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PAGE 1 OF 1

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Eulesse city manager to retire

Dallas Business Journal - 12:54 PM CDT Thursday, April 12, 2007

Eulesse City Manager Joe Hennig said Thursday that he will retire Oct. 1.

Hennig, 59, has spent 15 years with the city of Eulesse. He's been the city manager since 1999. Prior to that he served as director of development services, assistant city manager and deputy city manager. He joined the city staff in 1992 after a 23-year career with TXU (NYSE: TXU).

During his tenure as city manager, Hennig oversaw revitalization projects such as Eulesse Main Street and Pipeline Road. He also was involved with the construction of the Texas Star Athletic Complex.

Hennig said he plans to spend time traveling and playing golf once he retires.

"I'll probably stay involved in the community and the city somehow," Hennig said in a city news release.

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REGIONAL ROUNDUP

EULESS

City manager since '99 to retire in October

Eules City Manager Joe Hennig will retire on Oct. 1, the city announced Thursday. Mr. Hennig, 59, has served as the city manager since 1999. He has worked for the city since 1992 and has served as director of development services, assistant city manager and deputy city manager. He worked for TXU for 23 years before joining the city of Eules. As city manager, he oversaw development along with bond projects that improved the major roads and infrastructure in Eules such as the revitalization of Eules Main Street and Pipeline Road. He also was involved with the construction of Texas Star Athletic Complex and the DFW Car Rental Facility. The City Council will determine Mr. Hennig's replacement.

Marissa Alanis

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EULESS | CITY HALL

Another set of big shoes

■ Joe Hennig's retirement plan means that Euless will have to find another top-notch city manager.

It was a sad day for Euless in 1999 when Tom Hart left his job as city manager to take the same post in Grand Prairie. Hart had shown that he was very good at running Euless, and he continues to show the same skill in Grand Prairie.

Everybody who followed the goings-on at Euless City Hall knew that it would be hard to replace Hart. Still, the City Council waited only a couple of weeks before promoting his deputy, Joe Hennig, to the top administrative post.

It proved to be a seamless transition, and Euless has thrived under Hennig's leadership.

Now Hennig, 59, has announced that he will retire Oct. 1. That's not good. If Euless has to replace a top-notch city managers every nine years or so, it could get really discouraging. Sure, nine years is about three years longer than the average city manager's tenure, but you can't blame Euless for being spoiled.

When Hennig took the job, he said

his No. 1 priority would be rejuvenating the city's Main Street corridor.

Mission accomplished, along with rejuvenating Harwood Road and the eastern part of Pipeline Road, all done (on budget) under a \$13.5 million bond program approved by voters in 1998. Of course, at times it seemed like the work would take forever, but the results are new, wider roads with nice landscaping, a face-lift for the city and these crucial thoroughfares.

Economic growth also has come to Euless during Hennig's tenure, with retail and commercial construction under way along Texas 121. The city also has refurbished the buildings in its administrative complex with the help of revenue gained through a tax-sharing agreement with Dallas/Fort Worth Airport. The airport's rental car center is in Euless, and it shares taxes on those rentals with Dallas and Fort Worth.

There's no reason to belabor the point. Having Joe Hennig as city manager has been good for Euless. He'll be on the job for almost another six months, so the City Council has time to find a suitable replacement. It just won't be easy.

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EULESS

City mulls urging parental notification

■ Planned Parenthood says it opposes notifying parents when teens seek contraceptives.

By JESSICA DeLEÓN
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

EULESS — The City Council is expected to consider a resolution April 24 that urges Planned Parenthood to voluntarily notify parents when mi-

nors seek contraceptives or abortion referrals.

Who's behind the resolution

The Northeast Tarrant County Right to Life Educational Association says it has received support from 40 pastors and priests.

"Parents ought to be given an opportunity to counsel their teenage daughter under the

age of 16 on those decisions," said Bedford attorney Neal W. Adams, who represents the group.

What the council has said

During a work session last week, council members were split about whether to put the resolution on the agenda.

Mayor Mary Lib Saleh and

council members Linda Martin and Leon Hogg, as well as City Manager Joe Hennig, said the matter is a federal issue.

