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Betty Fuller, a member of the Mid-Cities Genealogical Society, looks at a display case featuring some of the items she has donated to the Euless library's new genealogy and history room. The room is home to a variety of genealogical resources. STAR-TELEGRAM PHOTOS/KELLEY CHINN

EULESS

History goes on display at library

EULESS — Renovations at the Euless Public Library are helping make local history and genealogy more accessible to residents.

Storage space was converted into a room with computers that offer access to genealogy databases and U.S. census records.

Elsewhere in the library, a ceramic-tile mural is planned to depict events and places in the city's history. Jessica DeLeón reports, 6BB

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GENEALOGY ROOM

Library takes page or two from Euless history

The new room provides a relaxing space for visitors.

By JESSICA DeLEÓN
jdeleon@star-telegram.com

EULESS — Pieces of the city's past can now be seen at the Euless Public Library.

The library, 201 N. Ector Drive, is displaying photographs and artifacts dating to the 1800s in its new genealogy and history room.

"We have history in Euless," longtime resident Betty Fuller, 74, said proudly as she stood in the room. The new room is one of several projects the library is organizing to promote the city's history.

Euless history in a room

As part of the library's recent renovations, storage space was converted into the new genealogy room, while the old genealogy room was transformed into a "quiet zone" filled with nearly a dozen tables where patrons can study or read. The library also put in new carpet and more space for the library staff.

The display cases include a handmade silk blouse from 1886, the 1949-50 Euless High School yearbook and scrapbooks of the city's history that belonged to former Mayor Pro Tem Willie Mae McCormick.

The genealogy resources include three computers with

access to the Ancestry Library and Heritage Quest databases, U.S. census records and various genealogy magazines.

The room includes a table, as well as sofas and chairs up-

holstered with a pattern of books.

"People feel comfortable here," library assistant administrator Tammi Trull said.

A.B. Sams III of Euless, who researches genealogy a couple of times a week, said the room is homey and relaxing, especially compared with the cramped quarters of the old room.

"You had to fight to get in there," he said.

The renovations, which added 1,600 square feet to the 35,000-square-foot building, cost \$50,000; the money came from the city's budget reserves.

Euless history in tiles

The Euless Library Foundation is creating a ceramic tile wall mural that will depict events and places in the city's history.

The foundation provides artwork for the city and has

commissioned sculptures, paintings and blown glass in the past, said the organization's president, Sandra Crowley.

This time, it wanted a project that depicted Euless and Texas history in a new way.

How to help

■ The Historical Preservation Committee is collecting photos for its Historical Photo Album. The photos will be scanned and returned. Call 817-685-1649 to help.

■ To buy a tile for the wall mural project, visit www.eulesslibraryfoundation.org or pick up a form at the library, 201 N. Ector Drive.

If you go

■ "Euless History in Photos"
■ 1 p.m. Nov. 8
■ Heritage Park, 201 Cullum Drive, Euless

One tile depicts the Himes Log House, built in Euless in 1851.

Other tiles will depict animals, flowers or events before 1950, Crowley said.

The foundation already has commitments for about one-fourth of the wall, which measures 6 feet by 9 feet and will be inside the main entrance of the library.

The costs range from \$25 for a tile that looks like a book spine to \$1,200 for a piece measuring 12 inches by 6 inches.

Connecticut-based artist Marion Grebow will create the tiles from photos and historical information.

The foundation expects the project will take about two years to complete.

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A family photo album from the early 1900s is among the items on display in the new genealogy and history room.

Eules history in photos

The Historical Preservation Committee is collecting old photos that volunteers will scan for its "Historical Photo Album."

The copies of the photos will be displayed at the "Eules History in Photos exhibition" in November.

"Some people don't realize the rich history we have," said Michael Davenport, the city's supervisor of special events and projects.

"That's why we're doing all this."

Online: www.grebowtiles.com

JESSICA DeLEÓN, 817-685-3932

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GOVERNMENT

Consultants get thousands in city dollars

They are hired to act as neutral figures and to help plan and set goals.

By JESSICA DeLEÓN
 jdeleon@star-telegram.com

BEDFORD — The city spent nearly \$14,000 this year on a consultant to help the City Council plan goals and write a mission statement.

Consultant Joe Gonzalez also helped council members define

their expectations and concerns about City Manager Beverly Queen's performance and improve communication between the council members and Queen.



