

HAPPY new year!

The Connection

Wylie • Sachse • Murphy Community Magazine

Working to Help Others

~ Candy Arrington

~ Dr. Liz Fagan

WISD Teachers of the Year

The Photography of Alicia & Rick White

January/February 2009

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COLUMNS

- 6** CALENDAR
Events in Our Area
- 10** LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS
Get Involved in Your Community
- 18** HEALTH
Medical Mission
- 20** EDUCATION
WISD Teachers of the Year
- 22** COMMUNITY
New Veterans Memorial
- 24** PERSONAL
Forgiveness
- 26** DINING
Ladies Do Lunch at Café Roma
- 28** CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
Annual Awards Banquets
- 30** MONEY
Market Recovery



Cover Photo by Alicia White

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

- 5** RICHARDSON REGIONAL
CANCER CENTER

FEATURE ARTICLES

- 12** DEPTH OF FIELD
Photography of Alicia & Rick White
- 14** CANDY ARRINGTON
Relay for Life

The Connection
Wylie • Sachse • Murphy Community Magazine

A Wylie Chamber of Commerce Publication
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Corrections: Location info for the Dude's visit to Ye Shire Tavern was accidentally omitted. The Tavern is located at 3600 Shire Blvd. in Richardson, just off the George Bush Tollroad at Jupiter. Their website is www.yeshiretavernrichardson.com.



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

The new Richardson Regional Cancer Center, an affiliate of UT Southwestern Medical Center, provides cancer patients with an array of diagnostic equipment, new drug therapies as part of clinical research programs and numerous treatment options. Residents living in Wylie, Sachse, Murphy and surrounding communities can stay close to home and have access to physicians in medical, surgical and radiation oncology.

Each member of our professional health care staff is dedicated to giving you or your loved one personal, one-on-one care. The entire team of support staff and physicians on staff at the Cancer Center will work to carry out your customized treatment plan and provide all the support and encouragement you need, including assistance with scheduling, medications, information and counseling, and financial and insurance arrangements.

The Cancer Center also offers annual health screenings, genetic testing, a patient navigator program, a licensed dietician and an on-site Referral Center and Resource Library which is staffed by trained American Cancer Society volunteers. Our Cancer Center has been recognized by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer as offering the very best in cancer care.

Barry Levinson, M.D.
Associate Professor of Internal
Medicine at UT Southwestern
Medical Director and
Medical Oncologist/Hematologist
Medical Training: New York University
Residency: UT Southwestern Medical Center



“We will continue to make strides in the fight against cancer by offering innovative treatment options and focusing on clinical research.”

Sam Bibawi, M.D.
Medical Oncologist/Hematologist
Residency: University of Virginia School of Medicine
Fellowship: University of Vermont College of Medicine
Professional Experience: Assistant Professor;
M.D. Anderson Cancer Center



“Growing up around my dad, a physician, and seeing how happy he made people as he helped them with their medical problems was the first and strongest influence on my passion for medicine.”

Jessamy Boyd, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Radiation
Oncology at UT Southwestern
Radiation Oncologist
Medical Training: Texas A&M, Residency: Duke University
Personal Information: Grew up in Rowlett
and went to high school in Garland



“I think that you always have to remain humbled by how much faith patients and their families put in you and your skills. I always try to be worthy of that trust and make sure that I am the number one advocate for my patient.”

Richardson Regional Cancer Center, an affiliate of UT Southwestern Medical Center
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January Events

Jan. 9th - Parent's Night Out – Whew! The holidays are over, need a date night? Drop off your children (infants thru 5th grade) at 6 p.m. and pick them up at 10 p.m. Bring \$15 per child and dinner for the kids and enjoy an evening out. Please contact Jan to reserve your spot at janbeamer@verizon.net. Wylie United Methodist Church, 1401 FM 1378, Wylie.

Jan. 10th - The Trinity Trail Preservation Association (TTPA) will sponsor a trail ride and Chili Cookout at the Brockdale Park trailhead in Lucas, Texas, weather permitting. Arrive trailhead at 2 p.m. Ride out at 2:30 p.m. Bring corn bread to share and a lawn chair. TTPA will be providing a bonfire, beverages, and cooking chili. There will be a \$5 donation to cover chili and paper goods. Chili Dinner will be served at 5 p.m. Join us for some great conversation with other riders. You can adjust your ride to your own schedule. The ride will be automatically cancelled if it is raining or if there has been so much rain as to make the trail extremely wet, muddy and dangerous. To check on trail conditions call Trail Steward Charlie Gaines at 972-824-3369. Don't forget your current negative Coggins Certificate for each horse, as state law requires us to check. You can't enter the park without one. For safety reasons, dogs will not be permitted on the trail. They must remain tied at your trailer in camp. For more info, see the Trinity Trail Preservation Association's website at www.trinitytrailriders.org.

Jan. 10th & 17th – Sachse Sports Association Sign-ups for spring baseball and softball at Sachse City Hall, 5560 Highway 78, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Jan. 11th, 18th & 25th – Sachse Sports Association Sign-ups for spring baseball and softball at Sachse City Hall, 5560 Highway 78, 2 to 4 p.m.

Beginning Jan. 13th – Heard Natural Science Museum Spring 2009 Preschool Program - Now is the time to encourage your preschooler's love of nature! Preschool children will have the opportunity to come together and explore all that the Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary has to offer. In each class, your child will be engaged in hands-on learning experiences that promote an early connection to nature. Sign up now! For more information, application form, and instructions visit www.heardmuseum.org.

Beginning Jan. 13th – Home School Science Program - Immerse your student in the natural sciences at the Heard's Home School Science Program. Within the distinctive settings of the Heard Natural Science Museum's diverse exhibits and 289 acre sanctuary, your child will experience learning through classroom activities, outdoor field investigations, laboratory science, small group activities and take-home study packets. Appropriate for children ages 5-12. Visit our website www.heardmuseum.org for complete class offerings and registration information.

Jan. 17th – Winter Night Hike at the Heard Natural Science Museum offers a way to sneak a peek into the nocturnal world and experience nature in a whole new way! Night Hikes are also a great way to have a unique adventure close to home. To make a reservation or book a private night hike, please email Steffanie Mann at smann@heardmuseum.org. Night Hikes are offered at \$12 per person; however, members are only \$10 per person. Payment is required to reserve your spot.

Jan. 17th – Cemetery Association of Murphy, Inc. – Cemetery work party beginning at 1 p.m. The public is invited to help members clear out brush on the sides and back of the property to locate markers that are hidden by overgrowth. Bring clippers, rakes, weed eaters, etc., and join the search for more of Murphy's history. If too cold or bad weather, postponed to Saturday, January 24th.

Jan. 20th – Relay For Life Event Kick-Off. This event will be held at the American National Bank in Wylie from 6:30 - 8 p.m. This will be the last day to register your team for \$25. After this team registration will go up to \$50. For more information please contact Candy Arrington at 214-957-5000.

