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# Deborah Fleck: Quad rugby tourney draws teams from across the U.S.

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By DEBORAH FLECK / The Dallas Morning News  
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The Senter Park Recreation Center gym reverberated with lots of clanking and clashing last weekend. Athletes banged into one another. At times, tempers flared. Some enjoyed the thrill of victory; others endured the agony of defeat.

The annual [Texas](#) Thunder Quad Rugby Tournament came to [Irving](#) for the first time. Seven teams, including one from [Florida](#) and one from [California](#), competed in the event, organized by RISE Adventures.

"We've had a great response from Irving," said RISE founder [Paul Gray](#). He said City Manager **Tommy Gonzalez**, Fire Chief **Mario Molina**, and **Dwight Pinnix** and **Chris Michalski** of Parks and Rec stopped by. **Joe Moses** of [Georgia](#) Farrow Recreation Center lets Gray use his gym for quad rugby practice once a week.

While the brand-new [Dallas](#) team struggled, the Texas Stampede team from Austin held its own. It is coached by **James "Gumbie" Gumbert**, who also coaches the USA team and has been featured on [Friday Night Lights](#).

First place went to Crown PossAbilities of California. Texas Stampede came in second, and third went to the [Tampa](#) Generals. To learn more, visit [www.fearthesteer.com](http://www.fearthesteer.com) and [www.riseadventures.org](http://www.riseadventures.org).

Black art

**Arthur Primas** of [Colleyville](#) has an extensive collection of African-American art. He shares part of his collection in "200 Years of African-American Art: The Arthur Primas Collection," on display through March 28 at the Irving Arts Center.

During an opening reception Feb. 6, Primas talked a little about his passion. Art collector [Richard Holmes](#) of [Los Angeles](#) and [Charlotte Sherman](#) of the Heritage Gallery in Los Angeles also spoke.

"This is an astounding collection," said Holmes, who expressed surprise at how long African-American artists have been ignored.

Painters with works on display include **Grafton Tyler Brown**, **Edward Mitchell Bannister**, [Aaron](#)

[Douglas](#) and [Jacob Lawrence](#). The exhibit also includes sculptures, documents and graphics.

Said Primas, "The art can bring us together and create dialogue – open up the mind."

The Arts Center is at 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. Visit [www.irvingartscenter .com](http://www.irvingartscenter.com).

Farewell, Janice

**Janice Carroll** has lots of friends. They all crowded around her recently when the Irving chamber held a retirement reception for her. Carroll recently stepped down as city secretary, a position she held for about 15 years.

Chamber president [Chris Wallace](#) welcomed guests and turned over the podium to several speakers, including Mayor **Herbert Gears**, state Rep. **Linda Harper-Brown** and Dallas County Commissioner **Ken Mayfield**. Several city secretaries attended, as did most of Carroll's family.

The beloved civic employee received lots of gifts, including a rocker and an embroidered blue blanket. Carroll looked comfortable as she snuggled in the rocker with her blanket. She became teary-eyed when she talked about how she'll miss working for "a very special, special city." She did agree to stay on for a little while as a consultant to help new secretary **Shanae Jennings**, who starts work Monday.

Mardi Gras

It's not too late to get last-minute tickets to ICT Guild's Mardi Gras fundraiser. The annual event is from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Tuesday at [Las Colinas](#) Country Club, 4400 N. O'Connor Blvd. Tickets are \$75. Call Jacqueline Gamble at 972-831-1691.