



# the Irving Rambler

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"The Newspaper That Irving Reads"

JANUARY 6, 2005

## THIS WEEK



Parties ring in the New Year

### Baylor Medical Center at Irving offers research trials

**Diabetes Clinical Research Trial**  
 The Clinical Research Department at Baylor Medical Center at Irving is holding a diabetic neuropathy clinical research study and is looking for participants ages 18 or older who suffer from painful diabetic neuropathy (aching, burning, stabbing or tingling sensations). Diabetics who suffer from these symptoms may be eligible to participate in the clinical research study. For more information about enrollment, call the Baylor Medical Center at Irving Research Department (972) 579-4327.

**High Blood Pressure Clinical Research Trial**  
 Baylor Medical Center at Irving is holding a clinical research study and is looking for participants ages 55 or older who have high blood pressure. Qualified individuals will receive study-related medications and medical care, including lab tests and EKG's at no cost. To learn more about enrollment, call the Baylor Medical Center at Irving Research Department at (972) 579-4327.

## MacArthur High School Gym Completed in 1967



Photo of recently built gymnasium courtesy of the MacArthur High School annual Crest 1968.

Story on page 4

## Mayoral candidates express their views during Irving Citizens, Advocates and Neighbors forum

Irving Citizens, Advocates and Neighbors (ICAN) sponsored a question and answer forum for Irving's five mayoral hopefuls at the Hackberry Creek Country Club on January 5. Council woman, Beth Van Dyne, acted as mediator for the forum that allowed Mayor Joe Putnam and mayoral candidates Herb Gears, Terry Waldrum, Marvin Randle and Owen

DeWitt to express their opinions on topics ranging from Irving's future to fiscal responsibility to leadership. Each candidate was given two minutes to answer each question and two minutes following the final question to present a conclusion.

#### JOE PUTNAM

*With the city in a tight fiscal situation at present, please define anticipated economic liabilities or benefits, if any, associated with large capital projects like a museum or convention center, and how you would proceed with these projects?*

#### HERB GEARS

*If elected, do you plan to take a leadership role to assist the business and economic development effort to attract new business and keep existing business in Irving? If so, could you explain how you plan to perform that role?*

#### TERRY WALDRUM

*As other cities in the Metroplex and around the country find aggressive new ways to market themselves, describe what you feel are specific ways we can better market Irving and improve its image to recapture its leadership position.*

#### MARVIN RANDLE

*As other cities in the Metroplex and around the country find aggressive new ways to market themselves, describe what you feel are specific ways we can better market Irving and improve its image to recapture its leadership position.*

#### OWEN DEWITT

*How will you, as mayor, attempt to relate to fellow councilmen in order to build trust and cooperation?*

See replies on page 8

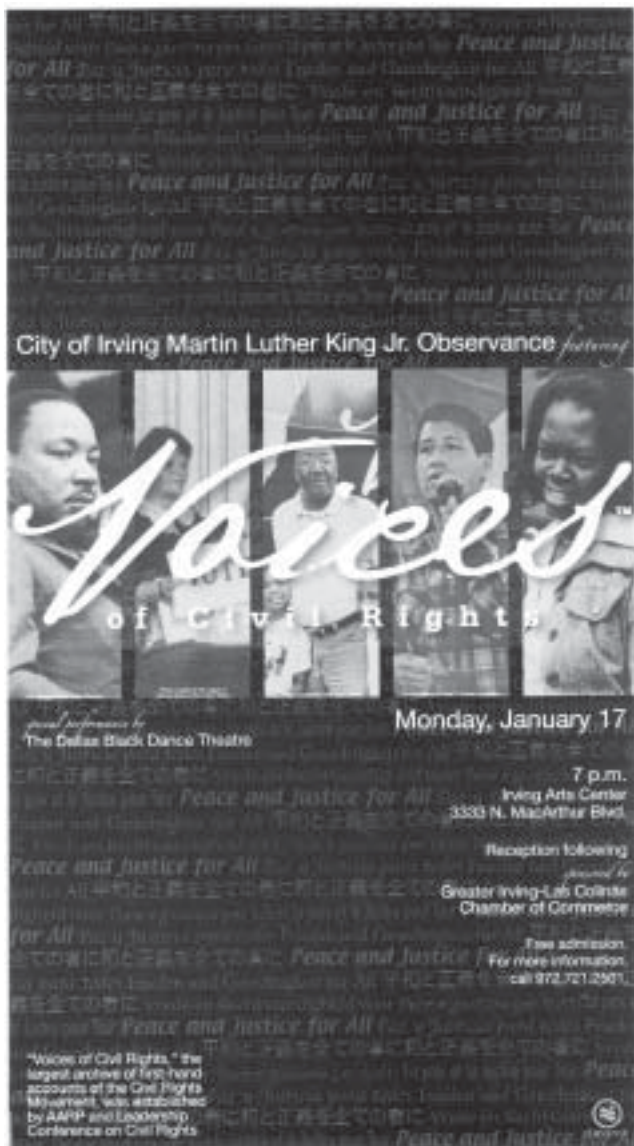




# IRVING PARKS & RECREATION

## January Events

**Auditions for Friday Nite Live competition set for 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8, Carpenter Performance Hall. Competition is open to Irving middle and high school students.**



**Family Fishing Day  
Saturday February 19,  
2005  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

Once again, Northwest Park Pond will be stocked with Rainbow Trout.

Grab your family, fishing poles and join us for a morning of family fun, prizes and refreshments.

17 or older must have a fishing license.

