

September/October 2006

The CONNECTION

Wylie • Sachse • Murphy Community Magazine



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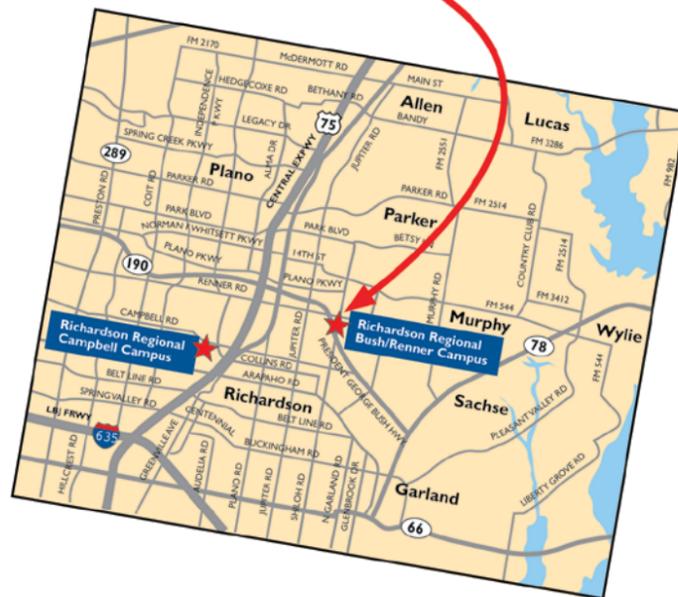


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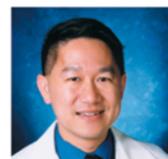


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From us to you

One dot at a time •••••

Do you remember playing "Connect-the-dots" when you were a kid? You opened the book and dots with numbers danced all over the page. The music stopped as you put your pencil on the first dot. As you began to draw a line from one dot to the next, your lines and dots merged to give you the bigger picture, the image becoming more complete with each dot connected. Until finally the picture was finished and the music began again as you marveled at what you saw.

In this, our first issue, we will begin to connect the dots between Wylie, Sachse and Murphy. We'll draw stories from dot to dot in our features and columns, and over time we hope "The Connection" will become something that helps bring the individual communities closer for the benefit of all.

—•• Mike —•• Becky —•• Anne —••



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On the Cover: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly visits a Texas Sage Bush (Cenizo) in Wylie.

Photo: Anne Hiney



Wylie

THEN & NOW

written by Sadie Byboth



Mrs. Smith working at the Wylie Insurance Co. during the '40s

An Interview with Mrs. Rita Gallagher Smith



Sadie is a Junior at Wylie High School. She met with Mrs. Smith to learn a little about her and how Wylie has changed over the years.

Sadie: I've lived in Wylie nearly my entire life. What about you? How far back do your family roots in Wylie go? What influenced you to stay and does any of your family remain in Wylie?

Rita: My grandfather came to America from County Roscommon in Ireland, which is in the Province of Connaught, during the Potato Famine. He settled up in St. Paul, where my father and his siblings were born. After my grandpa died, my grandma moved into Wylie, over on First Street. She happened to be a daughter of Mr. Spurgin. Out of her siblings, one married a MacDonald, and one married a Housewright. Because of them, many other well-known Wylie families are my father's cousins. Truett's grandpa moved from Allen to Dump (renamed St. Paul). When the Post Office opened, Mr. Dump, the postmaster, named the city after himself. Because Truett's family originally settled there, Truett was born in Dump, TX! My father married twice. He and his first wife had Ed, Fred, and Joe. She died giving birth to my brother Joe. My father's second wife, my mother, had Pat, Vince, Helen Marie, and me. All in all, there were five brothers and two sisters. My mother was a seamstress, originally from Dallas. During the Depression, she and I used to go door to door to collect money to cover funeral costs. Many people were so poor that they couldn't afford a proper burial, so others helped out. In addition to that, my mother made many shrouds. I think Social Security has certainly been a blessing; not being able to take care of final expenses is not a huge problem any more. It leaves people taken care of now. Angela LeFevre and I are the only Gallaghers left in Wylie.



The Gallagher house

Others moved away, but like me, many of my siblings didn't have children, so there are few surviving members.

S: I've heard the Gallagher House was originally your family's home. It is still beautiful. Tell me some things about it.

R: I was born there, before water and sewage. There was a cistern with a hole in the top of it and a pump coming out of the hole; and the outhouse was near the barn. Out back, we also had a garden, smoke-house and garage, a cow, a pig, and chickens...I don't know how we fit it all on that piece of property! The "carriage house" is not original to the property. In the front yard we had lots of daffodils, iris, and a spinach vine. The (current) Gallagher House was built in the early 1900s by J. C. Wetsel. The original house caught fire, but instead of fighting the fire, they took everything (valuables, personal belongings, and furniture) out of the house and watched the building burn.

Because of that fire, the current house was built without any fireplaces! This second home is where I was born and raised. The current lot-line is the original one, but my family used to own the strip of property down the street that now has a couple of houses and a car garage.

S: Today's society is very mobile, so not only can many Wylie parents work outside the city, but their kids can too! What did your family do for a living and what jobs did you have growing up?

