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MS. WHEELCHAIR TEXAS

# Euleless woman leads by example

**A former UT-Arlington tennis player will compete for Ms. Wheelchair America this month.**

By MARK AGEE  
rmagee@star-telegram.com

Jackie Bartels isn't your typical beauty queen, in several ways.

She was named Ms. Wheelchair Texas in April, despite being a self-described athlete and tomboy more likely to have a tennis racket or a basketball in her hand than a tiara on her head. Bartels plans to compete for Ms. Wheelchair America on July 23 in the Washington, D.C., area.

"It's kind of weird for me, I know," said Bartels, 23, of Euleless. "But this definitely is not a beauty pageant. It's about advocacy, and I want to make a difference."

The pageant was founded in 1972 by parents of several disabled children who wanted to "make the outside world aware of their talents and abilities," said Laura Abdelaziz, executive director of Ms. Wheelchair America Inc., based in Waterford, N.Y.

This year's event will feature 27 contestants from 26 states and the District of Columbia.

"We're looking for a spokeswoman," Abdelaziz said. "Someone who can present a platform to audiences, including public groups and legislators, or whoever."

Bartels was paralyzed at age 13 when she fell while fixing a windmill on her family's farm in Chadron, Neb. While she was still recovering in a hospital, the first per-

son she met who also was in a wheelchair was Ms. Wheelchair South Dakota.

"She profoundly impacted my life," Bartels said. "If I hadn't met her — she was so positive and independent — I don't know what my life would be like today."

Bartels went on to college at the University of Texas at Arlington, where she earned a wheelchair tennis scholarship and played wheelchair basketball. She graduated in May with a degree in graphic design and works for a beverage distributor.

"I've always said that after her accident, she started a new life," said her mother, Delila Bartels of Chadron. "She always wanted to help everybody, but now even more so."

Bartels is involved with several philanthropic causes, including service on the board of RISE International, a group that provides disabled people with outdoor adventures and encourages them to participate in athletics.

If she wins the title of Ms. Wheelchair America, Bartels said she would like to speak in classrooms to able-bodied children about the needs and abilities of their disabled peers.

"If children have positive interactions with people with disabilities while they are young, they will be more open and accepting as adults," Bartels said. "When we are independent, socially active people, then we are breaking a sociological barrier."

Online: [www.mswheelchairamerica.org](http://www.mswheelchairamerica.org)

MARK AGEE, 817-685-3821

Jackie Bartels, Ms. Wheelchair Texas, says, "When we are independent, socially active people, then we are breaking a sociological barrier."  
STAR-TELEGRAM/KELLEY CHINN

“It's kind of weird for me, I know. But this definitely is not a beauty pageant. It's about advocacy, and I want to make a difference.

Jackie Bartels



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## LOCAL GOLF INSIDER

# Local golf pro helps others in a special way

**Gary McMillon and his wife, Patty, found the perfect way to honor their late son.**

By TROY PHILLIPS  
 tphillips@star-telegram.com

Gary and Patty McMillon wanted to take their son, Bryan, to church on Sundays, but eventually couldn't do so.

Things so taken for granted — sitting with your family in a service or Mass or a teaching a children's Sunday school class — weren't possible for the McMillons. Bryan, a loving but severely disabled and non-verbal child, needed special attention wherever he went.

Churches often lack the training or programs for such children. On April 27, 2004, Bryan's pain ended with his death at 12. He had endured at least 16 surgeries in his short life for heart, kidney, bone and other serious defects.

On Sunday, the fourth Bryan's Fund Memorial Scramble tees off at Meadowbrook Golf Course, with proceeds going to either area churches or organizations that provide services to families of disabled children.

The first Bryan's Fund event was organized shortly after Bryan's death in 2004, with 100 golfers. It now includes 136, and the McMillons have been hesitant to grow it. That could change.

"I could do a double shotgun start, but we've wanted to keep it intimate," said Gary McMillon, the head pro at Meadowbrook. "I don't sell tee signs and we don't ask for donations. A lot of times someone will pay more than their tournament fee and make us keep it."

Bryan was most comfortable just sitting in Gary's lap at home watching TV or listening to jazz and classical music. At outings, he

### Calendar

**Monday-Thursday:** Fort Worth City Junior Championships (boys and girls), 8 a.m., various courses. Flights by age to 18 years old. Visit [www.fwjga.org](http://www.fwjga.org) for schedules.

**July 21:** The First Tee Benbrook Swing Tournament, 8:30 a.m., Benbrook Par 3 Course. \$5/player. Call Kevin Long at 817-377-9770.

