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# Eules's pride rooted in its trees

City also is home  
 to Trinity's champion  
 football team

By DEBORAH FLECK  
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Eules has made a name for itself not only because of its trees but also with its successful high school football team.

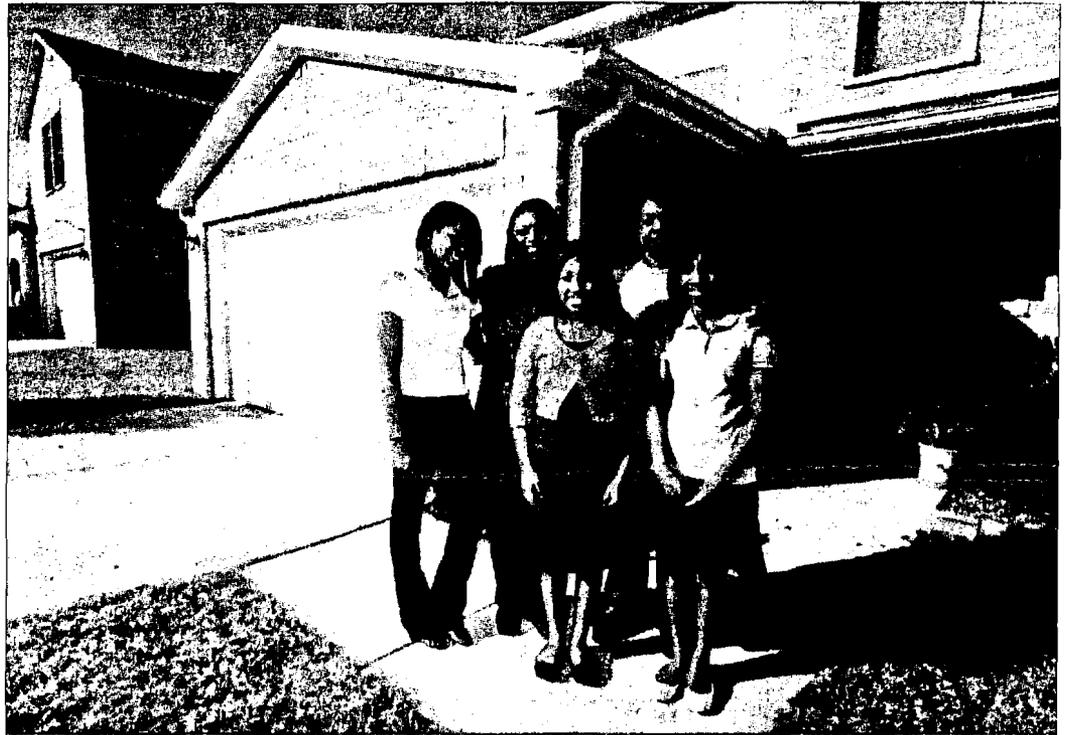
Trinity High School just joined the state's elite schools as a multiple winner of a state football title. It garnered its second state title last month as well as national recognition for its haka chant, a rallying cheer created by the team's Tongan players.

The city's location adjacent to Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport has drawn many residents from the South Pacific who work at the airport or for American Airlines.

Surrounded by vehicle and plane traffic, Eules strives to stay green through several environmental programs.

The National Arbor Day Foundation has twice recognized the city for its Arbor Daze Festival, an event held every April that promotes the planting of trees. Eules has also been named a White House Millennium Community for being tree-friendly.

The community of about 53,000 is part of the Hurst-Eules-Bedford trio that hugs Air-



ELIZABETH M. CLAFFEY/Staff Photographer

**The Obamehinti family moved to Eules because of the schools and proximity to the airport. The Obamehintis, from left: Lola, 17; Feyi; Layo, 14; Johnson and Lade, 13.**

port Freeway in Northeast Tarrant County. The cities share a school district and a chamber of commerce.

