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In low-income areas, meals will be served over break

Nationwide, more than 1.9 million children ate meals every day through the Summer Food Service program.

By MARK AGEE
rmagee@star-telegram.com

When school ends, regular access to hot meals doesn't have to for children who need them.

Area school districts will be offering free breakfasts and lunches at schools in low-income areas during the summer break through the federal Summer Food Service program.

What are the rules?

Free meals are available to anyone age 18 and younger.

No registration is required, and children do not need proof of income, age or residency.

Where can I go?

■ The Arlington school district will operate 51 summer food

sites beginning June 16, said Jackie Anderson, the district's food services director. Most will be at elementary and middle schools offering summer classes, she said. Twelve will be at community sites, including recreation centers and a Boys and Girls Club.

Parents can call local schools to find the nearest site, Anderson said. Officials will also distribute fliers with locations and hours of operation.

■ Most Fort Worth district elementary schools will participate, but the dates and times for each have not been decided, a spokeswoman for nutrition services said. Most programs will start June 10, she said.

■ The Hurst-Euless-Bedford school district has four summer lunch sites this year: Bellaire Elementary in Hurst, and Midway Park Elementary, Midway Recreation Center and Oakwood Terrace Elementary in Euless.

The service will be offered weekdays from June 5 to Aug.

1. Bellaire and Oakwood Terrace will serve lunch 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Midway Park Elementary 11 to 11:30 a.m.; and Midway Recreation Center noon to 12:30 p.m.

■ The Grapevine-Colleyville district's Timberline Elementary School will serve breakfast from 8:15 to 9 a.m. and lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 9 to July 18.

It's the second year that the district has participated. Last year, it served 11,000 meals and expects about a 15 percent increase this year, district spokeswoman Megan Overman said.

■ The Birdville school district also operates a summer food program, but details were not available Friday.

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Alexander Ferretiz, 4, is helped with his tray by his mother, Maria Galvan, at Cannon Elementary last year. S-T ARCHIVES/STEWART F. HOUSE

■ To find a Summer Food Program location near you, go to www.summerfood.org.

The numbers

■ Summer Food Service program "open sites," which require no enrollment, operate in areas where at least half the children come from families

with incomes at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level.

■ Schools are reimbursed a few dollars for every meal they serve.

■ Last year, an average of 1,926,437 children nationwide ate meals through the program each day in July, according to the U.S. Agriculture Department's office of Food and Nutrition Service.

■ An average of 83,966 children took part in the program daily in Texas, according to USDA data.

■ The USDA reimbursed schools a total of \$250 million for the program.

Online: www.fns.usda.gov
www.summerfood.org

MARK AGEE, 817-685-3821

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INSIDE THE POLICE SCANNER

Bed goes out door with boarder

Star-Telegram

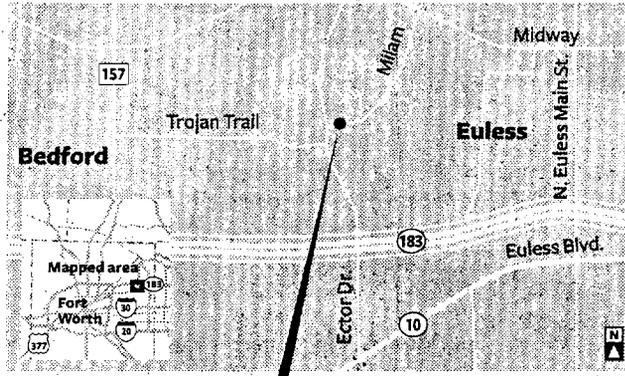
EULESS — Is a thief losing sleep over this one?

A 50-year-old woman reported Wednesday that when a tenant moved out after failing to pay rent, he took a bed, complete with pillows and a frame, from her home in the 400 block of Milam Drive.

The woman told police that she had agreed to rent the man a room and had bought the bed for \$680 for his comfort.

The woman e-mailed the former tenant about the bed and he told her that he had sold it, according to the po-

Bedroom set stolen



A renter left a Euless home this month and took a bedroom set valued at \$680.

STAR-TELEGRAM

lice report. while before it's put to rest.
The case could take a — Domingo Ramirez Jr.

