



MEMBER 2009

TPA
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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Political pressure may divert Orange Line's connection to the DFW Airport

By Jess Paniszczyn

DFW Airport provides the North Texas region with jobs, easy travel for passengers, convenient import and export of goods and even a critical step in the dispersal and return of military personnel. The busiest airport in the state, DFW Airport is the third busiest airport in the world in terms of aircraft movement. In 2007, 59,784,876 passengers traveled into and out of the airport, and in 2006 it was named the "Best Cargo Airport in the World," according to Wikipedia.

On Dec. 31, 2013, the DART Orange Line is scheduled to link this important piece of our economy to Irving, the Las Colinas Urban Center, Dallas and beyond. The process of bringing the Orange Line through Dallas, into Irving and to the airport has to date

taken 28 years and \$900 million of Irving taxpayers' money. However, the fight over how the Orange Line should enter the airport, and where its final stop should be before entering the DFW Airport's Terminal A, threatens to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.

"The Orange Line consists of three segments," said John Danish, a DART board member representing Irving. "We refer to them as I-one, I-two and I-three. I-one is the segment that branches off northwest at the Bachman Station. It goes across the levee, by Texas

Stadium, by the University of Dallas and into the Lake Carolyn location. I-two goes from the Las Colinas Station to Carpenter's Ranch, North Lake College, then to the Beltline Station at approximately where Beltline and 114 intersect. The third one, built completely on airport property, goes from Beltline Station, parallel to 114 and then loops around and down into Terminal A at DFW Airport.

"The position of Irving at this point is that we have been a member of this system since its inception in 1983. Many times during that

25 year period, we were often the number two contributor behind Dallas in sales tax. We are part of the pioneers that brought about the reality of light rail to North Texas. Ben Carpenter's vision for Las Colinas was in many ways a transit

oriented development (TOD.) A vision before the train had arrived. It is predicated on the ability to have mass transit to move people in and out of there.

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The approach of the final section of DART's Orange Line remains a little blurry. Photo provided by DART

Irving City election results

The unofficial election results for the May 9 Irving City Council elections are as follows:

Place 4	Lewis Patrick	2,654 votes	100 percent
Place 6	Bola Ayanbule	370 votes	11.46 percent
	Rick Stopfer	2,858 votes	88.54 percent
Place 8	Joe Philipp	2,569 votes	78.18 percent
	Don VanSlyke	717 votes	21.82 percent



Easily winning re-election, Rick Stopfer, Joe Philipp and Lewis Patrick are prepared to serve another three years as Irving City Councilmen.

Pilot program may help cars, bicycles share the road

By Jess Paniszczyn

Spring is here and soon children will be out of school for the summer, playing in the parks and riding their bikes around the neighborhood. In addition, as the temperature and gas prices continue to rise, more than a few motorists tired of the high costs associated

with driving may decide to dust off their two-wheeler and take up bicycling.

In order to improve bicycling conditions, the City has designated a share row pilot program on 6th Street between MacArthur and Senter.

"There are three basic bike us-

ers we have in our community," said James Cline, City of Irving Public Works Director. "We have the 'road warriors' who are commuters. They are committed to riding their bike every day. They will get out and mix it up with cars and have no qualms whatsoever about that. Then we have the

cardio-exercise cyclists who are looking for distance. They are not really going anywhere. Biking is how they get their exercise. The third one is the pure recreational user including kids and people who

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Texans offered chance to produce Don't Mess with Texas TV commercial

Provided by Kelli Johnson

The YouTube generation can help solve Texas' litter problem - how to get trash from cars to trashcans instead of the side of Texas roadways.

Don't Mess with Texas® is launching the Car2Can Video Contest, a first-ever video contest with the winning entry to air during prime-time television.

"The Car2Can contest allows Texans to be creative, funny and share ideas of how they'd get trash from their vehicle into

where it's intended to go - the trashcan," said Doris Howdeshell, Travel Information Division Director for the Texas Department of Transportation.

The Car2Can Web site features two kickoff videos to inspire Texans to submit their own original videos: www.dontmesswithtexas.org/car2can.

Texans 18 or older can submit a video (shorter than two minutes) through June 14, and anyone in the state has the opportunity to help their favorite videos get to the

winner's circle by voting for them online through July 10. The winners will be based on a combination of the input of expert judges and Texans' votes.

The grand-prize winner will receive a \$500 Wal-Mart gift card and have their video aired in their local media market during prime-time tele-

vision this summer. The second-place winner will receive a Gibson Epiphone Les Paul II guitar branded by Sweet Leaf Tea. The third-place winner will receive a prize package from Sweet Leaf Tea. Winners will be announced in early August.

"Our Visible Litter Study, an analysis of actual litter in our state,

last showed that there were 827 million pieces of litter on Texas roads, and this contest is another way to remind Texans we all have a hand in the solution," said Howdeshell.

Full contest details and rules are available at www.dontmesswithtexas.org/car2can.

Healthy habitat grants available for Texas schools

Provided by Tom Harvey

The call is going out to public and private/nonprofit middle and high schools across the state: Texas Healthy Habitats Grants of up to \$15,000 are now available from the Texas Center for Service-Learning, with applications due June 19. The grants will support students doing service-learning projects to benefit wildlife and the environment, made possible with a donation from EnCana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation.

The grants program envisions students partnering with communities and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) staff and other experts to identify conservation needs and work together to come up with solutions. The students will address priorities in the Texas Wildlife Action Plan, a blueprint to "keep common species common" and avoid more species from becoming threatened and endangered.

The program builds on an existing partnership between TPWD and the Texas Center for Service-Learning (TCSL), a statewide ini-

tiative of the Texas Education Agency and the Region 14 Education Service Center. The center improves student achievement through service-learning, which integrates community service with academic success.

"Service-learning inspires students to learn," said John Spence, TCSL director. "Because the projects are designed by the students, this generates buy-in. Kids show up early and stay late to see their projects through. Teachers connect the project to their TEKS objectives, so projects help meet state education standards. Community experts are invited into the process, so the school-community relationship is strengthened."

For assistance, applicants are invited to participate in Webinars hosted by TxCSL at 11:30 a.m., May 22.

Grant applicants may ask for up to \$15,000. The money may be used for supplies, substitutes, transportation and training. Requirements include a progress report and a final report, as well as evidence of impact, a Web profile of the work, and one day of train-

ing for grant recipients in Austin in August, before school starts. Program organizers expect students will likely plan projects in fall and do field work in spring.

Eligible schools include public (including charter) and private nonprofit schools (grades 6-12) applying to coordinate service-learning projects in a public, charter, or private institution, or nonprofit youth-serving organizations that work with public middle or high schools. Schools must have a Tax ID and be a middle or high school located in Texas. Private schools and nonprofits must have IRS 501(c)(3) status. Nonprofits applying for the grant must be working with students in middle or high school levels to qualify.

Important Notice for people holding garage sales

Garage sale ordinance:

Effective May 1, Irving residents conducting a garage sale without a permit will be subject to a citation. The requirement to obtain a permit is part of a city ordinance, Chapter 49, passed in October 2005, which also states that garage sales cannot exceed 72 consecutive hours, and that only two garage sales are permitted per address per calendar year. In addition, signs advertising garage sales may only be placed on public property from noon Friday to noon the following Monday. Garage sale permits are free of charge and can be obtained from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at City Hall, 825 W. Irving Blvd., in the Planning and Inspections Department. Save time by downloading an application online at www.cityofirving.org. For more information, call 972-721-2371.

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POLICE & FIRE



Burglary of Motor Vehicles: 05-09-09 at 5:00 a.m. The Police received calls from residences in the 4200 block of N Macarthur regarding suspicious persons. Officers arrived on scene and found two suspects in and around vehicles. Further investigation led to items taken from vehicles in the suspect's possession. CID notified.

Robbery: 05-09-09 at 11:00 p.m. Victim was getting into his vehicle in the Creek Wood Apartments when he was approached by suspects that hit him in the head and took his vehicle.

Industrial Accident / Officer Injury: 05-12-09 at 2:07 p.m. The building on the SW corner of the 200 block E Airport Freeway (K Clinic Building) is in the process of being demolished. A man working for the demolition company was

inside the building stripping out copper wire. A bulldozer was outside the building piling bricks. The dozer inadvertently stuck the building causing it to collapse on the victim. The first responding officer

arrived on scene and was trying to locate the victim. In doing so, he stepped hard over a rubble pile. This resulted in the officer breaking his left leg in two places.

Irving Fire Department

Activity summary April 30 - May 6, 2009

Irving Fire Department responded to 336 incidents.

The Fire incidents

97 Miscellaneous Fire and Rescue Calls
2 Structure Fires
1 Special Operations
1 Vehicle Fires

Medical calls

18 Major Accidents
89 Major Medical
16 Heart Attacks
43 Difficulty Breathing
38 Trauma Related
16 CPR Situations

Comments:

May 12: At 2:08 p.m., the Irving Fire Department responded to a reported building collapse at 215 E. Airport Frwy. The first emergency personnel were on-scene at 2:15 p.m. with a total of one alarm being called. Total number of pieces of major equipment was 5. They were 2 MICU, 2 Engines, 1 Truck. 14 Fire Fighters and 2 Chief Officers were utilized in bringing the emergency under control. There were two injuries at this emergency.

The Irving Rambler (214) 675-6493

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.

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

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

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

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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.

The Irving Rambler Volume 6 Issue 20 is published weekly for \$25 dollars a year by The Irving Rambler, Inc. 627 S. Rogers, Irving, TX 75060. Periodicals postage prices paid at Irving, Texas. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Irving Rambler, P.O. Box 177731, Irving, TX 75017.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

May 16 from 11:00am – 3:00pm
2nd Chance Saturday - Find a new best friend - or a best friend for your best friend. Pete & Mac's Pet Resort, 6150 Riverside, Irving, opens its doors for pet adoptions 11:00 am – 3:00 pm in a partnership to save lives. You will be able to interact with the dogs in a playful environment and see them shine. Stop by Pete & Mac's and take a look at the great dogs looking for a 2nd chance at life in a forever home.