Jan. 23rd – Murphy Chamber of Commerce Dinner & Dice – Annual Awards presentation, dinner and casino games. Members should make reservations on the Chamber website: www.murphychamber.org. The event will being held at the Holiday Inn Select, Central Expressway, in Richardson. Cocktails and Silent Auction at 6:30 p.m.; dinner and program at 7 p.m.; Casino games at 8 p.m. Tickets for the dinner are \$30 per person. There will be no regular luncheon meeting this month. www.murphychamber.org

Jan. 24th & 31st – Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training Class at Sachse City Hall, 5560 Highway 78, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Register online at www.rowlettcitizencorps.org/registration.htm or email CERT@cityofsachse.com

Jan. 27th – Richardson Regional Cancer Center, an affiliate of UT Southwestern Medical Center, and the American Cancer Society are sponsoring a new cancer support program called I Can Cope. The six-week program offers cancer patients and their caregivers a chance to learn more about cancer and how to cope with the challenges of a cancer diagnosis. The program, led by social workers, nurses and other health

professionals who are experts in cancer care, will be held at the Richardson Regional Cancer Center on the fourth Tuesday of every month beginning Jan. 27th through Jun. 23rd, 2009. Call 469-726-6100 for more information.

Jan. 28th – Murphy Chamber of Commerce Come & Go Lunch – Join us at Murphy Chamber member Dickey's BBQ in Wylie, anytime between 11:30 and 1 p.m. for lunch. www.murphychamber.org

Jan. 31st – Wylie Chamber of Commerce 31st Annual Community Awards Banquet, Mistletoe & Magic! 6:30 to 10 p.m. at the Swingin' D Ranch, 3406 Dublin Road, Parker. Tickets: \$45 per Person, Table of 10 \$400 For more info call 972-442-2804 or visit the chamber website at www.wyliechamber.org.

Thru Feb. 1st – Due to popular demand, the exhibit Dinosaurs Alive! Life-sized Animatronic Dinosaurs at the Heard, featuring 12 dinosaurs, has been extended through February 1st. If you haven't had time to visit yet, or if you wish to have another opportunity to view this exciting outdoor exhibit, the Heard Natural Science Museum welcomes you to stop by before the dinosaurs once again go extinct!

February Events

Feb. 1st – 14th – Heard Natural Science Museum 2009 Photo Contest - The Heard Natural Science Museum 2009 Photography Contest is just around the corner! Now is the time to make sure you have the perfect picture to submit. Choose from numerous different photographic categories within these themes: wild nature, shared world, artistic, creative interpretation, and nature experiences at the Heard. For photography contest submission dates, category details, entry fees, registration forms and other pertinent information visit www.heardmuseum.org

Feb. 2nd – Apr. 14th – Sachse's Laurie Schwenk Senior Center is offering AARP Taxaide free service every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is a free tax preparation service for any wage earner 18 years of age and older. You need to bring your 2007 tax return, if possible, all the names and SS numbers for all persons claimed, all your income reports and expenditures for 2008. 3815 Sachse Road, Suite B Sachse, for more info call 972-495-6282 or email ddickson@cityofsachse.com.

Feb. 3rd – Relay For Life Team Captain Meeting. The meeting will start at 6:30 and be held at the American National Bank in Wylie. For more info please contact Candy Arrington at 214-957-5000.

Feb. 5th – “Love Your Library” Chocolate Tasting. The Friends of the Rita & Truett Smith Public Library invite you to celebrate “Love Your Library Month”; complete with a chocolate tasting and reception. This event will be held at the American National Bank (301 S. Hwy. 78, Wylie, Texas). We look forward to chatting with your around the chocolate fountain from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

Feb. 13th – Parent's Night Out – Do you have plans for a romantic Valentine's dinner but need childcare? Drop off your children (infants thru 5th grade) at 6 p.m. and pick them up at 10 p.m.. Bring \$15 per child and dinner for the kids and enjoy an evening out. Please contact Jan to reserve your spot at janbeamer@verizon.net. Wylie United Methodist Church, 1401 FM 1378, Wylie.

Feb. 14th – For an unforgettable evening of fun and memories, join the Plano Symphony Orchestra's 2009 Valentine Gala at the Hotel Intercontinental Dallas in Addison. Guests can expect a “1940's Hollywood glamour” nightclub experience in the Malachite Room, as they dine and dance the night away to one of Texas's premier, high-energy show and variety bands, Max Class and the Class Act. Their repertory includes music from a cavalcade of legends impersonated by talented tribute artists. Music selections range from 1940's Swing to today's Rock-and-Roll and features music from such legendary entertainers as Cher, Tina Turner, Jimmy Buffet, Natalie Cole, Manhattan Transfer, Elvis and the Supremes to name a few. The gala will host a silent and live auction with fun filled auction games. Proceeds from the gala benefit the Plano Symphony Orchestra including the Symphony's education program. To order tickets, call the Plano Symphony Orchestra Tickets at 972-473-7262, or visit www.planosymphony.org to order tickets online. \$125.00 each.

Feb. 17th – Murphy Chamber of Commerce Luncheon – Woodbridge Golf Club Pavilion, 11:30 a.m. For information regarding the Chamber or to make luncheon reservations call the Chamber office at 972-805-3749. www.murphychamber.org

Feb. 20th – Wylie Women's League Poker tournament. For more information please contact Candy Arrington at 214-957-5000.

Feb. 21st – Join the Sachse Chamber of Commerce in honoring local busi-

nesses at the 25th Annual Awards Banquet & Gala at the Richardson Hyatt Regency. Awards like Business of the Year, Horizon Business, and Teacher of the Year, will be presented throughout the evening. Tickets are \$50 and include dinner and a full night of entertainment featuring a live auction, bag raffles, and more. Cocktails start at 6 p.m. with dinner immediately following. Visit www.sachsechamber.com or call the chamber office at 972-496-1212 to purchase tickets.

Feb. 21st – Plano Symphony Orchestra presents “A Tribute to John Williams” with the Plano Civic Chorus featuring music from perhaps the most famous composer of film scores ever ... including Harry Potter, Star Wars, Jaws, Schindler's List, close encounters of the Third Kind, Superman, and much more! This American composer, conductor and pianist has now enjoyed a celebrated career for six decades that continues at white heat. He has received an unbelievable 45 Academy award nominations and is a five-time winner of the Oscar. He was inducted into the Hollywood Bowl Hall of Fame in 2000 and was a recipient of the Kennedy Center Honors in 2004. From 1980 to 1993, John succeeded the legendary Arthur Fiedler as Principal Conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra. In addition to his film scores, John Williams has composed the theme music to four Olympic Games, countless television programs and concert pieces for orchestra and concertos, including a cello concerto premiered by Yo-Yo Ma. His works often require large orchestra and choral forces. 8:15 p.m. at the Charles W. Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Drive in Richardson. To order tickets, call the Plano Symphony Orchestra Ticket Office at 972-473-7262, or visit www.planosymphony.org to order tickets online. Reserved Seating tickets: \$9 - \$75. Add \$2 at the door.