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INSIDE PUBLIC SAFETY

It's time to buckle up and be counted

Ever wonder where all those statistics about seat belt use come from?

By KATE GORMAN
kgorman@star-telegram.com.

At intersections across the state, they'll be watching.

They want to know whether you're using your seat belt, but they're not police — they're researchers.

They're helping determine how well the annual Click it or Ticket campaign, which starts Monday, is working.

When they're done, they can tell you whether pickup passengers or car drivers are more likely to buckle up. They'll know, too, whether Austinites or Arlingtonians are more likely to strap in. But there's nothing especially fancy about how they figure it out.

Trained observers from the Texas Transportation Institute stand by the road at six intersections in 10 of the state's largest cities and watch the cars roll by. Specifically, they watch vehicles in the lane

closest to them until they get a sample of 200, said Katie Womack, a TTI research scientist and project director for the occupant-restraint surveys, which are funded by the state Transportation Department.

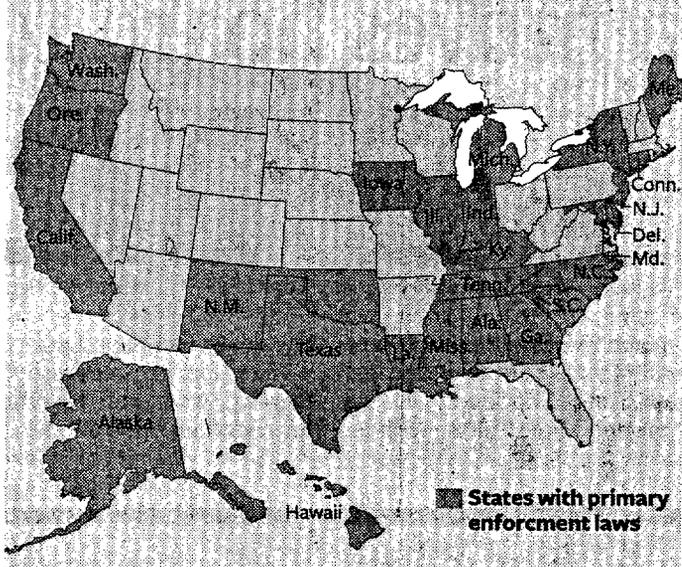
"I try to pick people that would enjoy that type of work, but I'm not saying that it's enjoyable for everybody all the time," Womack said.

Sometimes it's hard to see who's belted into a vehicle if it's speeding or has tinted windows, so the researchers skip it and count the next one. She said the sampling takes about an hour per intersection.

The researchers conduct surveys before, during and after the enforcement period, which ends June 1. Womack said it's important to go to the same intersections at the same time during each survey. That means counting motorists come rain or shine.

"We pretty much do the survey no matter what," she said. "We're looking at the real world, so we have to look at

Seat belt laws



Primary enforcement laws allow police to pull someone over solely for not using a seat belt. In 2007, about 87 percent of motorists in states with primary-enforcement laws used seat belts compared with about 73 percent in states without such laws.

Source: NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis STAR-TELEGRAM/TIM BEDISON

what happens in the real world. We can't go out only in ideal conditions."

Last year, the survey found that 90 percent of Texas driv-

ers and passengers were buckling up before the campaign.

Afterward, that number reached 91.2 percent. This year, the observers will

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Campaign participants

Area law enforcement agencies participating in the Click it or Ticket campaign Monday through June 1 include Arlington, Euless, Fort Worth, Irving, Mansfield, North Richland Hills and Watauga, according to local and state officials.

Seat belt law

Requirements: State law requires drivers and front-seat passengers to wear seat belts and requires that children under 17 in the front or back seat wear a seat belt or be in a child safety seat, said Mark Cross, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Transportation.

Fines: Depending on the violation, tickets can range from \$25 to \$200, Cross said.

also count at night — the street lamps let them see — because law enforcement agencies are emphasizing round-the-clock enforcement.

The Euless Police Department will be among area agencies checking that motorists are strapped in.

“Research shows us that there is a problem with drivers and passengers not buckling up at night — when the risk of a fatal crash is greatest,” Sgt. David Cort-Brassey said in a

news release.

