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**real
deals**

Aleshia Howe

**Business solutions provider takes
Euless office space**

Canon Business Solutions Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Canon U.S.A., signed a 4,528-square-foot office lease at 150 Westpark Way in Euless. The new office is part of Canon's nationwide expansion and will house sales and service personnel and a state-of-the-art showroom to support a growing customer base within the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Darrel Higginbotham with SCM Real Estate Services represented the landlord in the transaction and Will James of Jones Lang LaSalle represented Canon Business Solutions.

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Rick's Cabaret to build near D/FW Airport

Rick's Cabaret International Inc., an operator of adult nightclubs, announced plans to build a gentlemen's club near Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport scheduled to open in summer 2010.

Company President and CEO Eric Langan said Rick's Cabaret will pay \$2.4 million for the land on Highway 183 near D/FW Airport in a turnkey agreement for the construction and furnishing of a 10,000-square-foot building. The land will be acquired after a certificate of occupancy has been received for the building.

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'Customer' robs Euless doughnut shop

Dec. 14, 2009

BY DOMINGO RAMIREZ JR.

EULESS — A man posing as a customer robbed a doughnut shop Saturday morning of an undisclosed amount of money after he ordered some donuts, police said Monday.

The holdup happened about 11:17 a.m. at the Donut Palace, 1009 W. Harwood Road.

The man walked into the store, ordered some doughnuts and then brandished a handgun when the clerk opened a cash drawer, police said.

The robber walked around the counter, took the cash and fled on foot, police said.

No one had been arrested as of Monday.

The cashier described the robber as an African-American man about 5-feet-8, weighing 180 pounds, wearing a dark zip-up fleece sweatshirt, jeans and black shoes.

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Acme Brick makes first major 'green' product launch

BY **ALESHIA HOWE**
ahowe@bizpress.net

Fort Worth's Acme Brick is launching a new brick product available in six colors, but all of them will be green.

As part of its first major 'green' product launch, Acme Brick is now the exclusive dealer of VAST composite pavers, which are environmentally friendly brick pavers made from used auto tires and plastic containers.

Among the product types, VAST masonry products include landscape pavers, permeable pavers for storm management, deck pavers and thin brick.

According to Acme President and CEO Dennis Knautz, the introduction of the VAST product type is part of the company's well-laid plans to take part in the 'green' movement.

"This market for green building materials is projected to expand by 7 percent annually over the next five years, and Acme Brick is committed to being our customers' partner in green building," Knautz said. "That's why we have introduced new alternatives like our lean brick, and that's why we are distributing VAST composite masonry products. VAST gives our customers, especially those pursuing LEED certification for their projects, another exceptional option for green building."

According to the company, VAST composite pavers can contribute up to six Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design credits, or LEED credits, which is two to three times more possible credits than any other paver. LEED credits are tallied to give developers certifications in energy efficiency through the U.S. Green Building Council.

Ron Carbonaro, purchase products sales manager at Acme's corporate office, said more and more developers and architects are in search of green products and the VAST line at Acme seemed like a perfect fit.

"We've committed to taking in a lot of stock at a time when economically, business is down for us, but we feel like the demand for this product is out there and the timing was right to get our sales force trained and get started with this type of product both residentially and commercially."

VAST Enterprises, which is based in Minnesota, opened in January 2007 and has primarily sold its products in the mid-west, according to VAST President and Co-Founder Steve Smith. Acme will be the company's sole distributor in 22 states in the south. And talks with Acme, Smith said, progressed quickly after starting just this year.

"It's a small world and we've known about Acme for a long time," Smith said. "We're from Minnesota, but even there they're seen as a great company. We like to keep up our relations with our distributors, but Acme is the expert in this area and they know more about this area than we ever will so we partnered with Acme because they're known nationally as a leader in the industry and in our view, they have the premium sales team in getting premium products to market - and when you're selling something new, it requires some strong marketing teams."

Acme is the largest U. S.-owned brick

manufacturer in the United States and has been part of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. since 2000.

Smith said the product boasts up to 95 percent post-consumer, recycled content. There is no scrap in the production process, and VAST pavers are 100 percent recyclable. Also, the product is one-third the weight of an average paver and can be cut with standard wood saws, thus making them easier to install, Smith said, which cuts down on the cost of installation.

