

MAYOR CITY CNCL CITY ATTN CRIM MCKAMIE RIDGWAY(2) DECK BROWN
 YOUNG McDONALD COLLINS C. BARKER GETCHELL LIBRARY ADMIN LIBRARY REF ANIMAL CNTR

DATE DISTRIBUTED 4/18/08 DATE OF ARTICLE 4/12/08 NEWSPAPER WFAA-TV

Santeria priest suing city of Euless

08:18 PM CDT on Saturday, April 12, 2008

By CHRIS HAWES / WFAA-TV

For more than a year, the curious have driven by Jason Merced's home and wondered about the Santeria priest living inside.

"People have asked me if I drink blood, I don't drink blood at all," said Merced.

Merced is not what you might expect. He's worked for the same aviation company nearly 20 years. He dreams of becoming a father, and is the proud owner of three pampered pups.

Perhaps that's why what he's done, in one room of his home, might at first seem so surprising.

As a Santeria Priest Merced's taken part in the sacrificing of animals during religious ceremonies for most of his adult life.

A Santeria documentary video, courtesy of Paul Johnson Films, was not taken during one of Merced's ceremonies, but shows what he describes. An animal, killed quickly with a knife, the blood poured on cloth-covered containers, the containers represent the gods.

Santeros ask the gods for help and believe the gods need the bloods energy. The animals are eaten after the sacrifice. Merced says you cook in the same way you would cook a meal at home.

Merced is careful to point out that many celebrations do not include sacrifice, only food and music. "It's being happy, its finding peace within yourself," said Merced.

In 2006, someone complained to the city of Euless, who warned Merced the animal sacrifices break the law and the city's attorney says, threaten public health.

Last month, a federal judge dismissed a lawsuit brought by Merced, but now with the backing of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, Merced's appealing. He says he's ready to take the case all the way to the Supreme Court.

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Several thousand people remained without power Friday.

Star-Telegram

North Texas continued cleaning up after Wednesday's and Thursday's storms.

Johnson County

The storm that pounded North Texas early Thursday morning caused about \$25 million in damage in the county, where a tornado skipped along a 4-mile stretch west of Lillian, officials said Friday.

Six homes and two businesses were destroyed, 22 homes were significantly damaged, and 18 had minor damage, emergency management coordinator Gerald Mohr said.

The county is waiting for more information before possibly seeking a state disaster declaration, County Judge Roger Harmon said.

Electricity

Nearly 20,000 Oncor customers were without electricity Friday, Oncor officials said. Most were in Tarrant County, said Oncor spokesman Chris Schein.

Oncor officials said they expect to focus resources on Tarrant County today and get power restored to most customers tonight.

Debris pickup

Some area cities have set up debris programs to help residents clear trees and branches from their property and streets. Most allow residents to set out debris along the curb for pickup, provided that limbs are cut to certain lengths, often no more than 4 feet. Programs include:

Bedford

■ Residents can drop off debris behind the Meadowpark parking lot, in back of the Kroger shopping center on Harwood Road.

■ They can schedule a pickup with Allied Waste at 817-332-7301 or Mirenda Walden with the city at 817-952-2107.

Colleyville

The city's waste hauler, IESI, will

pick up storm debris April 19.

■ Items should be on the curb by 7 a.m. that day.

■ Storm debris should be cut in 15-foot lengths and weigh no more than 100 pounds.

■ Large debris does not have to be bundled, but small debris should be in boxes, bags or trash cans.

■ Storm debris should not be mixed with regular trash during the usual pickup days. Any items set out on regular pickup days must conform to the regular rules, with items cut to 4-foot lengths.

■ The city will cover the cost the April 19 pickup. Information: 817-503-1111.

Eules

■ Loose brush can be picked up for a fee of \$30 for 1 to 5 cubic yards; \$75 for 6 to 10 cubic yards; \$135 for 10 to 15 cubic yards; and other rates for larger quantities. Call Allied Waste Services at 817-332-7301, ext. 7. Five cubic yards is about 8 feet in diameter and about 4 feet high.

■ Residents can drop off debris from noon to 4 p.m. today at the

UPDATE

Cleanup continues after storms

Allied Transfer Station, 6200 Elliott Reeder Road in Fort Worth. Household hazardous waste will not be accepted. Proof of residency required.

