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Wylie • Sachse • Murphy Community Magazine

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May • June 2008

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Puppy Luv ♥ Becky 'n Izzie



photo by Anne Hiney

Rio "Look at that belly!" Hiney

The Connection Wylie • Sachse • Murphy Community Magazine

A Wylie Chamber of Commerce Publication
108-A W. Marble | Wylie, TX 75098
Telephone: 972-442-2804 Fax: 972-429-0139
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For information about advertising in The Connection Magazine
please contact Becky Lindstrom at
972-442-2804 or blindstrom@wyliechamber.org.
Story ideas should be submitted to Anne Hiney at
theconnection.anne@mac.com.

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

Placement of paid political advertisements does not constitute endorsement of any candidate by the Wylie Chamber of Commerce or The Connection publication.

JOHN MONDY GETS IT DONE Proven Leadership Qualifications

The only valid test of a leader is his or her ability to bring people together to achieve sustainable results over time.

I have faithfully served and led our community for 16 years proving my commitment to Wylie and its citizens. My dedication to Wylie has never wavered.

- For 10 of those years I have been your Mayor. As your municipal leader, I worked to build partnerships and strengthen communications between the City of Wylie, State of Texas, Collin County, Wylie ISD, Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Merchants Association, Wylie Economic Development Corporation, Neighboring Cities and our Citizens.
- For 5 years I served as your Council Member, helping to direct and preparing to take the top leadership role.
- For my first year I served as a Zoning Board of Adjustments member.

As a retired U.S. Army Airborne Infantry Major, I have been trained and tested on making the right decisions through organizing information and executing plans in some of the most difficult situations imaginable. I served our country for 21 years.

Real leadership requires years of development and hard work.

During my years of service our population has more than doubled - Wylie is the 8th fastest growing city in the nation. I have been a good steward working to keep our community in front of the growth. My work with city staff, boards and commissions, both in the past and for the future, is made evident by the following facts.

- Many of you moved to Wylie during that time of growth – you chose Wylie to be your home because you liked what you saw: a real, honest Quality of Life!
- Our building code requirements have greatly improved.
- Our crime rate is the lowest of the five largest cities in Collin County.
- Our infrastructure has always stayed with or ahead of our astronomical growth.
- Our Fire Dept. and Water Delivery Systems have achieved the highest possible ratings available.
- Road expansions, repairs, additions and realignments have been meticulously planned and scrutinized to provide the most convenience possible for citizens.

- You asked for more retail, more restaurants – under my leadership – we went out and found that for you. Some of those amenities you won't see for a few years, but they are committed and are coming. Our growing population is what brings more businesses of this type.
- We are improving our parks system to better accommodate the needs of our citizens and have much more planned for young and old alike.
- The new municipal building, library and recreation facility will be starting construction soon.

I ask you to allow me to continue working with the team you helped build so that we may accomplish the goals you have asked of us. I want to thank you again for taking the time to become an educated voter and ask for your vote on May 10th for Mayor of our great city.

Thank you,
John Mondy



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May Events

2nd - Sachse's Lauri Schwenk Senior Center presents Cindy Clements to explain Veteran's Benefits and answer questions. Scott Anderson, Atty. at Law, will be available to answer questions and tell about Powers of Attorney and how important they are as we age. 12 noon

2nd & 3rd - Greater Dallas Special Olympics Spring Games at Wylie High School Pirate Stadium. Visit www.specialolympicstexas.org for more info.

3rd - Wylie United Methodist Church Garage Sale from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. 1401 FM 1378, Wylie. For more info contact Lezie at 972-442-5835 or www.wylieumc.org.

4th - Wylie Downtown Merchants presents the Donnie Worthington 500 Peddle Car Race!! Benefitting Special Olympics. Registration starts at 1 p.m. The event begins at 2 p.m. For more info contact Denise Carrol at 972-429-8576 or Janice at The Wylie News, 972-442-5515 x22.

4th - 10th - Teacher Appreciation Week

5th - 10th - City of Wylie Clean Up, Green Up www.wylietexas.gov

6th - National Teacher's Day

6th - Murphy Chamber 5th Annual Golf Tournament. Get the clubs out, polish your shoes and mark your calendars for Putting & Chipping Contest at Noon and Shotgun Start at 1 p.m. at Woodbridge Golf Club - Wylie. This year's fundraising Golf Tournament will be bigger and better than ever! Visit www.murphychamber.org for more info.

7th - GISD Barbecue Cook Off, GISD vs. City of Garland, City of Rowlett and City of Sachse - This is a March of Dimes fundraising event at GISD Special Events Center, from 5 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 for kids 10 and under and available at Sachse City Hall and American National Bank in Sachse.

10th - Pirate Cove Playground in Founders Park - Keep our Playground Safe and Sound! Maintenance Day. (Playground is located behind Wylie High School) 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Contact Anne Hiney at 972-672-4133 for info on how you can help.

10th - General City Election Day. Polls open 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. GO VOTE!

10th - Sachse Police Department Bicycle Rodeo at NorthPlace Church, 2709 Third Street, Sachse, from 10 a.m. - 12 noon. Bike 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 demonstrating bicycle safety. Helmets are required and a limited number will be available at the event. There will be prize drawings held at the end of the event.

10th & 31st - Auditions for The Children's Chorus of Collin County will be held at St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 5801 W. Plano Parkway, Plano. To schedule an audition contact 972-941-

9600 or office@childrenschorusofcollincounty.com. The Children's Chorus of Collin County will feature "The Boys of the Chorus" as part of the 2008-2009 Chorus year. Any boy in grades 3-6 is invited to audition for the Chorus. For more info visit www.childrenschorusofcollincounty.com.

11th - Mother's Day

15th - Brand new readers can practice by reading aloud to Abby the Collie at the Smith Public Library 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Tickets are required and limited. They are given out free on a first come first serve basis the evening of the program.

16th A representative from the Dallas Department on Aging will be available to advise you on your Medicare concerns. They will be here the third Wednesday of each month. 8:30 -10 a.m. at the Lauri Schwenk Senior Activity Center of Sachse.

17th - Pirate Cove Playground in Founders Park - Keep our Playground Safe and Sound! Maintenance Day. (Playground is located behind Wylie High School) 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Contact Anne Hiney at 972-672-4133 for info on how you can help.