R: My family worked for my uncle, Jack Taylor, who owned the dry goods store with Mr. Birmingham. It was located downtown where Jeffrey's Discovery School is now, and was named Taylor Birmingham. We originally had three stores: one here, one in Celeste, and one in Wolf City. The store had men's suits and ladies' dresses and a millinery department for hats, among other things. We ultimately had to close

this store because cotton dropped to 5 cents in the depression. The farmers, who would normally pay their bill in the fall when they had a harvest, were unable to pay. Taylor Birmingham eventually moved with Mr. Birmingham to Tulsa. When I was younger, it was hard to get a job because it was the depression era. Even though they paid very little, there weren't very many, so to have one was a distinction. Growing up, I often worked in the dry goods store. But after high school, I worked for the City of Garland. My uncle had the Wylie Insurance Agency, which I later took over from him because of his ill health. That was in the early 1940s, and was originally in the dry goods store building. Later, we moved it to the back of the drug store in the offices where the doctors had their practices. After that, a man named Mr. Bostick added on to the downtown strip, and we moved into the new buildings. When Truett opened the First State Bank in what is now the Keller-Williams building, we were in the office at the front. I retired in 1983.

"When I was growing up we had a population of only 1,000 or less."

S: Tell me some things about you and Truett Smith.

R: Truett and I grew up together. He worked at a bank in Garland and I worked for the city and we carpooled. We were engaged for 7 or 8 years before we were married because we didn't have any money. Truett had to sell his car to open the First State bank in 1945, and we married in 1949. After Truett and I married, we lived with his mother (Maude Anderson Smith) in a little frame house down the street. Then we built the house on Brown Street. Finally, Truett and I built this one right next door, and I've lived here ever since. He opened the bank with Leeton Hillis in 1945, where the flower shop is. We had some other opportunities with different banks, but we decided that whatever we could do in life, we could do right here in Wylie. We were happy because we had several opportunities to travel, and we had all of our family and friends here. Back then people didn't move as much as they do now. I remember when my brother moved to Fort Worth and we thought he had moved to the end of the world! Truett became President of the Texas Banker's Association and was on the Board of the American Bank Association. He was also President of the East Texas Chamber of Commerce and a Delegate to the Methodist Church Convention, as well as the Friends Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1968. He was the Wylie News Editor, and had an article called "Wandering around Wylie" which described topics like the trips we took, whose yard looked pretty, that sort of thing.

S: As a teenager today, I have a job in downtown Wylie. I attend church locally and can find plenty to do, from movies to malls. Where did you attend church and what did you do for fun as a teenager?

R: Truett was Methodist and I am Catholic, so on Sundays we'd go our separate ways and then meet back up later. I've always gone to St. Anthony's. The location was originally in St. Paul before I was born, but was moved to Wylie later, around the year 1900. The current site is the only site it's ever been on in Wylie. We went to Mass in the little white chapel. When we were young, Truett went to elementary school at the Morris School in St. Paul, and I went to the old elementary school that used to be where Hartman Elementary and the American National Bank are now. For high school, I went to boarding school at the Ursuline Academy in Dallas at the old downtown location. For fun, we kind of had to do our own thing. I learned to drive at Poe's corner; which is now the intersection near Harrison Intermediate School. My first driver's license cost 25 cents. I first picked cotton at that field near the end of Ballard Ave, but the people in charge didn't want me to come back because they said I didn't get all of the cotton out of the boll! But I wanted to because all my friends were there. Some of my close friends from over the years include Lucille Parr, Lorraine "Cookie" Spurgin and Lorraine Burch Arkowitch.

S: You are a very busy woman! I've heard you've been called, "the Energizer Bunny"! What activities are you involved in right now?

R: I have really slowed down! I try to do a little work at church and with Christian Care. I want to get more involved with Collin County Community College, because I think we really ought to have a campus here in Wylie. I have the scholarship for WHS, which Truett and I set up because we just thought we needed one. When I heard WISD is naming their next elementary school after me, I was so pleased.

S: What is your opinion on the growth of Wylie? We've gone from 10,000 to 30,000+ in a decade. That must be a huge change from when you grew up.

R: Well, I think it's wonderful! And while I'm sure there are some bad points too, we now have things we didn't have before—new people, new ideas and new interests. When I was growing up we had a population of only 1,000 or less.

S: I love going to the Smith Public library, and have been doing so for years! Now, my little brother goes as often as he can, mostly for Captain Underpants books! What inspired you and Mr. Smith to help establish the Library?

R: Truett made a speech at the book club at the Hartman's house saying that this is what we needed. It just started out with donations, volunteers, and donated books. The first library was upstairs in the bank. We decided that this location was too hard to get to, so it was moved down the street. Eventually, we built the current building.

S: We all appreciate that you did! Thank you so much for taking the time to share your story with me. I've really enjoyed learning more about you and Wylie!

R: You are quite welcome. •



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Trick or Treating Safety

A few simple rules to make Halloween safe and fun

source: the Wylie Police Dept.

