

Your Wylie • Sachse • Murphy Community Magazine

The CONNECTION

September/October 2011



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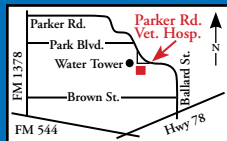
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INTRODUCING DR. NATHAN MUAINA

Dr. Nathan Muaina received his Doctorate of Dental Medicine from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio after completing his undergraduate degree at Brigham Young University, where he studied Spanish.

Upon completion of his predoctoral education, Dr. Muaina continued his training by completing an Advanced Education in General Dentistry residency at the University of Texas, School of Dentistry in Houston. During his residency, he received advanced training in implant dentistry, full mouth reconstructions and is also certified in the Invisalign procedure. Dr. Muaina maintains associations in many national and local organizations such as the American Dental Association, the Academy of General Dentistry, and the Texas Dental Association.

When not in the office, Dr. Muaina loves to spend time with his wife Bridgette and their two boys Devin and Ty. He is an avid sports fan and enjoys reading, fishing, traveling, and going to the movies. He is an active member in his church and community.



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Dr. Cheryl Potter, MD

OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY

Dr. Cheryl Potter has been in the same location on Rowlett Road for 15 years. She received her undergraduate and medical degree from the University of Kansas and completed her residency at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

She believes exceptional care is provided to patients through listening to patients' concerns, reviewing their options and making a plan together with the patient.

She is married, has two children and enjoys spending time with her family.

Amy Hantes, NP joined Dr. Potter in 2001. She received her undergraduate degree from Baylor University and completed her master's degree and nurse practitioner degree from Texas Woman's University in Dallas. Ms. Hantes provides comprehensive care to women from adolescence through menopause. She focuses on providing care to her patients in an environment where they feel unrushed, thoroughly listened to, and well informed.



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On The Cover



Photo by Katsi Santamaria.

Grandmaster Jose Santamaria Jr., Master Jose Santamaria III,
Zachary Brooklyn Santamaria & Caleb Jose Santamaria

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Photo by Anne Hiney.

Wylie Championship Rodeo

From us to you.....

It's our Birthday (please hum Beatles song here)!!

They say for men, the closest thing to giving birth is passing a kidney stone. Apparently "they" never tried to start a magazine from scratch!

Six years ago an idea germinated in our minds to do something that was geared toward the many families that were moving into the area. We were looking for something that would "connect" everyone to the people and events that go on in Murphy, Sachse and Wylie. From that, we hoped they would get more invested in their community and take advantage of what the area had to offer.

The idea of "The CONNECTION" was born.



FIRST COVER

The butterfly made its debut in September 2006 as "The CONNECTION" was delivered to 24,000 homes in Wylie, Sachse and Murphy, with 24 pages of local information. The initial Editorial Page referred to "connecting the dots" of information from each town to give the reader a picture of an area that was both growing and vibrant, while recognizing the people who got us here.

The first issue had two features: A story on the Wylie Chamber Rodeo that September and an interview with Mrs. Rita Smith, looking at Wylie - Then and Now. Our current issue again features the Rodeo with the addition of the Country Fair in Olde City Park, taking place on Friday & Saturday, September 16 & 17.

Sadly, last month we said goodbye to Miss Rita. She will be missed, but forever memorialized in that first issue as one of the people that helped put us on the map. We are better for knowing her.

In the five years since, we have put the spotlight on the people, pets, places, businesses and events that make our little corner of Collin County a special place to live and raise a family. The magazine has grown to almost double in size and now includes the City of Lavon in it's distribution. We continue to strive to give someone who just moved into the area a snapshot of all the things they can see and do in a ten-mile radius.

A quick thank you to our Editorial Board, the writers who bring the stories to life and the advertisers who see value in our publication. Most importantly, thanks to all who go to the mailbox and make "The CONNECTION" something they read every two months.

Oh, and the butterfly? It has followed us through all five-years (with the exception of one issue - Anne?) hidden somewhere in the magazine for you to find. Just a hint-the one above is NOT the one you are looking for this issue!

We hope we are still "connecting the dots" for you. Please let us know if there are any "dots" that we've missed.

Mike - Becky - Anne

The CONNECTION

Your Wylie • Sachse • Murphy Community Magazine

A Wylie Chamber of Commerce Publication

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

The CONNECTION is published bimonthly by the Wylie Chamber of Commerce. It is mailed free of charge to over 31,000 households in the Wylie/Sachse/Murphy/Lavon area and more than 1,000 copies are distributed to local businesses. Contents of this magazine may not be reproduced without written permission from the publisher. Advertisers and advertising agencies assume liability for content of all advertisements. Information published in The CONNECTION is the opinion of the sourced authors. The Wylie Chamber of Commerce does not necessarily share the editorial opinions expressed in The Connection magazine. Personal decisions regarding health, finance and other matters should be made after consultation with the reader's professional advisors.

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 if you couldn't find the butterfly you weren't alone! It was accidentally deleted. Many apologies!! This issue we have included it several times - see how many you can find!

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. Story ideas are always welcome and appreciated. Thanks for "Connecting" with us!

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JOSE SANTAMARIA

Allow me introduce myself...my name is Jose M. Santamaria Jr. I am the owner of Jose Santamaria's Karate & Kickboxing. I come from a military background. While my dad was in the army we were stationed at Ft. Hood in Killeen, Texas. It was there I went to school, graduating in 1969 from Killeen High School.

Taekwondo Grandmaster Jhoon Rhee, who was not only my teacher, but also my friend and mentor, inspired me to get started in 1966. I originally established Jose Santamaria's Karate and Kickboxing in Killeen, ultimately moving to Austin where I opened seven locations. After Austin I opened my first North Texas location in Garland. Our second North Texas school officially opened in Wylie on June 1st, 2011 and the response to this location has been "Super"! We teach adult kickboxing and family martial arts in addition to a program for pre-kindergartners. It is the ultimate way to build confidence, self-esteem, develop self-discipline, self-control and athletic skills, while having lots of fun!

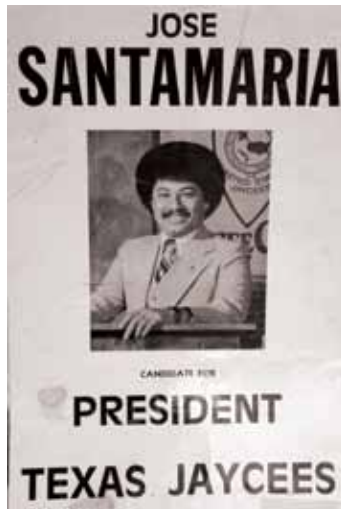
Although my professional career has touched on many areas, my passion has always been to work with people who want to improve their health and fitness. Our goal is to help people get in shape while learning self-defense and, above all else, empowerment. At our school we teach children behavior modification, life skills and character education through martial arts. We place a strong emphasis on self-discipline believing that we 'do things that we need to do when we don't necessarily want to do them'.

I am a people person, a "Pied Piper", says my lovely bride and best friend of 40 years, Sharon. Together we were blessed with two children – our beautiful daughter Karron and handsome son Jose III. Jose and his wife, Katsi, have added more enjoyment to our lives with two grandsons, Caleb Jose, who is four and Zachary Brooklyn, who is nine months. Outside of family, my involvement in the community has always been important. I originally joined the chamber in Killeen to network, but soon found out there was much more to it than developing busi-



ness connections. In order to serve the community I eventually became president of the Killeen Junior Chamber (Jaycees) in 1975 and again in 1977. While involved with Jaycees, I helped them grow from 79 members when I joined, to over 300.

In an effort to continue to positively impact the community, I helped start crime stoppers in Killeen, serving as the Chairman/President. We participated in raising funds for the program by putting on events such as a carnival. Some of the best memories for my wife and me are donating our time to local organizations. We have participated in events such as the Labor Day Rest Stop, an underprivileged children's shopping tour, the Jr. Miss Pageant, serving on the Board of Directors for the Boys Club as well as the local scholarship committee. Additionally I was the president and founder of the Amateur Organization of Karate (AOK) as well as the national Black Belt League (NBL) Texas state chapter.



My family and I came to Wylie nearly four months ago and I remember driving into the downtown area. I met two wonderful "old-timers" who welcomed me with a very cheerful attitude and instantly made me feel right at home. Because of my past experience working with Chambers of Commerce, I inquired where the chamber office was located. They directed me to the Wylie Chamber where I was able to meet the staff. It was there that I was invited to attend the weekly business card exchange. Little did I know that this would start the next chapter in my life. Upon attending the meeting the next day I not only met a great bunch of people who welcomed me with open arms, But to my surprise I met a former Killeen resident; It was almost like I had never left home! I was later invited to attend the Murphy business card exchange as well as the Sachse chamber luncheon. I soon found myself attending a Ribbon Cutting in downtown Wylie and before you know it I had surrounded myself with community minded folks like me who want to serve the community and have fun helping others.

Business cannot begin with one person alone. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people for signing up themselves and their families as charter members of the Academy, which has helped lay the foundation for my success here in Wylie. My daughter-in-law, Katsi Santamaria, Photography by Katsi; Belinda Hockett, Majestic Ballroom and Dance Center; Dallas Jones, Jones Professional Group; Amy Lankford, Signs Now Plano; Allen Krom, ACD Learning Solutions; Sony Dao, Sony Dao's Lawn and Landscaping and Donna Brooks, Herbalife. Over the years I can attribute my business success to three things I try to live by and I ask of my members; 1) Join, 2) Begin a project and learn with heart, 3) Share it with others.

Call today to schedule your first appointment and get started in the fun. Jose Santamaria's Karate and Kickboxing may be reached at 972-918-9994. You can find us on the web at www.StartKarate.com or www.GarlandKickboxing.com. You can also "Like" us on Facebook at Santamaria's Karate and Kickboxing Wylie. We hope to help you improve your life soon! •



Photography by Katsi



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Wylie, TX

www.StartKarate.com



By Moriah Walton

Of Angels and Rocket Science...

How one couple changes the lives of hospitalized children

Photo by Anne Hiney.

As long as humanity has existed, cultures have tried to describe what angels look like. If you asked the people of ancient India, they would tell of invisible beings that live at the center of stars. If you asked most Americans today, they would probably describe harpists that float over the clouds sporting halos and guarding clumsy people from falling down the stairs. But if you asked the young patients of Children's Medical Center Dallas, you would hear something entirely different. Angels, they would tell you, look exactly like Dr. Kenneth and Cecilia Christopherson.

