



## THIS WEEK

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# T. Boone Pickens Mentoring Hall of Fame unveiled

Big Brothers Big Sisters unveiled the T. Boone Pickens Mentoring Hall of Fame and recruitment center on March 12 at the Irving headquarters of the nation's largest Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) agency. The facility highlights the stories of people who

have been positively affected by mentoring, including successful business people like Mr. Pickens and Ebby Halliday.

The Hall of Fame allows prospective mentors to use an interactive technology to find mentoring opportunities in their

area and to sign up for BBBS.

"For some, the concept of mentoring can be difficult to understand," Charles Pierson, CEO of BBBS said. "Mentoring is so much more than a single act of kindness. It is about a life of kindness. While mentoring can certainly take place at an event or a given activity, events and activities are simply the catalysts for change. Substantive

and sustainable life change as we all know happens through caring relationships and friendships. Mentoring occurs everyday although often unseen and unnoticed. It is the unsung heroes like Annie Sullivan who make champions like Helen Keller come to light.

"Our vision and hope was to create a fun and interactive space that would help us all appreciate

the history mentoring has had on the building of America into the great land that it is today. We wanted to create a space that would help us convey the importance that mentoring will have on how our children continue to grow up in America tomorrow and in the future," he said.

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## General Election will decide City Council Place 6 and 8

By Jess Paniszczyn

Two City Council Places will be determined through Irving's General Election on May 9. Councilman Rick Stopfer will run against Bola Ayanbule for Place 6. Councilman Joe Philipp is being challenged by Don Van Slyke for Place 8. Councilman Lewis Patrick is also up for reelection, but he is unopposed. There are no other issues or propositions on the May 9 ballot.

"The cut off for filing was Monday, March 9 at 5:00 p.m.," Janice Carroll, the City Secretary said. "Mr. Van Slyke barely got all of his stuff done. He filed Monday at 4:57 p.m. Mr. Ayanbule filed on Monday after 3:30 p.m.

"Candidates who want to run for a City Council Place must have 49 signatures. Mr. Ayanbule and Mr. Van Slyke each have 49. I have to go back and double check the signatures myself when they are that close.

"By election code, you have five days to certify the candidates if there is no petition. The City of Irving requires a petition, so it is as soon as reasonable. Of course I want to do it as soon as possible. I think they will be certified.

"The petition is unique to Irving. It is required by our Charter. The number of signatures potential candidates must have is based on one half of one percent of the voters who voted in the last Mayoral race. The people who sign the petition must be registered voters in Irving.

"You always err on the side of allowing someone to run, not in keeping them off the ballot. You want candidates to run," she said.

Prior to each election lots are drawn at random to determine each candidates place on the ballot.

"We had the drawing for place on ballot Tuesday evening. Mona Wyatt of the League of Women Voters drew. She drew Mr. Ayanbule for first, Mr. Stopfer second. In Place 8, she drew Mr. Philipp first and Mr. Van Slyke second. We are not having anything but Council member candidates in this election.

"If we did not have opponents, we could cancel the election. I understand the Irving ISD School Board may cancel their election. The estimated cost for the election was \$20,000, but if Irving ISD cancels their election that amount will go up. We share polling locations and early voting locations with Irving ISD. If they pull out of the election, then the City's costs are going to go up probably to around \$30,000.

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During the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) unveiling of the T. Boone Pickens Mentoring Hall of Fame in the BBBS Irving headquarters, Mr. Pickens (center left) joins Charles Pierson, CEO of BBBS (center right) and other dignitaries for the official ribbon cutting.

## Vampire Academy author visits Valley Ranch Library

By Jess Paniszczyn

Fantasy author, Richelle Mead, spoke with fans about her books and signed autographs at the Valley Ranch Library on March 7. Ms. Mead is the author of three series, the *Vampire Academy* series, the *Georgina Kincaid* series and the *Dark Swan* series.

"I emailed quite a few authors in different genres and invited them to speak at the library," Jennifer Shelly a senior librarian said. "One thing I have learned about urban fantasy authors is they are the nicest people. I have been rejected by several romance and mystery authors. But I have only had one refusal from an urban fantasy author. "I am a fan of Ms. Mead's, and she was one of the authors I contacted. She quickly responded and her rates were extremely reasonable.

"When the readers meet the authors, I think they really get a

closer connection with what they are reading. People who have never read her books or who have only read one series might discover they are interested in reading more of her works. It also draws a lot of attention to the library. We have a lot of new people signing up for library cards, because they didn't come here before we had a large event like this. They decide they want to come here again, check out books and learn about other events at our library. It is good publicity for us. It is also good publicity for the author. And it is great for the fans."

Among the many topics including her upcoming books, Ms. Mead shared the story about how she first became a writer.

"*Vampire Academy* is geared towards teens, but everybody reads it," Ms. Mead said. "I read a lot of teen stuff myself. I wish there had been all that stuff when I was

younger. All we had was *Little House on the Prairie* series, which were great books. But there was nothing else.

"I was always a really big reader growing up. I have found most writers are. I think if you are reading a lot, you kind of get your imagination going. You always have stories in your head. I think people reach a point where they want to start writing their own stories. I was like that from a very early age. My parents had a business in our home, so I used to steal my parents' letter head. I would fold it in half and staple it, then I would have a book. I would draw and create picture books. They were always fantastic. I would have unicorns, fairies and things like that.

"My very first publication was when I was nine years old. I used to get a magazine called *Child Life*.

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## Estate Sale

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# Uniroyal Tire announces winners of "Soccer To Go"

Provided by Karla Comer

Thanks to the Uniroyal® Tire "Soccer to Go" sweepstakes, Ishmael and Madison Gonzales never have to leave soccer on the field. The father-daughter team from Irving won the Grand Prize package. Doug and his daughter Julie Heydrick won the first prize package.

The Gonzales family won the grand prize consisting of:

- A Nintendo Game Boy Advance dockable car entertainment system.
- A \$300 gift card for video games.
- A set of Uniroyal tires, valued at \$500.
- \$1,000 worth of free gas.
- A \$1,000 donation to Madison Gonzales' soccer league, The Irving Soccer Association.

"It was so incredible to hear that we won," said Mr. Gonzales. "I'm so glad that my kids are able to participate in soccer. Because of

the soccer program, we knew about this great opportunity."

Thousands of soccer families entered the sweepstakes. The Uniroyal Soccer Program donates funds and equipment to youth soccer leagues. The program has donated nearly \$12 million in funds and equipment, including over 875,000 soccer balls, to soccer players and their communities.

"Since the Uniroyal Soccer Program began 10 years ago, it's

been a way to bring people in the community closer together," said Kaz Holley, Uniroyal brand director. "The year-end 'Soccer to Go' sweepstakes is a great way to focus on the larger community of soccer families in America, even those that don't have first-hand experience with the soccer program. It's our way of ending the 2008 soccer season on a high note."

The Uniroyal Soccer Program is commemorating ten years of supporting youth soccer new give-away. Each day there will be a drawing for a free Uniroyal soccer ball. At the end of the year, a Grand Prize winner will receive the "Soccer Season Survival Kit," worth \$5,000, which includes everything a family needs to play soccer in style: a GPS system, a new set of Uniroyal tires, gift cards for snacks and gas, and more. Soccer families can enter at [www.UniroyalTires.com/sweeps](http://www.UniroyalTires.com/sweeps).

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

## Local elections are important

Continued from page 1

"The election process is the basis of our Democracy. It is good that we are going forward with one. Everyone has a right to run as long as they meet the State's and our Charter's requirements.

"Being a part of the Democratic system and elections at the

local level almost mean more than at any other level, because it makes such a difference in the individual citizen's life who lives here. These people represent you. You can pick up the phone and call them. I do think elections are important," Ms. Carroll said.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### March 14 at 8am

**Hamfest** - The Irving Amateur Radio Club Inc. will host the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Hamfest at Betcha Bingo, 2420 Irving Blvd. at Story, Irving at 8 a.m. Go to [www.irvingarc.org](http://www.irvingarc.org) for map and more information or contact Coleta M. Taylor KD5QFH, 972-579-9089, [coleta.mt@verizon.net](mailto:coleta.mt@verizon.net).

### March 14 from 10am to 2pm

**Community Fest** - Enjoy a free day of fun at Community Fest from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Senter Park Recreation Center, 901 S. Senter Road. A variety of food, games, entertainment and children's activities will be provided. Informational booths from various city departments also will be available where attendees can inquire about city services. For more information, call 972-721-2641.

### March 14 at 2:30pm

**Yoga for Kids** - The Northwest Branch Public Library, 2928 North Beltline Road, is hosting "Yoga for Kids" at 2:30 p.m., the Children's Programming Room. Children will enjoy learning and doing beginner's yoga with Miss J'Ann. No registration is required. Free, for all ages. Children under age 8

should be accompanied by a guardian. For more information, call the Northwest Branch Library at 972-721-2691 or check the library website at [www.cityofirving.org/library](http://www.cityofirving.org/library).

### March 14 at 8pm

**Musique Classique** - Las Colinas Symphony Orchestra is joined by Howard Hilliard, performing Richard Strauss's Horn Concerto No. 1 in the Carpenter Performance Hall at 8 p.m. \$15-45, 972-252-2787 or [www.irvingartscenter.com](http://www.irvingartscenter.com) for tickets.

