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DATE DISTRIBUTED 11/22/11 DATE OF ARTICLE 11/7/11 NEWSPAPER Grand Prairie
(G.P. High School)

A Fair for Our Vets

Monday, November 07, 2011, 12:30:49 PM

By Haylee Kolm, In Depth Editor

In honor of the veterans of America, on Saturday, November 5th, 2011, Grand Prairie held the Veteran's Fair at the Eules Family Life Center. This was the first year a veteran's fair has been held in the metroplex. "This is the first time we've ever held a fair, and we hope to do it many more times over the years," Constituent Services Representative, Amanda Calongne said. With 30 vendors participating, some included the DFW National Cemetery, Our Heroes Rehabilitation Institute of Dallas, and the Texas Veterans Land Board, there was an expected 300 to 500 people in attendance. Chic-fil-a and Rita's Ice Cream were served to the guests, and free flu shots and blood pressure screening were available. Entertainment was provided by the Cavanaugh Flight Museum, and a special performance by Rebecca Hendricks. Games such as a dart board were also provided with prizes. "We have a variety of prizes: hats, key chains, T-shirts, etc," Calongne said. U.S. Congressman, **Kenny Marchant**, awarded medals to a Veteran that deserved but never got them. He also honored a young new army recruit and presented a wall of honor. Along with food and entertainment, everything was 100% volunteered by the citizens of the area. "I am grateful for all those in the Texas Community that take care of those who served our country," Marchant stated.

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Suburban charities need volunteers for holiday programs

Posted Friday, Nov. 11, 2011

BY TERRY EVANS

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Northeast Tarrant County charities depend on folks' generosity to fuel Thanksgiving and year-end holiday programs.

But only the strength of volunteers can bridge the gap between those who donate and those who receive food and gifts -- and the charities could use more help.

GRACE volunteers handle collection and distribution of groceries gathered through food drives, Executive Director Shonda Schaefer said.

"We could use volunteers doing food drives at offices, schools, community organizations and churches," she said. "They can call us and get a list of items we need and tips on how to organize a food drive."

Both holidays call for lots of food, but Christmas adds a twist, Schaefer said.

"The big thing at Christmas is the children," she said. "We do toy drives similar to the food drives. We ask people to collect new, unwrapped toys for various ages and ethnic groups."

Donated toys are sorted onto shelves in the Christmas Cottage, a decorated warehouse in Southlake that's set up like a toy store, Schaefer said.

"The parents come in to select the toys they want for their children," she said. "Volunteers help the parents do their shopping, other volunteers do the gift wrap, and some volunteers bake cookies that the families can take home with them."

Wish lists are on GRACE's website, gracegrapevine.org, where volunteers may register and fill out confidentiality forms.

6Stones Mission Network

Executive Director Scott Sheppard is tickled that the 6Stones Mission Network's Night of Wonder campaign is on the way to its goal of making Christmas bright for 3,029 children.

He said volunteers make it possible to have parties, coordinated by partner churches, at 19 elementary schools in the Hurst-Euless-Bedford district. At the parties, parents pick up frozen turkeys and other elements of Christmas dinner, as well as gifts they can put under their trees Christmas morning.

Generous people make that happen by "adopting" the kids, Sheppard said.

"We just kicked off the adoptions last week, on Nov. 1, and we have 510 kids adopted already," he said. "City of Euless employees are adopting 218 kids. Mayor Mary Lib Saleh tends to throw out a challenge every year to Hurst and Bedford to see who will adopt the most kids."

Children's measurements and wish lists at nightofwonder.org allow adopters to pick one practical and one fun gift, spending no more than \$35 to \$50 per child, Sheppard said.

Community Enrichment Center

The Community Enrichment Center has several programs designed to help families and seniors in Northeast Tarrant County, and Christmas is a special time for all of them, said Ron Parish, director of community ministries.

The charity provides food boxes from its pantry to help with Christmas dinners but depends on sponsors and donors to fill Christmas wishes for toys, clothes and household needs, Parish said.

"Each sponsor gets a list, a profile of the family and what their needs are," he said. "We could have more than one sponsor per family, teaming people up if that's what it takes to make sure that the family is provided for."

