

May/June 2011

# The CONNECTION

Your Wylie • Sachse • Murphy Community Magazine



**Dr. Kevin Pollock & Dr. Ketan Parekh**  
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Farewell to Dr. H. John Fuller  
Mother Nature's Temper  
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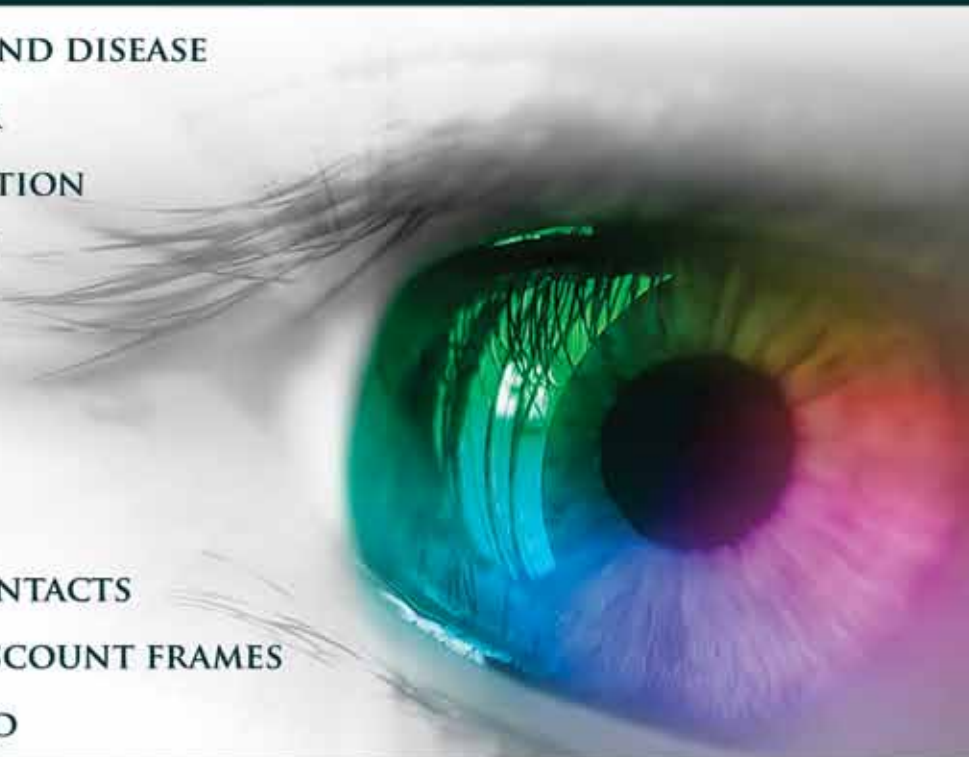
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## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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# RICK'S HOME STORE

## Rustic Furniture & Accessories

**RICK'S** has provided the Dallas/Ft. Worth area with specialty beds and bedroom furniture for almost 30 years. Over the years, Rick's selection has included everything from waterbeds to memory foam beds, air beds to futons, and furniture of all shapes, styles, and sizes.

Rick has been Dallas' "Bed Man" since 1982, when he started selling mattresses out of his garage. His idea was to provide quality products and superior customer service, at a fair price, and people would come. That philosophy worked so well that Rick was able to expand to 5 bedroom stores in 5 years.

Rick and his family moved to Wylie in 1999, and soon fell in love with its family feel and small town charm. Although the bedroom stores continued to do well, Rick decided it was time to downsize and simplify, so it was a natural next step to move his business to Wylie as well.

In 2007, Rick closed his bedroom stores and opened Rick's Home Store in historic downtown Wylie. Rick's idea was to take his philosophy of sales and service, and use it to create a home-grown rustic furniture store to serve Wylie and the surrounding communities.

Rick will always be a "Bed Man", and the new Home Store format includes beautiful rustic furniture and Texas accessories as well. Rick's Home Store is thriving in its 4th year of business thanks to the continued support of the Wylie community.



"We would like to thank all of our customers and the community of Wylie for supporting us. As always, we will continue to offer a variety of quality products and services. Rick's is now carrying an expanded line of mattresses, memory foam, and waterbeds. We also have access to all types of furniture available for quick pick up or delivery. And of course, a complete line of rustic furniture, dining, home office, and entertainment, kids beds, patio, leather and micro fiber living room furniture. Our selection of all types of western accessories is always changing, with unique items coming in every week."

Fun stuff from Kim's collection includes purses, belts, crosses, candles, Twisted Pepper products, and soon to come bling flip flops.

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## On The Cover

8



Photo by Anne Hiney.

Dr. Kevin Pollock and Dr. Ketan Parekh  
of Wylie Oral Surgery  
at Wylie's new Municipal Building.

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From us to you.....

**“School’s Out for Summer!  
School’s Out Forever!”**

Even the most non-hard rock fan has at some time been a fan of the 70’s arena rock song from Mr. Alice Cooper. For most, that time occurred when we were in school and this served as the anthem of summer vacation. It represented freedom.

As we have grown older and had children of our own, the song has taken on a whole new meaning. It is the signal for “Finding something for our kids to do so they don’t drive us crazy for three whole months!”

The Connection is here to help with a schedule of things to come in our Community Calendar that will give you a start. There is also a featurette on the MOMS Club – a mom (and dad) support group that helps members prepare for the summer. We follow the preparedness theme with a story on violent spring/summer weather and some tips to help you take precautions for safety.

Rick’s Home Store in Historic Downtown Wylie is our Business Spotlight this issue and Dr. Kevin Pollock & Dr. Ketan Parekh, with Wylie Oral and Facial Surgery, grace our cover and provide an inside story on tooth preparedness.

We honor the end of an era with a feature on Dr. H. John Fuller - WISD Superintendent. Dr. Fuller will be heading to the permanent summer vacation after a stellar 41 year career (18 of them in Wylie) leading the way in educating our children.

I bet even Dr. Fuller has heard of the Alice Cooper song and probably annually for the last 20+ years! Some might call that torture, but I don’t think it played into his decision to retire.

As always, we have the various financial, health and community-related stories to “connect” you to the area, along with some local businesses that can provide services right here in your own back yard. Please take a look and shop local as it saves on gas and boosts our local economy.

We hope you enjoy reading The Connection as much as we enjoy putting it together. Enjoy the summer and stay cool!

Mike - Becky - Anne

**CORRECTION:**

Last issue we printed an incorrect web address for the B.J. Taylor photography feature.

The correct one is this: [www.flickr.com/photos/boltgroove/sets](http://www.flickr.com/photos/boltgroove/sets). We apologize for the mistake!!



The **CONNECTION**  
Your Wylie • Sachse • Murphy Community Magazine

**A Wylie Chamber of Commerce Publication**

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The “Profile of Success” cover photograph and feature article, as well as the “Business Spotlight”, are paid advertisements.



Just for fun, find the butterfly! Last issue it was hidden in the Taste of Wylie photo on page 24.

Occasionally we make a mistake. Let us know if you find one so we can correct it. We love your feedback - send comments to [info@wyliechamber.org](mailto:info@wyliechamber.org). Story ideas are always welcome and appreciated. Thanks for “Connecting” with us!

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# Dr. Kevin Pollock & Dr. Ketan Parekh

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are unique among the surgical specialties with regards to anesthesia training. Every oral and maxillofacial surgeon, during their residency, receives formal anesthesia training with the department of medical anesthesia. They are taught the skills to safely administer anesthesia to patients. This includes IV sedation, general anesthesia, airway management and intubation techniques. It is our utmost goal to make your surgical experience as pleasant and stress-free as possible while maintaining the highest levels of safety.

