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DATE DISTRIBUTED 7/3/08 DATE OF ARTICLE 6/30/08 NEWSPAPER FWST

Notice is hereby given that, acting under and pursuant to the Ordinance of the City of Fort Worth, on the day of June 18, 2008 XTO Energy will file with the Gas Inspector of the City of Fort Worth, a rural class application to drill, and complete and operate multiple wells on the Eules B Unit lease located west of the intersection of FM 157 and Trinity Boulevard, north side. The property is located in the GW Couch Survey Abstract 278, Conway Manor Blk 1 Lots 1A & 2A Tarrant County, Fort Worth, Texas, shown on Official records of Tarrant County, Texas. A public information meeting on gas well drilling and permitting will be held on the day of July 31, 2008 at 6:30 pm at the Deborah Beggs-Moncrief Garden (Botanical Gardens), Fort Worth, Texas and on the day of August 28, 2008 at 6:30 pm at the Riverside Community Center on 3700 East Belknap, Fort Worth, Texas.

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OBITUARIES

Shirley Wood

EULESS — Shirley Wood, 55, passed away Saturday, June 28, 2008, in Bedford.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: A celebration of life will be celebrated at 4 p.m. Tuesday at Lucas Funeral Home, 1321 Precinct Line Road in Hurst.

SURVIVORS: Husband, John Wood; daughters, Nannette Myers of North Richland Hills, Kerri Frizell of Fort Worth; grandchildren, Jayson, Jonathan, Brooke and Jaycee; brother, Ralph Williams of Dallas; sister, Patti Reynolds of Sierra Vista, Ariz.; and a host of family members and friends who loved her dearly.

Lucas Funeral Home

Hurst, 817-284-7271

View and sign guestbook at

www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

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EULESS

Two brothers keep customers happy and cash register ringing



"To come here from somewhere else and do this — we are living the American dream," said Joe Seyedmorteza, right, with brother Mo. S-T/LAURIE L. WARD

EULESS

The Mo and Joe show livens up Pancho's

Sibling rivalry — and revelry — are the stock in trade for two brothers from Kuwait who compete to blend mischief with the menu at Pancho's Mexican Buffet in Euleless. The duo, who worked at the eatery as waiters for nearly 20 years, recently returned to run it after a two-year stint at an Irving restaurant. Customers who remember the guys — dubbed Mo and Happy Joe — are back for more of their off-key singing and stunts with enchiladas. And business is booming.



Since Happy Joe Seyedmorteza, right, and brother Mo returned to Pancho's, business is up 30 percent. STAR-TELEGRAM/LAURIE L. WARD

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Former waiters at Pancho's now run the place, and there are smiles all around

By TERRY LEE GOODRICH
tgoodrich@star-telegram.com

EULESS — When the cash register at Pancho's Mexican Buffet began rejecting credit cards, the morning could easily have morphed into a blue Monday.

But co-franchisee Joe "Happy Joe" Seyedmorteza refused to let a malfunctioning machine ruin his mood.

"Lunch is on us," he breezily told the customers, returning their credit cards. "Happy, happy, happy."

"MO AND HAPPY JOE ARE BACK!" proclaim huge banners at the Mexican restaurant at Industrial Boulevard and Airport

Freeway. The return of Joe and brother Mo (aka Flipper) means stellar service and such shenanigans as off-key singing and stunts with enchiladas, longtime Pancho's customers say. They remember the brothers, who worked as waiters at the restaurant for nearly 20 years.

Mo and Joe, natives of Kuwait, left the Euleless eatery two years ago for an Irving Pancho's before company officials urged them to come back. Since they put up the banners, on May 17, sales have increased by more than 30 percent, Mo said.

Mo and Joe's mojo is working.



Mo Seyedmorteza takes taquitos to a table. "We cooked. We cleaned . . . whatever it took," he said of their early days in the business. S-T/LAURIE L. WARD



Mo "Flipper" Seyedmorteza does his signature flip of a plate of warm enchiladas over customers' heads.

STAR-TELEGRAM/LAURIE L. WARD

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Their notion of making the customer happy goes beyond prompt iced-tea refills, say Mo, 42, and Joe, 40, both of Richland Hills. "A lot of people have problems and want to have a little fun," Joe said. "That's what Mo and Happy Joe are about.

