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CONNECTION

Your Wylie • Sachse • Murphy Community Magazine



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Dr. Melody Stampe & Dr. Charles Stetler*

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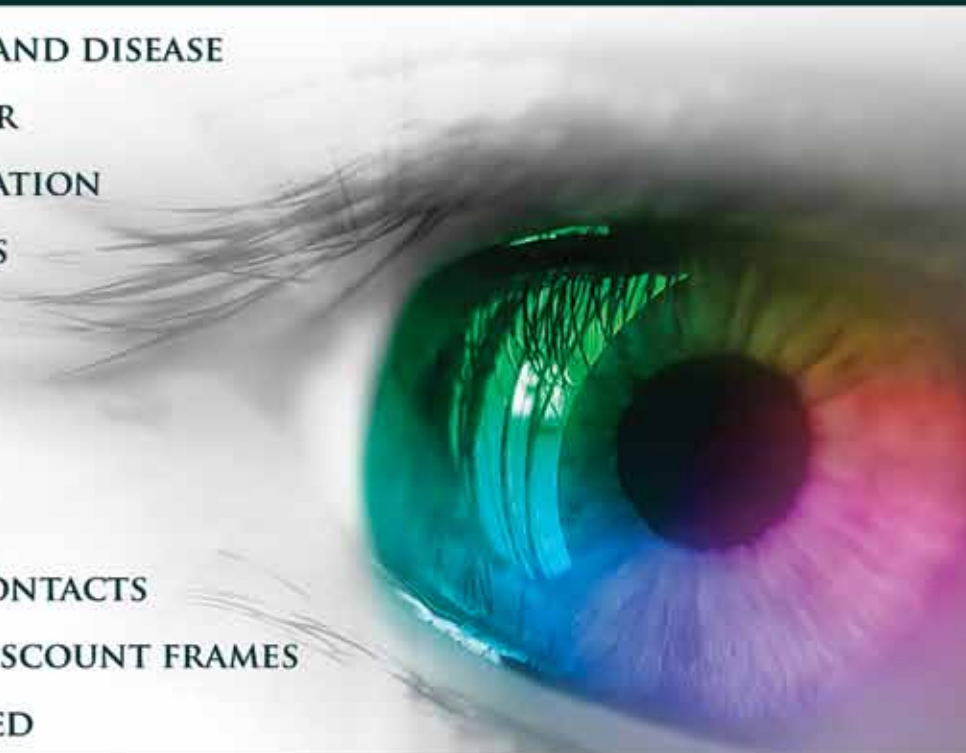
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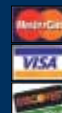
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Allstate Agency Changes Hands, Continues to Offer Complete Insurance Services

Allstate Insurance Company continues to stay committed to Texas and Collin County with the merging of the Tomi Brizendine Allstate agency in Wylie with the nearby Zane Shepherd Allstate agencies in Murphy and Lucas. Owned and operated by Zane Shepherd, the full-service agencies offer a complete line of products and services, including auto, property, commercial and life insurance, long-term care and annuities.

"I am excited about continuing to do business in Wylie," said Shepherd. "My knowledge and understanding of the people in this community will help me provide customers with an outstanding level of service. I am looking forward to helping families insure and protect what they have today and prepare better for tomorrow."

The Zane Shepherd Agencies are located at 158 W. FM 544, Suite 120 in Murphy and 945 W. Lucas Rd. in Lucas. Office hours are 8:30 to 5:30, Monday through Thursday and until 5:00 on Fridays. Evenings and weekends are available by appointment. Shepherd and his staff can be reached at 972-633-2222 (Murphy) and 972-429-9999 (Lucas) or by email at zaneshepherd@allstate.com.

Shepherd has been with Allstate since 2006 and in the insurance business since the early 1990's. He lives in Plano with his wife and two children.



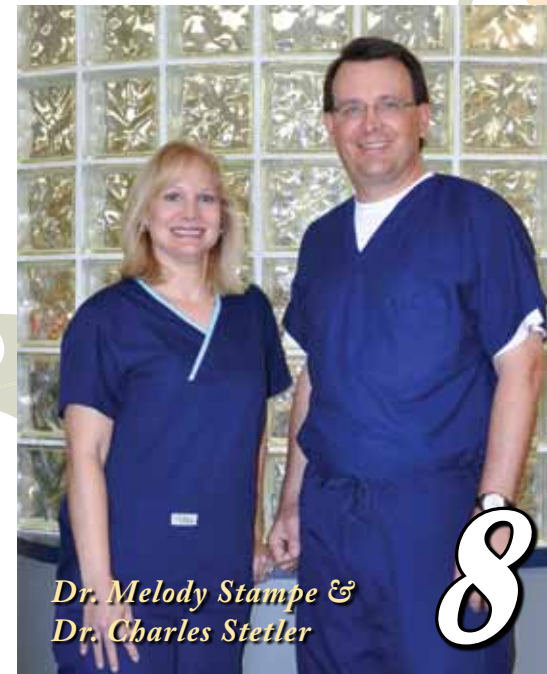
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On The Cover



Dr. Melody Stampe & Dr. Charles Stetler

FEATURES

- 12** | THERE'S A FESTIVAL FOR THAT!
- 14** | THE BASICS OF RODEO
- 16** | A SPOOKTACULAR TIME OF YEAR
- 22** | COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Area Festivals

CONTENTS

September/October 2010 • Volume 5 - Issue 5

PROFILE OF SUCCESS

- 8** | Dr. MELODY STAMPE & Dr. CHARLES STETLER
Wylie Dental Associates

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

- 4** | ZANE SHEPHERD
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COLUMNS

- 24** | HOME
Create a Beautiful Landscape
- 26** | FOOD
Yummy Halloween Treats
- 28** | HEALTH
Fall Back on Healthy Habits
- 30** | COLLEGE
Book in Common
- 32** | CHAMBER
Welcome New Members
- 34** | EDUCATION
A Historic Performance...
- 36** | MONEY
Helping the Arts

From us to you.....

Hello Wylie, Sachse, Murphy & Lavon –

Fall is in the air in North Texas and you can see the signs everywhere. The temperature briefly drops from 104 to 88 and nights actually can be defined as cool (well, at least not hot).

The kids are back in school, the homework routine has begun and football again takes center stage on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Our thoughts turn from “What else can we do just to get out of this ridiculous heat!” to “How can we get outside to enjoy these few weeks of cool weather”.

That is what our “Fantastic Fall Festival” issue of “The Connection” is all about. We hope the information enclosed in these 40 pages will give your family weekends of fun and entertainment - right in your backyard!

From the Wylie Championship Rodeo (September 17th & 18th), Murphy Maize Days (September 28th) and Sachse Fallfest (October 9th), to a full calendar of local area festivals, you and your family can choose any weekend to have fun and excitement without leaving your “Connected” area.

The Fall brings ghosts and ghouls for Halloween and inside you will find the Haunted House road map that will safely scare all ages. Frightful fun wouldn’t be complete without sweet Halloween treats, page 26 has a few tasty Halloween recipes that will add to the sugar rush of trick-or-treating.

As always, we strive to keep you informed with the standard Education, Money, Health and Home sections, designed to you keep you aware and up-to-date.

Enjoy the cool Fall weather, take in a local festival or event and spend some time in the area helping the local economy while being outside without sweating.

Mike - Becky - Anne

The CONNECTION Magazine flashback! This month marks the beginning of our fifth year. Our first issue was published in September of 2006, contained 24 pages and was distributed to less than 24,000 addresses. Since then we have grown to 40 pages and a distribution of just under 31,000 copies. We would like to thank all of our advertisers and readers for your continued support! We certainly couldn’t have done this without you!!



The CONNECTION

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A Wylie Chamber of Commerce Publication
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For information about advertising in The Connection Magazine please contact Becky Lindstrom at 214•228•5844 or blindstrom@wyliechamber.org. Story ideas should be submitted to Anne Hiney at theconnection.anne@mac.com.

The Connection is published bimonthly by the Wylie Chamber of Commerce. The Connection is mailed free of charge to over 30,000 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 it was hidden in the photo of the school supply drive on page 17.

CORRECTION: Please forgive our spelling errors last issue. We know there is a difference between principal and principle! Thanks for keeping us on our toes!!

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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The Scoop on Astigmatism

One of the most frequently asked questions in our office is, “What exactly is astigmatism?” Most people think of the eye as being perfectly round, like a basketball; however, with astigmatism, the shape of the cornea is asymmetrical, or “football” shaped. Having astigmatism gets a bad rapport as being something unfortunate. In reality, having astigmatism is not too different than being near-sighted or far-sighted. In fact, 85-90% of all eyeglass prescriptions contain some correction for astigmatism. Furthermore, just as with near- or far-sightedness, the degree of astigmatism can vary from eye to eye.

Uncorrected astigmatism may cause objects to appear blurred, shadowed, or tilted. Driving at night may be more difficult due to glare from streetlights. Astigmatism may also cause annoying symptoms of eyestrain such as headaches, eye fatigue, and sensitivity to light.

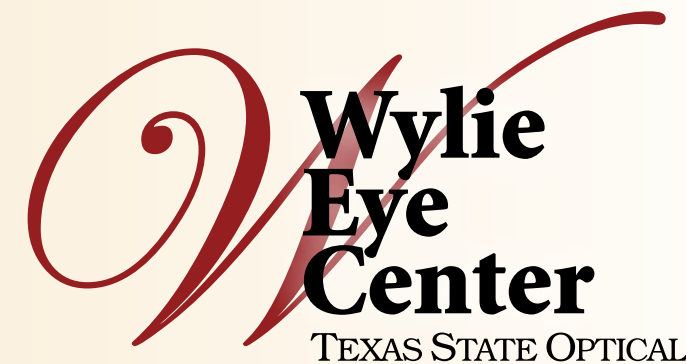
The good news for those that have astigmatism is that it can be corrected with glasses, contact lenses, and even LASIK. Wylie Eye Center is able to fit new astigmatism correcting, or “toric”, contact lenses that feel more comfortable and give better, more stable, vision than lenses we’ve used in the past. Given all the new technology, there should no longer be a “stigma” on astigmatism!



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Patient Highlight

This month's featured patient is Ms. Catherine Cook. Catherine graduated from Wylie High School in 2006 where she was Captain of the Cheerleading team and a varsity soccer player. She was very active with student council and The National Honor Society. Catherine went on to graduate with highest honors from Baylor University and earned a degree in speech pathology. She was named Homecoming Queen at Baylor in 2009 and currently is a first year law student pursuing her dream to become a top-notch attorney. We will be sure to keep an EYE on this very special young lady in the years to come!



Wylie Eye Center would like to thank Mrs. Tomi Brizendine for giving our office a beautiful 40 year-old tree. We enjoy it every day!

Be sure to join us for Boo on Ballard Street, October 28, who knows what Dr. Anderson will dress up as this year!



