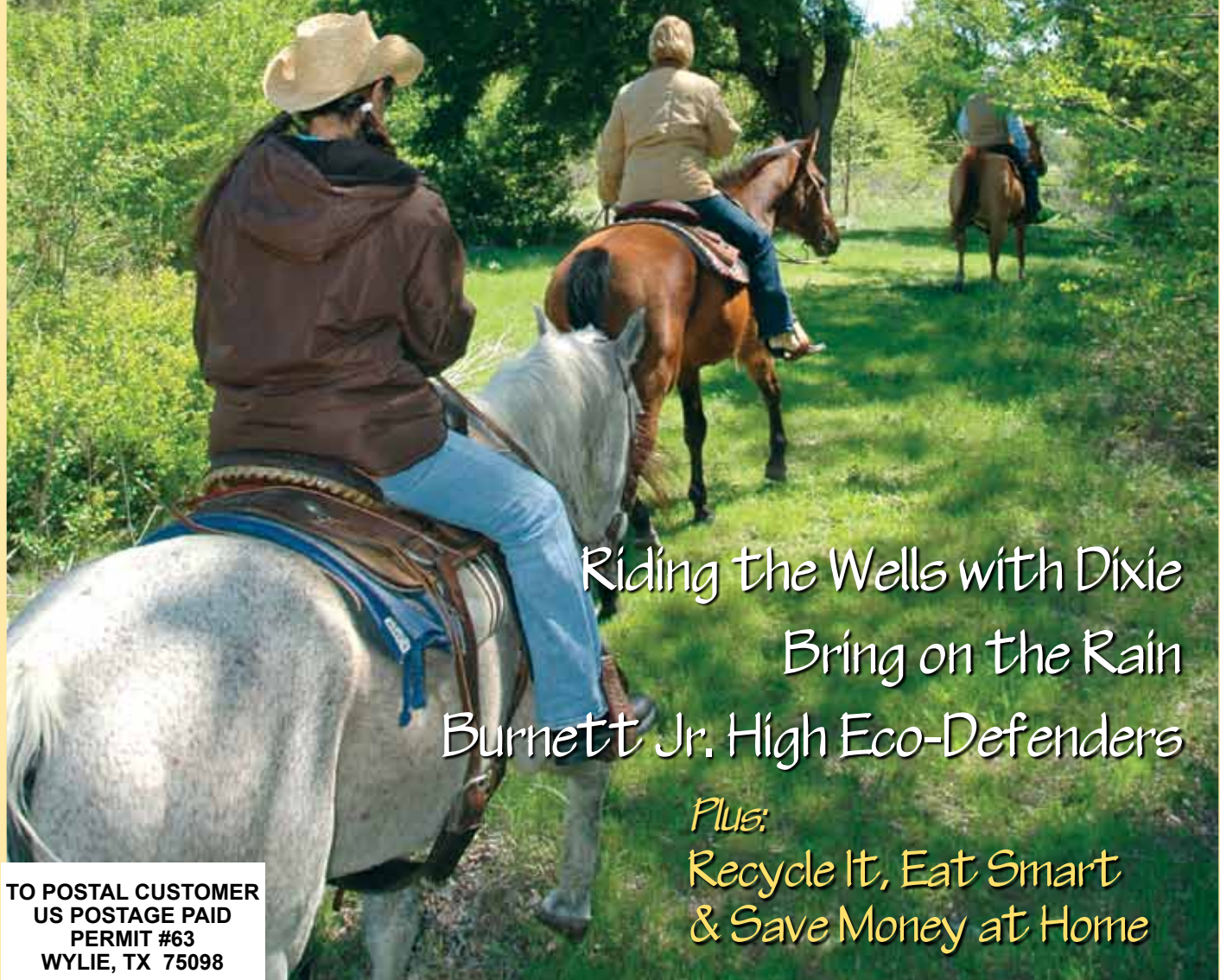


The Connection

Wylie • Sachse • Murphy Community Magazine

May/June 2009



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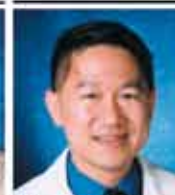
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On The Cover



Horse back riding - Photo by Anne Hiney



Just for fun, find the butterfly! Last issue it was hidden in the rock climbing photo on page 29.

The Connection

Wylie • Sachse • Murphy Community Magazine

A Wylie Chamber of Commerce Publication
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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 28,000 households in the Wylie/Sachse/Murphy 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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Assisted Living and Memory Care Have Never Looked So Good

Selecting housing for retirement is an important step in our lives. There are so many choices and levels of care and assistance that it can be overwhelming to know where to start. The good news for people of Wylie and the surrounding areas is that Winters Park Assisted Living and Memory Care is opening in June 2009. Located in Garland this state-of-the art community was developed to provide comfortable, upscale assisted living and memory care accommodations for seniors. Offering exhilarating senior wellness programs with richly designed interiors and spacious amenities. Winters Park offers all the assistance you or your loved one want with the independence you may need.

Our mission is to provide you with extraordinary comfort and security. Living well is what we all want in our senior years, and Winters Park delivers that and much more. It's our dedication to a whole new concept in care that ensures our residents enjoy Assisted Living and Memory Care the way it was meant to be.

Assisted Living The Way You Want It

The goal of assisted living is to make performing the tasks of daily living easier and safer. Some seniors need help with various activities of daily living, including bathing and dressing — sometimes even reminders to eat or take medication. More people are discovering the benefits of assisted living and the peace of mind it provides. At Winters Park seniors will get the traditional care they need, while maintaining much of their independence and dignity in a place they can call home.

Offering compassionate care and supportive assisted living services while in a breathtaking setting, Winters Park is professionally designed and built to suit a wide variety of lifestyles. From private and semi-private accommodations to a variety of activities, we ensure residents live healthy and more fulfilling lives. The social networks that develop are very strong and do a great deal for one's outlook on life. Plus, the chances of getting exercise and eating well are significantly increased by living in our assisted living community. Winters Park is the perfect alternative for seniors who need some help with daily living, yet wish to maintain their independence.

Our Memory Care Program

At Winters Park, we understand the challenging needs of those with Alzheimer's disease and dementia related illnesses. We offer a program that meets these needs with a safe and supportive living environment. A familiar home-like setting, 24-hour assistance and regular daily routines allow each resident the highest possible level of independence.

Our exclusive Memory Care program CALM™, uses proven techniques based on aromatherapy massage and sensory stimulation to help improve recall and provide a sense of connectedness to residents. Our exclusive memory care program promotes feelings of comfort and security in residents. These same techniques also minimize agitation and promote tranquility without increasing medication.



Our unique Person Centered Approach means Memory Care is designed around your loved one, their aspirations, comfort and peace of mind. What matters to you matters to us, too.

"The more we know about our residents the more we are able to meet their needs", says Winters Park Assisted Living and Memory Care Executive Director Von Vu. This kind of customized personal attention helps us prepare a plan of service designed specifically for your loved one.

"Upon move-in, each person and their family will create a Life Story Book which provides a comprehensive source of information about the person's life experiences, values, preferences, emotional triggers and strategies for successful interactions," says Vu.

