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From The Local Leadership



Mayor Saleh
Eules

EULESS

During Memorial Day weekend, Texas shoppers will get a break from state and local sales and use taxes on purchases of certain energy efficient products. The 2010 Energy Star sales tax holiday begins on Saturday, May 29, and ends on Monday, May 31, Memorial Day.

The products qualifying for the exemption are:
air conditioners priced under \$6,000 (room and central units)
clothes washers (but not clothes dryers*)
ceiling fans
dehumidifiers
dishwashers
light bulbs (incandescent and fluorescent)
programmable thermostats
refrigerators priced under \$2,000.

Support your local Eules retailers during the sales tax holiday.

Money spent in Eules goes directly back to you. You not only support our economy, you can help to improve the quality of life. Portions of our sales tax are devoted to improving our parks, library and economic development, the Crime Control and Prevention District and lowering your property taxes. Keep your sales tax dollars at home. Don't forget about our great Eules restaurants!

Together we are all working to make our city the FABLELESS community we live and work in. Thank you to all our volunteers.

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Marchant Presents Overdue Medals for Mayor's Husband



U.S. Congressman Kenny Marchant (TX-24) presented Mayor Mary Lib Saleh of Euless military medals her husband, Raymond L. Saleh, had never received at

the Congressman's district office on Friday, April 30.

Staff Sergeant Raymond L. Saleh served in the United States infantry in World War II from 1944 to 1946. He was involved in the

European Theater of Operations for sixteen months which was responsible for Allied victories north of Italy and the Mediterranean Coast.

Raymond passed away in October 2006. Since then, Congressman Marchant has worked to retrieve the medals Raymond never received from World War II.

Mayor Saleh was accompanied by her family to receive her husband's overdue medals. Congressman Marchant presented a framed shadow-box with a total of ten medals displayed within it.

"Each medal is representative of a story

of courage, sacrifice, and love of country," said Marchant. "It is an honor to recognize your husband's service, and a distinct privilege to be able to present you the medals your husband so deservedly earned."

Upon receiving the medals, Mayor Saleh and her family were amazed of how decorated and distinguished Raymond was.

"Ray never shared his experiences of war with us," said Mayor Saleh. "Looking at all these medals reminds of how wonderful he was. He was just so neat."

If you are a veteran or know of one in Congressional District 24 who has earned awards for their military service but not yet received recognition, please contact John Hayes at Rep. Marchant's district office at (972) 556-0162.

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Woman imprisoned for ramming Euless officer's car

May 24, 2010

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

FORT WORTH -- A woman who twice rammed her car into a Euless police car in September because she allegedly hates police officers has been sentenced to three years in prison.

Rosemarie Adams, 28, of Euless, entered a plea agreement with prosecutors on May 10 on a charge of attempted aggravated assault of public servant with a deadly weapon.

Adams' plea came just over a month after she was found competent to stand trial on the charge.

In October, she was found incompetent and was taken to a state mental hospital for treatment, court officials said.

Doctors later determine that she was competent, according to Tarrant County criminal court records.

The Euless police officer involved in the incident reported that at about 2 p.m. Sept. 26, he was taking an exit ramp off Airport Freeway in Euless when he heard a car revving its engine behind him and then he felt the back of his car rise. The car was then hit again, he said.

The unidentified officer was taken to a hospital and treated for whiplash.

Adams was not intoxicated and did not know the officer, investigators reported.

She hit the officer's patrol car because she disliked the police, according to police reports.

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EULESS
Wastewater to irrigate ballfields, golf course

The city stands to save big by using treated wastewater at half-price.

By TERRY EVANS
tevans@star-telegram.com

EULESS — City leaders have approved spending \$1.6 million to install a pipeline that will provide treated wastewater for the Texas Star Golf Course and the adjacent Parks at Texas Star.

The pipe will run through the golf course and move water from Fort Worth's Village Creek Treatment Plant to an on-site irrigation reservoir.

Installation will begin within 45 days and should be complete by the time Fort Worth is ready to deliver the water early next year, said Chris Barker, director of planning and development for Eules.