Story

Spending money on such services irks longtime city budget watchdog Dorothy McWhorter, who used the Texas Public Information Act to obtain the invoices, e-mails and other documents about the consultant.

"That's not his job," McWhorter said. "The mayor should be doing this."

But Mayor Jim Story said the money was a worthwhile investment. City officials in Colleyville and Hurst, who also hired consultants, including Gonzalez, said they bring a neutral voice to mapping out goals.

E-mails show strife in Bedford

■ They reveal that the city manager had offered to resign in March. **7BB**

Clarifying expectations

Gonzalez heads the College Station-based Management Connection, which has worked with more than 35 Texas cities since 1991, to establish goals and set direction if people have different opinions.

More on CITIES on 8BB

Consultants

Cities hire consultants to help with planning and developing policies. Here's what three cities spent on consultants and what they did for their pay:

Bedford

Consultant: Joe Gonzalez, The Management Connection, College Station

■ One-on-one workshop with Mayor Jim Story to develop the city's plans for 2008, February
 Total: \$1,707.56 (cost: \$1,500; mileage: \$207.56)

■ One-on-one conferences with the council members and City Manager Beverly Queen, March
 Total: \$2,886.85 (cost: \$2,700; mileage: \$186.85)

■ Council retreat, June
 Total: \$9,202 (cost: \$8,700; food: \$252; hotel meeting room: \$250)

Total cost: \$13,796.41

Colleyville

Consultant: Ron Holifield, Strategic Government Resources, Keller

■ City Council retreat, May
Total cost: \$3,000

Hurst

Consultant: Joe Gonzalez, The Management Connection, College Station

■ Council Strategic Planning Conference and one-on-one interviews with City Council members, February
 Total: \$5,185.34 (cost: \$5,000; mileage: \$185.34)

■ "Focusing on Solutions" Conference general employee training and continued consultation with Customer Service Advisory Team, February
 Total: \$2,685.34 (cost: \$2,500; mileage: \$185.34)

■ Customer service training conference and Plus 32 Workshop, March. (Plus 32 is a personality and performance inventory that helps a team perform and communicate better.)
 Total: \$3,363.88 (cost: \$3,000; hotel: \$178.54; mileage: \$185.34)

■ "Art of Presenting to Council" and Plus 32 workshop, April
 Total: \$3,638.49 (cost: \$3,000; hotel: \$267.81; mileage: \$370.68)

■ Plus 32 Directors Workshop and Personal Productivity conferences, May and June. (Personal Productivity helps participants define daily goals so they can be productive.)

Total: \$2,774.61 (cost: \$2,500; hotel: \$89.27; mileage: \$185.34)

Total cost: \$17,647.66

Note: Mileage was charged at 50.5 cents, which is the federal standard rate
 Sources: Cities

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Cities: Leaders praise consultants

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In Bedford, Story met with Gonzalez in February to plan strategy for the year. Gonzalez was also there in March, when each council member had a one-on-one session with Queen before her yearly performance review in April. In June, he led a retreat with the full council to write a mission statement and goals.

Story said he was inspired to get a consultant at a Texas Municipal League session after he was elected in 2005. Other city officials described how facilitators help with planning.

Queen said the all-day March 25 one-on-one sessions helped her learn that council members have different expectations and communication styles. Queen said if the expectations aren't clear, she needs to ask questions.

"I needed to be a little more outspoken," she said.

A neutral viewpoint

Hurst hired Gonzalez in 1998 for planning. The city has since used his services in developing a customer service plan in which employees created a "Code of Ideals," and a leadership program in which midlevel managers were trained to work in top positions.

Hurst City Manager Allan Weegar said a facilitator can iron out differences among council members. For example,

Gonzalez helped officials compromise on how to handle transportation, which some officials saw as a global issue and others saw as a neighborhood issue.

Colleyville City Manager Bill Lindley said his city hired Ron Holifield of Keller-based Strategic Government Resources for a session several months ago so City Council members would feel free to speak their minds.

"It allows the conversation to flow freely," Lindley said. "Sometimes you want to be able to challenge somebody's statement."

Bob Bland, chairman of the Department of Public Administration at the University of North Texas in Denton, said a neutral consultant makes certain that all points of view are heard and that a single person is not leading the discussion.