Our vision is to provide a warm and comfortable living environment for our residents. We believe that every person deserves to be treated with dignity and kindness. Our nursing staff's specialized training in Alzheimer's and dementia care ensures that each resident's medical needs are met promptly and skillfully. Our staff focuses on encouraging residents to retain their maximal level of independence while providing a safe, structured and home-like environment.

With the help of evidence-based design we have incorporated lighting, color schemes, temperature control, furniture layout and landscaping to create a favorable environment that enhances the well-being of our memory care residents. Our Memory Lane community is a safe, secure home for your family member where they can make friends and enjoy a wonderful life.

Full Service Community

For those seniors that may be in need of Skilled Care and Rehabilitation Winters Park also offers those comprehensive services on campus at Winters Park Nursing & Rehab Center.

Stop by for a visit or call Winters Park Assisted Living and Memory Care at 214.529.2634.

May Events

May - **Native Texas Butterflies** at the Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary. Experience the splendor of Native Texas Butterflies. Enjoy being immersed among fluttering butterflies in our new 800+ square foot Native Texas Butterfly House and new Butterfly Garden. Visit www.heardmuseum.org for more details.

May 1st, 15th & 29th: Wylie Opportunity Resource for Careers (W.O.R.C.) Wylie United Methodist Church's W.O.R.C. career support group will meet from 7- 8 p.m.. This is not just a "Wylie" group. We can help anyone interested by providing support and tools to help them land the job they want. We will publish a list of topics shortly for future meetings. Wylie United Methodist Church is located at 1401 FM 1378. For more info. call the church office at 972-442-5835.

May 3rd: Divorce Recovery for Kids is a program designed to give support to children who have gone through, or are going through, their parents' divorce. Our goal is to help kids learn to cope with their emotions and the changes in their lives. 2nd – 6th grade are welcome. This is a free program that meets 6–7 p.m. If you have questions or would like to register your child, please contact Nancy at 214-474-1194 or mnbspaulding@yahoo.com. Divorce Recovery for Kids requires pre-registration. Wylie United Methodist Church, 1401 FM 1378, Wylie, 972-442-5835.

May 3rd: Divorce Recovery for Teens is a program designed to give support to Teens who have gone through, or are going through, their parents' divorce. Our goal is to help teens learn to cope with their emotions and the changes in their lives. 7th – 12th grade are welcome. This is a free program that meets 4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. If you have questions or would like to register your teen, please contact Nancy at (214)474-1194 or mnbspaulding@yahoo.com. Registration is preferred but drop-in's are also welcome. Wylie United Methodist Church, 1401 FM 1378, Wylie, 972-442-5835.

May 5th: Murphy Chamber Golf Tournament – Woodbridge Golf Club, 7400 Country Club Drive, Wylie. 7:30 a.m. Putting Contest & Registration, 8:30 a.m. Shotgun Start - Scramble. No handicaps! Golf fees \$100 per player. You do not have to be a Chamber member to play. A portion of proceeds benefit the Murphy Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Foundation. For more info visit murphychamber.org or call 972-805-3749.

May 8th: Parent's Night Out – Need a date night? Drop off your children (infants thru 5th grade) at 6 p.m. and pick them up at 10 p.m. Bring \$15 and dinner for each child and enjoy an evening out. Contact Jan to reserve your spot at janbeamer@verizon.net. Wylie United Methodist Church 1401 FM 1378, Wylie, 972-442-5835.

May 9th: Election Day - GO VOTE! It's your right and responsibility!!

May 9th: Big Cats Helping Little Cats – In-Sync Exotics and New Beginnings Cat Rescue combine efforts to promote lifelong relationships between people and animals - both working to provide permanent, loving homes for their cats. For this event, we only ask that adult attendees donate \$7 (instead of \$10). Anyone who adopts a homeless domestic cat will receive a \$7 coupon for the In-Sync Exotics gift shop *NBCR will be raffling a one-of-a-kind cat tree at the end of the event* www.nbcrtx.org 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at 3430 Skyview Dr. Wylie, TX 75098. www.insyncexotics.com.

May 10th: Mother's Day

May 14th - 16th: City of Wylie Clean Up - Green Up on Thursday & Friday 1 - 6 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. behind Wylie City Hall on Hwy. 78. Enter from Eubanks Lane to Centennial Drive. Items accepted: Brush, Clothing Donations, Appliances, Electronics, Cardboard, Scrap Metal, Tires & Trash. Document Shredding will be available Saturday from 8 a.m. - Noon. No hazardous waste will be accepted. Wylie residents only, current water bill or Driver's License required. Pick-up service for Senior Citizens call 972-442-8195.

May 15th - 17th: wildflower! Festival in Richardson is an award-winning, multi-day eclectic arts and music festival that draws over 70,000 attendees... and we're celebrating our 17th anniversary in 2009! We're located at the Galatyn Park Urban Center in Richardson, Texas - at US 75 and Galatyn Parkway. Festival programming includes two main outdoor performance stages, the Acoustic Café, our award-winning Singer/Songwriter Stage, the family friendly Kidz Korner, Teenz Zone, strolling entertainers, buskers and acrobats, the Taste of Texas Food Garden, the City of Richardson Petting Zoo, the Art Guitar Auction, and lots of interactive displays and exhibits. Back again at Wildflower! is the eMazing Gaming Guitar Hero area! Visit www.wildflowerfestival.com for more info.

May 16th: 6th Annual WildRide Against Cancer brings more than 2,000 cyclists from across North Texas and raises more than \$100,000 each year for Richardson Regional Cancer Center, an affiliate of UT Southwestern Medical Center and home of the Lance Armstrong Shaped Beam Surgery™ Program. The event starts in the Verizon parking lot, 2400 Glenville Drive in Richardson. Bike rally begins at 8 a.m. 5K Trail Walk begins at 8:30 a.m. For more info visit www.wildridebikerally.com or call 972-498-7678.



May 16th: Sachse's Annual Bicycle Rodeo hosted by the Sachse Police Department and the motor unit from 10 a.m. to Noon at Cheri Cox Elementary School, 7009 Woodbridge Parkway. The officers will conduct bicycle inspections and registrations, create ID cards, answer questions and educate children and parents on bicycle and scooter safety. An obstacle course will be set up for tips on bicycle navigation and safety helmets will be available as long as supplies last. A drawing will be held at the end of the event for prizes. For more info contact Officer Holland at 972. 495.2271, ext. 231 and watch the City's website www.cityofsachse.com..

May 16th: East Fork Masonic Lodge in Wylie is asking for blood donations to support the Scottish Rite Children's Hospital of Dallas. Carter Blood Care will be at the American National Bank parking lot on Highway 78 in Wylie from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. to accept blood donations. Your participation is crucial to the success of this program and the continued treatment of patients. Please consider making a donation at this event to benefit the Scottish Rite Children's Hospital of Dallas. To make this as convenient as possible and minimize the wait time required to complete your blood donation, we are accepting appointments for donors at the Carter Blood Care web site. <http://iwebb.carterbloodcare.org/pls/iwebb/adrv?pdz=75038&pdr=DRV0335636>.

May 19th: Murphy Chamber Monthly Luncheon at Woodbridge Country Club, 7400 Country Club Drive, Wylie. 11:30 a.m., Lunch served at 12 noon. Visit murphychamber.org or call 972-805-3749 for more info.

