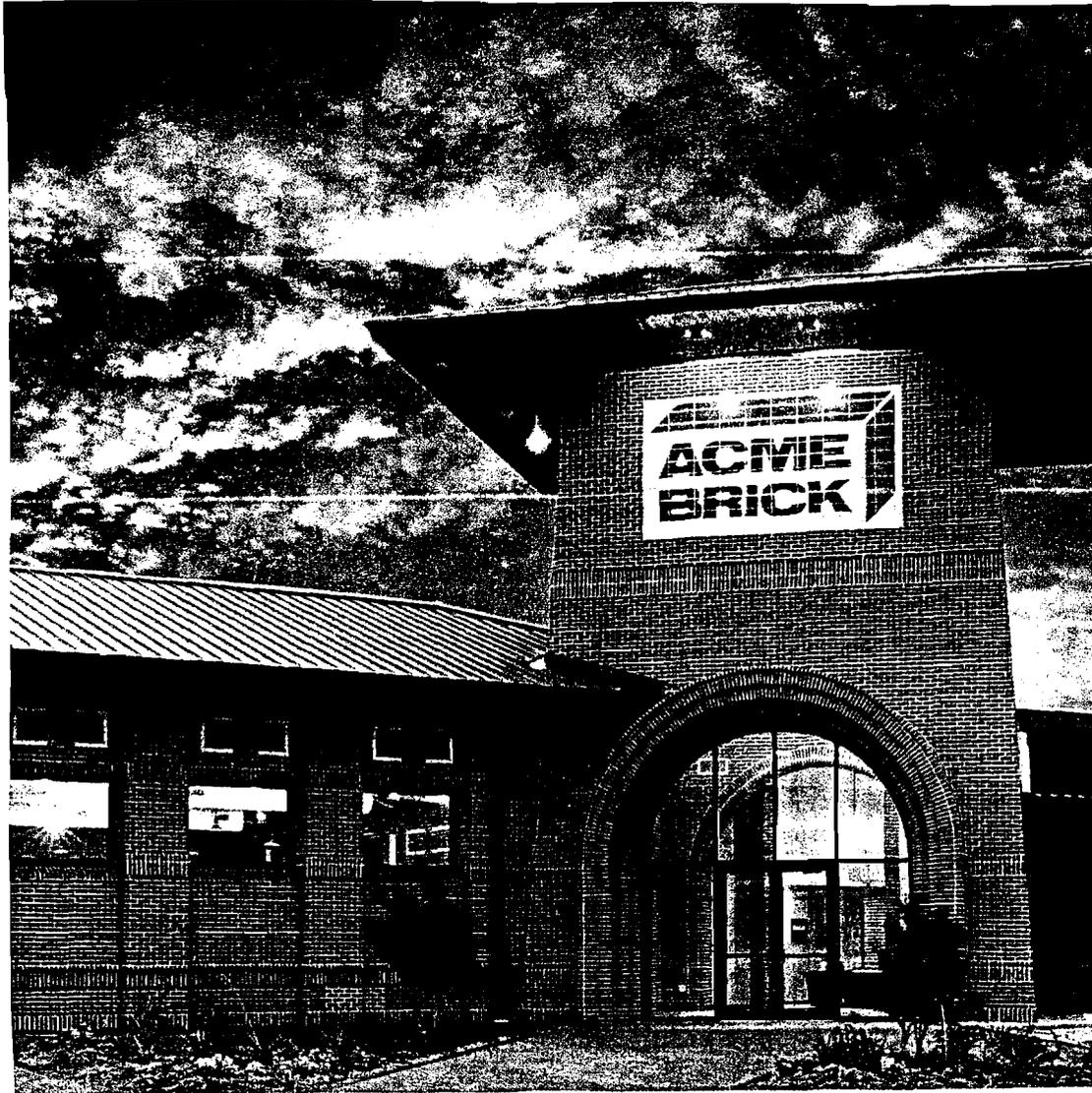


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DFW Fun Facts

- DFW claims two major arts districts. The 68-acre Dallas Arts District, anchored by the Dallas Museum of Art, the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center and the Nasher Sculpture Center, is the largest urban arts district in the country. The Fort Worth Cultural District claims several of the top museums in the state, including the Kimball, the Amon Carter, and the Museum of Modern Art.
- Beyond the two central cultural districts, DFW offers more than 175 museums and galleries, over 50 professional and community theaters, and dozens of local symphony and chamber orchestras, dance groups and opera associations.
- Within 100 miles of DFW there are more than 400 public parks, covering nearly 23,000 acres, and more than 60 lakes and reservoirs, covering approximately 550,000 acres.
- There are approximately 150 private and municipal golf courses in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.
- DFW is one of the few areas in the nation with six major league sports teams including Cowboys football, Desperados arena football, Mavericks basketball, Rangers baseball, Stars hockey, and FC Dallas soccer.
- In the Dallas metro area, cultural arts contribute over \$57.6 billion to the local economy, which is 30.3 percent of the state total. DFW is also Texas' most "arts intensive" metro area on a per capita basis, with \$6,654 expended per person on cultural arts.
- Fair Park, just southeast of downtown Dallas, is the site of the State Fair of Texas, the largest annual state fair in the United States and home to a variety of museums and theaters.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