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*Karen is enjoying a new, beautiful smile thanks to her maintenance-free dental implants.*

**For more information please contact the friendly staff of Wylie Oral Surgery. We are conveniently located in Wylie at 520 West Brown Street. We also have offices in Rockwall and Canton. Our staff will be happy to assist you when you call 469-698-9800 or find us on the web at [www.dentalimplantsurgery.com](http://www.dentalimplantsurgery.com)**



### Why Should I Have My Wisdom Teeth Removed?

Wisdom teeth are the last teeth to erupt within the mouth. When they align properly and gum tissue is healthy, wisdom teeth do not have to be removed. Unfortunately, this does not generally happen. The extraction of wisdom teeth is necessary when they are prevented from properly erupting within the mouth. They may grow sideways, partially emerge from the gum, and even remain trapped beneath the gum and bone. Impacted teeth can take many positions in the bone as they attempt to find a pathway that will allow them to successfully erupt.

These poorly positioned impacted teeth can cause many problems. When they are partially erupted, the opening around the teeth allows bacteria to grow and can eventually cause an infection. The result: swelling, pain, and illness. The pressure from the erupting wisdom teeth may move other teeth and disrupt the orthodontic or natural alignment of teeth. The most serious problem occurs when tumors or cysts form around the impacted wisdom teeth, resulting in the destruction of the jawbone and healthy teeth. Removal of the offending impacted teeth usually resolves these problems. Early removal is recommended to avoid such future problems and to decrease the surgical risk involved with the procedure.

*Source: American Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery*



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By Susan Dacus

# Dr. H. John Fuller

Many individuals, or perhaps most individuals, would spend the final year prior to their retirement winding down and slowing down in preparation for a new life. They might just sit on their past laurels and reputation. Such is not the case with Wylie ISD Superintendent H. John Fuller. He is doing what he cares about most and what he does best – advocating for Texas public school children, teachers, the education system itself and, of course, Wylie ISD. As president of the Texas Association of School Administrators, he has testified before the House and Senate Education Committees, met with the Commissioner of Education and various senators and representatives regarding the current school finance situation. He has been asked to speak to large groups, write articles, mediate discussion sessions, speak at press conferences and give his opinion on the state's financial remedies as they regard education.

Dr. Fuller has carried out these state level duties while still running a highly respected school system that has recently won five state and national awards for financial excellence. It is a district that he has led to all "recognized" and "exemplary" campuses in the state's excellence indicator system. It is a system with students who continue to win national, state and regional awards for their performances in University Interscholastic

League (UIL) competition. This year, as in years past, Wylie ISD students are taking top honors in fine arts, athletics, career education, journalism, debate, AFJROTC, culinary arts, Academic Decathlon and other curricular and co-curricular recognitions. The district has National Merit awardees at several levels and seventh graders who are recognized by the Duke University Talent Identification Program.

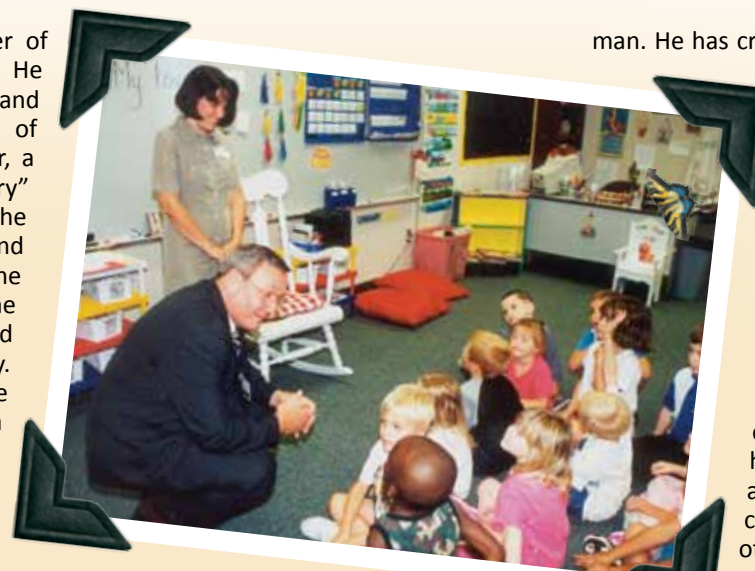
For the 41 years of his public school career, H. John Fuller has been on a personal mission to impact students, colleagues and parents with his personal best each day. Amazingly, 33 of those years he has spent as a superintendent of schools; he was tapped quickly by his superiors as someone with the potential to be a leader. Beginning as a math teacher, he moved rapidly to part-time principal, principal and then superintendent. In a time when most superintendents move every four to five years, Dr. Fuller has served Wylie schools for 18 years. Despite numerous other opportunities, he has chosen to stay in Wylie because of his faith in and love for the community and its citizens. During these years, WISD has grown from 3,000 to 12,600 students, and the City of Wylie, alone, has more than 41,000 residents.

Dr. Fuller has been superintendent of four school districts including Wylie ISD, and he holds five degrees including a

Doctor of Education and a Master of Science and Master of Education. He was selected as the Region 10 and the Region 17 Superintendent of the Year, Wylie Citizen of the Year, a Member of "21 for the 21st Century" in Collin County and president of the Wylie Chamber of Commerce and Wylie Lions Club. He received the Servant Leadership Award and the Distinguished Leadership Award from Dallas Baptist University. Within the school system, he has led Wylie ISD to become a "Recognized" district and more than tripled the number of campuses/facilities to meet student growth. The district has passed five successful bond issues totaling \$282,440,000 and is recognized as a leader in the area of technology and learning.

For those individuals who work closely with Dr. Fuller, it is generally not his numerous accomplishments that impact people. They tend to talk about who he is as a person and as a leader. They talk about wisdom, kindness and devotion to his faith. "Wylie ISD has been extremely fortunate to have Dr. Fuller serve as our superintendent; he is the ultimate leader," explains Brian Miller, assistant superintendent for financial services. "I consider it an honor and a privilege to have had the opportunity to work for him. Dr. Fuller has been a teacher and mentor to me, but most importantly, I have personally benefited from working for such an honorable person. He is one of the finest and most honest people I have ever met."

Dr. Fuller often reminds his staff about the true role of educators – being in the people development business. No matter the age or situation, all people can develop and grow. Educators facilitate that growth through mentoring, listening, reflecting and sharing. "Dr. Fuller has positively impacted my professional life by mentoring me as a principal," says Wally Watkins Elementary Principal Jennifer Speicher. "I have worked for him as a principal for the past 11 years and have been blessed to interact with such an outstanding



man. He has created a legacy that will live in the minds and hearts of educators, children and citizens for years to come."

Former Wylie ISD Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Mark Ball says, "Where do you start when describing Dr. Fuller's impact? The four things that I will never forget about him are: you can do it; dream; how can I help you to be successful?; and forgiveness." Coach Ball continues, "I don't know of any person I have ever worked with professionally who cares more about educating the total child. Yes, academics are the most important part of education, but he also values the education gained by co-curricular activities and extra-curricular participation. He understands about the lessons students learn outside the classroom and the importance of them, along with the spiritual development of each child."

Former Wylie ISD school board president Sue Nicklas worked closely with John Fuller as one of his bosses on the seven-member board. "It was my privilege to serve for 12 years with Dr. Fuller on the WISD School Board. I learned something new and positive every time I was with him. He is an encourager, fair (to a fault), loyal, trustworthy (I trust him with my life), and a man of great vision. All of these attributes come from his strong Christian faith; he is truly a godly man," she explains. "What I remember most is that no matter how he felt or how many challenging situations were going on, he put everyone else first. The Wylie school district and the community of Wylie are indeed blessed to have had the security and leadership of John Fuller."

With five children and nine grandchildren, Dr. Fuller and his wife, Gayle, anticipate a very full "semi-retirement." They are building an encampment facility of cabins on their 70-acre ranch near Mineola. G&J Hideaway will be a retreat where pastors of small congregations can have a place for recreation, peace and learning. •



# Mother Nature's Mighty Force

By Kathleen Noble

**M**uch like a real Mother, Mother Nature makes her point with a fury all her own. From the moment of birth, Mom is imparting lessons of appropriate behaviors, discipline, respect and to always be prepared. Mother Nature has her own personal way of teaching those same lessons.

History has proven it matters little whether disasters are man-made or Mother Nature's best, being prepared is a necessity in the unpredictable world of weather.

