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*Ebby Halliday REALTORS - 190 @ Jupiter Office*



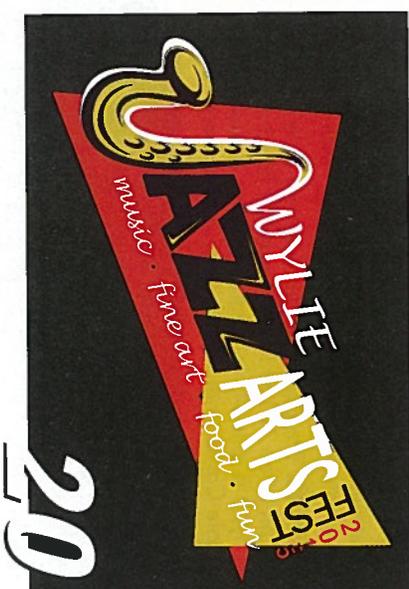
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# THE MAGICIAN

By Judy Truesdell

## Wylie's Mayor - Eric Hogue



*Birmingham Elementary first-graders Matthew Davis and Makyrna Ford assist Mayor Eric Hogue in a magic trick during a visit to Wylie City Hall. The mayor used magic to teach math lessons and about city government.*

Those watching Mayor Eric Hogue perform magic at the recent Wylie Acting Group for Children fundraiser may have found it hard to believe he was a shy youngster. The gregarious public speaker says he was an introverted boy and that learning and performing magic gave him the confidence not only in public, but also in his one-on-one dealings with others. In recent years, motivated by the desire to “pay it forward,” he has not only used magic to teach youngsters, but he was instrumental in magic being recognized as a legitimate art on the state and national level.

### It all started in Gravel Ridge

Hogue was only 10 years old and living in Gravel Ridge, Ark., when he became enchanted with magic. By the age of 15, he developed an alter ego, Clinky the Clown. On the advice of his father, he trademarked the name and began performing magic shows for young audiences. The magic/clown performances continued through college, paying for his education.

“I was a very shy young person,” he said. “Through the character of Clinky, I began to open up and come out of my shell. It definitely contributed to the ease I feel in front of audiences and heading up meetings today.”

His magic mentor in those early days was Dal Sanders, a Dallas-based magician who was the president of the prestigious national 6,000-member Society of American Magicians. The two crossed paths a few years ago, and Sanders asked Hogue for his assistance. For some 40 years, Sanders and other magicians had been striving to have the practice of magic recognized as a legitimate art, so they would qualify for grants enabling them to perform for children recovering from surgery or teach slight-of-hand tricks to youngsters in need of fine motor therapy. Decision makers viewed magic as a hobby or craft, but not a legitimate art.

### Something up his sleeve

In his capacity as mayor, Hogue had worked with U.S. Congressman Pete Sessions on several occasions. Hogue reasoned that national attention would do more than state recognition to further the legitimacy of magic, so he met with Sessions and made a request. In April 2014, Sessions read a statement in a Congressional session, which meant it was entered into the Congressional Record and therefore the Library of Congress.

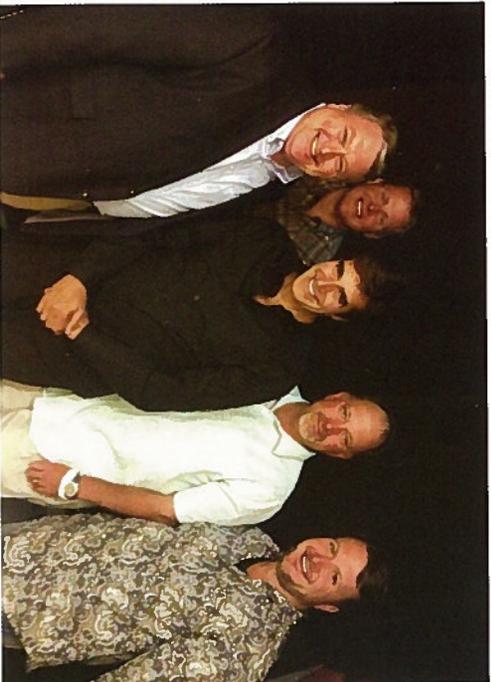
Sessions read, “The art of magic has been around for centuries and is intended to entertain audiences with the