May 16 from 10am - 1pm
Fire Station Open House - Open House at Fire Station No. 10, 415 Cimarron Trail, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The community is invited to come face-to-face with Irving's emergency responders, and get an up-close view of the fire engine and new ambulance. Blood pressure screenings, BMI (body mass index) calculations, and information on injury prevention for children and water safety will be available at booths and exhibits. Take part in this community event, which honors the commitment of emergency responders and promotes safety. For more information, call 972-721-4653.

May 17 from 10:00am - 6:00pm
Dragon Boat, Kite, and Lantern Festival - The Marco Polo World Foundation's Annual DFW Dragon Boat, Kite, and Lantern Festival will be from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Lake Carolyn, Irving. The festival has expanded with more cultural activities and demonstrations. The festival features bright displays of Oriental lanterns, spectacular kite-flying by professionals and amateurs, Asian and Pacific dance performances, martial arts demonstrations, and dragon and lion dances. Vendor booths and a variety of food stations treats compliment the festival. For more information on the festival, visit www.dfwdragonboatfestival.com.

May 17 at 2:30pm
Veterans Memorial Park Dedication - Dedication of the Irving Veterans Memorial Park is set for 2:30 p.m. at 644 Rock Island Road. The ceremony will commemorate the completion of the park's second phase of development and honor local veterans who have served this country. Irving Veterans Memorial Park is located near City Hall and the Central Library. U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison will serve as keynote speaker. All are welcome to be part of this celebratory moment in the city's history.

May 18 at 9:30
Book Review Club - The Twentieth Century Book Review Club will meet at 9:30 am for a luncheon at the First United Methodist Church, 211 W. 3rd, Irving. Reservations required. Nella Phillips will

review a book that is a big surprise by Brooke Kroeger.

May 19 from 8:30am - 3:30pm
Free Well-Child and Immunization Clinic - Baylor Medical Center at Irving is sponsoring a well child and immunization clinic 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. For more information call 972-579-4095.

May 19 at 5:45pm
Frank Discussion of Race - A Frank Discussion of Race: In Black and White, presented by The Malcolm X Birthday Celebration Committee reception: 5:45 p.m. program: 6:30 p.m. This event is open to the public. Admission is free at North Lake College Performing Arts Center, 5001 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving. For more information, call 214-378-1723 or visit www.readin.dcccd.edu

May 19 at 7 p.m
Community Input Meetings - The Irving Public Library is providing residents an opportunity to provide input and review construction plans for the new Northwest Branch Library at 7 p.m., Lee Park Recreation Center, 3000 Pamela Drive. Interested residents will have the opportunity to share input with city staff and project architects. The new library is slated to open in 2011 and will replace the existing storefront location located at 2928 N. Belt Line Road. For more information, call 972-721-2628.

May 19 at 7:30 pm
Musical Climax - New Philharmonic Orchestra of Irving's 2008 - 2009 Season finale, Musical Climax under the direction of Dr. Sergio Espinosa at the Irving Arts Center's Carpenter Hall at 7:30 pm. Opens with the Overture to Oberon, one of most well-known works of Carl Maria von Weber (1786-1826). \$15 adults, \$12 seniors, \$8 students through the IAC Box Office 972-252-ARTS. For information, visit www.npoirving.com.

May 20 from 7:00-8:30pm
Strengthening Stepfamilies - One-evening parenting class for those either currently in a stepfamily or entering into a stepfamily. Explore and learn some positive and effective discipline methods for the children in your stepfamily 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Gonzales Room, Family Life Center, Holy Family of Nazareth Catholic Church, 2323 Cheyenne Street, Irving. Class content will include: exploring and understanding our parenting styles; understanding the unique discipline needs of stepfamilies; choosing and using discipline methods that encourage cooperation; teach responsibility; and promote family harmony. Pre-register. call 972-252-5521, ext. 106. Childcare is available with a reservation.

Scout leader receives Silver Beaver Award

Provided by Rosa Gordon
 Randy Sjevada of Irving has been honored by Circle Ten Council Boy Scouts of America along with 22 other outstanding volunteers from around the Metroplex.

Sjevada received the Silver Beaver Award as a council-level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America. Recipients of this award are registered adult leaders who have made an impact on the lives of youth through service given to the council. These

volunteers implement the Scouting program and perform community service through hard work, self sacrifice, dedication and many years of service. The award is given each year to volunteers who do not actively seek it.

Beginning as an Assistant Scoutmaster, Sjevada went on to serve as Troop Committee Chair and Scoutmaster with Troop 508. He has also served on the Western Star Commissioner Staff, Advancement Committee and is currently

the Camp Promotions Chair. Along with his various accomplishments, he is Wood Badge trained and has taken two treks to Philmont in recent years. Among his community activities, Sjevada is a member of the Sertoma Club, has coached youth sports and is active with Plymouth Park United Methodist Church. He also takes great pride in being the father of an Eagle Scout.

Circle Ten Council, Boy Scout of America is comprised of 11 Texas counties and one county in Oklahoma. Over 37,000 young people participate in the council's traditional Scouting program on an annual basis and more than 14,000 adult volunteers dedicate their time and energy to make this program a success.

For more information about Scouting, visit www.circle10.org or call 214-905-6700.

Seniors perform recital for Irving Music Teachers Association

Provided by Laura McGough Lozano

The Irving Music Teachers Association held its Senior Performance Award Contest and Recital on May 6. Both participants played piano selections from the four genres of music, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Contemporary.

Elizabeth Nguyen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Nguyen of Irving, won first place. She is a senior at Nolan High School and has studied piano with Claire Bittner. Elizabeth plans to attend Notre Dame in the fall as a Pre-Med major, and hopes to be a pediatrician.

Cecelia Pearson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Doug Pearson of Irving, won second place. A senior at Faustina High School, she studied piano with Claire Bittner. She will

attend Franciscan University in the fall, with scholarship, as a Pre-Med major for Nursing School.

2nd Annual
Car & Motor Vehicle Show

First United Methodist Church Irving
 211 W. Third
 Irving, TX 75060
 in the downtown/historic part Irving




To Register Your Ride:
 Contact Richard Cox at 972-986-7698

Come & Check out the FUN. Vote on your favorite items.
 Prizes to be awarded!

WHEN: Saturday, May 23rd 10a-2p (NEXT WEEKEND) Memorial Day Weekend
 WHERE: On the Campus of First United Methodist Church
 WHO: Anyone and everyone
 COST: Doesn't cost to look —small fee to buy tickets to vote on your favorite category!

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING OPEN HOUSE DALLAS COUNTY UTILITY AND RECLAMATION DISTRICT Las Colinas APT System Expansion and Updating Project

The Dallas County Utility and Reclamation District (DCURD) is holding a public scoping open house meeting for the Las Colinas APT System Expansion and Updating Project, which is focused on improving transit service in the Las Colinas Urban Center in Irving Texas. The study area is situated along the corridor between Dallas-Ft. Worth International Airport (DFW) and the Dallas Central Business District (CBD). The Center will be served by the DART Orange line opening to Las Colinas in 2011. The Area Personal Transit System (APT) and bus service improvements are among the initial set of alternatives being considered in this corridor.

The meetings will be held: Monday, May 18, 2009, from 6 to 8 PM in the Williams Square Conference Room located in the lower level of the East Tower. The address is:

5221 N. O'Connor Blvd.
 East Tower, Conference Center
 Irving, TX 75039



DCURD is holding this open house meeting in partnership with the Federal Transit Administration as part of early scoping activities for a planning Alternatives Analysis (AA) for the selection of a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) that is subject to an environmental assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and with the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) System which is sponsoring this study. Public comments are invited on the scope of the Alternatives Analysis, the purpose and need for the project, the range of alternatives, and community impacts and benefits to be considered.

The format of this meeting will be:

- An open house starting at 6 PM
- Presentation on the project at 6:30 PM
- Question and answer from 7 to 8 PM to review and discuss proposed alternatives with DCURD representatives

Public comment accepted at any time during the meeting.

Scoping materials for the meeting will be provided at the meetings and are available on DCURD's website at www.dcurd.com. Written comments may also be submitted to the following address: Las Colinas APT System Expansion and Updating Project, c/o Paul Brown, DCURD, 850 East Las Colinas Blvd, P.O. Box 140035, Irving, TX 75014-0035 or e-mailed to Sina.Raouf@parsons.com. Comments must be emailed or postmarked no later than June 18, 2009.

ONLINE

**Read the
Irving Rambler**



Station could be built on Grapevine property to accommodate light rail

Continued from page 1

"The extensive light rail which we are building now at about \$80 million per mile interfaces with pedestrians, development and street level activities better than the heavy rail commuter you see running on the TRE between Dallas and Ft. Worth on the Rock Island Rail Corridor. We are designing that corridor to move at 78 miles per hour. So it doesn't lend itself to a lot of transit oriented development.

"The Cotton Belt Corridor has always been part of a vision plan for the future sometimes called the 2030 vision plan. It is an important corridor that connects Carrollton, Plano, Garland, Richardson, Addison, eventually all the way across Tarrant County and down to the TPL Station in Ft. Worth. The only way the people in Tarrant County get into the DFW Airport is using the Cotton Belt Corridor."

There is growing pressure for DART to extend the Orange Line a few miles into Grapevine. The extension would stop at a transit station in Grapevine allowing passengers leaving the DFW Airport to either travel into Irving on the Orange Line or transfer to a train running along the Cotton Belt track.

"Grapevine has joined The T, the transit authority for Tarrant County, and donates three eighths of a penny of its sales tax revenue to The T. Ft. Worth only funds The T with half a cent.

"Member cities fund DART with one cent. Because of the disparity of revenue, The T cannot afford to have light rail.

"Grapevine kept back one eighth of a penny to build its platform train station, but it is important to note that it is in the entertainment district of Grapevine. The station diagramed on the alternative options is directly north of DFW Airport and is in the Grapevine city limits property, but it is not the one that is part of that entertainment district," Mr. Danish said.

"The rationale behind this option is you could extend the Orange Line three miles and make a loop to one side of the Grapevine platform. On the other side of the platform would be the Cotton Belt Corridor. Then the Orange Line loops back and comes down to Terminal A.

