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3 runoffs ahead for The Colony

Flower Mound PAC still unbeaten; mayor of Lewisville re-elected

05/04/2003

By **JULIE ELLIOTT / The Dallas Morning News**

A man once convicted on a felony drug charge pulled the most votes in a council race in The Colony on Saturday – one of three races in the city headed for a runoff because no one got a majority.

Jim Briggs, a 48-year-old auto shop owner, was convicted of selling drugs in 1987 but is not officially a felon because a judge deferred his adjudication and he completed his probation. He faces systems administrator Allen Harris, 39, in the May 17 runoff for the Place 1 council seat. Incumbent John Gordon, 55, gave up his seat to run for mayor.

In the mayor's race, incumbent Bernetta Henville-Shannon faces former council member John Dillard in the runoff. In Place 2, incumbent Lewis Jue, a 45-year-old insurance company owner, will face communications services manager Scott Ward, 33.

Elsewhere in southern Denton County, Lewisville Mayor Gene Carey was re-elected to a second full term. And all three Town Council candidates backed by Voters United for the Preservation of Flower Mound, a political action committee, won.

Mr. Briggs campaigned in part on his openness about having overcome addiction.

"I think people will vote for me because I'm one of them," he said during the campaign. "God's forgiven me. I've forgiven myself. I know I can do some good for The Colony."

In the mayor's race, Mrs. Henville-Shannon, a 45-year-old business owner, said she was happy with a near victory.

"I was quite pleased because we were short only 42 votes of getting the needed 51 percent," said Mrs. Henville-Shannon, the first black mayor of The Colony. "We will maintain and go at it again in two weeks. I'm sure we can overcome this and declare a victory in two weeks."

Mr. Dillard, who was mayor pro tem when he decided last year not to seek a sixth two-year term, said he remains confident.

"I'm glad to be in the runoff," he said. "We are going to work hard and do our best."

In the Lewisville mayor's race, Mr. Carey beat Patrick Booth, 20, and B. Glen Little, 65.

Mr. Carey, a 60-year-old inventory analyst, said his win indicates most people are happy with their government. Mr. Little could not be reached for comment.

Mr. Booth, a student at North Lake College in Irving who also ran for mayor in 2001, said he was disappointed. "My goal was to increase my voter percentage or at least increase the voter turnout," he said. "I didn't hit either goal. It is very disappointing."

In Flower Mound, Voters United remained unbeaten since it first fielded candidates in 1997 with three more wins. This year, an opposing faction formed from within and opposed candidates from the PAC.

Place 1 incumbent and Mayor Pro Tem Stephani Spruill, 39, beat former council member William Carr, a 52-year-old engineer. Tim

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Trotter, a 43-year-old medical account manager, beat Chris Torley, a 46-year-old business owner, for the Place 3 seat. In Place 5, political newcomer Sydney Bentz, 37, defeated incumbent Sara Wingard.

In Corinth, incumbent Mayor J.B. "Babs" Troutman lost to Vic Burgess. In Little Elm, Brenda Mills and Dee Dee Lear are headed for a runoff after each drew 99 votes in the District 3 race.

The Denton Record-Chronicle contributed to this report.

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