

July/August 2011

The CONNECTION

Your Wylie • Sachse • Murphy Community Magazine

A man, Dr. Justin Barnett, is standing in a batting cage. He is wearing a black t-shirt with a yellow Nike logo, black shorts, and sunglasses. He is holding a red and white baseball bat with both hands, ready to swing. The background is a green safety net. The setting appears to be an indoor sports facility with a green artificial turf floor and a metal structure in the background.

DR. JUSTIN BARNETT OD
SPORTS VISION SPECIALIST
INTRODUCES THE
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In this issue:
*Dr. David Vinson
Anna Nguyen
Joseph York
Shop Wylie First
and more!*

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Dr. Nathan Muaina received his Doctorate of Dental Medicine from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio after completing his undergraduate degree at Brigham Young University, where he studied Spanish.

Upon completion of his predoctoral education, Dr. Muaina continued his training by completing an Advanced Education in General Dentistry residency at the University of Texas, School of Dentistry in Houston. During his residency, he received advanced training in implant dentistry, full mouth reconstructions and is also certified in the Invisalign procedure. Dr. Muaina maintains associations in many national and local organizations such as the American Dental Association, the Academy of General Dentistry, and the Texas Dental Association.

When not in the office, Dr. Muaina loves to spend time with his wife Bridgette and their two boys Devin and Ty. He is an avid sports fan and enjoys reading, fishing, traveling, and going to the movies. He is an active member in his church and community.



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- numbers & concepts
- songs, puppets & fingerplays
- creative art

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- vocabulary
- math readiness
- language arts
- music & puppets
- phonics & listening
- writing skills
- computers
- creative art
- social studies



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- Geriatric Foot Care
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The Wylie Recreation Center is pleased to provide citizens of Wylie and surrounding communities a place to play, learn, exercise and socialize. With 47,000 square feet of fun, guests are invited to climb the wall, make a lap, bounce a ball or sign up for a class.

Approaching the first back-to-school season at the Wylie Recreation Center, parents can get in on the act and take up a course in Yoga, Boot Camp or Coffee and Guitar. Kids may find flexing mental might is just the right speed in Chess Camp, and the Age 55+ crowd will enjoy participating with friends in Tai Chi, Ballroom Dance or Knitting.

"Not only is back-to-school my favorite time of year for its promise of upcoming cooler weather, but the approaching autumn inspires my course programming. The routine of the school year is the perfect time for parents and seniors to pick up a guitar, learn karate or rejuvenate in a Tai Chi class," said Annika Sacco, Recreation Programmer.

The Wylie Recreation Center also offers rental space for parties and meetings. The large meeting space and commercial kitchen accommodate up to 100 guests for baby showers, reunions and birthday parties. The classroom provides a more intimate location for smaller groups of 35 people. Church leagues and basketball organizations may also enjoy reserving a basketball court for practice.

"This fall we will be offering rental "add-ons," including the Climbing Wall, balloons and preschool packages," said Katy Burton, Recreation Programmer. "It is exciting to continue adding new ways for Wylie to enjoy the facility."

For information about Membership Passes, Activities and Rooms for Rent, please visit:
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On The Cover

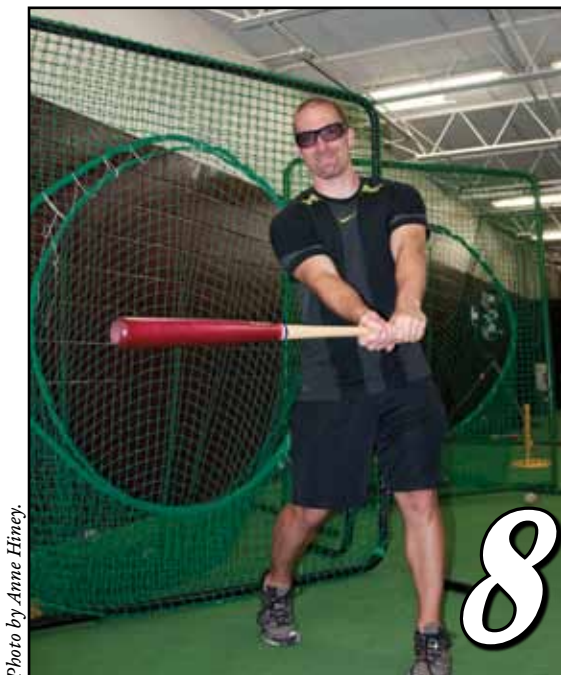


Photo by Anne Hiney.

Dr. Justin Barnett OD - Sports Vision Specialist

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Dr. David Vinson - Wylie ISD Superintendent

Photo provided by WISD.

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From us to you.....

Back to School Already??

We realize most of you are just putting up the leftover fireworks and feeling that "Where did the air go?" oppressive heat of the local summer, but at The Connection we are already gearing up to kick our little darlings off the couch and back to school!!!

This issue follows that theme as we look at a few new things and people involved in education in the coming year. On the Wylie side of things we feature Dr. David Vinson the new WISD Superintendent and in Murphy we take a look at McMillen HS, the newest school in PISD. A nice article on making the transition to college, as well as back-to-school health tips will fill out the "required summer reading" list.

Just for fun we also throw in a look at the Ketchup Creativity Winner, a total Wylie Wedding and a rare book repairman.

Dr. Justin Barnett OD, from Sachse Eye Associates, is pictured swinging away on our cover and the Spotlight article this month features the Wylie Recreation Center, which is also a perfect place to take the kids when you have run out of things to do. Actually take them if you haven't run out of things to do. It is the perfect place to enjoy the summer heat – indoors!

Thank you again for stopping in to "get Connected".

Mike - Becky - Anne



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The "Profile of Success" cover photograph and feature article, as well as the "Business Spotlight", are paid advertisements.



Just for fun, find the butterfly! Last issue it was hidden in the top photo on page 11.

Occasionally we make a mistake. Let us know if you find one so we can correct it. We love your feedback - send comments to info@wyliechamber.org. Story ideas are always welcome and appreciated. Thanks for "Connecting" with us!



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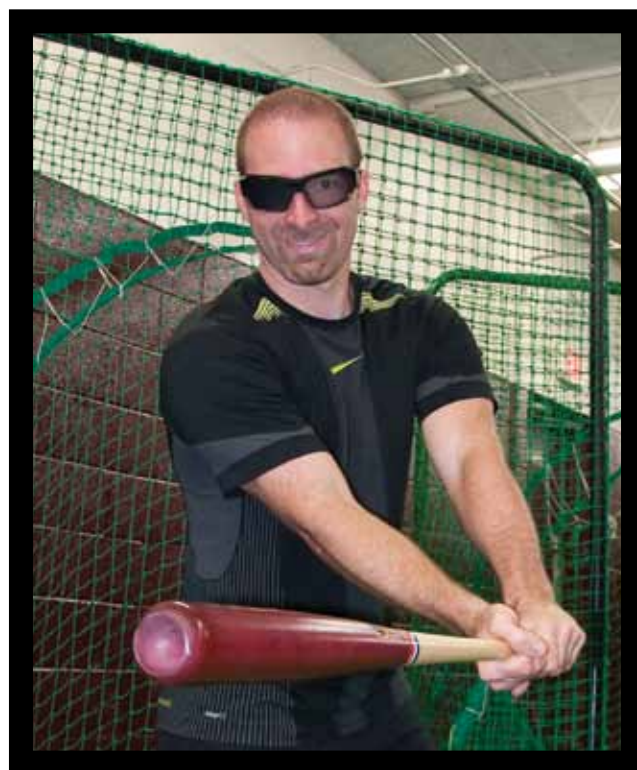
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DR. JUSTIN BARNETT OD

SPORTS VISION SPECIALIST

If you guessed that this article would have something to do with sports, you would be correct. In turn, you might assume that it has something to do with vision (probably confirmed by the fact that an eye doctor wrote this). If you read our article last year in *The Connection Magazine*, you know that I am quite the sports enthusiast. As a one time collegiate baseball player, I continue to have a passion for sports and the impact that proper vision correction has on eye health and performance. I understand what is required to reach the collegiate and/or professional level and have success. However, my experience only involved athletic training (running, weight lifting, etc.) and numerous repetitions to refine my skills. A new type of training is here!

Vision training is the next evolution in sports. Let's think about this for a minute...the number one factor related to performance in sports is vision. It makes sense that fine tuning our visual system will have positive results in the athletic arena (not to mention academics). A recent study showed that approximately eighty-five percent of all athletes not wearing glasses or contacts needed vision correction. In addition, a large percentage of those athletes have never had their eyes examined. As you might expect, athletes must have their vision corrected optimally to perform to their peak potential and the same case could be made for a student in school. Having a comprehensive vision examination to evaluate the health and abilities of the athlete's eyes is priority one. But, "I can see 20/20 on the chart so I don't need correction." Are you sure? Did you know that over ninety (90) percent of all major league baseball players are able to see either 20/10 (three lines better than 20/20 on the eye chart) or 20/12.5 (two lines better than 20/20). Seeing 20/20 is average (arguably below average)! An athlete that is only able to see 20/20 on an eye chart is starting at a competitive disadvantage. We can do better. Any eye doctor worth visiting will not try to sell you glasses, contacts, or upgrades you don't need. For sports, we must adjust our criteria for prescribing vision correction. If you have visited an eye doctor and they noted you (or your child) didn't need correction because you can



Dr. Barnett wearing Nike's new SPARQ Vapor Strobe glasses.

see 20/20 on an eye chart, you may be subject to reduced performance in sports and academics. While the optometrist may have had the best intentions, you may be missing out on noticeable vision improvements.