"We can build in the area north of the airport, because it is so barren supposedly construction costs will drop to \$50 million per light rail mile. The extra three miles would, therefore, cost approximately \$150 million more, and will extend the travel time by seven minutes. So from the Beltline Station, to the station north of the airport and into Terminal A passengers would have seven additional minutes of travel. You could take the Orange Line to the airport and never get out of the light rail vehicle."

Before The T could start running passenger trains along the Cotton Belt Corridor, there is a substantial amount of work that would have to be completed.

"The Cotton Belt track requires a lot of work. Right now the freight trains moving on that track are going 20 to 30 miles per hour, not at the passenger speed we want. To get that track in condition, you have to go back and rebuild the road bed, and do a lot of things. But you don't do as many things as you would do on a light rail. The light rail is about \$80 million per mile, to recondition the Cotton Belt track is about \$30 million a mile.

I think there is a lot of possibility out there as we begin to try to anticipate all the political ramifications of this thing into the future. Ever since I got on the DART board in July of 2005, I have been very, very concerned about the reality of the build out in Irving being on time, on budget and meeting the mile stones we had. I pushed to get those mile stones put in place. I think it is a very precarious time line, getting into DFW Airport by Dec. 31, 2013. Anything can knock this off.

"DART engineers need to be given the green light, so they know where they are building to and they can begin their schematics. We probably need to have that done by the end of July of this year. Then DART can go full steam ahead and know where the line is headed.

"These concepts we are playing with have big questions that nobody has the answers to. Is the money really going to be there? Will Ft. Worth be able to get the full funded grants they need out of Washington to sustain the system all the way?

"The political pressure is mounting, because The T attempted to build a system on half a penny. While the other side of the airport, built their system on a full penny. Now they are beginning to see the reality that the DART might very well achieve what they set out to do in the time they said they would do it. Now they are scrambling to get in there with them.

"It is part of that Ft. Worth pride. Ft. Worth gets there when Dallas gets there sort of thing. The money is not all there. That is a real problem, and it has always been a problem. For The T to build their connection to the airport would probably cost \$60 to \$90 million.

"The Green Line is being constructed north to go to Carrollton by Dec. 31, 2010. Well, the Denton County Transit Authority is scrambling to come down using one of their railroad corridors to get there in time. Will they make it?

"The scramble of how to create the best regional answer is what is being debated.

"One of DART's member cities, Addison, has been in this from the very beginning. The only way they ever get to DFW Airport is through the Cotton Belt."

If the Orange Line stops in Grapevine, it could impact Irving's economic future and its ability to attract new businesses. On the other side, connecting the Orange Line to the Cotton Belt Corridor opens new markets with the promise of bringing more visitors, teachers, employees, consumers and

money into Irving without increasing traffic congestion. Should DART member cities be the only ones to pay to connect the Orange Line with the Cotton Belt?

"There is no easy answer to the dilemma," Mr. Danish said.

"If Irving had the advantage of being perhaps in and operating and running by 2013 it would have a head start in getting transit development going. From the developer's point of view trying to be the first one in, the original plan would be an advantage.

"But what if you have an Irving that employs 350,000 people in the future, because we have created so many job opportunities? How do they get in there?

"The Cotton Belt Corridor does open up the fact that now Irving can offer jobs to people coming all across the northern part of Dallas, Tarrant County and Denton County.

"However it turns out, I am very excited for the future of Irving. Irving is going to be in the center of the transit world of the North Texas region. That is one of the reasons the Irving rail yard must be expanded, because all the trains whether they come out of Denton or Tarrant County are going to have to be worked on and treated there. We have got to have a rail yard big enough to face the challenges of the North Texas region.

"When you envision a Cotton Belt coming across the north that allows workers to come in from the northern part of Dallas County and Tarrant County, you see the light rail bringing workers from the southeast to this mega center of job activity in Las Colinas that will produce 350,000 jobs, think about linking that up with the Burlington Northern Railroad going north through Carrollton, going to Frisco.

"We are the third largest airport in the world. This is our inland harbor, seaport to the world. We have got to get into DFW Airport no matter what. We cannot allow anything to delay it. It is a shame

that Irving after 25 years still hasn't made it to the airport. Every major transit center system: San Francisco, New York, Atlanta they all get to their airports. What is wrong with us?

"This I-three has been like a Gordian knot. It must be unraveled. If it is not unraveled, DART cannot deliver the mile stone of being in the airport by 2013. I think the citizens and the consumers of North Texas deserve the convenience of that. Why should you have to pay \$60 to ride a taxi when you should be able to jump on a DART train and go see the Mustangs or Veterans Memorial Park or whatever else you want to see in Irving?" he said.

Irving City Councilman, Rick Stopfer, feels forcing DART member cities to fund transit development for Tarrant County is wrong, and creates unfair competition for Irving when trying to attract businesses to the area.

"We made a decision many years ago as a city to be involved with DART. We have bus service, para-transit service and the TRE. They just completed the overpass over Beltline and spent \$80 million creating the quiet zoning and grade separation. There has been give and take back and forth," Councilman Stopfer said.

"We planned the Orange Line out so we would cover a large spectrum of travelers: Texas Stadium, University of Dallas, Urban Center, Carpenter Ranch, North Lake College, so we included the education facilities as well as the business facilities. We spent six months to a year working on TODs. We created a special zoning category for all the stops within the city based on the densities we needed to achieve. Then we went out to the market place and said here's what we are agreeing to, here's our timeline: 2011 gets us to the Urban Center, 2012 gets us to Beltline, 2013 gets us to DFW Airport. Based on that, we are market-

See DART, Page 5

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DART may fund spur

Continued from page 4

ing TOD sites throughout the whole city.

"If we move the Orange Line so we connect to the Cotton Belt and then come into the airport, it adds seven minutes of time to the route. Seven minutes may not seem like that much, but it is quite a bit when you are in the process of moving people from hotels and businesses, and compare the time it actually takes to use the train rather than a cab.

"By tying the Orange Line to the Cotton Belt, you open up a whole other array of TODs. You open up all the rail stops of the Cotton Belt. The first one would be in Dallas between Irving and Coppell on the North Lake property. Then it would continue to Carrollton, Farmers Branch, Addison and Plano."

DART should follow the schedule member cities have been working towards for nearly three decades.

"The schedule is you finish downtown proper, the Green Line, the Orange Line, then the Cotton Belt and then the Burlington Northern Santa Fe. There is a regiment and a timing of how all these are coming to play.

"In Tarrant County, you have Ft. Worth that puts in half a penny, and Grapevine that puts three eighths of a cent into transportation. That is it. Two cities and neither one fund the full penny like the 13 member DART cities.

"So by opening the Cotton Belt up, every place the train stops in Colleyville, Grapevine, Southlake, still has their one penny to give to economic development.

"In other words, if we have a hotel that wants to build somewhere in Irving and to do that we have to offer tax abatements and make financial decisions and deals on relocating them, we are at a disadvantage. The new lines have their full penny available to compete with us. Not only is our full one penny committed to DART so that the system gets built out, now we have opened up the system to cities that are not paying into the DART system, and they have their penny to spend to take our businesses away from us. They have that one cent for economic development, police, fire, parks or whatever they want to use it for," Councilman Stopfer said.

"We committed \$75 million to bring the rail line through by negotiating with landowners, and giving up other sources of funds that came to the city, so the right of way would be available to put in the line. If a person gives up land and dedicates it to the DART Line, they do that knowing they are going to be able to build on that property, because the line is coming through. Now if you open up another area, the chances are that owner's development may not happen for five years, ten years, fifteen years, twenty years. Because all the sudden you are going to have a glut of TODs. Every TOD is going to want some kind of hotel, an entertainment district, restaurants, and multi-family. Opening this up will drive bits and pieces everywhere else. And at the end of the day, because we are committed to DART with our one penny, we have unfair competition.

"Our residents will not only have to give up their one penny for DART, they are also going to have to pay the same extra gas tax and other taxes that everyone around us is paying. So we are paying twice for the transportation needs of Irving.

"If Irving was in the same boat as Ft. Worth and we committed half a penny instead of a penny, that would generate \$25 million back to the city. We could lower the property tax rate by 10 cents, and still have \$10 million left: \$5 million for economic development, and \$5 million for police and fire. While Irving has one of the lowest property tax rates in the Metroplex, it could be a lot lower if we had some of that penny back. The other cities don't have to worry about that.

"If a hotel decides to come to Irving and they request incentives, we don't have any money in economic development, we can't write them a check. We can offer them a tax abatement, but when we offer a tax abatement, that means they don't pay as much tax on the improvement. They go to another city, and that city has the ability to write the hotel a check for \$1 million or \$5 million, because they have that penny. That hotel is going to go wherever the best deal is for the hotel."

In order to have the Orange Line come through Irving on the route and schedule best for the city, Irving taxpayers' paid DART \$75 million over and above the one penny of sales tax already dedicated.

"We committed to pay the extra \$75 million to bring the line through based on the businesses and landowners realizing they had a time frame of 10 to 12 years to build their product out before they had this other competition.

"We are not afraid of the competition just as long as we have a level playing field. But when they change the rules of the game on you, you are at a disadvantage. That is the bottom line," he said.

"We don't mind paying the penny. We don't mind paying the extra \$75 million, as long as we know we have a time frame in which to create our developments. But going to the Cotton Belt, opens everything up and the time frame is changed. The people we are doing business with are all of a sudden being contacted by other places trying to bring our developments to their cities.

"These developments will eventually come out of the ground. We will weather it. We will survive it. Irving is in good sound financial shape. If it happens, we will be in better shape. If it doesn't happen, we will work our way through it.

"It is very frustrating for the 13 member cities to pay this money into the DART system, then to think that the first stop outside the airport coming out and the last stop outside the airport as you are going in is going to be in a city that does not pay into DART, and in a county that doesn't pay into DART. So the taxes collected there, which is how DART makes its money, is going to go to Grapevine and Tarrant County. It is not going to go to our Hospital district, our community schools, it is not going

See *CHANGE*, Page 7



IRVING

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"The Newspaper Irving Reads"

May 16, 2009

TxDOT approves first group of stimulus project contracts

Provided by Michelle Releford
The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) accepted construction contract bids for the first group of transportation projects funded by the recently-

enacted American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA).