Feb. 22nd – Plano Symphony Orchestra's Fun, Interactive Concert Series for Families -The Ensemble Concerts continue with Boomin' Brass at 3 p.m. Meet this section of the Orchestra at the Courtyard Theatre for the continuation of the Family Symphony Sundays Series. Come early before each concert and enjoy the Plano Symphony Instrument Petting zoo - an interactive musical learning experience, and more! Kids ages 3 - 12 and their families will have a great time learning and being exposed to great music all for one low price, less than the cost of a movie. After this concert only one Ensemble Concert remains - Poundin' Percussion on Sunday, March 8, 2009 – 3 p.m. All ensemble concerts are performed at The Courtyard Theatre, 1501 Avenue H, Plano, TX 75075. To order tickets, call the Plano Symphony Orchestra Ticket Office at 972-473-7262: Single tickets for all other concerts: \$7 - \$11 Add \$2 at the door for all performances. www.planosymphony.org

Feb. 25th – Murphy Chamber of Commerce Come & Go Lunch – Join us at chamber member, A Taste of Home, on Ballard Street in Wylie anytime between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. for lunch. www.murphychamber.org

Sachse Library Events

Sachse Library is located at 3815 Sachse Road, Building C, Sachse 972-530-8966

Jan. 27th – Sachse Library's Mad Hatter's Tea Party, 4 to 5 p.m.

Feb. 24th – Sachse Library's Mardi Gras celebration, 4 to 5 p.m.

Preschool Story Time is Thursdays at 11 a.m.

Baby Story Time every other Thursday at 10:15 a.m.

Mahjong the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 2 to 5 p.m.

Wylie's Rita and Truett Smith Public Library

Wylie's Smith Public Library is located at 800 Thomas Street, Wylie (972)442-7566.

Jan. 8th & Feb. 12th: Teen Library Council Meeting at 5 p.m.

The Teen Library Council meets in the Bluebonnet Room once a month to decide on teen programs, give feedback on the teen collection and discuss their favorite reads. All teens (6th-12th grade) are welcome!

Jan. 15th & Feb. 19th: Friends of the Library Meeting at 6 p.m.

Friends of the Rita & Truett Smith Public Library are having their annual membership meeting at 6 p.m. in the Bluebonnet Room. To celebrate the ground breaking of the new 43, 934 sq. ft. Library, membership fees will be half price. Everyone is invited!

Jan. 15th & Feb. 19th: Wagging Tales at 6:30 p.m.

Brand new readers can practice by reading aloud to Abby the Collie. Tickets are required and limited. They are given out free on a first come, first serve basis on the evening of the program.

Jan. 19th: MLK Day Celebration & Family Fun Night at 6:30 p.m. - The Smith Public Library has the pleasure of hosting Catherine Whiteman an accomplished storyteller, singer and actress at the MLK Day Celebration! She will be performing Tales My Grandmother Told Me. This event combines classic West African and Caribbean folklore with traditional percussion in a lively program that delights all ages.

Jan. 22nd: Teen Improv Workshop Teens (6th–12th grade) are invited to practice their favorite character voices, facial expressions, and improvisation styles with award-winning storyteller, Ann Marie Newman in the Bluebonnet Room at 5 p.m.

Jan. 26th & Feb. 23rd: Fourth Monday Book Club at 6:30 p.m. in the Bluebonnet Room.

- **Jan. 26th** - discussion of Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim by David Sedaris.

- **Feb. 23rd** - discussion of Crazy School by Cornelia Read. For additional information call Donna or Laura at 972-442-7566.

Jan. 29th & Feb. 26th: BeTween Book & Movie Club at 6:30 p.m. in the Bluebonnet Room.

- **Jan. 29th** - 4th & 5th graders are invited to talk about the book and the movie Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo. We will watch scenes from the movie and enjoy snacks. Free copies of the book are available for the first 15 kids who sign up!

- **Feb. 26th** - 4th & 5th graders are invited to talk about your favorite book or movie.

Feb. 5th: Abby's Birthday Party and Wagging Tales at 6 p.m.

Our Abby is turning three (3) years old so we are throwing her a party! You can meet Abby, learn about Wagging Tales and enjoy some cake. At 6:30 p.m., brand new readers can practice by reading aloud to Abby. Tickets are required and limited. They are given out free on a first come, first serve basis on the evening of the program

Feb. 21st: Meet Kristin Kahanek the author of Katie and the Magic Umbrella: A Stormy Adventure at 10 a.m. The Friends invite you to meet meteorologist and author Kristin Kahanek at the Smith Public Library. She will autograph copies of her new children's book and provide opportunities to purchase books during the event. Katie and the Magic Umbrella: A Stormy Adventure helps young readers understand clouds, rain, lightning, thunder, hail and even tornadoes. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Smith Public Library and is open to the public. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Smith Public Library.

Big Kids & Wee Read Story Time Join us for books, songs, flannel stories, rhymes and crafts. Big Kids Story Time is at 9 and 11 a.m. for ages 3-5. Wee Read Story Time is at 10 a.m. for babies & toddlers.

January 7	- Precious Penguins	February 4	- Wise Old Owl
January 14	- Winter Snow	February 11	- Hugs & Kisses
January 21	- Pajama Party	February 18	- Imagination
January 28	- Let's Go on an Adventure!	February 25	- How do you feel?

Save The Date: Relay For Life of Wylie/Sachse/Murphy will be held at Shaffer Stadium on Friday April 24th. For more info please contact Candy Arrington at 214-957-5000

Every Wednesday – Wylie Chamber of Commerce Business Card Exchange, Woodbridge Golf Course club house, 7400 Country Club Dr., Wylie. Join us to network and promote your business from 8 - 9 a.m. For more info call (972)442-2804 or visit www.wyliechamber.org. •

Tell me about it.....

To submit your special event to the Mar/Apr community calendar send an e-mail to theconnection.anne@mac.com no later than February 15th. 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!



Boots 'n Barbecue Gala 2009, which has quickly become the not-to-be-missed event in the area, will be held at Southfork Ranch on March 28, 2009.

Doors will open at 6:30.

The Tejas Brothers who are currently one of the hottest acts on the Texas music scene will be performing.

There will be dinner, dancing, and live and silent auctions. Western attire from jeans to sequined shirts will be seen.

The gala raised \$125,000 last year to support the WISD Education Foundation which awards grants to educators in WISD for innovative programs that are not otherwise funded. These programs take education to the next level by providing students with educational experiences above those typically offered. The foundation has funded over \$250,000 in grants since it was founded in 2003. The foundation also awarded seven scholarships to seniors graduating from Wylie High School in May 2008.

For sponsor or ticket information please call Jenna Lawson at 972-429-3025, email her at jenna.lawson@wylieisd.net or go to www.wylieisd.net/foundation.

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Wylie Christian Care Center helps those who are down on their luck by providing temporary help with food, clothes, prescriptions, rent, utilities, school supplies and household items. The Center receives no government assistance, is run by volunteer workers and is supported by local churches, businesses, schools, civic organizations and individuals. It's always in need of canned meats, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, fruit and tomato products, and monetary donations. To donate or volunteer, contact the Christian Care Center at (972)442-4341.