In spite of Dr. Christopherson being an honest-to-goodness rocket scientist, the couple never lived in a star. They make their home on a perfectly ordinary street in Sachse. They don't wear sparkly gold rings around their head, they don't have pearly gates, and they never go flying down Highway 78 with feathery wings and white robes. All the same, with their dollhouses and infinite generosity, they have been viewed as angelic by countless children and their families.

Yes, dollhouses. But not ordinary ones. Each Christopherson dollhouse is intricately and painstakingly handmade, and every single one is unique. Over the years, various individuals have offered Dr.

Christopherson thousands of dollars for just one of the ornately detailed works of art that he and his wife design, construct, and decorate from their home. Most people would jump at the chance, but the Christophersons are not most people. Instead of reaping the potentially lucrative benefits, the couple take their masterpieces and donate them to the playrooms of the often critically, sometimes terminally, ill children at Children's Medical Center.

The Christophersons had a history of goodwill and altruism long before they ever started building dollhouses. Every Christmas, they would make angels and send them to retirement centers. They constantly gave books and toys to the children of friends and neighbors. When Cecilia was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2008, she told Kenneth, "[I want] to get my mind off of myself." She immediately began quilting, and would present new mothers with handmade quilts. Their current philanthropy came when Dr. Christopherson, with his two doctorates and many degrees, put his engineering mind to an unusual project: making two dollhouses.

"I built some years ago for two nieces," he explained in an interview. It was a labor of love for the family-centered couple, but it was not going to stop there.

They soon found that they had a real knack for creating the houses, and what was supposed to be a one-time project soon blossomed into a hobby. "I like building things," the physicist shrugged with a grin.

"He's such a perfectionist!" Cecilia exclaimed of Kenneth. She then described the meticulous attention to detail of her husband, who was extremely attuned to what his little nieces did and did not want in a dollhouse. His motto is, she declared, "'Little girls love bling and color'. And he just has such an eye for it!" She could say this with utmost authority, because while Dr. Christopherson often chose the color scheme, she was generally in charge of the actual painting of the houses and their tiny pieces of furniture, most of which the two also made themselves.

As their hobby continued, they gained more expertise. Dr. Christopherson could look at a picture of a dollhouse in a magazine and replicate, even better the design he saw. However, when the day came that the Christophersons realized that they would not stop building any time soon, they had to ask themselves the inevitable question. Dr. Christopherson shook his head and asked, "Now, what am I going to do with all of these?"

The decision to donate their works to the children who needed them the most



was perfectly natural for the two philanthropists. Because they had spent time in hospitals while Cecilia battled breast cancer, they understood all the more how special it would be for the little girls at Children's. They especially wanted to give them the chance to escape the often painful world of medical treatment and "just be little girls" for a while.

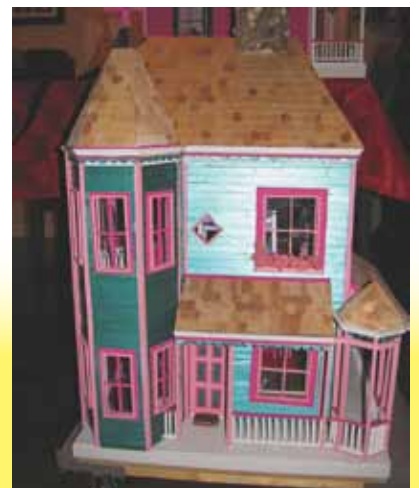
The Christophersons blatantly refuse to sell their dollhouses. "That's one little girl that won't get one", they explained. However, building them is by no means cheap. They make most of the furniture themselves, but always include a store-bought gumball machine and Tiffany lamp as a sort of signature. A typical house costs about \$250 to build without donations, and even with generous deals from places like Lowe's and Michael's, they generally make do with highly innovative uses of everyday items. Wrapping paper becomes wallpaper, rhinestones become doorknobs, plastic bakery containers become windowpanes. In spite of the cost, the two plan on building and donating the houses for many years to come.

The Christophersons regularly receive letters of thanks from the Children's staff. These are always heartfelt, and the stories they tell are remarkable. One letter told the touching account of a 7-year-old girl who was too ill to leave her hospital room to play. The staff placed one of the Christopherson houses in her room for her "therapeutic" use. Her ability to cope with her illness changed "dramatically", according to Child Life Department Supervisor Amy Garcia, and her mother was so grateful to see her child "come back".

Another little girl had been hospitalized at Children's for over 100 days. Every single day, she had visited the playroom and played with the dollhouse. She was sad to leave it when she was finally discharged. The day that she left, she was shocked and thrilled to find the dollhouse in the back of her car. Staff members literally cried tears of joy at her excited disbelief that she actually got to keep the toy that had helped her through her long stay.

The consensus remains. When the Christophersons donate, they don't just give dollhouses: they give hope. And that is what angels look like. •

If you would like to donate funds or materials to the Christophersons' efforts, please contact them at (214) 549-2810. They also welcome assistance with painting the furnishings!



Doll house photos provided by the Christophersons.

The CONNECTION

Wylie • Sachse • Murphy Community Magazine

HAPPY 5TH ANNIVERSARY TO US!

A little more than five years ago, the president of the Wylie Chamber of Commerce, Mike Agnew, saw an exciting opportunity for the communities of Wylie, Sachse and Murphy. These small cities, bordered by Rockwall/Rowlett, Garland and Plano, form a unique “geographic horseshoe” that isn’t covered by the larger cities’ community magazines.

“A void existed,” Agnew said. “We needed a way to connect our communities by sharing information about local events. Newcomers want to know what their city offers. And since a lot of people are commuters, who leave early for work and return home late, they don’t know what activities, services, and businesses are available close to home. Ideas started bubbling through and the result was *The Connection* magazine.”

Published bi-monthly by the Wylie Chamber of Commerce, *The Connection* celebrates its fifth anniversary with this issue. It has almost doubled in size in five years, growing from 24 pages to 40 – and soon it may max out at 48 pages. The three people responsible for its longevity and quality – Agnew, advertising director Becky Lindstrom, and art director/graphic designer Anne Hiney, tackled the task of producing a new magazine with the energy needed to give birth.

“We put the first issue together in three and a half weeks,” Lindstrom said. “We really worked hard. Holding that first issue in our hands was a very proud moment. It’s a little bit like raising a child, and now we have a maturing product that reflects well on our community.”

The magazine not only showcases unique individuals and businesses in our area, it also provides a detailed calendar of community events and timely articles on everything from financial tips for women to keeping kids safe in a high-tech world.

“*The Connection* is fulfilling its purpose of being that gateway to the community you live in,” Agnew said. “When someone new picks up the magazine for the first time, they will find something interesting that can get them involved.”

The magazine is delivered to approximately 32,000 households in Wylie, Sachse, Murphy, and Lavon. It’s also a great avenue for local advertisers to reach their target market.

“We’ve had several advertisers with us from the first issue,” Lindstrom said. “They’ve made a significant investment over the years because they get excellent results.”

One long-time advertiser, Mo Jallad, owner of Mogio’s Gourmet Pizza in Murphy, has seen those results. “I’ve been

HELLO!

from the new kid on the block

WYLIE THEN AND NOW
WYLIE CHAMPIONSHIP RODEO
WATER WISE LANDSCAPING

advertising in *The Connection* since the first issue and have gotten very good response,” he said. “I like everything about the magazine because of its great quality. It has brought me many repeat customers. We ask our new customers how they heard about us. Often they bring in the ad.”

Dr. Beth Anderson, owner of Wylie Eye Center, started running ads when her business opened in 2010. “The impact is huge,” she said. “The ads generate lots of phone calls. Plus the magazine helps me communicate what’s new in my business. It would be harder to do that any other way.” She noted that working with *The Connection*’s staff is a pleasure. “Becky and Anne are phenomenal, always ready to take whatever photos are needed or meet us anywhere.”

Tiry Williams, owner of Williams Lawns, agrees. “I’ve known Becky and Anne a long time,” he said. “Anne is very creative, and Becky is a real go-getter. Anne does a great job with ad design. I got callers immediately after my first ad, even though March was not an ideal time to start advertising a lawn care company.”

When Wylie Oral Surgery appeared on the magazine’s cover, they had eighteen new clients within two weeks. And recently, local book binder Joseph York stopped by the magazine’s offices to say thank you. He was featured in an article that resulted in eight new clients within 24 hours of the magazine’s distribution.

“We’ve found a unique way to approach our readership,” Lindstrom said. “The articles are a quick read and are stories people want to know about. We’re able to provide informa-

tion about community events and bring to the surface what you have at your fingertips right here in your neighborhood."

A great example of how *The Connection* actually connects readers and advertisers in a positive way is in this story Anne Hiney told:

"After an assembly at my son's elementary school, one of his friends came up to me holding the magazine and was so excited to show me that he had recognized my name with one of the photographs I had taken. It was really sweet of him, but what excited me more was to see that his mom had cut out all the coupons to use! It was great to know that our readers were benefitting and our advertisers would see some return on their investment."

Over the years, certain themes have become popular enough to repeat in the magazine. "The animal issue is huge," Agnew said. It always showcases local pet owners and their cats, dogs, birds, or other unique pets.

One creature appears in every issue, inspired by the very first cover of *The Connection*. It pictured a butterfly, so the staff



Thanks to photographer Sharon Brannick for taking our photo!

hides a small butterfly in all issues, challenging readers to find it just for fun.

Besides bringing citizens and business owners together to form a closer-knit community, another benefit of *The Connection* is its economic impact. "The magazine gives you the information needed for you to have a fun family night out, for example," Agnew said. "You stay in town and spend your dollars here. That circulates back to the community in the form of lower property taxes and better city services. It's a circle of benefits for everyone."

The success of *The Connection* has given the Wylie Chamber staff the skills to expand into more publishing ventures, including the Chamber Directory and the new *Steals and Deals* coupon book distributed throughout Wylie, Sachse, Murphy and Lavon.

How will the staff celebrate *The Connection's* fifth anniversary?

"I don't know that we have time to celebrate," Lindstrom laughed. "Maybe there will be a silent pause followed by a loud 'WOO HOO!' Then we'll need to get back to work on the next issue." •

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by Brenda Byboth

SEPTEMBER 16TH & 17TH WELCOME to the WYLIE WEEKEND

WYLIE CHAMPIONSHIP RODEO AND COUNTRY FAIR



A COWBOY is not a cowboy without a rodeo; a rodeo is not a rodeo without a cowboy and Wylie would just not be Wylie without the Wylie Championship Rodeo!