The bids were completed April 22 at a contract letting session held at TxDOT headquarters. The Texas Transportation Commission gave

final approval to the contracts today at its monthly meeting.

TxDOT will award contracts for 200 construction maintenance projects resulting in a \$274 million expenditure in ARRA funds. These

construction contracts are projected to support an estimated 2,655 jobs throughout the state.

Final contract prices can change due to a number of variables unable to be determined before work orders for actual construction are completed. Work orders for construction are issued 30 to 45 days after contracts are a-

warded to contract bidders.

Work must begin within 30 days after contractors receive work orders.

TxDOT will award additional contracts for ARRA-funded projects in the coming months.

Bids are accepted on line at: www.txdot.gov/business/projects/ebs.htm.

A celebration of Independence Day: Support the troops

Provided by Andrea Conley

The Conley Group Foundation is mobilizing for its annual July 4th shipment to the troops.

What began as a small shipment by Conley Group, an Irving based architectural/consulting firm, has grown to the creation of The

Conley Group Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization established to support America's Armed Forces serving in war zones around the world. Care packages are shipped to the troops several times a year in celebration of the holidays, with a focus on sending packages to

Dallas/Ft. Worth units currently stationed abroad.

"Our brave men and women are asked to give so much. It is a privilege for our team and community to send back a small measure of thanks and support," said Bill Conley, CEO of The Conley Group. "Please join us in helping to send our thanks to more of our troops."

July 4 decorations, cards, games, books, magazines, snacks and toiletries are needed. For a list of restricted items, please contact Conley Group. To meet shipping deadlines, Conley Group must receive all donated items by May 27. Donations may also be made by cash or check.

If you would like more information on the foundation, visit www.conleygroupfoundation.org.

Annual luncheon honors "Lone Star Heroes"

Provided by Michelle Raczynski

A salute to the North Texas hospital workforce, the Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council Education and Research Foundation's (Foundation) Annual Employee of the Year Luncheon celebrated its 13th year on April 30.

"This year's Luncheon theme was appropriately 'Lone Star Heroes.' We were honored that First Lady Anita Perry served as the guest speaker. She shared stories of growing up in a family of healthcare professionals, and her times as a nurse," said Kristin Jenkins, president of the Foundation. "This event paid tribute to our

healthcare heroes – our nurses, technicians, educators and so many other dedicated professionals working in the trenches. It was a wonderful opportunity to honor them."

The recipients were: Community Service Award David Bridges, Paramedic, Denton Regional Medical Center

Special Recognition Awards: Delbretta Hairston, Clinical Care Coordinator, UT Southwestern University Hospital Jackie Yeap, Registered Nurse, Medical Center of Plano Bethel Taft, Patient Care Technician, Texas Health Specialty Hospital Deidre Lackey, Team Leader, CT Tech, Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Azle Diana Early, Physical Therapist III, Our Children's House at Baylor

Employee of the Year Awards: James Cooper, Access Services Rep, Baylor All Saints Medical Center at Fort Worth Juan Carreon, Cook, Medical Center of McKinney

Julia Blackburn, Lead Clinical Lab Specialist, Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Hurst-Euless-Bedford Julia Bell, Patient Care Assistant, Baylor Medical Center at Irving Robin Jacks, Coordinator Concierge Services, Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano Dennis Mink, Cardiac Rehab, Doctors Hospital at White Rock Lake Marco Bartoloni, Registered Nurse, Methodist Mansfield Medical Center

Board members of the Dallas-Fort Worth Healthcare Human Resources Association judged the nominations with the names of individuals and hospitals removed. Board members based their selection on the facts presented.



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Church of Christ

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727 Metker St. Irving, Texas 75062
972.252.9981
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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
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972.438.1440
www.bereanmemorialchurch.org
Sun. 10:45am 6:30pm
Sun. School 9:30 am

Presbyterian USA

St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church
1621 W. Grauwlyer 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.

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

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972.253.3531
www.fumcirving.org
Sundays 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. Chapel

Oak Haven

United Methodist Church
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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

Local physician honored with life membership

Provided by Lydia Hedges

Robert Y. Fong, D.O., an Irving physician, has been awarded Life Membership in the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association. The announcement was made May 2 during the 64th Annual Meeting

of the TOMA House of Delegates, held in Austin.

Life membership in TOMA is awarded only to those osteopathic physicians who have given exemplary service to the profession and, in so doing, have added to the stature and prestige of the osteopathic profession. They must have been a TOMA member for a minimum of 25 years, and championed the profession by providing care to their patients throughout their careers.

Certified in Family Practice, Dr. Fong maintains a private family practice in Irving. He has been a TOMA member for 41 years, serving on numerous association committees and participating in its activities. He is also an active member of his divisional society, TOMA District 15.

Dr. Fong earned his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) degree in 1965 from the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kirksville, MO. He interned at Dallas Osteopathic Hospital from 1965-1966.

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McMurry, Olson receive High Spirited Citizen awards

The City of Irving recently honored Martha McMurry and Ted Olson with the High Spirited Citizen award. Both 30-year residents of the city, McMurry and Olson were recognized by Irving Mayor Herbert Gears at separate meetings of the Irving City Council for decades of community leadership and volunteer service.

McMurry has been an active participant in a variety of organizations throughout Irving, including the Irving Symphony League, serving as chair of the organization's ball in 1987 and president from 1989 to 1990. McMurry is also a member of the Las Colinas Women's Association, Lyric Stage League, Women of Rotary, Irving's Junior Book Club, and is currently serving her second term as president of the Irving Women's Club.

"Martha is a quite worker who loves working with people. She has been an excellent volunteer in the Irving community," said Judy Anderson with the Greater Irving Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce, who nominated McMurry for the award.

McMurry has been honored as a Lifetime Member of the Irving Symphony League and the Irving Heritage Society.

Since retiring as president of the Promotional Products Association International, Olson has devoted most of his time to volunteering. He has taken his business knowledge and connections within the community to help sell advertising specialties to charitable or-

ganizations, donating commissions back to groups. Olson serves on multiple boards, including the Irving Rotary Club, Irving's Salvation Army Advisory Council, Greater Irving Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce's Sister Cities Board and the Irving Museum Board. He is the current chairman of the DFW Humane Society, and served as on the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau Board for six years, including a year as chairman.

During his 62 years as a Boy Scout, Olson earned his Eagle Scout rank, a designation that only 5% of all who join a Boy Scout troop achieve, as well as the Distinguished Eagle award, the Spurgeon award, the Silver Beaver and Scouting's highest honor, the Silver Buffalo. He served three terms as World Vice Chairman of the International Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians, and is a Baden Powell Foundation member.

"Ted's life is truly a testament to the Scouting virtues of service and leadership," said Joe Stratton, Olson's friend who nominated him for the award.

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



Ted Olson

Beam me up Scotty



Boldly going where no one has gone before, the members of the USS Joshua, the area's largest and most active club for fans of Star Trek and related genres, joins the staff of Hollywood Theaters in welcoming fellow travelers to *Star Trek* the newest movie in the Star Trek franchise.

Change in line creates unfair competition

Continued from page 5

to go to one of the 13 member cities that puts their full penny in, it is not even coming to this area. Someone else is taking advantage of the money we spend to do this.

"It would be like the City of Irving going over to Arlington and saying we think they need sidewalks. So we take the taxpayers' money from Irving to build Arlington sidewalks, because there are people who will use that sidewalk who will come to Irving sometime, and we want them to have a good sidewalk. Do you think your tax dollars should be spent in another city for an improvement? I do not think the money we give DART should be spent in another city for an improvement we do not see the benefit of.

"I don't have a problem working with another city. Regionalism is great as long as it is what you want it to be. Most of the time when people start talking about regionalism, it's because they want what you have."

The route the Orange Line will take from Beltline Station to the airport is not solely the decision of the DART board.

"This decision will be a combination of the airport, DART, the cities, and the Regional Transportation Council.

"At the end of the day, DART is going to pay the extra money to build the connection and tie it in. It is going to save The T the \$200 million it would cost them to come into the airport, because we are going to build the thing, so they don't have to pay it.

"I think we have put in close to \$900 million into DART. Our original deal for the connection to the Urban Center was \$60 million. But they inflated it to \$75 million, because that agreement was five to six years ago, and the actual value of money today has decreased. If you take their same belief, you take our \$900 million and base it on in-

flation over the past 28 years, we are way over \$1 billion.

"Irving will compete toe to toe with any businesses out there. We will give it our best shot, and we will either win or lose.

"It is not acceptable to the Irving citizens to just go along to get along, and take what we get. We want what we were promised. We want it in a timely manner. And we want a level playing field. If you want to change the game, then give us our money back. Give us the \$75 million we spent to have the line come through sooner, and then we will have that money at least to attract new businesses," Councilman Stopfer said.

Anything that makes travel less convenient for travelers impacts the tourism industry, according to Diana Pfaff, Director of Communications for the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau.

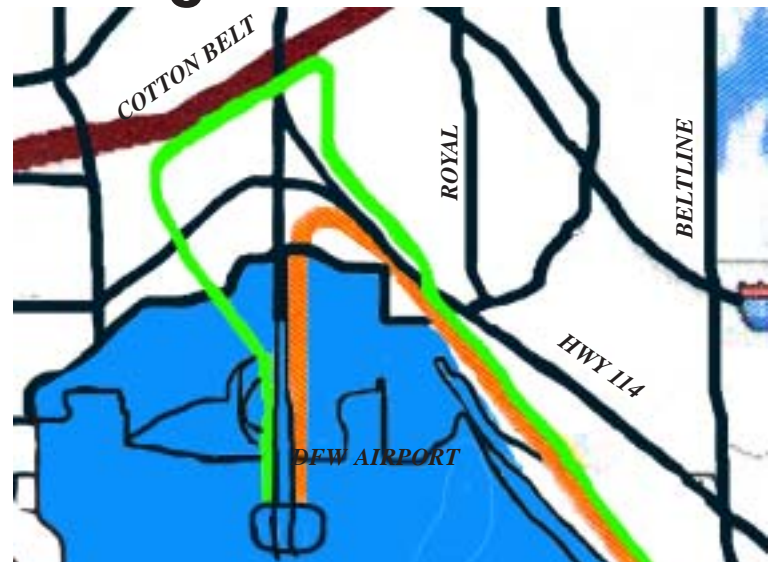
"Any time you are not going to have a direct route, it is least

convenient. In today's market, convenience is the most important thing especially for business travelers," Ms. Pfaff said. "I can see a diversion of the Orange Line affecting business in our convention center as well as in the Las Colinas hotels throughout the area where the line was scheduled to stop directly from DFW Airport's Terminals A and B.

