

November/December 2006

The CONNECTION

Wylie • Sachse • Murphy Community Magazine

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Wylie Christmas Tree Lighting

Photo: Mark Witter

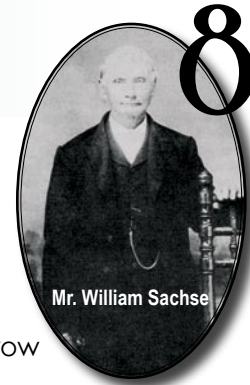
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In January we will begin a contest for readers to find the butterfly hidden in each issue. See if you can locate it in this one just for fun!

The CONNECTION

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Corrections: Last issue we failed to recognize the photos that had been provided by Wylie News (Rodeo Feature Article) and Mark Witter (Trick or Treating Safety Article). Sorry about that!

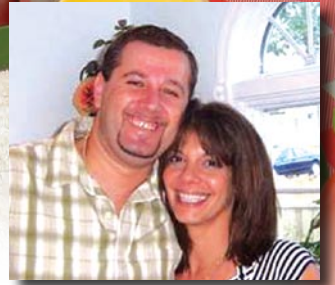


On the Cover: Fall still life arrangement.
Photo: Anne Hiney

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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Napoli's supports many Wylie community organizations, including Dazzlers, Pacesetters, Color Guard, CJHS Sparklers, That Wylie Band and WHS Booster Club, and provides a comfortable meeting location for the Wylie Lions Club, Toastmasters, Chamber of Commerce, and C.A.R.G.O. A Defensive Driving course is also held in the restaurant. Stop in and say hello. The owners would love to meet you.

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'Tis the Season...

A season of tradition

There was a time growing up when the end of Halloween marked the beginning of "the Season". We're not talking about a specific holiday or religious practice, just "the Season". Some might call it fall or autumn, but that really doesn't describe the bigger picture.

Strolling down the street in the crisp night air, Halloween seemed to be when you accepted the weather was finally staying cooler. It could have been the costumes that, both as a child and now as a parent, just didn't seem to be made for chilly weather. (Usually though, no matter how cold you got, you still stayed out for a little more candy.) Or maybe it was during your morning trip out to get the newspaper that you decided you needed to put on your slippers the next time. However it happened, there was a point when you noticed that the weather had changed and "the Season" was here.

Now, the change in the weather (no matter how miniscule), more than a date on the calendar, marks the beginning of "the Season". It seems that after enduring over three months of 95 to 105 degree days, just a drop to 85 to 95 degrees is a welcome change. When it finally drops below 85 it is time to pull out the jeans and sweat shirts because you might need to put them on one morning. On the TV, football highlights from around the country look a little grayer and colder. The state fair comes and goes. You begin to plan vacation schedules, bartering for the extra day or two off, while school kids began to look forward to "Fall and Winter Break". Then things get a little colder and it's getting dark earlier. You've contacted relatives to arrange times to get together, to re-connect, so to speak. Food becomes a very prominent player, with meal planning beginning for feasts you rarely eat the rest of the year. After a while, when you step outside and smell the fires in everyone's fireplace, you know it is "the Season".

It is a time shaped by traditions and giving. It has many names and takes many forms, but it really boils down to those two words. The traditions we create with family and friends bring lasting memories, leading us to share with others and give more of ourselves. Individuals, families, civic organizations, churches and businesses

come together to give to those in need, helping as many as possible to enjoy "the Season". The giving spirit is alive and well in our communities. It is a tradition that connects us all.

The new "Season" has begun in this issue of The Connection. We have featured a few of the traditions that people in Wylie, Sachse and Murphy practice and how different families celebrate their unique "Season". Check out what's going on around town and enjoy the festivities. We also highlight the many area organizations you can get involved with during "the Season" to join the tradition of giving back to your community. If you've not given before, it's a great time to begin. Volunteer your time; donate a toy. The smallest gesture could be huge to someone in need. Imagine the memories you can create that will carry through seasons to come.

We wish each and every one of you a season of health and happiness; a season of peace. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays.

Mike • Anne • Becky

Thanks for time to be together,
turkey, talk, and tangy weather.

For harvest stored away,
home, and hearth, and holiday.

For autumn's frosty art,
and abundance in the heart.

For neighbors, and November,
nice things, new things to remember.

For kitchen, kettles' croon,
kith and kin expected soon.

For sizzles, sights, and sounds,
and something special that's around.

That spells THANKS for joy in living
and a jolly good Thanksgiving.

- Aileen Fisher, All in a Word

I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December
A magical thing
And sweet to remember.
'We are nearer to Spring
Than we were in September,'
I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December.

- Oliver Herford, I Heard a Bird Sing

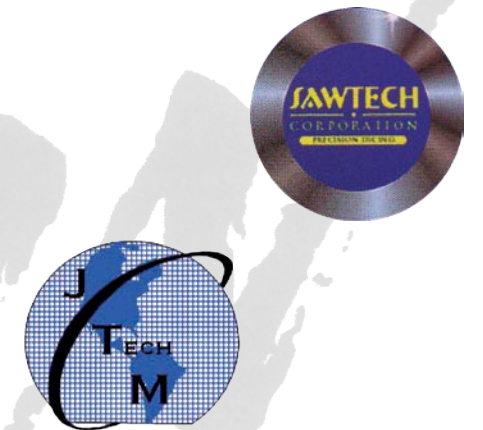
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William Sachse 1820-1899

Sachse

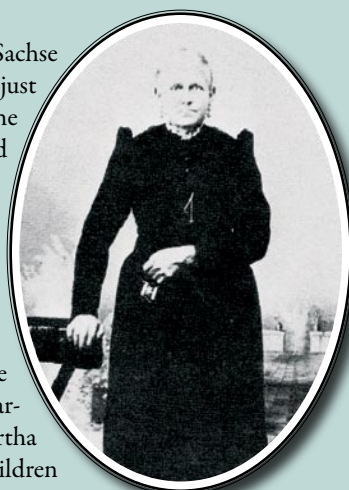
Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

by Jan Doleh of Sachse

Things were fairly wild in the early days of Sachse.

