

The Dallas Morning News

Texas' Leading Newspaper

Dallas, Texas, Wednesday, October 25, 2006

DallasNews.com

50 cents



Which wine?

How local stores fared when we asked them to match a wine to our entree.

TASTE, 10



QB QUANDARY

Tony Romo or Drew Bledsoe — which Cowboys quarterback will get the call against the Panthers?

SPORTSDAY, 1C

Breezy, with rain



High: 74 Low: 62
Metro, Back Page

SPORTSDAY



He wasn't ready to die in a ravine

Lawyer recounts ordeal with stick in throat, broken ribs after crash

By DAVID TARRANT
Staff Writer

When he saw buzzards flying overhead, Jerry Wood thought that he might not make it out alive. The night before, he lost control of his car and hurtled 40 feet off a cliff and into a remote, heavily wooded ravine in Palo Pinto County.

Sitting in his battered car a few yards from the road, badly injured and hidden from view by trees and



Jerry Wood

brush, he wondered if he'd ever be found.

But the man, whom his wife describes as deliberate, cool-headed and methodical, put those thoughts out of his head and began to focus on his next step.

Over a two-day ordeal, the Fort Worth defense attorney did many things to stay alive. At one point, he performed a crude tracheotomy on himself with a utility knife

See COOL Page 2A

FARE CHALLENGE

American Airlines is pricing tickets aggressively to ensure it hangs on to North Texas business travelers.

Average round trip cost to 25 cities.
Complete fare chart, 4A

ONE DAY'S NOTICE

American Airlines \$593.64

Southwest \$550.81
8% lower

EIGHT DAYS' NOTICE

American Airlines \$253.24

Southwest \$258.14
2% lower

SOURCES: Dallas Morning News research, based on figures from the airlines' Internet booking sites, AA.com and Southwest.com.

DAMEON RUNNELS/Staff Artist

Airlines duke it out on prices

Southwest's the ticket on next-day trips, but AA has advance advantage

By TERRY MAXON
Staff Writer

It appears that American Airlines isn't going to give any ground to Southwest Airlines when it comes to airfares in North Texas.

When averaged, American's fares for tickets bought a week in advance are cheaper than Southwest's to the 25 new cities that Southwest serves in one-stop ser-

vice from Dallas Love Field. However, Southwest is cheaper in 17 of the 25 markets, and the Dallas-based discounter has a price advantage for tickets bought for travel the next day.

Its biggest margin is for one-way trips bought at the last minute — on average, Southwest charged half the price of American.

"American's putting up a good fight," said Tom Parsons, owner of BestFares.com. "It's a dog fight, and winners are still going to be the consumer."

See AIRLINES Page 4A

Cardinals topple Tigers in Game 3

St. Louis and pitcher Chris Carpenter shut down Detroit 5-0 to take a 2-1 lead in the World Series. 1C

METRO

DART expansion gets green light

A plan approved by DART directors will add about 40 miles of rail lines — almost double the current light-rail network — to the transit system by 2030. 1B

Stricter purchasing rules likely in DISD

Dallas school trustees are expected to approve the first overhaul of the district's purchasing policies in nearly a decade. 1B

NATION

Limbaugh calls Fox tremors 'an act'

Rush Limbaugh apologized for saying Michael J. Fox (left), who has Parkinson's disease, exaggerated the effects of his illness in ads supporting stem cell research. 6A

BUSINESS

Centex profits plummet 60%

Profits for Dallas-based homebuilder Centex Corp. plunged 60 percent for the latest quarter as the U.S. housing market slowed. 1D

Firm helps clients plug into savings

The country's first energy efficient store is helping Dallas consumers find their way through the maze of electricity providers and lower their bills. 1D

INDEX

SECTION A	
Lottery	2
Texas & Southwest	3,5
Nation	6,8
World	9,11
Editorials and Viewpoints	12-13
METRO — SECTION B	
SPORTSDAY — SECTION C	
TV/Radio	2
Baseball	8
BUSINESS — SECTION D	
Market Day	6-7
TASTE	
Horoscope	14
Comics and Puzzles	14-19
Bridge	18
Dear Abby	14-19
CLASSIFIED — SECTION F	
GUIDELINE — SECTION G	
At A Glance	6

