

MAYOR CITY COUNCIL CITY ATTORNEY CRIM HENNIG MCKAMIE RIDGWAY(2) BOYETT
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June 03, 2006

Mayors from Chicago and Euless touted for making cities livable

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS (AP) - Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and Euless, Texas Mayor Mary Lib Saleh were toasted Saturday at the U.S. Conference of Mayors with awards for leadership in making their cities more livable.

Daley was given an award for the Chicago Bicycle Program, which helped establish 100 miles of bike lanes and 50 miles of off-street bike trails.

Euless Mayor Saleh was awarded in the category for cities with under 100,000 people for creating a garbage composting education program called "Compost-ology."

Thanks to the program, about 110 tons of waste were diverted from the normal waste stream from January to March last year compared to a year earlier, the conference said in a release.

The city of 53,000 took a state grant of about \$30,000 and gave away compost bins, thermometers and worms to adults who took classes. The program quickly gained popularity as more and more people wanted to sign up, said Mayor Mary Lib Saleh.

"We knew it was a good program, we had no idea it was this popular," Saleh said. "It's one of those serendipities that you do and you say, 'Wow, we did something right.'"

The winners were chosen by three former mayors from a pool of 250 applicants based on leadership, creativity, innovation and broad impact on the quality of life for residents.

Other awards went to Austin, Texas for an energy conservation program; Irvine, Calif. for a community farm on weedy city land; and Lewiston, Maine for a tax education program that helped residents get back more than \$2 million since 2003, among others.

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LOW BLOOD SUGAR

Illness can look perilous to police

■ Medical professionals urge diabetics to carry medical information so they can be helped more quickly if their blood sugar drops dangerously low.

By **MELISSA SANCHEZ**
 STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

In recent months, area police have used pepper spray and a Taser gun to subdue two diabetics in separate incidents after the men became combative because of low blood sugar. A third diabetic is accused of being involved in a fatal accident.

Because the symptoms closely resemble those of being drunk or high, it is very difficult for police to tell the difference until they find a medical card or bracelet, or until a paramedic can test the patient's blood, Euless Assistant Chief Harland Westmoreland said.

Until then, police must make sure that diabetics don't hurt themselves or others.

"The problem that we are faced with is that we don't know what's causing the violence," Westmoreland said. "All we know is that we have to intercede with their behavior. We are forced to use some level of force to control the situation. ... We are caught between a rock and a hard place."



Bryan McManus was pepper-sprayed and stunned with a Taser by officers who thought he was intoxicated.

The problem could become more common as the diabetes epidemic grows. An estimated 20.8 million people in the U.S. suffer from diabetes, and roughly 30 percent of them are undiagnosed, according to the American Diabetes Association.

During the past 20 years, obesity among Americans has surged to more than 30 per-

cent of the population, leaving more people at risk for the disease, according to the latest data from the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Karen Witt-Moore, a registered nurse and certified diabetic educator at Baylor All Saints Medical Center in Fort Worth, said aggression is a common symptom among diabetics suffering from low blood sugar, also called hypoglycemia.

"People can start losing their common sense, and sensibility falls below what it should be," Witt-Moore said. "It can change your personality, you can lose focus and you can become rude or belligerent. The lower your blood sugar goes, the worse the symptoms get."

■ On Feb. 11, Euless police sprayed a 37-year-old man once with pepper spray and stunned him three times with a Taser gun after he became hypoglycemic in his car on the side of Texas 360 and Harwood Road. According to police reports, Bryan McManus appeared intoxicated or drugged and became combative. Authorities

did not realize McManus had low blood sugar until paramedics checked on him in the Euless Jail, police said. He was released without charges.

McManus declined to speak about the altercation but in a previous interview with the Star-Telegram said he was angry at the way police handled the situation and had hired a lawyer.

■ On May 24, Grapevine police pepper-sprayed a 48-year-old Corinth man after motorists called 911 when the man was seen standing in the middle of Freeport Parkway, police

said. The man jumped onto the side of a tractor-trailer and began to yell and bang on the passenger window with his fist so hard that the driver feared it would break, Sgt. Bob Murphy said.

