

The

CONNECTION

Your Wylie • Sachse • Murphy Community Magazine

The Local Arts are Alive and Well

Art Galleries

Artists

Musicians

Actors

Dr. Kevin Pollock & Dr. Ketan Parekh

Specialists in Oral Surgery & Dental Implants

March/April 2010

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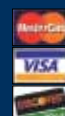
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TEXAS STATE OPTICAL

Beth D. Anderson, OD, therapeutic optometrist and optometric glaucoma specialist, returned to the community to open a TSO family eye care practice in Historic Downtown Wylie. Dr. Anderson is a dedicated and compassionate optometrist, committed to her family, patients, and community.

TSO of Wylie provides a warm and friendly environment where patients feel valued and confident with the eye care they receive. Dr. Anderson's areas of special interest include primary eye care, LASIK management, treatment of eye disease, and specialty contact lens fitting.

Dr. Anderson graduated Magna Cum Laude from Texas Tech University and Summa Cum Laude at the University of Houston College of Optometry, at which she served as commencement speaker for the graduating class of 2007. She is also a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow and has worked in Honduras to provide eye care to those most in need.



Beth Anderson, OD

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On The Cover



Dr. Pollock & Dr. Parekh

Photo by Anne Hiney

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Just for fun, find the butterfly! Last issue it was hidden in the the photo on page 12.

The

CONNECTION

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For information about advertising in The Connection Magazine please contact Becky Lindstrom at 214-228-5844 or blindstrom@wyliechamber.org. Story ideas should be submitted to Anne Hiney at theconnection.anne@mac.com.

The Connection is published bimonthly by the Wylie Chamber of Commerce. The Connection is mailed free of charge to over 30,000 households in the Wylie/Sachse/Murphy/Lavon area and more than 1,000 copies are distributed to local businesses. Contents of this magazine may not be reproduced without written permission from the publisher. Advertisers and advertising agencies assume liability for content of all advertisements. Information published in The Connection is the opinion of the sourced authors. The Wylie Chamber of Commerce does not necessarily share the editorial opinions expressed in The Connection magazine. Personal decisions regarding health, finance and other matters should be made after consultation with the reader's professional advisors.

Occasionally we make a mistake. Let us know if you find one so we can correct it. We welcome your feedback - send comments to info@wyliechamber.org. Thanks!

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From us to you.....

When "The Connection" launched its inaugural issue in September 2006 we started with a goal in mind.... to connect the ever growing communities of Wylie, Sachse and Murphy and provide the citizens of the area with interesting local information.

With our reader's interest in mind we blended attention-grabbing articles spotlighting unique individuals residing among us, updates on school and economic growth, and provided a platform for local businesses to promote themselves. We also included an up to date community calendar, highlighting local events, to get you out in the neighborhood and spending some time with family and friends.

As we continue striving to meet the needs of our readers, and all who have contributed to our growth process, we would like to extend a "special thank you" to the businesses that have supported us in this climb. As we move forward we would like to extend an invitation for appealing stories you believe others would enjoy too.

Published bi-monthly and distributed by direct mail, "The Connection" magazine may also be viewed on the Wylie Chamber of Commerce website, www.wyliechamber.org or picked up in area retail sites, physician's offices as well as local businesses and city offices.

While the vision of connecting the communities has not changed our scope has broadened. With this issue we are pleased to announce our area distribution now includes the neighboring city of Lavon!

In our first issue we stated, "We hope "The Connection" will become something that helps bring the individual communities closer for the benefit of all". That is still our goal and with the help of our communities we will continue to get "connected" each issue.

Mike - Anne - Becky

Keep Our Playground Safe & Sound

Saturday - April 17th, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Pirate Cove Playground
in Founders Park

Annual maintenance day at Pirate Cove Playground in Founders Park. Join us to apply a fresh coat of eco-friendly sealer to the playground structure. Great opportunity for community service hours for churches, scouts, school groups. Supplies provided, no experience necessary. Children over the age of 7 can work with an adult. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. (you don't have to work the whole time!) bring a sack lunch & sunscreen. Please contact Anne Hiney at 972-672-4133 or anne_hiney@mac.com to volunteer or for more info.

Taste of Wylie

Monday - April 19th, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
First Baptist Church Events Center
200 N. Ballard in Downtown Wylie

Featuring tasty treats from 30 of our area restaurants, this event benefits the Wylie Christian Care Center. In addition to the fabulous food there will be live and silent auction items to purchase. Contact Sandy Nelson at (972) 742-8999 for information on helping with or attending this event.

Relay For Life

Friday - April 23rd - 7 p.m. thru
Saturday - April 24th - 7 a.m.
Shaffer Stadium in Wylie

Event starts at 7 p.m. and continues overnight until 7 a.m. By forming a walking team and participating in this event, individual citizens and groups can actively help the American Cancer Society fight back against all forms of cancer through research. This event is also a way to honor family members, friends or neighbors who have fought cancer, and to celebrate with those who have fought and won their battles, the survivors. For more info. go to www.relayforlife.org/wylietx or call Candy Arrington at 214-957-5000.

RELAY FOR LIFE FUNDRAISERS TO SUPPORT!

- March 10 - Hooley's Tavern in Sachse 7pm to 10pm
10% of all food and drink sales on this evening will be donated (Wylie View Team)
- March 16 - CiCis Pizza in Wylie 4pm to 9pm
When placing your order mention "Relay For Life Wylie View" (Wylie View Team)
- March 20 - Rummage Sale at the Wylie High School Parking Lot from 8am-2pm *(Wylie Moms' Relay Team)*
- March 31 - Spirit Night at the Chick-fil-a in Murphy from 5-7:30pm *(Wylie Moms' Relay Team)*

5th Annual Muddy Creek Fun Run

Saturday - April 24th, 8 a.m.
800 Springwell Pkwy.
Register at www.sagecreekhoa.com

1 Mile Starts at 9:00 a.m., 5K Starts at 9:30 a.m. More than 250 runners participate in this event which benefits the Wylie Christian Care Center. The course is certified by USATF (USA Track & Field), and professionally timed using the same technology as the NYC & Boston Marathons.

COMING UP IN MAY



As Memorial Day 2010 approaches; veterans, their families and friends, community leaders, citizens of Wylie and the citizens of surrounding communities await the unveiling and dedication of Wylie's first Veteran's Memorial.

An idea that began in June of 2008 is soon to become a reality on Monday, May 31, 2010. The Wylie Chamber of Commerce along with the Veterans Memorial Committee will be presenting, as a gift to the city and citizens of Wylie, a Veterans Memorial Monument honoring our local heroes.

The main monument is a 52" high black marble obelisk with all 8 service branches etched in white. Surrounding the monument will be 240 white pave stones etched in black with the rank, name, branch of service, and dates of service of military personnel who have served, who are serving, and who have laid down the ultimate sacrifice.

The day will be marked with military ceremony, the first beginning at 7:30 a.m. with the first Flag Raising over the monument. The Unveiling and Dedication Ceremony will begin at 11:30 a.m. and a Sunset Service is scheduled for approximately 8:15 p.m.

Other events scheduled for the day include a pancake breakfast, a motorcycle rally, a car show, and a picnic in the park. A stage and a dance floor will be set up in the park to provide entertainment from approximately 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. and again from 7:00 - 8:15 p.m.

Make plans to join your fellow citizens as we honor those who have answered the call and especially those who have lost their lives defending this great nation. For more details, contact the Wylie Chamber of Commerce at (972) 442-2804 or www.wyliechamber.org.

The Wylie Downtown Merchants Annual 500 Pedal Car Races

Sunday - May 2nd, 2-3 p.m.
Registration at 1 p.m.
Ballard St. in Downtown Wylie



Kids 2-5 years old will race in Pedal Cars. \$10 Entry Fee (includes T-shirt with registration) Winners will receive trophies in 2 age brackets (2-3 & 4-5). Pedal Cars are provided by Wylie Businesses! You don't want to miss the EXCITEMENT....bring the whole family.

Proceeds to benefit the Wylie Area Special Olympics and Downtown Wylie Beautification projects.

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Dr. Kevin Pollock & Dr. Ketan Parekh Wylie's Specialists in Oral Surgery & Dental Implants

Wylie will soon experience a new level of care and broader spectrum of services in oral surgery and dental implants when it comes to specialist care. Dr. Kevin Pollock and Dr. Ketan Parekh realized the potential in Wylie a few years ago when they chose this area to open the doors to their third surgical center. Partnering with Wylie's incredible network of many dentists, orthodontists and other specialists, and paired with the warm and hometown-feel that is Wylie, the doctors were prompted to expand their facility and range of procedures. It is with great excitement Doctors Pollock and Parekh announce current plans are underway to relocate the oral and facial surgical offices to a new location at 520 West Brown Street.

Why Ask for an Oral Surgeon?