Trick or Treating should be one of the great adventures of Halloween for kids! They can get dressed in scary costumes and go door to door, begging "Trick or Treat!" from neighbors or at the local mall. Lots of towns have a Harvest Festival so kids

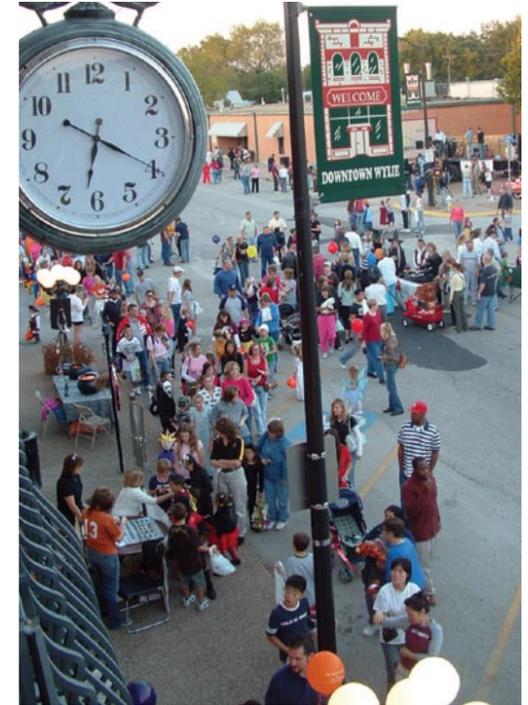


Detective Hermes with a future police officer.

can Trick-or-Treat safely. But going door to door is the stuff of childhood memories! It should be a fun time, without trouble and pain, so following some easy tips can keep your child safe every Halloween.

1. Children should go out during daylight hours only, unless accompanied by a responsible adult.
2. Plan a safe route so parents know where their older kids will be at all times. Set a time for their return home. Make sure that your child is old enough and responsible enough to go out by themselves.
3. Let your children know not to cut through back alleys and fields. Make sure they know to stay in populated places and don't go off the beaten path. Stay in well lit areas.
4. Children should stop only at familiar houses in your own neighborhood unless accompanied by an adult.

5. Small children should never be allowed to go out alone on Halloween. Make sure an older sibling or adult is with them.
6. Instruct your children not to eat any treats until they bring them home to be examined by you.
7. Instruct your child to never go into the home of a stranger or get into their car.
8. Make sure your child carries a flashlight, glow stick or has reflective tape on their costume to make them more visible to cars.
9. Let them know that they should stay together as a group if going out to Trick or Treat without an adult.



Don't miss the Wylie Downtown Merchants' Trick-or-Treating on Thursday, October 26.

Pumpkin Carving Tips

- Draw your design on the pumpkin with a water-based marker beforehand. Mistakes are erased easily with a damp sponge.
- Serrated metal saws, now widely available in carving kits, are a safer alternative to knives and allow younger children to get in on the action.
- Never hold the knife in a stabbing position.
- When carving, keep a portion of the knife blade in the pumpkin and use slow, steady saw strokes.
- Cut the lid at an angle so the outside diameter is larger than the inside. This prevents the top from falling into the pumpkin when it shrinks.
- Scoop out seeds and stringy flesh with a large spoon or ice cream scoop.
- Carve the facial features closest to the center first and work outward. Cut out the larger features in smaller sections.
- Use an X-Acto knife for details and the tip of a potato peeler to make small circles and curves.
- Remove carved portions by gently pushing them into or out of the pumpkin.
- Reattach a section that is accidentally removed by using a toothpick to pin it back in place.
- Make design holes large enough to provide adequate ventilation for the candle.
- Flatten a spot in the base of the pumpkin for the candle but avoid digging too deep because the pumpkin becomes prone to rot.
- Make sure the flame is not too close to the top of the pumpkin.
- To prolong the life of the jack-o'-lantern, seal in moisture by coating all cut surfaces with petroleum jelly or vegetable oil, or cover it with a damp towel when not on display.
- Consider giving smaller children stickers, tempera paint, or markers to decorate their own pumpkins how ever they would like.

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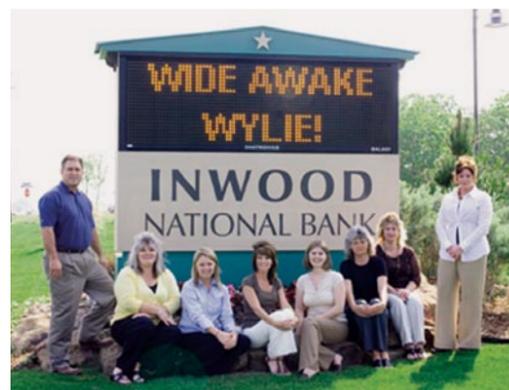
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Wylie Rodeo

A Long History of Family Fun

written by Marcia Coker

Just like the city of Wylie, the Wylie Rodeo is no longer one of the best kept secrets in Collin County. The Wylie Chamber of Commerce, together with NFC Sports, will host the 14th Annual Wylie Championship Rodeo on September 8th and 9th. What began as an inter-ranch contest has now evolved into a championship style competition; drawing cowboys and cowgirls from throughout North America to thrill an audience of more than one thousand. You don't have to know anything about "rodeoing" or necessarily like rodeos to appreciate the all-out community spirit and festival atmosphere you will find at a rodeo in Wylie.