Fort Worth

■ Residents who can prove they live in Fort Worth with a driver's license or recent water bill can use city drop-off stations open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. The stations are at 2400 Brennan Ave., 5150 Martin Luther King Freeway and 6260 Old Hemphill Road. Information: 817-392-3279 or www.fortworthgov.org/dem.

Hurst

Residents can drop off trees and limbs at these places:

■ 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., through April 19 at the east parking lot of Hurst Community Park, 601 Precinct Line Road. Entrance is on Oakwood Drive. Proof of residency required.

■ Noon to 2 p.m. today, Allied Transfer Station, 6200 Elliott Reeder Road in Fort Worth. Household hazardous waste will not be accepted.

■ 7 a.m. to noon April 19, April 26 and May 3, Belaire Shopping Center on Pipeline Road. Proof of residency required.

■ Information: 817-788-7001.

North Richland Hills

■ Storm debris and other unwanted bulky items can be left today at the Tarrant County College Northeast Campus, 828 Harwood Road, in the city's annual Spring Community Clean Up. The drop-off area will be by the tennis courts in Parking Lot E. Proof of residency, such as a driver's license or a water bill, will be required, and only one load per address will be allowed.

■ Residents can also go to the landfill in north Arlington at 800 Mosier Valley Road. Landfill hours are 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The cost is \$6 for a pickup, and proof of North Richland Hills residency is required.

■ Information: Duncan at 817-317-2450 or www.nrhtx.com.

Staff writers Martha Deller and Mitch Mitchell contributed to this report.

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INSIDE THE POLICE SCANNER

Burglar steals IRS form, \$25 that he's unlikely to declare

Star-Telegram

EULESS — Here's an excuse that the IRS probably doesn't hear every day: A bad guy stole my W-2.

That's what happened April 2. In the 1700 block of Acorn Drive, somebody took the wages statement from a 2006 Toyota truck just days before taxes are due.

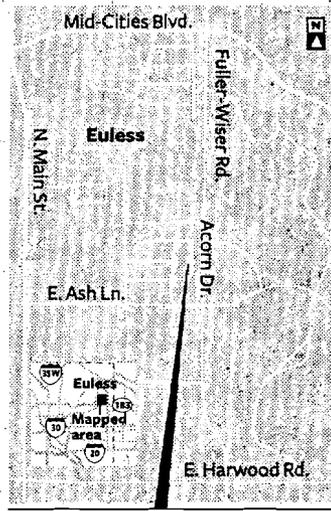
According to police, the burglar got in through an unlocked door.

And the crime happened in broad daylight, shortly after 1 p.m.

But the burglar didn't just have taxes on his mind. He also took \$25 in cash.

— Domingo Ramirez Jr.

IRS fan?



On April 12 a burglar stole a W-2 statement and \$25 from a truck in the 1700 block of Acorn Drive in Euleless.

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MAIN STREET

NEWS TO KNOW

Eules will host a Gas Lease Forum at 7 p.m. Thursday at First Baptist Church, 1000 Airport Freeway. The event will feature talks about drilling and lease negotiations. Representatives from local energy companies will also be there. Information: 817-685-1623

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EULESS

City to hold gas lease forum

By JESSICA DeLEÓN
 jdeleon@star-telegram.com

EULESS — Residents can get their questions about gas drilling and lease negotiations answered Thursday at the city's gas lease forum.

Area homeowners are being asked to lease their mineral rights as drillers explore the Barnett Shale field. "There is a lot of activity going on right now," city spokeswoman Betsy Deck said. "Many residents are being contacted. If they aren't, they are about to be."

Ed Ireland, executive director of the Barnett Shale Energy Education Council, a group set up by energy companies to provide information about natural gas pro-

Euless gas lease forum

- 7 p.m. Thursday
- First Baptist Church
Euless
- 1000 Airport Freeway,
Euless
- 817-685-1623

duction, will discuss the drilling process. Attorney Robert West will talk about how neighborhoods can negotiate leases.

Representatives from five gas companies will be available to answer questions, and tables will be set up for residents who want to work with one another on leases.

