



# The Connection

*Happy New Year!*  
*Wylie • Sachse • Murphy Community Magazine*

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*The Connection*  
Wylie • Sachse • Murphy Community Magazine

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*Did we make a mistake? Let us know so we can correct it next issue.*

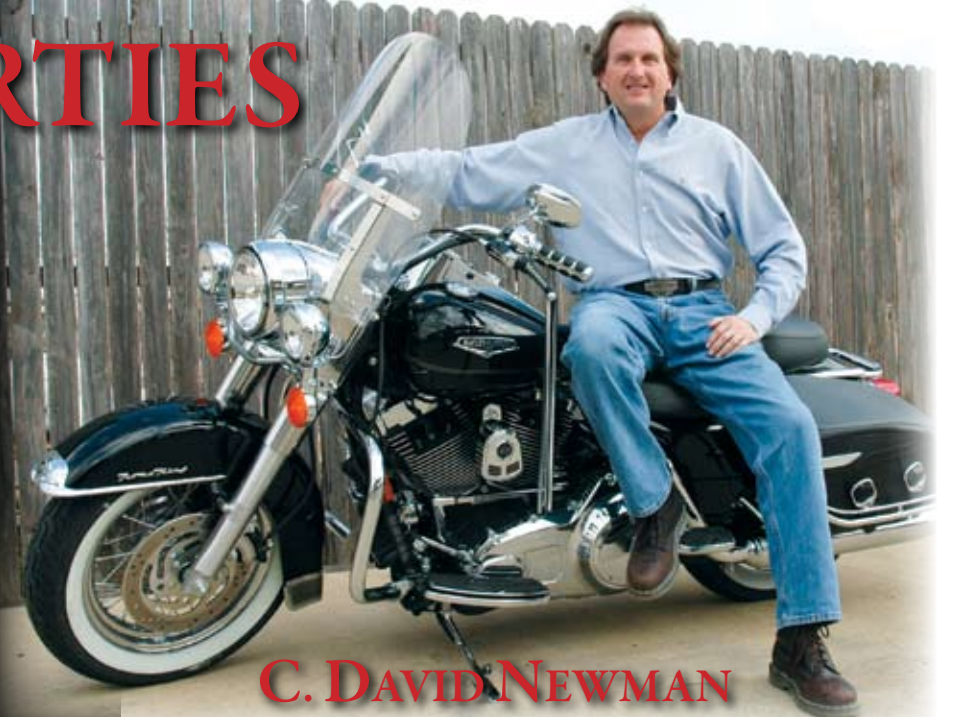
Just for fun, find the butterfly! Last issue it was hidden in two places! On the cover and in the Goodfellas Pizza ad.



Garden statue in the snow.

Photo by Anne Hiney

# PRESCOURT PROPERTIES



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**Warehouse Space**  
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**13 UNITS AVAILABLE**

As a local business owner with a long term vision for Sachse's potential growth, David Newman decided to purchase and develop commercial property located on Hwy 78. Prior to becoming a commercial developer, Mr. Newman spent 10 years specializing in the rebranding of gas stations for major oil companies. After relocating his former company to it's current location, David formed his real estate investing company, Prescourt Properties, in 2003.

His first phase of development, a 1.25 acre portion of a seven acre property, is nearing completion and is available for lease. Building one is ideally suited for Medical, Professional, Office and Retail use. Building two is geared toward Offices with Warehouse Space, and features Overhead Doors. As a current board member for the Sachse Chamber of Commerce and the President George Bush Turnpike TIF board David is looking forward to Sachse's continued growth and the future phases he has planned for development.

A resident of the Woodbridge community, David and his wife Sherry, along with their son Preston and daughter Courtne, moved to Sachse in 2001. The proud grandfather of two is a huge fan of the Dallas Mavericks, has a passion for fast cars, and loves to play golf. Look for him as you are out and about in the surrounding area, he enjoys riding his 2007 Harley Davidson Road King.



## January Events

**8th** The Murphy Police Department Citizens Police Academy. The class will last for ten weeks and will conclude on Tuesday, March 11. Plans are to have two more classes during the 2008 calendar year. Anyone with questions or interests in attending a future class can contact Officer Taylor, 972-468-4214 or btaylor@murphytx.org.

**10th** Wylie's Smith Public Library Teen Library Council Meeting, 5 - 6 p.m. 800 Thomas St., 972-442-7566.

**12th** Divorce Recovery Workshop for Children, a place for the children of divorce, ages 3 years to 12th grade, to find support with other children of divorce. The children will have a chance to talk about their feelings, situation and take part in some fun activities. There will also be activities for parents who want to talk as well. At Wylie United Methodist Church (1401 FM 1378 (at McMillen) from 9 a.m. to noon. For more info or to reserve a spot, contact Nancy at 214-474-1194 or mnspaulding@yahoo.com.

**12th** Trinity Trail Chili Trail Ride at the Brookdale Park trailhead in Lucas, weather permitting. Load up your horses and come ride at 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enjoy hot chili prepared by TTPA member Sharon Berryman. State law requires current negative Coggins Certificate for each horse. You can't enter the park without one. No dogs permitted on trail for safety reasons. For more info, see the TTPA's website at www.trinitytrailriders.org.

**14th** - Relay for Life Wylie will have their Kick-Off rally at American National Bank of Wylie on Hwy 78 in Wylie. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. and is open to everyone. For more info please contact Event Chair Candy Arrington at 972-442-4477 or wylieferl@yahoo.com. You can also log on to <http://events.cancer.org/rflwlyietx>.

**14th** Family Fun Night at Wylie's Smith Public Library: Children's Bedtime Stories 6:30 p.m. Come in your PJ's and bring your teddy bears to enjoy sleepy tales, flannel stories and songs. 800 Thomas St., 972-442-7566.

**17th** Wagging Tales: Beginning independent readers can practice their skills by reading to Abby the collie at Wylie's Smith Public Library, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Tickets are free, but required and limited. 800 Thomas St., 972-442-7566.

**19th** - Wylie Chamber of Commerce celebrates it's 30th Birthday during their Annual Awards Banquet. The event will be held at Southfork Ranch and begins at 6:30 p.m. Visit the Chamber web site [www.wyliechamber.org](http://www.wyliechamber.org) for all ticket and sponsorship details, or call the Chamber 972-442-2804 with questions or to make your reservation.

**12, 13, 19, 20, 26 and 27th** Sachse Sports Association sign-ups for the '08 baseball and softball seasons on Saturdays, Jan. 12, 19 and 26 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and on Sundays, Jan. 13, 20 and 27 from 2 - 4 p.m. at City Hall, 5560 Hwy 78. Boys and girls ages 3 - 14 may sign up for baseball and girls ages 5 - 19 may sign up for slow pitch softball. For more info visit [www.leaguelineup.com/sachse](http://www.leaguelineup.com/sachse) or [www.leaguelineup.com/sachsegirls](http://www.leaguelineup.com/sachsegirls).

**21st** Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday - A federal holiday observed on the third Monday in January that honors the late civil rights leader. It became a federal holiday in 1986.

