

March/April 2009

# The Connection

*Wylie • Sachse • Murphy Community Magazine*

Kacie Lynch

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*plus*

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Kacie Lynch - Photo provided by the Lynch family.



Just for fun, find the butterfly! Last issue it was hidden in the Discover Downtown Wylie panoramic photo on page 9.

## The Connection

Wylie • Sachse • Murphy Community Magazine

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Occasionally we make a mistake. Let us know if you find one so we can correct it. Thanks!



Relay For Life is a fun-filled overnight event that celebrates survivorship and raises money for research and programs of the American Cancer Society. Relay participants are able to CELEBRATE those who have battled cancer, REMEMBER loved ones lost, and empower individuals and communities to FIGHT BACK against a disease that takes so much.

The 2009 Relay For Life of Wylie/Sachse/Murphy will be held at Shaffer Stadium in Wylie on April 24th starting at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in forming a team you can visit our website [www.wyli-erfl.com](http://www.wyli-erfl.com) to sign up or you can contact me, Candy Arrington, at [carrington@instaff.com](mailto:carrington@instaff.com) or 214-957-5000. The team registration fee is \$50 (This is per team not per individual). Pay online via credit card when you register or you can pay by check later.

Wylie/Sachse/Murphy joined the ranks of cities who host their own Relay For Life event in 2008. Last year with 32 teams and 403 participants we were honored not only as a 2008 Top Fundraising Relay but we also earned Rookie Relay of the Year. Our relay raised \$51,594.40 it's first year. I can't wait to see what we do in year #2!

Many have volunteered to help out event day and everything is coming together, but with the economic hardships we are facing this year, our Relay is struggling with sponsors. For our \$1000 sponsors some of the incentives include having your logo on the back of 750-1000 t-shirts, a spot to welcome a relayer at one of our ceremonies, we will hang your banner at our event and mention you in our thank you ad. For a \$500 sponsorship we will have your name on our shirts, will hang your banner at our event and mention your name in our thank you ad. For our \$100 cancer fact sponsors they will get their company name and logo placed on cancer fact signs that will be placed around the track. If businesses would like to help out but maybe they are not able to do so with a check we also need items for our survivor goodie bags as well as items for our silent auction tent.

Our theme for this year's event is "Changing the Channel on Cancer" and teams are choosing TV shows that they will represent. My team will be representing Desperate Housewives and decorating our campsite to resemble Wisteria Lane. The fun of this event is that it really is just a big sleepover. Imagine 50 teams consisting of 700 participants camped out around a track all night long. We will have games and activities such as sack races, theme laps, bat races, bingo etc. going on throughout the night. Plus plenty of coffee donated by Starbucks!

Several teams will be hosting garage sales to fund raise on Sat., March 7th. You will find them at businesses up and down Hwy 78. My team will be at the American National Bank in Wylie. Come out and show your support. There's no telling what sort of treasure you may find.

Do You Know Any Cancer Survivors? *Please Invite Them to Our Event!* We know we are making progress in the fight against cancer by the number of survivors who are alive today. There are an estimated 10 million cancer survivors in the United States. These heroes are invited to come to our Survivor Reception at 6:00 p.m., on April 24th, and then walk the Survivors' Victory lap. They do not need to be on a team to join us, they just need to register as a survivor. They can do this by visiting our website at [www.wyli-erfl.com](http://www.wyli-erfl.com) or by contacting me at [carrington@instaff.com](mailto:carrington@instaff.com) or 214-957-5000.

Remember: There is no finish line until we find a cure.

~ Candy



# Community Spotlight

## Wylie Veterans Memorial Project



The Wylie Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors decided last June to present the citizens and the City of Wylie with a gift... a Veterans Memorial Monument to be placed in Olde City Park.

The purpose of the monument is to honor all veterans and provide a site for reflection and remembrance for veterans, their families and the citizens of Wylie. Each year, on Memorial Day, we will honor those veterans who have served, those currently serving, and those that have made the ultimate sacrifice.

In recent years we have watched many of our young men and women from Wylie and surrounding areas embark on military careers. Their courage, commitment, and self-sacrifice are traits that we as a community should honor and cherish.

As a citizen you can take part in this project by purchasing a paver honoring your service, that of a friend or family member, or the service of a fellow citizen. The chamber will be selling a total of 240 pavers each with the individual's rank, first initial, last name, branch of service, and dates of service. The pavers will surround the monument.

For more info. or to order a paver, please contact the Wylie Chamber of Commerce at [www.wyliechamber.org](http://www.wyliechamber.org).

**Sgt. J. Smith**  
**U.S. Marine Corps**  
**1942 - 1944**

Example of how the pavers will be engraved.



# March Events

**Each Tuesday thru Apr. 14th** – Income tax specialists from the AARP will be at the Laurie Schwenk Senior Activity Center. Free income tax preparation is available to all citizens on a first-come, first-serve basis, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3815 Sachse Road. Bring all 2008 tax documents and a copy of your 2007 tax return. If you have any questions you may call the center at 972-495-6282.

**Mar. 5th** – Wylie Women's League 20th Birthday celebration. Please join us at the Birmingham house from 7-9 p.m. After 5 attire is requested. 469-964-7425

**Mar. 7th** – Wylie Women's League Relay for Life Rummage Sale. Proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. 469-964-7425

**Mar. 7th** – Heard Museum Owl Prowl Night Hike at 7 p.m. - This fun and educational event, including Live Owls of Texas, will provide you with a truly unforgettable experience—a rare opportunity to see owls much closer than usual! After the live owl presentation, you will be given a few minutes to prepare for a night hike. During this hike, you will search and listen for owls on our 289 acre wildlife sanctuary. Closed toed shoes, long pants, and bug spray are recommended. Bring a flashlight with a red lens on it to protect our night vision while hunting for owls! Participants will be outdoors for at least an hour. Pre-registration is required for all Night Hikes. E-mail smann@heardmuseum.org or call 972-562-5566 ext. 237.

**Mar. 8th** – Wylie United Methodist Church presents a free concert featuring the Dallas Praise Group Orchestra. The concert begins at 6 p.m. at 1401 FM 1378, Wylie. For more info. contact Pastor Donna Sutton at 972-442-5835.

**Mar. 8th** – Plano Symphony Orchestra's Family Symphony Sundays Series finishes the Ensemble Concerts with Poundin' Percussion at 3 p.m. Meet this section of the Orchestra at the Courtyard Theatre, 1501 Avenue H, Plano. Come early 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. To order tickets, call the Ticket Office at 972-473-7262: Tickets: \$7 - \$11 Add \$2 at the door. www.planosymphony.org

**Mar. 12th** – Ducks Unlimited Banquet at Swingin D Ranch in Parker from 6 - 9 p.m. Individual dinner is \$45, couple cost is \$55, cost includes one year membership. For more info visit www.ducks.org/states/64/events/event3517.html.

**Mar. 13th** – Parent's Night Out – Wylie United Methodist Church provides a fun and safe place for your kids so you can have a date night. Drop off your children (infants thru 5th grade) at 6 p.m. and pick them up at 10 p.m. Bring \$10 per child, dinner for the kids and enjoy an evening out. Contact Jan at janbeamer@verizon.net.