The city will make every effort not to disrupt play at the golf course, Barker said.

"A large portion of the line will be bored versus open-trench," he said. "It's on golf course property but pushed to the edge. There is not a place where the line crosses a fairway. We're sticking to the border."

The 185-acre golf course and The Parks at Texas Star will use the water to irrigate fairways and greens, softball and soccer fields, and the landscaping at Dr Pepper StarCenter, Barker said.

The city's public works director, Ron Young, said the water is the same as what Fort Worth pours into the Trinity River at 100 million gallons a day.

"They have to treat it to state and federal standards before releasing it into the Trinity River," Young said. "It's very good water."

The water is not drinkable.

And that's the beauty of it, Barker said.

"Whatever effluent water we use to irrigate, we offset [that amount of] potable water for the community

and the region as a whole," he said.

Eules, which uses an average of 120 million gallons of water annually to irrigate the recreational facilities, stands to save big by buying treated wastewater at roughly half the price, Barker said.

And doing so not only ensures a drought-proof source but also keeps the city from being hypocritical when asking residents not to water their lawns.

Though the treated wastewater contains a residual amount of chlorine, it isn't as chlorinated as potable water, said Mary Gugliuzza, public education coordinator for the Fort Worth Water Department, said the pump station at the treatment plant probably won't be ready until February.

Arlington and Dallas/Fort Worth Airport have also signed on to use the water.

Arlington's director of water utilities, Julie Hunt, said the projects represent one of the strategies in the state water plan.

"Long-term water supply comes not only from new supplies but also in figuring out how to conserve and reuse the water we have," she said.

In early April, Arlington began construction on a \$2.1 million system of pipes that begins at the city limits near the treatment plant, Hunt said.

"We're going to irrigate Dunlop sports complex, Ditto Golf Course and Arlington landfill," she said.

Fort Worth received a \$22 million grant from the federal stimulus program to install the roughly 9-mile water line. It's expected to carry 429 million gallons in the first year, and the rate could increase to 1 billion by 2019.

This report includes material from the Star-Telegram archives.

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IN MY OPINION

IN BUDGET CRISIS, POLITICOS COULD BECOME REVOLUTIONARIES



MITCHELL SCHNURMAN
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This is the right time for strapped cities to stop the corporate giveaways.

If budget problems get bad enough and last long enough, maybe politicians will do something revolutionary: Stop giving taxpayer money to private companies.

Ending corporate welfare wouldn't close the funding gap for most cities, but it would represent progress — for both public finances and tax policy. Big business throws so much weight around city halls in North Texas that only a Great Reset could reverse things.

To get an idea of the bubble in government giveaways, consider the sweetheart deal that Euless created for Redi-Mix Concrete.

The city built a regional headquarters on North Main Street, spending \$4.9 million for a 27,551-square-foot building on 2.2 acres. Redi-Mix occupied the space at the beginning of the year, and it pays zero rent, as long as it generates a certain level of sales tax.

It also gets a rebate for one-quarter of the local sales tax it collects — for concrete delivered throughout the region, not just in Euless. In 2008, Euless returned \$567,000 to Redi-Mix under this agreement, but that amount fell by more than half after the recession stalled the construction industry last year.

Another corporate perk: Because the city owns the headquarters and is tax-exempt, Redi-Mix pays no real es-

tate taxes (although it does pay a much smaller tax bill on business property). Local taxes on a \$4.9 million commercial building in Euless would top \$116,000 — money that would be helpful to city government, the Huust-Euless-Bedford school district, Tarrant County and more.

To recap: Redi-Mix gets a new headquarters, pays no rent, pays no property taxes and gets back a good chunk of its sales tax.

One more thing: The deal lasts 25 years.

"This is a crucial business partner for our city, and we know they have other options," Deputy City Manager Loretta Getchell says.

Like many in this business — euphemistically called economic development — Getchell sounds almost apologetic. In these tough times, it's hard to explain to regular folks that they have to pay their share for public services, while some big companies get big breaks.

