Out of Eden’s Farmers market takes fresh approach to food business 9

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One of my fondest memories of growing up in Beaumont, Texas, was going with my mother to the farmers market on Highway 105 on Saturday mornings for fresh watermelon, peaches and blueberries.

The Texas peaches were always ripe and ready to dice up and put into a pie or fruit cocktail, and to this day, that fresh-picked flavor and scent of the orchards sticks with me.

Out at Eden’s Organic Garden Center in Balch Springs, the peaches are in full season and succulent as ever, and last weekend, I tried out some of these treats firsthand on Marie Tedei’s farm.

Eden’s is among the many farmers markets across the Dallas-area that are open on weekends as not only places to pick up the freshest produce, but also as spots for friends and family to gather and enjoy one another’s company.

This week, we take a look at these seasonal markets on Page 9. We also continue our coverage of our Staying Home summer vacation series with a visit to Resistol Arena for the Mesquite Championship Rodeo.

With the help of photographer Rose Baca, we captured a day in the life of the crown jewel of Mesquite, which has gone through a handful of changes since coming under new ownership.

Photos and a story of our behind-the-scenes look at the rodeo can be found on Page 12.

As summer comes to a close and the thoughts of school begin to loom on the horizon, remember there is still time to show off your summer activities and events at neighborsgo.com. Your best photos, stories and videos have the chance to be featured online and in an upcoming issue of neighborsgo.
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### July 23, 2010

**POLITICAL NETWORKING** — The Dallas County East Democrats will meet at 6 p.m. at Martinez Restaurant, 901 Gross Road in Mesquite. Networking and social hour begins at 6 and the meeting formally starts at 7 p.m. Annual dues for the club are $12. For more information, call Sergio Garcia at 214-440-7561 or e-mail sergio@mesquitelion.com.

**RODEO NIGHTS** — The Mesquite Championship Rodeo continues at 7:30 p.m. at Resistol Arena, 1818 Rodeo Drive. The Mesquite Citizens Police Academy Alumni will be onsite fingerprinting and taking free photos of children for ID purposes at their table at the rodeo. Rodeos will continue every Friday and Saturday through Aug. 28. For more information about fingerprinting, call 972-329-8376, and for rodeo information, call 972-285-8777.

**CRAFT TIME** — At 3:30 p.m., arts and crafts for children ages 6 and older will be available at the North Mesquite Branch Library, 2600 Oates Drive. Younger children are welcome to participate if they are accompanied by a parent.

**BOATER SAFETY** — The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary of Lake Ray Hubbard will host a boaters safety class from 9 to 5 p.m. at The Center, 108 E. Washington St., for ages 13 and older. Learn about boats and maintenance, navigation rules, state laws, ropes, knots, anchors and what to do in the case of a boating emergency. For more information, call the Rockwall Parks and Recreation Department at 972-771-7740.

**MOVIE TIME** — At 2:30 p.m., the Mesquite Main Library will have a screening of *Planet 51* for children ages 7 and older. The movie lasts about 90 minutes and rated PG. The library is at 300 W. Grubb Drive.

**JUGGLING SHOWMAN** — Guinness World Record juggler David Slick will be performing at 2:30 p.m. at the Mesquite Main Library with his show that is a mix of juggling, magic, unicycle, comedy and more. The library is located 900 W. Grubb Drive in Mesquite. For more information about David Slick, visit sluckjugglers.com.

**GET IN THE GAME** — From 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., card games, board games and video games will be available for students in sixth through 12th grades to play at the Mesquite North Branch Library. The library is located at 2600 Oates Drive. For more information, call 972-681-0465.

**TODDLER TIME** — At 10:30 a.m., children’s activities for toddlers ages 18 months to 3 years will be at both Mesquite North Branch Library and Mesquite Main Library. This is the last toddler time of the month. The Main Library is at 300 W. Grubb Drive and the North Branch Library is at 2600 Oates Drive.

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**MUSIC WORKSHOP** — Former Garland resident and Nashville Country Music Hall of Fame member Gary Nicholson will return to his hometown to help teach a songwriting workshop at Pace House, 234 Museum Plaza in downtown Garland. For more information, call C.B. Luce with the Garland Opry at 469-831-2123.

**CLOWNING BUSINESS** — Ronald McDonald, the mascot from McDonald’s Restaurants, will make an appearance at 3:30 p.m. at the Mesquite North Branch Library, 2600 Oates Drive during the summer reading club session at the library.

