



the Irving Rambler

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"The Newspaper That Irving Reads"

DECEMBER 16, 2004

**THIS
WEEK**



Students shine in Middle School One Act Play Festival



Choir students present an evening of holiday songs

Traffic Delay



A supporting wall for the George Bush Turn Pike (Hwy 161) collapsed Wednesday, Dec 15, causing the east bound service road for George Bush to be closed at MacArthur.

Irving Arts Center's Holiday Open House celebrates the season with the community



Matthew Newsom finds his rhythm while exploring an Open House exhibit.

More than 1,700 people attended the Irving Arts Center's Holiday Open House on Dec. 10. This year's theme, *The Age of Chivalry*, invited participants to step back in time and celebrate the holidays in the splendor of the middle ages.

A number of community groups and activities filled the Arts Center. The



Commedia del' Carte' presents *A Commedia Carol*, a nontraditional retelling of Dickens' classic work.

results of votes cast by local celebrities and viewers for their favorites of 17 trees decorated according to this year's theme by Irving elementary and middle schools (public, private, and charter) was revealed. During

the Open House, Brandenburg Elementary, Travis Middle School and Brown Elementary were awarded the top prizes for their trees. Artwork See *Holiday Open House*, page 8

Former mayor, Marvin Randle, announces his intention to become the future mayor of Irving

Following weeks of rumors and speculation, Marvin Randle, a former Irving mayor, announced his intention to run for mayor in 2005. Mr. Randle is a small business owner and a long time Irving resident. He has served Irving as a member of numerous boards and committees

"I've been toying with the idea of running for mayor for the past four or five months," Mr. Randle said. "After visiting with a lot of citizens in town and in the business community, I felt like this would be the proper time for me to run. If I become mayor, it will give us a different focus and a different type of leadership in our city; and I think we need that right now."

"There are two major issues facing Irving in general. Number one is that over the past five or six years Irving has had a large increase in population in primarily the central and southern part of the city, and Irving has not kept up with an adequate affordable housing supply for all those people. This situation has created some doubling up in some of our homes. We need to address that problem, and we need to address it quickly because all it does is proliferate. That situation has

caused some code violations and ordinance violations throughout our entire city. I think that needs to be a primary focus."

"I think our second concern has to be economic development. Gone are the years that Irving could sit back, rest on its laurels and let Las Colinas do all of the advertising to bring the businesses into Irving. Since 9-11 and our economic downturn and the economic downturn of our country, it has become more important that we promote Irving and seek out other businesses. I think we have been pretty negligent in doing that. It is vitally important



Marvin Randle

that we promote Irving at this time," Mr. Randle said.

"I'm sure there are a whole lot of other problems, but I think these are the two most pressing problems that we have."

"I served the city in the capacity of mayor 23/24 years ago. During that time, we didn't have to go out and search for businesses; we had businesses beating the door down. All the city

had to do was provide the facilities and services for them. It was a great time to be mayor. Today after serving as chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, I have been part of the city in all facets in the last three to five years serving as the Centennial co-chair and I feel there is a need to promote Irving now more than there ever has been for economic benefit," Mr. Randle said.

"I have an absolute, sincere, heart-felt desire for Irving, Texas. I want to do everything that I can for Irving. I have lived here 68 years; I have no intentions and I have never had a thought in my head to ever move out of Irving, Texas. Irving is home to me and I want to see it become the very best it can become. My desires and ambitions are only for the benefit of Irving; I have no selfish motivations or hidden agendas. It is straightforward, I only want to do what is best for Irving," Mr. Randle explained.

"I feel like I am an involved citizen of Irving. I am involved in the cultural aspect of the city. I am involved in the day-to-day working class of people in Irving. I have a business that touches the lives of a lot of people. I have a payroll to meet every week. I understand the same problems that face every individual citizen of Irving on a day-to-day basis. So whatever I vote on to do for the citizens, I vote on to do to myself. I am very interested in running a very frugal government; and yet get everything out of it we can get," Mr. Randle said.

Local businesses honor Pvt. Robert Price

Elizabeth Philipp

On Friday, December 11th, Pvt. Robert Price, here on a two-week leave from Iraq, stopped by the Irving Schools Foundation office to make a contribution to the Spc. Josiah Vandertulip Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship fund has been established to honor Irving resident, Spc. Josiah Vandertulip, who was killed in Iraq on October 14th. Robert graduated in 2002 with Josiah from Irving High, and they joined the army at the same time.

Robert's mother, Karen Crouse, attended the ceremony held for Vandertulip at Irving High in November, and sent Robert the newspaper articles about Josiah along with a copy of the program from the ceremony.

Karen said it brought tears to Robert's eyes when he read about what was being done to honor his friend.

The Irving Schools Foundation Several informed local businesses of Robert's two week leave. Many of the businesses donated certificates for Robert to use during his visit with his family before he goes back to Iraq. Certificates from Applebee's, Domino's Pizza, Starbucks, Marquee Movie Theater, El Chico, Buffalo Wild Wings, and Spring Creek Barbeque were given to Robert by Irving Schools Foundation representatives Myrna Mercer, Jan Dickson and Elizabeth Philipp on Friday.

"The businesses wanted to say thank you to Robert for serving our country in Iraq

and to make his visit home a special time with his family", Elizabeth Philipp said.

Robert said he was overwhelmed.

Robert played on the baseball team in high school, and visited with his coaches at

Irving High. He also plans to visit the national cemetery to pay his respects to his friend, Josiah Vandertulip. He will be returning to Iraq on December 23rd. Robert plans to attend college and study electrical engineering after his tour of duty ends.

PALM FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHY

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POLICE BRIEFS

Update on Head-on collision involving car and truck on Hwy 183

The result of the toxicology test regarding any presence of alcohol as a possible factor in the accident. Test results determined that the driver of the vehicle traveling in the wrong direction had a B.A.C. of .24 which is three times the legal limit. Investigators cite that a blood alcohol concentration of that level as the primary factor in the accident.

David Tull, IPD

Robbery of Individual: 12-8-04, 2:50 p.m., 2201 W. Irving Blvd. Officers were dispatched to a stabbing. The 23 year old female complainant and a female friend drove here today from Pennsylvania in a Toyota rental car. They were

here to see a friend at the location. An argument broke out between the comp and the male suspect and he hit her over the head with a board and stabbed her in the side with a small knife. The argument continued and the complainant's friend tried to intervene. The suspect made them empty their pockets. When they took their keys out, he grabbed the keys and took their rental car. The wounds were not life threatening but she was transported to Parkland to get some stitches. The witnesses in the apartment were taken to CID.

