

FUEL PRICES

High gas costs likely won't tank economy

Motorists moaning, but experts say U.S. better off than in '08

By WILL DEENER  
Special Contributor

If you own an oil well, these are good times, but for everyone else — not so much.

Angry motorists are left to gnaw on their steering wheels as the costs of weekly fill-ups rival their monthly rent.

The frustration voiced recently by Vanessa Ruiz, 29, a small business owner from East Dallas, is probably typical of many people. She doesn't blame anyone specifically for higher gasoline prices, but said: "It's just about making money."

She recently replaced her gas-guzzling van with a smaller car given to her by her father.

"I usually drive my cargo

See **DRIVERS** Page 21A

SPORTSDAY

High school

**Dallas Kimball** won the Class 4A state championship with a 78-75 win over Houston Yates. **18C**

**Argyle** captures first Class 3A boys basketball title with impressive 44-33 win over Corpus Christi Miller. **17C**

Big 12

**Baylor women** cruised to a 73-50 win over defending champion Texas A&M. **14C**

**Missouri men** beat No. 12 Baylor, 90-75. **12C**



IRAN

Nuclear arms goal can't be confirmed by reports

Analysis of IAEA data settles a few fears while leaving many questions

FROM WIRE REPORTS

VIENNA — The U.S. invaded Iraq after telling the world that Saddam Hussein had covert weapons programs that could build nuclear arms. In the end, nothing was found. Today, acting on similar fears, Is-

rael is threatening to attack Iran.

While much is known about Iran's nuclear activities from U.N. inspection visits, significant questions remain uncertain, fueling fears of worst-case scenarios and calls for new Mideast military action.

This much shapes the anxieties: In a decade, Iran's modest nuclear program has expanded into a mature operation that

some experts say has the capability to produce a warhead in less than a year.

And this much is verified: Iran has the equipment and raw materials to produce the fissile core of a nuclear weapon, as does any country that can produce its own reactor fuel.

Finally, this much is suspected: The U.N. nuclear watchdog

See **WEAPONS** Page 2A

ZACH'S JOURNEY

Learning as they go



Photos by Tom Fox/Staff Photographer

**Though Zach Thibodeaux, 9,** has known Natura only a short time, they have a soft spot for each other. He snuggled with the Labrador retriever puppy, who is from a canine companion program, at his father's house in Addison.

Lab pup preparing boy with failing sight for future guide dog

By MARC RAMIREZ  
Staff Writer  
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The new companion in Zach Thibodeaux's life is young and blond, with a moist nose that snuggles in close whenever opportunity allows.

Natura, a 20-month-old Labrador retriever, is the Lewisville boy's latest bid for independence as he moves to-

ward a life of blindness.

It's been more than a year since Zach, a 9-year-old third-grader, was diagnosed with cone-rod dystrophy, an incurable disease quickly stealing away his eyesight. With just slivers of his vision remaining, Zach sees Natura mostly as a shadow, a vaguely

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**Zach, who is going blind** from a condition, moves in close to see during a game of mancala with his father.



DMN INVESTIGATES | PATIENT SAFETY

Parkland planning for backup care

Funding loss, closure unlikely, officials say, but contingency prudent

By DAVID TARRANT and MILES MOFFEIT  
Staff Writers

Government and hospital leaders have been quietly preparing to provide backup care for patients if Parkland Memorial Hospital loses federal health care funding, which could force it to close all or some of its departments.

A shutdown is considered unlikely by officials and regulators, who nevertheless stress that a plan must be ready to be activated by July given the public hospital's continuing failure to comply with health and safety standards.

"We have to plan for every

**GRAPHICS:** Where Parkland's patients come from and its No. 1 ranking in Medicaid cases, **16A**.

eventuality and that includes services disrupted in any way," said Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins, who has helped coordinate the effort.

Parkland records more than 1 million patient visits annually, the majority of which are outpatients. Any rupture in service would create a huge ripple effect on other Dallas-area hospitals and health care providers.

"Contingency planning is always prudent," said Dr. Thomas C. Royer, Parkland's interim chief executive officer.

See **PARKLAND** Page 16A

EDUCATION | CHARTER SCHOOLS

Prime Time's ties to venture cut both ways

Limelight attracts students but brings scrutiny that can burn

By JEFF MOSIER  
Staff Writer  
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Football Hall of Famer Deion Sanders says the charter school that he helped create and that bears his nickname is about the children and not about him.

That might be true when classes start in the fall at the Dallas and Fort Worth campuses, but now, Sanders' fame and charisma are central to both the anticipation and skepticism of Prime Prep Academy.



**DEION SANDERS**

The high profile of the schools' founder, who embraces the Prime Time nickname, is fueling demand for spots at the schools. But it's also generating a level of scrutiny that's rare — if not unprecedented — for a new independent charter school in Texas.

"Regrettably, the public's and journalistic scrutiny isn't evenly applied across all of our charter applicants," said Michael Soto, a State Board of

See **PRIME** Page 13A

Morning showers

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Metro, back page

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McClatchy-Tribune

Spring forward

Daylight saving time began at 2 a.m. Sunday. Did you remember to set your clocks ahead one hour?

ELECTIONS '12

Santorum captures Kansas in a rout

Mitt Romney gets a nod in Wyoming as the GOP race turns toward Tuesday's Southern



**RICK SANTORUM** contests. **5A**



# Zach's new dog is friend, teacher

Continued from Page 1A

golden shape at his side. Natura became a part of Zach's life three months ago as part of the K9 Buddy program run by California-based Guide Dogs for the Blind. By providing visually impaired kids and adults with canine companions, K9 Buddy aims to foster independence and the prospect, should they choose, of having an actual guide dog someday.

"Basically, it's to teach them the responsibility of having a dog, so when it's time to receive their own guide dog they know how to live with a dog as well as work with one," said Sandi Alsworth, who oversees Guide Dogs for the Blind's puppy-training efforts in Texas and Arizona.

Zach is learning to be fully in charge of Natura's behavior and well-being, meaning he could qualify for a guide dog as early as age 14. Typically, recipients must be 16.

"We'll be watching him grow into a natural guide-dog user as he ages," Alsworth said.

As Zach is proud to point out, he's just one of seven kids in the U.S. to have a dog like Natura. "And the only one in Texas," he said.

For Zach, having a dog not only spurs maturity, it's improving his cane skills and providing companionship during what is increasingly an isolating disability.

Zach knows the situation is a trial run of sorts. He and Natura are constantly together; they play fetch and tug-of-war.

"It's just more fun to have a dog and not be alone," Zach said.

## All business

Zach has long been fond of animals, and last year, Johanna Uek, his mother, got him a pair of dogs — a small terrier and a Chihuahua mix — to help ease the stress of dealing with his worsening condition.

Those dogs moved on to a relative's house with Natura's arrival. Despite her larger size, she's a typical puppy, bounding up and down stairs, tongue lapping, tail whipping side to side.

Zach called her over one morning at his father's Addison townhouse and slid a red muzzle over her snout as she obediently waited, all business.

"When that leash is on, it's work time," Adam Thibodeaux said. "Her personality changes."

They stepped outside and toward the small park abutting the complex. It was cold and wet, but Zach knew this was something he had to do.

He sensed the damp air, the soggy soil. "It rained again last night?" he asked as Natura wandered onto a patch of grass and circled, sniffing the ground.

"Give her a longer leash, Zach," his father said. "She's got a real short leash right now."

They began their stroll, a morning-chat routine for Zach and his dad. Natura, docile and content, knew the route now, a winding path barely an eighth of a mile long.

"Natura is different," Zach said. "My other dogs, they scream. They blow *up*: RAAR RAAR RAAR RAAR!"

## Chance meeting

The two actually met last summer. But only by chance did they reunite.

After Zach applied for a companion dog through the K9 Buddy program, Guide Dogs for the Blind called on Beth Allen, co-founder of newly launched Lone Star Puppy Raisers in Garland, whose members train puppies to become full-fledged guide dogs.

Natura had been among the new group's first six puppies, and when Allen stopped



Photos by Tom Fox/Staff Photographer

**In Lewisville, Natura gets acquainted** with one of Zach Thibodeaux's two dogs, which were relocated to a relative's house. Zach's mother, Johanna Uek, is at left and guide dog field representative Sandi Alsworth is at right.



**Johanna Uek watches** her son Zach work with Natura during a one-on-one training session. If Zach does well, he could qualify for a guide dog as early as age 14.

by Zach's home to assess his readiness for a dog, she brought Natura with her.

"It was just a fluke that they were able to meet," Allen said. "They got to walk down the street a little bit together."

The two obviously clicked. But Natura was already on her way toward becoming a guide dog. By Labor Day weekend, she was headed to California to be matched with a visually impaired person in the Bay Area.

But during the transition, she showed signs of stress — first on the plane, then during the loud mechanized noise of a ramp being lowered on a van for the disabled.

"That's a huge part of what guide dogs do," said Guide Dogs for the Blind's Alsworth. "It was asking too much of her. ... That's trauma they didn't want to put her through on a daily basis."

Natura had a change of careers.

"Only 60 percent of dogs who go through the training end up working as guides," Allen said. Some instead become companion dogs for diabetics, search-and-rescue dogs or therapy dogs.

Natura was placed in the K9 Buddy program, and though Alsworth recalled the dog's affinity for Zach, the two flights she'd have to take from Northern California to Dallas would be terrifying for her.

Response came quickly after she explained the situation

in an email. Within minutes, someone had volunteered to drive Natura from Los Angeles to Palm Springs.

More emails and phone calls followed as a relay system fell into place. "I had three MapQuest screens up," Alsworth said. "I had no clue where these people lived."

Ultimately, Natura's four-

day trek to Dallas unfolded in six legs. Alsworth herself was part of so-called Team Natura, driving the last leg from Phoenix with another volunteer and arriving in time to meet Zach on New Year's Day.

"He was quite surprised," Alsworth said. "It was a touching moment for all of us."



**Zach and Natura play fetch** in the backyard of his Lewisville home. Natura has provided companionship during what is increasingly an isolating disability. "It's just more fun to have a dog and not be alone," Zach said.