**23rd** Mad Hatters Tea Party at 4 p.m. at the Sachse Public Library, 3815 Sachse Road, Building C. 972-530-8966.

**24th** Teen Acting/Improv Workshop with Beth Albright Miller at Wylie's Smith Public Library at 5 p.m., 800 Thomas Street, 972-442-7566.

**28th** Adults Fourth Monday Book Club (In the Name of Salomé by Julia Alvarez) 6:30 - 8 p.m. at Wylie's Smith Public Library, 800 Thomas Street, 972-442-7566.

**31st** Wylie's Smith Public Library Be-Tween Book & Movie Club from 6 - 7 p.m. We'll discuss C.S. Lewis' The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and enjoy scenes from the movie. Snacks are provided. 800 Thomas Street, 972-442-7566.

**31st** Property Taxes Due •

## February Events

**2nd** Ground Hog Day - Legend has it that if the groundhog sees his shadow, he'll return to his hole and winter will last another six weeks.

**4-9th** Wylie's Clean Up, Green Up at the Service Center, 949 Hensley Ln. [www.wylietexas.gov/Programs/clean.htm](http://www.wylietexas.gov/Programs/clean.htm) for specific info. 972-442-7588.

**5th** In preparation for Ash Wednesday, we will have a Community-Wide Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper from 5:30 - 8 p.m. Fat Tuesday was considered a time of reflection prior to Lent and a time to consume all dairy products before they spoiled. As legend states, this event reminded the townspeople to use up their perishable butter, eggs and lard before they spoiled. This dinner is being held in honor of that tradition at Wylie United Methodist Church, 1401 FM 1378 (at McMillen). For more info go to [www.wylieumc.org](http://www.wylieumc.org) or contact Courtney McCuiston at 972-442-5835.

**5th** Mardi Gras Party at 4 p.m., Sachse Public Library, 3815 Sachse Road, Building C., 972-530-8966.

**6th** Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, occurs forty-six days before Easter.

**7th** Wylie's Smith Public Library Teen Library Council Meeting, 5 - 6 p.m. 800 Thomas St., 972-442-7566.

**7th** Wagging Tales: Beginning independent readers can practice their skills by reading to Abby the collie at Wylie's Smith Public Library, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Tickets are free, but required and limited. 800 Thomas St., 972-442-7566.

**12th** Lincoln's Birthday - A holiday in a few states, this day was first formally observed in Washington, DC, in 1866, when both houses of Congress gathered for a memorial address in tribute to the assassinated president.

**14th** St. Valentine's Day - This holiday's roots are in an ancient Roman fertility festival. Circa 496, Pope Gelasius I recast this pagan festival as a Christian feast day in honor of St. Valentine. There are at least three different early saints by that name. How the day became associated with romance remains obscure, and is further clouded by various fanciful legends.

**14th** Chocolate Tasting Teen Event at Wylie's Smith Public Library, 5 - 6 p.m., 800 Thomas St., 972-442-7566.

**18th** Washington's Birthday or Presidents' Day - (The actual date of his birthday is Feb. 22.) A federal holiday observed the third Monday in February. It is a common misconception that the federal holiday was changed to Presidents' Day and now celebrates both Washington and Lincoln. Only Washington is commemorated by the federal holiday; 13 states, however, officially celebrate Presidents' Day.

**21st** Wagging Tales: Beginning independent readers can practice their skills by reading to Abby the collie at Wylie's Smith Public Library, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Tickets are free, but required and limited. 800 Thomas St., 972-442-7566.

**23rd** Sachse Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet at 6 p.m. at Southfork - Check with the Chamber at 972-496-1212 or [www.sachsechamber.com](http://www.sachsechamber.com) for more info.

**25th** Family Fun Night at Wylie's Smith Public Library - Rochelle Rabouin will be performing The Five Most Influential Female Song Stylists/Jazz Vocalists of Our Time at 6:30 p.m., 800 Thomas St., 972-442-7566.

**25th** Adults Fourth Monday Book Club (The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald) 7 - 8 p.m. at Wylie's Smith Public Library, 800 Thomas St., 972-442-7566.

**Tuesdays February 5 thru April 8** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free Income Tax Preparation Service provided by AARP at the Laurie Schwenk Senior Activity Center, 3815 Sachse Rd., Bldg. B. This is a free service for any wage earner, there are no income or age restrictions. Our doors open at 8 a.m. 972-495-6282. •

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972-442-8100 | 972-429-3000 | 972-442-7901 | 972-442-2804



## Local Organizations

**Dyslexia Advocates of Wylie** (formerly PIRATES Dyslexia) is a Parent Support Group for parents of dyslexic children that meets bi-monthly at 7 - 8 p.m. at McMillan Jr. High, 1050 Park Blvd., Wylie, TX, 75098. Go to [www.dyslexiaadvocatesofwylie.com](http://www.dyslexiaadvocatesofwylie.com) for dates and more info.

**Exchange Club of Murphy** is a volunteer service organization for people who want to serve their community, develop leadership skills and enjoy new friendships. Programs include: Child Abuse Prevention, Americanism, Community Service and Youth Activities. We meet the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of every month from noon to 1 p.m., Los Rios Country Club, Plano. Join us for lunch and see what you can do for your community. Contact Nathan Nakamura 972-424-0005.

**Exchange Club of Sachse/Wylie** is a group of men and women working to make America a better place to live through one national project, prevention of child abuse and other community service projects. Come have breakfast with us the first three Fridays of each month at Woodbridge Golf Club from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. For info, call Vicki Franzen, President, at 972-495-1764 or 214-914-4433.

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

**MOMS Club of Murphy/Sachse** is a non-profit support group for stay-at-home moms and their children. Activities include monthly meetings with guest speakers, play groups, park days, MOMS Night Out, field trips and more. We participate in service projects to benefit children in the community. Contact Kelly Criss, Membership VP, at 972-429-1890 or [crissx3@verizon.net](mailto:crissx3@verizon.net) for meeting times.

**Moms & More** All caretakers, whether you are a Mom, Dad, Aunt, Uncle, Grandparent or Nanny are welcome. We accept members from Wylie and the surrounding communities and have many activities for children and their caretakers. We meet the 1st Thursday of the month. Contact Membership Chair, Maya: 469-361-6848 for info. [www.wyliemomsandmore.org](http://www.wyliemomsandmore.org).

**MOPs** of Sachse/Wylie/Murphy - Mothers of Preschoolers meet at Park Lake Church in Sachse Texas on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Childcare is provided. To reserve your spot in childcare or for more info please contact Lavonne Hernandez at 972-575-8222 or [mops@parklakechurch.com](mailto:mops@parklakechurch.com).

**Sachse Historical Society** meets the 3rd Saturday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Sachse Historical Museum, 3033 6th St. Museum is open for visitors every 2nd & 4th Saturday from 1 - 4 p.m., every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and by appointment for visitors and tours, 972-495-1231.

