



MEMBER 2009

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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Winter weather causes power outages

As of 8:00 a.m. Friday morning, Oncor had 180,000 customers without electricity across the Dallas, Fort Worth area. Trees heavy with snow contacted power lines causing power outages. As the slow thaw continued throughout the day, the limbs snapped back into position hitting power lines again, causing more power outages.

"The problems we have seen in Irving are just north of 183 and south of 183," said Jerry Bates, Oncor's Area Manager Customer Operations. "Most of the problems

are due to trees falling into our power lines. The outage areas are constantly changing, because the weather changed all night. We would get a feeder back on, and then another one would trip off in another area.

"We have worked around the clock and we will continue to work around the clock until we have all of our customers restored. Our main priority is to make sure we have power back to these customers in an appropriate time manner, but we have to work as safely and as quickly as we can."

Throughout the day, Oncor expects an estimated additional 1,500 contractors and personnel from other utilities to arrive in the Dallas, Fort Worth area to assist

with restoration efforts.

Oncor will focus on power lines serving public service facilities such as hospitals, police and fire stations. Followed by power

lines serving the largest number of homes and businesses.

"Restoring power in these conditions is difficult and time
See ELECTRICAL, Page 10

Boy Scouts receive a gift on 100th anniversary

By Jess Starkey

An odyssey ended early Monday morning as A Century of Values mobile home pulled in to the National Scouting Museum. Paving the way for the Scouts to celebrate their 100th anniversary, 14 A Century of Values teams traveled

to approximately 300 Boy Scout Councils throughout the United States.

"Fourteen different teams have been on the road over the course of the past year," said Warner Iseppi, a member of team one. "Along the road, these various teams have stopped at approximately 300 different Boy Scout Council offices to thank them for the last 100 years of service they have given both professionally and as volunteers to Scouting. We hope they will continue on into the next 100 years of Scouting.

"While on the road, we have kind of been the cheerleaders to the Scouting organization across the country promoting the 100th Year of Scouting, which takes place in 2010.

"We gave each council a limited edition, numbered and signed print of a mural, which depicts the last 100 years of Scouting from the founding father, Baden Powell, to current times. The mural was created by an Eagle Scout from the Detroit area, William Morrison. We presented the original mural to the National Scouting Museum."

After visiting Circle Ten Council in Dallas, the National Scouting Museum was the team's final stop corresponding with the Boy Scout's centennial anniversary, Feb. 8, 2010.

"Team number one passed through eight different states. We

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An honorable farewell



Saying good-bye to Old Glory, Belladier David Hall and SAR Lieut. Col. Bob Northcraft, retire damaged flags in a ceremony outside of the National Scouting Museum as Commander Duckworth of American Legion Post 218 salutes. Commander Duckworth also donated an American flag flown over quo-at in 2006.

Rugby players compete for Texas Thunder title

By Jess Paniszczyn

Senter Recreation Center recently hosted the second annual Texas Thunder Quad Rugby Tournament. Seven teams from Florida, California, Michigan and Texas participated in the tournament.

During a fast paced, intense game of quad rugby, players weld specially made wheel chairs up and down a basketball court. Much like football, points are scored when players carry the ball across a goal line. Amid all of the competition for possession of the ball, there are more than a few ear splitting crashes as the chairs collide.

Former Irving resident, James Gumbert, is well known in the world of quad rugby as the U.S. Paralympic coach and the Commissioner of U.S. Quad Rugby Association. Otherwise known as Coach Gumby, he lived in Valley Ranch before most of the development came to that area.

"This sport changes lives," Coach Gumby said. "That's not a normal response about sport, but it is an underlying fact in all sport. These guys and gals start off playing this sport because it is an introduction to them back into a mainstream life. Some people get

the competitive edge and pursue it all the way to the Olympics. For some people, it's a weekend warrior thing. There is a place for everybody at the table.

"For most of our disabilities, when you see us out on the court, you don't really see the disability. You just see the chairs running into one another and the athleticism of the people playing. We like to say that the chairs are just a mechanism for us to play.

"The disability is so severe in most of these guys that they have been told they can't do anything
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PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
IRVING TEXAS
PERMIT #024981

The Irving Rambler
P.O. Box 177731
Irving, TX 75017



Wednesday, February 17th
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Via Real Restaurant
4020 North MacArthur Blvd. Suite 100
Irving, Texas 75038

EVERYONE IS INVITED



ROY SANTOSCOY
for Irving City Council - Place 2 At Large



Kick-Off Election Party

Pol. Adv. Paid by Roy Santoscoy Campaign, Treasurer, Lowell Cannaday, 104 W. Northgate, Irving, TX 75062

Sport of quad rugby changes lives for the better

Continued from page 1

in their lives. Not only are they doing it, they are living their lives better than a lot of people who don't have a disability. That is what is incredible about our sport. People will come out and see a guy with no arms below his elbow or someone who can't move their hands, and they are out there competing in this incredible game. This game gives them the confidence to mainstream back into life. That is a big deal."

Coach Gumby recalled an experience he had several years ago with a recently, injured teenager.

"We had a kid come out to our team and all he wanted to do is play. He had been in a chair for six months. It took him 22 minutes to

do a mile in his everyday chair," he said.