**July 21-22:** Fort Worth City Mid-Amateur, 8 a.m., Meadowbrook. Amateurs 25 or older. \$100/player. Deadline: Monday. Call 817-871-5721 or visit [www.fortworthgolf.org](http://www.fortworthgolf.org).

needed medication to stay focused and not become wild or fearful of crowds.

The McMillons eventually took turns going to church with their daughter, Sarah, now 11, while the other stayed home with Bryan.

"We didn't know what else to do," Gary said. "You couldn't listen to the sermon."

With Bryan's Fund, the McMillons began a foundation that aids special-needs programs at several churches, as well as a Special Olympics golf program.

The idea was that churches could help give special-needs parents an occasional Friday night out while trained personnel watched their children. Help could be available on Sundays, too.

Overwhelming response to the program has prompted Gary and Patty to consider expanding the event to a double-tee start or two tournaments a year. Bryan has enabled his parents to give back much in his name.

"This shows me he's still a part of our lives, and that he's still giv-

ing, even though he's not here," Gary said.

For more information, visit [www.bryansfund.org](http://www.bryansfund.org).

### Junior champs returning

Next week's Fort Worth City Junior Championships include the returning boys and girls champions. Arkansas signee Austin Berkovsky, an Aledo High graduate, won the 2006 and 2005 boys titles. He can become the first three-time boys champ in the event's 67th year.

TCU signee Prisela Campbell, a Keller Fossil Ridge High graduate, will try to defend her 2006 girls city title in the event's 33rd edition.

Starting Monday, the boys event includes 366 golfers in five age groups at 11 area public and private courses.

After two rounds, the best 72 scores and ties from 14-15 and 16-18 divisions will combine into the championship flight at Split Rail in Aledo.

The top 36 and ties will play the final round at Shady Oaks, and the next 36 will finish at Colonial.

On Tuesday, 110 girls golfers in four age groups will play three courses. Thursday's girls championship also will be at Shady Oaks.

### First Tee news

Britney Lumbard, 17, a member of The First Tee of Fort Worth, was one of 96 First Tee junior golfers nationwide chosen to attend the Life Skills and Leadership Academy at Kansas State's Colbert Hills Golf Course earlier this week.

The First Tee can use more volunteers for several events this summer. To sign up, e-mail Kevin Long at [klong@thefirstteefortworth.org](mailto:klong@thefirstteefortworth.org), or call 817-377-9770.

TROY PHILLIPS, 817-390-7760

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**BOOKS | HARRY POTTER**

## Libraries ready for wizard excitement (Madam Pince would not be pleased)

### 'Deathly Hallows' release parties

Fort Worth and Haltom City are the only libraries distributing the new book at midnight Friday. But other libraries will host parties, movie screenings and events leading up to the book's release:

#### Arlington

George W. Hawkes Central Library, 101 E. Abram St., 817-459-6900.

■ Potter Mania party, 3-5 p.m. Friday. Costume contest, trivia games, crafts. For ages 6 through 17.

#### Bedford

Bedford Public Library, 1805 L. Don Dodson Drive, 817-952-2372

■ How Will the Story End for Harry Potter? contest, ends 5 p.m. Friday.

■ Harry Potter movies shown in order at 2 p.m. each Saturday in July.

■ Happy Birthday, Harry Potter party, 6:30 to 9 p.m. July 31. Sorting hat, divination, flying lesson, potions, costume contest and feast.

#### Colleyville

Colleyville Public Library, 110 Main St., 817-503-1150

■ Harry Potter release party, 2-3:30 p.m. Tuesday. Magic class, activities, prizes, games. Costumes encouraged.

#### Eules

Eules Public Library, 201 N. Ector Drive, 817-685-1679

■ Harry Potter movies, 2 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

■ Harry Potter Partypalooza, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday. Games and activities.

#### Fort Worth

Fort Worth Central Library, 500 W. Third St., 817-871-7701

■ Performance by the Remus Lupins Wizard Rock Band, 7 tonight.

■ *Deathly Hallows* event, 8:30 p.m.-midnight, Friday-Saturday. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* movie shows at 8:45 p.m. Book available to the first 200 library card holders.

■ Costume Party, 2 p.m. next Saturday. Readings, potions class, crafts.

#### Haltom City

Haltom City Public Library, 3201 Friendly Lane, 817-222-7786

■ Book release party, 11 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday-Saturday. Roving wizard, costume contest, activities, games and book fair. Must be at least 6 years old. Those 12 and younger must be accompanied by an adult older than 18 with valid photo identification. Reservations required.

#### Keller

Keller Public Library, 640 Johnson Road, 817-743-4840

■ Harry Potter trivia game and pizza party, 3 p.m. Friday. Registration required. For ages 12 and older.