**ART EXHIBIT** — The Texas Area Artists exhibition titled “Pigment of the Imagination 2010” will be on display from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays at the Mesquite Arts Center in the Main and Chamber galleries of the facility. The exhibit will also be open during weekend performance times. The exhibit closes Aug. 1. The arts center is located at 1527 N. Galloway Ave. For more information, call 972-216-6444.

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Keep Texas Beautiful recognizes Mesquite

Keep Mesquite Beautiful was awarded the Sustained Excellence Award during the 2010 Keep Texas Beautiful Conference in Austin.

Keep Mesquite Beautiful qualified for the award by scoring 95 or higher on the Governors Community Achievement Award application.

Keep Mesquite Beautiful will host its Recycling Fashion Show on Sept. 11 at West Mesquite High School. Mesquite students of all ages are invited to show their fashion made from recycled materials. Visit the organization’s website to register. There is no cost to attend.

— Ray Leszcynski, rleszcynski@dallasnews.com

Strict deadlines issued for low-income housing

A federal judge has issued strict deadlines for the approval of low-income housing in Sunnyvale.

U.S. District Judge Reed O’Connor ruled that if the Inclusive Communities Project, a Dallas fair-housing advocacy group, submits a written plan for the development of 70 housing units by Dec. 1, the town of Sunnyvale must reply by Jan. 15.

He issued his ruling July 19, following a hearing July 16 on how to remedy Sunnyvale’s failure to comply with a court-sanctioned 2005 agreement between the town and the Inclusive Communities Project. O’Connor found the town in contempt last fall.

In his July 19 ruling, the judge also ordered the town to pay all legal costs for hearings stemming from the contempt order.

O’Connor ruled that if ICP does not submit a written plan for the development of affordable housing, Sunnyvale must solicit proposals from other developers or work with developers to provide housing. The town was given until next July 15 to come into full compliance with the 2005 agreement.

On July 16, ICP proposed allowing 70 units to be built on five of the 15 acres it owns at 3217 Belt Line Road. It would then work with the town on plans for the remaining 10 acres.

— R.L.

Police investigating possible murder-suicide

Mesquite police are investigating the deaths of two people found inside their home shortly after midnight as a possible murder-suicide.

Godfrey Spain, 52, was found upstairs in the two-story home, in the 2600 block of Bandera Place. He had apparently hanged himself.

Irene Haggerty, 46, was downstairs in the downstairs foyer. She had signs of blunt force trauma.

Family members concerned about the couple called police early this morning.

There were no signs of forced entry.

Police have not released any information about a possible motive.

Mesquite police Lt. Bill Hedgpeth said the couple’s children were not at home when officers arrived.

A 15-year-old son was away at a church camp, and a 7-year-old daughter was at an aunt’s house.

Both children, police said, are with now relatives.

For additional information, visit tinyurl.com/23qm6sr.

— Taryn Luna, tluna@dallasnews.com

Photo submitted by JESSA THOMAS

A commemorative plaque was given to Keep Mesquite Beautiful for its local conservation efforts.

On July 16, ICP proposed allowing 70 units to be built on five of the 15 acres it owns at 3217 Belt Line Road. It would then work with the town on plans for the remaining 10 acres.

— R.L.

Over half the area’s population is searching for a spiritual home.

You can help them find it.


In it, readers will discover the differences between traditional and contemporary worship, how size affects congregations, common misperceptions — and perhaps, a spiritual home.

Publishing Date: Sunday, September 26, 2010

To reserve space contact Arnetta Harris or Farrah Brooks: aharris@dallasnews.com (214) 977-8857
fbrooks@dallasnews.com (214) 977-7324.

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City of Dallas
July 23, 2010
POLICE BLOTTER

