

MAYOR CITY CNCL CITY ATTNY CRIM MCKAMIE RIDGWAY(2) DECK BROWN  
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# Festivalgoers, here's Plan B in case of storms

Star-Telegram

Several festivals and events are scheduled in Tarrant County this weekend. Here's what organizers are planning in case of inclement weather:

## Art in the Square, Southlake

**What's scheduled:** Southlake Town Square, Southlake Boulevard at North Carroll Avenue. 10 a.m.-10:30 p.m. today; 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. Free.

**Bad-weather plan:** The annual arts festival will likely have to shut down, co-chairwoman Carmen Evans said. Artists would need at least 30 minutes to close their booths, she said. "We are depending on police and fire to make that call for us," Evans said. "They're monitoring the weather for us. We're praying for good weather, so stay positive." [www.artinthesquare.com](http://www.artinthesquare.com)

## Arbor Daze, Euless

**What's scheduled:** City Hall campus, 201 N. Ector Drive. 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. today; 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday. Free.

**Bad-weather plan:** If the festival celebrating trees has to be canceled, city leaders will post the announcement at the Euless recreation center. Officials will monitor the weather, and emergency management staff members and ham radio operators will be on site, city spokeswoman Betsy Deck said. "It depends on the level of rain," she said. "We have a lot of tents up so we could probably keep going for a while. If it's treacherous or severe weather, we will just cancel it." [www.arbordaze.org](http://www.arbordaze.org) or 817-685-1666

## Baker Days, Richland Hills

**What's scheduled:** The parade starts at 6724 Baker Blvd. The rest of the celebration honoring the city's founders, the Baker family, will be at the Richland Hills Historical Society and Welcome Center and Museum at the same address. 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. today. Free.

**Bad-weather plan:** Rain would put a stop to the parade, said Ruth Milner, treasurer of the Richland Hills Historical Society.

## Spring Sports Fest, Haltom City

**What's scheduled:** City recreation center/Broadway Park, 4839 Broadway Ave. Registration for youth sports events begins at 11 a.m., today. Free.

**Bad-weather plan:** The festival could be rescheduled if things get wet this weekend, said Tom Henry, director of parks and recreation. 817-831-6465, [www.haltomcitytx.org](http://www.haltomcitytx.org).

## Komen Race for the Cure, Fort Worth

**What's scheduled:**

- 6 a.m.-7:30 a.m. Race day registration at Houston and 5th streets.
- 7 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Survivor tent open with breakfast, live entertainment and gifts
- 7:15 a.m. Survivor photo at Main Stage
- 7:30 a.m. Aerobic warm-up
- 7:40 a.m. 1-mile fun run
- 8 a.m. 5K runs begin
- 9:30 a.m. Survivor recognition and awards
- 9:45 a.m. Trophies available at hospitality tent

**Bad-weather plan:** For 15 years, the race has gone on, rain or sun, and this year will be no different, officials said. "Last year it snowed, and that didn't stop us," said Ann Greenhill, executive director of Susan G. Komen for the Cure Tarrant County.

— Adrienne Nettles and Jan Jarvis

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## INSIDE PUBLIC SAFETY

# Area police work fast to wipe away graffiti

## Authorities use abatement programs to control the problem.

By DOMINGO RAMIREZ JR.  
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If warm weather is here to stay, taggers can't be far behind.

But area police say local graffiti abatement programs should be able to cover the work of the taggers or graffiti "artists."

Arlington, Euless, North Richland Hills and Richland Hills have such programs to help property owners remove the drawings or markings.

"Our goal is to have it covered up within 48 hours," North Richland Hills Detective Mickey Shelley said. "If it goes any longer, taggers might think it's OK to do."

## The 'artists'

Area police say graffiti is crafted by two types of people: gang members and taggers. Generally, taggers are less violent than gang members and create more artistic works with various colors. They paint on freeway overpass signs, water towers and billboards.

To tag freeway overpasses, taggers sometimes have their friends hold them upside down by their feet as they draw.

Gang members put up graffiti to threaten rivals, mark their territory or to intimidate neighborhood residents. Generally, their work is more primitive and sometimes can be read more easily than graffiti done by taggers.

## Against the law

Area police noted that any type of graffiti is illegal.

When caught, taggers could be issued Class C misdemeanor tickets that carry fines up to \$500. In cases where taggers have caused more than \$200,000 in property damage, they could be arrested and charged with a first-degree felony.

"They are difficult to catch sometimes," Richland Hills Police Chief Barbara Childress said. "But there are times when you can recognize their work."

In cities with graffiti abatement programs, crews have various methods to remove or clean graffiti.

"Crews will work with property owners on how best to get the graffiti off," Euless police Lt. John Williams said. "Here, crews sandblast, water-blast or use paint to get rid of graffiti."