The message will also be aimed at pickup drivers and passengers, who are less likely to buckle up than their counterparts in cars, Transportation Department spokesman Mark Cross said. Pickups are about twice as likely to roll over in a crash than cars, he said.

“People tend to think the bigger the vehicle, the safer they are,” Cross said. “But that’s not reality.”

KATE GORMAN, 817-685-3821

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times.com

Mayor touts city at convention

By Adam Kealoha Causey
 acausey@gannett.com

LAS VEGAS — Shreveport Mayor Cedric Glover's attendance at RECon: The Global Real Estate Convention could be likened to the elimination of the middle man.

Real estate developers here say cutting through the outer layers of a mayor's communication sphere — in other words, lots of paperwork and City Hall staffers — usually takes time.

But at the largest retail real estate gathering in the world, brokers can walk straight up to the man who bills his hometown as "The Next Great City of the South" to see what's for sale and what's to gain.

Pankaj Mahajan, a broker with Illinois-based Rockford Group, recently bought some vacant land in Shreveport. He chatted Monday with Glover at the Louisiana Economic Development booth, one of thousands in the 3.2 million-square-foot Las Vegas Convention Center.

"It would've taken me a couple of hours or a couple of days to talk to him about it," Mahajan said.

Mahajan and the mayor talked about north Shreveport, but the broker was hesitant to reveal the exact location of his property. However, he was encouraged by the conversation.

"A lot of retailers are asking for incentives in a downward market like we're in today," he said.

Posters at the Louisiana booth show state incentives in excess of \$15 million for 500,000-square-foot developments. There are many asterisks, explaining not all government-backed stimuli will apply to every deal.

This is Glover's first trip to the convention, which will draw an estimated 50,000 attendees. But he and his crew, which includes assistant Rick Seaton and economic development staffer Brady Blade Jr., got a chance to talk with a Texas mayor who is a veteran at International Council on Shopping Centers conventions, by comparison.

Mary Lib Saleh, in her sixth term as mayor of the Metroplex city of Euless, Texas, has been to most of the conventions in the last five years. She couldn't attend last year because of a medical issue and hopes that did not hurt her city of about 50,000.

"If you're the top elected leader, you have more of an opportunity to talk to the big businesses," Saleh said, adding Euless recently landed a 200-acre shopping and residential area.

"You just can't beat the networking," said Saleh, who also is the mother of Pam Atchinson, Shreveport Regional Arts Council director.

Andrea Lober Rockovich, chief financial officer of JJ Gumber Co., which owns the Shreve City shopping center, also caught up with Glover. She didn't offer specific businesses, but she said her

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Shreveport Mayor Cedric Glover (left) and Euless, Texas, Mayor Mary Lib Saleh share a laugh as they chat about the importance of elected officials attending the International Council of Shopping Centers convention in Las Vegas. (Adam Causey/The Times)

Pittsburgh, Pa., company wants to add more businesses to complement its Super Wal-Mart anchor.

Rockovich and Glover both describe last year's Wal-Mart opening as a "revitalization" of the Shreveport-Barksdale Highway location. The mayor credits previous administrations' trips to ICSC conventions with nabbing business for that corridor as well as along Youree Drive.

"We're very excited with the growth in Shreveport and the activity we see in the area," Rockovich said.

But not all time spent in Vegas will be with out-of-town prospects.

"We also want to support ongoing efforts on the part of those folks from this area who are in the business of doing that already," Glover said.

On that note, the mayor spent some time Monday with Roger DeKay, a Realtor with Sealy & Dickson's Shreveport office. The company has commercial listings on Texas and Line avenues and Viking Drive in Bossier City.

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A heap of bad news for American, fliers

Impact of cuts

The cutbacks in American Airlines' fleet are unlikely to have much of an impact on the cities and other entities that receive tax money from the airline's planes at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, officials said.

Three local government entities get tax money on 663 planes at D/FW, according to the Tarrant Appraisal District. Last year, Grapevine collected \$572,750 in plane taxes, which made up 1.1 percent of the city's budget.

