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CONSUMER SPENDING

Sales tax revenue keeps falling in area, state

The state collected \$1.52 billion in October, or 12.8 percent less than the same month a year ago.

By BARRY SHLACHTER
 barry@star-telegram.com

Texans were still spending carefully in October, and the state collected \$1.52 billion in sales taxes, or 12.8 percent less than the same month a year ago, the state comptroller said Friday.

It represented the eighth straight month of declines.

"Declining sales tax collections, which began in February, have continued with October's collections," said Susan Combs, the Texas comptroller. "Tax collections are down in major sectors of the economy, including retail trade, oil and natural gas, and construction."

Sales tax payments to Tarrant County and its cities, made the month after their collection, dropped 8.7 percent compared with November 2008. Fort Worth was among the cities hurt by the sluggish economy, down 12.6 percent.

BARRY SHLACHTER, 817-390-7718

Sales tax payments for November
 (millions of dollars)

City	October 2009	October 2008	Pct. change
Arlington	7.91	7.95	-0.36
Bedford	0.95	0.97	-1.58
Dallas	18.60	21.00	-11.60
Eufless	0.96	1.18	-18.20
Fort Worth	9.20	10.50	-12.60
Grapevine	2.85	3.20	-9.70
Hurst	1.27	1.39	-8.70
Mansfield	1.38	1.53	-9.75
Saginaw	0.37	0.47	-21.30
Southlake	1.18	1.29	-8.13
Westlake	0.48	0.43	+10.50
Collin County	15.50	16.30	-5.30
Dallas County	42.80	47.40	-9.57
Denton County	7.60	8.20	-7.62
Tarrant County	35.80	38.90	-7.81

Source: Texas comptroller's office

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2009 HEB ISD HALL OF FAME

The Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD and the HEB ISD Education Foundation hosted the second annual Hall of Fame Banquet and inducted six new members in front of several hundred well wishers. The first Hall of Fame winners were inducted in 2008 as part of the District's 50th anniversary celebration.

The following individuals were inducted into the HEB ISD Hall of Fame November 7, 2009. Each member was inducted into one of six categories.

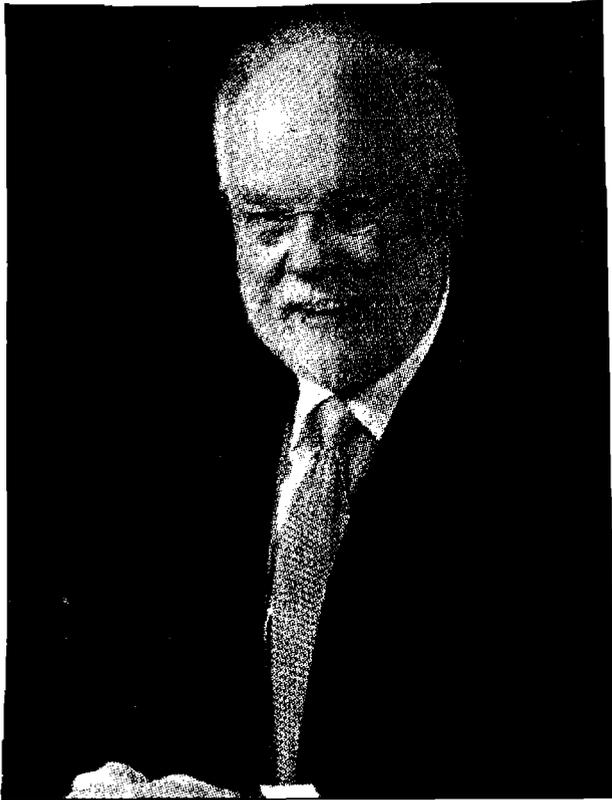


Distinguished Community Leader

Mary Lib Saleh: Elected the first female Mayor of Euless in 1993, and has been Mayor ever since; Instrumental in the growth of the City of Euless; During tenure as Mayor, the City of Euless has won awards from Business Week, Money magazine, and Playful City USA for the city's quality of life; Has received numerous local, area, and state awards; She is a Texas Lifetime member of PTA.