Northwest Park Recreation Center  
2800 Cheyenne St  
972.721.2529

**Health & Fitness Fair  
January 29, 2005  
10am - 2pm  
FREE FREE FREE**

Sponsors:  
Irving Police Department, Irving Public Library,  
Southwest Podiatry Assoc., Kathy's Kottage,  
Parkland Hospital Services- CHIP & Medicaid  
Programs  
Dr. Amy Rodgers, Bra Behavior, YMCA of Las  
Colinas

Avon and any more  
Northwest Park Recreation Center  
2800 Cheyenne St

972.721.2529

### Parks and Recreation Center locations and telephone numbers

- 1. Cimarron Park Recreation Center, 201 Red River Trail, (972) 910-0702
- 2. Mountain Park Recreation Center, 2223 Kinwest Parkway, (972) 556-1334
- 3. North Lake College Aquatic Center, 5001 N. MacArthur Blvd., (972) 273-3531
- 4. Houston Recreation Center, 3033 Country Club Drive, (972) 721-2570
- 5. Lee Park Recreation Center, 3000 Pamela Drive, (972) 721-2508
- 6. Northwest Park Recreation Center, 2800 Cheyenne St., (972) 721-2529
- 7. West Park Recreation Center, 230 Davis Drive, (972) 721-2518
- 8. West Park Pool, (972) 721-2325
- 9. Lively Pointe, 909 N. O'Connor Road, (972) 721-8090
- 10. Lively Pointe Pool, (972) 721-2597
- 11. Austin Recreation Center, 825 E. Union Bower Road, (972) 721-3659
- 12. Lamar Recreation Center, 219 Crandall Road, (972) 721-2478
- 13. Heritage Senior Center, 200 S. Jefferson St., (972) 721-2496
- 14. Heritage Aquatic Center, (972) 721-7310
- 15. Senter Park Recreation Center, 901 S. Senter St., (972) 721-2641
- 16. Senter Park Pool, (972) 721-2638
- 17. Southwest Park Pool, 2800 Shady Grove Blvd., (972) 721-2420



## Events happening at your recreation center

**Heritage Senior Center - 200 S. Jefferson  
972.721.2496**

**Relax Class.** Mondays starting Jan. 10-24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-7:30 p.m.. \$8 a class or \$24 for all three classes. Come and learn how to reduce your stress with certified Massage Therapist Louann Cranford. The classes will cover stress relieving techniques, aroma therapy, and imaging. Class size is limited. Pre-registration required. Open to all adults 18+.

**Light House for the Blind.** Wed. Jan. 12, 10:30 Dining room. Please come to this wonderful presentation. You will learn how to adapt to the changes in your vision. How to cope with vision loss and view many types of adaptive aids that can make your daily living easier. No fee or sign up, please come and learn.

**Fire Safety Awareness program.** Wed. Jan. 19, 10:30, dining room. Please come to this detailed program that could save your home and life. Presented by MasterGuard Corporation. No sign up required, just come and learn how to be safe

**Open Scrapbooking Workshop.** Mon. Jan. 31, 9-11:30. Craft room.

**Tuesday Night Dances in January Feature:**

- Jan. 4 Gary Lee
- Jan. 11 Southern Pride
- Jan. 18 Chuck Arlington
- Jan. 25 Nobles of Note

**Come and dance in the best senior center ballroom in the metroplex. Only \$5 per person. Light refreshments served and free dance lessons 6-7 p.m. The dance starts at 7:00 and ends at 9:30.**

USABDA (United States Amateur Ballroom Dance Association) Free Dance Lessons Friday nights. 7-8:30. Dates: January 7, 14, 21. Foxtrot will be taught. All ages of adults welcome!

### Teen JAM Schedule - 2005

JAMs are open to all Irving middle and high school students. Free admission includes DJ music, dancing, pizza and soda, video games, billiards, basketball competitions, specialty activities and prize raffles. Bring school or IPAR ID to enter. Only one non-Irving resident guest will be admitted per Irving student. Hours: 7 to 11 p.m.

Jan. 8 - Lee Park Recreation Center, 3000 Pamela Drive, (972) 721-2508

Jan. 22 - Cimarron Park Recreation Center, 201 Red River Trail, (972) 910-0702

Feb. 12 - Lively Pointe, 909 N. O'Connor Road, (972) 721-8090

Feb. 26 - Lee Park Recreation Center, 3000 Pamela Drive, (972) 721-2508

March 12 - Cimarron Park Recreation Center, 201 Red River Trail, (972) 910-0702

March 26 - Lively Pointe, 909 N. O'Connor Road, (972) 721-8090

Friday Nite Live competition, Irving's premiere teen talent competition, to be held at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 21, at the Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd.

The Irving Youth Council's Spirited Youth Awards will be presented during Friday Nite Live, and recognize young people 11 to 18 years old for volunteering their time and effort to benefit Irving.

# Chamber of Commerce

## Leads Luncheon

January 12, 2005 / 11 am - 1 pm  
The Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce will host its monthly Leads Luncheon at the new 2005 location - Bahama Breeze. The luncheon is located at 857 W. John Carpenter Frwy from 11am - 1pm.

Bring 100-150 business cards for networking, information about your business to pass out, freebies, give-a-ways and/or door prizes. Our members do lots of fun things to promote their business during our monthly Leads Luncheons!

Cost to attend \$20 per person if paid in advance or \$25 at the door. Please RSVP, no later than January 10th to attend. You can call 972-252-8484 to RSVP and pay for your attendance in advance. Be creative and start increasing your bottom line today!

## Member Orientation Breakfast

January 13th / 8 am - 10 am  
Irving Arts Center, Room 200

This orientation welcomes new and existing members to the Greater Irving - Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce. Teaching you about the value and benefits of your Chamber membership is the key focus of this event, along with time available for networking....so don't forget your business cards! You will meet directly with the Greater Irving - Las Colinas Chamber staff, as well as many of our Chamber Ambassadors, Board of Directors and City of Irving staff.

The event is completely FREE to attend, and yes, you can come to this event more than once...it never hurts to refresh and learn about new programs/services. Please RSVP to Barbara Craig at 972-252-8484 to reserve a seat. All events/dates are subject to change at the discretion of the Greater Irving - Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce.

## After Hour's Business MIXER

January 13, 2004 / 5 pm  
The Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce will host their monthly After Hour's Business Mixer on January 13, 2005 from 5 pm - 6:30 pm. The January mixer is sponsored by, Hooters-Irving, located at 2522 N. Beltline Rd., across from Irving Mall.

