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## Good day for a splash



With temperatures near the century mark, Dave Rouse, 7, of Eules comes off the slide at the Midway Recreation Center pool in Eules last week.

STAR-TELEGRAM/STEWART F. HOUSE

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TARRANT COUNTY

# Appraisal district chief set to retire

By MAX B. BAKER maxbaker@star-telegram.com

For 16 years, John Marshall has had a big impact on your home life.

Or is it your home's life?

As chief appraiser at the Tarrant Appraisal District, Marshall led the agency that decides the value of your home and eventually how much you pay in taxes.



Marshall

But not anymore.

Marshall, who will be 65 in December, is retiring at the end of the month to travel, play golf and spend time with his six grandkids, all under age 4. He'll be joined by his wife, Carol Sue Marshall, who is retiring as an associate dean for education at the University of Texas at Arlington.

"It's good timing for both of us," Marshall said. "It's been a great job, and Tarrant County is a great place to be."

A city manager in Gladewater and Lancaster, Marshall was chief appraiser in Dallas from 1980 to 1984.

He was in the real estate and development business during the mid-1980s and joined TAD in 1992.

TAD, besides determining home values, also appraises commercial property.

Jeffery Law, the former chief appraiser for Hood County, is taking his place.

Will Marshall also spend his retirement years fighting the appraisal of his Colleyville home?

Nope.

"It will be frozen when I hit 65," he said, laughing.

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## REAL ESTATE

### TRANSACTIONS

#### Arlington

##### 1. Office lease

##### 2225 E. Randol Mill Road

Walker Elliot has leased 1,712 square feet at Arlington Downs Tower for a staffing agency.

**Brokers:** Tommy Nelson and Rebecca Smith, both of Stream Realty Partners, represented the landlord.

##### 2. Warehouse space

##### 600-D 109th St.

Special Distribution Co. has leased 89,544 square feet.

**Broker:** David Dunn of Sperry Van Ness/Dunn Commercial have negotiated the transaction.

##### 3. Office lease

##### 2225 E. Randol Mill Road

National Mentor Network has leased 3,945 square feet at Arlington Downs Tower for a foster-parent training center.

**Brokers:** Franklin Swann and Rebecca Smith, both of Stream Realty Partners, represented the landlord. Marla Yost of Keller Williams Realty represented the tenant.

##### Euless

##### 4. Office-building purchase 150 Westpark Way

A tenancy-in-common partnership has purchased the 74,057-square-foot office building.

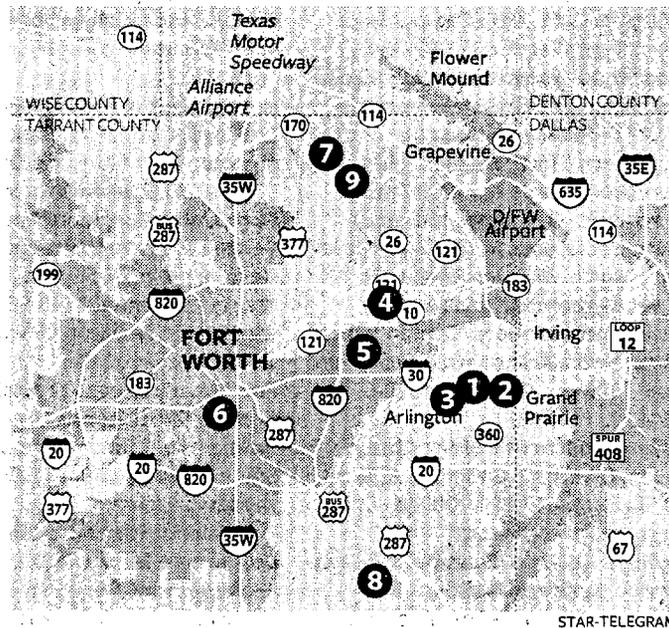
**Broker:** SCM Real Estate of Arlington coordinated the partnership and will manage the property. Darrel Higginbotham of SCM Real Estate will be marketing leases for the building.

##### Fort Worth

##### 5. Office lease

##### 6850 Manhattan Blvd.

Trinity Hospice-Castle Peak has leased 4,672 square feet in the Manhattan Plaza office com-



plex.