## About the series

Nine-year-old Zach Thibodeaux is going blind, the result of a condition called cone-rod dystrophy, a degenerative disease for which there is no cure. In "Zach's Journey," staff writer Marc Ramirez and staff photographer Tom Fox are chronicling the Lewisville boy's passage into darkness.



**READ** Zach's full story in our ebook *Zach's Journey*, available for all e-readers at [dallasnews.com/ebooks](http://dallasnews.com/ebooks)  
**READ** previous installments of the series at [dallasnews.com/zachsjourney](http://dallasnews.com/zachsjourney)

**VIEW** a slideshow of Zach and Natura at [dallasnews.com/photos](http://dallasnews.com/photos)

## A happy pair

*Don't pull the leash till you've asked her to come to you. Hold the kibble to your waist so she'll come to your side. Don't pet Natura before she's finished a task or she'll think she's done.*

The instructions fly as Alsworth helps Zach with his dog-handling skills on a frigid February morning.

"See what happened there?" she said after Zach called Natura over, noting that the dog actually came to him before the order. "Why? Because you did *this*."

She yanked the leash. "So she had the option of either having her head pulled off or coming with you," Alsworth said. "Wait until you say 'come' to pull."

Alsworth said having a dog will provide Zach with what she called "a bridge to society," sparking interaction.

"When you have a cane,

people move out of the way," she said. "When you have a dog, people come *toward* you."

In coming years, Zach will attend Lone Star Puppy Raisers meetings to continue Natura's training and hone his own dog-handling skills.

"She has totally bonded with Zach," his father said. "They're really a pair now."

And Zach's parents, who are divorced, agree the experience is teaching their son to empathize with the duties of parenthood.

"It's building his confidence," Uek said. "He's learning to take care of something other than himself."

Thibodeaux said Zach has had to learn to put off playing his video games after school until he feeds Natura and takes her for a walk.

"That's been the best thing about this," he said. "I've seen Zach grow into responsibility."



INSIDE

## 2 killed in UTD crane collapse

A construction crane at the University of Texas at Dallas collapsed Saturday afternoon, killing two construction workers. The crane was being dismantled when the accident occurred. **2A**



DMN INVESTIGATES | DALLAS CITY HALL

## 'Pass-back' in Motorola contract criticized

Minority subcontractor required to buy from prime contractor; arrangement also part of 2010 deal

By **STEVE THOMPSON**  
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Lazo Technologies, a minority-owned company, was supposed to get a \$5.5 million slice of a \$30 million contract for new Dallas police, fire and wa-

ter department radios.

The \$5.5 million amounts to 18 percent of the overall contract, which meets the city's target for minority business participation in such deals. But Tom Lazo, a Hispanic businessman and Dallas civic leader, has to return a portion of

that money to prime contractor Motorola Solutions to pay for software he's installing in the radios, *The Dallas Morning News* has learned.

The arrangement mirrors another radio contract Dallas City Hall entered into with Motorola in 2010, a deal criti-

cized as circumventing city goals for including businesses owned by minorities and women.

City council member Jerry Allen and other critics say such deals create a false perception that minority firms are getting larger pieces of contracts than they

See **'PASS-BACK'** Page 10A

### ZACH'S JOURNEY

Boy tackles new pursuits but still asks why sight is slipping away



Photos by Tom Fox/Staff Photographer

**Coached over and over through judo moves** by 18-year-old Emily Baudot, Zach Thibodeaux finally throws her to the mat at Sensei Kaoru Ishii's studio in Garland. "Good job. Really good," she told the 9-year-old. "That hurt."

## Fighting to find his way

By **MARC RAMIREZ**  
Staff Writer  
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About death, poet Dylan Thomas wrote: *Do not go gentle into that good night*. For 9-year-old Zach Thibodeaux, a different kind of night is approaching: the erosion of his visual connection to the world around him.

Nearly two years ago, the Lewisville boy was diagnosed with cone-rod dystrophy, an incurable disease gradually destroying his retinas.

At 9, he and his peers are latching on to activities physical and intellectual, discovering the things they like to do, discovering themselves. New skills and successes spark confidence that helps shape social development.

But for Zach, who has minimal sight left, the prospects are more challenging. His family encourages him: *Zach, you can do anything you want*. At the same time, they're wary of setting him up for disappointment.

Some days are good, some not. One



**Eyes closed, Zach relaxes** and breathes at the end of judo class.

day, he and his mother, Johanna Uek, were at Tuesday Morning, in the toy section.

*What's this game, mom? Do you think I can do this one?*

"All these games are for sighted people," Uek said, recalling the moment. "He wants to play. He just doesn't think it's fair."

Like his mother, Zach is highly spiritual, a gifted child whose grades and

See **MOST** Page 18A

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE

## Firms funnel clout covertly

Millions bypass super PACs, go to tax-exempt groups with few rules

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Two years after the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision opened the door for corporate spending on elections, relatively little money has flowed from company treasuries into super PACs, which can accept unlimited contributions but must also disclose their donors.

Instead, there is growing evidence that large corporations are trying to influence campaigns through another route:

donating money to tax-exempt organizations that can spend millions of dollars without being subject to the disclosure requirements that apply to candidates, parties and PACs.

Giant insurer Aetna directed more than \$3 million last year to the American Action Network, a Republican-leaning nonprofit organization that has spent millions of dollars attacking lawmakers who voted for President Barack Obama's health care bill — even as Aetna's president publicly voiced support for the legislation.

Other major corporations,

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### IN DEPTH | MEXICO

## Peña Nieto calls for working with U.S.

President-elect wants to secure border, help illegal immigrants

By **ALFREDO CORCHADO**  
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**MEXICO CITY** — In one of his first post-election interviews, President-elect Enrique Peña Nieto said that he will work to restore security along the border through more col-

laboration with the U.S., strengthen trade, and lobby to help the 6 million Mexican illegal immigrants in the U.S. gain legal status.

Although he wants greater cooperation with the U.S. in Mexico, Peña Nieto stopped short of advocating for armed U.S. agents or troops on the ground there, saying that such talk among Mexicans is a re-

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### DALLAS COUNTY

## Bondsmen profit even if immigrants stay jailed

Advocates say families should be told: Paying may not free loved one

By **KEVIN KRAUSE**  
and **ED TIMMS**  
Staff Writers

Some Dallas County bail bondsmen and lawyers are taking thousands of dollars from families of illegal immigrants who are trying to get out of jail

— even though county and federal authorities have blocked their release.

The jailed immigrants typically are under "immigration holds" by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. These holds prohibit their release from custody because they're suspected of being in the country illegally. The families are

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### Scattered thunderstorms



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Metro, back page

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### NATION

#### AIDS-free generation?

HIV researchers will meet in Washington this month with the hope of dramatically stemming the spread of the AIDS virus. **4A**

#### Heat wave sets records

A heat wave sent temps soaring over 100 degrees across the U.S., setting records in Washington, St. Louis and Indianapolis. **5A**

### WORLD

#### Libya holds free election

Libyans voted in their first election after more than four decades of totalitarianism under Moammar Gadhafi. **11A**

#### Afghanistan designated major American ally

The U.S. declared Afghanistan a major, non-NATO ally, solidifying close defense cooperation. **14A**



# Most days, boy is up for challenges

Continued from Page 1A

sweet-tempered demeanor began to suffer until he was properly diagnosed. Since then, he has excelled at Braille and reclaimed his academic prowess. Still, as he begins to comprehend the realities before him, anger occasionally sets in. He hates the idea of being thought incapable. He resists the label of blindness being thrust upon him. As his world goes dark, he is — in the poet’s words — raging, raging against the dying of the light.

## ‘Never let go’

“I believe judo — if you practice enough — you really don’t need eyesight.” At 72, Kaoru Ishii has the build and complexion of a man decades younger. The fifth-degree black belt was talking about the prospect of teaching Zach the martial art he has studied for five-plus decades.

While some martial arts focus on creating contact, he said, judo is more defensive: Students learn to capitalize on their foes’ momentum, felling them with throws rather than blows. The initial grip on an opponent’s robe, Ishii said, is key, allowing one to sense actions before they happen. “I can sense through the uniform,” he said. “His grip will change, so I can tell what he’s going to do.” Ishii’s sessions, held at his Garland studio, are intense and nonstop. As his white-robed students stretched and tussled, Ishii spent the time aping the drills or lifting dumbbells.

After just weeks, Zach still struggled, good with practiced routines but faltering as Ishii introduced new moves. For those, the sensei had to physically guide Zach’s limbs through the motions. “Each time we come, he picks up a little more,” said Adam Thibodeaux, Zach’s father. Student Emily Baudot, 18, had emerged as a class leader — faster, stronger, focused as a fighter pilot. She’d taken Zach under her wing, offering advice: *Don’t let go.*

*At this point, the smart thing to do would be...* *You don’t have to go where I pull you.*

Over and over, she flipped and pinned him. “Never let go,” she told him. “I was able to do whatever I wanted.” The determination in Zach’s face was evident as they grappled, trying with all his little-boy muscle. He grimaced; she was stronger.

After several tries, the smaller Zach heaved Baudot over his shoulder. “Yes!” he said excitedly.

“Good job. Really good,” Baudot said, smiling. “That hurt.”

“Judo’s a lot about momentum,” she said later. “I’m trying to get him into the mindset of not actively resisting.”



Kye R. Lee/Staff Photographer

**Zach Thibodeaux still finds joy in swimming** and takes lessons at Sun Valley Park Aquatic Center in Lewisville. There are sports options for visually impaired people, but right now Zach doesn’t want activities “just for blind kids,” his mom says.