Council members Charlie Miller, Glenn Porterfield and Carl Tyson wanted the item on the agenda.

After the work session, Porterfield said the council has approved other resolutions that

Sexual health study

A 2002 *Journal of the American Medical Association* study showed that 99 percent of girls 17 and younger would not stop having sex if their parents learned that they were seeking prescribed contraceptives. But more than half would stop seeking sexual health information and medical care.

would be considered nonmunicipal.

He supports the resolution because he believes parents should be informed when a child is counseled about abortion.

What Planned Parenthood says

Emily Snooks, spokeswoman for Planned Parenthood of North Texas, said the organization agrees with the Texas Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physi-

cians and other organizations that oppose requiring parental notification for contraceptives.

"Will the City Council ask grocery stores and drugstores to notify parents that a young man or woman are buying condoms or a pregnancy test?" Snooks said.

What have other cities done?

Bedford adopted a similar resolution last year by a 5-2 vote.

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Proposed resolution

Euleless is expected to consider a resolution that:

- Encourages parents to be aware that Planned Parenthood, which has an office in Bedford, is one of the largest distributors of contraceptives to unwed minors without parental consent and that it is the largest entity that makes abortion referrals for minors.
 - Asks Planned Parenthood to voluntarily notify the parents if unwed minors seek abortion counseling or advice about birth control.
 - Supports a resolution sponsored by state Rep. Todd Smith, R-Euleless, asking Congress to let parents be notified if their children seek contraceptive information or abortion counseling from Planned Parenthood or similar organizations.
- A resolution carries no legal authority.

SOURCE: Northeast Tarrant County Right to Life Educational Association

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INSIDE PUBLIC SAFETY

Anti-arson program in N. Richland Hills is honored

■ The Lone Star Achievement Award goes to two local fire departments.

By **DOMINGO RAMIREZ JR.**
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

NORTH RICHLAND HILLS — Ninety children have participated in the North Richland Hills Fire Department's juvenile fire-setter intervention program since it began in 2004.

Incredibly, just one has gone back to starting fires, officials said.

That success rate was one of the main reasons the program recently received the Lone Star

Achievement Award from the Texas Fire Chiefs Association.

The award is presented annually to fire departments that implement innovative programs to enhance their cities' fire safety.

North Richland Hills received the award last month, sharing the honor with the Eules Fire Department, which was recognized for its geographical information service for firefighters responding to calls.

Counseling and education

The North Richland Hills program provides education

and counseling for children who set fires.

In Texas, almost 400 blazes were started by children playing with fire in 2005, according to the most recent statistics from the state fire marshal's office in Austin. And those fires caused more than \$4 million in structural damage, statistics show.

"It's a very good alternative to putting juveniles in the juvenile legal system," said North Richland Hills Fire Chief Andy Jones. "The program not only works with a juvenile but with their parents."

The program targets youths

ages 10 to 17, but younger children are sometimes allowed to participate.

"There's an assessment made of the juvenile to determine if he or she would be best served by the program or they need to be placed in the juvenile legal system," said fire Lt. Mike Smith, who coordinates the program and works with three other fire investigators.

Fire investigator James McClanahan estimated that the initial assessment and interview last about two hours.

"We have the child and parents in at first to talk about the fire," McClanahan said. "Then

we have an assessment of the child and talk to the parents separately."

Homework required

McClanahan said the child is given homework, shown fire-safety videotapes and required to return in 30, 60 and 90 days. Parents must help with the homework. The year-long program ends with an exit interview, authorities said.

Similar programs exist in Eules, Hurst, Haltom City, Southlake, Grapevine, Watauga, Keller, Bedford and Flower Mound. In cities without the program, firefighters are avail-

IN THE KNOW

A closer look

Characteristics of a noncriminal juvenile fire-setter:

- Interest in matches and lighters
- Fascination with fire
- Doesn't understand fire's destructiveness
- Starts fire accidentally

SOURCE: Area programs

able to talk to children about setting fires, authorities said.

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IRAQ WAR

Soldier from Euless killed in explosion

■ The 32-year-old Tyler native was on patrol south of Baghdad when he was fatally wounded by a bomb.

By **DOMINGO RAMIREZ JR.**
 STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Army Spc. Ryan A. Bishop was scheduled to return from Iraq this summer after being deployed there in August.

