January/February 2007

Wishing forWinter

Weather

Lie · Sachse · Murphy Community Magazine

In this issue:

- Murphy's Growth
- Get Organized!
- Wylie East High School

Remembering our friend~

• Mr. Harry Tibbals

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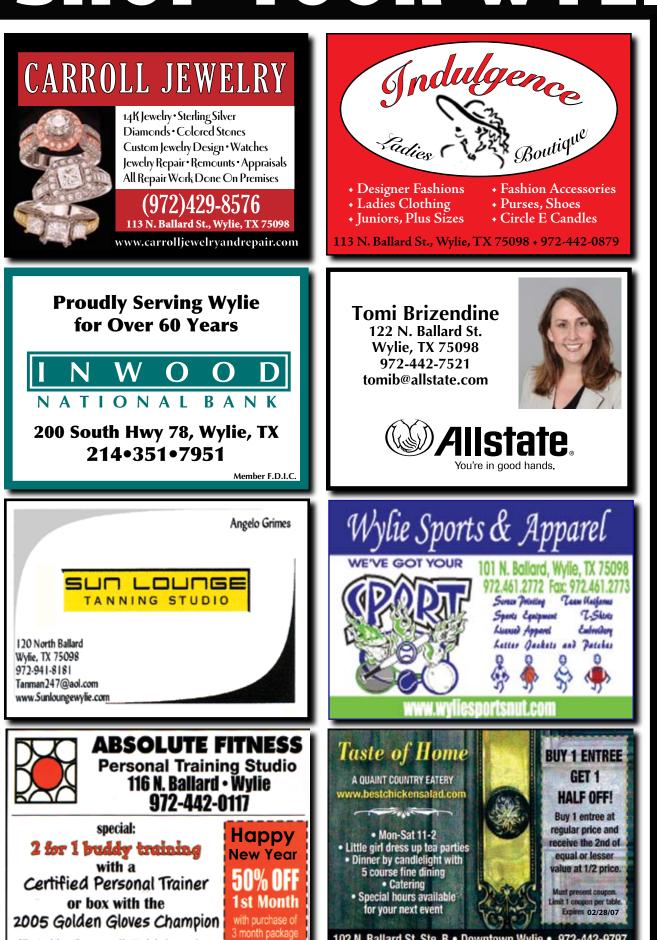








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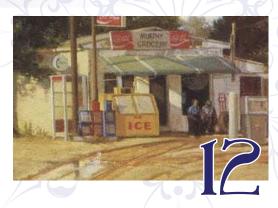




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Not Just a Plain-O-Fence!



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Corrections: Hopefully you made it out to vote on the correct date - Nov. 7th instead of the 4th!

Just for fun, find the butterfly!

Not Just a Plain-O-Fence!

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Recognized as the choice fence builder for Sharif-Munir Homes, Plano Fence, a locally owned and operated business since 1972, specializes in the building and planning of Decks, Arbors, Stonework, and Fences – from Cedar to Iron – as well as repairs. Not only will you have the opportunity to initially meet with the owner while receiving your free estimate, you can feel at ease knowing that all the work is completed without the use of sub-contractors.

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Once your project is built you will need to protect it to maximize your investment. Consider having *Plano Fence* provide prestaining during the construction phase. Unprotected wood will turn gray from the damage received due to exposure to sunlight and water within one year, progressing by way of mildew and fungus, causing your structure to become brittle and weak. Allowing this to happen decreases the value of your investment within a very short time. Pre-stained or custom stained wood protects your investment from these elements. If you are diligent and provide a re-stain, as suggested by the manufacturer, your fence may last a lifetime!

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Happy New Year!

We resolve to keep you connected

ue the New Year! Everyone have their new year's resolutions all lined up? We do! But wait; how many of you, like us, will not even make it a month before it's back to the old habits? We here at The Connection believe in the practice of underpromising and over-delivering. So this year, we resolve to try and keep at least one resolution each. We think that's reasonable. One small change for the better. We'll see how it goes.

On the other hand, as it relates to The Connection, we have a different sort of resolution. We have resolved to keep doing what we set out to do, and to do it better: to bridge a connection between the communities of Wylie, Sachse and Murphy. We have now expanded that bridge into cyberspace making The Connection available online at www.wyliechamber.org.

This third issue continues on that mission. We've included stories about Murphy's growth, local bonds, and chamber events, as well as a feature remembering a dear departed friend, Mr. Harry Tibbals. We miss him.

Now the part about doing it better... here is where we need your help! Our goal is to feature more interesting, fascinating, exceptional and amazing individuals from our three towns. All around us live people who have done incredible things in their lifetimes. We'd like to tell some of their stories. The problem is we don't know every one. So if you know someone that you think might qualify, let us know. Children included!

Finally, we want to extend a hearty thank you to our editorial board for all their help in gathering information and writing stories. We really appreciate all that you do!

Have a great year! •



InSync Exotics Wildlife Rescue & Educational Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue of exotic felines. Visit www.insyncexotics.com for more info. Open Saturdays and Sundays, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (972)442-6888.

Moms & More Any caretaker, be it a Mom, Dad, Aunt, Grandparent, or Nanny, are welcome. We accept members from Wylie and the surrounding communities. We also have many activity groups for our caretakers and our children. If you would like directions to our monthly meeting on January 4th, or have any questions in general, please contact our Headhunter, Grady Sisco: (972)941-8597 or our Diva, Kris Sands: (214)236-4037.

Sachse Historical Society meets the third Saturday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Sachse Historical Museum, 3033 6th St. in Sachse. Museum is open for visitors Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and by appointment. (972)495-1231.

Wylie Lions Club meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month at Napoli's Pizza & Restaurant at 701 N. Hwy. 78 at Noon. Anyone interested in becoming a Lion is welcome to join us for lunch. (972)771-5551

Wylie Evening Lions Club meets the third Wednesday of the month at Steak Country in Sacshe at 6:30 p.m. Contact Ronni Fetzer at (972)442-1387.

Wylie Friends of the Library meets the third Thursday of each month, 6 p.m., at the Rita and Truett Smith Public Library, 800 Thomas, in the Bluebonnet Room. (972)442-7566.

Sachse Pet Pals is a volunteer organization working with Sachse Animal Control to enhance adoption rates and help with pet medical expenses on a financial need basis. Contact Peggy Strong at (972)495-9645 for more information.

