

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

DATE DISTRIBUTED 4/17/09 DATE OF ARTICLE 4/6/09 NEWSPAPER FWST

Q&A

Hot debate over voter ID hits Texas House this week

The compromise by Rep. Todd Smith is criticized from both sides.

By **DAVE MONTGOMERY**
dmontgomery@star-telegram.com

AUSTIN — One of the most contentious issues of the 2009 Legislature moves to the House of Representatives this week as a committee conducts two days of hearings on legislation requiring voters to present identification.

The Senate passed its version of a voter ID bill in mid-March. Now the



Smith

spotlight is on House Elections Committee Chairman Todd Smith, R-Eules, who says he is committed to finding a middle ground between Republicans calling for

greater ballot security and Democrats fearful that an ID requirement will disenfranchise minority and elderly voters.

Highlights from the interview:

On his proposed compromise to delay implementation of a voter ID mandate for two election cycles:

"There are two reasons for that. One is I think it's good public policy, and two is it's something that helps me obtain the marginal votes that assures passage of the legislation. The most onerous version of this legislation simply doesn't have the votes. . . .

"You could argue that there may be a meaningful percentage of the voters who do not participate in one election cycle. But if you were to provide that educational process over two election cycles, then I think it would be fair to presume that almost every voter who is active to any extent would have been personally educated" on the identification requirements.

What are the key ingredients that should be in a voter ID bill?

"At this point in time it makes more sense to talk about goals, and where you're trying to get rather than the more detailed minutiae of how you're going to get there. . . . I want to do everything within my power to minimize any argument that there is any legal voter whose vote is not going to be counted as a result of this legislation."

Smith said he strongly embraces "the spirit" of the 2005 Carter-Baker Commission, which recommended voter identification to enforce ballot security coupled with an aggressive registration to get more people to vote. The commission was headed by former President Jimmy Carter and former Secretary of State James Baker.

Are there laws in any other states that might be a good model for Texas?

"My guess is that at the end of the day our [law] won't be a carbon copy of any other state's version."

Smith indicated earlier that he would oppose a duplication of Indiana's strict requirement for photo ID. He says he is more receptive to the concept in the Senate-passed bill, which calls for a photo ID but allows voters without one to present two other forms of identification.

"Any reasonable person understands that both [ballot security and access] are important," Smith says. SPECIAL TO THE S-T/JACK PLUNKETT

Will the House bill be different than the Senate bill?

"There . . . will presumably be a conference committee [to adjust differences between the two chambers' bills] because I presume the House version will not be identical to the Senate version."

His response to criticism from *The Lone Star Report*, a pro-Democratic newsletter that depicted him as a "Tom DeLay-style political thug" intent on pushing through a rigid voter ID bill:

"I really don't like to respond to them. There is not anybody on the House floor, right or left, who would say that I would be fairly characterized as a Tom DeLay-style partisan thug. Within the last few weeks, I've been attacked as being a Tom DeLay-style partisan thug by the left, and as bottling up this vital piece of legislation in the House committee on the right. Now, obviously neither is true."

His view on why voter ID is such a hot-button topic:

"There is an inevitable tension between the notion of security at the polls and the attempt to provide as much access and convenience as possible. . . . We've got one party, at least at the grassroots level, that is focused only on ballot security. And then we have another party that is focused only on ballot access. And what's wrong about both approaches is that they seem to presume that the only thing that matters is what they are focused on. And any reasonable person understands that both are important."

His views on voter fraud:

We "have a significant loss of confidence in the credibility of our election process. And when our faith in that process begins to weaken, it becomes necessary for the governmental bodies to address that loss of faith in some reasonable and intelligent way. And we can do it without being the evil partisan that we are accused of being by the other side of the issue. I hope when it's all said and done that I am still receiving some criticism from both ends of the political spectrum."

What's next?

At least 14 expert witnesses, evenly split between both sides of the issue, will testify today; Smith expects testimony to stretch until midnight. On Tuesday, the hearing will include testimony from the public. Smith anticipates an all-night session.

The full 150-member House will likely vote late this month, Smith said.

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DATE DISTRIBUTED 4/17/09 DATE OF ARTICLE 4/7/09 NEWSPAPER _____

Bills, bills, bills...What about the Rangers?