"People are the same, whether you're rich, poor, white, black, Spanish, regardless of your religion, whether you're wearing a tux or a T-shirt," he said. "It doesn't even matter whether you tip." Mo said: "Regardless of who you are, we will not leave you alone until you have a smile on your face. By the time you leave, you will be . . ."

"Happy, happy, happy!" Joe said.

When a woman said the brothers needed to offer marshmallow sauce as well as honey for their fluffy sopapillas, they stocked up.

When a regular extolled the virtues of Gummi Bears, Mo hustled to a nearby store and returned bearing bears.

When a customer strolled into Pancho's before the lunch rush the other day, the brothers greeted him as if he were the prodigal son.

"The nice man is here!" they chorused. "Yea!" They clapped.

They sing a cappella. "We're loud but not beautiful," Mo said.

And then there's the antic that earned Mo the nickname Flipper.

Years ago, an unfortunate encounter with a freezer door left him with a jammed thumb and torn ligaments in his left hand. Rather than hoping his cast would trigger sympathy tips, he honed a one-handed stunt with his right hand, flipping an enchilada-laden plate with nary a spill. These days, he is equally adept with his other hand.

"I tell customers, 'Don't try this at home, because your mother is going to get mad at you when you make a mess,'" Mo said.

The dream

Mo — short for Mohammad — was the first to leave Kuwait. He set out for Texas in 1985 to major in computer engineering at the University of Texas at Arlington.

"U.S. is No. 1," he said.

Joe — born Yosof — followed a year later to major in business administration at the University of North Texas in Denton.

In 1987, Mo took a job at Pancho's making sopapillas, clearing tables, working the buffet line and waiting tables. He persuaded his brother to take a job there two years later.

They became American citizens and left college to rise through the ranks in food service.

Because of some corporate changes three years ago — for a time, the restaurants sold packaged instead of freshly made food — they departed. They later accepted an offer to take over the franchise in Irving, paying a percentage of that store's profits to the Pancho's corporation.

There were naysayers.

A former Pancho's honcho called them "silly, dumb waiters" without the smarts to run a business, Mo said.

But the brothers, by now husbands and fathers, dug in.

They worked from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Irving restau-

rant, seven days a week — often sticking around until past midnight to plan business strategy with the help of customer-turned-friend Les Christiansen of Watauga, an accountant.

"We cooked. We cleaned. We were managers, busboys, whatever it took," Mo said. "We like to learn everything. We don't like to be at anybody's mercy."

But they were unable to work the magic in Irving that they had in Euless, perhaps in part because the restaurant had lower visibility, corporate officials said.

When Pancho's bigwigs decided to close the Irving Pancho's, they urged the brothers to take over the Euless franchise. Former customers said they missed the brothers and their antics, and Mo and Joe were nostalgic about their Euless days, too.

Rave reviews

"To come here from somewhere else and do this — we are living the American dream," Joe said.

Anna Sinclair, who teaches seventh-grade language arts at Creekview Middle School in Saginaw, had a job at Pancho's years ago, during the brothers' first round. When she heard they were

back, she began working at Pancho's part time.

"It's nice to have back the family," she said.

Fernando Nogueira, operations director for 11 Pancho's restaurants in Texas and Louisiana, said the brothers "are, in one word, phenomenal.

"Business is booming in Euless," he said.

"If I could have them at all the restaurants, I'd be rich," he said.

From the view of those in the buffet line, the brothers are "awesome," said longtime Mo-Joe fan Judy Anders, 39, of Richland Hills as she, her mother and other relatives chowed down recently. "They give great service, and they cut up."

Anders' brother-in-law Russ Felski, in town from Buffalo, N.Y., looked up from his plate.

"I came all the way from New York to see them," he said.

Really?

"No," Felski said, returning to his enchiladas.

Sibling revelry

Come to Pancho's when Joe is not there, and you'll have a great time, the brothers say. Come when Mo has the day off, and you will still have a blast, they say.

But two brothers are better than one.

"We complete each other," Mo said.

(Brotherly love aside, each claims to be his mother's favorite.)

Rarely, there is a blip on their happy-happy screen. On a recent day, during the lunch rush, the deep-fried sopapillas refused to rise to their accustomed heights. Joe kicked a wall, an employee confided.