staging of tricks and creating seemingly impossible illusions. Throughout its history, magic has grown to show innovative and creative ways to delight and engage audiences worldwide. It takes a great deal of dedication and a strong work ethic to devote the practice time necessary to master this art. ... Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in recognizing the art of magic."

### Viva Las Vegas

Hogue may have thought that was the end of the issue; he had achieved his goal of bringing national attention to the art form. He was mistaken, however.

In Las Vegas for the annual convention of the International Council of Shopping Centers last May, an event Hogue and other city personnel always attend with the goal of courting developers, commercial business, retail and restaurants for Wylie, the mayor was contacted by Chris Kenner, executive producer to renowned magician David Copperfield.



*On stage at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas are, from left, Wylie Mayor Eric Hogue, Wylie Economic Development Board Vice President Mitch Herzog, David Copperfield, Wylie EDC Executive Director Sam Satterwhite, and WEDC board member Todd Winters.*

"He said that he, David [Copperfield] and I had some mutual friends," Hogue said. "He asked how many were in my party and said we were all to be David's guests at his Sunday night performance at the MGM Grand."

The Wylie group had complimentary seats on the front row, within touching distance of Copperfield and his tricks. At one point, they were all brought on stage to be part of an illusion, but at the final trick, Hogue alone was brought up by the stage manager, who said to Copperfield, "Here's your guest." Hogue alone sat on a stool while the piece de resistance was performed.

After the show, Hogue and the group were escorted backstage, at which point Hogue was introduced to Copperfield by Kenner as "the man who made it happen for us," honoring him for his successful campaign with Congress.

### 'A great source of pride to all who know him'

When Hogue returned to Wylie, he attended a meeting of the Dallas Magic Club, where, on behalf of S.A.M., Sanders provided Hogue with a presidential citation in honor of his "extraordinary support promoting the goals and the values of The Society of American Magicians, his efforts to elevate and advance the art of magic, his work in convincing the U.S. Congress to recognize magic as an art, his countless hours of service to the betterment of the society, and his consistent willingness to assist with any and all requests made of him.

"He is a great source of pride to all who know him, and all would do well to emulate him as he epitomizes our motto: M-U-M, 'Magic – Unity – Might.'"

Wylie City Council declared Oct. 25 – 31, 2014, as National Magic Week, and Hogue presented to the city a Texas flag, given to him by Representative Jodie Laubenberg, that had been flown over the Texas Capitol in honor of the week. He also read a proclamation from then-Governor Rick Perry proclaiming magic to be an art.

Hogue said the events had been humbling. "From being a 12-year-old member of S.A.M. – a group that Houdini belonged to! – to being a part of S.A.M. history – me, a little old clown from Gravel Ridge, Ark. – it's amazing and I'm so honored." •

*Photos courtesy of the City of Wylie*

## Simple Magic Trick to Try

### The Linking Paper Clips

Two plain old paper clips spring into the air and mystifyingly link themselves together!

**Props:** A dollar bill and two paper clips.

#### Secret Steps:

1. Take the dollar bill and accordion-fold it into thirds so it's shaped like an S.
2. Attach one of the paper clips to the front of the bill from the top, with the shorter side of the clip facing you. The clip should go over the outer layer of the folded bill as well as the middle layer, and it should be clipped near the edge of the bill, not the fold.
3. Attach the other paper clip to the back of the bill from the top, with the shorter side facing away from you. Again, the clip should go over the outer layer of the folded bill as well as the middle layer.
4. Take one end of the bill in each hand and give it a quick snap. The clips will fly into the air, and when you pick them up, they'll be attached. How? Magic, of course.