2:33 PM Tue, Apr 07, 2009 | [Permalink](#) | [Yahoo! Buzz](#)

Terrence Stutz/Reporter [Bio](#) | [E-mail](#) | [News tips](#)



House Elections Committee Chairman Todd Smith of Euless was suffering from separation anxiety on Monday as he presided over a public hearing on voter ID legislation in Austin - while his beloved Rangers were opening their 2009 season in Arlington 200 miles away. Smith said it was the first time in more than two decades that he missed the Rangers opening home game.

To catch up on the results - after his committee finished its hearing well past midnight - Smith placed a phone call to his 73-year-old mother in Euless who took notes on the game, knowing her son would want a play-by-play breakdown. The call woke his mother at around 2 a.m., but she had her report ready. "Her notes were great. It was like I was there in the stands," Smith said Tuesday, recounting some of the highlights of the game. Best of all, he said, the Rangers started their new season on a positive note, routing the Cleveland Indians 9-1.

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DATE DISTRIBUTED 4/17/09 DATE OF ARTICLE 4/8/09 NEWSPAPER FWST

NORTHEAST TARRANT COUNTY

Drugs suspected in deaths of two men in Keller, Euless

Drug paraphernalia was found in their homes, police say.

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

Police are investigating whether drugs killed two young men found dead Monday morning in their Keller and Euless homes, officials said Tuesday. Authorities do not think the deaths are related.

It could take three to six weeks to determine a cause of death, pending toxicology results.

Drug paraphernalia was found in the homes, police said without providing details.

The Tarrant County medical examiner's office identified the men as Jared Howze, 20, of Keller and Alexander Dubrocq, 19, of Euless.

Howze was found shortly after 7 a.m. in the 1500 block of Brentwood Trail. "We are testing some substances that were found near him," Keller police Lt. Brenda Slovak said Tuesday.

Dubrocq was found about 10 a.m. in the 700 block of West Harwood Drive.

"There was some drug paraphernalia found in the home, but at this point we'll have to wait on the medical examiner to determine how he died," Euless police Lt. John Williams said Tuesday.

Heroin and Ecstasy have contributed to several recent deaths of young men and women in Northeast Tarrant County.

There were 16 heroin-related deaths from January to mid-March in Tarrant County, according to the medical examiner's office. Some of the victims took only heroin; others took heroin with other drugs or alcohol, the office said.

Kathleen Arendt, 17, of Southlake and Freddy Joiner, 18, of Hurst died from heroin in what local police believe were unrelated incidents in January, according to the medical examiner's office.

Tiffani Bach, 16, of Richland Hills was found dead the morning of Feb. 15 on the floor of an apartment in the 500 block of Precinct Line Road in Hurst, Richland Hills police reported.

She died of acute Ecstasy intoxication, according to the medical examiner.

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DATE DISTRIBUTED 4/17/09 DATE OF ARTICLE 4/12/09 NEWSPAPER DMN, CDM

High-tech equipment gives insight on game and may improve it

12:45 AM CDT on Sunday, April 12, 2009

By **BILL NICHOLS / The Dallas Morning News**
brnichols@dallasnews.com

EULESS – The future of golf sits in a nondescript building on the far end of the driving range at Texas Star Golf Course. There is little fanfare about the place, simply a sign that reads Sinclair's Golf Training Center.

Inside, high-tech gadgetry blinks as if awaiting liftoff. A video shows a golf swing in startling 3D detail, 300 frames per second. One machine uses high-speed electromagnetic sensors to track the motion of each body segment and the club's position.

A printer spits out ultrasound measurements of a putting stroke from 28 parameters. A balancing device measures so precisely that it knows how much weight is being placed on the middle front spike of your left shoe. There are club-fitting carts with interchangeable club heads and shafts from the top manufacturers.

From the Mind Meter, which charts levels of arousal and tension, to golf-specific fitness programs, the Sinclair Training Center contains virtually every conceivable element of golf instruction.

Jon Sinclair, who ran a golf center in Cleburne for six years, created this technological buffet in the hope of offering something for everybody. Looking at the array of services, it's hard to argue.

"I don't think there's any place in the country that has more stuff," Sinclair said. "My idea is, if you come here, you don't have to go somewhere else. We have instructors who are proficient at every aspect of the game."

The Euless City Council was impressed, unanimously approving the facility's inclusion at Texas Star, one of the area's most popular public courses. The training center opened last spring.

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Sinclair has been experimenting with game-improvement methods since his days on the minitours. He is comfortable on the cutting edge. He has taught the mental game for eight years, becoming one of only three master GolfPsych instructors. The program was developed by psychologist Deborah Graham, based on research with touring pros.