**Sachse Lion's Club** meets the 3rd Monday of the month at Steak Kountry, 7010 Highway 78 at 6:30 p.m. We participate in fund raisers throughout the year that benefit several organizations including the Blind Leader Dog program and Air Challenge, a program that takes disabled children for airplane rides. We also support the Vision Impaired Olympics summer camp for kids. The Sachse Lions also assist with building Habitat for Humanity homes.

**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 info.

**Trinity Trail Preservation Association (TPA)** is an all-volunteer equestrian organization that maintains the 9-mile long trail on the Corps of Engineers land along Lavon Lake. TPA networks with other trail riders, sponsors trail rides and cookouts, hosts quarterly meetings with speakers on horse-related issues, holds family type activities such as scavenger hunts on horseback, fun poker rides and educational clinics. For info call Betty Van Houten at 214-864-4066, [www.trinitytrailriders.org](http://www.trinitytrailriders.org).

**Wylie Evening Lions Club** meets the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month at Steak Country in Sachse at 6:30 p.m. Contact Carl Bodine at 469-951-4344 for info.

**Wylie Friends of the Library** meets the 3rd Thursday of each month, 6 p.m. at the Rita and Truett Smith Public Library, 800 Thomas, in the Bluebonnet Room, 972-442-7566.

**Wylie Lions Club** meets the 2nd and 4th 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 the group for lunch. Call Don Ables for more info at 972-755-5959.

**Wylie Rotary Club** meets weekly on Thursday at 12 noon at Woodbridge Country Club. Contact Joe Helmberger at [joehelmberger@verizon.net](mailto:joehelmberger@verizon.net) for additional info. •

### Got something going on?

To submit your special event to the March/April community calendar send an e-mail to [theconnection.anne@mac.com](mailto:theconnection.anne@mac.com) no later than February 8th. 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!

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- Heel Pain/Spurs
- Infections
- Ingrown Toenails
- Injuries
- Limb Length Discrepancies
- Neuromas
- Neuropathy
- Plantar Fasciitis
- Poor Circulation
- Warts
- Wounds

## Resolve to Recycle In 2008

### Facts & Figures

In 1999, recycling and composting activities prevented about 64 million tons of material from ending up in landfills and incinerators. Today, this country recycles 32 percent of its waste, a rate that has almost doubled during the past 15 years.

While recycling has grown in general, recycling of specific materials has grown even more drastically: 50 percent of all paper, 34 percent of all plastic soft drink bottles, 45 percent of all aluminum beer and soft drink cans, 63 percent of all steel packaging, and 67 percent of all major appliances are now recycled.

Twenty years ago, only one curbside recycling program existed in the United States, which collected several materials at the curb. By 2005, almost 9,000 curbside programs had sprouted up across the nation. As of 2005, about 500 materials recovery facilities had been established to process the collected materials.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

### Aluminum

Recycled aluminum saves 95% energy vs. virgin aluminum; recycling of one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for 3 hours (Reynolds Metal Company)

Recycled aluminum reduces pollution by 95% (Reynolds Metal Co.)

4 lbs. of bauxite are saved for every pound of aluminum recycled (Reynolds Metal Co.)

Enough aluminum is thrown away to rebuild our commercial air fleet 4 times every year.

### Glass

Recycled glass saves 50% energy vs. virgin glass (Center for Ecological Technology)

Recycle one glass container & save enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for 4 hours (EPA)

Recycled glass generates 20% less air pollution and 50% less water pollution (NASA)

1 ton of glass made from 50% recycled materials saves 250 lbs. of mining waste (EPA)

Glass can be reused an infinite number of times; over 41 billion glass containers are made each year (EPA)

### Paper

Recycled paper saves 60% energy vs. virgin paper (Center for Ecological Technology)

Recycled paper generates 95% less air pollution: each ton saves 60 lbs. of air pollution (Center for Ecological Technology)

Recycling of each ton of paper saves 17 trees and 7,000 gallons of water (EPA)

Every year enough paper is thrown away to make a 12' wall from New York to California.

### Plastic

Plastic milk containers are now only half the weight that they were in 1960 (EPA)

If we recycled every plastic bottle we used, we would keep 2 billion tons of plastic out of landfills (Penn State)

According to the EPA, recycling a pound of PET saves approximately 12,000 BTU's.

We use enough plastic wrap to wrap all of Texas every year (EPA)

Source: University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Produced and maintained by the Office of Waste Management

### Close the Loop - Rebuy

When you buy a product made from recovered content, you also create a demand for recycled content goods. This helps ensure that similar products will continue to be created and won't end up in the landfill. You help "Close the Loop."



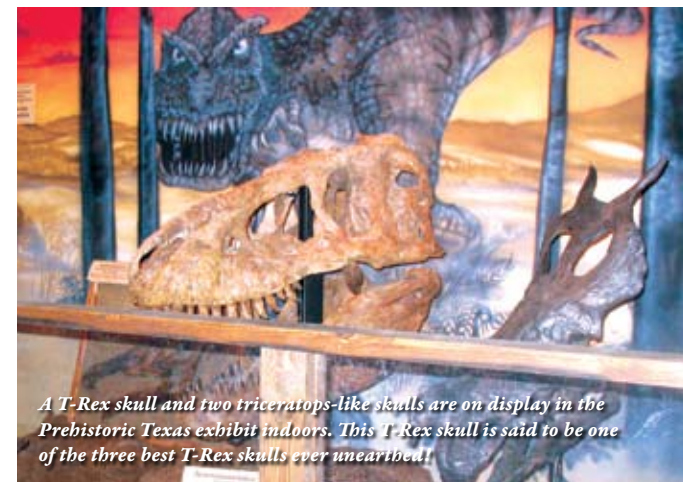
# DINOSAURS ALIVE!

## Education Made fun

Can education truly be fun? At the Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary it is! Kids and adults alike are having a memorable time at our Dinosaurs Alive! exhibit. In fact, they have so much fun they don't even realize the amount of dinosaur education they are retaining. This makes the concept of "not having truly learned something until you experience it" accurate.

They are life-size. They are animatronic. And they roar! The T-Rex, Triceratops & baby, Stegosaurus, Brachiosaurus, Dilophosaurus, Apatosaurus & baby, Pachycephalosaurus, Parasaurolophus & baby, Metricanthosaurus and two static baby dinosaurs that kids can climb on are situated along the Heard nature trails. What's more, kids can't resist the urge to be spit on by the Dilophosaurus! They line up in the hopes to get wet as the dinosaur randomly spits water. Each of the fourteen dinosaurs creates a unique educational experience along the trail.

Don't let a rainy day keep you away from the dinosaurs. Take a tour through early time starting from when life began to early sea life, the forests of the Carboniferous and continue through the wild dinosaurs and sea monsters of the Cretaceous by visiting the indoor exhibit, Prehistoric Texas. Be amazed at the 90% complete T-Rex



A T-Rex skull and two triceratops-like skulls are on display in the Prehistoric Texas exhibit indoors. This T-Rex skull is said to be one of the three best T-Rex skulls ever unearthed!

skull, said to be one of the three best T-Rex skulls ever unearthed. Stressing the Texas Cretaceous, this exhibit illustrates the diversity of fossils found in Texas and



The infamous T-Rex was the only dinosaur to return to the 2007 Dinosaurs Alive! exhibit. Visitors always enjoy experiencing the massive, 46-foot long T-Rex up-close and personal!

explains why we had mostly aquatic prehistoric life and few actual dinosaurs. Shark teeth, Texas echinoids, ammonites and a baby dinosaur skeleton as well as other fossils are featured. Kids also have the opportunity to walk through a Tylosaur cave and practice their science skills in the kid's activity room where they can learn about the fossilization process. The walls are also a site to see with a colorful mural of pre-historic dinosaurs and creatures painted by artists, Oksana Marchenko and Jane Burrell.