Santa presides over a party from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 17 at the Hills Church of Christ, 6230 NE Loop 820 in North Richland Hills, where gifts are distributed, dinner is shared, games and bounce houses are enjoyed, and children get to shop for stuff they can give their moms and dads.

Parish said the center needs donations (thecec.org) and volunteers year-round.

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"Our goal is not just to provide Christmas for our clients but to help them get stable again," he said "It's important for people to know that the thrust is to help families regain financial stability."

Community Storehouse

Community Storehouse is staffed primarily by volunteers to help its client families in the Northwest and Keller school districts, volunteer coordinator Sheryl Seyer said.

Holiday House is the next event with opportunities to serve, as Keller High School on Pate Orr Road is converted into a toy and gift warehouse run by elves and snowmen.

Seyer said 125 people per shift work from noon to 4 p.m. and 4 to 8 p.m. helping with the expected 1,000 client families. There are still second-shift openings for elves – adults who help clients find the toys and gifts they need – and snowmen -- high-school-age boys and men who carry boxes of food and gifts to cars.

There are also plenty of opportunities to help give Christmas to about 4,000 kids, from babies to 18-year-olds, Seyer said.

"The most important thing we need right now are toys, wrapping paper and gift cards of \$10 and \$20 value that we or the families can use to buy turkeys and hams," she said. "We often don't have enough gifts for teenagers -- like hoodies, warm socks, gloves, coats -- because most people like to get the cute toys for little kids."

The Christmas campaign is staffed by volunteers, from individuals to corporations and student bodies.

For Thanksgiving, Community Storehouse tends to partner with various churches.

"If you don't know what we do, this is a good time to come out and see the impact," Seyer said. "It really is a community effort, and we're just the conduit. Our volunteers are highly valued."

Visit communitystorehouse.org and click on the red volunteer button.

Terry Evans, 817-390-7620

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Water deal stands to benefit Chesapeake, Euless

Posted Sunday, Nov. 13, 2011

BY TERRY EVANS

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EULESS – Chesapeake Operations is paying Euless far too little for water it uses in gas well production.

In fact, since April, the gas producer has paid \$1.50 per 1,000 gallons, \$4.50 less per 1,000 gallons than what the water should cost.

A city official said that's in the city's best interest.

That's because Chesapeake paid the city \$250,000 to help build a pipeline that will eventually take reclaimed water to a planned commercial and residential development. Once the company recovers \$250,000 in benefits from the reduced water costs, it starts paying the going rate for either potable or reclaimed water, said Loretta Getchell, deputy city manager.

The deal rests on building the pipeline that will connect a 2.27-acre holding pond to the "purple line" that carries reclaimed water from Fort Worth's Village Creek Treatment plant to Euless.

When that happens, drilling and fracking of gas wells at a 2.67-acre pad at Bear Creek Parkway and East Midway Drive will be done with water that hasn't been treated enough for drinking. Three wells have been completed there, and up to 11 more are planned, said Julie Jones, Chesapeake's senior permitting representative.

Chesapeake's project engineer, Galyn Black, said the company built the pond for the well site, but it's going to be a water source for much more than that.

"A big benefit to the company is to satisfy one of our primary objectives, finding alternate water sources," he said. "But the pond is going to be a source to irrigate an entire 200-acre development."

Realty Capital plans the commercial and multifamily development near Texas 183, Midway Drive and Bear Creek Parkway, and the city would like to see the development use reclaimed water for such things as irrigation and car washing.

"This allows us the opportunity to bring a reclaimed water line to that development," she said. "We're able to get the line upfront, and the developer is required to use reclaimed water for nonpotable purposes."

The city also is exploring the possibility of extending the line down Bear Creek Parkway to existing apartment complexes, converting many to reclaimed-water irrigation, Getchell said.

"That would be a tremendous benefit not only to Euless, but also to the entire region," she said.

Fort Worth agreed to extend the purple line from American Boulevard under Texas 183 to the Euless city limit, Getchell said. That would get it within a mile of the gas well site. "From there, Euless has to take the line on up to the pond," she said. "We are currently getting easements and expect to get under way within the next couple of months."