Once eye health and visual acuity have been evaluated and corrected, the rest of the visual system must be evaluated and trained if necessary. Over the last few years, Nike® (as well as other companies) has been working along side optometrists developing new techniques and new technologies for training the visual system. Those technologies are now here and most of you will see the upcoming marketing campaign later this year. Nike® tends to be a decent marketer. And even though these technologies were developed to improve sports performance, they are also highly effective at improving aspects of the visual system needed for scholastic performance. Eye alignment, depth perception, and many other areas can be hurdles for students and athletes but can be trained and improved using these technologies. One of the first technologies to market is the Nike® SPARQ Vapor Strobe. The Strobe is a set of glasses that does exactly what you might expect...strokes or flickers. The lenses permit



Nike® Vapor Strobe glasses.

only intermittent glimpses of clear vision, while the rest of the time the lenses are fogged, not allowing the athlete to see. The flickering effect the athlete sees, forces the perceptual visual mechanism to process less information thereby training the athlete to react or respond faster and/or more accurately. For a tennis player attempting to return a 120 mph serve, every millisecond counts. We now have ways of training and improving visual processing.

Another advancement for sports vision training is Nike® SPARQ SST...a technology so new, most professional athletes have yet to have a turn (The Sports Vision Institute will begin training using the SST later this August). The SST incorporates all the latest 3D technology, touch screen technology, and vision training techniques into one user friendly platform. We are now able to evaluate and accurately train more areas than ever before. Binocular vision (how the eyes work together), depth perception, peripheral vision, ability to focus, and other areas can all be trained using the SST. The athlete will receive immediate feedback on performance and comparative data will allow the athlete to compare himself to his peers. This feedback will highlight opportunities for improvement. The Sports Vision Institute (an affiliate of Sachse Eye Associates and Dr. Justin Barnett OD) has already started training using some of these new technologies.

A question I am sometimes asked is, "Are there any side effects of the training?" My answer is always, "Yes...the athlete will probably perform better in school as well." This article focuses more on the potential improvements in sports performance, but the potential benefits in school should not be dismissed. The visual system may actually be under greater stress while in the classroom environment than on the ball field. We can now utilize the same user friendly technology used to train athletes to help students in the classroom.

We have been proud to provide the most advanced and comprehensive eye care available and will continue to be at the forefront of eye care. In 2010, we welcomed two new physicians to our growing practice, Dr. Joy Lam OD and Dr. Valerie Mace OD. Our growing staff and the addition of the Sports Vision Institute has added another level of care available to the Sachse, Wylie and Murphy areas. We thank you for entrusting your care to us and we look forward to caring for you for many years to come. •

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Photos by Anne Hiney

Dr. David Vinson

by Susan Dacus



Dr. David Vinson officially took the reins of the Wylie ISD as Superintendent of Schools on July 1, 2011. For those who have known him, worked for and with him during his career, adjectives such as energetic, visionary, enthusiastic, innovative and student focused are repeated again and again. He is also known for his strong work ethic and commitment to interacting with parents and the community.

"When I made the decision to pursue this superintendency, I wanted a community that shares my values and places an emphasis on family. I have found these in the Wylie ISD" he explained. "This community looks forward to providing every opportunity for our children and maintains traditional values that make it strong. The first days of a new job can be scary and uncertain; that is not the case here. I feel validated that Wylie ISD is the right place for me and a great place for my wife and I to raise our children" he said.

A native of Dalhart in the Texas Panhandle, Dr. Vinson has held various key roles in several school systems. He comes to Wylie after serving as the superintendent of the Floresville ISD near San Antonio since 2005. He was the assistant superintendent of secondary education and the middle school principal in Frenship ISD beginning in 1997. He also has experience as a high school principal and director of technology and federal programs in Ralls ISD and as a gifted and talented teacher/coordinator in Idalou ISD. He began his career in public education in 1992.

During his years as superintendent in Floresville ISD, a district with 70 percent of its students identified as being from low socioeconomic families, he increased the budget fund balance by 400 percent in five years, created a competitive salary initiative, passed a \$63 million bond election and oversaw construction of a new high school, elementary school, football stadium and athletics complex. During his tenure, teacher turnover decreased by 65 percent and the district and campuses all attained "Recognized" status in the state's rating system.

When asked about his philosophy of education, Dr. Vinson explains that students should graduate from high school with both a plan and a purpose. In today's world he notes that "the community should perceive school as a resource and partner that develops future citizens with a global work ethic and a skill level that is competitive in the United States and abroad. It is also vital for schools to equip students with the core ethical values necessary to make our community, state and nation both smart and good," he says.

Dr. Vinson's commitment to the community is demonstrated by his selection as the Public Service Award Recipient/Citizen of the Year by the Floresville Chamber of Commerce and the Man of the Year by the Ralls Chamber of Commerce. Through his energetic and dedicated efforts in economic development, he received a Broadband Internet Access Grant for \$750,000 and an Economic Development Grant for \$1 million. His efforts in building coalitions resulted in the creation of a Workforce

Training Center/Alamo Tech Prep Junior College located inside the new Floresville High School. The project was completed in cooperation with the San Antonio Economic Development Corporation. In following this vision, Dr. Vinson developed partnerships between the school district and Fortune 500 companies to provide workforce development internships and certifications for high school students and community members. These companies included aerospace, information technology and healthcare corporations.

As they say good-bye to colleagues and friends in Floresville, Dr. Vinson and his family are anticipating the completion of their move to Wylie ISD. He and his wife Cristy have a soon to be ten-year-old son, Cal, and an eight-year-old daughter, Kate. •



Photos provided by Wylie ISD.

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Shop Wylie First

by Lori C. Villarreal

As anyone who has been around for a few years knows this area has grown substantially. The Wylie Economic Development Corporation posts the "...current population [is] estimated at 40,000 residents". With more residents come more retail options.

That means we don't have to drive so far away from home to run our errands.

John Norton and Charlotte Rose moved to St. Paul in 1982 when only 4,000 people resided in the area. As they recently planned their second marriage to one another, Charlotte recognized she could do everything for her wedding in Downtown Wylie. As a merchant in Downtown Wylie herself, Charlotte has relationships with the merchants in the downtown area. She confesses she did not set-out to plan her wedding using only downtown merchants but she quickly recognized how easy it was to do so, claiming "I love the downtown area. It gives Wylie a small town feel."

The Downtown Merchant's Association and Wylie Economic Development Corporation work hard to encourage residents to Shop Wylie First. As they entice new retailers to locate in the area they depend on residents to spend their money with them for long-term success. A resident-friendly website has been established listing downtown stores and coupons. DiscoverWylie.com also includes an impressive list of community events. Charlotte has learned, "citizens can help give the area a robust economy by shopping local".

She and John certainly did their part in contributing to Wylie's economic health. The wedding ceremony and reception were hosted in the Gazebo and Pavilion in Olde City Park. Flowers were provided by Wylie Flower & Gift Shop. Carroll Jewelry custom made John's ring. Charlotte's hair and nails were done at Carroll & Company Salon, and she enjoyed luxurious pre-wedding pampering at Downtown Salon Suites. Say it with Sugar Cake Shop designed a breathtaking and delicious treat for all in attendance. Gifts, as well as a frame with matte for guests to

sign, were purchased at Shoemaker & Hardt and The Ole Back Porch. The rehearsal dinner was hosted at the Taste of Home.

Ladies, imagine wrapping up the bulk of your wedding preparations within a one-mile radius. Think of the gas, time and energy saved simply by staying local to take care of the weekly errands. Doing so benefits you while strengthening the economic environment for our current retailers. It also sets the stage for other retail options to locate in our area. •

Charlotte is the owner of My Emerald Lotus Yoga located in Downtown Wylie.
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Photo by Will Gilbert



Photo by Anne Hiney



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ANNA NGUYEN'S PRIZE WINNING DESIGN

by Kathleen Noble

Davis Intermediate 6th grader Anna Nguyen, the daughter of Vinh and Ngoc Nguyen of Wylie, is one of twelve young artists who will have their artwork reproduced on approximately 20 million packets each (more than 200 million combined) of Heinz® Ketchup during the 2011-2012 school year.

As a top 12 winner in the 5th annual Heinz® Ketchup Creativity™ Contest Anna received a \$1000 prize. In addition to Anna's award, \$1000 for art supplies and a poster of the winning artwork, featured at a special awards ceremony with Heinz, was awarded to Davis Intermediate along with \$1000 worth of ketchup.