"Our product will cost more up front, but the total cost isn't substantially greater," he said. "To put it in perspective, because our product is composite, we can fit three times more on a truck, it's less fatiguing for people to install so it's done quicker so you'll spend more on the raw material, but less on the labor."

The VAST product will come in six colors, as Acme products do, but the key difference, Smith said, will be the make-up of the product, which will consume tires and plastic containers coming straight from landfills.

"We're not looking to replace products that are out there, but this is a product that can complement. For consumers, to know you're helping to pull tires and plastic containers out of landfills, here's something a consumer can purchase that has a true impact. And they can be proud of that," he said. "It's done in an environmentally friendly way. We're not stepping over the dollar to save a nickel here." ■

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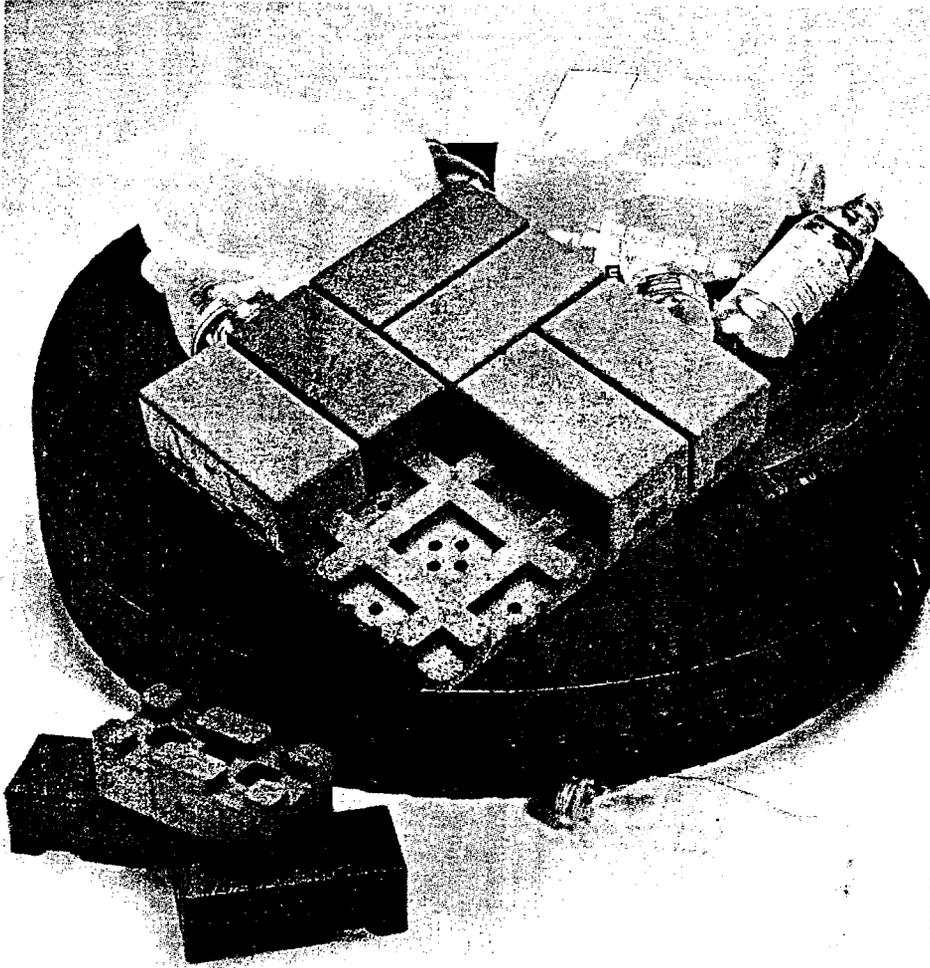


PHOTO COURTESY OF ACME BRICK

Acme Brick is now the exclusive dealer of VAST composite pavers, which are environmentally friendly brick pavers made from used auto tires and plastic containers.

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For the record, Euless police chief can sing

December 28, 2009

By DIANE JENNINGS / The Dallas Morning News
djennings@dallasnews.com

Michael Brown works hard to keep his two lives separate.



KYE R. LEE/DMN

Euless Police Chief Michael Brown jokes that he turned to music 'to keep me off the streets and out of trouble.'

By day he's police chief in Euless, heading up a department of 85 officers; by night he's a singer/songwriter.

"Most musicians don't like hanging out with police officers," he explained. "And most police officers don't like hanging out with musicians."

"I don't have posters in the office or anything," he stressed.