"Three months later we had another camp, and we were playing San Antonio. He came out and pushed that mile in 11 minutes in a rugby chair. I decided to put him on the sidelines. We didn't even have a jersey for him. We just turned a burnt orange shirt inside out. With two strips of tape, he was number 11. He was very excited, so I decided to play him.

"At that time we had a very strong, dominate player, so I put the kid with him. I told the kid I wanted him to inbound the ball and run a post pattern. The ball comes in to our strong player; he throws it to the kid. The kid catches it and slams the ball down like he'd been

there his whole life and scores. Then he turned around and transitioned on the defense. I couldn't believe it.

"In the stands, his dad was on the phone crying.

"After the game was over, his dad came up to me. He said, 'You gave me my son back. You gave him the confidence to have his life back.'

"At that moment, all the gold medals, all the world championship titles, all those things that meant something still do. But I realized there is a bigger aspect to what I do. I realized how it touches and changes so many people's lives.

"That kid went from being 17 years old and not knowing what he was going to do with the rest of his life, to a point now where he is able to go out and live his life independently. I like to think our little sport had something to do with that."

Quad rugby attracts people from different walks of life and different circumstances.

"There are over 700 people in the U.S. who play our sport on 42 different club teams. Probably 25 percent of players are people who have had some type of disability since birth. I would say 75 to 80 percent of players are people who have had something happen like a car accident. We are getting a lot of returned wounded warriors who we are now putting into different programs.

"The support we've seen from the City of Irving has been fantastic. I actually went to the Univer-



Holding on by his chinny, chin, chin, a quad rugby player tries to hold onto the ball with his head as number 7 goes in for the steal.



Racing for the goal line, number 1 is inches away from winning another point for his team.

sity of Texas Health Science Center, which is now the Southwestern School of Allied Health Science. I lived off MacArthur and 635 in Valley Ranch when there was nothing there. It's nice to come home," Coach Gumby said.

Randy Smith, the owner of C & R Medical, participated as a tournament sponsor.

"It is nice to have the various teams throughout the United States here in Irving competing," Mr. Smith said.

"It's important to provide programs and activities for the disabled, because those programs improve their quality of life. To take an individual outside of the home setting and provide a program like this, gives them a purpose and an opportunity to compete at a level where they never

thought they would be able to. All the programs Rise provides are for that purpose. To give them the opportunity to show themselves they are able to do anything a well abled body can. If we will adapt the equipment, we can change lives and give them the ability to compete."

Ray Cerda, the Community Programs Supervisor for the City of Irving, enjoyed watching the competition.

"Quad rugby is great interaction," Mr. Cerda said. "The game is competitive. Just because you are in a chair, you are not limited. You're still able to play a competitive sport on a national level. There is great camaraderie among the players and great sportsmanship. You can tell the folks out here are having a great time."



14th ANNUAL IRVING POLICE AWARDS BANQUET

Mark your calendars now to join the Irving Police Department and the Family Advocacy Center as we recognize the outstanding contributions of the men and women of the Irving Police Department at the 14th Annual Irving Police Department Awards Banquet.

Scott Murray, Emmy Award-winning Sports Director and former TV Anchor, will serve as the master of ceremonies for the evening festivities.

In addition to honoring the men and women of the Irving Police Department, the proceeds from this event help support the Family Advocacy Center. The Family Advocacy Center responds to the needs of families and victims of crime in our community by bringing together a wide variety of resources focused on providing assistance to residents of Irving. Currently, the Family Advocacy Center is home to the Irving Police Department's Domestic Violence Unit, Victim Services Unit, and the Family Counseling Services Unit. We also house the Child Protective Services Division and Family Outreach Services. The proceeds from this year's banquet will be used for counseling services or play therapy for young victims of crime.

March 25, 2010 – Dallas Marriott – Las Colinas Hotel
223 W. Las Colinas Boulevard
Silent Auction: 6:30 pm -- Dinner: 7:00 pm
Complimentary Valet Parking

Sponsor the 14th Annual Irving Police Awards Banquet

Contact Darlene Jenkins at (972) 721-2598, email; djenkins@cityofirving.org or Carol Susat at (972) 721-4837, email; csusat@cityofirving.org to arrange your sponsorship. A sponsorship form is available on our website at www.irvingpd.com

\$5000+ -- Crystal Award Sponsor
 -Table for 10 with Priority Seating*
 -Name/logo displayed in program/Power Point
 -Crystal Award

\$2000 -- Platinum Sponsor
 -Table for 10 with priority seating
 -Name/logo displayed in program
 -One sterling silver Irving Police Badge Charm

\$1000 -- Silver Sponsor
 -Table for 10
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\$3000 -- Platinum Plus Sponsor
 -Table for 10 with priority seating
 -Name/logo displayed in program
 -Name/logo banner displayed at banquet
 -One sterling silver Irving Police Badge Charm

\$1500 -- Gold Sponsor
 -Table for 10
 -Name/logo displayed in program
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\$1000 -- Donate a Table for Officers and Families
 \$100 -- Individual tickets
 Any -- tax deductible contribution will be accepted if you can not attend

Please make checks payable to the Family Advocacy Center,