The Wylie Championship Rodeo will be held September 16th & 17th. Chamber President Mike Agnew, Rodeo Chairman Red Byboth and Rodeo Producer Wes Ward have teamed up to put on this annual Rodeo for nearly 8 years.

The rodeo changed from the Ranch Rodeo style to the United Pro Rodeo Association (UPRA) 8 years ago, and expanded to 2 nights. "It has truly been a labor of love (emphasis on the labor) putting on the Rodeo these past 7 years and what you will see in September is a testament to the work that people like Marvin & Malisa Fuller, Brent Bates, Henry & Roz Garland and John Mondy put into this event over the last 18 years. We have a great committee who keep coming back for more, carry the load and do

the work needed to keep the Rodeo improving every year and it could not be done without their efforts" stressed Agnew.

As Rodeo Producer, Wes Ward provides the rough stock for the Rodeo. This includes the bulls, broncs, calves for roping and the sheep. Wes assists with rounding up the cowboys for the event, as well as rodeo officials and even the rodeo clowns. Byboth says Wes has worked so well with the Chamber all these years. "He's just a heck of a guy"!

Byboth says that rodeo fans wanted to see the rough stock, especially bull riding. Red and Mike work with Wes to incorporate other events that make this rodeo so special by adding local flavor, such as the team sorting and the very popular Mutton Bustin' contest with local children riding some very ornery sheep. This year, our local Trinity Trail Club will present an exciting riding exhibition on Friday night.

Byboth believes that the Wylie

Championship Rodeo is one of the very best around. Having compared notes at a lot of rodeos throughout the country, what makes this rodeo so great is the overall encompassing events that most rodeos don't have. The Wylie Championship Rodeo has a large vendor area and great fan accommodations, such as the Kiddie Corral. The VIP area is a special treat for the rodeo sponsors and their guests! This rodeo welcomes the competing cowboys with an area just for them and their trailers.

Byboth says that as the cities of Wylie, Sachse and Murphy continue to grow, events with this down-home, country flavor are more and more important. Nearly 20 years ago, the Wylie Championship Rodeo began as a community event and it continues to be one today.

Mike encourages everyone in the community to come out and join in the fun, and even participate in the Grand Entry if you have a horse!

"Like the town, the Rodeo has grown to become a great place to take the entire family for not just rodeo action, but a full evening of family fun. The kids' games, concessions and Western shopping opportunities make it something for everyone right here in our backyard."

This year on Saturday, Sept. 17th, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. the Wylie is H.O.P.E.'s Country Fair is accompanying the Championship Rodeo. Held at Wylie's Old City Park, this fair will have something for everyone.

With a stated goal of Helping Other People Every day, Wylie is HOPE enriches the community by promoting community service and volunteering.

Martha Wolf, Co-Chair of this year's Country Fair, says Wylie is HOPE seeks to "be an organization who lends a hand anywhere it's needed. We do not want to focus on just one or two groups or projects but whoever is in need of help any time, any day in any of the surrounding communities".

Proceeds from this Fair will benefit the annual Back to School Fair, scholarships for WISD students and teachers, as well as other non-profits such as Coventry, the Christian Care Center and more. With so much at stake, Martha acknowledges it can be a challenge. "Yes, it's a challenge and sometimes stressful, but at the end of each event, that "thank you" and the smiles of those you help is all that matters."

Helping other people every day and having fun will go hand-in-hand at this year's Country Fair! On Saturday, September 17, 2011, vendors and events will fill Old City Park in Wylie! Many fun events are sponsored by area non-profits, businesses and wellness groups.

If you enjoy cars, come see the Car Show, at the First Baptist Church - Wylie parking lot from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., sponsored by the Dallas Mopar Club. Do you have a good lookin' little buckaroo or gal? The Women's League of Wylie is sponsoring the Little Miss & Mister Rodeo Wylie.

The East Fork Masonic Lodge is sponsoring a Carter Bloodcare blood drive. Try out the Trinity Trail Obstacle Ride or the Character Balloon Booth, sponsored by the Wylie Lion's Club. Don't forget to stop by the Creative Memories booth for craft tutorials all day.

Talent will be on display with a few other events. For the first year, three competitions will be held to judge the best in a Photography, Scrapbooking and Culinary Arts Competition. The winners will be announced and displayed on Saturday.

As if fun wasn't reason enough to get out and visit the Country Fair, Martha invites you to come visit, shop and perhaps find that perfect match for your volunteer time! •



18th Annual Wylie Championship Rodeo

Friday, September 16th &
Saturday, September 17th, 2011
6:30 p.m. Both Nights

(Rainout Dates: October 21st & 22nd)

Wylie Rodeo Arena - Birmingham Ag Complex
Behind Wylie High School

TICKETS:

ADULTS: \$10

CHILDREN (12 & under) & SENIORS: \$5

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(Contact Chamber For Details)

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For vendor forms and details contact the Chamber
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www.wyliechamber.org

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Saturday, September 17th, 2011

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Olde City Park, Wylie

Featuring:

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Fair Competitions:

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Fun and Games for the Kids and

Entertainment for Everyone

For more info. contact

Ms. Candi Arrington at Carrington@instaff.com

Also Featuring:

Little Mr. & Miss Wylie Rodeo Competition 10 a.m.

Presented by the Wylie Women's League

For registration info. contact

Ms. Cathy Hanson at Dencat.hanson@yahoo.com

Car Show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Presented by the Dallas MOPAR Club

For details contact

Mr. Robert Vaughan: Rev383@yahoo.com

Equestrian Obstacle Competition

Sponsored by The Trinity Trail Preservation Association

at East Fork Trailhead in Wylie

Registration opens at 8:30 a.m.

Competition begins at 10 a.m.

For details and sign-up info.

go to www.trinitytrailriders.org

MyWyFi

Wylie ISD to Offer Instruction "In the Cloud"

by Marcia Coker

More than 220 Wylie ISD educators flocked to Wylie East High School this summer to participate in a professional development conference unlike any they had attended before. Armed with laptops, smart phones and iPads, attendees powered up, rather than down, in hopes of gleaning new understanding on how to enhance student learning in a technology-driven, multi-device world.

The first annual To the Cloud! Conference was created by the Wylie ISD's Staff Development Department to implement the instructional stage of the district's MyWyFi program. Beginning on August 22, 2011, Wylie ISD students Grades 5-12 will be allowed and are encouraged to bring their own Internet enabled devices to school with the intent they be used to enhance their educational experience. Students in Grades PK-4 will also have the opportunity to engage in multi-device activities but will be advised by a letter from the campus on what days to bring their devices.

MyWyFi actually began more than a year ago when WISD committed to begin building the infrastructure needed to "open up" the network to allow students access to the Internet during school hours.

"The technology department has invested endless hours in deploying wireless connections in most of its buildings," said Chief Information Officer Chris Lamb. "But it means nothing unless you teach others how to use it."

So Wylie ISD went To the Cloud! The one-day conference provided a wide variety of classes ranging from the familiar applications including Facebook, Twitter and Google Apps to the not-so-well-known. Teachers were also introduced to Voki, Skype, Lync, Prezi, Edmodo, QR Codes and Web 2.0 tools. They worked with SMART boards, Google maps, video conferencing and social media all while building lesson plans that integrate what they learned into their classroom's curricula.



Instructors walking through the steps of creating a Prezi.



Brian Mull of November Learning welcoming teachers to the To the Cloud! Conference

What is most fascinating about this evolution in teaching is that most of the technology applications and tools presented at the conference are not new to the students. In fact, when school lets out each day, kids will likely power up, go online or login and plug into the global world of information, update their Facebook status, text their friends or view any tweets they may have received while in classes. Many students are blogging with their classmates to collaborate on homework, visiting tutoring

web sites or "Googling" subject matter for research and completing assignments.

"A key objective in engaging today's learners is to make HOW they learn just as significant as WHAT they learn," said Superintendent Dr. David Vinson. "Therefore, we as educators need to venture into their multi-device world and provide lesson plans that allow them to be adventurous, but appropriate and safe."

The conference's keynote speaker, Brian Mull from November Learning, couldn't agree more. "It's not the technology itself, but the way we use it that is daunting," said Mr. Mull. "More importantly, we can either be afraid of it or embrace it."

November Learning is a national consulting firm focused on building learning communities within public education by providing comprehensive workshops, programs and resources to

~ continued on page 18

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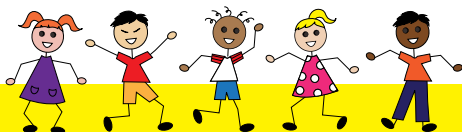
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schools that are eager to transcend the traditional approaches to educating and motivating life-long learners. Through collaboration and strategic planning, it creates global partnerships that challenge schools and districts to think beyond the classroom.

Mr. Mull guided the teachers through several web sites and showed them where the students are currently going. Students use sites including ChaCha, Khan Academy and Wolfram Alpha to get the quick answers or “cheats” to their assignments, often ignoring the accuracy of the information. Some math sites will not only provide the answers, but they will show the steps in the calculations.

“The only thing students are learning by doing this is where to go to find the answers,” added Mr. Mull. “But by knowing this and changing our teaching strategies, we can foster an environment that helps expand the boundaries of learning and promotes critical thinking.”

Evidence of alternative instructional strategies can already be found on the World-Wide Web. If you visit Student News Action Network or Mathtrain.TV, you would see examples of innovative classroom strategies that are now global phenomena. The Student News Action Network started out as an online school



Students working “In the Cloud”.

newspaper. Today, it is a global news site, receiving endorsements from international journalists. Mathtrain.TV is also a student-created site where students are teaching other students how to do math problems via videos. It, too, evolved out of a classroom in Santa Monica, CA and is now a “go-to” favorite among kids.

“That is what I envision for my classroom,” said Cara Covington, Harrison Intermediate Math Instructor. “Having online tools allows me the freedom to customize my instruction for all my students. If I have a student who understands the math concept, I can send him or her to resources where the applications are more challenging. Conversely, a student who needs more reinforcement can use practice sites, work sheets or other traditional tools until he or she has mastered the concept.”

Students and parents can also access a teacher’s instruction and required homework from home. MyWyFi allows parents to create a login to Google Apps and access to the program from personal computers; a feature that parents, like Diane Neel, especially like.

“It is nice to know my third grader will have access to this tool and can use it until we decide what device and when is most appropriate for her,” said Mrs. Neel.

Wylie ISD highly encourages its parents to assess the individual educational needs of their students BEFORE purchasing a device. More importantly, personal technology is NOT a requirement. The district classroom computers and media labs are available to parents and students who chose not to use their own devices.