However, the 32-year-old Euless soldier heard those plans were going to change. His tour would be extended to at least November, his father said Monday.

"He was on maneuvers when he



BISHOP

heard, three to four days ago," said Charles Bishop of Tyler. "He kind of expected it."

But on Monday, Spc. Bishop was returned to the United States.

Spc. Bishop died Saturday from injuries he suffered when a bomb detonated while he was on patrol just south of Baghdad, according to Department of Defense.

His body was flown to Dover, Del., on Monday and will arrive at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport in two to three days.

"The military is helping right now with the arrangements," Charles Bishop said Monday.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

Spc. Bishop was born in Tyler, graduated from Marshall High School and attended Tyler Junior College.

He moved to Northeast Tarrant County several years ago, going to work for Marshall Lancaster & Associates of Bedford as a surveyor.

Friends introduced him to Melanie Campbell, whom he later married. The couple did not have children.

He had been in the Army for two years. Spc. Bishop was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, in Fort Drum, N.Y.

This was his first tour of duty in Iraq.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

After tornado, aerial imaging system proves it's not just for fires and spills

■ An aerial imaging program helped emergency crews Friday night in Haltom City.

By **DOMINGO RAMIREZ JR.**
 STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

HALTOM CITY — Minutes after a tornado hit the city Friday evening, Deputy

Fire Chief Wes Rhodes asked for help showing emergency crews what the neighborhoods looked like before the twister damaged the area.

Eules Assistant Fire Chief Robert Isbell and the department's new aerial imaging software answered the call.

Within seconds, computer screens at the Haltom City Fire Department's command center were displaying a concise aerial view of the neighborhoods.

"It made it a lot easier to explain to the electric crews, the gas company and police officers about the surroundings and our boundaries," Rhodes said Tuesday.

For the past year, Eules has been helping other fire and police departments learn to use the aerial imaging software. Their efforts earned Eules the Lone Star Achievement Award from the Texas Fire Chiefs Association last month.

A county project

The Tarrant Appraisal District and the Tarrant County 911 District spent \$418,170 for the Pictometry program a few years ago. This year, those agencies will spend \$265,000 for new aerial photos. Eules and other agencies entered an agreement with the county agencies to participate in the program for free.

But Isbell and David Allen, Eules' geographical information system manager, made the program even more useful by placing additional data onto the photos, such as street names and the locations of fire hydrants and hazardous chemicals.

"We wanted to keep it basic," Allen said Tuesday.

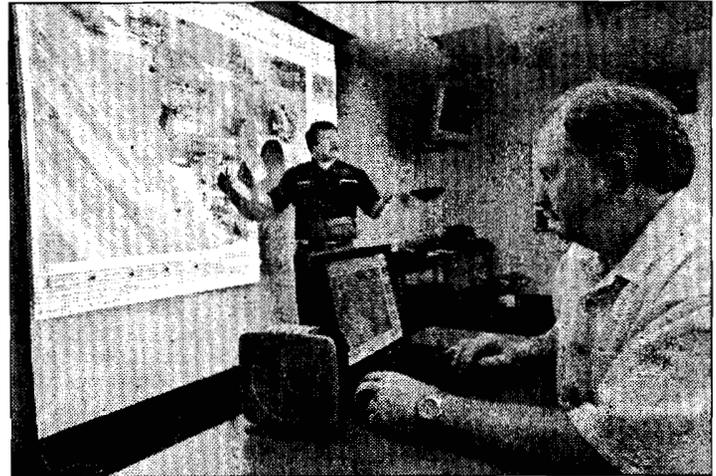
The Eules department started using the photos in October, then "decided to share what we did with other agencies," he said.

Allen and Isbell put together a similar program for area departments at a cost of about \$40 per copy. Fourteen other fire departments in Northeast Tarrant County now use some part of the aerial program.

Fort Worth and Arlington also use aerial images as part of their operations.

Program successes

Fire officials at the Pentagon on 9-11 used the aerial program, and so does the National Fire Academy, an agency of the Homeland Security Department.