June 2006

	DALLAS	FORT WORTH	DFW MSA
Civilian Labor Force	2,098,300	1,029,400	3,127,700
Employed	1,987,200	975,600	2,962,800
Unemployed	111,100	53,700	164,900
Unemployment Rate	5.3%	5.2%	5.3%

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
 PREPARED BY: GREATER DALLAS CHAMBER* BUSINESS INFORMATION & RESEARCH, 10/06

SOURCE: GREATER DALLAS CHAMBER* MEMBERSHIP
 PREPARED BY: GREATER DALLAS CHAMBER* RESEARCH
 DEPARTMENT, 5/06

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Eules (19)

The stars seem bigger and brighter in Eules. Maybe it's because Eules has one of the largest amateur sports complexes in Texas. Or it could be that Eules is developing into one of the most sought after business sites in the Metroplex. Whatever the reason, Eules is definitely shining brighter than ever and is becoming one of the brightest attractions of North Texas. Eules has built an all-encompassing sports center that offers golf, baseball, softball, soccer, fishing, walking trails along with several other recreation activities. The Texas Star Sports Centre consists of four entities including The Parks at Texas Star, The Golf Course at Texas Star, Softball World at Texas Star and the Conference Centre at Texas Star.

With a population of 50,000, Eules is rapidly growing into a comfortable, mid-size community with a small town feel. Located only 10 minutes from DFW Airport and 30 minutes from downtown Dallas and Fort Worth, one can enjoy the luxuries of the big city atmosphere yet come home to a community where neighbors know your name. City leaders are very innovative in providing cultural activities and facilities for residents. Texas Star Sports Centre, Simmons Senior Citizen Center, Midway Recreation Center, Fuller House Museum, Arbor Daze festival, musical events and children's activities are just a few of the opportunities city officials offer residents. In addition, Eules has one of the largest libraries in Northeast Tarrant County.

COMMUNITIES

Eules

County	Tarrant
Population 2006 est.	52,900
2000	46,005
Average Apartment Rent	\$660
Average MLS Home Price	\$152,696
Tax Rate	0.25
School District	Forney ISD

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NORTHEAST TARRANT & AREA BRIEFS

Gas leak closes Trinity for weekend

EULESS - Weekend activities at Trinity High School have been canceled because of a gas leak. The leak, near the tennis court on the south side of campus, posed no immediate danger to students, Principal Andy Cargile said. But the school's gas had to be shut off to fix it. "I'm sitting here, getting cold," Cargile said from his office just after 1 p.m. He was overseeing the notification of parents that their children would be released from school early, around 1:30 p.m. Friday night's varsity basketball game was still scheduled to take place in the campus gym, but the weekend wrestling match was moved to L.D. Bell High School. And because it was unclear when the leak would be fixed, Cargile said, all other weekend activities were canceled.

- Katherine Cromer Brock

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Cheers & Jeers

Cheers: To Euless Community Parks and Services, the Lions Club of Colleyville and the Lakeside Anglers of Denton for their support in helping challenged kids enjoy a day of fishing at Wilshire Pond in Euless. Cheers also to the local merchants who contributed items for the gift bags for each kid.

FishAthon Chairman Larry Turner, North Richland Hills

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ROBERT ALLEN | 1948-2007

Pharmacist's customers were loyal

■ He listened to them, asked about their families and never forgot a name.

By ALEX BRANCH
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

For 28 years, Robert "Pete" Allen gave customers at Super Value Pharmacy in Eulesse the kind of service they couldn't find at the big chain drug-stores.



ALLEN

He listened to their worries, asked about their families and never forgot a name, said Ialeen McGinnis, a customer of more than 20 years.

"If the doctor gave me a prescription for something [that Mr. Allen] knew would give me problems, Pete would say, 'Don't take it, Ialeen. You'll be

sick,'" McGinnis said. "I trusted him so much. He cared about his customers."

Mr. Allen, of Colleyville, died Wednesday, two years after colon cancer was diagnosed. He was 58.

His funeral was Saturday at Parker Memorial Cemetery in Grapevine.

Mr. Allen graduated from the University of Texas in 1969 with a degree in pharmacology and opened his pharmacy in 1978. His wife, Waltraud "Frances" Wirth Allen, and daughter Katherine Allen helped him run the store.

