

The Sachse News

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Shining on the community, events and people of Sachse

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Volume 19 Issue 46

Sachse, Texas

Thursday, November 23, 2023

C&S Media Publications

3 Sections, 16 Pages

\$1.50

Education leader speaks at chamber luncheon

By Jeremy Hallock

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Dozens of city employees, educators and sponsors showed up for the monthly Sachse Chamber of Commerce luncheon last week.

Sponsored by Ariel Pointe Senior Living, the event at Chase Oaks Woodbridge Campus on

Nov. 14 featured a speech from Wylie ISD Superintendent David Vinson.

Pastor Todd Baughman led the group in prayer, Sachse High School principal Shae Creel led the pledges and then sandwiches were served.

Introduced as “the second business in Sachse to have a cash register,” councilmember Frank

Millsap’s Sachse Rod Shop was the business of the month. Four businesses—Advanced Foot Specialists, Countryside Smiles, Adaline at the Station and Lumi Family Dentistry—were announced as new members of the chamber. Then teachers of the month were recognized.

Teachers of the month for October and November from

Sachse High School were biology teacher Ashley Carter and English teacher Tiffani Kendall, respectively. From Hudson Middle School, 6th grade math team lead Elizabeth Helms is the teacher of the month for October and reading teacher Maria Torres De Ramirez for November. From Sewell Elementary, kindergarten teacher Anna Gibson

for October and special education teacher LaToya Wheeler. From Luna Elementary, dyslexia teacher Marianne Ross was recognized as November teacher of the month. From Armstrong Elementary, 1st grade Ashley Morrell was teacher of the month for October and 2nd grade teacher Brandy Barnett was teacher of the month for November.

From Cox Elementary, kindergarten teacher of the month for October is Lorena Reyes and for November, third grade teacher Beatriz Garcia. From Whitt Elementary, first grade teacher Kayli Padden for October and special education teacher Amy Leiker for November.

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NEWS YOU NEED

Family pot & plant

Paint a pot and plant a plant to take home at Sachse Public Library (3815 Sachse Road, Unit C) 4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29.

Pickleball Lessons

Take lessons for the world’s fastest growing sport. The Community Center (3815 E. Sachse Road) is offering pickleball lessons 7:30-9 a.m. Dec. 2. To register, call 469-429-0275 or visit the community center.

Christmas Extravaganza

The Dec. 6 Christmas Extravaganza at the City Complex (3815 E. Sachse Road) includes the parade of lights down Miles Road at 6 p.m., the Christmas tree lighting in front of Michael J. Felix Community Center at 7 p.m. and Christmas activities from 7-8 p.m.

Sanden celebrates production of first electric compressor

The future of the automobile industry is electric, and a local company has made a breakthrough.

Instead of using an engine to power an air conditioner compressor, electric vehicles use electricity. And rethinking a traditional air conditioning system is anything but simple. But from its Wylie facility, Sanden International USA has opened North America’s first automotive air conditioning compressor assembly line for electric vehicles with mass production. See page 5A.

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The Sachse News (USPS 023255) is published each Thursday at 110 N. Ballard, Wylie, 75098. Second Class Postage paid at Wylie, 75098. Send address changes P.O. Box 369, Wylie, TX 75098-0369. Published by C&S Media, Inc. © Copyright 2023 No reproduction without permission.

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New retail center will include several new restaurants

By Jeremy Hallock

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A new planned development will bring several new dining options to Sachse in the next year.

Construction on Bunker Hill Retail Center began this week and a groundbreaking ceremony held last week included several members of council including Mayor Jeff Bickerstaff.

In the works for two years on 2.77 acres of land adjacent to The Station, the 27,000 square foot development with two buildings is scheduled to open in a year.

“Whenever we talk about retail or strip centers, we always see the regular brick and mortar and glass structure,” Principal Owner of ABM Developers Ankush Agrawal said. “The perception is all that fancy construction happens in Frisco or Dallas. Why would somebody come to the suburbs?”

But Agrawal has lived in Wylie since 2016.

“The idea was to bring

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Courtesy Jana Ventura

The Bunker Hill Retail Center groundbreaking ceremony took place Tuesday, Nov. 14. Participating in the groundbreaking are, from left, Economic Development Coordinator Denise Lewis, City Manager Gina Nash, Councilmember Lindsay Buhler, EDC Board Member Joshua Frick, Mayor Jeff Bickerstaff, EDC Board Member Richard Chandler, Economic Development Manager Jerod Potts, Director of Development Matt Robinson, EDC Board Member Chris Decker.

Wylie ISD board elects new president

Jeremy Hallock

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The Wylie ISD Board of Trustees has a new president, Jacob Day, following his being elected by acclamation at the regular meeting Monday, Nov. 13.

