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Join actress for mom talk

EULESS — Janine Turner, a Colleyville resident and star of the television series *Northern Exposure*, will appear at 7 p.m. Tuesday on LIFE Today television to promote her new book and encourage single mothers.

The book is *Holding Her Head High: 12 Single Mothers Who Championed Their Children and Changed History*.

The studios are at 1801 W. Euless Blvd. For free tickets to be in the studios during Turner's appearance, call 817-354-3655 or e-mail audience@loi.org.



— Terry Lee Goodrich

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CHEERS AND JEERS

Cheers: To U.S. District Judge John McBryde for upholding the Euless ordinance against animal sacrifice. (See March 11 news story "Euless' ban on animal sacrifice is upheld.") The Santeria church, in its exploitation of animal abuse to suit their sacrifices to "deities," wasn't a legitimate reason for Euless to capitulate based on religious grounds.

— David Payne, Fort Worth

Jeers: To the Santeria church for practicing animal sacrifice and suing Euless for infringing on religious freedom in hopes of perpetuating this cruel, inhumane suffering for religious purposes. (See March 10 news story "Santeria priest's case will go to U.S. court today.") It's anachronistic, archaic and against city ordinance.

— George Ibarri, Fort Worth

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EULESS

Man's death in a fire inspires smoke detector distribution

About 20 percent of homes in the U.S. do not have working smoke detectors.

By **MELISSA VARGAS** mvgas@star-telegram.com
EULESS — Frank Dusek, 62, was a retired American Airlines technician who recently balanced his love of collecting guns by taking up gardening.

When temperatures hovered above freezing in late March, Dusek built a greenhouse

behind his home to nurture his almost-blooming rose bushes, tomatoes and red peppers. He heated the space with wood fires.

Dusek's family speculates that his heating technique triggered the March 19 blaze that killed him and destroyed his house. Fire officials have said they believe that the fire was electrical, but they are still investigating.

The only smoke detector in the home was

on a chair, without the batteries, fire officials said.

"I'd like to think that having a working smoke detector would have saved his life, but you never know," Eules fire investigator Vernon Gilmore said. "He certainly would have had a better chance."

On Friday, Eules fire investigators joined members of the citizens fire academy alumni organization to go door to door in Dusek's neighborhood, distributing working smoke detectors.

A quiet man

Dusek was born and raised in Sayre, Okla., said his younger brother, Ernest Dusek. After four years as a technician in the Air Force, Frank Dusek got a job working as a flight simulator technician for American Airlines. He stayed at the airline until he retired about three years ago, Ernest Dusek said.

"He was extremely to himself," Ernest Dusek said. "He had some girlfriends, but nothing serious ever developed. He was just pretty much a loner."

Frank Dusek loved collecting guns, not to shoot, but just to have them, his brother said. He said Frank Dusek collected many things, and his house was filled with items people had thrown away, but he thought were still useful.

A neighbor had recently given him a broken clock, and he fixed it, Ernest Dusek said. It was easily heard chiming in the background during the brothers' monthly phone call, when they talked about politics for hours.

Recently, Frank Dusek had become interested in gardening. He spent much of his time learning about plants and planting and caring for them, his brother said. The greenhouse was also lost in the fire.

"He was probably asleep. He slept in the living room," Ernest Dusek said. "The house was probably ablaze before he woke up. It must have been overwhelming."

Prevention

About 20 percent of homes in the U.S. do not have working smoke detectors, Gilmore said.

On Friday, firefighters and

Smoke detectors

■ About 20 percent of homes in the U.S. do not have working smoke detectors.

■ Smoke detectors double the chances of escaping a house fire and should be tested and the batteries replaced every six months.

■ If you need help installing or checking your smoke detector, call your local fire department.

volunteers talked to Dusek's neighbors, many of them elderly, or left hangers on door-knobs asking residents to contact the Fire Department if they needed help checking or installing smoke detectors. They stopped at 33 homes in Dusek's neighborhood and installed 16 smoke detectors, two each in eight homes, Gilmore said.

