

MAYOR CITY CNCL CITY ATTN CRIM MCKAMIE RIDGWAY DECK BROWN
 YOUNG McDONALD COLLINS C. BARKER GETCHELL LIBRARY ADMIN LIBRARY REF ANIMAL CNTR

DATE DISTRIBUTED 3/27/09 DATE OF ARTICLE 3/20-4/23/09 NEWSPAPER N. E. Times

From the Local Leadership



Mayor Saleh
Eules

THE CITY OF
EULESS

Keeping you up to date on monthly topics with personal articles from your local leadership

Easter Season and the time change really came early this year, but that just gives us more time to appreciate the long days and wildflowers of Texas. Did you know that Texas has more varieties of wildflowers than any other state? I hope that the rains will furnish more blooms this year.

The streets, byways, and parks in our city have all been planted with new plants grown in our own greenhouse and watered with saved rainwater. There will be a demonstration of how to build your own water conservation apparatus at the annual Arbor Daze festival. Heritage Park is so lovely this time of the year, and many of the plants there came from the original site of the Fuller Home that was located on SH 10.

The Historical Preservation Committee members have Open House for all the Heritage Park facilities every second Saturday of the month from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00

p.m. They will also arrange to show the facilities, including the old log cabin, Fuller House, and one hundred year old barn for special outings, and the Historical Committee Docents have some fascinating tales to share. They continue to collect items that fit into the early days of Eules for the park.

The Eules Library Foundation will be hosting the annual spring book sale on April 17, 18, and 19. On Friday, April 17, a book sale preview will be held from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for a cost of \$5. Saturday and Sunday events are free. There are many items to choose from, and all funds received go back to the library for special programming.

On Saturday, April 4, the city of Eules will be collecting hazardous materials at the city complex from 9:00 a.m. to 11 a.m. Please visit www.eules.org/hazmat for more information. In addition, volunteers will be picking up trash along the streets and parks on April 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Please call Jerry Poteet at 817-685-1449 if you are interested in helping. Participants will also enjoy a free lunch, as well as a free t-shirt.

There will be a Youth Job Fair on Saturday, April 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Midway Park Recreation Center. With summer just around the corner, now is the perfect time to start applying for seasonal positions. The city of Eules is offering free job prep seminars, resume editing, and mock interviews. Dozens of local employers who are ready to hire you have been invited. For more information, or to reserve a booth for your business, please call 817-685-1666.

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*pets shown may already be adopted, but there are plenty of animals who have not and need a caring & loving home.



Breed: Tabby - Orange
Size: Medium
Age: Young
Gender: M

Eules Animal Services
1517 Westpark Way
Eules, TX 76040
(817)685-1594

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AUTISM AND WORSHIP

A soft touch



Gregory Kerbow, 12, who has autism, at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox church in Euless.

SPECIAL TO THE STAR-TELEGRAM/BRANDON WADE



Women's group at Euless church produces DVD aimed at helping worshippers understand challenges faced by parents with autistic kids

"I don't know how much he understands" in church, "but he's getting something" Gregory's mom says. "I have to believe that."

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By TERRY LEE GOODRICH
Star-Telegram staff writer

EULESS — Maria Kerbow's young son, Gregory, was talking during the service at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church a few years ago.

"A man started shushing him," said Kerbow, of Benbrook. "Gregory was actually being pretty good, but babbling a little bit. Then the man started lecturing me about parenting. 'I said, 'I'm sorry. My son is autistic.'"

In recent years, people have become more educated about autism and its accompanying communication, behavioral and social problems.

But sensitivity and education are especially crucial in places of worship, said Carolyn Garver, clinical director of the Autism Treatment Center in Dallas.

With that in mind, St. John the Baptist Philoptochos, a women's philanthropic group at the Eules church, has produced a documentary about the challenges of families seeking to instill spirituality in their autistic children's lives. The women hope to inspire faith communities to support families in the difficult task of parenting children who are different, said Kerbow, who suggested the project.

The result is *Angels and Autism: Finding Faith for the Autistic Child*.

The video

The 18-minute DVD, produced with the help of professional videographers and editors, features health experts and families of autistic children from Fort Worth, Plano, Eules and Frisco.

"What is God's plan for the children? What is God's plan for us with them?" asks the Rev. Gregory Hohnholt, who is interviewed in the film. The former priest at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Dallas is the father of twin 6-year-old boys, Stephen and Thomas. Thomas has autism.

