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NEWSPAPER

FWST

FILE COPY

BASEBALL

Central High to host minor league team

■ The Continental Baseball League team starts play in May.

By **ADRIENNE NETTLES**
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Play ball!

This spring, the new Continental Baseball League will host games in far north Fort Worth, hoping to draw families from Keller, Grapevine and Southlake as well. The independent league's 60-game season begins in May.

Games will be played at Central High School in the Keller school district, said Ron Baron, league president and founder.

"We're considering this Northeast Tarrant County's team," he said.

Baron will introduce the Keller team's owner, Larry Faulkner, at a news conference Thursday in the Keller Police Department's community room, 330 Rufe Snow Drive.

The team has not yet been named. The league, based in Dallas, will also announce a new team in Lewisville on Thursday.

Continental brings another baseball league to Northeast Tarrant. Euless has been home to the LoneStars, a Texas Collegiate League team that played at the Parks at Texas Star last year.

"We're still negotiating where we will play this summer," said Stacey Hollinger, LoneStars co-owner and president. The LoneStars' season begins June 6.

Baron met with Keller city and school district officials in November as part of his league's search for new franchise locations. The four-team league is expected to hold player tryouts in March.

The league selected Keller and Lewisville to be among its first franchises in Texas after considering 42 cities across the United States, league officials said. They were chosen for their family-friendly environments.

The pitch

■ Family-friendly, affordable baseball games Thursdays through Sundays. Tickets will cost between \$5 and \$7, depending on the team. Parking will be free.

■ The first game will be May 24. Five games will be played weekly, including one doubleheader. On Tuesdays, the team will offer free clinics for youths. Each clinic will last two to three hours and teach different aspects of baseball, such as pitching, hitting, baserunning, fielding and sportsmanship.

The partners

■ The Keller school district. Continental is expected to enter into a lease agreement with the district to play 30 home games at Central, said Bob DeJonge, district athletic director. "It will not conflict with any district games, practices or summer camps," he said.

■ The city of Keller. Since November, the city has worked with the league to find a place to play, Assistant City Manager Kevin Lahner said. "We are continuing to do things to introduce them to the business community," he said. "The league will bring prominence to the city and the Fort Worth area."

ONLINE: www.cblproball.com

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STAR-TELEGRAM/KELLEY CHINN

Growing up, Walter Morse heard stories of a second cemetery. But recent excavations at the rumored site found no bodies.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE: Watch an audio slide show at www.star-telegram.com

Buried in the past

By ADRIENNE NETTLES | STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

FORT WORTH — Benny Tucker eagerly watched as an archaeologist dug into a possible grave shaft believed to be the resting place of one of Mosier Valley's earliest residents. For Tucker, the shaft would provide clues about whether stories about a cemetery for freed slaves were true.

Most blacks born and raised in the eastern Tarrant County community are buried in the historical Mosier Valley Cemetery, but elders believe the earliest residents rest in a separate, unmarked cemetery. For years, the site has been pointed out as a hilly corner lot with a shade tree, off Trinity Boulevard just feet away from Bell Helicopter Textron's south plant.



MOSIER VALLEY | UPDATE

“The hope of finding anything else there is pretty much gone. I’ll keep the soil like ashes in an urn after a cremation.”

— Benny Tucker, president of the Mosier Valley Community Area Council

STAR-TELEGRAM/KELLEY CHINN

The Mosier Valley Cemetery is one of the last historical fixtures of the community founded by emancipated slaves.

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But Tucker's optimism turned to disappointment during last month's excavation.

Black residents still living in Mosier Valley grew concerned last year when Lennar Homes, a national home builder, began work at the site.

As president of the Mosier Valley Community Area Council, Tucker began speaking out about stories handed down for generations about the second cemetery. He thought history might be lost if houses were built there.

"Our hope was to move any remains that were found at the site to the Mosier Valley Cemetery as a final resting place," Tucker said.

Lennar agreed to stop work and hired the archeologist to search for gravesites. But to Tucker's chagrin, the dig yielded no human remains, just the possible grave shaft.

The archeologist gave him hope, though. Discoloration in the dirt in and surrounding the grave most likely was left from the body occupying it, Tucker said. The soil was placed in a box and given to Tucker.