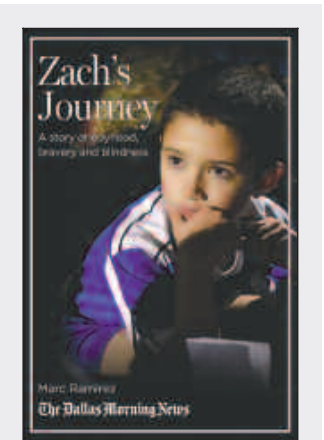
## Losing pastimes

The boy who loved video games can play them less and less. Zach has to stand right in front of a giant TV monitor placed as low as it can go. Soccer, too, has become difficult. Zach’s sight has been reduced to what amounts to a singular sliver of sight in one eye and scattered starry bits in another.

Strength and exercise will be crucial as he ages, advocates for the blind say: Obesity and inactivity especially plague visually impaired adults.

Mindful of that, the state’s Division for Blind Services, part of the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, sponsors an annual sports festival for the state’s blind children.

Juanita Barker, the division’s programs management director, said the benefits of exercise aren’t just physical. “It’s a



## Read about Zach’s journey

Our e-book, *Zach’s Journey*, follows Zach from the days he first learned he was going blind. Read it on Kindle or Nook for \$2.99. [dallasnews.com/ebooks](http://dallasnews.com/ebooks)

huge confidence builder when they see they can participate like any other kid,” she said. “Think of what it does for self-

esteem and social skills.”

Sports options for the blind are increasing, either via original games like goalball — a sort of cross between air hockey and soccer, played on a court — or others that have been adapted. Beep ball, for instance, is a baseball-like game in which the sounds of the ball allow blind players to track its whereabouts.

Zach, though, isn’t ready for that. When his optometrist, Stephanie Fleming of Dallas Services’ Low Vision Clinic, asked whether he’d tried playing beep ball, he quickly changed the subject. “He’s apprehensive of doing things that are just for blind kids,” Uek said. “He doesn’t want anything to do with it right now.”

## Finding his niche

And so, Zach’s family is encouraging other, mostly indivi-

dual and tactile activities: Besides judo, Zach has found joy in swimming and ceramics. Piano lessons may follow.

“We’re trying to find something so he can find his niche,” Uek said.

Art had been a source of drama for Zach, whose creations suffered from his struggles to see. But ceramics’ molded shapes and the free-form painting they encourage have fired him up.

“It’s basically from your heart,” his mother said. “I think it’s relaxing for him. He likes the fact that it goes in the fire and becomes something different.”

Last month, Zach was among a dozen kids in a ceramics workshop at Lewisville’s Herring Recreation Center, applying glaze to clay mugs and vases.

“It’s to make it shiny,” Zach explained. “But you don’t want it to be too shiny or too dull.”



Brad Loper/Staff Photographer



Brad Loper/Staff Photographer

**Zach feels the clay seam** he is supposed to remove during a ceramics workshop at Herring Recreation Center in Lewisville.

**Zach eyes a cup** he just painted. “This is going to be my Christmas cup,” Zach said. “I’m going to have hot cocoa.”

## About this series

Rapidly and surely, Zach Thibodeaux is going blind — the result of a condition called cone-rod dystrophy, a degenerative eye disease that is destroying the cells of his retina and for which there is no cure. At 9, he’s been preparing for a life of blindness — even as he pushes back against the prospect and the perceptions it brings. *Dallas Morning News* reporter Marc Ramirez and photographer Tom Fox have been following Zach as he learns to cope with new realities.

Art instructor Marynell Kaufman led them through the motions. “What you’re painting with right now is glass,” she said. “It’s just in liquid form. It’s transparent. But the part underneath is ...”

The students sat, quietly. “O — o — opaque,” Zach said, filling in the blank.

“Opaque,” Kaufman confirmed. “Thank you, Zach.”

She continued. “OK, here’s the hard part. Do I have all eyes on me?”

She showed them how to glaze the interiors of their vessels with a swirl, then came over to Zach to guide his hand through the motion.

“This is going to be my Christmas cup,” Zach said. “I’m going to have hot cocoa.”

Zach has also found fulfillment caring for his Labrador retriever, Natura, provided through a program called K9 Buddy.

For her service, Natura, who joined Zach on New Year’s Day, was nominated for the American Humane Association’s Hero Dog Award.

Uek, too, got her own puppy, an English bulldog that is now Natura’s playmate. But one day at home, Zach stepped in a puddle that the dogs had made.

He became furious. He started to cry.

He locked himself in the bathroom.

*Why? Why? Why don’t I see?*

“Moments like that are hardest for him, and for us,” Uek said.

All along they have told themselves, and others have reminded them, that God has a plan.

*You can help people, Zach.* Raging, raging. *I don’t want to help people right now.*

## A belt is earned

But this, too, passes, and by last month, Zach had earned his first belt in judo, a milestone for a kid who struggled to do push-ups two months prior.

“He thought that was something that was so far away,” said his stepfather, Joey Uek. “For him, that was really kind of cool.”

Zach had begun to trust his other senses, to follow Ishii’s advice.

In class, he and Baudot grabbed each other’s lapel with one hand and an elbow sleeve with the second. Baudot yanked Zach across the mat like a ballroom dancer, trying to trip him up.

The exercise tested his balance. He closed his eyes to stay loose: Tighten up, and she could use that against him.

At first Zach had been afraid to close his eyes, struggling to get by with the little sight he had left. But the split seconds it cost to interpret what he saw made him vulnerable.

Finally, he just let go and relaxed.

Said Ishii, his sensei: “He is no longer afraid.”

# Firms’ funds flow past super PACs to tax-exempt groups

Continued from Page 1A

including Prudential Financial, Dow Chemical and drug-maker Merck, have poured millions more into the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a tax-exempt trade organization that has pledged to spend at least \$50 million on political advertising this election cycle.

The secrecy shrouding these groups makes a full accounting of corporate influence on the electoral process impossible. But glimpses of their donors emerged in a *New York Times* review of corporate governance reports, tax returns filed by nonprofit organizations and regulatory filings by insurers and labor unions.

The review found that corporate donations — many of

them previously unreported — went to groups large and small, dedicated to shaping public policy on both the state and national levels. From a redistricting fight in Minnesota to the sprawling battleground of the 2012 presidential and congressional elections, corporations are opening their wallets and altering the political world.

## ‘Social welfare’

Some of the biggest recipients of corporate money are organized under Section 501(c)(4) of the tax code, the federal designation for “social welfare” groups dedicated to advancing broad community interests. Because they are not technically political organizations, they

do not have to register with or disclose their donors to the Federal Election Commission, potentially shielding corporate contributors from shareholders or others unhappy with their political positions.

“Companies want to be able to quietly push for their political agendas without being held accountable for it by their customers,” said Melanie Sloan, the executive director of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, which has filed complaints against several issue groups. “I think the 501(c)(4)s are likely to outweigh super PAC spending, because so many donors want to remain anonymous.”

Because social welfare groups are prohibited from devoting themselves primarily to

political activity, many spend the bulk of their money on issue advertisements that claim to be educational, not political, in nature.

In May, for example, Crossroads Grassroots Policy Strategies, a group co-founded by Republican strategist Karl Rove, began a \$25 million advertising campaign that attacks Obama for increasing the federal deficit and urges him to cut spending.

## No clear test

The Internal Revenue Service has no clear test for determining what constitutes excessive political activity by a social welfare group. And tax-exempt groups are permitted to begin raising and spending money

even before the IRS formally recognizes them. Two years after Crossroads GPS helped Republicans win control of the House with millions of dollars in issue advertising, the group’s application for tax-exempt status remains pending.

During the 2010 midterm elections, tax-exempt groups outspent super PACs by a 3-to-2 margin, according to the Center for Responsive Politics and the Center for Public Integrity, with most of that devoted to attacking Democrats or defending Republicans. And such groups have accounted for two-thirds of the political advertising bought by the biggest outside spenders so far in the 2012 election cycle, according to Kantar Media’s Campaign Media Analysis

Group, with close to \$100 million in issue ads.

The growing role of issue groups has prompted a rash of complaints and lawsuits from watchdog organizations accusing groups like the American Action Network, Crossroads and the pro-Obama Priorities USA of operating as sham charities whose primary purpose is not the promotion of social welfare, but winning elections.

Efforts in Congress to force more disclosure for politically active nonprofit organizations have been repeatedly stymied by Republicans, who have described the push as an assault on free speech.

*Mike McIntire and Nicholas Confessore, The New York Times*



Sunny



WFAA

H 93

L 63

Metro, back page

**NATION**  
**New lung cancer drugs promising**  
A study of the genetics of a common lung cancer finds that more than half the tumors from that cancer have mutations that might be treated by new drugs that are already in the pipeline or that could be easily developed. **8A**

**TEXAS**  
**Suing U.S. has cost Texas \$2.58 million**  
The Texas attorney general's office has filed 24 lawsuits against the federal government since President Barack Obama took office — litigation that has cost the state \$2.58 million. **3A**

**SPORTSDAY**  
**Serena digs in for U.S. Open win**  
Two points from defeat, Serena Williams regained her composure and her game, coming back to win the last four games and beat No. 1-ranked Victoria Azarenka for her fourth U.S. Open title. **2C**

**METRO**  
**Gable grandson joins 'Cheaters'**  
The 23-year-old grandson of Clark Gable hopes to rejuvenate the family name as the new host of the Dallas-based reality show *Cheaters*. **1B**

**Executive Airport eatery still flying**  
Two years after the opening of a new city-owned restaurant at Dallas Executive Airport, city officials have reason to feel relieved: It hasn't been a disaster. **1B**

**WORLD**  
**Car bomb in Syria kills 17, injures 40**  
A car bomb ripped through Syria's largest city of Aleppo, killing at least 17 people and wounding 40. **9A**

**BUSINESS**  
**Money flows again from U.S. to Mexico**  
The U.S. economic recovery is fueling a revival of remittances to Mexico. **Local economic snapshot, 1D**

**ARTS & LIFE**  
**Talk and 'The Voice' usher in fall TV**  
The run-up to the fall TV season starts today, with three new talk shows, the debut of NBC comedy *The New Normal* and the return of *The Voice*. **1E**