"Sometimes, seniors don't have the ability or means to check smoke detectors, and we have to do anything we can to help them," said Linda Martin, a city councilwoman and volunteer. "I am a senior citizen, and I know sometimes we tend to be lax. This is just a little reminder."

The group got such a good response that it is going to try to canvass all Eules neighborhoods, Gilmore said.

A new partnership with Meals on Wheels has also started to pay off. The organization is training its volunteers to do home safety inspections for elderly clients, and it will notify Eules Fire Department officials if alarms are needed.

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"If it's an opportunity to make sure people have smoke detectors, we are all over that," Gilmore said. "It hurts me to see that an elderly person doesn't have smoke detectors. It just bothers me to know that we have folks without them."

MELISSA VARGAS, 817-685-3888



Eules fire inspector Charles Anderson installs a smoke detector in a Eules home Friday. Alumni of the Eules citizens fire academy and fire inspectors went door-to-door installing smoke detectors.

SPECIAL TO THE STAR-TELEGRAM/D.J. PETERS

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COMMUNITIES

Should taxpayer money be spent on works such as these?



Tamie Limtiaco, 36, with the *Sidewalk Judge*, in Grapevine. The statue cost \$70,000, paid for with Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau funds.

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Art a point of debate in elections in Keller

By ADRIENNE NETTLES
anettles@star-telegram.com

KELLER — The extent of Keller's public art program could come down to whom voters elect to the City Council on May 10.

Public art advocates say they are running for each of the three seats up for election in part to bring change. They say the five-member council's support for public art has spiraled downward in recent years. Like the city's parks and trails, public art makes Keller a better place to live, and that encourages interest from businesses and developers, the advocates say.

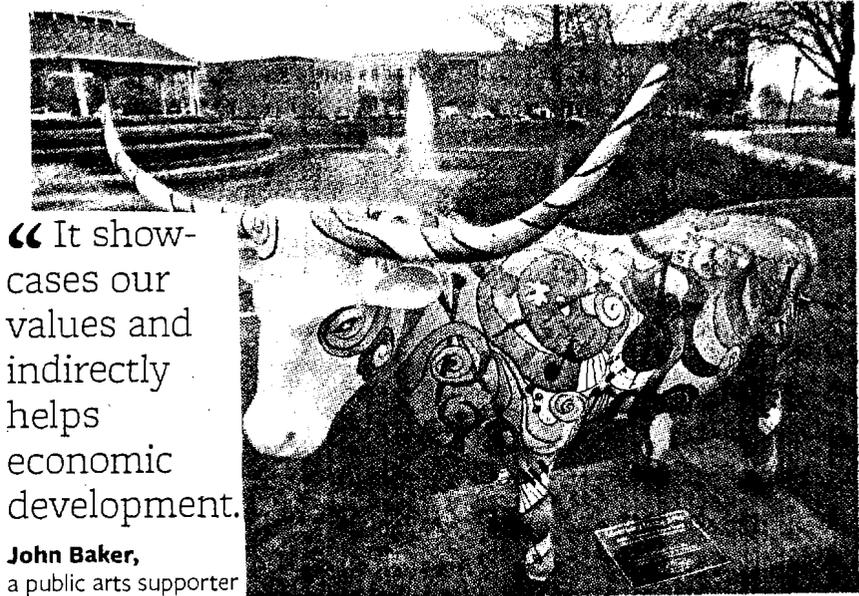
But Place 4 Councilman Jim Carson and

others oppose spending public dollars on art projects. Carson believes public art should never supersede needs such as public safety, roads and infrastructure. He is being challenged by public arts supporter Jim Thompson.

The issue is part of a regional debate over whether tax dollars should help pay for public displays of sculptures, paintings, fountains and even art on city curbs.

Pays dividends

Keller is among communities, including Colleyville, Euless, Hurst, North Richland Hills and



“It showcases our values and indirectly helps economic development.”