Extensively trained, both as dentists and surgeons, Dr. Pollock and Dr. Parekh look forward to continuing to serve Wylie and the surrounding areas with services to include but not limited to:

- Dental Implants
- Removal of Wisdom Teeth
- IV Sedation and General Anesthesia for all age ranges
- Biopsy procedures/oral cancer
- Solutions for snoring and sleep apnea

When using the services of an oral surgeon there is assurance in knowing your procedure will be performed in a properly equipped surgical facility. Dr. Pollock and Dr. Parekh are able to provide IV sedation and general

anesthesia during oral surgery to assure all patients find a pleasant, comfortable, and safe procedure. Both of the surgeons, at the Wylie office for oral surgery and dental implants, are board certified in dental anesthesiology by the American Society of Dental Anesthesiology, qualifying them to deliver both IV sedation and general anesthesia. Dr. Pollock & Dr. Parekh provide a unique surgical specialty with regards to anesthesia training. Every oral and maxillofacial surgeon, during their residency, receive formal anesthesia training with the Department of Medical Anesthesia and are taught the skills to safely administer anesthesia to patients. In addition to IV sedation and general anesthesia, training also includes airway management and intubation techniques. It is Dr. Pollock & Dr. Parekh's utmost goal to make your surgical experience as pleasant and stress-free as possible while maintaining the highest levels of safety.

Dental Implants—The Gold Standard

Genetics and decay are an unfortunate reality, which cause teeth to fail as we age. Traditional methods such as crowns, bridges and partials do not come without consequences—over time they usually need to be replaced and do not protect the remaining tooth structure and root from decay and infection. Another drawback to these traditional methods is that more often the adjacent teeth must be compromised to allow the secure placement of a bridge.

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benefit to having a dental implant is the preservation of bone structure allowing for a natural appearance throughout your lifetime of smiles. Call today to schedule your **FREE Evaluation** to see if dental implants are the right choice for you.

Summer is Wisdom Tooth Season

Do you have teenagers under your roof? If so, chances are they will need to have their wisdom teeth removed in the near future. Wisdom teeth traditionally erupt between the ages of 15 to 25. In addition to causing discomfort, they can compromise the final results of orthodontic work and possibly cause nerve damage along the jaw line. The simple solution is to remove wisdom teeth before one of these inconveniences occurs. Spring break and summer are the optimal times to schedule your teen for an evaluation for removal of their wisdom teeth by a surgical specialist. Dr. Pollock and Dr. Parekh, and the staff at the oral surgery office located in Wylie, take pride in making this experience as comfortable as possible. Call our staff today to learn about our **FAST TRACK** option, which allows you to schedule your consultation and surgery within the same week. This option is ideal for college students who have limited times frames at home.

For more information please contact the friendly staff of Dr. Kevin Pollock and Dr. Ketan Parekh. We are conveniently located in Wylie at 808 South Ballard, Suite 120 as we eagerly await the completion of our new facility. We also have offices in Rockwall and Canton. Our staff will be happy to assist you when you call 469-698-9800, or find us on the web at www.dentalimplantsurgery.com. •



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The Wylie Art Gallery

by Kathleen Noble



Pablo Picasso of Spain brought the art world Petite Fleurs. The masterful Italian artist Leonardo da Vinci introduced the mysterious Mona Lisa to an adoring public and Creole Dancer is only a single example of the fine works of 20th century French artist Henri Matisse.

The floral works of small town Wisconsin master Georgia O'Keeffe and the musings of Pennsylvania pop art great, Andy Warhol may be responsible for bringing art into the contemporary world but Lynn Grimes and Pat Bentine, each armed with little more than a vision, a prayer and a passion ... are bringing art to a more local audience.

A real estate agent with Keller Williams for the past 21 years, Lynn Grimes made a decision in November 2007 to bring her love of art more into focus by first lining her real estate office hallways with paintings and by taking oil painting classes taught by renowned artists Bob Bates and Andrew Wages.



Lynn Grimes



Those art classes were the initial stroke of brilliance that lead Grimes to solicit the help of Pat Bentine, friends, coworkers and members of the Wylie Art Society into helping her realize the dream of bringing art to Wylie, Texas.

Ms. Bentine, recently named co-director of the Wylie Art Gallery, is a San Antonio native. She specializes in bluebonnet landscapes on agate quartz rock and has paintings in banks and other businesses throughout London, Venezuela, Washington DC and other cities.

The Wylie Art Gallery site; originally erected in 1963 by Truett Smith housed a bank, Smith Insurance and The Wylie News; all

then owned and operated by Smith. In later years the building became Provident Bank and later still Inwood National Bank.

The building, now known as the Q and The Wylie Art Gallery, houses several other businesses in separate offices. These tenants include a chiropractor, massage and reflexology therapist, a debt collection service company who recently relocated from Plano, and a facial masseuse.

Current building proprietor Bob Heath, who owns an additional six downtown sites, is remodeling and reshaping the former bank location to accommodate the The Wylie Art Gallery and its more than 25 artists who are exhibiting there.

"We are excited to be featuring the work and crafts of many local and talented artists. The gallery will be supplied with a wide range of artistic mediums that will include oils, acrylics, sculpture, pottery and eventually antiques."

Stained glass window artisan and owner of Serenity Glass, Connie Patton, whose work studio is concealed snugly within the former Inwood Bank's vault, is creating a custom metal and stained glass work that depicts the history of our city to be installed around the beautiful new entrance to the gallery.

Through the diligence of Lynn Grimes, The Wylie Arts Society, and several volunteers; the Wylie Art Gallery has future plans to open its doors to Wylie ISD art students for the exhibition of their work. The idea of displaying Wylie ISD student art pieces expands on the district wide Celebrate the Arts program that occurs annually in March.

This year's celebration of both performing and visual arts is set for March 23 through April 6, 2010. An art show featuring the offerings of all students in grades K-12 is scheduled for March 26 through March 28 at Wylie High School.

"I am thrilled to learn of the Wylie Art Gallery's intent to exhibit the art of Wylie ISD students. It is



always wonderful when the community has an opportunity to see the clever and creative talents of future artists," said long time Wylie ISD art teacher, Macklyn Henderson.

Other noteworthy exhibitors at The Wylie Art Gallery will come from the artistic renderings of The Coventry Reserve Program. Participants will showcase their unique, one-of-a-kind hand crafted pottery, specialty ceramics, and unique seasonal gift items that are fashioned by adults with special needs.

Wylie High School graduate and Coventry Reserve participant, Stephanie Minshew shows off her newest pottery creation.



Through the Coventry Reserve program, activities and therapies are offered to promote and assist special need adults in staying active intellectually, mentally, physically, socially, and emotionally.

"We are very excited to be invited to place selected pieces of Coventry art in the Wylie Art Gallery. It is a wonderful opportunity to share the talent of these adults with special needs with the community," said Coventry Reserve executive director, Darlene Blakey.

"Pottery is taught as one segment of the programs at Coventry and we are often amazed at the creativity of the students. We rejoice with them over their pride and sense of accomplishment at making beautiful art that people desire to own," Blakey added.

Through the combined efforts of the Wylie Arts Society and the Wylie Art Gallery, selected artists will be hosting monthly on



site public speakers, demonstrations, lectures and workshops. Attendees will be asked to bring their own necessary art supplies.

Featured artist pieces will include the fine work of subtractive charcoal artist Candy Prather, the acrylics of Suzanne McCord and the intricate metal art of David Wolfe.

The beautiful photography of husband and wife duo Britt and Melinda Volker and the images of fellow photographer Henry Urquhart will also be showcased.

The colorful and plentiful oil works of Janice Hamilton, Shelby Jost, Cecy Turner, Laura Antony, Donna Herberner and the life-like landscapes and ocean scenes of Bob Bates line the walls while the beautiful Texas proud bluebonnets painted on polished Brazilian agate quartz rock done by Pat Bentine line table and desktops throughout the gallery.

Jonathan Burleson offers realistic animal canvases done in oil and Bill Buckingham delights lovers of early American folklore with his Indian and buffalo scenes masterfully inked on quarry rock.

Abstract and contemporary art lovers will appreciate the vivid and dramatic offerings of artists Tana Holderman and Elizabeth Marsico-Long.

Art appreciation, simply stated, is looking at works of art and forming an opinion. No matter your personal artistic tastes, you're sure to find something to please the eye with a visit to The Wylie Art Gallery.

The Wylie Art Gallery is located at 201 N. Ballard, Suite 100 and is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Their Grand Opening Celebration is scheduled for mid-April 2010. •

Photos by Anne Hiney & Kathleen Noble.



Lynn Grimes and Pat Bentine welcome you to the Wylie Art Gallery

ROB HUNTER

A Music Man and Much More

by Brenda Byboth

The second act of life is usually retirement, a time dedicated to relaxing, travel or at least not working quite as hard. Rob Hunter, President of Ballard School of Performing Arts, however, has begun an extraordinary second career.