May 25th: Memorial Day - Veterans Memorial Ground-breaking Ceremony at 10 a.m. in Olde City Park, downtown Wylie.

May 23rd: Murphy Vendor Fair, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Murphy Middle School gymnasiums. For booth information contact Marcia Jowers 214-289-2641.

May 29th: City of Murphy Moonlight Movies. Enjoy movies - outdoors! The Moonlight Movies will be the last Friday in May and July. Double Feature: The Tale of Despereaux at 8 p.m. (dusk) & Mall Cop at 10 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket and enjoy a FREE movie under the stars. Fun begins at 7:30 p.m. with pre-movie entertainment. In Mustang Park, off Mustang Ridge Dr. in Murphy. For more info call 972-468-4063 or email kkirkwood@murphytx.org.

May 30th: Murphy Cemetery Association will host **2nd Annual Memorial Day Observance** at the Decatur/Maxwell/Murphy Cemetery. Tours of the cemetery begin at 9:30 a.m. Program honoring veterans begins at 10:15 a.m.

June Events

Murphy's Picnic by the Pond: A FREE concert series held on Thursday nights for the month of June. Bring a blanket, a picnic and enjoy the entertainment by the pond. All ages welcome. 7-9 p.m. at Murphy Municipal Complex (206 N. Murphy Rd) **June 4** - Kraig Parker's Ultimate Elvis Tribute, **June 11** - Professor D, **June 18** - Rivers, **June 25** - Vocal Trash. For more info call 972-468-4063 or email kkirkwood@murphytx.org

City of Wylie Thursday Night Concert Series: Bring the entire family out to enjoy the Free Concerts in Olde City Park, Downtown Wylie. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. **June 11th** - Searching for a Star Finals, **June 18th** - Trio Grande (ZZ Top Tribute), & **June 25th** - Incognito. Continues in July.

June 5th: Parent's Night Out – Need a date night? Drop off your children (infants thru 5th grade) at 6 p.m. and pick them up at 10 p.m. Bring \$15 and dinner for each child and enjoy an evening out. Contact Jan to reserve your spot at janbeamer@verizon.net. Wylie United Methodist Church 1401 FM 1378, Wylie, 972-442-5835.

June 6th: Sachse High School Graduation

June 8th: Plano East Sr. High School Graduation

June 10th: The Sachse Chamber of Commerce will host the 20th Annual Golf Shoot Out at Woodbridge Golf Club. The player entry fee is \$150 and includes both lunch and dinner. Registration is from 11 a.m. - Noon with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. Multiple sponsorships, including Merchandise, Hospitality Tent, Beverage Cart, and Hole Sponsors, are available. Please visit www.sachsechamber.com for details and registration or call the Chamber office at 972-496-1212.

June 12th: Wylie High School Graduation

June 12th & 26th: Wylie Opportunity Resource for Careers (W.O.R.C.) Wylie United Methodist Church's W.O.R.C. career support group will meet from 7- 8 p.m.. This is not just a "Wylie" group. We can help anyone interested by providing support and tools to help them land the job they want. We will publish a list of topics shortly for future meetings. Wylie United Methodist Church is located at 1401 FM 1378. If you have questions, please call the church office at 972-442-5835.

June 13th: Insync Exotics Big Cat Birthday Bash! Enjoy activities, games, cake and ice cream and more!! Watch the Big Cats get "cake" and presents from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. \$10/adults \$7/kids \$5/seniors. 3430 Skyview Dr. Wylie, TX 75098, www.insyncexotics.com.

June 14th: Flag Day - Fly it proudly!

Ground-breaking Ceremony May 25, 10 a.m. in Olde City Park 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.

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

Example of how the pavers will be engraved.

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June 16th: **Murphy Chamber Monthly Luncheon** at Woodbridge Country Club, 7400 Country Club Drive, Wylie. 11:30 a.m., Lunch served at 12 noon. Visit www.murphychamber.org for more info.

June 18th - 21st: **“The Three Musketeers”** presented by The Company of Rowlett Performers is their 2009 Children’s Show at the Plaza Theatre. June 18th & 19th at 1 p.m.; June 20th at 7:30 p.m. and June 21st at 2 p.m. Tickets are available weekdays at the Granville Arts Center Box Office or by calling 972-977-7710. Tickets also available at www.corptheatre.com or at the door before each performance.

June 19th: **Wylie Fire-Rescue 100th Anniversary Golf Tournament** at Woodbridge Golf Club. Shotgun start at 1 p.m. \$100 per player/\$400 for team. For more info contact Captain Robert Ballard; robert.ballard@wylietexas.gov.

June 20th: **The Heard Museum Ropes Course** Open to the Public Day - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit www.heardmuseum.org for more details.

June 21st: **Father’s Day**

June 27th: **Allen USA!** Enjoy your favorite festival foods and snacks. The Kids Zone hosts a multitude of bounce houses and play structures for children to enjoy. The Activity Zone provides fun and exciting entertainment for children and youth of all ages. This year our Main Stage will be rockin’ with the tunes of Smash Mouth. The evening ends with one of the largest fireworks shows set to music in North Texas! FREE! Noon - 11 p.m. in Celebration Park, 701 Angel Parkway, Allen. www.cityoffallen.org/departments/parks_recreation/allenusa/default.htm

Save the Date!

July 2nd: **Wylie’s Fireworks Spectacular** in Founders Park at 9:30 p.m.

July 3rd: **Sachse’s Fabulous Fireworks Spectacular** at Heritage Park. Come out early and enjoy a live band from 7:30 until 9:30 p.m., when the fireworks will begin. Watch the city’s website, www.cityofsachse.com, for more information.

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.

The Wylie Farmers Market will be held the 1st and the 3rd Saturday of each month from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. offering fresh fruit, vegetables, bedding plants & flowers, handmade crafts, gourmet foods, etc. in the empty lot between Quick Response Computers and the Farmers Ins. building in Historic Downtown Wylie. Contact: Ellie Hughes 972-429-1437 or twistedpepper@verizon.net.

Wylie’s Rita and Truett Smith Public Library

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

May 7th: **Teen Library Council Meeting** at 5:00 p.m.

The Teen Library Council meets 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!

May 7th & 21st, June 4th & 18th: **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 served basis on the evening of the program.



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May 11th: **Children’s Book Week Celebration** at 6:30 p.m.

Family Fun Night presents a Children’s Book Week celebration featuring the talents of Miss Dee Scallan, author/storyteller. Miss Dee applies a creative approach to learning facts about Texas using songs, stories and volunteers from the audience. This unique experience is a fun and exciting way to learn about our great state!

May 14th: **Between (4th and 5th grade) Book Club** discussion with Mayor Eric Hogue at 6:30 p.m.

4th & 5th graders are invited to discuss Clinky the Clown and the Secret of Happyville by Eric Hogue, Mayor of Wylie on Thursday May 14th @ 6:30 p.m. Mayor Hogue will be participating in the discussion as well as signing copies of his book afterward

May 18th: **Family Fun Night** presents: Celtic music with Zing

Family Fun Night presents the Muses, a nationally touring musical group who adds new life to old songs as well as adding original material to the Celtic repertoire. This event is free and fun for the whole family.

May 18th & June 22nd: **Fourth Monday Book Club** at 6:30 p.m.

