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DATE DISTRIBUTED 5/15/09 DATE OF ARTICLE 5/9/09 NEWSPAPER _____

Betty Beseda, resident of Irving for over sixty years, died on May 8, 2009.



Betty was born October 22, 1915 in Penelope, Texas to Gabriel and Annie Snapka. She was retired from the Wild Briar Farm location of Fidelity Union Life Insurance Company and was an avid cook and gardener. Preceded in death by her husband of seventy-two years, William Henry Beseda. Survivors include her daughter Helen Payton and husband Jimmy of Euless; grandchildren Nancy Payton of Trophy Club; Jimmy Payton, Jr. and his wife Chris of Flower Mound; great grandchildren Justin, Matthew, Natalie, Callye and Cole; sisters Annie Sustala of Round Rock; Eleanor Uptmor of West; Frances Krenek-Walker of Chico, CA; Josephine Darilek of Seymour and many nieces nephews. Mass of the Christian burial will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Monday, May 11, 2009 at Holy Family of Nazareth Church with Reverend MSGR Jerome Duesman, celebrant. Interment will take place at Calvary Hill Cemetery in Dallas. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Sunday from 5-7 P.M., with a rosary starting at 7:00 P.M. The family requests memorial donations be made to Holy Family Catholic Church 2320 Cheyenne in Irving, 75062.

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DATE DISTRIBUTED 5/15/09 DATE OF ARTICLE 5/9/09 NEWSPAPER Houston Chronicle

COMMENTARY

Voting early and often in Euless

By RICK CASEY
 Copyright 2009 Houston Chronicle

If I were going to engage in voter fraud, I would go do it in Euless, Texas.

Not because the security there is laxer than it is here, but because I'd like to vote early and often for Republican state Rep. Todd Smith.

This guy is my hero.

First, he has spent an extraordinary amount of time and energy this legislative session trying to craft a voter ID bill designed to actually discourage fraud, not just discourage voting.

To do so, he has stood up to the anger of some Democratic groups who are afraid it will inevitably keep some poor and some elderly people from voting, and the anger of his own party's more rabid members who can't document any actual in-person voter fraud but are sure that it's rampant among the miscreants who vote Democrat.

But taking on the political life-or-death issue of voter ID wasn't enough for Smith. He also managed to persuade his colleagues from both parties to vote 131-12 in favor of a bill that will almost certainly be demagogued as being soft on pedophiles.

Smith's bill would allow certain sex offenders to either be exempted from state's sex offender list or be placed on it for only a limited time. Under current law, all sex offenders are placed on the list for life.

Those on the list, which is available on the Internet, not only suffer public humiliation. They cannot hold certain jobs by law, and are often excluded from other jobs. They can be prohibited by cities from living near schools or other places children gather.

Smith's bill covers only persons who had consensual sex with children who are at least 13 years old and younger than 17, the effective age of consent in Texas.

It also applies only in cases in which the age difference is less than four years.

This means that the law would cover relatively few cases. That's because a "Romeo and Juliet" provision in current law makes it a defense to having sex with a minor if the age difference is less than three years.

Still, it is a good initial step.

It is the first recognition among our tough-on-crime legislators that they have gone overboard on the sex offender front.

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The logic of the bill is powerful. Sex offender lists exist to protect us and our children from predators.

But not all sex offenders are predators. Some are simply humans in the heat of hormonal storms who do something they shouldn't.

Punishing them is often the right thing to do. Defining those as predators who are not is not only unjust, it is stupid.

That point was made by Houston Sen. John Whitmire, a Democrat who chairs the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, where Smith's bill has already been sent.

Whitmire said the bill will receive a prompt hearing and will probably pass.

"Part of the problem is that if we load up the sex offender registry with people who aren't predators, it becomes useless," Whitmire said.

Whitmire would like to see the offender list pared further. He said he has heard many stories of lives needlessly wrecked.

"I was talking at a high school one time and a girl was crying," he said. "She said she and her baby were in a foster home while her husband was in prison."

They had engaged in sex before getting married. He wanted to support the baby, Whitmire said.

A Chronicle story last year told of a man in his early 40s with a master's degree who was on the registry because he had sex with a 16-year-old 10 years earlier. They were now married with three children, but his ability to support them was limited because he is considered a predator.

Judges should have the ability to remove from the list those who have proven they are not predators.

This law won't allow that, but it may eventually pave the way.

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DATE DISTRIBUTED 5/15/09 DATE OF ARTICLE 5/10/09 NEWSPAPER FWST

OBITUARIES

Maxine Sustaire



BEDFORD — Maxine Sustaire, 81, a loving mother, "Neana" and friend, passed away Friday, May 8, 2009, at a local hospital.

FUNERAL: 11 a.m. Monday in Lucas Funeral Home Chapel, 1321 Precinct Line Road, Hurst. The Rev. Bob Neely, senior adult minister at First Baptist Church Euless, will officiate. Interment: Following a committal service, Maxine will be laid to rest beside her husband, Williard "Blackie" Sustaire, in Bluebonnet Hills Memorial Park. Visitation: The family will receive friends 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday at Lucas Funeral Home in Hurst.