DOMINGO RAMIREZ JR.,  
817-685-3822

## Stopping it

Several Tarrant County cities have graffiti abatement programs for residents. The cities with the program include:

- Arlington, [www.arlingtontx.gov](http://www.arlingtontx.gov), under Free Services; or call 817-459-6777
- Euless, call 817-685-1630.
- North Richland Hills, [www.nrhtx.com/dept\\_police\\_graffiti.aspx](http://www.nrhtx.com/dept_police_graffiti.aspx) or call 817-427-7000.
- Richland Hills, 817-299-1880.

## Other programs

■ Watauga will cover up graffiti on businesses and bridges, but not homes.

■ Trophy Club allows people in community service projects to cover up graffiti in their city.

Source: Tarrant County police departments

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# 2008 Tarrant County VOTERS GUIDE

Early voting begins today  
Election day is May 10

## Eules City Council

Council members serve three-year terms and are unpaid.

### Mayor

Incumbent Mary Lib Saleh is unopposed and will keep her seat until 2011.

### Place 2



**Name:** Lorren Britton  
**Age:** 58  
**Occupation:** Retired from U.S. Bureau of Prisons and

Oklahoma Department of Corrections

**Online:** none

**Background:** Britton, who has a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies from the University of Texas at Arlington, is making his first run for public office.

**About the candidate:** Britton said he would support eminent domain only for traditional projects, such as schools, hospitals and highways; would not support city ordinances that are intended to force illegal immigrants to migrate elsewhere; and would support notifying U.S. immigration officials if individuals who are arrested cannot prove their U.S. citizenship.



**Name:** Leon Hogg (incumbent)  
**Age:** 72  
**Occupation:** Retired jeweler  
**Online:** none

**Background:** Hogg, who attended Texas Tech University, has served on the City Council since 1996. He was on the Parks and Leisure Services Board from 1984 to 1996.

**About the candidate:** Hogg said his priorities are to keep the city moving forward smoothly.

### Place 4

Charlie Miller chose not to run for re-election.



**Name:** Jay Heilman  
**Age:** 63  
**Occupation:** Registered accessibility specialist; re-

tired police officer

**Online:** none

**Background:** Heilman, who has a bachelor's degree in business administration and criminal science and a master's degree in urban affairs from the University of Texas at Arlington, is making his first run for office.

**About the candidate:** Heilman said his priorities are to help provide a stable foundation for the city's continued growth and redevelopment through strong leadership, a quality work force and financial responsibility to its citizens.



**Name:** Donna Mickan  
**Age:** 64  
**Occupation:** Retired educator  
**Online:** none

**Background:** Mickan, who went through Tarrant County College's nursing program for two years, is vice chairwoman of the Eules Historical Preservation Committee and served on the Economic Development Advisory Board.

**About the candidate:** "I have no particular political agenda other than to see Eules continue to be a very well-managed city and a wonderful place to live and work," Mickan said. "I moved to Eules in 1964 and have always been active in civic affairs. I am now retired and can devote the time it takes to be an involved City Council person."

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## ELECTIONS

# Early voting begins today in area cities

Several cities and school districts in Northeast Tarrant County have questions on the ballots.

By JESSICA DELEÓN [jdeleon@star-telegram.com](mailto:jdeleon@star-telegram.com)

## Early voting

- Today-Friday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Saturday: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Sunday: 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- May 5-6: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

## Northeast Tarrant County early voting locations:

- Bedford Public Library, 1805 L. Don Dodson Drive
  - Colleyville City Hall, 100 Main St.
  - Euless Public Library, 201 N. Ector Drive
  - Grapevine Community Activities Center, 1175 Municipal Way
  - Hurst Recreation Center, 700 Mary Drive
  - Keller Town Hall, 1100 Bear Creek Parkway
  - Northeast Subcourthouse, 645 Grapevine Highway, Hurst
  - Southlake Town Hall, 1400 Main St.
  - Summerglen Library, 4205 Basswood Blvd., Fort Worth
  - Watauga City Hall, 7105 Whitley Road
  - W.R. Hatfield Elementary School, 2501 Texan Drive, Justin
- Temporary early voting locations**
- 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Wednesday
  - J.L. Hughes Elementary School, 13824 Lost Spurs Road, Roanoke
  - Solana Office Complex Westlake Town Offices, 3 Village Circle, Westlake

## Trophy Club early voting

- Svore Municipal Utility District Building, 100 Municipal Drive
  - Monday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
  - Tuesday: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
  - Wednesday-Friday and May 5: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
  - Saturday: 8 a.m.-noon
- ## Roanoke early voting
- Roanoke City Hall, 108 S. Oak St.
  - Monday-Tuesday: 8 a.m.-noon, 1-5 p.m.
  - Wednesday: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
  - Thursday-Friday and May 5: 8 a.m.-noon, 1-5 p.m.
  - May 6: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

## Flower Mound early voting

- Flower Mound Police and Court Building, 4150 Kirkpatrick Road: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. May 5-6
- Marcus High School, 5707 Morriss Road: 6-9 p.m. Tuesday
- Old Settlers Elementary, 2525 Old Settlers Road: 6-9 p.m. Tuesday
- Flower Mound High School, 3411 Peters Colony, 6-9 p.m. Thursday
- Donald Elementary, 2400 Forest Vista, 6-9 p.m. Thursday

Early voting for the May 10 municipal and school board elections starts today and continues through May 6.