Fort Worth water utility spokeswoman Mary Gugliuzza said that the highly treated wastewater – which is safe for such nondrinking uses as watering lawns – is sold to retail customers for \$3.38 per 100 cubic feet. There are 748 gallons in 100 cubic feet, she said.

Reclaimed water must meet the standards of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Gugliuzza said.

"It goes through advanced treatment that removes virtually all of the bad stuff," she said. "It will be chlorinated in the purple pipe. We're adding ultraviolet treatment to the water that's being sent to customers as reclaimed water. It's an additional level of disinfection."

Getchell said the deal with Chesapeake is a great way to work with Fort Worth to extend the reclaimed water system to a gas well operation.

"Chesapeake needed to get started on drilling and fracking the wells," she said. "This was a way for them to help us upfront with the line. This will avoid a future drain on our potable water for these wells."

Terry Evans, 817-390-7620

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Eules police seek help in identifying cyclist hit by auto

Posted Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2011

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

Eules police are asking for help in identifying a bicyclist who was critically injured Sunday night after being hit by a suspected drunken driver on Eules Boulevard.

Authorities released a photograph of the man in his room at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth. He remained in critical condition Wednesday.

Police identified the driver as Bryany Ruth Hildreth, 30, of Eules. She was arrested Sunday night and faces a charge of intoxication assault, Capt. Gary Landers said.

Hildreth posted \$10,000 bail shortly after her arrest.

The incident occurred about 6:30 p.m. Sunday in the 1900 block of West Eules Boulevard. The bicyclist was riding a red and black Schwinn mountain bike and was wearing a Ohio State jacket and red Nike tennis shoes.

He is black, about 5 foot 10, 140 to 145 pounds, and 30 to 35 years old.

Anyone with information is asked to call Eules police at 871-685-1532.

Domingo Ramirez Jr., 817-390-7763

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Bicyclist critically injured in Eules identified

Posted Thursday, Nov. 17, 2011

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

A bicyclist who was injured badly when he was hit by a suspected drunken driver on Eules Boulevard Sunday has been identified as Anthony Jamal Miles of Dallas, Eules police said Thursday.

Miles, 24, remained in very critical condition Thursday at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth, officials said. On Wednesday, police released a photo of him in his hospital bed in the hope of identifying him.

Miles was hit about 6:30 p.m. Sunday by an SUV in the 1900 block of West Eules Boulevard. The driver, identified as Bryany Ruth Hildreth, 30, of Eules, stopped immediately, police said. She faces a charge of intoxication assault. She is free on bail.

Domingo Ramirez Jr., 817-390-7763

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Eules grade school turns unused plot into a classroom out of doors

Posted Sunday, Nov. 20, 2011

BY SARAH BAHARI

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EULESS – A few straw-colored weeds had taken root in an area outside North Eules Elementary School.

Looking out his classroom window, art teacher Scott Matula envisioned something far more useful for the 9,000-square-foot space.

Nearly two years later, the North Eules Outdoor Learning Area is nearing completion.

"Our students are stuck here in the middle of suburbia," Matula said. "I want them to experience a little bit of the real outdoors, to walk outside and see native plants and trees and smell fresh air."

The space will include a waterfall emptying into a pond flanked by boulders where students can sit. A raised garden will grow beans, vegetables or native plants.

Dogwood trees and loblolly pines will grow in the small plot designated "East Texas." A few feet away, mesquite, vitex and Chinese pistache trees will grow in "West Texas." Frogs and turtles will be free to scamper about.

In the corner, an awning-covered classroom will have chairs and a whiteboard for instruction.

The outdoor learning area, called NEOLA by the school, will focus on environmental education and teach cross-disciplinary lessons. Science students, for example, could run experiments on soil; math students could measure and chart the growth of different plant species; and art classes could draw or paint their surroundings.

"So often, we tell our students about something," Principal Melissa Meadows said. "Now they will be able to see and touch and smell. We're going beyond our classroom walls."

With the help of teachers, Matula raised about \$75,000 in donations and goods. Matula's brother, David, a landscape architect with Waterfalls Over Texas, donated his time as the contractor. TXU Energy provided the trees, and B&S Fence Co. built the fencing.

The school received grants and donations from Lowe's, the city of Eules and several others.