The 4th Monday Book Club will meet May 18th in the Bluebonnet Room to discuss Queen of the Road by Doreen Orion and June 22nd to discuss No Country for Old Men by Cormac McCarthy For additional information call Donna at 972-442-7566.

May 21st: **Friends of the Library Meeting** at 6 p.m.

The Friends of the Rita & Truett Smith Public Library are having their monthly meeting at 6:00 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!

May 25th: The Smith Public Library will be **CLOSED** all day in observation of Memorial Day. The library will re-open on Tuesday, May 26 at Noon.

June 5th: **Summer Reading Club Kick-off Party**, 9 a.m. until Noon

This year’s theme for the Texas Summer Reading Club is Libraries: Deep in the Heart of Texas! Join us at our annual Summer Reading Club Kick-off Party to pick up your reading log and calendar of events. During the Kick-Off Party there will be a balloon artist, a bounce house, a Texas Size Petting Zoo and the City of Wylie’s police and fire department. These events are free and fun for the whole family. If you plan on participating in all of the activities, be sure to arrive early.

June 22nd: is the first day to redeem your reading log for prizes!

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

Sachse Library Events

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

Summer Reading Program Begins In June:

All children ages 5 to 12 are invited to join us for the 2009 Summer Reading Club. Everyone will have the chance to win prizes, earn rewards and read great books over the summer. The Summer Reading Program theme is Libraries Deep in the Heart of Texas. Due to the large crowds last year, we are happy to announce there will be two performance times this year, one at 11 a.m. and one at 12:30 p.m.

Programs begin June 6th with a “kick-off” pizza party at 2 p.m. at the Library. Then starting Thursday, June 11th and every Thursday after that, the programs will be offered at the Library at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. June 11th is Turtle Discovery, June 18th is Ayubu Kamau Kings and Queens, June 25th is Critterman, July 2nd is Seussology 101, July 9th is Dal Sanders Magical World, July 16th is Mister David, July 23rd is Esther Malone and July 30th is the end-of-program party.

On a special day and time, Friday, June 26th at 4 p.m, Kelly the Clown from Ringling Brothers Circus will present Reading with Ringling Brothers. This is a special presentation and Sachse is privileged to be on the schedule.

The Library staff will distribute flyers and information will be on the city website as these dates approach. •

Tell me about it.....

To submit your special event to the July/August community calendar send an e-mail to theconnection.anne@mac.com no later than June 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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Get Involved With Our Local Organizations

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 from 7 - 8 p.m. at McMillan Jr. High, 1050 Park Blvd., Wylie. Go to www.dyslexiaadvocatesofwylie.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 Street and Avenue B in Garland. For more info visit www.garland-quiltguild.org or contact Allison Ray at 972-941-0860 or allisonray@gmail.com.

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

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

MOMS Club of Murphy/Sachse is a non-profit support group for stay-at-home moms and their children. Activities include monthly meetings with guest speakers, play groups, park days, MOMS Night Out, field trips and more. We participate in service projects to benefit children in the community. Please contact Murphy_sachse_moms@yahoo.com for further info.

Moms & More all caretakers, whether you are a Mom, Dad, Aunt, Uncle, Grandparent or Nanny are welcome. We accept members from Wylie and the surrounding communities and have many activities for children and their caretakers. We meet the 1st Thursday of the month. Contact us at Diva@wylieomsmore.org for info. www.wylieomsmore.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 a.m. 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, or visit www.mops.org.

Sachse Historical Society meets the 3rd Saturday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Sachse Historical Museum, 3033 6th Street. 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.

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 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 katieshockleydtm@yahoo.com or 469-757-0952. www.wylie.freetoasthost.com

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

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Riding the Wells

by Dixie (with a little help from Brenda)

A real benefit to trail rides is the pre-ride deluxe spa package. First, they use a curry brush to get those annoying mud-balls out of my lovely tail, then they brush all the dirt off my coat and next a pedicure takes care of my hooves. Unfortunately, this hair salon simply isn't the best. My owner, Brenda, pulls on my mane as she tries to brush out a cocklebur, then she gives up and just snips it out. Great - now my mane is choppy. I guess she tries, but heaven help her hairdressing skills. I hope the other horses don't notice. But wow, my tail looks great! Twitch! Twitch! I'll distract them with that.

Dixie

Have you ever just wanted to get away for a while? Stretch your legs and wander along a lovely trail, sniffing flowers, talking with your friends and eating a little grass? That's just what I got to do a few weeks ago. My name is Dixie. Come along as I tell you about the day we got away for a ride in a beautiful place right here in the heart of Wylie.

My story begins as I gaze across the pasture and see my humans carrying something. Feed buckets full of grain would be great news – today, however, they are carrying halters which means a trail ride.

I love a trail ride, but they have surely picked a lousy day for it! It is windy, cold and I haven't finished my morning grazing. As they come up to the fence I decide to make it easy and allow them to halter me. But for pure entertainment value, you can't beat seeing Red, also affectionately known as the Big Guy, running after us!

roll over, rider and all! However, the Big Guy pulls over some place new today. It's big and beautiful with lots of tasty looking grass and huge trees. It really looks like a nice place.

I hear the humans talking as we unload about some place called the Wells property. That must be where we are! They say it's more than 250 acres and a new library, recreation center and city hall are all being built here. I wonder why you would build on such a lovely place? They must really need those buildings.

We finally get saddled up and begin our ride. Now they are talking – you ever notice that humans are always talking? – about the Trust for Public Land helping the City of Wylie purchase the Wells property. Apparently the Trust is a national, non-profit land conservation group that works with cities to conserve land for public enjoyment as parks, gardens and other natural places. Wylie was really lucky to have their help!

We head for the tree line which fortunately is keeping much of the wind down so it isn't too cold. As we are riding, our explorations are rewarded with views of this beautiful property! Spring is all around, monarchs are migrating, bunnies are running, and in a possible correlation, a red tailed hawk and vultures soar above.

It is quiet and secluded; surrounded by trees it seems like we are miles away from the city. We can't even see the construction going on! What a peaceful place. I hope we can come back here one day soon.

Riding along, Doc works hard to stay at the head of the group. Now, I'm not one to dampen anyone's hopes, dreams or ambitions, but this insubordination must stop. I try not to laugh as Doc, with the Big Guy on board, trots along, trying to maintain the lofty position at the head of the line. It's no contest with my much longer, pedigreed legs, and in no time at all, I regain the lead. It is no

laughing matter keeping the peons in line. Fortunately, I don't have to worry about Nero or Charm as they stayed out of the line leader battle. Smart.

If I seem harsh, it's because Doc just doesn't know his place. For you equine novices, the pasture is just like a chicken coop and a hierarchy or pecking-order must be observed. Doc knows well and good that I'm in charge, but it doesn't keep him from trying to be number one. Just like Avis®, Doc will just have to try harder. Bring it on, bubba. I'm not scared!

Suddenly, we hear other horses across a fence. They let us know they are there by racing around and snickering at us. Friendly fellows! We talk back and forth, but I detect a bit of jealousy. We are, after all, out here where the grass is greener!