Visit the Heard Natural Science & Wildlife Sanctuary to get a taste of what life on earth was like millions of years ago. Thousands of visitors have enjoyed the Dinosaurs Alive! and Prehistoric Texas

A new dinosaur this year that many people recognize—the triceratops and triceratops baby make the first stop along the nature trail.



This beautiful mural painted by artists Oksana Marchenko and Jane Burrell features prehistoric dinosaurs, insects and other creatures. Kid's can point out the different creatures, learn about the fossilization process, color and do other fun activities in this room.

exhibits and we hope to create a fun, educational experience for many more. Hurry! The exhibit ends February 3rd.

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Dinosaurs Alive! is presented by the Bessie Heard Foundation. Other sponsors include Bank of America, Children's Medical Center Dallas, Dallas Morning News, Encore Wire Corporation, Evelyn's Professional Janitorial Services, Great Outdoors Subs, IESI, KLAK 97.5, Market Street, McKinney Community Development Corporation, NeighborsGo.com, Tucker David Foundation, and WFAA. •

**Dinosaur themed birthday parties and guided nature trails are available with reservations. Visit [heardmuseum.org](http://heardmuseum.org) or call 972.562.5566 for details.**



Johnathan Shroyer plays on one of two static dinosaurs that kids can climb on. The dinosaurs are placed at the beginning of the nature trail.



Kids gathered in groups in front of the Dilophosaurus dinosaur hoping to be spit on with water!

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All photos by Amber Kaiser, Heard Marketing & Communications Director



# A Multi-Talented Mustang

Sachse's Derek Douglas

by Scot Harrison - the Voice of the Wylie Pirates

It was another Texas high school football Friday night. The homecoming crowd packed the stands, the drill team and cheerleaders lined up at the exit of the inflatable football helmet as the Sachse Mustangs waited to take the field. Finally, the band broke into the fight song and out ran the Mustangs, whooping and hollering, fired up for the big game, nervous with anticipation.

But for one Mustang the anticipation was for more than the upcoming gridiron clash. He would not be lining up on the sideline for the singing of the Star Spangled Banner with the rest of his teammates, he would be on the field with the other members of the Sachse High School A Cappella Choir to sing bass in their rendition of our National Anthem.

Meet Derek Douglas, a 6-1, 210 pound junior defensive end, who can belt out a tune as well as he can belt an opposing quarterback.

While it isn't uncommon to see a football player on the field at halftime playing an instrument in the band, especially in smaller classifications, Derek says he has never seen a football player in uniform join the choir at a game. "I got to run out of the helmet wearing full pads and went out there on the field. Then I went over to the (A Cappella) group and we sang the National Anthem. A lot of people were smiling."

You might think that guys who play a rough and tumble sport like football wouldn't sing in a cappella choirs, but Derek says it's no big deal. "I had a couple of the guys give me some weird looks at first last year. This year I actually got some more of my friends to join."

Now those guys lead the rest of the team in singing the school song. "It's fun. At all the pep rallies we get the choir to sing the school song but now a few of the varsity players who are in the choir get up and walk over and sing. We kind of stand out."

Derek admits his mom, Jill, forced him to take choir his freshman year at SHS, "She took voice lessons when she was younger and piano, so she really enjoyed that. It kind of took on me and I enjoyed it a lot. Now I'm in two different varsity choirs."

Still, football is his first love. He began playing in the first grade and while the applause of an



Photo by Anna Hiney



Photos courtesy of Allsportspixs.com

appreciative crowd after a vocal performance is nice, getting a big hit in a varsity football game really gets Derek fired up, "If you make a big hit, like a sack or something, you got tons of people screaming. This year, a couple of games, I got a few sacks and it was a big deal, pretty cool."

Derek's football coach, Mark "Red" Behrens (get it?), says he thinks Derek can make a big impact next fall in his senior year, "Derek has a ton of positives as a student athlete. First, he has what I call 'high motor'. He is always going top speed. As a coach this is what you are always looking for in a football player first. He never takes a down or a play or a drill off."

Coach Behrens also likes what Derek represents off of the field, "His attitude is to try and make his teammates better at all times. He is a leader in the locker room and in the classroom. He has a great work ethic in everything he does."

Derek had an outstanding junior year earning Co-Defensive Lineman of the Year for Sachse High School and Honorable Mention 10-5A All-District Defensive End. Coach Behrens believes that if Derek can get bigger and stronger he has the potential to play at the next level.

Choir Director Joshua McGuire also has plans for the big player with the big voice, "He will be Prince Dauntless, one of the 5 male leads in the high school musical in February. He and I have started working on his solo stuff."

The Sachse High School Musical presentation of "Once Upon a Mattress" is set for February 8 and 9 at 7 p.m. in the SHS Auditorium. •

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# Historic Sites Close to Home

by Janet Doleh of Sachse

**D**id you know that in the Great State of Texas more than 13,000 official Texas Historical Markers have been erected? Thanks to the Texas Historical Commission, first established as the Texas State Historical Survey Committee in 1953, many important buildings, cemeteries, battle sites, archaeological finds and other sites have been noted and preserved. Official markers come in a variety of sizes and styles. They include plaques on buildings, grave markers, large Civil War centennial markers and other formats. You have undoubtedly seen some of them while driving the state's highways, but you can also find several close to home. Each one is important in our state's history.



**First Baptist Church of Murphy** - Back in 1900, Mrs. Charlie G. (May) Cockrell, a Murphy housewife, saw the need for another denomination besides Methodist in her little community. She organized a meeting and the Murphy Baptist Church was born. After Mrs. Louisa E. Brown donated a half-acre of land, the 34-member congregation built its church on what is now F.M. 544. Over the years the church expanded in membership and square foot-

age, growing in size to almost three hundred members in the 1920s. The church weathered the hard times of the Depression and World War II and purchased Army barracks to expand its room for Sunday School. During the 1950s, the congregation added a new parsonage and an educational building. By the 1970s, most of the members wanted to build a new church, so they relocated to South

Murphy Road. The other 35 members stayed in the old church and reorganized into the First Baptist Church of Murphy in 1979.

In 1982, the First Baptist Church of Murphy held a ceremony to dedicate a Texas Historical Marker for its congregation. That year more than 175 people celebrated the church's third annual homecoming. The church continues to be a vital part of the community. Many members are descendants of the original congregation. The oldest member, Inez Daniel, joined the church in 1935. She is 93 years old.

