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2004

CONQUER YOUR CRUD

The City of Eules' Crude Cruiser mobile will be up at the Eules Municipal Complex on Saturday, April 22 from 9-11 am in order to help residents dispose of their household hazardous waste. Old paint, pesticides, used oil and other automotive fluids, household cleaners, medicines, make-up, solvents, batteries, and pesticides are all examples of household chemicals that could be hazardous to the environment if disposed of improperly. They are also excepting small electrical appliances for recycle (sorry...no TV's).

Proof of residence such as a current utility bill is required but no fee is charged. Call 817-685-1410 or visit www.eules.org/hazmat.htm for more info.

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NORTHEAST TARRANT BRIEFS

Eules police find mail hoard, meth lab

BEDFORD - Eules police officers whose burglary investigation took them to a Bedford apartment Thursday afternoon found the equipment for an identity theft ring - and a working methamphetamine lab. Officers found 2,000 pieces of mail from 25 jurisdictions during the search at the Eules apartment in the 2400 block of Meadow Park Circle, as well as computer equipment and fraudulent IDs, Eules police Lt. W.L. Pavlik said in a news release. Police arrested two people on suspicion of three counts of tampering with a government document and one count of manufacturing methamphetamine, Pavlik said. The officers had been tracking a money order stolen during a burglary, he said. Eules police and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service are continuing the investigation.

- Ben Tinsley

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Things to do in April

29 SATURDAY

Have you gone fishing yet this year? Now is the perfect time to get away with the kids and enjoy some fishing fun. The city of Euless and Texas Junior Anglers are hosting the free event, which takes place from 9 a.m. to noon at Wilshire Park. Wilshire Pond will be stocked with 500 pounds of catfish and staff members will be present to offer fishing instruction.

Loaner fishing poles and bait will be available for children. A fishing tournament also will be held, with prizes awarded in various age groups and categories.

- Euless Easter Egg Scramble
Parks at Texas Star, 1501 S. Pipeline Road
(817) 685-1666
Free
11am-2pm April 8
Events include an egg hunt, bounce house, face-painters and games. Hunts will be divided by age groups.
- Junior Anglers Day
Wilshire Park, 315 Sierra Drive, Euless
(817) 685-1666
Free
9am-noon April 29
Fish at your leisure and also enter a fishing tournament.

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NORTHEAST AFTER HOURS

Free jazz concert

EULESS - The band Fingerprints will perform a free public concert at 7 p.m. Monday at the Eules Public Library, 201 N. Ector Drive.

The jazz band has recorded four CDs during its 15 years. The five-member group has performed at clubs and music festivals throughout the Southwest. Its Eules performance is sponsored by ARTSNET as a part of its MasterWorks Series. (817) 283-3406.

Compiled by Joy Donovan

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NORTHEAST BRIEFS

Mail carrier home from Iraq honored

EULESS - Air Force Tech Sgt. James Towles of Eules, who recently served in Iraq as a loadmaster, has returned home and will be honored at 10 a.m. today at the Eules Post Office, 201 N. Ector Drive, by the city and the Postal Service, according to Postal Service officials. The event will include a flag-raising by American Legion Post 379. The day has been proclaimed James Towles Day by the city. Towles is a mail carrier and has been in the Air Force Reserves for eight years, city officials said. He was sent to Iraq in April, where he was stationed at Balad Air Base in Baghdad. He and his wife, Carol, have a daughter, Caroline, and a son, Joseph, who is serving in the Air Force in Tampa, Fla.

- Terry Lee Goodrich

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CALENDAR

EASTER EGG SCRAMBLE: The Euless
Easter Egg Scramble will be from 11
a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Parks at
Texas Star, 1501 S. Pipeline Road. The
free event will include an egg hunt,
bounce house, games and pictures
with the Easter bunny.

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NORTHEAST CLICK

Reception precedes concert

A VIP reception preceded the Brass Roots Trio sponsored by ARTSNET at the Old Bedford School.

SPECIAL TO THE STAR-TELEGRAM/BRIAN VENEZIA



Janice Vickery, Susan Clark, Karin Newell and Mike Collins

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PROCLAMATION



SPECIAL TO THE STAR-TELEGRAM/
EMILY HUGHES

LOCAL SOLDIER IS HONORED

Tech Sgt. James Towles shows off a city proclamation Thursday declaring April 6 James Towles Day for his service in Iraq. Towles, a postal worker, received the proclamation at a flag-raising ceremony by American Legion Post 279 at the Euless Post Office.

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REGION BRIEFS

Police plan regional roundup this month

Law-enforcement officers will fan out throughout North Texas from April 24 to 30 in a regional roundup of residents with outstanding warrants. The roundup will take place in Collin, Dallas, Denton, Johnson, Rockwall and Tarrant counties. Officers from more than 40 cities will be involved, including police from Arlington, Euless, Forest Hill, Fort Worth, Haltom City, Hurst, Kennedale, Mansfield, North Richland Hills, Richland Hills, Southlake and Watauga. Residents with pending warrants can avoid being arrested by contacting the municipal court where the warrant was issued and making payment arrangements before April 24. Most of the warrants are traffic-related Class C misdemeanors. Those arrested during the roundup will be taken before municipal judges for arraignment and disposition of cases, authorities said. For more information on how to pay citations, residents should contact local municipal courts.

- Domingo Ramirez Jr.

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LANDMARKS

Water towers of power

Pre-eminent plumbing fixtures double as signs

By **BILL TEETER**
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

It hasn't held a drop of water in years, but Roanoke's Oak Street water tower still has a future.

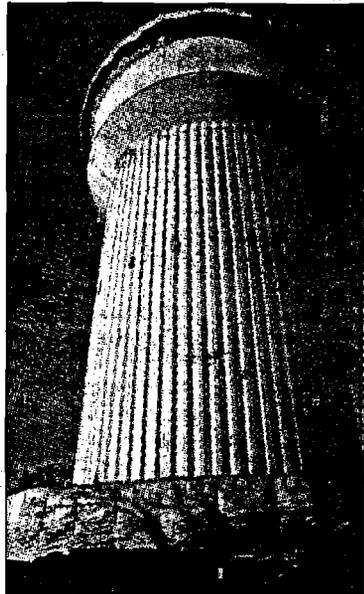
The tower has stood over downtown for about 70 years, so officials plan to keep it as a landmark bearing the Roanoke logo and weave it into the community's planned redevelopment of the city center.

"I think it's just part of our heritage," Mayor Carl Gierisch Jr. said.

Water towers maintain pressure by storing water up high, and gravity carries it to the spigot with no additional pumping. But they have also become geographic markers — billboards for cities or high school sports teams. Throughout Northeast Tarrant County, communities have plastered their names and sports championships in big letters across the sides of the tower tops.