At the After Hour's Business Mixers, you will be able to create invaluable relationships and make your business work for you! Plan to attend and bring 100-150 business cards for networking and prize drawings. The Chamber's Business Mixer is for Members ONLY and FREE to attend. Please RSVP to 972-252-8484, no later than Wednesday, January 12th, to reserve your spot today.

## Voices of Civil Rights Project

Part of Irving Martin Luther King Program  
January 17th / 7 pm

The creator of the Voices of Civil Rights project will be featured at the City of Irving's Martin Luther King Jr. Observance at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 17, at the Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd.

Rick Bowers, director of digital media for AARP Publications and originator of the Voices of Civil Rights project, will discuss efforts to compile personal accounts of the civil rights movement into a national archive, and will introduce a video of the Voices of Civil Rights bus tour. A tabletop model of the project also will be displayed. The final Voices of Civil Rights archive, comprising thousands of stories from across the country, will be permanently housed at the Library of Congress in February.

More information about the Voices of Civil Rights project is available at [www.voicesofcivilrights.org](http://www.voicesofcivilrights.org).

# POLICE BRIEFS

## Irving Police Department - Town Hall Meeting

A meeting intended for community members that live and/or work south of S.H. 183 (residential and business)

Irving High School (auditorium) - 900 N. O'Connor Rd.

Tuesday, February 1, 2005 - 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

We welcome and encourage your attendance

**Agg. Robbery:** 12-30-04, 3114 W. Northgate. The complainant was walking to his apartment when a male approached him and demanded his wallet and car keys. The suspect drove away in the complainant's vehicle and was not located

**Agg. Robbery:** 12-31-04, 1025 W. Airport Freeway. The complainant is the 7-11 store clerk. The suspect entered the store with a plastic bag over his face, displayed a knife and demanded the money that was in the cash register. The suspect left the area on foot and was not located.  
**Arson:** 010105, 0140 hrs. Officers dispatched to a fire at 3220 W. Rock Island, Builders Gypsum. Upon arrival it was fully engulfed and IFD had to use numerous fire trucks to get it out. Rock Island and Briery were closed for about three hours. The fire investigator arrived and ruled it an Arson because there were at least two points of origin for the fire. Damage was estimated at \$20,000.00.

**Squad Car Damage:** 1-1-05, Airport Freeway at Story Rd. An Officer arrested a male for DWI and placed him into the back seat of his squad car. The male became violent and kicked out the right rear window of the squad car. The male was sprayed with O/C spray, placed into leg restraints, and transported to jail without further incident.

**Search Warrant:** 01-2-05, 3525 N. Story Rd. The

complainant arrived home and found her neighbors burglarizing her apartment. Officers arrived a short time later, and the complainant described her missing property to them in detail. Officers attempted contact with the suspects and they did not answer the door. The Sergeant on duty obtained a search warrant for the apartment and the majority of the complainant's stolen property was found inside the apartment. The suspects were not inside the apartment, but numerous items of paperwork identifying them were found inside the apartment. The complainant had just moved into the apartment and does not know the suspects.

**Agg. Robbery:** 1-2-05, 7:35 p.m. Officers were dispatched to 1325 Meadow Creek on a robbery. The complainant was near the mail center when he was approached by the suspect. The suspect pointed a handgun at him and took his wallet. There were no injuries.

**Agg. Robbery:** 1-2-05, 11:07 p.m. Officers were dispatched to 500 W. 6th Street on a robbery. The complainant was approached by two suspects at the corner of Hilltop and 8th Street. One of the suspects pulled a handgun and took his wallet. There were no injuries.

**Shooting:** 1-3-05, 5:00 p.m. An Officer stopped a vehicle on traffic at Century Center and Spur

482. During the course of the traffic stop, Officers discovered that the driver had been shot in the back. The passenger was extremely intoxicated and arrested for public intoxication and possession of narcotics. The driver was transported to Parkland. His injury was not life threatening. Information gathered from both subjects indicate the shooting occurred near Pioneer and Nursery at around 3:45pm. CID is conducting the investigation.

**Robbery:** 1-3-05, 11:00 p.m. Officers were dispatched to a robbery at 6312 N. MacArthur. The complainant was walking his dog on the east side of the complex, when two suspects drove up next to him. The suspects approached him and knocked him to the ground and both started to kick him. One of the suspects took his dog and then they drove off. The complainant refused medical treatment.

**Robbery:** 1-4-05, 6:55 p.m. Officers were dispatched to a robbery that had taken place at 4070 N. Belt Line Road. The complainant had just cashed his check at 3317 W. Walnut Hill and was walking back to his vehicle. He had parked his vehicle by PO'Melvin's. He was approached from behind by 4-5 suspects. One of the suspect's hit him from behind, knocking him to the ground. His shirt was pulled over his head and was surrounded. The suspects went through his pockets taking his cash. They all ran off toward Walnut Hill. He sustained minor injuries.

**Agg. Robbery:** 1-4-05, 8:05 p.m. Officers were dispatched to 1119 Hidden Ridge on a robbery. The complainant was walking in the area of Hidden Ridge west of MacArthur. The suspect followed him into the complex and approached him. The suspect asked him if he knew the location of a building. He replied "no". The suspect

displayed a handgun and asked him if he wanted to die. The complainant gave the suspect his wallet. He was not injured.

**Pursuit:** 1-4-05, 9:36 p.m. A citizen was following a DWI in the area of Loop 12 and Union Bower. Officers caught up to the suspect at Loop 12 and S.H. 183 and activated his lights. The suspect continued north bound Loop 12, exiting Northwest Hwy., u-turned and came back south bound and pulled into a liquor store parking lot at 10235 N. Loop 12, in Dallas. There were no injuries and no property was damaged. The driver was taken into custody and charged with DWI and Evading.