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### Virginia Fuller Payton



**EULESS** — Virginia "Jennie" Fuller Payton, our beloved mother, passed peacefully Thursday, July 12, 2007, to be with the Lord.

**FUNERAL:** 2 p.m. Saturday at First United Methodist Church of Euleless. **GRAVESIDE SERVICE:** 10:30 a.m. Saturday in Moore Memorial Gardens in Arlington.

**MEMORIALS:** The family suggests memorials be given to First United Methodist Church of Euleless.

The Fuller family settled in Euleless from Tennessee in 1870. Virginia Fuller Payton was born to J.R. and Fannie Fuller on April 27, 1907, in Euleless. She was the youngest of 10 children. Jennie lived in Euleless all her life. She was a lifelong member of First United Methodist Church of Euleless, where she taught Sunday school, sang in the choir and was an active member of Methodist women's organizations.

At the time of her death, she was the oldest member of First United Methodist Church of Euleless. She was also a proud member of the Kitchen Band at the Euleless Senior Citizens Center, where she enjoyed playing the wash tub. She celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends April 29, 2007.

Jennie was preceded in death by her husband of 64 years, Abe Payton.

**SURVIVORS:** Her sons and their wives, Jimmy and Helen Payton and Jerry and Faye Payton; grandchildren and spouses, Nancy Payton, Marty Payton, Jim and Chris Payton, Robert and Shelley Payton and Janice and Daniel Sanchez; great-grandchildren, Justin, Matthew, Natalie, Callye, Charles and Mallory; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Lucas Funeral Home  
 Hurst, 817-284-7271

View and sign guestbook at  
[www.star-telegram.com/obituaries](http://www.star-telegram.com/obituaries)

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## INSIDE PUBLIC SAFETY

# Police warn about perils of teen parties

**Vacationing parents who leave youths home can take steps to prevent possibly dangerous gatherings.**

By **LESLIE WIMMER**  
 lwimmer@star-telegram.com

Over the summer, many parents go on vacation and leave their teenagers home alone.

That can be a recipe for disaster, police say, if the teens ask a few friends over and end up with a house full of uninvited guests, alcohol and drugs.

Keller police are called to break up such parties four or five times a month, Police Chief Mark Hafner said. The calls increase during the summer, when parents are out of town, he said.

House parties aren't always the fault of the home-alone teenager, said Stephen Wallace, chairman and chief executive of the national organization Students Against De-

structive Decisions.

"Oftentimes I've heard stories of people who did not even plan a party but whose friends found out they were staying at their home by themselves and planned a party of their own," he said.

Modern technology spreads information faster than old-fashioned word-of-mouth, Hafner said.

"With text messaging and all, one person tells the next person and tells the next person, and it gets out of hand quick," he said.

But the teen who lives there could still end up in a lot of trouble, he said.

## The law

In Texas, minors with alcohol on their breath can be cited for possession, Hafner said. Uninvited guests can be charged with trespassing.

If the hosts are responsible

for the alcohol, they can be charged with furnishing alcohol to minors.

The charges are mostly Class C misdemeanors with fines of up to \$500.

"Parents need to understand the real world that kids live in, that alcohol for many young people is a constant temptation," Wallace said.

Parents should be straightforward about their own rules and the consequences of breaking them, and they should explain state and local laws to their children, Wallace said. Schools usually have consequences for students cited for underage drinking, like losing extracurricular activities, and teens may not know that, he said.

Hafner's advice to parents going out of town is to "have an adult be responsible for their home—a good neighbor or a family friend."

Neighbors should listen for loud noise and watch for an unusual number of cars on the street and for groups of teens going in and out of a house.

"If they know it's something the parents wouldn't condone, neighbors shouldn't wait until it gets out of hand to call" the police, Hafner said.

## When parents are there

Parents sending a teenager to a supervised party should call ahead or even go over to see whether the other parents are providing alcohol.

With or without alcohol, parents need to be in charge, Grapevine police Lt. Todd Dearing said.

Supervised parties are "more positive and controlled better if the parents are there and taking control, but if the parent is hiding up in the bedroom and has no idea what's going on, then it's like no-

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**To report parties**

The 24-hour nonemergency phone numbers for area police departments:

- Bedford: 817-952-2127
- Colleyville: 817-503-1200
- Euless: 817-685-1526
- Flower Mound: 972-539-0525
- Grapevine: 817-410-8127
- Haltom City: 817-222-7071
- Hurst: 817-788-7188
- Keller: 817-743-4522
- North Richland Hills: 817-281-1000
- Richland Hills: 817-299-1880
- Southlake: 817-743-4522
- Trophy Club: 972-434-5500
- Watauga: 817-514-5897

**Underage drinking**

- 75 percent of students report having consumed alcohol before the end of high school.
- 57 percent of teenagers say their parents allow them to drink at home.
- 41 percent of students have consumed alcohol before the eighth grade.
- 28 percent of 15- to 20-year-olds killed in car crashes in the U.S. had been drinking.