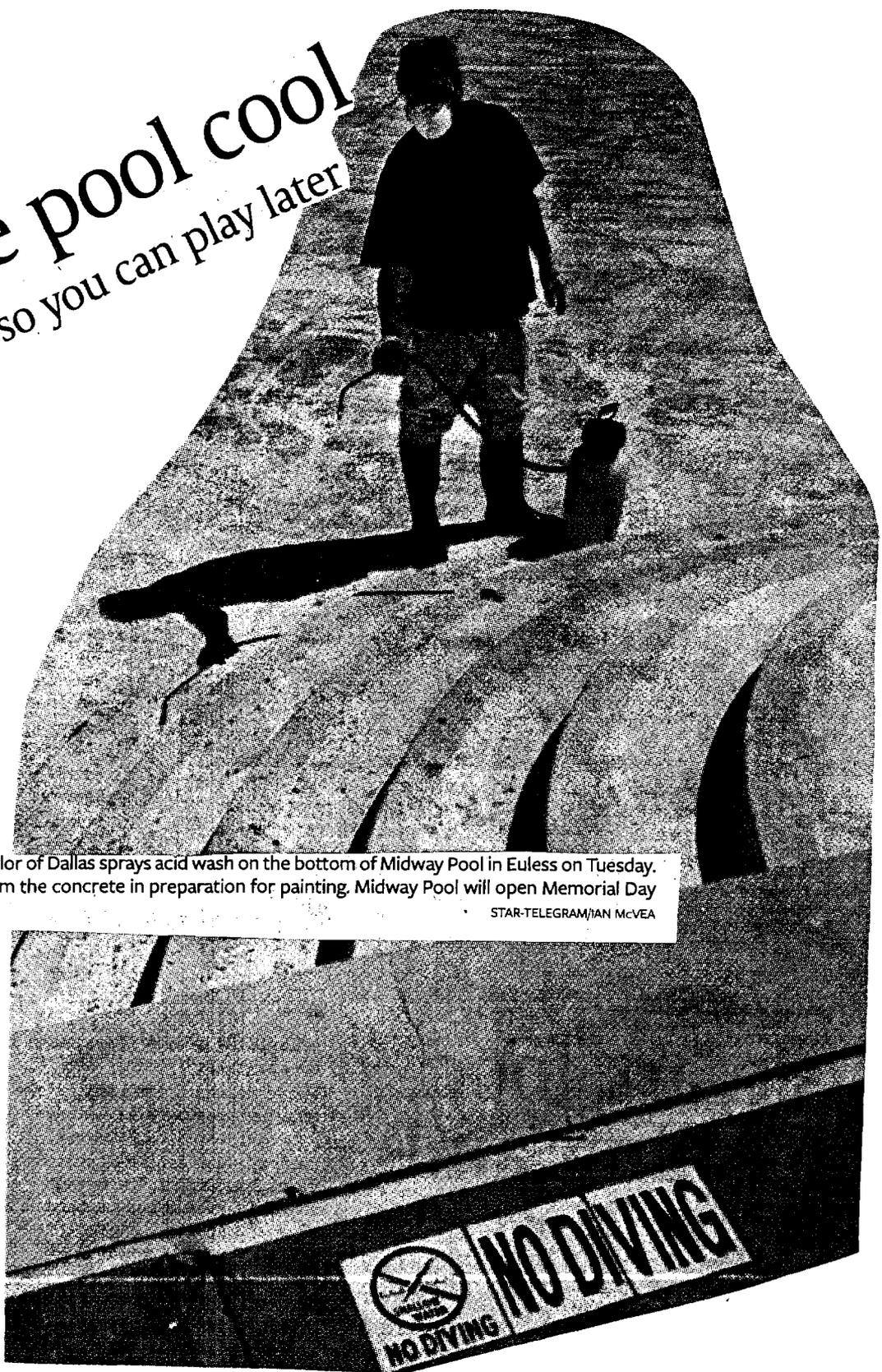
Online: www.euless.org

JESSICA DeLEÓN, 817-685-3932

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EULESS Making the pool cool Workers spray now so you can play later



Pool technician Erik Traylor of Dallas sprays acid wash on the bottom of Midway Pool in Euless on Tuesday. The wash removes oil from the concrete in preparation for painting. Midway Pool will open Memorial Day weekend.

STAR-TELEGRAM/IAN McVEA

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ELECTION REPORTS

What hopefuls raised, spent

The finance data had an April 10 due date.