17th - 5th Annual WildRide! Against Cancer - This fundraiser benefits the Lance Armstrong Shaped Beam Surgery™ program at Richardson Regional Cancer Center, an affiliate of UT Southwestern Medical Center. Cyclists may register to ride 16, 40, or 64 miles on routes starting in Richardson and passing through Plano, Murphy, Wylie, Garland, Lavon, Nevada, and Josephine. The ride, presented by the Richardson Regional Medical Center Foundation, is held in conjunction with the Wildflower! Arts & Music Festival. Registration fee is \$35. For more details, visit WildRideBikeRally.com or call 972-498-7678.

17th - Help support the Trinity Trail Equestrian and Hiking Trail by donating to and attending the Tack and Rummage Sale, from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., at the Masonic Lodge parking lot at the corner of Ballard (Parker Road-FM 2514) and Paul Wilson Road in Wylie, TX. For donation delivery locations and more information contact Pat Martin at 972-412-2652 or via e-mail at patmartin7@verizon.net. If you have something valuable that you've wanted to sell, bring it and TTPA will try to sell it for you. TTPA keeps 10% and you will get the rest!

19th - Family Fun Night with the Magic Genie Storyteller at the Smith Public Library, 6:30 p.m. www.wylietexas.gov/library/

22nd - Rhythm Web with Eric Steur (drum program for teens) at the Smith Public Library, 5 p.m. www.wylietexas.gov/library/

26th - Memorial Day Memorial Day became a federal holiday in 1971 and is observed on the last Monday in May. It originated in 1868, when Union General John A. Logan designated a day in which the graves of Civil War soldiers would be decorated. Originally known as Decoration Day, the holiday was changed to Memorial Day within 20 years, becoming a holiday dedicated to the memory of all war dead.

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Continued on page 8 ~

28th - Richardson Regional Health Seminar on “Strokes”. This is a luncheon meeting and you must call and register. 972-495-6282 12 noon at the Lauri Schwenk Senior Activity Center of Sachse.

29th - Between Book and Movie Club 6 - 7 p.m. This month 4th and 5th graders are invited to discuss Charlotte’s Web by E.B. White at the Smith Public Library. www.wylietexas.gov/library/

30th - Celebrate Memorial Day with The Cemetery Association of Murphy, Inc. and the Murphy Middle School Junior Historians fundraiser to benefit the historic Decatur-Maxwell-Murphy Cemetery. The public is invited to attend and learn about the historical cemetery and the families that were laid to rest there beginning in the mid 1800s. Educational tours will be offered between 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and will be followed with a brief program. The Decatur-Maxwell-Murphy Cemetery is located behind Murphy Middle School, 620 N. Murphy Road, Murphy, where parking for the event will be available.

31st - Sachse High School Graduation at the Garland Special Event Center at 4:30 p.m.

31st - The Murphy Messenger presents Murphy’s 1st Annual Vendor Fair at Murphy Middle School, 620 N. Murphy Road, Murphy , 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free to the Public. Contact Marcia Jowers at 214-289-2641 for info on the event.

June Events

1st - Family Fun Day on the Gateway Church property in front of Smith Elementary School at 12:30 p.m. We will provide free lunch, bounce houses and activities for the whole family. Call 972-429-8530 for details.

4th - Last day of School!

5th - Wylie HS Graduation, 7 p.m. at the GISD Special Events Center.

6th - Smith Public Library Summer Reading Kick-Off Party! from 9 a.m.-

Noon. Come enjoy music, air brush tattoos, crafts, a bounce house and Texas Sized Petting Zoo! www.wylietexas.gov/library/

10th - PISD Graduation - Reunion Arena: 10 a.m. - Plano West, 2 p.m. - Plano Senior High, 7 p.m. - Plano East.

11th - Sachse Chamber of Commerce 19th Annual Golf Shoot Out - 11:30 a.m. registration, Shotgun start at 1 p.m. at Woodbridge Golf Club registration available on our website at www.sachsechamber.com.

12th - Live in Wylie Concert in Olde City Park, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Kraig Parker Ultimate Elvis Tribute, corner of Hwy 78 and Ballard Ave.

9th - 11th Smith Public Library Scholastic Book Fair. 9th and 10th at Noon, 11th at 10 a.m. www.wylietexas.gov/library/

14th - In-Sync Exotics Big Cat Birthday Bash 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. See our article on page 12 -14 for more details.

14th - Flag Day - This day commemorates the adoption by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777, of the Stars and Stripes as the U.S. flag. Although it is a legal holiday only in Pennsylvania, President Truman, on Aug. 3, 1949, signed a bill requesting the president to call for its observance each year by proclamation.

15th - Father’s Day

19th - Live in Wylie Concert in Olde City Park, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Searching for a Star finals, corner of Hwy 78 and Ballard Ave.

27th - Wylie Family Movie Night in Olde City Park, 9:30 p.m. Movie TBA visit www.wylietexas.gov/events for more info.

27th - Sachse Community Coffee, Meet local politicians, business owners, residents, and decision makers! Sachse Christian Church, 5005 Ben Davis Road in Sachse from 8 - 9 a.m.

June 9th thru July 24th - Wylie ISD Camp of Champs will be going on. Visit www.wylieisd.net/news/2008/april/camps.wspcx for registration info. •

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The Wylie Parks & Recreation Departments maintains one of the fastest growing parks systems in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Currently, the City of Wylie holds more than 330 acres of parkland featuring city parks containing playgrounds, trails, open space, basketball, volleyball and tennis courts, soccer, football and baseball/softball fields, a skate park, and a preserve. Visit one of your local parks and be on the lookout as the Wylie parks system continues to expand and diversify.



To reserve an athletic field (softball, baseball, soccer or football field), contact Parks & Recreation at 972-442-8195 or parks@wylietexas.gov.

To reserve a park amenity (picnic pavilion, volleyball court, basketball court), contact Parks & Recreation at 972-442-8195 or parks@wylietexas.gov.

The field condition hot-line for inclement weather is 972-442-8199. It is updated after 4:00 p.m. weekdays during league play.

Avalon Park

A 4.8 acre park located at Brown and Kreymer St.

- Backstops (2) Coming Summer 2008
- Soccer Fields (2) Coming Summer 2008

Birmingham Farms

A 4.7 acre park located at 725 Odenville Dr.

- Modular Playground & Benches
- Jogging Trail, 8 ft. wide, approx. .52 mile

Community Park

This 40 acre park is at 800 Thomas St. and Pirate Dr.