**Mar. 13-15th** – Quilt Celebration 2009 sponsored by the Quilter's Guild of Dallas. Over 350 quilts on display, vendor mall, mini-quilt auction benefiting Ronald McDonald House, and quilting demonstrations. March 13-14: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 15: Noon to 5 p.m. Dallas Market Hall, 2200 N. Stemmons Fwy, Dallas. For more info. call 972-480-5939 or visit www.quiltersguildofdallas.org. Admission: \$8 Discounts for seniors and those with advance tickets purchased at local quilt shops or on-line.

**Mar. 14th** – Sachse Senior Center - Health Spring Benefits and Educational Seminar, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

**Mar. 15th** – The Sachse Historical Society will conduct its annual meeting at 2 p.m. at the Charles Smith & Sons Chapel, 2925 5th Street. Featuring a guest speaker, entertainment and light refreshments. Get involved in preserving Sachse's past by joining the Historical Society. Dues are \$10 and corporate memberships are \$50. The Sachse Museum is open the 2nd & 4th Sat. from 1 - 4 p.m. and Tues. from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tours by appointment. For more info. visit www.sachsehistoricalsociety.org.

**Mar. 16th** – The Angel Food Ministry is an opportunity to buy low cost, quality food. A \$30.00 basic box includes meat, vegetables, a starch and dessert. There are no restrictions, conditions or forms to fill out to purchase Angel Food. The program is open to all. Come to Wylie United Methodist Church to order one on or before March 16 (before 3 p.m.). Pick up your box March 28. Bring a box to pick up. If you have questions, contact the church office at (972)442-5835.

**Mar. 16th thru Apr. 1st** – Early Registration for Heard Museum Summer Camps. The Heard offers an in-depth nature education in our 289 acre Wildlife Sanctuary, where kids can learn about nature and animals during guided hikes. Choose from Camp Diamond, Camp Shark Tooth, Eco-Explorers, an Audubon naturalist summer art camp, plus a range of specialty camps! Studies will include geology, herpetology, forestry, paleontology, Nature CSI and many more. The Eco-Explorers Camp will feature the new Heard Ropes Course! For details and registration forms visit www.heardmuseum.org. Summer camps run June 8 - August 7. Registration for museum members begins March 2nd. Early public registration begins March 16th. Register by April 1st to be eligible for \$10 discount.

**Mar. 20th thru June 11th** – Searching For A Star Competition - Each Friday will have a theme, Mar. 20 - Performer's Choice, Apr. 3 - Country/Songs of Inspiration, Apr. 17 - 1930's & 40's Classics, May 1 - 1950's & 60's Classics, May 15 - 1970's & 80's Classics, May 29 - Broadway Hits. Park Lake Church, 3702 Sachse Road, Sachse. The Finals will be held on Thursday June 11 in Wylie. For info. call 972-429-0047 or visit www.searchingforastarfoundation.org.

**Mar. 28th** – Boots 'n Barbecue Gala 2009 benefiting the Wylie ISD Education Foundation at South Fork Ranch, 6:30 p.m. www.wylieisd.net/foundation (See page 9)

**Mar. 28th** – The Heard Museum Ropes Course - Open to the Public Day! Experience the Zip line, Rock Climb and Dangle Duo! Adults and children ages 7 and older may participate. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Guests will enjoy this event on a first come, first served basis. Details at www.heardmuseum.org.

**Mar. 28th** – Plano Symphony Orchestra presents "Multi-Media Pictures at an Exhibition and the Young Artists" featuring The Grand Prize Winners of the Collin County Young Artist Competition at 8:15 p.m. in St. Andrew United Methodist Church at 5801 West Plano Parkway, Plano. To order tickets call 972-473-7262 or visit www.planosymphony.org. Reserved Seating tickets: \$9 - \$75. Add \$2 at the door.

**Mar. 28-29th** – Lone Star Vintage Tractor Show, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. each day. A two day program of North Texas Agricultural History and Technology from 1870 to 1970. Myers Park Event Center, 7117 Country Road 166, McKinney. Admission \$7 adults 16 and over, \$3 children under 16. North Texas History Center 972-542-9457 farmmuseum@northtexashistorycenter.org, www.northtexashistorycenter.org.

## April Events

**Apr. 1st-5th** – Heard Natural Science Museum Big Bend Trip: A Texas Naturalist Adventure - Roger Sanderson, Director of Botanic Gardens and Wildlife Biologist, will lead the trip. Hike through shady forested areas of majestic Ponderosa Pine. Enjoy excellent birding opportunities. View curiously beautiful rock formations and take photographs. Perfect for any nature enthusiasts! Under Roger's guidance, you will see, learn about, and appreciate things most people would not normally notice on their own. For the most exciting nature experience you have ever had, reserve your spot by March 10th! Visit www.heardmuseum.org for complete itinerary and details.

**Apr. 3rd** – Heard Museum Treasures from the Earth - This exhibit features gems, gold & dinosaur fossils. It may just make your eyes sparkle! Be the first to see this exhibit in the newly renovated Heard exhibit space. www.heardmuseum.org.

**Apr. 4th** – Cub Scout's Pinewood Derby - Boys from many Cub Scout packs in Wylie, Nevada and Sachse will race their Pinewood Derby cars in hopes of winning trophies, including Grand Champion. 1-5 p.m. at First Baptist Church Wylie, 100 N. First St., Wylie. Adults, siblings and businesses can enter "Outlaws" race (anything goes!) for \$10. For more info. contact Jeanine Stevens at 972-442-6963 or tardam@aol.com.

**Apr. 4th** – Sachse's Easter Egg Scramble at Heritage Park at 10 a.m. on Hudson Dr. behind Sewell Elementary.

**Apr. 4th** – Wylie Women's League Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Wylie High School at 10 a.m. Please join us and have your picture made with the Easter bunny. Easter egg hunt will be for all children ages 1-6.

**Apr. 4th** – Wylie United Methodist Church invites you to our Easter Egg Hunt. Bring your children and baskets, and your cameras! The fun begins at 10 a.m. 1401 FM 1378, Wylie. Contact Lezlie at 972-442-5835 for more info.

**Apr. 4th** – Sachse's Doggie Bone Hunt at Heritage Park at 7:30 p.m. followed by the Flashlight Egg Hunt for the bigger kids at 8:15 p.m. on Hudson Dr. behind Sewell Elementary.

**Apr. 4th** – Wylie United Methodist Church Annual Talent Show at 6 p.m. Come for a fun packed night of talents, laughs, and good times. There will be a silent auction, a concession stand, a baked goods auction, and everyone will have a chance to vote for who you think will be the winner. All the proceeds go towards the Wylie UMC 2009 Youth Mission Trips. For info. or to enter contact Travis Burdett at travis.burdett@wylieumc.org or call 972-442-5835. 1401 FM 1378, Wylie.

**Apr. 8th** – The Angel Food Ministry is an opportunity to buy low cost, quality food. A \$30.00 basic box includes meat, vegetables, a starch, and dessert. There are no restrictions, conditions or forms to fill out to purchase Angel Food. The program is open to all. Come to Wylie United Methodist Church to order one on or before April 8 (Before 3:00 PM). Pick up your box April 25. Bring a box to pick up. If you have questions, contact the church office at 972-442-5835.

**Apr. 9th** – The Living Last Supper on Holy Thursday at 7 p.m. is a live reenactment of the Last Supper of Jesus. Free. Wylie United Methodist Church, 1401 FM 1378, Wylie. 972-442-5835.

**Apr. 11th** – InSync Exotics Easter Egg Hunt with the big cats! Gates open at 11 a.m. & the hunt starts at noon. Visit www.insyncexotics.org for map & info.