Sudden Death: 12-12-04, 10:15 a.m.. Adult male subject was under the house at location, helping out a friend attempting to find a water leak under the slab foundation. He and his brother had been under the house working. His brother came out for about five minutes and when he went back under the house he found his brother had been electrocuted and wasn't breathing. He had touched a pipe under the house and was electrocuted. IFD responded and transported complainant to Baylor but did not survive.

Agg. Robbery: 12-12-04, 6:15 p.m.. The complainant was pumping gas into his vehicle at 1706 W. Irving Blvd., when he was approached by a male suspect. The suspect demanded money from the complainant and when the comp. said that he did not have any, the suspect became angry and cut the complainant with a box cutter. The complainant required stitches and from the assault. The suspect matched the description of a known offender in the area. The comp and two witnesses were shown a six photo line up and did not identify the known offender. The suspect was not located.

Agg. Assault: 12-12-04, 8:20 p.m.. The complainant was working out in the gym of his apartment complex. The complainant and the male suspect got into an argument, and the suspect pulled a gun from his waistband, pointed it at the complainant and told the complainant that he could kill him. The suspect then fired one round from the handgun at the complainant and fled the area. The suspect is not known to the complainant and was not located.

Burglary of a Building: 12-13-04, 2:57 a.m.. 2630 W. Rock Island. An Investigator had a PC warrant for the suspect for Burglary. The investigator stated that the suspect was responsible for a least seven offenses. On 12-13-04 at 0257 patrol responded to an alarm at the Rock Island Food Mart. When

officers arrived, the front door had been smashed out and the suspect came running out the front door with items stolen in his hands.

Robbery of Individual: 12-13-04, 7:03 p.m.. Officers were dispatched to Las Colinas Medical. The complainant claimed that on December 12, 2004, 10:00pm, an unknown male had tried to steal his nephew's bike. The complainant had chased the suspect down and the suspect had assaulted him and then fled the scene. The complainant had not reported the incident. No injuries, questionable offense.

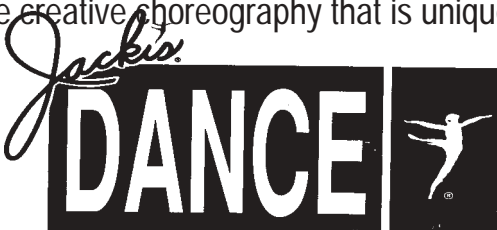
Injury to a Child: 12-14-04, 1:00 a.m.. The complainant, a one month old child, was taken to Baylor Irving Hospital for a spiral fracture of the left arm. The child was transferred to Children's Hospital in Dallas this morning at 3:30am. The Dallas CPS unit contacted the Domestic Violence Unit at 1:00pm today. Officers responded to Children's Hospital and they are conducting the investigation.

Structure Fire: 12-14-04, 9:32 p.m.. Officers were dispatched to a structure fire at the Eagle Crest Apartment Complex, located at the 3800 block of Esters. Six units sustained damage but there were no injuries. At this time it is unknown what started the fire. The Red Cross was notified to offer assistance to the six displaced families.

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Stacey Starkey - Owner
John Starkey - Editor
INTERNET www.irvingrambler.com
E-mail irving@irvingrambler.com

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Middle School One Act Play Festival gives students chance to perform and learn

Students from Lamar, Bowie, Travis, Crockett and de Zavala theatre arts departments presented plays in the annual Middle School One Act Play Festival at the Nimitz High School auditorium on Dec. 13.

Three volunteer judges critiqued the plays to give both the students and their teachers feedback on their efforts. Judges evaluated vocal performance, character interactions and blocking. Costuming problems and technical difficulties did not count against the students because they performed on an unfamiliar stage. Before and after their own performances, students practiced theater etiquette as audience members for their peers.

Lamar presented *Mad Breakfast*, Bowie presented *Murder at Brantley Manor*, Travis presented *Miss Twiddle and the Devil*, Crockett presented *Way, Way Off Broadway* and de Zavala presented *Everyman*.

"I think the importance of today's contest is to bring out the talent of the kids and give them a day to shine," Eric Arpelar, director of *Everyman* by de Zavala Middle

School, said. "The kids experienced pure enjoyment and excitement. They had a chance to work with text in a play that is rarely ever done in middle schools; it was written in 1500, and a college or high school would usually do this play. I knew I could pull this play off because I had the cast; we had the talent. I feel like what we've achieved with these kids is that we have awoken a sleeping giant."

Ocie Robinson, the Irving High School lead teacher for Theater Arts and chairman of HIS Department of Performing Arts, organized the festival.



All Star Cast Awards for Acting were presented as part of the Middle School One Act Play Festival awards went to Christian Guerrero, Kaycee Reininger, J.P. Zavala, Helen Gutowski, Jason Douglass, Jackie Estes, Joseph Morrel, Brooke Bates, Nina Northcutt, and Stephani Lozano.

"The One Act Play Festival is not about competition, it is about an assessment of our work and finding ways to improve our work," Mr. Robinson said. "It is not about who is better than someone else. Our philosophy is that this is a part of the educational process. One of the things the kids really like about the festival is that they get to see the other

students perform. Students get an assessment of their work from someone who knows what they are talking about other than their teacher. Sometimes that is really difficult when it goes contrary to what their teacher has been telling them. If they can step back from it and look at it in an objective way, then they can also hear a lot of the things the teacher has been telling them, but it comes from someone else. Students also enjoy the excitement of competition and the excitement of doing something similar to what they will be doing in high school."

Following the performances, the All Star Cast Awards were presented. Technical awards went to Heather Black from Lamar, Eunice Rodriguez from Bowie, Emily Beeman from Travis, Shannon Gould from Crockett and Nick Kammerer from de Zavala. Acting awards went to Kaycee Reininger and Joseph Morrel from Lamar, J.P. Zavala and Jackie Estes from Bowie, Helen Gutowski and Jason Douglass from Travis, Stephani Lozano and Brooke Bates from Crockett, and Christian Guerrero and Nina Northcutt from de Zavala.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

10 Schools Get TEA Acknowledgments

Ten IISD campuses won Gold Performance Acknowledgments from the Texas Education Agency based on data from last school year. Gold Performance Acknowledgments (GPA) are a tool for recognizing Texas schools and districts for high performances on indicators other than those used to assign accountability ratings. Districts and campuses rated Academically Acceptable or above are eligible to be acknowledged for high performance on the GPA indicators. The following is a list of GPA awards by campus.