For now, Lennar plans no further searches for graves, said its Dallas attorney, Steve Henry. Lacking proof that the site was ever a cemetery, Lennar can proceed, according to state law.

"If and as Lennar starts construction, it will certainly be on the lookout for any possible abandoned grave shafts," Henry said.

A rich history

January's dig is the closest anyone has come to finding a second resting place for Mosier Valley residents. It has prompted some longtime Mosier Valley residents to reflect on the early days of the community after the Civil War.

Emancipated slaves Robert and Dilsie Johnson founded Mosier Valley around the 1870s, naming it after the plantation where they were from, according to *The Handbook of Texas Online*. The handbook is jointly published by the University of Texas at Austin and the Texas State Historical Association.

"My deepest thought is that whoever did construction on the property, before Lennar, hit these graves and may have destroyed them."

— Benny Tucker

The Johnsons are buried in the Mosier Valley Cemetery. Forty acres for the cemetery were deeded to the Johnsons as a wedding gift by the Lee family, the property's original owners, Tucker said.

Members of the Lee family, who were white, are buried in the cemetery along with members of other early black Mosier Valley families such as the Parkers, Blackburns and Farrants, he said. A rectangular bricked area in the cemetery serves as a marker for graves where some of the Lees rest.

The Mosier Valley Cemetery remains one of the last historical fixtures of the farming community, which reached its heyday between 1910 and the 1930s, when its population peaked at 300 residents, the handbook says.

Most in the community held down jobs as handymen, sharecroppers and nannies in nearby cities, such as Hurst, Euless and Bedford, the handbook states. Mosier Valley at one time had its own school.

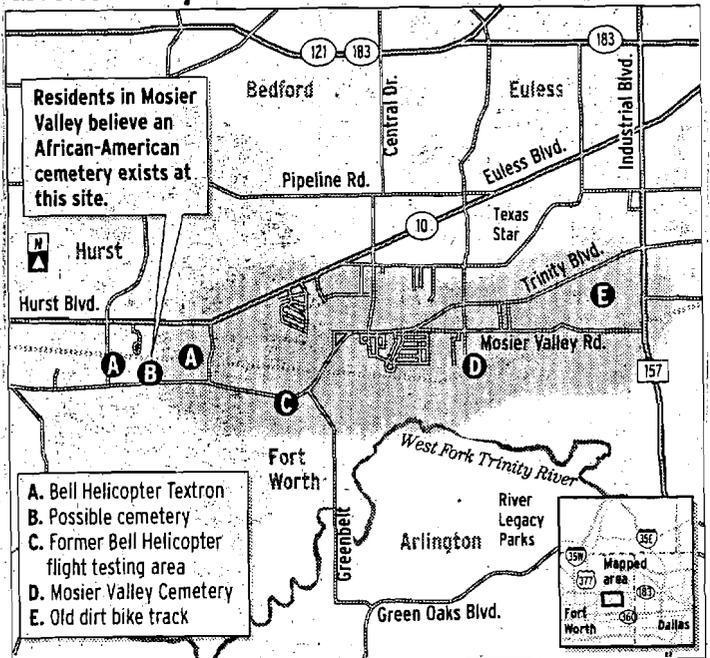
Fort Worth annexed the community in 1960. By 1994, more of Mosier Valley was lost with the construction of Trinity Boulevard, according to the handbook. Those who have managed to outlive such changes are all that's left in this community of a few dozen homes, along with a few black churches.

Mosier Valley resident Walter Morse, who is in his 80s, said he was a young boy when his father often asked him to go out and dig graves at the Mosier Valley Cemetery. Other men chiseled stones to make headstones for burials, which are believed to date to the 1870s.

"There was a group of men who would go out just to dig," he said.

While growing up in Mo-

Mosier Valley



sier Valley, Morse said he heard stories of another cemetery.

"I always heard that there was one," he said. "Some guys said they had stumbled over it."

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Residents say this tree, shown in September, marked the site of the second Mosier Valley cemetery. It has been cut down.

Morse's former neighbor Oran Shelton, who was born in 1918, recalled last year a cemetery atop a hill where he nicked his leg as a boy.

"We were chasing dogs that were running as fast as rabbits," Shelton said in October. "We were running through thick weeds that had grown tall... and I looked down and I had hit my shin on this iron tombstone marker following one of these dogs."