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CHANGING LIVES...



...AND LOVING IT!

The most rewarding experiences for Drs. Stetler and Stampe involve the ability to change patient's lives for the better. "Many people are embarrassed about their appearance, have low self esteem, and lack confidence just because they've never liked their teeth. A beautiful smile is an amazing asset! It is usually one of the first things people notice and can define who you are. When we help a patient create a new smile, the impact is nothing short of life-changing. It is a joy to see the transformation that comes as a result."

Changing smiles can be as simple as placing porcelain veneers in two visits, or may incorporate Invisalign (clear orthodontics) to move teeth around where they need to be. Sometimes all it takes is the *Lifetime Whitening* program to perk up a smile.

When an adult patient needs braces to adjust the alignment of teeth, Dr. Stetler can use Invisalign braces instead of sending a patient to an orthodontist. Invisalign braces treat many kinds of orthodontic problems and work like traditional metal braces...without the metal! Most adults do not like the look of the metal braces, but with Invisalign, the trays are made of a clear hardened plastic. A patient can wear the trays and most people never notice.



We live in an exciting time where there are many new tools and technologies that dentistry can offer. Drs. Stetler and Stampe are enthusiastic about using cutting-edge technology and techniques to provide an outstanding dental experience. They now have an advanced machine called CEREC that fabricates porcelain crowns and onlays in the office. This eliminates the waiting time for the restorations to return from a dental lab. By using a small camera inside the mouth, CEREC captures images needed to make a crown or onlay. The machine then creates the restoration with high quality precision and it is placed at the same appointment. CEREC really helps patients keep their busy schedules on track!



"I love being a dentist because I can help people with their dental problems. I enjoy meeting new people and learning about their lives. I also enjoy improving people's smiles, treating both kids and adults. This job really allows me to do that."
~ Dr. Charles Stetler

In addition to changing smiles, the doctors are also dedicated to identifying and treating conditions that alter their patient's quality of life. Gum disease is a "silent" but serious bacterial infection that can lead to heart disease, diabetes, stroke, premature births, low birth weight, pneumonia, and Alzheimer's disease. Treating gum disease is more serious than many realize. Just by removing the germs in an unhealthy mouth, blood sugar can be lowered significantly! These bacteria are also transferrable to others and can do some serious damage. Drs. Stetler and Stampe screen every patient for gum disease and will do whatever it takes to eliminate it.

Sleep Apnea

A serious and growing problem in America today is sleep breathing problems and poor quality sleep. Sleep apnea is dangerous and potentially fatal if not treated. It can result in a high risk for heart attacks, strokes, falling asleep while driving and many other medical conditions. People with sleep apnea are also at risk of emotional and mental health issues due to a lack of quality sleep each night.

While a night-time breathing device known as a CPAP machine is always the first choice to control sleep apnea, studies have shown that only a minority of CPAP owners are still using them after the first year. Some patients can't tolerate these machines and that's where Dr. Stampe can help. The FDA has approved the use of certain dental devices as an alternative treatment for sleep apnea.

Dr. Stampe is trained in dental sleep medicine and can select, fit, and adjust these devices which are custom designed to the patient's mouth. The device is worn while sleeping and works by opening the airway, reducing snoring, and lowering the severity of sleep apnea. •



CPAP Machine



Oral Appliance

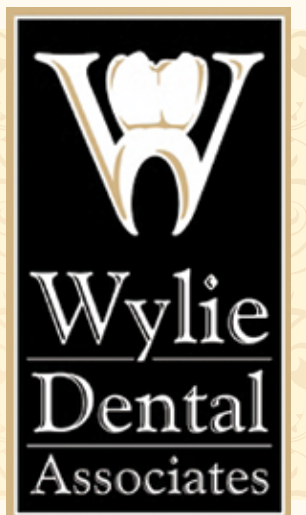
Signs you may have sleep breathing problems:

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- Excessive daytime sleepiness
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- Diabetes • Fatigue
- Concentration and memory problems
- ADD • Morning headaches
- Teeth grinding • Heartburn or GERD
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ABOUT US

Drs. Stetler and Stampe strive to be caregivers for life to all the patients they have an opportunity to meet. They encourage their patients to partner with them in treatment decisions and are committed to providing quality dental care that lasts. The doctors care about your dental experience and provide comfort and kindness every step of the way!

Both Dr. Stetler and Dr. Stampe have earned a Fellowship Award in the Academy of General Dentistry. This award is given to dentists who complete over 500 hours of continuing dental education, pass a comprehensive written examination, and fulfill 3 years of membership in the AGD. The Fellowship Award symbolizes excellence in the dental profession and a commitment to providing exceptional patient care. Both doctors are members of an elite group of 14,000 dentists who understand that great smiles and good oral health for their patients are the result of going above and beyond the basic requirements.



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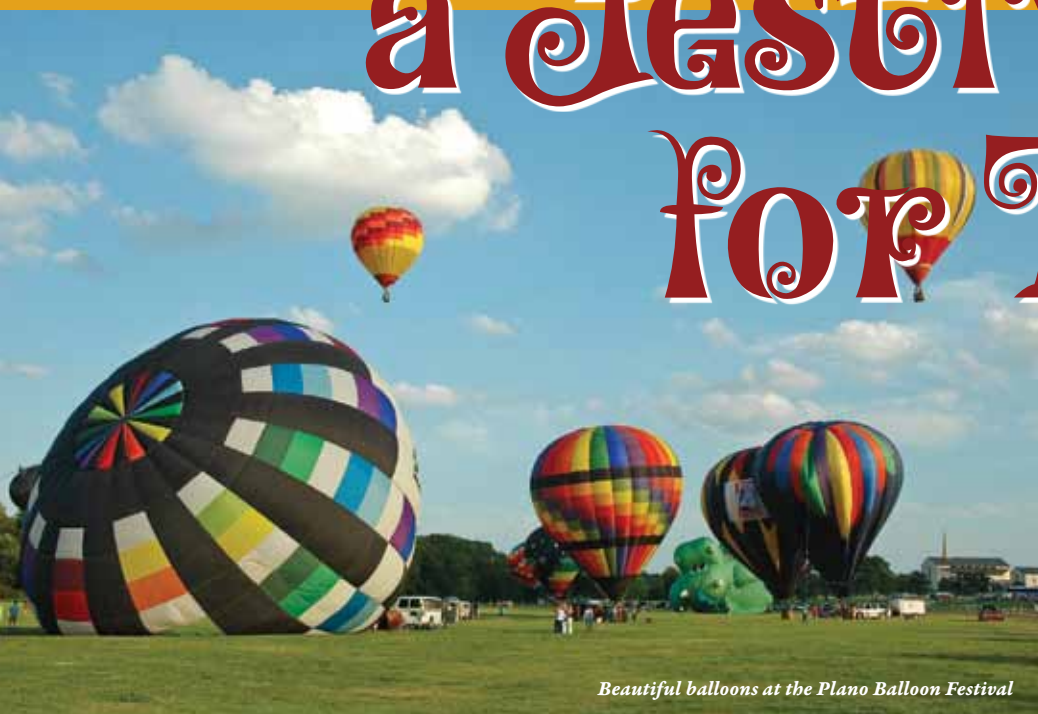
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There's a Festival for That!

by LaDawn Fletcher



Beautiful balloons at the Plano Balloon Festival

Photo by Anne Hiney

A Festival is the perfect way to spend a fall day in north Texas. Fortunately, you don't have to travel too far from home to enjoy all the autumn revelry. Wylie, Murphy, Sachse and beyond, offer lots of food, fun and activities to help your family celebrate the season.

September Festivals

The **Wylie Championship Rodeo** is a fun filled family event that takes place on **September 17-18**. See page 14 for story and details.

The **2010 St. Anthony Annual Fall Fest** will be held **Saturday, September 18 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday, September 19 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**, at 404 North Ballard Ave. in Wylie. The cost is just \$1 per ticket. The event will start with a 5K run at 8 a.m. Saturday morning. Throughout the day there will be food, games, bounce houses, a silent auction, vendors and live entertainment. Don't miss it! Visit www.saint-anthony.com for more information.

Wine novices and connoisseurs will descend upon Grapevine for four days **September 16-19** for the **24th Annual Grapefest**, the largest wine festival in the southwest. Set on historic Main Street in Grapevine, attendees can taste Texas

wines and eat great food while listening to live music and the whole family will enjoy the Carnival Midway. Visit www.GrapevineTexasUSA.com for more information.

Addison is the site for **Oktoberfest**, one of the largest Oktoberfest celebrations outside of Munich. Be sure to mark your calendar though, like the original German festival, it kicks off **September**

16-19. There will be fantastic food, exciting varieties of the expected beverages and great entertainment. Additional information can be found at <http://www.addisontexas.net/events/Oktoberfest/>.

For those who need a little more festival activity the annual **Plano Balloon Festival** will be held **September 17 – 19**. For \$5 per person (free for kids under 36 inches), you can bring your blanket and chairs and sit on the grassy hill to watch the balloons. Proceeds from the vendors go to local charities so bring your wallet too. Details can be found at www.planoballoonfest.org.

Rally 'Round Greenville (2500 Lee Street, Greenville, TX) on **September 17-19**. This free fun filled event will feature major music acts like **Emerald City Band** of Dallas and nonstop music from 9 a.m. to midnight on Saturday, including Texas Music Chart topper group **No Justice** and **Rich O'Toole**. Arrive early for the bicycle race, a BBQ and Chili cook-off, live music on two stages, wine tastings, an art show, more than 25 food vendors, with all types of cuisine, and a special section just for kids. More information can be found at www.rallyroundgreenville.com.

A salute to veterans of all branches of the service is the theme of the **Flights of Our Fathers Fly-in** in Terrell. On **September 18**, vintage planes will descend on the area and attendees can enjoy parachute jumps, hot air balloons, static plane demonstration, plane rides and lectures. For additional information e-mail no1bftsmuseum@yahoo.com.

The granddaddy of all fall festivals, the **Texas State Fair**, attracts visitors from all over the world. **September 24 thru October 24**. Sample the latest fried food delicacy and roam acres of exhibits at Fair Park in Dallas. Visit www.bigtex.com for information.

The **Greek Food Festival of Dallas** will take place **September 24-25**. This celebration of all things Greek is great for the whole family. Enjoy the food, music, dance and more at 13555 Hillcrest Road in Dallas, near the intersection of Hillcrest and Alpha Road. Visit www.greekfestivalofdallas.com.

Murphy Maize Days on **September 24 & 25** will feature a fun run, live music, food, fireworks and lots of family fun. See article on page 20 for all the details.

October Festivals

If you have always wanted to see the world but could make neither the time nor the airfare the **Plano International Festival** provides a wonderful opportunity to explore and enjoy ethnic food, music and dance. On **October 2** from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., join others at Haggard Park, on 15th Street and Avenue K. Visit www.planointernationalfestival.org for more info.