Sinclair considers himself a student of the game, constantly searching for the latest in technology. He is well-versed in biomechanics, fitness and club fitting, as well as the golf swing.

Although he has instruments that take photographs from every angle, Sinclair tells students that they don't need a picture-perfect swing. Students receive customized programs, by appointment only, based on their need.

"I see how all this helps my students," he said. "We have something for everybody."

SINCLAIR GOLF TRAINING CENTER

Address: 1500 Texas Star Pkwy, Euless

Phone: 817-571-7990

Web site: www.sinclairgolf.com

Services: Instruction (private, group); club fitting, featuring the Trackman system; GolfPsych individual and group sessions; Titleist Performance Institute-3D biomechanics; "Sam" putting and balance labs; JC video motion analysis system; TPI-certified golf specific fitness.

Staff/rates: Jon Sinclair, \$150 hour; six hours \$600; Jason McCray, \$150 hour; 10 hours \$999; Brooks West, \$100 hour; six hours \$400.

School/rates: From \$200 per person to \$7,000 per person, depending on length and services selected.

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DATE DISTRIBUTED 4/17/09 DATE OF ARTICLE 4/16/09 NEWSPAPER FWST

Saturday, April 25 & Sunday, April 26



ARBOR DAZE

Saturday, April 25
9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 26
2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

City Hall
201 N. Ector Dr.

2 STAGES OF ENTERTAINMENT
* FORESTRY VILLAGE
* KIDZ ZONE
* ARTS & FOOD VENDORS
* BOUNCE HOUSES & GAMES
* *plus MUCH, MUCH MORE!*



NOT ALLOWED:
Please Leave These At Home... alcohol, motorized vehicles, bicycles, roller blades, skateboards and scooters. No PETS allowed on festival grounds except for service animals.

ARTSNET ENTERTAINMENT MAIN STAGE A

Sponsored by 

<p>Saturday, April 25</p> <p>11 - 11:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. - noon</p> <p>Noon - 12:30 p.m. 12:30 - 1 p.m. 1 - 1:45 p.m. 2 - 3 p.m. 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. 5 - 6 p.m. 6:30 - 7:45 p.m.</p> <p>Sunday, April 26</p> <p>2:30 - 3:30 p.m. 4 - 5:15 p.m.</p>	<p>Watauga Hula School Halau Ho'ola ka Manā 'O Hawaii Maharika Dancers Keola's Hula Halau ELVIS Lifesong Studio FBCE Big Band Eddie Coker Dave Rudolf</p> <p>Keola's Hula Halau Ke Anuenue Polynesian Revue</p>
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FORESTRY VILLAGE SPONSORED BY 




TREE GIVEAWAY
SPONSORED BY 

KIDZ ZONE SPONSORED BY 

Saturday, April 25

10 a.m. Prof. Brainius
11 a.m. Fire Safety Clowns
Noon Eules Library
1 p.m. Prof. Brainius
2 p.m. Critterman
3 p.m. David Chicken
4 p.m. Prof. Brainius
5 p.m. Critterman
6 p.m. David Chicken

Sunday, April 26

2 p.m. Safari Scot
3 p.m. Eules Library
4 p.m. Safari Scot



BOUNCE HOUSES SPONSORED BY 



COMMUNITY STAGE SPONSORED BY 

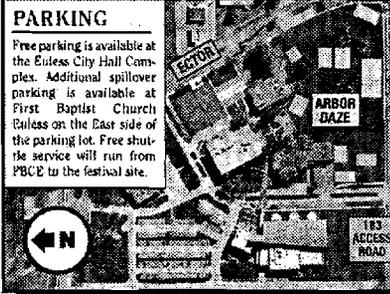


Scheduled to appear...

Grace Hula Dance and Company
Dancers in Motion
Indigo Rose Belly Dancing
Ka Pa Hula O Manulani
Little Hearts of Texas
Events in Motion
Dixie Grand Cloggers
Myagi Nohmi Kai Oklaawa Dance Group
King & Roberts Dance Studio
Zumba Fitness
Little Hearts of Texas
Tribal Evolution
Legends Martial Arts
First United Methodist Church of Eules
Pat Riddle School of Dance
Empire Gymnastics
Ika & the Star Dancers Belly Dance
And Many More...

PARKING

Free parking is available at the Eules City Hall Complex. Additional spillover parking is available at First Baptist Church Eules on the East side of the parking lot. Free shuttle service will run from PBCE to the festival site.



Eules City Hall, 201 North Ector Drive


www.ArborDaze.org
 817-685-1666