"If it's the mayor, it's going to be the mayor's strategic plan," Bland said.

But other cities have done without a consultant.

"We've just found through the years much of that can be done in-house, using local resources, through people who know the community intimately," Euless City Manager Gary L. McKamie said.

Online: www.profacilitator.com

JESSICA DeLEÓN, 817-685-3932

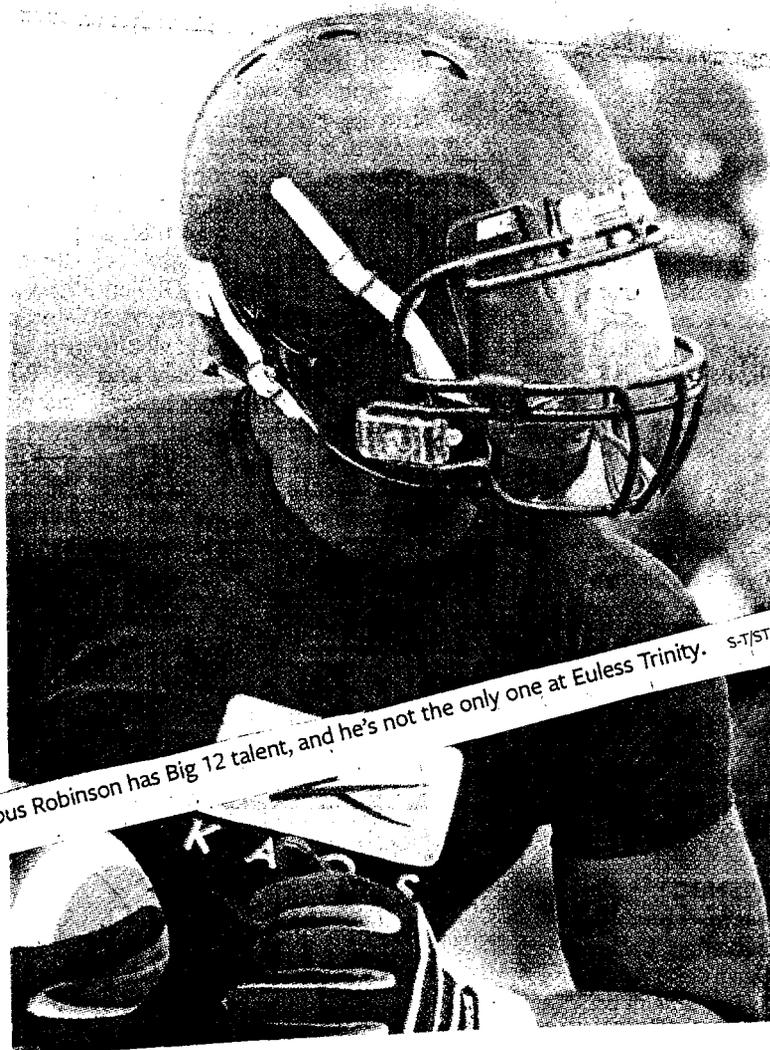
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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL | NATIONAL PREP POLL

Is Trinity tops in nation? It's a tough case to beat

By **CARLOS MENDEZ** cmendez@star-telegram.com The Euless Trinity Trojans — owners of two state championships and a 40-3 record over the past three seasons — are No. 1. ★ They're at the top of the National Prep Poll, which crowned area rival Southlake Carroll national champ in 2004 and 2005. But no Texas team, not even the highly decorated Dragons, has ever opened at No 1 in the National Prep Poll. ★ The Trojans hit the practice field Monday. Why are they No. 1?



Dontrayevous Robinson has Big 12 talent, and he's not the only one at Euless Trinity. S-T/STEWART F. HOUSE

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Division I talent

RB Dontrayevous Robinson (Nebraska), LB Earnest Norman (Kansas), S Prinz Kande (Kansas) and CB Eryon Barnett (Texas) make the Trojans rich in talent.

Experience

The Trojans return their quarterback, two receivers, the entire secondary, all three linebackers and get a top runner back from injury.

State of play

Jamie DeMoney of the National Prep Poll puts a big emphasis on where a team plays, and Texas has a reputation for good football.

Physicality

Trinity is the home of bruising football and 300-pound linemen. The Trojans keep it on the ground and make sure they don't beat themselves.