For art lovers, the **Cottonwood Art Festival** on **October 2 - 3** is the place to be. From 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. at 1321 West Belt Line Road in Richardson, TX, more than 200 artists from all over the nation present their work. Additional information can be found at www.cottonwoodartfestival.com.

Be sure to put the **Sachse Fall Fest** on your calendar! **October 9** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., residents will descend upon Heritage Park for this beloved annual event. See article on page 21 for additional information.

Carrollton honors Native American art and history each year at **Santa Fe Days**. On **October 9 and 10** the art of Brian Larney will be celebrated, along with food and dance. www.santafedays.com

Food and fun await everyone at the **Royse City Chamber Fun Fest** taking place on **October 16**. (216 N. Arch St., Ste. A, Royse City, TX 75189) www.roysecitychamber.com

Keeping with the international flair, **Worldfest** takes place **October 23-24**, from noon to 6 p.m., and celebrates the many diverse cultures that make up the vibrant D/FW Metroplex. Worldfest is a free event at the Village on the Parkway, 5100 Belt Line Rd. in Addison, TX. Visit www.addisontexas.net/events/Worldfest/ for more information.

One of the great things about living in Wylie is that you never have to be afraid to stroll the streets at night. Unless of course it is the one night of the year when the Wylie Downtown Merchants Association hosts **Boo on Ballard** Ave. Thursday **October 28**, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., this free event brings together families with area businesses and non-profits. This year, expect a great time for the whole family with lots of trick or treating in a safe environment for the kids. Be sure to dress them up in their favorite Halloween Costume and bring your bucket to collect plenty of goodies! •



Crafty kids at Sachse Fall Fest

Photo by Anne Hiney



Corn eating cutie at Murphy Maize Days

Photo provided by City of Murphy

Fall is a great time to explore and expand your horizon by attending one of these fantastic festivals. Enjoy! •

Pediatric Associates of Wylie P.A.



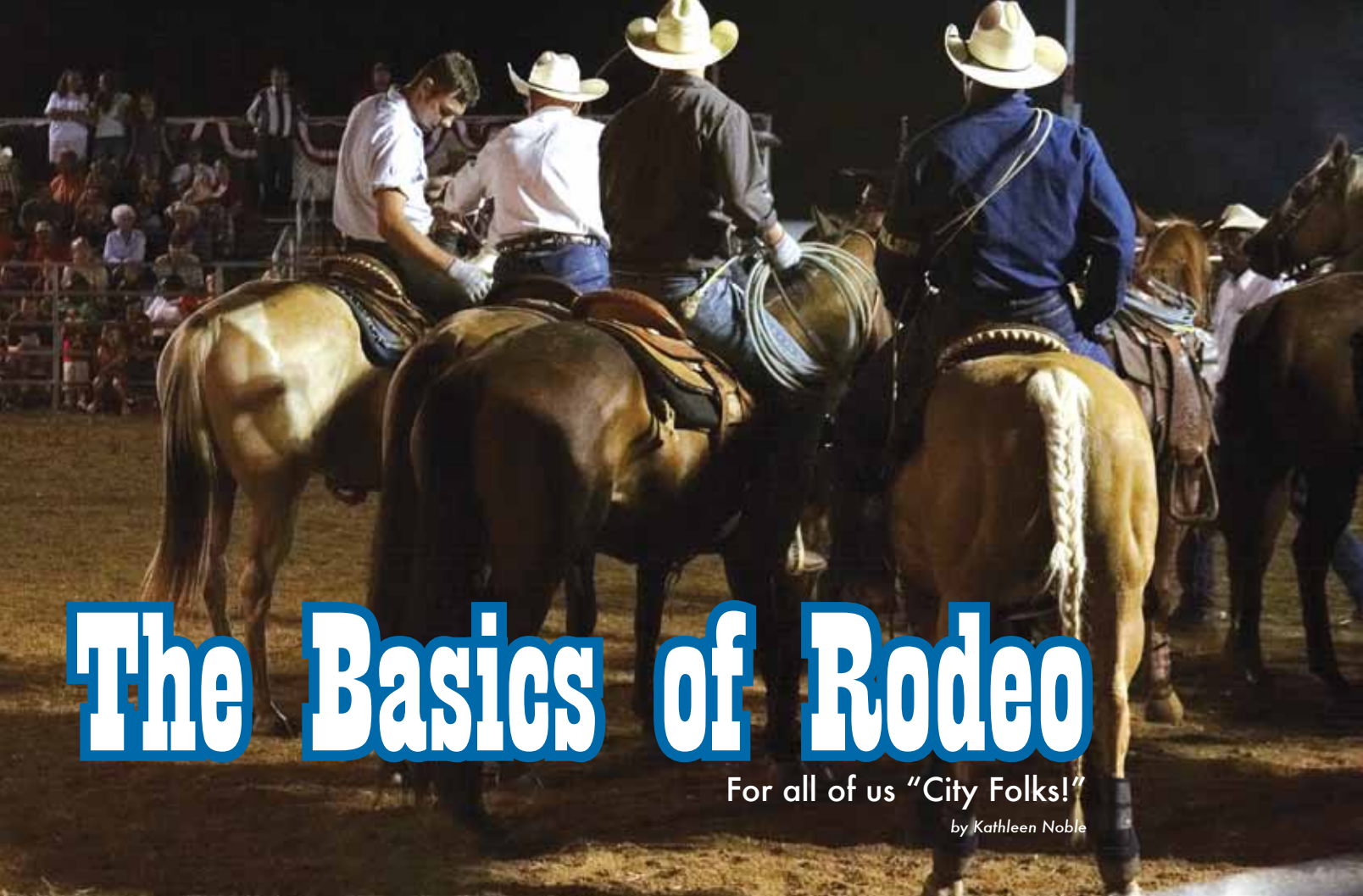
Grace V. Khouri, M.D. Betsy Dehart, MSN, RN, CPNP
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Not pictured: Lynne Beach, M.D.

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The Basics of Rodeo

For all of us “City Folks!”

by Kathleen Noble

In his 1991 hit single “Rodeo,” Garth Brooks wrote of bulls and blood, dust and mud and the roar of the crowd. He swooned of boots and chaps and cowboy hats, spurs and latigo, ropes and reigns, joys and pain of a thing called rodeo – as though he knew exactly what he was talking about.

I’m not ashamed to admit that I’m a city girl. It is for that reason I intend to explain the upcoming Wylie Championship Rodeo, from a knows nothing about it, point of view. The most I knew about anything even slightly western came from watching Rawhide with my dad when I was a kid. In all honesty I just liked the show’s theme song. It made me want to sing.

*Move ‘em on, head ‘em up, Head ‘em up, move ‘em on
Move ‘em on, head ‘em up, Rawhide
Count ‘em out, ride ‘em in, Ride ‘em in, count ‘em out,
Count ‘em out, ride ‘em in, Rawhide!*

Don’t try to understand ‘em just rope, throw and brand ‘em which is some pretty good advice for this city girl when it comes to a rodeo. I’m hoping its equally good advice for other Connection readers.

The Wylie Chamber of Commerce will host the 17th Annual Wylie Championship Rodeo coming once again to the Wylie Agricultural Center, September 17 and 18. Rain days have been slated for October 1 and 2.

Like most women I recognize the appeal of a rugged cowboy in tight wranglers riding on horseback. I can’t say I have much appreciation for the aroma of horse manure or cow patties but all females certainly value the smell of worn leather.

Rodeo’s are made up of competitors, stock contractors who provide all the livestock and rodeo entertainment, judges, and organizational personnel such as announcers and secretaries. Rodeo organizations exist at the local, county, state, and national levels. Often rodeos are organized and funded by a city’s local chamber of commerce and are sponsored by local businesses. A rodeo is a true community affair and fun for the entire family.

Wylie Championship Rodeo producer, Wes Ward of Ward Family Stock Contractors will supply calves, steers, horses, angry bulls, specialty acts and even mischief making rodeo clowns for this year’s event. The Ward Family Stock Contractors have been supplying livestock for rodeos for more than 62 years.

Prize money is made up of entry fees paid by rodeo participants. While the potential prize money is what keeps cowboys and cowgirls competing, the most coveted and recognized rodeo prize is a belt buckle.

The 17th Annual Wylie Championship Rodeo will include competitors from Oklahoma and Texas. Wylie is the only Texas city taking part in this year’s events. The Wylie Championship Rough Stock Rodeo will consist of eight timed events that include Bare Bronc riding, Saddle Bronc riding, Range Bronc riding, Cowboys tie down calf roping, Ladies breakaway calf roping, Cowboy team roping, barrel racing, and bull riding. The rodeo grounds will have more than 50 concession and vendor booths, free kids games and a Kiddie Korral that will feature inflatable bounce houses of all shapes and sizes. “The Wylie Championship Rodeo

brings in crowds of 2000 or more spectators each night, each year,” said Wylie Chamber President Mike Agnew.

According to the Cowboy Regional Rodeo Association secretary Margie Farley, most rodeo contestants have families and jobs and do not rodeo full time. Contestants enter rodeos, registering with the rodeo secretary, on a specified day and time. As a courtesy Farley has defined each of this year’s rodeo events so that this city girl and others might better understand.

A Rodeo Guide for Dummies if you will:

Bareback Riding: One contestant, one horse, and a rigging (goes around the horse and has a suitcase like handle for the contestant.) The ride lasts eight seconds in which the cowboy cannot touch the horse with his free hand.

Saddle Bronc Riding: One contestant, one horse, a saddle, and a rein. Cowboy must keep the rein in one hand for the ride and cannot touch the horse with the free hand during the eight second ride.

Ranch Bronc Riding: One contestant, one horse, a saddle, and a rein. An eight second ride and anything goes. Very entertaining for the contestant and crowd.

Bull Riding: One contestant, one bull, and one rope. This again is an eight second ride. The rope goes around the bull and contains a handle for the cowboy’s hand. The contestant cannot touch the bull with his free hand during the ride. If he does he receives a no score.

Tie-down Roping: Cowboy, horse, calf, long rope, and short rope. A cowboy must rope the calf, throw it to the ground,

and then tie any three of the calf’s feet together with a short rope. The short rope is called a piggin’ string. The fastest time wins.

Team Roping: Two cowboys, two horses, one steer, and two ropes. One cowboy will rope the steer’s horns and one cowboy will rope the steer’s hind feet. The fastest time wins. If either cowboys misses his part of this contest it results in a no time.

Cowgirls Barrel Racing: One cowgirl, one horse, three barrels. Barrel pattern ridden is a clover leaf pattern. The cowgirl makes a cloverleaf run around the three barrels. The fastest time wins.

Cowgirls Break-away Roping: One contestant, one horse, one rope, and one calf. The cowgirl ropes the calf and the loop breaks free from saddle horn. The fastest time wins.