As we continued our ride Anne is talking about parks and open space – she's a Park Board member and she has a wish list for this place: She'd like to see nature trails, like at the Heard Museum, with an outdoor learning center created in cooperation with WISD (similar to the Shiloh center in Plano), and restored prairie land comparable to Connemara. She thinks an amphitheater and maybe a large catch and release stocked pond close to the municipal buildings would be great gathering places for the community too. She also mentions there is another part of the property to the west that would make a great location for a disc golf course along Muddy Creek.

"I feel very strongly that we need a

plan put in place soon which will aggressively protect and preserve this beautiful area for our community to enjoy long into the future. It is truly an oasis in the heart of our town" says Anne as we ride along.

As we finally head back and are getting ready to leave, the Big Guy gives instruction on removing the gear. I notice he is doing most of the work. Will those three girls ever learn? Oh my, it's a fine feeling when the saddle is off! Now we can really attack the green grass here properly, and we all do. The Big Guy stores my saddle and reins together so I always have my own gear. I don't want to get 'Doc cooties' the next time we go for a get away.

Everything goes so well: No bucking, no biting, no run-away's. And that was all on Doc's dance card, I assure you. The Big Guy loads us back into our trailer and we are done - until the next trail ride anyway.

If you get the chance to go see the Wells property I highly recommend it! It's at the intersection of FM 1378 and Brown Street.

Imagine bringing your family here for a picnic under one of the mature trees and

hiking around trails in the shade. We fell in love with it, we think you will too!

Happy Trails! •



Red unsaddling Nero



Becky riding Nero & Red riding Doc



Anne with Charm



Brenda riding Charm

Photos by Anne Hiney & Brenda Byboth



Bring on the Rain

by Craig Kelly - City of Wylie Public Information Officer

The Dallas/Fort Worth area has welcomed late winter and spring rain, unlike many drought plagued regions throughout Texas. For the month of March, DFW Airport recorded 5.56 inches of precipitation, close to double the average. But even with the heavy March rains, precipitation recorded at DFW airport for the period of September 1, 2008, through March 31, 2009, was 3.97 inches below normal.

Drought has been a part of the written history of Texas since 1535 when Spanish explorer Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca found a population of soil tillers near the present day town of Presidio. His account reveals their struggle to farm because of two years of drought.

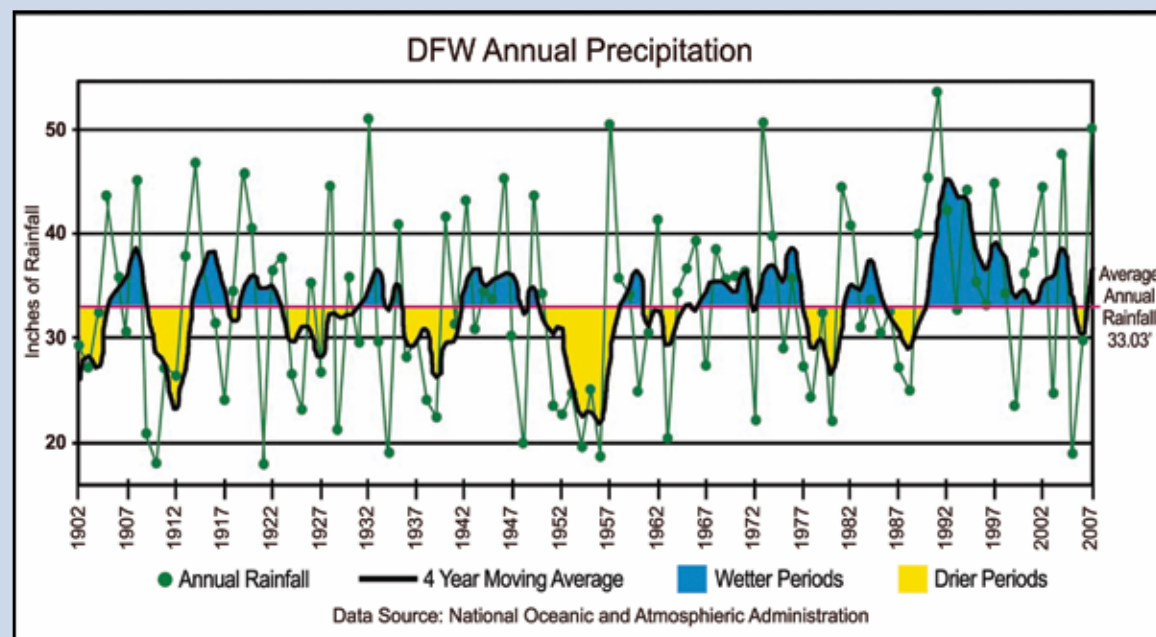
In 1756 the San Gabriel River dried up, forcing the abandonment of a settlement of missionaries and Indians. Colonists led by Stephen F. Austin lost their entire crop of corn due to lack of moisture in 1822. And one of the worst droughts in Texas history occurred from 1884 through 1886 prompting many farmers to abandon Texas.

The last century has also been marked with several periods of drought in North Texas, including the most recent in 2006. Enhanced by the increase in water demand due to population growth over the last ten years, headlines told the story of diminishing water supplies, mandatory conservation and the economic toll the drought inflicted.

ed. Record spring rains in 2007 quickly filled reservoirs and quenched fears of eventual water rationing and escalating water costs.

History reveals that as severe as the 2006 drought appeared, this dry period does not match the depth and breadth of the 30's dustbowl, the historical drought of the 1950's and a prolonged dry period in the early 80's. The DFW Precipitation Chart found on this page, visually tells the story by showing drier historical periods in yellow and wetter periods in blue. Consider the implications and ask yourself...how would a drought of "historical" proportions impact North Texas today?

As rain falls, reservoirs fill, flowers bloom and grass grows green, it is easy to forget about the drought potential in North Texas. We are two years removed from the 2006 drought--memories are short. An excerpt from the book Gift of Water,



Photos & tables provided by the City of Wylie.

Legacy of Service, by Bill Sloan, reminds us that drought can quickly strike.

"Even to habitual 'water worriers,' the first summer of the 1950's gave absolutely no advance warning that North Texas and the rest of the Southwest were about to suffer through the worst and most prolonged drought in the regions recorded history. If anything, weather conditions that summer suggested just the opposite. An unusually wet year in 1949 was followed by another in 1950, as rainfall totals hit 6.31 inches in May, followed by a respectable 3.03 inches in June, a soggy 7.70 inches in July and even a near-record 4.31 inches in normally arid August."

"But beginning as early as the fall of 1950, an ominous trend had started to manifest itself. Abruptly, the heavy rains that had characterized the first three quarters of the year came to an almost total halt. They stopped so completely, in fact, that total precipitation as recorded at Dallas Love Field amounted to less than a single inch for the entire last quarter of the year—a period that normally produced eight and a half times that amount."

"The new year of 1951 brought no relief. An abnormally dry spring was followed by a scorching hot summer. By August, as the area sweltered through a record 22 straight days of 100-degree temperatures and water consumption soared to an all-time high, some people had begun to stare apprehensively into the bright, cloudless skies and wonder aloud when the dry spell would end. The answer, had they known it, would have been utterly devastating. Ahead lay six straight years of rainfall ranging from skimpy to nonexistent—and a water crisis of unprecedented proportions."

Droughts are challenging to predict but according to historical trends another is inevitable. Will this be our summer of 1951 when rains halt and temperatures rise for a prolonged, deep drought?