### March 16 at 7:00pm

**Irving Genealogical Society** - Ever wondered about your ancestors? Where did they come from? What was their occupation? What drew them westward? Want to learn more? The Irving Genealogical Society meets the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the main auditorium of the Irving Public Library. Visitors are welcome. The guest speaker will be Bill Dow. Mr. Dow will detail his search for his Liles ancestors of England; and, discuss how to tackle a brick wall.

### March 16-20 from 8am - 5pm

**MultiArts Spring Break Camp** - Spend Spring Break at the Arts Center 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Campers will participate in a variety of fun arts-focused activities, including drawing & painting, weaving, tie-dyeing, creative writing and gymnastics. \$191, 972-252-2787 or [www.irvingartscenter.com](http://www.irvingartscenter.com) to register.

### March 17 at 9:30 & 11:30am

**The Villain's Moustache** - This lively show is a traditional old-time melodrama musical featuring colorful, tall rod puppets with animated mouths, eyes and eyebrows! The audience never fails to get involved, whether booing the wise-cracking villain or shouting advice to the poor distraught heroine, Little Nell. Carpenter Performance Hall 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. \$6, \$2 lap child under 2 years, 972-252-2787 or [www.irvingartscenter.com](http://www.irvingartscenter.com) for tickets.

### March 17 from 8:30am - 3:30pm

**Free Well-Child and Immunization Clinic** - Baylor Medical Center at Irving is sponsoring a well child and immunization clinic along with

the Dallas County Department of Health and Human Services and Northgate United Methodist Church from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Northgate United Methodist Church, 3700 W. Northgate Dr. in Irving. Well-child exams for children ages birth to four years-old and immunizations for children ages birth to 18 years-old, will be provided from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Immunizations only, will be given from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Immunization records must be provided for each child. The free services of this clinic are available to residents of Irving only. For more information call 972-579-4095.

### March 17 at 3pm

**TeenScene Movie Marathon** - The monthly TeenScene movie matinee presents a marathon showing of the first two film adaptations of the popular Chronicles of Narnia series. *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* screening starts at 3 p.m. to be followed by *Prince Caspian* at 6 p.m. in the Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd.

### March 17 at 7pm

**Free Ken Turner Concert** - Free

Ken Turner Concert 7 p.m. (Former member of Blackwood Brothers Quartet) at First United Methodist Church located @ 211 W. Third in downtown/historic Irving in the Worship Center.

### March 19-21

**Exploring Isaiah** - Chosen People Ministries will be presenting The Gospel According to Isaiah: A Bible Conference Exploring Isaiah 53 at Irving Bible Church, 2435 Kinwest Parkway, 75063. The conference focuses on how to interpret and use Isaiah 53 in sharing the Gospel. Guest speakers include Dr. Mitch Glaser, Dr. Darrell Bock, Dr. Michael Brown, and Dr. Richard Pratt and concludes with a Saturday evening concert with Messianic musician Marty Goetz. \$65 includes all nine sessions, the Friday night dinner banquet, and the concert. Visit [www.gospel53.com](http://www.gospel53.com) or call Eileen Baehr - 561-737-1431

### March 20 at 8:00am

**Networking Breakfast** - Irving Hispanic Chamber's Networking Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. in the Irving YMCA, 2200 W. Irving Blvd, Irving, 972-986-8898. Doug Fox will speak on "How the YMCA helps the community thru their programs." RSVP: 214-217-8477 or [jgarcia@irvinghispanicchamber.org](mailto:jgarcia@irvinghispanicchamber.org).

### Community Input

Irving residents are encouraged to provide input to the Housing and Human Services Department to be used to develop its 2009-2013 Consolidated Plan. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires cities that participate in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership Grant (HOME), and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs to complete this plan every five years. Community input sessions, which will aid Housing and Human Services in assessing and addressing community needs, are as follows:  
---Community Fest, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 14, Senter Park Recreation Center, 901 S. Senter Road  
---Community Input Meeting, 6 p.m. March 19, Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd.  
---For more information, call 972-721-4800.

## Now Open! North Lake College South Campus

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# Nimitz Academic Team takes fifth place at State

The Academic Decathlon Team from Nimitz High School competed at the Texas Academic Decathlon Feb. 27-30, winning fifth place among the field of 40 large schools from across the state.

For the ninth time in the past 10 years, the Nimitz team finished among the top five teams in Texas, totaling 45,452 points. Patrick Lewis and Celeste Martinez ranked third and fifth, respectively, among

all "C" students, resulting in a \$1,500 scholarship for Lewis and a \$500 scholarship for Martinez. Marcos Vera was Nimitz's top scoring student and David Orozco was the team's top "B" student. Merhawi Hailemariam won the team's only gold medal and posted a perfect score in the Super Quiz Relay.

– was comprised of the 40 teams with the highest scores from their respective regional meets in Janu-

ary. Pearland High School won the meet with 47,245 points.

## POLICE & FIRE



**Bomb Squad Call Out:** 03-07-09 Family members were cleaning the house of a deceased relative in the 1600

block of Upton Place when they found a hand grenade with a partially pulled pin in a closet. Members of the bomb squad and the DFW Airport Police responded and secured the device for destruction with the bomb robot and disposal trailer. The grenade was taken to the DFW disposal range and counter charged. The grenade was determined to be live and active. Some of the grenade body was recovered, revealing it to be an M-61 high explosive fragmentation grenade.

smashed. The officers ultimately located and arrested two males inside the residence. The homeowner was not at home.

**Aggravated Robbery:** 03-09-09 at 3:45 p.m. The complainant was approached by five suspects in the parking lot of CiCi's Pizza in the 2300 block of N. O'Connor Rd. Two of the suspects pointed guns at her. The suspects told her to get out of the car and take her child. She left the keys, her purse and went back inside the business. The suspects could not get the complainant's car started, so they took her purse. The suspects left the area in the vehicle they arrived in. There were no injuries and the suspects were not located.

**Building Burglary / Arrest:** 03-08-09 at 1:15 a.m. IPD officers responded to a call of suspects breaking into the One Build Element Hotel building under construction. Officer Weston arrived on scene and saw the two suspects inside of the building. When the suspect saw the officer, they tried to run out of the building and escape in the suspect vehicle. Both defendants were captured without incident and property was recovered.

**Burglary/Robbery:** 03-09-09 at 4:58 p.m. Female complainant was at home in the 900 block of Edmondson when two suspects knocked on her door. Upon answering it, the suspects (four total) displayed handguns and forced their way into complainant's home. The complainant was tied up and suspects ransacked the house. Suspects took the complainant's Cadillac Escalade.

**Aggravated Assault:** 03-08-09 at 6:50 p.m. The suspect got into an altercation the victim in the 3800 block of N. Beltline Rd. The suspect walked away from the fight, but returned a short time later with a large kitchen knife. He then stabbed the victim in the lower chest causing a one half to one inch puncture wound. The suspect fled the scene, but was found a short time later by officers at his residence. The victim was taken to Parkland Hospital.

**Aggravated Robbery:** 03-10-09 at 4:11 p.m. The complainant was standing in the parking lot of the Shell Service Station in the 2800 block of N MacArthur when approached by suspect. The suspect produced a box cutter and demanded money. The complainant yelled for help and suspect fled. Officer McCown arrived, located the suspect, and made an arrest.

**Burglary Arrests:** 03-08-09 at 8:18 p.m. Officers were sent to a burglary in progress in the 4200 block of Hackmore Loop. Upon arrival, officers found the back door glass

**Robbery (Individual):** 03-10-09 at 10:37 p.m. A male delivering pizza to the Rock Island Apartments was attacked by suspects who pushed him to the ground, punched him and stole his money. After the police arrived, the victim refused treatment.

### Irving Fire Department

**Activity summary March 5 - 11, 2009**

Irving Fire Department responded to 415 incidents.

The Fire incidents	Medical calls
111 Miscellaneous Fire and Rescue Calls	26 Major Accidents
6 Structure Fires	108 Major Medical
1 Special Operations	24 Heart Attacks
3 Vehicle Fires	73 Difficulty Breathing
	45 Trauma Related
	18 CPR Situations

**Comments:**  
03-10: Ambulances went into overload once.

## The Irving Rambler (214) 675-6493

[irving@irvingrambler.com](mailto:irving@irvingrambler.com)

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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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# Foundation recognizes caring citizens

By Jess Paniszczyn

The Irving Healthcare Foundation (IHF) hosted a Citizens Who Care Reception at the Four Seasons Resort and Club on March 3. The annual event is designed to thank philanthropists who donated funds to the IHF and its charities.

"Every year the Irving Healthcare Foundation has some kind of recognition for all of the donors who have supported not only the Baylor Medical Center, but the two beneficiaries, Our Children's House as well as the Irving Interfaith Clinic," said Clem Lear, Chairwoman of the IHF Board of Directors. "Tonight is our way of saying, 'Thank you,' to these folks. The donors also have the opportunity to meet the personnel who run the different agencies they have contributed to over the years.