**Broker:** Lee Wagner with Grubb & Ellis represented the landlord, Manhattan Partners.

##### 6. Land sale

##### Lipscomb and Petersmith streets

A Fort Worth-based group, TNA, has bought a 38,000-square-foot parcel near the intersection of Lipscomb and West Petersmith streets, where it plans to build a 10,000-square-foot medical-office building.

**Brokers:** Jim Turano with Henry S. Miller Commercial represented the buyer.

##### Keller

##### 7. Church sale

##### 2040 and 2050 Willis Lane

The Fort Worth Catholic Diocese has paid \$2.4 million to buy a church building and 9.78 acres. The church was sold by Life Church based in North Richland Hills. The location has been leased to Milestone Church.

**Brokers:** Heather Konopka

with Sperry Van Ness/Konopka & Co. represented the seller. JC Burciaga of JCB Unlimited represented the buyer.

##### Mansfield

##### 8. Warehouse lease

##### 2090 Farm Road 157

G Force Cheer has leased 5,000 square feet at Suite C.

**Brokers:** Deborah Worthington of Coldwell Banker represented the tenant. Jordan Foster and Jim Maibach of Peyco Southwest Realty represented the landlord.

##### North Richland Hills

##### 9. Retail store lease

##### 8509 Davis Blvd.

Candleroom Spa leased 2,100 square feet at Tower Plaza for a salon for hair care, facials, massages and nails.

**Brokers:** Ruben Reynoso, vice president of Integrity Commercial Realty, represented the tenant. Matt Comeaux of Clear Fork Properties represented the landlord.

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# KEEPING PACE

**W**hile Fort Worth booms in population and industry, the city's neighbors also are enjoying their own explosion of growth – billions of dollars in investment and development, and no end in sight.

Colleyville, Grapevine, Southlake and the Mid-Cities are just a few on the ever-growing list of communities witnessing scores of construction projects, including mixed-use developments, entertainment and hospitality venues, and residential construction.

"We've been very fortunate," said Grapevine Mayor William D. Tate. "It's put us in a good place financially. Some cities are struggling because of the economy. So far we're looking good, [and] our budget is ahead of projections."

Tate said the city has grown by about 5,000 people since 2000, and he expects the city to pick up another 10,000 people to 12,000 people before it's all said and done, topping out at around 60,000 people, he estimates.

The increasing number of rooftops has brought in hundreds of new businesses in recent years (see Great Wolf Lodge, Main Street Grapevine), as well as the expansion of heavy hitters, such as the \$315 million addition to the Gaylord Texan, which, once approved, will add 500 rooms and 200,000 square feet of convention space to the already massive resort hotel. The Great Wolf Lodge, which opened in January 2008, also will be expanded by 200 rooms.

Huge land buys are a big part of the developments: Former Texas Rangers first baseman Rafael Palmeiro, a Colleyville resident, and a developer reportedly will turn more than 160 acres of land, north of Grapevine Mills, into an Asian-themed garden area. The tract is the last remaining chunk of undeveloped land, Tate said.

Meanwhile, to the west of Grapevine Lake, New York-based financial services firm Deloitte LLP said it will build a \$300 million, 750,000-square-foot campus to act as a "central destination for all of Deloitte's talent," according to the press release. The Westlake facility will feature a wealth of amenities, including dining areas and a fitness center, and the entirety of the development will be built according to U.S. Green Building Council standards.

Dallas-based Reliant Healthcare Providers expects to open its \$24 million, 62,000-square-foot acute rehabilitation hospital in Bedford in the second quarter of 2009.

Southlake is in the midst of the Phase Three Expansion of its much-lauded Southlake Town Square retail area, which already boasts about 100 stores, 26 restaurants, the 248-room Hilton Southlake and a 14-screen movie theater.

The city also is seeing huge developments from Champion Partners – a six-building, 114,500-square-foot

office site on 10 acres – and Houston-based Hines Interests, which is developing a more than 455,000-square-foot mixed-use project called Carillon, to feature residential, retail and office sites.

