; brother Wayne Petty of Waco; nieces Lois Riley of Burleson, Sharon Brawley of Watauga; Lou White of Pittsburgh, Texas and nephew Barry Wolfe of Ft. Worth. Funeral services were held at 1 PM Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at Plymouth Park Baptist Church in Irving. Interment followed at Rose Hill Memorial Park in Ft. Worth. Arrangements were made by Brown's Memorial Funeral Home.

OPAL SHORB



Opal Shorb passed away peacefully December 14, 2009 after a lengthy illness. Born in Enid, Oklahoma on Sept. 3, 1920 to Oliver and Birdie Steele, she was the youngest of nine children. She graduated from Blackwell High School in 1938 and Northern Oklahoma Junior College in 1940. She married Clarence Shorb January 15, 1944 moving to Irving in 1951. Opal was a member of First United Methodist Church of Irving since 1955. Friends and family will remember Opal as a beautiful woman whose family always came first. Opal loved to travel, sew and "laugh." Reading

the daily newspaper and clipping articles to send family members was a favorite part of her daily routine. Surviving in addition to beloved husband Clarence are five children, Pam (Ronald) Roseberry of Irving; Michael (Marge) Shorb of Wooster, OH; Steven Shorb of Amarillo; Angie (Eric) Shorb-Neilsen of Dallas; and Michele (Mark) Tibbets of Plainview, Texas; 16 grandchildren; her sister Naomi Russo of Oakland, CA. She was preceded in death by her parents and seven siblings, her eldest daughter Sharon Newman of San Diego, CA and grandson Tim Newman of Los Angeles, CA. A celebration of her life was held 2:30 Thursday, December 17, at First United Methodist Church of Irving at 211 W. Third Street, Irving, Texas. Interment followed at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens. Visitation was held one hour prior to service at the church. Arrangements by Brown's Memorial Funeral Home. If desired, memorial donations may be made to the church.

MARTHA KIMBERLIN

Martha Kimberlin, age 88, of Irving since 1959, died Sunday, December 13, 2009 in Irving. Visitation was Wednesday. Funeral service was 10:30 a.m., Thursday, December 17,

2009 at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home Chapel. Interment followed at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens, Irving.

VICTORIA SHEREE LEWIS

Victoria Sheree Lewis, of Irving, passed away Tuesday, December 8, 2009. She was born October 25, 1968 in East Meadow, New York. The family received friends 3-5 PM Sunday, December 13, 2009 at Brown's Memorial Funeral Home. No services are planned at this time.

JAMES MICHAEL BENNETT

James Michael Bennett, 43, of Irving, died December 11, 2009. He was born September 27, 1966 in Irving. He is survived by his wife, Julie, and daughters Shelby and Jamie Bennett. Visitation was at Brown's Memorial Funeral Home in Irving, December 15th. Funeral service was Dec. 16th in Brown's Memorial Chapel.

RIGOBERTO SARAVIA

Rigoberto Saravia, 65, passed away on December 14, 2009 in Irving, TX. He was born on October 20, 1944 in San Miguel, El Salvador. He is survived by his wife, Maria Saravia, six children, Fernanda Alvarado, Daisy Carpio, Rigoberto Saravia, Jr., Arely

Saravia, Domingo Saravia, and Francisca Sanchez, 14 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, brother, Julio Enrique Saravia and sister, Olinda Argueta. Funeral services were held on Thursday, December 17, 2009 at Chapel of Roses Funeral Home. Interment to follow at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.

HARRY "POPPY JIM" JAMES KOTT JR.,

Harry "Poppy Jim" James Kott Jr., 72 of Irving, TX, passed away on December 15th 2009. He was born in Manistee, Michigan on October 02, 1937. Preceded in death by his daughter Cynthia Kott, his mother Genevieve Kott, his father Harry James Kott Sr., and brother Kenneth J. Kott. He is survived by his wife Betty C. Kott; sons Stanley Kott,

Travis Rawlinson, Robert Rawlinson; daughters Yvonne McShane, Tina Farrow; his sister Barbara Tlcznski, daughter in law Kim Kott, son inlaw Rick McShane; grand children Aimee & Amber Sandell, Merritt Kott, Nicolas Kott, Morgan Kott, Timothy Farrow, Stephanie Farrow Englert, Tiffany Rawlinson, Haley Rawlinson, Anthony Rawlinson, Nikki Rawlinson, Hunter Rawlinson, Faith Rawlinson,; great grand children Amberlynn Sandell, Mattie Farrow, Billy Englert, Logan Englert. Jim is still giving after death, as he did in life. He donated his remains to the research and study, and possibly one day a cure, for cancer. He will be missed.