From atop the Ferris wheel at last weekend's Watauga Fest, seven water towers were visible.

The older towers have also become important historical fea-

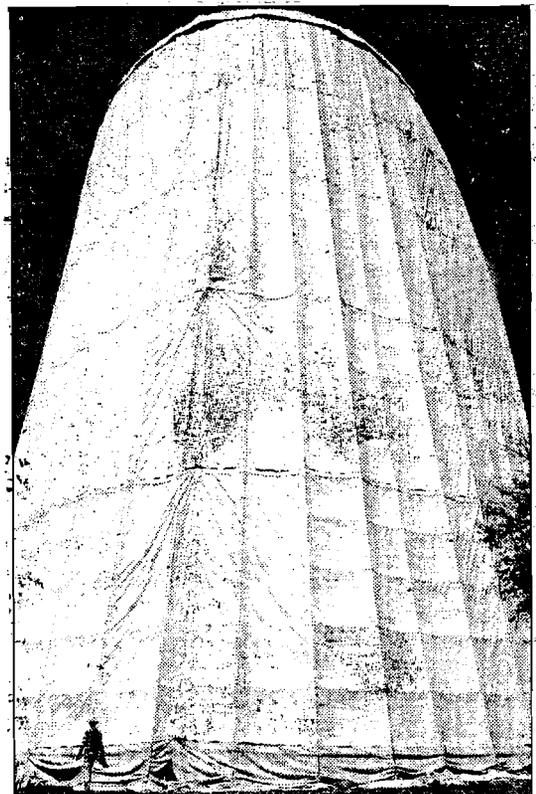


Painter Filimon Olvera is a barely visible speck, lower right, on a Euleless water tower that is being renovated.

tures. Like Roanoke, Keller has maintained a defunct water tower, at U.S. 377 at Keller Parkway, Keller City Manager Lyle Dresher said. The best estimate is that the tower was built in 1910, he



Orlando Olvera paints near the top of the Euleless water tower.



STAR-TELEGAM/LAURIE L. WARD

Hundreds of tarps keep paint and sandblasting material contained while the Euleless tower is refurbished.

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said.

Construction records for Oak Street tower have been lost, but former Mayor Max Watson said the tower was built in 1936. Attached to one of the steel-lattice-work legs is an old siren that once summoned volunteers to the station to fight fires, he said.

"It signifies Roanoke. It's been there as long as I can remember," said Watson, who moved to Roanoke in 1968.

Newer water tanks often hold a million gallons or more.

Along North Main Street in Euless, crews are finishing up work on a \$1.28 million project to refurbish two of the city's three water towers and repaint Euless' name on both of them, Deputy City Manager Gary McKamie said.

"We use it as a point of identification for the northeast side of town," he said. "It's just another way of identifying your city."

McKinney recently shelled out about \$48,000 to paint new city logos on its four elevated tanks, said Harlyn Farrell, McKinney's water and wastewater superintendent.

Typically, towers cost about \$1 per gallon of capacity to build, and the last one McKinney built

holds about 2 million gallons, he said.

Other places go beyond just paint.

On some older tanks, the steel is fashioned to look like ketchup bottles, teapots, fruit and vegetables.

A tank near the Panhandle city of Groom is well known to travelers on Interstate 40 because it was intentionally installed leaning to one side, to attract attention. A tower in Lakeway is painted as a giant golf ball.

The newer tanks are often designed with storage or office space beneath the elevated tank, said Glenda Curry of Landmark, a Fort Worth-based company that builds elevated tanks in the U.S. and Canada.

Watauga has water department offices in the bottom of a tower, just east of Denton Highway, she said.

Haltom City has a fire station in its tower at Haltom Road and Northeast Loop 820.

The love affair with the water tower goes beyond Texas.

A tower built in 1905 in Raymond, Miss., has been recognized as a Mississippi state landmark. About 25 water towers ranging in design from stark steel structures to ornate, stone tow-

ers are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Although the steel towers, such as Roanoke's, aren't much to look at, their function at certain times in history and prominence in the local skyline make some want to save them, said Linda McClelland, a historian for the National Parks Service.

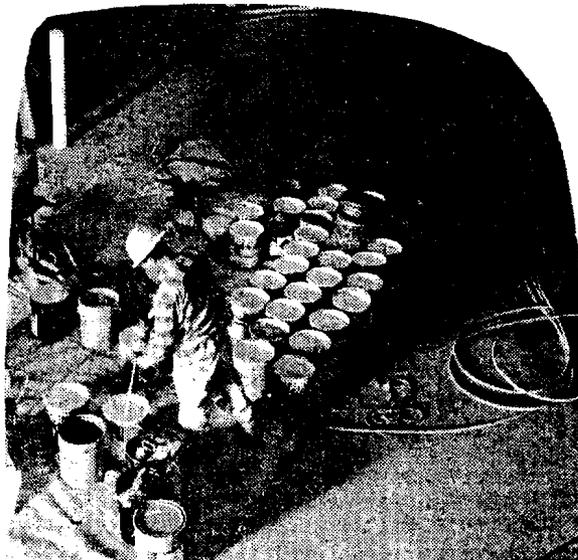
"Often the availability of water fostered development," she said. "It really goes far beyond what your initial perception is."

The Roanoke tower, which had a 100,000-gallon capacity, will dovetail into the city's downtown plan to renovate an 1887 hotel and to attract new businesses and homes to Oak Street, City Manager Jimmy Stathatos said.

Joe Neary, a salesman for Blastco, a Wentzville, Mo., company that paints and refurbishes towers, pays attention to towers as he travels the state. Blastco is repainting images of two cannons on a tower in Gonzales to commemorate the town's place in Texas' fight for independence from Mexico.

On Oct. 2, 1835, Texans repelled a Mexican force sent to disarm them, igniting hostilities

Bill Teeter, (817) 390-7757
 bteeter@star-telegram.com



STAR-TELEGRAM/LAURIE L. WARD

The gallons of paint that Filimon Olvera mixes were transported from the interior of the Euless water tower high up to where workers needed it.

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Expect it to get worse before it gets better

Airport Freeway drivers are in for a bumpy, noisy next five months for road repairs

By GORDON DICKSON
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Airport Freeway's overused pavement won't look like a giant piece of Swiss cheese much longer.

The busiest and perhaps roughest road in Tarrant County — it carries up to 200,000 vehicles per day — will be resurfaced during the next four to five months, beginning next week.

Workers may be in the area as early as this week, putting up temporary barricades and work zone signs.

Motorists can expect loose gravel, uneven lanes and tire noise along the 20-mile stretch of freeway, which includes parts of Texas 121 and Texas 183, extending as far east as Texas 360 in Euless.

But there is good news:

"The lane closures will only be at

night, and usually less than three miles at a time," Texas Department of Transportation spokesman Michael Peters said. "Their intent is to limit the work area for less inconvenience to the public."

