



# THE WYLIE NEWS

Covering Wylie and the surrounding area since 1948

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## Pleasant Valley Road annexation sought

*Wylie, Sachse would have to contribute to construction, design costs of road*

By Joe Reavis

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Wylie City Council members last week conducted a public hearing to annex a portion of Pleasant Valley Road, heard a proposal for a senior citizens apartment complex and heard of efforts to organize an adult community band.

The council met Tuesday, Jan. 12, at City Hall.

Other business included designating an official newspaper for publication of legal notices and hearing a report on proposed board of governance changes for North Texas Municipal Water District.

The community band is being organized by Mike Lipe, Wylie Independent School District Fine Arts Director, and Dr. Ross Grant of Wylie.

“Over the years, two or three times I have been approached

about starting a community band,” Lipe said.

He noted that those requests were for him to organize and manage the band, which he was reluctant to do, but recently Grant volunteered to help in the effort.

“Most major cities and suburbs in the Dallas area have an active, adult community band,” Grant said. “Wylie is ready for its own community band.”

The band, Lipe explained,

would be made up of recent Wylie band students and adults who have maintained an interest in music over the years. He said the band would welcome musicians who have continued playing their instruments to those who would be picking up an instrument for the first time in years.

The two men reported that they expect the band to hold its first rehearsal in February and hold a concert in March. Venues

will include school auditoriums and outdoor locations, and the band will perform at various community events.

“A Wylie band will bring joy to our community,” Lipe said. “There are all sorts of opportunities for us.”

Council members expressed support for the endeavor.

Dallas County has requested that the cities of Wylie and Sachse annex Pleasant Valley Road, which is designated as

an orphan road, for future improvements. The Wylie portion of the road to be annexed is 1.207 miles.

City Planning and Zoning Director Renae Ollie reported that an initial \$500,000 each is being sought from Wylie and Sachse to start the design phase for improvements, and that Dallas County will contribute \$1 million to a design that will

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## A sustainable dream home



Joe Reavis/The Wylie News

Architectural elements such as rounded windows take ordinary shipping containers and turn them into a home.

## Couple building family home out of shipping containers

By Joe Reavis

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A former Wylie couple, Shannon and Terra Mathers, is putting a new twist on the American Dream by building their own house, out of metal shipping containers.

The house is located on 20 acres of land near Blue Ridge they bought in 2014. The overriding goal of their project is to live debt free so that they will be able to travel and enjoy life to its fullest.

“We want to get away from the bank,” Shannon said. “We are building on cash flow.”

By that, he means that they are building their house as money is available instead of taking out a bank loan. Building on cash flow means they have to carefully budget and prioritize expenses.

“We have a goal in mind, but some-

times it gets frustrating,” Terra said.

The couple and their two youngest children, 14-year-old Garrett and 12-year-old Kylie, moved from a 2,600 square foot home with a swimming pool in Wylie to a 360 square foot home in the country while construction is underway on the shipping container house of about 1,300 square feet. Their oldest children, Tyler, 23, and Collin, 21, are both Wylie High School graduates and live on their own.

Their current abode is a shipping container with a built-on space, with the shower and toilet located in a recreational vehicle parked nearby. When the family first moved to the country, they did not have water or electricity. Until they got utilities, they utilized solar power and a generator, and hauled water to the site in a 250-gallon tank.

Instead of viewing the somewhat primitive living conditions as a hardship, the couple pointed out that they saved money



Joe Reavis/The Wylie News

Shannon and Terra Mathers are working on building their dream home out of shipping containers.

that could go into the home project.

The house consists of four intermodal shipping containers—they are 40 feet long, 9.5 feet tall and eight feet wide—that were set up by crane on 15 concrete piers and that have been joined together to make a single structure. Windows will be cut into the metal walls, doorways added and interior partitions built to

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## Chamber chairman charting course

By Joe Reavis

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Veteran banker and longtime Wylie Chamber of Commerce volunteer Anita Collins stepped into the role of Chairman this month and is busy at work laying out a plan of action for 2016.

“We certainly want to be an advocate for every business,” Collins said. “Our board is made up of very community-based business people.”

The new Chairman moved to Wylie with her family when she was in fifth grade and graduated Wylie High School, as did husband Bill and their three children. Bill is the owner of Wylie Propane Company.

“We are very vested in this community,” Collins declared.

She took her first job in the banking industry in 1981, working as a lending assistant for Truett and Rita Smith at First State Bank. In 1984, she joined First National Bank of Sachse and recalled that they did a lot of business with Wylie customers.

Collins went to work at American National Bank in 2003, helping to open the Sachse facility, and is now Market President over the Wylie and Sachse branches. Along the way, she earned a graduate degree in banking at Southern

Methodist University.

“I always feel like being in banking and being in the chamber of commerce is similar because both are trying to help businesses,” she said.

Goals for the Wylie chamber this year are to strengthen Wylie city, economic development corporation and school connections to better help chamber members, and to recognize the volunteer base that keeps the organization strong.

In addition, Collins would like to recognize longtime members of the chamber.

She points out that chamber volunteers today consist of a new generation of members who are picking up the civic responsibilities of their parents and grandparents.

The Wylie chamber sponsors two major events each year, the awards banquet, set for April 1, and a professional rodeo in September.

“We want to continue to develop membership and bring value to our business customers,” the Chairman said.

Joining Collins as members of the chamber board of directors are Immediate Past Chairperson of the Board Melissa Heller, Rodney Nemer, Derek Draper, Don Pool, Robert Diaz, Kevin Stewart, Deborah Matern, Jan Arrant, Dr. Beth Anderson, Matt Morton and Stephen Perkins.



Joe Reavis/The Wylie News

Anita Collins stepped in as the 2016 chamber chairman.

## Last week for ‘Best of’ ballots

This is the last week the 20th annual Best of Wylie ballots will be in the paper.

Ballots are due no later than Jan. 27. Extra copies of *The Wylie News* can be purchased at our office at 110 N. Ballard in Wylie or any newsrack.

You may also submit a downloaded ballot from your e-Edition. Simply go to the

e-Edition on our website and select ‘Subscription’. You can access the current and past editions of the newspaper.

Ballots can be mailed to P.O. Box 369, Wylie, TX 75098 or brought by our office. Mailed entries must be postmarked by Jan. 27.

Winners will be announced in February.

## School for the Deaf board appoints Hogue

From Staff Reports  
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Wylie Mayor Eric Hogue recently accepted a new responsibility when he was named president of the Texas School for the Deaf governing board.

Hogue was appointed to the

School for the Deaf board by the governor’s office in 2009, partly due to his being fluent in American Sign Language.

“I am honored to support the deaf community and look forward to continuing my work with the board,” Hogue said.

He learned how to sign at the

age of 10 so that he could befriend and communicate with some deaf neighbors, began interpreting church services at age 12 and was a certified interpreter by 18, accompanying deaf and hearing-impaired people to city council meetings, college classes and other func-

tions.

Texas School for the Deaf, located in Austin, is established as a state agency to provide educational services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students up to the age of 21. It opened in 1856 and has an enrollment of 584 students.

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## Filings open for spring elections

The filing period opens Wednesday, Jan. 20, for spring elections to several area city and school district posts.

Candidates have through Feb. 19 to sign up for the jobs to be decided in May 7 elections.

Two positions on the Wylie City Council must be filled this spring, those held by Mayor *pro tem* Keith Stephens, Place 1, and by Todd Winters in Place 3. City council members are elected at-large by position and serve terms of three years.

LAKE LAVON LEVELS

Normal 492

494.50 ft.

as of 01/18/16

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

