



the

# Irving Rambler



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"The Newspaper Irving Reads"

May 25, 2006

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WEEK**

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## Rescue teams compete at Texas Stadium

The Irving Fire Department's High Angle Rescue Team and Technical Rescue Competition Inc. co-hosted Technical Rescue Competition and Evaluation at Texas Stadium on May 18-19. Teams completed challenges that allowed them to practice rescue scenarios in an urban environment. Judges evaluated each teams' strengths and weaknesses.

Though Irving firefighters practiced rescue techniques and received evaluations, they were not able to compete because they were hosting the event. Pflugerville

firefighters took home the competition's top honors.

City council woman, Beth Van Duyne, volunteered to be a patient in need of rescue for the Irving team.

"Last year I completed the Citizens Fire Academy and the High Angle Rescue Team gave a presentation to our class," Ms. Van Duyne said. "I admitted being a little disappointed that we didn't get to experience high angle rescue first hand. They said that if I really wanted to try it, they have competitions all the time and they would give me a call.

"I went out to the Texas Stadium competition and I had no idea what they were going to have me do. They asked me if I wanted to go straight down directly from the roof or if I wanted to go at the angle. I thought for the first time, it was probably better to go down at the angle. But they told me next time, I can come straight down from the roof.

"I wanted to see them in action. The types of situations that our fire department finds itself in are remarkable and they have no time to prepare for some of that stuff. When there is an emergency and people are waiting to be rescued, you don't have a lot of time to go home and get what you need. You must have everything there ready to go," she said.

"All of these firefighters who compete in competition, do this on their own time. They aren't paid to compete. All of the equipment is their own. This is training firefighters do on their own to make them better at their job. I really respect that.

"It was a great experience. But if I did not trust the personnel and the training, I would have never put myself in that situation. I was scared of going over the lip, but I was all strapped in. It wasn't anything like repelling myself. It was a really nice experience. The firemen were pleasant and made me feel safe. I would do it again, if I was given the opportunity," Ms. Van Duyne said.



Playing the victim, council woman Beth Van Duyne strapped into a gurney is expertly strapped in to a gurney before being lowered from the top of Texas Stadium by the Irving Fire Department's High Angle Rescue Team.



A member of the High Angle Rescue Team is suspended above the floor of Texas Stadium with his patient.

## Training For The Unexpected : Adventure Racing, a Challenging Team Sport

By Tripti Bhalla

Standing at the starting point of the Coast To Coast race in the heart of banana country - Costa Rica, the world's second largest banana producer, Adventure Racer Maribel Reymundo had mixed emotions. Excited yet apprehensive, determined yet irresolute, this Irving resident had a feat to accomplish - challenging 6 days and 500 kms (310.7 miles) of pure adventure racing in unadulterated natural surroundings.

Adventure racing is defined as a "nonstop, multiday, multisport, team event of strategy where competitors must travel without outside assistance in areas of remote wilderness.\*" To accomplish the challenging goals, this multi-discipline sport may involve mountain biking, paddling, trekking, navigating, rappelling/climbing, and team challenges. This year's adventure race that Reymundo participated in consisted of trekking, biking, kayaking and paddling through some of Costa Rica's most varied and interesting terrain as the racers crossed

the country from Atlantic to the Pacific coast in six days straight.

As part of a four member team called TOW (Team of Wannab's), it was Reymundo's first expedition race out of the country.

"We have been adventure racing for the past three years primarily in Texas" Reymundo said. "So, when one of our team members Dianna suggested doing an expedition race in Costa Rica, we thought she was not serious about it, and we were not on board with her. She simply thought that it would be an amazing experience and if we ever wanted to take on a challenge such as that, Costa Rica would be a beautiful place to go. So needless to say, it didn't take a lot of convincing."

Once decided, Reymundo and her teammates had only nine months to plan their fundraising efforts and train for such an overwhelming challenge.

"Our training schedule was very hectic and making a commit-

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## Women of Spirit Award presented to DCET founder, Elvia Wallace-Martinez

Local activist and educator, Elvia Wallace-Martinez was recognized for her work as the founder and executive director of Debes Creer en Ti (DCET) with a Women of Spirit Award presented by the American Jewish Congress on May 11. Elvia was one of five women honored during the 13<sup>th</sup> annual event hosted in the home of Lisa Blue and Fred Baron. Mayor Herb Gears, president of DCET, introduced Elvia during the awards ceremony.

"The city of Irving is approximately 38% Hispanic, Latino, Mexican in population," Mayor Gears said. "We have a large immigrant population. That is projected to go over 50% in the next 10 years. So we have a significant number of families who are acculturating, transitioning, assimilating, learning about how to be American and learning how to become a citizen. Elvia recently became a citizen. And there is no person who I can tell

you represents American values and what it means to care about people and have compassion for good people than Elvia has. She is a great example for me.

"It is unbelievable, the work that she does. And I also want you

to know that she is not paid to be the executive director. She does an immense amount of work."

Elvia spoke about leaving home in order to help her two sisters, brother and mother financially.

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Five ladies in a row are the newest recipients of the Women of Spirit Awards. Honored for their contributions to the communities, the ladies are Molly Van Ort, Lois Finkelman, Elvia Wallace-Martinez, Dr. Lauren McDonald and Linda Kao.

# Public invited to D/FW National Cemetery Memorial Day

The public is invited to attend the annual Memorial Day program at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery beginning at 3 p.m. on May 28. The program is sponsored by the Texas National Cemetery Foundation (TNCF). The cemetery is on the eastern shore of Mountain Creek Lake in southwest Dallas.

"We are urging the public to attend this year's program in which we will have a special wreath-laying ceremony honoring those veterans who have given their lives in the fight against terrorism," Gary Poplin, special events director of the TNCF, said.

Keynote speaker will be Brig. Gen. James L. Williams, deputy commanding general of the Marine Corps Combat Development Com-

mand. Attendees will be welcomed by Cemetery Director Ron Pemberton. Other remarks will be made by William W. McLemore, a deputy assistant in the Department of Veterans Affairs and U.S. Congressman Kenny Marchant.

The cemetery's Avenue of Flags, featuring 172 American flags plus flags representing the five armed services, will provide a colorful back drop during the ceremonies.

A traditional part of the program will include a rifle salute for departed veterans by the 2nd Battalion of the 14th Marines. It will be followed by the rendering of Taps. Patriotic musical renditions will be performed before and after the ceremonies by the Home School Choir of Dallas.

The 638-acre Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery is the only veterans cemetery in north Texas and was dedicated May, 2000. Since that date close to 15,000 veterans and their immediate dependents have been interred in the Cemetery.



## pOLICE & Fire Briefs

**Highway Closure:** 05-22-06 at about 4:15 p.m. A tractor trailer carrying a bulldozer was north bound on SH Loop 12 and did not have enough clearance to go under Old Irving Blvd Bridge. The top of the load struck the bridge causing structural damage. The north bound lanes of SH Loop 12 were shut down and traffic was routed onto the service road. The Texas Department of Transportation was calling out an engineer to evaluate when the roadway could be opened back up for traffic.

**Update on Loop 12:** The under passage on Loop 12 is open, but the Irving Blvd bridge is closed and will remain closed for an undetermined amount of time.

**Robbery:** 05-22-06 at 10:50 p.m. Officers were sent to the gas station

1200 block E. SH 183 on a robbery. The clerk reported that two suspects entered the store and threatened to assault him while they stole items from the store. The suspects took cigarettes and other items and then left the store. The clerk was not injured.

**Robbery:** 05-23-06 at 2:00 p.m. the female complainant was walking down Standish and was at the corner of Plymouth, when three female suspects jumped her. They started hitting and kicking her and took her purse. A witness driving by saw what was happening and began honking his horn. The suspects ran and got into a white 4 door Dodge and fled south bound on Plymouth. The complainant received some abrasions and contusions and was transported to Baylor Irving for treatment.

## Chamber of Commerce Economic Development

**CB Richard Ellis Investors** has announced a \$4-million makeover of the 833,390 Sq Ft Millennium Center, and will rename the property, Urban Towers. The redo will result in 10,000 sq ft of new space in a lobby expansion to create a centralized entrance for the two-tower high-rise at 222 W. Las Colinas Boulevard. Work is planned to start in July and be completed by February 2007. CB Richard Ellis Investors also owns the Tower on Lake Carolyn (909 Lake Carolyn Parkway) and The Summit at 545 Las Colinas Boulevard.

**Atmos Energy (NYSE:ATO)**, one of our private Economic Development Investors, has achieved two significant milestones in 2006: (1) It was named to this year's Fortune 500 rankings for the first time at #430; and (2) it is celebrating its 100 year anniversary of providing clean natural gas for warmth, cooking and a variety of other energy uses.

**Kimberly-Clark**, a Fortune 500 company with global headquarters

in Irving-Las Colinas, was the recipient of United Way's Spirit of America Award. The national award is the highest tribute from United Way for corporate community involvement. Kimberly-Clark provides charitable resources to organizations that are designed and dedicated to improving the lives of the world's families.

**Irving based ExxonMobil (NYSE:XOM)** recently donated nearly \$700,000 to the University of Texas at Austin in matching gifts from the company's employees and retirees. Most of the donated money will be used for programs in business, engineering and geosciences. Nationwide, ExxonMobil donated more than \$21 million in matching contributions in higher education gifts from its employees and retirees.

**Upscale hotel chain Omni Hotels**, with corporate headquarters in Irving, has announced plans to develop in Minneapolis as part of its expansion plans. Other gateway cit-

ies for Omni expansion include Seattle, Dallas, Toronto and Vancouver. The hotelier would like to add four to five hotels a year.