Unable to calm him, officers sprayed him with one burst of pepper spray, Murphy said. It took two officers and a civilian to wrestle the man into handcuffs, and police later found a box-cutter in his pocket and an empty vial of glucose. About 30 minutes after he was given a glucose tablet and ate lunch, the man regained his senses. He was not arrested.

■ Last June in Fort Worth, a 31-year-old diabetic man ran a red light in his Cadillac Escalade and plowed into a car near Northeast 28th Street and Interstate 35W, killing a 15-year-old girl and injuring her mother and two sisters. Witnesses told police that they saw Leroy Reber driving erratically before the wreck. Reber said low blood sugar caused the accident.

The Fort Worth Fire Department frequently responds to medical calls involving hypoglycemia, Lt. Kent Worley said. Even if paramedics or police

IN THE KNOW

Symptoms of low blood sugar

- Sweating
- Shakiness
- Anxiety
- Confusion
- Difficulty speaking
- Uncooperative behavior
- Paleness
- Irritability
- Dizziness
- Inability to swallow
- Seizure
- Loss of consciousness

SOURCE: American Diabetes Association

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suspect that the person is diabetic, they must first subdue the person before trying to treat the symptoms, he said.

The American Diabetes Association has developed a training video and poster to help raise awareness of symptoms and to help determine when someone has diabetes and needs help. The poster and video, which are available to police, also have suggestions on how to avoid confrontation, association spokeswoman Rachel Morgan said.

Diabetics who have aggressive and combative episodes often forget the incident after their glucose level returns to normal, Witt-Moore said. She advises all patients to carry a medical bracelet or other information identifying them as diabetics. While it may not stop them being forcefully subdued by police, it will alert officers to their condition faster.

"Not everyone wants to wear a bracelet or medallion," she said. "But carry something identifying you as a diabetic so you can get the proper treatment."

ONLINE: www.diabetes.org

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THIS WEEK'S POLICE SCANNER

INSIDE THE POLICE SCANNER

Pit bull taken from Eulesss apartment

STAR-TELEGRAM

EULESS — Someone wanted to start the dog days of summer just a little early.

A burglar kicked in the front door of a Eulesss apartment Wednesday and snatched a pit bull named Bruiser.

No other items were taken in the burglary in the 1800 block of Airport Freeway, according to police reports.

A 23-year-old woman told police that she had left her chocolate brown pit bull at her apartment while taking her boyfriend on an errand Tuesday night.

When she returned early

Wednesday, the woman found her apartment door open, reports state.

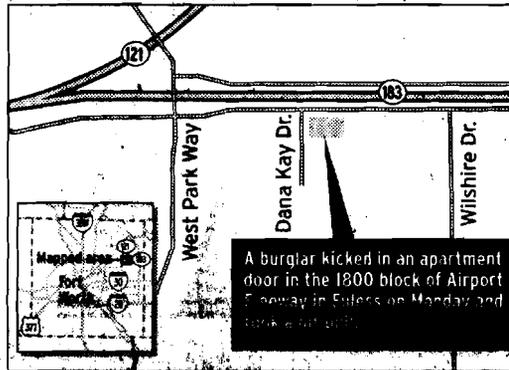
Bruiser, who was valued at \$2,500, was missing, re-

ports state.

Fortunately for the burglar, there were no signs of a struggle.

— Domingo Ramirez Jr.

Burglar takes pit bull



STAR-TELEGRAM

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DROUGHT

Dry months leave N. Texas parched and pining for rain

By BRYON OKADA
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

An unusually dry April and May returned parts of North Texas to moderate drought conditions, and the Metroplex is once again below normal rainfall levels for the year.

January, February and March rainfall totals were above the 30-year monthly averages for Fort Worth, raising hopes that last year's extreme drought was over.

No such luck.

"The reservoirs never really filled up, so we never really

The wettest month?

5.15 Inches of rainfall, on average, during May.

1.9 Inches of rainfall during May 2006.

6.91 Inches of rainfall during May 1999.

■ North Texas monthly rainfall chart. 10B

■ Jet ski safety tips. 10B

got out of the last one," said meteorologist Dan Shoemaker with the National Weather Service in Fort Worth. "We

were in the hole for May, and we're expecting a drier-than-average summer."