Judging is generally done by two, sometimes three judges. The judges are responsible for the scores in the rough stock events and dropping the flag to stop the time in the timed events. Stop watches are held by two timekeepers. All judges and timekeepers are required to be members of the Cowboys Regional Rodeo Association or the Cowboys Professional Rodeo Association.

Whether or not you know the rules or how rodeo is truly done, it’s fair to say that it’s a sure bet for a good time! So move ‘em on, head ‘em up, ride ‘em in.....to this year’s Wylie Championship Rodeo!! •

Photo by Jennifer Sebbby - MountainPonyPhotography.com

17th Annual Wylie Championship Rodeo

Friday, September 17th & Saturday, September 18th at 6:30 p.m. (Rainout date: Friday/Saturday, October 1 & 2, 6:30 p.m.) at the rodeo arena in Wylie, located adjacent to the Birmingham Agricultural facility. We will be putting on a Professional Rodeo, complete with bull riding, barrel racing, bronc busting, calf roping and many other events that will bring the excitement of professional rodeo to Wylie. Two night access gives you the opportunity to attend/sponsor one night or both nights depending on your tastes. This year there are no advanced ticket sales, but tickets can be purchased at the gate on the night of the event. The schedule and ticket prices are as follows:

Schedule of Events:

FRIDAY

6:30 p.m. Mutton Bustin’
8:00 p.m. Grand Entry/Rodeo Begins
10:30 p.m. Slack (Extra cowboys to compete)

SATURDAY

6:30 p.m. Team Penning/Cutting Exhibition
8:00 p.m. Grand Entry/Rodeo Begins
10:30 p.m. Slack(Extra cowboys to compete)



Tickets:

Adults – \$10 per night
Children (12 & under) & Seniors – \$5 for per night
Children 3 & Under – FREE
Discounted Family Pack* – \$20 per night
*(Family Pack Includes 2-Adult Tickets, 2-Children Tickets
Group Discounts Available (Advance Purchase Only)

The Wylie Rodeo is a community event that has something for everyone. Besides the Pro Rodeo action, there will be western themed craft and vendor booths for that early Christmas shopping, food from a variety of concessionaires and a Kiddie Corral that just keeps getting better every year. In addition to the games and bouncy houses, there will be mechanical bull rides and other surprises for the more adventurous in attendance. The festivities begin Friday with the preliminary and final round of Mutton Bustin’ for those kids who are 55 lbs. & under. In Mutton Bustin’, the kids hang on tight to some local (and feisty) sheep for an opportunity to compete in the Mutton Bustin’ Finals. For details on the kids’ events check online at www.wyliechamber.org for sign-up information. Both nights, the Rodeo will begin with the Grand Entry, which is an opportunity for anyone in the community to ride in on their horse (Proof of Negative Coggins Required).

Due to park construction, we will be running shuttle buses from the Wylie Pirates Stadium parking lot. Attendees will be directed to enter from FM 544 and Country Club (FM 1378) to park. Contact the Wylie Chamber for more information at www.wyliechamber.org or 972-442-2804.

It's that Spooktacular Time of Year!

By Lori C. Villarreal

While you were collecting school supplies and reflecting on ways to juggle your kid's fall activities, your haunted house enthusiasts have been pulling out their painted plywood, pyrotechnics, and poisonous potions while devising new ways to scare the heebie jeebies out of you. Halloween is fast approaching and Sachse resident, Jim Cox, has dedicated hundreds of hours in recreating his annual offering of Bloodworth Manor (www.bloodworthmanor.com) to help you celebrate this festival of ghouls and goblins. Friday, October 29th through Sunday, October 31st, between dusk and 10 p.m., approximately 1,000 people will scream, squeal, and laugh their way through this free but frightening experience.

His house on 2809 Granite Avenue is open to all ages but Cox warns, "this is not for the very young". He has witnessed elementary school kids go through his house delighted with the spooks while watching a teen truly terrified. Cox warns parents to use discretion when deciding if their child should enter a haunted house.



Cox started converting his home, with the help of his family, into a haunted house 12 years ago to entertain the neighborhood. He gained a great deal of satisfaction from creating, designing, and constructing the props, paths, and overall experience.

When Cox walks through other haunts he admits he is looking at the quality of detail and the surprise factor and misdirection of a particular scare. He says, "Most people run through trying

to these starving, but enthusiastic volunteers. rience. It did not take long before he discovered the thrill of scaring people. Cox reports, "People like to get scared and people like to scare others. It's a mutual rush." Haunted house hobbyist, Kris Slocum, has been helping local fright houses for ten years. He agrees that scaring people, "gets in your blood. It's a rush to watch a person get surprised then scream and laugh because of something I did."

To help create a real suspense for haunt goers about 15 actors will bring Sachse-based Bloodworth Manor to life for these three short days. Actors come in from all over the metroplex and participate because it is fun. While there is no fee charged to the public, donations do help feed dinner

to get out as fast as they can or have their head buried in the person in front of them." Each year Cox and his actors rework the former year's effort to provide a new and different experience. He claims, "A good house has to have surprise".

There are not a lot of haunts in this area anymore. There are some good yard decorations but outside of Sachse the community has to travel to find a worthy haunt. Kris Slocum sites Thrillvania in Terrell as his,

"favorite haunted house because of the history". With a well established storyline dating back to 1901 this spooky house tale includes nothing less than a psychopathic werewolf and his lady vampire wife conducting cruel experiments on unsuspecting travelers. A story that will rival any suspense novel you pick up this year.

Thrillvania has been awarded "2nd Scariest Haunt in America" by MSN, is listed on AOL's "America's Best Haunts", and is one of only two haunted houses in America to be spot lighted on the Travel Channel. Thrillvania promises to be well worth the \$13 to \$40 ticket price boasting, "eight terrifying attractions, one thrill



park". Plan to spend a few hours getting lost in the 4D mortuary experience, the Labyrinth of Terror, Thorn Hall, and a Trail of Torment. The house is located on Interstate 20 and Wilson Road and opens for weekends on Friday, September 25th running through Sunday, October 31st. Check their website at www.thrillvania.com before you load up for the drive.

Another highly recommended haunt is the 13th Street Morgue in Red Oak (410 Houston School Road), south of DeSoto. MapQuest claims an hour drive but DFWHauntedHouses.com has awarded this experience as one of the scariest in the metroplex. Haunt goers blog this unique thrill gets better and better each year. An old, secluded barn on Reindeer Manor provides the perfect creepy location for the haunt goers as they traverse the grave yards into an old barn complete with a mortuary and hay ride. Visitors should plan to see all three of the attractions: Reindeer Manor, 13th Street Morgue, and Dungeon of Doom. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$15 for children but coupons are available at www.reindeermanor.com.

There is simply no excuse to not be scared witless this Halloween season. Pack your friends and family in the car and drive across the street or across the metroplex to hunt out your favorite haunt. If you find yourself addicted to the scare, log onto www.dfwhauntedhouses.com for additional haunts. Any web search for "haunted houses in Dallas, TX" will garner excellent results. Boo! •

Photos courtesy of Jim Cox.

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I am Proud of My Community!

There is something about fall that makes me think community. Murphy Maize Days, Wylie Rodeo and Sachse Fall Fest always bring everyone together at fun, family-oriented events. This is also the time of year we see our police departments promoting Neighborhood Night Out events. These annual activities facilitate a strong sense of community and get neighbors meeting neighbors. Webster's defines Community as a unified body of individuals. There is nothing more unifying than our homes, our places of worship, our schools and supporting our troops.

We are all invested in the community in which we live by the simple choice to make this our home. But what real value is there in a strong community? Strong, diversified communities hold their home values even in this tough market. If you purchased a home in any of these cities three or more years ago, it is probably worth at least what you paid if not more. There are not many communities in the United States that can hold to these standards.

I am so proud to be an American, a Texan and live in our corner of the Dallas metroplex. I absolutely love my city, my neighborhood and my neighbors. Below are some local and not so local statistics that will make you feel great about living where we do.

Last three years (12 quarters) averaged as reported by NAR & NTREIS

Area	Depreciation/Appreciation
Las Vegas, NV	-53%
Phoenix, AZ	-45%
Orlando, FL	-47%
DFW	-13%
Wylie	+4%
Sachse	+2%
Wylie/Sachse/Murphy/Lavon	-4%



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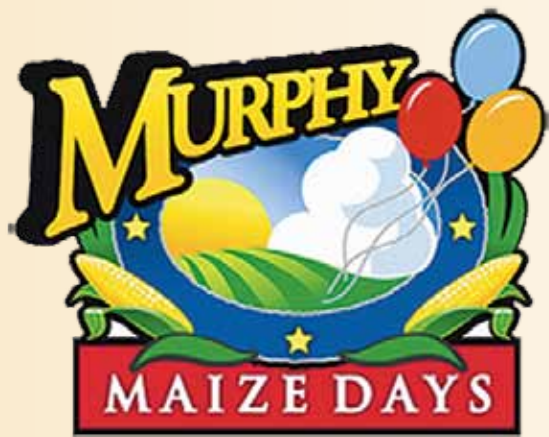
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Mark your calendars for September 24 and 25! It's a busy and fun weekend in Murphy Texas!!

Friday, September 24: 1:30 p.m., the Murphy Chamber of Commerce is holding its 7th Annual Golf Tournament.

Register now! You can follow the golf tournament link at www.murphychamber.org. We look forward to you joining us as a golfer (teams of four) or as a sponsor! Half of all proceeds benefit the Murphy Chamber Scholarship Foundation!!

Sponsors this year include: Murphy Economic Development Corporation, State Farm - Jon Lashbrook, Wells Fargo, Murphy, Methodist Richardson Medical Center, Murphy Marketplace, Jimmy Johns, Signs Now, Murphy Messenger, Murphy Monitor.

Saturday, September 25:

8 a.m., The 1st Annual Murphy Maize Days A-Maize-ing 5K & Fun Run! Register now!

For details, please visit www.murphymaizedays.com

In memory of Neal Golden, this run will benefit the Melanoma International Foundation and is title sponsored by the Murphy Chamber of Commerce.

After the race....head on over to Murphy Maize Days Festival!

10 a.m. - 8:15 p.m., Murphy Maize Days!

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- Over 3 acres of Kidz Zone!
- Live Music! • Contests! • Fireworks!
- Maize Market is taking vendor registrations now!
- Check it all out at www.murphymaizedays.com

Sponsors include: Dr Pepper Snapple Group & Dr Pepper, City of Murphy, Love and War in Texas, Murphy Economic Development Corporation, Murphy Community Development Corporation, Oncor, Ballard Street, Waste Management, Methodist Richardson Medical Center, Murphy Family Eyecare, American Landscape Systems, First Southwest, Murphy Messenger, Elevate Church, State Farm - Jon Lashbrook, WHR Architects, Inc., Wall Enterprises, Murphy Monitor.

For more information, please contact Keri Kirkwood at kkirkwood@murphytx.org or Kristen Roberts at kroberts@murphytx.org.