The school district is among the top 10 percent of districts nationwide and was one of the first in North Texas to offer an International Baccalaureate program.

That advanced program, the district's trimester schedule and

the city's convenient location are the main reasons Feyi Obamehinti and her family moved to the area about four years ago from Cedar Hill.

"Eules offers such easy access to the airport. We can be there in five minutes," Mrs. Obamehinti said, adding that relatives visit often and her husband's job requires travel.

The family moved into a new

development tucked between two major highways. "It's a quiet, family-oriented neighborhood," said the mother of three.

Her husband, Johnson Obamehinti, just became a member of the neighborhood association's new board. "We have 215 homes built in the first two phases," he said. "It's a very nice development."

In addition to commendable

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### DigitalEXTRA

of Link: Tour more than two dozen communities and cities in the Dallas-Fort Worth area in our Neighborhood Profiles area online.

[dallasnews.com/homecenter](http://dallasnews.com/homecenter)

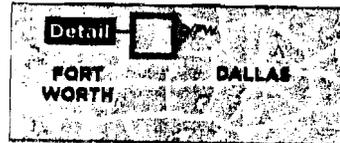
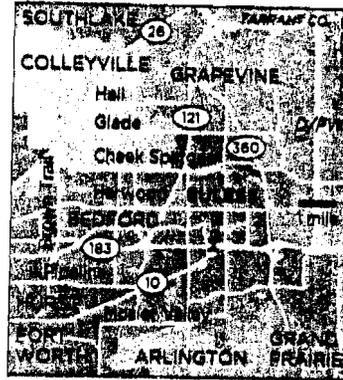
schools, the city offers a strong Parks and Community Services Department. In 2007, the department won six awards from the Texas Festival and Events Association. The department maintains more than two dozen parks and facilities, including the Texas Star Golf Course, Softball World, Simmons Senior Center and three historic buildings.

The city is also home to a Dr Pepper StarCenter, a multisport complex that opened in 2000.

For young families, home prices are fairly affordable, with some single-family homes listed for less than \$100,000. Apartments make up about 45 percent of residential structures.

Eules is the fourth-largest city in Tarrant County.

Remaining undeveloped land is shrinking, which includes land Eules shares with the airport. But the airport is considering plans to develop its approximately 1,800 acres in Eules with a retail or restaurant project in a couple of years.



TOM SETZER/Staff Artist

### EULESS AT A GLANCE

**History:** Growth began after Elisha Adam Eules built a home and a cotton gin in the area in 1881. The city incorporated in 1951, disincorporated in 1952 and reincorporated in 1953.

**2006 estimated median home value:** \$123,764

**2006 home sales\*:** \$46,000 to \$375,000

**Shopping:** North East Mall

**Schools:** Hurst-Eules-Bedford ISD and Grapevine-Colleyville ISD

**2006 crime:** no murders, three rapes, 36 robberies, 64 aggravated assaults, 298 burglaries, 156 vehicle thefts and 1,153 thefts

**More information:**  
[www.ci.Eules.tx.us](http://www.ci.Eules.tx.us)

\*Reported sales prices of homes listed through MLS  
SOURCES: Claritas; city of Eules, Dave Downs of Re/Max DFW Associates

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## MARINES

# Eules lance corporal gets face time on TV

**The Silent Drill Platoon is featured in a new Marine Corps promotion.**

By CHRIS VAUGHN  
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Brendon McGuyer's TV remote does not normally stop on *American Idol* this time of year. Tonight, though, he'll make an exception. He wants to see himself.

He won't belt out any Mo-

town, nor will he be on the receiving end of a Simon zinger.

Instead, McGuyer, 22, a 2005 Trinity High School graduate, will appear in the debut of a Marine Corps commercial shot at some of the nation's most idealized and picturesque places — the Golden Gate bridge, Times Square, the Grand Canyon, a lighthouse in New England.

