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M A G A Z I N E

October 2008

**A Crazy
Character**

**Starting
Over Again**

**Where She
Belongs**

**Bobby
Socks
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At Home With
Bill Coffey

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*On the Cover:
A windmill and a covered wagon
are only two of the nostalgic
pieces of yard art found at Billy
Coffey's place.*

Photo by Terri Ozymy.

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Burleson
NOW
The Community Magazine
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Burleson

Editor's Note

*Sunny faces are all around you,
Burleson!*

Our main feature describes Jayne (pronounced JayNee) Jones, who serves on our city's Strengthening Families Initiative and has big plans for a health/wellness clinic for the city. Another woman making a difference is Denise Dube, who has survived not only cancer, but 11 years of public school teaching and now teaches English at Hill College. Bobby Woolard carved a niche for himself as a jewelry artist, having learned most of what he knows from his father. Likewise, family encouraged a love of Judo in Sammi Martin, a 14-year-old whose sights are set on the 2012 Olympics! Your very own Bill Coffey displayed similar strength and character in constructing his house, taking three-and-a-half years to hand-build the embellishments. Four ladies who have produced a cookbook to raise money for Harvest House share healthy recipes for fall. Soak up your sunshine, Burleson!

Melissa Rawlins
BurlesonNOW Editor



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From left to right: Drew Pickens (son of Andy and Cindy Pickens), Grant Hinkle (son of Wade and Rebecca Hinkle), Jayne Jones and Grace Dubose (daughter of Alan and Christine Dubose).

A Crazy Character

— By Jaime Ruark

In a candid moment, Jayne Jones will admit to a childhood nickname. Even as a small girl, she was always a go-getter, which earned her the moniker “GoGo.” Today, as a sweet and friendly child care provider, Jayne is always pushing on to the next goal, moving forward to her next step in life with an energetic, willing and positive attitude.

Born in Kansas City, Missouri, Jayne was reared in the church, and as a youngster, she always dreamed of someday becoming a missionary to Brazil, a lofty goal that was only slightly altered. She spent the summer after her senior year of high school in Belgium on a mission trip, where she learned and became fluent in French. She went on to graduate with a bachelor's degree in biblical studies from Lubbock Christian University; in 2006, she earned her master's degree in early childhood education from the University of Phoenix.

She and her husband, Karl, moved to Burleson in 1984, where Karl is currently a minister at the Burleson Church of Christ. Along with French, Jayne is also fluent in Spanish, which now helps her on church mission trips to Mexico. “My husband and I, working with the church, go to Mexico a lot;

so I'm still fluent,” she explained. “The first day is always a little rough, but then every day I get better.” Thirty years of marriage have blessed the couple with four children and two grandchildren; the newest addition, Kyler, is just a few months old. Thus, as the director of Burleson ISD Child Care Center, Jayne truly brings much experience to the table.

The children at the daycare may not know Jayne by the nickname “GoGo,” but they cry out with glee at the mention of “Squeaky the Mouse,” “Nelda Newsworthy” or “Queen

Mimichuchu.” Jayne is known for her crazy characters, dressing up for the daycare children or those who attend her church's vacation Bible school. Whether she is the voice for a mouse puppet, dressed in a grass skirt and black wig, as a pirate queen or wearing an

enormous pink beehive wig and oversized pink glasses as a busy newswoman, Jayne is truly all about educating the children of the community. “Each day at the Bible school my outfits as ‘Nelda’ got a little crazier, and I kid you not, that last day when I stepped out on the stage you'd have thought I was a rock star! They just went crazy,” Jayne said with her modest yet fun-loving smile. “I'm actually a very boring person,

“Kids might not remember what you did, but they'll always remember how you made them feel.”

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but if it's about kids, I'll do whatever it takes."