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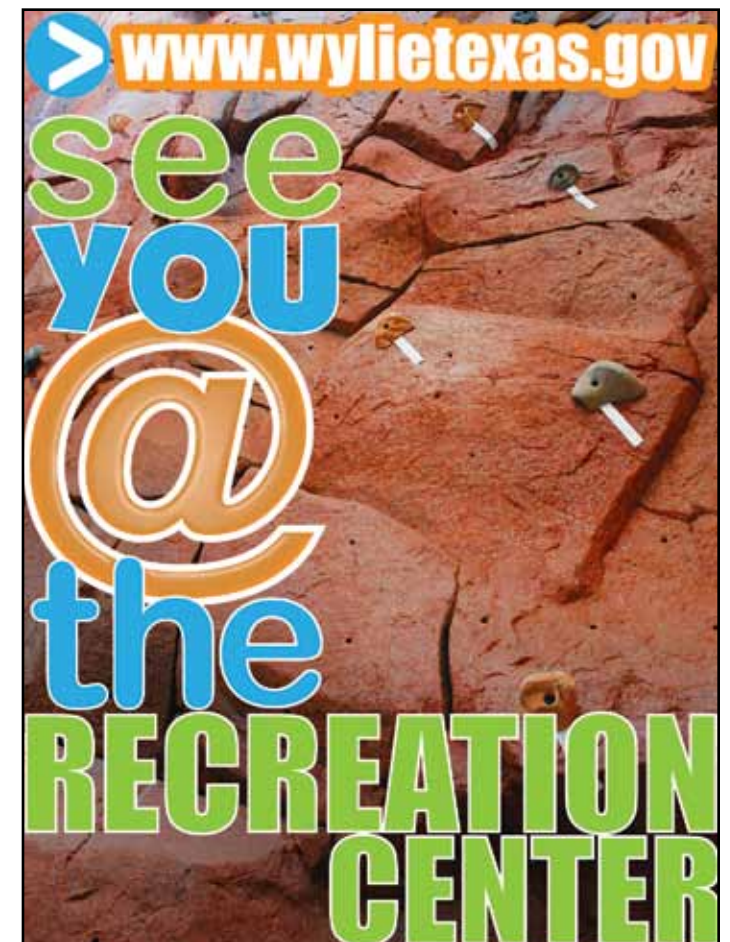


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The Sachse Chamber of Commerce will celebrate Sachse Fallfest's 25th Anniversary this year at Heritage Park on October 9th from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Fallfest, sponsored by Oncor Electric Delivery, is an arts and crafts fair that features great food, contests, children's games, a car show, over 100 arts & crafts and business vendors, and all-day free entertainment by local musicians. An estimated crowd of 8,000 attended last year's fair despite the cold and wet temperatures.

Fallfest attendees will be able to accomplish some early Christmas shopping and will definitely walk away with a full stomach. Vendors will be selling home-made jewelry & accessories, children's clothing, ceramics, and many other products made by: Tupperware, Longaberger, Miche Bags, 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, brisket tacos, nachos, tater swirls, funnel cakes, roasted corn, fried catfish & shrimp, hamburgers and hot dogs, wings, snow cones, kettle corn, pizza and more!

Popular returning contests are the Children's Pageant, sponsored by Stepping Stones Learning Center, Car Show, sponsored by Kwik Kar, Pet Photo, sponsored by Precious Pups Grooming, Pie Contest, sponsored by Kroger, and Men's Best Legs. The children's pageant registration will take place at Heritage Park on Friday, October 8th from 6-8 p.m. or Saturday, October 9th from 9:30-10 a.m. only. The registration fee is \$35 and the pageant will start promptly at 10:30 a.m. Car Show registration is \$20 and will take place from 9 a.m. - 12 Noon on Saturday. Cars, trucks, and motorcycles of all classes are welcome. Pet photos may be submitted in advance at www.sachsechamber.com or taken at the Pet Photo booth before 1 p.m. on Saturday. The entry fee is only \$5 and each registrant will receive a goody bag from A&B Kennel Club (while supplies last). Vendors may also decorate their booths again this year. The best "German-Fall Themed" booth will win a free booth for the 2011 Fallfest.

Sponsorships and booths are still available. For additional information call the Sachse Chamber of Commerce office at 972-496-1212 or visit them at www.sachsechamber.com. •



Sachse Chamber of Commerce

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Sept. - Nov. - Therapeutic riding starts back at Throwaway Ponies in September. Lessons are once a week September, October and November. Anyone interested should fill out the forms found on our website, www.throwawayponies.org. We offer lessons free of charge (though donations are appreciated) to children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, youth at risk, and mild developmental disorders.

Sept. 17th - Deadline is 5 p.m. for submitting an application for the Murphy Citizen Police Academy. CPA starts Sept. 28. Applications are available on-line or by dropping by the Murphy Police Department. Contact Kris Riebschlagel at 972-468-4259 for more info.

Sept. 17th & 18th - Wylie Championship Rodeo at the Birmingham Ag Arena. 6:30 p.m. start both nights. Fabulous Family Fun! See page 15 for more details. (Rainout dates: Oct. 1st & 2nd) www.wyliechamber.org.

Sept. 18th - Throwaway Ponies Garage Sale. Huge amount of items for sale. Many items for just \$1. Throwaway Ponies is a nonprofit, 501 (c)(3) program dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of horses. 2368 E. FM 552, Rockwall, Texas 75087. Contact Karen Bander at 214-202-1390 or karen@throwawayponies.org for more info.

Sept. 18th - Sachse's Animal Control will host a low cost pet shot clinic on Saturday, September 18 at the Animal Shelter, 6436 Sachse Road, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Animal Allies will also be at the clinic offering low cost microchips and Animal Control officers will be happy to get your pets registered. By City Ordinance, pets must be registered and tags must be worn to show proof of vaccination. City tags are \$2.00 if your pet is spayed or neutered; \$7.00 if they are not. In order to receive the lower cost registration, please bring proof of spay / neuter. DURING THE PET SHOT CLINIC, DOGS MUST BE ON LEASHES AND CATS MUST BE IN CARRIERS. For more information about the clinic or to inquire about adopting a pet, please visit the Shelter during business hours, Mon. thru Fri., 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sat. and Sun., 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. or call 972.495.2271, ext. 1157.

Sept. 21st - Sachse Family Game Night at 6 p.m. Join us at the Sachse Public Library for an evening of fun for all ages! Bring the whole family and choose from a variety of games to play, 3815 Sachse Rd. Bldg. C, 972-530-8966.

Sept. 24th & 25th - Murphy Maize Days. See page 20 for details. www.murphymaizedays.com.

Sept. 24th & 25th - Wylie Acting Group for Kids presents The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe at New Hope Church Auditorium, 1100 West Brown Street. Children will be thrilled to join Tumnus the Faun, the White Queen, and Aslan the Lion, in the magical land of Narnia. This action packed play features chases, duels and escapes as the witch is determined to keep Narnia in her possession and to end the reign of Aslan. This story of love, faith, courage and giving, with its triumph of good over evil, is a true celebration of life. Follow Lucy into the wardrobe and beyond... Showtimes: Friday, Sept. 24 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 25 from 2 - 3:30 p.m. and 7 - 8:30 p.m. Contact info@wagforchildren.org for more info. www.wagforchildren.org

Sept. 25th - Hector Guzman and your Plano Symphony Orchestra open the 2010-2011 Season with "Forza Italia." Violinist Mariusz Patyra will perform one of Paganini's most demanding pieces in all concerto literature, Concerto No. 1 for Violin and Orchestra. Patyra is the first Polish violinist to ever win the Nicolo Paganini International Violin Competition. Opening night will also include works of Rossini and Respighi. Gioachino Rossini's overture to "William Tell," a famous overture in all opera will be performed by the orchestra. The familiar trumpet fanfare and culmination of this piece have become synonymous with a masked man of television legends. 8:15 p.m. at the Eisemann Center - 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson, TX 75082. Tickets: To order, call the Plano Symphony Orchestra Ticket Office at 972-473-7262 or visit www.planosymphony.org. Reserved Seating tickets begin at \$9. Add \$2 per ticket at the door.

Sept. 28th "Emergency Preparedness for Horses and Livestock" seminar from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Myers Park and Event Center. Sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Lone Star Equine Council, featuring Jason Lane of Homeland Security who will describe the Collin County Emergency Management Plan already in place which includes provisions for the handling and care of horses and livestock. Attendees will receive a resource list developed by Homeland Security. Collin County Agrilife Extension Agent Rick Maxwell will then discuss determining emergency vulnerabilities and capabilities and Dr. Bailey White, D.V.M. will give attendees advice on what to have on hand in case of your own local emergency. Please call the Extension Office at 972-548-4233 if you plan on attending. Myers Park is located on FM 166 northwest of McKinney. Refreshments provided and there is no cost for attending.

OCTOBER EVENTS

October - Wylie's Smith Public Library provides you the opportunity to clear current overdue fines from your account and help your community. Reach for a Star is in need of new toys for infant through teen. For every new toy that is brought to the Library you will get up to \$10 of overdue fees cleared from an individual library account. No overdue books? You can still drop off a toy at the Library! The library is located at 800 Thomas Street. For more information call 972-442-7566 or visit www.wylietexas.gov and select library under city departments.

Oct. 2nd - Sachse Parks & Recreation Annual Fishing Derby. Families will enjoy a day of fishing at Park Lake Park Pond, 4915 Miles Rd., Sachse. The fisherman will be treated to hot dogs and drinks. All ages are welcome. 9 a.m. to noon. FREE! Guide and pro-angler Jeff Kirkwood, will be present at the event and will provide a prize to the first place winner. Visit his website at www.fishinwithjeff.com.

Oct. 5th - Wylie's National Night Out Celebration. Celebrate National Night Out as a community, Tuesday, October 5, from 6 – 8 p.m. in Olde City Park, Downtown Wylie, Hwy. 78 at Ballard Ave. Join us for police and fire displays, hot dogs, drinks, a bounce house and music; then return home, turn your porch light on and meet with your neighbors.

Oct. 9th - Sachse Fall Fest. See details on page 21. www.sachsechamber.com

Oct. 9th - Murphy Fire Department Open House from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 206 North Murphy Road. Games, live demonstrations, free hotdogs and drinks, Sparky the Fire Dog. Call 972-468-4300 for more info.

Oct. 16th - Pancake breakfast at Wylie Fire Station Three, 210 N. W.A. Allen, Wylie, benefiting the Reach for a Star Program from 8 to 10 a.m. Designed to assist families in the community during the holiday season, Reach for a Star is an outreach program sponsored by the City of Wylie and supported by the WISD, community churches, and local businesses and organizations. Through the combined efforts of these community organizations and volunteers, the program brings smiles to children and families by providing clothes and toys. www.wylietexas.gov/departments/fire/reach_for_a_star.php

Oct. 23rd - Sachse Parks & Recreation 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 age 10 and under will go find them and some may even win a prize. There will be hayrides and refreshments for everyone. FREE! 6 p.m. at the newly reconstructed Salmon Park, 4302 Williford Rd.