Tucker said such stories pushed him to seek out the cemetery.

Deed records over the years had provided Tucker some clues to the property's original owners. But requests made to previous owners, including Bell, went unanswered until Lennar acquired the land.

"My deepest thought is that whoever did construction on the property, before Lennar, hit these graves and may have destroyed them," Tucker said.

Bringing about closure

A box containing the soil from January's dig sits on the porch outside Earth Haulers, a Mosier Valley company owned by Tucker's brother, Allen.

"I think it brings about some closure," Tucker said of the soil. "The hope of finding anything else there is pretty much gone. I'll keep the soil like ashes in an urn after a cremation."

DNA testing on the soil could be done to reveal more details about the person, such as age, Tucker said. But his council's budget is too small to pay for it. The majority of its income comes from \$75 burial costs.

"We're still trying to build up an endowment to fix up the cemetery," he said.

Henry had no timetable for when Lennar will start building its development.

But there are signs that the project is moving forward. A tree that marked where Mosier Valley residents believed the cemetery sat has been torn down.

Tucker stood at the site recently and talked about the area's history. He said he accepts that more graves are not likely to be found.

"I'm hoping if I hold on to the soil long enough someone will do some testing on it," he said. "I'm sure if Lennar Homes comes across a grave again, they'll be willing to make the right choice and have it removed."

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STAR-TELEGRAM/KELLEY CHINN

Benny Tucker, president of the Mosier Valley Community Area Council, stands at the Trinity Boulevard site where he believes some of the community's earliest residents were buried. But because no human remains were found, Lennar Homes can continue developing the property.

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MAY ELECTION

Hopefuls can file for ballot today

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

While today is the official first date to file for a spot on the ballot in the May 12 election, most public employees won't be sitting in the office waiting for candidates to drop by.

Monday will be the actual first day for most cities and school districts to take applications.

"If someone finds me out in the world on Saturday, I technically am required to take their application," Flower Mound Town Secretary Paula Paschal said. But she won't be in the office and hopes that candidates will wait until the opening of business Monday.

Trophy Club is the only area municipality taking applications today, at the town secretary's office between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The last day to file for a place on the ballot is March 12.

Filing for Euless' special election for City Council Place 6 will not begin until Wednesday, when the seat becomes officially open.

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Larry E. Duckworth



SOUTHLAKE — Larry E. Duckworth, 59, president and chief executive officer of OmniAmerican Bank, passed away Thursday, Feb. 8, 2007.

Memorial service: 2 p.m. Monday at University Christian Church.

Memorials: May be made to Cook Children's Health Foundation, 801 7th Ave., Fort Worth, Texas 76104.

Larry E. Duckworth was a seasoned financial institution executive and strategist with over 35 years' experience in the financial services industry. Mr. Duckworth moved to Fort Worth in 1986, after accepting the position of executive vice president of Carswell Federal Credit Union. A promotion to president and chief executive officer in May 1990, served as a catalyst for propelling the credit union forward to a new age of strong growth and many successes. A befitting name change to OmniAmerican Credit Union in 1991, more accurately reflected the all American purpose and philosophy of the organization.

Mr. Duckworth began his prestigious career by focusing first on his education. He received a bachelor's degree in business administration with a major in marketing from Pittsburgh State University. One year later, he earned a master's of business administration with an emphasis in marketing from Wichita State University.

Early on in his career, Tulsa Teachers Credit Union in Oklahoma hired Mr. Duckworth and retained him for 15 years, where he served as vice president. While employed with Tulsa Teachers Credit Union, he served as chairman of the Credit Committee for over 10 years. Mr. Duckworth then accepted the position of senior vice president for John Deere Community Credit Union in Iowa, a full-service financial institution with over \$175 million in assets, before moving to Fort Worth to join OmniAmerican.