"Southlake really is no longer a sleeper market," said Greg Last, the city's director of economic development. "Even the big brokerage firms in Dallas are well familiar with Southlake and much more involved than in the past."

\* Head back about 10 miles southeast to Euless, and The Shops at Vineyard Village, anchored by Lowe's home improvement store, is expanding. \*

In short, the commercial development list goes on, as does that of residential development.

## Residential growth continues

Colleyville Fire Chief Mike Johnston, who is also acting economic development director, said the city has seen a steady, not explosive or aggressive, growth of residential development over the past years, likely due to its low crime rate.

"We're mostly a bedroom community," said Johnston, adding as such the city works to ensure appropriate police and fire protection.

As far as what not to do, "We do our best to do all those things without the possibility of having to raise ad valorem taxes," Johnston said. "So the commercial tax base is really what we'd like to build, to get some good returns so we won't have to raise our ad valorem taxes."

The city currently has a population of around 23,000 people, Johnston estimates, and should crest at about 26,000 people.

Southlake also has experienced steady residential growth, Last said, with more on the way.

## Sunny skies here to stay

According to a July 10 release from The Weitzman Group, the Texas-based retail brokerage firm said the Metroplex's "retail market remains balanced in terms of supply and demand, thanks to a steady economy that, even though it has slowed in some areas, continues to be a national leader in the key areas of job and population growth and housing market stability."

North Texas development has boomed, thanks to interest from a range of industries, low property values and modest taxes.

As housing markets elsewhere continue to suffer, it's likely the Texas Land Rush will only gain more momentum.

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## AREA BRIEFS

### **15-year-old found dead in bedroom**

**EULESS** — A 15-year-old who was apparently in his bedroom all day was found dead Monday afternoon by his grandmother, police said Tuesday. The Tarrant County medical examiner's office identified him as Brandon Palmer. Results of toxicology tests to help determine the cause of death will take about six weeks, officials said. He was found dead shortly after 4:30 p.m. Monday in the 500 block of Mills Drive South. There were no signs of foul play, police said. Palmer's grandmother told police that he had been out with friends until early Monday but that she had seen him about 3 a.m. getting a drink from the refrigerator, according to police reports. "When he's out late, he would sleep late, so his grandmother just let him do that," Euless police Lt. John Williams said Tuesday. Palmer had no history of medical problems, police said.

— Domingo Ramirez Jr.

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## Homeowners can follow city models of trapping rainwater for irrigation

By JESSICA DeLEÓN  
jdeleon@star-telegram.com

**EULESS** — The Euless Parks Department has devised a way to use rain to water the plants in its greenhouse.

There's just one catch.

"All we have to do now is get some rain," Parks Manager Randy Smith said.

The system could save the city \$500 for every inch of rainfall at the greenhouse, where workers grow plants for city parks, medians and other public spaces.

The practice, called rainwater harvesting, is growing in popularity.

"It's like a resurgence," said Dottie

Woodson, a Dallas extension program specialist at the Urban Solutions Center, part of the Texas A&M University System's Texas AgriLife Extension Service. "Now people are very, very interested in doing it."

The Euless system, devised by city arborist Troy Cain, will capture rainwater as it falls on the curved roof using a 90-foot-long gutter. The rain flows into a 125-gallon tank, and employees will use a pump and hose to move the water into the 5,400-square-foot greenhouse.

### How to do it

Cain saw a Discovery Channel program about reclaiming water and designed the system in a day.

Homeowners can set up systems using gutters on their homes, sheds or garages, Woodson said.

Homeowners can buy a rain barrel with an insect screen on top — to prevent debris and mosquitoes from getting into the water — for \$100 to \$150 at a garden center, feed store or online.

Or homeowners can make the barrels. Woodson's office has several booklets available on its Web site to get homeowners started, and the Tarrant County Extension Office will host a seminar in October.

The water should be used only for outdoor irrigation, not for drinking. And some cities may require a permit to set up a tank.