But the next batch was better. Joe's spirits soared as speedily as his brother flips enchiladas.

"Happy days are back," he said. "Happy, happy, happy."



Mo Seyedmorteza, center, and brother Happy Joe tease waiter Juan Hernandez, 16, about his hair during the dinner hour at Pancho's.

STAR-TELEGRAM/LAURIE L. WARD

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Area trash costs are piling up

TRASH COLLECTION

Climbing gas prices to blame as garbage rates rise throughout Metroplex

By JESSICA DeLEÓN
jdeleon@star-telegram.com

High fuel prices have pumped up the cost of groceries, airline fares and even trash rates.

"It's a significant part of our operating expenses," said Tim Powell, general manager for the Allied Waste trash collection company in Fort Worth. "With fuel, everything goes up as well."

Since the beginning of the year, the trash haulers for Arlington, Bedford, Burleson, Euless, Haltom City, Hurst, North Richland Hills and Richland Hills have raised residential collection rates. Watauga residents will see their rise this month. And the Southlake City Council approved a rate increase Tuesday night.

Mansfield is considering a rise of 18 percent, or an extra \$1.27 a month beginning Oct. 1, because of increased fuel costs, spokeswoman Belinda Willis said.

Some cities, such as Bedford and Richland Hills, allowed Allied to increase prices in the middle of their contracts.

The Hurst City Council increased trash rates when it extended its contract, which would have expired in February 2009, by five years, Finance Director Anita Thetford said. The new contract allows Allied to ask for increases based on fuel prices and cost-of-living adjustments.

Allied uses diesel fuel in its trucks. Nationwide, the average price of a gallon of diesel has increased from \$2.91 in May 2007 to \$4.45 in May 2008, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. Even by buying in bulk, Allied spent \$1.67 more per gallon for diesel over a year.

Bedford Councilman Chris Brown voted against the price hike in his city, saying homeowners would likely see another jump when Bedford's contract comes up for renewal in 2009.

"Instead of having two rate increases in less than a year, let's cut our residents some slack," he said.

The Southlake City Council voted to renew its contract, which expires in October, with Duncan Disposal. The new contract includes a proposed 82-cent-per-month increase in residential garbage rates, to take effect in October 2009. The city extended the contract for five years, city spokeswoman Pilar Schank said.

Keller residents may also see their rates go up this year before the city's contract with Allied expires in 2010.

"I anticipate them coming sooner or later," City Manager Dan O'Leary said. "We'll listen to what they have to say."

City officials across the region said they have not received many complaints about the price hikes.

North Richland Hills spokeswoman Mary Peters said the city of about 65,000 received fewer than a dozen complaints about the increase, its first in more than five years.

Steeper in Fort Worth

Fort Worth has higher trash rates than other cities because the trash division is run as an enterprise fund, as though it is a business, said Kim Mote, the assistant director of solid-waste management.

The division cannot dip into the tax base to cover expenses, while other cities can draw from their general fund,

Mote said.

Fort Worth's fees also cover other items, such as yard waste collection, drop-off stations, illegal-dump collections and a customer service call center. Trash costs are especially steep for residents in unincorporated areas.

Paul R. Felts, 67, who lives on Golden Triangle Boulevard near Keller, got a bill of \$97.56 for three months: \$72 for trash service, \$18.60 for fuel recovery, \$5.66 in state tax and a \$1.30 administrative fee.

"I get picked up once a week, no recycling," he said. The average cost is \$8.13 each time his trash is collected.

Powell, of Allied Waste, said the rates are higher in unincorporated areas because

those residents pay subscription rates rather than franchise rates. Cities pay franchise rates and have the commercial base to subsidize the residential rates.

Residents in unincorporated areas also pay more because haulers have to drive longer distances between houses, Powell said.

But homeowner Ashley Blackman, who lives on Keller-Hicks Road outside Keller, dismisses that argument, saying that cities surround the house.

"Seriously, we're in the city," he said.

Staff writers Adrienne Nettles, Susan Schrock and Bill Teeter contributed to this report.

JESSICA DeLEÓN 817-685-3932

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Garbage rates

Residential garbage rates have increased this year because of higher gas prices.