Jayne has been the Burleson ISD Child Care director since its inception in January of '03, and as its vibrant, albeit reluctant leader, has overseen the center's growth from 12 children its first year to the current enrollment of 165. "When Burleson decided to have the daycare, I was actually contacted by several people," she shared, explaining she had been working for Child Care Services at the time. She was approached three times with the director position, and "the third time, I thought, *Okay Lord, I get the message!*" she laughed. "They already had the building picked out, and I was able to come in and design the facility. The school district has just been amazing with the support they have given this program."

Education, Jayne strongly believes, is an important building block for the foundation of a successful life. "I think early childhood education is so important for kids. It builds self-esteem, their self-identity and makes them feel good and loved," she expressed. "Positive reinforcement is key. Kids might not remember what you did, but they'll always remember how you made them feel."

Jayne's role in giving local children a high-quality, yet comfortable learning environment, made her a natural choice to be a leader for Burleson's new Strengthening Families Initiative, an innovative concept that is being voluntarily worked on by many of Burleson's best and brightest. The initiative's main focus is to keep the families of our ever-growing community together and strong. The initiative has four subcommittees: Economic Success; Health and Wellness; Child and Youth Development; and Safe and Vibrant Neighborhoods, under the guiding principle that strong families make a strong community.

Naturally, Jayne co-chairs the Child and Youth Development committee along with Claudia Humphreys, and is excited to be a part of a great team. "Our job is to come up with new ways

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to help prosper our community and individual families," Jayne said.

"Interestingly, as each of these groups began to meet, across the board we realized that education is probably the best thing we can do — educating people on what services are already out there and available, and how they can obtain these services."

Each committee is made up of several people who bring their expertise from their work and personal lives together with the people of the town — "grassroots people who are out there in the community and have hands-on experience" — in order to brainstorm ideas, address problems and come up with viable solutions. "There have been some creative ideas that have come up, like a neighborhood health and wellness clinic," Jayne detailed. They also proposed the farmers' market, where local people bring their products. Another goal was to create a list of available resources and post it on the city's Web site.

The specific focus of Jayne's group is children, teens and parents, with ideas being presented to help keep families strong and parents involved in their children's lives. Parenting classes, a community center with fun classes for teenagers and tutoring programs are all concepts that are being addressed. "A lot of our ideas are low-cost or free," Jayne continued, "and this is just the beginning. I think the potential for this is wonderful. We're coming up with ideas that might not see fruition for a few years, but you have to start somewhere."

Look for Jayne this month at the Funival, the church carnival she and a friend started back in the '80s. See if you can pick her out of the crowd. She may be dressed as a pirate queen with black lips, a noisy newswoman with a giant beehive or a clown with a big red nose. You will be able to tell it's "GoGo" Jayne by the friendly twinkle in her eye and the hoard of kids clamoring around her as she continues doing all she can to, in her own words, "help make Burleson as good as it can be for the next generation." **NOV**

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The King of Green

— By Melissa Rawlins

If your definition of “green” is along the lines of “never destroying part of nature to build something new,” then you and Bill Coffey would get along really well. He recycles everything, and has built his home with his own two hands — thanks to a mind that focuses on how to creatively reuse the objects he finds during the course of his days.



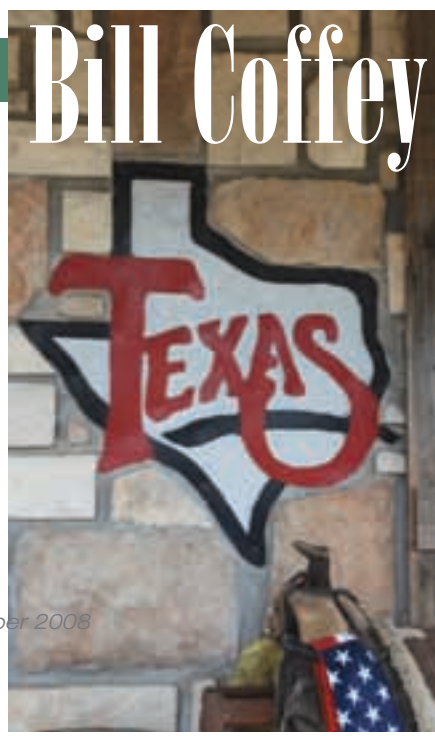
Bill grew up two miles north of his current six-acre homestead, and helped his parents build and operate the 1898 House barbecue restaurant. Now, his kitchen is lined with siding taken off an old local house. Bill operates a haul-off company, giving him the opportunity to find construction materials, which he has painstakingly pieced together into a comfortable work of art.