As president and chief executive officer, Mr. Duckworth's ability to foresee trends and strategically envision the future of the institution resulted in an organization's asset growth from \$170 million in 1990 to over \$1 billion in 2006. He was an award-winning executive and graciously accepted numerous national awards and honors during his career. As a result of years of successful campaigns and service, the secretary of the Treasury, Robert E. Rubin, bestowed the prestigious Medal of Merit. This honor is the most prestigious award presented for service to the United States through the U.S. Savings Bond Program. In addition, Mr. Duckworth received the Department of the Treasury's Medal of Recognition Award for the U.S. Savings Bond Program for exceeding \$50 million in U.S. Savings Bond sales for the Tarrant County geographic area and the Department of the Treasury's Patriotic Service Award for the U.S. Savings Bond Program.

In 2005, Mr. Duckworth successfully navigated the transition and conversion of OmniAmerican Credit Union to OmniAmerican Bank, a federally chartered mutual thrift with assets under management of approximately \$1.5 billion. Due to his vast experience, the American Bankers Association solicited Mr. Duckworth to participate in the American Bankers Association Community Bankers Council, and the Texas Bankers Association requested Mr. Duckworth's involvement in their Government Relations Council. Mr. Duckworth also serves on the Finance Committee of the North Texas Commission. Previously, Mr. Duckworth served on the board of directors of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, as well as numerous other professional and civic organizations.

With vision and fervor, he enjoyed raising Black Angus cattle on his West Texas ranch.

Survivors: Wife, Donna Duckworth; son, Mark Duckworth; daughter, Marlee Whittaker and her husband, Trevor; grandchildren, Kayla and Kyler Whittaker; and mother, Dorothy Duckworth.

Greenwood Funeral Home
 3100 White Settlement Rd., 817-336-0584
 View and sign guestbook at
www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

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MARKETPLACE

BIZ BUZZ

1 of 200 copies

FedEx Kinko's is rolling out a more compact version of its shipping and copy center stores, one of which opened this month in Euless.

Even though the stores are one-third the size of a typical FedEx Kinko's, they have more options at their pack-and-ship stations and twice the number of office products for sale. The stores also rent time on their computers and offer full-service and self-service copying.

The Dallas-based chain plans to open 200 of these stores by June, according to the company.

The new Euless center is at 1301 W. Glade Road, near SuperTarget.

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DATE DISTRIBUTED 2/16/07 DATE OF ARTICLE 2/12-18/07 NEWSPAPER Fort Worth Business Press

Eules gets residential with more single-family homes

The real estate group of Harris, Nicol & Welborn recently closed on 30 acres adjacent to The Parks at Texas Star sports complex on Highway 10 and Texas Star Parkway.

Justin Welborn, a partner with the firm, said the development will be called **The Villas at Texas Star** and will offer single-family homes. Meritage Homes Corp. has contracted to purchase all 110 lots, with construction slated for June. Welborn said the first phase of homes should be complete by January 2008. Average homes in the development will run approximately \$220,000.

Mark Howe and Mark Wood of Howe/Wood & Co. represented Harris, Nicol & Welborn in the transaction.

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CANDIDATES

Filing on the first day

Monday was the first day that candidates could file for a place on the ballot for the May 12 election.

Candidates may file through March 12.

Here is a list of filings reported to the *Star-Telegram* on Monday.

Municipalities

Bedford

Municipal judge: Tim Murphy (i)

Colleyville

Mayor: David Kelly (i)

Place 2: Tony Licata (i)

Eules

Place 1: Tim Stinneford

Grapevine

Place 3: Mike Lease

Place 4: Darlene Freed (i)

Haltom City

Mayor: Bill Lanford (i)

Place 1: Jim Sutton (i)

Hurst

Place 1: Charles Swearingen (i)

Place 2: Larry E. Kitchens (i)

Place 6: Henry E. Wilson (i)

North Richland Hills

Place 1: John Lewis (i)

Place 3: Suzy Compton (i)

Place 5: David Whitson (i)

Place 7: Tim Welch (i)

Richland Hills

Place 1: Jeffrey Ritter (i)

Place 3: Phil Heinze (i)

Roanoke

Mayor: Carl "Scooter"

Gierisch Jr. (i)

Ward 1: Kevin Stillwell (i)

Southlake

Place 3: John Terrell (i)

Place 5: Virginia Muzyka (i)

School districts

Carroll

Place 7: Sherri Williams (i)

Grapevine-Colleyville

Place 3: Nancy M. Coplen (i)

Place 4: Lisa Hall (i)

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STAR-TELEGRAM/KELLEY CHINN

Spirit of the islands

Marlena Samuels, front, and the rest of the Ké Anuenue Polynesian Revue perform a Hawaiian dance Monday at the Euless Public Library. The group performed a free show of dance and music from Pacific cultures, including Tahiti and New Zealand.