During the 1840s, the fledgling Republic of Texas was in the midst of its ten-year existence as an independent nation. Land that would become Collin and Dallas counties contained dwindling bands of hostile Indians, wild buffalo, wolves, and bears. Despite the hardships and dangers, settlers came from far and near to take land grants and carve new lives out of the vast untamed territory. One of those early pioneers was William Sachse, a young Prussian who came to the United States in 1840.

Twenty-five year old William Sachse arrived in North Texas in 1845, just months before Texas joined the United States. He soon married Elizabeth Straly, a widow in the Peters Colony who had two children. Their marriage produced four children by 1852. That year, Elizabeth was “called away,” according to an article printed in 1889. No additional records have been found to explain her departure. In 1854, Sachse married Martha Ann Frost, and they had ten children between 1856 and 1874.



Martha Ann Frost 1833-1916

When he first arrived in North Texas, Sachse secured 640 acres. Over time, his land holdings increased to more than 5,000 acres of prime land in Collin and Dallas counties. He became a successful farmer, trader, and rancher, participating in many cattle drives to Kansas. He also built one of the county’s first cotton mills and gins, powered by horse and oxen. After the structure burned down in 1869, Sachse rebuilt it, this time as a steam-operated plant.

Life for the early pioneers was physically difficult. “Men and women

had to dig in the dirt to make a living,” said Joe Stone, a Sachse descendant and lifelong resident of this area. “It was an altogether different world.”

In the 1850s, William Sachse built a rock ranch house known as The Lone Elm. With its wrap-around porch and large fireplace, it was an inviting home. His family lived there for forty years.

The Sachse-Herring Connection

Another important settler, Daniel Herring, arrived in 1848. Like William Sachse, he purchased and developed considerable acreage that benefited his own and future generations. In the 1860s, he built an impressive two-story house with lumber hauled in from the Jefferson City sawmill. The house stood until the 1930s. Herring used his acreage for a private vineyard and a tobacco crop, among other uses.



Daniel Herring 1812-1882

Daniel Herring’s and William Sachse’s destinies were permanently entwined not only by the community they founded but also by the marriages among their children. In her book, *Sachse Remembered: 1840-1940*, Mary Allene Jones writes that “five of William Sachse’s children and grandchildren married five of Daniel Herring’s descendants.” Many descendants still live in Sachse today.

The Railroad Brings New Prosperity

In 1886, William Sachse saw the advantages of having the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe Railroad lay its tracks across his land. In return for 100 feet of right-of-way frontage through his property, the railroad agreed to build a station, name it “Sachse,” and give William Sachse a lifetime pass on the rail lines. The railroad also ran through Daniel Herring’s land, although he didn’t live to see it. Herring died in 1882.

Early Sachse reunion, ca 1899, at William Sachse’s 2nd Home.



Sachse’s first post office also opened in 1886. Unfortunately, both the train depot and the post office misspelled the town’s name as “Saxie.” The post office corrected the postmark spelling to “Sachse” in 1892.

By the early 1890s, trains ran daily from the Sachse station to Dallas’ Union Terminal and back. The little community of Sachse, with its population of about 100, was on the map. William Sachse donated more land for a church and cemetery.

Although William Sachse did not live to see much of the growth, the next two decades brought new businesses and technology to the area. By 1914, Sachse had a Western Union station, a schoolhouse, a bank, general stores, and telephone connections.

William Sachse died in 1899 and is buried in the Sachse Cemetery.

Mid-Century Sachse

Growing up in Sachse in the 1930s and 40s, Joe Stone remembers the train depot, the first post office, and the system of mail delivery. “We had ‘The Dinky,’” he said. “It was a diesel passenger train from Dallas to Paris. It had two baggage cars and two passenger cars. Back then, the post office hung its sack of mail on an ‘arm,’ and a postman on the train grabbed it as the train passed by. He’d toss out the sack of incoming mail, if there was any.

“We were a typical small town farming community,” Stone said. “Cotton and onions were the major crops.” His family was also in the dairy business, and the railroad helped them sell their cream in the 1930s and 40s. “My mother, brother, and I milked 30 cows twice a day,” he said. “The train took the cream to Lamar Creamery in Paris, and we’d collect a few dollars.”

Thanks to the efforts of the Sachse Historical Society, much of the history of Sachse has been preserved. Documents and artifacts are on display at the new museum next to the Sachse Cemetery. Visitors will enjoy seeing William Sachse’s Sunday top hat, one of Martha

Sachse’s lace-trimmed dresses, a “chicken catcher,” farm implements, photographs of the founders and old Sachse scenes, and much more. The museum is free and open every Tuesday.

Sachse today and tomorrow

Sachse has grown into a thriving community of approximately 19,000 residents, up from 276 in 1960 and 1,640 in 1980. The city incorporated in 1956 and adopted its Home Rule Charter in 1986. It operates under a council/manager form of government with a Mayor and six city council members.

The appeal of living in Sachse grows out of its small town farming roots. “We have a dynamic suburban community with a rural atmosphere,” said Guy Brown, executive director of the Sachse Economic Development Corporation (SEDC). “New residents are discovering the quality of life they were looking for.”