Over the weekend, students, parents and teachers laid soil and planted trees to prepare for classes that are expected to start in the spring. Community groups and other schools will be invited to use the space, too.

"This is an amazing way to get students outside and learning, rather than staring at the computer screen all day," Jarrett Trusty, whose two children attend North Eules Elementary, said as he hauled a wheelbarrow of acidic soil to the East Texas plot.

Third-grader Kylie Smith plans to donate Shelley the turtle, whom she caught at home. She said she is excited to learn about the various critters that will call this place home.

Spending time outside helps students learn to solve problems and think critically, Matula said.

"With video games and TV and iPhones, kids lose their touch with this part of the world," he said. "This will give them a small taste of the outdoors, even if we're just at school."

Sarah Bahari,

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DFW and state briefs: Prisoner found hanging in the Euless Jail dies

Posted Sunday, Nov. 20, 2011

Prisoner found hanging in the Euless Jail dies

EULESS -- A 36-year-old man died Sunday after being found hanging in his jail cell, police said.

Jail staff found Eli Davis hanging and nonresponsive about 2 p.m., according to a police news release. Jail staff performed CPR until paramedics arrived, and he was pronounced dead at the scene.

Davis was arrested Friday after police executed a search warrant at his home.

He was being held on suspicion of engaging in organized crime/forgery and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon, with total bail set at \$102,500.

— Marty Sabota

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DATE DISTRIBUTED 11/22/11 DATE OF ARTICLE 11/21/11 NEWSPAPER DMN

Man found dead in Euless jail cell: apparently hanged himself



By Avi Selk/Night Reporter
aselk@dallasnews.com | Bio
5:50 PM on Mon., Nov. 21, 2011 | Permalink

A man was found dead in his Euless jail cell Sunday from an apparent self-hanging.

Eli Davis, 36, was alone in the cell about 2 p.m. when staff found him and tried to revive him, according to police. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police said they are investigating Davis' death and the charges against him — he was arrested Friday on suspicion of organized crime (forgery) and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon.

Picture: Davis' mugshot (via fax, so poor quality)



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Eules officer dies of heart attack while playing racquetball

Posted Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011

BY TERRY EVANS

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Eules police officer Richard Wong died Monday evening after having a heart attack, an official said.

Wong had the heart attack while playing racquetball with his father at the Hurst Recreation Center, 700 Mary Drive, said Eules Police Capt. Gary Landers.

"It was kind of surreal last night," Landers said Tuesday. "I'm meeting with the family this morning."

Landers would not say more until he talked with Wong's family.

Wong was taken from the recreation center to a hospital, but could not be revived, CBSDFW.com was reporting.

Wong was a 17-year veteran of the Eules Police Department. He had been a school resource officer at Trinity High School, 500 N. Industrial Blvd., Eules, since 1998, principal Mike Harris said.

Students held an impromptu candlelight vigil at the school Monday evening, the CBS website reported.

"He interacted with the kids all day every day," Harris said. "As a resource officer, his primary job is to build relationships with the students so they feel comfortable talking with him, so they will report information or just feel safe here. He was outstanding at that."

Harris said that Wong was loved by Trinity students, so the candlelight vigil wasn't a surprise to him, though he wasn't aware of it until he got to school Tuesday morning.

"There were some candles on my front step this morning," he said. "The vigil must have been set up by the students themselves on Facebook. Who all was there and when they did it, I don't know."

Harris said that counselors at other district campuses are standing by in case they are needed. Tuesday is the last day before the Thanksgiving break, and Wong's death was to be part of the morning announcements.

"Counselors from other campuses are always available when one of our campuses needs them," Harris said. "At this moment, they're on stand-by. Until all the kids get here, we don't know how much counseling support they'll need or want, but we certainly want to be ready."

By 9 a.m. Tuesday, there were almost 1,000 likes on the R.I.P. Officer Wong page on Facebook. Comments include that another vigil may be planned for Tuesday night.

A biography from the city of Eules states that Wong was a Pinkerton security officer in Fort Worth and also worked security at North East Mall in Hurst before becoming a police officer. He became a senior police officer in 1997.

Wong graduated from Meridian High School in Sanford, Mich., and earned 60 hours in law enforcement from Delta College in University Center, Mich.