Music Teacher Wins Award

Nicole Brown, orchestra teacher at Crockett Middle School, has been selected as the "Young String Teacher of the Year" by the Texas American String Teacher Association. Brown has worked at Crockett four years. This year, 39 of her students were selected for the All-City Orchestra.

Irving High School: Recommended High School

- Distinguished Achievement Program
- Crockett Middle School: Attendance
- Travis Middle School: Commended Performance in Writing
- Barton Elementary School: Commended Performances in Reading and Mathematics
- Good Elementary School: Attendance, Commended Performances in Reading and Mathematics
- Lee Elementary School: Commended Performance in Reading
- Lively Elementary School: Commended Performance in Mathematics
- Hanes Elementary School: Commended Performance in Reading
- Townley Elementary School: Commended Performance in Reading
- Gilbert Elementary School: Commended Performance in Reading

The following Barbara Bush Middle School (CFBISD) students were selected for the All-Region Band.

Ashley Kim, Flute; Jerol Guidry, Horn; Cha Yool Park, Clarinet; Jeziel Jones, Horn; Courtney Nguyen, Clarinet; Corbett Tate - Trombone; Mina Bacon, Clarinet; John Park - Trombone; Tom Kang, Clarinet; Delynn Daniels - Trombone; Paige Robinson, Bass Clarinet; Matt Solis - Baritone; Conner Friday, Oboe; Treston Williams - Tuba; David Willcutts, Oboe; Paul Kim - Snare; Brad Kirkham, Trumpet; Mark Han, Timpani. Dustin Lyons was selected as 1st Alternate on Trombone, and Paul Kim was selected as 1st Alternate on Mallets. Ajay Chagarlamudi was selected as 2nd Alternate on Bassoon.

Holiday Happenings

The MacArthur High School Student Council's annual holiday food drive netted 10,210 pounds of food and \$2,551 in donations for Irving Cares. Student Council members spent Saturday, November 20 delivering and stocking the food at the Irving Cares facility. MacArthur teachers competed to see whose classes could collect the most food or money. The winner of that competition, for the third year in a row, was math teacher Jeff Tillerson.

Crockett Middle School students and faculty also collected food and money to help others. Due to their efforts, more than 2,000 cans of food were given to a local food bank, \$600 was donated to the Irving Humane Society, 300 gifts and household items were delivered to the Pioneer Care Center for elderly citizens, and \$300 was contributed to the Irving Schools Foundation's Josiah Vandertulip Memorial Scholarship.

Second grade students in Rebecca O'Bier's and Esther Martinez' classes at Elliott Elementary School shared what they have learned from a study on winter holidays in other cultures with students in Temple, Texas last week. Students studied customs from Hanukkah as well as Christmas traditions from Germany, Puerto Rico, and Mexico.

Students in a harp ensemble at Keyes Elementary School prepare for a holiday concert. The ensemble, a new addition to the music program at Keyes, features seven fifth-graders.

Academy Ad Program Lauded

The Academy of Irving ISD's Advertising & Design Program will be recognized by the Dallas Society of Visual Communications (DSVC) as "School of the Month" for January. Students are invited to a reception and lecture in Dallas January 5, as well as a dinner for one lucky student with the DSVC board. The School of the Month is an honor normally given to graphics programs at colleges or universities.

Holiday Schedule

Irving ISD schools will be closed from December 20 to 31. The IISD Administration Building will be open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on December 20, 23, 27, and 30.

Irving ISD security will be on duty throughout the break. In case of any emergency during this time, please contact the Security Department at 972-261-5134.

The *District Weekly* will not be published over the Winter Break. The next issue is scheduled for January 5.

Mac Senior Wins Acting Award

Robby Lane, a senior at MacArthur and son of IISD Cable TV Specialist Frances Lane Sones, received a Column Award for his work with the Irving Lyric Stage production of *The Secret Garden*. Lane won the Ben Brettell Youth Performance Award. Column Awards are given annually for local theater performances. Lane also earned a Column Award last year.

Young Professionals

Though career choices may be several years away for the students at Thomas Haley Elementary School, more than a dozen local businesses gave students a taste of work in their industries there recently. The school hosted a Career Day for grades 3, 4 and 5. Companies on hand to start their recruiting early included the Dallas Stars, Texas Rangers, Tom Thumb, Amerisuites, Northlake College, Irving Public Library, State Farm Insurance, CiCi's Pizza, the Boy Scouts of America, Ameristaff, Avon, Parker College of Chiropractors, Manhattan Construction, and Pizza Hut.

MacArthur High School

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VINE RIPE TOMATOES

Tour of homes benefits Baylor Medical Center



Sammy, Lynn and Samantha Andrews pose with snow-friends in their dining room decorated for Christmas.

Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau garners 2004 distinguished employer award

The Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau recently received the 2004 Distinguished Employer Award from the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex chapter of Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International (HSMIAI).

The Distinguished Employer Award is presented annually to an employer who has consistently supported the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex Chapter of HSMIAI throughout the year.

HSMIAI is a global organization of sales and marketing professionals representing all segments of the hospitality industry. Founded in 1927, HSMIAI is comprised of nearly 7,000 members from 35 countries and 60 chapters worldwide. The Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex chapter is the fifth largest HSMIAI chapter in North America and is currently the top chapter in membership growth and retention.

Five residential homes decorated for the holidays were open to the public during the Irving Healthcare Auxiliary's annual Holiday Home Tour on Dec. 5.

The five participating homes were located in different areas of Irving, including Valley Ranch, Cottonwood Valley, the Hospital District, Irving Heights and Pioneer Valley. Homeowners who opened their homes were:

Sammy & Lynn Andrews
Doug & Loveta Bales, Mary Michelle
John & Helma Mazon
Darrell & Tammy Probst
Rick & Melanie Stopfer

During the tour, each home featured a raffle item. New Cookbooks compiled by the Auxiliary were also for sale during the tour. These cookbooks include over 470 recipes and are currently available for purchase at the Baylor Medical Center of Irving's gift shop.

Proceeds from all sales go towards the Auxiliary's \$500,000 pledge to the Baylor Medical Center of Irving's recently completed expansion campaign. Baylor Medical Center is Irving's only charitable hospital and is a 288-bed acute care hospital that has served Irving for 40 years.



Santa's helper, Helma Mazon, shows off a decorated archway.



Rick and Melanie Stopfer rest beside their Christmas tree decorated in an angel theme.

Chamber of Commerce - Economic Development Report

Irving City Council began discussions in executive session December 8th on the future of Texas Stadium. The Mayor and several council members were quoted in the media that selling the property makes sense due to its strategic location. Councilman Joe Philipp was quoted as saying that people have already expressed interest in the property and the City Council will look at all options.