**Rafael Pinedo**, CEO of Irving-based Pilgrim Petroleum (Pink Sheet:PGPM), has announced a strategic alliance with J.A.R. Corp of San Antonio. J.A.R. is the provider of a state of the art recovery technology, "magnetic sub", which will allow Pilgrim to speed the process to incorporate and develop more wells and enhance production on existing wells.

In the *Dallas Morning News'* annual listing of the largest corporate headquarters, both public and private, in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, Irving is once again second only to the City of Dallas in the number of headquarter locations within a City. In public companies, Irving is tied with Fort Worth with 13 companies, but in private corporate headquarters, Irving has 12 making it a primary choice for large corporate headquarters.

**PS Business Parks**, an Economic Development Investor, announced the following new leases: 27,000 sq ft for Check Point Software (relocated from Arlington); 61,000 sq ft for the MHA Group expansion, and 75,000 sq ft for JP Morgan Chase call center (relocating from Dallas).

**NAFTA Traders** has purchased a 269,768 Sq Ft office-warehouse building at 520 N. Wildwood Drive in South Irving.

In another South Irving transaction, Jola Management purchased a 7,000 sq ft office warehouse facility at 2311 E. Grauwlyer Road. The building will be refurbished and become the new headquarters for Dasha Inc.

**May is Asian Heritage Month** and has been recognized by proclamation in the City of Irving. Approximately 300,000 Asian and Pacific Islanders live in the North Texas region. The number of Asian-owned businesses in the U.S. grew by 24% between 1997 and 2002, which is approximately twice the national average. Texas accounts for nearly 80,000 of Asian-owned firms.

### Irving Police Department activity summary May 23 - May 25

Irving Police Department responded to 36 incidents.

- |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 5 Auto Thefts            | 6 Burglary of a habitat |
| 20 Burglary of a vehicle | 2 Recovery of a vehicle |
| 1 Burglary of a business | 2 Robbery               |

### Irving Fire Department activity summary May 23

Irving Fire Department responded to 315 incidents.

#### The Fire incidents

- 15 Miscellaneous Fire and Rescue Calls
- 0 Structure Fires
- 0 Special Operations
- 2 Vehicle Fires

#### Medical calls

- 3 Major Accidents
- 13 Major Medical
- 3 Heart Attacks
- 7 Difficulty Breathing
- 12 Trauma Related
- 3 CPR Situations

#### Comments:

**Comments:**  
5-23 Ambulance went into overload once.

## The Irving Rambler

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

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# Community Calendar

**May 29 Heritage Society Fish Fry** - The Irving Heritage Society's fish fry had to be rescheduled due to rain. The new date will be Memorial Day, May 29<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30p.m. The new location will be 500 Farine, at the corner of Farine and O'Connor Road. Prepared by the "Irving Rat Pack," the meal is always delicious and one you will not want to miss!

**May 31 Cancer Support Group** - Baylor Medical Center at Irving hosts **Dialogue every Wednesday at 10 a.m.** at the Irving Cancer Center, 1901 N. MacArthur Blvd., suite 120. The group provides support for cancer patients and family members dealing with the diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of cancer. For more information, call 972-579-4300.

**June 1 Irving Downtown Association** - The Irving Downtown Association will hold its

monthly meeting. The guest speaker will be City Secretary, Janice Carrol.

**June 1 Kidgits Storytime at the Mall** - Irving Mall Center Court, 11:00 - 11:30 AM Irving Public Library and Simon Mall have teamed up to bring families a special storytime event each month 11:00 - 11:30 a.m.. Miss Meredith from the Northwest Branch and her friend, Kipper, provide fun interactive stories. This event is just right for toddlers, preschoolers and Moms Day Out groups! For more information, please call the Northwest Branch (972) 721-2691.

**June 1 - July 31 Summer Reading Club 2006** - The theme for 2006 is "Reading: The Sport of Champions!" Join library staff as we take the reading challenge to become Super Reading Champs. Pick up your reading game board at

any library location. Children who read or listen to books 20 minutes each day will receive incentives. Prizes are awarded at 10, 20, and 30 days.

**Prizes include:**  
 10 days - Reading Club Certificate and Rangers Ticket Voucher  
 20 days - Paperback book  
 30 days - Mini sports ball  
 40, 50, 60 days - Enter you name in a prize drawing to be held August 2  
**June 13** - Visit any library and receive a free sticker when you show your reading log.  
**June 27** - Visit any library for a chance to answer a sports riddle and win a prize.  
**July 15 & 16** - Visit any library to celebrate "Cow Appreciation Day." Receive a coupon for a Chick-Fil-A kid's meal when you show your reading log.  
**July 29, 30, & 31** - Visit any library and celebrate Harry Potter's birthday. Receive a free Harry Potter item when you show your reading log.

**June 3 African Dance and Drumming** - This program is suitable for all ages and admission is free 11:00 - 11:30 a.m., Central Library Auditorium. For more information, please call the Central Library (972) 721-2458.

**June 4 Irving Heritage House** - Learn more about one of the early homes in Irving by visiting the Irving Heritage House for a docent led tour. The Heritage House is located at 303 South O'Connor, and will be open for

tours Sunday, June 4, between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Admission is free. Built in 1912, the Heritage House is a restored pioneer home. For information, call 972-252-3838 or visit the web site [www.irvingheritage.com](http://www.irvingheritage.com).

June 6-7 *The Rainbow Fish* - puppet show  
 Join us for regular scheduled storytime and a special puppet show at the Valley Ranch Branch. Our theme will be "Ocean and Fish" For more information, please call 972-831-0669.

## Festival celebrates Cinco de Mayo and community health

By Elvia Wallace-Martinez  
 With the growth of the Hispanic community in Irving, Lee Park, honored the national Mexican celebration "5 de Mayo", which commemorates the triumph of the Mexican Army over the French invaders led by Maximilian, a Napoleonic envoy.

At the same time, the very diverse community of our international city gathered to celebrate Lee Park Neighborhood Health and Educational Festival.

From fajitas, Mexican corn, Mexican candies to free raffles, and entertainment featuring FAMA ballet Folklorico, West Express Cheerleaders, Hawaiian Hula Dance, Dana Dance Academy and the dynamic "Andariego" group, made

this fiesta a sensational one. Mayor Herbert Gears opened the ceremony, which started with a small presentation of the flags of USA and Mexico.

The Mariachi Los Reyes sung the Mexican National anthem and Rosemonbe Asimoa, a student of Irving High School, sang the *Star-Spangled Banner*.

The Mexican Consulate represented by Ana Hernandez was present, as well as Ms. 2005 Ms. Mature of Irving, Ana Cochran.

Organizers, Juan Carlos Reynoso, Carole Lawrence, Elvia Wallace-Martinez, Ray Cerda and Stephanie Davila welcomed 82 vendors and exhibitors to the health and educational "5 de Mayo" festival.



Neighbors celebrate Cinco de Mayo together at Lee Park Recreation Center event.

## Ten Little Indians adds up to a night of suspense

Provided by Jill Stephens  
 ICT MainStage audiences will be busy searching for clues when one of the world's most popular murder mysteries, *Ten Little Indians*, comes to life May 26 through June 10. Armchair sleuths are guaranteed an evening of suspense as they see why the Agatha Christie classic has enjoyed unsurpassed popularity as a mystery novel, the-

ater production, and movie. The mystery begins when ten unsuspecting guests are invited for a holiday stay on Indian Island. One by one they are murdered, while the remaining guests attempt to identify the culprit before the next crime is committed. Audiences will enjoy the clever plot twists and surprises that are an Agatha Christie trademark and have made her mystery

novels a favorite worldwide. ICT offers many clues that its production will be a first-class thriller, starting with a stellar cast of suspects. Audiences will be welcoming back MainStage favorites Debbie Hurley, Richard A. Jones, Keith Kubal, Guinn Powell, Sheila D. Rose, James West, and Jordan Willis.

They'll be joined by ICT newcomers Phil Nixon, Allison Pistorius, and David Willie, whose acclaimed stage talent is no mystery to area theaters.

ICT veteran Robb Pocklington takes a shot at directing the crime scene, while Jim Hutchison will help shed light on it as the production's lighting designer.

Scenic designer Paul Fiorella, an experienced hand at stage mysteries, will create the right suspenseful atmosphere. Tory Padden helps cloak the mystery's characters as costume designer.

*Ten Little Indians* promises an evening of murderous fun. It would be a crime to miss it. Ticket information and reservations can be obtained by calling (972) 252-2787 or on-line at [www.irvingtheatre.org](http://www.irvingtheatre.org).



Guinn Powell, as General MacKenzie Wargrave, and Dave Schmidt, as Sir Lawrence, each plan to be the last man standing.  
 Photo by Mike Morgan

# Experience the arts

## Inside & Out

at the **Irving Arts Center**  
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 Through June 17, 2006 <b>African Dance &amp; Drumming Clinic</b> Irving Black Arts Council Rehearsal Hall & Suite 200 10 AM Saturdays	 May 26 - June 10, 2006 <b>Ten Little Indians</b> ICT MainStage Dupree Theater 2:30 & 8 PM	 May 26-27, 2006 <b>Lord, Why You Made Me Black</b> Edward Fernandez Productions Carpenter Performance Hall 8 PM	 May 30, 2006 <b>Broadway, Our Way</b> Universal Academy Carpenter Performance Hall 5 & 7:30 PM	 June 7, 2006 <b>Jack and the Beanstalk</b> Dallas Puppet Theatre Dupree Theater 10 AM & 1:30 PM	 June 11, 2006 <b>Music Fest</b> Irving Symphonic Band Carpenter Performance Hall 3 PM
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**tickets now on sale**

Visit [www.irvingartscenter.com](http://www.irvingartscenter.com) or call the Box Office at 972.252.2787.