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POLITICS

Candidates file for May elections

STAR-TELEGRAM

Candidates may file for a place on the May 12 council and school board ballots through March 12.

At right is a list of filings reported to the *Star-Telegram*. An incumbent seeking re-election is indicated by (i).

Municipalities

- Bedford**
- Municipal judge: Tim Murphy (i)
- Colleyville**
- Mayor: David Kelly (i)
- Place 2: Tony Licata (i)
- Eules**
- Place 1: Tim Stinneford
- Place 3: Linda Martin (i)
- Flower Mound**
- Place 3: Tim Trotter (i)
- Grapevine**
- Place 3: Mike Lease
- Place 3: Tracy Wilkinson
- Place 4: Darlene Freed (i)
- Haltom City**
- Mayor: Bill Lanford (i)
- Place 1: Jim Sutton (i)
- Haslet**
- Place 2: Lynnda J. McCoy (i)
- Hurst**

- Place 1: Charles Swearengen (i)
- Place 2: Larry E. Kitchens (i)
- Place 6: Henry E. Wilson (i)
- Keller**
- Mayor: Julie Tandy (i)
- Place 1: Steven Trine (i)
- North Richland Hills**
- Place 1: John Lewis (i)
- Place 3: Suzy Compton (i)
- Place 5: David Whitson (i)
- Place 7: Tim Welch (i)
- Richland Hills**
- Place 1: Jeffrey Ritter (i)
- Place 3: Phil Heinze (i)
- Roanoke**
- Mayor: Carl "Scooter" Gierisch Jr. (i)
- Ward 1: Kevin Stillwell (i)
- Southlake**
- Place 3: John Terrell (i)
- Place 5: Virginia Muzyka (i)
- Trophy Club**
- Two at-large seats:

- Greg Lamont (i)
- Jim Moss
- Kathleen Wilson
- Watauga**
- Mayor: Harry Jeffries (i)

School districts

- Birdville**
- Place 6: Ralph Kunkel (i)
- Place 7: David Pokluda (i)
- Carroll**
- Place 7: Sherri Williams (i)
- Grapevine-Colleyville**
- Place 3: Nancy M. Coplen (i)
- Place 4: Lisa Hall (i)
- Hurst-Eules-Bedford**
- Place 3: Jim Schooler (i)
- Place 4: Ellen Jones (i)
- Place 5: Faye Beaulieu (i)
- Keller**
- Place 1: Joseph Sandoval

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TRASH STRIKE

Workers defeat bid to decertify union

By ADRIENNE NETTLES
 STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

FORT WORTH — Workers at Allied Waste rebuffed an attempt to disband Teamsters Local 767 that would have ended a nearly eight-week strike that disrupted trash collection throughout Tarrant and Denton counties.

Allied workers voted 133-73 against decertifying the union, Local 767 President Wesley Jenkins said Wednesday. The election was held Tuesday by the National Labor Relations Board at Allied's Fort Worth plant.

The union won despite an aggressive anti-union campaign by Allied, Jenkins said. If workers had rejected the union, Allied would not have to continue negotiating a new labor contract with Local 767, he said.

"Allied's attempt to sway employees since the fall of last year failed," he said. "The company's plan was to stall and delay negotiations."

Tim Powell, general manager of Allied Waste's Fort Worth

division, said that employees petitioned for the election and that the company did not try to stall negotiations. On Feb. 6, Allied offered Local 767 a one-year contract as the company's last, best and final offer, he said.

Jenkins said Wednesday the one-year offer was "nothing that we would entertain." Allied workers earn from \$35,000 to \$65,000, depending on job duties, according to Allied.

The union's previous four-year agreement with Allied expired Dec. 10. Five days later, more than 100 workers went on strike, forcing the company to find replacement workers for the 25 area communities it serves.

About 110 union workers remain on strike, Jenkins said. Residents throughout the region have complained about delays in trash collection, especially at the outset of the strike.

Allied now has the situation under control, Powell said

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