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CRIME

Irving man charged in 16-year-old's slaying

He was accused of raping her 2 years ago; trial was next month

By **MELISSA REPKO**  
Staff Writer  
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A 16-year-old girl who disappeared Thursday in Carrollton was fatally shot by a man accused of raping her two years ago, police say.  
Franklin B. Davis, 30, of Irving was charged with capital murder Sunday after confessing to the death of Shania Gray, police said. She was expected to

**SHANIA GRAY**  
testify against him next month.  
Gray's body was found Saturday in an inlet of the Trinity River on the border of Irving and Dallas, near Luna Road.  
Police say Gray, who used to babysit Davis' children, had been killed Thursday.  
She was last seen about 4 p.m. that day at Hebron High

See **MAN** Page 2A

ELECTIONS '12 | PRESIDENT

Debate on health care, law heats up

Romney vows to keep some of overhaul; Obama disputes that

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney says that while he intends to dismantle the Obama administration's health care law if elected, he will retain several key provisions, including

**NATION:** More young adults are insured, survey shows. **4A**

coverage for pre-existing conditions.  
In an interview aired Sunday on NBC's *Meet the Press*, Romney said his health care overhaul also will allow families to cover adult children with their policies through age 26 and include access to

coverage for unemployed people seeking insurance. Both are part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2010.  
"I'm not getting rid of all health care reform," Romney said. "Of course there are a number of things that I like in health care reform that  
See **ROMNEY** Page 2A

ZACH'S JOURNEY

A flicker of hope

Photos by Kye R. Lee/Staff Photographer

Last month, 9-year-old Zach Thibodeaux returned to Dallas' Retina Foundation of the Southwest — the facility that had diagnosed his cone-rod dystrophy — for an electroretinogram to find out how much sight he has left.

Family of boy with failing sight looks for answers amid uncertainty

By **MARC RAMIREZ**  
Staff Writer  
mramirez@dallasnews.com

What do you see when you look through your eyes? Is it simply what's before you — a landscape of objects, a palette of textures?  
Or is it something deeper — like visions of what could be or memories of what once was?  
In the case of Zach Thibodeaux, it's what you can, while you can.  
Last month, in the offices of Dallas' Retina Foundation of the Southwest, what 9-

year-old Zach saw was this: a series of flickering lights, viewed in near-total darkness through the cavity of a hollow sphere straight out of Jules Verne. An electrode gripped his numbed eyeball, capturing his electrical responses.  
Nearly two years ago, the fourth-grader at Mary Immaculate Catholic School in Farmers Branch was diagnosed with cone-rod dystrophy, a genetic disease that — despite some promising gains — remains without a cure.  
See **LOOKING** Page 6A

**Zach, who was examined** by researcher Kirsten Locke, has a genetic disease that remains without a cure, despite some promising medical advances.

IRAQ

VP is issued death sentence

Murder verdict draws claims of conspiracy; attacks kill at least 100

FROM WIRE REPORTS

BAGHDAD — The vice president of Iraq, a prominent Sunni Muslim, was convicted of murder and sentenced to death on Sunday in a trial conducted in absentia. The verdict coincided with a wave of bombings and insurgent attacks that claimed at least 100 lives, making Sunday one of the bloodiest days in Iraq since American troops withdrew last year.  
Together, the verdict and the violence threatened to deepen an already intractable political crisis among the country's ruling factions.

Sunni leaders who support the vice president, Tariq al-Hashemi, responded angrily to the court's action, accusing the Shiite-led government of trying to sideline them from a power-sharing arrangement meant to guard against the sectarian violence that continues to plague the country.  
Attacks were reported in at least 10 Iraqi cities on Sunday, including Shiite neighborhoods of Baghdad, where two markets, a restaurant and a crowded square were struck, capped by a car bomb that exploded late in the evening in Sadr City, a Shiite stronghold in the capi-

See **IRAQI** Page 6A

ANALYSIS

In post-9/11 America, resilience is ongoing project

Best tool against terror is being informed about potential threats

**METRO:** Community service events planned to commemorate 9/11. **3B**

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — Even with the death of Osama bin Laden, the al-Qaeda terrorist network is "evolving" and "adapting" and spreading to new havens. The Taliban

weathered a U.S.-led troop surge in Afghanistan and is still "resilient." Hijackings of commercial vessels off the Horn of Africa have dropped, but the Somali pirates remain "adaptable" and "flexible."

Those are the adjectives chosen by senior U.S. officials in grudging acknowledgment of continuing threats to U.S. security by adversaries described as resilient, capable of rebounding from terrible losses and able to recruit again to carry out more vicious attacks.  
These same leaders, however, strike a different tone when assessing the effects on this na-

tion of the 11-year-old struggle against violent extremism. U.S. leaders praise the heroism and sacrifice of those who defend the U.S., but they are increasingly pressed to explain, and resolve, deeply troubling trends: levels of suicide among the troops and of post-traumatic stress that threaten to overwhelm the health care system.

These raise concerns that the U.S. is losing ground in the New Darwinism of security threats, in which an agile enemy evolves in new ways to blunt America's vast technological prowess with clever homemade bombs and anti-American propaganda that helps supply a steady stream of

See **RESILIENCE** Page 11A



# Looking for answers to boy’s failing sight

Continued from Page1A

His return visit to the medical facility that had finally diagnosed his condition marked a small milestone. While his parents didn't expect much positive news, what they did hope for was something tangible to hold on to after those years of difficulty and uncertainty.

As Zach's sight has rapidly diminished, they've groped for answers. At the same time, they've nurtured their science-obsessed son's curiosity and boyish *joie de vivre*, all while preparing him for the prospect of blindness and his growing academic challenges.

See Zach now compared with two years ago, and you'll see a boy who's excelled at Braille, mastered the abacus and learned to get around with a cane.

Assistive technologies have helped him with reading and communication, and in January, he earned a companion dog to help prepare him for the responsibility of having a guide dog someday.

Heading into the Retina Foundation exam with his mother, Johanna Uek of Lewisville, Zach was chatty and fidgety, having just returned from family trips to Cape Cod and California.

With the help of an airline discount, Uek had also taken him on a quick jaunt to Niagara Falls — part of an ongoing mission to provide iconic images he'll no longer have a chance to see once his sight is gone.

After a blood draw, foundation researcher and clinical trials coordinator Kirsten Locke gave Zach an eye-chart test that stretched his patience; from the other side of the small room, his left eye covered with a patch, he couldn't read any letter smaller than 6 inches high. He saw an N as an A, a B as an F; a V drew a long pause.

"Can you give me your best guess?" Locke asked.

"I just see a bunch of sparkles," Zach answered.

Finally it was time for Zach's electroretinogram, or ERG, in which he would gaze into the hollow sphere called a ganzfeld stimulator. A few eye drops would numb his eye for the first electrode.

She fastened a second one to his head.

"What's that for?" he asked.

"It's so you're grounded. But not because you've done anything wrong," Locke said.

Zach smiled. And with a patch over one eye, the electrode gripping the other and wires trailing from his head, he seemed a cyborg, the kind of experiment he would probably be excited to be working on.

"I can tell why it would hurt if it wasn't numb," he said.

Said his mother: "You're a brave little trouper."

## Genetic condition

The Retina Foundation sees four to five new patients weekly, all with genetic conditions



Kye R. Lee/Staff Photographer

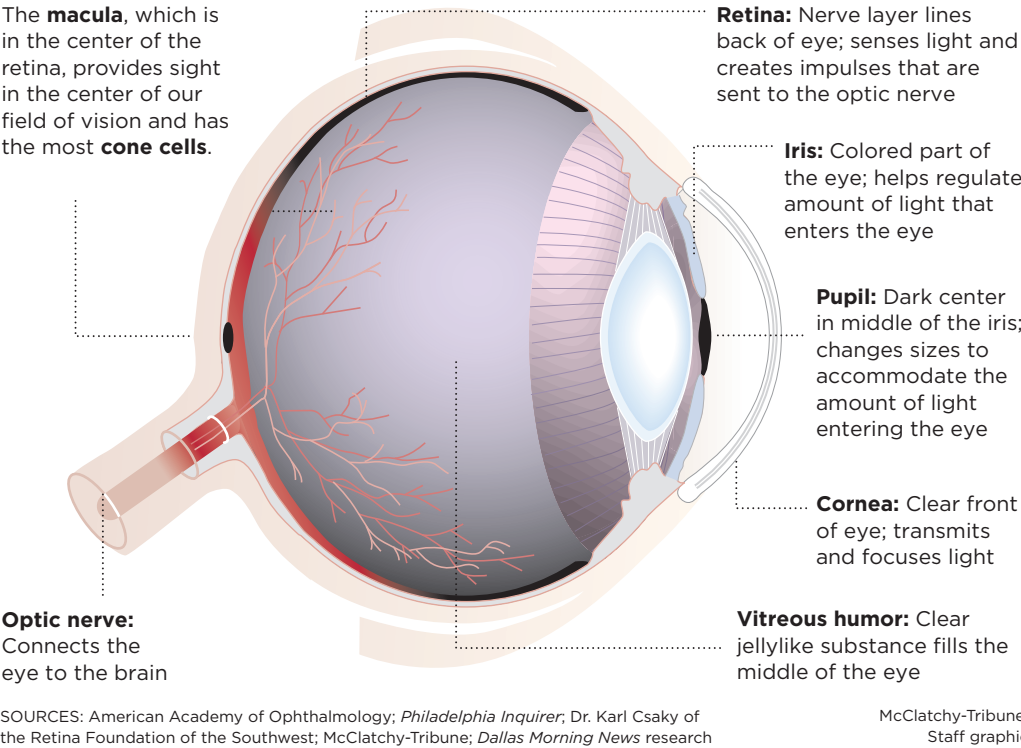
**Kirsten Locke**, a researcher at Dallas' Retina Foundation of the Southwest, helped Zach Thibodeaux with his electroretinogram. The day's tests showed Zach's optic nerve and the surrounding blood vessels continuing to deteriorate.

## Cone-rod dystrophy and its symptoms

Central and color vision is diminished when cells in the back of the eye called cone cells do not work properly. The eye relies on the rod cells which are responsible for peripheral and night vision.