Source: [www.sadd.org](http://www.sadd.org)

body's there," Dearing said.

Parents hosting parties should keep guest lists to a minimum and expect people to show up uninvited, Hafner said.

If the party has become alarming or if alcohol and

drugs are being brought in, the hosts should call 911, Hafner said.

Otherwise, it's best to call the police department's 24-hour nonemergency number.

LESLIE WIMMER, 817-685-3800

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PAGE 1 OF 1

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### World Series champs

The Eules Giants were named 2007 USSSA-A Division World Series Champions at the Granbury tournament and were ranked No. 1 in the country out of 720 teams in 6U-A. **Front row:** Jake Franks, Braden Moreno, Logan Bolling, Jordan Blind and Laki Ellis. **Second row:** Jimmy Crooks, Trevon Hester, Ryder Smith, Nicklaus Baumbach, DB Herd and Logan Lisenby. **Third row:** coaches Steve Baumbach, Richard Smith, Will Lisenby and Jimmie Crooks.

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**EULESS****PUBLIC WORKS SHOWS OFF NEW DIGS**

The Euleess Public Works Department has a brand-new building.

The department moved to 1513 Westpark Way last month, and City Council members visited there during their meeting Tuesday.

The 13,500-square-foot structure has a floor made out of Bomanite, a concrete that looks like marble but is durable enough to withstand workers' dirty boots.

The building has a conference room, a storage deck and a 7,000-square-foot pavilion to cover equipment. It also has energy-saving appliances and



JESSICA DeLEÓN  
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a security system that the Police Department can access.

**Like a zoo in there**

The Villages of Bear Creek Amphitheater will become a minizoo Friday.

The Fort Worth Zoo will

give a 45-minute presentation about animals starting at 8 p.m. The movie *Happy Feet* will follow.

Admission is one donation per person of diapers or canned food to the Tarrant Area Food Bank. Concessions will be sold, and visitors are encouraged to bring a pillow and blanket or lawn chairs. For more information, call 817-685-1666.

The amphitheater is at 1951 Bear Creek Parkway.

JESSICA DeLEÓN  
 COVERS EULESS.  
 817-685-3932

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## WEST NILE VIRUS

# Hazardous mosquitoes on the rise

**As rainfall drops off, populations of the biting species that carry West Nile are increasing.**

By **BILL TEETER** and **DAVE FERMAN**  
bteeter@star-telegram.com,  
dferman@star-telegram.com

Grapevine resident Harlan Jewett is hard-pressed to recall another time in his 83 years when he swatted more mosquitoes.

"We've killed many mosquitoes," said Jewett, who often works in his yard. "There's a lot of them. They are such tiny things, they can be on you before you see them."

Insect experts say the type of mosquito buzzing about the ears of Tarrant County residents is shifting from the species that simply bites to others, such as *Culex quinquefasciatus*, that pose danger because they can carry the West Nile Virus. The heavy rains this spring and summer triggered hatches of the less offensive "floodwater mosquitoes," said James Kennedy, biological sciences professor at the University of North Texas.

The mosquitoes that carry disease thrive in stagnant pools, which were continually flushed by the rains. Now that the rain has slowed, the *Culex* are taking

wing, he said.

## Searching for West Nile

Twenty-five cities in Tarrant County take part in sampling programs to test for mosquitoes that carry West Nile. Two have tested positive — one in Richland Hills on June 25 and the other in Colleyville on July 3, said Vanessa Joseph, spokeswoman for the Tarrant County Health Department. Another mosquito carrying the disease was found in Flower Mound, said Denton County Health Department spokeswoman Betsy Haggard.

The West Nile season is running late this year, Joseph said. By this time last year, 11 infected mosquitoes had been found in Tarrant County.

No human cases of West Nile have been reported in the county this season, Joseph said. But experts have said most people infected by West Nile notice no symptoms or just mild headaches and muscle aches. More severe headaches and body aches and, on rare occasions, death can occur.

Mosquitoes will be a problem for several more months, until temperatures drop to 60 degrees or below, said Andria Kavanaugh, a consumer health specialist for Fort Worth. Mosquitoes need warm air to live, she said.

Jewett said his biggest worry is making his wife mad.

"I come in, and I'm sure I bring the mosquitoes in with me, and they follow me in, and they bite my wife," he said. That doesn't "make you any points with the wife."