Dyslexia Advocates of Wylie 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. Go to www.dyslexiaadvocatesof-wylie.com for 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 and 4th Tuesday of every month from noon to 1 p.m., Pecan Hollow Golf Course Grill, 4501 East 14th Street, Plano. Contact: Debra Chiarello 214-641-9970.

Friends of the Sachse Library meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Sachse Library, 3815 Sachse Road. Contact the Sachse Public Library for more details at 972-530-8966.

Garland Quilt Guild meets the first Tuesday of each month at First Presbyterian Church, 930 West Avenue B, in Garland at 7 p.m. (except December) Located at the corner of 9th and Avenue B in Garland. For more info visit www.garlandquiltguild.org or contact Allison Ray at 972-941-0860 or allisonray@gmail.com.

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc. presents a Free Genealogy Seminar on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the W.O. Haggard Library Program Room, 2501 Coit Road, Plano. Public is welcome. For info visit GenFriends@GenealogyFriends.org, e-mail: www.GenealogyFriends.org, or call Jean Funk at 972-618-1580.

In-Sync 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 a.m. - 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. Please contact Murphy_sachse_moms@yahoo.com for further info.

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 Shannon Morris: (972)461-0995 for info. www.wyliemomsandmore.org.

MOPS of Sachse/Wylie/Murphy Mothers of Preschoolers meet at Park Lake Church in Sachse on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays (September-May) from 9-11:30 a.m. Mothers with children from birth through kindergarten are invited. Childcare is included with semester dues. To RSVP or for more information please call Park Lake Church at (972) 414-0600, e-mail mops@parklakechurch.com, or visit www.mops.org.

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. - 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 (TTPA) is an all-volunteer equestrian organization that maintains the 9 mile long trail on the Corps of Engineers land along Lavon Lake. TTPA 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.

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 Taste of Home Restaurant at 302 N. Ballard Ave. at noon. Anyone interested in becoming a Lion is welcome to join the group for lunch. Call Ada Mooney for more info at 972-771-5551.

Wylie Lions Club - Evening Branch meets the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month at Taste of Home Restaurant at 302 N. Ballard Ave. at 6:30 p.m. Contact Carl Bodine at 469-951-4344 for info.

Wylie Rotary Club meets weekly on Thursday at 12 noon at Woodbridge Country Club. Contact Joe Helmsberger at joehelmsberger@verizon.net for additional info.

Wylie Wisecrackers is a Toastmasters club serving Wylie, Sachse, Murphy, and Lavon, meets every Wednesday from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Napoli's Pizza & Restaurant, 701 N. Hwy 78. All are welcome. Members practice effective public speaking techniques, gain valuable leadership experience, and, thus, gain personal confidence. Contact Katie Shockley at katies-hockleydtm@yahoo.com or 469-757-0952. www.wylie.freetoasthost.com

Wylie Women's League Meets the 1st Thursday of each month. Contact Stacey Daniel at 469-964-7425 or daniel21@verizon.net for more info. •

Happy New Year from the Connection

With the start of 2009 presenting all sorts of great new possibilities we wanted to take a moment to thank all of our dedicated readers and advertisers. Since our first issue went to press in the Fall of 2006 we have grown from a distribution of less than 25,000 to now reaching more than 28,000 homes and businesses in the area. We recognize that without your support it wouldn't have been possible.

Also vitally important to our success have been our writers and editorial advisors. Thank you all for your time and efforts. You will notice in this issue we are missing our sports column. Scot Harrison, the voice of the Wylie Pirates has moved on to bigger and better things. We wish him the best of luck - we miss you Dude!

We are looking forward to a year full of interesting people, places and things to share with you. As always, we welcome your feedback and ideas.

We hope you all have a safe, happy and healthy 2009.

~ Mike, Becky & Anne



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Depth of Field

Amateur photographers focus on emergency services and community involvement

by Kathleen Noble of Wylie

Rick and Alicia White no longer question the distance between the farthest and nearest points which are in focus.

While taking a photojournalism class as a Mass Communication major at Texas Women's University in January 1998, Alicia was given an assignment to photographically document anything "dynamic."

Alicia chose to photograph Wylie's police and fire department personnel while in action.

One of her first Kodak moments came in December 1998 when two downtown Wylie businesses, the Heirloom Candle Factory and Lady Like Shop, caught fire.

A short time later, Alicia was contacted and encouraged by former Wylie Fire Chief Shan English to pursue a more long term assignment with the department.

When the smoke cleared, Rick was at Alicia's side.

Perhaps it is what the couple saw through the viewfinder of their cameras that prompted them to continue following and photographing Wylie's police and fire personnel whom they have come to look on as extended family.

Capturing the human element and destruction that is frequently the aftermath of emergency service work provides both Rick and Alicia an often daily reminder of just how fragile life can be and the difficulties associated with emergency service work.

According to police and fire department officials, photographs supplied by the White's are educationally instrumental within the departments and provide useful documentation on crime scenes and in other fire and police situations.

The White's Wylie home is equipped with scanners in their master bedroom and garage allowing them quick response to emergency occurrences throughout Wylie, its neighboring cities and the Metroplex.

Rick White, in his second term as a Wylie City Councilman, was raised in the Irving area, attended Texas State Technical College in Waco and holds an Associates Degree in Computer Science.

Richard White, Rick's father, maintained a lifelong career providing technical support and repair for the image trans-

mitting machinery used by newswire service, United Press International, and offered Rick a first hand view of the importance of photography. This laid an impressive foundation for what would later become Rick's career.

Rick established 911 Interactive Media, Inc. in 2000, now recognized as a worldwide leader in breaking incident and property damage information provided by six employees, 40 subcontractors and 2000 dispatchers in real time.

Alicia operates a graphic and web design firm, JDawgDesign, which supplies web design, direct mail, brochures, newsletters, business cards, and other marketing and promotional items benefiting business owners.

Alicia and Rick volunteer with the Box 4 Association, a non-profit organization offering rehabilitation services to the fire and rescue departments of Dallas and its surrounding cities.

Members of the organization respond to all two alarm or greater fires providing firefighters with re-hydrating drinks, food, snacks and misting fans on long duration fire incidents.

To view additional police and fire photos visit their website www.wyliephotos.com.

*All photos courtesy of Alicia & Rick White,
Copyright 1998-2008.*



Candy Arrington

by Janet Doleh of Sachse

Her commitment brought the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life to Wylie



Photo courtesy of Jordan Adams

Candy with her mom Lindy Nielsen.

Have you ever wondered how you could make a real difference to the world?

Candy Arrington's story shows you one way it can happen. Last year, motivated by a desire to help those afflicted with cancer – like her mother – and to contribute something positive to her community, Candy ventured beyond her normal life of mother/wife/career. Her tenacity and willingness to lead resulted in our area's first annual Relay For Life, an overnight fundraising event that took place in Wylie's Shaffer Stadium. It touched hundreds of lives, raised tens of thousands of dollars for cancer research, and promises to grow even bigger this year. When citizens were asked to think of a local hero, Candy's name came up more than once.