And it's not like Euless built a piece of infrastructure that also benefits the residents. Only one constituent, Redi-Mix, reaps the rewards.

At the same time, Euless has been struggling with its budget. In the past two years, the general fund has fallen by several million dollars, property tax assessments are down, and sales tax is projected to decline 18 percent. Through layoffs, early retirement and attrition, the city has eliminated 32 positions, one-twelfth of its work force.

In that light, this all looks like some civic race to the bottom. But the reality is that if Euless didn't pony up for Redi-Mix, the company could go a few miles down Texas 183 and put the touch on Bedford, Irving, Fort Worth and others. Most cities would jump at the chance to land an employer with 250 workers and local sales tax over seven figures.

"This is the game we all have to play," Getchell says. "It's the business environment."

There are worse deals out there. Last week, I wrote about RadioShack holding up Fort Worth for \$10.7 million in tax breaks in exchange for signing a five-year lease. RadioShack has almost \$1 billion in cash, while Fort Worth has to figure out how to close a \$77 million gap in next year's budget.

The Fort Worth City Council is expected to approve that deal on June 8. How?

As much as it stinks, the politicians believe that the alternative is worse. RadioShack has threatened to move out of Fort Worth, which would eliminate 1,100 jobs in the city and the marketing cachet that comes with a Fortune 500 company. RadioShack even asked other cities, including Charlotte, N.C., and Albuquerque, to submit relocation bids.

Redi-Mix was never so heavy-handed, Getchell says, but Euless wanted to pre-empt any possibility. Euless had recruited the company, then known as Beall Concrete, at the start of the decade, and both had grown up together. Redi-Mix occupied a vacant firehouse — again, rent-free — and got the sales tax rebate.

As the company added workers, it needed more space, and Getchell said elected leaders and city officials hatched the headquarters idea. The city takes on added risk, but for Redi-Mix, it's essentially the same deal with a few wrinkles.

If it doesn't generate \$2 million in local sales tax, it has to pay rent to the city at market rates. In 2008, Redi-Mix would have met the threshold; in 2009, it would have been short by at least half.

Getchell figures that Euless will bank enough sales tax from concrete to recoup the headquarters' costs in three to five years, depending on the economic recovery.

But this is a zero-sum game, and somebody is getting skinned.

Redi-Mix isn't pouring \$100 million of concrete into Euless annually; that's what it distributed around the North Texas region in 2008, extrapolating from its Euless tax rebate. The bills simply flowed through the Euless office, and that's where sales tax was collected.

So concrete poured in Weatherford generates taxes for Euless. And Euless is giving a tax break to Redi-Mix with what's really house money (or Weatherford's).

The tough economy should force us to reconsider these schemes, and state leaders should weigh in, too. Local officials don't have the strength to say no — not when companies threaten to move the whole operation — but cities need all the tax revenue they're entitled to.

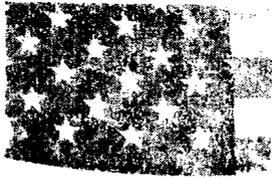
RadioShack's new deal captures this conundrum in full. The company proposes to shift some sales and purchases to its Fort Worth address, because that paperwork alone will generate an extra \$1.5 million in sales tax for the city.

The catch: RadioShack wants half of it.

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Soldier's medals still a mystery



FLY YOUR FLAG

Today is Memorial Day. On the last Monday in May each year, Americans pause to pay tribute to the men and women who have given their lives in our nation's defense. On Memorial Day, the U.S. flag should be flown at half-staff until noon. As dawn, the flag should be raised to full-staff. Flag etiquette requires that the union (it should be full-staff and men lowered to full-staff).

By TASHA HAYTON
Staff Writer
thayton@dallasnews.com

In 54 years of marriage, Raymond Saieh rarely discussed his World War II service with his wife.

She had no idea that he'd earned — but never claimed — one of the military's top honors.

Now, nearly four years after her husband's death, Mary Lib Saieh has been presented with his medals — thanks to the efforts of a local congressman.