**Suicide:** 1-4-05, 10:05 p.m.. Officers were dispatched to a shooting and possible Code K at 1005 High School. The deceased had been with two of his friends. He was depressed over his relationship with his girlfriend. The two friends say that he had walked out into the driveway and shot himself in the head. The M.E., I.D., and C.I.D. were called and they responded to the scene.

**Robbery/Pursuit:** 1-4-05, 10:56 p.m. Officers were going by the 7-11 located at 1025 W. S.H. 183, when he noticed the clerk struggling with a male in the parking lot. He turned around and saw the suspect leave in a vehicle and going east bound 183. Dispatch advised that the clerk was calling and that the suspect had taken 10 cartons of cigarettes and had assaulted him. Officers attempted to stop the vehicle at S.H. 183 and Grauwlyer. The suspect refused to stop and fled into Dallas. Officers lost the suspect around Leath and Hampton, where the suspect abandoned his vehicle and fled the area on foot with the cigarettes. There were no injuries and no property was damaged.

## The Irving Rambler (214) 675-6493

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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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John Starkey - Editor

INTERNET [www.irvingrambler.com](http://www.irvingrambler.com)

E-mail [irving@irvingrambler.com](mailto:irving@irvingrambler.com)

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## SCHOOL BRIEFS

### School Board Recognition Month

January is School Board Recognition Month in Texas. Irving ISD students, staff and community members are celebrating by offering thanks to the Irving residents who volunteer their time to oversee our community's public schools. The annual observance, celebrated across the state, is designed to build awareness and understanding of the vital role an elected board plays in providing effective public schools. School board members contribute several hours each week to attend meetings and events all without compensation.

The theme for this year's occasion is "Lighting the Way". In recognition of their contribution to our schools, several students will thank the trustees publicly at the January 10 school board meeting and the Irving High School Singer Company will perform a song thanking trustees for "letting their light shine".

Irving ISD trustees are: Barbara Cardwell, President, 18 years of service; Ruben Franco, Vice President, five years of service; Randy Stipes, Secretary, five years of service; Jerry Christian, one year of service; Michael Hill, three years of service; Ken Murray, one year of service; and Nita Patrick, one year of service.

### Lobb Named ATPE Region 10 Teacher of the Year

Lisa Lobb, business teacher at Irving High School, has been named Region 10 Secondary Teacher of the Year by the Association of Texas Professional Educators.

Lobb will be recognized at the Region 10 ATPE convention March 5. She was nominated for the honor by Irving High ATPE representative Darla Leisman, and applied by writing four essays.

### Mac Jazz Goes to Waco

The MacArthur High School Jazz Singers have been invited to perform at the South Central Regional Conference of the International Association of Jazz Educators at Baylor University April 15 and 16. Twenty-one students will perform. The South Central Region includes Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and New Mexico.

### Recycling Website Online

Irving ISD has launched a new website to coincide with its new recycling program. The site gives information about where, when and why to recycle for students, teachers,

parents and administrators. It contains links to IISD's recycling partners, and even a "bin locator" that will find addresses for recycling containers in any Texas zip code.

### Brown Students Receive Aid from Peer

A Flower Mound boy has organized a holiday benevolence program that benefited families with students at Brown Elementary School this Christmas. Jordan Nelson, 10, collected 865 meals for needy families this year, 250 of which were delivered to Brown for distribution on December 15. Nelson's charity drive also yielded gifts for 20 Brown students, ranging from clothes to bicycles.

Nelson began his holiday meal collection three years ago when he solicited donations of eight meals for families from Brown, where his grandmother, Paulette Nelson, volunteered. This year, Jordan (with help from his younger brother, Jared) fell just short of his goal of 900 meals. Next year's goal is 1,000 meals. For more information, visit Nelson's Kids Help Kids website.

### College Information Hotline

College-bound IISD students can get answers to questions about financial aid, student life, and special events at colleges and universities throughout the nation next weekend via a toll-free telephone hotline. The Texas Association for College Admission Counseling (TACAC) and LoanSTAR are sponsoring the 20th Annual College Information Hotline January 15 and 16 to provide information about post-secondary educational opportunities to students and families. Professional college admissions and financial aid counselors will be available to answer questions. Many of the counselors will be Spanish speakers.

The hotline will be open Saturday, January 15 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, January 16 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The number is 877-275-7007.

The hotline is made possible by a grant from the Greater Texas Foundation.

### Nissan Gives Davis Books

Last month, Nissan donated \$1,400 to Davis Elementary School to purchase a book for each student at the school to take home over the winter holidays. Principal Diana Hopper read to each class in the school and then distributed the books – 870 in all.

Earning Books at Townsell  
Representatives from the Earning By Learning reading incentive program presented a check for \$2,700 to third grade students at Townsell Elementary School last month for use in buying books for their school library. Students earned the donation by reading and reporting on 1,350 books over a one-month period last fall. One hundred third-graders took part in the program.

### Exxon Grant to Benefit IISD Students

ExxonMobil Foundation awarded \$150,000 to the Dallas County Community College District to fund scholarships for Irving ISD graduates recently. The contribution brings ExxonMobil's support to \$300,000 for the DCCCD's Rising Star Program. The program provides scholarships up to \$4,000 for tuition and books to eligible students for as many as three years. The grant, payable over three years, will be earmarked to award scholarships to qualifying Irving ISD graduates who plan to attend any of the DCCCD's seven colleges.

## We pay attention to the smallest details.



- Entire floor dedicated to Women's Services
- All Private Labor/Delivery Rooms
- All Private Postpartum Rooms
- Level II Special Care Nursery
- State-of-the-Art Infant Security System
- Las Colinas Lullabies (Specially designed web page for your family and friends)
- Wide range of childbirth education classes
- Mommy Fit - Prenatal & Postnatal Fitness Program
- Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Opening late 2004

## Preparations made for MacArthur High School Gym



All that remains of MacArthur High School's gym is a pile of rubble and years of memories.