MOMS Club of Wylie, a non-profit, non-religious affiliated, support group for stay at home moms, meets the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m., at the Brown Street Baptist Fellowship. For more information, please contact: Susan Lefort at (972)542-4175.

MOMS Club of Murphy/Sachse is a non-profit support group for at-home moms providing monthly meetings and activities for moms and their children. Activities include monthly meetings with guest speakers, play groups, park days, MOMS Night Out, field trips and more fun stuff. They also participate in service projects to benefit children in the community. Contact Jennifer at (972)578-9317 or thebergmanfamily@ hotmail.com for meeting times.

Sachse Library Events: Paws and Read programs on January 9 and February 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Library, 3815 Sachse Road, Building C

- Alice in Wonderland Tea Party January 23 at 4 p.m.
- Mardi Gras Party February 20 at 4 p.m.
- Feature films every Saturday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
- Story time every Thursday starting January 11 at 11 a.m.
- Baby story time January 11, 25, February 8 and 22 at 10:15 a.m.

Area Chamber's Awards Banquets: See page 22

photo by Bradley

Going On Around Town

January 1 - 28 - Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary in McKinney has seven life-size animatronic dinosaurs on display throughout the grounds of the Heard. Situated along a walking path, the T. Rex, Allosaurus and more move and roar, allowing visitors a chance to see and hear what life among the dinosaurs might have been like. Monday - Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 5 p.m. (972)562-5566 www.heardmuseum.org

January 8 - Rehearsals begin for the Children's Chorus of Collin County. This chorus is for children grades 3 - 6. Rehearsals are held at the First Baptist Church in Wylie. For additional audition/rehearsal information, please contact the Virtuoso Arts School of Music (972) 941-9600 or www.wyliemusic.com or www.childrenschorusofcollincounty.com

January 15 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 17 - Sachse Senior Center event: Rockin' in the New Year Luncheon on at 10 a.m., Baylor Garland presents a Health Seminar on Vascular Problems and Healing Options starting at 11 a.m. (you must sign up if you want a box lunch) (972) 495-6282

January 25 - Plano East Senior High Talent Show at 7 p.m.

January 25, 26 & 27 - the Sachse High School Theatre Department presents I HATE HAMLET by Paul Rudinck at the Sachse High School Little Theatre at 7:00 PM. Call SHS at (972)414-7450 for more information.

January 27 - Plano Symphony Orchestra presents A Midsummer Night's Dream - The Music of Shakespear at the Eisemann Center, 8 p.m. Call (972)473-7262 or visit www.plano-symphony.org for ticket info.

Sachse Sports Association baseball and softball signups at Sachse City Hall, 5560 Highway 78 - Saturdays, January 13, 20 and 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Sundays, January 14, 21 and 28 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Wylie's Smith Public Library Story Time

800 Thomas Street (972)442-7566

Wee Read Story Time Wednesdays at 10 a.m., 20 min., is designed for younger children as an introduction to story time and to the library. We sing songs and read stories around a specific theme.

Preschool Story Time Wednesdays at 9 and 11 a.m., 30 min., we read books, sing songs and have a craft designed around the theme to emphasize basic skills. To ensure the safety and enjoyment of our children, each story time is limited to 45 participants. Everyone will receive a ticket upon entrance into the story time room.

Wylie's Smith Public Library Story Time Schedule

Jan. 3 - Months of the Year Jan. 10 - Penguins & Polar Bears Jan. 17 - Happy Birthday Jan. 24 - Clothing Jan. 31 - Groundhog's Day **February 2 & 3** - Wylie High School Theatre Dept. presents the musical Grease at 7:30 p.m.. ticket prices are \$8.00 general admission/\$5.00 students & seniors. For information on performances, season tickets, or becoming a patron call Meg Belanger at (972)429-3122.

February 2 - 11 - Plano Children's Theatre presents Fiddler on the Roof at the Plano Courtyard Theatre. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:15 p.m. and Sat. and Sun. at 2:15 p.m. Tickets are \$6 in advance and \$8 at the door. Call (972) 422-2575 for tickets. www.planochildrenstheatre.com

February 6 thru April 10 - AARP offers free tax preparation/assistance at the Sachse Senior Center on Tuesdays, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. First come, first served. (972) 495-6282

February 14 - Plano Symphony Orchestra presents A Valentine Gala With Marvin Hamlisch at the Eisemann Center, 8:15 p.m. Call (972)473-7262 or visit www.planosymphony.org for info.

February 20 - Mardi Gras!

Wylie's Smith Public Library Story Time Schedule

800 Thomas Street (972)442-7566 Feb. 7 - Cats & Kittens Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day Feb. 21 - Tooth Fairy Feb. 28 - Dancing Shoes

Wylie's Smith Public Library Special Events

800 Thomas Street (972)442-7566

Monday, January 15 – 6:30 p.m. Mad Science presents Spin, Pop, & Boom - Join us for a program that defies gravity as Mad Science performs experiments aimed to educate and entertain.

Monday, January 29 – 6:30 p.m. The Adventures of "Jingle, Jyngel" – The Happy Helpful Bell - Rochelle Rabouin joins us as we Ring and Sing along from the giant story book of "Jingle, Jyngel – The Happy, Helpful Bell". Learn colors, shapes and numbers as you listen to different bell sounds and dance to the Wicky, Wacky Bell Dance.

Monday, February 5 – 6:30 p.m. Willy Welch - Children's author and songwriter, Willy Welch will perform and delight children of all ages.

It's a date?... Send it in!

To submit your special event to the March/April community calendar send an e-mail to theconnection.anne@mac.com

no later than Feb. 1st. Please include contact name, date(s), time(s), location, a publishable phone number, e-mail and/or web site for information. Only events that are open to the public (no "members only" events) are eligible, as space permits. THANKS!



WILD ABOUT HARRY!

Mr. Harry Tibbals worked to make life better for others, especially children. Join us as we fondly remember him.



arry Fred Tibbals, Jr. was considered to

be a man of many things: optimism, wisdom, intellect and foresight. He considered the education of children to be his mission in life. The feats of bettering the welfare of his fellow men and treating them with dignity were things he mastered everyday. One thing's for sure: Harry was wild about Wylie.

"Harry," according to Dr. Al Draper, Pastor Emeritus, First Baptist Church Wylie, "was always a visionary. He was optimistic and always able to see around whatever problem or obstacle was there. He was a man of principle and integrity and stood by what he said. He was the same man wherever he was. Harry always optimistically looked forward to what needed to be done".