But she still has no clue what Ray did to earn the Bronze Star.

"Why did you die without telling me all of this?" she said. "Why didn't you tell me ... so I could've shared it better with the children and grandchildren?"

Like many veterans, especially those who served in WWII, Ray Saieh was a young man eager to get



A 1944 photo shows Sgt. Raymond Saieh, who served as a heavy mortar man in the Army.

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found out those medals inside their own war and/or soldier's stories.

Rep. Glenn "Patch" Stevens has spent the past few years searching old military records and genealogicals that veterans leave behind. Often, it's the families that want to know more.

"It's the first time many of the people in the family have ever heard the story of their father being in the war," said Marchant, whose district covers parts of Dallas, Denton and Tarrant counties.

98 veterans

So far, Marchant's staff has found medals and awards for 98 veterans, including Ray Saleh, who earned a heavy mortar major in the Army from 1944 to '46. He was involved in the European theater for 16 months under Gen. George Patton.

Marchant presented Mary Lib Saleh with her husband's medals in April 09.

"Most of the WWI sergeants, when they got through with their service, didn't sit around and worry about what medals they got or not," Marchant said. "We're talking about people who earned Purple Hearts, people who are awarded Bronze Stars."

Marchant grew interested in Ray Saleh's story after talk-

ing with a 70-year-old nephew of his since 1993. The nephew called it "was in the service, but didn't know much about it until his grandpa told him."

"I don't know much about my husband's service until my grandsons came along," she said. "They started asking questions. Enough time had elapsed that he was willing to talk about it."

Ever though Ray Saleh started talking more about his service before he died in 2003, Mary Lib Saleh still doesn't know the story behind the Bronze Star. She knows very little about what her husband did to earn six medals and four badges and pins.

That story isn't unusual among veterans. Many WWI vets, especially, don't discuss their war stories.

Grand histories

In 2000, Congress unanimously approved legislation to create the Veterans History Project, a nationwide effort to collect oral history from veterans. So far, more than 80,000 oral histories have been collected in the project's archives at the Library of Congress.

The project focused on WWI veterans first, said Bob Patrick, director of the Veterans History Project. Oral history is still alive, and an esti-

mated 1,000 veterans are

Alive of the project. Marchant still tracked surviving veterans telling their stories. In the process, the congressman learned that many had not received the recognition they had earned. Modesty seems to be the top reason why.

"They're just so unselfish and modest," Patrick said. "They'll tell you, 'I didn't do anything everybody else didn't do.'"

John Hayes, military and veteran affairs liaison for Marchant, understands.

"I've got the Distinguished Flying Cross," the Vietnam War vet said. "I don't feel like a hero. I was doing my job."

Hayes spends several months tracking down veterans' service records to find out which medals they deserve.

Mary Lib Saleh said her husband seldom talked about his service because it "brought back too many harsh, harsh memories."

"My husband was probably 19 when he got out of the service after serving in Gen. Patton's Army marching across Europe in the slip and the rain and whatever else," she said. "So he wasn't interested in the basics. And he rarely ever talked about it."

Personal quest

Marchant's quest to help families find their loved ones'

histories is a personal one.

His father served in WWII, and his grandfather served in the first World War. Hayes was able to hunt down some medals for Marchant's family as well.

"I sure wish I had my grandfather's history," Marchant said.

Tears came to Mary Lib Saleh's eyes while she talked about her husband and the legacy he left behind in their children and grandchildren.

"We made a pact that whoever wanted to leave had to take all five children," she joked about their long-lasting union.

The family wonders whether Ray even knew that he had earned the medals, especially the Bronze Star.

"I think he probably would have told us what the Bronze medal," said Penny Stephenson, Saleh's daughter.