Rob received his degree in Interior Design from the Academy of Merchandising & Design in Chicago, with three daughters still at home. After graduation, he enjoyed a lengthy and rewarding career with the Veterans Administration Medical Center in North Chicago. Although Rob was unable to serve his country in the military, he has certainly contributed to the cause of the veteran. According to a profile by the Chicago Sun-Times, Rob used his creativity to improve bland interiors with artifacts pleasing and familiar to older vets. In addition, he designed an outdoor activity center, a gazebo and lake that even disabled veterans could enjoy. He has also been recognized for his design of a POW/MIA monument. This black marble and gray granite structure stands at the entrance of the Geriatric Extended Care Building at the VAMC and simply states, "You are not forgotten." Rob designed the Women's Veteran Monument in North Chicago. Celebrity newscaster Harry Porterfield profiled his contributions to the veterans in his highly touted "Someone You Should Know" series.

Rob has been recognized for his volunteer work and musical career. The North Chicago City Council and Mayor Thomas honored him for his extraordinary efforts. He organized faith-based groups and 350 teen volunteers to paint and repair the

homes of 22 senior and disabled residents at no cost to the residents.

Rob's musical talent was well known and he has performed for many city, political, and cultural events. He also performed for Carl Brashear, who was the Navy Master Diver portrayed in the movie "Men of Honor." He has also been recognized as one of the "Music Men of Lake County Illinois" and has performed with the legendary Mavis Staples.

Rob and his wife Debbie moved from Chicago to Wylie in 2004 and opened Ballard School of Performing Arts in Historic Downtown Wylie. He had hoped to continue his musical career in Texas, but an extraordinary event changed his perspective forever. Rob spent a life-changing 10 days performing for the troops and their families at Guantanamo Bay Cuba in January 2005.

Upon his return, Rob began to devote more time and energy to music education for children and



adults alike in the community. He added music lessons to his store including voice, guitar, violin, percussion and piano lessons as well as children's programs.

An extraordinary opportunity came in 2007 with the creation of the Searching for a Star Foundation. The goal of SFAS is to pass on the irreplaceable gifts of music, dance, theater and visual arts through this non-profit scholarship program. Because of the creation of this foundation, Rob has had a successful stage course and competition for performers in the North Texas area. These young singers will once again vie for overall winner in SFAS 2010!

Rob has been guided along his extraordinary path by his Christian faith as well as several important mentors: Elvatus Morris, a mentor, friend, and an original Tuskegee airman; "Granny" Malissa Garrett, whose life was personified by her faith in God, hard work and love for her family; his father, who instilled the love of music in his son; his mother who continually prays; and the support of his loving wife, Debbie.

All in all, an extraordinary second act! •

Photos provided by Rob Hunter.



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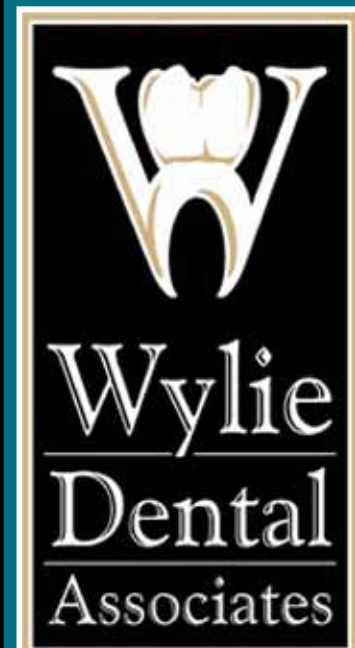
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Daryl Distler

by Lori Villareal

Stray Cat Art Gallery & Tattoo

Stray Cat Art Gallery and Tattoo is a refreshing representation of the owner, Daryl Distler, and his passion for art. This clean, bright, welcoming shop celebrates quality works of art from the expected tattoos and piercings to the unexpected vivacious works of artists hanging on the walls and ceilings. This is not your college town tattoo parlor. An industrial garage transformed into an urban loft of sorts, Stray Cat fits nicely into the lake area community.

Daryl began his pursuit of art as a young child drawing and painting. He began an apprenticeship in Oklahoma, a state where tattooing was not exactly legal, but quickly found one where it was legal. After assuming the responsibilities of adulthood and sampling various professions he sought to make a living in a way that he could be passionate about. Art always seemed to be his driving force. On September 5, 2009 Daryl

opened the doors to his dream - a center for art where talented artists could practice their craft and display their talent.

Stray Cat Art Gallery and Tattoo "strayed" from its sister business, Cat Tattoo, founded 13 years ago in Addison, Texas. Daryl started working for Terry Mayo, owner of Cat Tattoo, about five years ago. His own experience, then about nine years in the tattoo business, lent a quality of artistry that was expected then and still remains today. A professional respect between Terry and Daryl grew into a friendship. With the birth of Stray Cat both business owners collaborate to bring their customers the very best quality available in the industry. Being a word-of-mouth industry, a reputation of providing excellent craftsmanship has served them well. Both Stray Cat and Cat Tattoo share tattoo artists, websites and creative intelligence.

Now, with 13 years of tattoo artistry painting his resume, Daryl provides a clean, salon-like atmosphere with independent stations. Artists are encouraged to work daily on their skills and each have a private work space to do so.



Stray Cat Art Gallery & Tattoo has a modern open loft style.

Daryl shares, "This is not a flash-shop with tattoo drawings overwhelming the walls. A customer will meet with an artist to establish their desired art. Custom pieces are often created to satisfy the customer's need. Simple designs may take a few minutes to sketch and the tattoo can be applied immediately. When the art requires more time and intricate talent an artist may take a few days, allowing for the customer to offer feedback and for edits to be made. Once the art is agreed upon the tattoo is scheduled. Our customers range from your neighbor to your lawyer and all walk away satisfied."



Part of a mural recently completed by Daryl.

Commissioned work is not limited to tattoos. A family might want to memorialize their growing children with a portrait or capture a fond memory in paint. Daryl's talent for portraits and photorealism is evident by the work displayed on his walls. He also paints murals. His space is as dedicated to the display and sale of artwork as it is to the other facets of his business. Currently, several additional artists have works joining his on the walls. Artists interested in displaying their work should speak directly with Daryl. He intends to handpick what is displayed, being particular about the quality.

When opening a new business one of the challenges is pacing the execution of each vision. This spring Stray Cat Art Gallery and Tattoo anticipates hosting events spotlighting the gallery's artists. The construction on the outdoor patio will be completed by then and will offer a delightful area for art enthusiasts to mingle. Daryl's hope is to appeal to a broader range of art admirers. Daryl shares, "Currently, people walk in the doors to get a tattoo or piercing. I'd like to see them walking in the door to view the gallery."

Before long, Daryl's art work will hit the roads. Stray Cat expects to expand into detailing motorcycles and vehicles with works of art. Using the air-



Multiple artists display their work in the Stray Cat Art Gallery.

ests. It appears as if Daryl has artfully composed all that he is passionate about right here in our Wylie hometown.

Stray Cat Art Gallery and Tattoo is located behind Dickie's Bar-B-Que, off Highway 78 and Century Way in Wylie. Once you turn on Century, the signs will take you there. For more details log onto www.cattattoo.com or call 972.429.3522. •

photos by Lori Villareal, Anne Hiney & Daryl Distler



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~ Gaye



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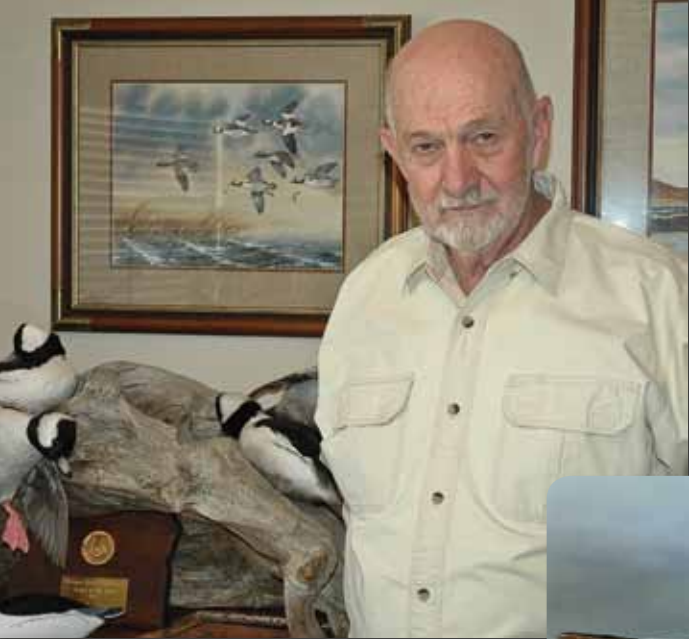


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by Janet Doleh

John L. Carter

Award Winning Wildlife Artist

the Safari Club International, Dallas and Houston branches of the Safari Club, and many more, including international programs in Europe and Africa.