Today, more than 100 years after its beginnings, First Baptist Church of Murphy is planning a move to ten acres on North Murphy Road. The original building will be moved and renovated on a picturesque site complete with a creek and trees.

*Directions: First Baptist Church of Murphy is located at the southwest corner of F.M. 544 and Murphy Road.*

**Maxwell Cemetery in Murphy** - This three-acre cemetery, currently inactive, has had many names over the years: Maxwell-Decatur Cemetery, Decatur-Maxwell Cemetery, Murphy-Maxwell Cemetery and Murphy Cemetery. It was in use as early as 1853 and contains more than 300 graves. Sadly, more than 100 of them are for children. Life was hard for the early pioneers in this area but many of them stayed and received head-rights of 640 acres from the Peters Colony. They first called the area Decatur, then changed the name to Maxwell after the James W. Maxwell, Sr. family. When the railroad came through in 1888 it was built about a mile north of Maxwell



on William Murphy's property. The area then became known as Murphy.

The last known burial in Maxwell Cemetery took place in 1966. The cemetery fell into disrepair for several years until local citizen Bev Zavitz saw it and took an interest in preserving it. Today it is under the care of the Cemetery Association of Murphy, led by Brad Lapsley. If you visit you will see many interesting head-

stones, including some rare ones made of cast zinc.

In 2000, the Cemetery Association of Murphy, headed by Joy Gough, completed a historical marker application for the Maxwell Cemetery. The designation was approved in 2001. Mr. Lapsley noted that the Association is in the process of raising funds to purchase a Historic Texas Cemetery medallion. The cost of a marker designating the cemetery as a Historic Site is approximately \$1,000. Donations toward purchase of the marker are tax deductible and can be sent to:

*The Cemetery Association of Murphy  
c/o Brad Lapsley  
375 Willow Wood Street  
Murphy, TX 75094*

Anyone interested in joining the Cemetery Association of Murphy should contact Mr. Lapsley at 972-578-0825.

*Directions: From the junction of FM 544 and FM 2551, turn north on FM 2551 for half a mile. Turn right (east) on Tom Clavenger Road. Just before the road turns right (south) and becomes Old Maxwell look for a gravel road on the left. The cemetery is at the end of the gravel road.*

~ continued on next page

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## Wylie United Methodist Church -

The history of the Wylie United Methodist Church began in the 1850s with members of the Spurgin, Morris, Smith, and Hayes families holding services in Collin County homes. In the 1870s the congregation met in a one-room school, calling it Liberty Chapel. By the late 1890s the church had a new building named St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church South. Approximately 170 members attended at that time. Close by another congregation had formed in Nickleville (later known as Wylie). After meeting in the Lee schoolhouse for several years they built a white frame building that housed the church from 1887 until 1924. The church relocated to the corner of Jefferson and Jackson Streets in 1924 with over 100 members.

In 1946, the St. Paul Methodist congregation merged with the Wylie United Methodist congregation. The church served Wylie in many ways, from hosting town meetings and speeches from dignitaries, such as Sam Rayburn of the U.S. House of Representatives, to providing a teen center and day care.

In 1999, the church purchased 15 acres of land at the corner of McMillan and F.M. 1378, and in November 2001 construction began on the first of five planned buildings in the new church



complex. The first worship service was held in the new building on December 15, 2002. The bell from the old church was installed in 2005. You can see the historical marker at this new location.

Today, under the leadership of Senior Pastor Jack Wallace, the congregation numbers 712 and includes descendants of the original church founders. Lifelong member Julia Solla is a descendant of the Housewright family; and the oldest living member, Jimmie Feagin, also grew up in the church. Member John Scanlan used to farm the land the church is on.

*Directions: From FM 544, turn north on F.M. 1378 and drive 1-1/2 miles to the intersection of Country Club Rd. and McMillan. Wylie United Methodist Church is located at 1401 Country Club Drive.*

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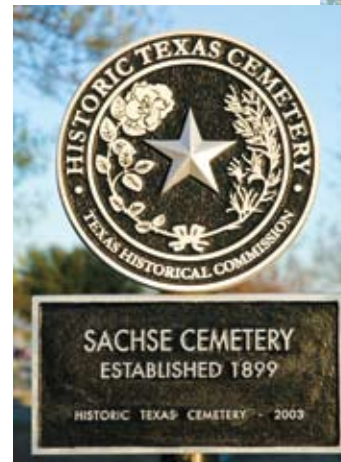
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**William Sachse Cemetery** - One of the most notable historic sites in our area is the Sachse Cemetery. It occupies land donated by city founder William Sachse, who gave acreage for the Christian Church and the cemetery. Well over 100 years old, it is still an active cemetery and recently expanded with the addition of 1.66 acres to its existing four acres. There were 498 graves as of December 2007. Close to the entrance you will see the official historic marker as well as markers for William Sachse, buried on December 23, 1899, and his wife, Martha Frost. Many city founders and their descendants are buried here, including some members of the Daniel Herring family. Sachse Cemetery Foundation President Joe Stone, a descendant of Daniel Herring, oversees the care and maintenance of the cemetery. The Sachse Cemetery was officially recognized as a Texas Historical Site in 2004.

*Directions: The Sachse Cemetery is located at Hwy 78 and Fifth Street, next to the Sachse Historical Society Museum. •*



Photos by Anne Hiney

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## Dual Immersion Language Teaching

Excuse me, ¿usted habla español?

by Susan Dacus and Marcia Coker of WISD

Speaking and writing a second language, being biliterate, has always been one hallmark of a well educated individual. In today's environment, the demand for bilingual employees in the workforce, has led school districts across Texas to integrate dual language education programs into their curriculum.

Wylie ISD is no exception. In the spring of 2007, more than 140 students qualified to participate in WISD's Dual Language Two-Way Immersion Program and started their journey toward biliteracy. Since the beginning of school last August, those students have made remarkable progress toward their goal.

At Tibbals Elementary, the selected kindergarten and first grade students receive "two-way total immersion" instruction in English and Spanish. It is known as "two-way" because most students are learning one of the languages for the first time and "immersion" because, during each day, students are completely immersed in the target language at that time. One day the students are taught and must answer, write and read in English, the next day it is in Spanish.

Dual language education is based on research that shows that students, especially those of elementary age, are not only capable of learning two languages at once, but excel under the conditions. Immersion programs have proven more effective for students who enter school speaking a language other than English for promoting growth in English and other academic areas. English-dominant students also benefit as it provides language enrichment without detracting from regular academic goals.

The curriculum for the dual language program aligns with the WISD's overall goals and objectives in English for all kindergarten and first graders. However, dual language students have the added goals of not only becoming bilingual, but biliterate. In addition, the program strives to build self esteem and sense of identity while teaching cross-cultural thoughtfulness and collective problem-solving.



Karina DeCardenas teaches the Spanish component for one of the first grade dual language classes.



Amy Brown teaches the English component.

Melinda Sarles, principal at Tibbals Elementary has witnessed first hand the impact dual language education has had on her students.

"Speaking and understanding Spanish or English is one thing, but to watch these students read and write in languages not of their own is truly amazing," comments Mrs. Sarles. She and assistant principal Megan Gist oversee the day to day operations at Tibbals Elementary.