"I pretty much visited all the

**On TV**

*American Idol* airs at 7 p.m. on KDFW/Channel 4.

places I ever wanted to go in the last few months," said McGuyer, a lance corporal.

McGuyer is a member of the Silent Drill Platoon, a unit that performs globally as an ambassador for the Marine Corps. He joined the 40-man unit in November and is stationed at

what is informally known as the 8th and I in Washington, D.C., where the Corps' hand-picked ceremonial platoons are based.

He was noticed during infantry school because of his discipline and bearing and was recruited to join the elite platoon. He barely qualified physically, though — the minimum height requirement is 5 feet 10

inches, exactly his height.

The Silent Drill Platoon does a 15-minute rifle-hurling and marching routine without anyone calling out commands. McGuyer said members practice until "muscle memory" takes over, and what communication occurs is mostly from "wood counts" of slapping the butts of the M-1 rifles.

McGuyer is hardly the star of the commercial. No Marine expects to get more than a few seconds of face time before America. But he said it was still pretty thrilling to draw a crowd as the commercial was filmed, even at 2 a.m. in Times Square.

"They've sent me places I thought I would never get to visit," he said, ticking off recent trips to Paris and Montreal. "I love what I do."



Lance Cpl. Brendon McGuyer's discipline and bearing got him noticed during infantry school and recruited into the Silent Drill Platoon.

MARINES/

LANCE CPL. ERIC N. CARRANZA

CHRIS VAUGHN, 817-390-7547

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# Trying to keep seniors connected to society

## 2 groups fighting isolation that comes from loss of loved ones, lack of money and other difficulties

By JESSICA DeLEÓN

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Cities, businesses and organizations in Northeast Tarrant County have an opportunity to prove they're senior-friendly.

The United Way-Northeast and the Northeast Leadership Forum are working together on a project to recognize groups that include seniors in their activities. They hope to combat senior isolation.

United Way officials say they hope to have lists of senior-friendly organizations during their annual report to the community in the fall. The deadline for applications is Aug. 1.

### Program details

Cities, faith-based groups, schools, businesses and media, healthcare, social-service and civic organizations can apply for senior-friendly certification.

Applicants that meet the standards will receive certificates.

Cities, for example, must create a senior advisory board and meet at least three of five criteria: Market senior programs in at least three ways, have at least one intergenerational program, educate the community about senior resources, have three events or programs that include seniors as volunteers or workers and work with another city on a senior program.

Businesses, too, must meet at least three of five standards: Demonstrate three ways that they have senior-friendly access or equipment, show how seniors work as volunteers or employees, market to seniors, train workers to understand seniors and show how employees are encouraged to care for parents who are seniors.

The criteria "may not seem like huge things," said Faye Beaulieu, project director for United Way-

Northeast. "It means somebody in that community had that conversation about what we can do about seniors."

### The need

About 37,000 of Northeast Tarrant County's 400,000 residents are 65 or older, according to the 2000 U.S. Census. Nearly 20 percent of Tarrant County seniors experience some degree of isolation, according to the United Way's 2005 needs assessment.

Isolation is separation from society because of the loss of a spouse or close friends or the lack of transportation, hearing or money, for example. As seniors become withdrawn, their homes fall into disrepair, their health deteriorates or they can no longer cook, Beaulieu said.

"It's a ripple," she said. "We want to identify those people and draw them back into being re-engaged."

Ron Parish, director of community ministries for the Community En-

“We want to identify those people and draw them back into being re-engaged.”

**Faye Beaulieu**, United Way-Northeast

richment Center and a member of United Way's Senior Isolation Task Force, sees the need to fight isolation. He runs a weekly senior program at the Community Enrichment Center in North Richland Hills.

"I don't think cities are aware of the isolation some seniors are in because it's hard to identify," he said, adding that isolated seniors don't visit senior centers and don't have the income or resources to get out.

### Who's involved

United Way officials have made presentations to Euless, Grapevine and Southlake. Representatives plan to talk to Bedford and Hurst next.