The extensive international travel allowed Carter and his wife of 52 years, Bette, to meet people in every situation from mud huts



Photos by Anne Hincey



Original oil paintings

to world leaders. “We were fortunate to meet Presidents Reagan and Ford, astronaut Joe Engle, who commanded the second test flight of Columbia in 1981, actors James Brolin, Chuck Connor, and George Peppard, and world leaders such as Ian Smith, Prime Minister of Rhodesia.”

He also met Prince Philip of England, an avid hunter and conservationist, who flew the Carters to England in 1980 to present a special award from the

English Game Conservancy.

That was one of dozens of awards garnered during his career. Carter has been named Artist of the Year for many groups – Ducks Unlimited, Texas Quail Forever, and the Dallas Safari Club among them. He is listed in Who’s Who in Waterfowl Art.

As a responsible hunter, Carter cares deeply about wildlife and habitat preservation, and he has had opportunities to make a difference. “We’ve raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to support conservation with donations of my work,” he said. “And right here in North Texas there are many organizations that help raise awareness, such as Ducks Unlimited, Quail Forever, the Turkey Federation, and Wild Sheep.”

The Carters have lived in Murphy for six years. He is “semi-retired” but continues to do commissioned work and stays active in Wildlife Artists International. Most of his limited edition prints are sold out, but some proofs and artists copies are available and can be personalized as needed. To learn more, visit his website at http://web.me.com/johnlcarterartso2617/Site/Home_Page.html or contact him at johnlcarterart@aol.com. •

Not many people have the skill or opportunity to venture into a South African rhino preserve on foot, equipped to sketch and photograph the animals in their free range habitat. But Murphy resident John Carter just calls it a day’s work.

Carter is an internationally renowned wildlife artist. He has traveled the world to capture images of the big game animals – lions, zebras, elephants, cape buffalo, giraffes – as well as wild hogs, bighorn sheep, elk, cougars, and all kinds of birds. He is especially known for his waterfowl art.

“Some of my work is very personalized,” he said. “For example, a client might commission an oil painting and want me to go duck hunting with him to gather everything needed. So we’ll go out together on a duck boat. I’ll collect information, take video and photographs, and do sketches to capture as many aspects of the wildlife and setting as possible. All of these resources will be used as I create the painting.” Carter does water colors, oils, acrylics, bronze sculptures, and wood carvings.

Being a wildlife artist wasn’t his original career plan. In the 1960s, Carter was an advertising cartoonist. He enjoyed hunting and painting his own decoys, which were impressive enough to bring him to the attention of a professional wildlife artist. “This artist and my neighbor were going hunting but had forgotten their decoys. I gave them some of mine,” Carter said. “When they saw my decoys, the artist wanted to know who had painted them. He told me I should consider doing wildlife art as a career and offered his help. Back then, there were very few people doing wildlife art on a national scale.”

Carter learned the techniques and sent samples of his work to Crossroads of Sport, a nationally known New York gallery that specialized in sporting art. “They published my work in their catalog, and my career was born,” he said. Soon he was receiving requests to display his art in galleries and shows across the country, including the Easton Waterfowl Festival and the Ward Foundation’s exhibits, both in Maryland. His work has been featured in programs sponsored by the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, the Mzuri Foundation in San Francisco,

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Travis Andrews

Country Music Is In His Heart

by Pamela Smith



Travis performing at the Sachse Fall Fest.

The Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex is known for its home-grown musical artists – Kelly Clarkson, Erykah Badu and Stevie Ray Vaughan. Well, Sachse is no exception. You need only look in our back yard to discover budding talent. In this issue of The Connection Magazine, get to know 33-year-old Travis Andrews, an up-and-coming Country and Western artist from Sachse, Texas.

Connection: Tell us about your music?

Andrews: For three or four years I wrote contemporary Christian music and then I started writing country music. I write and sing with an early '90s, country prose. I write what's in my heart – about love and loss. I write about what I believe, what I feel and what I know. I released my first CD, "Baby I'm Yours," the title track, June 1, 2009. I wrote all the songs on this album, yet all of the songs are unique.

Connection: Who plays in the Travis Andrews Band?

Andrews: One of them is my uncle, Brian Wilson, who drums. Next is Jay Herman, who is our new bass player. There's also Mike Wagner, a school teacher and basketball coach, who plays the fiddle. Lastly there is myself. I sing and play the guitar.

Connection: What brought you to Sachse?

Andrews: I grew up in Mesquite in the '80s. I lived by a rodeo and absolutely loved country music. Then I moved to Nashville to get into the music industry. After three years there, I decided to come back to the metroplex. My parents live in Sachse and I wanted to be close to them. I've been back two years and I love it here.

Connection: What did you want to be when you were little?

Andrews: As a child, I always knew that I was either going to preach or sing country. When I was young there was nothing I could imagine more than preaching. It was a burning desire, but I didn't have the time to go to Bible school. That's probably what prevented it more than anything else. I started playing guitar around 14 when I got my first one for Christmas. I wore that thing out. I'd play it for hours a day for years. I'd lock myself in my room with my guitar. It was a positive stress outlet for a teenager, to say the least. When I was 18 or 19, I started playing at church. Around 20 or 21 I started writing songs.

Connection: Who are your musical influences?

Andrews: I have always loved George Strait the most, but Clint Black and Alan Jackson have my respect because they write their own music. That's what I do, too – I write, I sing, I play. That's the triple threat.

Connection: Do you perform live?

Andrews: We play regularly at the Filling Station in North Dallas. On Thursday nights we host an open jam/open mic and on Friday nights our band plays. I also perform at the Opry in Wylie from time to time. I'd really love to play at the Ranch House, so people need to go by and request us.

Connection: What advice do you have for people who want to form their own bands?

Andrews: Persistence. There are days, still, that I don't want to do it; I am tired of doing it. It seems like it's all up hill – the closer is gets the further it seems away. It can get you down, but you have to stay persistent. For me, I almost don't have a choice. I love it. It's a dream; it drives me. Every day it burns inside my heart. •

For more information about Travis Andrews, visit his Web site at www.TravisAndrewsBand.com. His music is available on iTunes.

Photos courtesy of Travis Andrews.



Primrose School of Firewheel
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A Day at the Museum brings history and fantasy to life as students take real and virtual field trips to many of the nation's top museums. Explorers dream what it would be like to fly around the world as Amelia Earhart, unearth and study prehistoric dinosaur bones, get up close to the works of great artists like Vincent Van Gogh and Claude Monet, and more!



Imagine what you would do if you were stranded on a deserted island with nothing but a tennis racket and a tambourine. Imagine building a sky scraper out of nothing but pipe cleaners. Imagine what might happen if your favorite story-book characters all competed in a dance off. Explorers unleash their creativity this summer as they work together to design unique inventions, find solutions to common and not so common problems, and imagine the possibilities!



Explorers become virtual time travelers this summer as they take a trip back in time! The Camp Primrose Time Machine takes students on adventures through the decades as they imagine what it would be like to travel across the Great Plains in a covered wagon, compete in the Ancient Olympics, dance to Doo Wop music at a '50s sock hop, walk on the moon in the 1960s, or moonwalk across a stage in the '80s.

MARCH EVENTS

Thru Mar. 31st - The Flamingo Blackout Fundraiser presented by Wylie High School Senior Class of 2010. For a \$20 donation you can order a flock of flamingos to land in anyone's yard, or you can purchase insurance to make sure they don't end up in your yard, or you can do both! Go to www.flamingoblackout.com for more information.



Each Tuesday thru Apr. 13th - Free tax preparation in the community room of the Sachse Library from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. This is a free service to ALL wage earners. First come – first served.

Mar. 11th - “LOVE YOUR LIBRARY DAY” The Friends of the Rita & Truett Smith Public are having and Open House in the Bluebonnet Room starting at 12 noon until 8 p.m. Please come visit with us, there will be a book review by Rose-Mary Rumbley at 4 p.m. and Mayor Eric Hogue and City Manager Mindy Manson will visit at 6 p.m. to discuss the new Municipal Complex and Library. We will be accepting donations for individual tiles with YOUR children's names or drawings and your pet's paw also. They will be dated and put on display at the new library. Refreshments will be served. For more info. call 972-442-7566.

Mar. 11th - The combined choirs of Davis Intermediate School and the Children's Chorus of Collin County will present a family-friendly concert entitled, **Disney Dazzle** at 7 p.m. at the Wylie High School Auditorium. Admission is free, however, donations are appreciated. For more info. go to www.childrenschorusofcollincounty.org.