Candy's journey to becoming a Texan and a community leader had some twists and turns. She grew up in Los Angeles, the only child of a single mom determined to provide her daughter with a good upbringing. Since they had close ties to their Norwegian relatives, a live-in nanny traveled from Norway to join the family and help raise Candy.

"My mom is an amazing woman," Candy said. "She was always there, wise and strong, no matter what."

Candy's mother made sure that her daughter's childhood was filled with good moments – wonderful birthday and Christmas celebrations, and a good education in Lutheran private schools.

"I was a shy kid and a bookworm," Candy said. "We took many trips to the bookstore and library for Agatha Christie books. I wanted to be a writer – in fact, I still hope to write a mystery novel when I retire."

Her senior year, her mother gave her a graduation gift of an eight week trip to Europe. It was one of the highlights of Candy's life.

By her early twenties, Candy had married and had a baby. But in January of 1994, dramatic events turned her world upside down. The largest earthquake ever recorded in a North American city struck Los Angeles. It measured 6.6 on the Richter scale. Freeways collapsed. Office buildings pancaked. And thousands of people were injured or killed.

"The sheetrock literally came down in our apartment," Candy said. "We lost everything we had."

In the hours after the earthquake, she tried to go back in and retrieve clothing and belongings. At one point, she was inside and her husband, mother, and baby were outside when a strong aftershock occurred.

"A man was running, and I heard him say, 'Call 911! A live wire fell on a car with a baby in it!'" Candy said. She had an awful realization. "It was my car, my baby! My husband did save our baby. Meanwhile, that man grabbed the live wire with a pair of pliers and was electrocuted in front of us."

The trauma of the earthquake was a turning point. The family decided to move to Texas, where Candy's in-laws lived. By March 1994, the family had moved to Dallas and Candy was a stay-at-home mom with six-month old Christina. After a few months, they found Wylie.

"As soon as we came out here, we knew this was where we would build our house," she said. "We drove down Ballard Street and I said I want to raise my kids here. It's so different from LA – the mom and pop shops and small town friendliness."

Over the years, Candy followed in her mother's footsteps, balancing career and family. She has worked for In Staff Personnel in Plano for eight years and is a controller. She and her second husband, Jeff, have two great kids: Christina, now fifteen, and Jeff's son Connor, eleven. But she wanted to do

~ continued

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more, to make a bigger contribution to her community. "I believe in this town," she said. "People watch out for their neighbors and kids. They stop when people need help. And my eyes have been opened to the needs in the city that you don't see if you just stay in your own little world."

She was influenced in part by her good friend in the Wylie Police Department, Detective Donna Valdepena. "She is a great all around person," Candy said. "I look up to and respect her. I saw her involvement and knew I could be and do more than wife and mother."

Candy joined the Wylie Women's League, which gives her many opportunities to serve the community. "Through the Wylie Women's League, I've seen a lot of what our city's needs are. I wanted to set an example for my kids. Having the latest video game or the best clothes is not always that important. There are people in our community struggling to put food on the table."

In 2005, Candy received a phone call asking her to be one of the sponsors for a Relay for Life participant. Relay for Life events raise money for cancer research and programs. Because her mother is a breast cancer survivor and because Candy had a dear friend in Norway die of cancer, the phone call was another turning point for her. "It made me think,

'What can I do?'" she said. "I saw that Wylie and Sachse need something like Relay for Life."

By 2007, she was ready to act. She called the Dallas office of the American Cancer Society and asked what it would take to get the program started in Wylie. After a series of meetings and the commitment from Candy that she would chair the event for the first three years, Wylie's Relay for Life event was born.

"Our first year was rough because this event is not nearly as well known as the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure," Candy said. "So we've had to do a lot of explaining. This year will be easier."

In Texas, Relay for Life is a 12-hour event that happens overnight, from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Wylie ISD donated the use of Shaffer Stadium, and more than 400 registered participants showed up. "We had 32 teams of eight to fifteen people and we raised \$50,000 for cancer research and support programs," Candy said.

The 2009 event is scheduled for April 24 in Shaffer Stadium. The theme is "Changing the Channel on Cancer." Each team will pick a television program for its individual theme. Candy's team selected "Desperate Housewives," and their campsite will be decorated like Wisteria Lane. Her husband's team chose M*A*S*H*, so they will have Army tents.



Wylie Women's League Relay for Life 2008 Team.

Photo courtesy of Ashley Peebles

"Our goal is to have fifty teams sign up," Candy said. "The relay kickoff is January 20 at American National Bank."

When she talks about Relay for Life, Candy's commitment and passion shine through. "What's amazing about the cancer survivors I have met is that they show up to help others," she said. "It's not about their story but about the need to be filled. I would hope to be half the person some of these survivors are. We want to do much more, start cancer-specific support groups, work with local churches, help one person at a time."

She reflects on what she has learned through her volunteer work: "Little things make a difference. Everyone can help make our community better, whether it's stocking shelves at the Christian Care Center or donating a coat to a person in need."

Candy notes that every person diagnosed with cancer should visit www.cancer.org and get involved. •

American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Wylie/Sachse

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Shaffer Stadium

Candy Arrington, Event Chair

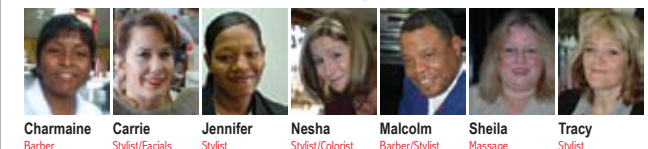
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Medical Mission

Improves lives in Bulgaria

By Jennifer Bayless

At least once a year, Richardson Regional Medical Center and Light Over Europe Ministries co-sponsor a medical mission trip to bring much-needed medical care and education to a developing country. In November, Liz Fagan, M.D., of Lucas, Medical Director of Richardson Regional's Emergency Department, traveled to Bulgaria with the hospital's President and CEO Ron Boring and Chief Nursing Officer Elizabeth Steger. They held a clinic in one of the villages, providing medical care to anyone who wanted a free exam. They also visited two orphanages to provide physical exams and treat sick children.

The trip was especially meaningful for Dr. Fagan because her 12-year-old daughter Brianna, a seventh grader at Sloan Creek Middle School in Fairview, accompanied her for the first time.

"She was very eager to go and help," said Dr. Fagan. "Last year, she asked for donations for her birthday instead of presents. With the money donated, we bought 25 pairs of shoes and sent them to the orphanages in Bulgaria."

During this trip, Brianna was able to deliver gifts to the orphans in person.

"I wanted to go to help people less fortunate than us, especially the children," said Brianna.

She also helped her mom by taking patients' vital signs at the medical clinic. The group was touched by the generosity of the people they met, especially since they have so little to give.

"Everyone who came to the clinic wanted to bring something for us in return for their medical care – a candy bar, apples picked from their tree, a crocheted handkerchief," said Dr. Fagan.

Besides doing health checkups, Dr. Fagan taught a first aid class to orphanage workers and an educational class on hygiene and puberty to teenage girls. The missionary team also held a pizza party for the orphans. Dr. Fagan says Brianna bonded with many of them.