**Apr. 17th** – Parent's Night Out – Wylie United Methodist Church provides a fun and safe place for your kids so you can have a date night. Drop off your children (infants thru 5th grade) at 6 p.m. and pick them up at 10 p.m. Bring \$10 per child, dinner for the kids and enjoy an evening out. Contact Jan at janbeamer@verizon.net.

**Apr. 18th** – Plano Symphony Orchestra presents "An Insider's Beethoven 5th" featuring Donnie Ray Albert, Baritone. Beethoven was one of three composers who changed the course of music for the world. And because people always have lots of questions about Beethoven's 5th, we've planned a very special, first ever interactive concert. Maestro Guzman will give a pre-concert chat about Beethoven, he and the art-

ists on stage will be accepting questions from the audience during the concert, and will follow up with a post-concert interactive chat. 8:15 p.m. at St. Andrew United Methodist Church at 5801 West Plano Parkway, Plano. www.planosymphony.org

**Apr. 18th-19th** – Annual Spring Native Plant Sale – Including Heirloom Plants - A huge selection of hard-to-find herbs, native and well-adapted plants. This year, the Heard will also sell heirloom plants. This collection of plants will provide some of the best plants for North Central Texas gardens and an opportunity to obtain many rare plants. Watch www.heardmuseum.org for complete details coming soon! Members Only: Friday, Apr. 17, 4-7 p.m. (Memberships available at event or online). Open to Public: Saturday, Apr. 18 (9 a.m. - 5 p.m.) – Sunday, Apr. 19 (1 p.m. - 5 p.m.)

**Apr. 18th & 25th** – Pirate Cove Playground - 3rd Annual Keep Our Playground Safe & Sound Maintenance Days. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. in Founders Park behind Wylie High School. Weather permitting. Get your service hours in! Contact Anne Hiney for more info at 972-672-4133.

**Apr. 20th** – Taste of Wylie benefiting the Wylie Christian Care Center at 10 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Wylie. More than ??? restaurants will be showcasing their tasty treats. Live & silent auction. Call Sandy Nelson for details. 972-742-8999

**Apr. 20th** – The Sachse Senior Center "55 Alive" Safe Driving Class - One day (4 hour) class begins at 9 a.m. Cost: \$10 for AARP Members and \$12 for non-members. For more info. call 972-495-6282 or e-mail ddickson@cityofsachse.com.

**Apr. 22nd** – Baylor Garland Health Seminar subject "Bugaboos" (bugs that make you sick) at 11 a.m. at the Sachse Senior Center. This is a sack lunch seminar and you must call 1-800-4BAYLOR to register. Seating is limited so call early.

**Apr. 24th** – American Cancer Society - Wylie/Sachse/Murphy Relay for Life, 7 p.m., Shaffer stadium at 7 p.m. www.wylierfl.com (see page 5)

**Apr. 24th** – Sachse's Mother/Son Round Up at Salmon Park from 7 - 9 p.m. just off Highway 78 on Williford Road.

**Apr. 25th** – Sage Creek Home Owners Association 3rd Annual Muddy Creek 5K Fun Run for the Christian Care Center. Entry fee is a food donation to the Christian Care Center. For info. contact John Onufreiczuk at 214-491-8432 or 972-774-6530.

**Apr. 25th** – Night Hike at the Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary. Sneak a peek into the nocturnal world and experience nature in a whole new way! To make a reservation or book a private night hike, please email Steffanie Mann at smann@heardmuseum.org. \$12 per person; members \$10 per person. Payment is required to reserve your spot. www.heardmuseum.org.

## Sachse Library Events

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

**Mar. 3:** Join us for some old-fashioned birthday party fun to celebrate Dr. Seuss's 105th birthday at 4 p.m. We'll have games, cake, and crafts.

**Mar. 4th & 18th:** Mahjong group meets at 1 p.m. The group welcomes new players, and is willing to teach the game to beginners.

**Mar. 11th:** The Friends of the Sachse Library and the Woodbridge Book Club will be hosting an evening with author Glen Pourciau, reading from his book of short stories at 7 p.m.

**Mar. 12th:** Brown-bag Luncheon and Seminar at Noon - 1 p.m. sponsored by the Sachse Small Business Library. Special guest Stu Schlackman will speak on "Profiting from Personality Perspectives".

**Mar. 17th:** Join us for a special Family Storytime on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. This program is tailor-made for busy parents who want to spend quality time with their children. Come read books, make crafts and play together! This program is repeated on the following Saturday (March 21) at 1:30 p.m.

**Apr. 1st & 15th:** Mahjong group meets at 1 p.m.

**Apr. 9th:** Bring your preschooler to a special Easter storytime and enjoy a morning of springtime stories and an Easter Egg Hunt in the library at 11 a.m.

**Apr. 18th:** Help us celebrate National Library Week with a fun Saturday at Barnes & Noble in Firewheel from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Join us for storytimes and programs, and find out how you can support the library with B&N vouchers.

**Apr. 21st:** Join us for a special Family Storytime on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. This program is tailor-made for busy parents who want to spend quality time with their children. Come read books, make crafts and play together! This program is repeated on the following Saturday (April 25) at 1:30 p.m.

**Apr. 23rd:** Join us for our second annual Teen Talent Show at 6:30 p.m., sponsored by the library's Teen Advisory Board. Teens, sign up for a time slot and show us your skills! Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the show.

**Preschool Story Time:** Thursdays at 11 a.m.

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

## Wylie's Rita and Truett Smith Public Library

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

**Mar. 9th:** King Tut Mummy Mania at 6:30 p.m.

Family Fun Night presents the award-winning, Dallas Museum of Arts story teller, Anne Marie Newman for "King Tut Mummy Mania".

**Mar. 9th - 13th:** Teen Tech Week - Teens (6th – 12th graders) are invited to celebrate YALSA's third annual Teen Tech Week. Events will be held Monday through Friday from 3:15 p.m. until 5 p.m. in the Bluebonnet Room. Daily Activities: Monday: Rock Band 2, Tuesday: Techie Crafts (use computer parts to make cool jewelry and accessories), Wednesday: Manga drawing workshop with Cassandra, Thursday: Rock Band, Friday: Anime movie day.

**Mar. 12th & Apr. 9th:** 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!

**Mar. 19th & Apr. 16th:** Friends of the Library Meeting at 6 p.m.

Friends of the Rita & Truett Smith Public Library are having their monthly 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!

**Mar. 5th, Apr. 2nd & Apr. 16th:** 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.

**Mar. 23rd & Apr. 27th:** Fourth Monday Book Club at 6:30 p.m. in the Bluebonnet Room. For additional information call Donna or Laura at 972-442-7566.

- **Mar. 23rd** - discussion of The Blue Star by Tony Earley.

- **Feb. 23rd** - discussion of Out Stealing Horses by Per Petterson.

**Mar. 26th & Apr. 30th:** BeTween Book & Movie Club at 6:30 p.m. in the Bluebonnet Room.

- **Mar. 26th** - 4th & 5th graders are invited to discuss The Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum, watch scenes from the movie and enjoy snacks. The first 15 kids to sign up will get a free copy of the book!

- **Apr. 30th** - 4th & 5th graders are invited to discuss Prince Caspian: The Return to Narnia by C.S. Lewis, watch scenes from the movie and enjoy snacks. The first 15 kids to sign up will get a free copy of the book!

**Apr. 23rd:** Teen Drum Program at 4 p.m. - Teens are invited to keep the beat with Len Barnett, musician, educator and entertainer. This event is free and open to teens (6th-12th grade).