Although the hard data won't be available until early 2008, early indicators show that the program is well received. Enthusiasm comes not only from the students but from the parents. Joelle Fox, whose son, J.R., is a student in one of the kindergarten units, is pleased that the opportunity for the dual language class is available to her child.

"I love the program. With the changing culture in Texas, I believe this program will give J.R. a head start towards attaining the education he will need to be successful in the future, said Mrs. Fox.

Because students currently receiving dual language instruction are enrolled in the program through sixth grade, it is conceivable they could be fluent in two languages by the time they reach seventh grade.

"It is our goal that J.R. be bilingual in Spanish and English by the time he reaches high school," adds Mrs. Fox. This would free him up academically to take a third language."

More students will have access to the program during the 2008-2009 school year when it expands to the second grade. Information for students wishing to begin the dual language sequence will be available in March, 2008. •

Photos Courtesy of WISD

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University of Virginia School of Medicine

### FELLOWSHIP:

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### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Assistant Professor – M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

### PERSONAL:

Dr. Bibawi enjoys spending time with his family, cooking and reading.

Dr. Bibawi is an employee of the Richardson Physician Alliance and a member of the medical staff at Richardson Regional Medical Center but is not an employee or agent of the hospital.



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# Shifting Your Job Search into High Gear

Part 2 - Use the tools available

by Jodi R. Hulsey, CPC of Wylie

Last issue we discussed preparing your resume. Clean resume in hand, now you're ready to go! Do you know where you're headed or are you aimlessly wandering down the path? If you are serious about your search you need to decide what direction you are headed in and then find the fastest way to get there. Two of the best tools on the market are available at your fingertips and will cost you nothing. Job boards and recruiters. If you aren't posting your resume on the internet – WHY NOT? It's FREE!!!! Employers and recruiters are searching the internet all day, every day, looking for you. All you have to do is be there. Better yet, be there with a strong resume and you've just made someone's day. It's a win-win situation for everyone. See how easy that is? OK, seriously, it is not always that easy but it can be and it does happen. Embrace the technology. If you are concerned about confidentiality you can post your resume confidentially. By the way, posting your resume with a confidential status and then including your name, contact information and current employer does not constitute confidential. It just says "I wanted to be confidential but wasn't slick enough to pull it off."

Next find a recruiter. Preferably one that specializes in your field or industry. They are easy to find, just search the internet or ask a trusted colleague. Like the guy who used to sit next to you before he landed a great opportunity with another company. What recruiter did he use? Recruiters can help you in many ways. First they have the inside track. Do you want to apply online with the masses and hope someone notices you? Do you want to research the company and position entirely on your own with limited or no access to anything other than public information? Do you want to prepare for the interview on your own and try to guess what the person you're going to meet with will be like? A good recruiter will provide a wealth of information on the client, processes and will guide and coach you each step of the way. Take advantage of this



service – most recruiter fees are client based and will cost you nothing! That's FREEBIE #2 folks, use it! Put these tools to use and you will tremendously improve your odds.

Now, you've set the plan into action but are you ready for the call? How will you be perceived when it comes? This is a step some

people never think about but it's important. What if opportunity calls and then hangs up because they weren't impressed? Don't let this happen. List a number where someone can actually reach you or leave a message with a fair amount of confidence that you will receive it. You must have voice mail where someone can leave a message. If you're using your home number, who is going to answer the phone in your absence? Having your young child or someone incapable of taking a message answer

the phone is not the best idea. Let the answering machine get it. Remember, you can lose the game before you ever get to the playing field if you make a bad impression along the way.

Making it this far in the process is a good start but there is still a long way to go. Getting to the first interview stage and beyond is a difficult task but if you are prepared, informed and confident you will find yourself gaining momentum rather than losing your drive.

Next issue we'll look at going on your interview. •

Jodi is a Senior Recruiter with QuestPro Consultants, a national consulting firm based in north Dallas that does specialized recruiting within the insurance industry. She received her CPC (Certified Personnel Consultant) designation in 2005 and has been awarded as a Top 20 Producer in the Technical/Professional sector by MAPC (Metrolplex Area Personnel Consultants) of DFW in 2004, 2005, and 2006.



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## Getting a Good Night's Sleep

Give yourself the gift of good health

by Felicia Lewis, M.D.

If you're constantly feeling overtired or irritable, lack energy during the day or have trouble staying alert, chances are you're simply not getting enough sleep. It's a problem that can impact your overall health, negatively affecting hormonal regulation, blood pressure and metabolism. It also can make you more prone to accidents and impair your memory and judgment. Research has shown that even short bouts of sleep deprivation – as little as two sleepless nights – can lead to diffuse (widespread) pain.

In general, adults need seven to eight hours of sleep each night. The elderly don't require as much time in bed in order to feel well rested. Teens, on the other hand, need more – about nine and a half to 11 hours of sleep each night. According to the National Center on Sleep Disorders Research, at least 70 million Americans are sleep deprived.

Common factors include stress, changes in the sleeping environment, work shift changes, a recent illness, a sedentary lifestyle or lack of exercise and medication use. For many people, it's a time management problem. They have too many things to do and not enough hours in the day. So they're sleeping less in order to accomplish more work or take care of family responsibilities.

Of course, sleep quality is just as important as quantity. Being awakened during the night can disrupt your sleep cycle and make you feel tired the next day. Developing good sleeping habits can help you sleep better. Here's a basic guide to a good night's sleep:

**Set a regular sleep schedule** – Prime your body to maintain a schedule by going to bed and waking up at the same time each day.

**Limit napping** – Don't nap for more than 20 minutes during the day to avoid trouble falling asleep at night.

**Don't exercise late at night** – Since exercising raises your body temperature and adrenaline levels, try to work out at least two hours before bedtime.

**Cut caffeine** – If you feel you must have caffeine, try to avoid use in the evening time because it can definitely keep you awake.

**Don't bring your worries to bed** – Address your anxieties and worries before you go to bed. Literally set aside a specific time

to worry. That way you can brainstorm problem solutions or coping strategies without sacrificing your sleep time.

**Don't read or watch TV in bed** – Limit your activities in bed to sleeping and intimacy. You want your body to associate being in bed with sleep.

### Avoid heavy meals

– Don't have a large meal before bedtime because it can lead to acid reflux, which can keep you awake. A small snack is fine though, if you're hungry.

### Avoid the nightcap

– Alcohol may help you fall asleep faster but it decreases your sleep quality. You will likely wake long before morning.

### Create a comfortable environment

– Make sure your room is dark and quiet. Wear an eye mask or ear plugs to block out light or noise. Also, keep the room at an ideal temperature.