The work will be done in four phases, beginning with a three-mile stretch from east of downtown Fort Worth to Carson Street in Haltom City, then moving northeastward through Richland Hills, North Richland Hills, Hurst, Bedford and Euless.

Why will it take so long?

The machinery involved in the project simply moves at a crawl, say contractors who commonly use the equipment.

The top 3 inches of the road surface will be chewed up by a rotomilling machine, a giant apparatus with an insatiable

20-mile stretch

Map of where the construction will take place, 8B

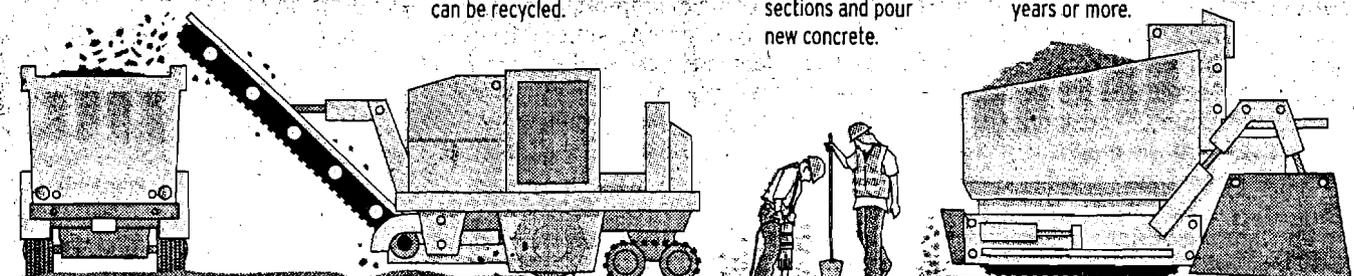
Chewing up a road

Rotomilling is a simple process, but can take months to complete. The work takes place at night while freeway lanes are temporarily closed, and motorists can continue to drive on the lanes during the day.

A rotomiller has a spinning, corkscrew-shaped blade with metal teeth that chews up the road. The crumbled asphalt is deposited in a dump truck, and can be recycled.

Once the asphalt is removed, workers can seal cracks and, if necessary, cut out entire damaged sections and pour new concrete.

After the foundation is repaired, a new, 3-inch layer of fresh asphalt is poured. The process takes just a few days. A properly repaired road should be pothole-free for eight years or more.



SOURCE: Texas Department of Transportation

STAR-TELEGRAM/TIM BEDISON

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STAR-TELEGRAM/TIM BEDISON

Freeway: Repairs will start in downtown area

ble appetite for pavement.

That machine's corkscrew-like teeth can only gobble about one to two miles of a single freeway lane during a 10-hour shift, contractors say.

A rotomilling machine can remove enough old asphalt to fill 200 dump trucks each night, they say.

The old asphalt can then be recycled and used in future hot mix.

Once the top layer of the road is removed, any cracks or other flaws in the subsurface concrete are exposed and repaired.

Finally, a fresh 3-inch topping of hot mix will be applied

— and the road will look good as new.

The \$6.8 million project is under the direction of Dallas-based contractor Austin Bridge and Road.

Any discomfort experienced by commuters will be worthwhile in the long run, according to The Road Information Program, which represents the highway industry in Washington.

About 34 percent of U.S. roads are in poor or mediocre condition, according to TRIP, and motorists spend an average of \$275 a year repairing damaged vehicle parts.

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CITY OF EULESS HAPPENINGS...

For more information on the following events, please call the Midway Recreation Center at 817-685-1666.

Texas Trash Off

Saturday, April 1st

8:30 - Noon

Showplace Lanes @1901 W. Airport Frwy

Euless Easter Egg Scramble

Saturday, April 8th

11 am to 2 pm

Hunt Times:

0-3 yrs	11:20 am	6-7 yrs	Noon
4-5 yrs	11:40 am	8+ yrs	12:20 pm

Texas Junior Anglers

Saturday, April 29th

9:00 am - Noon

Wilshire Park, 315 Sierra Dr.

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EULESS

STEPS TO FITNESS

City officials want residents
to take a walk with them for healthBy **TERRY LEE GOODRICH**
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

EULESS — The longest journey, so the saying goes, begins with a single step.

But Euleless and Harris Methodist H.E.B. hospital officials are urging residents to push a little harder as they begin the road to fitness.

Steppin' Out, an event kicking off a community health program, will be April 24 to May 30. Participants will be urged to try to take 10,000 steps each day. They'll have walking buddies — and moral support — in City Council members, who will walk with them. And although it's Euleless

taking the initiative, anyone is welcome to put on their walking shoes and join in, City Manager Joe Hennig said.

Those who take part may pick up a free pedometer at any of five Euleless locations beginning Monday, city officials said.

One in three Tarrant County residents is overweight, according to United Way Tarrant County and area health officials. And a report by Tarrant County health officials indicates that 64 percent of people 18 and older in Tarrant County were either overweight or obese in 2004, a greater pro-

portion than statewide (61.5 percent) or nationwide (59.5 percent). United Way Tarrant County and city and county health officials have urged leaders in business, government, education and health to join efforts to fight obesity, which can contribute to health problems and higher medical costs.

Obesity is excessive body fat in relation to lean body mass, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Overweight refers to high body weight in relation to some height-based standard. Some overweight people are not fat, they have large muscle mass.

Euleless City Council member Leon Hogg said people who wish to take part in the walks need not

be intimidated if they are not fit. "If they want to come and do a slow walk, come walk with me," Hogg said. "I'm diabetic, but I keep it under control with diet and pills. Sometimes I have a hip that hurts, and I can't power walk or walk very far. But I try to walk as much as I can. I hope a lot of people show up."