A memorial service for Jim will be announced in the near future.

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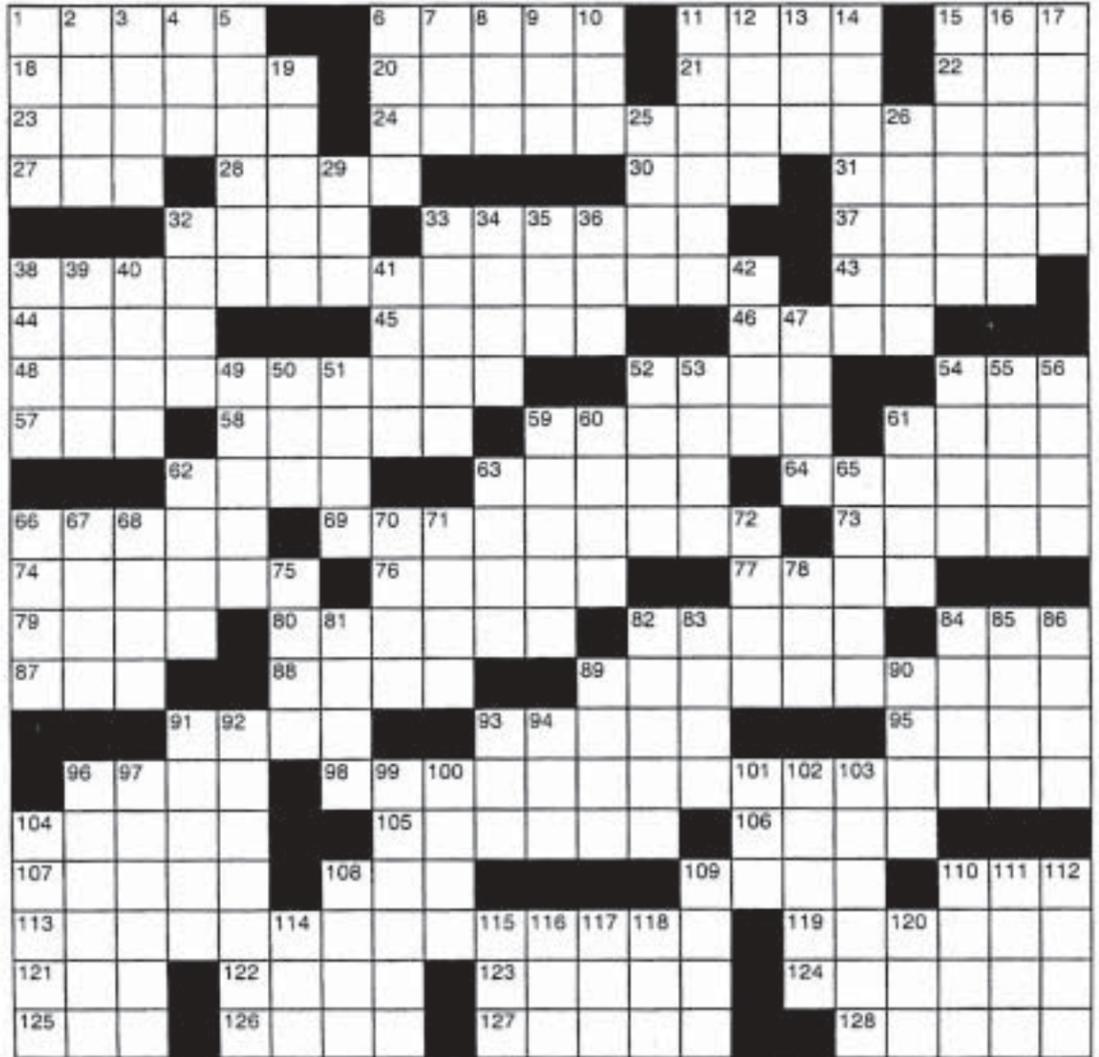
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Solution: 1. Tree in background is missing. 2. Point on girl's hat is missing. 3. Lace on skate is missing. 4. Mouth on bunny is missing. 5. Corner of gift is colored in. 6. Tag on gift is colored in. 7. Chimney has moved. 8. Tail on piggy bank has moved. 9. Pocket on girl's pants is taller. 10. Ribbon on sleigh is longer. 11. Arm opening on shirt is lower. 12. Design on Santa's mitten is different.