# Northeast Texas water plan approved

Provided by Lacey McCormick

The Texas Water Development Board unanimously adopted the long-range regional water plan for Northeast Texas (Region D), which recommends against building the 72,000-acre Marvin Nichols reservoir on the Sulphur River. Last month the water board also adopted the regional plan for the Dallas-Fort Worth-North Texas area, known as Region C. The Region C Plan recommends construction of Marvin Nichols Reservoir.

"It is simply mind-boggling that the Texas Water Development Board doesn't find it a conflict to adopt one plan recommending Marvin Nichols and another plan that opposes it," Janice Bezanson, executive director of Texas Committee on Natural Resources, said.

Last month, the chairman of the water development board, EG Rod Pittman, voted against the Region C plan, citing the need for greater cooperation between the regions.

Jim Thompson, chairman of the Region D Planning Group, emphasized at Tuesday's meeting that Northeast Texas is not trying to hoard water that might be needed by another region.

"Region D has said all along that we were willing to look at ways to provide water to other regions of the state that don't involve the huge economic impact of building a new dam," Thompson told the water development board. "As an example, the Corps of Engineers has studied alternatives for increasing the yield of Wright Patman Reservoir."

The Water Development Board is required by statute to make sure that none of the regional plans are in conflict with each other, but the board has narrowly interpreted that rule to apply only when two regions claim the same water supply.

Opponents of Marvin Nichols have long supported alternative water supplies for DFW — desalinating water from Lake Texoma, raising the conservation storage elevation of Wright Patman, and purchasing water from other existing reservoirs — as an alternative to Marvin Nichols.

After three years of analyzing data and taking public comment, the Northeast Texas planning group determined that Marvin Nichols should not be included in the plan because it would harm the timber industry and would destroy tens of thousands of acres of bottomland hardwood forests. Texas law requires that regional water plans protect the state's agricultural, natural and water resources.

They also point out that the Dallas Fort-Worth area has some of the highest per-capita water use in the state and say the Region C plan does not include particularly strong conservation measures.

"The cheapest and most reliable way to increase water supply is to reduce demand. But the Region C plan largely ignores the promise of water conservation,

choosing instead to rely on outdated concrete-and-steel solutions," Norman Johns, water resources scientist for the National Wildlife Federation, said.

Johns has estimated that if Region C were to follow a state task force recommendation on water conservation, the region could save over 900,000 acre-feet annually by 2060. This would save nearly twice

as much water as Region C would get from Marvin Nichols, at a tiny fraction of the cost.

Marvin Nichols, predicted to supply 450,000 to 490,000 acre-feet of water annually to the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and its 120 to 150-mile pipeline, would cost more than \$2 billion. In addition to the 72,000 acres that would be flooded for construction of the reservoir, at least

an additional 140,000 acres would be required for mitigation of the site.

"Marvin Nichols isn't good for anyone," Bezanson said. "It will hurt ratepayers in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and it will force hundreds of East Texas families off their land. In a state growing as rapidly as Texas, using water efficiently is the only logical thing to do."

## Letter To The Editor

### Irving Cares says, "Thank you Irving"

Irving Cares extends a huge "thank you" to the community and to the National Association of Letter Carriers. The local and postal communities once again rose to the cause of fighting hunger in the City of Irving. Held on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, the annual National Association of Letter Carriers food drive was an overwhelming success with 6,253 pounds (that's over 3 tons!) of canned goods and other non-perishable food items being donated to the Food Pantry Program at Irving Cares. Irving Cares is extremely honored to be chosen again as one of the recipients of food from this event.

need all the donations we can get. The volunteers from GE Commercial Finance have been involved with Irving Cares in the past, and we welcome their return. It's not easy to get people out to volunteer on Mother's Day weekend, and we are grateful for their help, as well as the extra time from Gene, Pat, and John."



**Local mail carriers collect supplies for area food pantries.**  
Editor,

As a United Way human services agency assisting Irving residents who are experiencing a temporary crisis situation, Irving Cares greatly appreciates the continued support of Irving's residents. The Food Pantry serves an average of 327 families per month with emergency groceries, and food drives such as this one help ensure there are enough groceries to provide for Irving's needy families.

Baptist Benevolent Ministries of Irving (BBMOI) is grateful to our fine postal employees for their Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive on Saturday, May 13. Heartfelt thanks also to all our citizens who generously shared 8,000 pounds of food, which helped fill our shelves.

Irving Cares is also extremely grateful to the many volunteers from GE Commercial Finance Transportation Funding group. We appreciate the hard work of GE volunteers Grant Derderian, Beckie Robles, Nancy Whetlow, Samantha Legler, Christopher Benson, and J. E. Edwards. This event was also supported by Irving Cares volunteers Gene Dickey, Pat Catron, and John Eitson. Event volunteers transported, weighed, and sorted the donated food items.

Thanks again to all who participated. Your commitment to our community is priceless.  
Leigh Eitson  
Coordinator of Volunteers  
Irving Cares, Inc.

Last year BBMOI served 6,151 families, consisting of 19,747 individuals, 8,707 of whom were children. This annual food drive by the National Association of Letter Carriers greatly assists food pantries across our country. Faye Hauer, BBMOI Director  
Norma Jaquess, BBMOI Treasurer

The Letters to the Editor section is devoted to giving the people of Irving a voice. *The Irving Rambler* needs your input, letters, comments — good as well as bad, and opinions. This section can only be successful with your support.  
If you would like to see your ideas in print, please email them to [Letters@IrvingRambler.com](mailto:Letters@IrvingRambler.com) or mail them to:  
The Irving Rambler  
Re: Letters to the Editor  
P.O. Box 177731  
Irving, Texas 75017

## The DFW Humane Society

### Animals Presently Residing

**Homer**

**Breed:** Basset Mix  
**Sex:** Male / Neutered  
**Weight:** About 40 lbs.  
**Age:** 3-4 Years  
**Color:** Black  
**Reason for Surrender:** Recently Abandoned

**Comments:** Homer is a sweet and he would like a home where he can be the only pet. He is a loving dog and likes to play.

**Neptune**

**Breed:** DLH  
**Sex:** Male / Neutered  
**Weight:** About 9 lbs.  
**Age:** About 1 year  
**Color:** B & W  
**Reason for Surrender:** Didn't want to scoop litter box

**Comments:** Neptune is very sweet. She would like a home where she is the only cat to run around and play.

**The DFW Humane Society**  
1611 W. Irving Blvd., Irving, Texas 75061  
**972-253-3333**



**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.*

## City of Irving CFO briefs members of The Real Estate Council about future of Texas Stadium

Provided by Juliette Coulter

The Real Estate Council recently held a Fireside Chat on redevelopment opportunities for a post Cowboys Texas Stadium.

sored by Studley, Leininger discussed various development "visions" for the land—more than 400 developable acres in the center of Dallas and Fort Worth. The City of Irving, the Texas Department of Transportation and the Dallas Area Rapid Transit Authority have more than \$700 million of fully funded transportation improvements scheduled for the area, which will directly benefit the site.

mine the development direction for the stadium. Other development scenarios include:

"We have an opportunity to have a new era at Texas Stadium," David Leininger, chief financial officer for City of Irving, said regarding the land surrounding Texas Stadium after the Cowboys' departure to Arlington. "Our goal is to leverage the benefits of the Cowboy era moving forward."

A decision to locate the George W. Bush presidential library at the University of Dallas could deter-

Stadium demolition and site redevelopment that would transform the land into an urban development.

Redefinition of the stadium that would develop the land around the stadium into a mixed-use village.

Re-use of the stadium that would redevelop the land to handle future sports events.



**Discussing the future of Texas Stadium, Art Green of Studley; David Leininger, CFO, City of Irving; Joe Griffith, Senior Vice President - Commercial Real Estate, JP Morgan and The Real Estate Council Chairman; and Jamee Green, Director of Public Affairs and Programs, The Real Estate Council, take time to learn more about the facts.**

Leininger remains confident that the visions available for the land are "strategic place-making opportunities" and will benefit the City of Irving and the region.

Founded in 1990, The Real Estate Council has more than 1,300 commercial real estate professionals representing more than 500 companies in the Dallas area and 10,000 employees. Through The Real Estate Council Foundation, grants and professional assistance are provided to local organizations focused on community revitalization and affordable housing. Since its inception, TREC Foundation has given \$4.7 million in cash leveraged by more than \$10 million in pro-bono professional services. More information can be found at [www.reconcouncil.com](http://www.reconcouncil.com) or by calling (214) 692-3600.

# IRVING ISD

**IISD Administrative Appointments** - Irving ISD has announced three appointments to its administrative staff, effective for the 2006-2007 school year.

Dr. Neil Dugger, director of personnel, has been named assistant superintendent for personnel and administration. He will replace Christine Rushing, who is retiring. Dr. Dugger has a Doctorate of Education and Master of Education from the University of North Texas, and a Bachelor of Arts from Angelo State University. He has 26 years of experience with IISD and has served as director of personnel since 2000.

Scott Layne, executive director of facilities, has been named assistant superintendent for support services. He will replace Bill Althoff, who is retiring. Layne has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has 14 years of experience with the district and has served in his current position since 2000. Layne previously worked for the Katy and Midland school districts.