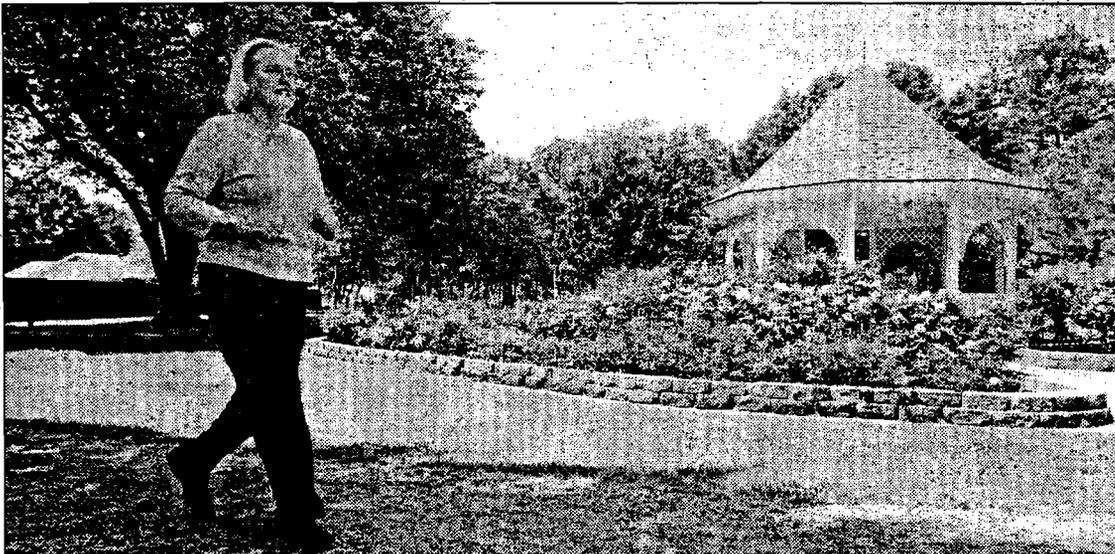
A fringe benefit: Those who walk with Hogg on April 25 at Heritage Park can learn about local history. The park houses Euleless' first brick home, an old barn, a windmill and a log cabin, Hogg said.

Meanwhile, council member Linda Martin will lead Power Walk the Preserve on April 26. The walk begins at Bob Eden Park, and participants will be able to see native trees in a nature preserve. The trees will be labeled, she said.

"There are a lot of trees and shade, but I'm going out there rain or shine," she said. "I don't do a lot of walking, but I work out three times a week and figure I'm in good shape."

She said the 10,000 steps works out to three to five miles, depending on the length of each step.

Participants may register and complete a walking log and return it to the city before May 6 to receive gifts, city officials said.



STAR-TELEGRAM/PAUL MOSELEY

City Councilwoman Veva Lou Massey will walk with whoever shows up April 27 in Carr Park.

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STAR-TELEGRAM/PAUL MOSELEY

Residents can get a free pedometer like Euless City Councilwoman Veva Lou Massey's for Steppin' Out, a community health program urging 10,000 steps a day.

IN THE KNOW

Walk Right In

Euless sites where participants may register and pick up free pedometers and return walking logs:

- Midway Recreation Center, 300 W. Midway Drive. (817) 685-1666.
- Euless Public Library, 201 N. Ector Drive. (817) 685-1679
- Texas Star Conference Centre, 1400 Texas Star Parkway. (817) 685-1849
- Euless City Hall, 201 N. Ector Drive. (817) 685-1400
- Harris Fitness Center, 1616 Hospital Parkway. (817) 267-9191.

Participants also may return walking logs at the Pre-Mother's Day Plant Sale and Tree Giveaway, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 6 at the Parks at Texas Star, 1501 S. Pipeline Road. (817) 685-1650.

Steppin' Out Schedule

- April 24: Step with the Council. Mayor Mary Lib Saleh and other council members, 6 p.m., the Parks at Texas Star, 1501 S. Pipeline Road.
- April 25: Take a Historical Tour with Councilman Leon Hogg, 10 a.m. at Heritage Park, 203 Cullum Drive.
- April 26: Power Walk the Preserve with Councilwoman Linda Martin, 5:30 p.m. at Bob Eden Park, 901 W. Mid-Cities Blvd.
- April 27: Step in the Shade with Councilwoman Veva Lou Massey, 11 a.m. at Carr Park, 508 Simmons Drive.
- April 28: Trek through Texas Star with Councilman Glenn Porterfield, 8:30 a.m. at Texas Star Gold Course, 1400 Texas Star Parkway.
- For more information: (817) 685-1400

ONLINE:

www.euless.org/steppin

SOURCE: City of Euless

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Katrina left flood of felons in Texas
 DPS warns local police of Louisiana evacuees on parole or probation

08:44 AM CDT on Friday, April 14, 2006
 By DAVE MICHAELS / The Dallas Morning News

AUSTIN – As many as 3,000 Hurricane Katrina evacuees in Texas are on probation or parole in their home state but most are probably living under no form of supervision, and state officials are providing their names to local authorities because they could be suspects in new crimes.

In letters to many of the state's police chiefs this week, the Texas Department of Public Safety provides the names and criminal histories of the evacuees and urges local authorities to consult the list to "develop possible suspects for certain crime problems that have advanced since Hurricane Katrina."

Nearly 300 of those are listed in Dallas.

"It is a huge concern," said Kathy Walt, a spokeswoman for Gov. Rick Perry. "We are going to continue working with Louisiana to assist them to get these people back."

The evacuees should have reported their status as probationers and parolees to authorities, but most have not, according to police and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. The evacuees could petition for a permanent transfer of their supervision to Texas.

Some cities – Houston, above all – have complained that evacuees caused their crime rates to spike. The city accepted 150,000 evacuees overall, and it has received \$20 million from the U.S. Justice Department to pay police and fire expenses for its suddenly enlarged population.

The list is believed to be the state's first master list of evacuees who left behind their criminal histories in Louisiana, where the hurricane destroyed some evidence and criminal records. The DPS has not made public the names of the people on their lists or their crimes.

"Certainly we want the police chiefs to know there may be some potential problems, and they need to respond how they feel is appropriate," Tela Mange, a DPS spokeswoman, said Thursday.

The number of Louisiana evacuees on probation or parole could be closer to 1,500, said John Moriarty, inspector general for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. The number provided by the DPS was higher because some evacuees had multiple addresses in Texas, he said.

The DPS list was compiled by cross-checking Louisiana's probation and parole rolls against FEMA's database of federal relief recipients.

Texas has feuded with FEMA over the identities of Katrina evacuees. After FEMA refused to provide data that would help identify sex offenders and violent criminals, Gov. Rick Perry said the decision jeopardized the safety of Texans and some evacuees. FEMA is now cooperating with state authorities.

Lt. Rick Watson, a Dallas police spokesman, said his department has not received DPS' list, which says 299 offenders are living in Dallas. Lt. Watson said police officers would probably visit evacuees listed as sex offenders.

"If we confirm they are here, we are going to go contact them, tell them, 'You have to register with us, let's

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go," he said.

Lt. Watson said he was not sure what Dallas would do with offenders who are not on probation or parole for sex offenses, because police departments are not responsible for probation or parole services.

So far, Texas has formally accepted about 151 probationers and 191 parolees from Louisiana, authorities said.

"If they have not contacted Louisiana by this time, under all normal ways of looking at community corrections, they would be an absconder," said Bryan Collier, director of the parole division of the Texas prison system.

But authorities were not willing to say Thursday what would happen to evacuees with criminal histories. The special circumstances of their flight to Texas – after a hurricane that prompted a mandatory evacuation – might dictate how the state deals with them.

Offenders who want to remain in Texas must go through an interstate compact that governs interstate parole and probation transfers. The offender must either reside in the state where he hopes to move, have family there, or be able to work there.