Super Crossword ON GUARD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cook clams
 - 6 Civvies
 - 11 It came from Montana
 - 15 Part of PST
 - 18 Tom's temptation
 - 20 Looked like Lothario?
 - 21 — Rios, Jamaica
 - 22 She's a sheep date
 - 23 Plummer or Pays
 - 24 Riddle: Part 1
 - 27 Encountered
 - 28 Caddie competitor
 - 30 Flicka's food
 - 31 Cliff hanger?
 - 32 The Chipmunks, e.g.
 - 33 Houston athletes
 - 37 Covenants
 - 38 Riddle: Part 2
 - 43 Pindaric poetry
 - 44 Libertine
 - 45 Lo mein land
 - 46 Culp/Cosby series
 - 48 "Three Times a Lady" group
 - 52 Competent
 - 54 — standstill
 - 57 High peak
 - 58 Paris' prize
 - 59 Adulterate
 - 61 Singer Campbell
 - 62 Hard to find
 - 63 Certain horse
 - 64 "Rats!"
 - 66 That's no bull!
 - 69 Riddle: Part 3
 - 73 Stadium
 - 74 Diva Maria
 - 76 Stroll
 - 77 Miami's county
 - 79 Hunky-dory
 - 80 Warns
 - 82 Plankton connoisseur
 - 84 Insert dialogue
 - 87 Pro — (for now)
 - 88 Sunflower st.
 - 89 "Utopia" author
 - 91 Self-smitten
 - 93 Broadcast
 - 95 Gymnast Korbust
 - 96 Grouch
 - 98 Riddle: Part 4
 - 104 Celts
 - 105 Pack up the tent
 - 106 Boot part
 - 107 Cross words?
 - 108 Indian export
 - 109 Hockey's Kolzig
 - 110 Health club
 - 113 Answer to riddle
 - 119 Type of embroidery
 - 121 Porgy part
 - 122 Room without a view?
 - 123 Common contraction
 - 124 622 event
 - 125 Poseidon's domain
 - 126 Model Macpherson
 - 127 Share knowledge
 - 128 Acts like a grandparent
 - 11 Fertilizer ingredient
 - 12 Sore
 - 13 Haggard heroine
 - 14 Fountain offering
 - 15 Tenor Jan
 - 16 Expects
 - 17 Turns over
 - 19 Michael of Python
 - 25 Tell's partner
 - 26 Prepared
 - 29 Westminster winner
 - 32 Swarm (with)
 - 33 Wan
 - 34 Goes downhill fast?
 - 35 Decimal base
 - 36 Nutritional abbr.
 - 38 '77 Richard Harris film
 - 39 Misdemeanor
 - 40 Speed —
 - 41 "God's Little —" ('58 film)
 - 42 Art medium
 - 47 Ooze
 - 49 "Butterfield 8" author
 - 50 Strauss' "— Rosenkavalier"
 - 51 Couturier Cassini
 - 52 Busy as —
 - 53 Comic Roseanne
 - 54 — vera
 - 55 "American Bandstand" viewer
 - 56 Novelist Seton
 - 59 Gorp ingredients
 - 60 Narcissus' nymph
 - 61 Skirt shaper
 - 62 Depend (on)
 - 63 "Yo!" at the library
 - 65 Brother of Zeus
 - 66 Glasgow guy
 - 67 Daily receipts
 - 68 Jack of "Rio Lobo"
 - 70 Dentist's directive
 - 71 Head set?
 - 72 Cheeseboard choice
 - 75 Literary pseudonym
 - 78 Chicken — king
 - 81 k.d. of country
 - 82 Baby beagle
 - 83 Wolf wall
 - 84 Barbie, Ken, or Chucky
 - 85 Prod
 - 86 Bracelet bit
 - 89 Mine car
 - 90 Burrowing critter
 - 91 Ruark's "Something of —"
 - 92 — makes the heart . . .
 - 93 Wine word
 - 94 — -la-la
 - 96 Stephen Gertrude King book
 - 97 "Salve —"
 - 99 Swimmer
 - 100 Tide type
 - 101 Fashion monogram
 - 102 Teach a tackle
 - 103 Noyes or Nobel
 - 104 Fish hooks
 - 108 Commuter's charge
 - 109 Promise
 - 110 "M*A*S*H" Emmy winner
 - 111 Filii's father
 - 112 Cry of concern
 - 114 Dolores —
 - 115 Milliner's creation
 - 116 Bonanza material
 - 117 Arthur of "Maude" Ltd.
 - 118 Stateside
 - 120 Inflatable item?
- DOWN**
- 1 Con game
 - 2 Subdue Simba
 - 3 "L—, c'est moi"
 - 4 Sheridan or Sothorn
 - 5 Violin virtuoso
 - 6 Trims the turf
 - 7 "Not spinach again!"
 - 8 Neighbor of Ga.
 - 9 Asian holiday
 - 10 A mean Amin