Tracie Fraley, principal at MacArthur High School, has been named division director of secondary teaching and learning. She will replace Dr. Charles Chernosky, who

accepted a position with Dallas ISD last fall. Fraley has a Master of Education from the University of North Texas and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Texas. She has five years of experience with the district and previously worked for Dallas ISD.

**Irving ISD Memorial Day Closing Schedule** - All Irving ISD schools and offices will be closed for the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 29. May 29 was originally designated by the IISD Board of Trustees as a bad weather make-up day if needed, but it has not been necessary thus far to use it as a make-up day. Classes will resume and offices will reopen on Tuesday, May 30. The last day of the 2005-2006 school year is Thursday, June 1.

**Students Named National Merit Scholars** - Aaron Christenberry of Nimitz High School, Michael Rosenthal of Irving High School, and Casey Wollenman of MacArthur High School have been named National Merit Scholars. Christenberry has been offered a University of Oklahoma Merit Scholarship. Rosenthal and Wollenman will each have been

offered a University of Texas at Austin Merit Scholarship.

The students, who were named finalists earlier this spring, are among 8,200 high school seniors from the original 1.3 million applicants to receive National Merit Scholarships. They were chosen based on academic record, recommendation from their principal, SAT scores, and an essay each was required to submit.

**Lee Wins Districtwide Recycling Contest** - Lee Elementary School won first place in the district's paper recycling contest co-sponsored by Abitibi Consolidated and Keep Irving Beautiful. Lee recycled 15.5 tons of recyclable material, followed by Townley Elementary School with 13.7 tons and Lively Elementary School with 11.5 tons.

Each of the schools will receive trophies and plan to hold ice cream parties prior to the end of the school year to celebrate their achievements.

**Graduation Ceremonies Scheduled for June 2-3** - Graduation ceremonies for the four Irving ISD high schools are scheduled for June 2-3 at Potter's House Event

Center, 6777 Kiest Boulevard in Dallas. The ceremonies are scheduled as follows:

- Friday, June 2 4:00 p.m. Irving High School
- Friday, June 2 7:30 p.m. Nimitz High School
- Saturday, June 3 10:00 a.m. The Academy of IISD
- Saturday, June 3 2:00 p.m. MacArthur High School

To reach Potter's House from Irving, travel south on Loop 12 to Spur 408 and turn right on Kiest Boulevard.

In addition, the baccalaureate ceremony for IISD is scheduled for 7 p.m. June 1 at Calvary Church, 4401 N. Highway 161.

**Rhythm Bee Winners** - Ricky Jean-Louis and Marquis Ellis medaled for Thomas Haley Elementary School and Rebecca Gotlieb and Chantle Franklin medaled for Lively Elementary during the district's recent Rhythm Bee competition. Rhythm bees are similar to spelling bees with the focus on music.

**Sock Hop at Brown** - Attendees of the PTA Sock Hop April 28 at Brown Elementary School got into the spirit by dressing appropriately


for the occasion. The event also raised funds for a bone marrow drive to benefit a family at the school that has a child suffering from cancer.

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On Fri., Jun. 9 and Sat., Jun. 10—two spectacular days, Barnes & Noble will donate a percentage of every sale made with a special bookfair voucher to the C-FB ISD Educational Foundation! Vouchers can be printed from the link below, or you can ask for them in the store during the bookfair.

The Barnes & Noble Bookfair will help Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD in several ways. First, a percentage of bookfair sales will be donated to the C-FB ISD Educational Foundation to support Teacher Grants. Second, each school library will be able to create a wish list for titles to enhance its own library collection. Bookfair support-

ers may choose books from an in-store wish list display to purchase for the library.

In addition to the book fair, Barnes & Noble has a special Summer Reading program designed to award students with a free book for reading eight books between May 29 and Sept. 8, 2006. Students can select the titles they want to read, proceed at their own pace, record the books that they have read on the attached form, and then take the completed form to Barnes & Noble to receive their FREE book. When students turn in their completed journals, they will be entered into a drawing for an autographed copy of Lemony Snicket's next book, *A Series of Unfortunate Events*.

**Play-offs End for Creekview Baseball** - Last weekend at Creekview, in a high scoring ball game, the Mustangs fell to Tyler Lee by a score of 11-14 to end

Creekview's play-off run. Congratulations to the Mustangs for a great season.

**School Board Election Results**

**Place 3**  
Howard Fisher: 1,209 votes  
Rod Elliott: 774 votes

**Place 4**  
John C. Tepper: 1,740 votes  
Mr. Fisher and Mr. Tepper will take the oath of office at the next regular School Board meeting on May 25.

For any election results of local elections in Dallas County, you can find them by visiting the Dallas County Elections website, [www.dalcoelections.org](http://www.dalcoelections.org).

**Newman Smith Summer Sports Camps** - Newman Smith High School will host basketball, football and baseball camps for

boys in Grades 1 - 9 during the summer.

Entry fees: Pre-registered  
• \$75 for 1 Camp  
• \$100 for 2 Camps  
• \$150 for 3 Camps  
Camps are staffed high school coaches and offer fundamentals training, daily contests, great facilities and a great experience.

**Creekview Mock Trial Places At National Competition** - Creekview's Mock Trial Team, the Texas state championship team, placed sixteenth at the national competition. Team members are: Jennifer Colby, Janet Landry, Samantha Harrison, Brenna Helppie-Schmieder, Melissa Lui, Jeff Neyman, and Ray Patel.

**Newman Smith Athletes Compete in State Track and Field Meet** - Newman Smith had two athletes participating in the UIL

State Track and Field Meet. Both scored points at State. Devin Carter finished fourth in the 800 meter run with a time of 1:54.43, just a tenth of a second off of winning the bronze medal. Jonathan Bull finished fifth in the shot put with a put of 55' 10-1/4". Congratulations to these two young men on advancing to and scoring in the UIL State Track and Field Meet.

**Teacher Selected to Participate in Economics Seminar** - Lori Dumerer was selected by Foundation for Teaching Economics as one of 40 teachers across the nation to participate in a seminar with Professor Douglass North of Washington University in St. Louis, a recent Nobel Prize winner in economics in Phoenix, AZ. The topic for the seminar is Economics of Change, which examines emerging economies including what has worked and what has not.

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# Ladies Tea benefits downtown



Ladies take time for an afternoon of tea, confections and conversation during the annual Ladies Tea sponsored by the Irving Downtown Association.

More than 30 ladies met in the Pigeon Hole to honor the age old tradition of tea. Dressed in their Sunday best they ate, gossiped and shared stories during the third annual Ladies Tea sponsored by the Irving Downtown Association.

"The Ladies Tea is a fundraiser," Betty Yarbrough, owner of the Pigeon Hole said. "This year we tried the silent auction along with it. One of the reasons we do fundraisers for the Downtown Association is to do something with community involvement.

"We just chit-chat; that is what a tea is. Everyone dresses up. They wear their hats and gloves and nibble on little, tiny pieces of food and confection, the sweeter the better. It is all about fellowship. The fun part of a tea is there is no male influence, it is very frou-frou. It gives the girls time to sit and reminisce. It takes us back to days gone by when the world wasn't so rushed and ladies didn't have to work outside the home. Women used to do this several times a week to keep up with each other and what was happening with their families.

"A lot of these ladies here are from the area. They are ladies who love downtown and want to see it prosper. We are driven to promote economic development down here and preserve the character of this area. All of the people in the Irving Downtown Association feel the same way. Many of them don't have businesses down here, but they want to be a part of a change and to see it grow," she said.

"The fundraisers allow us to buy things for the downtown area or help merchants. We would like to place twinkle lights all up and down Main Street. We want to place awnings above all of the store shops. Since we are not a city appointed group, we have to do that ourselves.

"We invited Beth Van Duyne here because we thought it might be nice to hear a woman's point of view. She is a young mom, a wife and a city council member, which is definitely a man's arena. How does she juggle all of these roles? We thought it would be nice for her to speak to us about how she does it," Mrs. Yarbrough said.

"The Ladies Tea was very nice," Ms. Van Duyne said. "I don't know how often they have tea, but it cannot be often enough. I thought that was a great diversity of people who got together.

"It seemed like the primary questions that came up in one form or another were, 'What can we do to better downtown Irving? How can we get the city council more involved with that?'

"Now, one of my priorities is to get together a group of landowners and business owners from downtown. Because unless you can come up with a goal and a vision to move forward, you are only being reactive to situations that arise. I think it is really important that we all agree to what we are moving toward so we can get there on the same page. And make sure everyone can buy into what we are doing. Nobody wants to be told what to do," she said.

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# BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Malachi in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Hebrews 2, "He does not give aid to angels but to the seed of ... ? Adam, Abraham, Hosea, John the Baptist
3. Who wrote a letter to Felix concerning Paul? King Darius, John, Claudius Lysias, Peter
4. In the new creation, the wolf shall feed with the ... ? Children, Fishes, Lamb, Ox
5. What was Noah's occupation after the flood? Farmer, Shepherd, Carpenter, Teacher
6. 1 Peter 5 compares Satan to what animal? Serpent, Roaring lion, Beheaded calf, Horse



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ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Abraham; 3) Claudius Lysias; 4) Lamb; 5) Farmer; 6) Roaring Lion.

For more teasers, log on to [www.TriviaGuy.com](http://www.TriviaGuy.com).  
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# Training and preparation ready team for race

Continued from page 1

ment to put the time and effort to it, was a challenge in itself considering we all have family and work," she said. "Each one of us had experience racing three day length races and needed to work our way up to being able to endure three additional days and in extreme conditions of heat and being in the jungle. So we set out to working out everyday with only one recovery day a week, racing as much as we could with hardly any time to sleep."