Kathie Winckler, Texas' commissioner for interstate compacts, said 804 people from Louisiana have identified themselves as probationers or parolees. She indicated it might be difficult to confirm the details of their supervision.

"Louisiana had quite a few parolees and probationers for whom the records were lost, literally washed away," Ms. Winckler said.

Mr. Collier said that some of the 804 people may have returned to Louisiana and that some living in Texas may have reported to their probation or parole officers in Louisiana.

"They have parole officers who lost their homes and lost everything," Ms. Walt said. "They have a number of caseworkers who, if you will, are still in the recovery process themselves."

E-mail dmichaels@dallasnews.com

WHERE THEY'RE LIVING

The Texas Department of Public Safety has identified almost 3,000 Hurricane Katrina evacuees with criminal histories. Based on information from federal officials, the department is providing the information to local police agencies, which can contact the evacuees and decide how to deal with them. Here's a look at how many evacuees are thought to be in selected cities:

Addison: 2	Forney: 1	North Richland Hills: 4
Allen: 4	Fort Worth: 63	Richardson: 6
Arlington: 64	Frisco: 5	Rockwall: 1
Austin: 92	Galveston: 25	Rowlett: 1
Baytown: 41	Garland: 26	Sachse: 1
Beaumont: 56	Grand Prairie: 20	San Antonio: 149
Bedford: 4	Haltom City: 1	Southlake: 2
Carrollton: 14	Houston: 1,415	The Colony: 3
Dallas: 299	Hurst: 2	Tyler: 19
Denton: 6	Irving: 19	Wylie: 3
DeSoto: 7	Lancaster: 7	
Duncanville: 3	Mansfield: 2	SOURCE: Texas Department of Public Safety
Eules: 4	McKinney: 11	
Farmers Branch: 1	Mesquite: 12	

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EULESS

City opens 400 acres for drilling

■ Officials hope to bring money into municipal coffers by allowing natural gas extraction on city land.

By **TERRY LEE GOODRICH**
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

EULESS — City Council members hope to bolster the budget by opening up about 400 city-owned acres for extraction of natural gas from the Barnett Shale.

The council last week tentatively authorized City Manager Joe Hennig to set aside 90 acres beneath the Dr Pepper Star Center, the Parks at Texas Star and Softball World. The remaining acreage is roughly bordered by Farm Road 157, Texas 10 and Pipeline Road. It includes

land beneath streets and rights-of-way and the Texas Star Golf Course, said Mike Collins, the city's planning and development director.

Officials emphasize that the horizontal drilling would be about 7,000 feet below ground, originating from a surface point that could be far away. Specifying what park acreage might be involved is necessary to comply with a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department code that mandates that parkland not be jeopardized by use for other purposes.

"We will not be converting the park to any use other than its intended one," Collins said

No residents spoke at a public hearing last week about drilling under parkland. A second hearing will be at 7 p.m. May 9 at City Hall.

Drilling companies might also approach residents or entities that own mineral rights in Eules, officials said.

Drilling companies have been scrambling to tap into the Barnett Shale, which, with

more than 467 billion cubic feet, was the state's most productive natural-gas field last year, according to the Texas Railroad Commission. Geologists are uncertain of the Barnett Shale formation's boundaries.

But drilling companies have found gas in 12 counties, the top four producers being Tarrant, Wise, Denton and Johnson counties, according to the commission.

"We're excited because all around us, geologists are finding gas, and when they want to get it out, there's money to be made," Eules Mayor Mary Lib Saleh said.

Finding gas is "chancy, but we don't have anything to lose," she said. "We've studied this for two years to be certain this won't disturb residents."

If any lease were signed,

drilling companies would be required to obtain permits from the city and Texas Railroad Commission so they can monitor drilling locations and environmental concerns, Collins said.

Collins said that a lease for 37 acres, awarded to Larry Dale Resources of Dallas last month, brought the city a \$5,100 bonus and will bring in monthly royalties of 27.5 percent if gas is found.

Terry Lee Goodrich, (817) 685-3812
terry@star-telegram.com

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After fall, ambulance bill hurts

Couple wary when
Midlothian charges
them more than \$2,200

By HERB BOOTH
Staff Writer

A fall from her horse broke a bone in Cheri Hibbs' face in October 2004.

But it's the bill for the 15-mile Midlothian ambulance ride that's still causing her pain.

Midlothian charged Mrs. Hibbs, who lives in Cedar Hill with her husband, Doug, \$2,237.60 to go to the hospital in Waxahachie. Other nearby cities charge \$450 to \$800 for a similar trip.

"It doesn't seem like anyone has any jurisdiction over what ambulance charge," said Mrs. Hibbs, who broke her orbital bone — which is around the eye — when she was thrown from her horse, Sir Little Joe. "You have no idea what something like this is going to cost you. I think it's not only unfair to me, but a lot of other people needing an ambulance."

Mrs. Hibbs later sold the horse — which she had boarded in Ovilla — but she said her experience has taught her an unforgettable lesson.

"It's just that the next time I get hurt, I'm going to tell my friends to throw me in the back of a truck and drive me to the hospital."

Midlothian officials and the company it hired to handle its ambulance billing — Houston-based Intermedix Inc. — say they're charging only what is "reasonable and customary" in the industry.

That fee, though, doesn't compare with cities that surround Midlothian. Cedar Hill, DeSoto, Duncanville, Ennis, Lancaster, Red Oak and Waxahachie charge \$450 to \$800 for everything from a basic rate to a service that includes advanced life-support measures and materials. None of those cities use Intermedix.

Other Intermedix cities' rates are comparable to Midlothian's. In Sherman, Denton and Euless, for example, an ambulance ride could eclipse the \$2,000 mark.

Jeremy Mattern, CEO for Intermedix, said cities that have few



DARON DEAN/Staff Photographer

"I think I've paid more than my fair share," said Doug Hibbs, with wife Cheri, regarding their \$2,237 ambulance bill.

er ambulance calls pay a premium to provide service to their residents. He said one central Florida city that Intermedix serves only charges \$109 because that's all it has to charge to recover its costs.

The Journal of Emergency Medical Services compiled a 2005 study that quizzed the 200 most populous cities nationwide and showed the average charge for an ambulance ride provided by a non-governmental entity was \$822. That ride would include advanced life-support measures and materials, too.

Midlothian Mayor Boyce Whatley said the lower rates in other cities simply means they are subsidizing more of their EMS costs.

"They're missing out on a lot of revenue," said Mr. Whatley, adding that his city has very few ambulance-related complaints. "This is the fairest way to bill people. If someone never uses the ambulance, why should they pay for it?"

Mr. and Mrs. Hibbs aren't the

only people to voice concerns.