The Chamber's economic development staff submitted the Atmel building on Hwy 114 at Hwy 161 in response to an inquiry received from the Governor's Office of economic development concerning an Asian based company seeking to purchase a 200,000 sq ft or greater high tech manufacturing facility in Texas. No further details about the company are available at this time.

La Quinta Corporation (NYSE: LQI), announced organizational changes within its franchising subsidiaries, La Quinta Franchising LLC and Baymont Franchising LLC. Alan L. Tallis, Executive Vice President and Chief Development Officer of La Quinta Corporation, will assume the additional position of President of La Quinta Franchising LLC and Baymont Franchising LLC. A. Brent Spaeth, Senior Vice President - Human Resources and Administration of La Quinta Corporation, will also assume the

position of Senior Franchise Operations Officer and Rajiv Trivedi, Vice President - Franchising of La Quinta Corporation, will assume the additional position of Senior Franchise Development Officer of the two franchise organizations. La Quinta also acquired three Taje Inn Corporation properties in the Boston area—two will become La Quinta Inns and one a Baymont Inn.

With corporate headquarters in Irving, **IMCO Recycling Inc** stockholders approved its merger with Kentucky-based Commonwealth Industries, creating **Aleris International Inc.** (NYSE:ARS). This combination creates a vertically integrated aluminum recycler and common-alloy sheet manufacturer.

Irving based Michaels (NYSE:MIK) reaffirmed its expectations of same-store sales increases of 3 percent to 5 percent. The Company cited increased consumer traffic and the average ticket sales as reasons for maintaining its expectations.

Southwest Airlines has expressed its desire to have the Wright Amendment appealed which limits its long distance flights from Dallas Love Field. This comes after an economic impact report last week stated that the decrease in Delta Air Lines' activity at

DFW International Airport could have an \$800 million negative impact on the region. The Chamber will work with DFW Airport to help minimize the economic impact.

The Plymouth Park Shopping Center has sold. There are few details available about the sale, other than that the investor has stated the property has "development potential".

Economic News: The Economic Confidence Index, compiled by Decision Analyst Inc of Arlington, shows that after a three month decline, confidence in the American economy finally broke out of its slump. The index is still slightly below its peaks in early 2004. Most significant increases were in stock market confidence and consumer future

purchase intent. Monthly Index of Business Conditions compiled by Dallas-based Tatum Partners reflected business conditions are steady while noting that backlogs were rising, capital expenditure commitments were stable and employment was up slightly but expected to decline over the next 60 days. Tatum also reported that conditions are strongest in the Southwest and weakest in the Pacific region. Nationally, first-time unemployment claims rose by 8,000. The costs of imported goods rose by 0.2% in November supporting the expected increase in interest rates by the Federal Reserve. November's Producers Price Index rose 0.5%.

The ED staff continues to work on 2 major relocation and 3 major retention/expansion projects.

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Cop-A-Ride



Captain Robert Jones and Police Chief Larry Boyd offered shoppers rides to and from their cars to raise money for Texas Special Olympics on Saturday.

Scouts help Salvation Army



Travis Stone, Layton Johnstone, Brian Hill and Brandon Robinson ring bells outside the Mall to help raise money for charity.



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 Sunglass Hut International

CARDS / BOOKS / GIFTS / STATIONERY (TARJETAS)

Barnes & Noble Booksellers
 Dallas Cowboys Pro Shop
 Great American Cookie/TCBY
 Holly's Hallmark
 Icing by Claire's
 Mervyn's
 T-Shirts Plus
 Texas Treasures
 Things Remembered

Sears

ENTERTAINMENT (ENTRETENIMIENTO)

AMC Theatres 14
 Animation Town
 Barnes & Noble Booksellers
 Choo Choo Charlie's Train Ride
 Circuit City
 fye - For Your Entertainment
 A.T. Arcade
 Sam Goody

HOME FURNISHINGS (ENSERES PARA EL HOGAR)

Art Department
 Cancun Market
 Dillard's
 Foley's
 Jet Furnishings
 Mervyn's

JEWELRY (JOYERIA)

Crown Jewelers
 Fast Fix Jewelry Repair
 Friedman's Jewelers
 Gold Plaza
 Gordon's Jewelers
 Helzberg Diamonds
 Italian Jewelry
 New York Jewelers
 Silver & Gold Connection
 Whitehall Co. Jewellers

ENTERTAINMENT- THEATRES

AMC Theatres 14

HEALTH AND BEAUTY (SALUD Y BELLEZA)

Bath & Body Works
 Victoria's Secret
 GNC
 Heaven Beaute' Spa
 Irving Mall Family Dental Center
 L.A. Nails
 LensCrafters
 MasterCuts
 Modern Nails
 Regis Hairstylists
 Toni & Guy
 Total Life Chiropractic
 Trade Secret
 Vitamin World

LUGGAGE

Dillard's
 Foley's
 Greek Italian Leather
 Mervyn's
 Sears

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S FASHIONS

CHILDREN'S FASHIONS (MODAS PARA NINOS)

Dalia's/Dickie's Brand
 Dallas Cowboys Pro Shop
 Dillard's
 Foley's
 Journeys Kidz
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(MODA DE CABALLEROS)

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 Dillard's
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 Fashion 101
 Foley's
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 Old Navy
 Sears
 T-Shirts Plus

MEN'S SPECIALTY FASHIONS

Dallas Cowboys Pro Shop
 Fashion 101

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City of Irving Boy Scout earns holiday closings Eagle Award

City offices will be closed Friday, Dec. 24 and Dec. 31.

All offices will reopen at their normal times Monday, Dec. 27 and Jan. 3.

There will be no residential trash, brush or curbside recycling pickup on these days. The city's drop-off recycling centers will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31. They will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. The city landfill will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1. The landfill will be open all other days, weather permitting. Call (972) 721-3772 to confirm.

All libraries will be closed Dec. 24-25, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. Libraries will close at 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 23. All city recreation centers will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. They will close at 5 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31.



Stefan Hopkins a member of Boy Scout Troop 175 received his Eagle Scout Award on Dec. 11.

Stefan is a 14-year old, freshman at Irving High School. During his

Eagle Scout service project, Stefan removed carpet squares in a large church service room for Northgate United Methodist Church in Irving. The service project saved the church over \$1,000.

Cheryl and Daniel Hopkins are Stefan's parents.

Irving Arts Center's Holiday Open House

Continued from page 1

Commedia dell'Arte presented a free performance of "A Commedia Carol" in Carpenter Hall. This rollicking send-up of holiday stories was loosely based on the Charles Dickens classic and featured traditional commedia characters.