"In the spirit of the economic times, our recognition has gone from the dinner format to a reception format, because we feel it is a

better use of our donors' funds. We want to be frugal in this time.

"When you have a formal dinner, each person is sitting at a table with eight or ten other people. There isn't much of an opportunity to mix and mingle. The reception allows people to get to know some of the other folks and visit with the different beneficiaries," she said.

John Drake, IHF president, believes consolidating charity fundraising efforts is vital during difficult economic times.

"The Foundation coordinates fundraising for Baylor Medical Center of Irving, Our Children's House, Irving Interfaith Clinic and dental assistance at the Irving Dental Center inside the Parkland Irving Health Center," Mr. Drake said. "Because the Foundation coordinates fundraising for those four charities, they don't each need to have their own fundraiser and their own fundraising expenses. You are competing in this economy for



Doctors, health administrators and members of the Irving Healthcare Foundation mingle with philanthropists during Citizens Who Care Reception.

pieces of a shrinking pie. While I think competition is wonderful, I think cooperation is definitely better when it comes to fundraising.

"The Foundation is blessed with gifts that range between \$1.5 and \$2 million per year. Those gifts funded a new heart lab at the hospital. It was the 52<sup>nd</sup> of its kind in the world. In the last 12 months, that lab provided care for 300 people. In many cases, those patients had between two and six procedures done at the same time. Some of the most complex heart work in the Metroplex was done at Baylor Medical Center of Irving. Philanthropy accounted for half of the \$4 million it took to open that lab.

"The Irving Interfaith Clinic

has seen tremendous growth. The clinic has gone from 641 patient visits in 2007 to 1,000 visits in 2008. This year the clinic is tracking more towards 2,000 visits, doubling the number of visits in a year. There are no sources of revenue for that clinic. It is all funded by charity.

"The clinic serves people who live in Irving, who don't have insurance and who are at the 200 percent of poverty level or less. The clinic is a lifeline, a chance for those people to see a great doctor.

"Our Children's House continues to provide therapy and daycare for children who have medical needs. Seventy percent of the families whose children attend Our Children's House qualify for financial assistance raised through philanthropy. It is just so expensive for a nurse-run childcare program. We could not charge these families what it really costs."

In addition to raising funds for existing health related charities, the IHF also determines the kind of medical care that is lacking in the community.

"The Foundation did a health

needs analysis at the end of 2007. One of the big needs in Irving was dental care," Mr. Drake said. "There wasn't a place in Irving where needy folks could get dental care.

"Our Foundation Board granted \$120,000 to equip two of the five dental stations inside the new Parkland Irving Health Center. In addition, three dentists are now volunteering at the Irving Interfaith Clinic. We have gone from having no place for the needy to receive dental care to having two options in our city. They have both been made possible through people's generosity.

"People can be confident when they give to the IHF their dollars will be used well. Since we have been founded, the people of Irving have made sure they have the very best healthcare close to home through their gifts. Philanthropy has not only sustained the hospital and other healthcare nonprofits, but has really made them excellent. Philanthropy provides that little bit of difference that allows us to have superb healthcare in our own back yard," he said.

**CALVARY CHURCH**  
Sunday: March 15  
special guest: david anderson  
lead pastor: j. don george

9:30am traditional worship (the chapel)  
9:30 & 11:15am contemporary worship (worship center)  
1:30pm spanish language worship (worship center)

hw 161 @ walnut hill-irving 972.251.1857 calvarychurch

## WORSHIP

### Christian Science

First Church of Christ, Scientist  
2250 W. Pioneer Dr, Irving, 75061  
972-253-7202 www.hhjm.com/cs  
Sun & Sun school: 10am, Wed 7:30pm  
Religious programs 214-447-9678  
Reading Room Mon-Sat 10 am-1 pm

### Church of Christ

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

### Disciples of Christ

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

### Independent Bible

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

### Jewish Outreach

GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE  
thejewishchanneliptv.net  
972-795-9133 or 972-294-9158

### Southern Baptist

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

### United Methodist

First United Methodist Church  
211 W. Third St., Irving 75060  
972.253.3531  
www.fumcirving.org  
Sundays 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary  
During LENT March 1<sup>st</sup> - April 12<sup>th</sup>  
No Evening Worship Service  
Evening Service Resumes on April 19<sup>th</sup>

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

## Irving Heritage Society receives humanities grant

Provided by Mary Higbie

The Irving Heritage Society has been advised they have been awarded the mini-grant maximum amount from the Humanities Texas for the "Celebrating Irving - The City and The Man" month long project. Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, conducts and supports public programs in history, literature and philosophy, and other humanities disciplines.

"Many people have no idea where our fine city got such a distinguished name," said Dan Matkin, Irving Heritage Society President. "The Irving trivia contest will help you learn in a fun way. This grant makes all of these events possible."

For details on the *Celebrating Irving* events, visit [www.irvingheritage.com](http://www.irvingheritage.com) or call 972-252-3838 for more information. All events are free, open to the public, and are varied in nature for all age groups.

## Partners promote Litter Hotline

Provided by Rick Hose

Keep Irving Beautiful (KIB) is partnering with Irving Parks and Recreation to promote the cities' first 24 hour "Litter Hotline." The hotline, 972-721-5487, is available for use by all residents.

Irving Parks and Recreation's Corridor Litter Abatement Team consists of five full time employees who work seven days per week abating litter from 51.4 miles of primary street medians and right of way and weekly litter control on an additional 31.3 miles of corridor. The

Corridor Team also collects abandoned shopping carts from public right of ways collecting over 605 carts in 2008. The team's efforts reduce visible litter and improve the overall appearance of the city.

"Partnerships such as these are vital to our continued success," said Randy Boatright, President, KIB.

KIB will begin including the 24 hour "Litter Hotline" number on its letterhead, websites, brochures, press releases and special event banners.

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Journey to Easter  
Season of Lent  
**PLYMOUTH PARK**  
**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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

9:15 a.m.—Plymouth Park Praise, a multimedia non-traditional worship service with music by our live P3 Band (Communion on first Sunday of each month.)

11:00 a.m.—Traditional Worship Service featuring excellent choral music. (Communion on first Sunday of each month.)

Dr. William La Bore preaching:  
"To Be Cleansed"

Third Sunday of Lent  
Join us as we journey toward Holy Week and Easter.

For more details go to [www.ppumc.org](http://www.ppumc.org)  
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972-255-4185

# Honor doctors during National Doctor Day

Provided by Sarah White

The Irving Healthcare Foundation (IHF) is making it easy to honor area doctors for National Doctors' Day. Through its website, [www.irvinghealthcare.org](http://www.irvinghealthcare.org), visitors can send a note of thanks to any physician that practices in Irving.

"National Doctors' Day is a great opportunity to thank all of the physicians in Irving for all that they do to make and keep us healthy," said John Drake, IHF president. "This year, we decided to make it easy for all of Irving to thank their doctors for great medical care."

Website visitors can click "Send a Note of Thanks." All messages of thanks will be delivered to doctors in time for National Doctors' Day on March 30.

In addition to sending a note of appreciation, visitors to the

website can also make a tax-deductible gift in honor of their doctor. All donations benefit IHF. Though IHF appreciates all doctors for their great work, the notes of appreciation must be limited to doctors practicing in Irving.

## Stimulus for small business

America's Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 offers several benefits for small businesses. For example: Over \$44 billion is aimed at businesses in education or those that provide educational goods and services; over \$7.1 billion focuses on com-

munication industries; innovations in science, research and technology offer grants, tax incentives and other benefits across all industry sectors; and, improvements in both energy sources and efficiencies offer both cost savings and operational efficiencies.

# Mentoring guides kids to a brighter future

Continued from page 1

The high tech museum and recruitment center was made possible by a generous donation by Mr. Pickens. BBBS reports that 87 percent of the kids mentored in their programs graduate from high school, which means more kids will grow up to contribute to society in positive ways.

"I would not be where I am today without the help of many mentors along the way," Mr. Pickens said. "I am proud to pass along what I know to our next generations."

"I don't think there is any way you can quantify what mentoring does and the results that you have. You don't know when that person comes along at just the critical time that maybe puts the arm around you, maybe he grabs you up and says, 'Listen to me. We are getting ready to do something here are you are going to be a big part of it.' You

don't know when that is going to happen to you or whether it ever will happen. It would be unfortunate if you had an opportunity and it didn't happen in your life.

"This facility will change the lives of so many children who will grow up and do great things with a little guidance along the way. It is my hope that people across North Texas are motivated to change a life," he said.

Track and field professional, Doc Patton, spoke about his mentor during the unveiling ceremony. Doc was an 'F' student when his mentor helped him find an interest in running and taught him about the importance of hard work.

"My grades were below 50. I wasn't a bad kid, but I was probably headed down the wrong path. I probably wasn't going to go to college, but because I had a mentor in my life I was able to get a scholarship to college and pursue

a professional career in track and field," Mr. Patton said.

"I became a U.S. champion in the 200 meters, a two time world champion, and a two time Olympian. I am currently still running track right now. I have Olympic medals. I have won Championship medals. I have been all over the world.