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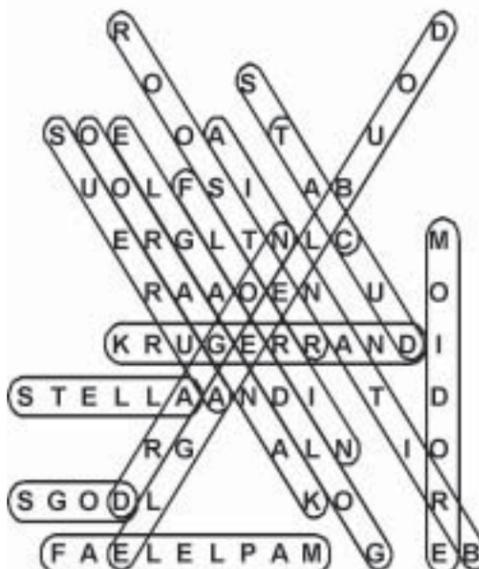
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

- Brando
- Cage
- Cagney
- Day-Lewis
- Hanks
- Hoffman
- Hopkins
- Irons
- Kingsley
- Ledger
- Murray
- Newman
- Nicholson
- Nolte
- Rush

Answers for 12-5-2009



Answers for 12-5-2009



Answers for 12-5-2009



Mungles on Movies

By Matt Mungle

Title: *Avatar*

Rated: PG-13

The last time James Cameron put his director hat on for a feature film was 13 years ago when he gave us *Titanic*. Love it or hate it you could not deny the impact that film had. To see it in the theater was unforgettable.

This time he again shows that if you are going to do something then make it larger, grander, and more stunning than anything yet seen.

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.

Avatar is breath taking and heart pumping

Avatar is a world all its own and possibly one of the better CGI films ever created. It is 40% live action which makes it so much more than another animated adventure. The planet of Pandora contains a world that reminds us why movies are made.

The story revolves around a group of human scientists, who, in order to better understand a distant planet's indigenous race, create AVATARS that are a mix of both species' DNA. The Avatars are controlled remotely by the human hosts. The US Military also has its sites on the planet, but more for a natural resource that is found to be worth billions. When they decide to take the element by force it is up to the Avatars to help save the planet's inhabitants. It escalates into an all out war of compassion versus power.

Not since *Lord of the Rings* have I seen a world of such detail and unique creatures. It is so full of imagination and beauty that when added with the depth of 3-D animation it literally sucks you in and submerges you. The battle sequences are flawless and a perfect balance of

nature versus machine. Though close to 3 hours in length it moves so fluidly and is paced so well that you get caught up in everything around you and time flies by. It is so easy to assume what this film is about from the trailer. But until you see it in full you will not be able to grasp all of the depth and emotional journey the characters go through. It will at times take your breath away.