An average May, usually North Texas' wettest month, produces 5.15 inches of rainfall.

This May the total was 1.90, and North Texas' last really wet May was in 1999, when 6.91 inches fell.

The Climate Prediction Center forecasts hot, dry weather through August, and a slew of triple-digit days could be just ahead.

Tarrant Regional Water District officials said that the water supply is at 81 percent and that all reservoirs had below-normal water elevations as of 8 a.m. Friday.

"If the drought stays on, we could be seeing our supply diminished to potentially as low as 60 percent," said Dave Marshall, engineering services director for the Tarrant Regional Water District. "Typically, we'll see a 20-percent drop in the summer if it's drought."

That means the area's water supply could be in real trouble if rainfall is below normal this fall or during spring next year.

Saving water

Most greater Northeast Tarrant County communities will continue voluntary outdoor watering restrictions this summer because of the region's prolonged drought. The recommended rules:

North Richland Hills and Watauga	No outdoor watering between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Trophy Club	No outdoor watering or irrigation between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. unless residents are handsoaking with a hose.
Fort Worth	No landscape watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. except for hand-watering or soaker hoses from now through Sept. 30. No irrigation or other watering systems should be in use while it is raining.
Reston	No restrictions.

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AREA & STATE BRIEFS

Reward is offered in deaths of 11 ducks

EULESS – A reward of \$2,500 is being offered for information about the killer of 11 ducks that were beheaded or had their necks broken at a Eules golf course last month, officials with the Humane Society of the United States said in a news release.

The ducks were found between on the course and around a nearby apartment complex on Sotogrande Boulevard, officials said. Many of the ducks were female, and their heads had been placed beneath them by their eggs.

Call Eules police investigator T.D. Burnett at 817-685-1556 if you have information.

– Melissa Sánchez

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REGION BRIEFS

Site of officer's death gets marker

GRAPEVINE - Family and friends of policeman Darren Medlin have placed a memorial marker at the spot where Medlin was hit and killed by a drunken driver June 12, 2004. The four-year police officer was killed as he was standing beside a Ford Mustang that he had pulled over on southbound Texas 121 in Euless near the Grapevine line. Medlin, 34, was the first Grapevine officer killed on duty. The driver, Roy Alvin Adams Jr., was convicted in August 2005 of intoxication manslaughter and sentenced to 20 years in prison. Medlin's widow, Gina Medlin, said her late husband's cross is made of cedar.

Ben Tinsley

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TARRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

How dirty is that diner? Go online to find out

By **BRYON OKADA**
 STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Tarrant County Public Health's restaurant inspection scores for 31 cities and Dallas/Fort Worth Airport are now available online, making it easier for the public to get the information.

County officials hope that by putting the information on the Internet, residents can avoid the hassle of making official requests to most cities in order to obtain the inspection scores.

"This has always been public

information," Environmental Health Manager David Jefferson said. "But instead of walking into an office and saying, 'Let me see it, please,' now all they're doing is going online."

The county is making the restaurant scores available for the cities they inspect, Jefferson said. Some cities — Fort Worth, Arlington, Euless, North Richland Hills — do their own inspections, so that information must be obtained through the cities.

Restaurants in Tarrant County

typically get inspected twice each year, unless they are prone to health violations or specialize in food that requires special handling, officials said.

"I think this is terrific," said Becky Henry, co-owner of Hot Chocolates in Hurst, which has enjoyed a string of perfect inspections. "North Richland Hills issues certificates that you can hang in your window, but Tarrant County hasn't had anything like that, so this is a way for everyone to know how you did."

Restaurant scores

■ Tarrant County Public Health inspects restaurants in the following cities: Azle, Bedford, Benbrook, Blue Mound, Burleson, Colleyville, Crowley, Dalworthington Gardens, Edgecliff Village, Everman, Forest Hill, Grapevine, Haltom City, Haslet, Hurst, Keller, Kennedale, Lakeside, Lake Worth, Mansfield, Pantego, Pelican Bay, Richland Hills, River Oaks, Saginaw, Sansom Park, Southlake, Watauga, Westlake, Westworth Village and White Settlement, and at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport.