John Baker,
a public arts supporter

The fiberglass longhorns are part of the Southlake Stampede, installed throughout the city for \$110,000. This one is at Southlake Town Square. S-T/STEWART F. HOUSE



The curb art on Piedmont Road in Fort Worth was funded through the city's 2004 Capital Improvement Program bond fund. STAR-TELEGRAM/LAURIE L. WARD



This sculpture in Euless cost \$22,000, with the money raised by the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association.

STAR-TELEGRAM/STEWART F. HOUSE

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Southlake that have supported public art, often spending taxpayer dollars to do so. Southlake and Hurst set aside a portion of their hotel taxes to pay for artwork, while other cities use some of their sales tax revenues.

In Keller, the *Great Blue Heron* sculpture in Town Hall started the city's public art program in 2003. Keller has since accumulated at least nine sculptures, which are on display throughout the community. Keller is also known for its 2-year-old fall art show, *Brushes to Bronze*.

"These are investments in our community that we get dividends off of even sometimes indirectly," said John Baker, a public arts supporter. He is running for the Place 2 council seat against Scott Zang, who opposes using tax dollars for public artwork; incumbent Mark Harness, who says he's open to finding a way to pay for public art; and Kevin Jerome, who views the debate as a side issue.

"It showcases our values," Baker said, "and indirectly helps economic development."

That opinion is shared by Terri Messing, chairwoman of the Apex Arts League, a nonprofit group in Southlake that hopes to open a regional art center in Northeast Tarrant County. The nonprofit group sees visual and performing arts as integral to communities.

"You can go anywhere else in the country that are premier communities, and there is art," Messing said. "The arts are important because they soften our world. It's important to educate our children. Art well-rounds a community."

In other Northeast Tarrant cities:

■ Southlake's already-strong involvement in public art is growing, said Messing, who also serves on the Southlake Arts Council. The city has set aside money to place public art at roundabouts and plans to place art in the city's new Department of Public Safety building.

■ Hurst dedicates a portion of its hotel-motel tax fund to public art. Last year, the City Council combined revenue from the city's hotel-motel fund and from the half-cent community services sales tax fund to buy the \$68,405 eagle sculpture that sits in front of City Hall.

■ North Richland Hills' Arts in Public Spaces Program has bought 14 pieces since it was established in 2002, North Richland Hills spokeswoman Mary Peters said. The artworks — which range from paintings to metal and stone sculptures — are in parks and public buildings throughout the city, Peters said. They've been purchased through private and corporate donations, revenues from cellphone tower leases and money from the city's half-cent sales tax for parks, she said. "The program beautifies public areas, improves our quality of life and creates a distinctive identity for our community," Peters said.

But others, such as Bob Bashein of Fort Worth, believe cities can go too far in using taxpayer money to fund art projects. Bashein, president of the executive committee for the Ridglea Hills Neighborhood Association, said taxpayer money is being spent to add tiles to curbs in his neighborhood. The curb art on Piedmont Road in his neighborhood cost about \$4,000, with the funding coming from 2 percent of the city's 2004 Capital Improvement Program bond fund, said an official with the Arts Council of Fort Worth & Tarrant County, which manages Fort Worth's public art program.

"This concept is common across the country where cities set aside part of their construction budgets for public art," said Martha Peters, council public arts director.

Bashein said taxpayers' dollars could be better spent.

"My gripe is that there are neighborhoods in the city of Fort Worth that would just like to have curbs," he said. "It's a total waste of money when we have miles and miles of streets that need repairs. This doesn't make sense."

Keller art

In Keller, Baker, a former chairman of the Keller Public Arts Board, believes that the board's work has been undermined by Carson and the current council. Money for the projects was generated by cellphone tower leases and the \$25,000 that the city's trash contractor, Allied Waste, pays Keller for each year of its contract. The *Great Blue Heron* sculpture cost \$65,000, Baker said.