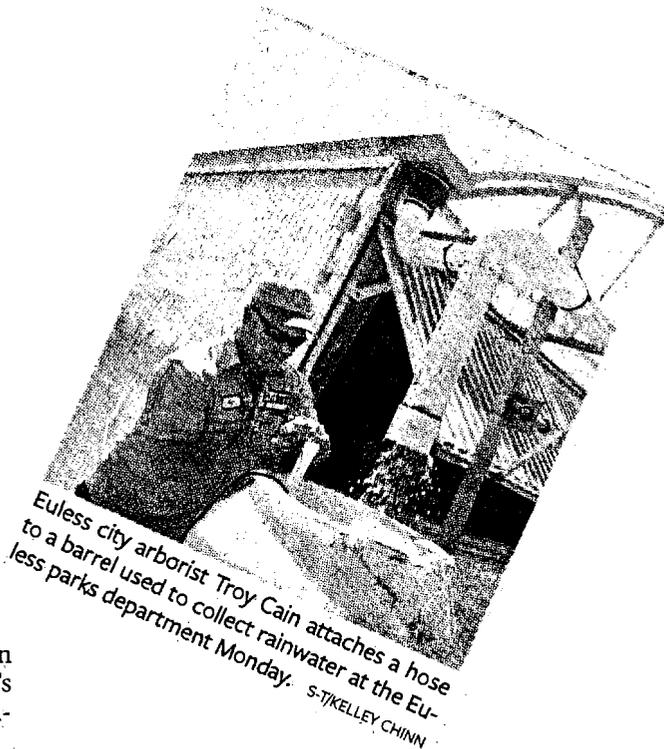
### Who else is doing it

The city of Grapevine has captured rainwater at the Botanical Gardens for nearly a year to water the plants around the Bessie Mitchell House.

Workers set up the system "with the intent that any homeowner could walk up and look at the display and realize how simple it is and install it at their home," Grapevine parks Superintendent Kevin Mitchell said.

The Bob Jones Nature Center and Preserve in Southlake also uses tanks — in their case, recycled whiskey barrels — to capture rain from the center's roof to water landscape beds around the building.

A system was set up at the eco-friendly home of Ross Bannister, Grapevine's heritage programs director and historic preservation manager.



Euless city arborist Troy Cain attaches a hose to a barrel used to collect rainwater at the Euless parks department Monday. S-T/KELLEY CHINN

The 10,000-gallon tank provides water for the 2,385-square-foot house, which was a demonstration project for the United States Green Building Council. The home also has an attic that stays at 75 degrees thanks to spray-foam insulation, uses an electric heat pump and gets hot water from its metal roof's solar panel. The Bannisters use the rainfall for irrigation and drinking water, using a multistep system with an ultraviolet filter that kills bacteria.

But the home has had to rely on the city water system for the last three weeks because it hasn't rained lately.

"When it was raining, it worked quite well," Bannister said.

### If you go

■ Those interested can make a rain barrel from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 17 at the Resource Connection, 1100 Circle Drive, Fort Worth. The program is sponsored by the Tarrant County Extension Office.

■ Cost: \$60

■ Information: 817-884-1945

### Demonstration sites

- Fort Worth Botanic Garden, Rock Springs building, 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd., Fort Worth
- Grapevine Botanical Gardens, southwest corner of the Bessie Mitchell House, Ball Street, Grapevine
- Resource Connection, Tarrant County Community Garden, 1100 Circle Drive, Fort Worth

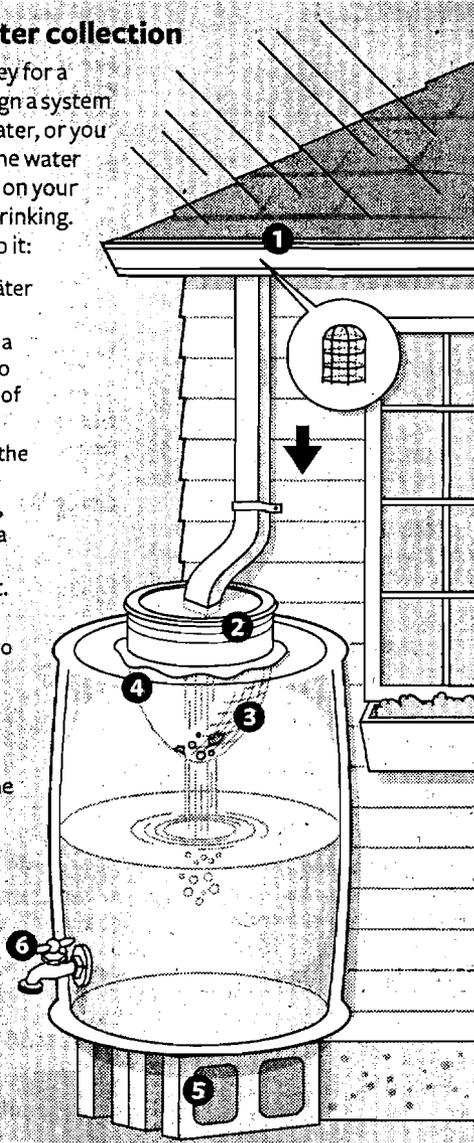
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**Gutter rainwater collection**