If you suspect a sleep disorder or medical condition is causing your restless nights, you should consult your doctor. You may need to visit a sleep specialist for treatment. Above all, you should honor your body's demands and make sleep a priority. When it comes to your health, that's some of the best advice any doctor can prescribe. •

### For More Information:

*American Academy of Sleep Medicine*

[www.aasmnet.org](http://www.aasmnet.org)

*National Center on Sleep Disorders Research*

[www.nhlbi.nih.gov/about/ncsdr](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/about/ncsdr)

*National Sleep Foundation*

[www.sleepfoundation.org](http://www.sleepfoundation.org)

Felicia Lewis, M.D., recently joined the staff at Richardson Regional Medical Center and is the founding physician of Lakewood Hills Internal Medicine. She attended Harvard University for her undergraduate degree and completed her medical training at the University of Tennessee. She is board certified in Internal Medicine. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Lewis call (972) 231-8883 or visit [www.LHinternalmedicine.com](http://www.LHinternalmedicine.com).



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# Wylie goes to the “D.O.G.S.”!

Dads Of Great Students

by Lymari Ames of Wylie

Our Wylie students are not the only group that went back to school this year, so did their D.O.G.S.® You can find D.O.G.S.® at Smith, Dodd and Birmingham elementary schools with the program quickly spreading to Akin and Cox. But these D.O.G.S.® don't beg for treats or play fetch, nor do they bark. These D.O.G.S.® are fathers, stepfathers, godfathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers and neighbors participating in the WATCH D.O.G.S.® (Dads of Great Students) Across America school volunteer program.

WATCH D.O.G.S.® is the safe school initiative of the National Center for Fathering, involving fathers and father figures to help create a more safe and secure learning environment in our nation's schools.

Our WATCH D.O.G.S.® take at least one day off from work to volunteer at the elementary school. During their eight hour day, WATCH D.O.G.S.® will visit five classrooms spending approximately 45 minutes of an hour in an assisted classroom environment reading, working on a curriculum with the entire class or even one-on-one with a student to perfect a skill. The remaining 15 minutes of the hour may be spent playing at recess, watching the school entrances and hallways, or assisting with traffic flow. The WATCH D.O.G.S.® highlight during the day will be having lunch with their child. This

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schedule actively engages the WATCH D.O.G.S.® with not only their child, but other students as well.

Scott Ames with his sons Patrick and Emilio.

“I am extremely excited about getting our dads involved in our school activities. Our kiddos love when dads come up and help out. This program will make a positive impact on Smith Elementary. I am thrilled to continue the tradition of going to the “D.O.G.S.” said Scott Winn, Smith Elementary Principal.

The impact of the program has been felt throughout Wylie elementary schools. Fathers are now spending more meaningful time with their children in the school setting and gaining a greater awareness of the positive impact they can have on their child's life, just by being an involved dad. The children view their WATCH D.O.G.S.® as heroes while those children who do not have father-figures present in their home have embraced the time and energy of these positive male role models. From the school's perspective, these WATCH D.O.G.S.® have increased a sense of security by adding an extra set of eyes and ears

for students and staff, helping create an environment for conducive learning. The WATCH D.O.G.S.® program benefits provides a win-win scenario for the fathers, children and schools.

“The success and impact of the WATCH D.O.G.S.® program last year so amazed the staff and organizers, but mainly the students, that there was no question this program would spread,” expressed Scott and Lymari Ames, WATCH D.O.G.S.® coordinators. “We hope to help bring this program to every elementary school in Wylie and move it into the middle schools.”

The WATCH D.O.G.S.® program to get father-figures involved is both necessary and effective in the schools and community, for they provide a positive male role model and an unobtrusive school security presence.

For more information on the Smith Elementary WATCH D.O.G.S.® program call: 214-564-6763. •

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Richardson Regional Medical Center has made a healthy commitment to our community. That's why we're proud to welcome Dr. Kim to our medical staff. He joins an outstanding team of health care professionals dedicated to caring for you and your entire family.

Dr. Kim is accepting patients at First Aid Family Care in Wylie for both routine care and prompt medical treatment for minor illnesses or injuries.

#### MEDICAL SCHOOL:

St. George's University School of Medicine

#### RESIDENCY:

Methodist Hospitals of Dallas Family Practice

#### MEDICAL INTERESTS:

Family Medicine, Urgent Care, Sports Medicine

#### PERSONAL:

Dr. Kim is a football fanatic and enjoys snowboarding, surfing and weight training.

Dr. Kim is an employee of the Richardson Physician Alliance and a member of the medical staff at Richardson Regional Medical Center but is not an employee or agent of the hospital.

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## Ladies Do Lunch

Gloria's Salvadorian Restaurant

By Lori Whitten of Wylie & Poetry

This issue, the “Lunch Ladies” decided to venture out to Gloria's Restaurant in Firewheel Shopping Center; what a Salvadorian surprise! Having not eaten at Gloria's, I had no preconceived notions before going. I had never heard of it, but now that I have experienced the food, atmosphere and fun loving nature of the place – it is one of my favorites.

Gloria's warm and inviting color palate makes even the most sallow of complexions glow. I loved the sunset gold walls, with red and dark wood accents. The uniquely diffused lighting (they look like big suspended bass drums) and balmy amber lamps only ad to the warmth. Hard wood floors and two-story tall floor to ceiling drapes are a beautiful touch. The décor is a very comfortable machismo modern. May I say “Yea!” for the lack of fluorescent lighting.

We started by trying the black bean dip served with salsa and chips. This was the first delight. Perusing Gloria's extensive menu made ordering a challenge – everything looked so enticing! I finally decided on Gloria's Super Special which offered a wonderful assortment of Salvadorian fare. I thoroughly enjoyed the Tamale and Pupusa and the Plantain was like getting dessert in the middle of the meal – Yummy! We all chose different items which made sampling from everyone's plate a treat. One particularly delicious entrée choice was the Salmon. The fish was cooked to a delicate perfection, flaky and moist, which is not always an easy combination to achieve. We then selected one



Gloria's Salmon Dinner was delicious!

each of Gloria's desserts to compliment the end of our meal. The Milk Flan was by far my favorite. We enjoyed their “World Famous Tres Leches” cake– it was very good – however there was a bit of concern with the cake because it was “wet”. A brief explanation clarified that “Tres Leches” meant three milks and it was supposed to be “wet”.

Our visit would not have been complete without trying the highly recommended Mojito. We ordered one to share and were not disappointed.

Service was incredible! Our server was Salvadorian and wonderful, actually, the entire staff was great. They checked on us often enough to be considered attentive, but not so much as to have been pesky. It is worth mentioning that there was one server with a “porcupin-ish” quality to his hair and the “Ladies” tried to get him to let them touch it – he feigned not understanding English and the tactile experience was missed.

All silliness aside, Gloria's is a delight. We enjoyed the ambiance, the food and as always the camaraderie of good friends. Their menu features a large selection of Salvadorian, Mexican and Tex-Mex fare. They are located at 360 Coneflower Drive, Garland, which is in Firewheel Town Center. You can view their menu online at [www.gloriasrestaurants.com](http://www.gloriasrestaurants.com) along with information about their happy hours and special free Salsa (dancing, not food) lessons. Gloria's is open Sunday thru Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Fridays 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Saturday, so you can get your groove on late night, from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Be sure to tell them the “Lunch Ladies” sent you when you stop in on a Saturday night so you can get your “Salsa” lesson – you know you want to! As always, thanks for a great lunch, ladies – I am really looking forward to many more in 2008. Happy New Year all! •

*One last word from the Lunch Ladies: Our restaurant visits are unannounced and restaurant selection is at our whim. The restaurant featured may or may not be an advertiser.*

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# Recipe

## Grilled Salmon Fillet with Honey Dill Glaze

### INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons dill weed
- 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 lb of fresh salmon
- Lemon-pepper seasoning

### DIRECTIONS

In a small bowl, combine the first five ingredients; mix well. Remove 1/2 cup to a saucepan; simmer until heated through. Set aside remaining mixture for basting.

