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**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Wylie Fourth-Graders Name New Fire Trucks**

**Wylie, TX, June 4, 2014** – Wylie Fire Rescue used the suggestions of Wylie ISD fourth-graders to name the two new fire trucks added to the fleet earlier this year.

When the two Quints, or quintuple combination pumpers, went online, they had all the bells and whistles (aerial device, water tank, pump, fire hoses and ground ladders) needed to fulfill their five firefighting functions, but they lacked one thing: a name.

According to WFR’s Battalion Chief Brian Ritter, the department knew where to turn.

“Each time we acquire a new fire apparatus, we ask for help from Wylie elementary school children,” he said. “We design coloring sheets and ask for their name suggestions. We also encourage them to tell us why they chose the name.”

Fourth-graders at Smith, Hartman, Akin and Groves elementary schools had some great suggestions: Quint 143 is The Raider, and Quint 141 is The Gladiator.

Wylie High School’s teams are known as Pirates, but Wylie’s second high school, Wylie East, is the home of the Raiders, a factor that Alyssa Tyson of Akin considered in making her nomination. “I chose the name Raider because the previous name of a fire truck was The Pirate, and I thought the fire truck could be the name of the other high school that I will be going to.”

Lee Garcia, from Hartman Elementary, chose Gladiator because, “Gladiators fight, and you guys fight fires ... and you guys are awesome!”

Ayesha Ayub of Groves and Nathan Milam Jones of Smith also suggested The Raider; Vance Schreiner from Smith also submitted The Gladiator.

Ritter said the firefighters always enjoy the process.

“After collecting the submissions, they are distributed through the department to allow the personnel to look at and read them. This is a lot of fun, as it really puts things in perspective on how these kids see us and the trucks.

“The names are designed and applied to the trucks,” he said. “The name will never change.”

Wylie Fire Rescue has a Class 1 ISO rating, putting it in the top .54 percent of all Texas fire departments.

*Cutline for accompanying courtesy photo (provided by Wylie Fire Rescue):*

Alyssa Tyson, a fourth-grader at Wylie’s Akin Elementary, was one of the kids who suggested the name “The Raider” for one of Wylie Fire Rescue’s new Quints. She and her mom Stacy received a commemorative certificate at the fire station .

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About Wylie -- Incorporated in 1887, the City of Wylie is located just 24 miles from downtown Dallas in Collin, Dallas and Rockwall counties. Possessing an outstanding school district, a low crime rate, an ISO #1 rating and an expanding business climate, Wylie (population 44,158) is one of the fastest-growing communities in the State of Texas with a 192% increase since 2000.