Continued from page 1

In September of 1967, MacArthur High School students were privileged to have a brand new state of the art gymnasium for games, practices, P.E. classes and school functions. MacArthur's gymnasium was 160 ft. by 180 ft., seated 2,400 spectators and cost \$450,000 to build.

In February of 2006, MacArthur High School students will once again have bragging rights to the best gymnasium in

the area. Trustees voted unanimously to build a new gymnasium rather than repair the existing gym, which the school stopped using because of structural problems. The new gym is estimated to cost \$5 million and should be functional for at least 50 years.

The structural deficiencies in the existing gym were estimated to cost \$1.5 million to repair and would have extended the life of the building by 10 to 15 years.



### Las Colinas Medical Center

6800 N. MacArthur Blvd. (1 Mile South of 635)  
Irving, Texas 75039  
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# New Year's Eve parties

## Christian rock station hosts

### New Year's Eve party



The "Random" family, Teri Travis, TJ Kerr, Clint Salvato, Logan Bartley, and Joseph Eberly, competes in Family Feud game.

Over 250 people joined staff members and on-air personalities from 89.7 Power FM, the Christian Rock Station, for a New Year's Eve party at Irving Bible Church.

Everyone who wanted to come to the 89.7 Power FM party was welcomed. Teenagers and their parents, and even families with young children found the 'G'

rated, non-alcoholic party a great way to ring in 2005 together.

Attendees were asked to bring food to share for a potluck dinner. In addition to music, the evening was filled with games. Participants were drawn at random to play Family Feud, the Weakest Link or Extreme Potluck for prizes.

## Our Redeemer Lutheran welcomes the New Year with Curt Cloninger

Members and guests of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church celebrated the coming of a new year with a live performance of *God Views* by Curt Cloninger on Dec. 31.

Mr. Cloninger is one-man theater; he presents a series of monologues that contain a relevant Christian message without being preachy. His performances invite the audience to experience God's love in new ways. Since 1994, Mr. Cloninger has been an Artist in Residence at Perimeter Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

"I was a theater major in college and did traditional professional theater after college for a while", Mr. Cloninger said. "I've been doing the one-man theater for about 25 years; I been doing it a long time. I was a Christian and an actor, and the two just sort of meshed together eventually. Most of my stuff is pretty blatantly Christian material. I travel nationally and to Canada about 100 nights a year."

Snacks were served following Mr. Cloninger's appearance. Audience members were invited to remain at the church and pray in the New Year.



Curt Cloninger presents a monologue in character as a man relaying his experiences in Heaven.

**Porter's**

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**972.579.1971**

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## OBITUARIES

### LARRY MELVIN BURNETT



Larry Melvin Burnett, of Irving, passed away Saturday December 25, 2004 at his residence.

Mr. Burnett was born September 26, 1948 in Tulsa, Oklahoma to parents Bill Gene and Willie Mae Miller Burnett.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a son, Larry Burnett and is survived by son, Samuel Larry Burnett of Tulsa, Oklahoma; daughter, Barbara Daeone Burnett of Irving; daughter, Shawn O'Laire Davidson and husband, Robert of Irving; brother, Bill Burnett of Riverside, California; grandchild, Lillie "Bean" Davidson; aunt, Barbara Roesler; uncle, Marvin Miller; and nephews Johnny Burnett and Mark Burnett.

Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Irving.

Survivors include her brother, Tom Carlton of Davis, CA; sister, Bonnie Ryan of Fort Worth; nephews, Michael Wayne Carlton of Fort Worth and Judge Keith Dean of Dallas County; nieces, Dana Doering of Bainbridge Island, WA and Sheila Giasson of Burleson.

### JAMES DAVID ROOT



We celebrate the incredible life of James David Root of Lewisville, TX, who has won his battle with cancer by going home to be with his Lord and Savior on December 23, 2004. There was a memorial service for him December 29, at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home Chapel.

Jim was born 5/11/67 in Irving, Texas, and immediately began his life long journey of bringing joy, hope, pleasure, encouragement and love to all with whom he came in contact. He touched hundreds, if not thousands, of people during his lifetime and his legacy will live on and on. After attending Southwest Texas State, Jim followed his dream of being a professional musician for 10 years and because he was considered an outstanding bass guitarist, he played with numerous bands. But Jim was born an entrepreneur with enormous dreams and goals, so he left that career to explore other aspects of his many creative talents, which included Web design, graphic art work, magazine publication, sales, antiques, just to name a few.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife, Lara Lee, 8 year old son, Conner James Root, 7 month old daughter, Isabella Simone, his mother, Billie Root Coburn and step father, James "Bo" Coburn of Irving, sister & her husband, Susan & Steven Merritt of Granbury, nieces Aimee Hutchings, Amber Terrell, & Emily Merritt, nephew Taylor Merritt, aunt Pat Root Carnell and a host of loving cousins and extended family who love him very much. He was preceded in death by his father, Trent C. Root, Jr., brother, Trent C. Root III, and his grandparents. Jim is now playing in the heavenly host band and organizing and orchestrating the lives of all those around him, which is something he loved doing here on earth. We love him and miss him so much but, Praise God; we know we will see him again one day.

### CLINTON SAVAGE



Clinton Savage, age 89, a resident of Irving for fifty years, died Dec 23, 2004 at a Bedford assisted living center.

Born Nov 25, 1915 in Gainesville, Texas, he was a former janitor for Goodwill. He had attended SMU and

was a member at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Irving and Bedford.

Preceded in death by a brother, Frank and sister, Evelyn. Survivors include his brothers, Edgar Savage of Fair Oaks, CA and David Savage of Costa Rica; nephew Jim Savage of California.

Service, Dec 29, 2004 at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home Chapel. Graveside service at Fairview Cemetery in Gainesville. Due to Clinton's love of flowers, floral arrangements are welcome.

### BILLIE JO CARLTON



Age 73, a resident of Irving, Texas for over fifteen years, died Dec 22, 2004 at an Irving nursing center.

She was born Oct 15, 1931 in Fort Worth, Texas. Formerly an accountant, she was also employed at CNC Home Care in Dallas and she was a member at the

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# Are you ready to Meet the Fockers?