In December 2004, the earthquake that occurred off the west coast of Indonesia triggered a series of devastating tsunami's that took over 230,000 lives and affected many countries in southeast Asia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand.

More than 1,800 people died in Hurricane Katrina, August 23, 2005. Katrina was the costliest natural disaster and one of the five deadliest hurricanes in U.S. history.

The earthquake that struck near the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, January 12, 2010, left an estimated 316,000 dead, 300,000 injured and 1,000,000 homeless.

If the devastating images of natural disasters past have faded from memory; and repair and rebuilding have restored and revived what was once considered lost then one needs only to walk past a news stand or tune into a national news channel for a reminder of just how capable of annihilation Mother Nature truly is.

On March 11, 2011, a 9.0 magnitude undersea megathrust earthquake and subsequent tsunami ravaged the coast of Japan. The Japanese confirmed 13,392 dead, 4,896 injured and 15,133 people missing. The earthquake and tsunami caused extensive and severe structural damage and heavy destruction to roads and railways. Some 4.4 million households in northeastern Japan were left without electricity and 1.5 million without water. At least three nuclear reactors at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant exploded due to a hydrogen gas build up within the outer containment buildings after a cooling system failure. Residents within a 12 mile radius of the power plant were evacuated. The Japanese government has said the cost of the earthquake and tsunami could reach \$309 billion, making it the world's most expensive natural disaster on record.



Statistics prove we Texans have little to fear from earthquakes; but tornados and thunderstorms are frequent. Texas, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri are all considered to be part of Tornado Alley. Texas experiences more tornados that any other state in the Union with an average of 139 yearly. These strike most frequently in April, May and June in North Texas and the Panhandle.

Texas is also plagued with dangerously severe thunderstorms during this same time of year. The lightning that occurs in all thunderstorms, strikes 25 million times yearly in the U.S. and causes on the average of 60 fatalities and 300 injuries annually. Most lightning fatalities and injuries occur when people are caught outdoors in the summer months. It is possible for winds, related to thunderstorms to exceed 100 miles per hour while producing little to no rainfall. Flash flooding, associated with thunderstorms is responsible for more than 140 fatalities each year. Hail causes more than \$1 billion in damage to property and crops each year. Large hail stone fall at speeds of up to 100 miles per hour.

Local citizens will likely never forget the twin tornados that tore a destructive path along Highway 78, Mother's Day 1993 causing serious damage to area businesses and closing Physicians Plaza and its adjoining hospital, Physicians Regional Hospital. Tornados once again touched Wylie when a twister trailed through the Riverchase Estates development, damaging some 51 homes in March 2007.

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BBB MEMBER



One long time resident recalls looking out a kitchen window and seeing the funnel cloud a couple hundred yards away. He then turned to his wife and children and said, "get in the closet right now." "My wife thought I was kidding. I'll never forget seeing the former hospital with all its windows blown out. My son learned to say helicopter that week," he said.

Another Wylieite remembers returning to Wylie immediately after the tornado. "I saw a red ( I think it was red) car inside the front entrance of the Brookshire's grocery store and glass everywhere. The Dairy Queen was destroyed. I still miss the DQ," he said.

Lindsey Davis was eleven when the tornado hit in 1993. Her family had come to town and were sitting in the living room talking and watching television. "The sky was green. Someone started talking about tornados and just as they were describing the train whistle sound a tornado makes, the power went out and we saw the tornado go right over our house. Luckily our house was unharmed, but our neighbors two doors down lost a fence, four houses down had windows blown out and severe siding and roof damage. After it was over, we went outside (lived on Marble Street at the time) and part of the DQ sign was in our front yard as well as a few of the plastic balls from the McDonald's playground," she said.

When asked on The Wylie View Message Board what was remembered about the Mother's Day Tornado, member Stacey recalls being headed to Eckerd's. "My five-year old sons were in the back seat, one was asleep. As we were coming up beside Hartman Elementary a hot water heater flew by the car, then I saw the twister coming," she said. "I've always heard not to stay in your vehicle, but I was too scared to get out. I feared being unable to hold on to the boys. I stopped the car and pushed the boys onto the floor of the back seat and climbed back there with them. My car was barely scratched, but it was rocking all over the place. I thought we were going to be Dorothy and end up somewhere other than Wylie," she said.

One Wylie resident tells us that a man living at the Glen Knoll Mobile Home Park was killed and a baby was missing - crib and all. "Officials found the crib in a tree with a sheet of aluminum over the top of it. The baby was sound asleep. The aluminum was protecting the baby from the fine mist that had begun to fall," he added.

Regardless of where we live or where we go none of us are exempt from the possibility of disaster or Mother Nature's temper. Disasters of any sort usually strike quickly and without warning. Knowing what to do is the most important part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count. •

**Visit the CDC website: [emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/tornadoes/prepared.asp](http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/tornadoes/prepared.asp) for detailed information on being prepared for a tornado.**

# PREPARE A STORM KIT

*The following storm kit contents are based on recommendations from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A large plastic trash can with a lid can be used to store these items. Periodically check batteries for freshness.*

- **Water** - three gallons for each person who would use the kit and an additional four gallons per person or pet for use if you are confined to your home. (This is based on one gallon per person per day)
- **Food** - a three-day supply in the kit and at least an additional four-day supply per person or pet for use at home. Non-perishable foods that don't require heating are a good idea.
- **Special items for infants and seniors, disabled persons or anyone with serious allergies** - including special foods, denture items, extra eyeglasses, hearing aid batteries, prescription and non-prescription medications that are regularly used, inhalers and other essential equipment.
- **Kitchen accessories** - a manual can opener; mess kits or disposable cups, plates and utensils; utility knife; sugar and salt; aluminum foil and plastic wrap; re-sealable plastic bags
- **A portable, battery-powered radio or television and alarm clock and extra, fresh batteries**
- **Several flashlights and extra, fresh batteries**
- **A first aid kit and medications and a cooler for temporary food or medication storage**
- **One complete change of clothing and footwear for each person** - including items adjusted for the season.
- **Blankets or a sleeping bag for each person**
- **Sanitation and hygiene items** - shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, comb and brush, lip balm, sunscreen, contact lenses and supplies and any medications regularly used, toilet paper, towelettes, soap, hand sanitizer, liquid detergent, feminine supplies, plastic garbage bags (heavy-duty) and ties (for personal sanitation uses), medium-sized plastic bucket with tight lid, disinfectant, household chlorine bleach
- **Other essential items** - paper, pencil, needles, thread, small A-B-C-type fire extinguisher, medicine dropper, whistle, emergency preparedness manual
- **Entertainment** - including games and books, favorite dolls and stuffed animals for small children
- **Emergency phone numbers, a map of the area marked with places you could go and their telephone numbers**
- **An extra set of keys and IDs** - including keys for cars and any properties owned and copies of driver's licenses, passports and work identification badges
- **Identification and copies of important family documents, including prescriptions**
- **Small bills and change**
- **Fire extinguisher**

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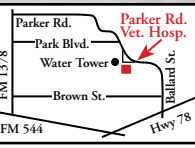
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# Don Hallum

## A Super Senior Advocate!

By Brenda Byboth



Don and Sally Hallum

**D**on Hallum is on a mission for Wylie area senior citizens. Upon learning that the library would be moving to a larger space in the new Wylie City Hall Complex, Don and the recently formed non-profit group, Wylie Advocates for Senior Activities, Inc., (WASA) are determined to make the vacated space a haven for Senior Activities.

Don and other citizen advocates embarked on the challenge by speaking and/or attending Wylie City Council meetings on behalf of a Senior Center. Support for a newer, larger center came from Rita Allen, Rita Smith, Retha Tibbals, and current WASA board members Al Draper, Jim Swartz, William Martin, Linda Pulliam, Bobbi Luttrall Becton, Mary Davis, Bob Heath, and Marie Morton. Later Demond Dawkins, Jarrod Rush, and Kris Segrest were added to the board. Community Center participants led by Joe and Joyce McGaughy, were also helpful in promoting the effort.