"During the time that Buzz Andrews took with me, he didn't push me, he just wouldn't allow me to fail. He inspired me to give back to someone else. I have a Little Brother. If I can do half the things Buzz did for me for someone else, it will be worthwhile.

"When people say they don't have time to be a mentor, I think it is an excuse. Especially with Big Brothers Big Sisters, it is only four hours a month. I feel like you can find time to mentor. If is that is important to you, you will make time for it."

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

### ASSUMED NAME

I, Thallapareddy, Prasadareddy do hereby declare that I changed my name from Thallapareddy, Seetharamanjeyavaraprasadareddy s/o Narasareddy when I took my U.S.A. citizenship in the year 1996. Birth date 10/20/1943. I reside at 1815 George Court Irving, TX 75061

I, Thallapareddy, Lakshmi do hereby declare that I changed my name from Thallapareddy, Lakshminarasamma when I took my U.S.A. citizenship in the year 1996. Birth date 3/18/45 I reside at 1815 George Court Irving, TX 75061

### HELP WANTED

Project Manager/ Superintendent needed with 3+ years experience in solar field construction management. Expertise to include PV installation and CSP construction; utility scale. Competitive pay/benefits. Email Solarproject@hotmail.com

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### DUPLEX FOR RENT

Duplex for rent 2-11/2, w/d conn, w/bfp, appl, fenced, no pets. 972-253-0973

### ITEMS FOR SALE

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

### ROOMMATE AVAILABLE

Roommate Available non-smoker pet friendly 469-867-4963

### GARAGE SALES

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

To purchase classified ads [pamb@irvingrambler.com](mailto:pamb@irvingrambler.com)

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Join us in celebrating 30 years of TexasFest fun!  
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The Irving Healthcare Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that supports Baylor Medical Center at Irving, the Irving Interfaith Clinic and Our Children's House at Irving.



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A partnership for life.

## BIZ BRIEFS

A business activity report by the Irving Economic Development Partnership.



### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTORS

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

#### Strategic Investor

City of Irving  
Irving Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Las Colinas Marketing Alliance  
TIAA Realty, Inc. / Cousins  
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Las Colinas Medical Center  
Mammen Glass & Mirror  
Medco Health Solutions  
Northrop Grumman  
Office Resource Group  
Quantum Custom Homes  
Sam's Club  
Signal Metal Industries

To see a list of all of our investors or to share in the benefits enjoyed by these entities go to [www.IrvingChamber.com](http://www.IrvingChamber.com)

The Texas Department of Transportation unveiled their strategy to spend \$1.2 billion in stimulus funding on road construction during a Texas Transportation Commission workshop session on Wednesday, February 25th, a strategy intended to both leverage local resources and create jobs across the state. The released list of construction projects also included maintenance and preservation projects. The Texas Transportation Commission passed the \$1.2 billion staff recommended during a special meeting yesterday (Thursday, March 5th). The staff recommendation was created by applying criteria developed by the state's local transportation leaders to an extensive list of projects that met the initial requirements for readiness established in the stimulus bill. Three items included on this list have an Irving impact and are identified below:

**Projects:** DFW Connector - SH 121/SH 114 (residual impact) - February 2009  
**Maintenance:** Resurface Roadway - SH 114 Spur 348 to O'Connor Blvd. - April 2009  
Resurface Roadway - SH 114 Freeport Pkwy. to Spur 348 - April 2009

#### IRVING UNEMPLOYMENT RISES

The number of unemployed in Irving increased in January to 6.6% from 5.6% in December 2008, as compared to 7.1% overall across the DFW Metroplex. The State's unemployment rate was 6.4%, while the national rate was 7.6%. Irving hit a high of 7.4% in June 2002. Despite the rising unemployment rate and another month of statewide job losses, Texans are actually getting a bit more confident in their employment outlook according to the Employee Confidence Index produced by Spherion Corp.

#### BOY SCOUTS

**ESTABLISHES DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**  
The Boy Scouts of America announced the formation of the first development office at its Irving headquarters. The National Development Office will expand fund-raising efforts by identifying, cultivating, soliciting, and stewarding relationships with corporate, foundation, alumni, and individual prospects and donors. Kristy Hensel has been named the national director of development for the BSA. Hensel will oversee the launch of the department and has responsibility for the direction and success of the BSA's national development efforts.

#### USA TODAY QUOTES IRVING RESTAURATEUR

With Congress discussing policies to limit corporate travel, USA Today reporter Barbara De Lollis was developing a story on the impact of such restrictions. For the impact on small business, she turned to Silvano Zanetti, owner of Café Cipriani, located at 220 E. Las Colinas Boulevard in Irving. Cipriani's, which relies on corporate groups and conventioners, has seen its revenue decline 40% to 50% because the local Four Seasons, Marriott and Omni are emptier now. Café Cipriani has been serving fine Italian cuisine since August of 1984. The menu of this highly rated restaurant consists of homemade pastas, chicken, veal, seafood dishes, daily specials, and an assortment of desserts. For reservations call (972) 869-0713.

#### TEN IRVING BUSINESSES UP FOR TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS AWARD

The Chamber has nominated ten businesses for the Texas Association of Business' Small Business of the Year award. Businesses nominated included: Big State Drug Store, Car Concepts/Rick's Independent Care Kare, Cooksey Communications, Don Herring Mitsubishi, FASTSIGNS Irving-Las Colinas, Glory House Catering, The Irving Journal, Mammen Glass & Mirror, Mart, Inc., and Minuteman Press. An honorary committee of former Chairman of the Chamber's Board of Directors selected these companies for nomination.

#### IRVING LEVEE REPAIRS PROTECT BUSINESSES

City officials are addressing an Irving levee meant to protect flooding near Texas Stadium in order to protect area businesses. The Army Corps of Engineers identified potential dangers associated with trees growing near the levee, but the issue is being remedied. The City states that there is no imminent danger of flooding and area businesses are very safe with improvements underway.

#### US CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION OFFICE OPENS

Acting Deputy Director of the US Citizenship and Immigration Services Michael Aytes was in Irving for the official opening of the agency's new office in Irving located at 6550 E. Campus Circle Drive. During the opening of the new sprawling USCIS district office, Aytes pointed out such facilities are among the improvements the agency can make to get ready for additional workload if lawmakers reform immigration policies. Aiming for LEED Silver certification with the project, the design team paid particular attention to providing protection from the hot Texas sun with roof overhangs, a brise soleil, and protective glass. Chicago-based 4240 Architecture designed the new building.

#### BAE SYSTEMS TO TRANSFORM OPERATIONS

BAE Systems Control Inc, a global company engaged in the development, delivery and support of advanced defense, security and aerospace systems in the air, on land and at sea, has announced it will transform its Irving operations to a direct client-services center, with limited manufacturing, becoming a future hub for engineering excellence. This strategic decision will result in the transfer of approximately 85% of their Irving work force to other BAE Systems sites, with the majority of the work going to the company's manufacturing facility in Fort Wayne, Ind. Affected employees at the Irving site will be eligible for a comprehensive package of severance, benefits and outplacement assistance. Where employee skill sets match current business needs, the company will seek to place employees at other BAE Systems sites. BAE Systems' Irving office will employ 150 people once restructuring is complete.

#### CHAMBER STAFF VOLUNTEERS FOR JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

The staff of the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber has been trained and will be in the classrooms beginning March 27 at Sam Houston Middle School helping 6th Grade students understand the global economy. The staff has been divided into teams of two to work in the classrooms to support the teachers.

#### EFJOHNSON TECHNOLOGIES WINS DoD CONTRACT

EF Johnson Technologies, Inc. announced that it has received a five year contract valued at \$50 million from a US Department of Defense (DoD) customer. This delivery, quantity, fixed price contract calls for the company to provide the DoD with its award-winning ES Series Project 25 compliant two-way radios. \$5.9 million of the contract has already been received under this contract.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
Leadership Irving  
Irving Economic Development Partnership  
**GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
March 30, 2009  
12:30 p.m. shotgun start  
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\$125.00 a person  
\$400.00 for a team of four  
**FOOD, DRINKS AND RAFFLE ITEMS**  
To RSVP contact, Vanessa Segovia  
OFFICE 214-217-8473  
E-MAIL [vsegovia@irvingchamber.com](mailto:vsegovia@irvingchamber.com)



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

**Main Office**  
5221 N. O'Connor Blvd., Ste. 100  
Irving, TX 75039  
**Heritage District Office**  
301 W. Irving Blvd.  
Irving TX 75060

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

# Author speaks about writing and publishing

Continued from page 1

One day I was flipping through it and I saw 'Hey kids, send us your stories.' I thought I can write a story.

"My dad was a super garage sale man. We always had the latest technology from five years ago. We had this typewriter and even for that time it was a horrible, old typewriter. I got on it, typed a little story, *Judy and the Mermaid*, and sent it in. And I never told my parents. One day *Child Life* comes, I open it up, there's my story with illustrations. I took it to my mom and said, 'I'm famous.' She flipped



As she speaks with local fans, author Richelle Mead holds a copy of one of her published works.

out as a mom would do. She wrote them and demanded they send her 50 copies that she could give to her friends."

Even though Ms. Mead had a promising start as a writer, she eventually became interested in other things.