Harry and Retha met in church after high school and dated 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years. Retha says she wanted a Christian husband and a "strong Christian home, and Harry certainly fit the bill!" They were married in 1941. Shortly after their marriage, Harry became the manager of a Piggly Wiggly store in Longview, Texas. Later, they moved to Jacksonville, Texas, which was the corporate office for Childs Food Stores. Shortly after the birth of their first child, Harry III, in 1943, Harry joined the Army and left to fight in World War II.

After Harry returned home, he and Retha had two more boys, James and Phil. In 1951, Harry opened a store in Monroe, Louisiana for Piggly Wiggly. And in 1954, after the birth of their daughter, Sheila, Harry was soon promoted to Vice President of Managing Operations over all the Childs Food Stores and the family relocated to Shreveport, LA.

Harry and Retha Tibbals moved to Wylie from Arp, TX, near Tyler. The path to Wylie began when their oldest child was in high school. Harry and Retha began to look for a store of their own to buy. Affiliated Food Stores had their headquarters in Dallas, Texas, and the Tibbals family began inquiries into several stores for sale. There were several locations available, including Grapevine, Lake Dallas and Wylie. But when the doors to the Grapevine & Lake Dallas stores were shut, Retha says that God led them to Wylie.

"My family moved here in 1964," said Mary Davis, longtime friend of the Tibbals, "and whenever we went to the Wylie Supermarket, Harry would be back in his cubby-hole office. But as soon as we walked in the door, he never failed to come out and recognize us. It just gave us a wonderful feeling, having someone always greet you at the door like that." The population in Wylie was only about 1,800 in 1961 when they moved to Wylie. Harry was used to bigger and more modern stores. Things here were definitely different. Mr. Harrison, for whom Harrison Intermediate is named, would deliver the town's mail in the morning, and in the afternoon doubled as a checker in the grocery store! Many family names now familiar on Wylie schools frequented the store: Akin, Dodd, Hartman, Groves and, of course, Harrison.

Dr. Draper notes that Harry made plenty of friends in Wylie. "He had a lot of friends because of his respect for the individual. He never made a show of his offerings or resources. He was genuine and never put on

airs or pretense. He was a quiet and gentle man who never did things for applause or show. He gave out of compassion and commitment."

Indeed, the Tibbals made many friends through the ownership of the grocery store. Great prices, good food, friendly atmosphere...the Wylie Supermarket had it all. Betty Stephens remembers how one of her first experiences in Wylie convinced her to stay. It was the kindness of Harry Tibbals and his brotherin-law, Bill J. Davis. "I first met Harry Tibbals almost 30 years ago at Wylie Supermarket. My family, which included my husband, our toddler daughter and infant son, had just moved to Wylie from Plano. Of course, one of the first places we needed to go was the grocery store, so I put the kids in the car and off we went. Anyone who takes young children grocery shop-ping knows what an "experience" this can be. I wasn't expect-ing the outing to be pleasant. However, my first trip to Wylie Supermarket convinced me that we had made the right decision about moving to Wylie. That day, Harry Tibbals and Bill J. Davis welcomed me to their store, showed me around, amused my kids, sacked my groceries, carried them to my car, and even invited me to church. They were nice to my family, and it was obvious their "niceness" was genuine. I don't remember what I bought that day, but I'll never forget how good I felt."

Hartman was the only school in town in 1961. There was only one store in Murphy – the "old Murphy store" – and precious few in Wylie. Everyone came to the Tibbals' Wylie Supermarket for groceries, knick knacks, and, sometimes, advice--particularly the young pastor of the local Baptist church.

"Harry was very wise. I turned to him for counsel quite often. If I was struggling with something, I went to the Supermarket to see Harry for wise, Godly counsel," said Dr. Draper.

Harry was also the Director of First State Bank in Wylie and later the Director of First National Bank in Sachse. Though he was busy with his many business ventures, his family, and church, Harry was never too busy to do what he believed in: helping others.



"What I knew and witnessed from the man was inspiring. Mr. Tibbals was about leaving a legacy. From the Christian Care Center to the WISD and WISD Education Foundation, Mr. Tibbals believed in aiding those less fortunate and individuals who did not always receive the recognition they deserved. The lesson of serving others could be learned by all from the way Mr. Harry Tibbals lived his life," said Sam Satterwhite of the Wylie Economic Development Corporation

The Tibbals were involved in their children's school life. When the High School needed a scoreboard in their gym, the Wylie Supermarket helped them get just that. When the FFA held their livestock auctions, the Tibbals were there too. Retha remembers that they were involved because it was fun to be involved. The children were involved in school, band and football, but the Tibbals always stressed to them to put God first in their lives. The Tibbals believed that part of their mission in life was to help educate children.

Mayor John Mondy notes that "while we should reflect on his family's generosity to the community in helping many people on a daily basis, it is my opinion that he and the contribution of his family to this area will be truly felt for generations to come. The Tibbals family was known for opening the Wylie Supermarket to the community in times of need especially when children were involved, never asking for anything in return and seldom being able to say no. He always emphasized that "it was not the children's fault that they need help." This is where his contribution for generations will grow and live; that he helped children in a time of great need."

In 1998, Harry sold the Wylie Supermarket and began to enjoy retirement - his version of it anyway. He now had more time for the things he enjoyed most, traveling with the family, staying involved with the bank, advising on the North Texas Municipal Water Board, and especially the outings and activities with the Happy Circle and Silver Chord ministries of First Baptist Church.

"The thing I remember most about Harry Tibbals is that he always had a smile on his face. I'd see him and he'd walk up with a big smile and he'd give me a big hug. He had a great outlook on life. You could tell the man loved life," said Denise Carroll, owner of Indulgence Ladies Boutique in Wylie.

The Tibbals were married for 65 years. Children, giving and generosity filled those years. Harry especially enjoyed the FFA Livestock show and supported many of those children over the years. Red Byboth remembers Harry, ever ready with a bid at the local FFA auctions, when the kids sold their livestock. "Harry delighted in either buying the animals or helping to get the bids higher - whatever it took to benefit the kids".

Another project benefiting children that Mr. and Mrs. Tibbals supported was Pirate Cove Playground in Founders Park. Anne Hiney, Blackland Prairie Playground Foundation president, recalls Mr. Tibbals expressing interest in the project at a chamber business card exchange: "The playground project sponsored the exchange that day, and afterward Mr. Tibbals came over and wanted to know more about what we were doing. He shared our vision and the Tibbals became our biggest supporters. His grandchildren love playing at the "castle" park. Their generosity helped make the playground dream a reality."