Star-Telegram

Campaign finance reports for the May 10 election were due April 10. Here is a roundup of money being raised and spent in the election. Several candidates have not raised or spent any money, and others signed affidavits saying that they would not spend more than \$500. Those candidates and unopposed candidates are not included in this list.

Bedford City Council Place 6

- University of North Texas student Chris Brown raised \$2,855 and spent \$2,292.
- Closed-captioning editor Jim Wallace raised \$600 and spent \$20.

Eules City Council Place 4

- Retired educator Donna Mickan raised \$350 and spent \$628.
- Private investigator Jay Heilman raised \$2,835 and spent \$2,521.

Flower Mound City Council Place 2

- Planning and Zoning Commissioner Steve Dixon raised \$3,474.20 and spent \$2,238.11.
- Incumbent Al Filidoro, an attorney, raised \$410 and spent \$3,309.17.

Place 4

- Virginia M. Jellison, an independent insurance agent, raised \$600 and spent \$2,326.85.
- Political newcomer and stay-at-home mom Jean Levenick raised \$1,194.95 and spent \$3,434.79.

Grapevine-Colleyville schools Place 6

- Incumbent Vince Rosen, a full-time volunteer, has raised \$0 and spent \$2,174.70.
- Leon Leal, a leader of the district's 2005 bond steering committee, has raised \$0 and spent \$2,086.01.

Place 7

- Mia J. Green, director of Fourth Quarter Ministries, raised \$686.13 and spent \$228.26.
- Electrical engineer Jorge A. Rodriguez raised \$295 and spent \$1,064.

Hurst-Eules-Bedford school board Place 6

- Former Trinity High School Principal Andy Car-gile raised \$2,122 and spent \$1,498.46.
- Steve Farco, president of Mason-Dallas, raised \$0 and spent \$2,027.84.

Keller City Council Place 2

- John Baker, former chairman of Keller Public Arts Board, raised \$3,780 and spent \$3,869.72.
- Incumbent Mark Harness, who works in church administration, raised \$526.12 and spent \$181.12.
- Scott Zang, a political newcomer who works, in sales raised \$0 and spent \$112.

Place 3

- Incumbent Bob Kirk, an aircraft mechanic, raised \$200 and spent \$387.10.
- Tom Cawthra, who works for CitiMortgage, raised \$775 and spent \$75.

Place 4

- Incumbent Jim Carson, an actuary, raised \$550 and spent \$2,752.42.
- Pilot Jim Thompson raised \$2,381.25 and spent \$1,073.66.

Keller schools Place 4

- Richard Walker, the chief operating officer for the National Center for Policy Analysis in Dallas, raised \$0 and spent \$758.74.

Place 5

- Pilot Charles Youngblood raised \$611.99 and spent \$11.99.

Northwest schools Place 7

- Mel Fuller, a former teacher in the Northwest district, raised \$300 and spent \$0.

Grapevine City Council Place 5

- Traci Wilkinson, an attorney, raised \$13,180, including \$1,250 in contributions and \$11,930 she loaned to herself. She reported no expenditures.
- Becky St. John, a homemaker and former Army Corps of Engineers park ranger, raised \$0 and spent \$147.
- Chris Coy, a district sales manager for American Airlines, raised \$0 and spent \$43.78.

Roanoke City Council Ward 1

- Brian Darby, an engineer, raised \$0 and spent \$289.25.
- Kirby Smith, a real estate broker, raised \$0 and spent \$52.63.

Ward 3

- Frank Temple, who is retired, raised \$0 and spent \$29.13.

Southlake City-Council Place 6

- Accountant Ralph Williams raised \$100 and spent \$2,359.70.
- Suzanne Maisto, a Realtor, raised \$750 and spent \$1,740.
- Pamela Muller, a former city councilwoman, raised \$6,854 and spent \$6,199.78.

Trophy Club Town Council At-large seat

- Incumbent Susan Edstrom, a customer success manager, raised \$0 and spent \$45.
- Joseph Boclair, a chemist at Alcon Laboratories, raised \$0 and spent \$578.77.

Trophy Club Municipal Utility District 2 Director

- Greg Lamont, retired senior vice president of a wholesale distributor firm, raised \$0 and spent \$309.96.