

MAYOR CITY CNCL CITY ATTN Y CRIM HENNIG MCKAMIE RIDGWAY(2) BOYETT BROWN
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DATE DISTRIBUTED 8/31/07 DATE OF ARTICLE 8/15-9/15/07 NEWSPAPER N. E. Times

**FROM THE LOCAL
LEADERSHIP**



**Mayor Saleh
Euless**

THE CITY OF
EULESS

Last month we talked about all the cool and beautiful days of early summer, and here we are in August with plentiful rainfalls and lush lawns. There have been a few warm days, but nothing like last summer.

The summer reading programs in our libraries are about to close, and I hope many of you took advantage of all the activities in our local libraries. Euless has seen such an increase in our library patrons including many children and youth. Did you know that young children can apply for a library card as long as an adult signs on with them? That really makes a visit to the library something special.

Our summer activities continue into the fall with many special events. Euless Junior Anglers Day will be Saturday, August 18, at the Wilshire Park. There will be 500 pounds of catfish just waiting to be caught. This event is for the kids only but the parents can fish after the competition is over!

We encourage all our citizens to join with the city in welcoming our returning servicemen and women during the week of August 20-26. If you have never been out to the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport to meet these wonderful soldiers, you have missed a treat. Please call Mary at 817-685-1649 for more complete information.

Our Euless Bicycle Rodeo and Safety Fair will be held at the Parks at Texas Star on Saturday, September 15, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. This is a great opportunity to teach our kiddos bike safety.

All of our city staff and council members will be spending time in August and September on the city budgets that must be approved in September. Our fiscal year begins October 1, 2007.

Enjoy the last days of summer and take the time to visit your city facilities and become involved this next year as a volunteer. You will truly enjoy getting to know your city leaders.

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**EULESS
GARNERS SIX
AWARDS AT
STATEWIDE
CONFERENCE**

EULESS, TEXAS— The City of Euless has received six awards from the Texas Festivals and Events Association (TFEA).

The awards are for:

- Best Original Newsletter, Euless Today
- Best Cover Design, Euless Today
- Best Volunteer Program, Arbor Daze
- Best Environmental Program, Arbor Daze Tree Giveaway
- Best Education Award, Stars Over Euless
- Best Children's Program, Bicycle Safety Rodeo

The Texas Festivals & Events Association is the official state chapter for Texas and New Mexico of the International Festivals and Events Association (IFEA).

Law, 26. Daughter: Jennifer, Nurse BSN, Children's Hospital, Dallas

Employment: Fickes & Dorety Development Co.

An integrated Real Estate Development firm providing design, construction, leasing, and management for office/flex/showroom type buildings in the Northeast Tarrant County area. Duties include planning, design management, cost analysis, arranging financing, construction management, lease negotiations and overall project management.

For more information about Commissioner Fickes, visit www.tarrantcounty.com or www.fickesdorety.com

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Library Card

She has the Eules Public Library card in her wallet and has access to a world of knowledge and entertainment.

Now you can apply for your card online from home. Just fill out the form and come in to pick up your

card.
Go to <http://www.eules.org/library/>, select Online Catalog, then Patron Account, and on to the link to register.

Why is a Library Card the Smartest Card?

A library card is a sym-

bol of what the library offers and what it represents in our democracy. Supported with public tax dollars, public libraries serve everyone from cradle to grave.

What you can find at the library—

Online databases—accessible from library or home Computers with Internet, Microsoft Word and Excel Reference resources for homework Books, movies, music, magazines—all available for checkout Testing materials—in print and online

Public libraries are partners for vibrant and educated communities.

Public libraries are places of opportunity. Libraries support lifelong learning. Libraries are a great American bargain. Libraries are great places for kids. Libraries have librarians!

Eules Public Library 201
N. Ector Drive
817-685-1481

Our Mayor has the Smartest Card in town!

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DATE DISTRIBUTED 8/31/07 DATE OF ARTICLE 8/15-9/15/07 NEWSPAPER J. E. Times

EULESS GREETING U.S. SOLDIERS R&R FLIGHTS AT DFW AIRPORT

EULESS, TEXAS—The U.S. Soldiers are coming home for their two-week R&R and the City of Euless will once again be a proud participant in the R&R Flight Program to welcome them home.

be 250 - 300 soldiers arriving each day, so any donations are needed. Any items received will definitely be used. Call Mary at 817-685-1649 to sign up or to arrange donations.

Flights will arrive daily at DFW Airport from August 20-26. To determine the time of the flights before arriving at DFW, please call the R&R update hotline at 972-574-0392. Plan to call after 8 p.m. the night before as well as in the morning to confirm that the flight is on time.