"Throughout the rest of that time, I would occasionally dabble in writing. I had a problem a lot of writers have, I would come up with this great premise and it didn't go anywhere. I had a lot of stories like that in middle school and high school.

"When college came, I kind of gave up on writing. College is full of lots of other distractions anyway. After college, being an English major, it was hard to get a job. I worked a lot of bad jobs and sometimes more than one job at once. I reached a point where I was very unhappy with my situation," she said.

"I started writing a science fiction novel to try to escape the world. I wrote one chapter and sent it to my ex-boyfriend from college, who is a very harsh critic. I expected him to say something that was going to make me cry. He wrote back and asked if I had more of the story. So I kept writing and writing this science fiction novel, and it turned into 800 pages.

"In publishing, 800 pages is too much for a first time author to get published. When you are a new author, they are taking a gamble on you. You send them this giant book, and they all say, 'No, no.' I tried to sell it, and I got rejected.

"So I decided all right this is what I'm going to do. I'm going to outline this baby, make it totally concise, and this one is going to get published. I got an agent, and we sold the book. That was the first book in my *Georgina Kincaid* series called *Succubus Blues*."

Agents can be very important in helping authors navigate the publishing world.

"The best thing to do if you are publishing fiction is get an agent. An agent is someone who represents you in the book world. They are the ones who send your book to publishing companies and tell them it is the best book ever. They try to sell the book for you.

"It is hard to get an agent, because they don't make money until the author makes money. If you are ever trying to get an agent and they charge you money, it's a scam. Agents don't make money until you do, so they reject 99 percent of the manuscripts they receive," she said.

Once a writer has an agent, selling a book to a publishing company can be frustrating and full of rejection.

"It is tough when you are rejected," Ms. Mead said. "It hurts, but at the same time, if they don't like it, you don't want them. You need someone who is going to live and die by your book. Once you sell a book to a book company they have to sell it to the world."

After a publishing company buys a book, an editor helps the author make changes to improve the book's appeal.

"The job of an editor at a book company is to make your book good. Not every word that I or any other author writes is golden. We write a lot of bad stuff. We have bad days," she said. "The editor hopefully catches that and tells you how to fix it in the form of revision letters. For my adult books, my editor is very laid back. He will send me like one page with three things to fix.

"Penguin Razorbill, the company that publishes *Vampire Academy* sent me this 15 page letter of point by point revisions. It was so miserable editing the book the first time. Finally, I got through it. Two

weeks later they sent me another revision letter that was nine pages long. Then we had one more round, but the letters kept getting shorter.

"*Vampire Academy* was diced, sliced and re-written. By the time it was done, I'm sorry to say this, I hated that book so much. I didn't even know if it was good. I didn't even know what it was about. I had forgotten stuff. I finally got that book off my plate.

"After the book was published, slowly my email started to pick up. People who had read the book said they liked it. The emails started increasing and increasing. I was still frazzled by the book, but people certainly seemed to like it. When the second one came out, it made the New York Times' Best Seller List. I still don't know how it happened. Publishing is such a weird business."

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# There is a new mare in town and she brought her colt

Provided by Doug Harper

The latest Irving masterpiece pocket park stretches over a half mile long. South from Rochelle Rd. to just north of 183 Airport Freeway on MacArthur Boulevard. The half mile stretch isn't very wide, only 60 to 180 feet in areas, but the creative winding stone-work sidewalk, landscaping and an occasional park bench make up for the narrowness of this half mile of happiness on the west side of a key north south boulevard in the middle of Irving.

A well articulated and visually interesting masonry wall protects

the adjacent homes to the west from the traffic noise and nighttime lights on MacArthur.

The key feature of this great respite is the bronze work, "The Joy of Life," by artist Chris Navarro from Casper, WY.

Chris has been sculpting professionally since 1986 and is best known for his large monumental sculptures. Represented by ten galleries throughout the country, his reflections of the West provided Navarro a national following.

"I love what I do for a living and hope others can see that

through the work I have done," Chris said. "As in art and life, if what you create is real, and if it's done with genuine emotions, there will always be others who will want to experience and relate to that power.

"The creation of monuments is extremely time consuming and labor intensive, requiring an initial design, creating a clay model and casting it in bronze through the lost wax method. To know that my work will be standing in the sun long after I'm gone for future generations to experience and enjoy is thrilling."



"The Joy of Life," by artist Chris Navarro.

## OBITUARIES

### CHARLES K. ALEXANDER



Charles K. Alexander was born August 13, 1920 in Wichita Falls, Texas. He grew up in Arlington and at age 16,

he began his first career at Moore Funeral Home in Arlington. He was licensed as a Funeral Director in 1941. He graduated from North Texas Agricultural College in Arlington and received a BA degree in Business from Texas Tech. During World War II, Charlie served for four years as a 1st Sgt. in the Army/Air Force medical department. After his military service he worked as a Funeral Director. In 1953 he went into the insurance business from which he retired after 35 years. A life-long Methodist, he was active in church lay leadership and taught Sunday school over 50 years. He received the Silver Beaver Award for his work with Boy Scouts. He also volunteered with Irving Teen Court, Baylor Cancer Center and the Baylor emergency room. He is survived by his

wife, Nancy, daughter, Kay and her son Stefan of Virginia; son David, his wife Barbara and daughter Evyn of Athens, Texas; sister Jessie Hagan of Wisconsin; brother George Alexander of Dallas, Texas, and many nieces and nephews. His devotion to Christ was evident in his love for family, friends and others that crossed his path. His loving spirit, generosity and unique sense of humor will be truly missed. Funeral Services were held at Plymouth Park United Methodist Church on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 1:00 P.M. with Dr. William La Barr officiating. Visitation was on Monday from 6-8 P.M. at Brown's Memorial Funeral Home. Memorials may be made to Pastor's Discretionary Fund, Plymouth Park United Methodist Church, 1615 W. Airport Freeway, Irving 75062.

### BETTY LOU WILSON

Betty Lou Wilson, 71, loving wife, mother and grandmother, passed away March 8, 2009. Visitation will be 1-3 pm Saturday at Shannon Rufe Snow Funeral Chapel. Betty was born Nov 24, 1937 in Roswell,

NM where she met her husband of 55 years, Denis. They raised their family in Irving, TX and settled in Keller after living in Apple Valley, MN, Keene, TX, and Punta Gorda, FL. Survivors include Husband, Denis Wilson; sons, Bob and wife, Beth and Tom and wife, Narges; grandchildren; Sharina (her mother Edith Henderson), Brandon and wife, Christine, Rebecca and David.

### PAMELA JEAN DIXON



Pamela Jean Dixon, of Euless, and formerly of Irving, passed away Saturday, March 7, 2009.

I walked a mile in your shoes last week and I learned that your generosity has carried me. When tough times happened throughout my life, which they often did, you were always there to lift me and fill me with your love. I walked an hour in your shoes last night and I saw the pain leave your eyes. Your breathing slowed to a steady hum as the doves came to carry you home. Your heart ceased to beat last night, but it left behind a legacy of laughter, love, and kindness. No other human on this earth has ever loved in so many different ways. As a mother, a sister, a nana, a daughter, and a friend, you touched us all. I walked a moment in your shoes today and what I felt was peace. Funeral services will be held at 2 PM Saturday, March 14, 2009 at Brown's Memorial Chapel. Burial will follow at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens in Irving. The family received friends 6-8 PM

Friday, March 13, 2009 at the funeral home.

### ANNIE LEE GALLOWAY



Annie Lee Galloway, of Irving, passed away Wednesday, March 11, 2009. She was born April 4, 1934 in Dallas.

She was a member of St. Luke's Catholic Church in Irving. Annie enjoyed shopping and going to the boats in Shreveport. Preceded in death by her husband John Thomas Galloway and grandson Cory James Galloway, survivors include sons Luke Galloway and wife Regina of Van, and John E. Galloway and wife Sandra of Highland Village; daughter Lucy Gault and husband Richard of Farmers Branch; 6 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:30 AM Monday, March 16, 2009 at Calvary Hill Mausoleum Chapel, 3235 Lombardy Lane in Dallas. Interment will follow at Calvary Hill Cemetery. A Rosary will be held at 6 PM Sunday, March 15, 2009 at Brown's Memorial Chapel.

### BRICKY LYNN HENDERSON



Bricky Lynn Henderson of Irving, Texas died on Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at Baylor Irving Hospital.