"I think it is going to limit transportation access into this area. For the day traveler, it will be an inconvenience. I can see people choosing to go to Grapevine as opposed to Irving, because it would be easier to get to and from the airport. Any time you take away a convenient transportation option, it will have an effect.

"DART needs to do what they have committed to doing. Irving taxpayers and Dallas taxpayers have put money into DART when Grapevine has not."

Map of possible Orange Line routes



A possible map of the future, the orange line represents the original path of DART's Orange Line, the green line represents an alternative route for the Orange Line to take, the red line represents the Cotton Belt Corridor.

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"The Newspaper Irving Reads"

May 16, 2009

BETTY BESEDA



Betty Beseda, resident of Irving for over sixty years, died on May 8, 2009. Betty was born October 22, 1915 in Penelope, TX to Gabriel and Annie Snapka. She was retired from the Wild Briar Farm location of Fidelity Union Life Insurance Company and was an avid cook and gardener. Preceded in death by her husband of seventy-two years, William Henry Beseda. Survivors include daughter Helen Payton and husband Jimmy of Euless; grandchildren Nancy Payton of Trophy Club; Jimmy Payton, Jr. and his wife Chris of Flower Mound; great grandchildren Justin, Matthew, Natalie, Callye and Cole; sisters Annie Sustala of Round Rock; Eleanor Uptmor of West; Frances Krenek-Walker of Chico, CA; Josephine Darilek of Seymour and many nieces nephews. Mass of the Christian burial was held at 10:00 A.M. on Monday, May 11, 2009 at Holy Family of Nazareth Church with Reverend MSGR Jerome Duesman, celebrant. Interment took place at Calvary Hill Cemetery in Dallas. The family received friends at Brown's Memorial Funeral Home Sunday from 5-7 P.M., with a rosary at 7:00 P.M. The family requests memorial donations be made to Holy Family Catholic Church 2320 Cheyenne in Irving, 75062.

BETTY C. ROGERS MORSE



Betty C. Rogers Morse joined the saints through the mercy and grace of her Heavenly Father, and entered into a joyful life eternal on Monday, May 11, 2009. At her side during the course of her transition were loving family, including her husband of 61 years, Raymond Earl Morse; son, James Charles Morse and wife, Linda; and daughters, Bobbie Moulder and husband, Dennis Moulder; Billie Feuerbacher and husband,

Alan Feuerbacher; and Teresa Morse. Other family members gathered to praise her life of devotion, service, generosity, and example included grandchildren and spouses, Brent Moulder and wife, Julie; Tammi Kesterson and husband, Chuck; Angela Bell; Dr. Sarah Feuerbacher and husband, Jon; Brandi Moulder Shearin and husband, Justin; Haley Feuerbacher; and Marisa Morse. Great grandchildren wanting to visit with their Granny one last time before she left to "hold hands with Jesus", included Katelin and Cade Blackwell; Jacob Bell; Kennedy and Blake Moulder; and Christian Feuer Lowry. Other survivors include brothers-in-law Bill Morse, Tracy Morse, and Don English; and nieces and nephews include Jerry Mullennix, Berry Mullennix, Terry Mullennix, Raymond Mullennix, John Eastham, Mark Allen, Vicki Bailey, Becky Craker, Tina Pence, Steve Morse, Nancy Cox, Mathew Morse, and Michael Morse and their families. Other beloved family members include Charlie Boyd, Sonny and Yvonne Boyd, Don and Sadie Jones, and Julia Bibbey of Blooming Grove, Texas. Though she will be sorely missed, we are grateful knowing she immediately saw the face of God and felt His warm and comforting embrace, and we will all be together again. Mrs. Morse was preceded in death by her parents, Willard and Callie Moore Rogers; sisters, Naomi Rogers, Eloise Allen, Joanne English, and Marie Mullennix, and brother, Kenneth Rogers. A life-long Texan, Mrs. Morse was called the "Yellow Rose of Texas" by former President, Ronald Reagan, upon introduction. She was born in Dallas on November 25, 1930, lived and raised her family in Irving, Texas and left the temporal realm on May 11, 2009, in Plano, Texas. Mrs. Morse spent almost 40 years Volunteering in the Women's Auxiliary of the Baylor Health Care System, and her family extends their heart-felt thanks for the compassionate care shown her by the faculty and staff of Baylor Hospital in Plano. Pallbearers will be Chuck Kesterson, Justin Shearin, Jon Wells, Steve Morse, Matt Morse,

Raymond Mullennix, Berry Mullennix, and Marlyn LePori. Services shall be at 10 AM Saturday, May 16, 2009 at Kirkwood United Methodist Church, 2232 W. Fifth Street, Irving. Graveside services shall immediately follow at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens. The family received friends 6-8 PM Thursday, May 14, 2009 at Brown's Memorial Funeral Home. The family requests that memorial donations be made to Scottish Rite Hospital, 2222 Welborn St., Dallas, TX 75219.

CARA INGRAM

Cara Ingram, 89, formerly of Irving, died Wednesday, April 22, 2009 in Dallas. She was born November 7, 1919 in Huntington, West Virginia. Memorial service was 1 p.m., Friday, May 15, 2009 at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Irving. Arrangements by Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home.

CAROLYN ANN CLICK PARSONS



Carolyn Ann Click Parsons, a 32 year resident of Irving, passed away May 6, 2009. She was born on December 20, 1945 in Mount Vernon, Texas. She was a teacher at Nimitz High School in Irving for 25 years retiring in 2004. She was a member of First United Methodist Church and the Kum Doubles Sunday School Class; the Texas State Teachers Association; and the Delta Kappa Gamma Society. She is survived by husband Danny of Irving; son Clint Parsons and wife Cathy of Franklin, Massachusetts; daughter Wendy and husband David Thomson of Austin, Texas; grandsons Logan Thomson of Austin; Chris Parsons of Franklin, Massachusetts; granddaughters Cara & Alison Parsons of Franklin, Massachusetts; Caroline Thomson of Austin, Texas; sister Lou Jan and husband David Hokett of Forney, Texas; brother Larry Click and wife Linda of Duncanville, Texas; Nieces Haley Hokett of Forney; Michelle and husband Rev. Tim Ferguson of Cedar Hill, Texas; nephew Joey Click and wife Alecia of Midlothian, Texas. The family received friends from 6 to 8 P.M. Friday at Brown's Memorial Funeral Home. Funeral service to be held at 3:00 P.M. Saturday, May 9, 2009 at First United Methodist Church in Irving with Rev. Sammy Hargrove and Rev. Kory Knott officiating. Interment to follow at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens. Memorial donations may be made to The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Dallas or First United Methodist Building Fund at 211 W. 3rd, Irving, TX 75060.

WENONAH "BONNIE" RAFFEL

Wenonah "Bonnie" Raffel, resident of Irving for over sixty years, died on May 9, 2009. Bonnie was born on March 25, 1920 in Maydelle, TX. and retired from the

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insurance industry. Survivors include son Jerry Raffel and his wife Laurie of Bedford; sister Pauline Gressley; grand daughters Rebecca Sanders and husband Dustin; Stephanie Raffel; great grandchildren Ashton, Dylan and Toby Sanders; Averie Cook and many beloved nephews and nieces. Funeral services were held at Brown's Memorial Funeral Chapel at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 with interment at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens. The family received friends from 6-8 P.M. on Monday at the funeral home

CARROLL JAMES "C.J." TURNER



Carroll James "C.J." Turner, a 44 year resident of Irving passed away May 5, 2009. He was born on March 9, 1965 in Dallas. He worked as an automotive salesman. He is survived by wife Johnnie Turner; son, Christopher Turner both of Irving; daughter Crystal Turner of Madison, Alabama; mother Evelyn Turner of Irving; sisters Pamela Guara of North Richland Hills, Violet Lou Lukoviak of Wills Point; Patricia Smith of Irving; brothers Donald Whatley; Lance Turner of Irving; and Thomas Turner of

Grand Prairie; grandchildren Masin, Morgan & Caiden Morris of Madison, Alabama. The family received friends from 9:00 AM to 1:45 P.M. on Saturday prior to the service at Brown's Memorial Funeral Home. Graveside services will be held at 2:00 P.M. Saturday, May 9, 2009 at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens with Pastor Chad Burton officiating.

THERESA "TESSIE" SMITH



Theresa "Tessie" Smith, age 53, died in Oklahoma. Tessie was born May 26, 1956 in Corpus Christi to Ronald and Edith Sue Allgood Smith. An Arlington resident, she was a graduate of Nimitz High School in Irving and had been employed by Source Corp of Irving. Preceded in death by her mother, Edith Ingalls, she is survived by sisters: Susan Romeo of Houston, Deborah Harrison of Portland, OR, Melinda Nall of Washington, NC; and several cousins. Memorial service will be 1 p.m., Saturday, May 23, 2009 at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home Chapel with burial to follow at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens in Irving. Memorials may be made to Mission Arlington.



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Share rows make bicycling along streets safer for bikers and drivers

Continued from page 1

just want to ride around the neighborhood. The discussion the City has had with the bicycling community regards the safest way for these people to ride a bike in Irving."

Often the first idea suggested to make riding bicycles more safe is a system of dedicated bike lanes.

"A bike lane, curb and gutter typically takes five feet. We don't have enough pavement to stripe off a bike lane and still have room for cars. There is a big cost to widening roads," Mr. Cline said. "Some communities decide they want to narrow car lanes or eliminate a car lane for bike use.

"We have some streets that are just about big enough for a bike lane. We worked on how we could designate a bike lane if the width of the road wasn't quite standard. We want to do it right.

"On a straight section of road, designating a bike lane is no big deal. It is straight forward. It gets complicated when you come to an intersection and a rider in the bike lane wants to turn left. What happens if there is a right turn lane for cars, but the bike lane goes through? How do you stripe it? How do you communicate the possible options to the drivers? There is striping to make it happen and some communities have that.