That quality of life is enhanced by a variety of cultural activities in and around Sachse, including the Sachse Fallfest, an annual arts and crafts country fair that attracts more than 10,000 people annually. The Sachse Parks and Recreation Department offers residents

year-round sports, crafts, and educational seminars. Senior citizens benefit from the many programs offered by the Senior Center, and the Sachse Library contains more than 20,000 books.

Sachse’s future is bright. Upscale residential developments in Sachse’s Woodbridge community and elsewhere will continue to attract new residents. The George Bush Tollway’s planned extension through Sachse, scheduled

for completion in 2011, presents “a prime opportunity to attract a high quality business district,” according to Brown. “We will be able to diversity our tax base so that the entire tax burden does not fall directly upon the local homeowner.” An SEDC study predicts that “the Turnpike will generate \$51,962,000 in direct income for Sachse over the next twenty years.” The Turnpike development will eventually link Hwy 78 and Interstate-30.

This is an exciting time to be living in Sachse. The legacy of thoughtful development initiated by William Sachse, Daniel Herring, and other founders continues today. •



J.K. & Mollie Sachse with Iona Herring in a right hand drive 1910 Maxwell.

All photos are from Sachse Remembered by Mary Allene Jones reprinted with permission of the Sachse Historical Society.

Visit the new Sachse Historical Museum located at 3033 6th Street, behind Smith Funeral Home. Open Tuesdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or by appointment. Go to www.sachsehistoricalsociety.org for more information.

FAMILY TRADITIONS

by Rachel O'Steen of Wylie

— The time we spend together —

Picture the rich and vibrant colors of fall during Thanksgiving week or the frost that comes off of your breath as you stand outside in the cold weather. As area residents prepare to welcome Autumn and Winter, little do they know about the unique customs of the various cultures of other residents; these cultures come together to make the Collin County area diverse and rich in belief.

Alex Njoroge Macharia is a Wylie resident with a Kenyan background. He has a wife and two daughters. Although Mr. Macharia's culture shares many traditions with the American culture, it also has many esoteric and unknown practices. While the majority of this area's residents celebrate Christmas, New Year's Day, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving with their families, so does Mr. Macharia. He also shares common Thanksgiving past times with his family. "[To celebrate Thanksgiving] I eat too much and go watch [the] Cowboys!" Mr. Macharia said.

Christmas is also a major Kenyan holiday. "For me, Christmas is a time of reflection on one's life. I therefore do not exchange or accept gifts because I do not believe that is what Christmas is for," Mr. Macharia said.

His family's genealogy can be traced simply by analyzing the names of his children. "Unlike many other cultures, once someone gets married and has kids, our spouses and children take our middle name as opposed to our last name. For example, my first daughter is called Alexis Wanjiku Njoroge. Njoroge is my middle and last name. My last name is Macharia which is my father's middle name," Mr. Macharia said. "We also name our children's middle name after our parents; [the] father's parents [come] first. For example, Wanjiku for my first daughter's name is my mother's middle name. Esther is the middle name of my second daughter and is also the middle name of my mother-in-law. All this is according to tradition."

Because they are being raised in the United States, Mr. Macharia knows his children will adopt common American beliefs, but he knows he will always stay true to his own heritage. "If anything, I believe that one should be flexible to adapt and accommodate other traditions without necessarily changing his," Mr. Macharia said. "I believe that [those] who change their traditions have lost their true being and cannot reconcile within themselves whom they truly are. But, it all depends on where and when you were raised. For example, my kids will definitely take the American traditions, whereas their mother and I cannot. All we've done is adapt and tolerate it in order to diversify and fit in the community and society."

Family traditions can be special and have different meanings to different people. "I would describe [tradition] as a way of being. It is governed by rules which dictate the way you behave and the way you think from the time you are born and grow into a society. Next to family, it is the next thing which shapes who you are," Mr. Macharia said.

The Collin County area's wide variety of cultures and customs also include numerous backgrounds such as Indian and Hindu. Hindu is another culture that has its similarities and differences from those of the typical American culture. Dinesh Chodavadia is a Murphy resident and is of Hindu ethnicity. Mr. Chodavadia not only celebrates traditional holidays such as Christmas, Thanksgiving and Halloween, but also Diwali, the "Festival of Lights," and Holi, the "Festival of Colours." "I celebrate Christmas the same as any other American would celebrate minus going to the Church," Mr. Chodavadia said. Thanksgiving in the Hindu culture is also similar to Thanksgiving in the American culture. "I celebrate Thanksgiving with the extended family gathering minus the Turkey dinner since we are vegetarians," Mr. Chodavadia said.

Diwali is a special Hindu holiday that commemorates the victory of good over evil. Lamps are lit representing hope for mankind. Fireworks are sometimes associated with this holiday. Holi is another Hindu holiday with a popular spring festival. It takes place over the course of two days during late March or early April. On the first day, a bonfire is lit to indicate the burning of Holika. The second day, called Dhulandi, consists of people throwing colored powder and water at each other. People also invite others to their homes for feasts and additional celebrations.

Hindu people respect their homes and environments. They have many unique traditions because of their beliefs. "Hindu believes that the home you reside in is a temple and as such we do not wear shoes, sandals, etc. while inside the house. We believe that [the] earth provides all [of the] essentials to sustain life and have similar respect as one would have for his/her mother. Thus every morning, I pray to the mother earth and ask for her forgiveness for using her resources carelessly and greedily," Mr. Chodavadia said.

Family is a priority in all faiths. "Family is the main foundation of any being. It therefore plays a very big role in my life," Mr. Macharia said. From Kenyan to Hindu to American cultures, it is believed that family is what transforms people into who they truly are. "I believe that family is more important than I as an individual. I would not be

as successful in my own life as I am today without my family's continuous support," Mr. Chodavadia said.