### QUICK FACTS

- One in 30,000 affected in the U.S.
- Children may have problems focusing on objects
- Peripheral vision is present but central vision diminished
- Blindness is uncommon but those affected may be considered legally blind
- Person affected can have sensitivity to light
- Problems seeing color; may see no color at all
- Those affected usually have the disorder from birth



for which few to no treatments exist. The most common is retinitis pigmentosa, which eliminates sight at the periphery and moves in.

The next most common is cone-rod dystrophy, whose roots lie in ABCA4, the same gene that causes Stargardt disease, another degenerative eye condition.

Zach's problems began to surface several years ago. He had trouble seeing at night. Bright light was tricky, too. At school, his math scores faltered

as he misinterpreted numbers on the board or missed seeing them altogether.

Two doctors told Uek the same thing: His eyes look fine; he's young; he's stressed; he's just getting used to his glasses. But then he started running into things. His face was practically on the table as he did his homework. He wouldn't make direct eye contact.

Four ophthalmologists and a neurologist later, Zach came to the foundation, where a similar ERG unveiled the chaos

within his seemingly normal eyes. "He sat so still," Uek recalled. "He was so determined to find out what was going on."

Deep within, the system had malfunctioned. Typically, waste produced by our electrical reactions to light is absorbed by the eye. In Zach's case, the process had broken down, and the toxic buildup was killing the rods and cones of his retinas.

Typical of the disease, the damage has ravaged the center of his vision and moved out-

ward. The sight remaining at his periphery helps him navigate and stay oriented. On the surface, though, his eyes look normal.

"He gets stressed out," Uek said. "It's really hard, because when people see him, he does so much they don't think he's blind, and the things he can't do, they don't get it."

"We went to get him a passport, and the lady said, 'Look straight ahead,' and he said, 'I can't.' I had to tell her he was legally blind."

## Fighting on all fronts

Here is what his parents see: A growing boy who for years seemed like any other, a boy full of love and life and potential now threatened by a force no fault of his own.

In response, they've tried all they can to help him fight what seems a losing battle. Prayer circles early on, then medical care and research.

Last fall, Uek and Zach saw optometrist Stephanie Fleming of Dallas Services' Low Vision Clinic, who noted promising studies involving stem-cell treatments or artificial retinas in places around the globe, some of which Uek had already heard about.

She and Zach are all over the latest research, seeking anything that could help his vision or slow or even reverse his deterioration — medical developments, supplements such as vitamin A or acai — even kale.

"Oh, boy," Fleming said when she heard that. "‘Thanks, mom.’ The boy can eat kale all day long, and it won't help his vision that much. *I* believe in french fries — there's some benefits there. It makes the psyche *much* happier."

## About the series

**Nine-year-old Zach Thibodeaux** is going blind, the result of a condition called cone-rod dystrophy, a degenerative disease for which there is no cure. In "Zach's Journey," staff writer Marc Ramirez and our photographers are chronicling the Lewisville boy's passage into darkness.

**READ** Zach's full story in our e-book *Zach's Journey*, available for all e-readers at [dallasnews.com/ebooks](http://dallasnews.com/ebooks)

**READ** previous installments of the series at [dallasnews.com/zachsjourney](http://dallasnews.com/zachsjourney)

So yes, french fries and ice cream are part of Zach's regimen, too. But medical advances are still out of reach, untested. Fleming encouraged Zach to be patient.

"You don't have to be the first person out of the gate to try it," she said. "You're young. ... There's some promising work with artificial retinas. Stem-cell research is even more promising."

Last month, at the Retina Foundation, Uek told CEO and chief scientist David Birch about advances she'd heard about in China. Maybe they should take him there?

"He's going to be better off waiting until sites open up in this country," Birch said.

One British firm has made exciting progress in gene-replacement therapy, and it shouldn't be long before trials are available in the U.S., he said. As with televisions, everything improves every few years.

He agreed stem-cell research, including trials being conducted at UCLA, looks most promising at the moment.

"We can put stem cells into the retina right now, but they still don't make the connection to the brain," Birch said. "But within a few years ...."

The day's examinations showed Zach's optic nerve and the surrounding blood vessels continuing to deteriorate as his photoreceptors — which capture light and convert it into electrical signals sent to the brain — are being killed off.

Later, Uek said: "I knew it'd be bad news. But it gave us a reference to go with. You know, we don't have forever."

As they left the foundation offices, Zach put on the oversized sunglasses they'd given him to protect his eyes from the sun. "OK, LL Cool J," Uek said as the elevator doors opened.

Through his eyes, Zach still saw a world of imagination that only a child's eyes can create.

"Watch, Mom," he said as they stepped inside. "This is how you walk like a squid."

And he spread his arms and legs wide and danced side to side, wiggling, as Uek shook her head, smiling.

# Iraqi VP convicted in absentia, sentenced to death

Continued from Page1A

tal. The attacks underscored the increasing potency of insurgent groups in Iraq, which appear to have blossomed amid the political paralysis that followed the American departure. Their attacks have tended to come in coordinated waves across the country, including the July 23 attacks by Sunni extremists that killed more than 100 people and appeared to reflect a spill-over of sectarian strife from neighboring Syria, and the car and roadside bombings of Aug. 16 that killed about 100, including dozens at an amusement park in eastern Baghdad.

Earlier this summer, the country seemed to be moving toward a sense of normalcy, with an easing of checkpoints in

the capital, new buses going into service and women returning to local cinemas. But the mounting insurgent violence has prompted the government to reinstate security measures and has revived a sense of siege in some cities.

In February, a panel of judges accused al-Hashemi of overseeing paramilitary death squads that were responsible for carrying out more than 150 attacks on political opponents, security officials and religious pilgrims over a period of six years. Al-Hashemi has denied the charges, calling them part of a witch hunt against political opponents of Iraq's prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, a Shiite. When an arrest warrant was issued for al-Hashemi, he fled Iraq for Turkey, and remained

there while the trial went ahead without him.

The verdict handed down on Sunday did not address the death-squad charges directly but focused narrowly on the deaths of two people, a lawyer and a security official. Al-Hashemi and his son-in-law were convicted of murder in both killings.

Al-Hashemi was not immediately available for comment on Sunday. His office issued a statement saying he would address the matter on Monday at a news conference in Turkey.

As expected, other Sunni leaders reacted angrily to the sentence.

"The whole thing from the beginning was a conspiracy against the Sunnis," said Sheikh Talal Hussain al-Mutar, the

head of one of Iraq's main Sunni tribes. "The whole investigation and courts were fake and controlled by the government. This will make the situation in Iraq worse."

Shiite leaders, on the other hand, welcomed the verdict and defended the court. Ali al-Alak, a leader of the Shiite-dominated Dawa party and a close aide to al-Maliki, dismissed accusations of a conspiracy, noting that the nine-judge panel that sentenced al-Hashemi included representatives from all factions. He called on Sunni lawmakers to sever ties with al-Hashemi.

Opposition lawmakers have been assailing al-Maliki's government for months. Sunni Arab and Kurdish officials have accused al-Maliki of trying to mo-

nopolize power, and they have been attempting to force him from office through a vote of no confidence.

The factional infighting has led to a near collapse of political dialogue, raising fears that gaps in the government's control could once again be filled by insurgents.

No one immediately took responsibility for Sunday's bloodshed. Lately, Al Qaeda in Iraq, the mainly Sunni insurgent group, has claimed responsibility for most high-profile attacks. The group recently announced on a jihadi Web site that it would attempt to reassert control over Sunni regions in the country.

Initially, the attacks on Sunday appeared to be aimed mainly at military and law-enforce-

ment targets. The violence began just before dawn, when militant fighters stormed an army outpost in Dujail, about 35 miles north of Baghdad, officials said. At least 10 soldiers were killed and 8 were wounded.

A series of explosions in Kirkuk, about 150 miles north of Baghdad, claimed at least 19 lives.

In Nasiriya in southern Iraq, a French consulate was the target of a car bomb that killed two Iraqi security guards, and another bombing in the city killed two civilians. Attacks were also carried out in Samarra, Basra, Amara and Mosul, among other cities.

*Omar al-Jawoshy and Michael Schwartz, The New York Times*



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Spam judging  
a duty to savor

Always happy to pull an oar for the State Fair of Texas, I have served over the years as a volunteer contest judge for a variety of cuisines. I have sampled cakes and cobbler, pickles and pies and have even been invited to judge professional and highly competitive entries for the prestigious Big Tex Choice Awards. But I had to wait for somebody to die before I could judge Spam. By tradition, judges from



JACQUIELYNN FLOYD  
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dallasnews.com/thescoopblog

the previous year have first dibs on judging slots for each annual cooking contest. Unlike almost any other competition, there is virtually zero year-to-year turn-over. See **JUDGING** Page 3B

COPPELL

Search for teen continues at lake

Star football player missing since he jumped off cliffs

By CHRISTINA ROSALES and ANDREW PANTAZI  
Staff Writers

For most of the day Monday, Jacob Logan's brick home in Coppell was a busy place. Neighbors planted flowers in the front yard. High school football teammates brought lunch and sweet anecdotes. Friends stopped by to cry with his mother. They came to mourn in advance for the 17-year-old star



JACOB LOGAN

wide receiver missing since Sunday afternoon when he jumped from a cliff into Possum Kingdom Lake. Divers using sonar spent all day Monday unsuccessfully searching for the teen's body. "Thank you for loving Jacob," his mother, Mona Logan, said through a friend of the family. "Thank you for your thoughts and prayers." See **FRIENDS** Page 6B



Nathan Hunsinger/Staff Photographer

The search team scoured Possum Kingdom Lake on Monday looking for Jacob. Low water levels may have made jumping off the cliffs risky, the lake ranger said.

ZACH'S JOURNEY

Boy with diminishing sight learns independence with white cane



Kye R. Lee/Staff Photographer

Zach Thibodeaux, 9, of Lewisville jumped off a wall in Burnett Park in downtown Fort Worth on Monday while taking part in the White Cane Day Walk, a national event for the blind. Zach is preparing to be blind after being diagnosed two years ago with an incurable eye disease.