STAR-TELEGRAM/STEWART F. HOUSE

Robert Isbell of the Eules Fire Department, left, and David Allen, Eules' GIS manager, made the aerial imaging system more useful by adding street names and other information to photos.

"In the past, paper maps were about it," said Dante Pennacchia, a spokesman with Pictometry in Rochester, N.Y. "You now see a location the way it's supposed to look."

Isbell said the software gives fire officials a chance to prepare, such as for the size of a burning building or the ground elevation at a hazardous chemical spill.

"By having the dimensions at our fingertips, we calculate how much water we may need

for a fire," Isbell said. "Detailed planning of large events is just more accurate now."

In Haltom City, the program let emergency crews know within a few hours after the tornado how many neighborhoods were damaged.

"We got it to use for pre-fire-fighting plans, but it proved how valuable it was for emergencies like that," Rhodes said.

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EULESS | CITY HALL

NORTHEAST TARRANT BRIEFS

Potential problems

■ The Euless City Council will consider a parental-notification resolution that could do real harm to Texas teens.

The Northeast Tarrant County Right to Life Educational Association is a devoted group, and there's nothing wrong with that.

The group has asked a second Northeast Tarrant County city council for a resolution aimed at requiring that parents be notified when minors seek contraceptives or abortion referrals. There are very serious problems with that request.

The Euless City Council is expected to consider the resolution, which focuses on the services of Planned Parenthood, on Tuesday. In November, Bedford council members approved a similar resolution, 5-2.

Parents should talk with their children about sex as they near the age when they'll be tempted to try it. Those parents who are committed to maintaining a strong bond with their offspring must find ways to keep that communication going through the difficult teen years.

That will work for some, but not for others. Still, no law, no resolution passed by a city council, a state legislature or even Congress, will make it happen. In fact, this is a case in which laws could cause real harm.

Supporters of this resolution seem to believe that young girls are more likely to become sexually active if they receive counseling on contraceptives. Research shows that most are sexually active before they

seek that counseling. Janet Realini, a San Antonio physician who speaks on behalf of the Texas Medical Association, says that women ages 15 to 24 typically have their first sexual experience almost two years before they visit a clinic.

A 2002 study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* showed that 59 percent of young girls would stop using sexual health-care services if there were a requirement that their parents be informed. If that meant that they would not obtain prescription contraceptives, 99 percent of girls would continue to have sex but would rely on riskier methods of birth control. (The 1 percent who said they would discontinue sexual intercourse said they would have oral sex.)

Part of the push for this resolution plays off of the national angst about abortion. Euless Councilman Glenn Porterfield says he favors the resolution because he believes that parents should be informed when a child is counseled about abortion.

That base is already covered. Texas requires a minor who seeks an abortion to have the signed and notarized consent of her parents.

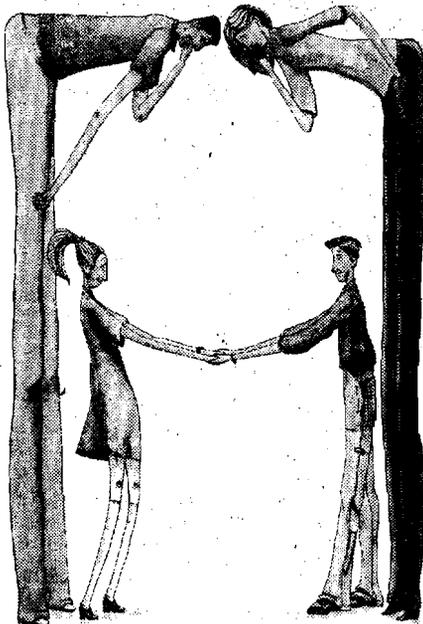
The Texas Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the Society of Adolescent Medicine oppose required parental notification for contraception.

The Euless City Council should reject the proposed resolution that asks for it.

Delay sought in vote on parental notification

EULESS - The City Council is expected consider a parental notification resolution at its May 8 meeting instead of its April 24 meeting. The resolution urges Plngned Parenthood to voluntarily notify parents when minors seek contraceptives or abortion referrals. The date was pushed back because the resolution's supporters, who represent the Northeast Tarrant County Right to Life Educational Association, will be out of town.

- Jessica DeLeon



MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE/BRENT CASTILLO