Oct. 23rd - Plano Symphony Orchestra presents Somewhere Over the Rainbow: A Tribute to Judy Garland. The one and only Linda Eder joins Hector Guzman and your Plano Symphony in her famed "Tribute to Judy Garland" including "Zing! Went the Strings of My Heart" and "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" on the second half of the concert. The first half of the concert will include Gershwin's "Cuban Overture" and selections from "Fiddler on the Roof" and Leonard Bernstein's "Fancy Free." 8:15 p.m. at the Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson, TX 75082. Tickets: To order, call the Plano Symphony Orchestra Ticket Office at 972-473-7262 or visit www.planosymphony.org. Reserved Seating tickets begin at \$9. Add \$2 per ticket at the door.

Oct. 26th - Annual Halloween Party at the Sachse Public Library begins at 4 p.m. 800 Thomas St. Sachse, 972-442-7566.

Oct. 28th - Wylie Downtown Merchants Association present Boo on Ballard! 6 - 8 p.m., this free event brings together families with area businesses and non-profits. This year, expect a great time for the whole family with lots of trick or treating in a safe environment for the kids. Be sure to dress them up in their favorite Halloween Costume and bring your bucket to collect plenty of goodies!

Oct. 30th - The 3rd Annual Murphy Police Explorer Golf Tournament at 8 a.m., Pecan Hollow Golf Course, Plano. Seeking sponsors and players, contact Officer Bill Vegas, Murphy Police Department, 972-468-4279.

Oct. 31st - First Baptist Church Wylie 140th Anniversary Celebration - 10 a.m. worship time (only one worship service that day), followed by lunch and activities. Check www.fbcwylie.org for updates.

WYLIE'S RITA AND TRUETT SMITH PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS

Located at 800 Thomas Street, Wylie 972-442-7566

Wednesday Morning Story Time:

Books & Babies: 9:00 a.m., Ages 0-1, 20 minutes. NEW!

Toddler Time: 9:30 and 10:00 a.m., Ages 1-2, 25 minutes. *Free tickets are required to attend. Tickets are available on a first come, first served basis storytime morning.*

Big Kid Storytime: 10:45 and 11:30 a.m., 30 minutes. *Free tickets are required to attend. Tickets are available on a first come, first served basis storytime morning.*

Story Time Dates & Themes:

Sept. 1st: I Love Books!; **Sept. 8th:** Crocodiles and Alligators; **Sept. 15th:** Rowdy Pirates; **Sept. 22nd:** Autumn is Fall; **Sept. 29th:** Yee-Haw!

Oct. 6th: Spectacular Space, **Oct. 13th:** It's Not Easy Being Extinct, **Oct. 20th:** Out of the Oven, **Oct. 27th:** Let's Pretend Halloween

Wagging Tales: 6-7 p.m.

Sept. 16th, Oct. 7th & 21st - Practice your skills by reading aloud to Abby! Tickets are limited and free. They are given out on a first come first served basis the evening of the event.

4th Monday Book Club (ages 18 & up): 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 27th - Meet to discuss *Strength in What Remains* by Tracy Kidder.

Oct. 25th - Meet to discuss *When the Emperor Was Divine* by Julie Otsuka.

Between Book & Movie Club (4th & 5th Graders): 6:30 p.m.

4th & 5th graders are encouraged to read the book and watch the movie on their own time, then come to our meeting for discussion. We talk about the differences between the book and movie, favorite plot points and characters and much more! We read passages from the book and watch scenes from the movie. Snacks are provided.

Sept. 23rd - *Fantastic Mr. Fox*

Oct. 28th - *Alice in Wonderland*

Wylie Friends of the Library: 6 p.m.

Sept. 16th & Oct. 21st - The Friends of the Rita & Truett Smith Public Library are having their monthly meeting in the Bluebonnet Room. To celebrate the ground-breaking of the new 43,934 sq. ft. library, membership fees are currently half price and a free library bag comes with your membership!

GED Class: Tuesdays from 5-8 p.m.

Sept. 14th, 21st & 28th - Free assistance for those preparing to take the GED.

Oct. 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th - Free assistance for those preparing to take the GED.

Library Knits: Fridays from 1-2 p.m.

Sept. 10th, 17th & 24th - Beginners learn to cast on, knit, purl, bind off and more! Already know how to knit? Then come to meet other knitters! All ages and skill levels welcome. Please bring your own needles and yarn.

Oct. 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th - Socks! Learn to knit socks on a magic loop. You must already know the basics of knitting and be comfortable knitting in the round on circular needles for this class. Registration required - Please sign up at the children's reference desk.

SACHSE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Located at 3815 Sachse Rd., Building C, Sachse 972-530-8966

Play Mahjong: 1st & 3rd Wednesday from 1 - 5 p.m.

Sept. 1st & 15th and Oct. 6th & 20th

Story Time: Each Thursday at 11 a.m.

Sept. 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th

Oct. 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th

Adult Book Club: 3rd Friday at 10 a.m.

Sept. 18th and Oct. 15th

Paws & Read: 2nd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 14th and Oct. 12th - Kids read aloud to dogs from the Delta Society's Pet Partners

Friends of the Sachse Public Library: 4th Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Sept. 28th & Oct. 26th

Oct. 23rd - Friends of the Library Fall Potluck at 7 p.m. Bring your appetites and your favorite dish to our annual potluck as we gather for food, fun, and volunteer appreciation, to recognize our volunteers and to welcome our new officers. Location TBA.

SACHSE SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Laurie Schwenk Senior Activity Center is located at 3815 Sachse Road, Suite B, on the corner of Sachse Rd. & Miles Rd. 972-495-6282.

Exercise: Most Mon., Wed. & Fri. mornings at 9 a.m. - Check Calendar!

Day Trips: Call the center to confirm dates & times

Sept. 16 - Casino, Durant, OK; **Sept. 17** - Grapevine GrapeFest - Grape Stomp & Lunch; **Sept. 22** - Richardson Methodist Medical Seminar; **Sept. 23** - Pinochle at Winters Park & Lunch; **Sept. 29** - Sam Houston Statue Museum & shop near Huntsville; **Sept. 30** - *Noises Off*, Granville Theater-Garland; **Oct. 1** - Wal-Mart; **Oct. 4** - Mary Kay Museum & Plant tour and Lunch; **Oct. 6** - Tour Downtown Terrell & Lunch; **Oct. 12** - Pleasant Valley

Have an Upcoming Event? Tell me about it!

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!

Casino; **Oct. 13** - Amon Carter Museum – Ansel Adams Display & Lunch; **Oct. 14** - Texas State Fair; **Oct. 27** - "Osteoporosis" Baylor-Garland Health Seminar; **Oct. 28** - Pinochle at Winters Park & Lunch.

For more details on outings please contact Dixie Dickson at the Senior Center at 972-495-6282.

SAVE THE DATES!

November 6th - In-Sync Exotics 2nd Annual Tiger Trot. Register now for In-Sync Exotics' 2nd Annual Tiger Trot! The one mile walk-a-thon will be held at Bob Woodruff Park in Plano at 10 a.m. All proceeds will benefit the 52 exotic cats now calling In-Sync home. Please visit www.insyncexotics.com for more details or to register.

November 13th - (Tentative Date) Craft lovers will enjoy the Wylie Women's League Fall Festival. This explosion of creativity is a real inspiration and celebration of local talent. Tentatively slated for Saturday, November 13, the event is expected to have a new venue at the Old City Park at Ballard and Highway 78. Details can be found at www.wyliewl.org

December 4th - Vendors and Sponsors Wanted for Wylie Arts Festival. Based on the success of last year's inaugural event, the Public Art Advisory Board and the City of Wylie have scheduled the second Wylie Arts Festival for Saturday, December 4, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., in Olde City Park. Organizers are currently seeking applications for fine artists and handmade crafters to fill more than 70 vendor spaces. Sponsors are also needed to support this premier community event. The event focuses on fine art of all disciplines including but not limited to painting, sculpture, photography; and handmade crafts in wood, leather, metal, ceramics and other materials. Vendor Applications are reviewed by the selection committee and notified upon approval. For more information email Carole Ehrlich or call 972-442-8103.

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 paying at door, \$20 without reservation. Online payment is available at the Chamber website.

Sept. 28th - First Baptist Wylie Event Center. 200 Ballard Ave., Wylie
Oct. 26th - Go to www.wyliechamber.org for details.

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

SACHSE www.sachsechamber.com **972-496-1212**

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

Sept. 14th - Go to www.sachsechamber.com for more info.
Oct. 12th - Go to www.sachsechamber.com for more info.

Last Friday of Month: Sachse Chamber of Commerce Community Coffee

Sept. 24th & Oct. 29th at Sachse Christian Church, 5005 Ben Davis Rd., Sachse. Meet for a cup 'o joe and promote your business from 8 - 9 a.m. Call 972- 496-1212 for more info or go to www.sachsechamber.com.

MURPHY murphychamber.org **972-805-3749**

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

Oct. 19th - Small Business Investments & Taxes
Come & Go Luncheon: Enjoy great food and networking in Murphy!

Sept. 29th location TBD. Check murphychamber.org for more info.
October 27th location TBD. Check murphychamber.org for more info.

Second Tuesday Business Card Exchange: Sept. 14th & Oct. 12th at 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. at Saxby's Coffee (FM 544 in Murphy Marketplace). Join us for good coffee and good pastries! Bring plenty of business cards and brochures. Mix, mingle, make contacts and enter the raffle for a chance to win prizes!

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Create a More Beautiful Landscape this Fall

by Maribeth Flowers, APLD



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The most beautiful gardens include plants that provide interest each season. Fall is a great time to renovate your landscape and focus on adding fall and spring flowering plants.

Increase fall interest by adding shrubs and trees with fall color. Carry your garden through winter with shrubs that have berries like Viburnum, Possumhaw or American Beauty Berry. For the earliest spring blooms, add Quince and Forsythia. Several Spireas provide an early display of white. Choose spring blooming Indian Hawthorns where you need an evergreen. Many gardeners want to plant Azaleas and Camellias for winter and spring flowers. Unfortunately, these shrubs are not well suited to our environment. They prefer more acidic soils and need protection from the harsh sun, drought, and high temperature of our summers. Bradford Pears are the most well known early spring flowering trees and are often a sign that spring is here. But they are not the best choice because of their short life and weak structure. Instead, plant Redbuds, Mexican Plums, and fruit trees.

Perennials are always a good addition. Fall flowering perennials include Mums, Asters, Turk's Cap, Mexican Bush Sage, and Mexican Mint Marigold. Ornamental grasses are at their showiest now. Early spring bloomers include Phlox, Candytuft, Columbine, Dianthus, and Hardy Geraniums. Also consider adding a vine like Carolina Jessamine for spring flowers.