Mr. Allen was soft-spoken, attentive and personable, helping him compete with the Walgreens and CVS stores, Katherine Allen said. He never considered selling.

"It was something he just wouldn't have done," she said. "He liked helping people too much."

Mr. Allen used to have a contract with Eulesse for services under the employee health insurance plan, she said. He hadn't had the contract for years, but many firefighters and police officers remain customers.

Tara Meynard, a store pharmacist, said Mr. Allen was as loyal to his employees as his customers were to him. She started working for him in 1998 and left for a few years to spend time with her family.

When she was ready, Mr. Allen hired her again.

"He was a great boss," Meynard said. "He was kind of a father figure. I could bring any problem to him, and he'd listen and try to help. That's how he was with everyone."

In February 2005, Mr. Allen learned that he had colon cancer.

"He was devastated," Katherine Allen said.

Still, Mr. Allen worked fairly regularly until his health deteriorated, said Lucille Falls, an employee of 26 years. Worried customers often asked whether he or his family needed anything.

His wife and daughter were at his side when he died.

The family asks that memorial contributions be made to cancer research or scholarships for aspiring pharmacists.

Mr. Allen was buried in a simple pine box, per his request, Katherine Allen said. He didn't want a lot of money spent.

"We'll take all the money we save and put it toward something good; something will help someone else," she said. "That was his wish."

Other survivors include brothers Jim Allen and Charlie Allen.

Alex Branch, 817-390-7689
abranch@star-telegram.com

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PROFILE | BLACK HISTORY MONTH

His willingness to learn, work hard leads to success

■ Eules' first African-American postmaster rose quickly through the ranks at the Postal Service thanks to a strong work ethic.

By **PATRICK MCGEE**
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

EULESS — Tony Madden said he believes in simple, old-fashioned values like hard work, a practice that has led to four promotions for him in the Postal Service in the past two decades.

Last month, he became the first African-American postmaster in Eules.

The Fort Worth native, who started with the Postal Service as a janitor, is now in charge of the city's only post office, a \$5.4 million operation with 75 employees. The city has 28,719 mailboxes.

"I've never gotten to a point in my career where I am satisfied in where I am. I continually try to succeed," Madden said in an interview in his office this week. "The more you learn, the more valuable you are, so I'm always trying to learn more."

Postal officials said that's just what Madden did.

"Tony's work ethic and dedication were evident early in his career," said Linda Welch, district manager for the Fort Worth district. "His contributions to the organization made him stand out, so it was only natural that he would pursue a career in management.

Through various assignments within the Metroplex, he

sharpened his leadership skills and made major performance achievements."

Madden, 41, is married with a son, 10, and a daughter, 5. He describes himself as a "huge baseball fan," avid golfer and dedicated member of

Tony Madden, 41, last month became the first African-American postmaster in Eules.



IN THE KNOW

Tony Madden

- Age: 41
- Experience: Army, 1983-85. U.S. Postal Service, 1986-present
- Family: married for 12 years, with a son, 10, and a daughter, 5
- Hobbies: church, golf, softball and coaching Little League

the Inspiring Temple of Praise Church, a nondenominational church in Fort Worth.

Madden started working for the Postal Service as a custodian in Arlington in 1985 after serving in the Army for two years.

A year later he was a mail handler in Fort Worth. He was placed in his first supervisory position in 1992.

As a manager, Madden said he often draws on lessons from his childhood.

His father was a master sergeant in the Army, and his career had the family living for years at a time in Germany, Okinawa, Iowa and Arizona.

"The blessing of being a military brat is you really know no race. Everybody is the same; you don't have the same divisions taught to you," he said. "You learn how to just deal with people as people"

Madden is now working with his pastor and several other members of his church to start a program that will help young black men prepare for job interviews and careers.

He said the newly formed program, called Clothing, Confidence and Careers, will teach the men strategies for a good interview and will buy them business attire if necessary.

The Rev. Reginald Jordan, the pastor of Inspiring Temple of Praise Church, said Madden is well-suited for this project because he has such a strong focus on work and goals.

"He's very pro-man as far as career is concerned, and he has a burden, if you will, for young men becoming articulate, well-dressed, having some intelligence about them so they can accomplish their goals in life. He's very professional, if you will," Jordan said.

Madden said he wants the program to focus on practical steps that helped him get ahead in the workplace.

"We basically understand one level, the street level. We need to be able to elevate ourselves," Madden said. "As we grow up black or African-American, your steps are harder for achievement. Things don't always come as easy, so you just always do your best and hope someone recognizes you for what you do."

Patrick McGee, 817-685-3806
pmcgee@star-telegram.com



MADDEN

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MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

A STRUGGLE FOR THE BALLOT

Few stationed overseas opt to face the challenge of voting in local contests

By **KATHERINE CROMER BROCK**
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Members of the armed forces have historically fought for our freedoms, including the right to vote in a democratic election.