Debuting in July of 1992, the Wylie Rodeo began as a ranch rodeo; working ranches entered a team of cowboys to compete in a series of tasks that were usually part of the day-to-day workings of ranching.

Area spreads like the Bar A Abbott Ranch and South Creek Ranch were invited to compete in events like wild horse races, wild cow milking and pasture roping. Double mugging, despite having a strange name, was one of the most popular events at the rodeo. A team of cowboys rode horseback and would cut a designated steer away from the herd while the other steers were held behind a line. Once cut from the herd, any cowboy could rope the steer. All cowboys dismounted and wrestled or "mugged" the steer to the ground. One cowboy then tied three of the steer's legs together. Once clear, time

Wylie's 14th Annual
Championship Rodeo
is on Sept. 8th & 9th.



stopped. The fastest time won. There was just one catch, the steer had to remain tied for six seconds or the team was disqualified.

Also among the crowd favorites were the celebrity events, like the Businessmen's Mugging and Celebrity Calf Dressing. Teams from local businesses competed for "bragging rights" in these events whereby teams "mugged" a steer for a tag on its stomach or dressed a calf in boxers and a shirt. Children also got in on the fun, competing in Mutton Bustin', Stick Horse Races and Calf Scrambles. Imagine an arena full of boys and girls chasing calves with ribbons tied to their tails, or kids riding a sheep and hanging on for dear life! The laughs alone are worth the price of admission.

Traditional rodeos have been around North Texas since the 1960s. But not until the early 1990s, as ranch rodeos were gaining in popularity, did people like Marvin Fuller, President of Inwood National

Bank and his wife, Melisa, think to offer it as a Chamber of Commerce event. Melisa, who worked part-time for the Chamber and Marvin, who competed in rodeos in high school, enlisted the help of rancher brothers Greg and Bart Abbott to organize a ranch rodeo and feature it as part of Wylie's July Jubilee Days. "With the help of family and friends, we were able to introduce this new concept of a ranch rodeo to the community of Wylie," said Marvin. "Melisa and I are proud that it has remained so successful over the years."

The Chamber of Commerce showcased the rodeo at South Fork Ranch in Parker, Texas until 1999, when it was moved to the cur-

rent site, the Wylie Rodeo Arena, located at the Ovid Birmingham Agriculture Center. "Since the rodeo was for the community, we thought it should be in the community," says Henry Garland, Wylie businessman and civic leader. Mr. Garland and his wife, Roz, have organized and participated in the pageantry of several past ranch rodeos.



Roz sang the National Anthem at many opening ceremonies and Henry, most recently, worked the arena as a rodeo clown. "Sometimes the competitions are rather complicated for children. Working as a rodeo clown allows me to draw the kids into the fun," explains Henry. The Garlands, through Roz's association with the Kiwanis club, also coordinated the "Mutton Bustin'" contest, a new children's event introduced in 2004. Children ages 4 - 7 ride wild "mutton" (aka sheep) bareback; holding onto only fistfuls of wool.

In 2005, the rodeo committee changed its format to a more conventional rodeo similar to what is seen on the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA) circuit. "We had a lot of people asking to see bull riding," said rodeo chairman Red Byboth. "In order to provide that kind of an event, you need to bring in professionals." Although, Wylie and the chamber committee could not guarantee the prize winnings found on the PRCA circuit, they were able to do the next best thing. They were able to sanction the rodeo through the United Professional Rodeo Association or UPRCA and the Wylie Championship Rodeo was born. Considered the minor leagues of rodeo competition, the UPRCA circuit allows aspiring athletes to score points toward their PRCA accreditation. In addition, contestants can earn a purse in each of the eight events. Red continues, "Through entry fees and matching sponsorship dollars, we are able to offer decent prize winnings for the top performers."



Henry Garland is Wink the Clown

Henry has been one of the premier volunteers for the Rodeo over the past 14 years. He was recently "volunteered" to assume the duties of Rodeo Clown as well. We spoke to Henry to get a clown's eye view of the Rodeo.



Natalie and Wink (Henry Garland)

How did you become a Rodeo clown?

The first rodeo I participated in (as a clown) was when the Wylie Kiwanis organized a Kid's Rodeo & Mutton busting in June of 2004 --- Roz was President, and she asked me to get out there and be silly so the kids and parents would have something to laugh at! I think I managed to get a few chuckles, and had a great time doing it! I actually started helping with the Rodeo when I was an officer with the Chamber, and I think that was 8 years ago... I have done everything from tilling up the arena, to setting up bleachers and fencing/gates to hanging flags and signs.

What's your scariest moment as a Rodeo clown?

The scariest moment was when one of the kids got hung up on the sheep, and was being dragged across the arena, and I wasn't fast enough to catch the sheep! Thank goodness he wasn't hurt at all!

What about a funny moment you've experienced?

Last year Ashley Poole was sitting back in her chair not paying attention, and I quietly climbed over the fence and sat down in her lap...she just about came unglued, and everyone around us thought it was hilarious. I like surprising people! Another time, I wandered out into the arena playing my home-made toilet-seat guitar, and the professional clown hired to do the "Big Rodeo" came out and joined me in a jam session, because he liked my guitar so much.