## Fighting the spread

Most area cities use one or more methods to control mosquitoes, such as fish, larvicide and pesticides.

**Arlington and Euless** are sold on mosquitofish, or *Gambusia affinis*, which eat mosquito larvae. Arlington, for example, has released the fish near a bike trail in the Woodland Park Boulevard area and in a drainage ditch behind South Crest Drive in west Arlington because of residents' complaints, said Debbie Lubke, acting assistant director of Community Services.

**Haltom City and North Richland Hills** spray bug killer. But spraying cannot take place in the rain or strong wind. And spraying kills beneficial insects along with the mosquitoes.

**Most cities** use larvicide briquettes, doughnuts or pellets to kill larvae, particularly in still bodies of water, which could serve as mosquito nurseries. Some cities, such as Grapevine, also hand out the larvicide to residents upon request.

For the summer, people should stay inside and away from shade.

Insect experts urge people to stay inside at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active. Mike Merchant, professor and entomologist for the Texas Cooperative Extension Research Center in Dallas, said the emergence of the stagnant water means people are not safe from being bitten in the middle of the day, either.

The Asian Tiger mosquito, which occasionally carries West Nile and is coming out now, commonly bites during the day, he said. Staying out of the shade during the day can help, since that's where bites occur.

Staff writer Susan Schrock contributed to this report.

**BILL TEETER, 817-685-3801**  
**DAVE FERMAN, 817-390-7839**

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**REAL ESTATE**

## TRANSACTIONS

### Arlington

#### 1. Land sale Interstate 20 and Cooper Street

Mike Patterson, a local investor under the name Heritage Rock Ltd., has purchased 1.52 acres south of the highway. He plans to build a two-story professional office building. Park Forest Monticello Ltd. sold the land.

**Brokers:** Chad O'Neal, vice president and director of sales and leasing for Colleyville-based Realty Capital Corp., represented Park Forest Monticello. John King of NAI Huff Partners represented Heritage Rock.

### Colleyville

#### 2. Texas Wasatch Insurance 55 Main St.

The insurance company now leases more than 13,000 square feet at The Village at Colleyville. The headquarters for the three-year-old insurance company has been in Colleyville since late summer 2004, when it leased 4,000 square feet.

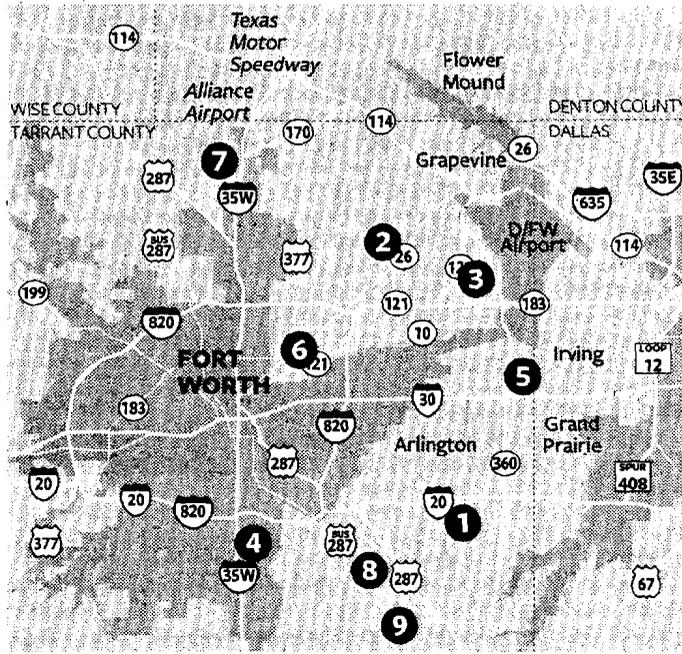
**Broker:** Realty Capital Corp.'s property-management team.

### Eules

#### 3. New leases Southeast corner of Glade Road and Texas 121

Several leases have been signed at the Shops at Vineyard Village. They include Chili's Bar & Grill (43,054 square feet); Ross Dress for Less (30,187 square feet); Marshall's (28,000 square feet); Bed, Bath and Beyond (28,000 square feet); Staples (20,388 square feet); PetSmart (20,087 square feet); Shoe Pavilion (20,000 square feet); Party City (14,000 square feet); Dollar Tree (10,000 square feet); and Famous Footwear (7,000 square feet). These stores are slated to open in the spring.