Sprinkle salmon with lemon-pepper. Place on grill with skin side down. Grill, covered, over medium heat for 5 minutes. Brush with the reserved brown sugar mixture. Grill 10-15 minutes longer, basting occasionally, until fish flakes easily with a fork. Serve with the warmed sauce.

SERVES 4

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## Wylie Chamber 30th Birthday

The party continues

*from your Wylie Chambers of Commerce*

**W**e invite you to join the Wylie Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, January 19th for our Community Awards Banquet and 30th Birthday Celebration. The evening will include snapshots of the Chamber's past and present, and will feature original Chamber founders as well as recent leaders who have been instrumental in its continued growth.

The Chamber will recognize the outstanding achievements of businesses and citizens during 2007 with awards such as Citizen of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Large and Small Business of the Year, and Ambassador of the Year. A Special Award of Merit will be presented as well.

The Wylie Independent School District, a Chamber Platinum Partner, will recognize their Teachers of the Year during the festivities. We appreciate all of our educators and are honored to celebrate this time with them.

Chamber members and non-members alike are invited to attend our Birthday Celebration as we take a walk back in time to see how the Chamber has grown as seen through the eyes of the visionaries who began the Chamber's journey 30 years ago. Throughout the evening there will be prize drawings, music, and a live auction. Join us at Southfork Ranch on January 19, 2008, at 6:30 p.m., as we venture back in time, look toward the future, and celebrate our success.

Contact the Chamber at 972-442-2804 or visit our website [www.wyliechamber.org](http://www.wyliechamber.org) for sponsorship information, to reserve tickets or if you have any questions. Individual tickets are \$50 or a table for 10 may be reserved for \$450. The chamber requests the courtesy of a reservation to attend this event. We hope to see you there. •



Wylie's 2007 Chamber Awards Banquet featured a Roaring Twenties theme. Pictured is past chamber president Red Byboth with Mrs. Rita Smith and some fabulous flappers.

*Success and happiness are not matters of chance but choice.*

*~ Zig Ziglar*

## Sachse Chamber Banquet

Set sail to celebrate

*from your Sachse Chambers of Commerce*

**M**ark your calendars for Saturday, February 23, 2008, for the 24th Annual Sachse Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet and Gala.

The Chamber Banquet and Gala is a celebration for the community. The entire community can benefit from involvement and attendance. At the annual banquet, the Chamber recognizes businesses and individuals for their dedication by presenting treasured awards like: Business of the Year, Person of the Year, Spirit of Sachse, Horizon Award, Teacher of the Year and Ambassador of the Year.

This year, the banquet will be held at Southfork Ranch and the theme for the black tie event is "Set Sail with the Sachse Chamber of Commerce," so grab your life vest and let's have fun!

Attending the Captain's dinner of a lifetime, Southfork Ranch will be transformed so attendees feel like they are strolling on the moonlit decks of an ocean liner. Cocktails will be served at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will begin at 6:45 p.m.. Tickets are \$45 per person and can be purchased online at [www.sachsechamber.com](http://www.sachsechamber.com).

There are many ways everyone (including non-Chamber members) can be part of this enchanting evening. Sponsors receive event tickets, beverage tickets, and may also receive promotion space in the program. Sponsorship levels range from \$1800 to \$125. Sponsorship commitments may be made at [www.sachsechamber.com](http://www.sachsechamber.com).

Local talented Chamber members will perform a musical production with the Steve Bayless String Ensemble. The live auction is always an exciting part of the evening, as there will be many unique items for bid. For the shopper in the group, bag raffles provide a chance to win a fun package. Where else can you win an item valued at over \$50 for the price of a \$1 raffle ticket?


Don't miss all the fun of this very special evening; call the Sachse Chamber at 972-496-1212 to reserve your seat today. •



Sachse Chamberland Singers entertain during the 2007 Annual Banquet and Gala.

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## Financial New Year

Make some resolutions – and stick to them

from Jal Dennis of Edward Jones Investment

If you make a New Year's resolution, and you don't follow through on it, what are the consequences? It all depends. If you vow to learn French, but you never get past "Oui, mademoiselle," your life will probably go on pretty much as before (unless, of course, you're now living in France). But if you make some financial resolutions, and you abandon them, you could fall short of your long-term goals - such as a comfortable retirement.

Consequently, you'll want to set reasonable and attainable financial resolutions - and then discipline yourself to achieve them. What sort of resolutions might you make? Consider the following:

Boost your 401(k) contributions this year - and every year. If your employer offers a 401(k) or similar retirement plan - such as a 403(b) or 457(b) - take full advantage of it. Your earnings have the potential to grow

on a tax-deferred basis, and, because you typically make pre-tax contributions, the more you invest, the lower your annual taxable income. Furthermore, you may have a dozen or more investment options within your plan, so you can tailor your choices to reflect your individual risk tolerance, goals and time horizon. If your salary goes up every year, increase your 401(k) contributions at the same time. Since the money will automatically be deducted from your paycheck, you shouldn't find it hard to keep this financial "resolution."

Contribute the maximum amount to your IRA. Your traditional or Roth IRA can be a key part of your retirement savings. A traditional IRA can potentially grow tax deferred, while a Roth IRA's earnings have the potential to grow tax-free, provided you don't take withdrawals until you reach 59-1/2 and you've had your account at least



five years. Unfortunately, many people don't fully fund their IRAs each year because they're intimidated by the contribution limits (\$5,000 per year, or \$6,000 if you're over 50). But there's no need to fund your IRA all at once; you can do it incrementally. Why not write out a check to your IRA each time you get paid, or, better yet, have the money automatically sent from your checking account? Again, it will be easier to keep this resolution if you don't have to work at it.

Build an emergency fund. This resolution may take a bit more effort, but it's worth it. If you can put away six to 12 months' worth of living expenses in a liquid account, and only use the money for emergencies - car repairs, unexpected doctors' bills, etc. - you may be able to avoid dipping into your investments to pay for these costs. And the less you tap into your investments, the better.

Cut your debts. Here's another resolution that sounds simple, but can be difficult to achieve. Yet, every dollar that doesn't have to go for a debt payment can be invested for your future. In 2008, look for ways to cut your costs, and strive to live within your means.

See a professional. If you've never worked with a financial advisor, make 2008 the year to start. A qualified financial advisor can objectively evaluate your situation and suggest appropriate financial

strategies for helping you achieve your long-term objectives.

If you can follow all these resolutions in 2008, you can help position yourself for financial success - for many New Years to come. •

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