Sadie Byboth, a resident of Wylie, celebrates many Christian traditions and customs throughout the year, especially during the holidays.

The Byboth family, like many American families, celebrates Christmas and Thanksgiving with large family gatherings. Due to the large size of her family, they have two gatherings; they celebrate with Sadie's mother's side of the family and they have another separate celebration with her father's side of the family.

"I have an enormous family so we celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas separately with both sides of the family. My father's side (the Byboth family) celebrates Thanksgiving a few days before or after the holiday. We also celebrate Christmas the week before," Sadie said. "My mother's side celebrates Thanksgiving the day of, and Christmas on Christmas Eve and Christmas day."

The Byboth family also practices a fun tradition. "We have a white elephant gift exchange," Sadie said. "We all bring a wrapped gift (under \$10), and draw numbers to set the order of gift opening. Number one goes first by choosing and opening a gift. The following numbers can either choose a new gift or steal one already opened. If your gift is stolen you may open a new one or steal someone else's again. And so on. Turns continue until the last number opens a gift or steals one. Brenda Byboth, Sadie's mom, shared that "every year her family has a big argument as they try to recall the rules and the person stuck with the "worst" gift usually gripes about it."

The Byboth family has also started its own personal tradition for the holidays. "On my mom's side we mix nuts with Wheaties cereal to make reindeer food to sprinkle in the front yard. When Santa eats his cookies, the reindeer also have a treat to enjoy." Of course, the reindeer food doesn't just provide a snack for Santa's reindeer. "We believe that this makes the presents better!," Sadie said. •

Rachel O'Steen is a junior at Wylie High School.

Qui

es • o • ter • ic - adj. 1. a. Intended for or understood by only a particular group b. Of or relating to that which is known by a restricted number of people. 2. a. Confined to a small group: esoteric interests. b. Not publicly disclosed; confidential.

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WISD students are giving back at all ages

by Susan Dacus of Wylie

The whole idea of community service -- to give your time, effort and money for the benefit of others and for the health of the larger group -- is a traditional American value often viewed with amazement in other parts of the world. Whether it is PTA moms volunteering at schools or the entire town welcoming hurricane victims, the spirit of service is alive in the Wylie area communities. In the Wylie Independent School District the value of sharing or giving back through community service is interwoven through the curriculum and extracurricular programs for students of all ages. Just as learning about character traits, the value of voting and jury duty, the importance of laws and government, service to the community is an important strand of good citizenship that WISD students follow and practice.

Every year, prior to Thanksgiving, the whole district participates in one large community service project as students and staff members support the Wylie Christian Care Center. Each school holds a collection drive where students bring food or other health/hygiene items. This effort garners several truck loads of goods for families who depend on the Center. While the students collect food items, WISD staff members donate money to be presented on behalf of the district. For this strenuous part of this event, the high school's Air Force JROTC unit provides the muscle to move the food from the schools, to the trucks, then to the shelves at the Center.

"Through our yearly support of the Christian Care Center, the district as a whole has the opportunity to give back to our community and to make a difference for families in need," explained Superintendent H. John Fuller. "Our students experience

worthwhile community service and see how good it feels to work for the welfare of others."

The Peer Assistance Leadership (PALS) program brings high school and junior high students together to serve as mentors and tutors for younger children as well as special needs students from elementary through high school. Besides tutoring in a subject area or assisting with homework, PALS mentors serve as positive and caring role models for younger students. The volunteer experience also gives older students the opportunity and self confidence to help another person achieve academic success.

The Wylie ISD fosters a "pay-it-back" philosophy among its students and organizations. As an example, the high school's National Honor Society spends the school year organizing and completing service projects. The group takes on a new task every six weeks such as blood drives, roadside cleanups, serving as facilitators for College Night and planning custodian appreciation. Many WHS students worked construction on the community built Pirate Cove Playground. The Davis Intermediate School student body focuses on giving back to the community. During the last school year they raised money for Hurricane Katrina victims, collected baby items for Buckner's Children's Home, gathered board games for Scottish Rite Hospital, volunteered at the MDA walk-a-thon and dedicated their field day to raise money for the American Diabetes Association among other causes.

Eager, enthusiastic and enterprising volunteers, Wylie ISD students are making a difference every day in a whole range of causes and concerns. Our community is a better place because of it. •



WHS Pacesetters read to students during Dodd's annual Reading Night.

Photo: Diane Elderbrook



Dodd Elementary students collecting food.

Photo: Diane Elderbrook



WHS students volunteer at the elementary schools.

Photo: Diane Elderbrook



WHS-ROTC helps build Pirate Cove Playground.

Photo: Diane Elderbrook



Davis Intermediate students serve meals at the Dallas Life Foundation.

Photo: Angie Peters



Proudly supporting our local charities.

Founded by the Wylie Ministerial Alliance, the Wylie Christian Care Center helps those who are down on their luck. They provide temporary help with food, clothes, prescriptions, rent, utilities, school supplies and household items. The Center receives no government assistance and is run by volunteer workers. The Center is supported by local churches, businesses, schools, civic organizations and individuals. The Center is always in need of canned meats, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, fruit and tomato products. In addition, the Center accepts monetary donations and hosts various fundraisers throughout the year. To donate food, contact the Christian Care Center at (972)442-4341.