Photo by Kathleen Noble

Some 60 sixth graders from the Davis Intermediate art classes of Atlanta Tigert entered the Heinz contest. "I encouraged all of my students to enter the contest. I couldn't be more thrilled for Anna, she is a very talented young lady," said Tigert.

Anna chose to incorporate images that represent her two favorite electives into her ketchup packet entry. "I love art and choir and wanted to show that in my design!" she said when asked about her artwork.

Anna's teacher, Ms. Tigert, has been an art teacher for eleven years; seven of those have been spent at Davis. "I am anxious and elated about the prize money. It will allow the purchase of art supplies that will aid the students for years to come. I'd love to purchase a potters wheel," said Tigert. A fellow Davis Intermediate teacher spotted the contest advertisement in a magazine and alerted Tigert.

From more than 26,000 art student entries from across the nation 36 finalists were selected by a panel of judges and renowned pop artist Burton Morris. Morris, a proponent of art education in schools, entered and won numerous contests in his youth. He credits his teachers and his parents for encouraging him to pursue his passion and career as an artist.

There were three stages of judging: from all the eligible contest submissions, the panel narrowed the selections to a group of 120 finalists (ten from each grade). From the 120 finalists, Burton Morris selected the top three entries in each grade



Photo provided by Wylie ISD

(36 total). The 12 winners of the contest (one per grade) were selected from the pool of 36 finalists by public vote. From the 12 winners, one grand prize winner was selected by the judges and Heinz employees.

Next time you visit your favorite fast food eatery be on the lookout for Anna's winning artwork! •



Photo provided by Wylie ISD

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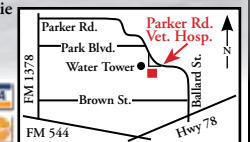
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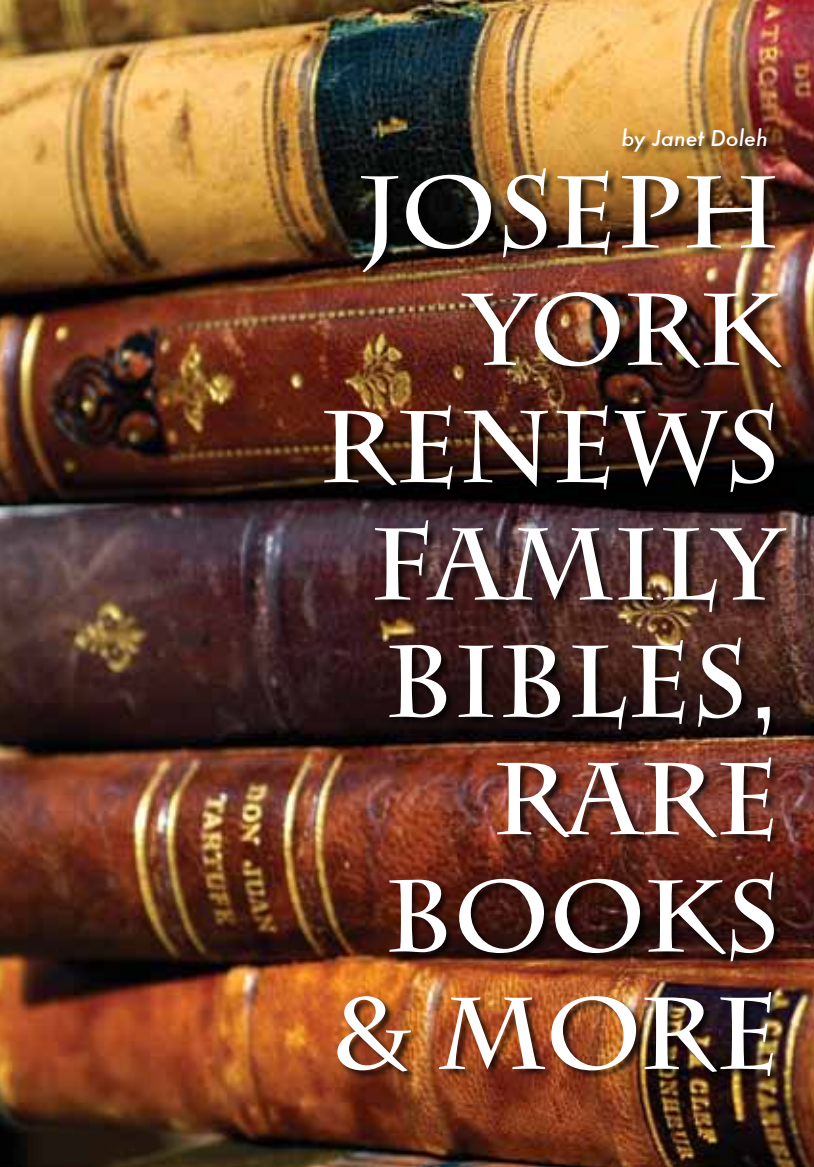
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Do you have an old family Bible in need of repair? Has your great grandmother’s journal been read so many times that it’s falling apart? Or maybe you are storing other well-loved old books that are too damaged to display but too precious to give up.

These are just the kinds of problems that Wylie resident Joseph York can solve. For more than ten years, he has been restoring people’s treasured books, journals, historical documents, and other artifacts.

All kinds of interesting projects come to York, and he has clients from Hong Kong to Dallas. “People bring me rare antique books that have been water-damaged or family cookbooks that need new spines,” he said.

He has done everything from custom leather binding for menus and legal documents, to restoring volumes of ancient history. “Recently I restored a book published in 1664, authored by a knight – Sir Richard Baker,” York said. “The title was *A Chronicle of the Kings of England*, and it covered the kings from the days of the Roman government through Charles V.”

He often works on family Bibles. “Bible reconstruction and repair is one of my specialties,” York said. “I enjoy the detail-oriented work it takes to preserve the text and a family’s history.” He adds ribbons and extra pages for notes at no cost.

York also collects Bibles and is currently in the process of purchasing a historically important *Geneva Bible* printed in 1604.



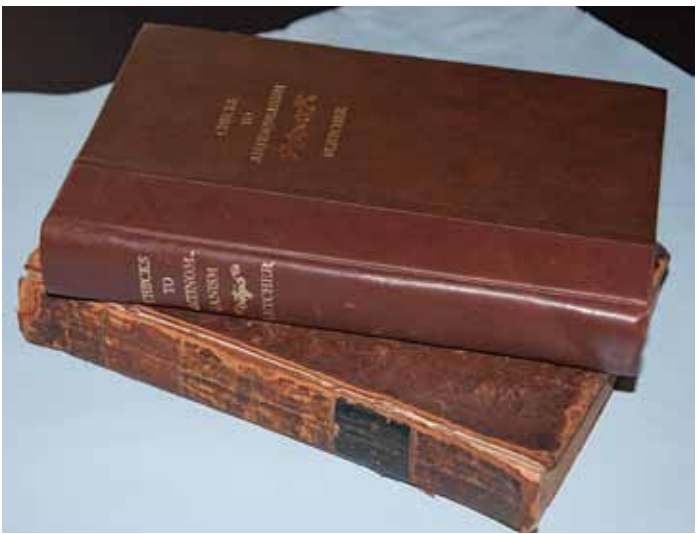
The *Geneva Bible*, also called the ‘*Breeches Bible*’ for its reference in Genesis to Adam and Eve clothing themselves in fig leaf ‘breeches,’ has been out of print since 1644.

York’s life took many twists and turns before he moved to Wylie in 2000 and set up J. York Custom Book Binding. Born in Indiana in 1940, he spent his childhood moving all over the country with his parents. “My father was a traveling evangelist,” he said. “Mother, Dad and I would go wherever he could get a meeting. He preached, Mother played the piano and accordion, and I sang.” His mother home schooled him until seventh grade.

York attended Central High School in Evansville, Indiana. A few years later, he broke his neck in a weight lifting accident while attending Olivet Nazarene University. The recovery was long and painstaking, but he was back in school the next year.

In 1962, York met his future wife, Teresa Ping, in Danville, Illinois. “Her grandmother was my Sunday School teacher, and she often invited me to her house for meals,” York said. “She made great homemade noodles. My third time over, I told Teresa that if she learned to make those noodles, I’d marry her. We’ve been married for 48 years now.” They have four children and twelve grandchildren.

York went back to school to complete masters degrees in both TV and Radio and Library Science from Ball State University. He worked as a video photographer for the Kansas Fish and Game Commission for awhile, a job he loved. “I drove



Before & After.

all over the state photographing wildlife: prairie chickens, deer, geese, and new fish hatcheries. Once a week I did a news clip for television,” he said.

Later he worked as a librarian and director of Media Services at Olivet Nazarene University, retiring from that position in 1996 at the age of 56.

“I wanted to try something else,” York said, “so I became a limousine driver for Lincoln Land Limo Service. In four years, I drove one and a half million miles.”

When Teresa wanted to move to Texas to take care of her mother, the Yorks came to Wylie. For a brief time, York drove limos for Noble Transportation, but in 2001, a serious accident ended his driving career. Early one morning, after he dropped a client off at DFW Airport, his limo hydroplaned across I-635 and crashed into a large pole. He was lucky to survive. The Texas Rehabilitation Service offered to help him train for a new career, and York chose the art of book binding, specializing in Bible restoration.