Matt Mungle

*Meet the Fockers*, the sequel to *Meet the Parents*, brings all the original members back in this laugh rounded romp of rigid meets relaxed.

Now that Greg Focker (Ben Stiller) has been given permission to marry Pam Byrnes (Teri Polo) its time for the parents to meet. But never have two households been so opposite. Pam's parents, ex CIA-man Jack (Robert De Niro) and sophisticated Dina

(Blythe Danner) are conventional, modest, perfection demanding individuals. Greg's parents Bernie Focker (Dustin Hoffman) and his sex therapist wife, Roz (Barbra Streisand) are excessive, open, and overtly affectionate. In the Focker home, no topic of conversation is off limits; much to the horror and frustration of Greg who wants nothing more than to stay in the circle of trust and impress his father-in-law to be.

On the journey to Fockerville, the Byrnes bring along their toddling grandson, Little

Jack. Where this would prove fatal for most films, *Meet the Fockers* uses it for some hilarious situations involving Big Jack and his neurotic idea of upbringing.

New additions Hoffman and Streisand play nicely off each other and their relaxed demeanor adds a mellowness to this installment that was lacking in its predecessor.

Count on numerous laugh-out-loud moments and though a big percentage of them walk an unrefined line with acrobatic

skill, it manages to stay in the PG-13 realm. A rating earned due to crude and sexual humor, language and a brief drug reference.

Fans of the original are sure to enjoy this round just as much and many will be ready for a third encounter with these likeable characters. *Christmas with the Fockers* anyone?

With 4 out of 5 stars, that's my Spin on *Meet the Fockers*. I'm Matt Mungle.

## OBITUARIES

### LARRY V. SEIDNER

Larry V. Seidner born October 23, 1918 in Youngstown Mahoning County, Ohio to Lee and Henrietta Seidner passed away December 23, 2004 in Mesquite, Texas.

He was a member of Bethel Lutheran Church. He worked in Law Enforcement as Deputy Sheriff of Wood County and was active in the Irving Police Reserve.

Survivors include wife Emma Seidner of Mesquite; daughters Jan and Art Albin of Yantis; Gail and Mike O'Quinn of Mesquite; Beverly Bryan of Grapevine and Nancy and Jim Coley of Houston; 1 brother and 2 sisters; grandchildren Dan O'Quinn; Tim O'Quinn; Carolyn Coley Dornburg; Leslie Coley Carter and Katherine Coley and great-granddaughter, Michaela.

Funeral services were held December 27<sup>th</sup> at Bethel Lutheran Church with Pastor Randy Haedge officiating. The family expresses special thanks to Christian Care Center and Trinity Hospice. Memorials may be made in lieu of flowers to the Alzheimer Association.

### DEE BIGLER



Dee Bigler, age 78, a resident of Irving, Texas for thirty-two years, died Dec 21, 2004.

She was born Oct 5, 1926 at Lake Providence, Louisiana, to Lucian and Belle Rentz. A world-wide traveler, she retired from Braniff Airlines in 1982.

Preceded in death by her son, Stevan Randall Bigler. Survivors include her daughters, Michele Driggers of Grapevine, Texas and Melanie Bigler of Hot Springs, Arkansas; sons-in-law, Bill Driggers of Grapevine, Texas and Scott Agee of Hot Springs, Arkansas; grandsons, Chris Lee Bigler of Vancouver, Washington and Lance Corporal Wm. Thomas Driggers, of Grapevine, Texas; two great grandchildren; one dear nephew and six loving nieces.

Memorials may be made to a charity of one's choice.

### W.J. "POPS" HILL



W. J. "Pops" Hill, age 90, a resident of Irving, Texas for more than twenty years, died Dec 22, 2004 at his home.

Born April 25, 1914 in Ardmore, Oklahoma, he retired from GFACO in California as a mechanic. He was a member of Local 3

Operating Engineers; a 32<sup>nd</sup> degree Mason at the McKinley Lodge #347 in Richmond, California and a member at St. Luke's Catholic Church in Irving.

Survived by his son, John W. Hill, Jr. and wife Lynne, of Irving; son, Albert "Lee" Hill and wife Gina, of Napa, California; daughter Carolyn Martin and husband William, of Ocean Springs, Mississippi; daughter, Kathleen Facio and husband Danny, of Keller; brother, Homer Hill of Mid Cities, Oklahoma; eight grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children.

### ROBERT E. STRONG, SR.



Robert E. Strong, Sr., age 81, a resident of Irving, Texas for fifty-three years, died Dec 26, 2004 in Irving.

Born April 7, 1923 in Akron, Ohio, he had been a Market Manager at A & P for many years and a Pastor of Gospel Tabernacle in Irving. He was a member at New Beginnings Fellowship in Irving.

Preceded in death by his wife, Versie O. Strong, July 20, 2004; daughter, Brenda Jenkins; and granddaughter, Kellie Strong. Survivors include his daughter, Delores Shotwell of Irving; son, Bobby Strong and wife Drenda of Princeton, TX; sister, Dorothy Mavity of Lawton, OK; nine grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

### LUCILE BROWNLOW BAILEY



Lucile Brownlow Bailey, 90 of Dallas, formerly of Irving passed away December 30, 2004.

Lucile was born November 18, 1914 in Hillsboro County, Texas. She was preceded in death by John Clayton Brownlow and Lee Roy Bailey.

Survived by her sons and their families, John & Cathey Brownlow, James and Katy Brownlow; grandchildren Jake, Christi, Alisa, Emily, and Reed; great-grandchildren Brittany & Preston; sister, Sadie Reiken, brothers Guy Pope, Bud Pope and numerous nieces and nephews.

Lucile will be remembered most for her mac and cheese, love of cards, friends and coffee at Joe's... and being the best grandmother, always. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Association 7610 Stemmons Freeway #600, Dallas, TX 75247.