“My place is more of a museum than a house,” Bill said. On top of that, he added, “It needs a woman’s touch. I’m waiting on The Queen.”

When she appears, The Queen is bound to enjoy the built-in storage areas on either side of the central fireplace — testaments to the effort Bill invested to make good use of space within the limitations of the

At Home with

Bill Coffey






blueprints he ordered five years ago. Professionals laid the slab (and scored it so that downstairs floors look like hardwood), framed the walls, built the hickory cabinets for the kitchen and constructed the silver metal roof. Bill has done the rest.

Upstairs, Bill made floors using lumber from four old houses. Throughout his 1,900-square-foot house, Bill combined artistry with know-how



to construct a beautifully designed home. He built his own night stand lamps out of old Tony Lama Teny boots, cedar wood from Glen Rose, Texas, and farmers' market baskets. Tucking electrical outlets and lighting accents away in surprisingly functional spots, Bill cleverly hollowed a hand-cleaned and lacquered cedar post so that electricity can travel through its center to an outlet for a mixer or coffeepot.

Through the kitchen window you can see Donkey Dew munching in the pasture near Bo, the longhorn, who



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has allowed Bill to ride him since the late '80s. "I've also taught him to bow," Bill grinned.

Bill used to have horses, but sold them in preparation for building his house, because he knew he'd need all the time he could get. He must have known he would need to rebuild the rock walls several times until the windows were in the perfect locations to capture the views of all the areas in his yard that are important to him.

Bill gathered cedar posts for the wraparound porch from Glen Rose. "Around here, the cedar's real regular. The ones I got from Glen Rose are real wicked!" With urethane, he sealed in

the color. "First I cleaned 'em up, and finally used a pressure washer. You have to learn in the school of hard knocks." While on his porch swing, his friends can rest their drink on his hand-tooled cedar railing and look at a small pump jack, one of his haul-off prizes, which he has installed as yard art. Embedded in the home's rock wall behind his swing, is Bill's emblem of Texas, which he made from a combination of smooth tin and a piece of hard plastic matting on which office chairs roll.

He has also hidden stereo speakers in burlap gunnysacks hanging from rafters above the porch. "Me and a gal

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were swinging here one day, and she said, 'Bill, you need a radio out here.' I thought she was right." Up high near the speakers, Bill perched birdhouses on rock ledges. Below, he built several big shelves using privacy fence panels. "They were free. I used them all over the place."

On the north side of the porch are several old wagon wheels, spokes disintegrating, near his covered wagon. Bill made the topper that rests on the undercarriage, which he found in Rendon, Texas. "It was all wood. I mowed the place, and they were going to burn it. They gave it to me," Bill smiled.

Another beautiful pile of junk resurrected by Bill is the old windmill, which he found on a dairy between Joshua and Cleburne. "It took one-and-a-half years to build this and get it working." Water goes to the tank for Bill's livestock,

who may accidentally swallow a goldfish or two since mischievous Bill stocked his tank with miniature carp.

In his shop, where he has every tool imaginable for his mechanical work, carving and inventing, Bill keeps antiques and extra wood on hand for whatever artistry he might get into his bright-eyed head. "Some of my dreams come at night, some during the day. An idea will just hit me," Bill said.

He dreamed up the big four-poster bed built of cedar from Glen Rose, where he now sleeps. He's currently working on a rock entrance wall at the base of the big Calvary-style gate, which used to have flags flying. Lately, though, Bill's too worn out to replace the flags, which the wind has whipped to shreds. Three-and-a-half years of work meant a lot of backbreaking labor to finish the interior of his house.