What is your clown name?

WINK the RODEO CLOWN.

Do you have any advice for a future Rodeo clown?

HAVE FUN, and MAKE THE KIDS SMILE!

After joining the Wylie chamber in June 2004, President Mike Agnew was overwhelmed to learn that his first major community event would be a rodeo. "I came from Plano, I didn't know the first thing about how to coordinate a rodeo," Mike commented. Lucky for him, there were several people who did know and were happy to steer (no pun intended) him through his first one. Mike added, "Wylie has so many talented and giving people like the Fullers, Garlands and Red Byboth, who dedicate a lot of personal time, money and energy safeguarding not only the integrity of the rodeo, but the chamber as well. They make my job so much easier."

The Wylie Championship Rodeo kicks off on Friday September 8 and continues on Saturday, September 9 at the Wylie Rodeo Arena located at 1310 Hensley Lane, Wylie, Texas. Friday, gates will open at 7:30 p.m. for mutton bustin'. The Rodeo will begin with the Grand Entry at 8:00 p.m. The Saturday show will begin at 6:30 with a team penning exhibition, with the Grand Entry to begin at 8:00 p.m. Ticket prices for each night are \$10 for adult in advance, \$12 at the gate and \$5 for children 12 and under in advance, \$7 at the gate. Children under age three get in free. Cost of parking is included in the ticket price. For directions or more information, visit the Wylie Chamber of Commerce web site at www.wyliechamber.org or call Mike Agnew at 972.442.2804. Cowboy up! •

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Wylie • Sachse • Murphy Chamber News

Support your local chamber events

Wylie's 14th Championship Rodeo sponsored by NFC Sports will be a two-day event, with two full rodeos being held **Friday and Saturday, September 8th and 9th.** The festivities will start on Friday September 8th at 7:30 p.m. with Mutton Bustin', sponsored by Inwood National Bank. This is the kids version of bull riding where youngsters from 4 - 7 hang onto sheep for dear life and the best time. The Rodeo will begin with the Grand Entry at 8:00 p.m. The Saturday show will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a team penning exhibition, with



the Grand Entry to begin at 8:00 p.m. Both nights will feature State Fair type concessions, western-themed vendors and the return of the always popular Kiddie Corral and bounce houses. There will also be mechanical bull rides, tractors from the Antique Tractor Society, pony rides and a petting zoo to add to the fun. Ticket prices to each show will be \$10 for adults (\$12 at the gate) and \$5 for youth 12 & under (\$7 at the gate). Children 3 and under get in free.

Casino Night is October 21st

Dallas Moving & Storage will be the host of the Wylie Chamber of Commerce 2nd Annual Casino Night Jimmy Buffet Style, to be held at Dallas Moving & Storage (940 Hensley, Wylie TX) on Saturday, Oct. 21.

Island casual is the dress for the evening. The fun starts at 6:30 p.m. and will last until 11:00 p.m., at least. The purchase of a \$45 ticket gets you food, drink and chips to play

all of your favorite casino games. Make sure you keep your winnings and turn them in at the end of the evening to win some fantastic prizes for playing.

In addition to all of your favorite casino games, American National Bank will again sponsor the American Bank of Texas Hold 'em Tournament, where 1st Prize is a trip for two to Las Vegas, while the 2nd place finisher gets to go to Shreveport for a gambling weekend. 3rd and 4th place will receive \$100 gift cards. The cost to enter the Texas Hold 'em Tournament is \$70, and includes all of the Casino Ticket perks, plus entry into the Tournament.

There will also be a Live Auction, Prize Drawings, music, dancing and fun for all! So make plans to attend. Contact the Wylie Chamber for more information.

www.wyliechamber.org
972•442•2804

Murphy's Chamber holds a once-a-month Lunch Time Speaker Series at the Woodbridge Golf Club in Wylie. Speakers are topical and educational, with a focus on improving any and all aspects of operating a business in and around Murphy. Lunch is served at 11:30 am @ \$10.00 per person to include the following guest speakers:



September 19, 2006

Keith Self - County Judge (Elect)

October 17, 2006

Max Jaffe - Author of My Money, Myself

www.murphychamber.org
972•509•5626

Sachse's Chamber monthly luncheons will be held on Sept. 12 and Oct. 10, 2006, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Sachse Assembly of God Church, 2709 Third St. in Sachse.



Sachse Fall Festival

The Sachse Chamber of Commerce is proud to present the 21st Annual Sachse Fallfest on **Saturday, October 14** from 10:00 a.m.



Sachse Chamber of Commerce

to 4:00 p.m. at Heritage Park in Sachse. This year's title sponsor is Verizon.

Fallfest has grown through the years and has become a favorite fair for vendors, crafters and fairgoers from all over the area. The event includes a classic car show, and 100+ vendor booths for crafters, business vendors and local organizations. The event is highlighted by the free entertainment, games for kids of all ages and great food. Plan to attend this year's event to see what all the fun is about at the Sachse Fallfest. Admission is free. •

www.sachsechamber.com
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We're on a mission. . . .