In 2002, the Tibbals became Founding Members of the newly organized Wylie Education Foundation with an endowment of \$45,000.00. In 2005, not only did they sponsor the 3rd Annual Boots and BBQ Gala, but gave an additional sum to bring their total endowment to \$100,000.00.

Betty Stephens remembers the work required to start the Foundation, and of course Harry and Retha were there. "Getting the foundation off the ground was just plain hard work. Much was required – both physically and financially – from all the steering committee members. Harry never backed away from any of it. From setting up and tearing down for our special events, attending many, many meetings, and making phone calls and personal visits to potential donors - there was nothing he wouldn't and didn't do. When the foundation finally became official and was successful enough to present its first grants to educators. I know there was no one prouder than Harry.'

The first recipients of the grants had quite a surprise. According to Mrs. Stephens, "I remember the day the board presented its first grants. It was during the Christmas season. Our directors boarded a school bus adorned with foundation banners (which Harry had put in place) and set out to deliver our big checks, balloons, and flowers to teachers on numerous campuses. We had decided to honor the season by making our entrances singing Christmas carols, jingling bells, and wearing various types of holiday headbands. Harry chose to wear blinking reindeer antlers. Talk about making an entrance!"



active in promoting edu-cation in Wylie. In 2004, they were honored for their efforts with the opening of the Harry and Retha **Tibbals Elementary School** in Murphy.

"Mr. Tibbals was a guiet, resourceful man. We enjoyed having him at the Wylie 2000+ meetings. He was always full of information. He loved life and helping other people," said Warner and Gerri Washington. "He opened his property near downtown for the supplies for Katrina victims and sent in some supplies himself. He was a supporter of education and one of the greatest things the school board did was to name a school after him and his wife, Retha: Tibbals Elementary. He enjoyed visiting the school and talking to the young students."

Dr. Draper put it very well when he said of Harry, "His homegoing left a void that will take many men to fill. He treated people with respect and dignity. For example, in the hospital, he thanked his nurse and kissed her hand. I'll bet she never had someone do that! Even when his days were limited and he was suffering a great deal, he still remembered the nurse, regardless of his situation in life," said Dr. Draper

This years' Wylie Education foundation slogan is "Wild About Wylie". Fittingly, Harry and Retha Tibbals were wild about Wylie, and Wylie certainly was wild about Harry! .

All photos courtesy of Mrs. Retha Tibbals

Wylie's New High School

Building for the future

by Susan Dacus of Wylie

The Wylie Independent School District recently reached a landmark by enrolling its 10,000th student. August 27, 2007 will be another memorable day when Wylie East High School opens its doors to become the second high school campus in the system. It will begin a new era for Wylie ISD, its students and the community. During its first year in operation, Wylie East, located at 3000 Stone Road, will be home to all of the district's 800 to 850 freshmen students.

According to Mike Williams, principal, the school will offer a full range of academic, athletic and extra curricular opportunities for students including theater arts, choir and band. "Whether drill team, cheerleading or volleyball, our school will offer the same programs that freshmen have always had at Wylie High School," he said. "However our students will be performing as the Raiders with new school colors of royal blue, navy and silver."

The enrollment process for Wylie East will begin in late January and early February through the junior high schools. Students will learn about course selections prior to





actually registering for classes. Mr. Williams will also begin holding parent meetings to discuss ideas and issues about the new school. "We want to know what a Wylie East student is like, and what he or she needs in order to be successful here," Mr. Williams said. "This will also be the time to begin organizing the school's PTA group and other booster organizations."

The principal plans to begin hiring staff in late February and early March to make the many preparations that are necessary before the beginning of the new year. The school's web site is up, and he will be posting more information as time goes by. He will also be sending letters to incoming students about

such things as transportation, with the welcome news that all students will be bus eligible. An August orientation or welcome day will be planned for the freshmen and their parents to let them tour the school and meet staff members.

The campus will include baseball and softball fields, tennis courts, practice fields for football and soccer and a small stadium for junior varsity sports events. The core areas of the campus are being constructed for the eventual



2,400 students who will attend although what is being completed now will house 1,160 students. The auditorium and stage provide seating for 1,000 to 1,100 for fine arts presentations. The design of the building is spacious with hallways that can accommodate large numbers of students under one roof. "It is a beau-

tiful site on a hill overlooking a valley," said Mr. Williams. "The cafeteria is completely glass on the East and provides a wonderful view of Lavon. I think our students will love it." •

Mike Williams, principal at Wylie East High School, has been with the school district since 1998, most recently as the principal of Burnett Junior High School. During his tenure with the district he has also served as principal for the opening of Davis Intermediate, Burnett assistant principal, high school economics teacher and girls basketball coach. A native of Lufkin, He holds graduate and undergraduate

degrees from Texas A&M University-Commerce and Stephen F. Austin State University, respectively. He and his wife, Myra, have two daughters.



Photos courtesy of WISD.

Success Is Achieved Through Strong Partnerships...



Committed To The Same Goal.

Wylie, Texas

From Sheep to Shopping!

urphy was once counting sheep as a sleepy little town. Cotton may have been king, but Murphy's roots are in wool. The earliest settler, lured by land grants, was a sheepherder named Comfort McMillan. He came to the area in 1846 and opened the first business in the area 10 years later. McMillan raised sheep whose wool was used for clothing. Of course Murphy did not become famous for its sheep, or much else to be honest, except maybe for its resilience.

Murphy

Murphy was originally named after Mr. McMillan's old hometown: New Decatur. The name was then changed to Maxwell Branch to honor two brothers who were pioneers in the area. But that

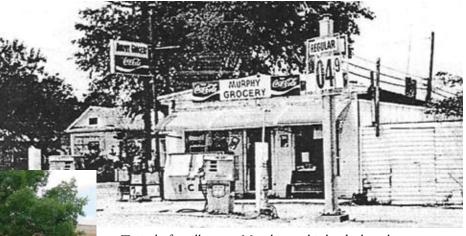
wouldn't last either. Other folks in the same area east of Plano left a more lasting impression on the map, namely Sam J. Parker and William Sachse. Murphy finally got its permanent name in 1888 from William Murphy, who generously donated the right of way used to build a railroad line through the center of what would become the "town."