What he does have is a CD of songs he has written and recorded called *The Summit Ridge Session*.

But don't think he's signed with some big recording label. "Summit Ridge is the name of the street I live on," he said. "I did it at the house – complete do-it-yourself project."

The reaction around the department has been low-key, he said.

"I'm the boss, so they're not going to come in and tell me it's horrible," he said. "You're not going to know what they really think of it, but they all tell me it's good."

Brown has been playing guitar for years, and began writing songs about five years ago.

"I decided, 'Well, this is kind of fun,' " he said. "And I needed something to do to keep me off the streets and out of trouble."

At 54, he said, he's not interested in changing careers. "I'm too old," he said. "I would like to stay with what I'm doing unless they run me off."

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Brown has been a law enforcement officer for more than 30 years, spending 26 years in Euless, followed by four years as chief of the University of North Texas Health Science Center police department in Fort Worth. He returned to Euless as chief three years ago.

Brown said he has no formal musical training. "I play by ear until my ears get sore."

And his performance track record is thin. "My biggest claim to fame was I played at Poor David's one time in their B.W. Stevenson songwriting contest. That was the big time for me."

But he knows what he likes, and he doesn't find a lot of it in popular music. "I'm a storyteller," he said, describing his music as "on the folk side of country."

Brown isn't pushing his CD hard, having produced only about 200 of them. But, "If I could trick somebody into buying one, I'll sell 'em," he said. "My wife's charging \$10 apiece."

Potential customers can listen to a sample on the Web site of the music magazine nodepression.com. The address is nodepression.com/profile/MichaelBrown.

His favorite song from the CD is called "The Case." And no, it's not about a criminal case. "It's a song about a haunted guitar," he said. "There are just not enough haunted guitars out there."

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LETTERS: Our readers sound off on patriotism
Tuesday, December 29, 2009

Patriotism in the air

With the exception of the local Veterans Day parade, the most magnificent display of patriotism I've seen in years occurred on Dec. 12 at a high school football game between Euless Trinity and Round Rock's Stony Point at the Waco ISD stadium.

About 10,000 football fans were eagerly awaiting the kickoff of the playoff game between the Trinity Trojans and Stony Point Dragons when the public address system suddenly shut down.

The players had taken the field. The crowd was pumped. Spectators were standing. The school songs had already been played and everyone was waiting for the national anthem to start the game.

Folks were already facing the American flag and expecting the anthem to begin as technicians scrambled to fix the problem.

Suddenly, a small group of home fans on the Euless side began singing the national anthem a cappella. The volume increased as others exponentially joined the chorus. Before long, the entire stadium filled with the voices of football fans, resembling a huge choir concert.

There were no instruments. Just voices ringing out our nation's beloved song. It was superb!

Thank you, Euless fans, for getting it started. And thanks to everyone for joining in. By the way, the sound system was soon restored and the football game was pretty good, too.

Dale Caffey**Spokesman****Waco ISD**

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The Keller Citizen

Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2009

U.S. Justice Department certifies child-abduction team

By A. LEE GRAHAM

When it comes to child abduction response, nowhere in Texas is law enforcement more prepared than in Northeast Tarrant County.

That's according to the U.S. Department of Justice, which recently awarded a national certification to the Northeast Tarrant and Denton County Child Abduction Response Team (CART).

Only six teams nationwide hold that credential, with no others in Texas touting the distinction.

"It's pretty rigorous," said Haltom City Police Chief Keith Lane, a former Keller lieutenant who co-founded the team with Colleyville Police Chief Tommy Ingram.

That rigorous training came after Lane, Ingram and other area police chiefs learned about a national program dedicated to training officers in locating children who are abducted or reported missing.

"What happened was Northeast Tarrant chiefs at the time learned of it and got together and said, 'Hey, this is something we need to look into,'" Lane said.

So members of several police departments joined the cause. Departments represented on the team are Bedford, Colleyville, Euless, Grapevine, Haltom City, Hurst, Keller, North Richland Hills, Richland Hills, Roanoke, Southlake and Watauga, with additional support from the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office, the FBI and the U.S. Marshal's office.

Following guidelines established by the National Child Abduction and Response Team, the Texas team underwent hundreds of hours of training, responded to actual missing child alerts and discovered what each department had to offer.

"We have capabilities in our emergency operations center," Roanoke Police Capt. Robert Crawford said. "We have a setup where we can have up to 10 different computers and phone lines."