Bulbs give some of the best early spring color. Choose Daffodils/Narcissus, Hyacinths, Native Tulips, and Irises. Many people consider Dutch Tulips the hallmark of spring. These Tulips do not like our climate, so pre-chill before planting.

Early fall annuals bring a burst of color now and soon it will be time to add Pansies and Kale for the winter. Extend the life of your kitchen garden by adding broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, lettuce, spinach, and parsley. Fall is also the time to sow wild-flower seeds, including bluebonnets.

Start your fall renovation by pruning or removing plants damaged by the harsh summer. If a plant is located incorrectly and is not too big, relocate it so it has adequate room to grow. Fall is the best time to plant because plants installed now put their energy into root growth, making them stronger and healthier by the time the heat arrives. Choose more water-wise and drought tolerant plants as you create your four season garden.

Make sure both new and transplanted plants receive sufficient water if there is not adequate rainfall. Even drought tolerant plants need supplemental water until established. Plants added now become established with less water than if planted in spring. By planning ahead and planting now you can provide beauty throughout the winter and early spring as well as improve your plants' chances of survival. •

Fall is a great time to add both fall and spring flowering plants to your garden. If you would like further information or assistance with your landscape needs, please contact Flowers' Gardens & Landscapes at (972) 429-7707 or visit www.flowersgardenslandscapes.com.

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4:15 pm: Live Music **Zane Williams**
6:15 pm: Live Music **Eleven Hundred Springs**
8:15 pm: Fireworks Spectacular
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Yummy Halloween Treats

A few fun recipes to make with the family

Chewy Caramel Candy Popcorn Squares

8 cups popped popcorn*
2 cups honey graham cereal
1 cup candy coated chocolate pieces
1 cup pretzel sticks, broken in half
1/2 cup butter or margarine
1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
1/2 cup light corn syrup
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour

Combine popcorn, cereal, candy and pretzels in very large bowl; set aside.

Melt butter in 2-quart saucepan over medium heat. Stir in all remaining ingredients. Continue cooking, stirring occasionally, until mixture comes to a full boil (2 to 4 minutes). Boil 1 minute.

Pour caramel mixture over popcorn mixture; toss to coat well. Press firmly into buttered 13x9-inch pan. Cool completely; cut into bars.

*Substitute 1 (3 to 3.5-ounce) package microwave popcorn, popped.

Microwave Directions: To prepare caramel mixture, melt butter in microwave-safe bowl on HIGH about 1 minute. Stir in brown sugar, corn syrup and flour. Continue cooking on HIGH, stirring once, until mixture comes to a boil (1 to 2 minutes). Continue as directed above.

Makes 36 bars.

Dirt Cake

1 (5.9-ounce) package chocolate instant pudding and pie filling mix, prepared according to package directions

2 cups chocolate wafer cookies (about 45 to 50), crushed

2/3 cup chocolate syrup

1 (8-ounce) container frozen non-dairy whipped topping, thawed

1 (3-ounce) package gummy worms

Combine cookie crumbs and syrup in medium bowl; reserve 1/4 cup. Layer half of remaining crumb mixture, half of pudding and half of whipped topping in a large bowl or 8 small bowls. Repeat layers. Sprinkle with reserved crumb mixture; top with gummy worms.

Makes 8 servings.



Photo by Anne Hiney.

Cool & Easy Spider Cupcakes

24 baked chocolate cupcakes (1 box mix, prepared as instructed)

1 (16 oz.) container chocolate frosting

1 container chocolate sprinkles

black or red shoestring licorice

48 small red hot candies

Frost tops of cupcakes.

Dip in chocolate sprinkles to coat icing.

Cut single licorice strings into 4-5" pieces. Insert 8 pieces of licorice into top of each cupcake to create "spider legs." Top with 2 candies for "eyes."

Store leftover cupcakes in refrigerator.

Makes 24 servings.

Sticks & Stones Candy Bark

1 2/3 cups (11-ounces) butterscotch flavored morsels, divided

1 1/2 cups milk chocolate morsels

1/2 cup creamy peanut butter

2 cups pretzel sticks (broken in half)

2 cups dry-roasted peanuts

1 1/3 cups raisins (or candy coated chocolate pieces)

Butter a 13 x 9-inch baking pan.

Microwave 1 1/3 cups butterscotch morsels, semi-sweet morsels and peanut butter in large, microwave-safe bowl on HIGH (100%) power for 1 minute; stir. Microwave at additional 10 to 20-second intervals, stirring until smooth.

Add pretzels, peanuts and raisins; stir well to coat. Spread into prepared baking pan.

Place remaining butterscotch morsels in small, heavy-duty plastic bag. Microwave on MEDIUM-HIGH (70%) power for 30 seconds; knead bag to mix. Microwave at additional

10 to 20-second intervals, kneading until smooth. Cut tiny corner from bag; squeeze to drizzle over candy.

Refrigerate for 1 hour or until firm. Break into bite-size pieces.

Makes 3 dozen pieces.

Banana Ghost Pops

3 ripe bananas

2 cups white chocolate (almond bark)

6 popsicle sticks

mini chocolate chips

Peel bananas and cut in half width-wise. Insert a popsicle stick in each half through the cut end, wrap each half in plastic wrap and freeze for 3 hours. Melt white chocolate and frost the whole banana halves (apply with butter knife). Set on waxed paper and press in mini chocolate chips for eyes and mouth. Freeze until ready to serve.

Makes 6 pops. •

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"Gooch on the Go"



Fall Back on Healthy Habits This Season

by Cesar Torres, MD

Fall is finally here. The cooler weather could be just what you need to jump start your healthy habits. Plus, with the flu season around the corner, it's a good idea to take steps now to stay healthy and avoid getting ill.

Exercise

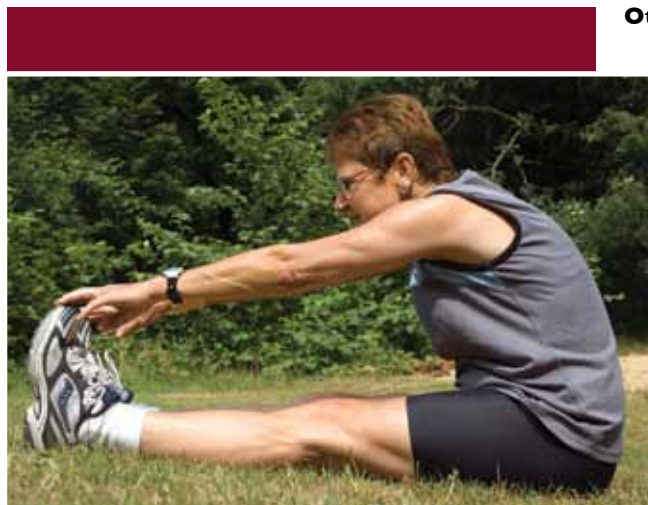
Exercise offers multiple benefits, so you should increase your physical activity. Besides managing your weight, it helps strengthen your bones and muscles, improves blood pressure and cholesterol, and reduces stress. If you exercise regularly, you'll have a better immune system to help you ward off a cold or flu and make you better equipped to overcome illness when you do get sick.

- Try to exercise at least 30 minutes three or four times a week.
- Stretch and warm up before you exercise to avoid injuries.
- Drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated, especially if you're exercising outdoors.

Diet

Exercise and a healthy diet go hand in hand. To maximize your overall health, eat in moderation and include plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains and healthy fats in your diet. If you prepare your healthy eating habits now, you'll be less likely to overindulge during the holidays.

- Stock up on fresh fall vegetables such as butternut squash, pumpkin, and sweet potatoes.
- Skip processed foods and drinks that are high in sugar.
- Rather than eating three square meals, try eating smaller portions five times a day.



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Other Healthy Habits

The flu shot is your best defense in warding off the flu. The vaccine is especially important for people who are at high risk of having serious flu complications, including children, pregnant women, people with chronic medical conditions and people ages 50 and older. You and your family also should practice other healthy habits to stop the spread of flu germs.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or a sleeve when you sneeze or cough.
- Wash your hands frequently or use a hand sanitizer if you can't get to a sink.
- Keep your sick children separated from other family members so they don't spread their illness.

Just like the seasons change, so can our lifestyle and routines. By taking the opportunity to establish healthy habits today, you'll reap the benefits – not just this fall but all year long.

Cesar Torres, MD, is an independently practicing physician at Methodist First Aid Family Care in Wylie, which offers both routine care and prompt medical treatment for minor emergencies. Dr. Torres attended the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and completed his residency with the Memorial Family Medicine Residency Program in Houston. He also completed his fellowship in sports medicine at Methodist Charlton Medical Center. Dr. Torres is board certified in family medicine. He is bilingual in English and Spanish. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Torres, call 972-941-8700. Visit FirstAidFamilyCare.com for more information.



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

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Book-In-Common Touches On Dark Part Of American History

by Mark Robinson

Every year, a selection is made for Collin College's Book-in-Common.

In its fifth year, organizers of the program have created quite the following in the college and in the community.

"The students get so much out of it, and they have started to look forward to the new book, asking what the new selection is going to be," said Betty Bettachi, professor of English and one of the organizers since the Book-in-Common's inception.

"They love to read the books even if they are not big readers."

The Book-in-Common program was started as a multi-pronged tool to encourage reading outside of a textbook, exercise camaraderie in the student body beyond disciplines and create common intellectual dialogue about literature, social issues and whatever other topics that the Book-in-Common touches on.

This year's selection is Julie Otsuka's *When the Emperor Was Divine*.

It was culled from about 30 different possible selections. One of its unique qualities, according to Bettachi, is that the book has been used in similar programs around the country.

When the Emperor Was Divine is fiction, but it touches a raw nerve still smarting after 60 years. Its message still rings true.

Otsuka tells the story of a Japanese-American family at the onset of World War II, who are ordered to pack their bags, vacate their established lives and report to a train station. There, they are transported to an internment camp in Nevada.

The story is based on the experiences of Otsuka's family.

Although the arrival and time in the camp is the crux of the story, Otsuka focuses a lot of the narrative on the burden it placed on families to simply uproot themselves and the stereotyping, undue judgement and ridicule they received once the war was over and they returned to their homes and lives. All as if nothing had happened.

"It is a part of American history. Maybe it is a part we are not most proud of," Bettachi said, noting that professors of history, sociology, child development, anthropology

and college counselors have shown interest in using the book in their curriculum.

"Most students may not know about it, however, they discuss issues like racial profiling and this was racial profiling. If nothing else, it can be a lesson of what not to do today."

Cindy Anderson is the chair of the English department at Wylie High School. She first read *All Souls* by Michael Patrick McDonald, the 2008-09 Book-in-Common.