Then things took off. According to Beb Fulkerson's 100-year History of Wylie, in its



hey-day in the late 19th and early 20th century, the town boasted three cotton gins, a barbershop, grocery stores, a drug store and a post office, which the town struggled to keep and ultimately lost in the early 1950s. That's also when the Murphy School, which went all the way through 10th grade, was folded into the Plano school district. Students were also given the choice back then to go to Wylie schools, if they wanted to. Today, the town is split along Maxwell Creek Road, with students on the west side attending Plano schools and the east side attending Wylie schools.

In November 2003, Murphy Middle School was officially dedicated practically in the shadow of the recently christened Tom Kimbrough Stadium. Both buildings are symbolic of the Plano school district's response to the fast growth in Murphy. The new school is dedicated in the name of the city, a worthwhile gesture meant to honor Murphy's past and to foster community spirit. With a new school named for Murphy, it is an appropriate time for people to take stock of the town's humble roots and its struggles.



Typical of small towns, Murphy was hit hard when the cotton market suffered during the Great Depression. The effects would last for decades, as more people moved away to the growing and more stable cities in the area. Population hit a low in the 1960s. In 1961, the population was 135; in 1970, it was 136. The town was barely a town, except for the signature Murphy Grocery at the corner of Murphy Road and FM544.

But now that store has made way for a wider Murphy Road (and an Albertson's), leaving the building that houses the First Baptist Church of Murphy and the old school building as the town's main landmarks. The future of the old schoolhouse is uncertain, but the church, originally home to Murphy Baptist Church, is thriving, as is everything else in Murphy. Perhaps its most dynamic historical period is starting right now. The town's population, at about 14,000, has tripled since the 2000 census. With the expansion of the George Bush Turnpike, people are starting to notice Murphy on the map. Homes are being built at the rate of almost two a day. Adding to this growth, the Murphy City Council recently approved preliminary concept plans for the Murphy Marketplace. The Marketplace will contain 500,000 square feet of retail space, including shops and restaurants. The site will also include park space and walking trails. The location of the proposed Marketplace is on the Northeast corner of FM 544 and Murphy Rd. Construction is set to begin early this year.



The town's modern-day motto, "the best of country living," holds true to its roots. But it's mostly a reference to oversized lots that give its growing suburbs room to breathe. You're just not very likely these days in Murphy to stumble upon any sheepherders. •



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The Month After Christmas...

'Twas the month after Christmas, and all through the house Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse. The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd taste At the holiday parties had gone to my waist. When I got on the scales there arose such a number! When I walked to the store (less a walk than a lumber). I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared; The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared, The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese







And the way I'd never said, "No thank you, please." As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt And prepared once again to do battle with dirt---I said to myself, as I only can "You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!" So--away with the last of the sour cream dip, Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip Every last bit of food that I like must be banished "Till all the additional ounces have vanished. I won't have a cookie--not even a lick. I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick. I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie, I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry. I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore---But isn't that what January is for? Unable to giggle, no longer a riot. Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!

~Author Unknown

Extreme Resolution - Organization!

Get started in your garage

by Tonia Tomlin of Plano

ow many of us dread the holiday season because of what it means to our garage? Halloween, followed immediately by Thanksgiving then Christmas, can often mean moving boxes non-stop from storage to active status. And usually, what suffers the most as a result is the garage.

Attic to garage, garage to house, house back to garage, maybe someday making it back to the attic – it can be an endless cycle. And if the boxes aren't properly labeled, you may be bringing down what you think is a box of Christmas ornaments, only to discover it is a punch bowl!

Rather than looking at this as a time of dread, we should see this as a time of golden opportunity. After all, what follows Christmas? New Years! A great resolution to make is to organize that garage. There is no better time to organize the entire space than when decorations need to be stored for the year.

Your Action Plan

First, don't look at the garage as a whole entity; you can get overwhelmed easily. Pick one specific area where you would like to start. Then work clockwise to keep yourself on track. Creating a plan of action before you start in the garage is a necessity because of the project's size.

The next step is to sort through all of your garage items. Throw away broken items that simply take up space. If you haven't repaired them yet, you probably won't. With decorations, if you haven't used them for a few years, you likely won't use them again. Moving them up and down every year is just a waste of time and energy.

Then, make a donation bag for items you haven't used for at least a year. It is a great idea to help others who might need what you no longer love or want. Several organizations will take your donations. Be sure to consider what items you are donating because some groups have specific needs for such things as batteries, cell phones, blankets, towels, bicycles, and clothing.

The final step requires arranging the items by category, grouping like items. By categorizing, it is easier to decide what organizing systems will be the most effective. After the sorting and purging process is complete, then you can move on to painting and cleaning the area.

Seasonal Decorations

Seasonal items should be stored together. If holiday decorations are stored in both the attic

and garage, decide which location is the best for all of them. It is much easier to store like items together, so when you need them you can find them. After all, the goal is to have a place for everything!

Sports Equipment

Take the time to examine each sports item. Ask yourself how long it's been since you've used that basketball or ping pong table. Once again, donate the items you haven't used in the past year (do you see a pattern?). If it's broken, trash it. For the items you decide to keep, make sure they are clean and repaired before storing them. Storage of sporting equipment can be done in two different ways: current season storage; or year-round storage. Either system will allow you to easily locate the equipment when you need it. Always label your sports gear, so putting it back will be easy for the entire family. Teaching children simple organization techniques at an early age is a great idea.

Gardening Supplies

If you hire a lawn service, consider getting rid of your yard equipment. Of course, keep your tools if you enjoy gardening, but if you are not using them, donate those items. Sort and categorize, then place items where you have easy assess to those tools you use on a regular basis.

Tool Time

Organize your miscellaneous tools by different uses. Finding the appropriate containers will be easy when you have the tools sorted out. Pegboards with a shelf underneath are great for these items. Clearly labeling contain-





ers is helpful when you need to quickly locate an item.

Combustibles

What should you do with gasoline or charcoal lighter fluid? Store all gasoline and other flammable fluid in a dry, cool place. Never just throw away or pour out gasoline, paint, or

other toxic waste substances. Contact your local waste disposal company to find locations for proper disposal. If you don't want to call to dispose of these items, give them to someone who can use them.

Garage Organizational Systems

What type of organizational system should you consider? I suggest that you research and study at least three different types. The amount of garage equipment you have plays a big factor on the system you choose. Wallmounted systems for bikes and ladders are a great alternative, leaving the garage floor space open. Be sure to pick the system that best fits your needs and is functional for your lifestyle.