Mike Donahoo, a firefighter and paramedic in DeSoto for 17 years, lives in an unincorporated part of Ellis County serviced by Midlothian EMS. He said a couple of years ago his family had an emergency and used the service.

"My insurance paid \$500, and they charged me \$2,300," Mr. Donahoo said of Intermedix. "I just trashed it, but then Intermedix called me."

Mr. Donahoo said he attended a Midlothian council meeting to air his concerns but never paid the entire tab.

"I just ignored the bill and nothing has happened," Mr. Donahoo said. "But I just think about most people, especially the elderly, who just pay their bills without question. It's just not right."

DeSoto Fire Chief Fred Hart said cities subsidize EMS and ambulance service because the cost would be too high for residents to use if they didn't.

"Cities will never make money at it, or even break even," Chief Hart said.

Mr. Hibbs said he used public records to discover that Midlothian only collects about 29 percent of its annual charges on ambulances. That percentage comes to about \$650 of the family's bill — much less than what their insurance company eventually paid.

Still, Mr. Hibbs is not completely ignoring Intermedix. He said he is paying about \$25 per month until the bill is paid.

But he said he would never buy Midlothian's argument about its ambulance fees.

"They say it's reasonable, but my insurance company only paid \$947 and told me that was above what the average is for this area," he said. "I want them to leave me alone. I think I've paid more than my fair share."

E-mail hbooth@dallasnews.com.

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BIZ BUZZ

Awards for Grubbs

Grubbs Infiniti of Euless has honed its customer service in the past year, an effort that landed the dealership two recent corporate awards.

The dealership was given the Infiniti Award of Excellence, given to about 26 of 179 dealerships, said George Grubbs III, executive manager.

Grubbs Infiniti was also one of seven dealerships

nationwide to win the Circle of Excellence Award for its volume of sales. That award goes to dealerships in the top 35 percent of sales for the year.

All of Grubbs Infiniti's new car buyers and service customers are surveyed, Grubbs said. The staff members fine-tuned their customer service by adding a concierge service, in which customers can prepay for maintenance work and have their car picked up and delivered to their home or office, Grubbs said.

In addition, many people on his staff are longtime employees with whom customers have built relationships, he said.

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Northeast Tarrant libraries



The information applies to cities' current buildings. Hurst, North Richland Hills and Watauga plan to expand or build new libraries.

City	Year built	Square footage	City's population	Customers per day	Number of materials
Bedford	1987	17,000	48,600	663	103,503
Colleyville	2003	24,000	21,700	260	37,983
Eules	1996	40,000	50,000	650	103,000
Flower Mound	2000	25,000	60,467	650	78,775
Grapevine	2001	53,000	47,599	800	166,881
Haltom City	1968	17,000	39,000	515	93,000
Haslet	2005	900	1,400	15	10,000
Hurst	1979	40,200	38,314	700	135,000
Keller	1990	12,500	36,328	798	77,786
N. Richland Hills	1987	31,000	63,500	900	175,000
Richland Hills	1988	7,860	8,300	177	39,664
Roanoke	1994	5,400	5,450	140	36,000
Southlake	2001	14,300	25,000	325	50,000
Summerglen	2000	11,000	661,850	1,200	65,639
Watauga	1990	15,000	24,100	570	64,309

- Summerglen is a branch in the Fort Worth library system.
- Trophy Club and Westlake do not have libraries.
- The Haslet library is open 20 hours a week. It occupies a former fire station and bank, built around the 1920s.
- North Richland Hills' library, built in 1972 as a church, became a library in 1987.

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WORK FACES

APPOINTMENTS



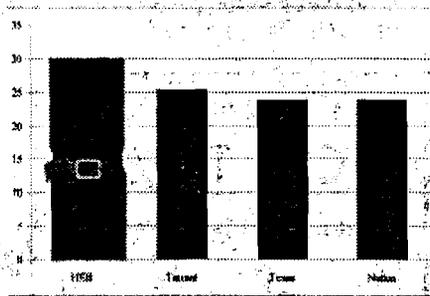
PAYTON

Jimmy Payton Sr. is the new chairman of the Board of Trustees of Texas Health Resources.

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NORTHEAST BRIEFS

Little anglers invited to free fishing event

EULESS - Euless youngsters who want to reel in a big one - or a small one - will have a chance from 9 a.m. to noon April 29 at a free fishing tournament.

The city of Euless and Texas Junior Anglers will stock the pond at Wilshire Park, 315 Sierra Drive, with 500 pounds of catfish for the event.

Fishing equipment will be provided for those who need it. Prizes will be given in various age groups and categories.

Parents may fish after the competition. Call (817) 685-1666 for more information.

- Terry Lee Goodrich

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**Jacqueline Robertson
 Weathers**



EULESS — Jacqueline Robertson Weathers, 66, one of God's angels on earth, went to be with God on Wednesday, April 19, 2006, after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Funeral: 12:30 p.m. Monday at First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth, 800 W. Fifth St. Committal service: 3:30 p.m. in Mount Olivet Cemetery. Visitation: 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday at Biggers Funeral Home.

Memorials: Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, 5005 LBJ Freeway, Suite #250, Dallas, Texas 75244, (888) 888-3317.

Jackie was born in Knightdale, N.C., on Oct. 23, 1939, to W.L. "Jack" and Thelma Ginn Robertson. She had resided in Texas for the last 35 years, but North Carolina, her family and many friends remained in her heart.

Ms. Weathers, an artist, writer and public speaker, was a member of many organizations, including the DFW Writers Group, Eules Library Foundation, Downtown Singles and New Horizons Church Group.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Thelma and Wiley Robertson, and a brother, Wiley Robertson III.

Survivors: Daughters, Kim Greenwood and husband, David, of Eules, Beverly Weathers of Eules and Kristi Belote and husband, David, of Austin; sisters, Mary Spencer and husband, Connie, of Richmond, Va., Thelma Medlin of Garner, N.C., and Ann Stegall and husband, Paul, of Wake Forest, N.C.; grandchildren, Nicole Babb and Christa and Meagan Greenwood; great-granddaughter, Kylee, due July 4, 2006; and a large and loving circle of extended family and friends.

Biggers Funeral Home

6100 Azle Ave., (817) 237-3341

View and sign guestbook at

www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

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Running on battery power

Interstate Batteries wants to quadruple the number of its **All Battery Center** stores across the country. Company leaders have also set their sights on becoming the national leader in the battery retail market.

The Dallas-based company has received about 800 inquiries from prospective franchisees interested in filling the approximately 400 new stores they are planning in the coming years, said Mickey Elam, company vice president. The company has 33 franchisees with 56 locations in 24 states and Puerto Rico.

"In a \$50 billion fragmented market, you want to grow as fast as possible," Elam said.

The company has two locations in Tarrant County and plans four others, Elam said.