“We view this as an opportunity for your child to expand his/her level of interest in learning which requires a significant partnership with parents,” said Watkins Principal Jennifer Speicher. “Ultimately, the goals are to inspire our children, increase student achievement and equip them for life in the 21st century.” •

TIPS FOR PARENTS

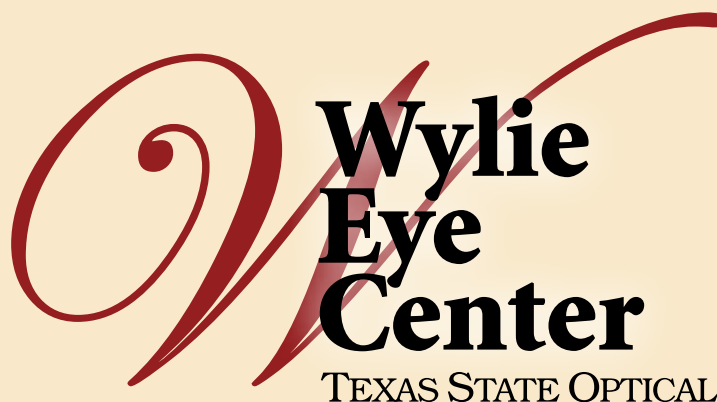
- Parents of students in Grades K-4 will be notified by letter when to bring a device to school. Students in Grades 5-12 began bringing devices daily on August 22.
- Know your child’s learning tendencies. Bringing a device to school IS NOT a requirement, it’s just another instructional tool.
- If you are interested, go to the district’s web site and carefully review the MyWyFi program overview including the recommended devices and software applications.
- Select a grade-level appropriate device for your student (No, he/she doesn’t have to have an iPad!)
- Purchase insurance for the device.
- REGISTER the device.
- Have your student log in to Google Apps BEFORE bringing his/her device to school.
- Whether you choose to have your student participates or not, you and your student should create logins to Google Apps from your home computer or through any computer available at the campuses. He/she will have access to all the lessons and resources and so will you!



Smart Board instructor Jacque Cope



Dr. Beth Anderson



What STRESS Can Do To Our Eyes

We all know that over time stress can take a toll on our psychological and physical well being, but not everyone realizes stress can also impact the health of our eyes. Some eye conditions, such as myokymia, HSV keratitis, and central serous retinopathy, are commonly attributed to increased levels of daily stress and the inability to cope with it.

Myokymia is the medical term for the involuntary twitching in the eyelid we all experience from time to time. This annoying twitch typically results from stress, anxiety, fatigue, dry eye, or allergies. Excessive caffeine intake may also contribute to this condition. In most cases, myokymia is an inconvenience, but of no medical concern. It will typically wax and wane over weeks to months. Over the counter artificial tears and rest usually remedy the condition. In very severe cases a botox injection may be used to stop the twitching.



Certain viral conditions of the eye can be associated with stress as well. One specific virus that can cause a serious eye infection is the same one associated with cold sores. Decreased immune system or excessive wind or UV exposure can also trigger the condition. Most people are carriers of this viral strain, although few will develop symptoms. It causes tearing, sensitivity to light, blurred vision, redness, and can be quite painful. Without immediate and proper treatment, permanent eye damage may result. Interestingly, we saw an uptick in the occurrence of this virus in late 2008, it is possible this could be correlated to the downturn in the stock market.

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Central serous retinopathy results from fluid accumulation in the macula—the most central and important part of our retina, which is responsible for our most distinct vision. Typically, this causes distorted and blurred sight, though some people actually see a dark spot or smudge in their vision. It is not known why this disease occurs, but stress is thought to play a significant

role. Central serous retinopathy usually resolves spontaneously over weeks to several months and may be treated with a laser to speed recovery in recalcitrant cases.

As we put the relaxing summer months behind us, it's time to pay attention to our stress levels. The children are back to school (or off for the first time!), the days are shorter, and the holidays and end-of-year crunch are right around the corner. Listen to your body and manage your stress. We can treat eye disease and symptoms, but if your body prescribes a vacation, well, you might do well to listen. Wylie Eye Center, TSO is a full-service eye care center located in Historic Downtown Wylie. Call us at 972-429-9090 to schedule your appointment. Open Monday – Friday and every first and third Saturday of each month.

Have a wonderful school year to all our children back to school!

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ARIMAA Anyone?

Murphy resident creates award winning strategy game

by LaDawn Fletcher

Never heard of the game Arimaa? Omar Syed of Murphy expects that to change. The game he created for his then 4 year-old son, Amir, as an alternative to chess, has garnered the attention, admiration and affection of gamers.

Syed was not looking to create the next strategy game. Like many great ideas, it just evolved. Using the same board and pieces in a chess set, he changed the rules of how each piece could move across the board, allowing all pieces to move the same way except for the "pawn" (called rabbits in Arimaa) which can move every direction except backwards. The simplified movements make the game easier to learn, while preserving strategic elements that make the game fun and interesting. Because of the way Arimaa is structured, there are more than 20,000 moves that can be made.

Fritz Juhnke was so enamored with the game, he wrote a book about it, "Beginning Arimaa: Chess Reborn Beyond Computer Comprehension."

"The central thrust of my book is that what makes chess a great game, Arimaa has that too. In my humble opinion, Arimaa has more of it," says Juhnke. "The chess players who actually try it like it." For Juhnke, and others aficionados, the most important part of the game is that it is fun, not just challenging.

Making it fun was actually hard work. Syed spent a couple of years, developing, refining and field testing the game. "I was very much a perfectionist in wanting the rules to be consistent," says Syed. "Eventually I realized that I had to allow exceptions to the rules to keep the game moving forward. I wanted the game to feel interesting and fun to play."

When Arimaa was launched on a gaming site, more players offered their insight and experience with the game. As more people played, Arimaa moved up in rank on the site and eventually caught the eye of Z-man Games, the company that now publishes the Arimaa game. In 2010, Games Magazine named Arimaa "Best of the Year".

Because so many moves are possible with Arimaa compared to chess, which only has about 30 possibilities, Syed, a computer engineer by profession, realized another interesting thing about his creation: computers would have a difficult time beating human players. Inspired by the famous 1997 chess match where the IBM computer Deep Blue beat chess champion Garry Kasparov, Syed has offered a \$10,000 award to the programmer who develops software that allows computers to beat human players by 2020.

In October and November, the best Arimaa playing computer programs play each other and the best human players play each other. In April, the best of each face-off in the Arimaa challenge where the programmers hope to capture the prize. Since 2004, humans have continued to prevail. Next spring, thousands will watch on-line to see if this is the year that a computer program wins. Technological advances have continually nar-



Amir & Omar Syed



rowed the gap between humans and machines for this game, but uniquely human traits that allow us to adapt and adjust are what make Arimaa enjoyable.

The Arimaa board game is available on the Arimaa website (www.arimaa.com) as well as sites like Amazon.com. There is also an app available on iTunes. •

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Shop fees in the amount of 6% of labor charges will be added
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represent costs and profits. Shop fees not applicable in CA or NY.

Expires
10/31/11

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Most vehicles. Save off regular price.



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be used to reduce outstanding debt. No cash value.
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Shop fees in the amount of 6% of labor charges will be added
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Cooking, pet and smoking odors are the worst offenders. The absolute most difficult to mitigate is a home that has been smoked in. Thankfully, we are seeing more and more smokers take it outside the home. However, a few are still smoking in the house and last time I checked, the garage is still part of the house! Just this weekend, I was showing a young couple a home in Sachse that was pretty cute until we hit the garage. The house was vacant but the stale cigarette smell was, well, WOW! Let's just say that I needed to wash my hair after that house and it was marked off their list. So what to do if you have smoked in your home? Ozone generators, fire remediation companies, removing all fabrics, repainting and duct cleaning are about your only choices and all are expensive.

Pet odors come in as second "most offensive." More and more people are hypersensitive to pet odors and allergens. I recommend that while your home is on the market, the pets need to visit grandparents or a friend's home. Don't forget to remove all of the pet paraphernalia for all showings. I can't tell you how often, we walk into a perfectly lovely home with no odors, until someone trips over a cat toy. Suddenly, there is a pet odor. When it comes right down to it, perception is reality. If your pets have been naughty on the carpet, do not hesitate to replace or at least sanitize before marketing begins.

Cooking odors are very manageable. No liver & onions while on the market! If you traditionally use lots of spices, try to vent well and possibly invest in a filtration system.

Using these suggestions can really help your home make a positive impression on buyers!



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SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Sept. 17th - Parker Volunteer Fire Department Annual Fundraiser at Southfork Ranch. 5 - 10 p.m. Buffet Dinner, Live and Silent Auctions, Children's Activities, Ewing Mansion Tours, and Casino Games. The PVFD would like to expand their Advanced Life Support capabilities - Rapid access to Advanced Life Support (ALS) can save lives! Equipment desired: LIFEPAK 15 Defibrillator \$30K, ALS Medical Kit \$5K. The annual fundraiser will help fund this equipment. Tickets may be purchased by mail, at Parker City Hall or through the City's online website www.parkertexas.us. Contact Jennifer Knox at Jennifernknox01@gmail.com or 561-702-5877 for more info.

Sept. 16th & 17th - Wylie Championship Rodeo presented by the Wylie Chamber of Commerce. Fun, food, games, shopping and great rodeo action for the whole family! See pg. 14 & 15 for all the details. www.wyliechamber.org

Sept. 17th - Wylie is H.O.P.E. Country Craft & Vendor Fair in Olde City Park, Downtown Wylie. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. See pg. 14 & 15 for all the details. www.wyliechamber.org

Sept. 24th - The Plano Symphony Orchestra presents "The Virtuoso Piano" Opening Night concert at the Eisemann Center at 8:15 p.m. The evening concert is a celebration of Franz Liszt's 200th birthday featuring an all Liszt program, including two piano concertos. Liszt's virtuoso Piano Concerto No. 1 and Piano Concerto No. 2 will be performed by Norman Krieger at The Eisemann Center for Performing Arts at 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson, TX 75082. Advanced tickets start at \$8; add \$2 at the door. Group & student rates available. To order, call the Plano Symphony Orchestra Ticket Office at 972-473-7262 or visit www.planosymphony.org.

Sept. 24th - Murphy Maize Days at the Murphy Municipal Complex from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Fun Run, Car Show, Shopping, Food & Music. See pg. 26 for more info.

Sept. 27th - Special Friends Of The Sachse Library Program - Three local authors will be featured at the Friends of the Library's Inspired Writing program. Mary DeMuth, Richard Mabry and Anne Mateer will be at the Library from 7 - 9 p.m. They will present excerpts from their latest books and talk about their inspiration for writing. Books will be available for purchase and you may have them autographed by the authors.