“This has become my passion,” York said. He has restored his father’s Bible, an 1811 edition, and recently updated a 1917 Bible with a new leather cover and marble paper.

In his spare time, York is writing a book tentatively titled *God, I’m Still Walking and Talking*. He hopes to take Teresa to England to research the York family history. You can reach him at 972-442-7812. •



Mr. York working on restoring a Bible.

Photos by Anne Hiney



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Dr. Devanshi Gupta completed her neurology residency and served as Chief Resident at the University of Tennessee in Memphis. She also completed a fellowship in clinical neurophysiology and neuromuscular disease and researches these diseases actively. Prior to starting her practice in Richardson, Dr. Gupta worked at Northwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center.

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Back to School!

Can you believe that we are talking about going back to school already? It so very much seems like we just got out. Summer has been a whirlwind with so much activity in the real estate market and busy kids!

Speaking of kids and real estate, moving is tough on them and usually not as exciting as it is for us. Typically we are moving to upsize or relocate for a job or to be closer to family. From the child's perspective, they are giving up everything that they know and feel comfortable with (even local moves). In researching this article, I found several references that said children will need six weeks to really adjust to their new surroundings, so first and foremost be patient!

Here are some tips to help ease the stress of moving for them:

- Listen to your children and encourage open conversation. Be sensitive to fears, sadness, and confused emotions.
- Include your children in planning the move by going house-hunting or exploring your new city as a family.
- Help your children learn about the new area.
- Play-act with dolls, boxes, and a wagon to give children a feeling of "moving."
- Let your children help decide how their new rooms will be arranged and decorated.
- Encourage your children to exchange addresses & phone numbers with their friends.
- Prepare a package containing snacks, clothing, and a few favorite toys for the move.
- Take a "family break" as soon as the major unpacking is done. Don't try to do everything when you arrive.
- Spend time after the move listening to each child talk about new schools and new friends. Follow progress in new schools. Accompanying your children to school for the first few days may ease tension.
- Report any lingering abnormalities (e.g., loss of appetite, insomnia, constipation, diarrhea, and menstrual disorders) to a doctor.



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JULY EVENTS

July 19th - 31st - The Dallas Summer Musicals Presents: Guys and Dolls! at The Music Hall at Fair Park. Please visit www.dallassummermusicals.org for more details. Get 20% off your tickets for Tuesday-Thursday and Sunday Evening-Performances in Price Levels 2-4. Use Code: SUPER @ budurl.com/GUYSSUPER or call 1-800-982-ARTS.

July 22nd - WAG Presents **The Wizard of Oz**, July 22 at 7 p.m. and July 23 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at New Hope Church, 1100 W. Brown St., Wylie. Contact Brad West for more info. at 469-865-9685.

July 23rd - Midsummer's Night SCREAM! at Moxley Manor Haunted House 8 - 10 p.m. 510 Harwood Road, Bedford, TX 76021. Visit moxleymanor.com for more info.

July 30th - Sachse Chamber of Commerce presents **Cars Under the Stars** Car Show. Come out to the Sachse Kroger parking lot from 6 - 11 p.m. to see all of the cool cars on display. For more info. or to register a car call (972) 496-1212.

July 30th - Aug. 28th - Dallas Cityscape - A massive replica of the Dallas skyline – built entirely from LEGO® bricks! Dallas Cityscape offers miniature, colorful versions of the skyscrapers of "Big D," along with LEGO® versions of Cowboys Stadium, and the Museum's future home – the Perot Museum of Nature & Science now under construction in Victory Park. After exploring their LEGO® home town, they'll get hands-on learning about engineering and construction as they build their own LEGO® structures! At the Museum of Nature & Science, 3535 Grand Avenue, Dallas, TX. www.natureandscience.org/exhibits/dallas_cityscape.asp

Thru Sept. 11th - **Denizens of Darkness** (Bats that is!) at the Heard Museum. Are you afraid of the dark? Most humans are. Learn about bats and other creatures that are active at night–their purpose, their habitat and how they live their day at night. Study the moon phases and explore how our human limitations feed our imaginations. Muster the courage to look in your closet. Discover why there is nothing to fear. For more info. visit www.heardmuseum.org.

Thru Sept. 5th - Journey over to the Far East and back 140 million years in time, where the mysteries of prehistoric China blend with the startling Mesozoic Era. **Chinasaurus** brings you face to face with the most recently-discovered dinosaur species - exotic, newly found creatures with intriguing names like Psittacosaurus, Keichisaurus and Confuciusornis. Chinasaurus features more than 20 full-scale dinosaur skeletons (up to 42 feet long) and fossilized dinosaur nests and eggs. Five animatronic Chinasaurus recreate the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous Periods Meet Mamenchisaurus, the longest-necked dinosaur ever discovered, the 42-foot-long Jingshanosaurus and the spike-backed Tuojiangosaurus. At the Museum of Nature & Science, 3535 Grand Avenue, Dallas, TX. www.natureandscience.org/chinasaurus/about.asp.

Thru Sept. 30th - **Native Texas Butterflies** at the Heard Museum. Enjoy being immersed among native Texas fluttering butterflies in our butterfly house and garden. See monarchs, julia longwings and question marks. You may even get the chance to see zebras and tigers! This is also a beautiful setting for pictures. For more info. visit www.heardmuseum.org.

Thru Sept. 30th - **Genghis Khan: The Exhibition** at the Irving Arts Center. Explore the life and influence of the world's greatest conqueror – Genghis Khan – in this stunning and interactive exhibition. Genghis Khan: The Exhibition looks beyond the barbarian commonly pictured in the West and explores the brilliant adaptor and innovator who encouraged religious and artistic freedom within his empire. Assume the roles of Khan's family, join in on his conquests, enter tents and markets of a vanished world and watch Mongolian artisans perform traditional arts and crafts. View more than 200 artifacts including gold jewelry, silk robes, weaponry and mummies. The exhibition is set within images and recreations of the steppes, yurts, palaces and ancient cities from Genghis Khan's Mongolia. 3333 North MacArthur Blvd., Irving, TX 75062 www.irvingartscenter.com

Thru Dec. 31st - **Fairy Tale Castle Exhibit** at the Dallas Arboretum. This one-of-a-kind exhibit will capture the imagination of any little prince or princess and encourage literacy through classic tales like Beauty and the Beast and The Little Mermaid. Designed and built by local architecture and construction firms, these seven castles bring to life beloved stories for you and your family to enjoy. Each castle will be placed in specific locations in the gardens to optimize the overall look. A map will be available inside the entertainment guide found at the Information Desk at the opening of Dallas Blooms, 'It's a Fairy Tale World'. 8525 Garland Road, Dallas, TX 75218, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. www.dallasarboretum.org.

AUGUST EVENTS

Registration for the City of Murphy Recreation Programs will begin the second week in August for the fall/winter guide – please call City Hall for details. 972-468-4014

Aug. 16th - 19th - Heard Museum's Summer's Almost Over Special - Beat the "Back to School Blues" with one last summer-day visit to The Heard. Kids 3-12 admitted for free with one paid adult admission. www.heardmuseum.org

Aug. 6th - **Wylie's Back to School Fair** is a community-wide event to handout backpacks and school supplies for students facing hardships in Wylie ISD at the First Baptist Church - Wylie Event Center. 9 - 11 a.m. Call Candy Arrington at 214-957-5000 or Stacie Gooch at 214-728-6425 for more info. or to donate supplies.

Aug. 6th - The Rotary Club of Wylie East Fork will be hosting their annual **Bowling Tournament** fund-raiser 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Allen Bowl. Call Bryan Brokaw at 972-429-4465 for more info.

Aug. 13th - The Murphy Police Department along with the Crime Watch Group would like to invite you to join us for the third annual **Neighbor to Neighbor Citywide Block Party**. This is a chance for neighbors to mingle with one another and you're local Police Officers on a social level. If you are interested in hosting a party please contact Officer Brad Taylor at 972-468-4214 or Mrs. Roni Brackett at 972-468-4211. We have a block party form to complete if you would like assistance, materials or a scheduled visit from Police and Fire Personnel.

Aug. 22nd - Wylie, Garland & Plano ISDs go **Back to School! Have a great year!!**

WYLIE'S RITA AND TRUETT SMITH PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS
NEW LIBRARY IS NOW OPEN!!

Located at 300 Country Club Rd., Bldg. 300, Wylie 972-516-6250

Story Times:

Family Storytime: Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.
Toddler Time: Wednesdays at 9:00 & 9:45 a.m.; Fridays at 11:30 a.m.
Big Kid Storytime: Wednesdays at 10:30 & 11:15 a.m.
Babies & Books: Fridays at 11:00 a.m.

Themes:

Week of July 18 - Naughty & Nice
Week of July 25 - Hands & Feet

Friends of the Library Meeting: July 21st & Aug. 18th - 6 p.m.

The Friends of the Smith Public Library are having their monthly meeting in the Conference Room.

4th Monday Book Club: 6:30 p.m.