Yet the process for military personnel stationed overseas to vote in their local city and school district elections is cumbersome and confusing, and few choose to do so.

The election season officially opens Saturday, the first day that candidates for the May 12 municipal and school board elections may file for a place on the ballot.

But the voting process for citizens overseas will be even trickier than in May 2006. Because a Tarrant County bond issue was on the ballot last year, the Tarrant County Elections Department mailed Federal Post Card Application ballots to servicemen and women for that election. Only about 100 were returned, officials said.

"This May, we may not have any," said Gayle Hamilton, assistant elections administrator.

No countywide issue is on the ballot this year, so military personnel must apply directly to their city or school district office for an absentee ballot, or an FPCA, which is free of postage. That application will then be forwarded to the county, and a ballot will be sent, said Chris Walker, early voting coordinator.

Though the county receives four or five FPCA applications daily, the same is not true for the local offices.

"In the five years I've been doing this, I don't know of a single time that we've had an [application] forwarded from a city or an ISD," Walker said. "I don't know if people just don't think about it, or if they just don't know the law."

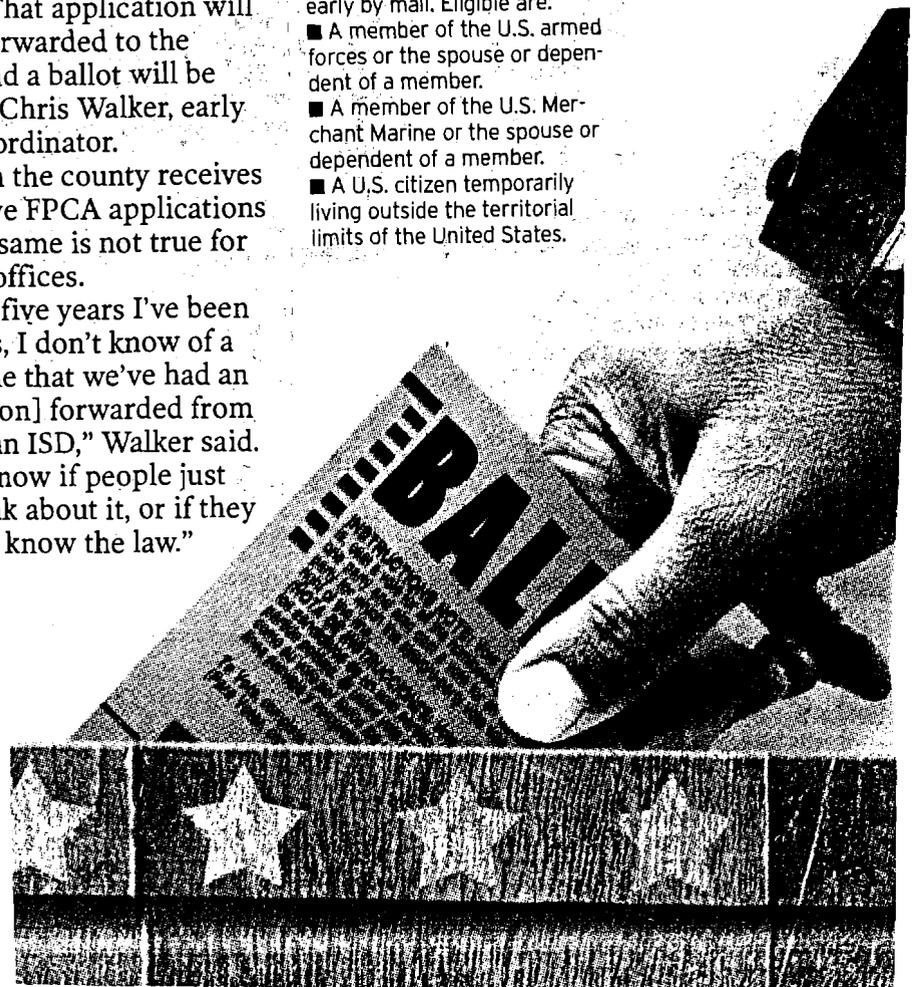
Voting abroad

What is an FPCA?

The Federal Post Card Application is a form that allows U.S. citizens abroad to temporarily register to vote and to vote early by mail. Eligible are:

- A member of the U.S. armed forces or the spouse or dependent of a member.
- A member of the U.S. Merchant Marine or the spouse or dependent of a member.
- A U.S. citizen temporarily living outside the territorial limits of the United States.

The FPCA is a request for a ballot by mail and a temporary voter registration. It is treated as express mail at no additional cost. To get an FPCA, contact the election coordinator for your city or school district.