OCTOBER EVENTS

Oct. 1st thru Jan. 29th - 6th Annual Dinosaurs Live! Life-size Animatronic Dinosaurs - Encounter the 46-foot T-Rex and eight new life-size animatronic dinosaurs along the Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary's nature trails. The exhibit always gives families and friends a fun, educational activity to enjoy together. Don't forget it also provides a unique family outing during the holidays! www.heardmuseum.org

Oct. 1st - The Blackland Prairie Raptor Center's fall event, Wild in Texas, will be held from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Presentations about birds of prey at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. There will be guided prairie walks, games and much more for all ages. Please go to www.bpraptorcenter.org for more info. or call 469-964-9696.

Oct. 4th - Sachse National Night Out. Sachse residents are asked to turn on their porch lights and spend the evening outside with their neighbors to celebrate National Night Out from 7 - 10 p.m. NNO heightens crime and drug prevention awareness, generates support for and participation in local anti-crime efforts, and strengthens neighborhood spirit and police/community partnerships. It is an opportunity for neighborhoods to organize block parties, cookouts, visits from the police officers, flashlight walks, contests and youth activities. If your neighborhood is interested in hosting an event, please contact Lieutenant Marty Cassidy at 469.429.9822 or mcassidy@cityofsachse.com

Oct. 8th - Throwaway Ponies annual fundraiser "Rocktoberfest". Barbecue (from Big Daddy's) and musicians from around the metroplex. Come & go from 3 - 9 p.m. Donation basis. Kid's welcome. Please RSVP to karen@throwawayponies.org or 214-202-1390.

Oct. 8th - Sachse Chamber of Commerce presents Fallfest at Heritage Park, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Fall Fest is a FREE Arts & Crafts fair that features great food, contests, Elevate Church Children's Games & Bounce Houses, and over 100 Arts & Crafts and business vendors. See pg. 27 for more info.

Oct. 8th - WAG (Wylie Acting Group for Children) announces auditions for our next production: "WAG Family Christmas". Auditions will be held at the Bart Peddicord Community Center in Downtown Wylie starting at 9:30 a.m.

Oct. 10th - In-Sync Exotics Wildlife Rescue and Educational Center is proud to host our 11th Annual "Putting for Paws" Golf Tournament at Woodbridge Golf Course in Wylie. All proceeds will benefit the 60 exotic cats currently calling In-Sync "home." Please visit our website at www.insyncexotics.com or call 972-757-9679 for more info.

Oct. 12th - Farmers Electric Cooperative Presents: The Kenneth Nall Memorial 17th Annual Wylie Christian Care Golf Tournament. Call 972-442-7901 for more info.

Oct. 20th - "The Country Romance" Dinner & Live Auction Fundraiser for SW Diabetic Foundation at the 1899 Farmhouse, Wedding & Event Venue, 7450 FM 982, Princeton, TX 75407. Venue opens for touring & cocktails at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7:15 p.m. \$12/ person or \$20/couple. Register & reserve a seat at www.1899farmhouse.com.

Oct. 22nd - Sachse Pumpkin Prowl. Picture an old fashioned Easter Egg Hunt...Now add some autumn colors and cooler weather...Finally, erase the eggs and insert mini pumpkins. The Great Pumpkin is coming again to hide bright, orange pumpkins. Kids will go find them and some may even win a prize. Hayrides and refreshments for all. 6 p.m. in Salmon Park, 4302 Willford Rd., Sachse, TX. Admission is FREE for kids ages 10 and under.

Oct. 22nd - Wylie Women's League 4th Annual Fall Festival. Get an early start on your holiday shopping. There will be a pumpkin patch and scarecrows for sale. Vendor info can be found on our website www.wyliewl.org or you can email us at wyliewl@gmail.com.

Oct. 22nd - Halloween at the Heard. Join the Heard for our 5th annual Halloween at the Heard. Children will have a family-friendly, safe environment to experience the joy of trick-or-treating that many of us experienced as children. www.heardmuseum.org

Oct. 27th - Boo On Ballard - Trick or Treat in Historic Downtown Wylie sponsored by the Wylie Downtown Merchants Association. Bring the family out for some safe Halloween fun from 6 - 8 p.m.

WYLIE'S RITA AND TRUETT SMITH PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS

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 & Thursdays at 10:30 & 11:15 a.m.
Babies & Books: Fridays at 11:00 a.m.

Wagging Tales: Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27 & October 4, 11, 18, 25 from 3:30 - 4:15 p.m.

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.

Friends of the Library Meeting: Sept. 15th & Oct. 20th at 6 p.m.

The Friends of the Smith Public Library meet in the Conference Room.

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

The 4th Monday Book Club (ages 18 and up) meets in the Conference Room

Sept. 26th - The 19th Wife by David Ebershoff.

Oct. 24th - The Turn of the Screw by Henry James.

BeTween Book Club: Sept. 29th from 5 - 8 p.m.

Never judge a book by its movie. 4th and 5th graders are invited to discuss different books that have movie adaptations. This month's selection is *The Guardians of Ga'Hoole: The Capture*. The first 20 kids to sign up get a free copy of the book courtesy of the Friends of the Library.

Booked on Fridays: Sept. 9th & Oct. 14th from Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Second Friday each month (ages 18 and up) Bring your lunch and drop in each second Friday of the month between noon and 1:30 p.m. for fun reads and light conversation. The club kicks off with Denise Swanson's *Murder of a Small-Town Honey*, the first book in her Scumble River Mysteries. Upcoming selections for fall are: October 14: *Hounded* by Kevin Hearne; November 11: *Notorious* by Nicola Cornick

GED Classes: Begin Tuesday, Sept. 13th, 5 - 8 p.m.

Classes will meet every Tuesday through December, following the same holiday schedule as Wylie ISD. All classes will be held in the Computer Lab and no registration is required.

Teen Advisory Board: Application Deadline - Sept. 15th

Teens 6th - 12th grade can pick up their Applications in the Teen Room or print them off the website. The Applications must be returned no later than September 15. The first meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 26th from 5:00-6:00.

Inspirational Author Spotlight: Sept. 15th at 6 p.m.

Religious authors David Eden, Christina Tanon, Ronie Kendig, Richard L. Mabry and Lena Nelson Dooley share and answer questions about how they write and what path they took to getting published.

Sweet n' Savory - A Chocolate Tasting: Sept. 22nd at 6 p.m.

Enjoy a demo and sample foods that show off chocolate's versatility. Presented by the Plano Central Market Cooking School. Registration required and seating is limited. Contact the Adult Services Desk for more details.

Trick-or-Treat Tunes: Oct. 25th at 6:30 p.m.

Bring the family to listen to the spooky, spirited sounds of Halloween music as the Wylie ISD Flute Choir entertains library visitors from the foyer.

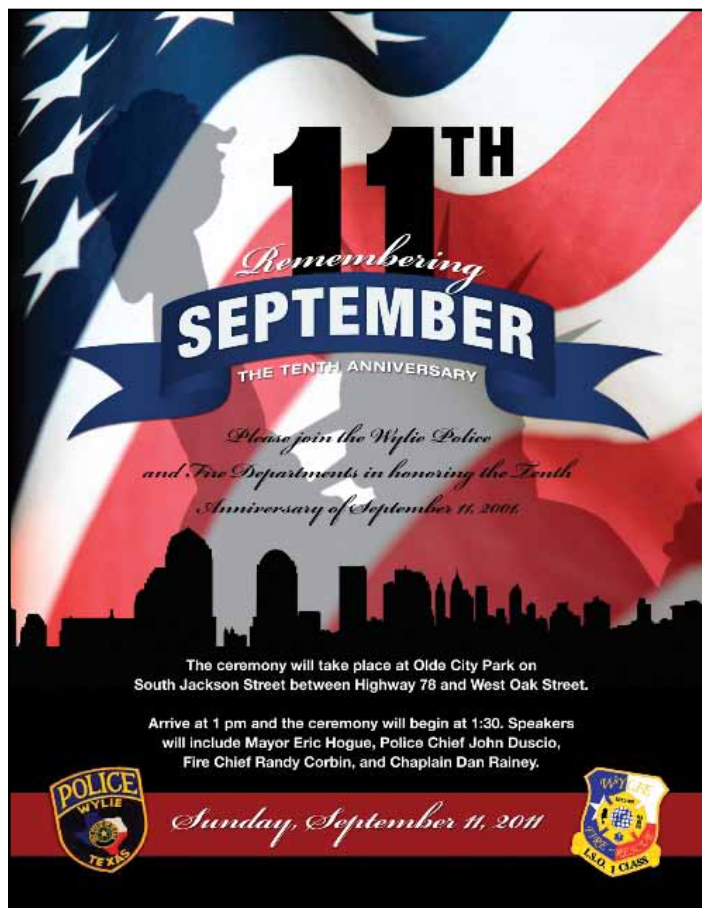
Submit Your Event to the Calendar!

To submit your special event to the November/December community calendar send an e-mail to theconnection.anne@mac.com no later than **October 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!

SAVE THIS DATE!

Nov. 19th - In-Sync Exotics Wildlife Rescue and Educational Center presents our 3rd Annual Tiger Trot! Please visit our website at www.insyncexotics.com for more information.





SACHSE'S SENIOR CENTER EVENTS

Located at 3815 Sachse Rd., Building A, Sachse 972-495-6282

Special Events

- Sept. 12th - "55 Alive" Driving Class
- Sept. 13th - Lunch & Learn VNA
- Sept. 14th - Tanger Mall & Lunch - Terrell & Russell Stover
- Sept. 17th - Annual Hay Ride in the Country & Cook Out \$6
- Sept. 20th - Lunch & Learn Steve Roland - Veteran's / Widows Benefits - Karen Weber
- Sept. 23rd - Regional Bowling Tournament in McKinney
- Sept. 28th - Richardson Methodist Health Seminar
- Sept. 30th - Lunch & Learn with Carey Marr RN - Communicating with Healthcare Professionals
- Oct. 5th - A day at the Parr Patch in Clarksville \$5
- Oct. 12th - Christmas Store - Plano & Lunch
- Oct. 13th - A day at the State Fair
- Oct. 14th - Lunch & Learn with Carey Marr RN - Allergies
- Oct. 21st - Grapevine Train to Ft. Worth \$20 (if purchased by Oct. 14th.)
- Oct. 26th - Baylor Seminar - Congestive Heart Failure
- Oct. 28th - Halloween Party - bring snacks!
- Oct. 29th - Plaza Theater, Cleburne, TX - Gershwin's "Crazy For You" \$13 - (make a reservation by Oct. 13th!)