John Baker, left, Place 2 council candidate, supports public art. Place 4 Councilman Jim Carsons opposes spending public dollars for art.

S-T/KELLEY CHINN

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"We spent three years paying for this first piece using the beginning balance we had in a Public Art Board special revenue fund," Baker said. Through the years, the board has also relied on cash donations and in-kind sponsorships to keep the city's program robust.

But the council eliminated the board's separate account last year, deciding instead to pay for public art as needed through the city's general fund. Carson said he represents those in Keller who oppose using taxpayer dollars for public art. He believes public art should compete with other funding needs of the city, such as roads and public safety.

"To me it's just sleazy to give them an open checkbook," Carson said of the city's Public Art Board. "The Public Art Board should decide what it wants to do and ask the council for the funding. Of course, I'm always going to vote no."

Carson spearheaded an attempt in February to block funding of a sculpture for the city's Veterans Memorial park. But the council voted 4-1 with Carson dissenting to contribute \$55,000 toward the \$80,000 eagle sculpture. Several council members said that the city had already committed to the artwork.

Carson said he believes that his position on public art will help him win re-election.

"I have had people calling me, thanking me for fighting special agendas in Keller after that vote," he said.

Carson's viewpoint is shared by political newcomer Zang. "Local government should support the art endeavors to the point that they can use the city as a forum for displaying public art," he said. "I don't support taxpayer dollars going toward public art. We have fiscal accountability and responsibility on the way taxpayer money is spent."

Baker, Thompson and Place 3 candidate Tom Cawthra say they are running in part to restore support for the public arts board and the arts in general. Thompson called the cellphone tower money "windfall money," the kind of revenue the city should use to fund its public art program.

People move to Keller for its quality of life, Thompson said.

"Is public art part of that?" he said. "I would think so. This City Council has been less supportive of public art than previous administrations. For me it's not about one piece of art, one park, it's about the big job of keeping quality of life in Keller high."

Place 3 incumbent Bob Kirk said the council needs to give the public arts board clear direction. The other Place 3 candidate, Bob Welch, did not return phone calls.

"I don't have a problem with there not being a special fund for public art, but there needs to be a specific amount in the budget for public art," Kirk said. "I think that's where I and Carson disagree because he believes the board needs to come and ask every time it needs funding."

Online: www.cityofkeller.com

ADRIENNE NETTLES, 817-685-3820

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TARRANT COUNTY



'Sunday Skaters, a sculpture in downtown Grapevine.

STAR-TELEGRAM/STEWART F. HOUSE



'Pinwheel, a series of three kinetic sculptures in North Richland Hills.

S-T/STEWART F. HOUSE



'Temujin, a sculpture of an eagle outside of Hurst City Hall.

STAR-TELEGRAM/STEWART F. HOUSE

Throughout Northeast, public art finds a place

Star-Telegram

A look at public art in some Northeast Tarrant County cities:

Bedford

■ **The Need to Know**, a bronze statue of a boy reading a book
Where: Bedford Public Library, 1805 L. Don Dodson Drive
Year installed: 1998
Cost: \$48,000
How the money was raised: Coin drive and donations

Colleyville

■ No title, lifesize bronze sculpture of a firefighter
Where: Central Fire Station, 5209 Colleyville Blvd.
Year installed: 2008
Cost: \$38,500
How the money was raised: City's public arts budget

Public art spending

About half the cities in greater Northeast Tarrant County do not fund public art projects. The other communities use various methods to pay for artwork, such as sales and hotel-motel taxes, and revenue from cellphone tower leases. Annual municipal public art budgets can range greatly from year to year, depending on the artwork purchased:

City	FY 2006-07	FY 2007-08
Southlake	\$120,000	\$50,000
Hurst	\$86,405	\$20,000
Keller	\$86,000	\$55,000
Eules	\$61,500	\$78,408
North Richland Hills	\$37,000	\$149,196
Colleyville	\$0	\$60,000
Grapevine		\$360,000*

*Figure is cumulative; Grapevine does not break it down by year.