Don's background seems to have prepared him for this difficult advocacy work. Born and raised on a farm in Arkansas, Don was the youngest of six children. If it weren't for his Aunt Lula, young Don might not have lived long enough to accomplish anything. Double pneumonia threatened his one-month-old life. To keep him warm, she stoked the fire in the cook stove all night and put Don in a small box on the pie shelf to stay warm!

His parents instilled the value of hard work. Don remembers working early on his family's poultry farm – his job entailed a scoop and picking up after all those chickens! He graduated to growing his own crops and working as a lift driver in a lumberyard. After a few years as a band director, Don worked in the insurance business until retirement. He has served as ombudsman and Medicare advisor to area seniors as a Certified Benefits Counselor for the Area Agency on Aging.

Converting the old library into a bustling and busy Senior Center begins with remodeling the building and developing interesting and enjoyable programs for seniors. The new center would have a dining area, a large multi-use area and some smaller meeting rooms. The group hopes to assist with input and work closely with the Wylie Parks & Recreation department.

The purpose of a successful Senior Activity Center is to keep Seniors ACTIVE! Don would love to see the new Senior Center bustling with activity and programs designed to attract people. Exercise equipment has already been donated and will have a special place at the center.

Don says he has "always felt that God has a job for him to do, and it has never taken long to find out what it is." He is grateful for the support of his wife, Sally; WASA Board and volunteers; and Wylie's Mayor, City Council, and management who have been very helpful every step of the way. Citizen support with donations of money and/or time is greatly needed. Ever positive and optimistic, Don along with WASA, is committed to keeping Wylie Seniors active! •

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Dr. Devanshi Gupta completed her neurology residency and served as Chief Resident at the University of Tennessee in Memphis. She also completed a fellowship in clinical neurophysiology and neuromuscular disease and researches these diseases actively. Prior to starting her practice in Richardson, Dr. Gupta worked at Northwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center.

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If you are thinking about buying or selling a home, one of the largest impacts you can make is with paint. A gallon of paint averages about \$20. Decorator colors typically require a primer then approximately two coats of paint so you are looking at about \$60 to paint an average sized bedroom. I cannot emphasize enough how CHEAP paint is and what a huge impact it can make!

Every basic color has a "neutral" shade so don't be afraid to use a color! To often beige is the first thought when we mention neutral and it doesn't have to be. Neutral blue is the hardest to hit so if you are a novice painter, I would avoid the blue hues.

Think about your overall color scheme. Recently I read that you should think of color with a 60-30-10 plan. Your wall color constitutes 60% of your color palette. Your furniture and floor is the 30% and your accent color should only constitute about 10% of your color scheme. Accent walls are becoming a thing of the past.

What is the moral of this colorful story? If you are thinking about selling, please think about a fresh neutral (not necessarily beige) coat of paint. If you are thinking about buying a home, don't let paint skew your view.....it's a cheap fix and a great way to make a house your home.



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## MAY EVENTS

**Through May 15th** - The Heard Museum is pleased to present BUGS, featuring more than twenty-five species of invertebrates including ants, scorpions, mantises and dozens of others from the world of itsy-bitsy, creepy-crawly and sluggy-buggy. BUGS is truly a "bug zoo" showcasing live arthropods both native and exotic. Staged in Mayan Ruins, this exhibit perfectly highlights the particular influence of bugs on human culture. Investigate what you have heard about the invertebrate world by exploring such creatures as giant beetles, checked cockroaches and enormous stick insects. Being spineless has never been so cool! Adults \$9; Seniors 60+ & Children 3-12 \$6; Members & Children 2 and Under free. <http://heardmuseum.org/attractions/exhibits/BUGS.asp>

**May 12th** - Sachse Sampler & Expo at 1st United Methodist Church, 1520 Blackburn Road, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Local restaurants and other businesses highlight their products and services. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 10 and under, and free for children under age 4.

**May 13th** - Throwaway Ponies is having it's 2nd annual golf tournament/dinner/auction at Buffalo Creek. Shotgun start at 1 p.m. Sign in and light lunch starts at noon. \$100/golfer or \$360/ team of 4. Dinner and auction following the tournament at 6. \$25 for adults and \$10 for children 11 and under. This fundraiser is to buy the 2,000 bales of hay used at TaPs every year to feed the rescued and therapy horses in our care. For info. call Karen at 214-202-1390 or visit [www.throwawayponies.org](http://www.throwawayponies.org)

**May 14th - Election Day - GO VOTE!!** Local elections are the ones that effect you the most! Go to [http://public1.co.collin.tx.us/elections/polling\\_locations/default.aspx](http://public1.co.collin.tx.us/elections/polling_locations/default.aspx) for voting location information.

**May 14th** - Sachse bicycle rodeo from 10 a.m. to Noon at Whitt Elementary School, 7520 Woodcreek Way. Sachse Police Officers will be on hand to conduct bicycle inspections and registrations, child safety seat inspection, and answer questions on bicycle and scooter safety. An obstacle course will be set up and free bicycle helmets available as long as supplies last. Officers will also be on hand with child fingerprint cards. There is no charge for this event. For more info. contact Officer Holland at 972.495.2271, ext. 1231.

**May 14th** - Mother/Son Roundup - Moms roundup that little buckaroo in your life, put on your boots and get ready for a night of dancin', hayrides, and refreshments under the stars. Each little buckaroo will receive a picture and party favor. 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Salmon Park, 4302 Williford Road, Sachse, TX 75048. \$10/couple

**May 21st** - Bird of Prey Photography Day. Join BPRC for its annual Birds of Prey Photo Day, at Brockdale Park, Lucas Texas. You will get a rare opportunity to photography BPRC's education ambassadors in natural settings, "up close and personal" and take all the pictures your camera's memory can handle. Blackland Prairie Raptor Center, 1625 Brockdale Park Road, Lucas TX at 7:30 to 11 a.m. to get the best light. Admission is \$20 per person and space is limited to the first 200 registrants. Register by going to our website: [www.bpraptorcenter.org](http://www.bpraptorcenter.org), go to our donation page to pay the fee online. In the comment section at the bottom of the page type in "Registration for BOP Photo Day". This must be in the comment section to make sure you are signed up and will be checked in the day of the event.

**May 20th** - Moonlight Movies in Murphy - Despicable ME is being shown in North Hill Park, 1302 Rodeo Drive, Murphy, TX 75094. [www.murphytx.org/parks/events.asp](http://www.murphytx.org/parks/events.asp)

**May 21st** - It's Spring Fever in Murphy! Join the Murphy Chamber for a day of family fun including bounce houses, local DJ, "Ask a Vet" and "Ask an Auto Tech" booths and 25 vendors. Plus, relax in the Party Fever tent and enjoy food and drinks. It all happens from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Murphy Marketplace, in front of Lowe's, at northeast corner of FM 544 and North Murphy Road.

**May 21st** - Wylie Acting Group (WAG) for Children auditions for The Wizard of Oz! It will be held at the Bart Peddicord Community Center in downtown Wylie. Check in will be from 9:30 - 11 a.m. that morning. Participants will be given a time to return to audition. The actual performances will be July 22nd and 23rd. [www.wagforchildren.org](http://www.wagforchildren.org)

**May 30th** - Memorial Day

## JUNE EVENTS

**Picnic by the Pond** At the Murphy Municipal Complex, 206 North Murphy Road, Murphy, TX 75094. [www.murphytx.org/parks/events.asp](http://www.murphytx.org/parks/events.asp)

June 3rd: 7 - 9 p.m. – Radiant Fall Out

June 10th: 7 - 9 p.m. – Hard Country

June 17th: 7 - 9 p.m. – David Chickens

**June 2nd, 3rd & 4th** - The Friends of the Rita & Truett Smith Public Library, are sponsoring a Scholastic Book Fair at the new Smith Public Library, 300 Country Club Rd. in Wylie. Thurs. June 2nd: noon to 8 p.m.; Fri. June 3rd: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Sat. June 4th: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come look over the great books & support the Friends of the Smith Public Library.