The 4th Monday Book Club (ages 18 and up) meets in the Conference Room

July 25th - *In the Neighborhood: The Search for Community on an American Street, One Sleepover at a Time* by Peter Lovenheim.

Aug. 22nd - *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See.

Coming in September! Booked on Fridays: Noon -1:30 p.m.

Second Friday each month starting Sept. 9 (ages 18 and up)

Announcing a new lunchtime book club, Booked On Fridays. Bring your lunch and drop in each second Friday of the month between noon and 1:30 p.m. for fun reads and light conversation. The club kicks off with Denise Swanson's *Murder of a Small-Town Honey*, the first book in her Scumble River Mysteries. Upcoming selections for fall are: October 14: *Hounded* by Kevin Hearne; November 11: *Notorious* by Nicola Cornick

July Kids Summer Reading Club Programs:

Come experience magic shows, animal encounters and more! Our theme this year is Dig Up a Good Book!/(Excave un libro bueno!, so come dig up a good time with all of our events happening each week including evening shows. Most programs are appropriate for ages 5 through 10, but all ages are welcome. Tickets are required, free and distributed on a first come first serve basis the day of the program. All events are in the Multi-Purpose Room unless otherwise noted.

July 5 - Creature Teacher 12:30, 1:30 & 2:30 p.m.
July 7 - Melody Bell, Griot Storyteller 6 p.m.
July 8 - Sing-a-long Movie Matinee Alice in Wonderland (G) 2 p.m. in the Storytime Room
July 12 - James Wand Secret Agent Magic Show 12:30, 1:30 & 2:30 p.m.
July 14 - George the Magician 6 p.m.
July 19 - Margaret Clauder is Paleo Maggie 12:30 & 1:30 p.m.
July 21 - Mark Shelton, Percussionist 6 p.m.
July 22 - Sing-a-long Movie Matinee Mary Poppins (G) 2 p.m. in the Storytime Room
July 26 - Willy Welch 12:30, 1:30 & 2:30 p.m.
July 30 - Last day to turn in your reading log for prizes!

June Teens Summer Reading Club Programs:

Teens grades 6th - 12th grade are Going Global, Staying Connected and may complete 3 reading activities to be eligible for prizes (while supplies last). Complete additional entries to be eligible for the grand prizes. The programs below are for 6th - 12th graders only (no parents or younger siblings, please) and are held in the Multi-Purpose Room unless otherwise noted.

July 7 - Diwali Lamps and Rangoli Crafts 3 - 5 p.m.
July 14 - Make Your Own Lucha Libre Mask 3 - 5 p.m.
July 21 - Hula Dancing with Maria McElroy 3 - 5 p.m.
July 28 - End of Summer Party with food, video games, prizes and more! 3 - 5 p.m.
July 30 - Last day to turn in your reading entries!

SACHSE'S LAURIE SCHWENK
SENIOR CENTER EVENTS

Located at 3815 Sachse Rd., Building A, Sachse 972.495.6282

Regular Monthly Events

2nd Mon: 11:30 a.m. - Lunch provided by Winters Park
1st Tues: Lunch provided by Pleasant Valley at 11:30 a.m. and Bunco at 1 p.m.
2nd Tues: 10:00 a.m. - Carving Class
4th Tues: Lunch provided by Garnet Hill at 11:30 a.m. and Canasta at 1 p.m.
3rd Wed: Monthly potluck luncheon; program at 10 a.m., lunch at 11:30 a.m.
4th Wed: In-house seminars, as announced
1st Thur: 11 a.m. - Bingo and monthly birthday party
2nd and 4th Thur: 8:30 a.m. - Breakfast Club
3rd Thur: 9:30 a.m. - Jewelry Class
4th Thur: 9:15 a.m. - Pinochle at Winters Park
1st Fri: 9:30 a.m. - Shopping at Wal-mart
2nd Fri: 7 p.m. - Fun Night (March - October)
3rd Fri: 10 a.m. - Book Club
4th Fri: 9:30 a.m. - Nurse visit from Dallas County

Special Events

July 20th - 10 a.m. 'Celebrate America' potluck
July 29th - 10 a.m. Wii bowling tournament with area centers
August 22nd - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. AARP Safe Driving Class

Submit Your Event to the Calendar!

To submit your special event to the **September/October community calendar** send an e-mail to theconnection.anne@mac.com **no later than August 15th. Please include contact 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. THANKS!**

SAVE THESE DATES!

Wylie Championship Rodeo on Sept. 16th & 17th
Wylie is H.O.P.E. Country Fair on Sept. 17th
Murphy Maize Days on Sept. 24th

WYLIE IS H.O.P.E.
BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR

The Back-to-School Fair, started in 2006 by Stacie Gooch as an outreach program to economically challenged families, has grown into a community-wide charitable event uniting all the churches, businesses, civic organizations, and people in the Wylie area.

Enjoy free haircuts and vision screening, community services, entertainment and more. Free school supplies are made available to families with school-aged children who reside within WISD limits. Students must attend the Fair in order to receive supplies.

To ensure fun for everyone, all of the activities and food at the event are free. Fair participants are encouraged to get in line early as school supplies are limited. Through donations from area businesses, churches and clubs the Fair was able to hand out 700 backpacks full of school supplies in 2009 and 1,100 backpacks in 2010. It is our hope to continue giving to the students of WISD as our community and citizens continue to struggle through economic hardships. The Fair also has gently used standardized dress appropriate clothing available for those families needing assistance.

Help is still needed. As the need in our community grows, so does the need for donated monies and supplies. We are in short supply of 5" and 7" scissors, glue bottles, highlighters and colored pencils. If you would like to donate supplies there are drop boxes located at Taste of Home and American National Bank in Wylie. Monetary donations can be mailed to Wylie is H.O.P.E. at 3204 Waterpark Dr., Wylie, TX 75098.

Residents of Wylie ISD can enjoy the Back-to-School Fair on Saturday, August 6, 2011 at the First Baptist Event Center in downtown Wylie. To Pre-register your student please contact Candy Arrington at carrington@instaff.com. Supplies are limited so pre-registration is not a guarantee of receiving supplies.

CHAMBER of COMMERCE EVENTS

WYLIE www.wyliechamber.org **972-442-2804**

Monthly Luncheons: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lunch cost is \$12 if paid in advance, \$15 with reservation. **RSVP required, no at door tickets.** Online payment is available at the Chamber website. **July** - No Luncheon.

Aug. 10 - Wylie ISD New Teacher Luncheon welcoming our new teachers.

Every Wednesday Business Card Exchange: Network and promote your business from 8 - 9 a.m. Woodbridge Golf Course club house, 7400 Country Club Dr., Wylie. Chamber members and non-members welcome.

SACHSE www.sachsechamber.com **972-496-1212**

Monthly Luncheons: 2nd Tues. of the Month at 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Northplace Church, 2709 3rd Street, Sachse. \$15 for Members, \$20 for Non-members. Register & pay online.

Aug 14 - Check the Sachse Chamber website for details.

Community Coffee: The last Friday of the month, 8 - 9 a.m., at Sachse Christian Church, 5005 Ben Davis Road, Sachse.

Men Who Cook: Aug. 19th at Swingin' D Ranch in Parker.

MURPHY murphychamber.org **972-805-3749**

Monthly Luncheons: 3rd Tues. of the Month at 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Community Room at the Murphy City Hall Complex, 206 N. Murphy Road, Murphy. R.S.V.P. by 11:59 a.m. CST on the Friday before the luncheon for discounted prepayment rate of \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members. After Noon and at the door on Tuesday, the charge is \$20 for everyone. Go to www.murphytx.org to prepay or call 972-805-3749.

July 19: Community Relations Showcase - Presentations by various community service organizations in the area.

Aug. 16: Check the Murphy Chamber website for details.

Every Thursday Business Card Exchange: Join the Murphy Chamber of Commerce for a Business Card Exchange from 8 to 9 a.m. at Saxbys in Murphy Marketplace, 227 E FM 544, north side of FM 544, next to Tokyo Hayaci). Open to members and non-members.



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Seals of Approval

Baylor Garland Earns National Quality Care Certifications

“Accredited Chest Pain Center.” “Accredited Heart Failure Center.” These designations are more than just banners hanging on a hospital wall. They represent a concerted effort to provide the community with evidence-based, quality care. And Baylor Medical Center at Garland has been working hard to earn them.

The idea behind accreditations is that following standardized treatment protocols improves patient outcomes. The accrediting body develops detailed treatment criteria, and a hospital must show that it has adopted them to earn the accreditation.

“Residents of Garland and the surrounding communities should be very proud that their hospital is receiving these awards,” says Janice L. Walker, chief nursing officer/chief operating officer for Baylor Garland.



Accreditations Achieved

Chest Pain Center

Awarded by: Society of Chest Pain Centers

Details: Among other criteria, this accreditation involves “door-to-balloon” time: how long from the time EMS first sees a heart attack patient until the blocked coronary artery is reopened with balloon angioplasty in the hospital’s cardiac catheterization lab. The benchmark time is 90 minutes, but the Baylor Garland emergency department’s average time is much faster.