The Wylie Chamber of Commerce strives to serve the needs of the membership while contributing to the growth and quality of life in our community.

The Mission of the Murphy Chamber of Commerce is to promote and strengthen business relationships, offer solutions for their needs and create the best community in which to work, live and grow a business.

The Sachse Chamber of Commerce is organized to achieve the objectives of enhancing the economic well being and quality of life in the City of Sachse and the surrounding area.

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- Sam Satterwhite, EDC Executive Director



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Going On Around Town

Monthly

Wylie Lions Club – “We Serve”

meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month at Napoli's Pizza & Restaurant at 701 N. Hwy. 78 at Noon. Anyone interested in becoming a Lion is welcome to join us for lunch. (972)771-5551

MOMS Club of Wylie

is a support group for stay at home moms that meets the first Tuesday each month, 10 a.m. at the Brown St. Baptist Fellowship.

Wylie Friends of the Library

meet the third Thursday every month, 6 p.m., at the Rita and Truett Smith Public Library, 800 Thomas, in the Bluebonnet Room. (972)442-7566

Wylie Wisecrackers

meets Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Napoli's Pizza & Restaurant, 701 N. Hwy. 78. (469)255-1411

Sachse Exchange Club

meets the first three Fridays of each month, Noon, at Outback Steakhouse 4902 N. Pres. George Bush Fwy., Garland. (214)498-6875

Sachse Historical Society

meets the third Saturday of the month, 9 a.m., Sachse Historical Museum, 3033 6th St. in Sachse. (972)495-1231

Sachse Republican Club

meets the second Tuesday of every month at Charles W. Smith & Sons Funeral Home, 2925 Fifth St. at 7 p.m. (972)495-7988

September

September is National Preparedness Month - Wylie's Wal-Mart Supercenter will be providing home checklists to the public to assist with planning ahead for disaster situations. Call (972)429-3526 for more info.

September 4 - Labor Day Holiday

September 9 - Garage Sale benefitting In-Sync Exotics held by Earth Friends Roots & Shoots, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 420 Skyline Dr. in Murphy. Contact droosth@insyncexotics.com for more info.

September 8 - 9 - Wylie Championship Rodeo - The festivities will start on Friday September 8th at 7:30 p.m. with Mutton Bustin' (the kids version of bull riding.) The Saturday show begins at 6:30 with a team penning exhibition. Grand Entry begins at 8:00 p.m. both nights. (See preceding page for additional info.)

September 9 - Wylie United Methodist Church 3rd Annual Music Fest benefitting the Christian Care Center and Meals on Wheels, 6 - 9 p.m., 1401 FM 1378, Wylie. (972)442-5835

September 12 - Sachse Chamber of Commerce Luncheon

September 19 - Murphy Chamber of Commerce Lunch Time Speaker Series with County Judge (elect) Keith Self

September 26 - Wylie Chamber of Commerce Luncheon

September 30 - Murphy City Fest - contact the Murphy Chamber of Commerce for more info at info@murphychamber.org.

October

October is National Safety Month - Wylie's Wal-Mart Supercenter is hosting a wide variety of Safety related topics for the community. Daily handouts will be distributed to customers and each Saturday will feature events, displays and demonstration for the public. Call (972)429-3526 for more information.

October 2 - GISD Fair Day

October 2 - 6 - PISD Fall Break

October 3 - GISD Student Holiday

October 3 - 31 - Wylie UMC Pumpkin Patch, 1401 FM 1378, Wylie, call (972)442-5825 for times.

October 9 - WISD Fair Day Holiday

October 10 - WISD Student Holiday

October 14 - The Sachse Chamber of Commerce is proud to present the 21st Annual Sachse Fallfest on Saturday, October 14, 2006 from 10:00 am to 4:00 p.m. at Heritage Park, Admission is free. Call the Sachse Chamber for more info at (972)496-1212.

October 17 - Murphy Chamber of Commerce Lunch Time Speaker Series with Max Jaffe - Author of *My Money, Myself*

October 21 - Wylie Chamber of Commerce 2nd Annual Casino Night and Texas Hold 'em Tournament. Tickets are available at the Chamber office, 108-A W. Marble, Wylie, contact (972)442-2804 or info@wyliechamber.org for more info.

October 26 - Wylie Downtown Merchants Trick or Treating on Ballard St., Wylie, 6 - 8 p.m. Featuring live music, kids games and concessions. For more info call (972)442-4225.

October 29 - Daylight Savings Time (Fall Back) - Don't forget to set your clocks back 1 hour.●



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



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To submit your event to the November/December community calendar please send an e-mail to theconnection.anne@mac.com no later than Sept. 22nd. Please include 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.



WISD Parents Get Tools for Their Student's Success

Parent Access and WISD Community News promote open communication

written by Susan Dacus



For past generations of public school students, parents received notes, report cards, telephone calls or maybe a newsletter to help them know what was happening at school and how their child was faring. Those days are gone in the Wylie ISD. Today's WISD parents have technology tools to access information every hour of the day, every day of the week. In turn parents can ask questions and give comments to the district or individual administrators and classroom teachers. Parents have the ability to check the most recent individual information about their child or the latest happenings at their school and in the WISD.