Maxine was born Oct. 22, 1927, in White Flat to Vernon and Mary George White. She dedicated her life to taking care of her family. She will be missed so much.

Maxine was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; and a brother, Bert Garrett.

SURVIVORS: Sons, Danny Sustaire and his wife, Pamala, and Leland Sustaire and his wife, Norma; daughter, Teresa Alexander and her husband, Jay; grandchildren, Stephanie VanBrocklin and her husband, Jarrod, Daniel Evan Sustaire, Melissa Ann Lindsey, Lyndsai Nicole Sustaire, Courtney Sustaire, Chris Britt, Ashley Potak and her husband, Daniel, Sean Alexander and Cody Alexander; five great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and one sister.

Lucas Funeral Home

Hurst, 817-284-7271

View and sign guestbook at

www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

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OBITUARIES

Linda Marie Free

HURST — Linda Marie Free, 62, passed away Thursday May 7, 2009.

SERVICE: (private) will be held at the family home.

SURVIVORS: Husband, John Free; daughters, Louise Trimm and Lisa Roberts, all of Hurst; four grandchildren.

Mount Olivet Funeral Home
2301 N. Sylvania Ave., 817-831-0511

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House OKs mandatory driver's ed for young adults



Robert T. Garrett/Reporter

First-time applicants for a driver's license who are between 18 and 24 would have to pass a six-hour driver education course under a bill the House tentatively approved today.

Currently, Texans under 18 must take more than 40 hours of driver's ed and behind the wheel instruction before seeking their license.

First-time applicants who are 18 or older, though, need only pass a written test and a 10- to 15-minute driving test, both given by DPS.

The **bill** by Rep. Todd Smith, R-Eules, advanced on the local and consent calendar. A week ago, Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston, stopped a **companion measure** in the Senate, calling it "too much government."

Sen. Jeff Wentworth, R-San Antonio, the bill's author, told the Austin American-Statesman that highway fatalities among 18 to 24 year olds exceed those among 16 and 17 year olds. "We're trying to make the roads safer for everyone," Wentworth said.



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Opinion

EDITORIALS

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION

Common-sense revision

Bill would add reasonableness to state's get-tough laws.

The Texas Legislature is on its way to adding a shade more reasonableness to its get-tough laws on sex offender registration.

HB 3148 by Rep. Todd Smith, R-Eules, would slightly broaden the registration exemption for those convicted of consensual sex with a minor.

Texas actually created a path several years ago for some juvenile offenders to avoid the branding that comes with being on the publicly accessible registry.

That was necessary when it became clear that listing foolish or irresponsible teens along with adult criminals and real predators doesn't serve the public interest.

Since 2001, judges have had discretion to grant an exemption from registration in cases involving teens with an age difference of 4 years or less. The offender has to be younger than 19 and the victim at least 13. And the victim's youth has to be what made the action a crime.

Smith's bill would drop the upper age limit, though the age difference could not be more than 4 years.

Offenders convicted under those circumstances before Sept. 1, when the law would take

effect, also could petition to be taken off the registry.

Smith filed the bill because constituents told him about problems that a criminal conviction stemming from consensual sex can create in getting into college and finding jobs, the *Star-Telegram's* Dave Montgomery reported.

The bill, which won House approval last week on a 131-12 vote (and needs to get moving in the Senate), wouldn't change any other part of the penalty for sex with a minor. Nor would it put Texas on the cutting edge of a national debate that flared two years ago as a Georgia man challenged his 10-year prison sentence for having oral sex with a 15-year-old girl when he was 17.

The Georgia Supreme Court freed him after three years. And Georgia and several other states changed their treatment of cases involving teen sex between partners with an age gap.

Underage sex might be immoral, impulsive and ill-advised. And in Texas it still can be a crime. But as the HB 3148 bill analysis points out, "the purpose of sex offender registration is to protect children from child molesters."

Requiring the state to monitor and supervise offenders who aren't dangerous wastes resources and distracts law enforcement from protecting children as the law intended.

LOCAL OPTIONS

House should pass road-and-rail bill

Finally, a committee of the Texas House has approved a version of a local-option transportation funding bill that the Senate debated and adopted a month ago. The bill would give residents of Dallas-Fort Worth and other Texas metropolitan areas a way to pay for badly needed road and commuter rail projects that

the state is unable or unwilling to fund.

The Senate's version of the bill is better, but the House version would accomplish what must be done. The House should quickly approve it. In the end, voters in each county would decide what projects they want and how much they will pay.

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Masala Masala in Euless keeps the fresh, perfectly spiced Indian dishes coming

By **TERESA GUBBINS**
Special to the Star-Telegram

Buffets are often a concession for restaurants — a lunchtime lure to get customers back for dinner. But Roger Lalani and his family, veteran restaurateurs who have owned Indian restaurants in the area since 1993, have created a worthy buffet line in Euless with some of the best Indian food in the area.