**June 4th** - In-Sync Exotics Birthday Bash benefiting the Big Cats!! 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. - rain or shine at 3430 Skyview Dr. - Wylie, TX 75098. Come celebrate our cats' birthdays with cake & ice cream, games, a bounce house, gifts for the cats and much more! Bring an approved item (from our website) and receive \$5 off admission! Admission: Adults \$12, Children (3-12) \$10. No Strollers Please! [www.insyncexotics.com](http://www.insyncexotics.com).

**June 18th** - Wylie's New Municipal Complex - Ribbon Cutting Grand Opening Ceremony at 10 a.m. 300 Country Club Rd. Wylie. [www.wylietexas.gov](http://www.wylietexas.gov) for more info.

**June 18th** - The Wylie Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association - 2nd Annual Race Against Crime 5K/10K Run (8:00 a.m.), 1 Mile Family Fun Walk (9:30 a.m.) - Early Registration (6:30-8:00 a.m.). Awards, Festival and Raffle (10:15 a.m.) Race is located behind the First Baptist Church Event Center, 200 North Ballard St. Electronic Tag Timing by RunOn. Register at <https://secure.getmeregistered.com/RaceAgainstCrime>.

**June 24th** - Moonlight Movies in Murphy - RV is being shown in Aviary Park, 1003 Mustang Drive, Murphy, TX 75094. [www.murphytx.org/parks/events.asp](http://www.murphytx.org/parks/events.asp)

## WYLIE'S RITA AND TRUETT SMITH PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS

### NEW LIBRARY IS NOW OPEN!!

**Located at 300 Country Club Rd., Bldg. 300, Wylie 972-516-6250**

#### Story Times:

Family Storytime:	Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.
Toddler Time:	Wednesdays at 9:00 & 9:45 a.m.; Fridays at 11:30 a.m.
Big Kid Storytime:	Wednesdays at 10:30 & 11:15 a.m.
Babies & Books:	Fridays at 11:00 a.m.

#### Themes:

Week of May 2	Grow Garden Grow	Week of June 13	Digging in the Dirt
Week of May 9	Curious Cats	Week of June 20	Monkey Business
Week of June 6	Beasties	Week of June 27	Imaginary Creatures

#### Wagging Tales: 3:30 - 4:15 p.m.

**May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 and June 7, 14, 21 & 28**

Beginning readers are invited to practice their reading skills with Abby the Collie. Abby is a Delta Society trained pet partner and will be in the Storytime Room. Tickets are required and are given out free on a first come, first serve basis on the afternoon of the program.

#### Neighbors Read Grand Finale May 14 from 10 a.m. – Noon:

Join us in our closing program for the Neighbors Read initiative, which celebrates the power of pets, communities, and libraries. Bring a pet (on a leash) to participate in the

pet parade around the Municipal Complex, meet Mike Felix and Eric Hogue Mayors of Sachse and Wylie, enjoy storytime complete with a puppet show and more! Wylie Animal Shelter will also be participating. This program is made possible by a Texas Reads Grant from the Texas State Library.

#### TV @ SPL Orientation May 21 at 2 p.m. & May 24 at 6 p.m.

Teens ages 13-17 that are interested in volunteering at the library must return a completed application by Friday, May 20, then attend one of these mandatory orientation sessions.

#### Read to Reel Film Series: Sense & Sensibility June 13 @ Noon

Enjoy this free showing of Sense & Sensibility as part of the Adult Summer Reading Club! Bring a bag lunch and celebrate the 200th anniversary of the first publication of this beloved Austen classic. Film stars Emma Thompson, Kate Winslet, Hugh Grant and Alan Rickman. Seating is limited and registration is required. Please sign up at the adult reference desk beginning May 13.

#### Friends of the Library Meeting: May 19th & June 16th - 6 p.m.

The Friends of the Smith Public Library are having their monthly meeting in the Conference Room.

#### Meet the Author: May 19th - 6 p.m.

Come and listen to this bestselling author of the Weather Warden urban fantasy series and the Morganville Vampires teen series discuss and sign her new book, Bite Club.

#### BeTween Book & Movie Club: 6:30 p.m.

**May 12th & May 26th** - For additional info. check our website [www.wylietexas.gov](http://www.wylietexas.gov)>Departments>Library or call (972) 516-6250.

4th & 5th graders are invited to discuss their favorite books and movies.

#### 4th Monday Book Club: 6:30 p.m.

**May 23rd & June 27th** - For additional info. check our website [www.wylietexas.gov](http://www.wylietexas.gov)>Departments>Library or call (972) 516-6250.

#### June 3, Summer Reading Club Kickoff!:

*Join us from 9 a.m. - Noon Our celebration includes a bounce house, DJ, petting zoo, balloon animals and more. Pick up your free reading log and read all summer long to be eligible for prizes (while supplies last).*

#### June Kids Summer Reading Club Programs:

*Come experience magic shows, animal encounters and more! Our theme this year is Dig Up a Good Book!¡Excave un libro bueno!, so come dig up a good time with all of our events happening each week including evening shows. Most programs are appropriate for ages 5 through 10, but all ages are welcome. Tickets are required, free and distributed on a first come first serve basis the day of the program. All events are in the Multi-Purpose Room unless otherwise noted.*

June 1:	First Day to Pick Up your Reading Log! (Children's Reference Desk)
June 3:	Summer Reading Club Kick-Off 9:00 a.m. - Noon
June 7:	Slick Jugglers at 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.
June 9:	Critterman at 6:00 p.m.
June 10:	Sing-along Matinee: The Jungle Book (G) at 2:00 p.m. (Storytime Room)
June 14:	Magician Todd McKinney at 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.
June 16:	Storyteller Doryane Breedlove at 6:00 p.m.
June 20:	First Day to Turn in your Reading Log! (Children's Reference Desk)
June 21:	Snake Encounters at 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.
June 23:	Storytime Theater presents "The Tortoise and the Hare" at 6:00 p.m.
June 24:	Sing-along Matinee: The Muppet Movie (G) at 2:00 p.m. (Storytime Room)
June 28:	Souper Dave & Big Ern at 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.
June 30:	Whirled on a String at 6:00 p.m.

#### June Teens Summer Reading Club Programs:

*Teens grades 6th - 12th grade are Going Global, Staying Connected and may complete 3 reading activities to be eligible for prizes (while supplies last). Complete additional entries to be eligible for the grand prizes. The programs below are for 6th - 12th graders only (no parents or younger siblings, please) and are held in the Multi-Purpose Room unless otherwise noted.*

June 9:	Stage Combat with Kent Williams from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
June 16:	Mail Art Craft Program from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
June 23:	Vandita Parikh teaches the basics of Bollywood from 3 - 5 p.m. (Rec Center)
June 30:	Wii/Xbox Global Battle from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## SAVE THE DATES!

**July Jubilee Street Dance** - July 9th, Historic Downtown Wylie on Ballard from 7 pm to 10 pm.  
**Cars Under the Stars** - July 31st Kroger Sachse parking lot - 6 p.m. - Midnight.

## CHAMBER of COMMERCE EVENTS

### WYLIE

[www.wyliechamber.org](http://www.wyliechamber.org)

**972-442-2804**

**Monthly Luncheons:** 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lunch cost is \$12 if paid in advance, \$15 with reservation paying at door, \$20 without reservation. Online payment is available at the Chamber website.

**May 23** - Leadership Wylie Class VIII graduation.

**June 27** - Check the Wylie Chamber website for details.

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

### SACHSE

[www.sachsechamber.com](http://www.sachsechamber.com)

**972-496-1212**

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

**May 10** - Networking Luncheon - Sponsored by Garland Symphony Orchestra

**June 14** - Check the Sachse Chamber website for details.

**Community Coffee:** The last Friday of the month, 8 - 9 a.m., at Sachse Christian Church, 5005 Ben Davis Road, Sachse.

### MURPHY

[murphychamber.org](http://murphychamber.org)

**972-805-3749**

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

**May 17:** Alex Fender will be the guest speaker, talking about, "Converting Website Cruisers into Paying Customers."

**June 21:** Murphy Chamber presents scholarships to Plano and Wylie students, along with grants to Plano and Wylie teachers. Guests include representatives from the Plano and Wylie Education Foundations.