There is a message too about mother earth and how we are all connected in some way by an underlying, unseen force. It does not shine a very positive light on the military mindset and their destructive nature. It is a film that distinctly divides the tree huggers from the NRA lifetime members. But there is a fantasy about it that will hopefully stir those on both sides to think about our planet more and how we not only treat it but our fellow inhabitants, both foreign and domestic. This is

not a heavy handed message nor does it play like a public service announcement. It is just another element that causes the movie to be so powerful and moving.

Avatar is rated PG-13 for intense epic battle sequences and warfare, sensuality, language and some smoking. This is a fair rating and though the preteens may enjoy the sites of this planet the language and themes may be a bit much. The expletives, though mild, are rampant throughout. It is also worth mentioning that the indigenous people are

just that. And although blue and CGI in creation they wear very little clothing. There is nothing sexual about this, but parents need to be aware that it is there. I give *Avatar* 4.5 out of 5 rites of passage. *Avatar* has four Golden Globe nominations including Best Motion Picture Drama and best director. Cameron is back with a vengeance and this is one Pandora's Box that you need to open fully. So says Matt Mungle.

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How do you make a great film? It's elementary

By Matt Mungle

Title: *Sherlock Holmes*

Rated: PG-13

What in the world has director Guy Ritchie done to the Sherlock Holmes we all know and respect? There is nothing elementary about his actions here. This character is so far removed that without the films title we would be hard pressed to believe it is Holmes at all. But it is. And it is fantastic.

This Christmas *Sherlock Holmes* brings much needed and long awaited action, wit and excitement to the big screen. It was a year without Jack Sparrow, but Robert Downey Jr. makes up for it in spades creating a sharp, fun, and larger than life character that movie goers will appreciate and applaud.

Sherlock Holmes (Robert Downey Jr.) along with his trusted

and reserved sidekick Dr. Watson (Jude Law) are on a new case. This one involves Lord Blackwood (Mark Strong) who is a mystical figure in England with a diabolical plan to change the course of history. Using the art of black magic he has created what would appear to be a supernatural event that has many puzzled and even more in fear. As always Holmes must use fact over fiction to get to the root of the issue and show Blackwood for what he truly is.

Everything about this film works. It is funny, energetic and cleverly penned. Downey has proven himself over the last several years in roles like *Iron Man* and *Tropic Thunder*. This time he seals the deal by bringing to life a fictional character that might not be what we imagined, but one we will forever associate. And he is equaled by

Law's rendition of Watson. The two are in perfect sync when it comes to timing and balance. The on screen chemistry is just what is needed to sell this crime solving duo. An appreciation too for Ritchie's direction. Each scene is like a choreographed dance. Utilizing the writing in a clever way he breaks down Holmes' thought process right in front of your eyes.

It is entertaining watching Holmes work through all of the clues he comes in contact with. Downey plays him as eccentric as possible without going over the edge. He still remains brilliant although a bit ungrounded. I think it is safe to say he does for Holmes what Depp did for Sparrow. Not an imitation or a fake reproduction of course. Holmes is uniquely his own. But in the same respect he takes a character that could be simply enjoyable and makes him extraordinary.

Sherlock Holmes is rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action, some startling images and a scene of suggestive material. The language is very mild and the sexuality non-existent. The only brief suggested scene is found in the trailer so parents know exactly what is in store. The only thing that may concern some would be Blackwood's involvement in black magic. But this too is only part of the story line and not used with sensationalism. I give *Sherlock Holmes* 5 out of 5. Here's to you Guy Ritchie, well done old chap. I am sure this will be on everyone's favorite list this Holiday season. So says Matt Mungle.