When child abductions or missing children are reported, each department has more available resources than they would without team support.

"We're one of the smaller agencies on the team," Crawford said. "When this takes place [a reported abduction], we're going to need some resources rather quickly."

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Lane also acknowledged the benefits of pooled team resources.

"It's a force multiplier," said Lane, touting the benefits of having several agencies' resources at his disposal. "If you need a helicopter, it's a phone call away."

Before earning certification, the team underwent a two-day review by the U.S. Department of Justice and Office of Juvenile Service, administered in cooperation with Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton, Wis.

The team also tackled a full-scale mock child abduction exercise in determining whether it could meet national standards.

The team learned it met certification requirements in October while attending this year's sixth annual Amber Alert symposium in Tampa, Fla. Two months later, it was presented its national certification.

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REAL ESTATE

North Texas home sales fell 1% in December

Consumers may have stopped buying when it was thought that the \$8,000 first-time-buyer federal tax credit would end, but a rebound is expected.

By SANDRA BAKER
 sabaker@star-telegram.com

The federal home-buyer tax credit spurred home sales in North Texas in October and November, but that waned in December, numbers released Thursday show.

In a 24-county North Texas region that includes Tarrant and Dallas counties, homes sales slipped 1 percent compared with a year ago, to 4,933, the Texas A&M University Real Estate Center said. Sales in all of 2009 dropped by 11 percent, to 67,963.

The center compiles data from the Realtor-fed Multiple Listing Service.

December sales were likely down because consumers stopped buying when it was thought that the \$8,000 first-time-buyer tax credit would end, said Jim Gaines, a research analyst at the center. Sales also tend to slow over the holidays, he said.

The slight drop is not cause for concern, Gaines said. The tax credit has since been extended, and sales may see an uptick beginning in February, with the first quarter possibly showing positive numbers, he said.

"All of that may change by the second half of the year," Gaines said, when the tax credit ends and mortgage rates may rise.

A few Tarrant County areas saw big sales increases in December and a rise in the median sale price. Half of all homes cost less than the median, and half cost more.

Home sales in Watauga jumped 140 percent, although the median price fell 8 percent, to \$83,650. The city was

No. 9 on a "hotness" ranking, determined by comparing pending sales with active listings.

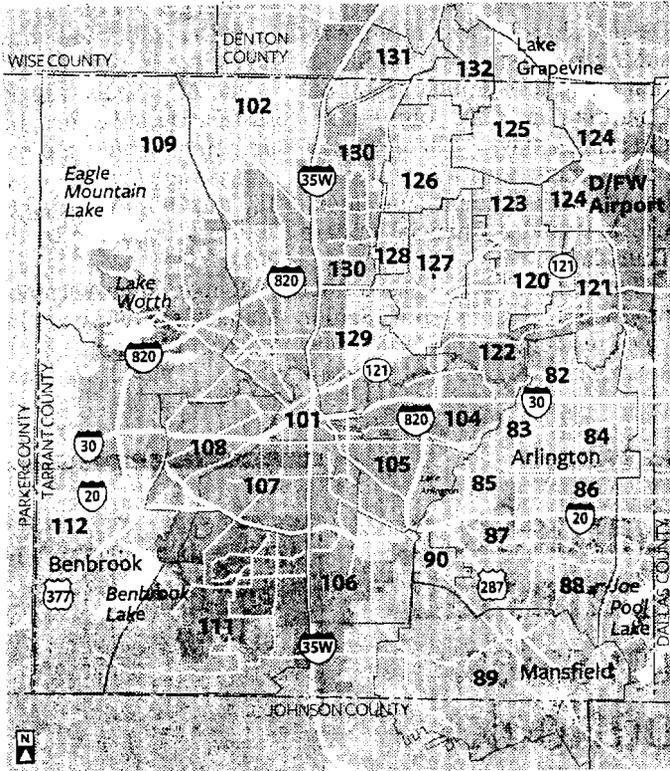
Eules ranked No. 5. In December, sales in Eules were up 70 percent from a year ago, while the median price increased 1 percent, to \$145,900.