Current parents and parents new to the district go to the Wylie ISD web site for news and information including links to campuses and a special Parent Resource Page. Readers with questions or comments submit them to the contact at the web site address for a timely response from the appropriate department or school. The web site, www.wylieisd.net, is also where readers subscribe to the district's weekly e-mail newsletter, *The WISD Community News*, which is published on most Thursdays during the school year. It contains up-to-the-minute news from the WISD and its campuses, and readers can subscribe to read about specific schools and topic areas. Last year more than 4,300 homes and e-mail addresses subscribed to *The WISD Community News*, including other school districts and grandparents from out of state.

Parents of WISD students who register with Parent Access have the ability, through their computer, to monitor the grades and attendance of their students including homework assignments and

when students are tardy. Those who use the Gradebook component of Parent Access enjoy two-way communication with their child's teacher and have few surprises at report card time.

"I love it," parent Stacey Cobb says about the Gradebook technology. "I check it daily for both of my kids during the school year. It prevents problems and helps when they forget about an assignment. I'll ask about a specific project or paper, and if that daughter's assignment isn't complete, she can start working on it."

To register for the Parent Access technology, parents must visit the campus of one of their children. This trip is necessary for safety reasons to verify that the adult accessing the information is the parent or guardian of the child or children in question. Even with children at different schools a parent only has to visit one campus. To learn more, read about Parent Access on the Parent Resource page of the WISD web site.

"We want to form strong partnerships with our parents."

- Dr. H. John Fuller

Another convenience for WISD parents is the ability to make lunch payments on line using a credit card. The system keeps track of each student's lunch account as food is purchased. Parents can add to the depleted account from the convenience of their computer. Young students don't have to keep up with cash or checks. Registration for this service is available through www.easyschoolpay.com.

"We want to form strong partnerships with our parents," explains WISD Superintendent Dr. H. John Fuller. "We also want to promote two-way communication with them to help their children achieve success. We are dedicated to maintaining

and finding the tools to enhance this process; we think we are off to a good start," he said. •



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Networking Events

You reap what you sow

provided by Jeff Ellis

Business networking has always been, and always will be, one of the best ways to build a business. This is the power of word of mouth at its best. If you are not seeing the benefits, it could be that you need to work on your technique. The illusive skills required for effective networking come naturally to some, but for most they are learned and honed over many business mixers, business card exchanges, and other networking events. We all know those with the skills - they are visible everywhere, pleasant to talk to, and always know what is going on. They are the ones who you want to do business with and refer your friends to as well. How do you become one of these high-powered networkers and reap the benefits of a bulging bottom line - even if you are anti-social? Do your homework!

Be Patient and Consistent

The most coveted trait to develop as an effective networker is patience. Showing up to a few networking events is not going to be enough - people do business with people they trust. Being visible consistently at networking events and gaining credibility is crucial. If you are not consistently visible, everything else you do will fall short. Approach your networking as you would your backyard garden. Be patient while you prepare and cultivate your relationships - you will not harvest your referrals in the first month of networking meetings, but once you do start to receive the credibility and trust that your consistency has fostered, open up the coffers and prepare for success!

Know the Etiquette

Just as we all know the best networkers, we also know those people who network consistently, but no one wants to do business with. The easiest way to ensure you do not fall into this trap is to take a genuine interest in everyone you talk with. Listen to what people are saying. Conversation is as much about listening as it is about talking. People will be more receptive to you when you take the time to hear what they have to say. Do not try to close deals or hard sell at a networking event. Be sure to follow the rules of the event, and don't "expect" anything from others you talk to. Just make sure everyone knows what you do and be patient.

Tips for Working the Crowd

Now that we have the groundwork for your networking windfall, how do you implement what you have learned? Go to as many networking events, mixers, luncheons, ribbon cuttings, or other events where business owners gather and start preparing and cultivating:



The Garland Chamber of Commerce recently hosted a large mixer for several area chambers at Firewheel Town Center

- Dress the part. The event may dictate the formality of what you wear, but always remember that people judge you in part by how you look. It is easy getting used to wearing shorts in the office and then popping into the mixer in your shorts, but unless you are a sports coach, don't do it.
 - Always have business cards. There are few things that say you aren't serious about your business more than not having professionally printed business cards handy at all times.
 - Don't linger. Try not to spend more than 15 minutes in your comfort zone with one specific group. Make that time quality, but then move on - especially looking for someone who may be sitting alone. Not only will it be an easy approach, but they will appreciate you for making the effort. Remember, everyone is at the networking event to talk to others.
 - Know when to stay away. Groups are either private or public. You want to approach groups that are public and pass on groups that are private. How do you know the difference? When people talk, there is subconscious positioning. Look for an "open" place for you to approach and stand without having any of the group members adjust their position. If you see an open space, you have found a "public" group. You will be welcomed and fit right in. If two people are facing each other, or three people form a closed group, they are engaged in a private conversation and you should allow them to continue that conversation in private. Once they are ready to accept more people into the group, you will find their bodies will turn slightly and create an opening for another.
- Still worried about your networking "green thumb?" Networking is a skill that takes time to grow. Implement the tips in this article and talk to successful business contacts about their networking strategies. Then dig in to networking; your business will be growing in no time.●

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Flu Prevention 101

Common sense recommendations for staying healthy this season

by Michael Bennington, M.D.