"Sometimes when you have a special-needs child, you find attending church and having a spiritual life pretty daunting," said Hohnholt, who now serves at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Nashville. "I want to encourage parents and churches that you can do it, and that a child with autism can flourish."

Finding the way can be difficult.

"You can't just throw a child in church and expect their spiritual needs to be met right away," said psychologist Margaret Dempsey, director of psychology at the Child Study Center in Fort Worth.

"I'd never speak to knowing about the inner world of the autistic child," she said.

"But I do a lot of the testing to make that diagnosis. What I find is that because the children don't always act in typical manner but often look on the outside as if there's nothing wrong, there's a lot of judgment the family feels."

Garver said that worshippers may see a child and think they are "acting out."

"They may be rocking, and some people might think that's weird. . . . There might be tantrums and repetitious behavior, even self-injury. They may just blurt something out or run around."

Gregory, now 12, "just gets more excited," Kerbow said. "He has to run around and check everything out."

Around crowds, "there's just kind of sound overload," she said. "Putting his hands over his ears is his first reaction not just to noise, but whatever's new. That's his defense mechanism."

Ideas for parents

While visitors or newcomers to St. John the Baptist might be startled by Gregory's behavior, regulars at the small church, attended by about 100 families, have known the Kerbows for years and are accepting and loving of them, Maria Kerbow said.

Because many autistic peo-

ple have trouble in a new setting, families might consider a trial run to help children become familiarized, perhaps bringing them to a church or synagogue on a weekday, when few people are there, Garver said.

During a service, "if a child has something they really like or are interested in, like a crayon or book, a Disney figure, they could take it along," she said.

Priests or rabbis might even offer a sermon to make congregants aware, Garver said.

"Church should be a soft place for families to fall, but that doesn't always happen," Dempsey said.

For Kerbow: "It's very important for me to go to church, because I need that uplifting, that prayerful moment to say, 'Please. I need patience.' And not just because of Gregory, but for myself."

Kerbow said that in helping Gregory adjust to church, "we'd do small chunks of time. At first, he did 10 or 15 minutes; now,

he's sat almost an hour." He usually draws or colors with his crayons during church.

Hohnholt said he believes that the chanting, icons and incense in the Greek Orthodox churches he has pastored have touched a chord with his son Thomas.

"God gave us our senses, five means of edifying the soul," he said.

"Many people in the early church couldn't read and didn't have books available, back before the printing press," he said. "Many people with autism are very visual, and in icons, there's the life of the Lord laid out for them."

When the church empties, Gregory sometimes goes back for a last look, his mother said.

"God is an abstract. Autism is concrete," she said. "But something clicks with him. That's where faith comes in. I don't know how much he understands, but he's getting something. I have to believe that."

A closer look

■ Autism is a developmental disability that usually appears during the first three years of life. It affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others.

■ No single cause of autism is known. It affects about 1 child in 150.

■ Autism is considered treatable, although children do not "outgrow" it. Early diagnosis and intervention, such as behavioral, physical and play therapy, can improve the outcome.

■ Autism affects individuals differently and in varying degrees, but here are some of the signs:

Lack of or delay in spoken language

Repetitive use of language and/or movement.

Little or no eye contact

Lack of interest in peer relationships

Lack of spontaneous or make-believe play

Persistent fixation on parts of objects.

Source: Autism Society of America

The DVD

■ *Angels and Autism: Finding Faith for the Autistic Child* can be purchased for \$15, which includes shipping.

■ All proceeds go to the Autism Assistance Fund, a nonprofit established by the New York-based Greek Ladies Philoptochos Society for research, education, awareness and referral.

■ Information: 817-283-4680 or www.stjohnfdw.info/philoptochos.html

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EULESS

Sexually oriented business laws could be revised

The city's ordinance on sexually oriented businesses hasn't been amended since 1994.

By BRYON OKADA okada@star-telegram.com

EULESS — Totally nude dancing — not allowed.

Stuffing dollar bills in a stripper's G-string — nope. Tonight, the Euleess City Council will consider tougher licensing requirements for sexually oriented businesses, effectively banning totally nude

Council vote

- Euleess City Council
- 7 p.m. today
- 201 N. Ector Drive

dances and imposing “no touching” and “no tipping” rules within city limits.

Euleess' sexually oriented-business ordinance hasn't been amended since 1994, when some

of the day-to-day realities of such businesses were not well-defined. Since then, cities across Texas have fought legal battles for control of the businesses, including Arlington and Kennedale.