MESQUITE

- Avis Street, 2200 block, 11:59 p.m. June 17: Unauthorized use of a vehicle
- Bahamas Drive, 3600 block, 6 p.m. June 20: Theft
- Brunswick Lane, 100 block, 6 p.m. June 20: Burglary of a vehicle
- Gus Thomasson Road, 3600 block, 3:45 p.m. June 15: Burglary of a vehicle
- Highland Village Drive, 500 block, 12:09 p.m. June 19: Aggravated assault with a weapon
- Hillcrest Street, 2000 block, 4 a.m. June 18: Theft
- Hillcrest Street, 2000 block, 4:06 p.m. June 20: Assault causing bodily injury
- Horse Shoe Bend, 400 block, 7:15 a.m. June 21: Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon
- Kensington Drive, 3300 block, 10 p.m. May 29: Burglary of a vehicle
- Lagoon Drive, 2400 block, 9:26 a.m. June 19: Burglary of a residence
- Lee Street, 700 block, 4:45 p.m. June 19: Assault
- Modlin Street, 4000 block, 6 a.m. June 18: Burglary of a vehicle
- Oates Drive, 1800 block, 10 p.m. June 18: Burglary of a residence
- Rolling Vista, 4900 block, 12:54 p.m. June 21: Burglary of a vehicle
- Smokehouse Lane, 1300 block, 6 a.m. June 20: Criminal mischief
- Snapdragon Trail, 600 block, 6 p.m. June 15: Theft
- Towne Crossing Boulevard, 4000 block, Noon June 21: Burglary of a residence
- Tradewind Drive, 2100 block, 12:30 a.m. June 15: Burglary of a vehicle

PROBLEM TRACKER

Report civic problems such as potholes, graffiti, broken streetlights and vandalized playgrounds at tinyurl.com/clickfix. Following are recently reported problems:

Belt Line Road (Mesquite): Southbound Belt Line road where it intersects the westbound portion of Highway 80 is causing serious backup from cars that are going straight in the right hand lane. A lane change could reduce this backup.

Flamingo Way (Mesquite): Potholes along the 3900 block of Flamingo Way in Mesquite are still in need of repair.

Oates Drive (Mesquite): The faded lanes that were hard to make out with wet road conditions have been fixed.

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Sunnyvale has high hopes for new overpass

By KAREL HOLLOWAY
kholloway@dallasnews.com

It may not be a multimillion-dollar signature bridge designed by a famed architect, but a new overpass going up on U.S. Highway 80 at Collins Road means as much to Sunnyvale.

“I think it’s going to be a standout for sure,” town manager Scott Campbell said. “I don’t know of anything else like this.”

As part of a $25 million federal highway project, the city could have had a plain vanilla bridge, just like hundreds of bridges around the state. But the town opted to put up an extra $600,000 to add stonework, columns and the Sunnyvale logo. The bridge should be finished next year.

The town already had contributed $1.4 million to get the bridge started. Mesquite and Dallas County also contributed $1.4 million each to the project.

That’s far from Dallas’ $117 million Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge that’s just been topped out over the Trinity River. Architect Santiago Calatrava designed it.

But the importance to Sunnyvale, Mesquite and the county is similar. It marks an entryway into the area, Campbell said. And it’s an intersection destined for major retail development.

Without the local money, the project would have been delayed years. And that would have been a problem not just for Sunnyvale, but for those who regularly use Highway 80 on the east side of Dallas County.

The old bridge is narrow and not tall enough to let big trucks easily pass under it. In his three and a half years with Sunnyvale, at least two accidents have closed the key intersection, Campbell said.

The Texas Department of Transportation has been offering cities the option for decorated overpasses for several years.

“It’s like decorating a house. It’s as much money as you want to put into it. You can get the five-star treatment or do less,” TxDOT spokeswoman Michelle Releford said.

Until the Bush Turnpike is extended in 2015 or beyond, the bridge marks the site of Sunnyvale’s lone freeway exit.

For the full story, visit tinyurl.com/DMN-Bridge.
‘Salt’ loses flavor with action scenes

Salt, the new spy thriller from writer Kurt Wimmer (Law Abiding Citizen), is at times Jason Bourne and at times just boring.

It is always exciting to see Angelina Jolie put on her action hat, but she seems to have lost a spring or two in her step. Maybe it is the fact that 80-pound action heroes are hard to buy into.

Evelyn Salt (Jolie) is an apple-pie-eating CIA officer who has served her country well. But she finds herself on the run when she is accused of being a Russian spy.

Friend and loyal colleague Ted Winter (Liev Schreiber) has to play both sides as he tries to catch Salt while proclaiming her innocence. Moviegoers have to catch Salt while proclaiming her innocence.

The premise and storyline of Salt have all the ingredients to make a superb spy thriller. The film have all the ingredients to make a superb spy thriller.

From mischief to mockery to mayhem, it’s all part of Folly in the Footlights.