**Apr. 25th & 26th:** Friends of the Library Book Fair - The Friends invite you to visit the library to pickup a list of activities for the Barnes & Noble event! When you make a purchase at the Barnes & Noble in Firewheel (Garland, TX) on April 25th or April 26th, mention the Smith Public Library and a portion of the proceeds will benefit the new library.

**Apr. 27th:** Join us for Family Fun Night featuring the México 2000 Ballet Folklórico at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to celebrate Dia de los Niños, Dia de los Libros (Day of the Child, Day of the Book). Come enjoy Mexican folk dance with the excitement and color of a Mexican Fiesta!

**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. **March 4:** Mice are Nice, **March 11:** Lucky Me, **March 18:** Spring has Sprung, **March 25:** Around the World. Check www.wylietexas.gov/Library/kids.htm for April themes.

**Every Wednesday – Wylie Chamber of Commerce Business Card Exchange,** Woodbridge Golf Course club house, 7400 Country Club Dr., Wylie. 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 May/June community calendar send an e-mail to **theconnection.anne@mac.com** no later than April 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!*



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**Historic Downtown Wylie**

**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 p.m.

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

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

The gala raised \$125,000 in 2008 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. In May 2008, the foundation also awarded seven scholarships to seniors graduating from Wylie High School.

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

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## Local Organizations Helping Others Every Day

**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](http://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](http://www.garlandquiltguild.org) or contact Allison Ray at 972-941-0860 or [allisonray@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:GenFriends@GenealogyFriends.org), e-mail: [www.GenealogyFriends.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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 us at [Diva@wyliemomsandmore.org](mailto:Diva@wyliemomsandmore.org) for info. [www.wyliemomsandmore.org](http://www.wyliemomsandmore.org).

**MOPS of Sachse/Wylie/Murphy** Mothers of Preschoolers meet at Park Lake Church at 3702 Sachse Road in Sachse on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays (September-May) from 9-11:30 AM. Mothers with children from birth through kindergarten are invited. Childcare is included with semester MOPS dues. To RSVP or for more information please call Park Lake Church at 972-414-0600, e-mail [mops@parklake-church.com](mailto:mops@parklake-church.com), or visit [www.mops.org](http://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 Tuesday 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** volunteer organization works 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](http://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.

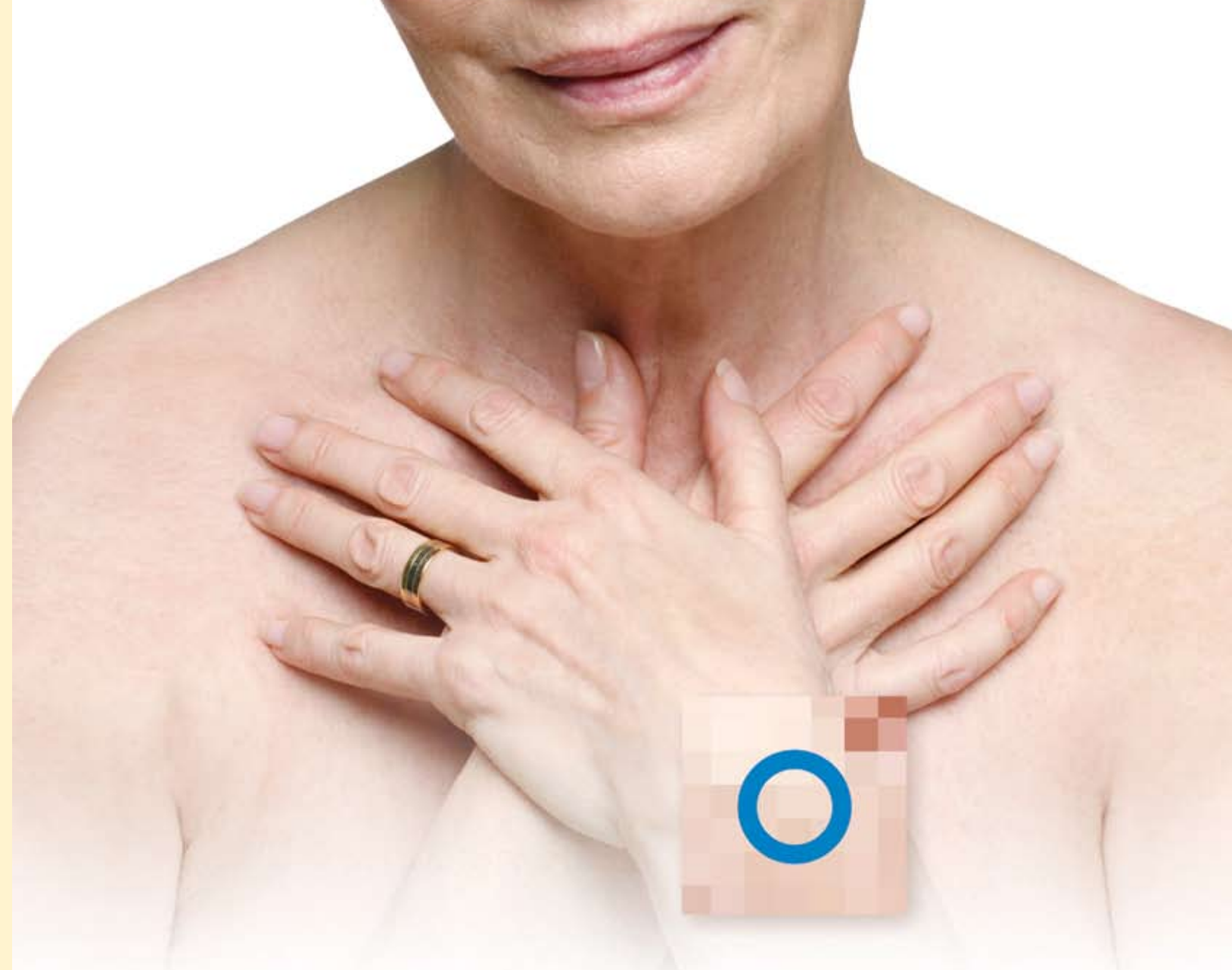
**Wylie Lions Club** meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at Taste of Home Restaurant at 302 N. Ballard Ave. at noon. Anyone interested in becoming a Lion is welcome to join the group for lunch. Call Ada Mooney for more info at 972-771-5551.

**Wylie Evening Lions Club** 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 Helmberger at [joehelmberger@verizon.net](mailto:joehelmberger@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](mailto:katies-hockleydtm@yahoo.com) or 469-757-0952. [www.wylie.freetoasthost.com](http://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](mailto:daniel21@verizon.net) for more info. •



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# Kacie Lynch

**M**ove over, Miley. Just a minute, Jonas Brothers. Kacie Lynch of Wylie is about to be the Next Big Thing. As in mega-star. In this world of fly-by-night entertainers, Kacie is a genuine, talented phenom and she's only 13 years old.

Kacie, who lives in Seis Lagos, couldn't have timed it better to explode onto the music and acting scene. With Hannah Montana increasingly maturing, the world needs a younger girl entertainer who can sing, act and dance. Kacie is that triple threat.

In fact, Radio Disney was so impressed with Kacie that she was chosen as a finalist in its "Next Big Thing" contest! This nationwide competition features a different singer every two weeks through March. Listeners vote online and text message to give songs from each artist up to 5 stars. Kacie did amazingly well when she was featured in January singing her songs "Gravity" and "Runaway," ranking among the top stars with an overall 4½ star rating! From April

by Jeanine Stevens

4 through April 23, she'll battle it out in hopes of becoming the "Next Big Thing" Grand Champion.