City	Garbage rates		Recycling rates		Total		Date changed	Company
	Previous	Current	Previous	Current	Previous	Current		
Arlington	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$10.13	\$10.94	June 2008	Arl. Disposal
Bedford	\$6.25	\$6.69	\$1.46	\$1.56	\$7.71	\$8.25	June 2008	Allied
Burleson	—	—	—	—	\$17.84	\$19.96	July 2008	Burleson
Colleyville	\$6.78	\$8.26	\$1.47	\$1.79	\$8.25	\$10.05	Sept. 2007	IESI
Eules	\$5.68	\$6.99	\$0.78	\$0.98	\$6.46	\$7.97	March 2008	Allied
Fort Worth**	—	—	—	—	\$16.45	\$17.75	Oct. 2006	Waste
Grapevine	\$8.18	\$8.59	\$1.79	\$1.86	\$9.97	\$10.45	Oct. 2006	Allied
Haltom City	—	—	—	—	\$9.81	\$9.89	April 2008	IESI
Hurst	\$6.16	\$7.06	\$1.58	\$2.08	\$7.74	\$9.14	June 2008	Allied
Keller	n/a	\$6.69	n/a	\$2.22	n/a	\$8.91	Sept. 2005	Allied
Mansfield	\$5.40	\$6.37	\$1.67	\$1.98	\$7.07	\$8.35*	Oct. 2008	Duncan
N. Richland Hills	\$5.55	\$7.11	\$1.54	\$1.98	\$7.09	\$9.09	Feb. 2008	Duncan
Richland Hills	—	—	—	—	\$9.97	\$10.48	March 2008	Allied
Southlake	\$7.81	\$8.43	\$2.44	\$2.64	\$10.25	\$11.07*	Oct. 2009	Duncan
Watauga	\$7.34	\$7.99	\$1.45	\$1.58	\$8.79	\$9.57	July 2008	CWD

* These rates have not yet taken effect.