- Picnic Pavilions with tables & cooking grills
- Modular Playground “Treescape”
- Jogging Trail, 6 ft. wide, approx. .85 mile
- Basketball Courts (3) & Volleyball Court
- Soccer Fields (7)
- Concession Stand
- Baseball/Softball Fields (4 lighted, 4 unlighted)
- Restroom & Drinking Fountain

Creekside Estates Park

This 16 acre park is located at the intersection of Lewis Dr. and Hinnant Court.

- Modular Playground
- Picnic table, cooking grill and benches
- Soccer/Baseball practice field (non-lighted)
- Basketball Court
- Jogging Trail, 8 ft. wide, approx. .44 mile

Dodd Park

A 5 acre park located adjacent to Dodd Elementary.

- Backstops (4) Coming Summer 2008
- Soccer Fields (3) Coming Summer 2008

Eureka Park

This 4.5 acre neighborhood park is located at 351 Rutherford Lane and East Brown.

- Modular Playground
- Picnic Pavilion with tables & cooking grills
- Jogging Trail, 6 ft. wide, approx. .33 mile
- Basketball Court & Drinking Fountain

Founders Park

This 65 acre park is located at FM 544 and FM 1378 (Country Club Rd.), just behind Pirate Stadium at Wylie High School.

- Pirate Cove Playground in Founders Park
- Baseball/Softball Fields
- Soccer Fields
- Restroom
- Tennis Courts (8) lighted

The tennis courts are jointly maintained between Wylie ISD and the City of Wylie Parks and Recreation Department. Wylie ISD has first priority of these courts for school activities on Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. or any other scheduled school tournaments and events.

Courts for public use are on a first come, first serve basis on Mondays through Fridays from 6 p.m. until 12 a.m.; on Saturdays and Sundays from 6 a.m. until 12 a.m.; or when not in use by the Wylie ISD.

For court maintenance questions and/or Wylie ISD scheduled use, please contact the Wylie ISD Athletics Department at www.wylieisd.net. For tennis court lighting questions, please contact the City of Wylie Parks and Recreation Department at 972-442-8195.

Friendship Park

This 4.9 acre neighborhood park is located at 1621 White Ibis Way and Scottsdale Dr.

- Modular Playground
- Basketball Court
- Picnic Pavilion with tables & cooking grills
- Jogging Trail, 8 ft. wide and approx. .3 mile
- Drinking Fountain

Joel Scott Memorial Park

This 12 acres of parkland is located on Westgate Way, north of Brown St., just behind Birmingham Elementary.

- Jogging trail, 8 ft. wide, approx. .51 mile
- Benches, tables & cooking grills

Across Westgate Way you’ll find

- Picnic Pavilion with tables & benches
- Skate Park - free to public
- Jogging trail, 8 ft. wide, approx. .39 mile

Kirby Park

This .5 acre tree shaded neighborhood park is located at 300 Masters Ave. and Second St.

- Picnic Tables
- Cooking Grills
- Playground

Lakeside Estates Park

This 2.1 acre park is at 300 Lakehurst Dr. and Lagoon.

- Private Neighborhood Amenity Center (HOA)
- Soccer Fields - (2) unlighted
- Basketball Court

Meadowview Estates Park

A 2 acre park located at 406 Carver Dr.

- Jogging Trail, 8 ft. wide, approx. .42 mile

Muddy Creek Preserve Trail

The 37.7 acre Muddy Creek Preserve Trail is a partnership between Dallas County and the Cities of Wylie and Sachse. As part of the project, a .5 mi, 10 ft. wide hike/bike trail has been installed in the Dallas County part of Wylie off of Pleasant Valley Rd. and Elm Grove Rd. Another .5 mi, 10 ft. wide hike/bike trail has been installed nearby in the City of Sachse.

Olde City Park

This 2.75 acre park is located at the entrance to Downtown Wylie at Ballard Ave. and Highway 78.

- Picnic Pavilion with tables & cooking grills
- Gazebo with benches
- Modular Playground
- Drinking fountain

Riverway Park

This 4.2 acre neighborhood park is located at 1200 Riverway in the Sage Creek subdivision.

- Modular Playground & drinking fountain
- Picnic Pavilion with table & cooking grill
- Larry Bowles Nature Trail
- Jogging Trail, 8 ft. wide, approx. .06 mile

Sage Creek 8 Park

This 4 acre park is located at 2906 Ryan Ln.

- Modular Playground
- Jogging Trail, 8 ft. wide, approx. .84 mile

Sage Creek 9 Park

A 30 acre park located at 825 Preston Ln.

- Jogging Trail, 8 ft. wide, approx. .4 mile

Trinity Trail

The Trinity Trail is a 9 mile horse riding and hiking/walking trail located near Eastfork Park by Lake Lavon. The Trinity Trail Preservation Organization, an all-volunteer organization, encourages hikers, nature lovers and horse owners to use the scenic trail. Visit www.trinitytrailriders.org for more information.

Valentine Park

This 3.3 acre neighborhood park is located at 1202 Birmingham St.

- Picnic Pavilion with tables & cooking grill
- Playground
- Benches & drinking fountain
- Jogging Trail is 8 ft. wide, approx. .40 mile
- Backstop

Wylie Lakes

This 5.5 acre park is located in the Wylie Lakes neighborhood, off Eubanks Rd., behind Walmart on Hwy. 78.

- Benches
- Jogging trail, 6 ft. wide, approx. .60 mile

Parks & Recreation Administration

Location: 800-C Thomas, Community Park
Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Phone: 972-442-8195
Fax: 972-442-1744
E-mail: parks@wylietexas.gov

GET OUT AND PLAY FOR AN HOUR A DAY!

Local Organizations

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

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

Exchange Club of Sachse/Wylie is a group of men and women working to make America a better place to live through one national project, prevention of child abuse and other community service projects. Meetings are held at various local restaurants, meeting times vary. Please call 214-498-6875 for additional info.

Garland Quilt Guild meets the first Tuesday of each month at First Presbyterian Church, 930 West Avenue B, in Garland at 7:00 p.m. (except December) Located at the corner of 9th and Avenue B in Garland Texas. For more info visit www.garlandquiltguild.org or contact Allison Ray at 972-941-0860 or allisonray@gmail.com.