“We have collaborated with EMS to install the LIFENET® system, which allows [EMS] to transmit detailed, real-time EKGs directly to the emergency department from the field,” says Amy Albus, R.N., chest pain coordinator for invasive cardiology at Baylor Garland. “We’ve also decreased our cath lab activation time, getting the lab and staff ready to receive the patient and reopen the blocked artery on average 30 to 60 minutes faster.”

Accredited: March 31, 2011



Heart Failure

Awarded by: Society of Chest Pain Centers

Details: Treatment for heart failure patients starts in the ambulance and continues through the emergency department, the inpatient stay, discharge and home care. “One of our goals in pursuing this accreditation is to reduce the readmission rate for our heart failure patients,” says Ron Norris, director of radiology and cardiology for Baylor Garland.

Heart failure is a chronic condition, so patient education is vital. As part of fulfilling the accreditation criteria, Walker notes, “we’ve added a dedicated nurse educator for heart failure patients and a nurse practitioner to make home visits and check medication compliance for the at-risk population.”

Baylor Garland is the first hospital in the Baylor Health Care System to attain this accreditation.

Accredited: March 31, 2011



Baylor Garland a ‘Best Hospital’

U.S. News & World Report has named Baylor Medical Center at Garland a Best Hospital in its first-ever Dallas/Fort Worth Metro Area rankings. Baylor Garland joins five other Baylor Health Care System hospitals on the list.

“The number of Baylor hospitals on this list is proof of our commitment to provide advanced, quality care to all the communities and patients we serve,” says Joel Allison, president and CEO, Baylor Health Care System.

Of 116 hospitals in the metro area, only 19 were ranked. Baylor Garland was recognized for specialty expertise in gynecology.



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We hope you never experience a heart-related emergency. But if the unexpected should occur, it's comforting to know that Baylor Medical Center at Garland is both an Accredited Chest Pain Center and an Accredited Heart Failure Center. In fact, Baylor Garland is one of fewer than 40 hospitals nationwide to achieve the Heart Failure Center accreditation. At Baylor Garland, your heart can rest easy knowing that you will receive advanced, evidence-based treatment from caring, compassionate professionals.

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Tips To Ease The Transition To College

New Student Coordinators Offer Advice

by Justin Jones

Besides maybe your first kiss from your high school sweetheart, there is arguably no greater feeling than graduating from high school. The sheer joy of hearing your name called and receiving a diploma in front of friends and family is a memory of a lifetime. Unfortunately, it is a joyous period that also symbolizes the end of childhood and the beginning of adulthood. Meanwhile, in the midst of such celebration looms a fear students tend to have for the unknown as they prepare to enter college for the first time.

"Students may fear college because they don't know what to expect," Adam Miller, a Collin College philosophy professor, said. "So much of their future happiness may appear to depend on their college success, because they recognize that it is going to involve hard work."

VIEWED AS ADULTS

First-time college students also know that they will be treated like adults in college.

"Students entering college are viewed as adults. They are responsible for their choices and future," Charmione Marcell, Collin College's Coordinator of Programs for New Students said. "For some, it is uncomfortable to be in this new situation, so they want to blend in and act like they know what is going on."

"Students also have a hard time handling the adjustment to attendance policies and graduating procedures from high school to college. As a result, students worry about not cutting it academically and question if they have learned enough to be prepared," said Annie Chaddick, Collin College's outreach coordinator.

"Students get excited about the fact that they might only be in the classroom 12-15 hours per week compared to how much time they spend in the classroom during high school," Chaddick said. "But many students will be involved in campus activities, have a job and, of course, are studying and preparing for the next class. These things can lead students to feeling overwhelmed. It is important for students to manage their time and prioritize activities."

A TOOLKIT FOR SUCCESS

Just as important is also knowing that your college faculty and staff are there to help, according to Marcell, who advises every student to create a toolkit for success.

"This toolkit includes contact information for the math lab, writing center, an academic advisor, college police, tutoring, reference librarian, counseling, career services and your 'major' department," Marcell explained. "I advise incoming students to get an on-campus advocate so you have someone to go to with

questions or when you need a job reference. Connections are the key to your success."

The following tips – provided by Marcell, Chaddick and Collin College faculty – are also important.

• **Go to New Student Orientation** – This is the fastest way to get information on college resources.

• **Time Management** – Understand that taking 15 credit hours is equivalent to a full-time job. Plan on spending 2-3 hours of time on coursework outside of the classroom for each hour spent inside the classroom. This helps when planning a work schedule and deciding how many course hours to take per semester. Also, if you know that you will struggle making it on time, one of the many benefits of college is making your own class schedule.

• **Take Initiative** – Ask questions, seek help, attend every class, get to know your professors and follow your degree plan. Do not lose sight as to why you are in college.

• **Self Reflection and Assessments** – Reflect on what

you enjoy the most. Make sure you select a major that leads you into a career that you love. Do not overload yourself! Start out easy and get a feel for how prepared you really are at the moment.

• **Utilize Study Groups and Tutoring** – Seek out a study group and apply for free tutoring groups early in the semester.

• **Sign up for the Writing Center** – When you are assigned your first essay, make an appointment with the Writing Center. It can help you understand the expectations for college-level writing.

• **Go to the Library and Computer Labs** – Familiarize yourself with the library and meet the librarians so that you already know about your resources.

• **Get Connected** – Join an organization or study group. The more connected you are, the stronger your support system is.

• **Take a Class You Really Like** – This will keep you motivated as you encounter challenges during that first semester.

• **Rest/Have Fun** – We live in a sleep deprived era. Rest and sleep must be built into your schedule. A rested mind can recall much more than a tired, crammed mind. College is a time of taking risks, overcoming obstacles and self discovery. Make the most of it and enjoy every minute because, while it may not seem like it now, time will fly by.

For more information about Collin College or transitioning into college, visit www.collin.edu. Photo by Nick Young, Collin College photographer.



New Student Coordinators and faculty at Collin College site creating study groups as one of numerous tips that can help first-time college students ease the transition into college.

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Murphy's McMillen High School Promotes Collaboration

by Celso Martinez

When students enter the halls of Plano ISD's newest high school campus next school year, they will be emulating the pioneering spirit of the school's namesake Comfort Allen McMillen, who braved the uncertainties of a new and uncharted area, depended heavily on the support of his compatriots and, undeterred, helped establish the community that we know today at the City of Murphy. McMillen is said to have been a consummate relationship-builder and collaborator who survived by his wits and the efficient use of resources available at the time.



Photos by Anne Hiney

Like McMillen, the pioneer who arrived in the area almost exactly a century-and-a-half ago, the ninth and tenth grade students who enter McMillen High School will find that the best way to reach their expectations is through the persistent use of collaboration. They will discover that the school is specifically designed to provide and facilitate interactive teamwork, partnership, relationship-building and collaboration. They will quickly learn that, like the world into which they will be cast after their academic careers are done, the best way to accomplish anything is through cooperative alliances.

And, that's exactly the way Principal George King wants it. The Iowa native has spent his entire 27-year professional career as a teacher and administrator, and takes over the reins of McMillen after a successful tour as principal at Plano's Bowman Middle School. The more than quarter-century he's devoted to education has been exclusively at the secondary level, seeing first-hand how students who master both the traditional instruction in English, math and science alongside the life-skill lessons of citizenship, teamwork and critical thinking will fare far better than those who don't.

"To encourage dialogue and interaction, and to foster a hunger for accessing information, the school has been designed very much like towns and villages where news was shared and

traditions were passed on through deep and meaningful discourse in a central plaza. We call our central meeting places the Town Squares, where classrooms will form a ring around a pivotal gathering court, giving students and teachers a chance to become full partners in the teaching and learning process," he said. The sides of the classrooms facing the Town Squares are all glass, allowing for two-way visual connection.

"After seeing countless students who displayed curiosity, imagination and were courageous enough to ask questions

excel, I based my leadership style on the factors that encouraged that type of learning environment – participation, openness and democracy. When students see how others may be finding success, the hope is that they will take that knowledge and push it further, and perhaps they will then influence others to go even beyond that, and so forth," he said.

The school will feature a number of amenities that elaborate on the Town Square concept such as "Idea Paint" walls in each classroom, where an entire wall becomes a place for students and teachers to post ideas, concepts, theories, postulations, and other thought-provoking statements.

Furniture in the Town Square will be inviting, comfortable and designed to foment conversation, opinion-sharing and idea defense.

"The eventual stakeholders are the employers who will depend on these students to run their businesses, the cities where they will live and set up their homes, and the larger community of our nation and world, where the skills they learn now will have an incalculable value," he added.

The school's motto "Cultivating our potential yields a thoughtful revolution" clearly demonstrates the commitment to a collaborate experience. •



Dr. Anderson and her staff.



Kids and Contact Lenses

Every day we get questions regarding children and the safe use of contact lenses. This article addresses some of the most common contact lens questions in regards to children.

How old does my child need to be to wear contact lenses?