In 1999, Interstate Batteries, which has been known for its auto batteries for 53 years, started developing stores that stock a wide range of batteries. The stores bill themselves as a place where customers can find any battery. And if it's not in stock, it can be ordered or built.

As a nationally known brand, the company wants to bridge the gap between general retailers who stock alkaline batteries and manufacturers who sell highly specialized batteries for specific uses, said **Carlos Sepulveda**, president and CEO.

Now that the company has refined its store model, it plans to expand rapidly. In October, the company called on prospective franchisees to open stores in 400 areas the company identified as prime markets. Most of those markets are in the Southeast, Elam said.

The company is also looking to make its stores more inviting, Sepulveda said. It plans to remodel stores in **Eules** and **Des Moines**, Iowa, in June. It will add hardwood floors and update battery displays, Elam said.

Sepulveda said he believes that the battery market will grow 8 percent a year, in part because people have more devices that use battery power.

The average household has about 20 devices that use batteries, he said.

— *Andrea Jares*

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CONTEST

Trees inspire kids' verses for Arbor Day

■ Youngsters write poetry about trees for a contest to celebrate Arbor Day on Friday.

By **TERRY LEE GOODRICH**
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

EULESS — Fourth-graders are getting poetic about eating peanut butter-and-jelly sandwiches under trees and about the insects that fly among the branches. And they are hoping that when they are parents, their own kids will enjoy trees, too.

It's all part of the city's Poet-TREE contest in honor of Arbor Day, which is Friday. The winning poem about trees will be engraved on a plaque and placed beside a sapling in a nature preserve at McCormick Park, city staffers said.

This week, municipal horticulturist Jimmy Beck and other city staffers are visiting six Euleless elementary schools to give free trees to about 500 fourth-graders and tell them about the environmental benefits of trees. The city is concentrating on community events such as this in lieu of its huge Arbor Daze festival, a music and environmental celebration that be-

gan 17 years ago and attracted thousands to the city last spring. The city announced last year that it would no longer hold the festival because of rising costs and financial risks.

At Wilshire Elementary School on Monday, Beck answered youngsters' questions, including how tall and how old trees can get. One California redwood is believed to be more than 2,000 years old, he said, and some have grown more than 300 feet tall.

Beck also made plenty of tree jokes.

"What do you tell a tree that's too close to your house?" he asked. "You tell it to 'leaf.'"

And what should you tell a cow that gets too close to your house?

This time the kids were ready.

"Moooooove," they chanted.

Kidding aside, "trees are the caretakers of the earth — and people are the caretakers of trees," Beck said.

Beck praised the fourth-graders' poems, noting that one was "kind of tear-jerking. It was about a favorite tree and how it seemed to be inviting a child to

come play and keep cool in its shade," he said. "At the end it said something like, 'Someday when I have my own children, I'll put them on my knee and tell them about that special tree.'"

City staffers, Hurst-Euleless-Bedford school district officials and Euleless Mayor Mary Lib Saleh judged 24 poems. The mayor will announce the winner Thursday during a visit to the student's school.

Ray McDonald, the city's director of parks and community services, said the youngsters took the poetry writing seriously.

Wilshire fourth-grader Joi Siler, 9, of Bedford said her family has five trees in the front yard and 10 in the back.

Her classmate Tariq Bell, 9, of Euleless said the poem his class wrote was "a classic, because not just one person made it up but we shared ideas and finally got it right. It was about how trees give us fresh air and food."

He said he plans to give his oak sapling to his grandmother.

"She has three or four trees, and I think she'd enjoy one more, as long as the dog doesn't eat it up," Tariq said.

Terry Lee Goodrich, (817) 645-3812
tgoodrich@star-telegram.com

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Eules students get a living lesson on how trees shape their world

TREE TIME

Fourth-grader Jauntell Davis holds a live oak sapling that she received Monday from the city of Eules in honor of Arbor Day, which is this Friday. At right, Eules horticulturalist Jimmy Beck tells fourth-graders at Wilshire Elementary School how trees affect the environment. Afterward, all the students got a free tree sapling.



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EULESS

Residents speak out against road project

By **TERRY LEE GOODRICH**
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

EULESS — A handful of Euleless residents told the City Council on Tuesday that they fear that a \$5.2 million Grapevine-Euleless project to widen a mile of Glade Road will result in traffic hazards, noise and tree destruction.

This month, Grapevine awarded a contract for the project to JLB Contracting of Fort Worth. The company will widen the road to four lanes from Champagne Boulevard to Texas 360. The project, which will take about a year, will include medians, turn lanes, and street lights in the median.

Steve Symonds, who lives in the 700 block of Glade Road,

said the changes will not aid the traffic flow and will instead pose hazards to people's back yards and pedestrians on sidewalks. Land on the south side of Glade Road is in Euleless and on the north side in Grapevine.

"The sidewalks will be right up against fences and property lines of homes that back up to the road," he said. "This will cause a very dangerous street where pedestrians, including many schoolchildren, walk."

Resident Mary Littlepage told council members that sound and safety barriers will be inadequate.

Residents voiced their concerns during the public comment portion at the end of the meeting.

Because the item was not on the agenda, by state law council members could not respond to the comments, Mayor Mary Lib Saleh said.

But Deputy City Manager Gary McKamie told those with concerns that the road will be "much safer than it is right now."

Officials with Grapevine and Euleless have answered questions and heard comments at neighborhood meetings, but some of the residents said they were unaware of the proposed widening until recently.

The Glade Road project is the last in a 10-year street improvement effort that included Farm Road 157, Mid-Cities Bou-

levard, Harwood Road, Main Street, Pipeline Road and Westpark Way.

ONLINE: www.ci.euleless.tx.us
www.ci.grapevine.tx.us

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"I was being told there was no hope, but I knew deep down there's always hope."

Mary Beth Reddell

Surrounded by hope

Northeast Tarrant: Cancer survivors unite for walk

By **LYNDA STRINGER**
Special Contributor

Mary Beth Reddell knows what it's like to be told you are going to die. She also knows what it's like to hold onto hope, keep fighting and receive a second chance at life.

The 43-year-old cancer survivor shares an emotional bond with her friend and American Airlines colleague Kim Giese, who has beat cancer not once, but three times, surviving Hodgkin's lymphoma, oral cancer and lung cancer.

Today the two women are the driving force behind AA's Angels, teams made up of American Airlines employees who will run in the American Cancer Society's Northeast Tarrant County Relay For Life on Friday at Trinity High School's track in Euless.

The first AA's Angels team was organized last year by Ms. Reddell of Grapevine, her friend Julie Szumski of Grapevine and Ms. Giese of Dallas. Since then, their grass-roots efforts to raise awareness of early-detection screenings among co-workers has paid off. Forty AA's Angels Relay For Life teams will compete in this week's event. The goal for the Northeast Tarrant County event is to raise \$100,000.