"One of our guys found an accepted practice called 'share rows,' which is share the road. It designates a route as a bike lane. It advises motorist there are bicy-

clists out there. You don't have a lot of the issues you have with bike lanes.

"You can put share rows out on a street like 6th where you have a little extra width, but not quite enough for a bike lane. It is probably safer for most reasonably confident bike riders to have a share row.

"Right now the share rows on 6th Street are just a pilot. We need to find out what people think about it. Are the share rows accepted? Are they effective?

"While bike advocates seem to like the share rows, there is still a press for bike lanes. I think as a minimum it is a good interim measure. It may be a good long term solution, we are not sure. We have to figure that out.

"If this is a good technique, it opens up a number of options for how we would implement bike lanes and stuff like that.

To use a share row and ride in traffic requires a certain amount of skill and experience riding bicycles.

"One of the things that limits people riding bikes are concerns about where to go, how to ride and is it safe," he said.

"Riding a bike on MacArthur is not the right thing for everybody. Bicycles are vehicles and they have the right to be on MacArthur. Is that the safest, best way to do it? If you are going to offer a bicyclist an alternative other than MacArthur, where are you going to put them? Do you make it clear how to get onto and off of

those routes so they don't get lost? If it gets confusing or too awkward, people won't do it. It is like the train. If you have to stop and change trains a bunch of times, people don't ride the train. We want to make it easier for people to ride bikes.

"Our biggest challenge is crossing freeways on a bike. How do you go from an easy to use route, across the freeway, back to an easy to use route? That is our traffic issue. It is the same for cars as it is for bikes. Some of our most congested locations are where we cross the freeway.

"We have a range of users and a range of options. We are trying to narrow that down. We need to get the routes mapped out, then we can determine how we are going to mark those routes. I don't think bike lanes are the answer everywhere, but they are likely to be the answer in some of the system.

"There are several schools of thought. Should you have wider, outside lanes? Should you have dedicated bike lanes, share rows or a totally exclusive facility? There is not a clear answer in the community.

"We are learning about it. But we also have to find out what the community wants. You could have a two standard bike system that no one wants to use.

"If you are interested in giving us input on these questions, you can call our office 972-721-2646. We will talk to anybody about bike lanes, share rows, or mapping," Mr. Cline said.

VFW elects new officers

Provided by Marge Hoenig
Irving VFW Post 2494, the Ladies' and Men's Auxiliaries and Junior Girls elected new Officers for 2009-2010.

New Post Officers will be Commander Ken Hoenig, Sr. Vice-Commander Spencer Newel, Jr. Vice-Commander Bobby McCranie, and Quartermaster Glen Reno.

Ladies' Auxiliary Officers will be President Marge Hoenig, Sr. Vice-President Dee Cotton, Jr. Vice-President Linda Wise and Treasurer Penny Pevey; Men's Auxiliary Officers will be President John Downs, Sr. Vice-

President Kevin Weiche, Jr. Vice-President Mike Downs and Treasurer David Johnson.

The Junior Girls Unit new Officers will be President Sierra Roper, Sr. Vice-President Marty Harris, Jr. Vice-President Savanna Roper and Treasurer Lauren Roses.

Installation will be held at the Post on May 30 beginning at 6 p.m. followed by a reception and dance with music provided by Sid and the Wheels. The new Officers will take over their duties immediately following the State Convention to be held the end of June.

David and Louise Anderson, a veteran and a volunteer, were married on Veteran's Day in 1956. David was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, Dorothy Louise Manby Anderson, of Irving. Together they raised three children, Andy, Laura and Lance to carry on their love. David was a veteran and Louise was a member of the Irving Veterans Memorial Park committee. Their family and friends will gather this weekend to celebrate the dedication of the Irving Veterans Memorial Park on Sunday and then David and Louise will be inurned together at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery in Grand Prairie on Monday, May 18th at 10:00 a.m. Eldest son, Andy and grandson Dillon will be piping at both events in their honor.

David and Louise Anderson

OBITUARIES

MARY ANN WARD



Mary Ann Ward, of Irving, passed away Thursday, May 7, 2009. She was born December 2, 1920 in Henderson

County, Texas. Survivors include her husband Donald Ward of Irving; sons Larry Ward and wife Toni of Sherman, Bobby Ward and wife Angela of Austin, and Ronny Ward and wife Donna of Pace, Florida; grandchildren Krystal Craig of Rowlett, Lucas Ward of Pace, Colton Ward of Sherman, and Madison Ward of Austin; and great grandchildren Tori and Michael Craig of Rowlett. Local ar-

rangements by Brown's Memorial Funeral Home. Funeral services were held at 10 AM Saturday, May 9, 2009 at Oak View Baptist Church in Irving with Dr. Jim Gerlach officiating. Graveside services followed at 2 PM at Athens City Cemetery in Athens. Memorial donations may be made to Lottie Moon Christmas Fund, Oak View Baptist Church, 1004 S. Story Rd., Irving, TX 75060.

ROBERT "BOBBY" M. TALLY

Robert "Bobby" M. Tally, 52, passed away on May 09, 2009 in Irving, Texas. A memorial service was held on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 1:00 PM at Chapel of Roses Funeral Home

KI SUP CHO

Ki Sup Cho, of Irving, passed away May 11, 2009. He was born April 11, 1934 in Yasu, Korea. Funeral services were held at 10 AM Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at Brown's Memorial Chapel. Interment followed at Restland Memorial Park.

HATTIE MOYE

Hattie Moye, age 94, of Mineola formerly of Irving, died Monday, May 11, 2009 in Tyler. She was born Dec 4, 1914 in Linden, TX. Service was 1 p.m., Friday, May 15, 2009 at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home Chapel. Interment was at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens in Irving.

MARIA ELENA SANCHEZ

Maria Elena Sanchez 62, passed away on May 08, 2009 in Irving, Texas. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 11:00 AM at Chapel of Roses Funeral Home. Interment followed at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.

BETTY J. HAMLET

Betty J. Hamlet, 86, of Irving, died May 6, 2009 in Irving. Born January 18, 1923 in Webb City, OK. Visitation was 7-9 pm, May 8th at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home. Service was 11am, Saturday, May 9th at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Entombment followed at Bishop Mason Mausoleum in Flower Mound.

RICHARD O. CAMPBELL

Richard O. Campbell, 70, a resident of McComb, died May 10, 2009 at Southwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center in McComb. He was born April 12, 1939 in Jackson, MS. He was the son of the late Frank Howze and Thelma Chambers Campbell. He was a retired security guard for Southwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center. He was a graduate of McComb High School and was a member of the Irving, Texas Masonic Lodge. He is survived by his son, Ricky Campbell of Irving, TX;

one brother and sister-in-law, Frank Campbell, Sr. and Glenda of McComb; one sister, Carolyn Ann Campbell of McComb and one nephew, Frank Campbell Jr. Visitation was Wednesday at Hartman-Sharkey Funeral Home in McComb from 11AM until memorial services at 1PM with Dr. David Millican officiating. To share sympathies, condolences and memories, go to Hartman-Sharkeyfuneralhome.com

DORIS ANNE ROSALES

Doris Anne Rosales, of Irving, passed away Monday, May 11, 2009. She was born August 30, 1941 in Meridian. She is survived by her husband Santos Rosales, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and sisters. Visitation was held 1-5 PM Thursday, May 14, 2009 at Brown's Memorial Funeral Home.

SUSIE LEE MEALER

Susie Lee Mealer, 93, of Irving for over 50 years, died Saturday, May 9, 2009. She was born April 12, 1916 in Dallas. Visitation was 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Service was 11 a.m., Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home Chapel. Interment was at Restland Memorial Park, Dallas.

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KIB Partners with Irving Parks Department to promote green event

Provided by Rick Hose

Keep Irving Beautiful (KIB) teamed up with Irving Parks Department Supervisor Garry Munson and his staff to make the American Cancer Society's "Relay For Life" a Green Event. KIB and Parks provided recycling containers, Green Event signage and supplies, an information booth and volunteers to monitor the recycle stations.

The teams collected 60 pounds of recyclable materials, which will be diverted away from the landfill, saving valuable space and directing it towards a recycling center.

"Relay for Life" was held May 8 at the Irving Soccer Complex. Sherri Gilbert, the Community Manager for the American Cancer Society, stated the goal was to raise \$70,000 for cancer research and related programs.

Various Irving businesses, schools and faith groups fielded teams for this worthwhile event. Businesses such as Prudential Insurance of Las Colinas had 12 participants and raised nearly \$2,000. MacArthur High School was represented by the Student Council and the Army JROTC Color Guard. MacArthur Students together with the Student Council matching pro-

gram raised almost \$1,000. Universal Academy fielded 12 students who volunteered to help staff from the American Cancer Society. South MacArthur Church of Christ was represented by 22 volunteers from "Joe's Team," and raised approximately \$2,500. This group was formed 11 years ago and is still going strong today.

"The common thread among participants was that their lives had been personally touched by cancer in some form" said Keep Irving Beautiful Coordinator Rick Hose. "Many of the event participants stated that a family member or close friend had battled or was currently

fighting cancer. Everyday there are more and more success stories and with events like the Relay for Life, we hope there will be more."

For more information regarding hosting a Green Event, contact Keep Irving Beautiful at 972-721-2175.



Finding a cure for cancer, friends from the South MacArthur Church of Christ participate in the Relay for Life as members of Joe's Team.

Mungles on Movies

By Matt Mungle

Title: *Angels and Demons*
Rated: PG-13

At times, the optimism of Hollywood is very admirable. When you create something as horrible (and that is not a strong enough word) as 2006's *The Da Vinci Code*, climb under a rock due to the laughter and ridicule, and then turn around three years later and release the sequel, well, that has to take some gumption for sure. Either that or you pray that today's "in the moment audience" will have forgotten how utterly ridiculous the past failure was.

Attention Hollywood: I did not forget. That dismal *Da Vinci* is etched into my mind as two and a half hours of my life I will never get back. Bitter? A little. So it only makes sense that I walked into *Angels & Demons* with a little reserve and a whole lot of animosity. This was director Ron Howard's chance to make up for the last eight or so years of mediocrity and do something worthy of his name. Time for Opie to step it up.