Storage Options

Occasionally, we have more things than we have space. If after you have sorted, purged and organized you still have items that need to be stored, consider renting a space at a local storage facility. By moving a few belongings you only use on rare occasions out of the garage you open up room for things that you use more often.

Protect Your Investments

Storing, cleaning and repairing the expensive equipment warehoused in the garage will help save you money. And just think, if you containerize properly, you will save even more by not buying items you "thought" you needed. With good organization, you can get right to work! •

> Tonia Tomlin is a Professional Organizer www.sortedout.biz





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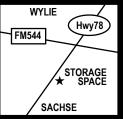
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E-Mail Etiquette

Things to consider before you hit send

by Jeff Ellis of Wylie

f you have ever sent an e-mail, this is an article you must read. Really, for the sake of our e-mail sanity, please read it! Let me start off by saying that everyone will have broken at least a few of the rules (including me), so relax, read, and let's make e-mail just a little more pleasant to receive every day :-)

E-mail has become, and will continue to be, integral to businesses as more and more people use it for their primary means of communication. Just as we answer the phone in a certain way and conduct our conversations civilly – at least most of the time – e-mail correspondence requires an equal amount of attention in how we present ourselves to customers. I've put together a few of the do's and don'ts when it comes to writing and replying to e-mails. If you are a walking e-mail etiquette faux pas, take heart, there are plenty of others out there to keep you company.

Don't Forward Frivolous E-Mails

We all love a good joke, but honestly, there are millions of great jokes floating around the Internet. Unless you KNOW that the people you are sending jokes to like to receive them, don't do it. How do you know? The easiest way is to simply ask. Another way to tell is whether they send you jokes back. If you're a sender and never a receiver, try to cut back – I know it's like caffeine in the morning, but give it a shot.

Don't "Reply To All"

When replying to a group e-mail, does everyone on the e-mail list need to get your reply, or was it just intended for the original sender? Think for a minute and just choose the "Reply" button unless it is truly a reply that everyone needs to see.

Don't USE ALL CAPS

Using all caps is the e-mail equivalent of shouting. No one likes being YELLED AT! – see what I mean?

Don't Send an E-mail Unless You Want the World to See It

It never ceases to amaze me how many people actually go to jail because of an evidence trail found in their e-mails. Now, none of us are blackmailing our partners, but just remember – e-mails are easy pickings for the nosy.



Don't Reply When Angry

Take a few minutes, or hours, to cool off. You'll be glad you did.

Don't Send Large Attachments

This one might require just a little bit of technical mumbo-jumbo, but suffice it to say, be careful when attaching documents or images to your e-mail. Even your mother won't find those photos so cute if it ties up her e-mail, and possibly phone line, for two hours while it downloads. Now the Stuff You Should Do ...

Do Always Include a Signature Line

Set your e-mail program up to automatically add at least your full name and telephone number at the end of every e-mail.

Do Use Proper Spelling and Punctuation

E-mail is not as informal as everyone assumes. If you are sending a business email, write it with a level of formality that shows respect for the person who will be receiving it.

Do Use a Good Subject Line

Make a good summary of your e-mail in the subject line. Not only does it give people an idea of what your e-mail is about, it makes it easier to find when the recipient needs to refer back to it.

Do Re-read Your E-mail Before Sending

It's better to catch any mistakes before it is sent.

Do Keep it Short

Enough Said.

Do Use the Bcc: Line

When sending an e-mail to a group of people, consider using the bcc: line instead of the cc: line. Using the bcc line hides everyone's e-mail address from the other recipients so you don't divulge your mailing list or break any of your privacy rules in the process.

Now, following these rules won't make you an e-mail super hero (and who would want to be one, anyway), but it might just keep you off everyone's blacklist and impress your friends and customers to boot. •

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How Much Exercise is Enough?

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Weight loss is "simply" a math problem

by Brad Musser, M.D. of Richardson Regional Medical Center

ou are not alone if your New Year's resolutions include a goal to increase exercise during 2007. The problem is, many Americans don't know how much of an impact an exercise program will make on their overall health. The dreams of burn-

ing calories and shedding pounds can sometimes fade quickly without a proper understanding of the effects of exercise.

A workout program is a key

component of any plan to reduce weight. Adding even small amounts of exercise to

your daily routine adds to the weight loss benefits as well as improving cardiovascular health. The basics of weight loss, although critically important, are very often overlooked. Bottom line, weight loss is a 'simple' math problem:

Calories Consumed - Calories Burned = Change in Weight

It takes a deficit of 3500 calories to lose one pound of fat. A reasonable and healthy rate of weight loss is about 1 pound a week. So, to lose one pound per week, you would have to

burn 500 calories more than you consume each day (500 calories x 7 days = 3500 calories = 1 lb.) By making that small change, a person could lose about 25 pounds in just six short months.

For more information visit:

Calorie Burning Chart http://www.nutristrategy.com/activitylist4.htm **Calorie Burning Calculator** http://www.healthstatus.com/calculate/cbc

Knowing the number of calories involved in weight loss can help you set a realistic goal. To achieve your goal, you also need to know how many calories you burn during certain activities. The amount of calories burned depends on your body weight.

A 190-pound person will burn more calories than **Calories Consumed** a 130-pound person who does the same activity. For instance, that same 130-**Calories Burned** pound person will burn approximately 295 calories during one hour of low-**Change in Weight** impact aerobics, while the

about 430 calories. For a complete calorie-



190-pound person will burn burning chart, trying searching for "calories burned" on the Internet. An extensive list is available at www.nutristrategy. com/activitylist4. htm, and a useful calculator can be found at www.healthstatus. com/calculate/cbc.