What could this mean for Kacie? The chance to perform at a Disney concert event, possibly a single or an album. And from there, who knows. Kacie is ready for anything because of her singing, acting and dancing...maybe even a Disney movie or TV show!

"That would just be unbelievable," Kacie says, her long brown hair and brown eyes flashing with excitement. "I hope everyone likes my work, because I try very hard at being the best I can be. But I want to stay down-to-earth too."

## Success won't spoil Kacie.

Kacie really does keep grounded. While other young stars often face behavior challenges, she remains a wholesome kid. Connie and Valton Lynch, her parents, are not the stage parent types that wind up in the tabloids. "We remind her that she's fortunate," states Valton. "She has only been in the entertainment business for two years. It's something that we tell her to never take for granted."

"If this is her dream," says Connie, "we want to give Kacie—as parents—any real chance we can. I would never have chosen this path for her—but she wants to do this. We'll always have our house in Wylie where she can feel at home. There's no other place like Wylie and Seis Lagos."

Though she has a busy schedule, Kacie earns straight A's at her school, Spring Creek Academy in Plano. Says Karen Morrell, the school's director, "She is an amazing student who is extremely motivated and always has a bright smile." Olympic gymnasts Carly Patterson and Nastia Liukin are alums because the school is flexible for students to work around their special pursuits.

## The "Lollipop" kid.

It all began at a kindergarten talent show when Kacie, then 5, sang a song called "Lollipop" and brought the house down. She began performing in local theatre productions that showcased her vocal, dancing and acting abilities. She was chosen to perform in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City for the VIP Opening Performance. Kacie has already wowed Maury Povich on his national TV talk show, highlighting her as one of "Maury's Most Talented Kids." She belted out Aretha Franklin's "Think" and received a standing ovation from the audience. Willie Nelson also chose Kacie to open for Jessica Simpson and him at 2007's Aetheria Foundation Gala in Dallas.

Even with her increasingly hectic schedule, Kacie finds time to charm preschoolers as Taylor, a regular on the Barney & Friends TV show on Channel 13. She has

also played Jingles the court jester in "Once Upon a Dino Tale," a Barney & Friends movie.

Valton has seen his daughter become a true professional. "She has a maturity that's impressive, never dwelling on auditions or their outcomes. She thinks about a given audition maybe a few minutes and moves on."

"Even if I did have the pressure, I'd handle it well," believes Kacie.

Actually, doing girl stuff is most important right now. Spending time with her best friend Sydney, speed texting, roller blading and sleepovers are what's coolest. Kacie loves talking about her favorite things. "I just love the colors black and white, and my biggest influences are Christina Aguilera and Leona Lewis. My dream meal is chicken, sweet potato fries and Birthday Cake ice cream."

## Positive thinking means everything with Kacie.

Kacie also recognizes that being in the spotlight can influence girls and she wants to be a great role model. "Girls look up to someone who's done good stuff. I admire people who've done good things and are great performers."

The support from Wylie continues to be a driving force for Kacie Lynch. "My friends in Wylie, Plano and locally gave me the edge on Radio Disney. And Wylie is so small-town friendly. It's a wonderful place to grow up; I'll always call Wylie home."

In 10 years, Kacie has high hopes. "I want to be an all-around performer, not just an actress or singer." She may not have to wait that long. Besides her previous triumphs, Kacie has been super busy auditioning for television shows in Los Angeles. Kacie auditioned for "The



Vote for Kacie to be the Next Big Thing on Radio Disney!

Diary of a Wimpy Kid," a feature film and had a special opportunity to audition for "McKenzie Blue," a pilot based on a book series. If all goes well, Kacie could be the face of the series. Books and a CD will be introduced first and Kacie would tour promoting both...then star on the TV series. Only time will tell if she gets the part.

But Kacie, being practical, will keep on recording songs and auditioning every chance she gets. She also plans something truly special for her fans in the Wylie area very soon! Be sure to vote for Kacie from April 4 through April 23 when she competes in the "Next Big Thing" finals on Radio Disney at [www.radiodisney.com](http://www.radiodisney.com) or visit and vote at Kacie's website, [www.kacielynch.com](http://www.kacielynch.com).

Keep looking for Kacie Lynch on TV, movies, albums and concerts. As Judy Taylor, head of casting at Disney, proclaims, "We are grooming her to be someone special. Get ready!" •

Jeanine Stevens is a freelance writer who lives in Wylie. For more information about Kacie Lynch, contact Jeanine at 972-442-6963 or [tardam@aol.com](mailto:tardam@aol.com)

Photos courtesy of the Lynch Family



# Meet the King's Quads!

by Kathleen Noble of Wylie



Long ago fairy tales always began the same way ~ *Once upon a time...*

Each of them make-believe stories, set within magical kingdoms in faraway lands where most anything was possible. Plain orange pumpkins became proverbial golden carriages, mice turned to coachmen, and lovely young maidens awaited handsomely regal princes to kiss them awake or fit them with fabled sparkling slippers.

Common to all folklore a prince arrived gallantly on horseback to claim his princess and the two ride into a captivating sunset to live out their well-written happily ever after destinies safely within palace walls.

A bit of a modern day fairy tale is unfolding in a lovely Wylie manor for a young King family. A true to life story-book romance with a computer age twist; Trevor King and Jenna Winder met online in January 2004. So the two could be together, Trevor relocated from the Austin area in May, they were engaged in September and wed March 2005. The King's, the epitome of a twenty first century couple, are raising an enchanting eighteen month old princess: the beautiful Eva Renee who was born to them in July 2007.

Their story isn't imaginary. The characters and events are real but the story is mystically full of every ingredient necessary for an age old fairy tale classic.

The discovery of an unimaginable magnitude came in July 2008. The King's would be welcoming quadruplets in April 2009. In their wildest dreams, the twenty-three year old Jenna had spoken hopefully of wanting five children someday; while Trevor, 27 envisioned perhaps a more manageable three. "I guess Jenna won," laughed Trevor.



In October, sixteen weeks into the pregnancy Jenna was placed on strict and total bed rest; allowed to rise for only bathroom and shower needs. At just twenty three weeks gestation Jenna's pregnancy measured that of a full term single baby pregnancy.

"December 30th we arrived at the doctor's office for a regularly scheduled visit. We expected nothing more than the same information we'd received every week since the beginning of the pregnancy ~ size, measurements, weight, blood pressure checks, admonishments to continue on bed rest, going over concerns, complaints; but we got so much more," said Jenna. "During the examination the doctor discovered a bulge in the amniotic sac of one of the babies. The doctor admitted Jenna explaining they'd do all they could to delay the inevitable onset of labor. In spite of monumental effort to do so Jenna began having contractions" added Trevor.

Bounding into the world at only twenty five weeks gestation a short twelve hours later in order of birth were Parker, Dahlia, Preston and Madelyn King; the perfect combination of princes and princesses. One pound 12 ounce Parker Elden, one pound 11 ounce Dahlia Colleen and one pound 12 ounce Preston Wayne came into the world at 9:33 p.m. with Madelyn Lila making her entry one minute later. In the period of two minutes the world changed, and the King family increased from three to an unbelievable seven.

Preston, Parker, Dahlia and Madelyn are fraternal or multizygotic quadruplets; meaning they developed from four unique egg/sperm combinations.