The Arts Center has an open house every year with a theme that changes from year to year," Kass Prince, the Irving Arts Center Facilities Manager, said. "All of the people, schools and performing groups that participate are asked to do something that relates to that theme; and this year it was *The Age of Chivalry*. Any organization that wants to participate with some sort of hands on activity is welcome to do so at no charge. This is the one thing that we do every year that draws a huge cross-section of folks. Kids bring their parents to see their artwork on the wall; you always love to see that, they are so proud their art is hanging in the Arts Center. Lots of people come just to enjoy the 500 dozen cookies and punch and see their neighbors and have a little popcorn. There are always good entertainers: the Lone Star Youth Orchestra and Nimitz High School Madrigal Choir both very accomplished groups were performing."

In addition to complimentary refreshments, greeting card & craft workshops, and face painting, guests were treated to street performers, jugglers, magicians, the Nimitz High School Madrigal Choir and the Lone Star Youth Orchestra. As always, Santa Claus was present to hear the secret wishes of little ones and sit for photos. Outside the Arts Center, festival foods, train rides and cart and pony rides were available for a small fee.

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Murder Mystery Dinner Theater raises funds for Irving Community Theater



Sandiford Klause (Chris Winterstine) and dinner guest, Mary Bongfeldt, discuss the list of suspects possibly involved in Sally Manilla's murder.

The ICT Guild presented a Murder Mystery Dinner Theater featuring *Dying to be Santa Claus* performed by ICT Clubhouse members at the Omni Mandalay on Dec 2.

The dinner theater performance benefited the ICT MainStage and ICT Children's Theater.

Almost 700 choir students present an evening of holiday songs



Hundreds of voices fill the Irving High School Auditorium with *Season's Greetings!*
Photo by Pam Tolliver

The IISD Irving High School Cluster Choirs presented *Season's Greetings!* in the Irving High School Auditorium on Dec. 13. Six elementary school choirs, three middle school choirs and the Irving High School choir combined to create a massive 680-person choir.

Parents, grandparents, families and friends filled the Irving High School Auditorium to hear an evening of holiday music including *Shalom, O Kwanzaa, Rocking Christmas Celebration* and the *Hallelujah Chorus*.

"I thought it was wonderful," Dr. Alfred Green, Director of Fine Arts Administration, said. "That many kids together singing and demonstrating a love of music is just a joy. It also helps the kids to realize that they are not alone. They are not in the arts by themselves, but that there are a lot of people involved and enthusiastic."

Participating elementary school choirs were Keyes, Hanes, Good, Gilbert, Barton and Lively. Crockett, Austin and DeZavala Middle School choirs participated in the concert.

Ask the Doctor

Should I worry if a store blood pressure machine shows I have high blood pressure

Mark Doerner, M.D.

Dear Doctor: I am a 45 year-old man with no medical problems other than I am carrying a few extra pounds. I was in my local drug store the other day and took my blood pressure on one of their machines. It was 150/90. Is this something I need to have checked out by a doctor?

Dear kind reader: A blood pressure of 150/90 is considered to be an abnormal reading, and you should see your internist or other primary care doctor to have this evaluated further. Your doctor may want to measure your blood pressure on several different occasions before diagnosing you with what is called hypertension.

Hypertension means the heart is working harder than normal to pump out blood against increased resistance. The top number is the pressure in the blood vessels leaving the heart when the heart is pumping blood out. The bottom number is the pressure when the heart is relaxing and filling up with blood. Hypertension is usually caused by small blood vessels in the body contracting or by the body holding on to excess salt and water.

In most cases we do not know why the body holds on to excess salt and water, or why the blood vessels contract. This is called "essential hypertension." Genetics play a strong role. If your mother or father have hypertension, you are more likely to have it. Environmental factors, such as diet and stress, play a role as well.

Most people with hypertension have no symptoms. With severe hypertension, symptoms can include headaches, blurred

vision, temporary blindness, and shortness of breath.

In addition to essential hypertension, there are other ways to get high blood pressure. These include kidney disease, abnormalities of the blood vessels around the kidneys, hormonal disorders, and pregnancy.

It is important to get treated if you have hypertension. Untreated hypertension can lead to stroke, kidney failure, heart attack, and heart failure. Depending on the severity of hypertension, your doctor may recommend diet and exercise alone as an initial step. If needed, there are a number of effective and safe medicines available for the treatment of hypertension. So if you think you might have high blood pressure, or you just want to get checked out, please see your doctor.

Dr. Mark Doerner is an internist with North Texas Health Care Associates, conveniently located on the campus of Baylor Medical Center at Irving.

The material presented here is provided for your general information and is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice or instruction. Please consult your health care professional for advice relating to a medical problem or condition. Physicians are employees of HealthTexas Provider Network® and are neither employees nor agents of Baylor Health Care System, or Baylor Health Care System's subsidiary, community or affiliated medical centers. ©2004 Baylor Health Care System

Margaret's Corner

Hi Irving!

In a few days it will be Christmas, my my – hope you have everything done – yeah right. Well I have my shopping done; you see I shop in January. The 75% to 90% off sales are the only way to go. I'd say 85% of my shopping I do in January and through the year. It's great financially and time wise. Nevertheless there is much to do, meals, etc. Hay you adopted an angel at you church or somewhere? It is not too late to take a toy to the Blue Christmas drive.

How about Christmas cards, every year I send a lot, this year my list is shorter. Who knows next year, I understand stamps are going to go up in January. It will cost close to 50 cents to mail a letter – oh no!

As the weather worsens over the next couple of months, I do hope people will be careful. The percentage of falls and broken bones during bad weather goes up. Not only little old ladies need to worry about falling and breaking a bone. The rate of fractures among children has risen alarmingly over the past 30 years, according to a recent population study by the Mayo Clinic. Forearm fractures have increased 52% for girls and 32% for boys. That is not good for long-term skeletal health.

Poor nutrition – particularly the lack of enough calcium and other body building nutrients contributes to this problem. Adolescents drink 50% more soft drinks than they did in 1977. Wow, if you pour cola on a battery – you know the result. All that acid is damaging to bones among other things.

In one of my magazines, I read that some living tissue is composed primarily of hydroxapatite crystals (40% calcium and 60% phosphorus). During normal growth, cells called Osteoclasts dissolve or reabsorb bone, allowing cells know as osteoblasts to form new bone to replace what is being lost. The problem begins when bone reabsorption occurs more rapidly than new bone formation. We need to take calcium, but keep in mind that it is important to balance calcium with other nutrients as well. Soft drinks and other high acid foods cause calcium to leach out of bone. We won't have to face as many problems in the future with our bones and overall health if we take care of our bodies' needs today.