** Fort Worth has three rates, depending on the size of the trash cart. These rates are based on the 64-gallon cart.

— denotes cities that do not separate garbage and recycling rates

n/a - not available

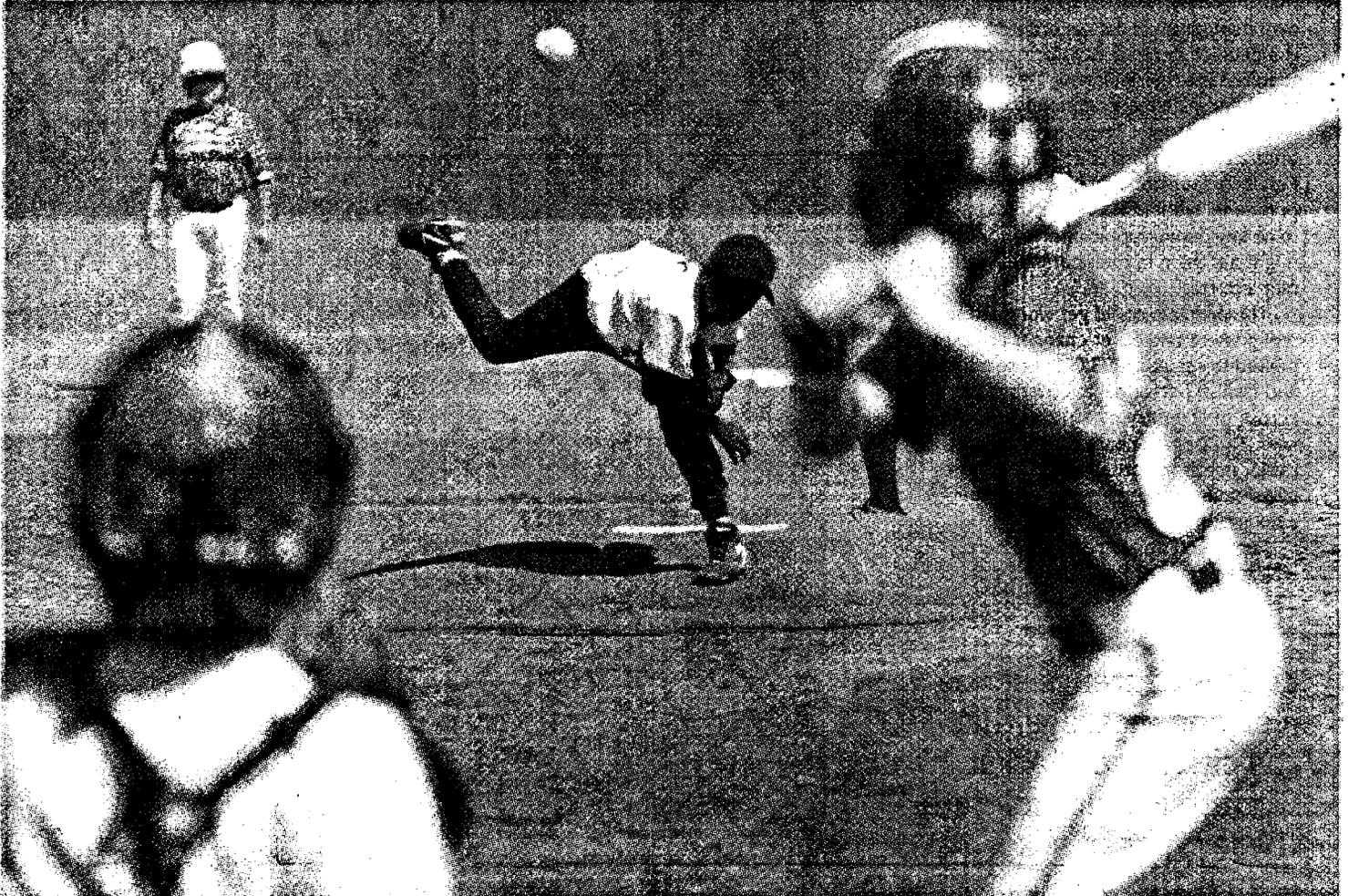
Sources: Cities

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PANAMANIAN LITTLE LEAGUERS



Roberto Dela Espada, a pitcher for the Colon, Panama, team, shows his form as he delivers a pitch to a batter for the Dallas Mustangs during a game in Euless.

STAR-TELEGRAM/M.L. GRAY



Carmen Cooper, coach of the Panamanian youth baseball team for those 10 and younger, center, offers words of inspiration during a huddle with her team before starting a game.

STAR-TELEGRAM/M.L. GRAY

At last, playing on fields of their dreams

A Panamanian Little League team travels to North Texas this week and gets to experience play on grass fields for the first time thanks to a retired Bedford electrician who grew up in Panama. Each night this week the team will play different opponents in the Mid-Cities area.

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Young Panama players visit North Texas

They visit Eules to play local Little League teams.

By BRAD GRAY

bgray@star-telegram.com

EULESS — This week, Michael Alvarado doesn't have to worry quite as much about his infielders making errors behind him when he pitches.

That's because the 14-year-old Panamanian gets to play on grass fields for the first time.

Alvarado and his 32 teammates traveled from Colon, Panama, to Eules this week to play area Little Leaguers.

Each night since Monday, the three teams have played different opponents from the Mid-Cities area. Carrying little more than their equipment bags, the players have stayed in the homes of their opponents' families after games.

"It is such a good experience, and I'm so grateful," Alvarado said. "I wish we had fields like this. They're very nice to play on, and the ball bounces straight."

The journey wouldn't have happened without Sydney Daley, a retired electrician from Bedford. Daley grew up in Panama and played there in the San Francisco Giants winter ball system before moving to the United States and joining the military.

After he retired, Daley bought a house in Colon and spent his winters there umpiring professional baseball and organizing the local



Hurst resident Patricia Daley, niece to Sydney Daley, who helped bring the players to Texas, talks to Panamanian catcher Sergio Dela Espada. S-T/M.L. GRAY

"I wish we had fields like this. They're very nice to play on, and the ball bounces straight."

Michael Alvarado, Panamanian pitcher

Little League.

During his time back in Bedford, he was invited to bring his teams to Texas. He had no idea how it was going to work out.

"I didn't expect to do this," Daley said. "I went back and tried to get some sponsors to see if it was possible."

That's where James Gaugh stepped in. Gaugh, 62, a retired baggage clerk for American Air-

lines, sponsored five flights with his employee discount.

He heard about the trip while at a picnic in Dallas with other families from Colon.

Gaugh said he has spent more than \$40,000 over the course of 20 years helping fund scholarships for Panamanian athletes to play at U.S. junior colleges and jumped at the opportunity to help.