Euleess officials say the amendment clarifies in theory only how a sexually oriented business in Euleess might operate. While some clubs operate close to the Euleess border, there have been no applications made to the city.

“Nothing prompted this,” City Manager Gary McKamie said.

The authority of Texas cities to regulate the businesses, particularly where sexually oriented merchandise is sold but no on-site entertainment is offered, has been a slippery legal slope for the past five years. City officials say they want to avail themselves of legal remedies that have recently developed.

At 51 pages, the ordinance is largely a catalog of definitions and regulations for various types of sexually oriented businesses, including adult arcades, bookstores, novelty stores, video stores, cabarets, motels, motion picture theaters, escort agencies and nude model studios.

For example, here's the rule on tipping dancers: “Touching or tipping an employee who is in a state of nudity or semi-nudity is a crime (misdemeanor), punishable by fine up to \$2,000. Patrons shall remain at least six feet from all unenclosed performance stages while a person is performing on said performance stage.”

The new ordinance does not alter the 1,000-foot minimum distance requirement in place under Euleess' old ordinance.

It does require one or more employees to monitor the parking lots by video cameras and monitors, with recordings kept for at least one week.

It also contains strict licensing requirements, as well as grounds for the police chief to revoke the license. In some cases, it would be enough that an applicant's spouse be in violation of a provision for the license to be revoked.

Sexually oriented businesses would be required to close at 2 a.m.

And there are a couple of nuances when it comes to nudity. Section 18-107 prohibits nudity and semi-nudity in public places: “This has the practical effect of banning totally nude adult cabarets in Euleess, which is constitutionally permissible. It does not ban topless clubs; however, it will require dancers to wear pasties and g-strings, also constitutionally permissible.”

Exceptions are made however, for nudity that has “serious artistic merit” and breastfeeding.

Encore Videos case

In early 2006, the ability of cities and counties to regulate off-site sexually oriented businesses, such as a video store that sells entertainment to be used off-premises, came under serious attack. Specifically, court cases previously used to link on-site sexually oriented businesses — strip clubs and other places where entertainment takes place — to negative impacts related to off-site businesses were not being upheld.

A case involving a San Antonio adult bookstore named Encore Videos further undercut city authority by arguing that an off-site sexually oriented business did not act as a “hot spot” for negative activity, said San Antonio lawyer Bradford E. Bullock, who worked on that case and helped Euleess craft its new ordinance.

The study

Subsequently, the Texas City Attorneys Association commissioned a study on the impact that the businesses have on surrounding property values and crime rates. The study, finished in June, showed that off-site sexually oriented businesses have a negative impact on property values. It also shows “that it is a scientific fact sexually-oriented businesses pose large, statistically significant ambient public safety hazards in terms of prostitution, drugs, assault, robbery, and vandalism.”

In many cases, the negative impact of on-site and off-site sexually oriented businesses was indistinguishable.

The study findings have been incorporated into the new Euleess ordinance, Bullock said, and are used as a “reasonable basis for restrictions.”

Online: Read the report, www.tml.org/leg_updates/legis_update100908c_adult.html

BRYON OKADA, 817-685-3956

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TARRANT | STIMULUS

County will get a 'green' \$16 million

By JIM FUQUAY

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Tarrant County municipal governments will share more than \$16 million in energy-efficiency and conservation grants as part of the federal stimulus package, the Energy Department said Thursday.

The amounts include \$6.7 million for Fort Worth, \$3.4 million for Arlington and \$2.4 million for the county. Bedford, Euless, Grand Prairie, Grapevine, Haltom City, Keller, Mansfield and North Richland Hills will also receive grants.

The money is part of \$3.2 billion in grants nationwide, including \$209 million in Texas. It is targeted for energy audits and retrofits, development of new building codes, and projects that reduce total energy use and emissions, among other uses.

Tarrant County spokesman Marc Flake said an ongoing energy-efficiency program for county buildings should qualify for the money. "We just need to match up the projects with the program requirements," he said.

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dine out!

EATS BEAT

■ Burger update:
OC Burgers, the first-rate California-style charbroiled burger and breakfast cafe, has added a second location at 1201 Airport Freeway in Euless, near Farm Road 157.

Mooyah Burgers & Fries, the all-fresh Dallas burger shop, is close to opening at 2720 Texas 121, Euless, and at 8004 Denton Highway, Watauga.