We all know that sodas and certain foods are not good for us. However we need reminding from time to time, because we are tempted to overindulge in foods that are not healthy.

This Christmas may your heart overflow with His love. No one loves us more than Jesus. Jeremiah 31:3 says – "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, with loving kindness I have drawn you."

Attend Church Sunday
God bless you.

Margaret Lopez is an independent writer for the Irving Rambler. An Irving resident for more than 12 years, she and her husband have been married for more than 37 years and have four daughters and four grandsons

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RELIGION

Heart Size, Teamwork & the Church

Dr. Jim Gerlach
Oak View Baptist Church

Lance Armstrong, a native of Plano, made cycling history by doing what no other person had ever been able to do. He dominated this year's contest to win his sixth consecutive Tour de France.

Two things strike me about Armstrong's remarkable string of victories. First, Lance Armstrong is an incredibly disciplined athlete. Through focused and relentless training, the Texan has shaped his body into the perfect cycling machine. His resting heart rate is 32 beats per minute and he has the largest lung capacity ever recorded for a human being. Secondly, no great accomplishment occurs without teamwork. While Armstrong was grabbing headlines, his teammates were sacrificing themselves so that he could succeed. They executed a flawless strategy to protect him from any possible mishap.

So what does all this have to do with the church? God wants His Body the church to have an ever expanding heart for people...a heartache for His creation to be rightly related

to Him through Jesus. That does not occur naturally. Our Old Nature turns up inward, focuses on our own needs and tries to shrink our hearts. It is only through exercising the disciplines of Bible Study, prayer and mutual accountability that our heart capacity for others can be what it is supposed to be.

We are never meant to be independent of one another. We are a Body. Every significant accomplishment...every baptism, public decision or spiritual milestone achieved by the church or a believer is the result of an unseen team of believers who made it possible.

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Movie Review

Flight of the Phoenix

Matt Mungle

Rated: PG-13

Starring: Dennis Quaid, Giovanni Ribisi, Miranda Otto, Hugh Laurie, Jared Padalecki

John Moore's *Flight of the Phoenix* puts a dozen individuals in a desperate situation and says "you're on your own". Pilot Frank Towns (Dennis Quaid) has to fly a crew of oil workers out of the Mongolian desert. When a disastrous decision crash-lands them in the middle of the dunes they deduct that the only way to come through is to rebuild what was destroyed.

Like any survival movie this one has its moments of doubt. Not doubt like, "will they get out", but doubt like "where did they find all the stuff to make a plan like that work"? Put that aside and you are left with a nice exchange for your movie dollar.

The strength of this movie lies in the character of Elliot (Giovanni Ribisi). There is a fine line between insanity and crazy enough to work, and Elliot walks it in a shroud of mystery. You really aren't sure whether to trust him or fear him as Ribisi's quiet, quirky traits keeps you guessing until the end.

The element of togetherness and bonding in times of trouble is overplayed in the early portions of their struggle, but the writers end up painting the characters in realistic tones.

Fans of tension will love the crash scene, which might be among the top 5 of all time. Rated PG-13 for some language, action and violence it's no award winner, but *Flight of the Phoenix* does what movies were originally intended to do: entertain. I give it 3 1/2 out of 5 stars.

With a spin on a remake, I'm Matt Mungle

OBITUARIES

ROSIE MCKELLIP

ROSIE MCKELLIP, age 86, a resident of Irving, Texas for over 50 years, died Saturday, December 11, 2004 at Baylor Medical Center at Irving. Born October 25, 1918 at Seagoville, Texas, she was a homemaker and widow of Kenneth G. McKellip.

Survivors include daughters, Bertha Grogg and Laura Jean Owens; son, Kenneth McKellip, all of Irving; sister, Lucille Davis of Gainesville; 9 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a son, John.

NICHOLAS AARON CHRISTOPHER "NICK" HARMAN



Nicholas Aaron Christopher "Nick" Harman, age 20, a life-long resident of Irving, died Saturday, December 11, 2004 at his home. Born June 27, 1984 at St. Paul Hospital in Dallas, he was a 2003 graduate of MacArthur High School in Irving, TX. He received the Boy Scout Eagle Award in October 2002 from Troop 137 in Irving. He was a freshman at North Lake Community College and worked in the adaptive P. E. department.

He is survived by his parents, Tommy Harman, Lynn and Wendall Ash; brother, Jeremy Harman; sisters, Aimee Harman and Eden Ash. Grandparents Wayne and Kathy Janes, Katherine Harman, Leonard and Linda Krzykowski; aunts, Lori Miknavich, Ann Krzykowski, Karen Bethard, Lena Freiheit, Laura Broughton, and Pam Clark; uncles, Steve and Peter Krzykowski; several cousins and extended family in Milwaukee, WI, Phoenix, AZ, Naples, FL, and Texas. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society - Brain Tumor Foundation.

EDNA VIRGINIA BOWERS

Bowers, Edna Virginia, 82 of Irving passed away December 12, 2004 at a local hospital. She was born December 22, 1921 in Gaffney, South Carolina to parents Z. Boyd and Mattie Lorene Sarratt. She is survived by husband Bill Bowers, son Larry Wright and his wife Carole of Carson City, Nevada, daughter Carolyn Lesley and husband Michael of Garland, Texas, grandson David Lesley, grandson Brandon Lesley and his wife Amy, granddaughter Jessica Wright, granddaughter Chena Kline and a soon to be great granddaughter. Funeral Services 1:00 P.M. Thursday December 16, 2004 Brown's Memorial Chapel with interment to follow at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.

CARL EARNEST KAISER

Carl Earnest Kaiser was born July 24, 1923 in Summerville, MA to Carl, Sr. and Ellen O'Brien Kaiser.

He passed away peacefully Dec. 10, 2004, with his daughter by his side, at Baylor Medical Center of Irving.

Mr. Kaiser was a WWII veteran serving in the US Army where he earned 3 Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart after surviving 3 beachhead landings. After returning home from serving his country, he married his sweetheart Babs Ione Porter on Nov. 16, 1946 in Dallas, TX. She survives. Mr. Kaiser was a retired sheet metal mechanic and was especially fond of his fellowship and participation with the VFW.