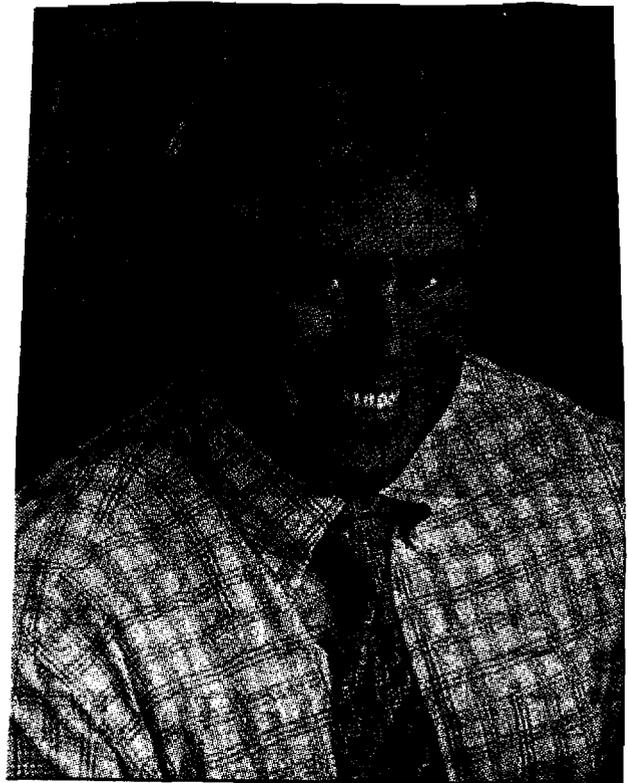
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Distinguished LD Bell Graduate

Dr. Jeff Burnett: Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church of Hurst since 1991; Joined the staff of First Baptist Church of Hurst in 1979; Volunteer with Santa USA; TEAMS mentor with LD Bell High School since the program began in 1991; Has served on the HEB ISD Board of Trustees since 1997 and is the current President.



Distinguished Trinity Graduate

Dr. Randy Alkire: Research scientist at Argonne National Laboratory's Structural Biology Center; Co-author of 30 scientific publications; Co-author of two scientific patents, with a third patent pending; Has received numerous awards from research and scientific organizations; Invented a brand new double-ended deck of playing cards, marketed by the U. S. Playing Card Co. as Crazy Rummy in 1998.

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Distinguished Volunteer

Melody L. Davenport: Heavily involved with PTA for 17 years; Fourth Vice President of the HEB Council of PTAs over the Clothes Closet; Serves on the HEB ISD Volunteers in Public Schools planning committee for the annual awards luncheon; Won the 2006 Texas Volunteer Partnership Gold Award from the Texas Association of Partners in Education; Volunteers more than 1,000 hours in HEB schools each year.



Distinguished Former District Employee

C. Irwin Mathews: Served 39 combined years in HEB ISD as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal; Was the first Principal of Bedford Junior High School, which opened in 1969 - 70; While Principal at Bedford Junior High, the school received numerous honors and awards; Served as an officer of several local and state education organizations; Awarded State and National Lifetime PTA membership.

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Distinguished Former Board of Trustees Member

Lorraine Tatarevich: Served a total of 17 years on the HEB
ISD Board of Trustees, from 1967-1975 and 1997-2003;
Served as a teacher and administrator at Trinity High School;
Was the first female school board member in North Texas;
During her first tenure on the school board, helped the District
through a period of rapid growth; During her second tenure,
ushered in programs such as International Baccalaureate,
Spanish Immersion, Suzuki Strings, and Core Knowledge.

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People

Boards & Organizations

The Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition announced the following board appointments for 2009-2010: Chairwoman **Kathryn Wilemon**, deputy mayor pro tem of Arlington; Vice-Chairwoman **Mary Lib Saleh**, mayor of Euless; Secretary/Treasurer **Gary Fickes**, Tarrant County commissioner; Past Chairman **Ken Shetter**, mayor of Burleson; and **Steve Townsend**, community outreach coordinator for Tarrant County.

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Our Neighbor: Trinity High School GAP Club ^{+TV}

Cynthia Izaguirre reports



WFAA-TV

Trinity High School's GAP Club tries to match up shelter pets with prospective owners.

EULESS — The Trinity GAP Club is an all-girl community service club at Trinity High School in Euless.

The group's main focus is the Euless Animal Shelter, where many of the dogs would not be alive were it not for their tireless efforts.

The girls visit the shelter weekly to get to know the animals.

"I love just coming out here and walking the dogs, like Henry here," said GAP Club student Alice Church. "We get all different ages. He's probably one of our older dogs. But we get like little toy cup poodles to big labs and pit bulls."

