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Notable and quotable

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Will the average fan long remember that the Rangers surpassed 3 million in attendance in 2012?

Perhaps so, especially if they can attach it to a significant event -- say, the Commissioner's Trophy winding up in Arlington at season's end.

The Rangers already have four more wins than they did in all of 1989, when they topped 2 million for the first time. If you could recall that Nolan Ryan had signed with the Rangers that off-season, you could guess what effect he had on the turnstiles at the old Arlington Stadium.

Last week's milestone, like the one 23 years earlier, probably wasn't a natural moment for most fans to celebrate, although the 36,102 who were at the game Thursday against the Cleveland Indians were treated to fireworks and a special T-shirt to mark the occasion.

But for folks like Chuck Morgan, executive vice president for ballpark entertainment and productions, it's the kind of event that you spend a career working toward. He reflected on it Thursday in a post on The Newberg Report website.

"You don't realize how many meetings that I and others have had, talking about how to get fans to come to Rangers games," wrote Morgan, who is also the announcer at Rangers Ballpark in Arlington. "Used Car Night, Flip-Flop Night, Floppy Hat Night, Ranger Aid, Rootin' Tootin' and, yes, even Snow Monkeys. If we thought it would have drawn some fans, we probably would have suggested that we find a player like [the late 3-foot-7] Eddie Gaedel to pinch-hit one night, but that one never came up."

Of course, Morgan was convinced that the answer was simpler than that. Think of it as an "if-you-win-a-pennant, they-will-come" mantra.

Over the years, he told everybody from former owner Eddie Chiles to former managing partner George W. Bush to Ryan, the current CEO and president, that the surest way to boost attendance was to win, and in that he has been proved correct. Forget about the summer heat keeping fans away. Forget about DFW being a football town.

"Our entire baseball operation can't be thanked enough for the thrills they have given us over the past several years and the job they have done," Morgan wrote. "You can have all the Bobblehead Nights you want, but it is what happens on the field that counts."

By the way, the Rangers have never finished last in attendance in the American League, according to [baseball-reference.com](#). They've never finished first, either, but through Sunday they were in second place, trailing only the New York Yankees, who had played two fewer home games.

Day of generosity

Thursday was also a big day for Arlington nonprofits.

The annual North Texas Giving Day, which encourages online donations, raised \$14.4 million for more than 900 nonprofits.

The amount easily eclipsed last year's record of \$10.7 million, officials said. More than \$2 million of the donations were made to 150 organizations in Tarrant County, up from \$1.6 million last year, officials said.

Nonprofits that received donations between 7 a.m. and midnight Thursday on [www.DonorBridgeTX.org](#) got



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a partial match from a pool of about \$1 million.

Among the Arlington organizations getting money were: Green Oaks School, \$33,695; River Legacy Foundation, \$16,278; Arlington Life Shelter, \$15,215; Arlington Urban Ministries, \$7,835; Creative Arts Theatre and School, or CATS, \$5,773; Arlington ISD Education Foundation, \$5,475; Theatre Arlington, \$5,080; YMCA of Arlington, \$4,610; University of Texas at Arlington, \$2,650; Arlington Public Library Foundation, \$2,400; Boys & Girls Clubs of Arlington, \$1,660; and Junior League of Arlington, \$975.

More eats and spirits

Downtown Arlington's entertainment and dining options continue to grow.

Freebirds World Burrito is expected to open near Twisted Root Burger Co. by late October or early November, developer Ryan Dodson said. Freebirds has leased a 2,500-square-foot space in Dodson's property at 300 E. Abram St., also home to Flying Fish.

Capital Bar is expected to open early next year, pending a rezoning request, in the former Goodyear Auto Service Center near the post office on East South Street. The 8,000-square-foot building, which will be renovated, is expected to have a stage and dance floor, pool tables, bar and rooftop deck.

Dodson owns the downtown building, which was vacated by Goodyear in June. Capital Bar also has a location near West Seventh Street and University Drive in Fort Worth.

Angels with a badge

Ask Dallas attorney Tom Brandt to describe the FBI, and he would use one word: *angels*.

Brandt, along with Mayor Robert Cluck, was targeted by Flashdancer strip club owner Ryan Walker Grant in a murder-for-hire scheme. Grant recently pleaded guilty in federal court of trying to hire hit men from Mexico to kill Cluck and Brandt because of their roles in shutting down his business.

The intermediary, an informant for the Drug Enforcement Administration, said Grant was willing to pay \$10,000 each for hit.

Brandt, who represents the city in its court battles with Grant and Flashdancer, told *Texas Lawyer's* Tex Parte Blog that he never thought his routine municipal work would put him in harm's way. He said he had learned a few things from the experience.

"I was taught by nuns when I was a kid," Brandt told *Texas Lawyer*. "I was told that angels look out for us. And I learned two things: The nuns were right, and some of the angels work for the FBI. Those guys saved my life, and I'm grateful to them. And how do you thank someone for saving your life?"



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