The preparation for an event like this is not easy by any means. The training schedule consisted of cardio workouts for building endurance and strength training to sustain their weight with an added 15-25 lbs of back-pack weight that that they had to carry.

"We did everything from trails runs of 15-50 miles, fast trekking at night with heavy packs, climbing hundreds of stairs, 50-100 miles of biking a week, spin classes, aerobic and muscle flex classes. During

weekends we'd get together and do long training session from 8-12 hrs that consisted of all disciplines: mountain biking, kayaking, trekking, rappelling, climbing and navigating and we'd try to do as many single day adventure races as we could afford," Reymundo said.

As an instructor at the Irving Family YMCA, Reymundo did most of her training for the race there.

"They are our cheerleaders at home who are eager to hear about the adventures we take on. Because of all the encouragement I received, I am eager to share what the outdoors has to offer and am always trying to convince someone to join us for a ride, run, or a race. I feel like these people have become great friends to me and I'm always happy to come to the Y and teach to see their smiling faces and hard work to being happier and healthier individuals," she said

Team TOW also practiced preparing and eating different foods, their favorite being potato flakes

with water, heated in a plastic bag with their own body heat. By the time the race came along, they all felt ready but still scared of not having trained enough.

"Adventure racing is a team sport. You are only as fast as your slowest member. For us part of the adventure in adventure racing is the team concept. We learn to accept the limitation and faults of others and learn how to work with them to make us all a stronger team. You don't have to be the fastest runner, best mountain biker, professional paddler, you just have to be willing to get out there and do it and try as hard as you can. Sometimes the race is not won by the fastest team, but won by the team that works the best together. This 'team' concept is something that the YMCA teaches to so many young children who participate in the various Y programs," she said.

\*(Jenny Ruff, Metro sports Boston — active.com).



Photo submitted by: Maribel Reymundo

Adventure Racers Maribel Reymundo and Jason MacMurphy sea kayaking through Rio Pacuare to its connection of the Atlantic Ocean in Costa Rica.

## Horseless Carriages



Q: Greg, things are starting to heat up as to Toyota naming its drivers for next year in Nextel Cup. So far, Kevin Harvick is being mentioned, as are Dale Jarrett and Bill Elliot. Any more rumors to add to this? — A Reader, via e-mail

A: Talk is that Harvick, especially since he is so hot right now in the Childress Busch and Cup cars, is the leading candidate. Although many feel that since Harvick is currently winning, he will stay put at Childress, I'm thinking exactly the opposite.

I feel Harvick is in a great position to bargain with Toyota for a much better deal, including, but not limited to, team ownership in the Busch Series, where he now owns a car driven by Tony Stewart and Ron Hornaday. I also think Harvick and

his wife will look to own a Nextel Cup team down the road, so perhaps something written into the contract that stipulates this consideration would help him along in "offering his services" to Toyota. Michael Waltrip in the 55 NAPA Toyota is a done deal, and maybe Dave Blaney in the 22 CAT car for one year to prove himself. (I said maybe.) Other than that, my guess is that Harvick in a Toyota Camry could well become a reality. Todd Bodine also should be considered, as he's won lots of races for Toyota in the trucks.

As for Dale Jarrett and Bill Elliott, I'd give Jarrett a 40 percent chance of signing with Toyota, but 80 percent if he brings UPS with him. Elliot, meanwhile, would be a great Toyota part-time driver, as I don't think Bill wants to run the entire circuit again.



Who will drive the No. 22 CAT Camry for Bill Davis Racing next season? (Toyota photo)

# Happy Harvick and Toyota

Remember, this is all speculation, not gospel, but it sure is fun talking about it.

\*\*\*  
Q: Greg, do you think we'll see Top Fuel cars run 3.99 seconds in the quarter-mile? They are now running 4.4s fairly regularly. — Glenda P., e-mail from Washington

## CRUISIN'

By Greg Zyla

Q: Greg, I own a 1964 Plymouth Signet 200 Valiant Convertible. It has a 273 cubic-inch V-8, pushbutton automatic transmission and only 57,500 miles. I know Plymouth made at least 227,585 Valiants, but I can't find how many were convertibles. My number on the build sheet, which I found in the car seat, is 3,055. Can you help me? — Bob R., Decatur, Ill.

A: Glad to help, Bob. According to my records, your Valiant Signet 200 is one of 251,028 Valiant Signets built in 1964, including the convertible production. Your car differs from the Signet V100 and V200 in that it was a bit more expensive and came in V-8 form only.

The convertible models totaled 5,856 for the V200 (six-cylinder or V-8) and 7,636 for the V-8-only 200 model. These low production numbers of just 13,492 ragtops are in your favor, and being that your 200 series is a little more "high end" than the V200 also helps. The base

A: Glenda, this is always a good subject for debate. I vividly remember all the talk about dragsters running in the four-second range, and that it would be difficult to do. Of course, this is when they broke the six-second barrier in 1972 when Mike Snivley went 5.97 to become the first to accomplish the feat. It

## Plymouth Valiant Convertible

price in 1964 came in at \$2,349 for the V200 and \$2,473 for the 200.

In ending, with the info provided, your car is number 3,055 of the total 7,636 built that year. With your low mileage, I'd say you are sitting on a nice car, and even though it may not have the tremendous six-figure appreciation power of a Plymouth GTX or a Hemi Roadrunner, in good original to pristine condition, your car should bring \$12,500 to near \$20,000, respectively, according to the car value guides. This information should make your day. It would mine.

Write to Greg Zyla in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send an e-mail to letters.kfws@hearstsc.com. (c) 2006 King Features Synd., Inc.

took 16 years, but Eddie Hill became the first to run a 4.99 and break the five-second barrier in 1988 at Texas in NHRA racing.

It's closing in on 20 years and we're "only" at 4.42 as the quickest run, set by Doug Kalitta at Chicago in 2004. It's taking much longer to reduce the times by a tenth nowadays than it did a second from 1972 to 1988, but this is understandable the faster we go.

I guess it all has to do with safety, tire technology and driver physical demands. The late Slammin' Sammy Miller ran in the three-second range several times, his best a 3.58 in England. But Sammy drove a hydrogen-powered rocket funny car, and he actually would drive the car in a lay-down position, almost like in a bed. Still, he regularly experienced nose- and ear bleeds after these runs.

If a three-second Top Fuel run occurs, I don't think it will come anytime this decade, but I'm certainly not ruling it out as impossible in the future. I learned my lesson when they ran 4.99.

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# TAKS testing math curriculum developed by KERA, funded by Travelocity

Provided by Meg Fullwood

Math teachers in school districts across Texas sought to better prepare their students for Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) testing this spring by implementing an educational curriculum developed by KERA that helps students master five of the most challenging mathematical concepts.

Math Can Take You Places™ - created by KERA and a team of North Texas teachers, and funded by a grant from Travelocity - introduces students in grades 4-6 to real-world situations to gain a better understanding of five pre-algebra themes. The curriculum includes videos, lesson plans and educational games that address the areas of patterns, equivalency, reasonableness, measurement and problem solving.

Pre-algebra skills are critical since studies show a strong correlation between students who fail algebra and those who do not complete high school. Math Can Take You Places™ helps students build a strong foundation to prepare them for high school algebra and increase their chances of graduating and continuing on to college.

The "real-world" aspect of the curriculum uses video segments to introduce students to several high-profile North Texas travel-related

professionals and professions. Featured in the video are Sandra Daniels, public relations director for Six Flags Over Texas; Roger Hinds, former head trainer for the Dallas Mavericks; William Koval, formerly executive chef for The Adolphus Hotel; Captain Bart Roberts, 777 fleet training manager for American Airlines; and Laura Stanforth, system developer for Amtrak.

In Texas, the number of teachers using the curriculum has increased dramatically, from 79 teachers in four districts using the curriculum last year to nearly 500 teachers in 90 Texas districts in 2006. The spike in usage has been pushed by KERA's free distribution of the curriculum - and free training - to nearly 100 teachers in 14 districts last October.

In April, KERA allotted another 50 curriculum packages and several hours of free training to Texas teachers who submit a brief online application. Travelocity employees, through voluntary payroll deductions, donated funds to support the distribution of 200 curriculum packages to teachers in 2006.

Grants for the curriculum were awarded to 18 campuses in North Texas, including Farine Elementary School and John Haley Elementary School in the Irving ISD.

Working with ten "master teachers" from Texas, KERA de-

signed the curriculum in 2004 to be in line with the state's Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards, and incorporated challenging mathematical areas with which students across the country frequently struggle. Eight states - Texas, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Rhode Island, Virginia, Wisconsin and California - have leased the videos from KERA, giving the program the potential to reach nearly 1.5 million students in 2006.

Math Can Take You Places™ first gained national attention at an eMedia Screening event for public broadcasters. In 2004, Wisconsin educators cited Math Can Take You Places™ as the No. 1 education program of the more than 70 that were

introduced, from across multiple educational disciplines, praising its examples of how math is used in everyday life.

In February 2005, 31 teachers and 1,074 students participated in a formal independent evaluation of the program conducted by The University of Texas at Dallas. A report on the findings of the evaluation showed that the program "made a statistically significant difference on the achievement of the students who participated."

"It has been exciting to see this project evolve from the initial concept, through program and curriculum development, and to its application in classrooms across the U.S.," Barbra Anderson, director of

Community Relations at Sabre Holdings, Travelocity's parent company, said.

For more information about Math Can Take You Places(tm), including resources for teachers, visit [www.mathcantakeyouplaces.org](http://www.mathcantakeyouplaces.org).