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CHAMBER of COMMERCE EVENTS

WYLIE

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. RSVP required, no at door tickets. Pay online at the Chamber website.

Sept. 27th - Featured Speaker: Cheryl Williams Collin County Commissioner - Precinct 2

Oct. 25th - Featuring Texas State Representative Jodie Laubenberg

Oct. 20th - "Speed Dating for Your Business" - The Murphy, Rowlett, Sachse and Wylie Chambers of Commerce will hold their second joint networking session on Thursday, October 20 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Place in Garland (190 and North Garland Road). Bring plenty of business cards and be ready to network with over 100 members of these 4 Chambers. It is FREE to members of the Chamber's and \$5 if you are not a member of any of the 4 Chambers.

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. Chamber members and non-members welcome.

SACHSE

www.sachsechamber.com

972-496-1212

Monthly Luncheons: 2nd Tues. of the Month at 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Northplace Church, 2709 3rd Street, Sachse. \$15 - Members, \$20 - Non-members. Register & pay online.

Sept. 13th & Oct. 11th - 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

972-805-3749

Monthly Luncheons: 3rd Tues. of the Month at 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the 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 for discounted prepayment rate of \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members. After Noon and at the door on Tuesday, the charge is \$20 for everyone. Go to www.murphytx.org to prepay or call 972-805-3749.

Sept. 20th - Guest speaker: State Representative Jodie Laubenberg

Oct. 18th: Check the Murphy Chamber website for details.

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.



Murphy Maize Days Fall Festival

Fun Run, Car Show, Shopping, Food & Music on Saturday, September 24th

By Celso Martinez

Let's face it, fall in Texas means football. But the slightly perceptible drop in temperature, the gradual changing of the leaves and sluggish onset of autumn also means that the festival season is upon us. Murphy Maize Days, is set for Saturday, September 24 on the grounds of the Municipal Complex, 206 North Murphy Road from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Call it corny or ah-shucksy, in fact, feel free to employ as many clever parallels to the namesake vegetable as you like, just don't call it bland. The 2011 Murphy Maize Days promises to be among the most memorable, according to Director of Economic and Community Development, Kristen Roberts.

Murphy Maize Days starts with an invigorating 3.1 mile run and one mile fun walk/run, called the A-Maize-ing 5K and Fun Run, and ends with what's been described in many circles as the best fireworks show in Collin County. Because of the drought conditions, the fireworks display will depend on word from the Fire Marshal.

"We're excited about the A-Maize-ing 5K and Fun Run for many reasons, especially keeping the memory of a good friend alive," said Murphy's HR Manager Stacy Buckley, herself an avid runner and marathoner.

The race benefits the Melanoma International Foundation, a charity chosen by the family of the late Neal Golden, a former employee of the City of Murphy, who succumbed to melanoma in the spring of 2010. Last year's race netted a donation of



\$3,464.44 to the Foundation.

Registration for the A-Maize-ing 5K and Fun Run can only be accomplished by visiting www.murphymaizedays.com and then clicking on the registration link.

Runners will cross the finish line right as shuttle buses begin to transport arriving Murphy Maize Days festival attendees who choose Tom Kimbrough Stadium to park their vehicles.

Roberts says parking will be at a premium close in, "Shuttle buses will be running constantly, from the stadium and Murphy Marketplace."

Kid Zone, a wonderland of entertainment that will include bounce houses, zip-line, hamster balls and climbing wall along with many other kid-friendly attractions, occupies over three acres of the festival grounds. "And, Maize Market is always a big draw at Maize Days because of the variety and scope of vendors. Many vendors have expressed their extreme satisfaction with it as well," she said. "We're hopeful that this year's combination of live music, family-friendly activities, and, if approved by the Fire Marshal, the best fireworks show in the county could very well attract as many as 5,000 people," said Roberts.

Admission to the event is free.

"More information on the event, activities and entertainment can be found on the Maize Days web site, and we'll be posting info on our Facebook page as well," she concluded.

Get the latest news, information and updates by visiting www.murphymaizedays.com and by "liking" the Maize Days Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/murphymaizedays>. •



Photos provided by the City of Murphy

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Presented by the Sachse Chamber of Commerce

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Facepainting at Sachse Fallfest.

Photo by Anne Hiney

Sachse Fallfest 2011

The Sachse Chamber of Commerce will host the 26th Annual Sachse Fallfest, sponsored by Farmers Electric Cooperative, this year at Heritage Park, on October 8th from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fallfest is a FREE Arts & Crafts fair that features great food, contests, Elevate Church Children's Games & Bounce Houses, and over 100 Arts & Crafts and business vendors. The Methodist Richardson Medical Center stage will have a great line up of local musicians all day long. Estimated crowds of over 8,000 have attended in years past.

Fallfest attendees will be able to accomplish some early Christmas shopping and will definitely walk away with a full stomach. Vendors will be selling homemade jewelry & accessories, children's clothing, ceramics, and many other products made by: Tupperware, Longaberger, Mary Kay, Pampered Chef, Homemade Gourmet, Scentsy and more. At the various food booths, fair-goers can select from brisket sandwiches, sausage-on-a-stick, turkey legs, tater swirls, funnel cakes, hamburgers and hot dogs, snow cones, kettle corn, pizza and more!

Popular returning contests this year include the Pet Photo and Men's Best Legs contests. Pet photos may be submitted in advance at www.sachsechamber.com or taken at the Pet Photo booth before 1 p.m. on Saturday with only a \$5 entry fee. Men's Best Legs entrants will be scouted the day of and will receive the coveted chicken leg trophy.

For sponsorship and vendor information visit www.sachsechamber.com or call the Chamber office at 972-496-1212. •



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Wylie Recreation Center,
300 Country Club Road, Building #200

Questions?
recreation@wylietexas.gov
972-516-6360



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wylietexas.gov

Closing The Gap

Ricks one of first LVN/Paramedic Bridge program graduates

by Justin Jones

The healthcare industry is growing, with no plans of slowing down any time soon. As a result, hospitals, long-term care facilities and other healthcare entities are constantly in need of registered nurses.

Collin College's Nursing Program discovered a way to help aid in the effort of providing certified nurses to the healthcare industry faster in summer 2010 when it started the LVN/Paramedic Bridge program.

Licensed vocational nurse or paramedic students can earn an Associate of Applied Science degree in Nursing quicker – usually in two to three semesters, according to Dr. Nell Ard, director of Collin College's Nursing program.

"Healthcare is changing. To provide care for citizens will result in a growing need for qualified, registered nurses (RN)," Dr. Ard said. "The LVN/Paramedic Bridge program helps transition qualified students to the RN level through education and training. Bridging a student from an LVN or paramedic role follows a natural progression to a RN career path."

Because paramedics, LVNs and RNs have much in common, Dr. Ard said, it was important to design a program facilitating this knowledge – then "bridging it" to the level of an RN in healthcare.

"It is all about the changes in healthcare that we need to be aware of. Moving up the career ladder has become a reality and necessity in the healthcare industry," Dr. Ard continued. "The expectation of the program is to bring both paramedics and LVNs to a greater degree of involvement by providing a broader scope of patient care as an RN."

FIRST GRADUATING CLASS

Among the first students to take advantage of Collin College's LVN/Paramedic bridge program was Amber Ricks, who graduated from the program's first class with honors in May.

In the ensuing month, Ricks, who plans to start on a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing this fall at The University of Texas at Arlington, obtained a RN license.



Amber Ricks is one of the first graduates of Collin College's new LVN/Paramedic Bridge program. The unique program is designed to assist in the effort of providing certified nurses to the healthcare industry faster.

"I began the LVN/Paramedic Bridge program full-time last fall and I already have my RN license less than a year later. How great is that?" an excited Ricks, who currently works part-time in home health care, said. "If you are already an LVN or paramedic, you are halfway there. The work experience you already have will make you more prepared for many aspects of the program and gives you an edge in the job market after graduation. I am proud to finally have these two letters 'RN' after my name, and I am thankful to Collin College for helping me to achieve this honor."

Ricks, who moved several times after receiving a LPN license in 2002 in Colorado, yet always hoped one day she would obtain an RN license, is also thankful to Collin College for helping her dream come true.

"When I moved to Texas and spoke with the nursing department at Collin College, I was excited to learn that it was starting a bridge program that allowed me to complete my RN in two semesters of full-time study," Ricks explained. "With many great classroom and clinical instructors, the Collin College Nursing program makes sure their graduates are prepared to enter the nursing profession. In my clinical experiences, I found there is tremendous respect for Collin College

Nursing program graduates and the knowledge and experience they come with."

And the same can be said about students who complete Collin College's LVN/Paramedic Bridge program.

"Our LVN/Paramedic Bridge program allows the Collin College's Nursing Department to provide options to many qualified candidates who desire to move into the RN level of healthcare," Dr. Ard said. "Helping qualified candidates be successful – through this program and increasing their greater financial compensation and advancement in career options – provides a sense of satisfaction. Helping others achieve their goals and be successful is, in itself, an amazing process. I am very proud to be a small part of their achievement." •

Justin Jones is a public relations writer for Collin College. Photo by Nick Young, Collin College photographer.

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Tame the Mane

JJ Olsen donates his locks to Locks of Love

by Lori C. Villarreal

Anytime one radically changes their “do”, as in hair-do, it can cause quite a commotion. JJ Olsen’s friends exclaimed, “What happened to your hair?” JJ, a 13 year old soccer playing, basketball shootin’, karate chop-pin’, golf club swingin’, X-box playin’, 8th grader is just like the rest of his buddies. Well, except his hair was really, really long.

After about a year of growing out his hair for no real reason at all, JJ’s uncle gave him the idea of donating his thick, healthy hair to Locks of Love. The non-profit organization provides custom-made hairpieces for youth in appropriate youth styles that use a vacuum seal - like a suction cup - to adhere to the scalp of a youth who has suffered long-term medical hair loss.

Since these hairpieces are made specially for each child they do not require uncomfortable and sometimes problematic tapes or glue. The wearer of the hairpiece may remove it but the hair adheres in such a way that the child can run, jump, tumble and play without the fear of embarrassment from the hairpiece shifting or coming loose. This helps children dismiss the insecurities associated with hair loss and lets them focus on being a kid.