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc. presents a Free Genealogy Seminar on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the W.O. Haggard Library Program Room, 2501 Coit Road, Plano. Public is welcome. For info visit www.rootsweb.com/~txgfp, e-mail: GenFriends@tx.rr.com 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. Contact Kelly Criss, Membership VP, at 972-429-1890 or crissx3@verizon.net for meeting times.

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

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

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

Sachse Lion's Club meets the 3rd Monday of the month at Steak Kountry, 7010 Highway 78 at 6:30 p.m. We participate in fund rais-

Interested in Scouting? Visit www.greatplainsbsa.org for info.

ers throughout the year that benefit several organizations including the Blind Leader Dog program and Air Challenge, a program that takes disabled children for airplane rides. We also support the Vision Impaired Olympics summer camp for kids. The Sachse Lions also assist with building Habitat for Humanity homes.

Sachse Pet Pals is a volunteer organization working with Sachse Animal Control to enhance adoption rates and help with pet medical expenses on a financial need basis. Contact Peggy Strong at 972-495-9645 for more info.

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

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

Wylie Lions Club meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at Napoli's Pizza & Restaurant at 701 N. Hwy. 78 at noon. Anyone interested in becoming a Lion is welcome to join the group for lunch. Call Don Ables for more info at 214-755-5959.

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

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

Wylie Wisecrackers, 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. We offer a "learn by doing" educational program in which members hone their skills in a comfortable and supportive club atmosphere. Members practice effective public speaking techniques, gain valuable leadership experience, and, thus, gain personal confidence. For more info visit www.wylie.freehost.com or contact Katie Shockley at katieshockleydtm@yahoo.com or 469-757-0952.

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. •

Got something going on?

To submit your special event to the May/June community calendar send an e-mail to theconnection.anne@mac.com no later than June 10th. 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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Jett and Diva

TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE OF WYLIE

by Dawn Roosth of Murphy

Tucked away on the outskirts of Wylie, nestled between Lake Lavon Dam and the Kansas City Southern Railway switching yard, is the home of Wylie's wilder residents. In-Sync Exotics Wildlife Rescue & Educational Center is a 501(c)(3) sanctuary dedicated to the rescue of abused, neglected and unwanted exotic and native cats. Since its inception, In-Sync has provided a safe, nurturing haven to over 40 animals including tigers, lions, leopards, cougars, bobcats, lynx, servals and a coatimundi.

So how did these big felines come to be in Wylie? Fate. In 1991, Vicky Keahey was working at a local veterinary clinic when a young female cougar, who had her front teeth removed, was brought in for medical attention. When it came time for this beautiful cat to go home, no one showed. Luckily for the cougar, Vicky was on duty that day. Never one to turn away a cat in need, Vicky brought home the recovering cougar, and with the help of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, set out to learn everything there is to know about caring for a cougar. Earning the respect of TPWD, Vicky was asked to take in a second cougar that was confiscated from deplorable living conditions. Once again Vicky willingly agreed. Several years later, a series of events led Vicky to a Texas drive-thru park/breeding facility claiming to be a sanctuary where she met a scrawny tiger cub that was sickly, losing hair and covered in fleas. The tiger was ugly and financially useless to the park's owner but beautiful to Vicky, so she brought her home and named her Kenya.

Kenya opened Vicky's eyes to the realities of captive breeding practices and made her realize there are too many cats in need of homes where they can feel safe, loved and respected. Vicky decided to open her heart and door to more cats, and in 2000 In-Sync Exotics was born.

The cats at In-Sync Exotics are victims of circumstance. Because of "man's" infatuation with wild animals and a desire to interact with animals that would otherwise be untouchable, breeding facilities have thrived. Sadly, there are more tigers in captivity than there are in the wild, a tragedy by any standards. Even more tragic is that many of these magnificent animals, symbols of power, strength and beauty in the wild, are condemned to a life of neglect and abuse by uncaring, greedy people. Others fall into the hands of awe-struck people who are clueless to the needs of exotic cats. And still others fall victim to owners who decide that a 20+ year commitment is more than they bargained for. So as not to contribute to the number of big cats in captivity, In-Sync does not buy, sell, trade or breed our cats.

In-Sync is committed to giving these cats a rich, fulfilling life by providing a nutritious diet, exceptional medical care, ample space to run and play, engaging enrichment, training and behavioral modification and unlimited love. It's an expensive labor of love, but a life these animals deserve. Since we don't receive any federal funding, we rely on generous donations from our supporters, admission fees, adoption programs, corporate sponsorship, fundraising events and dedicated volunteers to care for our animals.

continued on page 16 ~



Mosas



Nugget

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11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
See events page on our website for list of approved cat toys. Bring one and receive 1/2 off one admission.
www.insyncexotics.com

In-Sync Exotics Wildlife Refuge
3430 Skyview Drive - Wylie
972-442-6888

Big Cats Get Ice Cream & Cake.....1:00
Big Cats Get Presents.....3:00

Admission:
\$10/adult (13-64) \$7/child (3-12)
\$7/senior (65+) Under 3- FREE!

•No Strollers Please
•Admission Includes 1 coupon for cake, ice cream, and child's craft table
•Additional coupons will be sold for face painting, games, raffles & bounce house

In-Sync Exotics Wildlife Refuge is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue and care of abused, abandoned and neglected exotic cats.




and neglected products of inhumane breeding facilities, it's our hope that our visitors will make educated decisions that will one day reduce the number of exotic animals in captivity.

Come meet Tahoe, the now 18 year old cougar, Vicky rescued all those years ago. Come meet Kiro, a gorgeous white tiger fortunate enough not to be plagued by physical and mental deformities so common in captive born white tigers, and his brother Tacoma, whose only fault was that he's orange. Then there's endearing Trooper, a one-eyed lynx who refuses to allow his handicap to interfere with his play, and young Moses, a wild-born bobcat that learned to love and trust humans. Lions, Malikai and Dinari, may treat you to a beautiful "song" during your visit. You may catch siblings Raja and Jasmine, who were bred together for years in hopes they would produce the coveted white tiger, playing in their pool or lovingly doting on each other. Visit Nugget, our honorary cat...he's actually a coatimundi. Even living in a small cage covered in feces and wreaking of stale urine could not break this little guy's spirit. Come learn the story of Eric, a very special tiger that passed away after a year long battle with cancer. His memory lives on through the legacies he left behind, most notably the paw-shaped pool built in his honor and a successful animal husbandry training program that allows us to perform basic medical procedures with minimal stress to the cats. Eric's story is internationally renowned and continues to improve the quality of life of captive animals across the globe.