Bricky lived in Irving about 47 years of his life. He is survived by

his spouse, Tammie Gail Henderson (Sandefor-maiden name) of Irving, Texas; daughter, Rindi Lea Henderson of Lewisville, Texas; mother, Janie Louise Henderson; brother, Bruce Edwin Henderson; and sister, Bobbie Jane Henderson all of Irving, Texas. Bricky donated his body to UT Southwestern Medical School for study and research. Memorial Services are planned for Saturday, March 21, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. at Hope Fellowship Church (at The Pigeon Hole), located at 132 W. Irving Blvd., Irving, Texas 75060

### BETTY JEAN ST. JOHN JONES

Betty Jean St. John Jones, age 78 of Gun Barrel City, Texas passed away peacefully on the morning of Saturday, March 7, 2009. She was born November 18, 1930 in Nutley, New Jersey. She grew up in the New Jersey-Maryland-Pennsylvania area before attending Ohio Wesleyan University and University of Pennsylvania Nursing School. She married Thomas P. Jones, III of Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania and relocated to San Antonio, Texas in 1953. Her oldest son Benjamin (Ben) John was born in San Antonio in 1957 and after moving to Irving, Texas, her youngest son, Thomas Peter, IV was born in Dallas in 1958. Betty raised her children in Irving where she was a long time member of Las Colinas Country Club where she enjoyed swimming, tennis and golf. She was an active member of First Presbyterian Church of Irving and volunteered her time at Irving Community Hospital. In 1990 she relocated to the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania to the town of Nuremburg. After nine years she



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# Bills filed to keep Texas working

Provided by Jonathan Fordyce  
 Representative Linda Harper-Brown (Irving) filed a series of bills Tuesday aimed at significantly reducing the impact of the Texas franchise tax and helping to keep jobs. A small business owner and fourth-term legislator, Harper-Brown has personal and professional experience on these issues, and believes the legislation will not only help keep the Texas economy in the black, but also keep Texans working.

"Rep. Harper-Brown is leading the way in promoting the right kind of stimulus," said Michael Sullivan, executive director of Em-

power Texans. "Her legislation will free small business from onerous taxes that are imposing such overwhelming compliance costs."

"We cannot as legislators, in good conscience, continue to ignore the pleas of countless Texans who have lost their businesses or lost their jobs," Rep. Harper-Brown said. "In the current economic climate, it would be reprehensible, at best, to simply do nothing."

HB 2943 gives all businesses in Texas a 25 percent franchise tax reduction, explicitly for "job creation and retention;"

HB 2944 cuts the current rate

of the franchise tax in half and; HB 2945 allows for any business with a total revenue less than \$1 million an exemption from the franchise tax for one year, starting in January.

Rep. Harper-Brown has also filed legislation (HB 1261) to give Texans a sales tax holiday for purchasing a motor vehicle for one weekend this year.

"Allowing consumers this advantage would substantially increase their ability to purchase a vehicle, ultimately boosting the market for this product and helping to keep jobs," Rep. Harper-Brown said.

"Representative Harper-Brown is a small business owner who understands that you can't spur job creation and entrepreneurship with over-taxation," said Will Newton, Texas Executive Director of The National Federation of Independent Business of Texas (NFIB). "This legislation shows a commitment to protecting the very group that historically leads us out of economic crisis."

Additionally, Harper-brown

joint authored HB 127 to lower the limitation on property appraisal increases, and co-authored several bills including HB 832, which exempts payments to independent contractors from business' taxable margins, HB 2534 which raises the minimum taxable revenue to \$5 million and HB 720 which raises the floor to \$1 million.

"Her legislative package will keep those dollars in the hands of the people who can actually create jobs and build us out of the slowing economy. That's good, responsible public for all Texans,"

said Sullivan.

"We cannot keep crippling the very businesses that are the backbone of the Texas economy," Rep. Harper-Brown said. "Texas created more jobs last year than the rest of the entire nation combined, but to those people who have lost theirs, that is little consolation."

This legislation is intended to put people back to work.

"We're number one in the nation for a reason, and I intend on fighting tooth and nail to keep it that way," she said.

## Consider being kind

Provided by Mary Woodward  
 "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle." – Plato

We face stress and negativity every day of our lives. In the midst of these trying times, it is important to remain ahead of pessimism's undertow. Here's why:

- Kindness maintains inner peace. Every time we practice kindness, compassion and unconditional acceptance of others, we are reinforcing it within and for ourselves. By creating greater harmony within yourself and in your relationships, you will contribute to creating a healthier, saner world.

- Life is brief. Time is precious, and wasting it in defense and attack, or in anger and fear, is regretful.

- No one can upset us unless we allow them to. We can choose to think rationally, feel calm, and act with consideration and empathy.

- Kindness is never wasted. Even if the person you are dealing with resists, you can learn to unconditionally accept yourself as well as others. Change for a lifetime is possible.

- Kindness is a dose of preventative medicine. It is a first-aid kit and a healing balm. It is the "cure-all."

Excerpted from *How to Hug a Porcupine*, with a foreword by Dr. Debbie Ellis, published by Hatherleigh Press.

# OBITUARIES

returned to Texas to be close to her sons and their families, enjoying her home on Cedar Creek Lake in Gun Barrel City. Betty was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Mabank and sang in both the Chancel and Saints Alive Choirs. She delivered Meals on Wheels for over thirty years out of Irving, Nuremburg and Gun Barrel City. She was the treasurer of the Loon Bay POA and the Mabank Area Good Samaritans for three years. She loved to make quilts and afghans, read and do crossword puzzles. Betty leaves behind her sister Margaret (Peggy) O'Neill of Jacksonville, Florida; her two sons, Ben and wife Stephanie of North Richland Hills, Texas and Tom and wife Denise of Dallas, Texas; and her five special grandchildren Matthew, Alexis, Erica, Jenna and Meredith; and her beloved cat Chloe. A Memorial Service celebrating Betty's life will be held at First United Methodist Church of Mabank, 501 S. Third Street, Mabank, Texas 75147 on Sunday, March 15, 2009 at 2:00 PM with the Rev. Chris Schoolcraft presiding. Flowers or donations in

Betty's memory may be sent to the church.

### MARY BAKER BLANFORD KENNEDY



Mary Baker Blanford Kennedy, 94, passed away Thursday, March 5, 2009 at her home in Port Arthur, Texas. She was

preceded in death by her husbands, Charles E. Blanford and Don Kennedy, and two brothers Thomas and Franklin. Mary Catherine was born in Stanley, Kentucky on June 3, 1914 to Van Dehaven Baker and Catherine Pearl LaMar. She moved to Texas in 1947 and lived in the Port Arthur area since 1951. She returned to Lamar Tech when she was 49 and got her LVN license. She is survived by her son, Charles O. Blanford and wife Peggy of Glenn Heights; three daughters, Gayle Wolford of Carrollton, Patricia Blanford of Beaumont/Port Arthur and Bettye Thomes and her husband Richard

of Irving. Her sister, Rebecca Morgan of Michigan also survives her. Mary had eleven grandchildren and many great grandchildren. Visitation was 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home. Graveside services were 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens in Irving. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to St. John's United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 5048, Port Arthur, TX 77640.

### BETTY MARLEINE HORTON



Betty Marleine Horton, 72, passed away on March 11, 2009 in her Irving home. She was born on September 02, 1936 in Gladewater, TX. to Clyde & Rosemary Allen. Betty was a 1954 graduate of Gladewater High School where she was a drum major and a member of the marching band playing the alto saxophone, and a 1958 graduate of Baylor University. An avid bowler, she was recognized as the oldest collegiate women's volleyball player in the nation, and an award winning archery enthusiast. She had been a resident of Irving since 1962 and a member of First Baptist Church. Betty was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, who made her family's lives special. She is survived by her loving husband of 52 years, Charles Horton, three daughters, Cathy Marleine Masterson, Christie Lee Silvia,

both of Irving, TX. and Carey Lane King of Sampson Park, TX.; three Grandchildren, Mindy Marleine Gollihugh, Anthony Silvia and Michael King; one great grandson, Austin Ray Gollihugh and one brother, Clyde Allen, II. Visitation was Friday, March 13, 2009 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Funeral services followed at 2:30 p.m. at Chapel of Roses Funeral Home. Interment followed at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.

### LEONARD A. DICKINSON

Leonard A. Dickinson, Sr, 87, of Irving, died Monday, Mar. 9, 2009. Memorial Service will be 11 a.m.,

Saturday, Mar. 14, 2009 at Holy Family of Nazareth Catholic Church in Irving. Interment will be 11 a.m. Monday, March 16 at Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery. For complete obituary, see Donnelly's Colonial.com.

### CHARLTON "BUBBA" KENDRICK

Charlton "Bubba" Kendrick, 31, of Irving, passed away March 5, 2009. He was born January 27, 1978 in Bedford. Service was 11 a.m. Monday, March 9 at Inglewood Baptist Church, Grand Prairie. Burial was at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens, Irving. Arrangements by Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home.

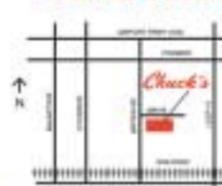


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# First train crosses new Trinity Railway Express bridge

Trinity Railway Express (TRE) passenger train No. 2900 left the West Irving Station at approximately 5:34 a.m. on March 9 heading for Dallas becoming the first revenue service train to cross a new bridge on the TRE corridor.

This 8,236-foot bridge represents the completion of the first phase of a project to eliminate railroad crossings at Belt Line, Briery

and Story Roads and quiet zone treatment at Irby Lane, Rogers Road and MacArthur Road. Quiet zones at these crossings should be in effect by the end of April.

At the completion of the project, Gilbert Road also will be quiet zoned. A crossing is eligible as a quiet zone through the installation of quad-gates—four gates that block the entire width of the

road—or a raised median to keep motorists from driving around the gates. The infrastructure also increases safety for train crews and passengers, as well as motorists.