■ For scores, go to health.tarrantcounty.com or call 817-321-4960.

■ Fort Worth inspections: www.fortworthgov.org/health/

■ Arlington inspections: www.ci.arlington.tx.us/health/

■ Euless inspections: Call 817-685-1625

■ North Richland Hills inspections: Make an open records request to the city secretary at www.nrhtx.com.

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ENVIRONMENT

City wins award for 'compost-ology'

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

EULESS — The city's "compost-ology" program, which aided Euleless residents in building home compost piles of grass, twigs and food scraps, has earned the Municipal Livability Award for cities with fewer than 100,000 residents from the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Mayor Mary Lib Saleh was recognized Tuesday night by the City Council for her leadership of the effort. The announcement was made at the 1,180-member organization's conference June 3 in Las Vegas. Chicago won in the category of 100,000 or more residents.

Euleless, population 53,000, distributed composting bins, workbooks, composting thermometers and spray bottles to residents and students during free workshops and school events, said Lori De La Cruz, an environmental consultant hired by the city to oversee the program. The city also distributed more than 100 pounds of red wiggler worms, which feed on organic material and produce waste that can be used to enrich soil.

The program was financed through a \$32,000 grant from the North Central Texas Council of Governments and \$6,700 from city funds and contributions.

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MILITARY

Army officer from Euless killed in copter landing

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Army released the name of an officer from Texas who was killed while exiting a helicopter after an emergency landing in Tennessee just outside Fort Campbell, but it is not offering new details on how he died.

The soldier was identified Tuesday as 1st Lt. Landon R. Casillas, 26, of Euless. He was an aeromedical evacuation officer assigned to the 50th Medical Company, 159th Aviation Brigade.

Casillas died Friday after a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter made a "precautionary landing" at a Clarksville, Tenn., airport when a warning light came on. The other four soldiers on board were treated at

the base hospital.

Fort Campbell spokeswoman Cathy Gramling said that the cause of death has not been released and that the incident is still under investigation. Local fire rescue workers who responded to the incident told *The Leaf-Chronicle* newspaper in Clarksville that the soldier was struck by the main rotor blades. Gramling said she had heard those reports, but she had not confirmed them officially with investigators.

Casillas joined the Army in July 2004 and arrived at Fort Campbell in October 2005. He is survived by his wife, Jessica, and daughter, Arle, both of Fort Campbell, and his parents, Richard and May Casillas of Euless.

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NORTHEAST AFTER HOURS

Starlight's last play

EULESS - The final Starlight Performing Arts production, *The Legend of Pocahontas*, will open at 8 p.m. Friday at the theater, 201 S. Ector Drive.

Showtimes through June 25 are 8 p.m. Fridays, Saturday and Monday, and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets cost \$9 and \$11.

The comedy, based on the American legend but with a few fun additions, marks the directorial debut of Lacey Smith. This children's production will mark the end of four years of live theater at the Eules venue, which will close this summer. 817-508-9101.

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CRIME

KELLER

176

DWI arrests in 2000.

384

DWI arrests in 2005.

DWI arrests soar in Keller

GRAPEVINE

387

DWI arrests in 2000.

340

DWI arrests in 2005.

The city has cracked down on drunken drivers, designating a full-time officer to look for them

By BEN TINSLEY
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

KELLER — Police officers hope the spectacle of drunken drivers being pulled over and arrested will send a warning to other intoxicated motorists to stay out of Keller.

In a span of six years, Keller officers have more than doubled the number of people arrested annually in their city and in Westlake who allegedly drove while intoxicated. During the same time, the numbers

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Post a comment on this report at www.star-telegram.com

■ Breakdown of DWI arrests for six Northeast Tarrant County cities. **15B**

for several other Northeast Tarrant County police departments have gone down.