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| PRECIOUS R 11:20 1:55 4:30 7:10 9:45 | EVERYBODY'S FINE PG13 11:05 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10 |
| # THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG G 11:00 11:30 1:25 1:55 3:50 4:20 6:35 7:05 9:05 9:30 | TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON PG13 11:45 3:00 6:30 9:40 |
| * INVICTUS PG13 1:00 4:05 7:00 10:05 | THE BLIND SIDE PG13 10:55 1:50 4:45 7:40 10:25 |
| ARMORED PG13 2:10 4:25 6:40 8:55 | PLANET 51 PG 11:55 |
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9 box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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

EXXONMOBIL PURCHASES XTO ENERGY

In what the company calls a bet on the natural gas market, Irving-based ExxonMobil, has announced plans to purchase Fort Worth-based XTO Energy Inc for \$31 billion. It is the largest energy acquisition since 2006 and the company's biggest takeover since the purchase of Mobil Corp. in 1999.

UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS NAMES NEW PRESIDENT

The University of Dallas' Board of Trustees has announced the selection of the University's eighth president: Thomas W. Keefe, J.D. is scheduled to assume the presidency March 1, 2010.

CITY OF IRVING INVESTS \$2.2 MILLION ON PROMENADE PROJECT

The City of Irving has announced a new \$2.2 million project that will connect retailers in the city to citizens living in residential developments near Lake Carolyn. Construction is set to begin the end of the year on the project which will create a 12-foot-wide pedestrian walkway that will be named the Lake Carolyn Promenade. The designers will create a link for pedestrians at the end of the promenade where California Crossing Road intersects with Lake Carolyn Boulevard in Irving. The project also will result in the creation of four boat landings, bench seating and trash receptacles for the pathway.

APEX SYSTEMS, SIEMENS REAL ESTATE, RLI INSURANCE SIGN LEASE AGREEMENTS IN IRVING

Apex Systems Inc. has renewed early their lease for 6,790 square feet of office space at the Urban Towers at 222 Las Colinas Blvd and RLI Insurance Co. has leased 15,944 square feet of office space at the Tower on Lake Carolyn, 909 Lake Carolyn Parkway, in Irving. Noel J. Hutcheson, Cash McWhorter and Kelly Smith of Colliers International negotiated both leases with Connor Faught of FirstService Real Estate Advisors and John Fancher and Bill Lokey of CB Richard Ellis. Also, Siemens Real Estate Inc. has leased 37,500 square feet of office space at 2700 Esters Boulevard in Irving from Acuity Brands Lighting Inc. Steve Rigby and Mike Cleary of CB Richard Ellis negotiated the lease.

ACE CASH EXPRESS DONATES \$685,125 TO MARCH OF DIMES

ACE Cash Express, Inc., a Chamber investor and leading retailer of financial services based in Irving, has announced the donation of \$685,125 to the March of Dimes in support of programs to improve the health of all babies. Through the ACECommunity Fund - ACE's corporate giving program that focuses on children, education and financial literacy - ACE has donated more than \$2.6 million to the March of Dimes.

IRVING MALL ANNOUNCES NEW RETAILERS

Irving Mall has announced several new tenants including the recently opened La Vida Fashion & Home Décor, a store which offers an assortment of ladies, men's and children's clothing as well as home accessories. Also, opening this month, across from AMC Theatres, ITS Academy - College of Hair prepares students for a career in cosmetology and offers customers haircuts, color and highlight services, manicures and pedicures. Additionally, Los Lupes Mexican Restaurant is scheduled to open in the mall in the old Fuddrucker's location in the spring. Los Lupes will manage three banquet ballrooms capable of hosting parties up to 1,000 guests - ideal for wedding receptions, anniversary parties and Quinceaneras.

EXXONMOBIL PRESENTS \$50,000 HOLIDAY GIFT TO IRVING CARES

Rex W. Tillerson, chairman and chief executive officer of Irving-based ExxonMobil Corporation, recently presented Irving Cares with ExxonMobil's annual Chairman's Gift, a \$50,000 grant in support of the nonprofit organization's work with Irving residents in need of employment services, food and financial assistance.

ABBOTT HONORED BY U.S. CHAMBER

Abbott, a global, broad-based health care company with a significant Irving presence, was honored with the 2009 Corporate Citizenship Award for International Community Service at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Business Civic Leadership Center (BCLC)'s 10th annual awards dinner. The International Community Service Award is given to a company that exemplifies the ideals of corporate citizenship through an initiative outside the U.S. Abbott was recognized for its work to help strengthen Tanzania's health system to expand access to care for people across that country.