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Tips for armed forces absentee voting

1. Contact your unit Voting Assistance Officer for help with absentee registration and voting.
2. Visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program's Web site at www.fvap.gov for information.
3. Make sure you have applied for your absentee ballot using the hard copy or online versions of the FPCA.
4. Make sure that your local election official has your current mailing address.
5. Sign and date all election materials.
6. Fulfill your state's witness/notary requirements.
7. Ensure that your ballot or FPCA is post-marked.
8. Register to vote and request your ballot by April 12.
9. Mail your ballot no later than May 4.
10. Use the Federal Write In Absentee Ballot if you are overseas and your state absentee ballot does not arrive in time to be mailed back by the state's deadline.

SOURCE: U.S. Defense Department Federal Voting Assistance Program

Important Web sites for military voters
www.fvap.gov
www.sos.state.tx.us/elections
www.tarrantcounty.com/eVote

Reasons election officials have been unable to process the FPCA

- The form was not completed as requested by the applicant's home state.
- The local election official could not determine a voter's eligibility because the voting residence address was incomplete, incorrect or illegible.
- A current mailing address was not provided.
- The form was not signed and dated.
- The form was illegible.

How to file as a candidate

- Saturday is the first day to file for a place on the May 12 ballot, though some cities and school districts will begin taking applications Friday or the following Monday. The last day to submit an application is March 12.
- Some cities and school districts charge a filing fee. Candidates must fill out an application and receive information about campaigning and filing finance reports from the city or district.
- Check with your city or district for specific fees and requirements.

Key dates

- Feb. 10 - First day to file for a place on the ballot
- March 12 - Last day to file for a place on the ballot
- March 13 - First day to apply for a ballot by mail
- April 12 - Last day to register to vote
- April 30 - First day of early voting
- May 4 - Last day to apply for ballot by mail
- May 8 - Last day of early voting
- May 12 - Election day
- June 16 - Runoff election (if needed)

MAY 12 ELECTION INFORMATION

Local election coordinators

Bedford

Shanae Jennings
 2000 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford, TX 76021
 Fax: 817-952-2103

Birdville school district

Kim Kirby
 Birdville Administration Building, 6125 East Belknap St., Haltom City, TX 76117
 Fax: 817-838-7261

Carroll school district

Donna Faifer
 3051 Dove Road, Grapevine, TX 76051
 Fax: 817-949-8228

Colleyville

Cynthia Singleton
 100 Main St., Colleyville, TX 76034
 Fax: 817-503-1139

Eules

Susan Crim
 201 N. Ector Drive, Eules, TX 76039
 Fax: 817-685-1416

Flower Mound

Paula Paschal
 2121 Cross Timbers Road, Flower Mound, TX 75028
 Fax: 972-874-6453

Grapevine

Linda Huff
 200 S. Main St., Grapevine, TX 76051
 Fax: 817-410-3004

Grapevine-Colleyville school district

Karen Coleman
 3051 Ira E. Woods Ave., Grapevine, TX 76051
 Fax: 817-481-2907

Haltom City

Brenda Staab
 5024 Broadway Ave., Haltom City, TX 76117
 Fax: 817-834-7237

Haslet

Diane Rasor
 City Hall, 105 Main St., Haslet, TX 76052
 Fax: 817-439-1606

Hurst

Rita Frick
 1505 Prechinct Line Road, Hurst, TX 76054-3395
 Fax: 817-788-7054

Hurst-Eules-Bedford school district

Diane Cramer
 1849 Central Drive, Bedford, TX 76022
 Fax: 817-354-3558

Keller

Sheila Stephens
 P.O. Box 770, Keller, TX 76244-0770
 Fax: 817-743-4190

Keller school district

Cindy Davis
 350 Keller Parkway, Keller, TX 76248
 Fax: 817-337-3261

Northwest school district

Christa Spearman
 Business Office, P.O. Box 77070, Fort Worth, TX 76177
 Fax: 817-215-0009

North Richland Hills

Patricia Hutson
 7301 N.E. Loop 820, North Richland Hills, TX 76180
 Fax: 817-427-6016

Richland Hills

Linda Cantu
 3200 Diana Drive, Richland Hills, TX 76118
 Fax: 817-299-1803

Roanoke

Kelly Edwards
 108 South Oak St., Roanoke, TX 76262
 Fax: 817-491-2242

Southlake

Lori Farwell
 1400 Main St., Suite 270, Southlake, TX 76092
 Fax: 817-748-8270

Trophy Club

Lisa Ramsey
 Svore Municipal Building, 100 Municipal Way, Trophy Club, TX 76262
 Fax: 817-491-9312

Watauga

Kathleen Waddell
 7105 Whitley Road, Watauga, TX 76148
 Fax: 817-281-1991

Westlake Academy/Town of Westlake Board of Aldermen

Kim Sutter
 3 Village Circle, Suite No. 207, Westlake, TX 76262
 Fax: 817-430-0967

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May 12 elections

Here's a list of the seats that are up for election, the incumbents and the term of office.