### JAMES ALDIS SIMMONS

James Aldis Simmons, 81, passed away Sunday, January 2, 2005 in Irving after a brief illness.

James was born April 5, 1923. He was a life long Irving resident and a charter member of The First Presbyterian Church of Irving. He was a graduate of Irving High School, Agricultural College of Arlington and Southern Methodist University. During WWII, James was a Navy Dive Bomber Pilot flying off of several aircraft carriers; "Lady Lex" was his favorite. James was a past president of The Irving Evening Lions Club and an Atlantic-Richfield Oil Company retiree. He retired as Director of Gas Accounting - Dallas Office.

James is preceded in death by his father John William Simmons, mother Ruby Simmons, brother Captain John William Simmons, Jr., first wife, Maxine Bates Simmons. He is survived by wife Evelyn (Eve) Simmons, stepson, Russ K. Stateham and wife Brenda Jo of Austin, Texas.

Memorial gifts may be directed to The First Presbyterian Church, 510 E. Irving Blvd., Irving, TX 75060 and/or Baylor Healthcare Foundation, 1901 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving, TX 75061.

### EVELYN DAWE

Evelyn Dawe, of Irving, born January 22, 1920 in Roswell, New Mexico passed away December 30, 2004 in Dallas.

Evelyn was preceded in death by husband Robert Charles Dawe in 1976. She is survived by Robert Dawe of Scottsdale, Arizona. Graveside services were held January 3, 2005 followed by a memorial service at Oak View Baptist Church with Dr. Jim Gerlach officiating. Local arrangements by Brown's Memorial Funeral Home.

### DORTHY E. WILLIAMS



Dorothy E. Williams, 87, a resident of Irving for over 50 years, died Saturday, January 1, 2005 in Irving.

Born May 24, 1917 in Troy, Ohio, she married Vance Williams December 25, 1940 in

Tucson, AZ. She was a homemaker and member of Community Bible Church.

Preceded in death by her husband and a daughter, Pam Stover, she is survived by sons, Dennis Williams and wife, Lyn and Robert Williams and wife, Kim all of Irving; six grandchildren, Richard Fisher, Judd Fisher, Joanna Williams Garcia, Aaron Williams, Jamie Williams, and Robby Williams; and four great grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Far East Broadcasting Company, Box 1 La Mirada, CA 90637-9984, Gospel for Asia, 1800 Golden Trail Court, Carrollton, TX 75010-9954, or Community Bible Church, 2301 Texas Drive, Irving 75062.

### LYNN CHESTER CONNER



Lynn Chester Conner, 78, a life-long resident of Irving and long-time school administrator, died Friday, December 31, 2004 at Baylor Medical Center in Irving.

Born March 22, 1926 in Irving, the son of Joel E. and Mertie Jane Newton Conner, he

was Valedictorian of the Irving High School Class of 1943. He married Ruth Evans November 5, 1944. A veteran of World War II, he graduated from Southern Methodist University, was a long-time Kiwanian, founder and past president of the Texas School Personnel Directors Association, one of the co-founders of the Irving Boys Baseball Association and one of the earliest inductees of the Irving Sports Hall of Fame. A past long-time member and Elder Emeritus at First Christian Church of Irving, he retired as the Director of Personnel of Irving Independent School District.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth of Irving; sons, Larry Conner and wife, Cheryl of Fairview, and Steve Conner and wife, Nicki of Dallas; daughter, Carole Davis and husband, Paul of Allen; six grandchildren, Lane Conner, Cathryne Conner, Olivia Conner, Ryan Wilkinson, Evan Davis, and Lauren Davis.

If desired memorials can be made in Lynn's name to Irving Independent School District Education Foundation, 2621 W. Airport Freeway, Irving, TX 75062, phone 972-215-5000.

### WINSTON WESTMAN WESSELS



Winston Westman Wessels, of Irving, passed away Friday December 31, 2004.

Mr. Wessels was born January 20, 1929 in Stuttgart, Arkansas. Survivors include his wife, Betty Wessels of Irving; son, Mark

Wessels and wife Patricia of Tucson, Arizona; brother, F. A. Wessels and wife Rosemary of San Antonio, Texas; sister-in-law, Ruth Wessels of Russellville, Arkansas; sister-in-law, Barbara Fisk and husband Doug of Cedar Creek Lake, Texas; and nephew, Charles Fisk.

If desired, memorials may be made to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - Kitchen Fund, 2620 W. Grauwlyer, Irving, Texas.

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# 2005

The year is hidden within the puzzle  
20 times, Try to find them all.

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Gizmo

Breed: Tibetan Spaniel  
Sex: Male / Neutered  
Weight: about 15 lbs.  
Age: about 5 + years  
Color: Black and Tan

Reason for Surrender: Doesn't get along with other dogs.  
Comments: Gizmo is very sweet and loving. He loves the outdoors and is good with cats



Tigger

Breed: Domestic Short Hair  
Sex: Female / Spayed  
Weight: about 7 lbs.  
Age: about 1 years

Color: Tabby  
Reason for Surrender: Moving  
Comments: Tigger is sweet and affectionate. She is good with kids and other cats.

## Joe Putnam

"The museum and convention center cannot be placed in the same bucket as all of the other financial challenges of the city," Mr. Putnam said. "They are somewhat two standalone projects. We do have, aside from the convention center and the museum, a very challenging time ahead still with ordinary city financing. Paying the city salaries, providing benefits to employees, improving sidewalks, providing sanitation services and all of those things that you well know have been very tightly constrained by the economic downturn."

"Between the year before last and about 1999 our sales tax receipts dropped about 10 million dollars a year from 45 to 34 million dollars.... We have had to increase our tax rate from 48.3 to 54.79 this year. From that side of the ball, we do face challenges ahead that are going to require very capable, very diligent leadership. We are going to get there, but it is going to be tight," Mr. Putnam said.

"Both the museum and the convention center... are funded by the hotel/motel tax. Whatever happens with them will solely be a function of the hotel/motel tax. The museum is something that can be managed."