Designed to assist families in the Wylie community during the holiday season, Reach for a Star is an outreach program sponsored by the City of Wylie and supported by the WISD, community churches, and local businesses and organizations. Through the combined efforts of these community organizations and volunteers, the program brings smiles to children and families by providing new clothes and toys. The City of Wylie works in partnership with the Wylie Christian Care Center. While Reach for a Star provides toys and clothing, Christian Care will provide families in need with food. www.ci.wylie.tx.us/Programs/ReachForAStar

Equest provides therapeutic sports riding classes and hippotherapy to over 200 clients every week. After being the first therapeutic riding program in Texas founded in 1981, we have become one of the largest non-profit therapeutic riding center in the state. We serve children and adults with all types of physical, mental and emotional disabilities. (972) 412-1099 www.equest.org



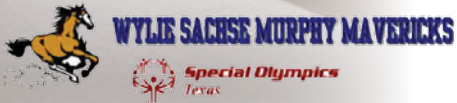
Every day children victimized by abuse find their way to Collin County Children's Advocacy Center. When they arrive, they find caring professionals and volunteers who dedicate themselves to helping children through the nightmare of abuse. Families find support and resources. And most important, children and their families together find a place where healing begins. Collin County Children's Advocacy Center takes action to identify, protect, and improve the lives of abused and neglected children. (972)633-6600 www.cacplano.org

The Wylie Meals on Wheels program provides home delivered lunches to qualified senior citizens who are 60 years of age and older and live within the Wylie city limits or Wylie ISD boundaries. Eligibility is not based on income. Applications are accepted by telephone with a brief home visit for staff evaluation to determine eligibility. Meals on Wheels of Wylie is not a governmental agency and depends solely on the generosity of donors. Meal participants are encouraged to donate to the cost of their meals. Cash, money order or check should be made payable to Meals On Wheels, PO Box 368, Wylie 75098. To sign up for the Meals on Wheels program, to donate or to volunteer, call (972)442-2498 or (972)824-0001. www.wylietexas.gov/MealsOnWheels



Wylie ISD
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The mission of Special Olympics Texas is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for people eight years of age and older with intellectual disabilities [mental retardation], giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. www.sotx.org



In-Sync Exotics Wildlife Rescue & Educational Center, located in Wylie, is a non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue of exotic felines. We are home to over 30 exotic cats that have been rescued from abusive or neglectful situations or from owners who could no longer care for them. So as not to contribute to the overpopulation of captive felines, we do not buy, sell, trade or breed our cats. We just provide them with a safe, nurturing home for the remainder of their lives. We are open to the public Saturdays and Sundays, 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.. Cost is a requested donation of \$10/adult, \$7/child. Children 5 and under are free. We also offer educational tours at group rates by appointment. All donations, including admission fee, are tax deductible. 972-442-6888 www.insyncexotics.com

The mission of the BPPF is to create safe and accessible outdoor environments that foster imaginative play and developmental learning for the children of Wylie and the neighboring communities while uniting and strengthening our community by utilizing volunteer labor and locally obtained materials in the Community-Built Process. Since successfully completing the construction of Pirate Cove Playground in Founders Park, located behind Wylie High School, our efforts now focus on assisting the City of Wylie with the long term care of the playground. www.wylieplaygroundproject.org



Going On Around Town

Monthly

Wylie Lions Club meets the second and fourth 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 us for lunch. (972)771-5551

MOMS Club of Wylie, a non-profit, non-religious affiliated, support group for stay at home moms, meets the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m., at the Brown Street Baptist Fellowship. For more information, please contact: Grady Sisco, Membership VP at (972)941-8597 or Kris Sands, President at (214)236-4037.

MOMS Club of Murphy/Sachse is a non-profit support group for at-home moms providing monthly meetings and activities for moms and their children. Activities include monthly meetings with guest speakers, playgroups, park days, MOMS Night Out, field trips and more fun stuff. They also participate in service projects to benefit children in the community. Contact Jennifer at 972-578-9317 or thebergmanfamily@hotmail.com for meeting times.

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

InSync 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, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (972)442-6888

Sachse Historical Society meets the third Saturday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Sachse Historical Museum, 3033 6th St. in Sachse. Museum is open for visitors Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and by appointment. (972)495-1231.

Wylie Holiday Parade of Lights



Photo: Mark Witter

November

November 3-4 - 21st Annual Craft Bazaar at St. Jude's Catholic Church, 1515 N. Greenville Ave., Allen, TX. Call (972)727-1177 for info.

November 4 - Equest's 3rd Annual The Moon & The Stars Charity Gala: Western Legends of the Silver Screen is the theme of the evening which will include dinner, live and silent auctions, Ketel One martini bar and casino. 6:30 p.m. at the InterContinental Hotel, 15201 Dallas Parkway, Addison, TX 75001. Tickets are \$150 per person, with all proceeds from the evening benefitting Equest. Call Diana Morrison for details at (972)412-1099.

November 5 - The 14th Annual Teddy Bear Bike Run benefiting children served by Collin County Children's Advocacy Center. Bring a brand new Teddy Bear (or make a \$10 donation) and join hundreds of riders as they caravan from McKinney High School (parking lot on Wilson Creek Parkway, behind movie theater on Highway 75) to Collin County Children's Advocacy Center (2205 Los Rios Boulevard, southwest corner of Park and Los Rios Blvd. in Plano) Call (972)633-6600 for more info. www.cacplano.org/TeddyBearRide.htm

November 7 - Election Day • GO VOTE! •

November 6 - Wylie Preparatory Academy University-Model School Information Meeting. Anyone interested in enrolling their children in Wylie Prep must attend this meeting prior to submitting application. (972)442-1388, www.wylieprep.com.