Math Can Take You Places(tm) is an extension of KERA's commitment to providing educational, cultural and civic services to North Texans. With this and other nationally recognized projects such as Ready for Life and North Texas Student Voices, KERA's Educational Resource Center has impacted the lives of thousands of educators, parents and children through outreach and training.

## MILLER'S TALES OF MISBEHAVIOR

By Matthew Miller

**On the Sabbath, We Prefer to Smoke Pot** - The "Chicago Courier News" reports that early one Sunday morning, two women drove a couple they'd just met to a neighborhood where the couple said they could buy marijuana. The women gave the couple money for a marijuana purchase, but the couple came back with crack instead. The women demanded their money back. The couple refused, at which point the women contacted police and accused the couple of robbing them of \$80 at knifepoint. Police talked to the couple and the women, then charged the women with disorderly conduct.

**We Don't Like Bus Stations** - Two men, both aged 22, were arrested for disorderly conduct when police found them urinating near the bus station, the "Winona (Minn.) Post" reports.

**Eat, Stuff Trousers, Depart** - The "Highline Times" (Burien, Wash.) reports that a supermarket shopper opened a ready-to-eat meatloaf in the store and ate it. He also ate bulk goods such as nuts and fruit. He also stuffed items into his pants and loaded more items into a basket before walking out into the parking lot, where police officers arrested him. The total value of the stolen goods came to \$73.37. Records showed the man had had diffi-

culty shopping at that supermarket before.

**Farm Officials Assaulted With Farm Products** - The "Bangor (Maine) Daily News" reports two masked people entered a meeting at City Hall in Ellsworth, Maine, and hurled manure pies at state agriculture officials. Farmers in attendance were also spattered with "pie filling." Meeting organizers gave chase, but the pie-hurlers escaped out the front door and away toward Main Street. Debate arose among witnesses as to whether the manure used in the attack came from horses or cows. The police report said it was cows.

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## OBITUARIES

### MILDRED LEE ONTO NELSON

Mildred Leeonto Nelson, of Irving, passed away May 15, 2006.

She was born May 31, 1907 in Sheldon, MO. Survivors include her sons, Robert Hayden of San Francisco, CA, and Tom Nelson of Idaho; brother-in-law Earl Nelson and wife Helen of Garland; grandchildren James Nelson and Thomas Nelson; and 6 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held May 19 at Brown's Memorial Chapel with Chaplain Mary Lowrance officiating. Interment followed at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.

### SEAN EDWARD VIGEN



Born January 13, 2006 in Irving Sean Edward Vigen died May 19, 2006.

Although his time was short, he brought many blessings from above to all who nurtured and loved him. He is survived by his mother, Julie Vigen of Irving; brothers, Matthew, Brett, Craig, Brian and Chad; grandparents, Mel and Marjorie Vigen of Irving; as well as many aunts, uncles and cousins. Visitation was Wednesday at

### Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home.

Mass of Christian Burial was May 25 at Holy Family of Nazareth Catholic Church in Irving. Rev. Msgr. Jerome Duesman, presider. Interment followed at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens in Irving.

### LAURA LYNN LLOYD HAMPTON, Ph.D.



Laura Lynn Lloyd Hampton, a 38 year resident of Irving, was born in Tyler, Texas on January 22, 1940 and died

on May 21, 2006, following a courageous battle with cancer.

Laura received her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from the University of Dallas where she also taught Philosophy. Laura served on the Executive Board and Board of Directors of the Evergreen Presbyterian Ministries, and was President of the Friends of Evergreen. She was a long time member and Elder of St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church where she was involved in outreach to those in need.

Laura was preceded in death by her parents, Jack and Louise Lloyd, and her daughter, Jennifer Hampton. Laura is survived by her loving husband of 45 years, John Hampton, her daughters: Leigh Ann and Scott Genard of Carrollton, TX, and Cheryl and

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# eXciting entertainment erupts into series finally

By Matt Mungle

Title: *X-Men: The Last Stand*

Rated: PG-13

*X-Men: The Last Stand* is the third and supposedly final episode in the mutant trilogy. All the familiar faces are back along with some new and varied characters. In this episode, a cure for mutants has been discovered.

As Dr. McCoy puts it, "A major pharmaceutical company has de-

veloped a way to suppress the mutant X-Gene, permanently. They're calling it a cure." This of course draws an immediate line in the sand and divides the altered community. When Magneto (Ian McKellen) decides to put together an army to try and destroy the source of the cure, it is up to Storm (Halle Berry), and Wolverine (Hugh Jackman) to try and defend the freedoms of all. They are joined by a very blue and

hairy Dr. Hank McCoy (Kelsey Grammer) as well some of the more advanced students of Professor Charles Xavier (Patrick Stewart).

Though it is obviously better to have seen the first two X-Men films it is not necessary. Having personally never seen the prior two installments I was worried I would be lost. Luckily they took very little time in setting things up and I found myself familiar with the characters

and into the story line immediately. For fun I suggest you take some time to visit the main X-Men website first and read the back-story of all the characters. Again this is not needed to like the movie, as most will find it enjoyable, exciting and highly entertaining regardless of any prior knowledge.

I do however recommend that you go into the movie with an understanding of the sci-fi/fantasy theme. If watching individuals who can control the weather, walk through walls or manipulate their surroundings with a simple thought makes you roll your eyes in frustration this is not the gig for you. There are many moments of cheesiness and poor plot development. The writers take full advantage of penning in characters that can do just what they need them to, only when they need them to. But hey, this is a film about mutants not a biopic of human existence.

But there is an interesting avenue of thought if you allow yourself to travel it. An idea of us as human beings trying to come to terms with our differences; differences in ourselves and those around us. The deep desire to fit in while at the same time keeping our independence. To accept our own

shortcomings while tolerating those different than we are. And ultimately who decides what is normal? Who mandates who changes and to what extreme? I know, I know I am getting way too deep for a movie that has guys named Iceman and Pyro who shoot natural elements from the palms of their hands.

All that said I totally enjoyed this movie. It moves along at a decent pace and keeps you entertained with action and excitement. Fans of the prior two films should find this just to their liking. As we left the screening I heard nothing but raves from what obviously where X-Men fanatics. This film is rated PG-13 for action violence and language plus a brief scene of sexuality. I give it 3.5 out of 5 metal thumbs up. With a look at *X-Men: The Last Stand*, I'm Matt Mungle.

*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.*

## Margaret's Corner



Hi Irving!

I was watching the news recently and they said an increased number of teens experiment with alcohol during the summer. I'm sure this is due to the extra free time the kids have since school is not in session. Well, I'm sure it happens as a result of various factors but one thing is for sure, alcohol *can be* deadly and is *definitely* hazardous to your health. Take a few minutes to talk to your kids about the health and social dangers of alcohol and be sure to explain the "house rules." This is one conversation during which you should wear your "parent hat" and not your "friend hat" (*personally, I think the "friend hat" should pretty much be packed away until your children reach the young adult years but I digress...*). A friend will most likely find it difficult at best to enforce the house rules and/or the consequences for not following those rules.

I want to briefly mention some things about the liver as well as the negative impact of alcohol consumption. With the Memorial Day holiday upon us, I thought this would be a good time for a reminder.

The liver is the largest and

(some say) the most complex internal organ we have. It has over 500 tasks that are essential for life. But in today's world of fast food on the go, not enough water/fiber and increased alcohol consumption, the liver's job is harder than ever. There are seven channels in the body that must continually be detoxified. They are the bowel, blood, skin, kidneys, lymphatic system, lungs and liver. Having an unhealthy liver can cause your whole body to get out of sync and can affect your mood, thinking ability, immune system, energy level, digestive health, physical health, longevity and much more.

Alcohol in any form affects the central nervous system. It interferes with the frontal cortex of the brain. This can and does cause all sorts of problems, not the least of which is a negative impact on the ability to think rationally. Have you ever wondered why drinking alcohol (a liquid) causes your body to go into dehydration? Alcohol consumption causes the kidneys to release fluids directly to the bladder instead of to the body (this explains the many trips to the bathroom). Since the kidneys are not releasing any fluid to the blood, the blood thickens causing your blood pressure to rise. About 90% of the alcohol we ingest is metabolized by the

liver and the remaining 10% is eliminated via the kidneys, sweat and breath (and this explains the bad breath). I've read that it takes only 4 ounces of alcohol to send your liver into toxic overload, but thankfully the liver is also very resilient. If you begin making wise choices which include a healthy diet (comprised of adequate amounts of water, fiber, etc.) you can restore or at least improve the health of your liver (a few prayers will also help).

The liver is not the only organ that is affected by alcohol and next week I'll mention some of the other areas of the body that can be damaged (glucose, pancreas, the stomach lining, throat, mucous membranes, etc.). I learned a lot from various books and articles on preventative medicine, including some from Delores Bollinger, RH-AHG.

Happy Memorial Day. I hope you have a meaningful, safe, and happy holiday. Let's get our flags out, Irving. Our communities will look beautiful decorated in the red, white and blue.

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 39 years and have four daughters and four grandsons*

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## OBITUARIES

Tucker Stovall of Frisco, TX, and sons: John M. Hampton of Bossier City, LA, and David L. Hampton of Shongaloo, LA, and seven grandchildren, Ty, Jake and Jack Genard, and Savannah, Sydnee, Colton, and Caleb Stovall. Laura is also survived by her sister, Lou Ann and Carl Whatley of Allen, her brother, Robert Gates of Garland, her sister-in-law, Cheryl and Bill Rogers of Irving, and many devoted nieces and nephews.