Mar. 12th-14th - The Quilter's Guild of Dallas presents **Quilt Celebration at Market Hall**, 2200 Stemmons, Dallas. Hours 10-6 Friday and Saturday and 12-5 Sunday. Over 350 quilts on display, quilts for sale, vendor mall, quilting demonstrations, and mini-quilt auction at 2 p.m. on March 13th benefitting Senior Source. Admission \$8-discounts for seniors and those with advance tickets purchased at local quilt shops or on-line. For additional information go to www.quiltersguildofdallas.org or contact 972-480-5939.

Mar. 13th - SPRING FORWARD ONE HOUR!

Mar. 17th - **Friday Night Fun Night** at the Laurie Schwenk Senior Center in Sachse. For info. call 972-495-6282.

Mar. 20th - **Rummage Sale** benefitting the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life at the Wylie High School Parking Lot from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information about this year's Wylie/Sachse/Murphy Relay for Life please go to www.relayforlife.org/wylietx.

Mar. 26th - Dallas County Nurses will be at the Laurie Schwenk Senior Activity Center of Sachse for **Free Cholesterol Screenings**, along with blood pressure and blood sugar. You must fast for at least 8 hours and the nurses will be here at 9:30 a.m. This is a free first come - first serve service. For info. call the Laurie Schwenk Senior Activity Center at 972-495-6282.

Mar. 26th - **Moonlight Movies** at Mustang Park in Murphy, 602 Mustang Ridge Dr.

Mar. 27th - WISD's 7th Annual **Boots & Barbecue Gala** will be held at South Fork Ranch from 6-11 p.m. For more info please go to www.wylieisd.net/foundation or call 972-429-3025

Mar. 27th - The **Wylie Women's League Annual Easter Egg Hunt**. In Olde City Park, Downtown Wylie at Hwy. 78 and Ballard at 10 a.m. 3 age groups: 1-2 year olds, 3-4 year olds and 5-6 year olds. Prizes will be awarded for each age group.

Mar. 27th - **Sachse Easter Egg Scramble** Children ages 2-10 come and see the Easter Bunny who will hide candy and special "prize" eggs for three age groups: 2 to 4 years of age; 5 to 7 years of age; and 8 to 10 years of age. Sachse's Heritage Park, 4408 Hudson Dr. at 10:00 a.m. (*If it rains the event will be moved to the Sachse Christian Church Family Life Center, 5005 Ben Davis Rd.*)

Mar. 27th - **Doggie Bone Hunt** Bring your dog out to the park for doggie treats, prizes, and a great time. Dogs will be divided based on weight and will be required to be on a leash at all times. Enter your best friend into some of our new contests including: best dressed, and cutest. Sachse's Heritage Park, 4408 Hudson Dr. at 7:30 p.m.

Mar. 27th - **Flashlight Egg Hunt** You're never too old to hunt for eggs. We've made it challenging by adding a twist. Grab your flashlight, make sure it has fresh batteries, and come join the fun in the dark. Search for eggs stuffed with candy. Find the Golden Egg and win a special prize. For children ages 5 - 13 at Sachse's Heritage Park 4408 Hudson Dr. at 8:15 p.m.

Mar. 27th - Plano Symphony Orchestra presents “**Cirque de la Symphonie and the Young Artists**” featuring The Grand Prize Winners of the Collin County Young Artist Competition AND Cirque de la Symphonie at 8:15 p.m., Eisemann Center - 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. For tickets call 972-473-7262 or visit www.planosymphony.org. Reserved Seating \$11 - \$75.

APRIL EVENTS

Apr. 10th - **Great American Cleanup/Arbor Day Celebration** - This spring you can help us with our local beautification and community improvement program, the Great American Cleanup. Join other volunteers throughout Sachse to help out and give back to our community at 9 a.m. in Heritage Park, 4408 Hudson Dr. Prior to the start of this event, Mayor Mike Felix will give an Arbor Day Proclamation. Call the Parks & Recreation Department to sign up your group to volunteer at 469-429-0275.

Apr. 10th - **Don't Mess With Texas Trash-Off** in Murphy The Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off is the single largest one day cleanup event in the state and serves as Texas' signature event for the Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest community improvement program, held annually from March 1 through May 31. In 2009, more than 25,200 bags of trash were collected, totaling more than 158 tons of waste. The Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off is part of the partnership between Keep Texas Beautiful and the Texas Department of Transportation. Participants can receive trash bags, volunteer giveaways, promotional items, and more. To register for the City of Murphy Clean-up email Kim Lenoir, at klenoir@murphytx.org.

Apr. 10th - **9th Annual Rotary of Wylie Bowling Tournament** 6 - 8 p.m. at Allen Bowl, 1011 S. Greenville Ave. in Allen. For info. about entering a team or being a sponsor contact Jeff Butters at 972-442-8125.

Apr. 16th - **Wylie Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament** at Woodbridge Golf Club. Throw 'n Putt Tournament begins at 10 a.m., Regular 4-Person Scramble begins at 1 p.m. Contact the Wylie Chamber of Commerce at www.wyliechamber.org for details.

Apr. 17th - **Keep our Playground Safe & Sound!** Annual maintenance day at Pirate Cove Playground in Founders Park. Join us to apply a fresh coat of eco-friendly sealer to the playground structure. Great opportunity for community service hours for churches, scouts, school groups. Supplies provided, no experience necessary. Children over the age of 7 can work with an adult. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. (you don't have to work the whole time!) bring a sack lunch & sunscreen. Please contact Anne Hiney at 972-672-4133 or anne_hiney@mac.com to volunteer or for more info.



Apr. 17th - Plano Symphony Orchestra presents “**The Eight Seasons**” featuring **Violinist and Concertmaster Vesselin Demirev** at 8:15 p.m., Eisemann Center - 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. For tickets call 972-473-7262 or visit www.planosymphony.org. Reserved Seating \$11 - \$75.

Apr. 19th - **Taste of Wylie, benefitting the Wylie Christian Care Center** 11 a.m. - 2p.m. in the First Baptist Church Special Events Center, 200 N. Ballard. Featuring tasty treats from 30 of our area restaurants, this event benefits the Wylie Christian Care Center. In addition to the fabulous food there will be live and silent auction items to purchase. Contact Sandy Nelson at 972- 742-8999 for info. on helping with or attending this event.

Apr. 19th - “**55 Alive**” **AARP Safe Driving Class**, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the community room of the Sachse Library. This will certify you for a insurance discount on your vehicles. For info. call the Laurie Schwenk Senior Activity Center at 972-495-6282.

Apr. 23rd - **24th** - **American Cancer Society's Relay for Life** at Shaffer Stadium in Wylie. Event starts at 7 p.m. and continues overnight until 7 a.m. By forming a walking team and participating in this event, individual citizens and groups can actively help the American Cancer Society fight back against all forms of cancer through research. This event is also a way to honor family members, friends or neighbors who have fought cancer, and to celebrate with those who have fought and won their battles, the survivors. For more info. go to www.relayforlife.org/wylietx or call Candy Arrington at 214-957-5000.

Apr. 24th - **5th Annual Muddy Creek Fun Run** benefitting the Christian Care Center. 1 Mile Fun Run starts at 9 a.m. 5K Starts at 9:30 a.m. More than 250 runners participate in this event which benefits the Wylie Christian Care Center. The course is certified by USATF (USA Track & Field), and professionally timed using the same technology as the NYC & Boston Marathons. Register online at www.sagecreekhoa.com.

Apr. 24th - **Mother/Son Roundup** - Moms roundup that little buckaroo in your life, put on your boots and get ready for a night of dancin', hayrides, and refreshments under the stars. Each little buckaroo will receive a picture and a party favor. 6 - 7:30 p.m. at Joe & Patricia Stone Park, 6000 Laurel Crest, Sachse. Fee:\$10/couple

Apr. 24th - **Green Living Family Festival 40th Earth Day Celebration** presented by the Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary, City of McKinney and Collin College. This one-day, outdoor festival will feature “green” vendors, presentations, concessions, new kids’ activities and live entertainment. In addition, guests will enjoy the Heard’s hiking trails, “Live Animals of the World” exhibit, butterfly garden, and have one last chance to see the indoor “Treasures from The Earth: Diamonds, Gold and Dinos” before it leaves. Bring recyclable products to support the Heard’s electronics recycling program. Go to www.heardmuseum.org for more info. 1 Nature Place, McKinney, 972-562-5566.

Apr. 27th - **Sachse Library Book Fair** at Barnes & Noble in Firewheel Centre from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WYLIE’S RITA AND TRUETT SMITH PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS

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

Wagging Tales:

Mar. 4th & Apr. 15th - New readers are invited to practice their reading skills with Abby the Collie in a non-judgmental setting. Abby is a Delta Society trained pet partner 6:30 p.m. For additional info contact Ofilia at 972-442-7566.