November 11 - Veteran's Day

November 11 - Hillcrest Nursing and Rehabilitation invite you to become part of our 1st annual Veteran's Day Chili Cook-off. Festivities will go on all day and the chili cook-off will begin at 11:00 a.m. The days events will include honoring of our Veterans, children's activities, raffles and door prizes. Entry is open to all individuals and businesses in the Wylie area. Chili Cook-off entry fee is \$20.00. Entry fee and all profits will benefit the Hillcrest activity fund for Christmas. Trophies will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Call (972)442-3553 for entry info.

November 11 - 9th Annual Church Bazaar & Yard Sale at First United Methodist Church, 1520 Blackburn Rd. in Sachse. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call (972)530-1005 for details.

November 14 - Christian Care Can Drive Golf Tournament at Woodbridge Golf Course, 7400 Country Club Dr. Call (972)429-5100 for registration info.

November 15 - America Recycles Day • Reduce, Re-use, Recycle and Re-buy!

November 18 - GUNS & HOSES Boxing Tournament at the Resistol Rodeo Arena in Mesquite, 7:00 PM. The GUNS and HOSES Foundation raises funds to benefit the youth of our community, to provide monetary support to families of fallen fire and police officers and to donate designated funds to named charities of the fire and police boxing tournament participants. Go to www.gunandhosesboxing.com for more info.

November 18-19 - Plano Christmas Crafts Fair at the Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano.

November 19-25 - National Family Week.

November 20-24 - Fall Break WISD

November 22-24 - Thanksgiving Holiday GISD and PISD

November 23 - Thanksgiving Day

December

December 2 - City of Wylie Holiday Parade of Lights and Christmas Tree Lighting. Contact the Wylie Chamber of Commerce for parade entry details by calling (972)442-2804.

December 3 - Lakeside Civic Chorus Christmas Concert at 4:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Rockwall Texas. This year's program entitled, "Love Came Down at Christmas" will feature the chorus, brass choir, organ, timpani and soloists under the direction of Mr. David Bush, Artistic Director/Conductor of the chorus, accompanied by Mr. Ken Frerichs. For ticket information, contributions, or more information, visit our web site at: www.lakesidecivicchorus.org or call (972)772-0832.

December 5 - Sachse's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at Sachse Chamber of Commerce. Contact the City of Sachse for details at (972) 495-1212.

December 5 - Reach for a Star Golf Tournament at Woodbridge Golf Course, 7400 Country Club Dr., Wylie (972)429-5100.

December 7 - Pearl Harbor Day

December 9 - City of Murphy Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration presented by the Murphy Chamber of Commerce, the City of Murphy and the Exchange Club of Murphy. Details at www.murphytx.org.

December 16 - Hanukkah

December 18 - January 1, 2007 - WISD Winter Holiday

December 22 - January 3, 2007 - PISD Winter Holiday

December 22 - January 8, 2007 - GISD Winter Holiday

December 17 - Plano Symphony Orchestra presents: Home for the Holidays with Laurie Gayle Stephenson at 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., St. Andrew United Methodist Church. Hector Guzman and the Plano Symphony Orchestra bring you a new program sure to delight the entire family. Enjoy a musical version of "Scrooge" as the famed character takes you on a journey of musical Christmas's past, present and future. The performance also features Broadway star Laurie Gayle Stephenson, soprano, who has performed in Phantom, The Secret Garden and others. Enjoy one of Broadway's leading ladies in a joyous holiday celebration. For more info visit www.planosymphony.org.

December 25 - Christmas

December 26-January 1 - Kwanzaa

I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round, as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys.

~Charles Dickens

It's a Date. . . . Send it In!

To submit your special event to the January/February community calendar send an e-mail to theconnection.anne@mac.com no later than Dec. 1st. 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.

Giving Back to the Community


A few opportunities to make a difference

by Mark Witter of Wylie

For many, the holiday season is a time of family, friends and fellowship. It provides us the opportunity to reflect on what blessings we have. For others, the holidays may represent a more somber time. Due to hardship or misfortune, some families may not have much to celebrate. Winston Churchill once said that “we make a life by what we give.” So, if you are in a position to give this holiday season, we encourage you to take the opportunity to give back to your community and help those who might be less fortunate.

Here are some community-organized holiday programs that provide the opportunity to give back.

Wylie Christian Care Center

 Founded by the Wylie Ministerial Alliance, the Wylie Christian Care Center helps those who are down on their luck. They provide temporary help with food, clothes, prescriptions, rent, utilities, school supplies and household items. The Center receives no government assistance and is run by volunteer workers. The Center is supported by local churches, businesses, schools, civic organizations and individuals.

For Christmas, the Center provides food baskets for families who are in need. Traditionally, local grocery stores provide turkeys and hens for the baskets; and the Center utilizes donated goods to supplement the food baskets. The Center is always in need of canned meats, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, fruit and tomato products. In addition, the Center accepts monetary donations and hosts various fundraisers throughout the year.

Wylie Christian Care Center, 606 S. Ballard, Wylie (972)442-4341

Reach for a Star

Designed to assist families in the Wylie community during the holiday season, Reach for a Star is an outreach program sponsored by the City of Wylie and supported by the WISD, community churches, local businesses and organizations. Through the combined efforts of these community organizations and volunteers, the program brings smiles to children and families by providing new clothes and toys.

For individuals who would like to adopt a star, there are several Star Trees placed throughout the community, including city facilities and local businesses. Stars are available for adoption from November 15 through December 8. All Stars should be returned to the City of Wylie by December 8. City of Wylie – Reach for a Star www.wylietexas.gov/Programs/ReachForAStar



Toys for Tots

The mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and

December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community in which the campaign is conducted. One of the Toys for Tots national sponsor is the UPS Store, who will sell commemorative Toys for Tots donation cards for \$1 each from November 1 through December 23. The UPS Store has a local store in Murphy at 120 E FM 544 #72.