You can spend money for a professional to design a system for capturing rainwater, or you can do it yourself. The water should be used only on your landscape, not for drinking. Here's one way to do it:

1. Gutters capture water from the roof of your house. Be sure to use a gutter strain (inset) to keep large debris out of the downspout.
2. Use a jigsaw to cut the top 4 or 5 inches off a 5-gallon paint bucket, including the lid. Cut a hole in the bucket lid. Insert the downspout. Make sure it fits tight.
3. Use the bucket lid to secure a mesh paint strainer to keep out smaller debris and mosquitoes.
4. Cut a round hole the size of the bucket in the top of a 55-gallon plastic drum. Insert the bucket.
5. Elevate the 55-gallon drum to create more water pressure.
6. Add a spigot to retrieve the water.



Source: WikiHow.com

STAR-TELEGRAM/TIM BEDISON

**Why do it**

The Eules project came about in part because the city wanted to eliminate repeated drainage problems when rain flooded the greenhouse foundation.

Using the Eules system, one inch of rain would generate about 3,200 gallons of water, enough for about three days' worth, Smith said. The greenhouse uses 1,000 gallons of water a day.

Installing the system cost about \$250. Smith estimates the city will save about \$500 to \$600 per inch of rainfall, but a soon-to-be purchased 3,000-gallon tank could save the city thousands.

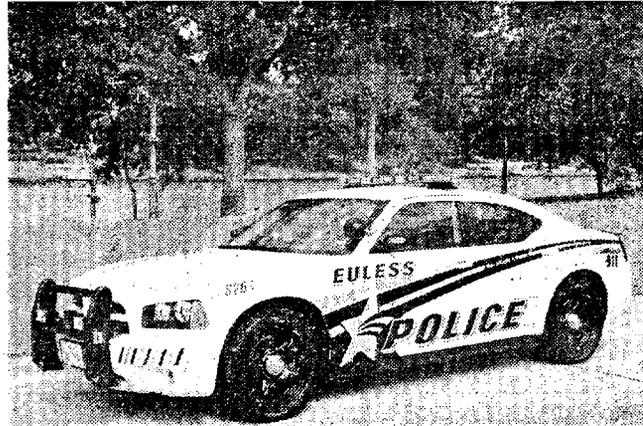
Compared with treated water, rain has less salt and minerals and more nutrients and is not chlorinated, Smith said. The department will treat the rainwater with light fungicide.

Woodson said that about 25 percent of treated water is used to irrigate lawns and gardens.

Online: [www.eules.org](http://www.eules.org), [www.bannisterhousetexas.com](http://www.bannisterhousetexas.com), [tarrant.tamu.edu](http://tarrant.tamu.edu), or go to [dallas.tamu.edu](http://dallas.tamu.edu) and click on "Water Conservation Practices," then "Making a Rain Barrel" and "Rainwater Harvesting"

This report includes material from the Star-Telegram archives.

JESSICA DeLEÓN, 817-685-3932

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YOUNG McDONALD COLLINS C. BARKER GETCHELL LIBRARY ADMIN LIBRARY REF ANIMAL CNTRDATE DISTRIBUTED 8/8/08 DATE OF ARTICLE 7/31/08 NEWSPAPER FWST**POLICE**

This Dodge Charger owes its award-winning look to Euless Senior Cpl. Scott Peterson.