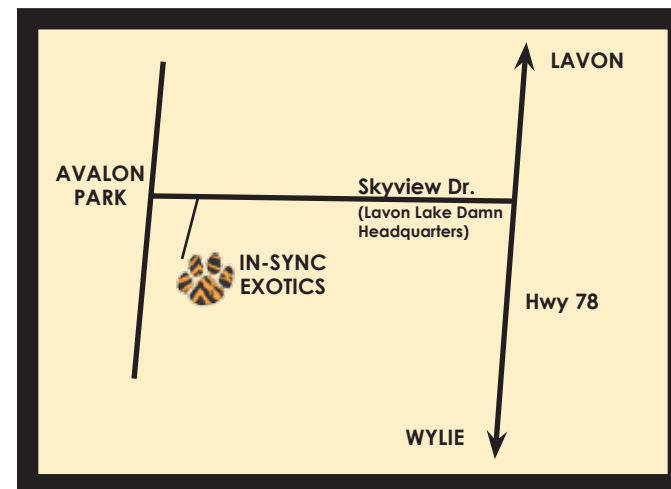
In-Sync Exotics is open to the public Saturday-Sunday, 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM for self-guided tours. Guided group tours and night tours are available by reservation only. Be sure to join us for our annual Big Cat Birthday Bash, June 14. For more information on In-Sync Exotics, visit us at www.insyncexotics.com.

All photos courtesy of In-Sync Exotics.

It is In-Sync's dream that one day there will be no need for rescue facilities, but until that day happens, we will continue to educate the public on the realities of uncontrolled, captive breeding practices and the need for conservation through our community outreach programs and tours. By sharing the stories of these former pets, discarded entertainment animals, and formerly abused



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To support the life and well-being of an In-Sync Exotic feline please consider adopting one of our feline friends.

In return, you'll receive:

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- an information sheet about your adopted feline
- unlimited visitation during the adoptive period
- a free tour for up to 6 people so that you can show off your new addition to your family and friends
- invitations to special events
- your name added to your adoptive feline's pug mark on the Paw Print Alley board
- link to your website from our website for corporate sponsors
- lots of chuffs or purrs when you come visit your cat

Kids 4 Cats

Kids 4 Cats is an adoption program of In-Sync Exotic cats for kids 12 and under.

With your \$25/annual membership, you'll receive:

- a personalized adoption certificate
- a 4x6 photo of your cat
- 4 child passes to come back and visit your adopted animal throughout the adoptive period
- your name on the Kids 4 Cats board
- lots of chuffs or purrs when you come visit your cat

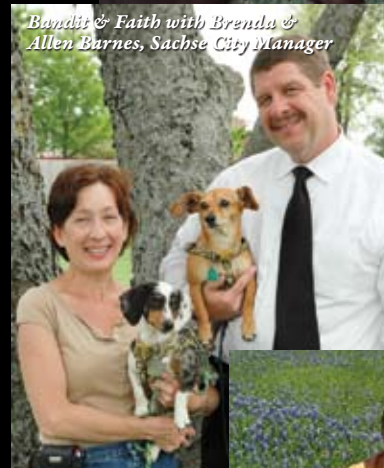


FURRY FRIENDS

We asked city leaders and staff to share photos of their pets with us! Many of them shared wonderful stories of how their animal came to be a part of the family. Unfortunately we don't have enough room here to pass all those stories along, however we can share that the common theme was one of love. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share your furry friend's photo!



Mocha & Murphy with Roxanne Bogdan,
Murphy Deputy Mayor Pro Tem



Bandit & Faith with Brenda &
Allen Barnes, Sachse City Manager



Will with Bret Baldwin,
Mayor of Murphy



Pepper with John Mondy,
Mayor of Wylie



Remington with Colleen Halbert,
Murphy City Council



Toodles with Denise Vice,
Sachse City Project Coordinator



Jazz with Rick White,
Wylie City Council



Polly with Carole Ehrlich,
Wylie City Secretary



Shasta with Lynn Fagerstrom,
Wylie Human Resources Mgr.



Nibbles & Rustie with Carter Porter,
Wylie City Council



Rowdy aka Nacho with Marvin Fuller,
President Inwood National Bank



Nero, Pico & Pistol with Red Byboth,
Wylie City Council



Molly with Sheila Patton,
Wylie Animal Control Officer



AHMO with Sue Nicholas,
WISD School Board Trustee



Bandit with Susan Shuler,
WISD School Board Trustee



Zoey with Dixie Dewey, Supervisor
Wylie Revenue Collection Dept.



Sweetheart & Andy with Stacie Gooch,
WISD School Board Trustee



Daisy & Sampson with John Duscio,
Wylie Chief of Police



Gabby with Randy Corbin,
Wylie Fire-Rescue Fire Chief



Murphy, Snoop & Joey with Ronni Fetzer,
WISD School Board Trustee



Ocho with Aimee Nemer,
Murphy City Secretary



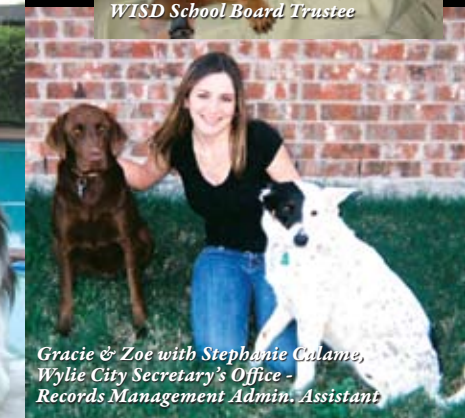
Jimmy Buffet & Koda with Ralph James,
WISD School Board Trustee



Dutchess with Baron Cook,
WISD School Board Trustee



Maverick with Mike Felix,
Mayor of Sachse



Gracie & Zoe with Stephanie Calame,
Wylie City Secretary's Office -
Records Management Admin. Assistant

Partners for Life

Officer Brenda Martin and Carlo

by Craig Kelly - City of Wylie Information Officer

Loyal, obedient, friendly, sociable, strong but silent, are just a few of the words Officer Brenda Martin uses to describe Carlo, the City of Wylie's K-9 and Martin's partner on the street. Their story began more than nine and a half years ago when Martin was selected to be Wylie's first K-9 handler.