In addition to cedar poles like those on the porch, Bill

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decorated the walls of the powder room and part of the den with red barn wood, which was extremely hard to find. "I got it from an old lady off of Hwy. 81," Bill explained, while Frank Sinatra's rendition of "My Way" wafted from a reproduction Leetac radio tucked in a display case Bill built under the stairwell. As you look above the stairs, you see a painting of cowgirls, gifted to him after a stock show 10 years ago.

The green living room walls are made of wood that came off the outside of a

cabin on Possum Kingdom Lake. As you stand looking out the dormer windows, the green and white striped awnings installed just outside are perfectly visible, adding a nice accent to the green living room walls. The sloped ceilings are tall enough that Bill had to balance on two scaffolds and one ladder to fix the rusted tin to the ceiling, install the ceiling fans and hang the stuffed animal heads. Instead of a painting, Bill hung an old screen from the Sloan Dairy Barn in Weatherford

on the wall. He keeps the 1950s Coca-Cola machine in the kitchen as a reminder of his grandfather, who gave Bill the antique in the '70s.

Amazingly, there are a couple of items in the house neither recycled nor used. Bill installed a brand new white and chrome Cook's Delight gas oven with a six-burner stove. The appliance, like the pure white porcelain claw-footed tub in the mosaic-tiled powder room, has never been used. The King of Green is saving those for The Queen. **NOW**



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Starting Over Again

— By Melissa Rawlins

When you are not looking, wax carver Bobby Woolard could be wearing the hat of husband, business owner or cyclist. Burleson knows him as the jewelry artist, who will design, carve, pour and set an original piece or refresh an heirloom. "I don't look at myself as an artist, but rather as a problem solver and mechanic, because people hand me things they want repaired or made into something new, and I have to figure the puzzle," Bobby explained. "Usually, I don't have a clue when a person presents me with a handful of stones. But my father taught me the old jewelers' way: Say, 'Yes,' take the job, and then figure out how to do it."

Bobby's one-of-a-kind carvings often involve swirls or symmetrical designs, sometimes inspired by the shape of a vine. "Nature is the best artist," he said, adding, "I guess that's why I love being

outside so much." Bobby and his wife, Caryl, enjoy Hill Country bicycling trips on their bicycle-built-for-two every chance they get.

They also take annual two-week vacations during which Bobby does no carving. "But I cannot say something doesn't cross my mind," Bobby grinned. "Caryl and I will be out on the road, and there's a lot of silent time, listening to birds while you're riding. I've had days when I find myself thinking about a piece that's not working as it should; I've solved problems on my bike before."

His bicycle inspired one of his first pieces of art: a hand-carved 10-speed, cast to remind Caryl of the passion she and Bobby enjoy together. "As I was learning to make things, I felt like she'd like a bicycle. I was trying to make something unique that I could put diamonds into. I carved it probably in three hours, if you count all my nit-picking," Bobby said. After making a personalized statement of passion for his wife, he wanted to do it for others.

"My carving had gotten put on a back burner, because of having to make a living," said Bobby, who has been a jeweler in Woolard's Jewelry in Burleson since 1979. He started by polishing customers' jewelry in his father's Fort Worth shop in 1973. "I

thought it was neat, when you take a ring that looks bad, and after polishing it's beautiful," Bobby said.

After six to eight years of running his own jewelry shop and doing metalworking, Bobby began playing with wax. "I was trying to figure out how to work with wax. I found you're not limited, as you are with metal, which you can cut here and there, but once you make a mistake you're done with it. You can weld metal back together, but you'll have a seam." Caryl encouraged Bobby to do more than play.