Last year, she assigned Matthew Pearl's *The Poe Shadow* as a summer reading assignment for her Advanced Placement students as a companion to their study of Edgar Allan Poe and American Literature.

This year, she said she will assign *When the Emperor Was Divine*.

"Not only are the books chosen very carefully, they appeal to both male and



Julie Otsuka, the author of the 2010-11 Book-in-Common, *When the Emperor Was Divine*.

female (students), and they pose ideas and questions about human nature that many students fail to be exposed to otherwise," Anderson said.

Another key element to the Book-in-Common program, according to Anderson, is the visit by the book's author. Since the program's inception, Bettachi and other organizers have expanded author lectures to all three major Collin College campuses to packed conference and event centers.

"My students loved it," Anderson said of the author lecture. "It is nice to introduce (the students) to literature where the author is actually alive and can answer questions for them."

Otsuka is scheduled to speak at:

- 7 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 20 - Spring Creek Campus
- 1 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 21 - Central Park Campus
- 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 21 - Preston Ridge Campus

The lectures are free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.collin.edu/academics/bookincommon. •

Mark Robinson is the public relations associate at Collin College. Photo provided by Collin College.

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THE GREAT MAC & CHEESE CONTEST WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

On behalf of the Wylie Chamber of Commerce, I would like to thank everyone involved in the Mac 'n' Cheese Drive completed this past month.

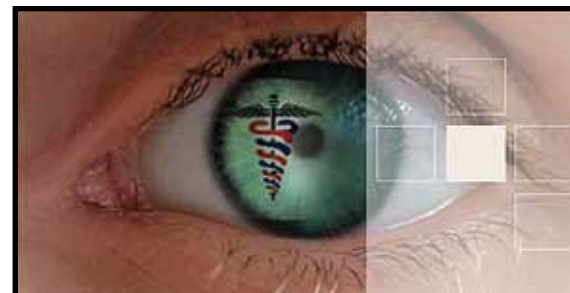
All totaled, the Wylie and Sachse Chamber's collected just under 7,500 boxes of Macaroni 'n' Cheese that were donated to the Wylie Christian Care Center.

A Special "Thank You!" to the following for their efforts in the recent Mac attack:

Ms. Lynn Grimes, Keller Williams and KW Cares – Lynn marshaled the forces at KW and KWC to help in the contest. These Red-Shirted "Cheese Heads" not only brought in over 2,400 boxes of Mac 'n' Cheese by themselves, but stuck around to help haul it all into the Christian Care Center. Thank you all for your help and generosity.

Thank you as well to the following groups who held Mac 'n' Cheese drives that added to the total:

Stephen Perkins of Anytime Fitness in Wylie, the City of Wylie and Wylie Walmart



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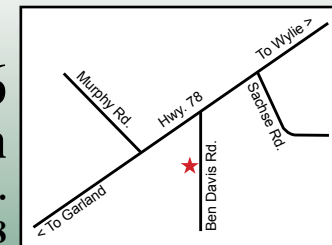
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Photos by Anne Hiney

Thanks to everyone from the Wylie Chamber's Wednesday morning Business Card Exchange and the WISD New Teacher Luncheon attendees who donated money for a Mac 'n' Cheese Shopping Spree throughout the area.

Hauling and Loading that much Macaroni & Cheese was no small feat and could not have been done without the efforts of the following Chamber Members:

Mr. Red Byboth, Dallas Moving & Storage

Mr. Kenny Bunch, Kenny Bunch Plumbing

Mr. Carl Balch, 1st Call Inspection

Chief John Duscio, Wylie Police Department

Wylie Fire Rescue

Baron Cook, Lawyers Title

Megan Goode, Wylie Chamber of Commerce

Becky Lindstrom, Wylie Chamber of Commerce

A special thank you to Ms. Anne Hiney, Anne Hiney Art & Design, for capturing the moment in pictures.

The outpouring of effort and giving amazes us each year and we continue to set the bar higher each time.

- Mike Agnew, Wylie Chamber President

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**Personnel Concerns, Issues
and Problems** (brown bag lunch)
Thursday, October 28
11:30-1:30pm

Panel Discussion: Healthcare Reform
Thursday, November 4
6:00pm

Sachse Chamber: 972-496-1212 www.sachsechamber.com
Sachse EDC: 972-495-1212 www.sachsecdc.com
Sachse Library: 972-530-8966 www.cityofsachse.com/library

A Historic Performance...

130 WISD Students Prepare to Perform at TASA/TASB Convention

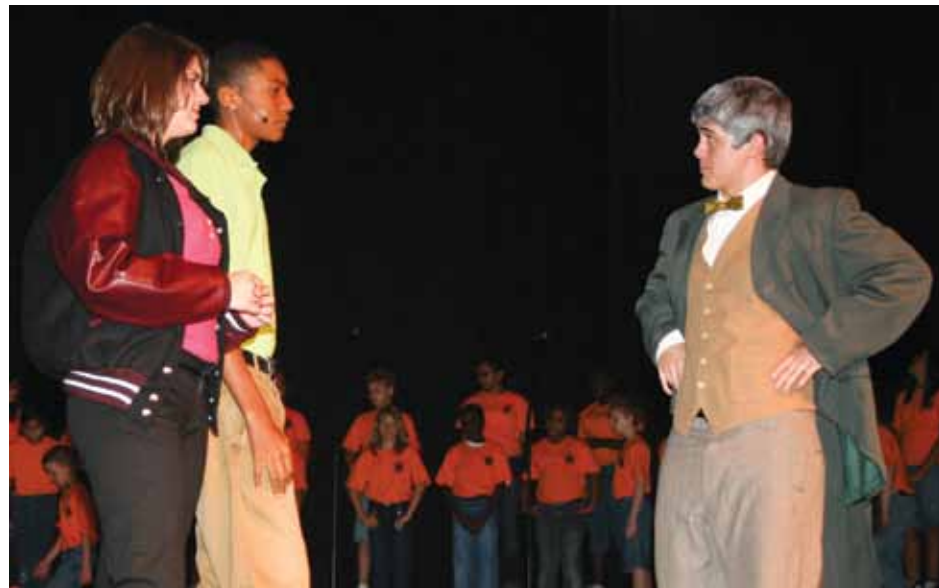
by Susan Dacus of WISD

The talent and showmanship of Wylie ISD students will be on display the fourth weekend in September at the annual joint convention of the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) and the Texas Association School Boards (TASB). One hundred and thirty WISD students from elementary through high school will perform at the Houston meeting.

The show will include singing, acting, dancing and musical accompaniment as the students tell the history of the WISD, the highlights of its current achievements and plans for the future. It also includes a video with interviews of several community members who have had schools named for them – Rita Smith, Dr. Al Draper and Raymond Cooper.

Students who are lead characters in the TASA production are: Ian Maryfield as W.D. Wylie; Madilynn Garcia as a Wylie High School student; Andre Wheeler as a Wylie East High School student; Daniel Jaquez as a Cooper boy; Emma Westhara as a Draper girl and Savannah Harrod as a first grader.

"The students performed part of the program for district staff members at the



Madilynn Garcia, Andre Wheeler and Ian Maryfield performing during WISD Convocation.

beginning of school Convocation, and the teachers and others were impressed by what has been accomplished so far," WISD fine arts director Mike Lipe said. "By the end of September, the show should be polished and very professional. Our students are focused and excited

about the opportunity to perform in such a venue. This type of show really broadens their performance experience."

Wylie ISD was invited to perform at the convention because Superintendent H. John Fuller is this year's state president of TASA. Tradition calls for the president to showcase his or her district through a student presentation enjoyed by educators statewide. "The performances and rehearsals that I've seen, will definitely put our fine arts program on the map," Dr. Fuller said. "I am proud of what our students have achieved, especially since they began to work on and rehearse for this show during the summer break, using their own time."

In his role as TASA president, Dr. Fuller represents school districts across Texas and works with other superintendents, the 82nd Legislature and Commissioner of Education Robert Scott. He will testify before legislative committees regarding public education and the effects that proposed bills before the Legislature will have on school districts.

His agenda will be full as TASA addresses such issues as: growing state-

wide enrollment and no new state funds, more flexibility and freedom for school systems to operate as independent school districts, fewer regulations, especially unfunded mandates, and developing leaders for the public schools in the 21st Century.

Wylie ISD will be well represented at the 6,000 to 7,000 person convention. Our students will display the quality of the WISD fine arts programs, and our superintendent will work with state education and political leaders to address pertinent issues and concerns of 2010. •



WISD All District Choir comprised of elementary and intermediate students under the direction of Dr. Bill Witwer.

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- You may also claim an income tax deduction in the year you establish the gift annuity – and if you fund your gift with an appreciated asset, you may eliminate a portion of your capital gains tax.
- As a gift annuity can be immediate or deferred (i.e., income payments to you can start this year or in a future year), you have potential for enhanced annual income later in life if a gift is funded today with low-yielding assets.

Life insurance. A gift of life insurance is often welcomed by an arts organization, as it is self-completing – the funding objective linked to the gift is fulfilled when the donor passes away.

If you make yearly planned gifts to a non-profit arts group, you can assign a percentage of your annual donation to a life insurance policy, therefore guaranteeing the perpetuation of your gift.

You can actually make life insurance gifts in several different ways. Here are just a few options:

- You can gift a life insurance policy you now own to an arts group, donate a new policy you buy, or even have the arts organization purchase a policy on your life and pay the annual premiums

(some states don't permit this last option). You may claim an income tax deduction in the year you do this.

- You can name an arts organization as the primary beneficiary of your policy. While that move won't bring you an income tax deduction this year, it will bring you a federal estate tax deduction for the full amount of the proceeds payable to the non-profit arts group.
- You could assign policy dividends to an arts organization. This creates a deduction as dividends are paid. You also have the chance to amplify the magnitude of your contribution: the dividends could buy a new policy, with the arts group as irrevocable owner and beneficiary.
- Have you accumulated a great deal of assets in a deferred compensation plan or a supplemental retirement plan (SERP)? If so, you face the chance that your heirs might only receive about a quarter of that wealth after income and estate taxes. Some executives and business owners in this situation have exchanged a SERP or deferred comp plan for a split-dollar life insurance policy, which has let them legally avoid the above-mentioned income and estate taxes and direct substantial wealth to the arts.

Four things to remember with life insurance gifts. One, if you want to receive an income tax deduction in the year you make the gift, the gift has to be irrevocable – you must surrender ownership of the policy. Two, if you make an irrevocable life insurance gift within three years of your death, the amount of the gift will be included in your gross estate. Three, there is a ceiling on the annual charitable deduction you can take – 30% of adjusted gross income (AGI) for gifts to private non-profit organizations, and 50% if the non-profit happens to be a public organization. Four, remember that you can carry excess deductions on charitable gifts forward for up to five tax years.

With summer and fall being ideal times to revisit your tax strategy, you might want to look into these useful ways of gifting great arts organizations. •

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