**Brokers:** John Zikos of Venture Commercial and David Hardesty of Hardesty Realty Group represented the landlord in the



transactions. Greg Bracchi and Jeoff Henrion of Staubach Retail Services represented Chili's. Jim Tapp of The Tapp Co. represented Ross Dress for Less. Robert Aycock of Princeton Partners represented Marmaxx Operating Corp. (Marshall's). Steve Lieberman of the Retail Connection represented Bed, Bath and Beyond. Jennifer Frank of the Woodmont Co. represented Staples. Warren Creason at Creason Commercial Realty and Craig Wielansky of L3 Corp. of St. Louis represented PetSmart. Darrell Hernandez of United Commercial Realty represented Shoe Pavilion. Larry Leon and Jonathan Cooper of Venture Commercial represented Party City. Jim Weir, formerly of the Woodmont Co., represented Dollar Tree. David Fazio of the Retail Connection represented Famous Footwear.

### Fort Worth

#### 4. Carter Business Park Interstate 35W and Everman Parkway

Whirlpool Corp., the largest U.S. seller of home appliances,

has renewed its lease for industrial/distribution space in the Carter Business Park.

Whirlpool signed a two-year lease in January 2006 for the 850,000-square-foot former General Motors parts plant but recently renewed the lease on a long-term basis. Those terms are not being disclosed.

The center warehouses refrigerators and washers made at Whirlpool's manufacturing plants in Mexico for distribution to dealers in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi and New Mexico. The center also warehouses appliances made at Whirlpool's U.S. plants, including those in Fort Smith, Ark.; Tulsa; and Oxford, Miss.

**Brokers:** Walter Floyd with NAI Huff Partners and Trey Fricke with Lee & Associates represented the landlord, Hollingsworth Capital Partners. William Swanson with Jones Lang LaSalle represented Whirlpool.

### Grand Prairie

#### 5. Crescent Processing Co. 2080 N. Texas 360

The payment-processing business leased 8,818 square feet at the Carrier 360 office building. The 75,000-square-foot building is 86 percent leased.

**Broker:** Kurt Cherry of PM Realty Group represented the landlord, Carrier 360 Office Associates, L.P. Jeff Schweitz with Stream Realty Partners represented Crescent Processing.

### Haltom City

#### 6. New lease 5524 Midway Road

Leonard Marquez has leased 2,250 square feet of space in Suite 2 for a machine shop.

**Broker:** Leah Haroldson with Ron Sturgeon Real Estate represented the landlord.

### Haslet

#### 7. Business leases

##### 850 Blue Mound Road W.

J.W. Williams has leased 3,000 square feet at Suite 209 for a service company. Lance and Rachel McGilvray have leased 900 square feet in Suite 506 for a home-remodeling business. Vanessa Matthews has leased 1,200 square feet at Suite 402 for video-equipment storage.

**Broker:** Leah Haroldson of Ron Sturgeon Real Estate represented the landlord.

### Kennedale

#### 8. Automotive parts 6705 Oakcrest Drive

Hans Luthi has leased 4,000 square feet of retail space and 4 acres for an automotive part and services company.

**Broker:** Leah Haroldson of Ron Sturgeon Real Estate represented the landlord.

### Mansfield

#### 9. Dent repair shop 7204 Mansfield Highway

Rick Munoz has leased 1,200 square feet in Suite C for a paintless dent-repair shop.

**Broker:** Leah Haroldson of Ron Sturgeon Real Estate represented the landlord.

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## Grubbs Infiniti *Leading the Way in Luxury*

In the luxury automotive market, there is very little competition for a truly service-oriented, family-owned dealership. This is especially true when the dealership is the largest of its kind in the country, with close to 6 1/2 acres of inventory. Such is the case at Grubbs Infiniti, a dealership owned and operated by George Grubbs III, a fourth-generation dealer. His business builds on a tradition that began in 1948, carrying forward a reputation of honesty, integrity, and family values.

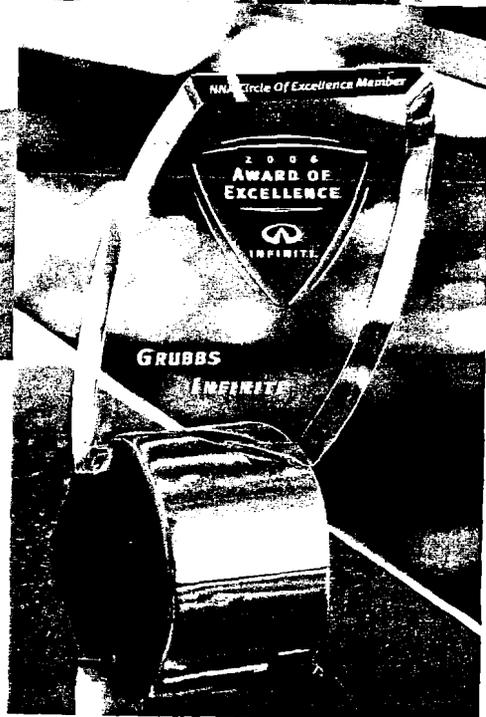
Grubbs Infiniti supports its customers with excellence in every aspect of the business. Not only does the dealership offer a superior line of new and used vehicles, but it has also been recognized for overall professional

ism and service by Infiniti. Specifically, Grubbs Infiniti has been presented with Infiniti's coveted Award of Excellence—not just once but two years in a row. This award is given to a very select group of top-tier dealers who achieve the highest level of service and sales in the country. Notably, Grubbs was the only Infiniti dealership in the Dallas-

Fort Worth area to receive the award this year.