Dr. Fagan overlooking the town of Berkovitsa, Bulgaria. She has gone on several medical mission trips in Eastern Europe.



Brianna received many hugs from the children at the orphanage.



Brianna, Richardson Regional President and CEO Ron Boring, and Linda Wilson, another volunteer who accompanied the Richardson Regional team.

"The children at the orphanage just wanted to hug her, kiss her, dance with her and ask her question after question about what it's like to live in the U.S.," said Dr. Fagan. "She wanted to bring most of them home with us. She already wants to know what she can do to help here and when she can go back."

The group is collecting special need items to send back to Bulgaria, including medications, medical supplies and dry packets of soup for a soup kitchen. Dr. Fagan also is having orthopedic shoes and inserts made for one of the patients she saw.

"He has a foot problem that makes him unable to walk without crutches, and he has to walk more than a mile to work each way," said Dr. Fagan. "In the U.S., it would be fixed with an easy outpatient surgery, but the surgery isn't available there. The shoes and inserts that I'm sending him will allow him to walk again without crutches. I'm glad I can do something that will improve his life."

The mission trips bring a greater appreciation for life here at home. Brianna says it was a learning experience she won't ever forget.

"I learned from the orphanage kids that you don't need things to have fun," she said. "They don't have anything except a couple pairs of clothes, and they still have a good time. I didn't realize how great we have things here in the United States until I saw how much less people in Bulgaria have. I want to keep going on these trips with Light Over Europe Ministries and my mom."

And along with the other volunteers from Richardson Regional, Brianna and her mom have already made life a little brighter for dozens of adults and children in Bulgaria. •

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Heroes in the Classroom

WISD Teachers of the Year

by Marcia Coker of WISD

All types of staff members participate in the education of students in a public school system. Teachers, administrators, aides, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, coaches, food service and maintenance workers all impact students. Besides academics, those daily human interactions can teach thoughtfulness, caring, motivation, promptness, dedication, patience and any number of other lessons.

The true heroes in public school and especially in Wylie, however, are the classroom teachers who work directly with students and in turn, their parents. "When the classroom door is closed, it's our teachers who truly make the biggest impact for each child," said Wylie Independent School District Superintendent H. John Fuller. "Our teachers change lives and mold futures. Their dedication to the children of our community is inspiring to those of us who see it in action on a daily basis."

As the Wylie school community has grown in numbers and diversity, the role of the teacher has become more challenging. Currently, more than 40 native languages are spoken in the homes of Wylie ISD students. Helping students become conversant in English and fluent writers of English is a big task and affects teachers at all grade levels. Teachers also help new students acclimate to the classroom and feel part of the school community. As technology changes the way that we live and allows us to communicate via computers and other devices, teachers provide a necessary human interaction that students need so much to be emotionally healthy.

Teachers also help children want to learn and to value learning. Master teachers teach academic content and for students to value themselves and their talents. These outstanding educators help children at all ability levels to do their best and to grow and improve at their own pace. Great teachers model excellence to their students.

Each year WISD campus faculties and administrators select a teacher who exhibits outstanding professional qualities and the ability to interact effectively with students, parents and

the public. These 18 educators become the "Teacher of the Year" for their campuses. In January, following interviews by a community panel, a WISD Secondary and Elementary Teacher are selected and announced at the 31st Annual Wylie Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet.

This year's campus winners have been selected and announced.

The Elementary winners are:

Akin – Melissa Clark, first grade
Birmingham – Tracy Baskeyfield, third grade
Cox – Traci Mays, second grade
Dodd -- Brenda Hollis, first grade
Groves – Jennifer Aldrich, kindergarten
Hartman – Lezlee Hernandez, kindergarten
Smith – Melissa Carpenter, second grade
Tibbals – Amy Barner, fourth grade
Whitt – Abby Sandoval, third grade
Davis Intermediate -- Kathy Lampkin, sixth grade math
Draper Intermediate – Amy George, sixth grade math/science
Harrison Intermediate – Allen Wade, sixth grade math

The Secondary winners are:

Burnett Junior High – Scott Roach, eighth grade US history
Cooper Junior High -- MJ Tykoski, eighth grade science
McMillan Junior High – Margaret Clayton, eighth grade language arts
Special Programs Center – Sherri Scott, K-6
Wylie East High School-- Andie Doty, biology
Wylie High School – Donald Dennis, English Language Learners

Congratulations to these outstanding educators. They are heroes to their peers and to their students. •



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Dr. Singh enjoys gardening and spending time with her husband and son.

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Honoring Our Veterans

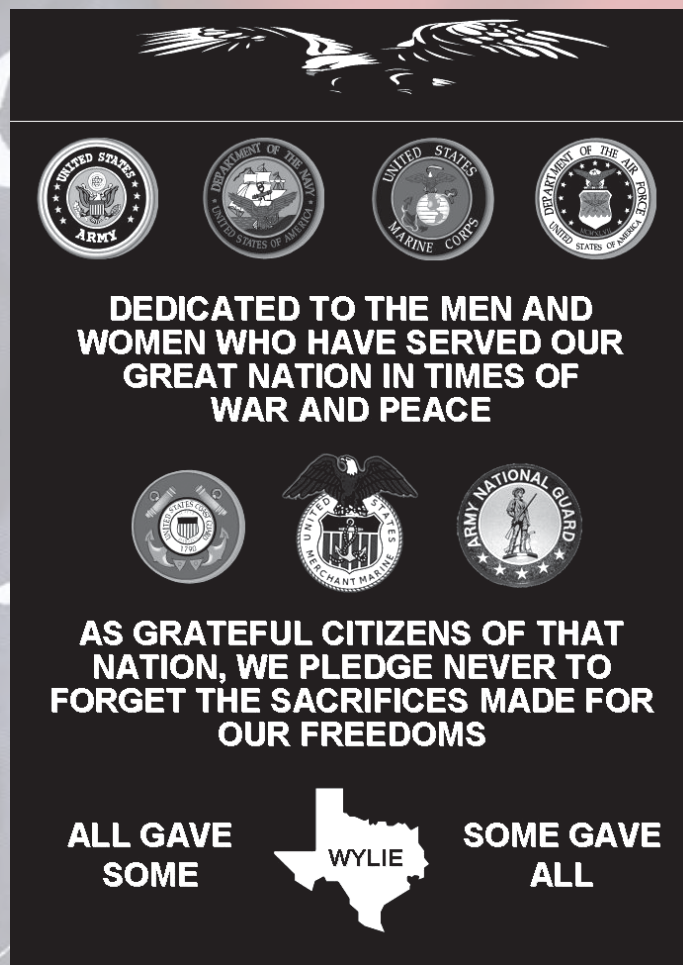
A new memorial is being planned for Wylie's Olde City Park

from the Wylie Chamber of Commerce

There is always a time and a place for everything or so it is said. In recent years we have watched many of our young men and women graduate from Wylie High School and surrounding schools then embark on military careers that could eventually take them in "harm's way". On July 28th, 2008 we lined our streets in a show of solidarity, support and hope as our local armory, the 3rd Squadron, 124th Cavalry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division, TX ARNG shipped out for deployment in hostile lands.