> It should be made clear that any exercise program can be rendered ineffec-

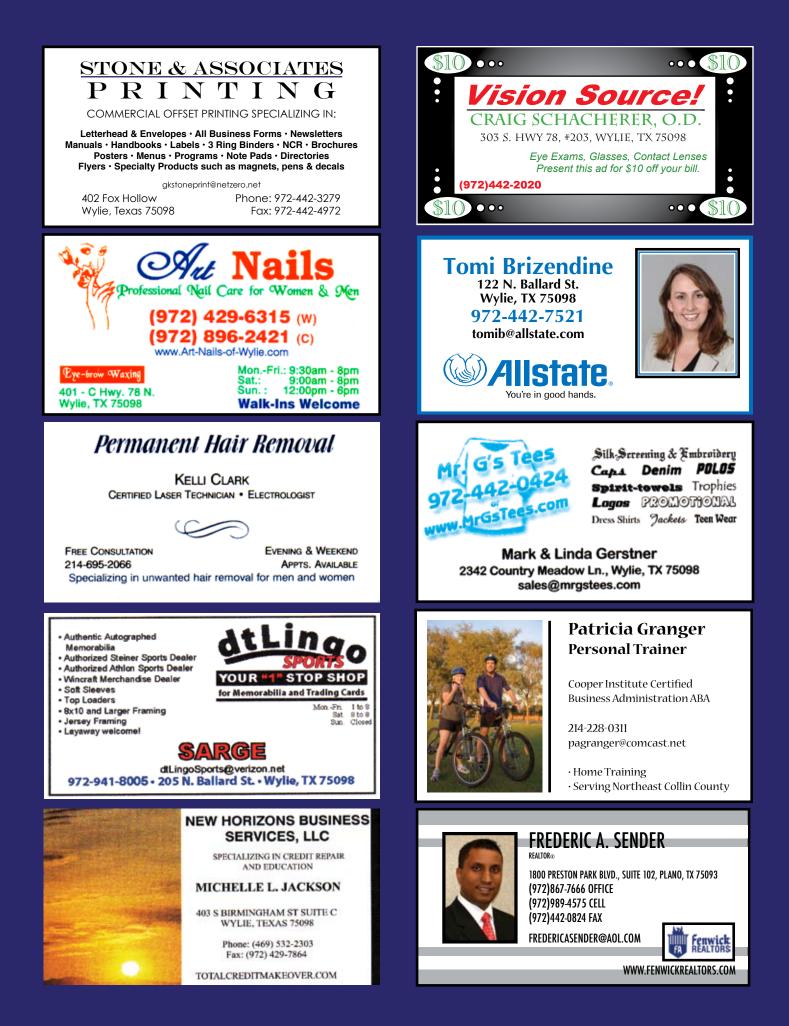
tive without attention to your food intake. Obviously, it won't matter how many calories you burn with a rigorous workout schedule if you end up consuming just as many with your diet. Use the weight loss formula to help you plan effectively. Know what is being taken in, be consistent, and your goals will be achieved. Best of luck with those New Year's resolutions. •

The following brief list gives you an idea of how many calories you can burn in an hour engaging in that activity. It is based on the activity of a 150 pound woman. If you are male or weigh more than 150 pounds you will burn more calories per activity.

Cooking (moderate effort)	110
Driving	110
Eating	85
Gardening (general)	320
Housekeeping (moderate)	160
Lawn mowing (push type mower)	400
Playing in the pool with kids	270
Raking leaves	290
Shopping (mall or street shops)	180
Vacuuming	180
Window washing	180
Jogging (5 mph)	500
Power walking	600
Rollerblading	420
Running (10 min. mile pace)	850
Running (11:30 min. mile pace)	700
Sit-ups (vigorous)	400
Walking (3 mph)	300
Walking (4.5-5 mph)	350-400
Frisbee (moderate play)	200
Hiking (moderate effort)	400
Baseball (moderate play)	200
Basketball (1/2 court, mod. play)	400
Football (mod. play - full field)	400
Golf with cart	180
Golf without cart	240
Soccer (moderate play - full field)	400
Softball (moderate play level)	200
Tennis (moderate effort - singles)	450
Volleyball (moderate effort)	450

To recalculate for your own weight: Take the above figure, divide by 60 minutes, then divide by 150 pounds. The result should be multiplied by your own weight and multiplied again by the number of minutes you engage in the activity. This will give you an approximate calculation of your calorie burn.

A more extensive list of activity calorie burn by weight is available at www.nutristrategy. com/activitylist4.htm.



If you only keep adding little by little, it will soon become a big heap. – Hesiod, (Greek Poet)

New Year's Financial Resolution

Make an impact on your future

from Jal Dennis and Edward Jones Investments

nce again, it's time to make New Year's resolutions. If you can succeed in your efforts to exercise more, travel, learn a new language or any of the other worthy goals you might have, you can expand your horizons and enjoy a better quality of life. But if you want to make an even bigger impact on your future, you may want to make and keep - financial resolutions for the coming year.

As with all resolutions, the financial ones are easier to keep if they don't force you to drastically change your lifestyle. So, with that in mind, here are a few attainable financial resolutions to consider for 2007:

Increase your retirement plan contributions.

If your salary goes up this year, increase the percentage of your earnings that you defer into your 401(k) plan (or your 403(b), if you work for a non-profit agency, or 457(b) if you work for a state, county, city or other governmental agency). With taxdeferred growth, pre-tax contributions and a variety of investment choices, these plans are great retirement savings vehicles. Plus, since the money is taken out before it even reaches your check, you won't really "miss" your increased payments. And in 2007, the contribution limit for these plans has increased to \$15,500. (If you're 50 or older, you can contribute an additional \$5,000.)

"Max out" on your IRA.

In 2007, you can put up to \$4,000 into a traditional or Roth IRA, or \$5,000 if you are 50 or older. If you cannot come up with

the maximum amount at once, try dividing your IRA contributions into 12 equal monthly payments and have the money



taken automatically from a checking or savings account.

Build adequate cash reserves.

Try to build a sufficient cash cushion about six to 12 months' worth of living expenses - to handle any unexpected financial needs, such as a major car repair or an expensive new appliance. By building an emergency fund, you won't need to tap into your investments. And by giving your investments the potential to grow as long as

possible, you'll accelerate your chances for progress toward your long-term financial goals.

Review your investment portfolio.