JJ’s parents, Brad and Cassie, encouraged him to endure the maintenance necessary to keep his long hair clean and untangled. His older sister Allie (there are Kendra and Rosie, too) even took a few minutes off from harassing him to share with me, “I am proud of him because he took care of his hair. It was admirable of him [to donate it].” JJ agreed his luxurious locks took some effort to manage. He had to grow his hair about six months longer than he wanted, a total of about 18 months, and it got frustrating because it “wouldn’t stay down on my head”.

In March, JJ’s family helped him pull all his hair into dozens of tiny

rubber bands then they snipped it off and shaved off what was left. Following the directions found on the Locks of Love website, locksoflove.org, on how to donate hair the Olsen family

was able to perform the transformation at home. With a sigh of relief, “finally”, JJ returned to his classroom receiving all kinds of accolades and comments on his new “do”.

While JJ’s good deed seems a little happenstance I caught that there was a bit of a back story to this adventure. JJ was four months old when he underwent his first cranial surgery as a result of not being born with a soft spot, and endured a number of them at age five as well. He shared, “I know what [the

kids] are going through. [They are] not able to leave the hospital and go do fun stuff”. JJ hopes his donation was inspirational but he’s not an attention seekin’ kinda kid. He donated his 10 inches of hair because he could.

There is speculation that he might do this again. His dad has challenged him to grow it, not cutting it till he finishes high school. JJ says, “Dad, you do it with me – game on!”. •



JJ with his family.



Before and after!

Photos provided by the Olsen family.

HOW TO DONATE

- 10 in. measured tip to tip is the minimum length needed for a hairpiece.
- Hair must be in a ponytail or braid before it is cut.
- Hair must be clean and completely dry before it is mailed in.
- Place the ponytail or braid inside of a plastic bag, and then inside of a padded envelope.
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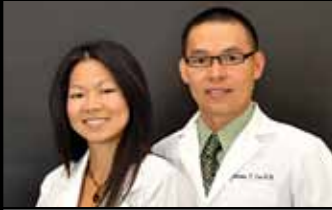
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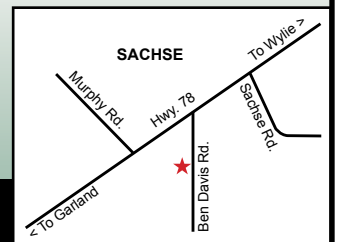
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Screening for Prostate Cancer

Some no-nonsense information for men's health

By Mary Katherine DeBardeleben

Prostate cancer is one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers affecting one out of six men. Screening for the disease can mean early detection and increased treatment options, but many men shy away from the prospect.

Gary Sackrison, MD, begins conversations with his patients by asking: What are your health goals? And what do you want to do for your health?

After discussing the potential risks and benefits of prostate cancer screenings, men who want to be screened should be tested with the prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test and the digital rectal exam (DRE). The prostate gland is located just in front of the rectum.

Most cancers begin in the back part of the gland. While the DRE involves a physician feeling for any bumps or hard areas on the prostate that might be cancer, "the PSA test is not a cancer test," says Dr. Sackrison. "It is a test that if elevated suggests further investigation is needed."

PSA is a protein produced by cells in the prostate gland. The PSA test shows the level of PSA in the blood. Most healthy men have levels under 4 nanograms per milliliter (ng/mL) of blood. As the PSA level goes up, the risk of having prostate cancer goes up.

"I recommend patients follow up with a urologist if PSA levels are greater than 4," Dr. Sackrison says. "However, it is important for men to understand there are many factors that can cause an increased PSA level, such as an enlarged prostate, age, inflammation, ejaculation, riding a bicycle, and certain urologic procedures."

A visit to your urologist

If the PSA and DRE screenings are abnormal, the next step is to visit an urologist.

"First, I explain to my patient that the PSA is a normal protein made by the prostate," says Ravi Mootha, MD. "A majority of PSA elevations are from benign conditions. However, in the absence of infection, I recommend a biopsy to rule out cancer."

The biopsy is a 10-minute office procedure that uses a transrectal ultrasound (TRUS) inserted into the rectum to transmit an image of the prostate on a video screen. Dr. Mootha injects local anesthetic where the nerves run into the prostate to help reduce pain associated with the procedure.

"To collect prostate tissue for the biopsy, I use a needle to take about 12 samples which are sent to the lab to see if cancer is present," he explains. "The pathology report tells me if you have cancer, what the amount is, and the grade."

Treatment options

"Treatment options for prostate cancer include active surveillance, radiotherapy, and surgery," says Dr. Mootha. "If the cancer is low grade and low volume, a man might be a candidate for active surveillance. This involves a PSA test every six months and biopsy every 12 months."

He adds, "Radiotherapy and surgery can be a definitive cure with high success rates for prostate cancer found in the early stages. Advances in surgery and radiation oncology are enabling physicians to better preserve the nerves and tissues surrounding the prostate gland, which also reduces side effects such as incontinence and erectile dysfunction."

Patients at Methodist Richardson Cancer Center can benefit from cone beam computed tomography (CT) and on-board imaging to provide different ways of localizing the prostate before daily treatment. External beam radiation can offer precise targeting. The Cancer Center also is home to the Lance Armstrong Shaped Beam Surgery™ program, featuring Novalis®, which shapes the external radiation beams to the exact contour of the tumor, sparing the surrounding healthy tissue.

Intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) is another treatment option that delivers radiation so that the rectum, bowel, and bladder are spared to a greater extent. This helps reduce the risk of long-term side effects and allows the physician to deliver higher dose radiation to the prostate, which has been shown to improve outcomes.

If you are wondering whether you should be screened for prostate cancer, remember to talk with your doctor first. There are many factors to consider, and together you can make an informed decision. •



Board certified in family medicine, Gary Sackrison, MD, is an independently practicing family medicine physician on the medical staff at Methodist Richardson Medical Center. To make an appointment, please call 214-576-2227, or visit his website at www.BreckinridgeMedicine.com.

Board certified in urology, Ravi Mootha, MD, is an independently practicing physician on the medical staff at Methodist Richardson. To make an appointment, please call 972-235-3248 or visit his website at www.DrMootha.com.

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Three stories from Relay For Life participants

Alyssa was a typical, active 2½ year old until one day she became lethargic, tired, pale, and not hungry. The pediatrician told her mom, Tina, not to worry that she just had the flu. But Tina knew something was not right. Thank goodness she trusted her instincts in February of 1998 and took Alyssa to the hospital. The doctor who examined her discovered that her liver was swollen and that she had pinpoint bruises all over her body. He immediately admitted Alyssa to the hospital for testing that night. After her blood work came back abnormal, Alyssa had a blood marrow biopsy and a spinal tap at 8 a.m. the next morning. By noon, the diagnosis of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia was confirmed, and young Alyssa immediately began chemotherapy.

At such a young age, Alyssa had no idea what cancer was or what she was facing, but her mother certainly did. As a young, single mom at the time, Tina did everything she could to take care of her baby girl. Tina remembers her mom reminding her, "God does not give you more than you can handle." Tina knew she had to be strong for her daughter, who Tina said was braver than she was sometimes. After 3 months of chemotherapy, Alyssa got a cold which turned into pneumonia. She went into a coma and was put on life support. On Mother's Day 1998, Tina was told that Alyssa wouldn't make it due to an air pocket around her heart. But Alyssa was a fighter! After being in a

drug induced coma for 32 days, she woke up. But her fight wasn't over. She woke up blind, paralyzed on her right side, and couldn't walk. Tina was told that Alyssa may never see again and that they did not know what effects the chemotherapy would have on Alyssa's body. Two months later, Tina walked in the room, and Alyssa said, "Mommy, you have Winnie the Pooh on your shirt." Tina was beyond thrilled that her daughter could see again but was worried it would not last. But Alyssa was a fighter! She fully regained her eyesight, eventually regained use of her right side, and was

tures from that time. She had long blond hair until the chemotherapy and stayed bald for years. Her long blond hair grew back, and she wanted to cut it when she was five. Tina hesitated but when Alyssa said, "I want to give it to other kids who don't have hair," Tina knew her daughter was special and she couldn't say no. Alyssa donated her hair to Wigs for Kids.

Alyssa is now a soft spoken and healthy 16 year old who just started her sophomore year at Wylie East High School. In April, Alyssa and her family participated in their first American Cancer Society Relay For Life. Tina is now a volunteer for the 2012 Relay For Life of Wylie/Sachse/Murphy. Alyssa and Tina are forming a team for 2012 in honor of Alyssa and in memory of their dear friend, Joseph, who recently lost his battle with Leukemia. "I walk for those I care for, for those that can not walk anymore."



Alyssa in 1998 just before regaining her eyesight.



Alyssa and Tina walking the Survivor/Caregiver Lap at the 2011 Relay For Life of Wylie/Sachse/Murphy.

(Photo courtesy of Heather L. Manning)

able to walk. In April of 2000, Alyssa was given the news that she was cancer free!

Alyssa does not remember her battle against cancer, but she does have the pic-

The Relay for Life has given me a purpose more than as a caregiver. I never imagined being a caregiver for someone fighting CANCER. Yet, I have for four individuals which I have deeply loved. Cancer was a foreign word to a young bride of five months when my husband was diagnosed with testicular cancer. I am not sure if youth or stupidity got us through the many months of treatments. Many tears were shed and sleepless nights of fear of the unknown future. When the doctors confirmed he was cancer free, it was like the world opened up without a care. My husband was not as lucky as some; his cancer came back after 13 years. It was hard to see a 6'4" 250 pound man dwindle down to 145 and there was nothing I could do to stop it. Many days it would have been so easy to walk away and let someone else take care of him. I did take my wedding vows seriously - through sickness and in health.

Years later, I realized I had to use all my strength to take care of my terminally ill daughter. For her illness, she took the many drugs that cancer patients take. I was always beside her, holding her hand

and supporting her when life seemed so dark. Together we welcomed a young boy into this world in 2004, knowing that he would not be raised by his mother. Caregiving comes in many forms.

My mother has successfully beaten breast cancer twice. Every day I would go to the cancer clinic with her while she had radiation treatments. She says I only went to eat the cookies but I was there to show her my support and pray that she would be a survivor. She is one of the lucky ones. When my Dad was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, I thought the world had stopped. I could not believe CANCER entered my life again. "My Dad cannot have cancer, he has to live longer to help me raise my grandson" but I was not that lucky. Dad's energetic smile slowly disappeared with every chemo treatment. I would try everything to make his final days good ones. When he could not eat regular food, I made sure he had another cup of chicken broth or I pushed him in a wheelchair to see the lions and tigers at the Wylie's InSync Exotics, not knowing that within two weeks he would be gone; these were special times. Cancer took away his energy but not his pride. I will always remember the night we did the survivor lap at the 2010 Relay for Life in Wylie. My Dad was not a person who showed much emotion but that night he cried and said that he could not believe all those people in the stadium were clapping for him.