The Grapevine-Colleyville school district collected \$2,038,200, which made up 1.4 percent of district's budget, and Tarrant County collected \$1,005,318, or about 0.23 percent of the county's budget.

The city of Euless, meanwhile, receives about \$5.3 million in net revenues a year from property within the airport, which includes the car-rental facility and other land. But Finance Director Vicki Rodriguez could not speculate on the impact of the proposed actions by American Airlines.

The majority of the money is used for capital projects.

— Patrick McGee and Jessica DeLeon

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H-E-B SCHOOLS

District considers seeking bond vote

A development in north Arlington could lead to the need for more schools.

By TERRY WEBSTER
 twebster@star-telegram.com

Hurst-Eules-Bedford school district voters will likely be asked to consider a bond issue for the first time in more than a decade to ease overcrowding and accommodate a planned development that could include 5,000 new houses.

The school board has ordered studies for building and roofing needs, along with a demographic study to help predict student enrollment growth. The decision on whether or when to call a bond election hinges on the results of those studies.

H-E-B's enrollment has increased more than 4 percent in six years. And hundreds of new students are expected in coming years when houses are built in the Viridian development in far north Arlington, which falls within H-E-B's boundaries.

Officials expect that one new elementary school will be needed to serve children who will live in the planned neighborhood. A new junior high will eventually be needed, too.

The district's last bond election was in 1997, when voters approved \$171.24 million for renovations of buildings, new technology and construction of a teaching center.

Enrollment

■ H-E-B has grown from 19,540 students in the 2001-02 school year to 20,392 for 2007-08, an increase of about 4.3 percent.

■ In March, trustees voted to change attendance boundaries to help even out enrollment in elementary and junior high schools, but it may not be enough.

"All of the schools in Eules are full," Superintendent Gene Buinger said.

Studying needs

■ This week, the school board approved studies relating to the district's buildings.

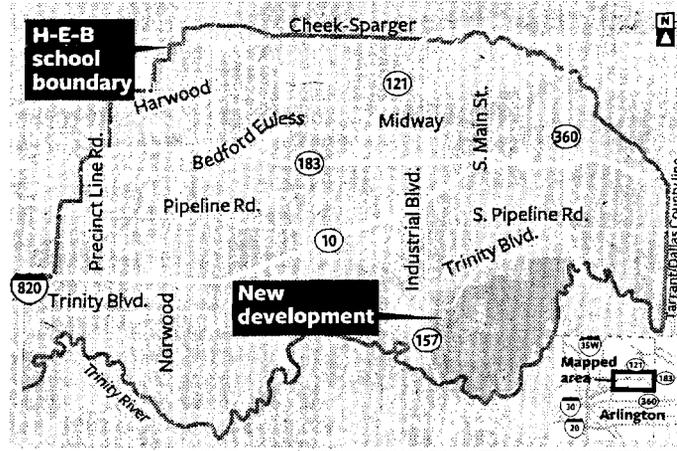
■ Information will be gathered by walking through every campus site and building, according to a proposal from HKS architects in Dallas.

■ Questionnaires will be given to department heads, principals and maintenance department heads, and information gathered about each building will be placed into a spreadsheet by category and priority.

■ The report is expected to be completed by August.

■ MCT Moisture Control Technologies of Duncanville will conduct a roofing study.

Proposed Viridian housing development



The planned Viridian development in far north Arlington could add hundreds of students to the Hurst-Eules-Bedford school district over the next few years.

Source: H-E-B school district

STAR-TELEGRAM

Viridian project

- The Arlington City Council unanimously approved zoning for the development Tuesday.
- The 2,000-acre project is north of the Trinity River and east of Farm Road 157 (Collins Street/Industrial Boulevard).
- Plans call for about 1,100 acres of wetland and green space with lakes, parks and trails. The planned community would also include a town center with loft apartments over offices and shops, villagelike neighborhoods and homes priced at more than \$1 million.
- About 100 homes are expected to be built by 2010, and about 300 homes by 2011, said Phillip Huffines, co-owner of Huffines Communities in Dallas, the project developer.
- "It's an exciting project, and we're just looking forward to working with the development in a great partnership," school board Trustee Faye Beaulieu said.

TERRY WEBSTER, 817-685-3819