Wylie, Sachse and Murphy, along with 1.6 million other customers in North Texas, receive their water from the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD), located in Wylie. To meet future demands, the NTMWD continues to develop new water sources in addition to its primary sources of Lavon Lake, Lake Texoma, Jim Chapman Lake, Lake Tawakoni and Lake Bonham. But as water demand increases, citizens must do their part through daily conservation to ensure that this finite, valuable resource is available for years to come. •

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Check sprinkler systems frequently for directional aim & broken heads to prevent watering driveways, sidewalks & streets. Inspect your system annually for leaks.

Use drip irrigation, soaker hoses & root feeders instead of sprinklers to water trees, shrubs & beds more efficiently & reduce evaporation & runoff.

Use 4-6 inches of mulch in your beds to prevent evaporation & runoff.

Install rain & freeze sensors to prevent sprinklers from operating when it's raining.

Just Recycle It!

Here's a list of places that will take the stuff you can't recycle at home

by Kathleen Noble of Wylie

This time of year brings rain and inspires yardwork, kite flying and spring cleaning. Some of us may look around in amazement and wonder if it might be easier to pack and move than to sort through the residue left from our winter hibernation.

Did you spend the chillier months reading paperback novels? Is there a pile of newspapers lying in the corner of the room? Is the old family television sitting alone in the garage since Santa hauled in the new flat screen plasma?

For those of us encouraged by warmer weather and that little ray of sunshine peeking through our dusty windows it's time to think about what to do with those unwanted or unneeded items we'd just like to get out of the way.

Unwanted electronics can be taken to any Best Buy location for proper and safe recycling. They'll take just about anything electronic, including TVs, DVD players, computer monitors, cell phones and more. You can bring in up to two items a day, per household, and most things are absolutely free. However,

there is a \$10 charge for TVs 32" and under, CRTs, monitors and laptops — but they'll give you a \$10 Best Buy gift card to offset that cost.

Old tires can be taken to any Firestone® location including two local stores: 5660 Lavon Drive in Sachse or 2961 W. FM 544 in Wylie. According to Sachse store manager Jamie Whitney, Firestone's in all locations accept and dispose of tires at no cost to the customer. Tires may also be dropped off at Wylie Tire located at 207 N. Hwy 78 in Wylie.

All O'Reilly® Auto Parts and AutoZone® stores collect automotive batteries and used motor oil for recycling.

Provide eyeglasses to those in need by recycling them through a local Lions Club chapter in your area. Used eyeglasses may be placed in drop boxes located in several businesses throughout the city including Vision Source and American National Bank.

Summer Davies of Wylie Printing and Office Supply suggests bringing empty printer cartridges to the office supply at 300 South Hwy. 78 for convenient disposal.

Consider offering gently worn adult and children's clothing, furniture, appliances and other household items to Wylie Christian Care Center or other charitable assistance organizations in your area.

Paper recycling dumpsters are strategically located throughout Wylie, Sachse and Murphy at many area schools, churches and at the municipal complexes within each city. Cardboard and paper food and cereal boxes, telephone directories, books, catalogs, newspapers, magazines and junk mail may all be deposited within these receptacles.

If you can't bring yourself to drop your favorite author into the trash consider donating paper and hardback books to a



local library for resale. CD and VHS audio and video tapes and magazines may also be donated.

Remember also, area nursing and assisted living facilities generally accept all sorts of reading materials, games and other "sitting in a chair" hobby items.

Have you upgraded your cell phone service? Did your teenager just have to have the newest Blackberry® on the market? Are old cell phones littering your desk drawer? It's still possible to reach out and touch someone by surrendering outdated cell phones to area mobile phone providers. T-Mobile® has the Huddle Up program which donates used cell phones to children from single-parent households in high need communities. Verizon® extends service through its Hopeline program by donating cell phone recycling proceeds to victims of domestic violence and offering cell phones and air time so that women have immediate access to 9-1-1. Sprint® donates to K-12 public education. Proceeds from their cell phone recycling program go toward improving student achievement, family engagement, and educator development. Determine what cell phone recycling program your provider offers.

What about those compact fluorescent light bulbs that we now know contain mercury? Don't throw them in the trash! Home Depot® accepts all types of fluorescent light bulbs for recycling.

Don't forget about small community organizations that accept donations for resale and fundraising events.

If it can be recycled don't throw it away. Your recycling efforts do make a difference! •

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from the Texas State Energy Conservation Office

Texas leads the nation in energy production. We also lead in consumption. And Texans are paying the price — 56 percent more each year for electricity than the national residential average. Small steps can save 20 to 30 percent on your home's electric use — putting about \$30 more in your wallet each month. A dollar a day may not sound like much until you add up every day in every year you live in your home. That's a savings of about \$1,825 over five years. Money you can use for other needs. You have the power. Here are seven ways to make your home more efficient.

1. Check Insulation/Air Leaks: Save up to 10% on heating/cooling

- Seal holes or cracks around windows, doors, light and plumbing fixtures, switches and electrical outlets.
- Improve insulation levels in your attic, exterior walls, ceilings, floors and crawlspaces.
- Close the fireplace damper when not in use. (Warning: See manufacturer's safety requirements for permanent damper openings for gas starters and gas fireplaces.)

2. Reduce Heating/Cooling: 45% of your utility bill goes for heating and cooling

- Grab a sweater. Lower your thermostat in the winter. Raise it as high as is comfortable in the summer.
- Clean/replace HVAC filters once a month or as needed.
- Schedule HVAC service regularly.

3. Save on Water Heating: Cut down on water heating, typically 13% of your utility bills

- Use less hot water
- Turn down the thermostat on your water heater
- Insulate your water heater
- Buy a new, more efficient water heater

4. Check Windows: Keep the heat out

- Install white window shades, drapes or blinds to reflect heat away from the house.

- Close curtains on south- and west-facing windows during the day.
- Install awnings or apply sun-control films on south-facing windows to reduce solar gain.
- Install new solar control spectrally selective windows; cut cooling load up to 15%.

5. Manage Lighting: New lighting technologies can reduce lighting energy use in your home up to 75%

- Turn off lights when you leave the room.
- Use task lighting.
- Use energy efficient compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) which are much more efficient than incandescent (standard) bulbs and last 4 to 10 times longer.

6. Save on Appliances: 20% of your household's energy powers your refrigerator, washer, dryer and other appliances

- Run only full loads in the washer and dishwasher, or adjust water levels.
- Run shorter wash cycles; avoid the second rinse.
- Air dry dishes; dry clothes on a line.

- When shopping for appliances, think of the purchase price and the cost of operating the appliance during its lifetime. You'll be paying on that second price tag every month with your utility bill for the next 10 to 20 years, depending on the appliance.

7. Manage Home Office and Home Electronics: Working from home saves energy and time by cutting out the commute, but it may increase your home energy bills

- Use power saver features on your personal computer, copier, printer and fax. Turn off when not in use.
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Eating Smart

Is organic food better for you?

by P. Pamela Singh, M.D.

The popularity of organic food is on the rise. According to the Organic Trade Association, U.S. sales of organic fruits and vegetables have nearly doubled in the past five years. Many consumers believe organic food is better for your health and for the environment.