Caryl no longer wears the bicycle necklace, but Bobby does. That and his wedding ring are the only jewelry he wears. "I love working on it and creating it," said Bobby, who isolates himself in his shop to work. "I do my wax carving at night, by myself," said the old rock 'n' roller, who listens to Stevie Ray Vaughn, jazz or blues, turned up loud to block out everything. Sometimes, it



Bobby Woolard remembers childhood fun as digging clay out of the ground to make little vases.



ARTS NOW

is dark in his shop except for two bench lights. "Working with the wax, which is all one color, I sometimes must move the light in different positions to see the detail," Bobby said. He carves most of his wax by hand, using a selection of over 100 tools for detail work.

"Sometimes, I'll take a burr between the middle finger and thumb of my right hand and drill into the wax."

While he is forming the wax, Bobby thinks about those who will receive the finished piece. "Everything I make is for someone. People ask me to work on things that mean something to that person," Bobby explained. Once he combined two rings for a woman who just lost her husband. "I knew him better than I knew her. I thought about him a lot as I worked. It takes your heart, because I'm thinking of making something that is lasting," he said. "I get excited every time when I take a piece and separate it from the

"Nature is the best artist."

investment in metal. I can get chills. I'm getting a feel for the customer, so I can give them something they will want to wear from now on."





Looking into his own future, Bobby is adjusting his approach to wax carving. "As I get older and my hands are not as steady and my eyesight is not as good, I can still prolong my days by using computer-aided design," he said. "I'll have a file and can recreate pieces, taking parts of one piece and using it for other pieces. I will be able to be creative for longer periods of time." Bobby has invested in a computer and software for his home studio and is teaching himself this new high-tech method for carving so that even as an old man he can continue his art. "I'm starting over again," he said. **NOW**

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Sports NOW

Bobby Socks to Black Belts

— By Jaime Ruark

Samantha Martin is one tough competitor. At the age of 14, she has earned more accolades in the sport of Judo than many girls much older. Soft-spoken and sweet, quiet confidence and determination shines in her eyes, which must make the girls she faces in her matches more than a little nervous.

Samantha, Sammi to her friends and family, began taking Judo lessons at the age of 3 from her father, Ruben Martin, a lifelong competitor, who won the bronze medal at the Canadian games in 1983. For the Martins, Judo is truly a family affair. Samantha's older brother, Ruben, and younger sister, Tiffany, also compete, practicing at the family-owned facility.

Some people might think having your dad as your coach would be difficult, but Samantha loves it. "It's a lot easier, because I don't have to worry about things," she said. "I know he can talk to me and I can talk to him." Her father had a slightly different point of view. "Being her coach and her dad — it's a blessing, but it's also extremely hard. I have to tell her sometimes, 'I'm talking to you as your coach, not as your dad.' Plus she's like me; she's very stubborn," Ruben laughed.

Samantha practices two hours a day, four times a week, plus occasionally on Saturdays. She also spends time at the gym running and lifting weights. Drills, at times, bore her, because she "likes fighting and throwing people the most." She admitted, "I've never gotten tired of Judo, but I have gotten lazy sometimes during practices. I just try to think about how cool it would be to make a World or an Olympic team, and that gets me motivated to train harder."

Such a rigorous schedule, along with many trips to competitions around the world, meant Samantha missed time at school, so her mother, Denise, decided to homeschool her children. "I think as a sport we underestimate how dedicated they have to be and how much of a sacrifice they make, with all the training and keeping to their weight category," Denise expressed. "I don't want them to feel like they're sacrificing everything; I still want them to have a full life."

Among her many achievements, Samantha won third place at senior nationals, which helped her qualify for the Olympic trials, making her one of the youngest there. She attends training camps at an Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, and this past summer, she won a second place and two third place medals at Junior Olympic tournaments in Orlando and Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She is currently a second degree brown belt, the belt just below the top ranking black. "She was 12 when she did her first senior nationals," Denise recalled proudly. "You have to be a brown belt for that competition, and you're not able to be a brown belt until you're 13, but because of her record and her participation in the senior nationals, they voted and gave her the brown belt so she could compete."