Teen Library Council Meeting: 5:00 p.m.

Mar. 11th & Apr. 8th Decide on teen programs, give feedback on the teen collection and discuss their favorite reads. All teens (6th - 12th grade) are welcome!

BeTWEEN Book & Movie Club: 6:30 p.m.

Mar. 25th - 4th & 5th graders are invited to discuss *Hotel for Dogs* by Lois Duncan, watch scenes from the movie and enjoy snacks. The first 15 tweens to sign up will get a free copy of the book.

Apr. 27th - 4th & 5th graders are invited to discuss *Nim's Island* by Wendy Orr, watch scenes from the movie and enjoy snacks. The first 15 tweens to sign up will get a free copy of the book.

Wednesday Morning Story Time:

Big Kids Story Time: Ages 3-5 are invited to listen to books, flannel stories and songs at 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. on Wednesdays.

Wee Read Story Time: Babies and Toddlers ages 0-2 are invited to listen to books, flannel stories and songs at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays.

Story Time Dates & Themes: March 3 -Vroom! Vroom!, March 10 - Tea Time, March 17 - Creep Crawly Insects, March 24 - Whale Tales, March 31 - Silly Stories, April 7 - Zippy Rabbits, April 14 - Rain Rain Go Away, April 21 - Hide & Seek, April 28 - Celebracion!

The 4th Monday Book Club (ages 18 & up): 6:00 p.m.

Mar. 22nd - Meet in the Bluebonnet Room at 6 p.m. to discuss *Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold. For additional info. contact Donna at (972) 442-7566.

Apr. 26th - Meet in the Bluebonnet Room at 6 p.m. to discuss *Little Bee* by Chris Cleave. For additional info. contact Donna at (972) 442-7566.

Wylie Friends of the Library: 6:00 p.m.

Mar. 8th & Apr. 15th - The Friends of the Rita & Truett Smith Public Library are having their monthly meeting on at 6 p.m. in the Bluebonnet Room. To celebrate the ground-breaking of the new 43,934 sq. ft. library, membership fees are currently half price and a free library bag comes with your membership!

Friends of the Library Open House: 12 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Mar. 11th - The Friends of the Library invite you to their Open House from 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 11. Rose-Mary Rumbley, humorist, teacher, and book reviewer will perform one of her exciting book reviews at 4:00 p.m.. Mayor Eric Hogue will discuss the new Municipal Complex at 6:30 p.m.; followed by a meet and greet with Mayor Hogue and City Manager, Mindy Manson until 8:00 p.m. This event is free, open to the public and will be held at the Smith Public Library. Refreshments will be served.

Mad Hatter's Tea Party: 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Mar. 16th - You are invited to The Mad Hatter's Tea Party! Join us in celebration of Lewis Carroll's classic, Alice in Wonderland and the recent movie release. You can R.S.V.P to attend a quirky tea party with The Mad Hatter and The Queen of Hearts. Enjoy Wonderland crafts and games. The tea party is aimed at 4 - 9 year olds, but the crafts and games are for everyone.

Mexico 2000 Ballet Folklorico: 6:30 p.m.

Apr. 29th - Join us for a colorful cultural celebration of El dia de los ninos, el dia de los libros! (Day of the child, day of the book). Mexico 2000 Ballet Folklorico will bring their energetic traditional Mexican dances to the Smith Public Library. All ages welcome.

SACHSE LIBRARY EVENTS

Sachse Public Library is located at the corner of Sachse Rd. & Miles Rd. 972-530-8966.

Preschool Story Time: Every Thursday at 11 a.m.

Paws & Read: Jan. 12th & Feb. 9th - Practice with a service dog at 6:30 p.m.

Special Events: **Dr. Seuss's Birthday Party:** Mar. 9th at 4 p.m.

Play Mahjong on the 1st & 3rd Wed. of each month at 1 p.m.

Sachse Friends of the Library: Meet the 4th Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Book Fair: Apr. 27th - Barnes & Noble in Firewheel Centre from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

CHAMBER of COMMERCE EVENTS

WYLIE www.wyliechamber.org **972-442-2804**

Monthly Luncheons: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Woodbridge Country Club, 7400 Country Club Dr., Wylie. Lunch cost is \$12 if paid in advance, \$15 with reservation paying at door, \$20 without reservation. Online payment is available.

Mar. 23rd - WISD State of the Schools presentation by Superintendent Dr. John Fuller.

Apr. 27th - Check the chamber website.

Every Wednesday Business Card Exchange: Woodbridge Golf Course club house, 7400 Country Club Dr., Wylie. Network and promote your business from 8 - 9 a.m.

Golf Tournament: **Apr. 16th** at Woodbridge Golf Club. Throw 'n Putt Tournament begins at 10 a.m., Regular 4-Person Scramble begins at 1 p.m.

SACHSE www.sachsechamber.com **972-496-1212**

Monthly Luncheons: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Northplace Church, 2709 3rd Street, Sachse. \$15 for Members, \$20 for Non-members. Register & pay online.

Mar. 9th - Robert Lafaye, Sachse Emergency Management Coordinator

Apr. 13th - Speaker to be announced.

Last Friday of the Month - **Sachse Chamber of Commerce Community Coffee**, Sachse Christian Church, 5005 Ben Davis Rd., Sachse. Meet for a cup 'o' joe and promote your business from 8 - 9 a.m. Call 972- 496-1212 for more info or go to www.sachsechamber.com.

Sachse Sampler & Expo: Apr. 15th at the Sachse Christian Church, 5005 Ben Davis Rd., featuring many local businesses that will display the benefits of their products and services. Held annually by the Sachse Chamber of Commerce, the Sachse Sampler & Expo affords exhibitors the opportunity to showcase products and services in a professionally outfitted trade show environment to area residents, decision makers and other business owners. The Sachse Sampler & Expo is not just for business owners - everyone is encouraged to attend and share an evening of great food with local business owners. Each food sample will be a treat for all who attend.

MURPHY murphychamber.org **972-805-3749**

Monthly Luncheons: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Community Room at the Murphy City Hall Complex, 206 N. Murphy Road, Murphy. R.S.V.P.: By 11:59 a.m. CST on the Friday before the luncheon to receive discounted prepayment rate of \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members. After noon and at the door on Tuesday, the charge is \$20 for everyone. Go to www.murphytx.org to prepay or call 972-805-3749.

Mar. 16th - The City of Murphy presents Murphy's new marketing and branding campaign.

Apr. 20th - Celebrate the Chamber's Birthday with a special program!

Come & Go Luncheon: **Mar. 31st** from noon to 1 p.m. at Mogio's Gourmet Pizza, 158 W. FM 132, Murphy. Enjoy great food and networking in Murphy!

Second Tuesday Business Card Exchange: **Mar. 9th & Apr. 13th** at 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. at Saxby's Coffee (FM 544 in Murphy Marketplace) Good coffee, good pastries! Bring plenty of business cards and brochures. Mix, mingle, make contacts and enter the raffle for a chance to win prizes!

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!

Ladies Do Lunch

The Ladies Enjoy an Irish Afternoon At Hooleys Tavern & Grill in Sachse

by Lori Whitten of Poetry & Wylie

This was not our “traditional” lunch ladies lunch; not by a long shot. But then I am not sure that Hooleys Tavern is your “usual” type lunch spot. I would rank it right up there as unexpected. At least, our experience on this particular Wednesday was; I should probably define unexpected as “most excellent”. Judy, Becky, Stacie, Anne and I (the original lunch ladies) were back together and it had been a long time since we found time in our schedules on the same day, at the same time – so this was shaping up to be a true celebration of sorts.

Drinking beer (or ale) at lunch is not something I would traditionally do, however because the day was turning out to be rather random - an ale was in order. Anne suggested the Woodchuck Pear Ale and I have never loved her so much as I did the moment I tasted that first wonderfully chilled, smooth, satisfying and slightly sweet ale. I had found bliss in a frosted mug! Ask Becky, my entire demeanor changed the moment I sipped my first bit of that nectar from a tap; I went from a blithering witch to a giggling lass. Our conversation on that particular Wednesday afternoon was so enjoyable and energetic; I believe much of it was due to the relaxed, inviting and cheerful environment created at Hooleys Tavern.