Grapevine has applied. Officials feel that the city's senior center meets the criteria, recreation superintendent Chris Smith said.

"Our job is to address the needs of all citizens," Smith said. "We felt like, going into it, we already do a lot of these things. For us, it was validation."

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

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## ARLINGTON

# Ballpark Way alternatives are proposed

**Residents hear proposals for a new north-south road to provide access to a planned development in north Arlington.**

By MITCH MITCHELL  
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ARLINGTON — About 300 people attended a meeting Wednesday to hear more community-friendly alternatives to a proposed extension and expansion of Ballpark Way into a six-lane thoroughfare with an elevated bridge that could rise as high as 50 feet.

The Viridian Project, a planned 2,100-acre develop-

ment near the Eules border that could ultimately include 5,000 homes, requires a new north-south roadway.

The current plan is an extension of Ballpark Way, which has been in the city's thoroughfare plan since 1992, said Bruce Payne, Arlington's assistant director of development services.

On Wednesday, residents heard two alternatives to bringing a vastly enlarged roadway through their neighborhoods.

**Ballpark Way plan:** The plan would expand Ballpark Way to six lanes in some places

and extend it over the Trinity River into the Viridian Project, which would have at least three other entrances.

**Alternative I:** Called "small Ballpark," the plan calls for the extension of Ballpark Way as a two-lane, undivided road north across the Trinity River from Green Oaks Boulevard. Ballpark Way would run along the Trinity River and connect with Riverside Parkway. The connection would be made by building an east-west street connecting to Ballpark Way and Riverside Parkway. The new street would enter the Viridian Project.



### What do you think?

Post a comment on this report at

[www.star-telegram.com](http://www.star-telegram.com)

**Alternative II:** Called "no Ballpark," the plan would extend Riverside Parkway to Green Oaks Boulevard. As in the other alternative, a street connecting Riverside Parkway to the Viridian Project would have to be built.

Staff writer Susan Schrock contributed to this report, which includes material from the Star-Telegram archives.

MITCH MITCHELL, 817-548-5411

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### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**TOWN HALL MEETINGS:** The city of Euless will have a town hall meeting at 7 p.m. Jan. 24 in the council chambers at City Hall, 201 N. Ector Drive. Representatives from all city departments will take questions, comments or suggestions. For information, call 817-685-1563.

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## INVESTIGATION

# Eules police officer, 37, is arrested on DWI suspicion

Star-Telegram

ARLINGTON — A Eules police officer was arrested early Thursday on suspicion of driving while intoxicated, according to Arlington police.

Donald Meredith, 37, was arrested after an accident about 12:30 a.m. Thursday in the 1000 block of East Lamar Boulevard in north Arlington, police spokesman Lt. Blake Miller said in a news release. No one was injured.

Meredith refused to give a breath or blood specimen, Miller said in the statement, so police obtained a search warrant, and a blood sample was taken at a hospital.



Meredith

Miller said.

Police said they are awaiting a report of the blood sample analysis before concluding their investigation.

Meredith, a patrol officer and a 14-year veteran of the Eules Police Department, was placed on administrative leave Thursday afternoon pending the outcome of the investigation, Eules Assistant Chief Har-

land Westmoreland said. In 1995, Meredith was involved in an accident in which his patrol car collided with a vehicle that apparently ran a red light. The accident left 49-year-old Patsy Bobbitt dead. Bobbitt was a passenger in a 1994 Hyundai driven by Nancy McDonald of Eules. McDonald, 24, was treated for minor injuries at Harris Methodist H.E.B. hospital and released.

Meredith was cleared of any wrongdoing in that wreck, police said.

Staff writers Mitch Mitchell and Melissa Vargas contributed to this report, which includes material from the Star-Telegram archives.

Meredith was returned to the Arlington Jail where he posted \$1,000 bail at 8:30 a.m. and was released.