Angels & Demons is based on the novel by Dan Brown and has a returning Tom Hanks as Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon. He

Holy terrorists Pope-man

is called upon by the Vatican to help investigate the kidnapping of four Roman Cardinals during the voting in of a new pope. What he finds is more a terrorist threat. A bomb has been planted somewhere in Vatican City and it is up to Langdon, a female scientist Vittoria Vetra (Ayelet Zurer) and the prior Pope's right hand man Camerlengo Patrick McKenna (Ewan McGregor) to figure out ancient clues to find the bomb and save the Cardinals. It is a race against time and old church tradition. The terrorist plot points toward an ancient sect known as The Illuminati, a group who has a century's old vendetta against the Catholic Church. Langdon must decipher their history in order to find the clues necessary to save the day. To the Pope mobile!

This film succeeds by doing everything that its predecessor did not. It combines ancient church culture, a thrilling race against time, and a treasure hunt of Roman artistry. It does not try to be controversial in its story line, but allows history to be engaging. Think of it as sort of a *National Treasure* within the Catholic Church. Though a firm believer in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, I am not a religious man at all, but I can respect the history and the rev-


erence of religion. *Angels & Demons* used that religious realm as a foundation to build on, not to dismantle it as it did earlier with the lineage of Jesus, The Christ. It is a mystery that just happens to use the Vatican instead of the White House as its backdrop. And it works wonderfully.

There is so much beautiful history in Rome and this film uses it to its advantage. Wide shots of the city combined with journeys down its narrow streets puts you right into the culture. The writing is also superior. Gone is the ridiculous dialogue and attempt at intrigue that the *Da Vinci* flop tried to pass off. True there are lines delivered here that make you sort of giggle and roll your eyes. But there is a little lenience in this type of film. Strong acting and deeper characters make up for it in the long run. The addition of Ewan McGregor to the cast fits nicely. He has this soft sincerity about him that worked great for the priesthood. His performance is passionate as he goes up against old world theology in an attempt to get to the truth. Hanks even redeems himself from the past Langdon role. We find this Robert more with it and relatable.

It seems that Howard learned from the past mistakes and used it to create a much better film. Where as *The Da Vinci Code* should be expunged from the annals of movie history, *Angels & Demons* is a decent successor to the theatrical throne. Rated PG-13 for sequences of violence, disturbing images and thematic material it is an honest rating. There are plenty of gunfire and assassin style killings. This plus the violent deaths of some of the priesthood make for imagery that may not be suitable for pre teens. Everyone else will discover a tightly wound thriller that though a little long at 2 hours and 20 minutes is still a mystery worth checking out. I give it a strong 3.75 out of 5 Pope hats. It redeemed itself for sure.

Matt is a member of the North Texas Film Critics Association (NTFCA) and hosts the weekly syndicated Indie Rock Radio Show Spin 180. Plus with his wife Cindy they do a weekly radio feature, The Mungles on Movies. For additional reviews and interview clips visit www.mungleshow.com.

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



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<p>* ANGELS AND DEMONS PG13 11:50 12:50 1:35 3:00 4:00 5:00 6:30 7:10 8:10 9:35 10:15</p> <p>* STAR TREK PG13 1:20 1:50 4:10 4:40 7:00 7:30 9:50 10:20</p> <p>NEXT DAY AIR R 12:00 2:15 4:45 7:25 9:40</p> <p>X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE PG13 1:00 1:30 2:05 3:55 4:25 4:55 6:45 7:15 7:45 9:20 10:00 10:30</p>	<p>GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST PG13 11:45 2:10 4:35 7:05 9:30</p> <p>OBSESSED PG13 1:55 4:50 7:20 9:45</p> <p>THE SOLOIST PG13 12:55 3:35 6:50 9:55</p> <p>EARTH G 1:40 4:30 6:55 9:15</p> <p>STATE OF PLAY PG13 1:25 4:15 7:15 10:10</p>
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Weekly SUDOKU


by Linda Thistle

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

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!



Read the
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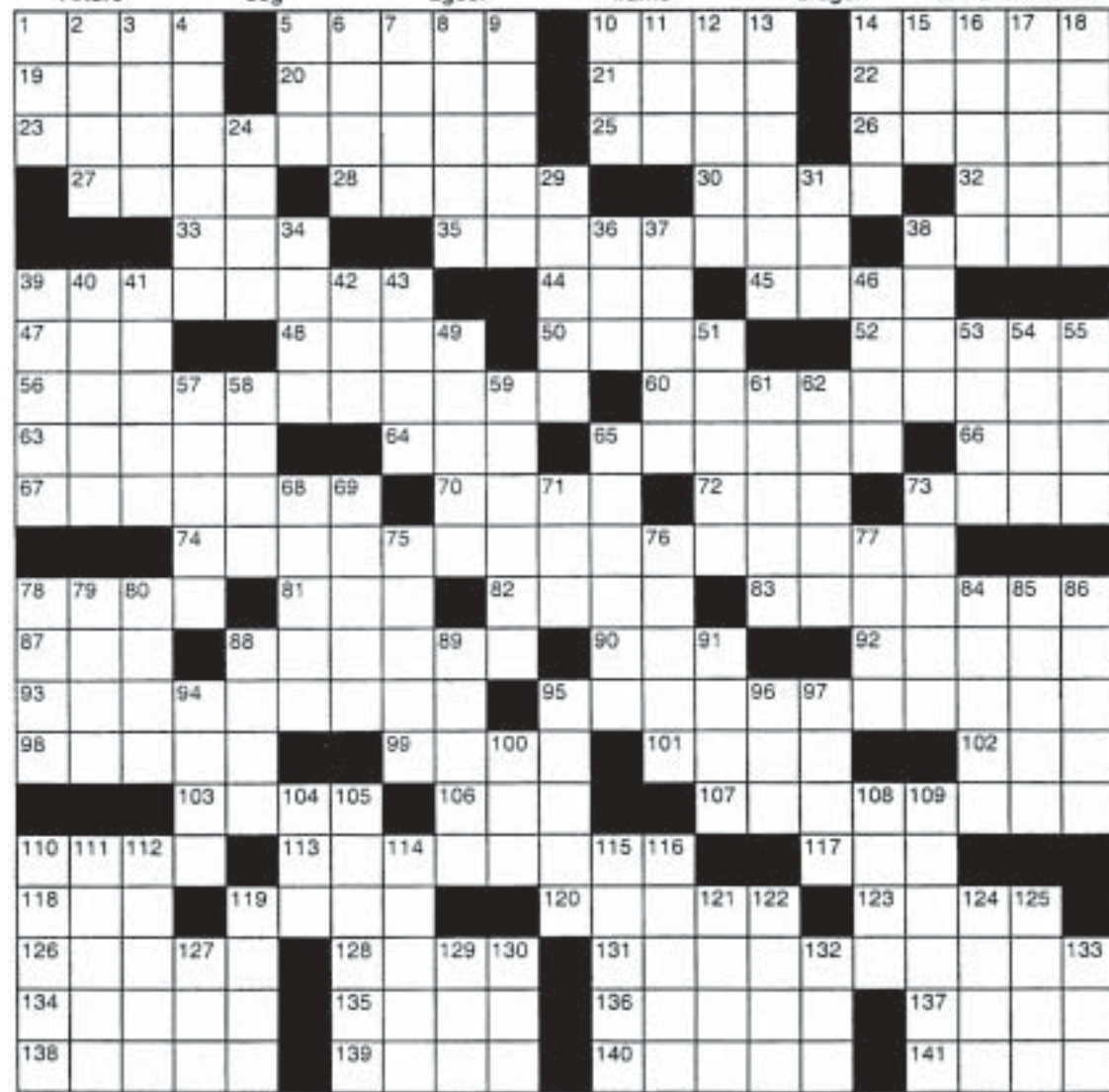
Super Crossword