It's no wonder why fall marks the start of flu season. Children return to school, spend more time with friends and resume play on sports teams, which often puts them in contact with hundreds or thousands of other people. Adults also tend to engage in additional social interaction as changes in weather make getting together more favorable. Even simple human contact during social events can spread the influenza, or flu, virus.

The flu's highly contagious nature often knocks people off of their feet without warning. Someone who has contracted the virus can spread it to others before he or she detects any symptoms. According to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, those symptoms may include body aches, chills, fever, headache, a sore throat and stuffy nose.

Thankfully, preventive medicine and some common sense can lower your chances of contracting the flu this season, which typically lasts from October to March. Following are three recommendations for people of all ages:

Get a Vaccine

The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) prescribes an annual flu vaccination each fall as the best prevention method.

In particular, the CDC recommends a vaccine for high-risk groups including pregnant women, children ages 6 months to 2 years, people over 50, health care workers and anyone with diabetes. Those with immunodeficiencies – e.g. severe anemia, chronic heart and lung diseases including emphysema, kidney transplants, HIV – are also more susceptible to contracting influenza than the general public and are strongly encouraged to get a vaccination each year.

“Hand-to-hand contact is one of the fastest ways the virus can spread.”

Wash Your Hands

Parents often grow weary of reminding children to wash their hands, but adults would do good also to spend extra time keeping their hands clean in the fall and winter. Hand-to-hand contact is one of the fastest ways the virus can spread. Something as simple as shaking hands with someone who has contracted the flu can make you susceptible. You can't avoid people for six months, but you can eliminate many of the germs they can give you by washing your hands with soap and water often during the day.

Maintain Healthy Living Habits

Flu season is not the time to make extreme changes in your living habits. Unhealthy shifts in diet, stress levels, sleep patterns and/or physical activity can make your body more susceptible to the flu as well as other communicable diseases. For the best chance of avoiding the virus, do your best to maintain healthy living habits: avoid drastic eating habits, exercise regularly, get enough sleep and learn to cope with stress. •



Michael Bennington, M.D., is the medical director of First Aid Family Care, a new health care clinic for the treating of minor illnesses and injuries, located at the southeast corner of Highway 78 and FM 544 in Wylie. He is board eligible in Family Medicine and enjoys piloting small aircraft. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Bennington, call (972) 941-8700.



Water-Wise Landscaping

Seven simple steps to landscape water conservation

Source: Texas Agricultural Extension Service

Water. An adequate supply of high quality water has become a critical issue for the future prosperity of Texas. Booming populations have increased the demand on the state's already limited supply of high quality water. In addition, seasonal fluctuations in rainfall and the ongoing drought have created a serious situation in North Texas.

In urban areas of Texas about 25 percent of the water supply is used for landscape and garden watering. Much of this water is used to maintain traditionally high water-demanding landscapes, or it is simply applied inefficiently.

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service is attempting to reduce the excessive water use by educating Texans in Xeriscape landscaping. This concept is a comprehensive approach to landscaping for water conservation. Xeriscaping incorporates seven basic principles which lead to saving water. These seven principles individually are not new; they have been practiced in the landscape industry for decades. The concept of combining all seven guidelines into one effort toward landscape water conservation is what makes Xeriscaping unique.

Seven Principles of Xeriscape Landscaping

- 1. Planning and design** is the foundation of any water-wise landscape.
- 2. Soil analysis** will determine whether soil improvement is needed for better water absorption and improved water-holding capacity.



3. Plan practical turf areas

in which turf grasses are used as a planned element in the landscape. Avoid impractical turf use, such as long, narrow areas. Consider sodding with Buffalo Grass which needs much less irrigation than the commonly used Bermuda or St. Augustine grass varieties.



4. Appropriate plant selection keeps the landscape more in tune with the natural environment. Both native and exotic plants make up the huge variety of plants available for Xeriscape landscaping.

5. Efficient irrigation can instantly save 30 to 50 percent on your water bill. Soaker hoses and drip irrigation are efficient options.

6. Use mulches in flower and shrub beds to prevent water loss from the soil through evaporation and to increase water penetration during irrigations.

7. Appropriate maintenance preserves the beauty of your Xeriscape plus saves water. Pruning, weeding, proper fertilization, pest control and irrigation system adjustments all conserve water.

Xeriscape landscapes aren't all cactus and rock gardens. They can be green, cool landscapes full of beautiful plants maintained with water-efficient practices. By incorporating these seven principles, you can help preserve our most precious natural resource—water. •

On-line resources:

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/extension/xeriscape/xeriscape.html>

<http://www.txsmartscape.com/NorthCentralTX/main.asp>

<http://www.highcountrygardens.com/>

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First Aid Family Care is affiliated with Richardson Regional Medical Center but is not an extension of the hospital Emergency Department. Physicians are members of the medical staff at Richardson Regional Medical Center but are not employees or agents of the hospital.



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