An onstage battle from beginning to end, the performers try to dazzle the audience and win the coveted Moxy Award. They are hopelessly upstaged by the celebrity panelists who are competing to raise the most money and by the hosts who are rigging the contest.

The antics combine to create a fast-paced evening of music and comedy. It is also a fundraiser.

Audience members can participate in the action by competing as “high rollers” to win various auction items including fine art, restaurant packages, gift baskets, sports memorabilia and more.

The proceeds benefit the Balch Springs Visual and Performing Arts Alliance, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Folly in the Footlights brings together local talent from across the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Cast members include Mary Christine White, Becky Ragan, Bob Allen, Marla Acevedo, Jeff Poteat, Zach Splawn, Sandra Wood, Carlos Reyes, Willard Mardenborough and Diane Williams.

Sandra Wood contributes to neighborsgo.com on behalf of Balch Springs Arts Alliance.
Farmers make organic market best in area

By MARCUS MURPHREE
mmurphree@neighborsgo.com

The bumper sticker on the back of a rusty truck parked outside of Eden's Organic Garden Center in Balch Springs says it all — “No Farmers, No Food.”

In the last few years, a surge of farmers markets in both rural and urban areas have become a staple on weekends during prime harvest seasons, and at Eden's, the market is taken a step further by pushing for an all-organic approach to food sales.

Bakers, butchers and horticulturalists will ship in goods from as far away as parts of central Texas to take part in Marie Tedei's small, specialized market.

Additionally, customers looking for organic, farm-raised goods don’t mind trucking upward of 30 miles to sample what Tedei and her team of farmers sell on weekends.

For some people, lifestyles make shopping at a market like Eden's a necessity.

Steve Kraisinger, a raw foodist from Plano, splits weekend shopping duties with his wife, Bonnie, who picks up some of the organic fare at the McKinney farmers market.

“You’re healthier the more local, fresh food you can eat, and I can’t have a big garden at my place,” he said.

Tedei moved her gardening operation from Lake Highlands-Lakewood area out to Balch Springs about three years ago and she has used her farm as not only a market setup, but also as a sustainable community garden.

Community efforts

During the week, Tedei's garden serves as a way to supply herself and several other members of her Community Supported Agriculture cooperative in the area with organic fruits and vegetables. But during the market weekends, the surplus of produce is sold at her organic market.

Setting Eden's further apart from some of the other weekend markets in the area is its actual location on the farm where the food is grown.

“We are a farm, we’re not in a parking lot, and we have a different environment to shop at in addition to being all organic and all clean,” Tedei said. “This is a true ‘farmers’ market, and it makes me more respectful of the farmers’ and ranchers’ needs.”

It is this boutique market atmosphere that has made loyal customers of Eden's and made equally loyal vendors on the grounds the first and third Saturday of the month.

“We have communities showing up of people who want to grow together,” said Susan Pollard, a beekeeper who sells at several local markets. “The reason we want to be here it because it’s a model of we can all do as farmers and not just as schleppers of honey.”

Marcus Murphree is Mesquite neighborsgo editor and can be reached at 469-330-5638.
By LAWRENCE HOOD JR.
Contributor

Starplex Cinema Stadium 12 in Forney joined forces with Variety the Children's Charity of Texas to raise money for Caden Curtis, a 5-year-old who was injured by his father at 12 days old.

Those injuries required him to have the left side of his brain removed. Caden requires a wheelchair to get around, which makes even a simple trip to the grocery store difficult for his family.

Caden's mother, Stacy, originally came to Variety for assistance in getting a wheelchair ramp for their current vehicle. Due to the age and condition of that van, it was not worth the cost to modify the vehicle. So Variety partnered with Starplex Cinemas to raise funds to purchase a van more suited to the family's needs.

Donation boxes are placed at the theater concession counter, and A Car For Caden T-shirts are available for a $10 donation.

In addition, through Sept. 12, Starplex Cinema Stadium 12 in Forney will donate 10 cents of every $1 hot dog sold to this cause.

Helping to add to the cause was Madre's Cocina on Pinson Road in Forney, which recently hosted a fundraiser that brought in $1,000 for A Car For Caden.

Lawrence Hood Jr. contributes to neighborsgo.com on behalf of Variety the Children's Charity of Texas.
Back-to-school drive to serve students in need

By TERRAL BOISFONTAINE
Contributor

Throughout August, Community Partners of Dallas will collect new school supplies for children served by Dallas and Tarrant counties’ Child Protective Services. Many of these abused and neglected children lack the resources to buy essential supplies such as markers or folders.