Laura's wishes were in lieu of flowers that donations may be made in her memory to Evergreen Presbyterian Ministries, Attn: Client Needs Fund, P.O. Box 72360, Bossier City, LA 71172-2360 where her developmentally disabled sons reside.

Visitation was Thursday at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home. Family Burial was Friday. A Memorial service was held on May 26 at Woodhaven Presbyterian Church in Irving.

### DWAYNE FULMER



Dwayne Fulmer, age 63, a resident of Irving for more than 30 years, died May 17, 2006 at an Irving nursing center.

Born January 14, 1943 in Dallas to Harlon M. and Myrtle Lou Cox Fulmer, he was raised Baptist and served in the U.S. Army. Dwayne was the owner of Perfor-

mance Automotive in Irving for more than 30 years. He married Linda Musser Dec. 20, 1985 in Dallas. A lover of all animals, he was especially fond of horses.

Preceded in death by his parents, sister, Doris Meredeith and brother, Doyle Fulmer, he is survived by his wife Linda Fulmer; son, Scott Fulmer of Irving; daughters, Leslie Fulmer of Plano and Lindsay Fulmer of Irving; brother, Bob Fulmer and wife Bonnie of California; sister, Nelda Jackson and husband Gene of Mesquite; and aunt, Charcie Kunkel of California.

Memorial Service was May 19 at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home Chapel.

### JOHNNY KEVIN ROCCO



Johnny Kevin Rocco, of Irving, passed away May 24.

He was born July 31, 1965 in Dallas. He was preceded in death by his father John Joseph Rocco, step-father Lonnie Ray Bridges, and niece Paige Beathard. He is survived by his wife Tina Marie Rocco of Irving; mother Sally Bridges of Oak Cliff; stepchildren Gary and Crystal Baker; and

daughter Jordan King Rocco and Shawn of Dallas; Beathard brothers and wives Nolan and Jane, Robert and Traci, Ronnie and Debi, Donnie and Cara; and step-brother Rayford Bridges.

A graveside service will be held at 2:00 p.m. May 30 at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens with Rev. Roy Johnson officiating. The family will receive friends 6-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

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**Super Crossword** *Loves Labor*

**CANADA WALK OF FAME**  
**MAGIC MAZE**

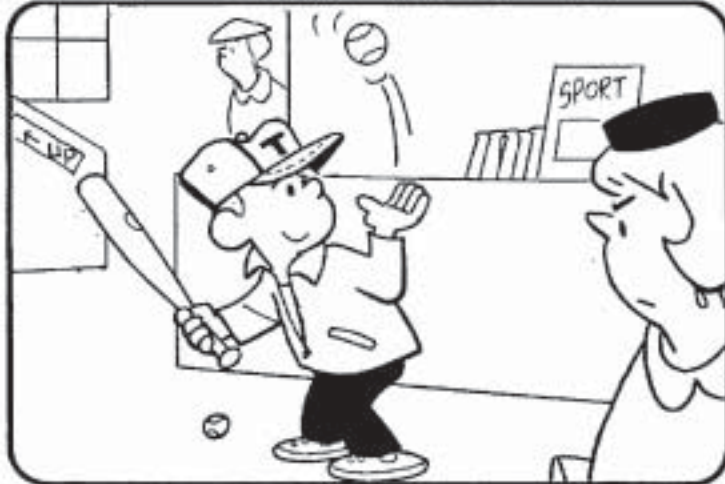
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 S R P O N D L K A J A S I G M

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

- |          |             |           |          |
|----------|-------------|-----------|----------|
| Anka     | Carrey      | Lombardo  | Pickford |
| Aykroyd  | Dion        | M. J. Fox | Plummer  |
| Browning | Evangelista | Myers     | S. Twain |
| Candy    | Little      | Nielsen   |          |

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**HOCUS-FOCUS** BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.

Differences: 1. Jacket is unzipped. 2. Cap is different. 3. Sign is added. 4. Button is removed. 5. Pocket is different. 6. Ball is added.



**Acid and alkaline**

A "pH" level is a measure of the amount of lime (calcium) contained in your soil. Soil with a pH higher than 7.0 is alkaline soil; a pH lower than 7.0 is acid soil.

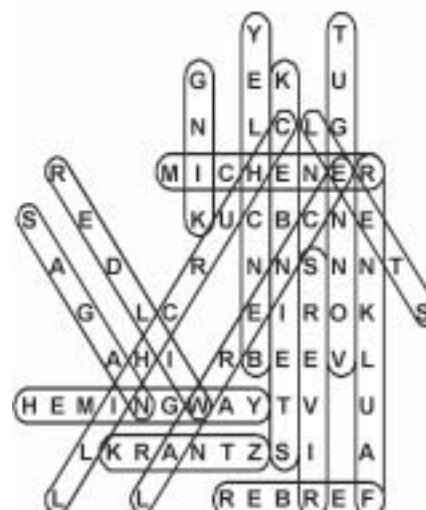
A hydrangea's flower color is blue in acid soil, and pink in alkaline soil.

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- |                             |                          |                            |                                   |                                 |                              |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>               | 59 Sylvan setting        | 103 Circe's suitors        | 12 Portly                         | 49 Missing more than mittens    | 81 Macadam-ize               |
| 1 Fowl family               | 60 Run a meeting         | 104 Alternative to nothing | 13 Ken or Lena                    | 50 Imitated                     | 83 — vu                      |
| 6 Drag before a judge       | 62 Tremble               | 105 Kirk's navigator       | 14 Author Wallace                 | 52 Novelist Gordimer            | 85 Spark in the dark         |
| 12 Rock's partner           | 64 Fully grown           | 106 Short snooze           | 15 Leisure lovers                 | 53 Armistice                    | 86 Uses frequent flier miles |
| 16 Barbecue leftover        | 65 Revolution-ary writer | 109 End of remark          | 16 Comic Auerbach                 | 54 Keep the pedal off the metal | 88 In addition               |
| 19 Bar hop?                 | 66 Made a face           | 115 Sun-dried brick        | 17 No-nonsense                    | 56 Compete                      | 89 Carpet                    |
| 20 Tchaikovsky's "— Onegin" | 67 Juicy pear            | 117 Likable prez           | 18 Actress Lamarr                 | 60 Was concerned                | 90 Demolished dessert        |
| 21 Butter sub               | 69 Part 3 of remark      | 118 Butte                  | 25 Where Sopranos shouldn't sing? | 61 Subtle taste                 | 93 Saudi salutation          |
| 22 Hwy.                     | 70 Sent to Sing Sing     | 119 Audrey Tautou role     | 26 They'll never hurt me!         | 62 Marmalade fruit              | 95 Inspires a smile          |
| 23 Column style             | 71 January stoat         | 120 Type of orange         | 29 Born                           | 63 Unlikely to allure           | 96 — Aviv                    |
| 24 Start of a remark        | 72 Military headgear     | 121 Litter sound           | 32 Liberate                       | 64 Benoit's buddies             | 97 Exotic pet                |
| 27 Pressure meas.           | 73 Comic                 | 122 Appear to be           | 33 Half a rock group              | 65 Unadulterated                | 98 Cease the z's             |
| 28 Skinny                   | 74 Rental agreement      | 123 Hole grain food?       | 34 From — Z                       | 66 Frenzied                     | 99 Tendon                    |
| 30 Hamburger holder         | 75 Like some signals     | 124 Calm down              | 35 Diarist Anais                  | 67 Inch along                   | 101 Thickness                |
| 31 Tinker Bell or Titania   | 76 — boom                | <b>DOWN</b>                | 36 Canonized Mile.                | 68 Muscat native                | 103 Do laps                  |
| 32 Head for the hills       | 77 Envelope code         | 1 Radar presence           | 37 Pump part                      | 69 Mavericks' state             | 104 Chartres part            |
| 33 Malone's portrayer       | 80 Big —                 | 2 Bravo and Grande         | 38 Ultimate whale watcher         | 70 Doyenne deity                | 105 Vaudeville bit           |
| 37 Strong guys              | 81 Falafel holder        | 3 Start of everything?     | 39 Author John Dickson —          | 71 Czech river                  | 106 Salmon snack             |
| 38 Part 2 of remark         | 82 Method                | 4 Sapporo sash             | 40 Southern constellation         | 72 Got scammed                  | 107 Assist a felon           |
| 42 Agricultural inventor    | 84 Bit of wit            | 5 Compliant                | 41 French psych-ologist           | 73 Onward                       | 108 Soccer superstar         |
| 44 Rabbit relative          | 87 Narrow passage        | 6 Farm youngster           | 43 Gulf ruler                     | 75 "La Boheme" heroine          | 110 Ruby or Sandra           |
| 45 Pressed                  | 91 Literary pseudonym    | 7 Car                      | 46 Martin and Stockwell           | 76 Ill will                     | 111 Arch. tool               |
| 47 Rock's Loggins & —       | 92 Some jeans            | 8 "That's disgusting!"     | 48 PR concern                     | 77 South African native         | 112 Med. insurer             |
| 51 "Evita" setting          | 94 Part 4 of remark      | 9 Fire sign                |                                   | 78 2001 Judi Dench film         | 113 Sundown, to Shelley      |
| 55 Villainous               | 98 Stage whisper         | 10 Burmese statesman       |                                   | 79 — moss                       | 114 Actor Gulager            |
| 57 Travel need              | 100 Summit               | 11 Mrs. Al Bundy           |                                   |                                 | 116 Apply gently             |
| 58 Street greeting          | 102 Big beginning        |                            |                                   |                                 |                              |

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**Magic maze**  
Answers for 05-18-2006  
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# Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

It seems that everywhere you go these days, cell phones are ubiquitous. They're even small enough now to fit in the ear — which has given rise to the phenomenon of people walking down the street talking, seemingly, to themselves. Considering all that, it's hard to believe that the first cellular phone weighed a full 2 pounds.