Organic fruits and vegetables are grown without pesticides, artificial fertilizers, bioengineering, or irradiation (radiation used to kill bacteria). Organic meat, poultry, eggs and dairy products come from animals that must be fed organic feed, are free of growth hormones and antibiotics and have access to the outdoors.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) sets strict standards for how certified organic foods are grown, handled and processed. Products that bear the “USDA organic” seal have at least 95 percent organic ingredients.

Should you go organic? To answer this question, it’s important to weigh the differences between organic and conventional food.

Nutrition

You may have heard that organic fruits and vegetables contain more vitamins and antioxidants that protect the body against aging, cardiovascular disease and cancer. It’s true – to a certain degree. However, the levels of these nutrients may be too small to have much of an impact on your overall health. Secondly, there have only been a few small studies on the subject to offer conclusive evidence. The bottom line: At this time there’s not enough scientific research to prove that organic food has greater nutritional value than non-organic food.

Safety

Some experts say organic food contains less pesticide residue and toxic chemicals than conventionally grown fruits and vegetables. But does that really matter? The amount of pesticide residue found in conventionally grown produce is too small to be considered harmful to your health. The real question is whether these levels pose an increased health risk over your lifetime – and whether they might affect children with less developed immune systems or pregnant women.

Food-borne illnesses are another safety issue to consider, and critics say that using manure to fertilize organic crops increases the chances of E. coli and other bacteria. It’s an important reminder to wash all fruits and vegetables thoroughly to get rid of dirt and bacteria.



Environment

Some people simply buy organic food because it’s better for our planet. Advocates say organic farming reduces pollution, conserves water and energy, and counters the effects of global warming by keeping carbon in the soil. If you are looking for ways to be environmentally friendly, this could be all the reason you need to go organic.

Cost, Quality & Taste

Organic food can be much more expensive because of higher production costs and lower crop yields. Some consumers say organic food tastes fresher and is more flavorful. On the downside, organic fruits and vegetables tend to spoil faster because they aren’t treated with waxes or preservatives. These are other pros and cons to consider.

Going organic is really a personal choice. It’s too early to tell whether organic food has any long-term benefits. But every health expert agrees that buying plenty of fruits, vegetables and whole grains – with or without the organic label – is the smartest choice you can make at the supermarket.

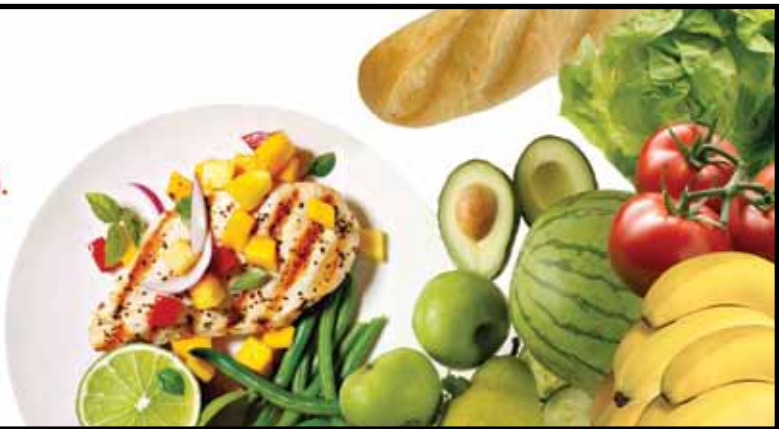
P. Pamela Singh, M.D., recently joined the staff at Richardson Regional Medical Center. She attended New York Medical College and completed her residency at Long Island Jewish Medical Center where she served as chief resident. Dr. Singh gained nine years of primary care/internal medicine experience in New York before moving her practice to Richardson. She is board certified in internal medicine, and her office is located at Richardson Regional Medical Center’s Bush/Renner campus (George Bush Turnpike and Renner Road).



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Burnett Junior High Eco-Defenders

Are “MAD” about the rainforest!

by Marcia Coker of WISD



The Burnett Eco Defenders are: Front Row- Abby Morris, Paeton Ellerman, Mia Arnove, Melissa Bancewicz, Colin McPherson; Middle row - Paige Snow, Dolton Etheridge, Zack Pagan, Fidel Moreno, Mrs. Angela Jones; Back row - Mackenzie Martin, Matt Miller, Ryan French, Stirling Etheridge, Alex Pagan.

Located just off the south eastern tip of Africa, Madagascar is the fourth largest island in the world. Its 144 million acres is home to plant life and land mammals found nowhere else on Earth and more than 80 percent of it resides in the rainforest. But through habitat destruction including deforestation, industrial pollution and soil erosion, only ten percent of Madagascar’s original rainforest remains today.

Rainforests are essential to global climates and the overall health of the Earth. The vegetation absorbs atmospheric carbons via photosynthesis and converts it to oxygen. When forests are destroyed, large amounts of carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases are released which trap heat within our atmosphere. This heat causes changes in climates including melting glaciers, droughts, increased severe storms and loss in habitat for people, plants and animals.

People worldwide are mad about the destruction of the rainforests, especially students at Burnett Junior High School. Justly named the Eco-Defenders, Burnett Junior High School’s Science Club is made up of 25 seventh and eighth graders who have set their sights on saving the rainforest an acre at a time. Through t-shirt sales and newspaper recycling, the Eco-Defenders have saved 17 acres but hope to reach their goal of 20 acres by the middle of May.

“It is a pretty ambitious goal especially since this is the first year for the Science Club,” says sponsor and 7th grade collective science teacher Angela Jones. “But I am extremely proud

of the students and excited that we are less than \$150 from our goal.”

Mrs. Jones is confident the students will succeed because she has seen firsthand what Wylie students can do. In 2006, while teaching at Davis Intermediate School, Mrs. Jones sponsored the science club that placed second nationally in a similar campaign for the Rift Valley in Kenya. Some of the students from that club are currently involved in the Eco-Defenders at Burnett. In fact, it was the students who started the club and chose to work with Conservation International (CI), a global non-profit foundation, focused on saving delicate ecosystems like Madagascar.

The money the students raise goes through CI which in turn works with the Malagasy government to purchase rainforest land and trees for planting. CI also sends teams to conduct research on the ecosystem and provide agricultural education to the Malagasy natives. More importantly, CI works closely with school systems, like Wylie ISD, raising global awareness and funds for numerous ecological issues because the health of the planet affects everyone. And the Eco Defenders are very vocal about sharing the news.

“We have to spread the word that Mother Earth is dying,” declared Burnett eighth grader Fidel Moreno.

“Helping the rainforests helps put life sustaining oxygen back into our atmosphere,” added classmate Ryan French. “Everyone needs oxygen.”

Apparently the students’ passion for the Earth’s ecology can also be found in their homes. Seventh grader Paige Snow recently recycled an old pair of jeans by making purses. Paeton Ellerman, also a seventh grader, encouraged her dad to go green at home by getting a recycling bin. He also involved his co-workers with recycling in the workplace. The remaining Eco-Defenders agree that all humans have to do their part in “greening up” their lifestyles and reduce their carbon footprints.

All people should make a habit out of using recycled materials and cleaning up their litter,” said brothers Zach and Alex Pagan. “Imagine the acres of rainforest that wouldn’t be destroyed! •

Photo courtesy of WISD.