Onto the food; as you would imagine from an Irish Tavern it is hearty. We started with Fried Pickles and Irish Nachos - Irish Nachos happen to be fried potatoes made surprisingly similar to regular nachos and we utterly enjoyed them. Not being a pickle fan – I cannot speak with any authority on how they did

on the pallet; however, judging from the empty plate they must have been good. Time to get on to the main course of this repast. We ate Fish and Chips, Shepherds’ Pie, Whiskey Shrimp (of course), a Monte Cristo (granted, the Monte Cristo is random for an Irish Tavern but it was that kind of day) and of course another Pear Ale. The Monte Cristo

With St. Patrick’s Day right around the corner (March 17th) we recommend dropping by Hooleys Tavern, after all – everyone is Irish on St. Pat’s day. You might call for reservations – as I am certain many will have that same idea – even without our suggestion. Hooleys Tavern is destined to be a family favorite for lunch and dinner with the added bonus of a great place to stop by in the evening for some good old fashioned camaraderie. You will find them at 7340 Hwy 78 in Sachse. Their website is not up as of the writing of this article but you can find them online at www.facebook.com - just type Hooleys Tavern in the search box. If you get a moment to drop in I highly recommend the Woodchuck Pear Ale. Be sure to tell them the “Lunch Ladies” sent you. •



Photos by Anne Hiney

An Irish Blessing for you – “May your neighbors respect you, trouble neglect you, the angels protect you, and heaven accept you.” Slainte!

Note from Anne: Slainte means “to your health” - I had to look it up!



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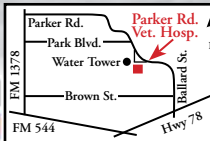
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Student Artists

Donate their time & talent

by Susan Dacus

Man has valued the visual arts, pieces of art and art works such as sculptures since time began. Drawings on cave walls, hieroglyphics on tombs, ancient jewel encrusted crowns and larger than life sculptures such as Michelangelo's The David attest to the value placed on expressive art through the ages. Today, the eye-popping, multi-million dollar bids of personal collectors trying to purchase art pieces astound and amaze ordinary people.

Some of the school-age students around us, however, are making pieces of art that can stop us in our collective tracks with their originality, artistry, depth and beauty. These pieces are being designed by junior high and high school students in the Wylie Independent School District as part of their art curriculum. Their work is being recognized in numerous ways as these young artists share their talent with the community.

For Cooper Junior High School art teacher Nancy Rocamontes, using art as a community project has been a focus for her eighth grade students this year. The artwork of several of her students has been framed and is being donated to school namesake Raymond Cooper. Individuals who attend "A Taste of Wylie" in April will be able to bid on the student work with the funds going to the Wylie Christian Care Center.

The paintings are reproductions of two works by Roy Lichtenstein. Student artists Jared Davidson, Ben Gallegos, Mario Jimenez, Huy Ly, Derik Scott, and Basit Zahid put together Still Life with Figure, 1973. Wilinia Hamilton, Manvir Mandara, Beverly Nguyen and Harjot Randhawa put together individual



Mr. Raymond Cooper pictured with Cooper Jr. High art students.

pieces to form the artist's work Pow Wow, 1979. With each one taking a portion of the painting and having to reproduce it to fit with the other pieces of the work, the students had to work cooperatively on the pencil and tempera paint final painting.

"These were difficult reproductions for any student artist, but these students did a magnificent job working together,

problem solving, and going above and beyond in order to donate quality pieces for an auction that benefits their community and specifically, the Christian Care Center. The students have learned that the 'visual arts' can be used to benefit others in ways they had not previously imagined. We are all honored," said Ms. Rocamontes.

When the Wylie ISD Education Foundation wanted special decorative tiles designed for the sponsors of the group's annual Boots 'n Barbecue gala, the board turned to Wylie High School art teacher Macklyn Henderson for ideas. Her advanced art students designed and made the tiles which can be used as trivets or can rest in metal easels as unique art pieces. The approximately 5 by 5 inch tiles feature a natural finish with logo type art in black in the center.



Photos provided by Wylie ISD.

Besides the basic program offered to high school students in Art I, II and III, they can take specialized classes such as photography, jewelry, sculpture, advanced placement and college credit. The district has a large art program with five teachers at the two high schools. Recently 38 students took gold medals for their work at the Visual Arts Scholastic Event. Four of those students will move on to state competition. They are Hailey King, Aneicia Wolterding, Carly Thomson and Anika Sanchez. •

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Jimmy Nelson

His acting career is one of many ups and downs.

by Justin Jones

Through it all, the former Collin College student has transformed from an inexperienced actor to a seasoned performer with an Actors Equity card and television appearances on Ugly Betty, Gilmore Girls, Ally McBeal and The Practice.

And although Nelson's career has slowed since returning to Texas in November, the current Beachbody Coach, who credits his acting career for losing more than 80 pounds, has no regrets about the "path" he took to get to where he is today.

In fact, while recently talking to students in College College's award-winning theatre program, he stresses the importance of "knowing that nobody has the same path."

"I used to get really frustrated with mine and that worked against me. As I look back on it now, I'm very thankful for my path," Nelson, also an off-Broadway actor, said. "I had a lot of life experiences, and that worked well for me."

LIFE EXPERIENCES

These experiences began around 10 years ago when Nelson's nerves almost led to his nonparticipation in his first Collin College play.

"I eventually got on stage, rattled off a bad monologue, said 'thank you' and ran out of there as fast as I could," Nelson, the former Teen Talk co-host, recalled. "The next morning, they posted callbacks and I was on the list. That was the coolest thing to me."

It was also then when Nelson realized that he had the chops to become an actor.

Two years later, Nelson left Collin College's Theatre Program, which consistently ranks among the nation's elite, to attend Oklahoma University on a theatre scholarship.

Unfortunately, lack of finances forced him to leave after one semester.

But not before learning about a Disney College program, which led to a role as gangster Mugsy Toccata on the Great Movie Ride at Walt Disney World, where he stayed for two years. Upon leaving Walt Disney World, Nelson attended Rollins College, a private school outside of Orlando.



Jimmy Nelson gives advice to a Collin College theatre class about what it takes to become a successful actor.

Just like at OU, however, lack of finances forced him to leave the institution after one semester. By this time, Nelson says, his frustration with his acting career was growing.

Still, he moved to California to further his acting career, which also includes appearances in television commercials for Toyota, Nokia, Chuck E. Cheese, Doritos, American Singles, Radio Shack, Old Navy and more.

Again, though, financial trouble rained on Nelson's parade, forcing him to move back to Texas.

"I was ready to give it all up and do something else," he added. "I was like, 'God doesn't want me to be an actor' ... this just isn't working out."

THE TURNING POINT

Fortunately, things quickly turned around for Nelson after coming home. He landed a steady acting job, met his future wife and got an agent.

He and his wife also moved to New York. There, while his wife was away on a Barney tour, Nelson auditioned for work every day until he landed work on Ugly Betty, which helped earn his SAG Card.

"As an actor, you have to be willing to work every day, even on days you are not in a show, because it's really easy to go a long time between jobs. You have to do something in between to learn and grow," Nelson, who moved back to Texas again in November, said. "What I loved most

about New York was the training. Even if I didn't do a ton of shows, I did workshops, musicals, off Broadway shows and television work."

None of this, Nelson admits, would be possible if not for the Collin College Theatre Program and Brad Baker, theatre program chair.

"I wouldn't be an actor if it were not for Collin College and Professor Baker. Through all of my college stops, I still feel like I got the best training here," Nelson said. "The hands-on experiences that I got at Collin College, and the fact that I was required to do a little bit of everything, are so great."

To learn more about the Collin College Theatre Program, contact Brad Baker at 972.881.5679 or e-mail bbaker@collin.edu. •

Photo by Nick Young, Collin College photographer.

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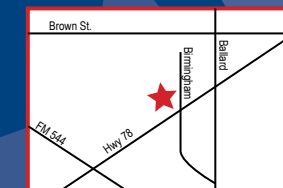


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Breast Cancer Awareness

Early Detection Saves Lives

by Jenevieve Hughes, MD

Other than skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in this country. But there's good news, too. The American Cancer Society reports that the overall five-year survival rate for localized breast cancer is extremely high, 98 percent. The main reason? Early detection.

Women who undergo regular screening are typically diagnosed at earlier stages of breast cancer, when it's much more treatable. Routine breast cancer screening should include a combination of breast self-examination, clinical breast examination by a physician, and digital or conventional mammography.

Screening Begins at Home

Monthly breast self-exams are recommended for all women. Self-exams are easy to learn and require just a few minutes once a month. The key is becoming familiar with your own body so that you can detect any changes to your breast tissue.

Self-exams help you notice differences over time, and you can examine your breasts more frequently than your doctor can. Symptoms of breast can-



cer include lumps, nipple discharge, breast pain, or skin changes such as redness, thickening, or an orange peel-like appearance of the breast. But since many women don't present any symptoms at all, routine screening is essential. If you feel a change or new mass in your breast, it should be evaluated by your doctor.

Routine Screening Means Seeing Your Doctor

If you're a woman in your 20s or 30s, then your doctor should perform a clinical breast exam at least once every three years. Most guidelines recommend annual clinical exams and mammograms for women of average risk beginning at age 40.