Source: Cities

STAR-TELEGRAM

Eules

■ **Blooms of Enlightenment**, a blown-glass display
Where: Eules Public Library, 201 N. Ector Drive
Year installed: 2005
Cost: \$125,000
How money was raised: Eules Library Foundation

■ No formal title, bronze sculpture of a police officer holding a child in his arms
Where: Law Enforcement Center, 1102 W. Eules Blvd.
Year installed: 1999
Cost: \$22,000
How the money was raised: Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association

■ No formal title, bronze sculpture of an eagle landing on the Liberty Bell
Where: Veterans Field, 1501 S. Pipeline Road
Year installed: 2005
Cost: \$33,300
How the money was raised: City's Economic Development Corp.

Grapevine

■ **Sidewalk Judge**, bronze sculpture of an elderly man who observes people
Where: Wallis Building Front Porch, 301 S. Main St.
Year installed: 1997
Cost: \$70,000
How the money was raised: Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau funds

■ **Benjamin Richard Wall Statue**, Bronze sculpture of Grapevine's fourth mayor
Where: Main and Wall streets
Year installed: 2004
Cost: \$34,500
How the money was raised: Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau and cellphone tower rental revenue

■ **Sunday Skaters**, bronze sculpture of children from the 1920s skating down the street
Where: College and Main streets
Year installed: 2006

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Cost: \$40,500

How the money was raised: Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau and cellphone tower rental revenue

■ *The Nightwatchman*, Bronze sculpture of a man who patrols Grapevine streets from the 1900s-1950s

Where: On top of City Hall, 200 S. Main St.

Year installed: 1997

Cost: \$20,000

How the money was raised: Selling prints of original paintings in City Hall and 18-inch bronze replicas of the statue

Hurst

■ *Temujin*, 10-foot-tall bronze sculpture of an eagle

Where: Hurst City Hall, 1505 Precinct Line Road

Year installed: 2007

Cost: Artwork: \$30,000; fountain, landscape: \$39,000

How the money was raised: Hotel/motel funds, citywide beautification funds and half-cent sales tax fund

North Richland Hills

■ *Pinwheel*, a series of three kinetic metal pinwheels

Where: Clyde Zellers Park, 4801 Vance Road

Year installed: 2003

Cost: \$11,000

How the money was raised: Public arts budget through the city's half-cent sales tax for parks

■ *Family Train*, metallic sculpture of a family

Where: Dick Faram Park, 8344 Amundson Drive

Year installed: 2003

Cost: \$10,000

How the money was raised: Public arts budget through the city's half-cent sales tax for parks

■ *I Luv NYC*, mural depicting New York City street scenes

Where: Ace Park, 7751 N. Richland Blvd.

Year installed: 2007

Cost: \$20,000

How the money was raised: Public arts budget through the city's half-cent sales tax for parks

Southlake

■ *Southlake Stampede*, fiberglass longhorns

Where: City properties throughout Southlake and local businesses

Year installed: 2006

Cost: About \$110,000

How the money was raised: Sponsorships, statue purchases by sponsors and auctions. \$138,486 has been collected to date; excess funds go into the city's public art fund

Sources: Cities of Bedford, Colleyville, Euless, Grapevine, Hurst, North Richland Hills and Southlake

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BRIEFS



Eules firefighters and workers from a wrecker service help clear sand after a truck overturned on North Industrial Boulevard in Eules on Monday.

S-T/R. JEENA JACOB

Accident injures 2, shuts down road

EULESS — Two men were injured and southbound Industrial Boulevard was shut down Monday morning after a wreck that dumped a truckload of sand near Trinity High School. Both men were taken to hospitals, one by helicopter, but neither appeared to have life-threatening injuries, police spokesman Lt. John Williams said. Three tractor-trailers loaded with sand were traveling in a single-file caravan about 7:30 a.m. when the third truck failed to slow quickly enough and glanced off the second truck, crashing into the lead one and spilling that truck's load, Williams said. All of the southbound lanes and all but one northbound lane were closed between Harwood Road and Midway Drive during the cleanup, which lasted until about 12:30 p.m.