©2006, The Dallas Morning News



FAMILY FINANCES IN COLLIN COUNTY

21st	23%	28%	\$6,500	\$32,825
Ranking among the nation's highest income counties (It was 7th in 1999)	Increase in demand for credit counseling classes	Increase in foreclosures in three years	Average credit card debt	Per-capita spending in 2005

A wealth of debt, a search for wisdom



REX C. CURRY/Special Contributor

Tony McIntyre (center) prays with Mike Andrewartha (left) and Fred Balda at Custer Road United Methodist Church in Plano. Mr. McIntyre and his wife eliminated more than \$60,000 of debt through a Christian debt program.

Many residents in Texas' richest county look to end habits

By PAULA LAVIGNE
Staff Writer

God didn't need a 2002 Dodge Ram King Cab pickup with black chrome wheels and a custom bed liner.

Nor did God need the \$500 monthly payment.

Acting on the beliefs that all their possessions belonged to the Lord and that the Bible scorns debt, Toni and Tony McIntyre sold their prized pickup.

The sale helped eliminate \$13,000 of the \$63,000 the Plano couple owed from years of spending and using one cred-

it card to pay off another.

Many Collin County residents find themselves in similar straits, according to various financial statistics. And more, like the McIntyres, are seeking help.

It's been more than a year since *The Dallas Morning News* peered behind the ritzy landscape of the highest-income county in Texas. Collin County ranked among the top counties nationwide in household income, but households here had a median net worth of \$125,000, lower than the median net worth found among Col-

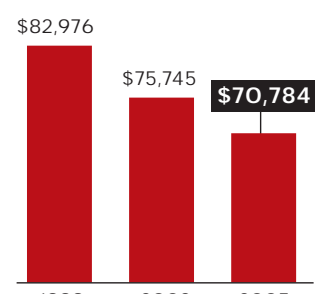
lin's peer counties. And at \$4,200, average credit card debt was higher in Collin than in its peers.

Since then, some of those financial realities have worsened. Average credit card debt has risen to more than \$6,500. The foreclosure rate is growing faster than the county's population growth. An already-high number of bankruptcies spiked, partly in anticipation of new federal laws that made it harder to file.

See COLLIN Page 10A

INCOME DROP

Collin County's median income is still the highest of any county in Texas, but it is declining.



NOTE: In 2005 inflation-adjusted dollars.
SOURCE: Dallas Morning News analysis from U.S. Census Bureau data

U.S. may increase force in Baghdad

General assures public war still winnable

By JOHN F. BURNS
The New York Times

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The top U.S. military commander in Iraq said Tuesday that he might need to call for an increase in American troops in Baghdad to reinvigorate a plan to recapture the capital's streets from insurgents and death squads.

In a news conference held after a week of largely bad news from Iraq, Gen. George Casey and Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad sought to reassure an increasingly restive American public that the war was still winnable.

Mr. Khalilzad laid out a timetable for political measures that he said the Iraqi government had agreed to take and that the Americans see as crucial to reducing sectarian violence. Gen. Casey predicted that Iraqi troops would be able to take over the main burden of the war in 12 to 18 months, allowing U.S. troops to move to a support role.

See GENERAL Page 7A

New leeway for single-sex education

Critics say federal rules a step back for equality

By DIANA JEAN SCHEMO
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is giving school districts broad new latitude to expand the number of single-sex classes and schools in what is considered the most significant policy change toward coeducational education since a landmark law barring sex discrimination was passed more than 30 years ago.

Two years in the making, the new rules announced Tuesday by the Education Department will allow school districts to create single-sex schools and classes as long as enrollment is voluntary.

Schools that go that route must also make coed schools and classes of "substantially equal" quality available for members of the excluded sex.

See RULES Page 10A

DigitalEXTRA

Links: Read the original series and learn more about mortgage counselor Suzanne Short's book. DallasNews.com/Extra



5 25 50 75 95

A1 II 10-25-2006 Set: 00:24:14
Sent by: rstumpf News

BLACKITA