**May 21st** - It's Spring Fever in Murphy! Join the Murphy Chamber for a day of family fun including bounce houses, local DJ, "Ask a Vet" and "Ask an Auto Tech" booths and 25 vendors. Plus, relax in the Party Fever tent and enjoy food and drinks. It all happens from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Murphy Marketplace, in front of Lowe's, at northeast corner of FM 544 and North Murphy Road.

**Every Thursday Business Card Exchange:** Join the Murphy Chamber of Commerce for a Business Card Exchange from 8 to 9 a.m. at Saxbys in Murphy Marketplace, 227 E FM 544, north side of FM 544, next to Tokyo Hayaci). Open to members and non-members.

## Submit Your Event to the Calendar!

*To submit your special event to the **July/August** community calendar send an e-mail to [theconnection.anne@mac.com](mailto: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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# Technology Safety for Kids

by LaDawn Fletcher

Summers spent cooling off in the pool, or riding bikes around the neighborhood are not entirely a thing of the past, but more kids than ever will spend chunks of loosely supervised time on smart phones, laptop and desktop computers accessing the internet, often for social networking. Without proper instruction and guidance, young people can unknowingly expose themselves to grave danger.

The fear for parents has shifted from what their child may see on the internet to what their child may unwittingly share with potential predators. Rightly concerned about easy accessibility to pornography, parents reached for internet filters or blocks, but those tools are less helpful with the current threat because it is often the child himself who provides the information that can be misused.

"Kids are too trusting," says David A. Burkhart, Technical Services Manager of Wylie ISD. "They believe people are who they say they are."

Young people must be taught not to share personal information on the internet. Sites often request information like phone numbers, address, age and gender but that kind of information should never be shared on the internet by minor children. Security settings should be the most restrictive available, allowing only people the child approves to see any information about them and they need to be reminded that requests from people they don't know should be denied.

As tempting as it may be to forbid use of the social networking sites, it isn't realistic or even particularly helpful in the long run. Rather than banning internet use, Burkhart encourages parents to talk regularly with the child about how these tools are to be used effectively, along with consequences if they are abused or used inappropriately.



©2011 Rob Marmion. Image from BigStock.com.

He suggests that parents create accounts with logins and passwords for all computer users in the house.

"If you can send an email, you can set up a login account," assures Burkhart.

Kids should be told that the sites they visit will be monitored, and each child is responsible for the content accessed under their login.

With a little more work, parents can even set their routers up to block access at certain times, or limit the amount of time that a given user can be on the computer. Limits to wireless devices can even be imposed by adjusting settings to the router. Most internet providers will provide step by step instructions on how to do that.

Smart phones have made monitoring our children's technology use even more challenging. In addition to texting, pictures and videos can easily be shared with the click of a button. Parents must explain to young a person that once the picture they took is sent to someone else, they no longer have control of where it ends up. If it is not something they would want shared with everyone else, it shouldn't be posted on the internet, or sent via text.

The dizzying pace at which young people adopt and discard technology can seem daunting for even tech savvy parents. Parents who pay attention and take the time to discuss with their child how to use technology appropriately are offering one more layer of protection for their loved one. •



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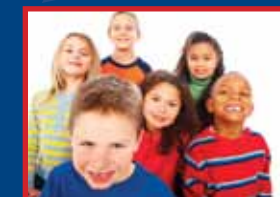
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# Wylie Eye Center

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## Patches are not just for Pirates!

People are often curious as to why some children require the use of an eye patch to improve vision during childhood. Patches are used to treat a condition called “amblyopia”, which is sometimes referred to as “lazy eye”. Amblyopia can occur for a variety of reasons, but chief among those reasons are misalignment or significant difference in prescription between eyes. In these cases, the brain takes the easy way out: it utilizes the eye that provides the best vision, and ignores the other one. To truly see our best, however, we must train the brain to use both eyes. Patching over the eye with better vision, forces the brain to use the weaker eye, and eventually re-establishes the brain-eye connection.

The success of treating amblyopia depends highly on the patients’ age, cooperation from both patient and parents, and the degree of vision impairment. The younger the patient, the better the prognosis for recovering vision. As the brain matures, it is less plastic and the opportunity for vision improvement is less likely. Typically, the chance to recover completely begins to diminish around the age of 12.

Parents sometimes feel some guilt associated with a diagnosis of amblyopia as they ask themselves, how did I miss this? In most cases, however, there would be no sign to indicate a problem. Children adapt very easily to using just one eye, and they have no reference to indicate that something may be wrong. Children will assume everyone sees as they do—which is true of most vision problems for children—and won’t know when to complain or ask for help. For this reason, it is important for children to have a thorough eye examination. As summer approaches, this is a great time to ensure your child is seeing their best, in each eye, before they start the next school year.



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# The Four Stages of Drought

by Craig Kelly - City of Wylie Information Officer

**D**espite above average rainfall in April and heavy rains to kick off May, the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) has asked member and customer cities, including Wylie, Sachse, Murphy, and special utility districts, to enact Stage 1 of the Water Conservation and Drought Contingency and Emergency Response Plan.

So why the concern about water when the ground is soggy, the lakes are close to full and we still have the typically rainy month of May ...oh...and what are drought stages anyway?

In August 2009, The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department discovered invasive zebra mussels in Sister Grove Creek, a tributary of the East Fork of the Trinity River and used by the NTMWD to transfer water from Lake Texoma. As a result, NTMWD voluntarily ceased pumping raw water supplies from Lake Texoma and has not resumed pumping. The infestation of zebra mussels in Lake Texoma has resulted in a loss of 22.5% of the NTMWD’s total raw water supply and at this time, NTMWD does not have a firm date for the resumption of pumping from Lake Texoma.

“Although zebra mussels are not harmful to humans and do not contaminate the water supply, they do attach to water facilities and pipes that pump water causing increased operating and maintenance costs,” said Jim Parks, NTMWD Executive Director. “Since Lake Texoma represents a quarter of our water supply, we are working with state and federal agencies to minimize zebra mussels from being transferred from Lake Texoma into the Trinity River basin and ultimately southward to the Gulf of Mexico.”

The decrease in water supply prompted the NTMWD to enact Stage 1 for the more than 1.5 million people in 60 cities and special utility districts served by the NTMWD.

The Drought Contingency Plan consists of four stages with the purpose of conserving available water supply in times of drought and emergency; maintaining supplies for domestic water use, sanitation and fire protection; protecting and preserving public health; minimizing adverse impacts of water supply shortages; and minimizing adverse impacts of emergency water supply conditions. Stages of the Drought Contingency Plan are triggered through a detailed set of criteria including lake levels, demand, contamination of water supply, and infrastructure failure effecting delivery. Local public officials enact drought emergency stages at the request of the NTMWD and may tailor the Drought Contingency Plan according to the needs and circumstances of the city.

**Stage 1** is intended to raise public awareness of potential drought or water emergency problems and requests voluntary reduction in water use by public and wholesale customers. Cities

are also asked to intensify leak detection and repair efforts. The goal for water use reduction under Stage 1 is a two percent reduction in the amount of water produced by NTMWD.

**Stage 2** calls for a five percent reduction in the amount of water produced by NTMWD. In addition to Stage 1 voluntary measures, mandatory requirements include limits on landscape watering to two days per week; time of day watering restrictions; a halt on non-essential city government water use; and the prohibition of planting of cool season grasses.

The **Stage 3** water reduction goal is at least ten percent. Stage 1 and Stage 2 restrictions remain in place with additional prohibitions including hosing paved areas, building or windows; operation of ornamental fountains; refilling of swimming pools except to replace normal water loss. Stage 3 limits landscape watering to once every seven days and cities may initiate a rate surcharge for water use over a predetermined amount.