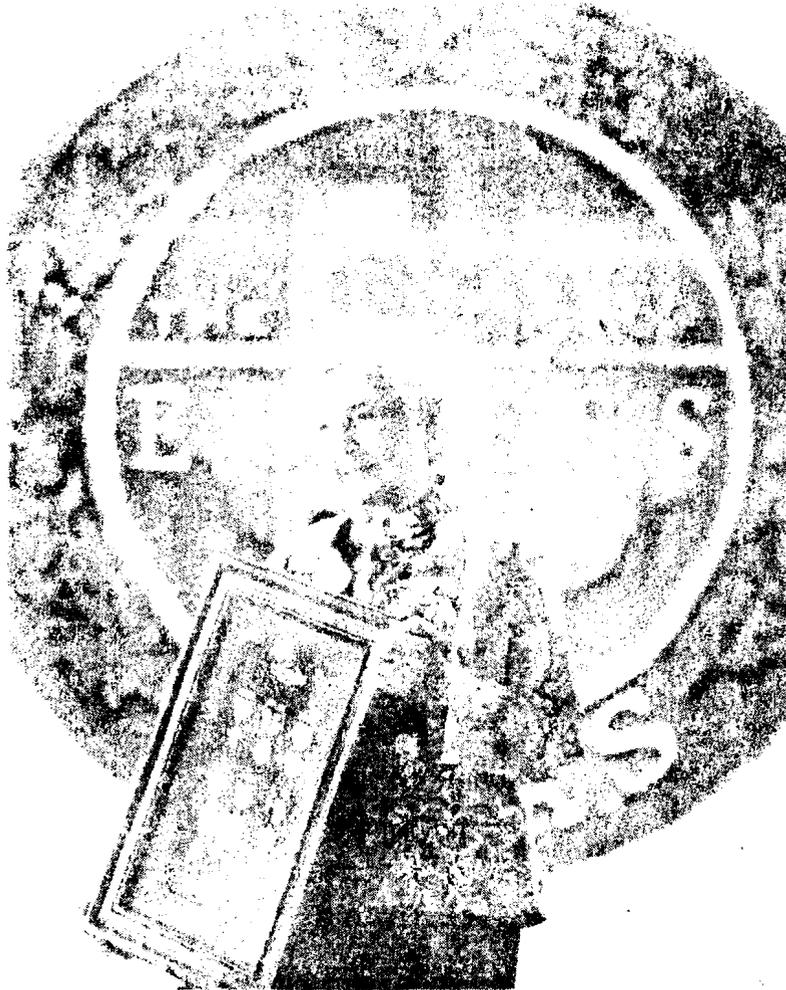
The Bronze Star is given to members of the military who performed meritorious service in combat.

"I still don't know what exactly he did to earn the Bronze medal," Stephenson said. "I guess I'll just have to ask him when I get to heaven."

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May military Lib
Salen of, unless
mentioned to
Ray's family
Marchant that
she didn't know
much about her
late husband's
Army service.
Now, nearly four
years after
Raymond
Soren's death,
she has been
presented with
his medals –
thanks to the
efforts of
Marchant and
her staff.



DONALD E. CRAM/Staff Photographer

AT A GLANCE Finding records

Veterans or veterans' families seeking military records or medals and decorations that were lost or never awarded can get more information by calling the National Archives at 1-866-272-6272 or visiting the agency's website, www.archives.gov (click on "Veterans and Their Families").

Military records: On the website, you can request a copy of military records by submitting a form to the National Personnel Records Center. You'll need the veteran's dates of service, service number or Social Security number, birth date and branch of service.

Requesting medals: The method to request medals is similar, though the request must be submitted to the veteran's branch of service.

1973 fire: Some records, many of them from World War II, were destroyed in a fire at the records center in St. Louis in 1973. If your veteran's records were affected, you must also know the last unit of assignment, where the veteran entered the service and where the veteran was discharged.

Civil histories: Anyone can send in a recorded history to the Veterans History Project. For more information, go to www.hivets.org.

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Gym offers workouts for people with disabilities

By ELIZABETH BASSETT

A gym is more than a space filled with exercise equipment. It's a place to release energy or stress, a place to become healthier, a place to meet other people, a place to incorporate into a routine.