At first glance it might seem that more DWI arrests mean the drunken driving problem is getting worse. But experts say it's an indication that

Keller is focusing on the problem and that its decision to designate a full-time officer to patrol for DWIs is paying off.

Officers trained in spotting drunken drivers help bolster arrests because they can spot intoxicated people a lot more quickly than other officers, said Tarrant County Assistant District Attorney Richard Alpert, chief of the misdemeanor section.

"Keller has certainly been aggress-

DWI arrests

Driving while intoxicated arrests in select Tarrant County cities from 2000 to 2005.

	Keller/Westlake Pop. 36,350/700	NRH Pop. 63,500	Bedford Pop. 48,600	Colleyville Pop. 21,720	Grapevine Pop. 45,600	Eules Pop. 52,900
2000	176	294	255	95	387	NA
2001	193	380	277	90	377	258
2002	279	436	243	83	421	418
2003	284	359	267	54	413	404
2004	403	392	219	33	304	466
2005	384	324	169	49	340	426

SOURCES: Keller, North Richland Hills, Bedford, Colleyville, Grapevine and Euless police departments

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sive in their DWI enforcement," Alpert said. "They've really stepped it up."

The Keller department's DWI arrests increased from 176 in 2000 to 384 in 2005, officials said.

Last year, Keller's arrests outnumbered those in the larger communities of North Richland Hills, Bedford and Grapevine, and were behind only Euless, which also concentrates on keeping drunks off the road, according to information from the departments.

Euless has no full-time officers exclusively for DWIs but has two traffic officers who patrol at night and keep a particularly close eye out for DWIs, said Euless police Sgt. Ron Williamson.

From 2001 to 2005, DWI arrests in Euless rose sharply, from 258 to 426.

Keller police serve their city's 36,350 residents, along with 700 in Westlake, which contracts with Keller for police services. Euless has 52,900 residents.

Keller DWI officer Craig Berry patrols late at night, looking for erratic driving behavior and listening for the "blips" that indicate his scanner is picking up someone driving over the speed limit.

Policing DWIs can be tricky work, experts say. Many bad drivers are not legally intoxicated.

Berry stopped a man about 1:30 a.m. June 8 on westbound Wall-Price Road after the driver failed to dim his brights to accommodate other drivers, was slow to respond to a green light and failed to signal a left turn.

But the man passed the blood alcohol test Berry administered, so Berry let him go with a verbal warning.

"It's surprising, but this guy is definitely 0.05 — below the limit," Berry said. The legal limit for Texas drivers is 0.08.

Berry, who drives about 150 miles a shift, said he expects the number of DWI arrests to keep going up during the summer heat and as the number of places that serve alcohol in Keller grows.

* The Euless and Bedford police departments fight drunken driving by using state grants that pay overtime for officers willing to patrol for DWI-related crime, said Euless police Lt. Steve Kockos and Bedford police Lt. Kirk Roberts.

Euless officer Scott Morgan, who regularly works overtime on DWI patrol, takes a dim view of drunken drivers.

"It's my job to get them off the street," Morgan said.

"They've made a mistake and are putting themselves and everyone around them in danger."

Grapevine has one full-time DWI officer but is budgeted for two, Grapevine police Sgt. Todd Dearing said. The second slot was occupied by Grapevine patrol officer Darren Medlin, who was hit and killed by a drunken driver

June 12, 2004. The driver, Roy Alvin Adams Jr. of Bedford, was sentenced to 12 ½ years in prison after a jury convicted him of intoxication manslaughter.

Grapevine police want to bolster their patrol staff before hiring another DWI officer, Dearing said.

Conversely, some cities, such as North Richland Hills — population 63,500 — don't hire specialty DWI officers because they prefer to spend their resources on regular patrol officers.

"We're just trying to maintain the officers we've got," said North Richland Hills police spokesman Larry Irving.

Medlin's widow, Gina Medlin, said North Texas cities — even those without DWI officers — are working hard to keep drunken drivers off the road.

"I think more DWI officers out there are a good idea," said Medlin, who has become involved in DWI education since her husband's death and is an advocate for enforcement. "But I also understand the costs and expense to put people through the training."

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