Included in those collection areas are schools in Mesquite, Garland and Richardson school districts.

CPD’s Back-to-School Drive aims to provide these children with new backpacks, age-appropriate school supplies and uniforms for the upcoming school year. These basic items allow kids to feel self-assured and prepared on their first day back.

“Although the children benefited by the Back-to-School Drive have had very abnormal pasts, they can return to school feeling like everyone else,” said Community Partners president and CEO of Dallas Paige McDaniel. “So often, that confidence is the difference between success and failure in the classroom.”

Those interested in supporting the Back-to-School drive can do so through in-kind or monetary donations.

Donations of new school supplies can be dropped off at any area location of The Container Store between Aug. 1 and 31 or at Community Partners of Dallas’ central location, 1215 Skiles St. in the Wilson Historic District, at any time.

“The kids are always overjoyed and appreciative to receive new full backpacks. We know that none of this would be possible without the support of our community,” McDaniel said.

The items most needed this year are backpacks, construction paper, two-pocket folders, notebook dividers, blunt-tipped scissors, watercolors, composition books and Manila paper.

The Container Store and ExxonMobil are Back-to-School Drive sponsors.

Terral Boisfontaine contributes to neighborsgo.com on behalf of Community Partners of Dallas.
New team helps rebrand Mesquite Rodeo

By MARCUS MURPHREE
mmurphree@neighborsgo.com

A n ownership change may have been a saving grace for Mesquite’s 25-year-old Resistol Arena, home to the Mesquite Championship Rodeo.

Though the classic rodeo events are still played out on the dirt oval floor, there is something different both in the crowd and across the grounds of the arena.

Sponsorship signs, corporate backing, private suites and a special club have all come from the recent ownership changeover that took place in May 2009.

Under the company name Camelot Sports & Entertainment, a crew of eight local sports and entertainment gurus teamed up to create a new and improved Mesquite Championship Rodeo.

Seth Morgan of Azle wrestles a steer to the ground during the bulldogging event at the Mesquite Championship Rodeo on July 16.

Some of the eight-member cooperative are cowboys, some are businessmen and others are sports fanatics, but their diverse backgrounds have started transforming the rodeo into a venue that has new relevance in East Dallas County.

“I used to pass this place a lot living out there, and it’s hard not to get caught up in the western culture, because it’s everywhere,” said Donnie Nelson, president of Basketball operations for the Dallas Mavericks and partner in Camelot Sports.

By bringing in live concerts from notable country artists and television broadcasts crews from Fox Sports Net, Resistol Arena is gaining notoriety in circles outside of rodeo.

“We all decided to give it a shot of energy to create an entertainment product that is there for all of Mesquite to enjoy,” Nelson said.

Keeping the cowboy way

While polished suites and a chance to enjoy the rodeo in a more fashionable atmosphere could bring in more fans, the classic western attitude has been kept in check by the livestock provider, Stace Smith from Smith Pro Rodeos.

Smith, who is no stranger to rodeos, has won several awards for his work with the stock at the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association events.

“Sometimes you need a breath of fresh air and that is what new ownership does,” saddle-bronc rider Bonner Cooper said.

“Stace Smith has done so much for rodeo, and the last couple years, he has really started to bring in some good horses.”

Cooper has been riding out at Resistol Arena for the last eight years, and fellow cowboy Cody Smith have noticed the changes to the arena.

“There are fresh faces and new advertisements and almost anyone can see the difference,” Cody Smith said.

But when the cowboys strap in and prepare to jump out of the gate on the back of a 2,000-pound bull or on the back of a wild bronco, their mindset doesn’t follow advertising or corporate sponsorship — it goes back to what every young kid on the ranch wants to do: prove who is better, man or animal.

“You don’t have the horse control you, you control the horse, and right before I step over the rail, I just learn to turn it on,” Cody Smith said.

Marcus Murphree is Mesquite neighborhood editor and can be reached at 469-330-5638.

New Changes

The 8-Second Club: For those willing to pick up the special season ticket packages, corporate sponsorships or become sweet holders, the plush back room of the arena is a place to put your feet up, grab a cold beer and sample some freshly smoked barbecue. The club debuted in December and more additions to the back patio are in store for the coming weeks.

HD screens: New high-definition video boards are located above the chutes where the rough-stock reside.