On average, men spend a total of five months over the course of their lives just shaving.

Are fish smarter than people? In some respects, it seems, that may be true. The gurnard, a fish found in Florida, grunts when a thunderstorm is brewing. That may not seem like much, but locals say the fish are more reliable predictors of storms than meteorologists. I wonder, though: How do you hear a fish grunt?

It was Andre Maurois who made the following sage observation: "The only thing that experience teaches us is that experience teaches us nothing."

Here's a tidbit for golf aficionados: Before 1850, golf balls were made of leather and stuffed with feathers.

Now that baseball season is in full swing — so to speak — here are some statistics you might want to consider. A recent survey found that only 8 percent of women would even consider having a relationship with a man who watches sports constantly. If you watch only two or three games a week, just over a quarter of the women polled would put up with you. If you watch just one game every week, the number of women willing to date you jumps to 41 percent.

## Thought for the Day

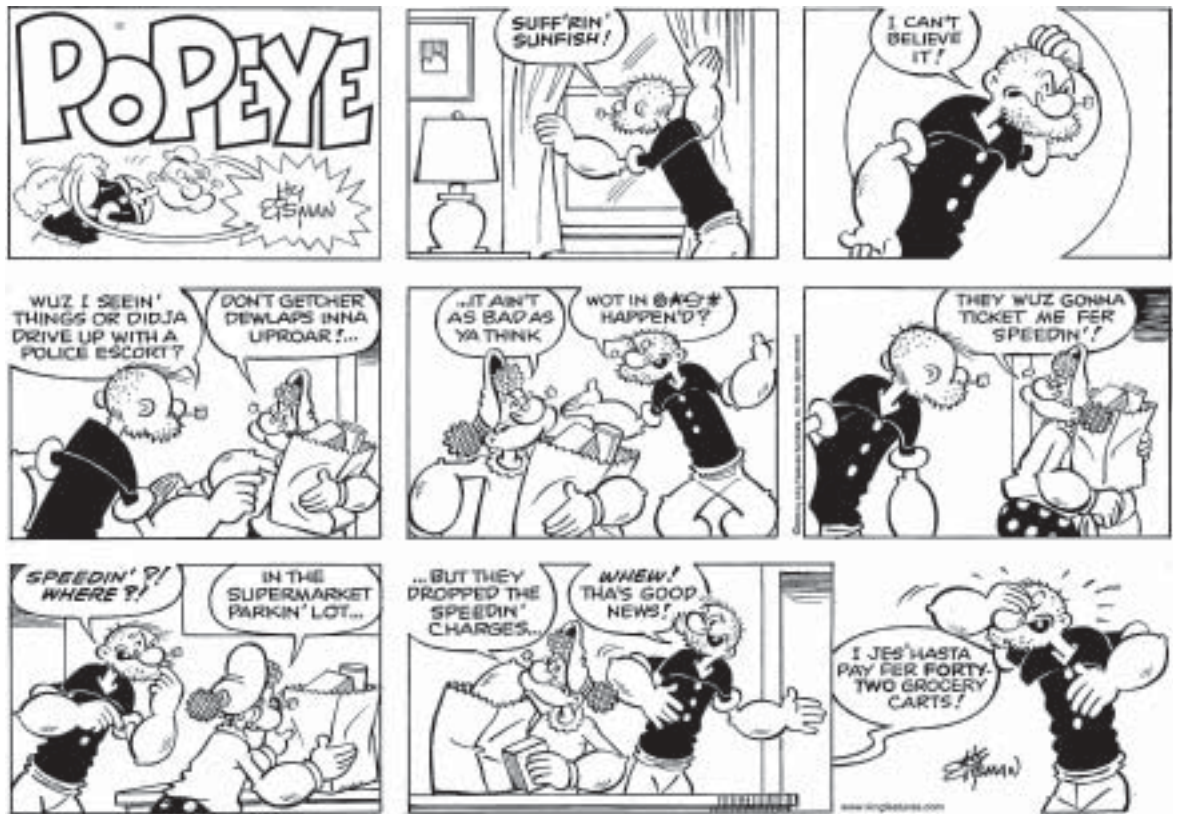
Thought for the Day: "Try as much as possible to be wholly alive with all your might, and when you laugh, laugh like hell. And when you get angry, get good and angry. Try to be alive. You will be dead soon enough." — William Saroyan

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# Liv-a-Palooza offers teens outdoor entertainment

Lively Pointe's second annual Liv-a-Palooza brought together area teens and their families on May 13. The spring event encouraged teens to enjoy the outdoors with a cook-out, music, games and inspirational words from motivational speaker, Horace Love, Jr.

"This event is a fun thing for kids to do," Daniel D'luttrell, co-chair of the Youth Action Council, said. "They can come and eat, ride the bull, listen to music and have a good time. Events like this bring the community together and give kids a chance to meet new friends."

Youth program specialist, Christine Boltwood, helped organize the Liv-a-Palooza.

"Liv-a-Palooza is an event that showcases the grounds here and the outdoor area of Lively Pointe," Ms. Boltwood said. "We are continuing to get the word out that we are here. We offer teen programs here and everything is free. Today's

event included hotdogs, chips, drinks, a caricature artist, origami, a DJ and a bungee bull all for free. It is just a chance for the kids to come out and have a good time.

"We want people to know we do have teen programs in Irving. The Parks and Recreation Department offers them lots of programs and activities designed for teens that are fun, safe and free. Teens can come, enjoy themselves and hopefully that will discourage them from doing some negative things," she said.

Guest speaker, Horace Love, Jr., brought his Choices and Consequences, Violence Prevention Educational Program, to the youngsters attending Liv-a-Palooza. Violence threatened to derail Mr. Love's life in 1991 when as a college student Mr. Love's apartment was robbed. During the robbery, Mr. Love was shot in the back and paralyzed. After a long recovery

and physical therapy, Mr. Love decided to return to college and graduated from the University of North Carolina, began his career and is currently a national wheelchair basketball champion.

"The first thing most people see when they see me is a guy in a wheelchair," Mr. Love said. "My wheelchair is very noticeable. I use my wheelchair to show kids that this can happen to them. I was making good choices but something bad happened to me. A lot of our young kids are making bad choices and they don't realize the consequences of those choices. They don't think about that or sometimes they do think about it and they say, 'I can deal with those consequences.'"

"Within my program, I talk to kids about peer pressure, anger management, conflict resolution, gang violence, the importance of

education and living with a disability. My passion is public speaking. I love going out and speaking to young kids and making a difference in their lives.

"I tell people, I have not walked in almost 15 years. I was shot on June 16, 1991, that day was my birthday as well. In 15 years I have not taken one step, but I walk every night in my dreams, and that is enough for me.

"When things happen to you, you have a choice to make. I had no control over guys breaking into my apartment. Once it happened and I realized I was going to be paralyzed for the rest of my life, I had to make a choice. So, I decided to go back to college and finish my degree. I decided to play professional wheelchair basketball with the Arkansas Razorbacks. I made choices along the way and with those choices came consequences.

When I was in Arkansas for four years, I saw so many young kids making bad choices. That is when I developed this program. I began fine tuning my speaking and my message," he said.

I have a fee. My fee ranges from zero dollars to \$1,000. It is not about the money for me, it is about making a difference in another person's life, especially our young kids. As an adult, it is my responsibility to make a difference in every youth's life that I can. I know I won't be able to reach everyone of them and that is okay. I know that when I speak in a presentation, I reach some of those kids.

"I don't want kids and even adults to feel sorry for me. This is not a sympathy story where you feel sorry for some guy. I want kids to leave with tools and ideas they can use and something to think about," Mr. Love said.

## Kids roar for Lions Roar

Music, dance and song filled the Irving High School auditorium as 23 solos, duets and groups performed during the Lions Roar on May 20.

"Lions Roar is a variety show the Irving Noon-Day Lions Club holds once a year to raise money

for scholarships for high school seniors going on to college," Gloria Agyemang, past president of the Noon-Day Lions, said. "It also raises money for our eyeglasses program. We give glasses to children whose families are not fortunate enough to be able to buy

glasses on their own.

"Children in the Irving Independent School District perform for the show. Every once in a while we will get children from outside the city to come and perform. Lions Roar gives youngsters a venue to show off their talents," she said.



Having a roaring good time, the Townsell Dynamic Timberwolves Drummers turn tables into percussion instruments.



Holding on for all she's worth, Sherrie Hampton (8) takes her turn on the bungee bull.

## Activist experienced loss and joy

*Continued from page 1*

She arrived with only two suitcases and depended on her education and friends to begin a life in America. After working and saving, she returned home with \$12,000 and the dream of buying her mother a home and opening her own business. Unfortunately, the peso devaluated and she was left with \$137.

"Difficulties mainstreaming are not easy – a new culture, a new language," Elvia said. "But aggressiveness is enough when you really want to reach those goals. I wanted first of all to perfect my English. In

spite of surpassing those barriers of immigration and having difficulties, faith, hope, determination, making decisions and discipline were in my life, because those are virtues of the Lord."

Over time DCET has grown under Elvia's direction to include Folkloric Arts Mentoring Amigos, which assists immigrants assimilate; Valores Familiares, a youth program for Hispanic teens; parenting skills programs and literacy programs.

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