The City of Euless will provide transportation to those who need it and in addition, parking coupons are available from Airport personnel so no one will have to pay to park. Each soldier is provided a goodie-bag that contains snacks and other items. There will

Our Mission is to promote a positive public image of our Community. To provide helpful information that will enhance our quality of life.

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Allen Samuels Dodge Helps Emergency Service With Car Donation

(Eules, TX)--- The Eules Citizens On Patrol unit will receive a new Dodge Nitro to support Fire and Police safety efforts with a new patrol unit provided by local car dealer Allen Samuels Dodge.

Dealership President & General Manager Tom Hervey will present the keys to a new 2007 Nitro to Eules Police Chief Mike Brown and Mayor Mary Lib Saleh during a ceremony at 10:30 am on Friday August 24, at the dealership.

"When we learned that Citizens On Patrol provides such vital services as backing up the Fire Department and Police Department for traffic control and at the scenes of major accident, we just had to get involved," says Hervey. "Members of the program were actually using their own cars, and somebody needed to step

up."

Serving the Eules community since 1999, Citizens On Patrol, or COPS, consists of 20 active volunteer drivers in Eules. In addition to support at emergency response situations, the volunteers support citizens who need help on the street as well as officers who need a break during extended assignment.

"We are so lucky to have Allen Samuels Dodge supporting our program," says Lou Braum, Past President of COPS. "Allen Samuels is among the first new car dealer in all of Texas to provide a vehicle for a local Citizens On Patrol."

In the past three years, Eules volunteers have logged over 4,000 hours supporting police officers and fireman as they responded to emergency situations.

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EULESS

**Man is shot dead after
arguing with girlfriend**

A 30-year-old man was shot to death early Monday morning at the Oak Park Apartments, Euless police said. The man and his girlfriend were arguing outside an apartment when a resident asked whether the woman was all right. The man then went inside the resident's apartment and became involved in a second argument with the resident, police said. Inside the apartment, the man, who had a knife, and the resident, who had a gun, fought before the man was shot twice in the chest. Police arrived at the scene about 4:20 a.m. The man was taken to the hospital, where he was later pronounced dead. The Tarrant County medical examiner's office identified the man as Brandon Couey. The resident then fled the scene but later appeared at the Police Department. The incident was under investigation, and the resident was being interviewed. No charges have been filed.

From staff reports

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DATE DISTRIBUTED 8/31/07 DATE OF ARTICLE 8/27/07 NEWSPAPER J.W. Business Press

Top 100

Ricochet Fuel Distributors Inc.

By Robert Francis

Fort Worth Business Press

In business since 1988, Ricochet Fuel Distributors Inc. has grown from a one-room operation to a business recognized as one of the fastest-growing, privately held companies in the area.

The Euless-based supplier of diesel, gasoline, oil and antifreeze is continuing to grow, says CEO and president Kelly Brett Roberts, but every year brings new challenges.

"Recently several of our customers have been impacted by the rain," she said. "If you can't do construction work, you don't

need fuel for your vehicles. But there are always new challenges in this business."

Roberts said the company also has to deal with fuel-price increases that impact its customers.

"It affects our cash flow as well because it affects our customers negatively," she said.

Despite those challenges, Roberts said the company is doing well.

"We have several new customers and we're having a good year," she said. "We have very low employee turnover, which is a big help for us or for any business."

Ricochet is also seeing the impact of all the Barnett Shale drilling activity in the area, said Roberts.

"We have contracts with several of the large operators because they need plenty of fuel for their operations," she said. "It's a good, steady business opportunity and it's kind of exciting to have a new customer segment to serve. It's been pretty cool for us."

Meeting challenges has served Ricochet well in the past.

Last year, Ricochet was recognized as TXU Corp.'s Gold Star



COCHET FUEL

Kelly Brett Roberts

PHOTO BY JON P. UZZEL

61 **Ricochet Fuel Distributors Inc.**
1201 Royal Parkway
Euless, 76040
817-268-5910
ricochetfuel.com
Type of service: Wholesale fuel
2006 sales: \$34,154,000

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Supplier of the Year for its service during the Gulf Coast hurricanes in 2005.

During hurricanes Katrina and Rita, when electricity was out for hundreds of thousands of people, Ricochet customer TXU was looking for a way to get fuel in the affected areas quickly in order to operate in several devastated areas and restore electricity.

Ricochet staffers were able to establish temporary fuel camps powered by 12 volt pumps, allowing TXU trucks to have a steady supply of fuel.

Also last year, the Dallas/Fort Worth chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners named Roberts its Woman Business Owner of the Year.