The answer to this question varies based on the child's motivation and maturity level. Usually, we begin fitting contacts at age 10, however some children are ready by age eight. Children should show responsibility with their glasses and they should be keeping their room and bathroom clean at home. Proving responsibility in these areas will help determine how well they will care for their lenses. In order to be successful with contact lenses, the child must be able to insert and remove the lenses on their own. Because children spend most of their day at school, the ability to care for their lenses by themselves is very important.

Can my child have contacts instead of glasses?

Simply put, "Glasses are the necessity, contact lenses are the luxury." If your child's eyes are red, matting, itchy, watering, irritated, blurry, or sensitive to light, they must not wear their contact lenses. Wearing contact lenses with an ocular infection can make the infection significantly worse. In this case, glasses should be worn until the condition is resolved. A pair of back-up glasses is very important when considering contact lenses.

Can my child sleep in their contact lenses?

Although the FDA approves certain contact lenses for extended overnight use, we do not recommend anyone sleeping in their contact lenses. Even with the higher oxygen permeable contact lenses, the risk for severe infection significantly increases when patients sleep in their lenses. Beginning responsible contact lens care methods during childhood will help build healthy habits over the child's lifetime.

How do I know if my child will be successful with contact lenses?

The number one factor affecting the child's success rate with their contacts is motivation. If the patient is highly motivated, they will usually do great with their new lenses. In order to be successful it is necessary to overcome the apprehension of placing the contact on the eye. Our body has a natural instinct to close the eye when something is close to it, and overcoming this instinct can be difficult. Sometimes multiple classes are required for the child to "overcome" this anticipation. If after multiple classes the child still is unable to insert and remove the lens, we simply may try again in a year or two when the child has more time to mature. Most importantly, we express to the child this is a normal, natural instinct.



Right now is the best time to begin the process of fitting contact lenses for your child. Having the summer to adjust to a new morning routine is an advantage. If you have any other questions regarding the use of contact lenses for yourself or your child, please call our office. Wylie Eye Center, TSO is a full-service eye care center located in Historic Downtown Wylie. Call us at 972-429-9090 to schedule your appointment. Open Monday - Friday and every first and third Saturday of each month.

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Choices in Education

Wylie Preparatory Academy - A University Model School

by Craig Kelly

Education is defined as the act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing the powers of reasoning and judgment, and generally preparing oneself or others intellectually for a mature life. From the area's highly rated public school districts, to a selection of private and parochial schools, to homeschooling, the Wylie, Sachse, Murphy, Lavon area offers a wealth of quality, educational opportunities. Choosing a school that is right for your child and family's lifestyle can be a difficult decision.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, approximately 13% of the school age population in grades K-12 attend faith-based and non-sectarian private schools, or are part of a growing home school trend. One of the more unique schooling options in our area is Wylie Preparatory Academy (WPA), an accredited University-Model School (UMS) attended by more than 265 students in grades K-12.

UMS integrates the best aspects of traditional public, private, parochial and homeschool education into one model. UMS operates on a university-style schedule where students alternate days between school and home. Central classroom instruction is conducted by professional, certified teachers at each grade level; while the home is considered a satellite classroom. Parents receive written instructions and lesson plans from the classroom teacher on a weekly basis outlining homework assignments, follow-up study for material covered in class, and any preparation or review needed for upcoming classes. Students attending WPA are on campus Monday, Wednesday and Friday; and at home conducting their studies Tuesday and Thursday.

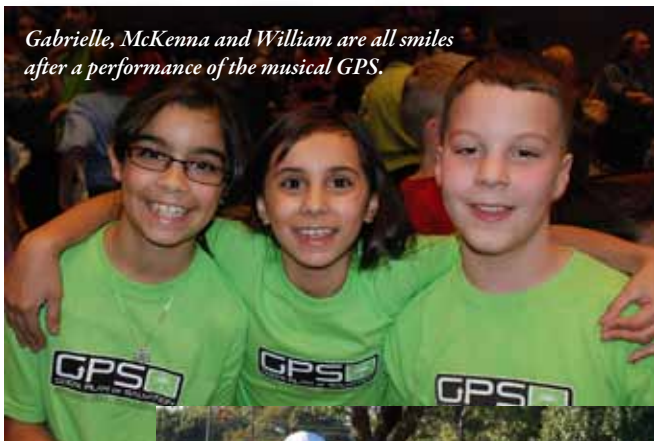
WPA's integrated approach to education produces a high degree of academic achievement based on two proven elements of educational success: the professional instruction of a classroom teacher and the one-on-one instruction and guidance

of the student's parent. Other highlights of the system include low student/teacher ratios (maximum ratio set at 16:1 for core classes), hands-on learning, a strong work ethic, Christian principles, and a focus on character and leadership. The high level of parent involvement keeps tuition low while providing avenues of communication for parents to share their faith, values and convictions on a routine basis.

WPA's academic program meets and exceeds statewide standards for content, skills, and the level of rigor normally associated with college-preparatory programs. Students academic skills are measured annually using the Stanford Achievement Test. WPA's flexible course registration allows students to advance by individual course rather than grade level. But high academic achievement is only part of the story. Students participate in athletics, including six-man football, volleyball and basketball; there are electives including art, music and theatre; and leadership opportunities in student government and community involvement.

Established in 2001 by a handful of families, WPA continues to grow. Last year, the school purchased more than fourteen acres of beautiful, tree lined, land on Skyview Court off of Highway 78. WPA is currently preparing the facilities for the fall school year. For more information about WPA go to www.WyliePrep.com or for additional details on UMS go to www.naums.net. Currently there are eighteen UMS schools in Texas, as well as thirteen other states.

What is the school's philosophy and mission? What is my child's personality and learning style? What are my family's characteristics? Whether public, private, parochial or home, choosing a school for your child can often-times take much planning and thought. •



Gabrielle, McKenna and William are all smiles after a performance of the musical GPS.



Christian turns the corner in route for a touchdown during a six-man football game.



Lizzy and Cheyenne celebrate Wylie Prep's homecoming.

Photos provided by Craig Kelly



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Parental Tips Before The First Class Begins

By Mary Katherine DeBardeleben

Is good health important for good learning? The answer is yes. A healthy body contributes to a healthy mind. Research has shown that children who regularly eat nutritious meals and maintain good health have better standardized test scores, better behavior, and are less hyperactive than children who did not. An annual physical is a great way to make sure your child is ready for the school year.

"It's important for parents to schedule an annual physical exam for their child to keep them safe and healthy and to protect them from diseases like chickenpox, meningitis, and whooping cough to name a few," says Dr. Daniel Flaming, MD, an independently practicing physician on the medical staff at Methodist Richardson Medical Center.

This year it is also important to ensure their immunization records are up-to-date due to requirements from the Texas Department of State Health Services," says Dr. Flaming. The latest information on immunizations can be viewed at www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize.

"If your children participate in sports activities or band, a UIL physical is a requirement for participation," Dr. Flaming says. "Children's health can change from year to year, and a checkup provides time to discuss important issues like hearing, vision, nutrition, bone development, and sleeping habits."

If your child has a chronic illness, asthma, food allergies, or diabetes, it is helpful to make the school nurse or teacher aware of their special needs, including medications.

Discussing safety with your children is also very important. "When possible, have them walk or bike with another person so that they're not traveling alone," he says. "Remember to have your children wear a helmet when riding a bike or scooter and when skateboarding, and remind them to never accept rides or any other invitation from a stranger."

If your children drive, remind them not to be distracted by talking or texting on their cell phone. Car crashes are the number-one killer of American teenagers and parents have the biggest influence on teens' driving habits.

Involve your children in shopping and make a list to avoid impulse buying. "When shopping for school backpacks, check out sales and choose one with wide, padded shoulder straps and a padded back that does not weigh more than 10 to 20 percent of the student's body weight," Dr. Flaming says. "Always



© 2011 - Cathy Yeulet, bigStock Photo

use both shoulder straps and pack light. Slinging a backpack over one shoulder can quickly strain muscles."

Ensuring that your child eats a healthy diet and is physically active is also important, Dr. Flaming says. "Go outside and take a long walk with them, jog, or ride bikes together to help build strong bones," he says. "You should also encourage simple meals with fresh items from the five food groups and discourage sugary drinks or juices that contribute to weight gain and tooth decay."

"We are here to offer personal attention and caring advice to parents and their children," Dr. Flaming says. "A healthy mind and healthy body go together." •

Daniel Flaming, MD, attended Loma Linda University School of Medicine in Loma Linda, California. He completed his family medicine residency at Baylor Medical Center at Garland. He is board certified in family medicine and is currently on the medical staff at Methodist Richardson Medical Center. For appointments, please call 214-576-2227. Texas law prohibits hospitals from practicing medicine. Dr. Flaming is an independently practicing physician on the Methodist Richardson Medical Center medical staff and an employee of Richardson Physician Alliance. Dr. Flaming is not an employee or agent of Methodist Richardson Medical Center or Methodist Health System.



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Happy 30th Birthday Coldwell Banker-Jane Henry Realtors, Inc.

by Sadie Byboth

In June of 1981, Jane Henry Realtors began in a blue and white house on the outskirts of a small town called Wylie. Now, 30 years later, in the now bustling suburb, the group of 25 agents not only celebrates an anniversary but the enduring legacy of friendship, knowledge, and ethical business practices.