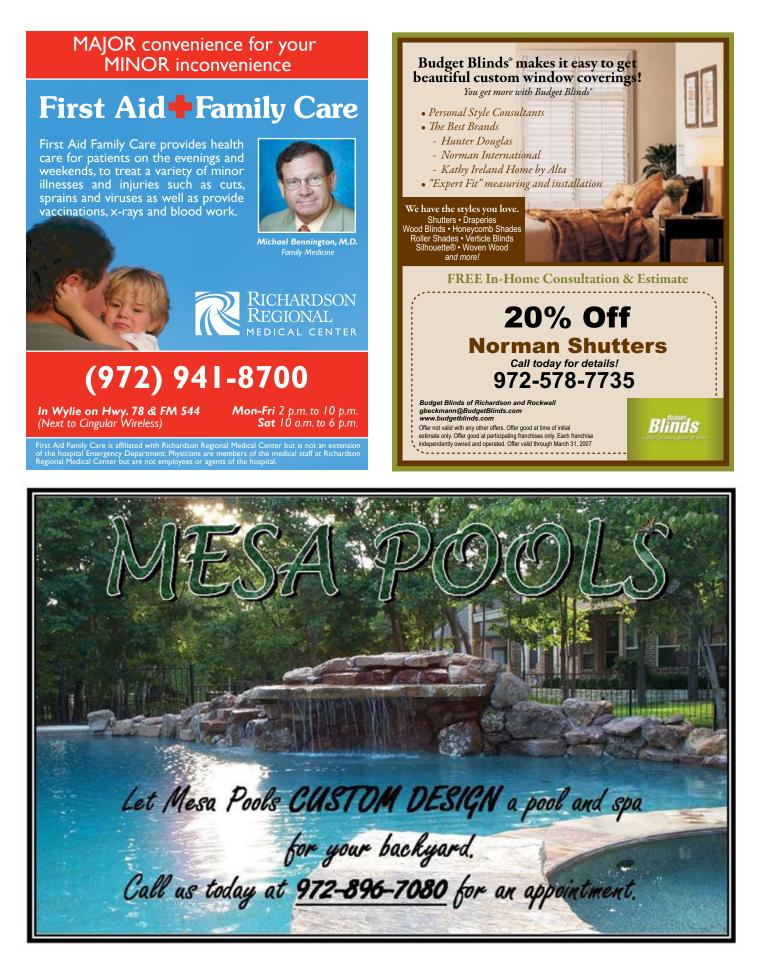
It's a good idea to review your investment portfolio at least once a year. Over the course of 12 months, your life can change in many ways; e.g., new spouse, new house, new child, new job, etc. And if your life changes significantly, your investment goals may also change. But even if your circumstances haven't changed much in a year, you should review your holdings to make sure your investment mix reflects your individual risk tolerance, time horizon and longterm objectives. A financial professional can help you review your investments to make sure you are still on track.

Don't take a "time out" from investing.

In every year, you can find any number of events - war, political turmoil, natural disasters, market volatility, etc. - that might motivate you to "take a break" from investing. But the most successful investors keep on investing, no matter

how gloomy the news may be. So, in 2007, look beyond the headlines. Instead, focus on quality investments and your longterm investment strategies.

If you can achieve these New Year's resolutions, you'll go a long way toward potentially improving your financial situation in 2007 - and beyond. •



Local Chambers Kick Off the New Year

Upcoming events to look forward to

urphy's Chamber of Commerce holds a once-a-month Lunch Time Speaker Series at the Woodbridge Golf Club in Wylie. Speakers are topical and educational, with a focus on improving any and all aspects of operating a business in and around Murphy. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. @ \$10.00 per person. You do not have to be a Chamber member to attend, but reservations are requested.

January 16, 2007

Annual Awards Banquet

At our January luncheon we will be announcing the 2006 Business of the Year, Ambassador of the Year and Officer/ Director of the Year.

February 20, 2007

Lori Darley - Life Coach



Lori Darley is a Certified Somatic Coach and Associate for the Strozzi Institute, where she received her certification. Over the last 25 years, she has trained in a

variety of backgrounds, developing specialized training techniques to support her clients in reaching peak performance through dynamic communication, conflict resolution and leadership skills. Lori founded The Transitions Coach in 1998 and has coached organizations from multi-national corporations, such as Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad and Ferro Chemical, to entrepreneurial ventures and individuals in nonprofits, manufacturing, financial services, management consulting, commercial real estate and the arts. Lori received her coach training from David Zelman, founder of the Transitions Institute, where she also serves as faculty. She is a member of the International Association of Coaches. She served as Artistic Director for a professional contemporary dance company, performing works by internationally renowned choreographers. She received both her BFA in dance and her MFA in Choreographic Theory and Practice from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. For the last 10 years, Lori has been involved with Social Venture Network, a business community committed to creating a just and sustainable world through economically, environmentally and socially just business practices.

www.murphychamber.org

achse's Chamber of Commerce has announced February 24, 2007 as the date for the 22nd Annual Awards Banquet. The theme for this year's black tie gala is "On Safari" and will be held in the grand ballroom of the Renaissance Richardson Hotel.

The banquet traditionally celebrates the Chamber's success of the past year. The festivities will feature Ambassador and Teacher of the Year awards, entertainment, a live auction, raffles and introductions of past and current board of directors and dignitaries. A portion of the proceeds from the event is designated for the chamber's high school scholarship program.

The gala is chaired by Patty Montagno of The Sachse News. The Live Auction Chairman is Stephen Stanley of Stanley Realty. Sponsorship and Teacher of the Year Committee Chairman is Anita Collins.

Various sponsorship levels are available. For information call the Sachse Chamber of Commerce office at 972-496-1212. •

www.sachsechamber.com

While's Chamber of Commerce invites you to pull out those flapper dresses and zoot suits, as they present their Annual Awards Banquet - Roarin' Twenties style on January 20th at 6:30 PM at Southfork Ranch. Each year, at the Chamber's Annual Awards Banquet, the Chamber recognizes businesses and community leaders for their tireless work throughout the year, and partners with WISD to recognize outstanding teachers. Honorees for the evening include WISD Teacher of the Year, Citizen of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Business of the Year and many, many more.

The theme for the evening will be Roarin' Twenties and period dress is welcome, but "After 5" attire is also appropriate. In addition to the evening's awards, there will be a raffle for prizes ranging from Mavericks/ Stars tickets to local trips, as well as the always popular Live Auction, which will take place for those who love the bidding competition.

Tickets for the evening are \$50 per person or you can get a table for 10 for \$450. Everyone attending receives 5 raffle tickets to get in on the chances to win and there will be more available for sale during the evening. So, dust off your Charleston and Lindy and make plans to celebrate the new year with the Wylie Chamber of Commerce on January 20th.

There are sponsor opportunities still available. Contact the Wylie Chamber of Commerce with questions or to get more details at 972-442-2804. •

www.wyliechamber.org

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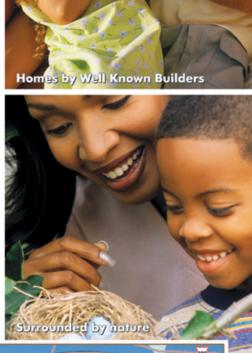


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