If you have a family history of breast cancer or other high-risk factors, you may need more frequent screenings. Your doctor can assess your level of risk and make a personalized recommendation for when to begin screening, how often to be screened, and which screening techniques should be used.

A mammogram — an x-ray of the breast — is currently the best available screening method for early detection. The latest technology — digital mammography — uses less radiation than film mammography, and studies show it improves cancer detection in women under 50 and patients with dense breasts.

Become Educated, Become Empowered

Sometimes women are hesitant to undergo regular screening because they fear the results. But isn't the unknown far scarier than the known? You should be informed, know your risk for

breast cancer, and understand the risks and benefits of any test you undergo. This knowledge can help you can feel empowered, because significant treatment options offer tremendous hope for anyone diagnosed with breast cancer.

I would encourage you to take an active role in your own health care and develop a close relationship with your doctor. The earlier breast cancer is detected, the better chance for a cure. •

Jenevieve Hughes, MD, is an independently practicing, board-certified general surgeon specializing in breast disease and breast surgery on the medical staff at Methodist Richardson Cancer Center, which is affiliated with UT Southwestern Medical Center. She graduated from Texas A&M College of Medicine and completed her internship and residency at Mayo Clinic in Arizona and her fellowship in breast surgical oncology at Bryn Mawr Hospital in Pennsylvania. Dr. Hughes recently moved back to Texas with her husband and one-year-old daughter. For an appointment, please call 469-726-6100.



Texas law prohibits hospitals from practicing medicine. Dr. Hughes is an independently practicing physician on the Methodist Richardson Medical Center medical staff and an employee of Richardson Physician Alliance. Dr. Hughes is not an employee or agent of Methodist Richardson Medical Center or Methodist Health System.

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Chamber Awards

Local businesses and citizens honored

Murphy Chamber of Commerce

More than one hundred people attended the 2010 Murphy Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards banquet January 15. A sit-down dinner at the new Hyatt Place in North Garland was followed by an awards program, installation of new officers, casino play and silent auction. Proceeds from the raffle and silent auction, totaling approximately \$1,150, benefitted the Chamber's Scholarship Foundation.

Don Wilson, 2009 Chamber Chair, presented the 2009 Murphy Chamber of Commerce Awards. Businesses and members honored with awards were:

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR: Murphy Messenger, Marcia Jowers

MEMBER OF THE YEAR: Jon Lashbrook, State Farm Insurance

AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR: Sammie Hampton, Edward Jones

NEW MEMBER OF THE YEAR: Marv Williams,
M & B Healthy Living

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: Rhonda Ptak,
Professional Landscaping

BUSINESS THAT CONTINUES TO IMPACT AWARD: Jon Lashbrook,
State Farm Insurance

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD: Steve Long and Steve Cole,
Peak Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine

CHAMBER COLORFUL CHARACTER AWARD: Sherry Pace,
Cruise Planners

Don Wilson then turned the gavel over to Steve Long, the incoming Chair, who recognized the incoming board of directors.

Wylie Chamber of Commerce

The Wylie Chamber of Commerce toasted the leaders in the community with "An Evening of Excellence" at the 32nd Annual Community Awards Banquet at the Hyatt Place in Garland on January 31st. There were over 380 Chamber Members, School and Community leaders in attendance as they honored those that went beyond the call of duty in 2009.

Mayor Eric Hogue and Wylie Chamber of Commerce President Mike Agnew were the emcees for the evening that honored the following Chamber award winners:

2009 AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR:
Ms. Cindy Lockaby, Jal Dennis Group

2009 SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR:
Mr. Bryan Brokaw, Edward Jones



2009 LARGE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR:

Methodist Richardson Medical Center

2009 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR:

Ms. Stacie Gooch, Ebby Halliday Realtors

The Community Leaders that were recognized are as follows:

2009 WISD ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR:

Ms. Julie Vaughan, Birmingham Elementary School

2009 WISD SECONDARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR:

Ms. Susan Wilson, Achieve Academy, D.A.E.P.

ROTARY CLUB ETHICS AWARD: Ms. Nell Carter

LIONS CLUB SERVICE AWARD: Ms. Angel Wygant

WYLIE DOWNTOWN MERCHANTS AWARD OF DISTINCTION:

Kent Crane, Shoemaker & Hardt

CITY OF WYLIE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR:

Cheryl Smith, Fire Rescue Administrative Assistant

The evening's festivities concluded with the traditional Passing of the Gavel from Ms. Melissa Crabtree, the 2009 Chairperson, to Mr. Keith Stephens who will serve as Chamber Chairman in 2010.

Sachse Chamber of Commerce

All That Sachse Jazz was the theme at the 26th Annual Awards Gala held Saturday, March 6th at the Richardson Hyatt Regency. Emcees for the evening were 2009 Chamber Chair Anita Collins and Sachse's Mayor Mike Felix. Award winners recognized during the Gala were:

HORIZON AWARD: David Dominguez, Edward Jones

AREA BUSINESS OF THE YEAR: Baylor Medical Center Garland

SACHSE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR: Kroger, John Roberts

PERSON OF THE YEAR: Anita Collins, American National Bank

SPIRIT OF SACHSE: Tina Stelnicki, Sachse Chamber of Commerce.

ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR: Cindy Stephens,

4th grade teacher Whitt Elementary

SECONDARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR: Josh McGuire,

Head Choir Director at Sachse High School

The evening included the passing of the gavel from Anita Collins to the 2010 Chairperson, Linda Gerstner of Mr. G's Tees, performances by the Sachse High School Jazz Band, raffles, and a live auction. •



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It's All In Your Hands

A Post-Divorce Action Plan for Women

provided by Jal Dennis Group

You have just gone through one of the most challenging and difficult periods that a woman can experience in her life – a divorce. While many things may still be in up in the air, one aspect of your life that you should make sure you're in control of is your finances.

Financial planning for divorced women is not that much different than financial planning for married couples. Several basic elements are the same. However, the differences offer both good news and bad news. The good news: you can make plans and decisions based solely on your needs and goals. There won't be miscommunication or conflicting ideas. The bad news: it's all in your hands. Any mistakes will be your own and a poor decision can't be salvaged by the income or assets of a partner.

The following post-divorce action plan offers a few things worth considering:

One way to counter the bad news is to find a trusted professional to seek advice from. After a divorce, friends are often split between spouses. Financial representatives can be the same way. If you lost yours in the divorce or never had one to begin with, it's a good time to consider finding a professional who can help you make sound financial decisions for your new life.

To find one, start simply. Ask friends or acquaintances who it was that helped them when they went through a divorce. The attorney who handled your divorce may also be a good source for a referral. It's important to have someone help you who has previously assisted or - best of all - who specializes in helping divorced women.

Selecting the right financial professional for you is a critical step. After all, this person will be helping you with the important financial decisions you now have to face.

Long-term care insurance may become even more important post-divorce. Long-term care policies are designed to cover the costs of care if you are unable to care for yourself because of age or if you become ill or disabled. Long-term care is especially important for women because



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they typically pay more for it than men do. The reason is simple: women typically live longer than men and usually require longer care during those additional years.

A woman's retirement is usually more expensive than a man's. The reason that women usually need long-term care insurance more than men is the same reason that retirement income planning for women may be more important. Women live – on average - 5 to 10 years longer than men. Eighty-five percent of people over 100 are women. This means a woman's retirement savings must, on average, be stretched out over a larger number of years.

While, in general, retirement planning for a single person is easier in many ways than for a couple, remember ... you can no longer rely on a spouse's financial resources if a mistake is made. It's important to review your social security estimates, any pensions you have and your retirement assets. You can then compare that to the kind of lifestyle you would like to have during retirement.

Because retirement may be more expensive, you may want to make an employer-sponsored retirement plan a larger deciding factor in any job search. Also, you may decide that you must retire at a later date than you had originally planned.

Update your beneficiaries and consider using a trust to help manage your assets. People often forget to update the beneficiaries of their life insurance and retirement accounts after a divorce. If not changed, your ex-husband may stand to inherit a large portion of your assets. Also, the estate laws give certain breaks to married couples that are not available to a single person. Establishing the proper type of legal trust may be a way to pass along more of your assets to your heirs, rather than to the IRS.

Finally, after you have moved on from your divorce there may come a time when you consider remarriage. It's important that you understand the financial effects this may have. If you were married longer than 10 years you may be collecting or entitled to 50% of your ex-husband's social security benefit. If you remarry you will no longer have that right. While you will become entitled to your new husband's benefit, you must know if your new husband's benefit will be lower or higher, and how that will affect your retirement.

Remarriage can also lead to blended families, blended assets and blended income. Your new husband may have his own family from a previous relationship. A financial professional can help the two of you prepare for this blending that satisfies the financial needs of each of you, as well as your new family.

While it's all in your hands, partnering with a financial professional can help you move on to the next phase of your life with a more solid plan for your financial future. •



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