EFJOHNSON AWARDED TWO LUCRATIVE CONTRACTS

Irving-based EF Johnson Technologies, Inc. has received a contract valued at \$13.2 million from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The contract calls for the company to provide its innovative Trunked IP25 Project 25 compliant infrastructure system for first responders. Additionally, the company reports it has been named a contractor in a five year Internal Revenue Service issued contract valued at up to \$750 million.

IRVING BUSINESSES/CHAMBER MEMBERS RECOGNIZED

The Dallas Business Journal has recognized the following Irving-based businesses and/or Chamber members: Largest Public Relations Agencies - Vollmer Public Relations and Cooksey Communications; Largest Advertising Agencies - Numantra.

FLUOR AWARDED UTAH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT

The Utah Department of Transportation has selected Provo River Constructors, a Fluor-led joint venture, as the team with the best fixed-price, best-design proposal for the expansion of the I-15 Corridor Reconstruction (CORE), project. The proposed scope of work is along a 23-mile stretch of existing interstate in Utah County, one of the fastest growing counties in the U.S. I-15 is the major north-south commuter route between Salt Lake City and the Provo/Orem region. Irving-based Fluor Corporation has a 40 percent share in the \$1.1 billion project.

NATURAL GAS PARTNERS PROMOTES MANAGING DIRECTOR AND COUNSEL

Irving-based Natural Gas Partners (NGP), the leading private equity firm in the energy industry, has announced the promotion of Craig Glick from Principal to Managing Director and Counsel.

WALMART GIVES BACK TO MILITARY FAMILIES

Chamber Investor, Walmart has announced it is partnering with Operation Homefront to give \$1 million and an early Christmas to more than 10,000 military children and families who will receive free toys, books, Walmart gift cards and gift packages. The company is also donating \$150,000 to Wreaths Across America to purchase, transport and lay 16,000 wreaths at national cemeteries and memorial sites across the United States to honor fallen veterans.

THOMAS GROUP'S APPLICATION FOR LISTING ON NASDAQ CAPITAL MARKET APPROVED

Thomas Group, Inc., a global consulting firm based in Irving, has announced that its application to transfer the listing of its common stock from the Nasdaq Global Market to the Nasdaq Capital Market has been approved by Nasdaq. The company's common stock will continue to trade under the symbol "TGIS."

FIRST CHOICE POWER REDSIGNS BILLS, SAVES TREES

Based in Las Colinas, electric provider First Choice Power has announced it has redesigned all bills as a green initiative. Beginning this month, customers will receive a two-sided monthly bill on recycled paper, designed to reduce waste and help the environment. The company reports that 93 percent of bills will now be on one sheet of paper and expects to save 100 trees per year.

COMMERCIAL METALS OPENS ARIZONA STEEL MILL

Commercial Metals Co., based in Irving, has announced the opening of a new \$155 million steel mill in Mesa, AZ, that will turn scrap metal into concrete-reinforcing bar for use primarily in commercial buildings, roads and other infrastructure projects.

OUTSTANDING MINORITY BUSINESS LEADERS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Dallas Business Journal is seeking nominations for outstanding minority business leaders in the Metroplex. The DBJ's third annual Minority Business Leader Awards Program will honor leaders in three categories: minority business owners, minority corporate executives and corporate advocates of any ethnicity. To nominate an outstanding minority business leader, visit dallas.bizjournals.com/dallas/nomination/3171.

BUSINESS CLOTHING DRIVE FOR NATIONAL SERVICE DAY

Nimitz High School has been awarded a "Learn & Serve Grant" and will be hosting a special event for the community at the school on January 18 which is the Martin Luther King Day of Service. The end goal of the event is to provide a venue for anyone in the community to better their financial and life situations. A number of area non-profits are coming together to participate including the Chamber, and currently, a business clothing drive is underway. If you have unwanted, washed business clothes to donate, please bring them by the Chamber's main offices at 5221 N. O'Connor Blvd. Suite 100. Or you can bring them to Nimitz High School at 100 W. Oakdale. For more information about the event on January 18, please email Deborah Johnston at DJohnston@irvingisd.net.



Please contact the Chamber at 214.217.8484 if we can assist you

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