CITY COUNCILS

Bedford

Three years
 Place 3: Lori Nail
 Place 5: Leahmon Chambers
 Municipal Court Judge: Tim Murphy

Colleyville

Three years
 Mayor: David Kelly
 Place 1: George Boll
 Place 2: Tony Licata

Eules

Three years
 Place 1: Carl Tyson
 Place 3: Linda Martin
 Place 6: Vacant (two-year unexpired term)

Flower Mound

Two years
 Place 1: Joel D. Lindsey
 Place 3: Tim Trotter
 Place 5: Jeff Tasker

Grapevine

Three years
 Place 3: Clydene Johnson
 Place 4: Darlene Freed

Haltom City

Two years
 Mayor: Bill Lanford
 Place 1: Jim Sutton
 Place 2: Chris Holcomb
 Place 7: Diane Bransom

Haslet

Two years
 Mayor: Gary Hulse
 Place 2: Lynnda McCoy
 Place 4: Harold Williams

Hurst

Two years
 Place 1: Charles Swearingen
 Place 2: Larry Kitchens
 Place 6: Henry Wilson

Keller

Two years
 Mayor: Julie Tandy
 Place 1: Steve Trine
 Place 5: Mitch Holmes

North Richland Hills

Two years
 Place 1: John Lewis
 Place 3: Suzy Compton
 Place 5: David Whitson
 Place 7: Tim Welch

Richland Hills

Two years
 Place 1: Jeff Ritter
 Place 3: Phil Heinze
 Place 5: Mike Sloan

Roanoke

Two years
 Mayor: Carl "Scooter" Gierisch
 Ward 1: Kevin Stillwell
 Ward 2: Kirby Smith
 Ward 3: Frank Temple

Southlake

Three years
 Place 3: John Terrell
 Place 4: Gregory Jones
 Place 5: Virginia Muzyka

Trophy Club

Two years
 Mayor: Nick Sanders
 Two at-large seats:
 Greg Lamont
 Roger Williams

Watauga

Two years
 Mayor: Harry Jeffries
 Place 3: Mike Steele
 Place 4: Mike Beierschmitt
 Place 5: Seth Thomas

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Birdville

Three years
 Place 6: Ralph Kunkel
 Place 7: David Pokluda

Carroll

Three years
 Place 6: Rob Glover
 Place 7: Sherri Williams

Grapevine-Colleyville

Three years
 Place 3: Nancy Coplen
 Place 4: Lisa Hall

Hurst-Eules-Bedford

Three years
 Place 3: Jim Schooler
 Place 4: Ellen Jones
 Place 5: Faye Beaulieu

Keller

Three years
 Place 1: Linn Jencopale
 Place 2: Randy Pugh
 Place 3: Cindy Lotton
 Place 5: Gerry Knowles (one-year unexpired term)

Northwest

Three years
 Place 3: Daryl Laney
 Place 7: Jeannette Leong

Westlake Academy school board/Town of Westlake Board of Aldermen

Two years
 Four at-large seats:
 Larry Corson
 Fred Held
 Don Redding
 Bob Timmerman (one-year unexpired term)

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The Dallas Morning News

News Local News

Eules pushes judge to toss Santeria suit

Priest challenging city's ban on killing animals as affront to his faith

12:00 AM CST on Sunday, February 4, 2007

By **MICHAEL GRABELL** / The Dallas Morning News
mgrabell@dallasnews.com

The city of Eules has asked a federal judge to dismiss a religious discrimination lawsuit filed by a Santeria priest who wants to sacrifice animals at his home.

The priest, Jose Merced, sued the city in December after police and permit officials told him he couldn't kill goats for an initiation ceremony.

At the center of the lawsuit is a 2000 federal land-use law, which says that local governments must show a compelling public interest before enforcing an ordinance that could limit a religious practice.

Eules argues in court records that the act is unconstitutional because it amounts to Congress intruding on a state's right to regulate the health and welfare of its residents.

"Slaughtering of any animal in the city of Eules is illegal for anyone, just like it has been for decades," said the city's attorney, William McKamie.

"If the local government officers, before they enforce a general ordinance, were forced to question people's beliefs and practices, that would be entanglement in religion, which is clearly unconstitutional," he said.

The U.S. is steeped in the idea that governments can't prohibit the practice of a religion. But does that mean someone can hold a religious ceremony anywhere, anytime?

Where to draw the line has been the subject of a tug of war in the last two decades between the U.S. Supreme Court and Congress. And Mr. Merced and Eules have stepped right in the middle of it.

Followers of the African-Caribbean religion believe that the energy contained in blood from an animal sacrifice opens a channel of direct communication with the spirits, known as orishas.