COURTESY OF EULESS POLICE

## Euless police cars nab design prize

By **CANDACE CARLISLE**  
ccarlisle@star-telegram.com

EULESS — It's not all about beauty, but in this contest, appearance counts.

A Euless police cruiser was crowned division winner for the annual International Police Vehicle Design Contest, sponsored by *Law and Order* magazine.

The Euless cruisers received a makeover about three months ago when Senior Cpl. Scott Peterson suggested that it was time for a "modern, trendy look."

He helped create a design that includes a shooting star,

easy-to-read lettering and reflective decals — some of the traits that impressed judges.

The Waldron Police Department in Arkansas, near the Texas border, had the ugliest vehicle but won the real prize — a new design for three department cruisers.

Waldron Police Chief David Millard said that a new striping pattern has already been chosen.

"It's pretty," Millard said. "All our guys are really excited about the new look."

**CANDACE CARLISLE, 817-685-3821**

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## New restaurant promises easy experience

By Caleb Chapman  
 The Daily Times

Published July 31, 2008

For many working people in Kerrville, a quick bite for lunch means a roll through the drive-thru.

Not any more, said Tori Varwig, owner of the soon-to-open Salada's restaurant located downtown. Varwig is going into the venture with her husband, Kelly.

"We are opening a one-of-a-kind restaurant," Varwig said. "All the food will be available without a wait."

The buffet-style eatery at 225 Earl Garrett St. will feature a 25-foot salad bar, a homemade soup bar, a potato bar, homemade breads and a dessert bar.

"We will accommodate the biggest appetite to the most picky one," she said. "Salada's will be a relaxed, clean atmosphere with a fast, casual concept.

"Whether you are in a hurry to grab a bite to eat or want to sit down and enjoy your meal, this concept makes it possible," she continued.

Work continues on the restaurant, and the first day of business is fast approaching.

"Opening day never happens when you want it to," Varwig said. "We have overcome many challenges and hope to be open no later than Aug. 10."

The hours of operation haven't yet been set, but Varwig said the restaurant likely will be open seven days a week.

"The cost of the buffet is still up in the air, but we are thinking somewhere in the \$8 range for all-you-can eat," she said of pricing.

Varwig said some to-go items eventually might be added to the restaurant's offerings.

"We are thinking of a few lunch ideas for individuals to grab and go when they are in a hurry," she said. "But we want to concentrate on getting open first and offering excellent customer service and great, quality food."

Varwig, a native of Kerrville, recently relocated here from the Fort Worth area. Her husband, Kelly, just retired from the city of Euless after 13 years as a firefighter-

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paramedic. Varwig is a real estate broker and said she hopes to continue practicing in Kerrville.

Varwig said a big reason for starting the venture was the ability to move back closer to home.

“The whole inspiration of Salada’s was from wanting to return to Kerrville and be in a place where my husband and I can raise two precious boys and be near family,” she said. “I have always thought this concept would do well in Kerrville.”

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## Police seek ways to beat the heat

By CANDACE CARLISLE  
 ccarlisle@star-telegram.com

Officer Micah Noble was writing a citation at a traffic stop on Texas 183 when he began to feel dizzy.

The Bedford motorcycle officer knew that something was wrong.

He quickly wrote the ticket and went back to the station. He said he realized he had become dehydrated.

As temperatures continue to surpass 100 degrees — Saturday's high was 104 — it's increasingly difficult for patrol officers to stay cool. And when pressed into action, the situation can quickly become dangerous. On Friday, four Fort Worth officers were involved in a foot chase and had to be treated at a hospital for symptoms of heat exhaustion.

Compounding the problem are the dark clothes and non-breathable bulletproof vests that most officers wear.

"The bulletproof vests are just like an oven," Euless police Lt. John Williams said.

Area police departments offer a variety of options to help patrol officers stay cool. Most agreed that hydration and rotating out of the elements is important when temperatures climb.

"We go into businesses and suck up some air conditioning," said officer John Danna, bicycle patrol coordinator for Fort Worth police. "It gives us an opportunity to get some PR time while we cool off and refill the water bottles."

Some departments said they also provide Gatorade or water for officers, especially at accident scenes.