The former WISD teacher was first elected to the board in 2018.

Day is replacing Stacie

Smith, who the board elected by acclamation as vice-president.

Superintendent David Vinson took the floor for a presentation praising Smith, who became the school board’s president in 2021.

“For those of you who have been president, you understand and realize the gravity that you take on,” Vinson said. “It’s a weight. Stacie has just went

above and beyond to be a leader in our school district that has kids at heart.”



Jacob Day

While Smith was president, Vinson said, the district received its highest performance rating, lowered the property tax rate and fine arts flourished. Vinson also thanked Smith “for wearing every shirt we asked you to wear” and for “knowing how to gavel!” before presenting her with a gavel as a gift and memento.

After a standing ovation from the room, an emotional

Smith thanked the other board members but admitted that she was happy to “turn it over” to Day.

During the recognitions portion of the meeting, the board welcomed new Cooper Junior High principal Amanda Lannan, who replaces Jesse Chavoya. Lannan began her teaching career in 2007 at Wylie

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Nonprofit focuses on public speaking skills

By Jeremy Hallock

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Wylie Wisecrackers Toastmasters (WWT) is a mouthful, in more ways than one.

“Our premise is helping people become more comfortable with public speaking,” WWT Vice President of Education and Public Relations Gary Moore said. Moore has been a member of Toastmasters International since 1994 and worked with several clubs across the country. The local group has over 20 members.

The structured program from the nonprofit, which takes about two years to complete, assigns a mentor to help new members write speeches and give them. Eventually

the newcomer gives their first speech and receives a critique from evaluators, who typically counts the number of times they said “um” or “uh,” evaluates body language and takes note of whether the speech ran long or short.

From Sachse, Joby Varughese just joined the group a few weeks ago with the goal of improving his public speaking skills for his new job with a pharmaceutical company. Mostly observing so far, he will not give his first speech to the group for a few more weeks but says WWT is “pretty organized” with “a strict agenda” and the group is “welcoming” and has different roles like mentors and evaluators.

Varughese said he was

struck by how seriously the volunteers take their roles. He has participated in “icebreakers” that force him to participate in conversations with random topics.

“That helps with my job,” Varughese said. “Sometimes I’m on a call or in a meeting and my boss or somebody asks me a question on the fly, and I have to immediately respond.”

Considering his first speech, Varughese said “there’s always those initial jitters” but realizes that he has to “put himself in an uncomfortable position to grow.”

After recently relocating to Texas from Ohio a few months ago, Jilani Shaik joined the

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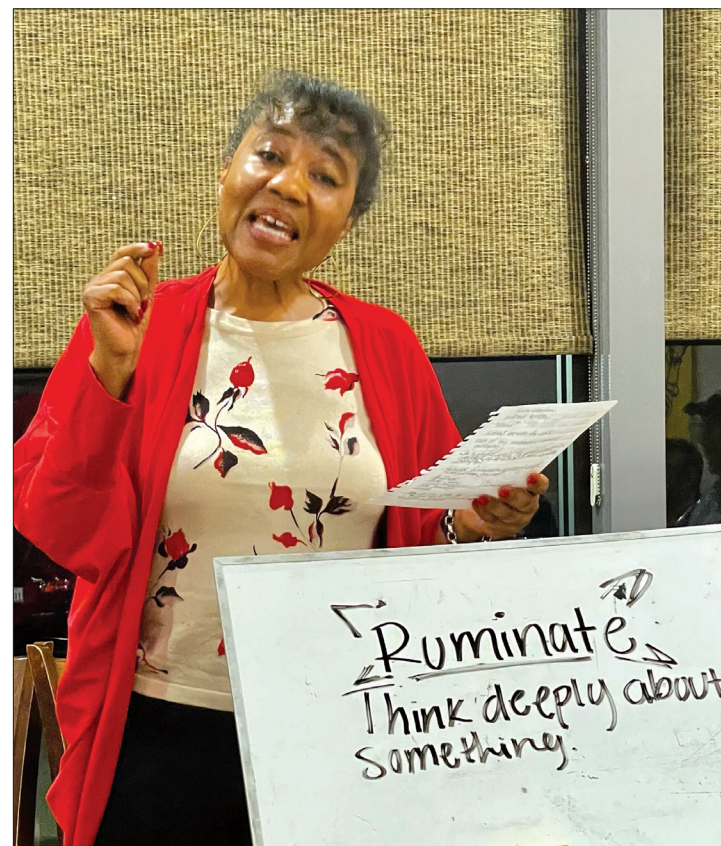


Photo by Gary Moore

Karen-Bragg Matthews at a Wylie Wisecrackers Toastmasters meeting.