"It's a people business," says the principal broker, Jane Henry. "It's really neat to work with people who are established and know the business and it's ethics. The friendship aspect is wonderful, too."

Jane Henry has had her license since the late 1960s, and was a broker in Plano prior to working here in Wylie. In 1973, Jane and her husband and business partner Bill, bought the house and current location with the idea of someday opening an office in the Wylie area. They were known simply as Jane Henry Realtors until 1995, when they affiliated with Coldwell Banker. Under this system, each office is privately owned, but is teamed up under the Coldwell Banker moniker.

"When we first opened, it was just Bill and I. An agent stopped in one day and asked to join," says Jane. "Since, we've never solicited or advertised for additional agents, they all just came in. We've had as many as 32 at one time, one for 17 years and one for 25 years."

Jane still works at the office, but turned the business over to her daughter Lisa Henry-Weaver a few years ago. Lisa is a member of Team LoLisa, along with Lola Lowen, a 12 year veteran of the staff, who still "enjoys it tremendously!"

"I love people and helping people, and it's just been a great blessing to help people find their first homes," Jane says. "Some of them now have grown kids who have gone off to school, or are married with children of their own!"

Jane prides herself on her reputation of honesty and crystal clear business principles and values.

"We've had agents leave and come back, saying 'I didn't realize how responsible and ethical it was here until I left!' It's very difficult in this business, there are so many rules, but we help everyone learn them."

Her husband Bill, once a broker himself, is more than happy to help out with tech support and the odds and ends around the office these days. He likes telling clients that moving to Wylie is a smart move; with a great education system, and beautiful lakes nearby, it really is a great place to live. But Bill's favorite aspect of Jane Henry Realtors is Jane Henry herself.

"I couldn't get a better workmate than Jane, she knows the business and loves it," he says. "She helps every agent learn the business and makes sure they understand the ethics of it. It's been a real pleasure to have someone so knowledgeable here; she's SO knowledgeable. When you've got the best, you can't improve!"

Happy 30th to everyone at Jane Henry Realtors, and may the next 30 be as wonderful as the first! •



Photo provided by Lisa Henry-Weaver



Photos by Sadie Byboth



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Anne, Mike, Megan & Becky

The Wylie Chamber wishes Megan the best of luck on her new adventure! We will miss her smiling face at the office. Check out her new business at www.shophotrita.com for yummy gourmet party mixes. We love you Meg!

~ Anne, Becky & Mike



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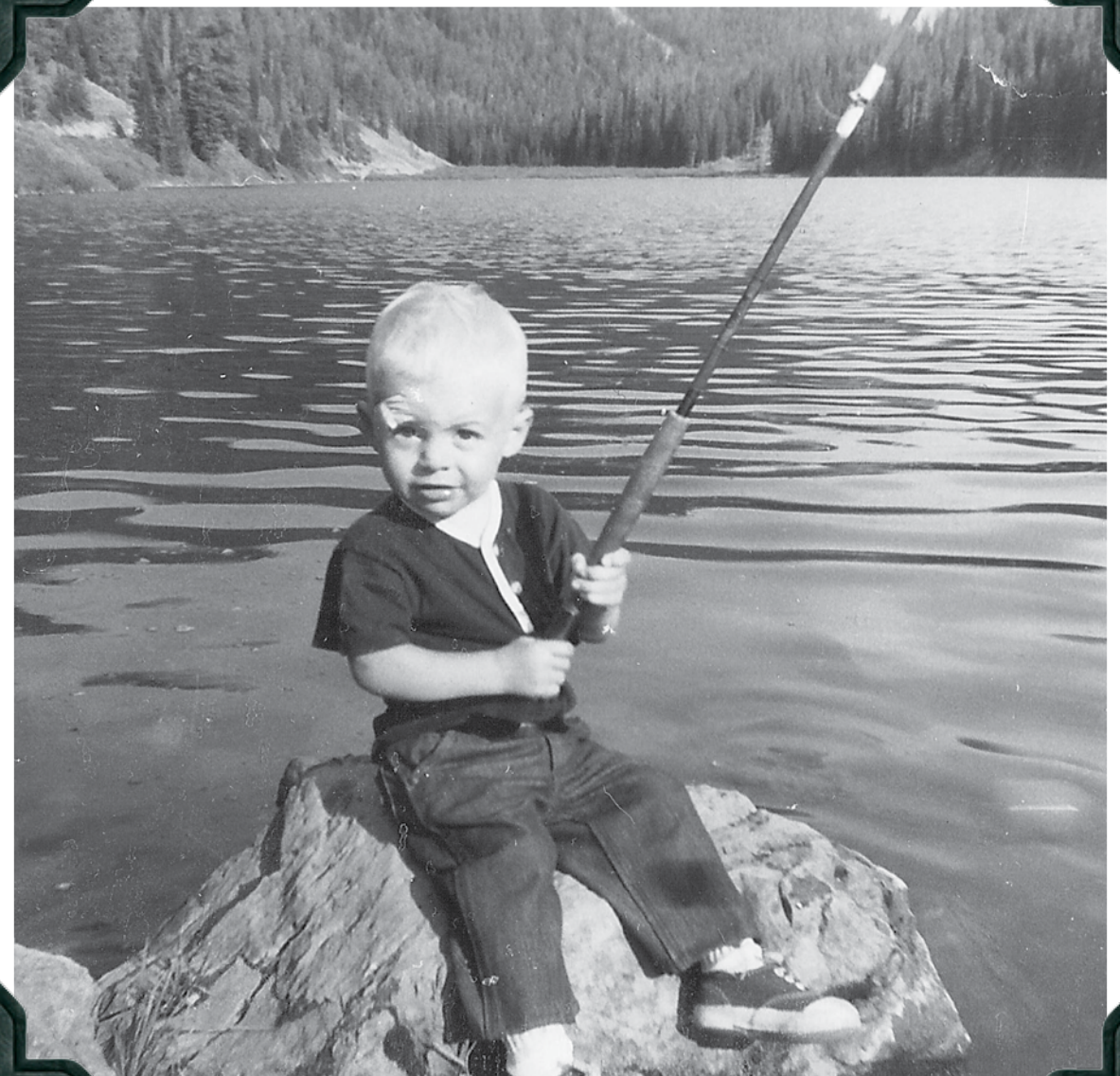
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"Here is a picture of me fishing as a child on our family vacation to Cottonwood Lake in WY. The first day of the trip I jumped out of the trailer and had to go get five stitches."

*Mayor Bret Baldwin
City of Murphy*

A Woman's Financial Reality

Your financial future is up to you.

Provided by Jal Dennis Group



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Will this be your future? Did you know that Social Security income represents two-thirds of income for women 65 and older? Did you know that without Social Security, an estimated 58% of widows aged 65 and older would live in poverty?

These findings are from a 2010 U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee report. As Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) put it, "Social Security is literally a lifeline for most elderly women."

That lifeline is barely adequate. With inflation and other economic pressures, a mature woman relying on SSI may eventually have to choose between food or medicine, or rent or car repair, or contend with other stressful money dilemmas.

When these women were younger, did they envision such a meager future ahead of them? Probably not. More than a few probably wish they had understood money matters better or actively invested for retirement.

How much do you know about personal finance? The more knowledge you have, the more action you can take to define and pursue your financial goals and build retirement savings. You can also respond to a few financial realities common to women's lives.

The average woman spends 12 years out of the working world. So finds WISER, the non-profit formally called Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement. Typically some of this absence

is for parenting, some of it for caregiving. This means the average woman has 12 fewer years to pour steady money into that 401(k), 403(b) or IRA.

Women live longer. According to the latest estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, female life expectancy is at roughly 80.5 years versus about 75.5 years for males. The reality unnoticed in these numbers is that many women will live on their own for a decade or more after being divorced or widowed.

Women face an earnings gap. On the whole, women do not earn as much as men. In 2009, the Government Accountability Office noted that women earn \$0.78 for every \$1 that men earn. Some people question this statistic, arguing that it reflects gender inequality in career paths rather than distinct salary discrimination. Regardless, the gap exists – and it is even more pronounced for women of color.

At work, many women are worth more than the salaries they receive. Some women are reluctant to negotiate a better salary for themselves. Will it upset the equilibrium at the office? Will it be seen as too aggressive? The answers here are probably "no" and "no". It takes confidence (and it may take a little research) to affirm your professional worth in front of your boss – and it should be done.

A rich spouse does not equal a retirement plan. It is nice to have a spouse whose wealth allows you freedom from financial worries. Yet even if you are blessed with a rich and attractive mate, there is no telling where that mate (and that money) might end up someday but for fate.

How do you plan to arrange a comfortable future for yourself? If you don't want to end up dependent on Social Security, then see that you have the financial education that will let you make major money decisions with confidence. Study fundamentals of investing and read up on the basics of retirement and estate planning. Follow up by meeting with a financial consultant who can help you put a strategy into action. •

Jal Dennis may be reached at 972-429-0603 or jal.dennis@lpl.com and his website is located at Jaldennis.com



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