— Mark Agee

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EULESS | SANTERIA

Animal-sacrifice case is appealed

By **JESSICA DeLEÓN**
 jdeleon@star-telegram.com

EULESS — A Washington, D.C.-based religious liberty organization filed an appeal

Tuesday of a federal court decision backing Euleless' refusal to allow a Santeria priest to slaughter goats in the city.

Background

In December 2006, Santeria priest Jose Merced sued the city in federal court, saying Euleless was violating his religious freedom by not allowing him to sacrifice animals as part of a religious ceremony.



Merced

Last month, U.S. District Judge John McBryde ruled against Merced, saying that he did not need to use his house to practice his religion and that the city was protecting the public's health with ordinances against animal cruelty and the disposal of blood and carcasses.

The appeal

Officials with the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty said they filed the appeal on behalf of Merced in the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

Becket describes itself as a nonprofit, nonpartisan public-interest law firm that defends free expression of all religious traditions.

Plaintiff's view

McBryde didn't give enough weight to the fact that the ceremonies have not caused any health problems, Becket attorney Lori Windham said. There had been no reports of anyone being sick or other complaints, she said.

"This public health problem is something that's still hypothetical," Windham said.

Merced said he was pleased that Becket agreed to take his case.

He said his ceremonies have not harmed anybody.

"I don't think a city can tell me what I can practice in my house," he said.

City officials declined to comment on pending litigation.

Online: www.becketfund.org
www.euleless.org

JESSICA DELEÓN, 817-685-3932

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Cities have slight variations in their rules for activating siren systems

12:00 AM CDT on Friday, April 11, 2008

As powerful storms moved through North Texas early Thursday morning, Allen, McKinney, Frisco, Lancaster, DeSoto, Farmers Branch, Cleburne, Hurst, Euless and Bedford activated emergency alert sirens.

But other cities, including some that suffered significant damage – like Plano, Colleyville and Southlake – did not.

So what are the criteria for activating the sirens?

It varies slightly from city to city, but generally, emergency officials sound sirens because of at least one of two factors:

- A tornado warning issued by the National Weather Service for a city or neighboring city
- Tornadoic conditions are observed by police or fire officials in the city.

Plano did not activate weather sirens because officials believed conditions didn't warrant it, said Assistant City Manager Bruce Glasscock.

The main purpose of the siren system, he added, is to warn people who are outside to take cover. Because the storm took place so early in the morning, officials decided the sirens would have provided little warning.

In neighboring Allen, sirens were activated at 3:56 a.m., said city spokeswoman Teresa Warren.

But Ms. Warren said that because sirens are an outdoor warning system, they are not designed to be heard inside a residence that might be some distance from a siren location.

"Our Fire Department advises our residents to use weather radios with battery backup to check the status of weather during a severe storm," she said.

The radio receivers or scanners are available online or at electronics stores. They can be programmed to alert residents only of certain emergencies in specific counties, and they have battery backup.

Weather radios are often the best alert system because power can fail during a storm, leaving residents without electrical and phone service.

"I would take the opportunity to tell people it is time to have an all-hazard weather radio in their home," said Raymond Rivas, emergency management specialist for the city of Dallas. His radio woke him up when the National Weather Service issued a tornado warning for Tarrant County around 3 a.m.

Staff writers Jim Getz, Ed Housewright, Theodore Kim, Elizabeth Langton, Jon Nielsen, Marice Richter, Stephanie Sandoval and Jeffrey Weiss contributed to this report.

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EATS BEAT

■ Pollo Campero, the popular Central American fried chicken stand, will open its first Tarrant County location this summer. Watch for it at Texas 121 and Glade Road.

**BUD KENNEDY'S EATS BEAT AP-
PEARS FRIDAYS IN GO! 817-390-7538**