For some people with disabilities, though, finding a gym that can provide all of those benefits can be difficult. Equipment may not be accessible for someone with a wheelchair or walker or crutches. Staff may not be prepared to provide support for special needs.

While the Neuro Fitness Foundation's facility may not compare to other elaborate gyms across the area, it does offer what those gyms cannot. It is a place made specifically for people who are neurologically impaired, and it serves the same role as a traditional gym in addition to the sense of confidence and independence craved by individuals who sometimes rely on others.

T.J. Griffin broke his neck in 1990 as a senior at Trinity Valley High School during a football game. He'd spent time working out as an athlete, and now he spends time working out to strengthen his body and cut down on health risks that can affect quadriplegics as well as other able-bodied people, like cardiovascular disease or being overweight.

"It's actually a gym mentality here, which is nice," Griffin said of the Neuro Fitness Foundation.

The organization moved into a new facility in Euless in September 2009, and the space looks like many other independently-owned gyms. Largely run by volunteers, the equipment is more accessible for people who have various conditions, from paralysis to spina bifida or multiple sclerosis to those recovering from a stroke or brain injury.

"You think 'disability,' you automatically think 'chair,' but there [are] so many different kinds," Griffin said.



Bill Gardner of Hurst, works out at the Euless-based Neuro Fitness Foundation with workout specialist Shelby Lauderdale.

Shelby Lauderdale, who spent several years working in a physical therapy clinic and also has some background in the personal training world, assists the gym patrons and supervises the workouts in his role as fitness director. He's also the only person on payroll for the foundation, which will spend about \$25,000 in 2010 on the new facility's rent and utilities, according to its budget.

Lauderdale said those who visit the Neuro Fitness Foundation gym usually have participated in clinical physical rehabilitation and therapy already and are familiar with what to do for their bodies or what not to do.

Like other gyms, the individual patrons are the ones who really decide what they want to work on.

"You just adapt everything to what they can do," Lauderdale said. "And a lot of it is

what they want to do."

For individuals who have neurological disorders — whether it be a condition that worsens over time, like MS or Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS), or something that is more permanent, like paralysis or spina bifida — exercise is as important for maintaining health as it is for the general public, said Dr. Kurt Voss, medical director of rehabilitation and wellness services at Baylor All Saints Medical Center at Fort Worth.

"For all the populations who are dealing with neurological disorders, it's extremely important for them to have the opportunity and guidance in making the best of the faculties that they do have and to gain and maintain what they do have," he said.

Making the Neuro Fitness Foundation and its facility open to anyone who needs it is the goal of Connie Stauffer, the president of the nonprofit organization. She has

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been the president for about a year, due in part to her experience with people with disabilities (she and Griffin work for Lift Aids Inc., a company that adapts and equips vehicles for individuals with disabilities).

A year ago, the organization was facing steeply-rising rents in addition to a bad economy. The board met in order to decide what to do with organization, which would run out of money if something didn't change, she said.

"They needed help or it needed to be shut down," she said.

Gym members are encouraged to donate \$25 per month, but no one is turned away, she said, and donations and two fund-raising events each year help keep the place running. The board decided to shut down the organization until the late fall of 2009, but then an outcry from the patrons prompted the move and re-opening to occur more quickly, she said. The total number of patrons hovers between 120 and 150 people, but a core group of about 60 or so are dedicated regulars.

Griffin, who has been involved with the organization since it started about 10 years ago, said the patrons see the facility not only as a gym but also as a community of individuals who are facing similar challenges and support each other. It's not just a place to work out.

"I think it helps more emotionally and mentally than anything," he said.

"And I think that's what people need most," added Lauderdale.

At the new location, there is room to host a once-weekly yoga class and there are plans to utilize more of the space as time goes on, Stauffer said. A casino-style Denim and Dice fund-raiser will be in the fall, and a golf tournament in the spring, to benefit the foundation, and there are always plans to continue growing. However, having the capability to pay for the facility and have experienced people on hand to assist patrons is tied to finances.

"That's my goal, to keep this place self-sufficient," she said. ■