They arrived via Cesarean section delivery to four sets of four member medical teams consisting of a doctor, nurse, respiratory therapist and anesthetist. Under the watchful eyes of hospital staff and a team of caring doctors the babies slept in separate incubators.

Madelyn and Dahlia, just now allowed to wear clothing, remain attached to monitors and wires one would rather imagine as jewels and adornments befitting precious fair young maidens. Brave masters Parker's and Preston's little bodies yield medical tubing resembling the badges of honor they've battled to earn. "Each of them is such a fighter and defying all the odds," brag both Trevor and Jenna.

"Parker is so active and is constantly kicking and stretching his little body, and Preston works so hard at everything. He looks so much like Trevor with his golden hair," offered Jenna. "Madelyn always appears to be smiling. She looks just like Jenna and has Jenna's dark complexion and hair; while Dahlia is the quiet observer and responds immediately to the sounds of our voices," said Trevor. "They all love to hold on to our fingers and try so hard to not let go," added Jenna.

Both parents visit the babies' twice daily everyday to participate as much as is possible in the care of their children.

During that time Jenna administers Kangaroo Care; a skin to skin contact method between mother and child used to restore the unique mother-infant bond following a sudden separation during the birth experience particularly in premature births. The term Kangaroo Care was chosen to describe this strategy because the method is similar to how a baby kangaroo is carried in its mother's pouch. Kangaroo's are born after a gestation period of only 31-36 days and spend their remaining gestation period of between 180 to 300 days tucked safely within their mothers pouch. It is estimated that more than 82 percent of U.S. neonatal intensive care units are now using the Kangaroo Care method. Researchers have found that close physical contact with the parent helps to stabilize the pre-term infant's heartbeat, temperature, and breathing. Pre-term infants often have difficulty coordinating their breathing and heart rates.

"We try very hard to schedule our time with the babies around Eva. She has done so well adjusting to the constant coming and going. We try to see the babies during her nap-time and when she goes to bed in the evening so she doesn't feel like we are always leaving her," said Jenna. "Eva definitely knows things have changed; especially since Mommy doesn't have her "ball" anymore," Jenna added.

Although each baby has endured medical conditions and necessary treatments common in micro preemie births such as the need for nasal cannulas, ventilators, and continuous

*continued ~*



Photos by Laurie Ruth - [laurieruthphotography.com](http://laurieruthphotography.com)



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positive airway pressure treatments their prognosis is excellent. According to Trevor all the children had patent ductus arteriosus or PDA, a common condition seen in babies born so early. The valve that connects the two chambers of the heart doesn't fully close. Often the condition is correctable with drugs but Madelyn, Preston and Parker required surgery. Dahlia, Parker and Madelyn have each experienced bouts of pneumonia and Preston has experienced life threatening problems with kidney function. As is the way of fairy tales, the doctors in this ongoing epic are optimistic. The King quads continue to fight and to overcome the odds daily.

"The prognosis' for all the babies is excellent. It's all scary of course and is a roller coaster ride of emotion, worry, exhilaration and euphoria. We pray a lot and we ask God for strength and stamina. We are fortunate for knowledgeable doctors and amazing medical professionals and for the support of our families, our friends and church families," admits both Trevor and Jenna. "The doctors tell us to plan for an April homecoming. Which seems ironic since the original due date for the babies was April 14th," added Trevor.

With the combination of their strong faith and the enormous love the Kings have for Parker, Preston, Madelyn, Dahlia and little Eva...they are expecting nothing short of their own personal ~ Happily ever after. •

You can visit the King's blog to read more about their amazing experience at [treverjennaeva.blogspot.com](http://treverjennaeva.blogspot.com).

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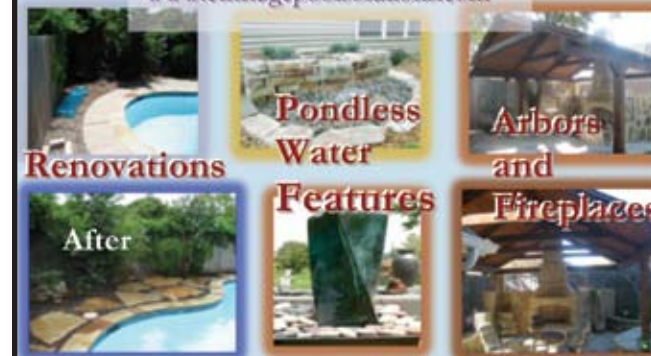
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Dr. Gupta joins the Neurology practice of John Harney, M.D. She is board certified in Neurology, Neurophysiology and Electrodiagnostic Medicine. Her office is located near the Richardson Regional Campbell Campus.

**RESIDENCY:**  
University of Tennessee

**EXPERIENCE:**  
Neurologist and Clinical Neurophysiologist - North West Mississippi Regional Medical Center

**MEDICAL INTERESTS:**  
Neuromuscular Disease, Clinical Neurophysiology

**PERSONAL:**  
Dr. Gupta enjoys music, the arts, travel and outdoor sports. She is married with two children.

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# The Birds & The Bees

Talk to your kids about sex

By William Lin, M.D.

When parents hear the question, “Mommy and daddy, where do babies come from?”, it can lead to an awkward discussion about sex. It’s important to be prepared to talk about this topic with your children at any age, especially since it’s inevitable that they’ll pick up information about sex on television, on the playground or in school.

## Keep it Simple for Younger Children

It’s natural for young children to be curious about their own bodies, so it’s normal for them to ask questions at an early age. The information you give your kids should be age-appropriate. When they are young (5 years of age or younger), it’s best to keep your answers short yet truthful. For example, give them a simple explanation that they can understand such as “babies grow in a special place inside their mommy.” You don’t need to explain the act of lovemaking - they won’t be able to understand the concept.

## Open a Dialogue

As they grow older, it’s appropriate to talk about the human anatomy of males and females. Use correct anatomical words rather than slang. You can explain that babies begin to grow when a mother’s egg combines with a father’s sperm. If your child sees something on TV or in a movie, you can use that as an opportunity to open a dialogue about sex. Be sure to listen



iStock Photo

to their thoughts and feelings and make them feel comfortable talking to you, not embarrassed.

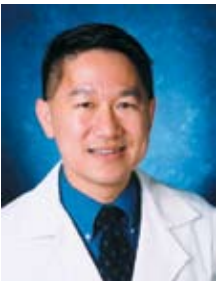
## Address Tougher Topics With Preteens/Teens

During their preteen/middle school years, talk to them about puberty so they aren’t worried or afraid when their bodies begin changing. Children ages 13 and older can handle heavier topics, including sexual intercourse, relationships, birth control and sexually transmitted diseases. Educate them about risky behavior and both the physical and emotional consequences of being sexually active.