Mr. Merced's lawsuit contends that the city violated the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, which says that municipalities must show a compelling interest before implementing a land-use regulation, such as a zoning law, that hinders religious practices.

CLICK IMAGE
TO ENLARGE



CHERYL DIAZ
MEYER/DMN

Santeria priest Jose Merced sued Eules in December, saying the city's ban on killing animals infringed on his right to practice his religion. The city says the federal law used to support his claim is unconstitutional.

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But Mr. McKamie said the ban of animal slaughter is a health and safety law, not a land-use law, and applies to the entire city. If Euless had to make an exception for sacrifice, that would force the city to endorse Santeria, because it would be favoring a religious group over a secular one, he said.

Mr. McKamie helped overturn the predecessor to the religious land-use law in a case involving Boerne, Texas. And he defended Euless against a 2003 lawsuit by Grace Community Church, which was denied a permit to move into a vacant supermarket. That case was settled with the city paying more than \$200,000. The church moved to Southlake.

Courts vs. Congress

Until 1990, courts applied a broad test when determining if a law violated the free exercise of religion: Did the law substantially burden a religious practice? And if so, was it justified by a compelling government interest?

But that changed in a Supreme Court case involving members of an American Indian church who were denied unemployment benefits after losing their jobs for using peyote in a sacrament. The court ruled that neutral laws that applied to everyone didn't constitute religious discrimination.

Congress fought back in 1993, passing the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which reinstated the old standard and said that if a municipality proves a compelling interest, the law must be carried out in the least restrictive way possible.

But in 1997, the high court struck down the law in a case involving a mission-style church that wanted to expand in a historic district in the Hill Country city of Boerne. The justices held that the religious freedom act was unconstitutional because it allowed Congress to intrude on states' rights to regulate the welfare of its residents.

Congress came back in 2000 with the religious land-use law, known by its acronym, RLUIPA. The act restores the old compelling interest test in specific cases, such as zoning proposals. The Supreme Court has not heard a case on land-use matters, but lower courts have.

"The challenges have been consistently rejected, and the reason they have been rejected is that Congress respected the rules that the Supreme Court set out for it," said Anthony Picarello, vice president of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which runs the Web site www.rluipa.com.

But Mr. McKamie disagreed, saying that courts have thrown out several cases where a law didn't create a "substantial burden" on a religious practice.

"Congress still didn't get it right when they adopted RLUIPA when they attempted to overrule the Supreme Court," he said. If it comes before the court, "I think it's going to be held unconstitutional on all or at least some of the grounds."

Euless case

The Euless dispute escalated in May when an unidentified person called police and complained that Mr. Merced and other Santeria followers were going to sacrifice several goats.

An animal control officer told him that it was "against city ordinance to slaughter animals but he was unsure if it would be ok if it was done for religious purposes." the report said

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Mr. Merced and a Santeria priest from Puerto Rico met with Eules planning and development officials in June. Mr. Merced said he asked for a permit to perform animal sacrifices, and the officials told him "absolutely not."

Mr. McKamie said no one from the city specifically discussed animal sacrifice with them, only that there's no permit for animal slaughter in Eules.

"Religious sacrifice never has ever arisen from the city's standpoint," he said.

Under the ordinance, Mr. Merced would be allowed to kill chickens so long as they are for food, Mr. McKamie said.

After being sacrificed, the chickens and goats used in the ritual are cleaned, cooked in a stew and eaten during a feast. But the law prohibits the killing of goats for any reason.

Since the lawsuit was filed, national religious freedom and Latino advocacy groups have sent letters to Eules officials, pointing to a 1993 Supreme Court case that struck a Florida city's ban on animal sacrifice, saying that the law targeted Santeria followers.

"It's absolutely disappointing that they're spending taxpayers' money to fight a lawsuit that was settled 10 years ago," said K.B. Forbes, executive director of one of the groups, Consejo de Latinos Unidos.

The group, based in Washington, D.C., has asked Eules to allow the Santeria sacrifices and offered to hold religious tolerance training.

"Eules has a broad religious base there," Mr. McKamie said. "It's been a very tolerant city forever. It's just surprising that someone would claim otherwise."

But Mr. Merced disagreed.

"I've had four ceremonies, and they always come down and tell me I can't do it. That's not being tolerant," he said.

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NORTHEAST AFTER HOURS

Trout Fishing

EULESS - Trout Fishing in America, a three-time Grammy-nominated duo, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Midway Recreation Center, 300 W. Midway Drive.

The musical pair's recording *My Best Day* was recently nominated for a Grammy in the category of Best Musical Album for Children. The two musicians, Keith Grim-

wood and Ezra Idlet, have performed together for 30 years and specialize in family programs.

General admission tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children. 817-685-1666.