The Haka

Is there a more fearsome sight than a bunch of wild-eyed football players crouching low, chanting in unison, hitting their helmets, slapping their thigh pads and baring teeth? Not around here.

Stability

Steve Lineweaver is only the fourth head coach in Trinity's 39 seasons. And four assistants have been with him the whole time at Trinity.

More opportunities

The split of the football playoffs in 1990 started the road to two state champions in each classification. For better or for worse, it means more chances to build a powerhouse reputation.

■ Star-Telegram preseason 4A, 5A polls, National Prep polls. **5D**

Scoreboard

HIGH SCHOOLS

**FOOTBALL
 STAR-TELEGRAM PRESEASON
 FOOTBALL POLL**

Note: First place votes in parentheses.

CLASS 5A

Team	Pts.	*W-L
1. Trinity.....	(10) 100	15-1
2. Carroll.....	85	11-2
3. Arl. Bowie.....	77	12-2
4. Abilene.....	71	13-2
5. Colleyville Heritage.....	41	8-3
6. Hebron.....	37	11-3
7. Marcus.....	31	9-3
8. Summit.....	30	9-2
9. Fossil Ridge.....	21	10-2
10. Arlington.....	17	4-6

Others receiving votes: Martin 10, North Crowley 8, Burleson 5, Grapevine 4, Lamar 4, Mansfield 4, Lewisville 2, Flower Mound 2, Richland 1

CLASS 4A

Team	Pts.	*W-L
1. Everman.....	(6) 94	14-1
2. Stephenville.....	(2) 87	10-2
3. Aledo.....	80	11-3
4. Timberview.....	(2) 74	9-4
5. Birdville.....	45	8-2
6. Southwest.....	42	10-1
7. Crowley.....	32	5-5
8. Saginaw.....	21	7-3
9. Boswell.....	20	4-6
10. Dunbar.....	15	6-5

Others receiving votes: Wyatt 12, Arl. Seguin 11, Springtown 11, Cleburne 5, Western Hills 1.
 *—2007 record

**NATIONAL PREP
 PRESEASON FOOTBALL
 POLL**

Rank	School
1.....	Trinity, Euless
2.....	Byrnes, Duncan, S.C.
3.....	Lowndes, Valdosta, Ga.
4.....	South Panola, Batesville, Miss.
5.....	St. Thomas Aquinas, Ft. Laud., Fla.
6.....	De La Salle, Concord, Calif.
7.....	Gateway, Monroeville, Pa.
8.....	Armwood, Seffner, Fla.
9.....	Centennial, Corona, Calif.
10.....	North Shore, Houston
11.....	St. Ignatius, Cleveland
12.....	Jenks, Okla.
13.....	Bastrop, La.
14.....	Oscar Smith, Chesapeake, Va.
15.....	Trinity, Louisville, Ky.
16.....	Lutheran, Orange, Calif.
17.....	Skyline, Sammamish, Wash.
18.....	St. Xavier, Cincinnati
19.....	Prattville, Ala.
20.....	Don Bosco Prep, Ramsey, N.J.
21.....	Mt. Carmel, Chicago
22.....	Rockhurst, Kansas City, Mo.
23.....	Plano
24.....	Apopka, Fla.
25.....	Desert Vista, Phoenix

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INVESTIGATION

3 teens' deaths fuel worries about youthful drug abuse

"We just haven't seen anything like this in a long time," a Grapevine officer says.

By **DOMINGO RAMIREZ JR.**
ramirez@star-telegram.com

Police are investigating whether illegal drugs such as heroin or LSD, prescription drugs such as hydrocodone or a mixture of the two were involved in the deaths of three teens in the Grapevine area in the past two weeks.

An exact cause of death on the teens is pending toxicology re-

sults, which could take several weeks, police said.

But evidence at the scene and interviews with friends of the victims have led investigators to believe that drugs may have been involved in their deaths, police say.

The first death was reported on July 28, when a 15-year-old boy was found dead by his grandmother in their Euless home.

An 18-year-old Euless man died Thursday morning at a

More on DEATHS on 8B

CONTINUED FROM 1B

Grapevine apartment, police said. Then an 18-year-old Irving man was pronounced dead at a Grapevine hospital Saturday afternoon.