Upcoming events: In addition to the weekly rodeos, events at Resistol Arena will include mixed martial arts fights, motocross races and arena racing contests.

IF YOU GO

When: 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays through Aug. 28.
Where: Resistol Arena 1818 Rodeo Drive, Mesquite
Cost: $11 adults, $6 kids 3-12, $6 seniors 55 and older, $30 VIP tickets, $50 All-Inclusive 8-Second Club seating.
Manager sought for Bruton Soccer Complex

By MICHELE MILLER
Contributor

Mesquite Soccer Association is looking for a facility manager for Bruton Soccer Complex and a new equipment manager for Eastfield Soccer Complex.

Some of the responsibilities for the Bruton Soccer Complex manager include opening and closing the concession stand several evenings a week, handing out the equipment, picking up the trash at the end of the night and selling small concession items.

The field maintenance and equipment manager position at Eastfield job responsibilities include opening and closing equipment room on game days, distributing and restocking nets, emptying trash cans at all MSA sanctioned events at Eastfield and maintaining the overall cleanliness and organization of the equipment room.

Persons applying for either of these jobs must pass a background check.

Michele Miller contributes to neighborsgo.com on behalf of the Mesquite Soccer Association.

Gospel showcase in fifth year

By RHONDA BERRY
Contributor

A celebration is coming to the old downtown square in Mesquite.

Rodeo City Music Hall's gospel show will celebrate five years of live southern gospel music Aug. 6-7 with award-winning group The Greenes.

The Rodeo City gospel show was started by Joe Gordon the first Friday of July in 2005. There were about 45 people in the audience on that night. Today, five years later, the average attendance is 250.

Gordon wanted something memorable for the fifth anniversary celebration.

"We had Lulu Roman as our guest for the third anniversary and I wanted to do something special this time also," Gordon said. "So after much prayer, I asked Clara (Walker) and Karol (Dyess) [from RCMH] if we could have an entire weekend. They graciously agreed."

The regular Friday night show will cost $5 and showcase the Apostolic Boys, The Ardens, Rhonda Arden-Hamilton and Tina Morgan. Ransomed, the host group, will be there as well.

The special Saturday night event features national recording artists The Greenes out of Boone, N.C. They have appeared at the Lake Country Jubilee in Terrell and with the Gaither Homecoming Series. With them that night will be Trusting Hymn, a ladies trio and Ransomed. Tickets for this event are $15.

In addition to the gospel music planned for this night, there is going to be a special drawing for a three-day and two-night stay at the No. 1 bed-and-breakfast in Eureka Springs, Ark. All Season's Luxury Properties is located in the historic district and is known for its service, specialty rooms and suites.

The grant money will be used to purchase additional books, DVDs and books on CD, as well as pay for the library's subscription to the TexShare Databases.

"In the last year and a half, the crowd has been steadily increasing. Then in August of 2009, the crowd was so large we had to put some of the audience on the stage and pull chairs out," Gordon said. "The crowd has continued to come, no matter how cold or wet it is — even on holiday weekends."

"We want the audience to leave with a good feeling and renewed spirit. Our purpose is to get the Gospel message into people's hearts through music."

Rhonda Berry contributes to neighborsgo.com on behalf of Rodeo City Music Hall's gospel music show.

Libraries receive state-funded grant

By NANCY WATSON
Contributor

The Mesquite Public Library System recently received a $32,958 grant from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission through Loan Star Libraries, the direct state aid program for Texas public libraries.

The grant money will be used to purchase additional books, DVDs and books on CD, as well as pay for the library's subscription to the TexShare Databases.

"Additional funding for these particular items is especially important due to their popularity," library director Jeannie Johnson said. "During the summer, the library gets a large increase in DVD and books on CD usage. The new materials should be arriving in time to meet the heavy demand."

Since 2002, the Texas Legislature has made it possible to distribute $19.4 million to Texas public libraries through the Loan Star Libraries grant program. In 2008, 540 public libraries across the state shared $5.65 million in funds distributed by the Commission, an increase of $3 million in 2007.

Libraries can use the grant funding however they wish, with few exceptions, to meet the needs of their communities.

The Mesquite Public Library is active in the community with both adult and children's programming. A book club for adults and an anime club for teens are ongoing as well as story times and craft times for younger children.

Nancy Watson contributes to neighborsgo.com on behalf of Mesquite libraries.
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