A survivors lap will kick off the relay around the track that will be lined with luminarias in honor of survivors and in memory of those who lost the battle with cancer. In a special

ceremony after dark, the small candle-lighted sacks will spell out "hope" in the stands, the one word that means everything to a cancer survivor.

After extensive surgery to remove the cancer that had spread beyond her colon and more than a dozen chemotherapy treatments, Ms. Reddell was told there was nothing more that could be done. But another doctor gave her a glimmer of hope.

He said when the tumor shrinks rather than if. "I grabbed onto that," she said. "I was being told there was no hope, but I knew deep down there's always hope."

In August, she underwent surgery at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas to remove two large tumors in her liver.

"I'm cancer-free today. I just got chills saying that," Ms. Reddell said. "Everything happens for a reason, and I know God had prepared me for this."

The two friends said that without a strong faith and support from family and friends, they might have given up.

"I'm a miracle. Kim's a miracle," Ms. Reddell said. "I think of how bad I was and where I am today. A year ago, I was deathly ill, and today, I just have a short haircut."

"We were blessed with great doctors and friends and support, and we want to make sure other people have the same thing," Ms. Giese said.

IF YOU GO

The 2006 Relay For Life-Northeast Tarrant County will be from 6 p.m. Friday to 6 a.m. Saturday at Trinity High School in Euless to raise money for cancer research and support programs. Relay teams of eight to 15 members will take turns walking or running laps around the school's track, keeping at least one member on the track throughout the night. The

teams compete to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The evening will feature a luminaria ceremony, skits and musical entertainment. For information about the Relay For Life, to join the survivor celebration or find out how to form a relay team, contact Kristin Bates at 817-689-3795 or Nanette Rix at nanetterix@texashealth.org, or go online to www.acs-events.org/tx/relay/netc.

Lynda Stringer is a North Richland Hills freelance writer.

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NATHAN HUNSINGER/Staff Photographer

Mary Beth Reddell rallies her American Airlines colleagues to participate in the Relay For Life on Friday and Saturday in Euless. Organizers are working to raise \$100,000.

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Eules Police
Department
Employee

Joe Domian

ARLINGTON — Joe Domian, 55, passed away Monday, April 24, 2006.

Funeral: 1 p.m. Thursday at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Arlington. Burial: Oak Grove Memorial Gardens in Irving.

Joe was born June 15, 1950.

Survivors: Wife, Betty Domian; mother, Maria Sanchez; daughter, Kallie Marie Domian; sisters, Catalina Fallas and Iva Eggleston; and niece, Paula Fallas.

Arlington Funeral Home
1221 E. Division St., (817) 548-1791

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FUNDRAISER

Relay for Life to aid cancer research

■ Northeast Tarrant residents will walk from 6 p.m. today till 6 a.m. Saturday at a fundraiser to fight cancer.

By **TERRY LEE GOODRICH**
 STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

EULESS — More than 2,500 Northeast Tarrant County residents will lose a little sleep this weekend to fight a devastating disease.

They will take part in the 2006 American Cancer Society Relay for Life in Northeast Tarrant County. The event, part of a national drive to raise money for cancer research and awareness, will be at Trinity High School's quarter-mile track from 6 p.m. today until 6 a.m. Saturday.

The national goal is to raise \$317 million. Northeast Tarrant has already exceeded its \$100,000 goal with \$125,000 in pledges to contribute to Tarrant County's \$810,000 goal, event chairwoman Nanette Rix said. The theme for this year's event is Lights! Camera! Relay! Simultaneous relays will take place in Fort Worth and Lake Worth, organizers said.

"We've got a few that will run, but most of us will walk," Rix said.

She said about 200 cancer survivors in the Northeast Tarrant relay will eat barbecue at 6 p.m. today, then lead the Survivors' Lap to kick off the walk/run.

After an invocation, they will be escorted around the track by Trinity High School drummers. Rix said a praise band from Martin United Methodist Church will perform, and an inspirational video of cancer survivors and their families will be shown. Glow-in-the-dark sticks will light the way for relay teams of eight to 15 people who will take turns circling the track.

Among those doing laps will be Virginia Lynch, manager of the Chicken Express restaurant in Bedford, across Industrial Boulevard from the high school.

"I'm going to be there all night long," said Lynch, whose mother died of breast cancer. "There will be 11 of us there from Chicken Express, and we've got \$1,100 so far. And be-

cause people are going to need to eat, we're keeping the restaurant open all night, too. That sweet tea will keep you going."

Grapevine High School senior Kristin Bates, 18, president of team development and recruitment for the second consecutive year, said 102 teams have already signed up to walk, up from 64 last year. In 2005, the Northeast Tarrant relay brought in \$92,000 of Tarrant County's \$743,000 total.

"I got involved with this because when I was in second grade, my grandmother died of colon cancer when she was only 56," Bates said. "And last year, my grandfather died of lung cancer."

Organizers said participants don't have to be on a team and may register on-site.

A bounce house and face painting will be offered for children. Volunteers have offered to give haircuts and manicures in hopes of receiving donations, Rix said. The event will include poker and bingo tournaments.

Simultaneous relays will be at Farrington Field, 1501 University Drive in Fort Worth,

IN THE KNOW

If you go

- American Cancer Society Relay for Life in Northeast Tarrant County
- Trinity High School
- 500 N. Industrial Blvd.
- 6 p.m. today to 6 a.m. Saturday. Registration will be from 5:30 to 9 p.m. today
- No cost, but donations may be made
- (817) 685-4960 or (817) 685-4969
- www.acsevents.org/tx/relay/netc

and at Lake Worth High School, 4210 Boat Club Road in Lake Worth.

Terry Lee Goodrich, (817) 685-3812
 tgoodrich@star-telegram.com

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NORTHEAST TARRANT & AREA BRIEFS

Carrollton man killed in motorcycle crash

EULESS - A Carrollton man was killed early Thursday when the motorcycle he was riding crashed in south Euless, police said. Mark Brandon, 55, died of blunt-force trauma about 2:30 a.m., police said. Officers found his body in a ditch on the shoulder of the 1500 block of South Pipeline Road.

- Melissa Sanchez

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NORTHEAST CLICK



John Dawson, Betsy Boyett and Jessica Campbell

School administrator meeting speaker

Gene Buinger, superintendent of the Hurst-Euless-Bedford school district, spoke at the H-E-B Chamber of Commerce's April luncheon, which took place at First United Methodist Church of Hurst.

SPECIAL TO THE STAR-TELEGRAM/MIKE LEWIS



Conner Patterson, Alysia St.Clair, Barak St.Clair, Mindy Patterson and Carolyn Patterson

Egg hunt scrambles up fun

An egg hunt, a bounce house and games were part of the fun at the Euless Easter Egg Scramble at the parks at Texas Star.