Judo is a contact sport, and Samantha has had her share of injuries. In fact, a hyper-extended elbow forced her to decline her position this past summer at the Junior World trials, quite a disappointment for the girl who loves to fight. Once her injury heals, she will continue with her training. "I am trying to train for the 2012 Olympics. That's my next goal — to make that team," she declared.

The biggest challenge she now faces is making the transition from junior to senior fighter. "It's a different style," Denise pointed out. "She has to compete with

"She is currently a second degree brown belt, the belt just below the top ranking black."

Sports NOW

women who are 20 to 30, and it requires a lot more strength and maturity." Samantha is such an old hat at the sport that she does not become nervous anymore before her matches, but her mom admitted that as her daughter trains and prepares to make the tough transition, her own nerves are starting to twinge a bit. "Her injuries over the summer were pretty nerve-racking. Obviously, she's a lot younger and competing with older girls, so the nerves are starting to come back," she confessed.

Samantha loves to bake, but Judo competitions are based on age and weight, so she has to make sure she maintains her diet. "I have to watch my weight, so it's kind of hard, because whatever I bake I can't really eat," she

"I am trying to train for the 2012 Olympics. That's my next goal — to make that team."

laughed. Angel food cake and low-fat Skinny Cow ice cream sandwiches are her favorite when she gets a craving for sweets.

"She has me wrapped around her finger," Ruben confessed, choking up a bit with pride and emotion. "Right now, she's having a hard time changing from bobby socks to stockings, like the Bobby Darin song says. She has to learn how to talk to me and her other coaches. She has to learn to tell us if she's hurting — learn how to say, 'No.' She's an extremely hard worker. I've never seen anything like it in my life. She doesn't know when to quit.

"My girls are tough," Ruben added. "When it comes to a fight, Sammi never backs down." Indeed, it is easy to imagine Samantha going for the gold in 2012! **NOW**

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Business NOW



Tyler, Colby, Amy and Jeremiah Lovelace can bring bounce house fun to your next party!

— By Melissa Rawlins

Revving up Space Walk of Burleson's blower motors, Amy and Michael Lovelace and their three boys are producing "the Super Bowl of inflatables" this month for all of Johnson County and the area from Aledo to Granbury, where individuals and groups are celebrating Halloween with bounce house fun. What the Lovelace family does not have in stock in their garage, they will ship in from New Orleans. "Then we'll just go," said Amy, whose company can deliver five inflatable bounce houses each weekend. "Last year at Halloween, we had about 20 units out, and it's just the two of us and our kids. At 4:00 a.m. Sunday we were still picking up things from Halloween!"

Amy and Michael used to be the ones renting the inflatables for their own home parties. "Believe me, joining Space Walk as a partner has changed our plans," Amy said. "We never have time for [our own] Fourth of July now!"

Even rainy summer days bring good business for Space Walk of Burleson. "As long as it's not windy, you can play in the rain all you want. But the wind will pick the inflatable up and carry it off," Amy said.

These huge, clean, interactive balloons were invented by

Space Walk in Kenner, Louisiana, which has rented inflatables to individuals and groups for over 40 years. Now, at Space Walk of Burleson you can also rent other items for home parties — no matter how far out in the country you live. "We live in a rural area where we can't even get pizza delivered," laughed Amy, "so I assure you, we feel for those families and will go out of our way to see that all children have the same opportunities no matter how far past the city limits sign they live."

"We have the ability to do entire parties, from party favors to bounce houses to concessions," said Amy, whose company provided lots of fun for Project Celebration, the Burleson High School after-prom party. "As long as we're renting three or four different things, they'll say, 'Bring on the snow cone machines. You go for it!' Whatever you want, we can do."

The work is rewarding, but tough. "We started doing this because I have three boys," Amy said. "I thought it would give us something to do together." Earning money is a bonus for 13-year-old Tyler, 14-year-old Jeremiah, and 9-year-old Colby, who are learning lessons about running a family business.

