

The Dallas Morning News

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The best cookies



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Taste: Holiday cookie contest winners, 1G

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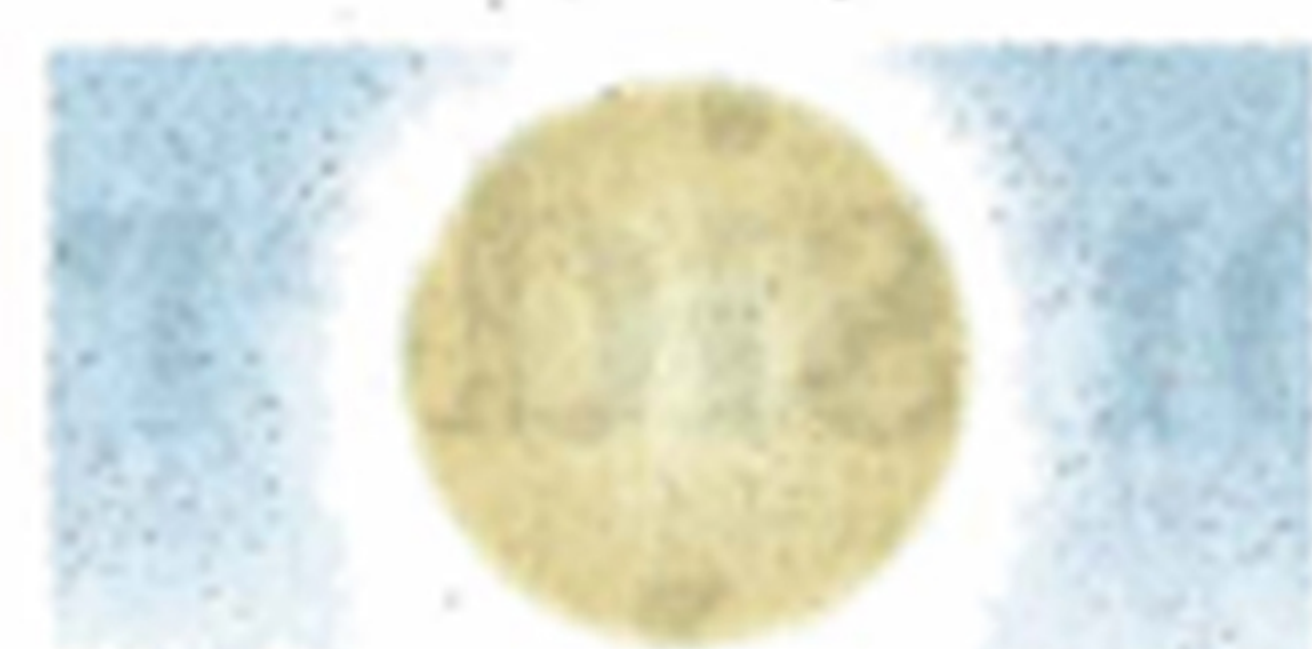
Video at dallasnews.com/lifestyles



12 years of recipes

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Sunny



WFAA High: 72 Low: 47
Metro, Back Page

INSIDE

Flu bug thrives in cold, dry air

Why is the flu more prevalent in the winter? Researchers say the virus likes cold and dry air. 5A

TEXAS

Despite foes, border fence coming soon

A fence dividing the Texas-Mexico border may not be to everyone's liking, but it's a reality, and it's coming soon. 3A

New Web site maps crime

Dallas: 'Google blotter' is interactive and updated daily

By STEVE THOMPSON
Staff Writer
steve.thompson@dallasnews.com

A new Web site will let users take a look at crime in Dallas with the help of interactive maps.

"This is not just a police blotter; this is a 21st-century Google blotter," said Dan Elliott, who heads InteloQuence, the Addison-based marketing firm that designed the site.

InteloQuence teamed up with the Apartment Association of Greater Dallas to create the site, which funnels crime information from the Dallas Police Department onto the Internet each day.

It lets users plug in ZIP codes,

crime categories and dates to get statistics and create their own maps of Dallas crime. A basic membership is free. The site charges fees for more detailed information and searching capabilities.

Police Chief David Kunkle appeared at a news conference Tuesday to support the launch.

"We wanted the apartment managers to be accountable for crime on their property and take reasonable steps to reduce crime," Chief Kunkle said. "But we really were not giving them the tools to do so."

The chief said the new Web site, called the Community Safety Management Network, could help change that.

Crime information from a similar mapping page on the city's Web site is not as detailed or up-to-date.

Dallas police and the apart-

ment association "recognized that if they can get timely information, then they could do a better job managing the apartments," Chief Kunkle said. "It's also a very powerful tool that our neighborhoods can use."

Searches on the site Tuesday revealed some problems.

For example, a query for robberies turned up other crimes as well. And some of the addresses showed up as being in cities outside of Dallas.

"We expect to find problems," Mr. Elliott said. "Improving the system so that it does a better job is absolutely the bottom line. And when we find bugs, we're going to fix them."

The site can be accessed through a link from the Dallas police Web site, or directly at www.crimereportslive.com/tx/dallas.

DISD is on course but off marks

Passing rates rise, but students meet only 35% of improvement goals

By TAWNELL D. HOBBS
Staff Writer
tdhobbs@dallasnews.com

Dallas schools Superintendent Michael Hinojosa said Tuesday he plans to "stay the course" with goals he set to drastically improve student performance by 2010, even as a new report says the district will have to step up its game to reach the goals.

The district's passing rates on state tests are rising, but not fast enough to meet aggressive targets set under the Dallas Achieves reform plan the superintendent initiated to turn the district around. The reform plan also includes other academic areas, such as scores on the SAT and Advanced Placement tests.

"We have made progress, but not enough to meet those targets," Dr. Hinojosa said. "I'm disappointed about the progress."

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