The project will improve the quality of life for Irving residents and businesses near the rail line between Irving and Carrollton by eliminating the requirement to blow horns at grade crossings, except in

an emergency. The four crossings to be quiet zoned as part of this project join quiet zones already in place in the city at Wildwood Drive, Irving Heights Boulevard, Nursery Road and Britain Road on the TRE corridor, as well as Britain Road, Union Bower Road and Pioneer Drive on the rail corridor between Irving and Carrollton.

A second bridge, duplicating the new bridge, completed by December 2010 will result in a double track corridor between the West Irving Station and Rogers Road. A separate project currently under

design by DART will run from the West Irving Station across Valley View Lane to the Dallas/Tarrant County line and connect there with an existing track that serves the CentrePort/DFW Airport Station on the TRE scheduled to be completed in 2010. These projects will allow for safer and more reliable TRE passenger service.

The \$70 million Belt Line Grade Separation project is funded by local bond funds, Dallas Area Rapid Transit, Texas Department of Transportation and the Federal Transit Administration.

## Mungles on Movies Area theater provides engaging performance

By Matt Mungle

Title: *The Pajama Game*

Theater, in the true sense of the word, is not the megaplex with ginormous screens and 20.1 surround sound. It is in fact quite a bit more intimate. That could be what excites me most about live action

musicals and plays. When you plop down in your seat at the movies you escape into the world that lies before you. But in the theater it is more about engaging with the performance instead of escaping. It is tangible. Real. And hopefully memorable. There is an electric

pulse in the air that heightens the senses.

As I write this it is 5 minutes to curtain. The live orchestra, another thing that makes the theater amazing, is tuning and the subtle sounds of the French horn and woodwinds add to the excitement. Soon the buzz of chatter will fade with the house lights and we will be off and running. In the words of the Loony Tunes Overture... on with the show, this is it!

*The Pajama Game* is the story of a feisty union girl in a pajama factory who falls for the new superintendent. When the workers go on strike for more money it finds her and her new lover at odds. Full of upbeat songs, hilarious characters and brass driven numbers it is fast paced and quick witted. It stars Jason Winfield and Crystal Kellogg with a strong supporting cast. Lorian Freda nearly steals the show as Gladys, the flirty secretary. Her comedic timing and stage presence is perfect.

Granted as with any musical there are the numbers that are sub par. The middle of act one is the weakest part with "Hey There" and "Her Is". Luckily this is sandwiched between the cutesy opening bit, "I'm Not at All in Love" and the splendidly sung, "There Once was a Man". Kellogg comes alive on the latter, giving one of the better stage performances to hit Dallas in some-time. Her entire being lights up and the energy is indisputable.

Act two begins fast and hot with an electrifying choreographed dance number, "Steam Heat". This sets the stage for the final act which includes my favorite, "Hernando's Hideaway". The brass and rhythm section set the foundation for this sultry number. The Pajama Game ends on a high note and you leave feeling like everything worked in this production. The low points that were there they made up for with a fun script and fast paced story.

The Pajama Game runs through Sunday the 15th and for more information and ticket information, visit, [www.liveatthemajestic.com](http://www.liveatthemajestic.com).

I loved it. But what can I say, I am a theater rat at heart.

*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](http://www.mungleshow.com).*

*Opinions expressed in any commentary are those of the writer, and not necessarily those of The Irving Rambler, the publisher, editor, or any staff member.*

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<b># MISS MARCH R</b> 11:55 2:20 4:35 7:15 9:40	<b>PINK PANTHER 2 PG</b> 1:10 3:30 6:40 9:00
<b>* WATCHMEN R</b> 12:20 1:30 3:10 3:40 5:00 6:30 7:00 8:20 9:45	<b>HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU PG13</b> 1:05 3:55 7:10 10:05
<b>MEDEA GOES TO JAIL PG13</b> 12:00 2:45 5:15 7:45 10:20	<b>TAKEN PG13</b> 12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 10:05
<b>CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC PG</b> 1:15 3:45 6:50 9:20	<b>SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE R</b> 12:35 4:05 6:40 9:50
	<b>GRAN TORINO R</b> 12:40 4:10 6:55 9:35

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

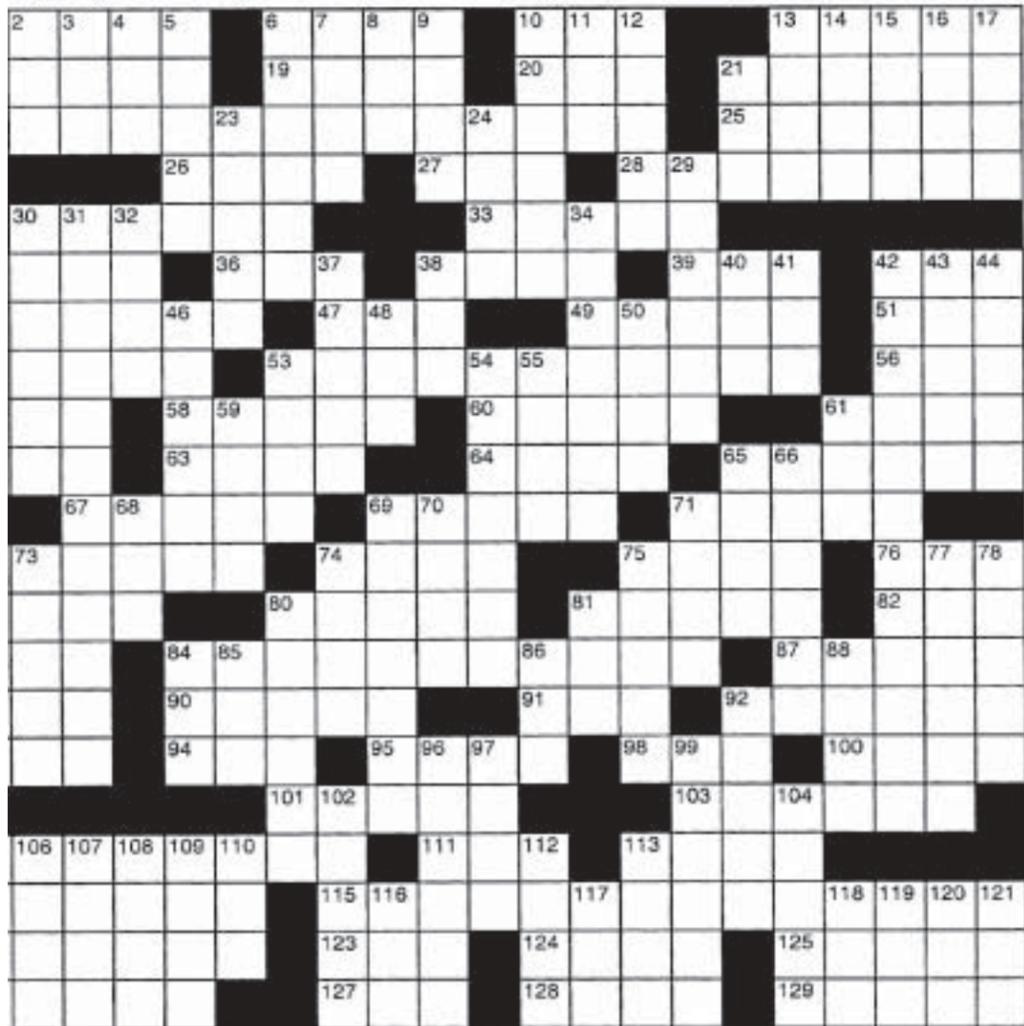
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★**

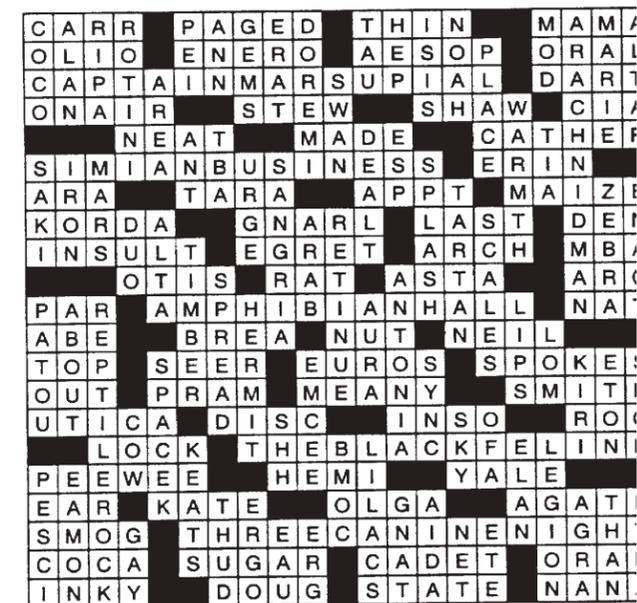
★ Moderate    ★★ Challenging  
 ★★★ HOO BOY!