Survivors include his wife Babs Kaiser of Irving, TX; One daughter, Pamela Nell Kaiser Hill and husband Bobby of Kemp, TX; Two sons, Leon C. Kaiser of Irving, TX, and Clifford S. Kaiser and close friend Dick Gallagher of Chicago, IL; and Grandsons, Shaine Carl Cagle of Austin, TX; Bobby R. Hill, Jr. of Grand Prairie, TX; and Keith W. Hill of Garland, TX; plus a close chosen family member, Carl Delles, of Dallas, TX.

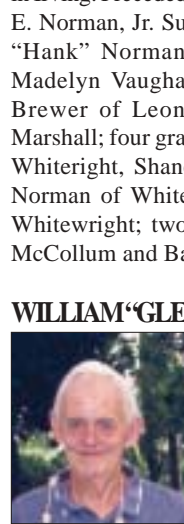
In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the St. Jude's Children's Hospital in memory of Mr. Kaiser.

JOYCE NORMAN



JOYCE NORMAN, age 76, a resident of Whitewright, Texas, formerly of Irving, Texas, died December 9, 2004 in Whitewright. Born March 16, 1928 in Cass County, Texas, she received a Bachelor of Science degree from Baylor University. She was member at First United Methodist Church in Irving. Preceded in death by her husband, Henry E. Norman, Jr. Survivors include son, Henry E. "Hank" Norman of Whitewright; daughter, Madelyn Vaughan of Tioga; daughter, Dawn Brewer of Leonard; sister, Patsy Odom of Marshall; four grandchildren, Erin McCollum of Whiteright, Shane Vaughan of Sherman, Matt Norman of Whiteright and Kelsey Norman of Whitewright; two great grandchildren, Christa McCollum and Bailey McCollum.

WILLIAM "GLENN" CHRISTOPHER



William "Glenn" Christopher, of Irving, went to be with The Lord on December 5, 2004. Mr. Christopher was born on September 13, 1934 in Athens, Texas. He graduated

from Athens High School and attended U.T. Arlington. In 1965, he purchased Griffin & Company. He spent his life as a design draftsman designing conveyor systems and in 1976 changed the name of the company to Christopher & Associates. He retired in January 2003 and spent time as a member of The Star Trekkers Walking Club. He walked over 10,000 miles throughout the United States and Canada. He was also an avid fisherman, nature lover and gardener.

Preceded in death by son, Ron Christopher in 1986; survivors include his wife of 50 years, Barbara Christopher of Irving; mother Myrtle Lane Christopher; son Gerald Lynn Christopher of Newark, Texas and Gerald's friend, Elaine Smith; daughter, Joanie Baeuerle and husband, Jeff of Charlotte, North Carolina; grandchildren mark, Eric and Scott Baeuerle; and brothers Dale Christopher of Athens, and Nelson Christopher of Trinity, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to Davis Mountains Preserve, c/o Ft. Davis Nature Conservatory, P.O. Box 2078, Ft. Davis, TX 79734.

GLEND A ELIZABETH MATYASI

Glenda Elizabeth Matyasi, age 57, of Dallas, TX, formerly of Irving, TX passed away Monday, December 6, 2004 after a lengthy illness. Graveside services were held Friday, December 10th at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens in Irving. Mrs. Matyasi was born on August 6, 1947 in Toronto, Canada. She was a nurse at Doctor's Hospital in Dallas, TX. Mrs. Matyasi is survived by husband, Frank Matyasi of Dallas, TX; daughter, Susan Matyasi of Dallas, TX; sons, Frank Matyasi Jr. of Texas, Steve Matyasi and his wife Dawn of Union, MO, Tim Matyasi of Texas; brother Wayne Roxburg of Grand Valley, Canada; grandchildren, Heather Matyasi, Valerie Matyasi, Katelyn Matyasi and Ashley Matyasi.

SAMANTHA CHASEN LIVELY



Samantha Chasen Lively, a loving mom, daughter and sister, of Irving passed away Wednesday December 8, 2004. Samantha was born June 5, 1983 in Dallas, Texas to Carl and Kathy Lively. She was a senior at U.T. Arlington.

Preceded in death by her father; survivors include her mother, Kathy Lively of Irving; daughter, Briauna of Irving; sisters, Ashley Brannon of Irving; Cindy Cooper of Longview; Lesa Wyatt of Austin; and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Briauna Rodriguez Contribution Account at 4519 W. Pioneer Dr., #1203, Irving, TX 75061.

JAMES A. MILLER, JR.



James A. Miller, Jr., age 64, of Irving, Texas, died December 6, 2004 in El Paso, Texas. He was born July 19, 1940 in Ben Franklin, Texas.

Survivors include son, Michael Miller and wife Toni of Forney; daughter, Mitzi Tomlin and husband Jesse of North Richland Hills; son, James A. Miller, III and wife Michelle of Flower Mound; nine grandchildren, Morgan, Garrett, Dalton, Shelby, Lindsey, Kylie, Drew, Zack and Abbey; brother, John T. Miller; and sister, Rita Sue Woods.

WILLIAM "HAROLD" WHISENHUNT

WILLIAM "HAROLD" WHISENHUNT, age 75, a resident of Irving, Texas for forty-six years, died December 6, 2004 at Baylor Medical Center at Irving. Born June 7, 1929 in Grand Saline, Texas, to John William and Erma Irene Saxton Whisenhunt.

Survivors include son, Wendell Whisenhunt and wife Jeannie of Garland; daughter, Patricia Walker and husband Elken Eugene "Gene" Walker, of Irving; daughter, Gail Jessee and husband Ronald of Coral Springs, Florida; brothers, James Whisenhunt and Billy Wayne Whisenhunt, both of Fruitvale, TX; and brother Jerry Whisenhunt of New Orleans, LA; sisters, Faye Douthit of Arizona, Cynthia Miller of Hereford and Sue Vanderhoof of Fort Worth; and four grandchildren.

ZACHARIA HALLEN HUMPHREYS



Zachariah Allen Humphreys of Irving born January 13, 1986 in Dallas passed away December 5, 2004 in Irving. He enjoyed football, basketball, music and spending time with his family.

Survivors include parents Allen and Tina Humphreys of Irving; Lisa and Gene Canney of Alba, Texas; paternal grandmother Bea Humphreys of Irving; maternal grandmother Charlie Taylor of Irving; sister and brother-in-law Amanda and Jeremy Morris of Irving; niece Mariah Morris and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m. Friday, December 10, 2004 at Brown's Memorial Funeral Home Chapel. Interment followed at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.