Tapping to the beat of a city

By MARC RAMIREZ  
Staff Writer  
mramirez@dallasnews.com

FORT WORTH — City streets can seem a treacherous place when you can't see. On Monday, about 150 blind and visually impaired people and their supporters came together in downtown Fort Worth to demonstrate the power of the white cane. Long canes flicked side to side, tap, tap, tapping along the sidewalks in a

concrete percussion procession. The city's fourth annual White Cane Day Walk was part of a 48-year-old national event showcasing the freedom offered by the cane to a community negotiating a world without sight. Among them was 9-year-old Zach Thibodeaux of Lewisville, who nearly two years ago was diagnosed with cone-rod dystrophy, an incurable eye disease gradually killing his retinas. Ever since, he's been preparing to be blind, including orientation mobili-

ty lessons that will help him get through a world he will someday no longer see. With his sight diminishing, the fourth-grader was happy to take part in the event, and not just because it meant he could miss a day of standardized testing. It was a way to acknowledge the progress he'd made with mobility instructor Rhonda Miller, who praised Zach's problem-solving skills. "He's really advanced," Miller said. Like others, Zach will have to learn

to build cues in his mind: "Six bus stops until I get off the bus," for instance, rather than "at the big building with the green sign." And having never driven, he's largely unaware of traffic patterns and left-turn dynamics that might complicate a street crossing. Most recently, Miller was helping him learn to cross busy intersections such as Belt Line Road in north Dallas

See **BOY** Page 6B

DALLAS COUNTY

In Price case, spare denials

Aide follows commissioner in rejecting key allegations but providing few details

By KEVIN KRAUSE  
Staff Writer  
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Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price's top assistant acknowledged in court documents filed Monday that her longtime boss gave her money for her business, but denied the government's claim that she used that business to help Price generate and hide income. Dapheny Fain made the statements in her first formal response to the government's lengthy complaint — in a civil forfeiture action — that accuses her and Price of conspiring to launder money and commit bankruptcy fraud and bribery.



DAPHENY FAIN



JOHN WILEY PRICE

Price last week filed his formal answer to the allegations, denying the central ones. He acknowledged opening certain accounts and borrowing sums of money but said he didn't know enough to answer many

See **PRICE** Page 6B

ON THE FRONT PAGE  
Illegal immigrants qualify for state aid

Nearly 2,500 students who are in the country illegally collected more than \$9.5 million in higher education grants from Texas in fiscal 2010 under a little-known law that is expected to be a target of tea party conservatives next year. Also: Americans spent more money at retailers in September, reflecting growing consumer confidence.

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Education | RICHARDSON

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FRIDAY Problem solver	SATURDAY Update	SUNDAY Hot topic	

Award-winning teacher helps her students make classic connections

By JEFFREY WEISS  
Staff Writer  
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In a Twitter-time world, how does an award-winning teacher connect her students to classics that can't be busted down to 140 characters? One student and one insight at a time.

Patricia Hofeditz was dealing with the details for her AP English class one recent morning. What's the best organization for her students to use in writing an essay about Voltaire's *Candide* as a *bildungsroman*? She offered suggestions. "Does this make sense to

you?" Hofeditz asked in her upbeat rat-a-tat delivery. "Nah. Not until you start writing." The German term refers to a coming-of-age story that focuses on psychological and moral growth. That's a con-

See **TEACHER** Page 7B

GRAND PRAIRIE

Turnpike extension rolls out smoothly

Rush hour no problem on Highway 161, but usage to ramp up fast

By SARAH MERVOSH  
Staff Writer  
smervosh@dallasnews.com

The latest portion of State Highway 161 opened over the weekend, extending the tollway south into Grand Prairie. The new road faced its first big test during rush hour Monday, and officials said the opening went off without a hitch.

The opening should help relieve other traffic-clogged roads that connect I-30 and I-20. The new 6.5-mile stretch will cost about \$1 in tolls. It marks the final phase of Highway 161, also known as the Bush Turnpike Western Extension.

The North Texas Tollway Authority worked over the weekend to finish last-minute striping and signage. By Saturday, all main lanes were open. But the first big test came Monday.

See **TURNPIKE** Page 5B





Kye R. Lee/Staff Photographer

**Zach Thibodeaux** dances along in Fort Worth as blind walk participants performed a routine set to Aerosmith's "Walk This Way."

# Boy learns mobility with cane

Continued from Page 1B

County.

"It's freaky," Zach said. "She crosses with me to make sure I don't get hit by a car. But I have to know when to cross. One time I forgot to push the button and a car honked at us."

Monday's crowd was a mix of young and old, family members and Lions Club volunteers, caps and hijabs, polos and button-down shirts. Many, like Zach, wore the event's signature gray T-shirt reading "Fearless" on the back.

Some had recently begun losing their vision; others have been blind their whole lives. What united them was the cane.

Event chairwoman Janice Moran, a counselor for the state's department of assistive and rehabilitative services, said her mobility skills suffered until she turned 21, when something about the cane just clicked.

"So, for me, an event like this is a celebration of my accomplishments," she said. "I think for a lot of people it is."

Tap, tap, tap past the post office.

There was Kayla Roberson, a senior at Fort Worth's Trimble Technical High who aims to be a veterinary technician despite an undeveloped optic nerve, and Juweriya Ali, a recently arrived Somali immigrant and ninth-grader at the city's International Newcomer Academy.

Tap, tap, tap past the public square.

"There's a bus stop on your left, a pole on your right," Wanda Desmond told Jerry, her husband of 42 years who began losing his sight 11 years ago.

The two had come from Joshua, in Johnson County south of Fort Worth, to participate.

"So many people, when he's out in public, don't realize what the cane is for," Wanda said. "They walk right over him."

Jerry said: "We don't want special treatment. Just common courtesy."

The traffic rushed by. A truck honked, perhaps in support.

Four children in various stages of visual impairment carried a banner reading "White Cane Day 2012" as a policewoman on horseback arrived to help usher them toward the walk's

end.

Sophia Bermejo, an 18-year-old senior at Fort Worth's Brewer High, listened intently as she held her cane in one arm and her mother's arm in the other.

Sounds are everything for a girl who's been blind since birth, and the day's event was a special occasion.

"She likes to be around the other [blind] kids," said her mom, Tarrant County College instructor Sylvia Berryhill. "She's the only one at her school."

The policewoman on horseback approached on the street, moving toward the front of the crowd. *Now*, someone told Bermejo, *now you can hear it*.

Clap, clap, clap on the asphalt. The image of a large creature somehow conjured in her mind: Bermejo's face flickered with cheer and imagination.

Tap, tap, tap in a final loop around Fort Worth's municipal center until coming to rest near its main outdoor promenade. There, City Council member Zim Zimmerman told them, "You don't let a challenge go unanswered."

Curious onlookers watched as

## Zach's Journey

Nine-year-old Zach Thibodeaux is going blind, the result of a condition called cone-rod dystrophy, a degenerative disease for which there is no cure. In "Zach's Journey," staff writer Marc Ramirez and our photographers are chronicling the Lewisville boy's passage into darkness.

**d** **READ** Zach's full story in our e-book "Zach's Journey," available for all e-readers at [dallasnews.com/ebooks](http://dallasnews.com/ebooks). **READ** previous installments of the series at [dallasnews.com/zachsjourney](http://dallasnews.com/zachsjourney).

they unleashed with a choreographed routine they had rehearsed with their canes just that morning, a series of steps set to Aerosmith's "Walk This Way."

Some rocked in place, canes waving side to side. Zach shook his hips, just a little. Bermejo, the Brewer High senior, was ecstatic.

The song ended in a final flurry of guitar, and Zach and others whooped and lifted their canes in a show of triumphant unison.

# Friends mourn teen presumed drowned

Continued from Page 1B

His father, Howard Logan, told WFAA-TV (Channel 8) that his son was special.

"He was a God-sent gift to us for the 17 years that we had him."

Jacob was last seen Sunday afternoon by friends as he and his teammates frolicked at the lake to celebrate a friend's birthday.

Jacob and his buddies rode a boat across Possum Kingdom Lake to the private SET Ranch cliffs overlooking the lake. The cliffs don't have roads leading to them, but neighbors say it's common for teenagers to boat there, climb up the cliffs and then dive off.

Chief Lake Ranger Robert Box of the Brazos River Authority said he's never heard of someone dying after jumping off the cliffs, but he said the water is 8 feet lower than normal.

"He could've hit the water wrong," Box said. "He could've knocked the wind out of himself. He could've ingested water and choked."

Another boy jumped along with Jacob, Box said, but he was wearing a life vest and was fine. Logan, who was only wearing gray swimming trunks, jumped feet first, resurfaced and shook his head a couple of times, but then he went back under and wasn't seen again, Box said.

"There's no rhyme or reason," Box said. "It's just an accident."

There's a sign where the kids would have walked up that warns: "Jumping, diving or rappelling into waters of PK Lake above a distance of 25 feet is prohibited. Maximum fine of \$500."

When the water is at normal



Lisa Owens Photography

**Coppell High School's** Jacob Logan sprinted down the field in a game against McKinney Boyd on Sept. 7.

levels, Box said, the jump might not be more than 25 feet. But because the water is so low now, it makes the jump higher and more dangerous.

"Anytime somebody jumps into a lake, they have to weigh the risks of that activity," Box said. He said that the visibility of the lake is low and the divers, hampered by trees, rocks and silt along the lake's bottom, can't see further than 6 inches while underwater.

Mike Iltis, Possum Kingdom Lake Project Manager, said divers would be back at the lake for as many days as it takes.

"It's a long, tedious process, a painstaking process," Iltis said. "But we need to be thorough."

Residents of Possum Kingdom Lake — located about 80 miles west of Fort Worth in Palo Pinto County — as well as Jacob's head football coach said Monday that the cliffs are a popular diving spot.