## Show Them You Care

Talking about sex also gives you an excellent opportunity to express your morals and values. At the same time, it’s important to show your children that you trust their judgment and you respect their privacy. Remember that communication is key. Studies have shown that teens who have talked to their parents about sex are more likely to wait longer to begin having sex or to practice abstinence. So although talking about the birds and the bees can be difficult and uncomfortable, it’s a topic you don’t want to shy away from. By communicating openly and honestly, you can help guide them to make healthy choices. •

*William Lin, M.D., is a pediatrician on the medical staff at Richardson Regional Medical Center. He attended The Chicago Medical School in Illinois and completed his residency at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital in California. Dr. Lin is board certified in pediatrics and has 10 years of experience. His office is located at Richardson Regional’s Bush/Renner campus (E. President George Bush Turnpike and Renner Road). For appointments, please call (972) 235-9444.*



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## Wylie High School Culinary Arts

A recipe for success!

from Wylie High School

**F**ood, restaurants and dining out are a huge part of our American culture. On a typical day in America more than 130 million individuals will be foodservice patrons. There are approximately 945,000 restaurants in the United States with gross sales of \$566 billion that employ about 13 million people...that's 9% of the workforce! All of this adds up to an economic impact that is expected to exceed \$1.5 trillion dollars this year. Add to this the fact that the restaurant industry is expected to add 1.8 million jobs over the next decade, with employment reaching 14.8 million by 2019. Restaurants and foodservice offer our young people a tremendous opportunity for an excellent career. This is why the Wylie High School Culinary Arts program exists. And the goal of providing our students an industry-based career preparation program is thriving!

WHS started its Culinary Arts program about 12 years ago with just a few sections offered. In the fall of 2003 Chef Steve DeShazo was hired, by then principal Dr. T.J. Theisen to take over the program. Chef DeShazo is a five year veteran of the U.S. Navy, where he served as a cook aboard the USS Guadalcanal (LPH-7). He has over 20 years experience as a chef and manager, most recently owning a catering company in Dallas that, among other things, served as the "personal chef" to the Dallas Mavericks. "When Dr. Theisen hired me I told her that I wanted to create the most innovative high school culinary program around," says DeShazo. "And the Wylie ISD administration has supported me every step of the way."

His goal has succeeded. Every year more high schools start culinary arts programs and most of them base their programs on the WHS model. In fact, in 2004, there were only 4 high schools in the DFW area that had a culinary program. Now there are over 25! This speaks to the incredible opportunity that our students here in Wylie have to get a great start to an excellent career.



Mauricio Martinez, expeditor, rings the bell to indicate an order is ready to be delivered to a guest.



Photo by Anne Hiney

Pictured from left: Ruben Garcia, Chef DeShazo, Jamie Hannan, Chanda Gonzalez, Kenia Santebanez, Ludy Castro, Cullen Williamson, Josip Janjic, Mauricio Martinez, Cody Braley, Melonie Hampton, Jessica Cohron, Kenny Harbison, Carlos Torres, Kelly Adkins.

The program at Wylie High School is centered on a student-operated restaurant and catering operation called Pirate Cove Café. The café is open to the public for breakfast and lunch 3 days a week, usually on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 7:45-9:10 and 11:45-1:40 and serves from a full menu of over 20 lunch items including soups, salads, sandwiches, hot entrees, side dishes and delicious daily dessert specials. Breakfast offerings include made to order omelets, breakfast quesadillas,



Chanda Gonzalez prepares a club sandwich.

scratch-prepared muffins, biscuits and pancakes and many other standard breakfast items. When first-time patrons feast their eyes on the amazing menu they cannot believe that the restaurant is run exclusively by high school students! And the ambience and mood lighting in the dining room make you feel like you are in a real restaurant... except for the whiteboard on the wall!

In addition to a busy breakfast and lunch service the student staff also provides catering services to events both in the district and in the

continued ~

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community. Some of these events include providing buffet service in the football stadium at every home game, catering the annual dinner for the Christian Care Center volunteers, providing hors d'oeuvres and service for the AFJROTC Military Ball each December, catering the Band Banquet every spring and many more.

All of these activities add up to on the job training that is unmatched by any other opportunity that is out there. WHS Culinary students are participating in a controlled learning environment where they can perform complex tasks without any of the pressure or fear of failure. "I remember a lesson from my business management class in college when I learned the three important rules when managing a staff," says DeShazo. "First, give them the skills they need to do the job. Second, give them the tools they need to do the job. Third, empower them to do the job. These are the same rules I use when I am training my students."

It appears to be working. Every year WHS Culinary graduates earn tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships from many sources. And in just a few short years there is already




*Ludy Castro won the District Culinary Arts competition and is going to state in Corpus the first week of April*

*Photo by Jessica Cochran*



a list of graduates from this impressive program who have gone out and made their career goals a reality. Mike Kown, a 2005 WHS graduate, has graduated from The Culinary Institute of America, completed his externship at The Mandarin Hotel in Singapore and is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from UTD. Class of 2007 graduate Alysia Wier currently is completing her externship from Le Cordon Bleu at Disney World in Orlando, and Class of 2008 graduate Austin McManus is using his skills as a cook in the U.S. Marine Corps with plans to attend The Culinary Institute of America after serving his country. In all, Chef DeShazo is tracking 16 former students who have decided on a career as food service professionals and the list is growing bigger every year.

There is a great deal of attention being placed on Career and Technical Education (CTE) in the current legislative session in Austin. If you want to see first hand what this is all about all you have to do is take a trip to Pirate Cove Café in Wylie High School. These students are receiving the best education available and it is right here in our community! •

*For more information you may contact Chef Steve DeShazo at [stephen.deshazo@wylieisd.net](mailto:stephen.deshazo@wylieisd.net).*



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Several years ago the community of Wylie got together to build a little playground. Well, maybe it's not so little, but the community really did build it!

Pirate Cove Playground is the hidden treasure in Founders Park, behind Wylie High School. Volunteers dedicated countless hours to coordinating, fund raising, promoting and ultimately to a week long construction effort that resulted in a playground unlike any other in Wylie or the surrounding area.

The structure is built of wood and composite lumber. Why wood you ask? Because we could build a lot more playground for the \$125,000 we raised. Pirate Cove Playground covers approximately 1/4 acre, is accessible to children of all abilities, features a tot lot play area especially for children under the age of 5, several swings for all ages, multiple slides, a castle, pirate ship, tree house, and much, much more!

Annually we get together and apply a coat of environmentally friendly sealer to the wood. This simple task helps to protect our labor of love from the harsh Texas summer sun.

This year's maintenance will be held in April, the two weekends following Easter. On Saturday, April 18th, we will start at 8 a.m. and work until 2 p.m. We'll take a break for lunch so bring a picnic and plenty of sunscreen! On Saturday, April 25, we will work from 8 a.m. until Noon. (Weather permitting!) The playground will be closed during these times.

Stay as little or as long as you can. We know everyone's busy!

Kids over the age of seven are welcome to come help with adults. We provide all the tools and materials, we just need the volunteer manpower. This is a great way to get volunteer service hours for your school or scout group. Working with us also qualifies as community service hours.

If you would like to join us for a few hours of spreading sealer we would love to have your help. You don't have to stay the whole time; every little bit adds up to getting a lot of work accomplished.

We also accept tax deductible donations to help pay for the ongoing cost of maintaining the playground. Our Blackland Prairie Playground Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Contact Anne Hiney at 972-672-4133 to volunteer or for more information.



*Pirate Cove Playground during construction.*



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## Avoiding Dog Bites

Steps to teach your kids

by Sharon Jones of Guardian Pet Sitters

Teaching children how to relate to animals is very important. 4.7 million people in the United States are bitten by dogs yearly. 80% of the dog bites are from dogs they know and interact with on a regular basis. Estimation is that more than half are children under the age of 13. Children are at least 3 times more likely than adults to sustain a serious dog bite.



Stock Photo

Children get excited around dogs and they move quickly, talk loudly and try to hug the dogs. All of this needs to be avoided. Even your friendliest dog can be uncomfortable with these quick movements and loud noises.