Caregiving is not a choice or a chore but it is an honor, a reward, and a privilege to be able to do things for those you love. It is love, patience, dedication, memories, laughter, sorrow and tears, knowledge, and sunshine for all involved. Relay for Life is an amazing evening to help fight Cancer and the opportunity once a year to give to those who cannot walk anymore.

Susan Baack - Caregiver

Interview with Bill Wright, GM of KKVI Radio by Valencia King

When Bill Wright walks in to the KKVI Radio Station for our interview he is his usual laid back and smiling self as he prepares for our interview. He laughs at me as I ask him my first question.

King: Let's talk about who you are and what you do?

Wright: Well my name is Bill Wright, I am the President and General Manager of KKVI Radio and a survivor of cancer. Born and raised right here in the heart of Texas.

K: What has your journey been like since becoming a cancer survivor?

W: It's been very difficult. I personally still struggle with it; to this day I feel guilty for my families losses. I often wonder why I was the one who survived and not my brother, my sister, my uncle, my aunt or my niece. Why was I spared? They are gone and are in a much better place, yet I still am unable to wrap my mind around it all.

K: How has cancer affected you and your family?

W: My family has always been healthy over all from as long as I can remember. I'm from an very unusually blessed family that was able to go a rather long time before we had any deaths in my family. Then in a span of 3-4 years the deaths of my family members began to occur. When this happened I named it the "wave of death." This wave took some of my closest relatives, not only away from me, but also from our entire family. Because of these life-changing events I became close friends with the

gentlemen who directed/organized our family funerals, we still have lunch occasionally to this day.

K: After the death of your brother, did you see life or do things differently?

W: Yes, when things hit close to home like that you tend to look at it as a wake up call. I admire my brother; Junior stepped up to the plate and fought his battle with cancer but he NEVER let them operate on him once. My brother Junior (there is 10 years between us) was from the old school. His mind set was: if I am not sick, why would I go to the doctor - even though he suffered from back problems for many months leading up to his diagnosis - he simply thought he had an injury from his job. However, he and the whole family soon found out that a simple injury on the job wasn't the case: it was indeed prostate cancer. Since he never agreed to have any operational procedures done, the prostate cancer took his life.

His death affected me tremendously; to the point that a simple "You're going to be okay" meant the world to me at the time. My brother's death reminded me that death is inevitable. I'm going to die one day. I decided to make the most of my life. As a Cancer Survivor I give back and stay associated with cancer by providing media coverage and participating in programs such as Rowlett's Relay for Life and so on.

K: How is your health now?

W: Before my brother passed he said to me with his finger pointed in my direction "...You better get in there and get checked out!" And that's just what I did. I'm all clear for any health problems - outside of aging aches and pains - I'm all clear, no problems. My wife and daughter make sure I stay on top of that. I go every six months to a specialist in Dallas, at Baylor Medical Center. With my wife being a nurse at a hospital in Dallas and the school system in Garland, there is no leeway for me to miss any appointments. My wife and I take it even further by staying on top of our daughter, Jasmine's, health. Jasmine is my legacy and I want to live healthy for her. •



Susan Baack (waving on right) participating in the 2009 Relay for Life.

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First Baptist Church of Sachse in the gym

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Relay Rally: Breast Cancer Awareness & Early Bird Team Registration

Tuesday, October 11, 2011, 7 - 8 p.m.

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Photo by Anne Hiney

Leadership Wylie Class VIII Graduates: (not listed in photo order) Alberto Garza, Beth Anderson, Bryan Brokaw - Liaison, Christopher Lamb, David LaRocca, Donnita Fisher, Gerry Harris - Liaison, Jacky Casey, Jasen Haskins, Melissa Heller, Nancy Monroy, Theresa Ory & Nelda Timmons (not pictured).

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Exchange Club of Murphy is a volunteer service organization for people who want to serve their community, develop leadership skills and enjoy new friendships. Programs include: Child Abuse Prevention, Americanism, Community Service and Youth Activities. We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month from noon to 1 p.m. at Country Burger, 104 N. Murphy Rd., Ste. 210, Murphy, TX 75094. www.exchangeclubofmurphytexas.org

Friends of the Sachse Library meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Sachse Library, 3815 Sachse Road. Contact the Sachse Public Library for more details at 972-530-8966.

Garland Quilt Guild meets the first Tuesday of each month at First Presbyterian Church, 930 West Avenue B, in Garland at 7 p.m. (except December) Located at the corner of 9th Street and Avenue B in Garland. For more info visit www.garlandquiltguild.com.

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc. presents a Free Genealogy Seminar on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the W.O. Haggard Library Program Room,

2501 Coit Road, Plano. Public is welcome. For info visit www.GenealogyFriends.org.

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

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

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

MOPS of Sachse/Wylie/Murphy Mothers of Preschoolers meet at Park Lake Church at 3702 Sachse Road in Sachse on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays (September-May) from 9 - 11:30 a.m. Mothers with children from birth through kindergarten are invited. Childcare is included with semester MOPS dues. To RSVP or for more information call Park Lake Church at 972- 414-0600, e-mail mops@parklakechurch.com, or visit www.mops.org.

N Cupids Defense NCD is designed to help married couples deal with various issues that arise throughout their marriage. E=MC² - Encourage and Mentor Married Couples through Christ. Visit ncupidsdefense.org or contact Teniqua Williams at info@ncupidsdefense.org for more info. and a schedule of events.

Sachse Historical Society meets the 3rd Saturday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Sachse Historical Museum, 3033 6th Street. Museum is open for visitors every Tuesday from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and by appointment for visitors and tours, 972-495-1231. Visit www.sachsehistoricalsociety.org for more info.

Sachse Lion's Club meets the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Steak Kountry, 7010 Highway 78 in Sachse. The Lion's Club participates in several fundraisers throughout the year, including the Sewell Elementary pancake breakfast, where half of the proceeds go back to the Sewell PTA, and the turkey leg food booth at the Sachse Fallfest. The funds raised benefit several organizations including the Blind Leader Dog program and Air Challenge, a program that takes disabled children for airplane rides. They also support the Vision Impaired Olympics summer camp for kids and assist with building Habitat for Humanity homes.

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

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

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

Wylie Lions Club meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at American National Bank in Wylie at noon. Anyone interested in becoming a Lion is welcome to join the group for lunch. Call Bill Bonney for more info. at 214-769-5314. e-clubhouse.org/sites/wylietx/

Wylie Evening Lions Club meets the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month at American National Bank in Wylie at 7 p.m. Contact Carl Bodine at 469-951-4344 for info. wylieeveninglionsclub.org

Wylie Rotary Club meets weekly on Thursday at 12 noon at the Woodbridge Country Club. Contact Bryan Brokaw: bryan.brokaw@edward-jones.com for additional info.

Wylie Wisecrackers is a Toastmasters club serving Wylie, Sachse, Murphy, and Lavin, meets every Wednesday from 6:45 p.m. - 8 p.m. at American National Bank in Wylie: 301 S. Hwy. 78. All are welcome. Members practice effective public speaking techniques, gain valuable leadership experience, and, thus, gain personal confidence. www.wylie.freetoasthost.com.

Wylie Women's League Meets the 1st Thursday of each month. Contact Cathy Hanson at 972-442-7495 or wyliewl@gmail.com for more info. www.wyliewl.org •



Photo by Anne Hiney

Wylie Fire-Rescue and Wylie Police work together in Olde City Park installing the markers in remembrance of the officers and fire-fighters that were lost on 9-11-2001.

The

CONNECTION

Your Wylie • Sachse • Murphy Community Magazine

COLORING CONTEST

CHILD'S NAME: _____ AGE: _____

PARENT'S NAME: _____

PHONE #: _____



CONTEST RULES: Open to children age 3-8. Entries will be divided into age groups: 3-4, 5-6, 7-8. One entry per child. Bring your child's entry to the Wylie Flower Shop at 129 N. Ballard Ave. in Downtown Wylie by October 27, 2011. Entries can be dropped off during Boo On Ballard. Parents will be notified if your child's entry is a winner. Winners will receive \$20 gift certificate to WalMart. One winner per age group will be chosen.

The Current CD Quandry

Today's yields can't beat inflation.

Provided by Jal Dennis Group



CD investors are effectively losing money. According to Market Rates Insight, a research firm tracking bank rates, annualized inflation has surpassed long-term certificate of deposit rates since February. In April, 12-month inflation hit 3.16% while the highest-yielding 5-year callable CD on the market offered a 2.4% interest rate. May's Consumer Price Index put annualized inflation at 3.6%; as of mid-June, the highest-yielding nationally available 5-year CD was at 3.05% APY.

Still, the Federal Reserve found that almost \$9 trillion of American wealth was held in CDs, bank accounts and various FDIC-insured products as of April.

It's a case of déjà vu. This is the second time in recent history that CD investors have been punished for assuming so little risk. During the period from January-July 2008, the negative yield on 5-year CDs was 1.8% according to MRI.

They might come out ahead – should inflation diminish. As Bankrate.com senior financial analyst Greg McBride reminded Bloomberg, "Investing in a

CD isn't compensating you for last year's inflation; it's compensating you for next year's inflation, which is unknown." Will inflation ease in the long term? Many analysts aren't betting on it.

The appeal of CDs remains strong. After all, not many investments are federally insured. MRI vice-president Dan Geller said it best to Bloomberg: "Right now, people are more concerned about the return of their deposits rather than a return on their deposits."

With 63% of Americans still believing the nation is in a recession (according to a recent Rasmussen Reports poll), there is still plenty of skittishness about equity investment. Even with the Fed's bond-buying campaign sending yields on short-term Treasuries and CDs toward all-time lows, some investors really aren't hungry for risk.

Are CDs still worth it? There is no pat answer. Your own answer will depend on your preferred investment style, your risk tolerance and your financial objectives. Many people choose to park some of their invested assets in CDs and other savings instruments as part of a diversification approach. The inflation-adjusted return is dismal at the moment, but knowing that your principal is safe certainly has its appeal. Note that surrender charges apply should you attempt to liquidate your CD. Any guarantees regarding safety of principal are based on the claims paying ability of the issuing financial institution. Traditional CD's are FDIC insured and offer a fixed rate of return if held to maturity. •

Jal Dennis may be reached at «972-429-0603 or jal.dennis@lpl.com.



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