## HOW TO HELP Fund for family

A fund has been established for the family of Jacob Logan. Donations can be made at any Frost Bank. The name on the account is Jacob Logan.

School.

"He's an incredible athlete," said Bridget Bell, a family friend. "He's so talented and everyone feels like he's their best friend. He's the guy that this isn't supposed to happen to."

Crystal Bates, the mother of one of Jacob's teammates, said she saw Mona Logan at Friday night's game in Hebron. Usually in the midst of other Coppell boosters, Bates said this time her friend sat contently by herself.

"There was this peace," Bates said. "Like God had given her this peace. God equips you with what you need, so maybe that's what she needed."

Jacob's teammates have told McBride that they want to continue their undefeated season all the way to the state championship. McBride said he doesn't want to put pressure on the boys. But, he does want the tragedy to affect them in some way.

"We need to honor him," McBride said. "The way he lived his life, I want that to motivate us. I want it to spark their passion and make them better than they ever thought they could."

Staff writer David Just contributed to this report.

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# Price, aide deny feds' top charges

Continued from Page 1B

other allegations, in some cases because the transactions occurred so long ago.

He and Fain have sought — thus far unsuccessfully — to delay the forfeiture case until expected criminal complaints have been resolved.

No one has been charged in the government's ongoing corruption investigation.

Fain is Price's executive assistant and a fiercely loyal friend who has been with him since 1995. They have also involved each other in various business dealings over the years, court records show.

Fain is involved in a charity Price established to celebrate African-American health and culture. When the government last year sought records related to Fain's business, MMS Co. (formerly Male Man Sales), her attorney acknowledged that Price had played a role in it.

The attorney, Tom Mills, said Fain's company, described on its website as a distributor of electronics and promotional materials, has done work for Price's charity, KwanzaaFest.

In his filing last week, Price acknowledged that he "has negotiated sales and purchases of automobiles on behalf of Ms. Fain."

In her response filed Monday, Fain said Price loaned her money for her business and conducted banking transactions for it.

But Fain called the suggestion that she used her business to help Price hide profits "totally biased and not based on complete and accurate facts."

Fain said Price gave her a \$25,000 loan in 2005. However, Price said in his response that he was "without sufficient knowledge to either admit or deny" that.

The FBI has said that between 2005 and 2011, Price transferred more than \$432,970 from his personal accounts to Male Man Sales accounts. Fain denied that, saying in her filing that "most were bank loans that Price had taken out to help Fain out."

Fain's response to other FBI allegations are less clear. For example, the FBI said checks totaling more than \$45,000 to MMS from other customers were "diverted" to a personal account belonging to Price.

Fain denied that allegation in her filing because of the word "diverted." She did not say which parts of that allegation may be true.

The government wants to keep \$229,590 in cash that agents took from a safe in Price's home last year and \$230,763 that he earned from a land sale to a developer.

Price is claiming ownership of \$115,000 found in the safe as well as the money from the land sale. Fain has claimed the remaining money found in the safe. Mills has said Price was holding it for safekeeping.

Attorneys for both have said the money came from legitimate business dealings. The government has said in court papers that the money should be forfeited because it is the proceeds of crimes.

The filed answers by Price and Fain are a procedural step that is required in civil lawsuits. It gives them legal standing to claim the money in the civil forfeiture case. Price and Fain also need legal standing to request that the forfeiture action be stayed until the criminal proceedings are resolved.

However, Price and Fain had requested the stay before answering the complaint, leading a federal judge recently to deny their motions. They are still trying to get the forfeiture case put on hold, some say to avoid incriminating themselves.

In their recent filings, Price and Fain did not answer most of the allegations in detail.

For example, Price acknowledged that he has not filed his 2010 income taxes, but the documents do not say why, including whether Price sought a filing extension.

Most of Fain's answers were that she "lacks sufficient knowledge as to the allegations," often because the allegations didn't pertain to her. She also answered many allegations by saying that she "is unable to answer with certainty."

Matt Orwig, a former U.S. attorney, said Price and Fain were not expected to give much detail in their responses to the forfeiture suit — a required procedural action.

"My guess is they would be in the best position to really know the story behind the allegations," he said. "If they can't say something with real specific knowledge, they'll err on side on giving a nonanswer."



Showers and storms  
WFAA  
H 45  
L 25  
Metro, back page



### Who had the biggest impact in 2012?

Houston's YES Prep charter school is a finalist for Texan of the Year after taking top national honors from the Broad Foundation. **22A**

### ARTS & LIFE



### 'Les Misérables' worth the trip

*Les Misérables* is beautifully filmed, perfectly acted and emotionally devastating. Also reviewed: *Django Unchained* and *Parental Guidance*. **1E, 4E**

### SPORTSDAY

### Ex-Rangers owner Corbett dies at 75



Brad Corbett, who had a tumultuous run as the Rangers' owner from 1974 to 1980, has died at 75. **2C**

### METRO

### Report gives insight into 2011 slayings

A Grapevine police report documenting the deadliest crime in the city's history offers insight into the mind-set of the man who, dressed in a Santa suit, killed his family and then himself last year. **1B**

### BUSINESS

### Holiday sales may lift J.C. Penney

Analysts are divided over whether Plano-based J.C. Penney's holiday season has lifted the company out of a deteriorating sales trend. **1D**

### WORLD

### American killed by Afghan officer

A female police sergeant shot and killed a U.S. civilian adviser at police headquarters in Kabul, Afghan officials said. **15A**

### NATION

### U.S. to help fight African extremists

A U.S. Army brigade will begin sending small teams to help battle extremists in Africa. **6A**

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### CHRISTMAS

## Snowplows? Not at this rate

Forecast calls for rain, sleet and only 'light dusting' of flakes

By JAMES RAGLAND  
Staff Writer  
jragland@dallasnews.com

Dallas can probably keep the snowplows in the garage — at least for now.

North Texas is bracing for a mix of Christmas Day precipitation, starting with rain and possibly ending with snow.

A thick blanket of flurries

probably isn't in the offing for Dallas, but a shroud of flakes may settle on some area landscapes Christmas night.

The underwhelming snow forecast probably will leave under wraps the snowplows that North Texas transportation officials have been gearing up to use since the winter of 2011.

The heaviest snow — 1 to 3 inches, if not slightly more —



File 2011/Staff Photo

The North Texas Tollway Authority added snowplows to its winter weather response equipment last year, but those blades probably won't be needed on Christmas.

likely will drift north of U.S. Highway 380 and along the Red River into Oklahoma, said Eric Martello, a senior meteorologist with the Na-

tional Weather Service in Fort Worth.

"It's a hard thing to pin-

See **COLD** Page 14A

## Strides and struggles



Tom Fox/Staff Photographer

Zach Thibodeaux, who turned 10 this month, stares into a strand of Christmas lights after an orientation and mobility training session. Zach, who is losing his eyesight, worked with his cane and used a blindfold in a recent session.

By MARC RAMIREZ  
Staff Writer  
mramirez@dallasnews.com

This is what life looks like on a typical morning: pulling onto the expressway with her notebook open in her lap, a pair of cellphones alternately called into duty, a half-eaten muffin at her side.

Johanna Uek was en route on this mid-December day to pick up her son, Zach Thibodeaux, a fourth-grader at Mary Immaculate Catholic School in Farmers Branch. Their goal: a 1 p.m. date at the offices of Reading and Radio

## As Zach's journey continues and his sight fades, parents work to help him adjust

Resource in downtown Dallas, where radio host Donna Miller had invited them to discuss Zach's story on her weekly show, *Infotalk*.

Two years ago, Zach found out he had cone-rod dystrophy, an incurable eye disease gradually killing his retinas. Since then, he's made great

strides in his efforts to cope with imminent blindness.

In this holiday season, as much of the nation celebrates the historic birth of one child while grieving the recent loss in Connecticut of many more, Zach is an enduring reminder of the gift his own parents received a decade ago.

Earlier this month, he marked his 10th birthday at home with pals, presents and homemade pies, midway through his hardest school year yet.

He earns top grades. He stays upbeat. Though his parents are divorced, they've enabled his ongoing success, their duties magnified by the challenge of raising a special-needs child, fighting for his academic and social needs to prepare for his future in a visual world.

See **WORKING** Page 2A

## Season of sorrow, hopes for tomorrow in Newtown

School shooting tragedy leaves touch on traditions for Connecticut families

FROM WIRE REPORTS

NEWTOWN, Conn. — The night Andrei Nikitchyuk came home after 20 young students had been killed at his son's school, he pulled out the family's Christmas tree.

Nikitchyuk and his wife, Erin, needed to create a distraction. Their youngest child, known as Bear, a third-grader at Sandy Hook Elementary School, had been carrying an at-

tendance sheet down a hallway as the gunman opened fire. A teacher pulled Bear into a classroom and saved his life. Three of his friends had died.

If there was ever a time for a little Christmas, his parents resolved, it was now.

The second thoughts came immediately. How could they celebrate the holidays when so many of their friends were suffering? Andrei became preoccupied with researching gun laws. Erin couldn't imagine

### NATION

Holiday absence is still a fact of life for nation's military families. **7A**

### WORLD

United spirit fills holy land. **16A**

### EDITORIAL

"Christmas Day's paradox," **22A**

### VIEWPOINTS

Paul Crume's timeless essay about the angels among us, **23A**

### METRO

Jacquielynn Floyd: Give yourself the gift of peace and quiet. **1B**  
Homeless get red-carpet treatment. **6B**

### BUSINESS

Last-minute shoppers are rewarded with big bargains. **1D**

### FISCAL CLIFF

## Likely budget options emerge

Four general scenarios range from no deal to the elusive big deal

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — When President Barack Obama and Congress return to Washington later this week, the countdown to the fiscal cliff will be measured in days — yet no one really knows how, when or even whether an agreement might be reached.

Sorting out the scenarios is like trying to assemble a 100-piece puzzle on deadline. About the only decent bet is the one offered by Sen. Joe Lieberman, a Connecticut independent:

"We're going to spend New Year's Eve here, I believe," he told CNN on Sunday.