The Keller Police Department's four-legged police officers also use electrolyte supplements, just like the other officers trying to beat the heat. The apple-flavored powdered electrolytes, similar to those found in sports drinks, are fed daily to horses to make sure that they're emergency-ready. "It keeps them hydrated," Sgt. Gary Fischer said.

### 'CoolCop' device

The Bedford Police Department is trying to combat the heat by offering a new cooling device to patrol officers and new regulations to keep police cool.

Last month, officials introduced the CoolCop.

The device is placed over a patrol car's air vent and a vacuum hose running from the vent is hooked into the front of a bulletproof vest. The cool air gets right to the hottest portion of an officer's body, patrol officers said.

"I like it. It works," said Steve Pierce, a Bedford patrol officer who used the device for the first time Thursday after working 13 summers on patrol.

Pierce also wears his regu-

### Other ways to beat the heat

■ Breathable clothing: Bedford, Euless, Grand Prairie, Grapevine, North Richland Hills, Southlake

■ Weather-accommodating schedules: Grand Prairie

■ Motorcycle officers partnering: Arlington, Grapevine

lating blue shorts and keeps plenty of water handy.

Lt. Kirk Roberts, a Bedford police spokesman, said he did an informal experiment several years ago when he was on patrol. He stuck a thermometer underneath his bulletproof vest and found that it was 20 degrees hotter under the vest than the air temperature.

It was a joke then, but Roberts, who worked patrol for 15 years, said he still remembers the uncomfortable summers.

"I would wring out my T-shirts, and the water would be dirty brown," Roberts said.

### Motorcycle officers

The CoolCop device helps officers in air-conditioned vehicles, but those who ride motorcycles have little more than wind to cool them — something hard to come by on humid days.

Their long leather boots, which are required for safety reasons, keep their feet toasty.

Two Arlington motorcycle supervisors check on their 16 officers to make sure that they stay hydrated and seek relief if they start to feel the effects from the heat.

"They know the officers are out in the elements. They make sure to check on them," Arlington police Lt. Blake Miller said.

This summer for the first time, the Bedford department set heat index guidelines for motorcycle officers.

When the heat index reaches 105 degrees, supervisors take officers off their bikes and put them in air-conditioned patrol cars, Roberts said.

"There are so many consecutive over-100-degree days that it pays to be more proactive," Roberts said. "So we put procedures in place."

Last week, the department used the guideline to close the motorcycle fleet for a day because of the heat index.

Grapevine police Sgt. Kim Smith said, "We really look out for each other, but as police officers we tend to push ourselves to that limit."

A few years ago, a Euless patrol officer was working an accident and became overheated, and paramedics were called to treat him, Williams said.

Noble said that when he is on patrol, he tries to find a shady spot to work radar, and he carries two 1-liter bottles of water.

He said he wasn't really concerned about his dizzy episode last week, "but it was real hot."

Staff writer Deanna Boyd contributed to this report.

CANDACE CARLISLE, 817-685-3821

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## LETTERS

### A not-so-new idea

One cheer for the Eules Park Department's installation of a rainwater harvesting tank, but a Bronx razz to the *Star-Telegram* for reporting as if it were a major innovation. Having just returned from drought-stricken Australia, where 10,000-gallon tanks and larger are taken

for granted in many places in public buildings and private residences, I didn't know whether to laugh or cry at this literal drop in the ocean of what is actually available in water-saving technology.

(See: "Homeowners can follow city models of trapping rainwater for irrigation," July 30) Speaking of water-saving technology, when remodeling bathrooms a few years ago, I tried to find somewhere in America dual-flush toilets (yes, Virginia, you can actually choose a normal-size flush for brown and a half-flush for yellow!), but ended up importing them at considerable expense from, guess where, Australia, where they've been the standard in new installations for years.

Dual-flush toilets are much more readily found online today, but where is the public policy (and media attention) that would require these in all new buildings?

If Texans wanted to get serious about water conservation there's a wide world to learn from.