Here are some of the hottest elections in Northeast Tarrant County.

**Keiler:** Each of the City Council incumbents up for election, Place 2 Councilman Mark Harness, Place 3 Councilman Bob Kirk and Place 4 Councilman Jim Carson, face challengers on the May 10 ballot. Among the top issues are whether the city should pay for public art and whether new apartment projects should be banned from Keller Town Center. Place 2 challengers are John Baker, Kevin Jerome and Scott Zang. Bob Welch and Tom Cawthra are running in Place 3. Challenger Jim Thompson is seeking the Place 4 seat.

**Grapevine:** Chris Coy, Phil Lang, Becky St. John and Traci Wilkinson are running for Place 5 on the Grapevine City Council. Incumbent Mayor Pro Tem Ted Ware decided not to run for re-election after 29 years, guaranteeing only the second change on the council in a decade.

**Bedford:** Chris Brown, a 19-year-old college student, is running for Bedford City Council Place 6 against closed-captioning editor Jim Wallace, 35.

**Other races:** Voters in Euless, Flower Mound, Roanoke, Southlake, Trophy Club, Watauga and Westlake will also choose representatives. Voters in the Grapevine-Colleyville, Hurst-Euless-Bedford, Keller and Northwest school districts also have contested school board elections.

## Propositions

There are also several ballot questions.

**Northwest school district:** Voters will consider a \$260 million bond package that would pay for eight new schools, land for future buildings and technology upgrades. The tax rate would not increase, district officials have said.

**Bedford:** Voters will decide on 33 charter amendments, which are mostly language changes so the city charter will meet state law.

**Roanoke:** Voters will consider a city charter that would make Roanoke a home-rule city. The designation would give the city more control of its affairs.

**Southlake:** Voters will determine whether their police and fire departments will be put under the state civil service system.

**Trophy Club:** Residents in Trophy Club's Municipal Utility District 1 will decide whether to issue up to \$2 million in bonds for a new central fire station.

## No elections

Colleyville, Haltom City, Haslet, Hurst, North Richland Hills, Richland Hills and the Birdville and Carroll school districts canceled elections because of the lack of contested races.

Staff Writer Adrienne Nettles contributed to this report.

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## PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL

## Cats and Air Hogs to play in Euless

The event will include a pizza eating contest and a race between the team mascots and youngsters.

By JESSICA DELEÓN [jdeleon@star-telegram.com](mailto:jdeleon@star-telegram.com)

**EULESS** — The city of Euless is ready to play ball.

The Parks at Texas Star will host an exhibition game between the Fort Worth Cats and the Grand Prairie Air Hogs on Thursday.

It's the first game of the season for the American Association-champion Cats and the first-ever game for the newly formed Air Hogs.

"It will give us a chance to play in a new area of Tarrant County, to get some exposure for fans who might not make it down for a game," said Emil Moffatt, assistant vice president of communications for the Cats.

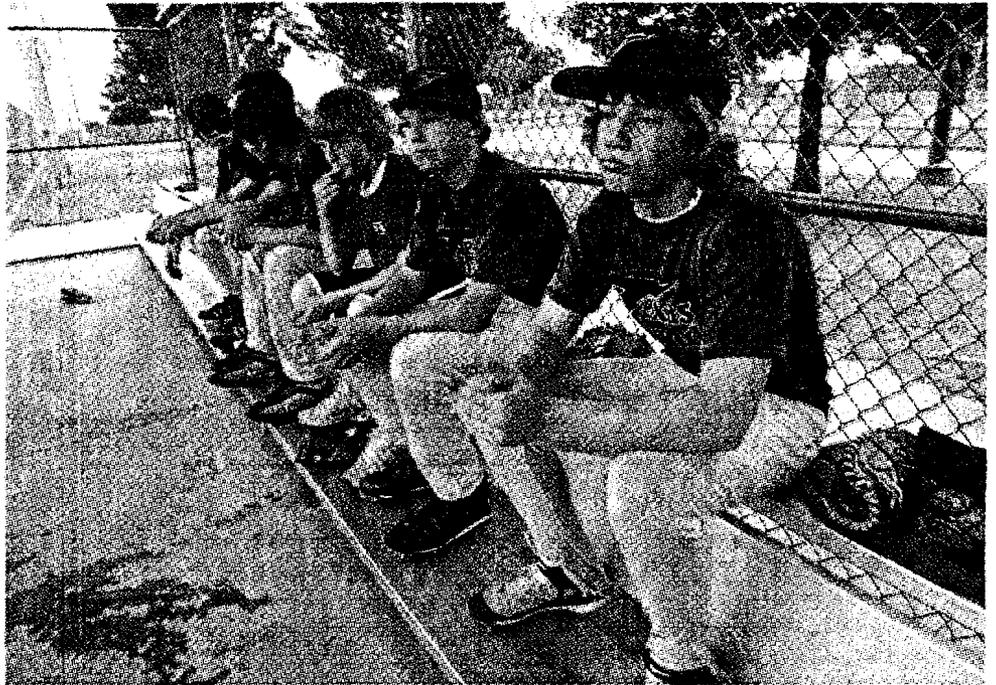
The Cats' usual venue, LaGrave Field in Fort Worth, seats 5,100 — significantly more than Arlington Stadium, one of the fields at The Parks at Texas Star that has major-league dimensions but seats just 750. The Parks at Texas Star is a multiuse sports facility owned and operated by the city of Euless.