When a drought reaches **Stage 4** the goal for water reduction is “whatever it takes”. Additional prohibitions include the irrigation of new landscaping; washing of vehicles; watering of commercial and residential landscape (except foundations and trees); the permitting of new, private pools; and the initiation of a rate surcharge over normal rates.

Please remember the Drought Contingency Plan was developed by the NTMWD as a guide to help member and customer cities develop a plan of action in the event of a drought or other water emergency. Check your city or special utility district website for specific information on drought stages and conservation plans.

Many member and customer cities have also adopted an ongoing Water Conservation Plan according to recommendations by the NTMWD, including the following measures (check your city’s website for specific details):

- Time of day restrictions on lawn irrigation.
- Prohibition of watering of impervious surfaces.
- Prohibition of outdoor watering during precipitation or freeze events.
- Lawn and landscape irrigation limited to twice per week.
- Prohibition of the use of treated water to fill or refill residential, amenity and any other natural or man-made ponds. A pond is considered to be a still body of water with a surface area of 500 square feet or more.
- The use of rain and freeze sensors and/or ET or Smart controllers on irrigation systems.
- When washing a car at home use a hose with a shut-off nozzle.
- Prohibition of watering areas that have been overseeded with cool season grasses such as rye grass or other similar grasses (except for golf courses and public athletic fields).
- Installation of water-saving devices where possible such as aerating shower heads and drip irrigation lines.

For more detailed information on the Water Conservation Plan or Drought Contingency Plan, go to [www.NTMWD.com](http://www.NTMWD.com); or check your city’s website for information on the implementation of the plans. Do your part to conserve this finite resource. Visit [wateriq.org](http://wateriq.org) for tips on how to use water wisely and more efficiently. •

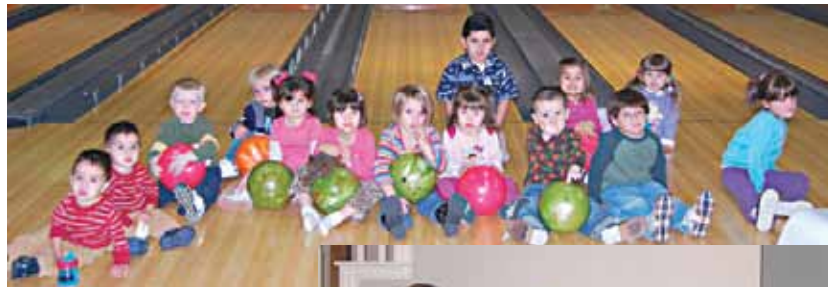




# MOMS Club

Moms Offering Moms Support - for Mom and Child!

By Lori C. Villarreal



dler rendezvous for inside fun include a scheduled play group in a friend's home, local malls' play areas, lunch dates at McDonald's and Chick-Fil-A, play time at Chuck E. Cheese or Amazing Jake's, bumper bowling, inflatable bounce house venues, or a planned pop-in for ice cream or a yogurt treat. Splash parks and neighborhood pools are a favorite summertime hang-out regardless of age. Early day jaunts to the park and outdoor picnics also allow for kid-wiggle time while moms can remain relatively still to engage in a conversation.



When a new mom finds herself in the early years of parenting she takes a good look around and recognizes that often she's isolated. Well, not exactly stranded on an uninhabited island but perhaps her friends are career-minded like she was or her neighbors, while parents, are rearing school-age kids – not fussing over poop diapers or toddler-proofing their home. Tracey Benney recognized that when she left her financial analyst profession to rear her daughter, "she needed to get plugged back into people". She did not know anyone with an infant and needed to find a way to connect with other moms.

The MOMS Club, MOMS Offering Moms Support, provided a way for Tracey and other local mothers to tap into a support system and find playmates for both themselves and their children. Chapter President of the MOMS Club of Murphy/Sachse, Lauren Steward, shared, "I was a first time mom with a 3 month old. I didn't know anyone else and was nervous at my first visit." She agrees that her first involvement was more about satisfying her needs as a mom and a person but the advantages for her child became so clear. Now, with a five and three year old, they participate in age-specific play groups and engaged in outings with others.

Activities are planned and posted monthly so moms can choose to participate as much or as little as they want. Summer play dates will be hosted in the cool air conditioning as often as they are offered out-of-doors. A few favorite tod-

always hears of a festival or special event. MOMS member since 2006, Alyson Wentz, says she expects her participation in the club will result in, "lasting friendships for me and my child". That seems to be a common sentiment with all the women interviewed.

While the women of MOMS Club keep the youngsters busy with enrichment activities they certainly ensure their own fun. This group has regular MOMS Night Out, a Walking/Jogging group, culinary and other groups to encourage interests.

Interested moms should go to [www.murphysachsemoms-club.com](http://www.murphysachsemoms-club.com) to browse the activity calendar and contact the club for meeting details. Other support groups in the area worth investigating include MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers ([www.mops.org](http://www.mops.org)) and Wylie Moms and More ([www.wyliemomsand-more.org](http://www.wyliemomsand-more.org)). •



Photos provided by MOMS Club.

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# Kids' Summer Bucket List

We asked local kids what they would like to do this summer if they could do anything they wanted. The following are just a few of their fun answers - enjoy!

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Meet panda bears in China.                 | Go sky diving.   | Get all the kids in Wylie to bring all of their Legos to the park and together build a huge pyramid. |
| Create a magic "Whatever" bus.             | Go scuba diving.   |  |
| Go to the "FANCIEST" restaurant in France. | Go parasailing.  | Go to a water park.  |
| Make mud pies.                             | Write a book.  | All the kids get together in Wylie Stadium and have pie fight.                                       |
| Have my birthday in space.                 | See Michael Jackson's house.   | NASA zero gravity chamber.   |
| Dress up my cat.                           | Go on the red carpet and be famous.  | Boeing flight simulator.   |
| Go to Africa.                              | Help Japan.  | Go on a cruise.  |
| Ride on a dolphin.                         | Be on TV.  | Go to a concert(s).  |
| Go to a farm and ride a horse.             | Go to Australia and pet a platypus.  | Swim with stingrays.   |
| Go snorkeling in the Pacific Ocean.        | Rent an R.V. and fill it with all my friends and travel around Texas.  | Drive a lap at a NASCAR racetrack.   |
| Make anything sugar at sugar land!         | Close all the streets in Wylie so that all the kids could use the streets to ride bikes, scooters, and go-karts. | Go to Hawaii.  |
| Meet a movie star.                         | Get my band H2O into the American Airlines Center.   | Have band all summer.  |
| Find a dinosaur bone.                      | Buy a Fender Jaguar guitar.  | Go white water rafting.  |
| Swim with sharks.                          | Build a teleportation/time machine device.   | Go rock climbing.  |
| Go to Antarctica.                          |  | Be on the TV show "Top Shot".  |
| Invent cars in space.                      |  | Travel the world.  |
|  |  | Go shopping in Paris.  |

Go skateboarding at Camp Woodward in Pennsylvania to help others get better.

Travel to Russia.

Help cats and dogs.

Go to Australia and hug a koala.

Travel all over the USA!

Thanks kids - we love your ideas!!

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# Pirate Cove Playground in Founders Park

Thanks to volunteers a labor of love is alive and well!

By Anne Hiney - Pirate Cove Playground Project General Coordinator

Volunteer spirit in the Wylie area is truly amazing - and Pirate Cove Playground is living proof of what that kind of volunteer spirit can achieve.

Six years ago, an army of volunteers spent seven days, from sun up to sun down, constructing a playground. Not your ordinary playground with a slide, a couple of swings and a jungle gym - this playground covers a quarter of an acre with all sorts of features that the children of Wylie asked us to include: things like a castle, a tree house, a train, and a rocket.

Volunteers from Wylie High School, the City of Wylie, local churches, PTAs, businesses, service organizations and individuals of all sorts helped with a staggering array of tasks ranging from childcare during the build, feeding the volunteers, tools and materials coordination, to raising a total of \$135,000 for the project. The final construction was the culmination of three years worth of preparation - all made possible by volunteers.