— Claudia Camp, Fort Worth

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Vince Jewell, a club pro from Euless, fulfilled a dream by earning a tee time to this week's PGA Championship. S-T/LAURIE L. WARD

# Local pro steps up for first major test

Euless resident Vince Jewell has played in the past three EDS Byron Nelson Championships, but Thursday he will take a swing at an even bigger challenge: The Monster. The former New Mexico State golfer makes his major-championship debut in the PGA Championship at Oakland Hills Country Club, a course Fort Worth golf legend Ben Hogan dubbed "The Monster" after shooting a 67 to win the 1951 U.S. Open in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

## GOLF INSIDER

# EULESS GOLFER'S QUEST: AVOID MONSTER'S WRATH

**Vince Jewell plans to savor the memories in his major-championship debut at this week's PGA.**

Regardless of what happens in today's practice round at the PGA Championship, it will be an 18-hole journey that Vince Jewell never will forget.

The same can be said for the two rounds that will follow, on Thursday and Friday at Oakland Hills Country Club in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

After that? The club pro from Euless, who will be making his career debut in one of professional golf's major championships, hopes he's still in the field, seeking to slay the Monster.

That is the nickname Oakland Hills has carried since 1951, when Fort Worth golf legend Ben Hogan fired a closing 67 to win the U.S. Open at a layout where the scoring average was 77.2. Afterward, Hogan said he was glad he "brought this monster to its knees" with his stellar final round.

Jewell, 37, considers himself a "big-time" Hogan fan. But he plans to adopt a less-confrontational approach toward the course.

"I want to meet the Monster first, and keep his temper



JIMMY BURCH  
 jburch@star-telegram.com

down," Jewell said, laughing. "Regardless of where I finish, it'll be a great week."

And a memorable one. Jewell made sure of that by enlisting his father, Paul, as a caddie for today's practice round. He'll go back to his regular caddie during the tournament, but Jewell chose to have his father join him during his final tuneup at what may be his only competitive appearance in one of golf's elite events. Or the first of many, depending how Jewell's game continues to progress.

"I'm surprised he accepted, but I'm glad he did," said Jewell, an assistant golf professional at Brook Hollow Golf Club in Dallas.

Jewell, the 2007 Player of the Year from the Northern Texas PGA, punched his ticket in this week's field by finishing in a tie for 15th at the PGA Professional National Championship in Lake Oconee, Ga., on

**PGA Championship**  
 Thursday-Sunday,  
 Oakland Hills Golf Club,  
 Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

June 22. The top 20 finishers earned tee times at Oakland Hills.

Jewell, a former New Mexico State golfer who has played in the past three EDS Byron Nelson Championships, has spent the early part of tournament week seeking insights from PGA Tour friends such as Colleyville resident Chad Campbell and Rich Beem, a New Mexico State teammate who won the 2002 PGA. The experience, he said, has been "awesome" although he's wondering how the nerves will respond when the starter calls him to the tee Thursday.

"I'm hitting it well," said Jewell, who shot 3-under par and finished 17th in last month's Texas State Open in Tyler. "If I keep doing that, anything can happen."

That includes fulfilling his second dream of the 2008 season. The first, for Jewell, was simply to earn a tee time at the PGA. The next dream?

"To finish in the top eight and get invited to the [2009] U.S. Open and a bunch of other events," Jewell said, referring to the perks that ac-

company a high finish at the PGA. "That's in the back of my mind. ... My expectation is to keep it in the fairway off the tee. If I do that, there's not much that can go wrong."

At the very least, Jewell always will be able to say that, in his major championship debut, he came closer to winning than Tiger Woods.

Deep down, Jewell said he is "kind of bummed" that Woods' season-ending knee surgery will prevent him from comparing scores this week with the world's top-ranked golfer. With a little luck, however, Jewell hopes his performance at Oakland Hills will be the springboard toward a head-to-head meeting with Woods at a future PGA Tour event.

"My game is maturing. I'm still on an upward path," Jewell said. "I'm finally feeling confident in myself to do what I need to keep getting better. I don't feel like I've hit my ceiling yet."

If Jewell can slay the Monster, or at least make him wince for 72 holes, he'll have a better indication of how high that ceiling is in relation to the world's best golfers.

JIMMY BURCH, 817-390-7760

Calendar, leaders. 7D