The City contracted with Garland K-9 Officer and consultant Dennis Morrow to help with the selection of a dog that was right for the department and one that was a good fit for Martin's personality. Jeff Butters, Assistant City Manager and former Police Chief re-counted with a smile how he described Martin to Morrow, "Talkative, outgoing and a little ornery."

Carlo was handpicked from Czechoslovakia and the match has been an obvious success, forming one of the most decorated K-9 units in the State of Texas. The pair was awarded Top Dog and Best Overall Team at the 2005 Region 20 United States Police Canine Association Certification Trials and numerous second and third place finishes



Officer Martin and Carlo the K-9

photos by Craig Kelly

throughout the years. Carlo has also been instrumental in an untold number of drug detections and suspect apprehensions.

"Carlo has been a tremendous asset to the Wylie Police Department," said Butters. "He gives us the ability to quickly deploy a search and tracking component that we didn't have before the K-9 unit. He is an important and beloved part of the Police Department family."

K-9's use their keen sense of smell to track criminals, sniff out illegal materials, search buildings, and do other jobs human police officers can't do as well or are too dangerous for a human to perform. A dog's sense

of smell is not only 50 times more sensitive than a human's, but it is also very selective. They have the ability to discern a specific scent even when there are dozens of other scents present.

A good nose is not a K-9's only advantage. The simple presence of Carlo or his intimidating growl motivates many criminals to surrender peacefully, instead of running or fighting. When a conflict does arise, dogs are faster and stronger than most humans, able to catch a fleeing criminal and clamp down with powerful jaws to apprehend the suspect until other officers arrive.

Martin says that Carlo is more than just a




partner on the street. He is an inseparable friend for life. Since day one he became a member of Martin's family that includes Angel, a Himalayan/Siamese cat Martin rescued from a house while on the job; Midnight, a large black barn cat; and Tasha, an eleven year old German Shepherd adopted from the Garland Animal Shelter.



Carlo quickly learned his place in the family. Tasha is the boss at home and handles backyard security. When strangers are walking down the Alley, Tasha is there to inspect while Carlo relaxes on the porch or in the doghouse. He obviously learned to leave his work at the office. While Tasha handles backyard security, Midnight is in charge of the house. After a hard days work, upon arriving at home, Carlo has to acknowledge Midnight's presence in the doorway before he is allowed to enter the house.

Each morning when Carlo hears the sounds of Martin preparing for duty, he runs in circles, anticipating the days work. But after more than nine and a half years of service, Carlo is nearing retirement, exceeding the average length of service for a K-9 by more than four years.

Martin says she dreads the day that she will have to explain to Carlo that he is not going to work anymore. But that day may be more challenging for Martin. When asked how she will feel without Carlo by her side, all Martin could say with emotion in her voice is, "It will be a sad day, a very sad day." •



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Introducing Stephen Kim, M.D.
Family Medicine

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

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


MEDICAL SCHOOL:
 St. George's University School of Medicine

RESIDENCY:
 Methodist Hospitals of Dallas Family Practice

MEDICAL INTERESTS:
 Family Medicine, Urgent Care, Sports Medicine

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

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



WISD Ag Program

Student have a wide range of choices

by Susan Dacus and Marcia Coker of WISD

A quick Internet search reveals more than 50 career paths for students who major in agriculture in college. Agribusiness, plant pathology, aquatic science, tree surgery, ecology, landscape architecture, horticulture, agriculture technology, forestry and veterinary medicine are only a few of the growing number of opportunities for students who choose a major in an agricultural field. As the world's population grows, weather patterns change and water becomes scarcer, agriculture is big business.

Unlike many Texas school districts, Wylie ISD has maintained a strong agriculture program, and today it offers high school students 19 different agriculture courses taught by three teachers at Wylie High School and Wylie East High School. From introductory agriculture to animal science, agriculture mechanics, biotechnology, landscape, aqua science and floral design, WISD students have a wide range of opportunities.

Students who join the FFA organization move into the realm of competition for raising livestock or learning to judge animals. Currently, students from WEHS and WHS have qualified for state competition in Dairy Cattle Judging. Qualifiers are Bailee Adams, Kelsi Campling, Shelby Dickerson and Jennifer Cunningham.

The district agriculture facilities have grown this year with the addition of the lamb and goat facility. Students who choose to raise an animal for competition can keep it at the appropriate barn facility. Opting to raise livestock is a big undertaking and responsibility for a student and impacts the student's family. "The family



Kutter Poole, Keeley Tramell with her Grand Champion Brahman Steer, and friend Crystal



Jennifer Cunningham with Delilah.



Tye Thompson, age 2, will begin showing this year.

must be dedicated and determined," expressed teacher Kristi Thompson. "Students who don't drive must be driven to the barn twice a day, every day, to feed and water the animal and to check on it."

FFA starts in high school, but third through eighth grade students can join Junior FFA to participate in its many activities. Junior FFA members can choose to raise an animal, too. Just like the older students, they can compete in major stock shows around the state before the end of the season when the final event is the Show and Sale here in Wylie.

The Show and Sale is a much anticipated community event each spring. It lasts several days and all WISD agriculture and FFA students show their animals to large crowds of people. During the live auction, students sell their goats, pigs, roosters, lambs, calves and other animals. Bidding can go very high and helps students defray the costs of raising and showing their stock. The Show and Sale is a fun, family event that is enjoyed by all ages.

Agriculture students participate year round in out-of-class activities such as summer lake outings and green hand events. Students who are interested in the agriculture program or who have questions can contact Wylie High School teachers Kristi Thompson and Jess Wheeler at 972-429-3000, ext. 6343 or Amber Norris at Wylie East High School at 972-429-3194. The animal facility is used all summer and one or more of the teachers can be found there every day. Stop by for a tour or just to say hello! The F. Ovid Birmingham Memorial Land Trust funds the agriculture science facility which is located at 1301 Hensley Lane. •

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Cutting Horses

Incredibly athletic and smart

by Scot Harrison - the Voice of the Wylie Pirates



photo by Anne Hiney

Rhyn Smith at the 2007 Wylie Championship Rodeo

For most of us, sports are about the four major leagues of the American sporting landscape, Major League Baseball, the NHL, NBA, and the NFL. We cheer for the Rangers, Stars, Mavericks, and of course, the Cowboys.