In addition, the Murphy Chamber of Commerce and Exchange Club of Murphy plan to coordinate a food and toy drive during the holiday season.

Murphy Chamber - www.murphychamber.org

Exchange Club of Murphy - www.exchangeclubofmurphytexas.org

Salvation Army – Angel Tree

The Salvation Army’s Angel Tree program provides new clothing and toys for children of needy families. A sponsoring company or corporation places a Christmas tree in a secure, high-pedestrian traffic area or lobby. The tree is decorated with numbered



paper angel tags with the first name, age and gender of a child who will receive the gift. Contributors remove one or more tags from the tree and purchase appropriate gifts for the child or children described on the tags.


First Bank of Sachse, in partnership with the Sachse Fraternal Order of Police and Sachse Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors, will serve as home for a local Angel Tree. Angel tags will be available for selection beginning November 13 toys; toys will be due by December 8. First Bank, 6600 Murphy Rd, Sachse Phone: (972)530.7999

Sachse Chamber of Commerce www.sachsechamber.com

Volunteer Center of North Texas

The Volunteer Center of North Texas has played matchmaker to thousands of non-profit organizations needing assistance and countless volunteers anxious to help them. The Volunteer Center of North Texas lists numerous donating and volunteering opportunities for the North Texas area.

Volunteer Center of North Texas
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www.volunteernorthtexas.org •



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Teach Kids to Save

Start good financial habits early

from Jal Dennis and Edward Jones Investment

Bad habits are hard to break. But good habits also tend to stick around for a long time. And that's why you will want to teach young children about the importance of saving and investing. It's almost never too early to start — and your efforts can provide a lifetime of benefits.

By the time most children reach age 5, they have more than enough cognitive skills to understand the basics of saving money. Of course, the older they get, the better equipped they will be to handle more sophisticated concepts of investing.

In any case, when your children are young, start them on the right financial path by taking these steps:

Set attainable goals.

Kids will be more motivated to save money if they can see themselves achieving goals. And that's why you don't want to burden them too soon by trying to get them to save for a long-term objective such as college. Such a goal may well be appropriate — and even desirable — when your children are a bit older, but when they are quite young, have them put money into a simple savings account for things like toys, video games, CDs, etc. By putting away money regularly and seeing how their efforts are rewarded, children will learn something about financial discipline and delayed gratification — and they're likely to be more appreciative of their possessions.

Reward their efforts.

To help children learn to save and invest, you may want to offer a helping hand. Specifically, consider partially "matching" your children's savings account deposits. If you were to put in a quarter or 50 cents for every dollar they deposit, their savings would have an opportunity to grow faster, and they would believe they are getting "bonus" payments.

Make investing fun.

Try to get your children involved in picking and following a stock for fun. If your children are interested in athletic shoes, for example, take a "research trip" to the nearest sporting goods store and study which shoes seem to be the most popular. Also, ask your children what types of shoes their friends are wearing. If your children are old enough, you may want to go over annual reports and other financial information about the stock, but don't get too bogged down with numbers, especially if you see their eyes glaze over. Do, however, follow the stock's price and discuss the factors that may or may not be causing this price to rise or fall.

Stress the long-term nature of investing.

Teach your children that a stock is not the same as a bank account and that stocks should not be used for impulse purchases or to meet short-term goals. You might want to share with them some of your brokerage statements that show how many years you've owned some of your stocks.

By following these suggestions, you can help your kids develop good savings and investment habits. In other words, you'll be giving them a gift that can make a big difference in their lives. •

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When it comes to eating, you can sometimes help yourself more by helping yourself to less.
- Richard Armour

Healthy Holiday Eating

Helpful hints for the season of consuming too much

by Sandhya Reddy of Richardson

Don't dread the holidays just because you're watching your waistline! The holidays are a time to celebrate with family and friends, not to avoid them because you're worried that the festive cuisine may add a few pounds. Your traditions between Thanksgiving and the New Year don't have to include that extra weight gain! Following a few simple tips for healthy eating will give you another reason to rejoice this holiday season.

1. Plan on NOT dieting after the New Year.

Anticipation of food restriction sets you up for binge-type eating over the holidays. Besides, restrictive diets don't work in the long run. They increase your loss of lean body mass vs. fat, make weight re-gain more likely, slow down your metabolism and increase anxiety, depression, food preoccupation and binge eating.

2. Eat a light snack before going to holiday parties.

It is not a good idea to arrive at a party famished. Not only are you more likely to overeat, but you are also less likely to resist



the temptation of eating the higher-fat and higher-calorie foods. Try eating a piece of fruit, a small carton of yogurt or a string cheese before you go.

3. Take steps to avoid recreational eating.

While some foods are more calorie-dense than others, no food will make you gain weight unless you eat too much of it. At parties and holiday dinners, we tend to eat (or keep eating) beyond our body's physical hunger simply because food is there and eating is a "social thing." To avoid recreational eating, consciously make one plate of the foods you really want. Eat it slowly, enjoying and savoring every tasty bite. Then, when you're done, pop a mint or stick of gum in your mouth, get a tall glass of water and sip on it throughout the night, or position yourself away from the buffet table or

food trays to keep yourself from overeating.

4. Reduce the fat in holiday recipes.

There are plenty of low-fat and low-calorie substitutes that are amazingly tasty. Try using applesauce in place of oil in your favorite holiday breads; use egg substitutes in place of whole eggs; try plain nonfat yogurt in place of sour cream. Magazines are full of reduced-calorie and reduced-fat holiday recipes. Give them a try, and share your cooking creations with friends and family.