# Super Crossword SOUNDS RIGHT

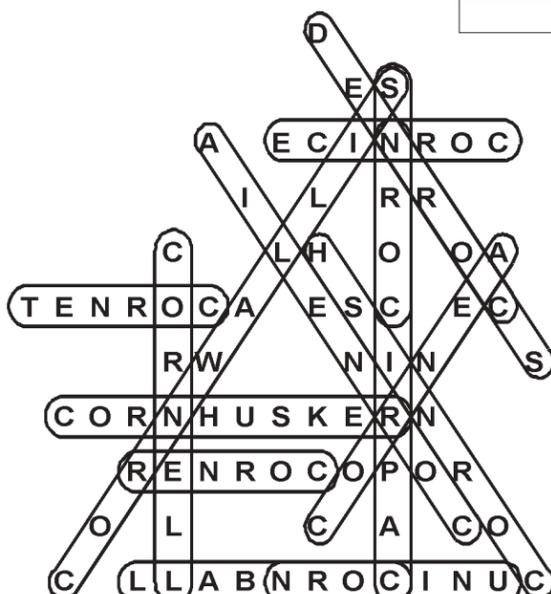
- 53 Dislike of a relative?
- 56 Branch
- 57 Swiss canton
- 58 "— Dawn" ('73 song)
- 60 Moving man?
- 61 Strait-laced
- 62 71 Across feature
- 63 Support
- 64 Not quite adult
- 65 Kevin of "American Beauty"
- 67 Renown
- 69 Board game
- 71 Casals instrument
- 72 Messenger
- 74 "Younger — Springtime" ('49 song)
- 75 Exceptional
- 76 Be a buttinsky
- 79 So be it
- 80 Wallace of "The Princess Bride"
- 81 Type of orange
- 82 Bray beginning
- 83 Lion's lair
- 84 A different place to get married?
- 87 Newscaster Lesley
- 89 Mythical monster
- 90 Danger
- 91 UK honor
- 92 Steven of "Exit Wounds"
- 93 Comic Louis
- 94 JFK info
- 95 Literary lioness
- 98 Edinburgh veto
- 100 Westover or Tamblin
- 101 Emit
- 103 Indiana river
- 105 Wood-chopping mishap?
- 111 Married Mile.
- 113 Identical
- 114 Use logic
- 115 Like a quick-fingered poker player?
- 122 Chased rainbows?
- 123 Competitor
- 124 "Dies —"
- 125 — cotta
- 126 Stratum
- 127 TV's "Too Close — Comfort"
- 128 Deserve
- 129 Occurrence
- DOWN**
- 1 Tuck's mate
- 2 Shiba — (Japanese dog)
- 3 Mongrel
- 4 Rink legend
- 5 Bowe blows
- 6 Charge
- 7 Reformer Lucretia
- 8 Lilly or Mintz
- 9 Command at a corner
- 10 Perry White, for one
- 11 Meyerbeer's —
- Huguenots"
- 12 Lucknow lute
- 13 Art Deco name
- 14 Carrot or parsnip
- 15 Crooked
- 16 Trickle
- 17 In addition
- 21 "For shame!"
- 23 "Sleeping with the —" ('91 film)
- 24 Mediter-ranean port
- 29 Foul
- 30 Charm
- 31 Aggressive-ness on Wall Street?
- 32 Genesis figure
- 34 Suits
- 35 Disgusted
- 37 Fills to the gills
- 38 Moisten
- 40 Letters of desperation?
- 41 Machine part
- 42 Kremlin tomb?
- 43 Hawk's home
- 44 One of the Yokums
- 46 "Swingin' School" singer
- 48 Claire or Ballin
- 50 — impulse (suddenly)
- 53 Landed
- 54 Centipede's sensor
- 55 Departs
- 59 "My word!"
- 61 Chum
- 65 Medieval menial
- 66 Kindly
- 68 Pantry item
- 69 Atlas or Aznavour
- 70 Actress Goldie
- 71 Java joint
- 72 Wore
- 73 Abrasive substance
- 74 Bangkok native
- 75 Poe crow
- 77 Cover old ground
- 78 Bellows
- 80 Athlete's injury
- 81 Triangular sail
- 84 Mimic
- 85 Word with on or off
- 86 — degree (somewhat)
- 88 Skater Lipinski
- 92 Forms a dart
- 96 Trudge
- 97 Big rig
- 99 Come to
- 102 Employees
- 104 Ms. Midler
- 105 With 51 Across, central
- 106 Lucy Lawless role
- 107 Shrewd
- 108 Land in the ocean
- 109 Action figure
- 110 Greene's "The — of the Affair"
- 112 Falco or Adams
- 113 Injury after-effect
- 116 Herd word
- 117 Significant years
- 118 Gun the engine
- 119 Nev. neighbor
- 120 Decorative vase
- 121 Tended a tot



### Answers for 3-7-2009



### Answers for 3-7-2009



### Answers for 3-7-2009

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

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



www.comparrotpuzzles.com © 2008 Bonnie J. Malcolm



1. Patch on tree in background is missing. 2. Land post on fence. 3. Extra coins in pot. 4. Shirt cuff is hidden. 5. Tab on vest is colored in. 6. Part of bow on girl's shoe is hidden. 7. Handle on pot of coins has moved. 8. Shamrock under foot have moved. 9. Neckline on vest is lower. 10. End of hair braid is different. 11. Cuff on girl's pant leg is colored in. 12. Log is longer.

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

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

- Benchley
- Churchill
- Faulkner
- Ferber
- Hemingway
- King
- Krantz
- Lawrence
- Michener
- Rivers
- Sagan
- Steel
- Steinbeck
- Vonnegut
- Wilder

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# LPGA Hall of Fame's Annika Sorenstam visits The First Tee of Dallas

Provided by Chuck Walker

LPGA Hall of Fame Member and 8-time LPGA Player of the Year, Annika Sorenstam, visited with young people from The First Tee of Dallas on March 5. As an addition to the 2009 Guaranty Bank Southern Methodist University (SMU) Athletic Forum, Annika put on an interactive, hands-on clinic for 36 special young people from The First Tee of Dallas.

After a full day of media interviews and a luncheon with hundreds of SMU Athletics supporters, Annika made her way to the short game clinic area where she

spoke to the young people about her experiences growing up in golf, demonstrated ways to hit various short game shots, answered questions from the students, and worked with each student individually providing tips for success in both golf and life.

"This is unbelievable," said Jasper Smith, parent of two young ladies in The First Tee of Dallas program. "Do you realize how close we are to Annika Sorenstam right now? This is a priceless experience that my girls will remember for a lifetime."

The sentiment was echoed by

Chuck Walker, Director of Programs with The First Tee of Dallas.

Guaranty Bank for including the young people of The First Tee in today's clinic. Annika exudes the nine core values promoted through The First Tee and is a true ambassador for the game of golf and women's sports in general. Her presence here today will undoubtedly leave a lasting impression on the students and inspire many of them to follow and achieve their dreams," Mr. Walker said.

Annika provided individual advice to each of the 36 participants, took pictures with the

group, and provided each participant with an autographed photo. Knowing that Annika is an avid chef in her spare time, volunteers with The First Tee of Dallas pre-

sented her with a gift basket full of Texas spices, jalapenos, and dry rub, along with a cookbook of famous Texas recipes at the conclusion of the clinic.

## Race benefits children battling medical conditions

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of North Texas presented the 2009 Race for Wishes, in Williams Square on March 7

"This event is a simple and enjoyable way to fundraise for children that deserve to have their wishes come true, and a great way to unify two of the communities that the Foundation serves," said Barry Smink, president and chief executive officer of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of North Texas.

The one-mile fun run/walk and 5k ChampionChip® timed run/walk offered a day of exercise, friendly competition and the chance to put a smile on a child's face. Breakfast was provided and several prize were awarded, including prizes for the largest and top fundraising teams.

Individuals and teams are encouraged to participate. Early registration is \$20 and children ages 5-12 can register for \$10. Wish Kids and

children 4 and under are free. Participants will be allowed to create an interactive, personalized Web page to track donations and fundraise. Sponsorship opportunities are also available ranging from \$1,000 to \$24,000. Registration, sponsorship and additional information about the 2009 Race for Wishes can be obtained by visiting [www.northtexaswish.org](http://www.northtexaswish.org) or by calling 214-496-9474.



More fun than math, 36 youngsters who are learning to play golf through The First Tee Dallas left school a little early one day to attend a golf clinic with LPGA champion Annika Sorenstam.



Participants take time to stretch and warm up prior to starting out on a fun run walk.



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Donation of \$100.00 per person includes Evenings Festivities, Food and Drink, reserved seating in the Texas Holdem area, T5000 chip count and recognition as an AmTryke Donor. Seating is available for spectators for \$10.00 and includes refreshments. Named sponsorship of AmTrykes for children are available for a donation of \$250, \$350, \$500 & \$650. Donations to the AmTryke Fund may be made securely, in any denomination, at [www.irvingambucs.org](http://www.irvingambucs.org)

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The Irving AMBUCS is a 501c3 Charitable Corporation, P.O. Box 153425, Irving, TX, 75015-3425  
President, J. Doug Davis, - President-Elect, Jerry Loftus, - Ph: 214-616-9014 - Fax 972-252-9605  
Email or questions contact [jdoug5@msn.com](mailto:jdoug5@msn.com), [jerry-lee@verizon.net](mailto:jerry-lee@verizon.net) or [rsilver214@aol.com](mailto:rsilver214@aol.com).



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