Here are some steps to teach children to help them be good friends with dogs.

### Avoiding Dog Bites

1. Always ask permission before you pet a dog.
2. After being given approval to pet the dog
  - a. Approach the dog slowly and quietly
  - b. Let the dog sniff you
  - c. Pet gently on the dog's sides or back
3. Do not sneak up on a dog when he is eating or sleeping
4. Do not pet a dog that is playing with a toy
  - Dogs are often protective of toys and may think you are trying to take its' toy.
5. Do not pet a dog that is in a car.
  - Dogs will often protect that space.

continued ~

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6. Do not pet a dog that is behind a fence.
  - Once again dogs often protect their territory.

**Understanding a dog's body language can help you avoid a dog bite. If a dog is angry or fearful he is most likely to bite. Some signs to look for:**

1. Angry dogs might want to make themselves look bigger: ears standing up, fur on back standing on end and/or tail straight up (it could be wagging). Teeth could be bared, growling and staring straight at whoever is approaching.
2. Frightened dogs may shrink to the ground, put their tail between their legs and/or fold their ears back.

**What to do when approached by an unknown dog:**

1. If you are walking - STOP AND STAND STILL (like a tree) with your hands at your side.
2. If you are playing on the ground, LIE STILL on the ground (like a log) with your knees tucked into your stomach and your hands over your ears.  
  
If you lie still like this the dog will usually sniff you and go away.
3. NEVER try to outrun a dog; back away slowly instead. •

Sharon Jones is owner/founder of Guardian Pet Sitters®. If you would like more information or would like a seminar for small groups on Preventing Dog Bites please contact Sharon Jones, by email at [info@guardianpetsitters.com](mailto:info@guardianpetsitters.com) or call 972-625-5272. Visit the website at: [www.guardianpetsitters.com](http://www.guardianpetsitters.com)

**If you are bitten by a dog:**

- If necessary, call your doctor.
- Wash the wound gently with soap and water.
- Apply pressure with a clean towel to the injured area to stop any bleeding.
- Apply a sterile bandage to the wound.
- Keep the injury elevated above the level of the heart to slow swelling and prevent infection.
- Report the incident to the proper authority in your community (ie., animal control office or the police).
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## Ladies Do Lunch

At Amazing Jake's with our kids!

by Lori Whitten of Poetry & Wylie

I woke up this morning, as I do on most Saturdays, with a list of things to do. Then I remembered – I was meeting my girlfriends for lunch – and as an added bonus we were taking the kids. I got up, looked out the window, and was greeted with a beautifully grey overcast day... and what's that – I think I just heard thunder. The day is absolutely perfect for a run into Plano for fun at Amazing Jake's. We, being the very smart ladies that we are, brought the kids in pairs - 2 teenage



Yu-Kyeong and Tasome play Dance Dance Revolution.

girls, 2 preteen boys and 2 tween girls. Okay kids – pack 'em up and head 'em out – we are going to play at Amazing Jake's today.



Amazing Jake's is located at Collin Creek Mall inside the old Mervyn's. I was expecting glimpses of the old place



Photos by Anne Hiney

Alora driving a go-cart.

– and was delighted there were none. Do be aware you may not enter Amazing Jake's without purchasing the all you can eat buffet – so make sure you go hungry. The buffet is packed full of Salad, Pizza, Pasta, a Potato Bar, a Desert Bar and a Beer/Wine/Margarita Bar (adult beverage drinks are not included in all you can eat buffet price).

The food is just a bonus – the real purpose for going to Amazing Jake's is the fun. As a matter of fact moms, you could



David & Bradley climb the wall.

probably drop dad and the kids off and get a great day of shopping in.

They have something for all ages; from the kiddy rides to Laser Tag and all things in-between. Our teenagers enjoyed the Dance Dance Revolution and Laser Tag while taking in the occasional bite of pizza and video games. As preteen boys will do – they had to conquer the climbing wall, and they did, before moving on to video game battles and racing. Finally, as tween girls are a bit fickle, they could not seem to settle on anything specific. One minute, they where racing go-carts, the next bumper cars, they had to take a turn at the climbing wall, then try out

the putt-putt – and of course, those darn games that spit out tickets that must be hit from time to time. How else would they be able to tell their friends about the day if they did not have those “ticket trophies”.

As all good things do, the end finally arrived 3 hours after it started. We decided to have a bit of ice cream before we packed it in. As we sat down, I heard what I have come to call the “but mom” voice. Here is what it said, “ah – I didn't play laser tag – we can't go yet”. Yes we can, and we did. Needless to say, we will be back – and soon I am sure, after all Laser Tag calls. With Spring Break around the corner Amazing Jake's might just be the perfect place for kids with too much time and not enough to do.

The ladies suggest you check out their web page [www.amazingjakes.com/plano](http://www.amazingjakes.com/plano) for COUPONS, prices, and attractions before going. But once there, tell them the Lunch Ladies from Wylie sent you! •



Shelbie driving a bumper car.

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Help prepare them for their future

Every parent wants to help their children become successful adults. The following ideas will help you teach your children how to become financially successful.

Children should learn the value of money at a young age. To help them learn this you must set up guidelines to help your young children begin to understand financial principles. Do not give children a straight allowance and do not pay them to clean their room or to do chores they will be regularly expected to do. They will be disappointed when they realize that no one else is going to pay them to pick up after themselves and then they may not do it. Instead allow them to earn money by doing extra chores after their regular ones are completed.



You may want to work out a system where your child gets set amounts for certain jobs. The ones that may develop into marketable skills you can pay higher for, so that your child understands that some skills are worth pursuing. When deciding how much to pay for jobs, remember the goal is to encourage financial success, and this only comes through hard and entrepreneurial skills. So keep your pay somewhat low to encourage your children's creativity and get them thinking about how to make money from the neighbors and the surrounding community.

As your children earn money require them to save at least twenty percent. This teaches a major key to financial success, which is to pay yourself first, and live on less than your income. It also helps build their savings account for college or whatever later on. If you start this practice young enough your children won't even question it.

At the age of twelve allow them to buy all of their extra things. If they want a new outfit they will find a creative way to pay for it. If they can't find a way to earn enough money for their clothes and other things after trying very hard

you can always be extra generous at birthdays and Christmas.

One of the best things you can do is to encourage marketable skills. Have discussions with your kids about the activities they are interested in and try to think of ways that these activities can be turned into a business. Many children will want to start their own business and many of them succeed. You may want to go so far as to require your children to work so many hours a week on gaining marketable skills. Many things fall into this category such as; piano lessons, horseback riding lessons, repairing a bike, playing with a graphics program on the computer, writing stories. Don't tell your child that something doesn't count if he or she really wants to pursue it, let them explain to you the details of how it could. Let them figure it out for themselves.

Introduce different types of work and let your kids get to know people with all types of different jobs. A good career reference book can spark many good dinner conversations as you discuss interesting and mostly unheard of jobs. Let your kids know the options are limitless.

When your kids are ready to move out on their own they may already have many creative business ideas that they want to pursue. Encourage them, but also encourage them to go to school and use the businesses to pay for it. Struggle brings appreciation. Let them know that a college degree is a wise pursuit because there should always be a backup plan and should usually be several. That way they will know if something doesn't work, they haven't failed, they have just opened up a new opportunity for another business venture.

Your children can be successful in their own businesses or working for someone else if they have ingenuity and a little money know-how. You can give that to them and that is something they will appreciate for the rest of their lives. •

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