Polynesian revue

EULESS - The Polynesian revue Ke Anuenue will present a free performance at 7 p.m. Monday at the Eules Public Library, 201 N. Ector Drive.

Ke Anuenue, Hawaiian for the rainbow, entertains through colorful costumes, dances and songs. The program is sponsored by the city of Eules and ARTSNET's MasterWorks Series. 817-283-3406.

- Joy Donovan

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Home fields in N. Texas

The Texas Rangers may be the only Major League Baseball act in North Texas, but professional ballgames in North Texas cities are multiplying as minor, collegiate and independent leagues sprout up throughout Dallas and Fort Worth's suburban outfields.

Frisco has the RoughRiders, the Texas Rangers' AA minor league team. In suburbs from McKinney to Euless and from Duncanville to Denton, folks can watch amateur baseball starring the Texas Collegiate League's boys of summer.

And now there's a new league in town: Officials from Dallas-based Continental Baseball League will reveal Thursday the names of the new independent league's first two teams at news conferences in Lewisville and Keller.

Continental president and CEO Ron Baron said he's confident North Texas' newest franchises will succeed in a metropolitan area that come summer will have 10 teams, including the Fort Worth Cats, which is part of another independent league.

"We think we can carve out a nice niche there for both markets," he said, citing the growth in the areas around Lewisville and Keller as major factors for selecting the cities for the teams.

The Denton County team will play at Lewisville High this year, and the northeast Tarrant County team will debut at Keller's Central High in north Fort Worth. But Mr. Baron said that as the league grows, he hopes to talk to home cities about different ballpark options.

Mr. Baron said he expects to announce two other teams for his league in coming weeks. Tryouts for the league will be in March in Dallas. While TCL features players who still have college eligibility, Continental will showcase players whose eligibility has run out or players who have been re-

leased by their affiliates.

It used to be that the smaller teams stayed away from the big leaguers' turf, but in the 1990s, minor and independent leagues began sprouting up across the country in the shadows of their more well-known brethren.

Another league, Southern Independent Baseball, had been talking about working with Dallas to build a stadium in downtown Dallas, but those plans appear unlikely, and the owner of the proposed team is now considering sites outside downtown, including within other nearby municipalities.

The upstart teams aren't trying to copy the major-league business models or marketing techniques. And while thousands of North Texans now have a team nearby, proximity isn't the main selling point.

It's cost.

League and city officials said that while many families love spending a day at the major-league ballpark, they're not fans of the cost that can come with it.

"To attend is in the upwards of \$220, when you include concessions, parking and the like," Mr. Baron said. "Unfortunately, that's not affordable for many families today."

Cost for the smaller teams' tickets are typically less than \$15, though some RoughRiders tickets are about \$18. Rangers tickets last season ran from about \$6 to \$100.

Continental will charge \$5 to \$7 per game and won't charge for parking. Texas Collegiate tickets are about \$5. All teams typically have special pricing for kids.

Ginger Reed, the TCL's vice president of operations, said the minor leagues also have more accessible players who sign autographs and talk to kids before or after games. Because the crowds are smaller, the fans tend to forge more close-knit bonds with each other and parents are able to keep an eye on their kids even if they're running around the park.

"It's like they all somewhat come together," Ms. Reed said. "It's a very safe environment because the venues we play in are

more intimate."

Her league features some of the country's top rising college sophomores, juniors and senior baseball players from nearly 85 schools with teams in Coppell, Denton, Duncanville, Euless, Graham, Highland Park, McKinney, Mineral Wells and Weatherford.

She said TCL attendance has been growing since the first game in 2004. Last year the league's game attendance average was about 500 people, up from 425 in 2005. Ms. Reed said the league hopes to gain more teams and eventually split into north and south Texas divisions.

Mr. Baron said that the Continental league, like TCL, will also offer entertainment for kids and marketing opportunities for local businesses.

"We're more than just providing a baseball game," he said. "It's really a way for the community to come together with activities."

Lewisville officials see their team as a welcome addition that falls in line with recent initiatives to increase tourism potential and build a stronger, more recognizable image.

"If it draws the kind of crowds they say it does, it's just another amenity we can offer," said Lewisville spokesman James Kunke. "It's got a lot of potential."

Keller spokesman Kevin Lahner agreed.

"It all tends to work together, and it gives us a little bit of community pride and community identity," he said.

Mr. Baron said that while he visited more than 25 cities as he sought the starting point for his league, he liked the vision and drive of city officials in the new teams' homes.

"That pretty much hit a home run with us," he said.

By BRANDON FORMBY
Staff Writer
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

VALENTINE'S DAY CONCERT:

Grammy-award winning Trout
Fishing in America will perform a
Valentine's concert from 7:30 to 10
p.m. Friday at the Midway Recreation
Center, 300 Midway in Euless. Tickets
are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children.
Call 817-685-1666.