But one local family with strong ties to the Wylie community are themselves “cowboys”. Engaging in a sport founded in Texas and the Southwest and making their way on one of the most magnificent of animals, the cutting horse.

Located between Lavon and Royse City, RRS Farms was founded in the 50’s by Wylie High School graduate Bobby Smith and his wife, Ann. She was raised on the nearby RR Farm which was founded in the 40’s. The Smith children include sister Robin, brothers Randy and Ronnie, their wives (Cindy and Beth) and their children, the initials of which are all “RRS”, and many with ties to Wylie.

According to the National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA), cutting is a sport, the origins of which stem from the cattle ranches of the 1880s. Branding cattle or separating them for sale or treatment for sickness, ranchers developed cutting horses which were trained to prevent the separated cow from doing what came naturally, returning to the herd. Ranchers looked for horses that were alert and that could anticipate a cow’s moves. Soon, cowboys began to compete against each other to test the abilities of their horses, calling the competitions “cuttings”.

But don’t get the false impression that these horses and their riders are not athletes.

Ryan Smith at the 2007 Wylie Championship Rodeo



photo by Anne Hiney

“You use your legs,” says Beth Smith who has been riding for family owned RRS Farms since 1997. “If I want the horse to go over to the right, I’m going to push on that horse with my left leg. Once you are out there and competing, it’s a rush.”

The horses are incredibly athletic, and smart.

“There are times I can just sit up on my horse and she does everything for me,” says Beth. “She wants to stop that cow. She doesn’t give up. She hates to lose cows.”

To read the criterion used by cutting judges, you can see just how athletic the horse must be with high marks awarded to those who show aggressiveness, courage, determination, style and grace when cutting a cow. Sounds like many of the same things Olympic judges look for in gymnastics or ice skating, except for the part about the cow.

Competitors are not permitted to show cutting horses until they reach the age of three years. Much like horse racing, horses that are very successful in the cutting arena over several years are soon thereafter put to stud, more valuable breeding than competing.

At the Wylie Championship Rodeo, held annually in September, RRS Farms cutters present an exhibition just prior to the start of the two day event.

“A lot of people don’t know anything about cutting horses,” says Randy Smith. “A lot of people don’t know how to begin to ride a horse. (The rodeo is) just a time for us to get out there and show another event that isn’t included in a rodeo.” •



Rance Smith on Snorty

photo by Beth Smith

You can view videos of cutting online at:
www.youtube.com/profile?user=NCHAcutting

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Animal Shelters

They handle pets and pests

by Janet Doleh of Sachse

A few months ago, Sandra Potter, Murphy's animal control officer, picked up a Boston Terrier. She was able to reunite him with his owner in Dallas because the dog had a micro-chip in place.

"The strange thing," she said, "was this particular dog had been stolen almost a year ago to the date, and the owner was overwhelmed with joy to get him back. He still had the original collar for his pet. The expression shown by both human and canine makes my job the BEST."

Reuniting lost pets with their owners is a major service of the animal shelters in Murphy, Wylie, and Sachse. The job is much easier when dogs and cats have micro-chips or tags. "We can't stress enough how important it is to put a collar and tags on your pet," said Katie Munson, Sachse's animal control officer. "That way, whomever finds your pet can help it get back home."

Katie shared one of the Sachse Animal Shelter's success stories. "We brought a sadly neglected purebred schnauzer into the shelter and groomed and advertised



These pups and many other wonderful cats and dogs are available for adoption at the Wylie Animal Shelter. Murphy and Sachse shelters also offer adoption services for families seeking a new pet.

photo by Anne Hiney

her. The most wonderful family came to see her. Their own schnauzer had passed away, and they took the shelter dog, who was on death's door, to be part of their own loving family. They still send us updates!"

When lost pets are taken into the shelters, they are kept for several days before becoming available for adoption. If you have lost a pet, you should check the shelters' websites and also visit the shelters in person.

Besides making dogs and cats available to adopt, the staff of our animal shelters deal with many other animal control issues. "We handle all animals including goats, equine, cows, snakes, opossum, birds, skunks, rabbits, squirrels, armadillos and many more," said Ken Qualls, Wylie's animal control supervisor. "Many of these animals require humane traps to be set, and we have those available at our facility." Often when wildlife is picked up, it is relocated to areas outside the city where it will be safe.

Sandra Potter noted other services provided: cruelty investigations, deceased animal pick up, issuing City registrations and citations, and public education.

If you are having a problem with nuisance wildlife, call your city's animal control officer. They have the proper training and equipment to safely remove the animal. Katie Munson stressed that citizens should avoid some animals. "Skunks and raccoons are potential rabies carriers," she said.

The best way to help your local shelters is to be familiar with your city's laws and ordinances. You can find information on your city's website. To keep your pets safe, remember to register them, have them spayed or neutered, and stay current with their vaccinations.

You can also help by donating items to the shelters: bleach, newspapers, old towels/blankets, dryer sheets, cat/dog treats, wet food for cats/dogs, new/used collars and leashes (all sizes and colors), new/used crates, carriers, and dog houses. •

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How to Treat an Animal Bite

Basic guidelines to follow

by Stephen Kim, M.D.

They're usually our furry friends, but domestic animals sometimes turn aggressive without warning. If you are badly bitten by a dog or cat and the wound isn't treated properly, it can lead to an infection.

"The first steps to treat a bite should be to clean the wound with soap and water, and then control any bleeding with pressure with gauze or towels," says Stephen Kim, M.D., a family medicine physician at First Aid Family Care in Wylie. "Apply a sterile dressing with a topical antibiotic."

Dogs are more likely to bite than cats, but cat bites have a higher risk of infection.

"If you were bitten by a cat, I would advise that you get treated by a doctor," Dr. Kim says.

"You should also seek medical attention if the bite was on the hand, foot or head, if the bite shows any signs of infection (such as redness or swelling), or if the bleeding cannot be controlled."

If your last tetanus shot was more than five years ago, your doctor may recommend a booster. Also, you should take precautions



stock photos

Stephen Kim, M.D., is a family medicine physician at First Aid Family Care, which offers both routine care and prompt medical treatment for minor emergencies. Dr. Kim attended medical school at St. George's University School of Medicine. He completed the Methodist Hospitals of Dallas Family Practice Residency Program and is board certified in Family Medicine. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Kim, call (972) 941-8700.



against rabies, even though it is rare in dogs and cats.