The playground is constructed of Trex (a composite lumber product) and treated lumber which needs a fresh coat of sealer annually to preserve and protect it from the elements. Each spring a maintenance day is held to apply that sealer. Again, volunteers come together to "get 'r done"!

This year we had a new group join us to help with maintenance. Led by Emily Diaz, Wylie's new Kohl's store's "Kohl's Cares" program brought employees from the Wylie and Garland stores out to assist. Not to mention the generous donation that both stores made to our Blackland Prairie Playground Foundation as well. If you have a non-profit organization that benefits children give Emily a call at the Wylie store. They may be able to help your group also.

So here's a huge Thank You to our volunteers. You always hear that it wouldn't be possible without your help - and it's especially true here. The labor of love known as Pirate Cove Playground is alive and well today because of the efforts of volunteers. We couldn't do it without you. THANK YOU!!! •

[www.wylieplaygroundproject.org](http://www.wylieplaygroundproject.org)

Photos by Anne Hiney & Diane Elderbroom



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# Protecting Your Skin

By Cameron Coury, MD

Summer is approaching and, for many of us, it means the time we spend outdoors will increase. According to the American Cancer Society, 2 million cases of skin cancer are diagnosed in the United States each year. “The best way to detect skin cancer is routinely checking your skin for any changes or abnormalities,” says Cameron Coury, MD, an independently practicing board-certified dermatologist on the medical staff at Methodist Richardson Medical Center. “If you detect any changes make an appointment with your dermatologist for a full-body skin cancer screening.” In Texas, where the sun shines throughout the year, it is especially important to take precautions before heading outdoors. Dr. Coury recommends following the advice of the American Academy of Dermatology about how to prevent skin cancer.

1 - Wear sunscreen and lip protection every day. Sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of at least 30 is recommended. Pay attention to the label and make sure it protects against ultraviolet A (UVA) rays and ultraviolet B (UVB) rays (“broad spectrum sunscreen”). The UVB rays are the sun’s burning rays (which are blocked by window glass) and are the primary cause of sunburn. UVA rays (which pass through window glass) are the aging rays and lead to signs of premature aging of the skin such as wrinkling and age spots. Sunscreen should be applied to all skin that is bare when you go outside such as face, ears, hands, neck, etc.

2 - Wear clothes that protect you from UV rays. Try to wear a long-sleeved shirt, pants and a hat when spending time outdoors.

3 - Wear sunglasses that offer UV protection every day. Wear sunglasses that have UVA and UVB protection to prevent melanoma from developing in and around the eyes.

4 - Avoid mid-day sun (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) The sun is the strongest during this time.

5 - Get regular skin exams, starting at the age of 20. If you see anything on your skin that lasts for two weeks or longer and it is growing, changing shape or bleeding or itching, see your dermatologist. The earlier skin cancer is caught and treated, the more likely it can be cured.

6 - Get vitamin D safely. Seek sources other than the sun to obtain vitamin D. A well-balanced diet or vitamin supplements will suffice.



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Skin cancers are broken into two categories- melanomas and nonmelanoma skin cancers, such as basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas. Basal cell carcinoma is the most common form of skin cancer. However, melanoma, while much rarer, carries a greater risk of metastasis and mortality.

Melanomas can be very aggressive and can metastasize to other parts of the body. They can be highly lethal, and they don’t have to be very big. It’s important to know the potential warning signs of melanoma. Also know that melanomas are not always located on highly sun-exposed areas of skin. They can arise anywhere on the body.

Check any mole or lesion on your skin for the ABCDEs and see your physician if your moles have any of the following characteristics. A is for asymmetry. B is for irregular borders. C is for multiple colors. D is for diameter or size greater than 6mm (the size of a pencil eraser). Skin cancers can be any size, but those greater than one-quarter inch in diameter pose increased risk. E stands for lesions that are evolving or changing.

“It’s never too late to begin a comprehensive self-protection plan against skin cancer, even if you’ve spent years in the sun,” says Dr. Coury. “While people with fair skin are more at risk, skin cancer can occur in people of all complexions and racial backgrounds. Hands down, sunscreen and other forms of protection are the keys to preventing skin cancer.” •

*Cameron Coury, MD, an independently practicing physician who is board-certified in dermatology and she practices at Dermatology Specialists, P.A. Dr. Coury completed her residency at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. Dermatology Specialists, P.A. is located at 3005 E Renner Road, Suite 100. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Coury, call 972-699-0000.*

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





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Shane Colley watches Red Byboth putt during the recent Tri-Chamber Golf Tournament.



Melissa Ingram, Eva Hummel, Marcia Coker and Anita Collins teamed up to play.



Photos by Anne Hiney.



# Will Gas Hit \$5 A Gallon?

How about \$6? \$7? When will we see relief?

*Provided by Jal Dennis Group*

**H**ow high will pump prices go this summer? Many analysts think we will pay \$5 a gallon for gas this summer – and some think gas will cost much more than that. On April 20, the AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge Report had regular unleaded averaging more than \$4 per gallon in six states – Hawaii, California, Alaska, Connecticut, Illinois and New York.

Is collusion behind this, or simple economics? While the Justice Department has announced a task force to investigate fraud and manipulation in the oil industry, most economists see this as little more than a public relations move coming out of the Obama administration – the U.S. had no way to control global price pressures on oil in 1979 and it has no way to control the price of the commodity in 2011.

One of the biggest influences on oil and gas prices can be found in your wallet: the U.S. dollar.

Commodities are priced in U.S. dollars on the world market, and we have a weak dollar right now. A feeble dollar means we have to pay more to buy foreign oil. It also means foreign currencies are able to buy more of the commodity for the same amount of money.

If foreign nations take advantage of a weak dollar and buy more oil, you've got rising global demand. When demand rises, oil prices are poised to rise. Since oil prices are set in U.S. dollars, we feel the impact of price spikes in a way that nations using other currencies may not.

Global Hunter Securities economist Richard Hastings attributes about one-third of pump prices to the weak buck. He recently raised eyebrows by stating to CNBC.com that gas could hit \$6.50 a gallon this summer given high demand and the potential impact of "one or two hurricanes".

Emerging markets exert another big influence on oil and gas prices. Tremendous economic growth in China, India and other developing nations means they have a sustained demand for oil and gasoline, and it is not declining. Oil and gasoline prices are also subsidized in some emerging-market nations. This artificially breeds high demand.



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Factor in recent political unrest in some oil-exporting nations, and you have the core reasons for \$4 gas down the street.

One analyst sees potential for a new recession. Craig Johnson, president of the retail forecast firm Customer Growth Partners, just noted to CNBC that consumers are currently spending more than 6% of their income on energy costs. He cites that percentage as a "tipping point", noting that five of the six recessions since 1970 have happened when personal consumption expenditures (PCE) for energy costs surpassed 6%. While rising fuel prices by themselves may not seem like a recession trigger, Johnson also mentioned the simultaneous jump in food prices – they are up 6.5% since the end of 2010. He estimates that consumers now spend about 15% of their incomes on food and energy prices.

What would bring gas prices down? Well, boycotting the gas stations in your region for a day is not likely to do the trick. Relief might appear as follows: high oil prices

often encourage oil producers to increase supply, as they can make even more profit from sustained demand. But that can lead to a glut – too much supply at prices too high, a circumstance in which prices would be poised to pull back. In fact, Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ali Naimi recently commented that the world oil market was oversupplied.

Another factor is our own consumer demand. You are hearing stories about people only driving on weekdays, or foregoing trips or cycling or taking the bus to work. Affirming this phenomenon, March credit card data from MasterCard SpendingPulse showed U.S. retail gasoline expenditures down 2.1% year-over-year.

Tom Kloza, who is chief analyst for the Oil Price Information Service, recently shared his belief on NPR that prices will "correct or ease back a little bit and we'll [see] a driving season where we pay something between \$3.25 and \$3.75 for gasoline" with moderating demand and a slightly less heated commodities market. Let's hope he's right. •

*Jal Dennis may be reached at 972-429-0603 or 205 S. Ballard Avenue in Wylie, TX.*

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