"I do this out of love for the kids and for my country," Gaugh said of the players from Colon, a poor city on the north end of the Panama Canal. "They're at risk of joining gangs. Some of the kids that are killed and getting killed are as young as 14 years old."

His Panamanian friends at work pitched in with seven other flights.

"I didn't ask them or anything and just told them what I was doing," Gaugh said. "Two guys said they'd get two, and three other friends each got one."

In all, flights for the 32 players cost \$39,000. The rest of the money came from the players' parents or other Panamanian families in the Dallas area.

The players' first stop in Texas was the Rangers Ballpark in Arlington, where the Rangers took on the Philadelphia Phillies on Sunday evening. All of the Panamanian players watched ESPN back home and grew up fans of Panamanian players such as Mariano Rivera and Carlos Lee.

"It was so great to see these guys, and I am going to save my ticket to show off to everyone back home," outfielder Andrew Schollon said. "They pitched great, and Carlos Ruiz, the Phillies catcher, is from Panama, too, so I was rooting for him."

BRAD GRAY, 817-390-7697

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NORTHEAST LOOP 820

Tollway officials may pay \$26 million to end dispute

They say they don't want to cause delays in construction to fix the worst bottleneck in the Metroplex.

By **GORDON DICKSON**
gdickson@star-telegram.com

PLANO — The North Texas Tollway Authority will consider paying \$26 million to the Texas Department of Transportation to end a dispute that threatens to delay the widening of Northeast Loop 820.

Bidders for the roadwork, which would widen the four-lane bottleneck to six free lanes and four toll lanes, have been critical of the project because the tollway authority would collect the tolls but isn't

required to post a bond guaranteeing that the developer will be paid.

The \$26 million would be placed in a special account that would be tapped only if the tollway authority is unable to perform its duties. In that event, toll collection would be turned over to the Transportation Department, which is already capable of collecting tolls electronically.

The compromise with the Transportation Department will be discussed during the tollway authority's next board meeting July 16.

The Loop 820 work was originally supposed to begin in 2005, and is now scheduled to be under contract by the



Honkin' Mad

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end of this year as part of a project known as the North Tarrant Express. The project also includes new toll and free lanes on Interstate 35W in north Fort Worth and on Texas 121/183 in Bedford, Euless and Hurst.

State law mandates that the tollway authority collect tolls on Metroplex roads, even those built by private developers. The developer is supposed to manage the roads and receive toll revenue for 52 years. But the tollway authority isn't required to post a bond guaranteeing that the developer will be paid.

Related project

The compromise would also resolve a \$52 million dispute with the Transportation Department over the value of the Texas 121 toll road north of Grapevine:

Last year, the tollway authority paid the state \$3.2 billion for the right to collect tolls on Texas 121 for decades to come — and the Transportation Department can now spend that money on other highway and rail projects in North Texas. But the two sides were still \$52 million apart on estimates of the long-term value of interest payments.

A \$26 million payment by the tollway authority would represent half of the disputed amount, requiring the two sides to essentially meet halfway, said tollway authority Executive Director Jorge Figueredo. It would simultaneously end the North Tarrant Express and Texas 121 disputes between the agencies, he said.

Transportation Department Executive Director Amadeo Saenz suggested the compromise Monday, Figueredo said.

Tollway board Vice Chairman Victor Vandergriff of Arlington scolded the tollway staff for not offering a compromise of its own, and instead waiting for the state Transportation Department to come forward.

"We can't just say no," Vandergriff said. "We have the ability to do something positive. We did ... but the other side came up with it first."

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BRIEFS

Credit union cracked by 'experienced' burglars

EULESS — Three experienced burglars cut their way into the Southwest Airlines Credit Union at 801 W. Eules Blvd. late Monday and stole an undisclosed amount of cash. Eules police said the burglars drilled through the locking mechanism, disabled the burglar alarm and cut open the safe. Surveillance footage shows that the burglars spent several hours emptying the safe, police said. "This wasn't their first day at the rodeo. These were experienced people," Lt. John Williams said. Police have no suspects, and anyone with information about the burglary is asked to call Detective Brian Brennan at 817-685-3129. The credit union will reopen at 8:30 a.m. today after repairs are made.

— Candace Carlisle