We've seen these young men and women return home; for however brief a time, to rejoin with their families and community before heading out again to their next duty station or assignment. Most of these reunions are unheralded and pass with only a whisper, but maybe that's the way it should be or the way it needs to be.

"Some families have paid the ultimate sacrifice and have not seen their loved one return," stated Bill Bonney, 2008 Wylie Chamber of Commerce Chairman of the Board. "As a father who has seen a son return twice from the field of battle, my wife Susan and I feel most blessed. Their courage, commitment, and self-sacrifice are something as a community we should treasure and cherish for in them rests the hopes and dreams of all of us." In June of this past year, the Wylie Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors came to the conclusion that now is the time and Wylie is the place to honor these brave men and women and the generations of veterans that came before them.



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WYLIE

The Wylie Chamber of Commerce will be presenting to the citizens and the City of Wylie a gift... a Veteran's Memorial Monument to be placed in Olde City Park. "The purpose of the monument is to honor all veterans each Memorial Day" said Mr. Chuck Flesch, Chairman of the Memorial Day Monument Committee, Chamber Director and a Marine Corps veteran. "Our goal is to provide a site for reflection and remembrance to veterans, their families and the citizens of Wylie. On


Memorial Day each year we'll honor those veterans who have served, those currently serving, and those that have made the ultimate sacrifice."

As a citizen you can take a part in this project by purchasing a pave stone honoring your service, that of a friend or a family member, or a fellow citizen, (see example below). The chamber will be selling a total of 240 pave stones each with the individual's rank, first initial, last name, branch of service, and dates of service. The pave stones will be laid in a horizontal pattern that will surround the monument. Each pave stone represents a bond, not only to their family and future generations, but to this community and its citizens, and even more importantly to each other for all those who are so honored in this solemn place.

Wylie Monument owners Stacey Rosser and Garland Raney, a Vietnam War veteran himself stated "Honoring past veterans as well as those currently serving is an honor for us and we feel extremely privileged that the Chamber of Commerce came to us with this project." For more information or to order a pave stone, please visit the chamber website, www.wyliechamber.org.


Example of how the pave stones will be engraved.

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Forgiveness

Learn to let things go

by Bryan Dodge

Forgiveness is one of the most important “whys” in your life. Hatred always fails and bitterness always destroys. We live in a time marked by litigious proceedings and heated exchanges, rather than one of forgiving, forgetting, and extending mercy to those who may have wronged us or let us down.

We have much to be grateful for such as the comforts that a modern society affords us and the privilege of living in a free and prosperous land. It would be fitting for us, as grateful people, to cultivate the ability to forgive and to accept forgiveness. Without that ability, you will always see that Life's Good, but you will not truly feel it inside. We need to forgive others so that tiny molehills of misunderstanding don't grow into mountains of destruction. In the home, parents and children hang on to old grievances for years, sometimes even a lifetime. In the workplace, business associates quarrel and refuse to compromise or forgive. So often, many people spend their days blaming others, nurturing grudges, and planning retribution. If you focus on not forgiving, you will pay a high price in your relationships with others.

In “A Piece of String,” French author Guy de Maupassant, tells the story of a peasant named Hauchecome who came to the village on market day. While walking through the public square, he caught sight of a piece of string lying on the cobblestones. He picked it up and put it in his pocket. The village harness maker, with whom he had previously had a dispute, observed his actions.

Later in the day, the loss of a purse was reported. Hauchecome was arrested on the accusation of the harness maker. He was taken before the mayor, to whom he protested his innocence, showing the piece of string that he had picked up. But no one believed him and he was laughed at.

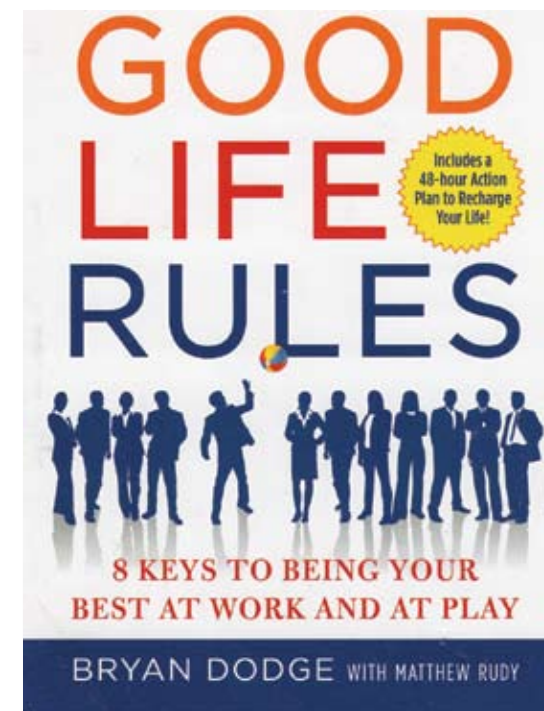
The next day, the purse was found and Hauchecome was absolved of any wrongdoing. But, resentful of the indignity he had suffered because of a false accusation; he became embittered and would not let the matter die. He thought and talked of little else. He neglected his job. Everywhere he went, everyone he met had to be told of the injustice. By day and by night he brooded over it. Obsessed with his grievance, he became desperately



ill and died. In the delirium of his death struggles, he repeatedly murmured, “A piece of string, a piece of string.” Because he was unable to forgive and forget, Hauchecome gave up the Good Life for a life of misery.

And yet, there are those who feel that forgiveness is a sign of weakness. But it takes neither strength nor intelligence to brood in anger over wrongs suffered, to go through life with a spirit of vindictiveness, or to squander one's abilities in planning retribution. There is no Good Life in nursing grudges. You've probably heard

the phrase, “I don't get mad; I get even.” Although the statement is usually spoken in jest and invites a chuckle, there is nothing humorous about it. This type of thought only promotes a spirit of retaliation and one-upmanship rather than true forgiveness and the ability to forget.



Bryan's latest book is now available online at www.bryandodge.com.

Frankly, most of us have not reached the stage of true forgiveness. It is not easy to reach, but I never said the Good Life was easy. It requires self-discipline and the ability to let go of our pride. The application of forgiveness can be difficult to achieve, but it is even more difficult to live without.

Selfishness is the cause of most of our misery. It is a disease which can spread to the point of being uncontrollable if we allow it. Haven't we all lived beneath ourselves from time to time? You may be able to control your behavior for a while or keep a good attitude for a short period of time, but have you ever wondered why you can't really get free of it, why you are so angry, why you can't get along with certain people, why you are sometimes negative when you don't really want to be, why you are allowing the bad seeds of

the past to destroy the good things that your life can bring to those around you? Remember, you can't live with those bad seeds inside you without it doing harm to you and to those around you. If you don't forgive the people who wrong you, they don't really care, but you need to remember that you are forgiving for your sake. You are forgiving so that those bad seeds will not continue to grow inside of you and destroy the Good Life focus.