"We just haven't seen anything like this in a long time," Grapevine police Sgt. Kim Smith said.

A rise in admissions

The deaths come at a time when a Bedford chemical-dependency treatment hospital is experiencing an increase in admissions of local teens.

Officials said the number of teens admitted to Harris Methodist Springwood Hospital in Bedford has increased 19 percent so far this year compared with last year. The hospital, which treats adolescents 13 to 17 years old, admitted 62 teens last year from January to August, and 74 teens during the same period this year.

About 85 percent of the kids were from Northeast Tar-

rant County, said Ramona Osburn, director of Springwood.

Most of the teens have been admitted for abuse of multiple prescription drugs, hospital officials said.

"These kids have no fears about taking multiple drugs at one time," Osburn said. In Northeast Tarrant County, police and hospital officials say one of the most popular venues for teens to get drugs is at "pharming" or "pharma" parties. Teens bring illegal drugs and prescription drugs like Xanax or hydrocodone, then throw all the drugs in a bowl. The teens then just grab, taking multiple drugs.

Drug awareness

In the wake of the Grapevine-area deaths, school resource officers are scheduled to meet with school officials next week to formulate a plan to educate teachers and students on the most recent drug problem, police said.

"Once school starts, we'll

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Deaths: Officials still waiting for word on exactly what killed 3 teens

be meeting with parents about what the kids are using," Smith said.

Because the teens may have had several friends in the Grapevine and Colleyville area, a Grapevine-Colleyville school district official said Tuesday that crisis counselors will be available if needed for students and staffers when classes resume Aug. 25.

The district has a drug-education program for students in kindergarten through high school.

Recent deaths

These are the three recent deaths that police are investigating as drug-related:

July 28: Brandon Palmer, 15, was found dead in his bedroom after being out all night with friends, Euless police said.

His grandmother saw him about 3 a.m. as he was getting a drink from the refrigerator. She found him dead about 4:30 p.m. that day, according

to police reports.

He had been an eighth-grader at Central Junior High in Euless in November before he withdrew, according to Hurst-Euless-Bedford school district records.

Thursday morning: Christopher Hackler, 18, of Euless was found dead on a couch in a friend's apartment in the 2400 block of Timberline Drive in Grapevine. A friend called 911 after she found him unresponsive, police said.

An Oklahoma newspaper obituary stated that he was a 2007 graduate of In Balance Ranch Academy in Tombstone, Ariz.. The facility is a therapeutic boarding school for young men ages 13 to 17 who suffer from addiction or other disorders, according to the school's Web site.

The obituary said he had lived in Tulsa a short time and was an avid Oklahoma Sooners fan. He also liked surfing, snowboarding and soccer.

Donations can be made to the Chris Hackler Memorial Scholarship Fund; www.thenextstepalliance.org.

Saturday: Brandon Mason, 18, of Irving was pronounced dead at Baylor Regional Medical Center at Grapevine, after attempts by relatives and paramedics to revive him, police said.

The teen was injured in a traffic accident a few days earlier and was staying with his grandmother in Grapevine in the 2100 block of Grayson Drive. He was found in a bathroom, and a relative began CPR, police said. He died shortly before 4:30 p.m. Drug paraphernalia was found in the apartment, police said.

Mason had been an avid athlete, playing baseball, basketball and football, according to a local newspaper obituary. He had worked at Target in Grapevine.

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Notable competitive programs

There are myriad local gyms that offer beginner-level, non-competitive gymnastics programs. From discussions with local coaches and personal observation, here are five gyms in Tarrant County (listed alphabetically) capable of developing a beginner gymnast into a successful competitor in USAG events:

Empire Gymnastics Academy
 701 S. Industrial Blvd., Suite 105
 Euless
 817-355-0000; www.empire-gymnasticsacademy.com

Starfire Gymnastics
 — Arlington
 1120 Eden Road, Suite 104
 Arlington
 817-701-2822; www.viperathletics.com

Sunbelt Gymnastics
 4701 Bransford Road
 Colleyville
 817-788-9040; www.sunbelt-gymnastics.com

Texas Tumblers Gymnastics
 6120 Huddleston St.
 Fort Worth
 817-498-8700; www.txtumblers.com

Top Flight Gymnastics
 2100 Crooked Lane Blvd.
 Southlake
 817-481-8188; www.topflight-web.com