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

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1½ cups vanilla soymilk
 2 cups cut-up frozen peaches
 ⅓ to ½ cup honey, to taste
 10 paper cups (3 oz. each)
 10 wooden sticks with rounded ends

1. In blender, place soymilk, peaches and honey. Cover; blend on high speed about 1 minute or until smooth and frothy.
2. Place paper cups in rectangular pan; pour mixture into paper cups. Place in freezer 20 to 30 minutes or until partially frozen.
3. Stir each cup with wooden stick; leave stick in center of each cup. Freeze until firm, about 1 hour 30 minutes longer.

Nutritional Information

1 Pop: Calories 110 (Calories from Fat 5); Total Fat 1/2g (Saturated Fat 0g, Trans Fat 0g); Cholesterol 0mg; Sodium 25mg; Total Carbohydrate 25g (Dietary Fiber 1g, Sugars 22g); Protein 2g
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Ladies Do Lunch

At Jeannie's Family Restaurant in Murphy

by Lori Whitten of Poetry & Wylie

I was so proud our article was put to bed early this issue and I, for once, was not the one holding up production. Guess again!

Becky had lunch over the weekend at a family owned – home cooking restaurant and she really wanted to include them in this issue. Never mind that we had the original article all finished. I would be insincere if I did not say I was a bit irritated. Man, what we do for our friends. In less than an hour Anne, Becky, Stacie and I were able to clear our schedules and go to lunch; that never happens. This lunch was meant to be – thank you fate. We ladies, minus Judy (she could not get away) met for lunch at Jeannie's Family Restaurant for some much needed comfort food.

After the past couple of weeks of almost constant rain and clouds I was experiencing the blues but not after my trip to comfort food heaven. Jeannie's is a family owned



and operated, cafeteria style restaurant. Chances are mom, dad, one of the kids or an uncle of the family are going to greet you in the buffet line with a great big welcome and smile. You will also be greeted with an all you can eat buffet of home style, piping hot and totally soothing foods. From baked and BBQed Chicken to mom's own goulash, there is sure to be something for every member of the family. We sampled the baked chicken, meatloaf, tuna casserole, sausage and kraut, and mac and cheese – along with a host of sides. Desserts include a huge assortment of home baked pies and cakes – so make sure you leave plenty of room. I have to apologize now for not



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having a picture of the pumpkin pie, Becky held it up for a photo - but I promptly took a big bite out of it. There went the photo op – oops my bad! With all you can eat as Uncle Tommy says, “If you go away hungry it’s your own fault”

While we went in for lunch, Jeanie's also features a breakfast buffet and dinner buffet of all you can eat. For under \$30.00 a family of four could enjoy a Saturday lunch or Wednesday dinner and everyone get exactly what they want. If you are just looking for a slice of pie or piece of cake, you can order the dessert items a la carte as well. Even my picky eater, Alora, would find tummy happiness at Jeannie's and trust me – that is not easy. Jeanie's Family Restaurant is open Monday thru Saturday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and located at 703 E. FM 544. That is on the North side of FM 544 between McCreary and Maxwell Creek. If you are in need of a comfort station – this is your spot, if you get a chance to stop in say hi to Jeannie, Mike and the kids and be sure to tell them "the Wylie lunch ladies" sent you. Shout out to Judy – you would have loved it! Missed you.

Lunch Items - Vary daily and include:
Chicken (Baked, Marinated & BBQ),
Meatloaf. Sausage & Kraut. Tuna

Casserole, Goulash, Italian Sausage,
Spaghetti, Cheeseburger Twist,
Chicken & Dumplings, Beef Stroganoff,
Chicken Tetrazzini

Lunch Sides - Vary daily and include:
Mashed Potatoes, Mac & Cheese,
Peas, Corn, Green Beans, Sauteed
Onions & Peppers, Rolls

Lunch Desserts - Vary daily and include:
Brownies, Cakes, Cheesecake, Pies

Dinner Items - Vary daily and include:
 Chicken (Baked, Marinated, BBQ),
 Meatloaf, Pork Chops, Ribs, Beef
 Stroganoff, Chicken Tetrizzini,
 Ham, Lasagna, Salisbury Steak,
 Chicken & Rice, Chicken Fried Steak,
 Turkey & Dressing, Brisket,
 Chicken & Dumplings

Dinner Sides - Vary daily and include:
Mashed Potatoes, Ranch Beans,
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Potatoes, Mixed Veggies, Peas,
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The advertisement features four small images of different bounce houses at the top: a green and yellow one, a blue and yellow one, a pink and purple one, and a pink and blue one. Below these is a large red banner with the text "FIREHOUSE BOUNCE" in white, serif, all-caps font. Underneath the banner, the text "Low Prices Including Delivery, Set Up, Removal & Cleaning" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below that, "Serving Wylie, Sachse, Murphy and Surrounding Areas" is written in a black, italicized, serif font. The phone number "214-729-4991" is displayed in a large, bold, red font with a black outline. At the bottom, the website "www.firehousebounce.com" is written in a white, bold, sans-serif font on a black background.

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Five Common Financial Mistakes

And a few suggestions on how to avoid them

provided by the Jal Dennis Group

Because we have the opportunity to talk to many people over the years, we've been able to pinpoint many of the most common financial mistakes people make. Here we point out just a few of these pitfalls and offer some suggestions about how to avoid them.

1. Giving Uncle Sam a free loan. If you have been in the habit of getting a tax refund every year, ask your employer for a Form W-4 and recalculate the amount you are withholding. Form W-4 lets you take into account some of the deductions and credits to which you are entitled, in addition to personal exemptions. If you can increase your withholding allowances, do so. The money that you have been giving to Uncle Sam interest free is better off in your hands, where you can invest it and get a return on your investment.

2. Paying too much tax. Although top tax rates are coming down, taxes will hardly be insignificant. So the need for finding tax-exempt income remains critical. Investors still will find municipal bonds an attractive way to eliminate the federal tax on investment income. Interest income may be subject to the alternative minimum tax. It is federally tax-free, but other state and local taxes may apply. Those able to do so should take maximum advantage of retirement plans [401(k), Keogh plans] that allow them to defer tax on current income until after retirement.

3. Neglecting your estate plan. Family events (births, deaths, marriages, etc.) or a rise or fall in net worth always called for reviews and revisions of your will. Now a changing estate and gift tax structure makes it all the more important for you to assure yourself that you are taking maximum advantage of all the possibilities for tax saving that are currently available. Using a trust plan can reduce significantly your federal estate liability.

4. Failing to manage your portfolio properly. It's one thing to read about the latest developments on Wall Street and then make a few investments. It's another to be able to develop a sensible investment strategy, keep up with all the paperwork involved and know when to sell or when to keep your impatience reined in. Monitoring your investments can be a complex, time-consuming job. Be sure to allot enough time to do so or consider delegating all or part of the work to professional asset managers.

5. Getting less-than-professional advice. An article in a financial periodical makes a particular investment sound attractive. Your cousin Ted made a "killing" recently. A phone call from an investment company makes you an offer that sounds interesting. The suggestions are numerous, but the risks may not be known fully, or the investment advice be unbiased. Be sure to find out everything that you can, not only about the investment but also the person offering the advice.

If this short list has raised any questions in your mind contact your financial advisor for professional guidance. •



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