The GAP Club holds fundraisers throughout the year in order to provide spaying and neutering for the animals to help get them adopted. Euless Animal Services says these girls are responsible for adopting 50 percent of the animals that come through the shelter.

"It's really cut down on the euthanasia that we have to do," said shelter spokesman Clyde Cullum. "They find a lot of animals homes that we wouldn't be able to find ... by word of mouth, they do fundraisers, take the animals out..."

Alice says her group has saved more than 50 dogs this year.

"The shelter does what they can," she said. "But when they get full they don't really have a choice, so that's what GAP tries to do, is save as many lives as we can."

Every animal at the Euless Animal Shelter has a story, but one dog is particularly close to the girls' hearts. They said they found her on the school's campus last week, and because the dog is in such good shape they believe she's a runaway.

If you would like more information about how you can adopt a pet or how to make a donation to the GAP Club, contact me at the e-mail address below.
 E-mail cizzy@wfaa.com



Our Neighbor

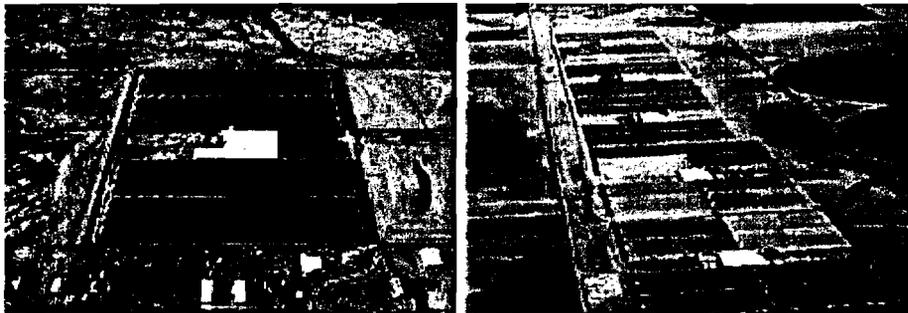
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Hort Americas llc. more than just a sales office



After years of planning, the youngest overseas establishment of Horticoop was opened in April this year. Hort Americas llc. located in Euless, Texas, in the so called "greater Dallas-Forth Worth area". Besides this there are support points spread over the whole continent set up for logistics and sales. Hort Americas is also directed at Canada and Mexico. In addition to sales and logistics they also organise imports. This needs special attention because the products must adhere to the strict laws on phytosanitary such as organic substrates.



The location manager is Chris Higgins, a well known face in American horticulture, will co-ordinate activities together with Doug Pennington. Hort Americas exchanges know-how between Europe and North America, but also maintains contact with producers in other parts of the world such as Asia.

Despite the economic recession in the US, the sales of flowers and plants is still reasonable. Marketing and sales of fresh products is an art in North America, where the consumer requires high standards of fruit and veg. Knowledge of this market puts Hort Americas in good stead to play a meaningful roll in horticultural contacts.

There is special focus on Mexico, a country where there is enormous development in horticulture, but at the same time has it's own (business-) culture. Entering the Mexican market needs to be

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done in a special way. Many of the existing companies have offices over the border in the US or are influenced by the US business manor. This offers chances for Hort Americas to do business in Mexico. The Spanish language is no problem for the Texans!.

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Eules man goes to London to play mind games in World Memory Championships

Wednesday, November 11, 2009

By ERIC AASEN / The Dallas Morning News
eaasen@dallasnews.com

This week, Ron White is in London, gearing up for the Super Bowl of Recalling, the World Series of Remembering, the Olympics of Retaining – the World Memory Championships.



Ron White was crowned the USA Memory Champion in March.

The Eules resident will compete against more than 80 top mental athletes from around the world during the three-day event that starts Thursday.

White was crowned the USA Memory Champion in March after memorizing a 167-digit number in five minutes and recalling myriad details about strangers, including their names and favorite hobbies, cars and foods.

Who needs Google when you are a memory master like White?

But even a human search engine is intimidated by the London event, which features stiff competition and even more things to memorize.

"It's tough, it's really tough," White said last week before heading to England.

There will be plenty of studying – but no sightseeing – for the American champ this week. White can recall the order of a deck of playing cards in less than 90 seconds, but he says the current world champion can do it in 24 seconds.