LETTER PERFECT

- ACROSS**
- 1 Exercise target
 - 5 Actuate
 - 10 Boston —
 - 14 Denzel Washington film
 - 19 Kansas city
 - 20 — incognita
 - 21 Comfort
 - 22 "Middle-march" author
 - 23 Butcher-shop buy
 - 25 Modern Mesopotamia
 - 26 Numerical word form
 - 27 Theater collection
 - 28 Director Michael
 - 30 Satyric trait
 - 32 Vim
 - 33 Bond rating
 - 35 Neapolitan song
 - 38 Work over?
 - 39 Tarnish
 - 44 PBS benefactor
 - 45 Mrs. Nick Charles
 - 47 ABA member
 - 48 Shipshape
 - 50 Standard
 - 52 Court cry
 - 56 Start of a Nash verse
 - 60 Maestro Arturo
 - 63 Opening remark?
 - 64 To and —
 - 65 Rang
 - 66 Rapper Tone —
 - 67 Rained and snowed
 - 70 Kruger of "High Noon"
 - 72 — vous plait
 - 73 To boot
 - 74 Bach favorite
 - 78 Hostage
 - 81 New Deal agcy.
 - 82 — May Oliver
 - 83 Most enthusiastic
 - 87 Diminutive suffix
 - 88 Make minestrone
 - 90 Say please
 - 92 Actress Zellweger
 - 93 Connecticut county
 - 95 It's a guy thing
 - 98 Perplexed
 - 99 WWII site
 - 101 Kenwood competitor
 - 102 Glowing
 - 103 No, to Nureyev
 - 106 Asian soldier
 - 107 Haphazard
 - 110 Disney dog
 - 113 George Peppard series
 - 117 Korf or Sara
 - 118 What a feller needs
 - 119 Keeping
 - 120 Give in to gravity
 - 123 Walked
 - 126 Diacritical mark
 - 128 Author Ambler
 - 131 Famed disc jockey
 - 134 Irving's "The — New Hampshire"
 - 135 Amneris' rival
 - 136 Messy Madison
 - 137 European country
 - 138 High-tech missives
 - 139 Expensive
 - 140 Uses a trepan
 - 141 TV's "Ding — School"
 - 6 "Simple Simon — ..."
 - 7 Type of sch.
 - 8 Thalia's sister
 - 9 Albert and Victoria
 - 10 Mile High Center architect
 - 11 Boathouse item
 - 12 Sacred song
 - 13 Costume sparkler
 - 14 Kid
 - 15 Castilian cry
 - 16 Helty herbivore
 - 17 Short messages
 - 18 Stick 'em in your ear
 - 24 Actor Morales
 - 29 Singer Summer
 - 31 — Canals
 - 34 Composer Thomas
 - 36 August one?
 - 37 Big revolver?
 - 38 Holstein's home
 - 39 Rome's — of Caracalla
 - 40 Lucy's landlady
 - 41 Marker
 - 42 "Aladdin" frame
 - 43 Grapefruit serving
 - 46 Way
 - 49 Deck of destiny
 - 51 Dewy
 - 53 Pickling herb
 - 54 Baseball's Slaughter
 - 55 Puerto —
 - 57 City on the Allegheny
 - 58 Reply to the Little Red Hen
 - 59 One who no's best?
 - 61 Smug smile
 - 62 "The Color Purple" character
 - 65 Kirsch kin
 - 68 Sgt. Bilko
 - 69 Campus digs
 - 71 Designer Lapidus
 - 73 Bronte's "— Grey"
 - 75 Tom, Dick, and Harry
 - 76 Skater Cohen
 - 77 Franco of "Camelot"
 - 78 Cougar
 - 79 Landed
 - 80 Gets hitched
 - 84 "— Gay"
 - 85 Big rigs
 - 86 Choppers
 - 88 Deal with a dragon
 - 89 Newsboy's shout
 - 91 Kamm or Kristofferson
 - 94 Contradict
 - 95 Harnessed the oxen
 - 96 Bird of prey
 - 97 Abbreviated address
 - 100 Sodom escapee
 - 104 JFK abbr.
 - 105 Fine fiber
 - 108 Compassion
 - 109 Moved like 116 Down
 - 110 Woodworking tool
 - 111 Postulate
 - 112 Nile feature
 - 114 Mysterious
 - 115 Iron clothes?
 - 116 Animal that roared?
 - 119 Convent cubicle
 - 121 Namu or Willy
 - 122 Bloomsbury buggy
 - 124 Roy Rogers' birthplace
 - 125 Bruce or Laura
 - 127 "Agnus —"
 - 129 Journalist Tarbell
 - 130 Roller-coaster unit
 - 132 "— longa, vita brevis"
 - 133 Brew barrel

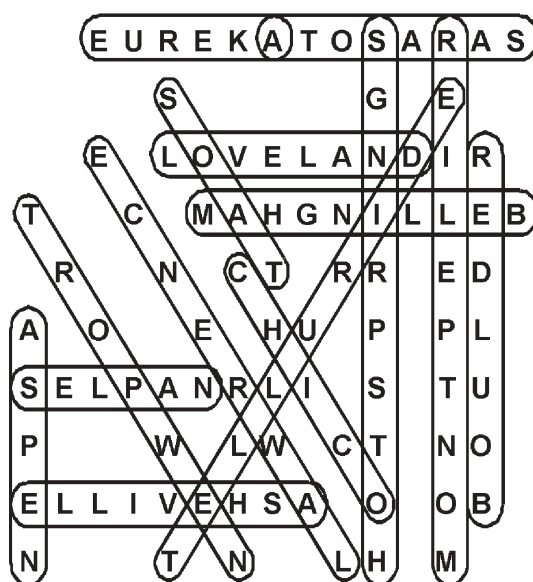
DOWN

- 1 Trim
- 2 Sampras strokes
- 3 Soap additive
- 4 Chicken little?
- 5 "— been ages!"

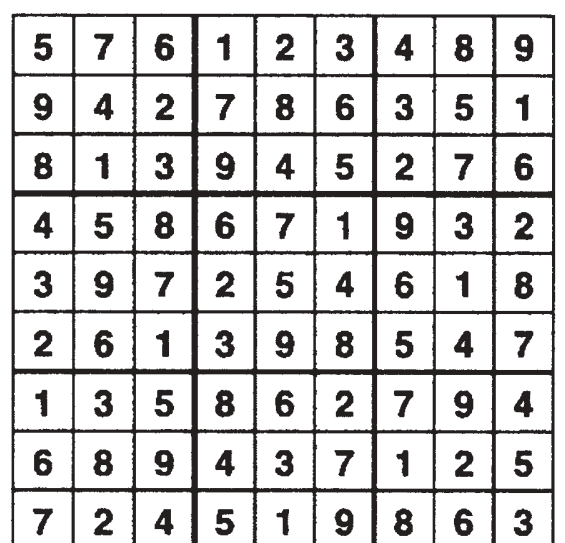


Answers for 5-9-2009

Answers for 5-9-2009



Answers for 5-9-2009



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



www.comparrot puzzles.com © 2008 Bonnie J. Malcolm



Solution: 1. Part of banana peel is missing. 2. Buckle on boy's coat is missing. 3. Trash can is different. 4. Neckline on shirt is missing. 5. Inside of paint can is colored in. 6. Fire hydrant is colored in. 7. Crest on sleeve has moved. 8. Dog in truck has moved. 9. Grass behind trash can has moved. 10. Crest on man's sleeve is reversed. 11. Bumper is larger. 12. Truck wheel is larger.

MAGIC MAZE — GALLERY



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

- Art
- Ladies' Music National
- Peanut Photo Picture Portrait
- Press Private Public Shooting
- Tate Web Whispering

Irving Heritage Society installs elected positions

Provided by Mary Higbie

The newly elected officers and directors of the Irving Heritage Society were installed by Irving City Secretary Janice Carroll on the porch of the Heritage House May

3, during the organization's general meeting and ice cream social. After a review of the duties and responsibilities of each office, the following Heritage Society members were installed for the 2009-2010 year:

President – James Dickens
 President – Elect – Robert Nelson, Jr.
 First Vice-President (Membership/Yearbook) – Esther Nachimson
 Second Vice-President (Programs) – Margie Stipes

Third Vice-President (Projects) – Eleanor Corry Bell
 Recording Secretary – Mary Moorman
 Corresponding Secretary – Sonja Watkins
 Treasurer – Gary Schepf
 Historian – Kevin Kendro
 Parliamentarian – R. Dan Matkin
 Directors – Imogene Rogers, Ruben Franco, Arnold Martin, Sue

Haley Huffman, Lorraine Taylor, Martha Watson, and Sally Hendricks.

Special recognition certificates were presented to Diane Mannon and Diann Contestabile for their extra responsibilities in support of the organization.

For information on Heritage Society events, visit www.irvingheritage.com or call 972-252-3838.

TexasFest shines through a *Rhinestone Rodeo*

By Jess Paniszczyn

The Irving Healthcare Foundation presented its 30th annual TexasFest, Rhinestone Rodeo, in the Hyatt Regency DFW on April 25. Approximately 600 guests participated in a variety of activities such as calf roping, Texas shoot out, wine pull, casino games, a live and silent auction as well as a live concert by Mark Chesnutt.

"TexasFest is 30 years old this year," said John Drake, President of the Irving Healthcare Foundation (IHF). "We have had this amazing coterie of leaders for three decades who have lead TexasFest. I think there is always the question in the community's mind, 'Will the younger generation step up and lead?' I have to brag on the people from the last five years like Matt and Tammy Davis, Cindy Santoscoy, Angie Drake, LeeAnn Boyle, Suzy Matin and Sarah Daughety. The younger generation stepped up and are leading.

"TexasFest is dependent on great volunteer leaders. People who started this foundation, their children and their contemporaries are now taking leadership roles. That is the most encouraging thing I can tell you about TexasFest.

"During TexasFest, I met people who were passionate about the Irving Interfaith Clinic. They were excited to see the Radko Christmas tree sell for \$3,000 know-

ing those funds will go into the endowment that benefits the Irving Interfaith Clinic.

"People who love the hospital were excited to know we can still write the grants to buy new equipment and start new programs because of TexasFest. So we can better serve the people who rely on us, who sleep easier knowing they have a superbly run, well-equipped hospital in their back yard. They have great local healthcare, because Baylor Irving is here.

"Constituents for all of our beneficiaries came to TexasFest for whatever reason. We are glad they came together once again to raise money to keep this Foundation running, so we can better serve and raise the funds these organizations need to do their daily business.

"It was everything you would hope for a TexasFest. All of the elements were there," he said.

Jennifer Legere, IHF's Development Director, believes TexasFest's success over the years is a reflection on the community.

"There is a desire and a passion within the community to make sure what we are doing here succeeds," Ms. Legere said. "It says a lot about the people in the Foundation long before my time, and the ties they had in the community. It means something to this community to make TexasFest successful.

"Despite the economy, we ex-

ceeded a lot of expectations. Our live auction did \$12,000 more than last year. The silent auction did roughly \$20,000 more than the previous year.

"Leading up to the event, everyone was buzz about Mark Chesnutt. We had several people say they had never seen so many people sit and wait for a performer to take the stage. They felt like the room was packed and ready. The fact that he did an encore performance really made the audience feel good about being there and he wasn't in a hurry to get out of there. He just gave himself to the audience, which made everyone there feel special."

Volunteers are the true heart and soul of TexasFest.

"We had an enormous outpouring of volunteers this year, which made things run so smoothly from a staff point of view. It is very rewarding when you don't feel like you have to be everything and everyone to this whole audience. Things were getting done left and right. Our vendors were just were in awe of how gracious our volunteers were and how eager they were to support what we were doing," she said.

IHF's staff, board members and volunteers alike worked to offset the effects of a slow economy on TexasFest's bottom line.

"We have the brightest and most resourceful staff," Mr. Drake said. "They looked at all the aspects in a challenging year to determine how we could have the most money left over after we pay the event expenses for funding the Foundation. Our staff and our board conducted a critical evaluation of things to make sure we are doing things wisely, so we have money left over. But we still wanted to provide great value to the TexasFest participants, therefore, we tried new things this year.

"Our volunteers stepped up and despite a challenging economy. They pursued the goal until they reached it. That was with \$31,000 in losses, because people couldn't give as much in cash sponsorships this year or who couldn't contribute this year. They still fought back and found \$31,000 in new or increased support.

"This community gives from the heart, and they have better healthcare because they do."

Making mom proud Las Colinas style



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