Roberts was recognized for her "innovative business approaches to building a growing business, her service as a role model to other women business owners and her achievement of a level balance between her professional and personal responsibilities," the organization, also known as NAWBO D/FW, said in a statement.

Last year, the company also expanded, moving into a 6,000-square-foot building in Euless to house its employees and equipment, complete with commercial gas pumps to serve clients who don't need their fuel delivered.

"It was a great move," said Roberts. "We needed to have a place to better serve our customers and this has turned out great."

Roberts started in the fuel distribution business right out of college, in Texaco's marketing department, and then at another local retailer, Superior Fuels.

She says starting her own company has given her some insight into what it takes to be successful.

"It's been a matter of rolling with the punches and figuring out what to do next," she said. "It also helps to have a good support system of friends, family, customers and other business owners. Those have proven to be key." **Top100**

Contact Francis at rfrancis@bizpress.net

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GOVERNMENT

Eules budget includes sharp spending increase

By JESSICA DeLEÓN
jdeleon@star-telegram.com

EULESS — The city will increase spending 21 percent — mostly for construction projects — next fiscal year.

The City Council unanimously approved the \$97 million budget Tuesday, a sharp contrast from last year, when three councilmen sought to leverage a lower tax rate by initially voting against employee benefits. The vote was a major issue in the May election.

The city does not require a second reading on the fiscal 2007-08 budget, which takes effect Oct. 1.

The council will vote on the tax rate Sept. 11. City officials have recommended a property tax rate of 47 cents per \$100 of assessed property value, down from 48.95 cents.

A big jump in sales tax revenues and property values enabled the city to cut the tax rate and increase spending.

Most of the nearly \$17 million spending increase will be devoted to:

Eules budget

	Adopted 2006-07 budget	Adopted 2007-08 budget	Percent change
Total budget revenue	\$83,758,109	\$102,129,612	21.93%
Total budget expenditures	\$80,157,261	\$97,028,765	21.05%
General fund revenue	\$28,680,500	\$33,293,039	16.08%
General fund expenditures	\$28,815,584	\$33,270,986	15.46%
General fund reserves	\$4,352,843	\$4,860,332	11.66%

2007-08 budget items

Rebates for businesses	\$785,725
5% raise for employees	\$762,395
Increase in health insurance	\$713,985
Three new police officers, plus equipment	\$208,648
Sidewalks, lighting, signalization	\$200,000
3 firefighters	\$166,880
Converted 2 PT library positions into 1 FT	\$38,843
Part-time field tech for parks department	\$25,000
Part-time utility billing clerk	\$13,210

What it means to you

The budget is based on a proposed tax rate of 47 cents per \$100 of assessed property value. That is a decrease from the current tax rate of 48.95 cents. The tax bill of the owner of an average-priced house would be \$515.47, down from \$519.53 this year. The calculations include a 20 percent homestead exemption. The average value of a house in Eules increased to \$137,094 this year from \$132,668 last year.

Source: City of Eules

STAR-TELEGRAM

- Land acquisition and design for a new senior center
- Expansion of the Conference Centre at Texas Star
- Remodeling and improvements for the library and Midway Recreation Center
- Debt reduction
- A fund for citywide redevelopment
- Possible incentive money to attract businesses

JESSICA DeLEÓN, 817-685-3932

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AREA BRIEFS

Fires set in building; burglary attempt suspected

EULESS — Burglars set multiple fires in a sheet-metal workers building early Thursday, apparently to cover up an attempt to open a safe, a fire investigator said. No one was injured in the blazes reported about 12:10 a.m. in the 1000 block of South Industrial Boulevard. At least four to five fires were set on the first and second floors of Sheet Metal Workers Local No. 68, Euless fire investigator Vernon Gilmore said Thursday afternoon. "Most of the fire self-extinguished before firefighters arrived," Gilmore said. Fires on the first floor, however, gutted the offices, he said. Euless and Bedford firefighters battled the blaze before it was put out. Preliminary reports state that burglars got into the building through a door, but they were not able to open the safe.

— Domingo Ramirez Jr.

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MEDICINE

Decades of giving the sick what they need

Charles Blackwell, who has spent 50 years as a pharmacist across Texas, has served generations of families.

By JESSICA DeLEÓN
jdeleon@star-telegram.com

HURST — Aside from a newspaper route as a youngster, Charles Blackwell never had a job outside a drugstore.

In his 50-year career as a pharmacist, he's switched from manual typewriters to computers. He's seen different drugs rise in use, from diet pills and birth control to hydrocodone.

He's even had a gun pointed in his face by robbers demanding narcotics and syringes.

But none of it made Blackwell want to leave the job.