"We feel privileged to receive Infiniti's Award of Excellence two years in a row," says George Grubbs III. "We don't set out to win awards, and we don't spend a lot of time discussing them. We focus on taking care of our customers the right way—and the rest falls in place."

As a family-owned and -operated business, Grubbs Infiniti is widely known in the community for their ethical practices, dedication, and hard



work. George Grubbs III demonstrates his commitment and willingness to support all customers and levels of management by choosing to office directly on the showroom floor. Beginning work in the family business at the age of 15, Grubbs has been employed in every department of the dealership, gaining experience and knowledge in all aspects of service. There isn't a job that Grubbs hasn't done himself, making him an esteemed and respected manager.

Customer service is the cornerstone of the business. Continually receiving top scores on customer surveys, Grubbs Infiniti prides itself on maintaining a content and loyal client base. The dealership employs more than 70 highly trained individuals, many of whom have been with the company for more than 15 years. No request is left unanswered, and every customer is treated as a valued client. A state-of-the-art facility, with the most current diagnostic and repair equipment available, ensures reliable vehicle care. Grubbs also inventories a large amount of certified parts for maintaining optimum performance. This complete service-and-repair operation guarantees a lifetime of safe, satisfied vehicle ownership.

Unlike many other dealerships, Grubbs Infiniti offers a no-pressure environment. A priority is placed on educating customers in a comfortable, low-key setting. Professionally trained sales associates willingly offer advice and information—without pushing a sale.

### Grubbs Infiniti

1661 W. Airport Fwy.  
Euless, TX 76040  
800-923-4360

[www.grubbsinfiniti.com](http://www.grubbsinfiniti.com)

visit [www.grubbs.com](http://www.grubbs.com) for locations, map, and directions to other members of the Grubbs family of dealerships.

**Founded:** 1948

**Top Executive:**  
George Grubbs III,  
owner/executive manager

**Employees:** 70

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CITY PARTNERSHIPS

# Eules projects focus on pride in appearance

The city has budgeted \$50,000 this year for three projects that it hopes will instill pride in residents.

By JESSICA DeLEÓN  
jdeleon@star-telegram.com

EULESS — City officials made an offer this year to Joe Nazzaro.

The city would install landscaping and a monument sign denoting "Eules" at the corner of his 5-acre property at South Main Street and Pipeline Road, on the city's border with Fort Worth.

In return, Nazzaro would maintain the landscaping.

"It's just awfully good business," said Nazzaro, who owns Rebecca's, a wholesale provider of toys and supplies for the amusement industry.

Nazzaro joins two other groups among the first Eules Pride projects in which the

city will improve property and owners will maintain the upgrades. A committee of city staff and residents began meeting a year and a half ago. They toured Eules to choose the 2007 projects to be funded by \$50,000 set aside by the City Council.

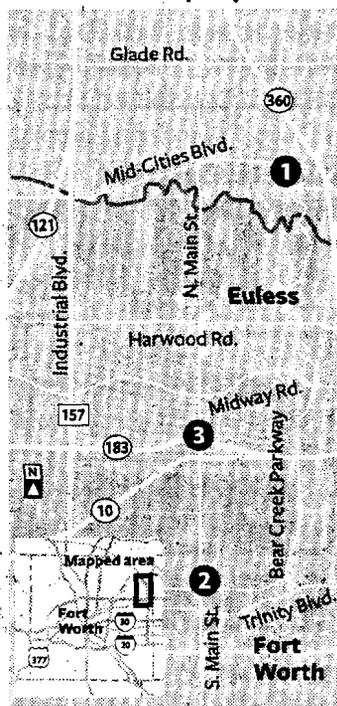
The council is expected to budget the same amount next year.

Eules is still in final negotiations on the projects. If the deals are finalized, this year's projects will include the Bear Creek neighborhood. The city plans to set up an irrigation system and landscape a median, which has a Eules monument sign, on East Mid-Cities Boulevard. The Villages of Bear Creek Owners Association will maintain the landscaping.