There are four general ways the drama is likely to unfold: no deal at all; the long-elusive big deal; consideration of legislation that one chamber already passed; or a small time-buying accord that would require further negotiations.

If no alternative is adopted, Bush-era income tax cuts will expire at the end of the year. On Jan. 2, about \$110 billion in automatic spending cuts would take effect, and half of them would involve defense.

Those are just the big items, however.

Extended unemployment benefits for an estimated 2.1 million Americans begin ex-

See **LIKELY** Page 4A

### McKINNEY

## 6 children burned in blast

Gas can explodes as 4- to 11-year-olds play near backyard fire pit

By MICHAEL E. YOUNG  
Staff Writer  
myoung@dallasnews.com

McKINNEY — Six children — ages 4 to 11 — were burned Monday afternoon when a gasoline can near a fire pit exploded in a backyard, authorities said.

All six were expected to survive, though two were in the critical care burn unit at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas.

"I believe we are going to be very blessed," said Stacie Durham, a McKinney Fire Department spokeswoman. "My understanding is that most of them had their backs to it, so they didn't inhale the flames, causing injuries to the lungs."

She said all of the children were related — either siblings or cousins.

There were adults in the house but not in the yard, where the children were play-

See **GAS CAN** Page 5A

See **SEASON** Page 10A



# Working on a path to independence

Continued from Page 1A

But as he grows up, there are emotional needs, too. They've helped him confront the tough questions he asks as his window to the world closes: *Why me? Why is this happening?*

"He just doesn't know why," Uek said. "He gets sad. He really wishes he could read and play sports with his friends."

She and Zach's father, Adam Thibodeaux, have each strived to bolster their son's esteem, even as they face their own fears and doubts, hectic schedules and the needs of their other kids.

As they help Zach through bouts of isolation or insecurity, they're readying him for the day he'll have to get by on his own.

"Even though I treat him like a little boy, I have to strengthen him up," Uek said. "Because I'm not always going to be there."

Thibodeaux, a digital strategist for J.C. Penney Co., straddles a tough-love line, aiming to get Zach to think critically, to develop street smarts and discipline. For example, he's taught his son to put his shoes in the same spot nightly so he can find them in the morning. But sometimes Zach forgets.

"He'll be, like, 'Dad, do you know where my shoes are?'" Thibodeaux said. "I say, 'No, I don't.' And I let him struggle for a bit until we have to go. Life is a strong teacher."

"I have the same goals for Zach as any of my children. I want him to be a good, contributing adult, to make others' lives better, to follow the path God sees fit. I've got to help him become a man."

First, she wants to make a stop: The chocolate bars Uek custom-ordered from a Plano chocolatier with Brailled holiday messages molded on the back are ready. It's almost noon.

"I think we can still make it," she said.

It's the suburban SUV mom routine — running among her Lewisville home, Zach's school in Farmers Branch, her part-time job selling cosmetics at Neiman Marcus in Dallas with assorted errands in between.

But always, Zach, his older brother Josh and stepbrother Connor are foremost on her mind.

The other boys need attention, too. It's not easy. And one night, when Zach was eager to play a knowledge game he'd gotten, he had no one to read him the questions. His stepdad was busy, his brother was researching colleges, and Uek



Mona Reeder/Staff Photographer

**Donna Miller** (left) of Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind interviewed Zach Thibodeaux and his mother, Johanna Uek, at Reading and Radio Resource in Dallas this month.



Tom Fox/Staff Photographer



Tom Fox/Staff Photographer

**Left: After not** being able to find the milk section of the grocery store in a recent outing, Zach asked for help from store employee Collin Munsungu. **Top:** Zach leans in close so he can see the small fish he purchased at an Addison pet store with his father, Adam Thibodeaux.

was cooking dinner.

"He was like, 'Hey, I need somebody!'" Uek said. "But by the time we were done, it was time to put him to bed. His time is so limited."

"I just want to be there for him more than I am."

Zach talks of pursuing a science career, and Uek's goal is to get him into Jesuit College Preparatory School. Among the concerns that flood her mind are the costs of his Braille and cane-mobility classes and translation of his textbooks and tests into Braille, which ran nearly \$5,000 this year alone.

While many services and textbooks would be given in public school for free, she and Thibodeaux opted to keep Zach at Mary Immaculate — in the building, and in the community, that he already knew.

That has created challenges, with tangles over government aid, for instance, if the Catholic school's books aren't state-adopted. Sometimes, because Uek has to order them herself, the books arrive late. Now and

then she wonders why it has to be so difficult.

"If my son wasn't going blind, he'd be able to get the education he needs, and no one would be fighting about it," she said in one frustrated moment earlier this year. "If my son wants to be a chemist, I want him to be able to."

"He should have the right to decide. He's not asking to be a rapper. He's asking to be a chemist or an engineer. I need these materials so when he goes to high school he'll be able to keep up."

Back to mid-December: in the car, on her way to Plano. Uek had finished three phone calls by the time she reached The Shops at Legacy, with another coming in as she parked.

The chocolatier showed her the bars. She checked the design. All good. She paid up and hit the road to Farmers Branch.

On the phone again: "Hi, this is Johanna Uek. I'm picking up Zach Thibodeaux. I'll be there in five minutes. Can you have him wait in the office?"

She hung up. "We're going to be cutting it close," she said.

It's nearly 12:45 by the time Zach exits with his cane and backpack, the skies spilling rain. One more phone call to radio host Miller, informing her of the delay.

"I knew I should have done the candy later," she lamented. "I just wanted to bring Donna a candy bar."

Every week, Zach works on his cane skills, part of his path to independence. Crossing busy streets: that's the challenge his parents worry about most.

"It's not that I don't trust him," Uek said. "I'm worried about that driver that's not paying attention. ... The hardest thing for me to do is let go."

Earlier this month, Zach was at his dad's home in Addison, where mobility teacher Rhonda Miller prepared to direct them on a trek to the adjacent shopping plaza.

First, they would go to the pet store, where Zach wanted to buy a fish. On the way, he'd fo-

## ABOUT THE SERIES

Ten-year-old Zach Thibodeaux is going blind, the result of a condition called cone-rod dystrophy, a degenerative disease for which there is no cure. In "Zach's Journey," staff writer Marc Ramirez and our photographers are chronicling the Lewisville boy's passage into darkness.



**READ** Zach's full story in our e-book Zach's Journey,

available for all e-readers. [dallasnews.com/ebooks](http://dallasnews.com/ebooks)

**READ** previous installments of the series. [dallasnews.com/zachsjourney](http://dallasnews.com/zachsjourney)

mostly blind. Then the man told Zach, "We're glad you're out here. You're doing a really good job."

Such interactions are good for Zach, Thibodeaux said, as he learns to believe in himself.

It's hard, though, for Zach not to feel left out when other kids play video games or when former soccer teammates take the field, hard not to pout when friends laugh at something he cannot see.

Whining, his dad warns, will only make his friends uncomfortable and less likely to come over. Instead, Zach needs to learn to ask: "Hey, what were you guys laughing at?"

It's those difficult truths Thibodeaux vows to deliver.

"That's a hard thing for a kid that age to hear," he said. "But he needs to know I have his best interests in mind."

*Mom, are you going to love my brothers more than me? Do other people think they're better because they can see?*

*Why would you think that?*

*Because no one would ever want to be blind like me.*

*No, Zach. You are special. You will know things other people don't because you are blind.*

He doesn't like it when people feel sorry for him; neither does she.

"He is more than just blind," Uek said in an email last spring.

"He is going to change the way people see the visually impaired."

"Any way that God gave him to me is more than good enough. He is no less than anyone else, and I count my blessings every day that he is my son."

Back in the SUV, Uek zoomed down the Dallas North Tollway, arriving at the offices of Reading and Radio Resource at exactly one o'clock.

In the studio, Zach bubbled in his chair. Oops, gotta go to the bathroom first. Then back again, headphones on, jazz-dancing in place as the show's introductory theme played.

Before long, he was practically directing the exchange, suggesting questions, taking opportunities to reiterate points he'd wanted to make earlier.

Charming. Assured. Articulate. His own person.

On a December afternoon in 2002, a baby boy is born to a young couple. Nineteen inches long, the chart says. Six pounds, 11 ounces.

His parents embrace him. His grandmother cries.

The boy looks around, sensing, exploring, discovering the world with new eyes.

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## CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

*The Dallas Morning News welcomes your comments about published information that may require correction or clarification. You can submit your comments by visiting [dallasnews.com/corrections](http://dallasnews.com/corrections) or calling 214-977-8352.*

■ In Monday's SportsDay, the game the Cowboys lost when Dez Bryant's hand was ruled out of bounds on a late touchdown catch was misidentified as a loss to Washington. The Bryant play came in the final seconds of a loss to the New York Giants.

## TEXAS LOTTERY

### Lotto Texas

#### Saturday's numbers

21 22 29 32 46 49

Jackpot: **\$16 million**

Number of winners: **0**

Winning ticket: **N/A**

Next drawing: **Wednesday**

Est. jackpot: **\$17 million**

### Mega Millions

#### Friday's numbers

3 18 32 41 56 Mega Ball: 19

Jackpot: **\$12 million**

Number of winners: **0**

Winning ticket: **N/A**

Megaplier: **3**

Next drawing: **Tuesday**

Est. jackpot: **\$18 million**

### Powerball

#### Saturday's numbers

1 18 35 39 44 Powerball: 11

Jackpot: **\$40 million**

Number of winners: **0**

Winning ticket: **N/A**

Next drawing: **Wednesday**

Estimated jackpot: **\$50 million**

### Texas Two-Step

#### Thursday 3 10 15 35

(Bonus ball: 27)

### Pick 3

#### Monday afternoon 1 0 6

Saturday night 8 5 3

### Cash 5

#### Saturday 4 13 17 21 37

### Daily 4

#### Monday afternoon 5 6 5 4

Saturday night 9 2 3 7

**Because of early production deadlines, today's paper doesn't include all of Monday's results. For complete results, visit [dallasnews.com/lottery](http://dallasnews.com/lottery).**