The spoiler? Dealing with insurance.

"It's a headache right now," said the 76-year-old, who retired Thursday from the Albertsons at Precinct Line Road and Airport Freeway.

Beginning in the eighth grade, Blackwell worked at McKee's Drugstore in Raymondville. He liked the job helping the pharmacists and eventually earned a pharmacy degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

After graduating, he worked at a drugstore in Tulia, where he would meet his wife, Marietta. He took another job in Wichita Falls, and then opened his own store, Medical Arts Pharmacy, in 1966 in Eules.

Now Super Value Pharmacy.

He ran the store for about 18 years until a friend bought it. He found it challenging to run his own store: He saw dozens of break-ins and didn't have workers to back him up in case of an emergency. In 1983, he began working for Skaggs, now Albertsons, in Fort Worth. He has worked at the Hurst store since 1998.

The job could be stressful because he didn't want to make a mistake.

"That's one of the pitfalls — and varicose veins, standing like this all the time," he said.

But he enjoyed meeting and helping different people.

Elisa Hediger, 42, of North Richland Hills, said Blackwell has served four generations of her family. Her son, Tommy, 14, suffers from major allergies, and Blackwell has always been encouraging.

"He cares so deeply about everybody," she said.

Head pharmacist Jim Mayes described him as the best partner he's had — and Mayes has worked at three pharmacies, with 15 different partners

in 26 years.

Mayes said Blackwell is more laid back, and Mayes has grown to be more relaxed working with him. But Blackwell is a hard worker who always does all his work by the end of his shift.

"I'm really sorry to see him go, because I'm never going to get anybody like him," Mayes said.

Blackwell doesn't have any specific plans for retirement, but he and his wife may build a house near his son, Jeffrey, in Saginaw.

But he scheduled his retirement for this time of year, his wife said, now that he doesn't have to work on weekends. "It occurred to him he could watch all the football games," Marietta Blackwell said.

JESSICA DeLEÓN, 817-685-3932

Charles Blackwell

Age: 76

Background: Born in Edinburg, grew up in San Benito and Raymondville

Residence: Colleyville

Education: University of Texas at Austin, majoring in pharmacy

Experience: Began working at McKee's Drugstore in Raymondville in the eighth grade; also worked for pharmacies in Tulia and Wichita Falls; owned Medical Arts Pharmacy in Eules; worked for Skaggs/Albertsons beginning in 1983

Family: Wife Marietta, a freelance interior designer; son Jeffrey of Saginaw, and four grandchildren

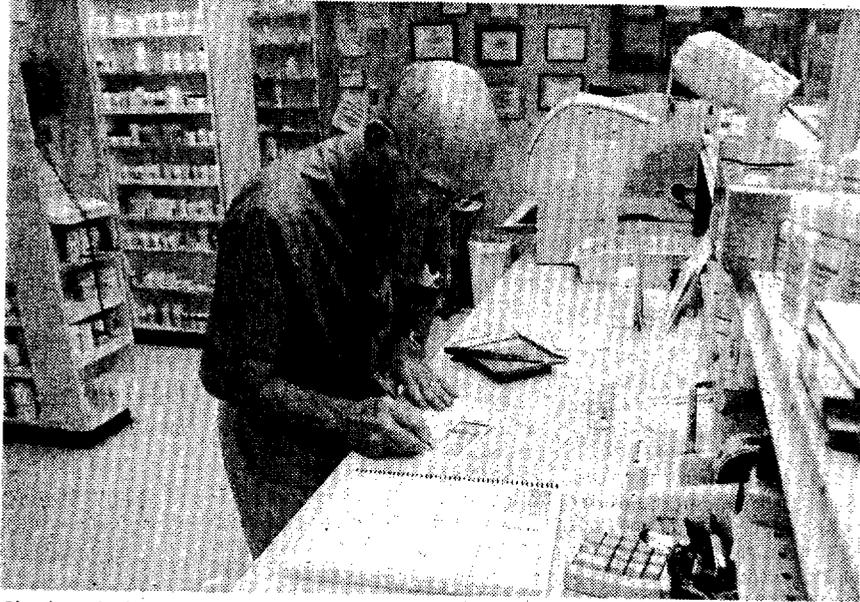


Albertsons employee Michael Herrera, right, gives a goodbye handshake to Charles Blackwell on his last day as a pharmacist Thursday in Hurst.

SPECIAL TO THE STAR-TELEGRAM/BRIAN LAWDERMILK

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Charles Blackwell began working for Albertsons in 1983. "He cares so deeply about everybody," says one of his longtime customers.

SPECIAL TO THE S-T/BRIAN LAUDERMILK