They typically offer more than 20 dishes, not just from India but also Pakistan and Bangladesh, with varying levels of heat — making Masala Masala not just a bargain-hunter's delight (\$7.99 on weekdays, \$8.99 on weeknights and weekends) but a serious foodie find.

One factor that makes their buffet excel is their diligent replenishment of items. One recent Saturday afternoon when a solo diner came in at 4 p.m. —

long before dinner rush — they eagerly swapped out a dessert of sweetened vermicelli with butter, honey and almonds, despite the perfectly good condition of the previous tray.

Their buffet is also user-friendly, with small cards posted over each item with its name and ingredients.

One of their most popular dishes is chicken makhani, also known as Indian butter chicken, with chunks of white-meat chicken in a creamy golden-orange sauce. Masala's sauce was impeccably smooth and creamy, with an underlying simmer of heat. This is what Masala Masala does so well — fine-tuning the dosage of spices while highlighting the ingredients themselves, then turning the heat up or down.

Haleem, a Pakistani dish made from beans, shredded beef

and barley, had an almost spooky complexity, with a caramellike sweetness that came from hours of slow-cooking. (Lalani compares it to refried beans.) It made a nice combination with bhindi masala, spicy okra mixed with tomatoes and onions.

Chicken biryani was a spicy, sophisticated take on chicken-and-rice casserole, but instead of the gloppy mushroom-soup sauce we've grown up on, this had a clean, sharp flavor. It was a pleasure coming across the occasional cardamom pod, moistened and fattened from having been stirred into the rice. Lalani switched to using boneless chicken after noting that customers were intimidated by chicken on the bone.

Chole masala, a vegetarian option, had chickpeas plus a whole gallery of spices in a thin,

slightly hot red sauce. According to Lalani, it's a traditional breakfast item he serves on weekends, as well as fried eggs with tomatoes and onions.

Customers also can order dishes off a menu, some of which do not appear on the buffet, such as the Indian classic, chicken tikka masala, and a whole grilled chicken for \$11.99. Alcohol policy is BYOB, and although the restaurant is tidy, the atmosphere is nothing fancy, with a couple of flat-screens adding background noise.

The Lalanis moved here from Chicago and opened their first place, the highly rated Chandni Chowk, in Carrollton in 1993, then sold it after seven years and concentrated on catering. When Roger spotted this location, a former CiCi's Pizza, he decided to give the restaurant business a run once again.

Masala Masala

415 N. Main St., Euless
817-267-2800

Hours: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily

Cuisine: Indian

Signature dish:

Chicken makhani

Entrée cost: \$8-\$12

Essentials: Major credit cards, smoke-free, wheelchair-accessible

Good to know: In addition to the buffet you can also order dishes from an a la carte menu. Alcohol policy BYOB

Recommended for: Spicy food fans who love a bargain

**Bountiful
buffet**

dine out!

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Officials identify man who died Thursday in Eules motorcycle wreck

BY MITCH MITCHELL AND BILL MILLER
 mmitchehl@star-telegram.com, wmill@star-telegram.com

EULESS — Officials have released the name of the man who died late Thursday in a motorcycle wreck near the south side of DFW Airport.

Scott Furby, 41, of Eules was identified by the Tarrant County medical examiner's office.

The wreck happened at about 10 p.m. in the 200 block of Bear Creek Parkway, officials said.

Furby, riding northbound, lost control while trying to negotiate a curve and struck a tree, said Lt. John Williams, Eules police spokesman.

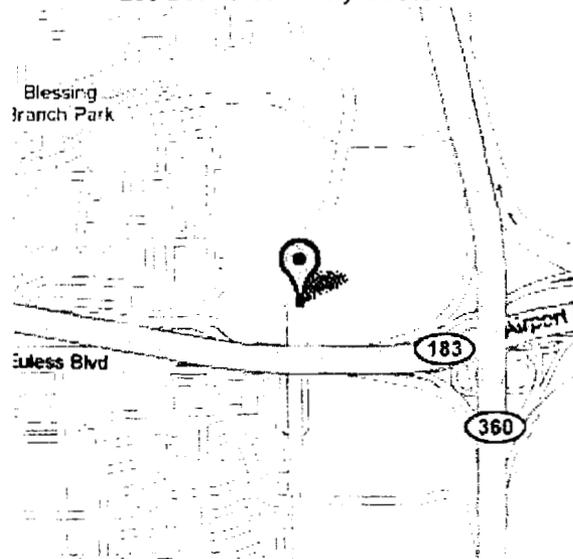
Speed may have been a factor, Williams said.

The medical examiner's office reported that Furby died at the scene.

The area is northwest of the intersection of Texas 360 and Texas 183, also called the Airport Freeway, which is at the southwest side of the airport.

Related Content

200 Bear Creek Pkwy Eules TX



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