SANDRA BAKER, 817-390-7727

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Homes: Watauga, Euless buck December trend



Area	Sales	Percent change year ago	Median price	Percent change year ago
82 NE Arlington	17	0%	\$169,900	9%
83 Central west Arlington	27	50%	\$119,200	-20%
84 Central east Arlington	18	6%	\$51,000	0%
85 Arlington, Dalworthington Gardens, Pantego	39	26%	\$142,420	8%
86 SE Arlington	12	-29%	\$87,500	17%
87 Far SW Arlington	54	29%	\$163,500	7%
88 Far SE Arlington	70	-30%	\$120,000	-3%
89 Mansfield	61	-10%	\$171,500	2%
90 Kennedale	6	-14%	\$224,000	100%
101 FW, downtown	4	na	\$725,000	na
102 Saginaw/north side	88	-10%	\$120,000	-3%
104 FW, east	42	8%	\$81,000	7%
105 SE Fort Worth (Rosedale)	18	100%	\$23,550	-14%
106 FW south (Everman/Forest Hill)	19	-54%	\$45,000	-14%
107 FW central west & Southwest (TCU)	40	18%	\$210,000	118%
108 FW central west	39	-11%	\$204,000	1%
109 FW NW (Eagle Mtn. Lake/River Oaks/Azle)	81	3%	\$132,000	3%
111 FW (south of I-20 /Crowley)	108	-7%	\$121,690	-10%
112 FW far west (Benbrook /White Settlement)	39	-22%	\$110,000	4%
120 Bedford	23	-26%	\$135,000	-9%
121 Euless	39	70%	\$145,900	1%
122 Hurst	27	-31%	\$134,000	9%
123 Colleyville	31	48%	\$512,500	28%
124 Grapevine	20	-29%	\$281,250	26%
125 Southlake	26	18%	\$510,000	-5%
126 Keller	42	-25%	\$297,500	3%
127 N. Richland Hills/ Richland Hills	50	-7%	\$100,000	-27%
128 Watauga	36	140%	\$83,650	-8%
129 Haltom City/Riverside	22	-39%	\$55,700	-27%
130 FW Summerfield/ Park Glen	120	-10%	\$148,050	-1%
131 Roanoke	7	-46%	\$122,000	-4%
132 Trophy Club/Westlake	16	78%	\$322,510	40%

Source: Real Estate Center, Texas A&M University

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OBITUARIES

Troy Fuller



Troy was an active civic and community figure. He was a member of the Board of Managers, Tarrant County Hospital District, John Peter Smith, and a master Mason for over 60 years. He volunteered for the Euless Historical Preservation Committee, and enjoyed mentoring children. Troy donated his body to Southwestern Medical Center.

His greatest joys in life included traveling in his RV, flying his private planes, gardening, fly fishing in Colorado, and playing with his great-grandchildren. He was a member of Trietsch Memorial United Methodist Church in Flower Mound. He spent a lifetime cheerfully helping family and others alike.

SURVIVORS: His wife, Ginger Latta-Fuller; children, Michele Pappas and husband, Art, Deborah Jung and husband, Dexter, Jan Fiker and husband, Dean, all of Fort Worth, and Patrice Wilton and husband, John, of Wimberly; stepdaughters, Kimberly Hoskins and husband, David, of Lewisville and Sherry Ethridge of Aledo; a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren; sister, Veta Boswell and husband, Dr. George M. Boswell, of Dallas; three nieces; and other relatives and friends.

View and sign guestbook at www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

 **HIGHLAND VILLAGE** — Troy Fuller, 82, entered into life eternal at home in Highland Village on Sunday, Jan. 3, 2010, after an extended illness.

SERVICE: A celebration of Troy's life will be observed at 2 p.m. Saturday at First United Methodist Church, Euless, 106 North Main, Euless, Dr. Lamar Smith of First United Methodist Church, Fort Worth, officiating. Visitation: to follow the service.

MEMORIALS: May be made to the American Cancer Society, or First United Methodist Church Building Fund, 106 North Main, Euless, Texas 76040.

He was born Jan. 11, 1927, in Euless to Warren and Jessie Fuller. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a major in geophysical science. For 16 years he was associated with the Continental Geophysical Co.

He returned in 1967 to Euless to pursue a career in real estate. As a Certified Commercial Investment Member, Fuller's list of real estate achievements is long and varied. He had been a director of the Texas Association of Realtors since 1973, was past president of the Northeast Tarrant County Board of Realtors and was cited as Realtor of the Year in 1972. A quote from 1980 Chamber of Commerce publications stated, "Troy M. Fuller has just about done it all in the Hurst-Euless-Bedford area."