Are You Ready for Christmas

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Christmas Tree | Movies |
| Cookies | Music |
| Decorations | Pageants |
| Egg Nog | Parades |
| Excited | Parties |
| Family | Pictures |
| Food | Presents |
| Friends | Secret Santa |
| Lights | Shopping |
| Milk | Travel |
| | Wrapping |

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Pets

Emmy was lost last Wednesday morning at 7:30 in Camdem Apartments on the northwest corner of Valley Ranch and MacArthur She's a 6-month old red miniature dachshund

weighing approximately 5 lbs. She's unusual in that she has a red nose and reddish toenails. We are offering a \$300 reward Phone numbers are: 214-924-3574; 214-228-5857 214-282-2042

A great dog free for a good home, Harlequin is a neutered female, Dalmatian mix. 214-478-2915 Owner moving into apt.

Free Tonks one year old, neutered female, Akita/Husky with beautiful eyes needs a good home. Free 214-478-2915

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Call us and ask about our free standard professional installation and our fantastic offers. Latino's Communications Network 214-493-0070

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Do you have a broken lease? Can you pay an extra deposit? Give us a call, we may be able to help! Apartment Selectors 972-256-3545

Help Wanted

Experienced Driver Needed: Irving businessman needs driver Mon. thru Thurs. to drive business owner to appointments, run errands and general to do's. Vehicle provided. No weekends. Good driving record a must. Please call Susan at 972 518 3002.

Part-time "gofer" to run errands in the Irving area for a small law firm, 5-10 hours per week at \$10 per hour; send resume or letter about yourself to P.O. Box 947, Fairfield, Texas 75840.

Irving Business Networking Luncheon

Generate Business Leads Every Wednesday - Cost \$10.00 Call for Details & Locations

Ask for Mark Hoyle - (214) 729-4877 (Español) Sonia Stice - (817) 403-7797

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Stemmons foundation pledges \$100,000 annual matching funds grant for each of the next five years.

"We are raising funds to build a new shelter; named Corky's Cottage. Corky's Cottage is going to be about 10,000 square foot facility. We bought 2.2 acres adjacent to our current facility. We have done all of the architectural renderings, everything is done for the new facility; now comes the hard part, raising the \$2.4 million that we need to get it up and running," Darryn Pope, the D/FW Humane Society board president.

Every dollar you send is worth two dollars with the grant.

The DFW Humane Society

Animals Presently Residing At



Blackie

Breed: Shepherd Mix
Sex: Female
Weight: about 40 lbs
Age: 1 year
Color: Black and Tan

Reason for Surrender: Owners are moving
Comments: I'm a female mixed breed. I'm close to a year old so I'm full grown. I enjoy walks and games, and I'm very affectionate. I love kids, I get along with other dogs, and I've had some houstraining.



Sherry

Breed: Domestic Short Hair
Sex: Female / Spayed
Weight: about 7 lbs.
Age: about 3 years

Color: Tabby
Reason for Surrender: Found as a stray.
Comments: Sherry is sweet and affectionate. She is good with other cats.

Irving's Bracebridge Dinner provides an evening of medieval entertainment and food

Squire John and Lady Katherine Boyle served as hosts for the Irving Heritage Society's 13th annual Irving's Bracebridge Dinner held in the Harvey Hotel on Dec. 14.

A unique Christmas tradition of grand proportion, the Bracebridge Dinner recreates a 17th century English manor holiday feast complete with food, song and mirth. American writer, Washington Irving's Sketch Book that

described the fictional Squire Bracebridge and English Christmas traditions of that period inspires this holiday feast. Squire and Lady Bracebridge gathered together family and friends in the Great Hall of Bracebridge every December. At each Bracebridge Christmas gathering, a seven-course dinner was served amid flourish, decoration and fanfare.

Conversation rivaled the exquisite food as the evening's main attraction. Nimitz High School Madrigal Singers and the "Larkspur Early Music Band" provided classic carols and Middle Age musical entertainment for this year's dinner.

The Bracebridge Dinner menu included a seven-course meal consisting of Relish – holiday relish with assorted cheeses and crudites, Soup – smoked corn chowder, Fish – sautéed shrimp on pumpkin pasta, Peacock Pie – puff pastry filled with game hen and mushroom ragout topped with port wine demi-glace, Boar's Head – roast pork loin with three-peppercorn sauce selected winter vegetables and duchess potatoes, Salad – coastal greens with freshly shaved cheese and vinaigrette dressing, and the Pudding and the Wassail – plum pudding with hard sauce.



Bracebridge Dinner guests enjoy a royal evening of food, fun and conversation as the Larkspur Early Music Band plays medieval music on instruments common in the 17th century.

A frontier hero comes to life in *James Mackay a man to cherish 1761-1822*

Helen Ogden Widener introduced her newest book, *James Mackay a man to cherish 1761-1822*, during a reception and book signing at the Irving Arts Center on Dec. 12. The book chronicles the life, adventures and hardships of James Mackay, who left his native Scotland and became an explorer, trader and mapmaker in the New World's untamed Missouri territory.

Mrs. Widener first heard of James Mackay through her husband, James', family; James Mackay is Mr. Widener's third great-grand father. Family tradition credited James Mackay for advising the Lewis and Clark expedition as well as drawing the map the famous pair used.

On a lark, Mrs. Widener did an Internet search for a copy of the map used by Lewis and Clark. She found the rumored map on a Library of Congress site, but it was credited to de Fenielis as drawn from the notes of James Mackay. Mrs. Widener felt the map might have been credited to de Fenielis in error. She contacted a Missouri historian with her concerns about the map. His research and that of a fellow historian from the University of Oklahoma proved that the map was, in fact, the original work of James Mackay.

"The most impressive thing James Mackay did was make peace with the Indians," Mrs. Widener said. "In his journal, he says he didn't achieve his goal of traveling all the way to the Pacific, but he did make peace with the Indians and set up trade. He established relations and trade with the Indians a decade before the Lewis and Clark expedition. If he had not done that, Lewis and Clark would have faced the same problems that the two previous

expeditions had encountered: they could not get through the Indians without massive bribes. So it was impossible for an expedition to carry enough trade goods to get through these tribes especially the Omahas. The Omahas had their main village on the Platte River; they were one of the most furious and difficult tribes to deal with."

Jan Hart, senior archivist for the city of Irving, spoke with Mrs. Widener as she researched her book.

"I thought Helen's research was excellent," Jan Hart, Senior Archivist for Irving, said. "She did a great deal of work on the book through the national archives and historical societies. I think it is going to be an excellent book. She is very accurate and hard working; and she has done a really good job."

Mrs. Widener's other works include the *Irving Texas Centennial Cookbook and Family Histories*, and a personal family history, which is not commercially available.



Helen Ogden Widener signs copies of her new book for Ruth Lowery and Bobbie Thomas.

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