5. Choose your beverages wisely.

Alcohol is high in calories. Liquors, sweet wines and sweet mixed drinks contain 150-450 calories per glass. By contrast, water and diet sodas are calorie-free. If you choose to drink, select light wines and beers, and use non-alcoholic mixers such as water and diet soda. Limit your intake to 1 or 2 alcoholic drinks per occasion. And, watch out for calories in soda, fruit punch and eggnog as well. •

Sandhya Reddy, a registered and licensed dietitian, is the director of food and nutritional services at Richardson Regional Medical Center.



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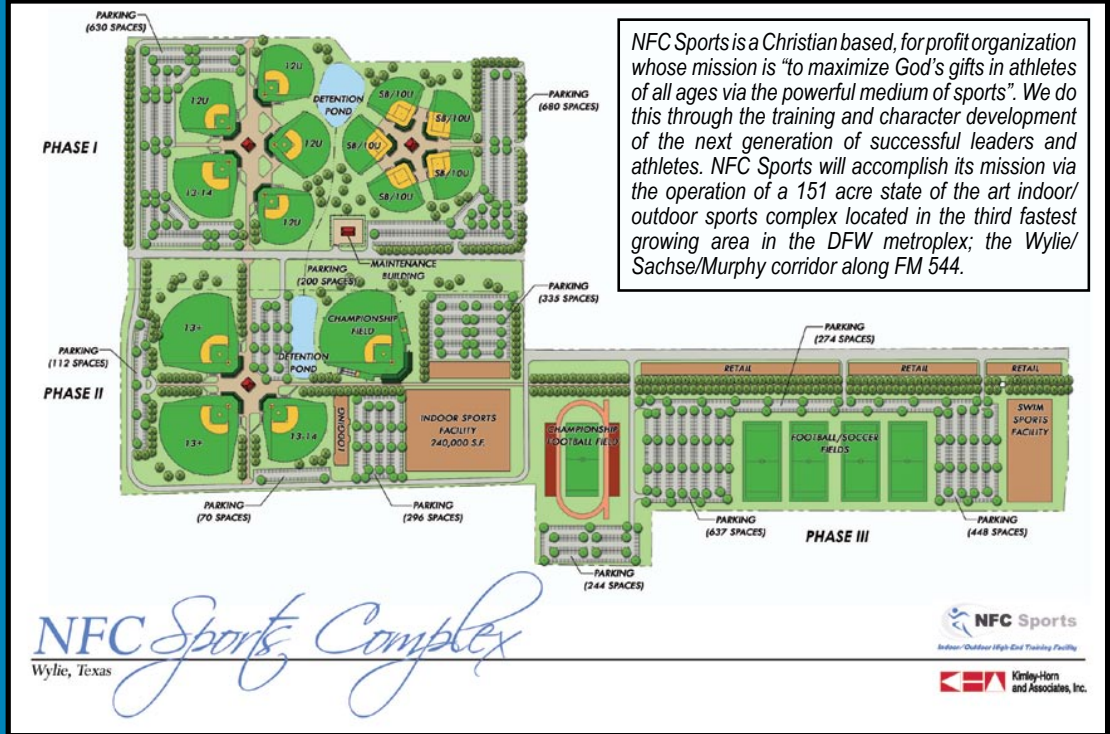
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To Upgrade or Not To Upgrade

The question to ponder when building a new home

by Lonnie Long of Murphy

Many folks moving to North Texas are purchasing a new construction home from national home builders like Pulte, Drees and D.R. Horton, just to name a few. I'm frequently asked, "What items should I upgrade during the construction of my new home and what items should I plan to do myself, with a little help from the staff at Home Depot." This is a great question, but not an easy one to answer. Your goals should be to have a home that is beautiful, functional, affordable and will have great resale value.

I recommend you consider the financial implications of your decision. If you allow the home builder to upgrade your home, prior to taking possession, you'll be able to roll in most, if not all of the costs associated into the final sales price of the home. If you choose to 'Tim-the-tool-man-Taylor' the project, you'll probably need to pay cash, use credit or secure financing through a home improvement warehouse. This decision alone could change the entire scope of your new home purchase.

Most families choose to do a combination of upgrades from the home builder and the do-it-yourself projects. One of the most frequent and costly upgrades is flooring. Here's a little known secret; most builders

are up-charging the flooring by as much as 500%. Do you really want to finance \$25,000 worth of wood or ceramic for a \$5,000 - \$8,000 job? My opinion; let the builder only complete the flooring in the rooms you'll use most often, like the kitchen – because it's too difficult and expensive of a project for the typical family, and don't forget, you'll be living in the home during the



Photo: Anne Hiney

Corian products are not designed for hotter temperatures and are also pretty expensive. Another little known secret: a kitchen island will add more value to a home than almost any choice of counter top.

I recently purchased a book entitled: 101 Cost-Effective Ways to Increase the Value of Your Home, by Steve Berges. Although this book is written primarily for the homeowners who are attempting to add value to their home through home improvement projects, I recommend it to anyone thinking about a new construction home, (and no, I don't get a cut of the book sales!)

Finally, when making decisions about your new construction home, keep in mind the lasting effects of your decisions and the long-term resale value of the property. Strongly consider the following: curb appeal and the front entry (first impressions really do last forever), kitchen island and functionality, the size of the pantry and laundry rooms, the quality and conveniences in the master bathroom, and most importantly, the overall livability of the floor plan. Future families will need to imagine themselves living in your new home one day, just as you are using your imagination today. •

Lonnie Long is the owner of Prime Source Mortgage in Murphy.



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