And haven't we also been in a position to extend a hand of forgiveness that both sides needed? But we don't, because pride or selfishness gets in the way. So many of us are prone to say we forgive, when in fact we are unwilling to forget. Why do we bring up the past again and again? One of the greatest lessons that one can learn when reaching for the Good Life is that there is no true forgiveness without the ability to truly forget that which needs to be forgotten. As one of college football's successful coaches, Lou Holtz, once said that the happiest person in the world is a person with a short memory. If you are truly unable to forget, which is normal, then you need to pass the final test of true forgiveness. When the memory comes to you, does it make you mad, or does it make you appreciate where you are at this moment in life. If anger is still part of the memory, then true forgiveness has not taken place, and you must learn to let it go.

Your willingness to forgive is a sign of maturity that allows you to develop the Good Life focus that you need to rest your mind, body, and spirit and to remain energized. We all need to make a commitment to ourselves to not only forgive what needs to be forgiven, but to forget what truly needs to be forgotten, so your life and your energy can move to the next level. If you want people to forgive you, you must forgive first. •

For more inspiration visit
www.bryandodge.com

*Forgiveness is the economy of the heart...
forgiveness saves the expense of anger,
the cost of hatred, the waste of spirits.*

~ Hannah More, English author

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Ladies Do Lunch

At Café Roma in Sachse

by Lori Whitten of Poetry & Wylie

Finding time to spend with friends can be trying. We all lead such busy lives and often forget how important “friend” time is – that is until we finally get our calendars together and set the “time” aside. This month, we ladies decided to make a quick run to Sachse and check out Café Roma; of course the date changed several times and we had to make multiple adjustments to our schedules, but we finally did it and as always thoroughly enjoyed our repast and each other’s company. The ladies would not be themselves if some of us were not late therefore, give me just a moment to rant. Anne, your nails are not that important! And Judy, drive yourself next time. Finally, Stacie we forgive you, after all clients can be demanding. You should have gathered by now Becky and I were the only ones on time and we shared some wonderful bread. I would be remiss if I did not mention Becky’s “Friends” inspired part of the review at this point, “Bread – Good” (remember Joey at Thanksgiving?). Thank you Becky, I struggled with that one.

Café Roma is a classic Italian Ristorante featuring pastas and pizzas. We opted for the pastas and specialties, forgoing pizza until we could return with the true pizza experts, our kids. The La Bella Caprese, which is a wonderfully refreshing appetizer - featuring mozzarella,

tomatoes and roast (sweet) peppers drizzled with olive oil and fresh basil and Fried Zucchini were our first course. It went wonderfully with the peace offering of Wine and Roses that Anne brought to lunch



The La Bella Caprese, our favorite appetizer at Café Roma.

(okay – we forgive you). The mozzarella was sweet, creamy and smooth. It was a joy for the pallet and the surprisingly flavorful peppers and dressing made this my absolute favorite at Café Roma. From there we moved onto the main courses of Pasta Combo (manicotti, lasagna and cannelloni), Pasta Primavera, Chicken Calabrese and Frutti De Mari. The Chicken Calabrese was tremendous; the chicken was tender and moist, the cream sauce slightly sweet and very

smooth – and who does not love artichokes, mushrooms and red bell peppers. We topped off the meal with a Cannoli and Tiramisu (no wonder we cannot seem to lose any weight), both made in Café Roma’s own kitchen. I particularly enjoyed the Tiramisu. I was a bit concerned



The staff at Café Roma.

when Stacie was worried about trying it; she had a slight flash back to the “wet cake” incident written about earlier in the year. This particular Tiramisu had a wonderful coffee and vanilla flavor with absolutely no hint of “wet cake”. I also experienced a slight flash back to “When Harry Met Sally” and the infamous restaurant scene between Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan – this sparked some very interesting conversations – which we will leave at the restaurant.

The food was wonderful at Café Roma and a good time was had by all. While the premise of this particular column is about restaurants, I hope you have figured out by now it is more about friendships. If you have not had a chance to spend time with your friends as of late, I hope you will take the time to do so. Maybe meet up with them at Café Roma Pizza & Ristorante, take a bottle of wine, relax and enjoy yourselves – you deserve it! Café Roma is located at 5250 Highway 78 in Sachse, you can also find their menu at www.caferomasachse.com (and they deliver). Be sure to tell them that the Lunch Ladies sent you, and don’t forget “Bread – Good”! •

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How Fast Do Markets Recover?

You might be surprised

from the Jal Dennis Group

The stock market is amazingly resilient. The sky is not falling, despite what the pessimists would have you believe. Yes, the Dow Jones Industrial Average entered bear market territory in early July. Yes, June was a really lousy month for stocks. We can't change all this. But you might be surprised at how fast the stock market has recovered remarkably – and quickly – from some notable downturns.

2001 – 2002. After the four-day closure of the stock market following 9/11, the Dow fell 685 points (the biggest single-day drop ever) to 8,920 on September 17. It kept falling, losing 14.26% in a week to close at 8,235 on September 21. But what happened next? A huge gain. The Dow closed 2001 at 10,021 – a 21% rebound in less than three months.

There were more challenges ahead. One October 9, 2002, the Dow had fallen to 7,286.

But on Halloween, the Dow sat at 8,397 – a 10.6% gain in 22 days.

As for the people who panicked and bailed out of the stock market, they ended up kicking themselves: in 2003, the DJIA gained 25.3%, the S&P 500 26.4%, and the NASDAQ 50%.

1987. October 19 was Black Monday: in a contagion of selling exacerbated by unchecked computer technology, the Dow lost 22.6% in one day, falling to 1,738, a 508 point loss. (That would be akin to a 2,300 point one-day drop today.) The S&P 500 lost 20.4%. By comparison, the initial “Black Monday”, the stock market crash of 1929, represented a 12.8% market loss.

Then the recovery kicked in. During the next two trading days, the Dow gained nearly 300 points – and it closed 1987 at 1,939, gaining back all of the loss and ending up 2% for the year. By January 1990, the DJIA was at 2,800.

would have gained 462% over the next 20 years.

1974. With investors fretting over rising inflation and the energy crisis, the Dow loses 30% of its value during the first three quarters of the year. Suddenly, the Dow gains 16% in October. In early December 1974, the Dow is at 577; in July 1976, it hits 1,011.

I hope these examples give you some encouragement and confidence when it comes to the market right now. The Dow, S&P 500 and NASDAQ have been through some rough periods, but the important thing is to look at how they have climbed across the decades.

On August 12, 1982, the Dow was at 777. On January 14, 2000, it was at 11,722.98. That's a 1,500% gain in 17 ½ years.

This is why people stay in the market through the downturns. This is what the market is capable of achieving. There are periodic descents. But history is definitely on an investor's side.

What should you do now? That's a good question. If you would like to discuss how to invest in light of this recent market, and what financial moves you might make that could help you manage risk and take advantage of a rebound, then you should talk with a qualified financial advisor today. •

Jal Dennis is a Representative with LPL and may be reached at 972-429-0603 or jal.dennis@lpl.com



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