"The convention center is one that when we get in to it and I hope we can someday, that remains to be seen, we will have to have another feasibility update. It is a project that has great potential for the city of Irving. If it works as anticipated, it will generate 62.1 million dollars per year in economic benefit to the city of Irving," Mr. Putnam said.

## Herb Gears

"(The mayor) represents the city, economic development and growth of our tax base," Mr. Gears said. "This is what sustains our survivability."

"The first place I would look is to the property owners in DCURD to partner with the city and come up with a solution to the DCURD debt so we can develop the undeveloped land in Las Colinas. This is the greatest opportunity we have to enhance our tax base. Until we solve that problem, we are going to have a tremendous economic development issue...." Mr. Gears said.

"It is getting more and more competitive to both retain and attract new businesses to Irving. We have experienced this for some number of years now. We have got to do something or else we are going to continue to have this decline," Mr. Gears said.

"The Cowboy operation is going to be leaving the city of Irving in four years, so we have got guaranteed future decline. This is an indication that we have to change the direction right now...." Mr. Gears said.

## Terry Waldrum

"It is difficult to market a city... if you are not convinced it is the best place to live. I am convinced, Irving, Texas is the best place to live. It is changing every day."

"I think we have to start with the physical image of Irving. A lot of you guys up here live behind a wall, and it is pretty, it looks great, you can shop on 114 and up at 635, and you don't have to drive south. I'll tell you, you drive south and it is a different world. Like it or not that is going to affect north Irving if we don't do something about it. We have to address the issues in south Irving today (or) it will drain the resources we have in north Irving," Mr. Waldrum said.

"North Irving has fantastic resources.... I am proud of it when I go across the country and when I visit with people they always ask me about the city. So, there is no reason why we can't have the best image around," Mr. Waldrum said.

"We are going to compete. Twenty years ago, ten years ago, five years ago, Irving was next to the airport. (Highway) 161 is about to open, folks, and Legacy Park is twenty minutes from the airport. We lose the advantage we have in Irving, Texas when that happens," Mr. Waldrum said.

"People talk about our schools. We are drained because overcrowding, numerous families living in apartment buildings. They are putting a taxing burden on our schools; and in turn, you as tax payers; and in turn, on our city because of the image that we get from that. It is not just one thing, it all works together," Mr. Waldrum said.

## Marvin Randle

"Talking about terminology, I think there was a statement made about living behind the wall," Mr. Randle said. "When I was growing up in school, 'behind the wall' was a bad connotation if you were living there. I hope that is not the kind of wall you had reference to."

"I want to say that Marvin Randle wants to be mayor of every citizen in Irving, Texas. Whether you live in north Irving, whether you live in south Irving, east Irving or west Irving, it does not matter. You are no (more) important if you live behind the wall than if you live in south Irving."

"I have lived in Irving for 68 years there is not a soul in this room or any person in Irving, Texas that loves Irving more than I do. When I go out to market Irving to any business, I will promise you they will feel that from the bottom of my heart to the top of my head because it is real. It's absolutely real," Mr. Randle said.

"I will promote Irving. I will get on a plane at any time that we have an opportunity that the Chamber Economic Development says, 'Hey, we've got a prospect and we need to go'; let's go. Let's go talk to them right now. Let's pick up... all of the different business people in our community that have the ability to go and talk and communicate with these people that have an insight. That is how we market Irving," Mr. Randle said.

"I grew up in south Irving. I bird hunted in Las Colinas and University Hills. I've seen it develop into what it is today. When I drive through the urban center there is nobody more proud of what Irving has become; and I envision what Irving can be tomorrow. We are absolutely a shining light in the Metroplex, and it can shine brighter than ever with proper leadership," Mr. Randle said.

## Owen DeWitt

"This is an interesting issue because... whether city council or trustee cannot talk to another trustee about an item prior to the meeting," Mr. DeWitt said.

"The good ole' boy coffee shop is illegal, flat out illegal. It scares me, and it gave me a lot of trouble on school board. It really did because you have no way to get a 9-0 vote. The only time you get an opportunity to talk about an issue is at work session amongst yourselves, or when it is time for a vote. That makes it tough; it makes it real tough."

"The way you get the respect of the fellow city council members is when the vote is over... we are one team. Everybody talks to everybody in a professional manner; nobody challenges anybody personally. We are all treated as equal professional people on that council. If you don't work educatedly like that, it will never work," Mr. DeWitt said.

"Let's get it out on the table and openly discuss it. Thus, as the city council slash mayor we should put it on the table and talk about it and not be embarrassed to talk about it in front of citizens. If we don't like the way the city manager or staff brings something forward, send them back and tell them to bring it back better. Once you are willing to do that, then the group will work better together as a team because they will start having common goals."

## Margaret's Corner

Hi Irving!

Happy New Year!

I hope you had a great beginning to 2005. We were at the annual New Year's Eve service at Calvary Church. It started at 11 p.m. then afterwards we had a New Year's Eve gathering with our Sunday school class. We laughed a lot and ate too much.

I hope your family was all together for Christmas and to welcome the New Year. There is such a void, an awful hurt and sadness when a loved one is gone during such significant times.

Let's not forget to pray for all of our military, their families, as well as what is happening all around the world. Things happen in a moment, and it can happen anywhere.

A friend of mine, Carol Van Luik, is not running for mayor of Irving at this time. So many people have announced, we sure do have a lot of candidates to choose from. There may even be more, who knows.

Irving residential and business folks mark you calendars. It is important. A Town Hall Meeting by the Irving Police Department is planned and it is important that you attend. All south of 183, Feb. 1, 05 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Irving High School Auditorium at 900 N. O'Connor Rd. All north of 183, Feb 15 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Academy of Irving ISD Auditorium. So much work goes into planning a Town Hall Meeting, it is our responsibility to attend for our own good. Hope to see you there.

My wish for you in 2005 is may you always have love to share, health to spare, and friends that care. May you have a great life in 2005.

God bless you.  
Attend church Sunday.

*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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