"One of the most important things to do after a dog or cat bite is to identify the animal," Dr. Kim says. "If the animal is a stray or if the owner cannot be found, contact animal control or the health department. If the animal looked sick or tested positive for rabies, then your doctor will recommend a series of rabies shots." •

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- Never leave a young child alone with a pet.
- Do not try to separate fighting animals.
- Avoid sick animals.
- Avoid animals you don't know.
- Leave animals alone while they're eating.
- Keep pets on a leash when in public.
- Select your family pet carefully and be sure to keep your pet's vaccinations up-to-date.

Source: American Academy of Family Physicians

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Ladies Do Lunch

Miquela's Mexican Restaurant

By Lori Whitten of Wylie and Poetry

As you drive by Miquela's Mexican Restaurant on Highway 78 – near the bottoms of Lake Lavon – you might not give the unassuming blue metal building a second glance. It looks very much like any other “industrial” type building dotted along the highway. Of course, if you looked a little closer, you would notice the little pond with the dock and geese along with goats, camels and llamas in a fenced in area adjoining the restaurant lot. The critters did get our attention, so we decided to give Miquela's a try. The exterior doesn't lead you to expect much ambience, but we were pleasantly surprised, not just by the atmosphere – but also with the food and friendly service.

The interior was anything but industrial; the entrance featured a crystal clear, beautiful large Cichlid Tank (don't feel bad – I didn't know that was a type of fish either). We rounded the corner into a pleasant and welcoming traditional Mexican style dining room. Kim, our server, told us about the baby goat that was born on April 8, just before our visit – of course Anne insisted on going out to see the baby. We assured her we could stay long enough after lunch that she could go play with the animals.

Our drink order arrived almost before we could sit down and we were presented with a bowl of yummy charro beans and chips with salsa. We expected the chips and salsa – the charro beans were a nice surprise. After much deliberation over the extensive authentic Mexican and Seafood fare we finally agreed on the Shrimp Quesadillas, Malcajete and Tilapia Fillet topped with Mango Salsa. The Malcajete was a succulent mix of grilled beef and chicken fajita meat, grilled shrimp, cactus, onion, peppers and cheese served in a large stone bowl. It was served with tortillas, (flour and/or corn)



photo by Anne Hiney



Miquela's Malcajete is a succulent mix of meats, cactus, onions, peppers & cheese.

agreed Miquela's was a great choice for lunch.

Our conversation is usually quite lively and today was no exception! Even though we have differing views on many topics we always have a great time voicing our opinions. Political season make it even more interesting. Kim noted that we reminded her of the ladies on the “View” – that made us laugh!

I want to thank my dear friends for joining me for lunch, with our busy lives; many times this is the only opportunity we get to catch up. Our lunch is about friendship and fellowship and it is always a bonus when the food, service and atmosphere are great. Thank you Kim for being such a great server and Daniel for delivering a quality product. If you get a moment to stop by Miquela's for lunch or dinner tell them the “Lunch Ladies” sent you. We'll be going back to check out the patio that is being built to overlook the pond!

I want to take a moment to thank Leslie for joining Anne, Stacy and me; Judy could not make this trip and we look forward to our reunion next time. •

Miquela's owner Daniel feeding his camel, geese and goslings in the pond and the newest member of the family a baby goat with its mama.



and a side of guacamole with sour cream and pico de gallo. We ordered the Tilapia because, well – I love Mango Salsa and I am very glad we did. The Tilapia was cooked to a perfect flaky moistness. The crowning jewel of the meal was the Shrimp Quesadillas – ¡Muy Delicioso! – we strongly recommend them; the shrimp was tender and moist with just the right amount of spice and cheese. We topped it all off with the homemade flan for dessert. All “the Ladies”

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Investments (And Expertise) Can Make Great Mother's Day Gifts

Give a gift that lasts for years to come

from Jal Dennis of Edward Jones Investment

Mother's Day arrives this month. You could, of course, give Mom some flowers, and she'd probably appreciate them. But if your mother is a certain age, you might also want to make another type of gift - a gift that can help her enjoy the retirement lifestyle she's envisioned.

If you don't think your mother needs this type of gift, consider this: With advances in health care, today's retirees can easily live two or even three decades in retirement. Furthermore, women still outlive men, on average, by several years. In other words, your mother will likely have to pay for decades of retirement - and during some of those years, she may be solely responsible for making financial decisions.

That's why you may want to provide as much investment-related help to your mother as you can. And there's no time like Mother's Day to get started.

So, what sort of gifts should you think about? Here are a few possibilities:

Help fund Mom's IRA. If your mother is still working, she can contribute to an IRA - and she should. A traditional IRA offers the potential for tax-deferred earnings, while a Roth IRA has the potential to grow tax free, provided your mother doesn't take any withdrawals until she is at least 59-1/2 and she's had her account for at least five years. In 2008, your mother can put in up to \$6,000 to an IRA if she's 50 or older, or \$5,000 if she's under 50. While you can't actually make a deposit into your mother's IRA, you can give her some money for that purpose.

Give stocks. Consider giving shares of a company that produces products or services used by your mother. If you're going to give away some of your own shares, you'll need to know what you originally paid for the stock, how long you've held it and its fair market value at the date of the gift. Your mother will need this information

to determine gains or losses if she decides to sell the stock. (You'll also need to determine if you have to pay gift taxes. You can give up to \$12,000 per year, free of gift taxes, to as many people as you want.)

Pay off a debt. If you can afford it, tell your mother you'd like to pay off her credit card balance, a month's car payment or another type of loan. But don't stop there - encourage her to invest the money that she'll be saving due to your generosity. Even if it's just a relatively small amount, every little bit helps. And who knows? Your gift could encourage your mother to take further steps to reduce debt and invest more.

Make an appointment with a financial advisor. If your mother doesn't already work with a professional financial advisor, make an appointment for her to see one, preferably one that comes with good referrals. A reputable financial advisor won't charge anything for an initial consultation, and, over time, he or she can

help your mother create investment strategies that are appropriate for her goals, needs, risk tolerance and time horizon.

By following one or more of these gift suggestions, you'll brighten the holiday for your own mother. And your gift will still have an impact long after Mother's Day is over. •

Mother's Day is May 11th but don't forget Dad on June 15th!



Photo by Anne Hiney

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