But the Cats were drawn to play in Euless after a team vice president, its mascot, Dodger, and one of its players served as parade marshals for the city's annual Christmas parade.

The city plans to have fun during the game.

"We want to keep it a family atmosphere where we can keep the whole crowd involved," Athletic Supervisor John Douthit said.

The game's activities will include a race between youngsters and team mascots and a pizza eating contest. Hot dogs will sell for



Chase Baker, 14, of Fort Worth and his Texas Thunder teammates play in the Parks at Texas Star Baseball League in Euless on Wednesday.

STAR-TELEGRAM/STEWART F. HOUSE

**If you go**  
**Fort Worth Cats vs.**  
**Grand Prairie Air Hogs**

- 7 p.m. Thursday
- Arlington Stadium at The Parks at Texas Star, 1400 S. Pipeline Road in Euless
- Tickets cost \$5 and can be purchased at Midway Recreation Center, the Parks and Community Services Building and The Parks at Texas Star.

\$1, and kids who bring a foul ball to the concession stand will receive a free snow cone.

The city hopes the game will bring attention to its Parks at Texas Star Baseball

League, which boasts 84 teams and 1,287 participants from 3 to 14.

John Purcell, head coach of the A Indians team, said his 10-year-old players will learn more about the game because they will be able to see up close how fast the players pitch, how hard they run and how far they hit the ball.

"We'll see how long their attention spans are, because it's an hour longer than their baseball games are," Purcell said.

Online: [www.parksattexasstar.com/registration.htm](http://www.parksattexasstar.com/registration.htm)

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## COURTS

# Euleless man acquitted of fondling 14-year-old

**The man lost his job and custody of his adopted son when he was arrested last year.**

By **MELISSA VARGAS**  
mvargas@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH — A 39-year-old Euleless man was acquitted by a Tarrant County jury Tuesday of fondling a 14-year-old boy.

Brant Berry was accused of indecency with a child and arrested last year. It cost him his job, and his adopted son was taken from him by Child Protective Services.

"He lost the one thing that meant

the most to him," said Berry's lawyer, Dan Clancy. "He is hopeful that having been vindicated, the government will return his son to him."

But it's not a sure thing, Clancy added. In family court Berry will have to prove there is no clear and convincing evidence that he fondled the boy, or his parental rights could be terminated, Clancy said.

Berry has completed the services required for him to have visitation with his son, who has been staying with a family friend since Berry's arrest, Child Protective Services spokeswoman Marissa Gonzales



Berry

said. There are no court dates set for Berry's case in family court; if Berry wants to regain custody of his son he will have to initiate the process in court,

she said.

Tarrant County prosecutor Bill Vassar said he respected the jury's decision.

"My heart goes out to the victim and his family," Vassar said. "I personally believe that the 14-year-old boy is a victim of Brant Berry."

## The accusation

Berry often invited neighborhood children to his home to play with his son, whom he had adopted at age 10. The boy had been taken from his biological family under bad circumstances and in an effort to help socialize him, Berry bought high-tech toys to entertain him and other neighborhood children, friends have said.

In June, the aunt of a 14-year-old friend of Berry's son called police saying her nephew had told her Berry touched him inappropriately. She told police she believed Berry had

drugged her nephew with spiked Ovaltine and touched him while he slept at his home. At the time, police asked for the public's assistance in finding more children who might have been affected, but no one came forward, Clancy said.

Berry's trial started Tuesday and the verdict was back by 6 p.m., Clancy said.

"I am relieved that this situation has been resolved and I am looking forward to resuming my life with my son," Berry said Wednesday.

MELISSA VARGAS, 817-685-3888