He hopes to place in the top 10, competing against memory maniacs from more than 15 countries and several continents, including Europe, Asia and Africa.

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Studying has been mentally exhausting, he said. He had a headache after one session.

"I just try to stay focused on the end result: How I'll feel when it's over," White said. "That keeps me motivated."

In recent weeks, he trained at home, in his car and at quiet places like cemeteries while juggling his day job of teaching memory seminars. Companies hire him to talk to sales forces and teach them to remember names to boost sales.

How has White become Mr. Memory Man? He thinks of his brain as a filing system and takes items he wants to recall and mentally connects them to objects in a house.

To remember names, White suggests this: If you meet Steve, think of a stove. Find something on his face that sticks out. If Steve has a big nose, picture the stove on his nose.

To win the American championship, White honed his memory skills underwater, using snorkel gear and plastic playing cards to master card memorization. He figured that if he could memorize a deck of cards underwater, the competition would seem easy in comparison.

The London competition features 10 events, including being able to recall a list of binary digits, as well as remembering numbers that are announced each second. Competitors will also recall random words and abstract images, while matching names to faces.

"At the end, competitors are exhausted and need a day or two to recover," Phil Chambers, a World Memory Championships official, wrote in an e-mail.

The world championship is a way to celebrate those with sharp memories.

"Mental sport is no less worthy than physical sport," Chambers said. "The memory competition pushes the limits of human potential and inspires people to improve their own memories. ...

"We can become lazy storing all your numbers in your mobile phone or using Google to find out anything."

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EULESS

Tongan community reaches out to people hit by tsunami

The tsunami hit the Tonga Islands in September, killing nine.

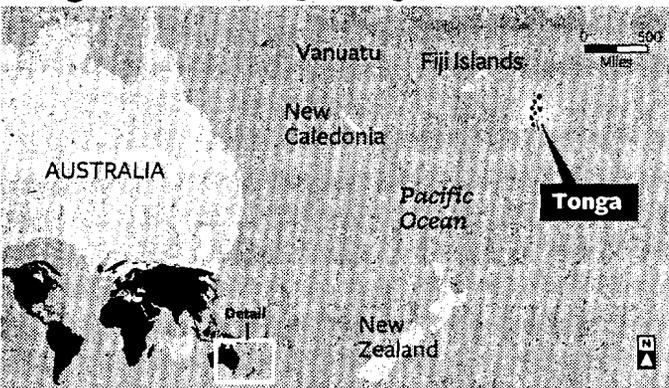
Tonga was recently hit by a tsunami

By CHELSIE FRENCH
Special to the Star-Telegram

David Eteaki has seen the Tongan community in Euless grow over time, and as a Tongan he feels extremely committed to helping others in need, he said. When a tsunami hit the Tonga Islands in late September, Eteaki proposed a donation drive to get needed supplies to Niuatoputapu, the area hit hardest.

The Tongan community has paired with the city of Euless to get relief efforts under way. Donations are being collected through Nov. 28 at First Tongan United Methodist Church in Euless. The community hopes to receive enough donations to fill a 20-by-20-foot container to send to the Pacific island, Eteaki said.

Eteaki arranged through the Tongan Consulate for the container to be delivered to Euless and then transported to



STAR-TELEGRAM

How to help

Send money and take other donations to:

- First Tongan United Methodist Church
- 1010 S. Main St.
- Euless, TX 76040

San Francisco and finally to the Red Cross in Tonga.

"The supplies we collect are going straight to those in need," Eteaki said.

Alex Latu, the church's senior pastor and a Tongan native, said the most-needed dona-

tions are bedding, blankets and kitchen supplies, and monetary donations are welcome.

Euless has one of the highest concentrations of Tongans in the United States.

"We have a church community of about 180, and everyone is willing to help and feels strongly for the cause," Latu said.

The tsunami hit Niuatoputapu on Sept. 30, killing nine and leaving 1,000 people homeless.

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BRIEFS

Pedestrian struck, killed on Texas 10

EULESS — A pedestrian crossing Texas 10 was fatally injured Thursday night when he was struck by a Ford pickup near Simmons Drive, authorities reported. Police were called to the 600 block of the highway, also called West Euless Boulevard, about 7 p.m., a news release said. A 60-year-old pickup driver who was westbound on Texas 10 hit the man. The driver stopped and is cooperating with the investigation, the release said. The pedestrian had not been identified by late Thursday.

— Staff report