"Cooperation is good, and we want to be as cooperative neighbors as we can," said Tim Bennett, president of the association.

For the third project, the city hopes to remodel the brick facade on a Main Street strip mall with a stone facade. The

### Eules Pride projects



The city's three 2007 Eules Pride projects are planned at these locations:

**1. 750 East Mid-Cities Boulevard**  
The city will install an irrigation system at a median, while the Villages of Bear Creek Owners Association will maintain the landscaping. **City cost:** \$15,000. Expected completion date: End of the year

**2. S. Main Street and Pipeline Road**  
The city will install landscaping and a monument sign denoting Eules on the corner of the 5-acre property. The owner will maintain the landscaping. **City cost:** \$10,000. Expected completion date: Sept. 30

**3. 212 North Main Street**  
The city will update a strip mall's brick facade and metal poles with a stone facade and square columns. The owner is expected to participate in a future landscaping project. **City cost:** \$15,000. Expected completion date: Sept. 30

STAR-TELEGRAM/TIM BEDISON

"I don't think you can reasonably legislate improvement," Hennig said. "It has come from the pride of the people."

JESSICA DELEÓN, 817-685-3932

owner, Myung Roe Jo, is expected to participate in a future landscaping project.

Former City Manager Joe Hennig, who created the project, hopes Eules Pride will motivate others to keep up their property.

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## OCCUPANCY

# Retail leasing dip seen as short-lived

By ANDREA JARES

ajares@star-telegram.com

Retail leasing in North Texas is down slightly from a year ago, according to a midyear analysis. But planned expansion may reverse that by December.

The analysis, by Dallas real estate company The Weitzman Group and Cencor Realty Services, looked at 1,200 shopping centers of 25,000 square feet or more.

The market has an occupancy of 89.2 percent this year compared with 89.6 percent a year ago, according to the report.

Ian Pierce, spokesman for The Weitzman Group, said the year is likely to end up at 90 percent, which would be better than last year.

"Everything is full steam ahead — there's no sign of weakness in the market," Pierce said.

The report projects that the Metroplex will add 4 million square feet of new construction in 2007. That's down from 5.8 million in 2006 but still a healthy pace, Pierce said.

He also noted two trends that show the market's strength: builders can lease space before construction starts, and retail spaces aren't staying vacant long. For example, Dick's Sporting Goods is moving into the former Saks Fifth Avenue space at North East Mall in Hurst.

"We're seeing that market-wide, where one retailer will go out and one will come in," Pierce said.

## In Tarrant County

Some county properties seeing notable activity this year, according to The Weitzman Group report:

■ SuperTarget opened a 183,000-square-foot store in Grand Prairie.

■ Marshalls and HomeGoods have come to Mansfield, and Kohl's is planning to.

■ LA Fitness plans to open in Hurst and west Fort Worth.

■ Ace Hardware and Tuesday Morning moved into a former Winn-Dixie in Keller. Stein Mart is coming soon.

Dallas-Fort Worth continues to top retailers' list of places to do business, Pierce said. That strength comes from robust residential growth and sales performance, he said.

■ Alliance Town Center in north Fort Worth is adding a Belk department store, a Hobby Lobby craft store and a number of discount import stores by Sam Moon Group.

■ The 245,000-square-foot Burleson Commons is opening this fall, anchored by a Screenworks cinema.

■ Arlington Highlands in south Arlington opened another phase.

■ Eules' Shops at Vineyard Village has added a Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse and an LA Fitness.

"Dallas-Fort Worth would definitely be a target for any expanding retailer," Pierce said.

ANDREA JARES, 817-548-5522

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PAGE 1 OF 1

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**HARRY POTTER PARTYPALOOZA:** The  
Eules Public Library presents the  
Harry Potter Partypalooza Finale from  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday at the library,  
201 N. Ector Drive. The event will  
include games, prizes and crafts. For  
information, call the library at  
817-685-1679.

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## **CONGRATULATIONS**

### **City of Euless announces promotions**

Loretta Getchell has been promoted to deputy city manager for the city of Euless. Ms. Getchell has served as assistant city manager for the city since November 2004. She will oversee fleet and facility, the library, Texas Star Golf Course and Conference Center, human resources, information services, public works and engineering. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of North Alabama. She is also a certified public accountant and a certified government finance officer.

Vicki Rodriguez has been promoted to city finance director. She has served most recently as finance administrator. Ms. Rodriguez will oversee the city's finance department, purchasing department, utility billing and municipal court. She will be responsible for the preparation and management of the city budget and annual audit. She earned her bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of North Texas and is a certified government finance officer through the Government Finance Officers Association of Texas.