"Tyler and Jeremiah have their own business cards and hand

Business NOW

'em out at school. They try hard," smiled Amy, for whom the rewards come when they drop the bounce house off.

Everyone is excited to see the Lovelace family, because they sanitize their units in front of the customers at setup time. However, picking up the bounce house is not fun for Amy. Not only do the customers hate to see their bounce house go, but the Lovelace family has a lot of hard work to do. "After you clean the inflatables you roll them like a sleeping bag — yet they're



"We have the ability to do entire parties, from party favors to bounce houses to concessions."

600 pounds. Colby is a big help! He can clean in places we can't, some of the little crevices. He'll walk on it, and have a grand ole time trying to flatten it out!"

You can design your party through Space Walk of Burleson any day of the week, any time of day. First, go online: www.herecomesfun.com/bur will show the available options. Then send an e-mail to SpaceWalkBUR@herecomesfun.com or call Amy at (817) 447-9697 or (817) 217-6954. Rentals start at \$75. Space Walk of Burleson accepts MasterCard, Visa, Cash or Check. **NOW**

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Education NOW

Where She Belongs

— By Melissa Rawlins

Into this world of high-speed text messaging and extreme-impact videos steps Denise Dube, professor of English at Hill College Burleson. Rather than stopping her students in their multimedia tracks, she encourages them to make even more connections. “I love it when students can tie in current, present-day events to what we’re reading,” Denise said. “I teach them critical thinking. If you can analyze *Beowulf*, say, you can decipher anything you get in the business world. This is practical English. Essay expression is a skill I’ve read many managers are wanting with new employees and new hires.”

The passion Denise gives her students is directly related to her knowledge of her subject. “I think writing is the most difficult task, because you have to have it in your creative mind; it has to come out through your heart and your hands, and it has to make sense and be clear,” Denise said.

In British Literature, for instance, Denise asks students to focus on reading, discussing, essay writing and pulling out important points from what they are reading. “So many students — whether teens or 40-year-olds — come here and are so bogged down they don’t know how to get out of the details and choose what and why the author is saying. ‘The Raven’ isn’t about a raven sitting on top a bust of Pallas squawking at a man,” Denise exclaimed. “‘The Raven’ is about Edgar Allan Poe’s wife being dead and the writer not knowing whether she’s in heaven, and the bird reminding him of the unknown. This relates to business,” insisted Denise. “If you’ve got this huge memo by a long-winded person, you’ve got to be able to decipher the message, the goal and the task you’ve got to do after reading the memo.”

After learning to identify the important points in a piece of literature, the second step is learning to write a thesis statement. “That is so hard for them. For example, with



‘The Raven’ the crux of the matter is the insanity and the torment. But some students come in at a level [of understanding] where everything is literal. Symbolism and metaphor are hard for students, since our society has fed them literalism. Horror movies do not require you to imagine,” said Denise, who encourages her students to participate in class discussions as a method of developing the skill of making connections.

As students work with Denise, she helps them progress. “My attitude of fair accountability is: Be here. Come to class. Participate in discussions. Then, let’s look at you from when you first came into my course. Keep everything you write, and now let’s look at you five months later and compare. Every single time,” Denise said, “the students are making dramatic growth.”

As Denise has made English come alive for her students, they have helped her revive. Last year, when she celebrated recovery from breast cancer, her students organized a garage sale to raise money in her honor for the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life. “Students and staff were here when

Education NOW

it was cold in the morning and hot in the afternoon. The support I have is so sweet. I've never regretted leaving corporate America," said Denise, who began her career as an advertising representative for *PC World*, a computer publication in Dallas. "How blessed am I to know these people whose goals are so lofty, and who will achieve them! How blessed am I to get to assist them and inspire them. And they inspire me, too."

Denise remembers one particular student who was a single mother. "Even as I was recovering from my breast cancer, I thought, *If she can manage her life, I can manage mine. It is tough, and I can make it work. On top of the full-time job and four children, she is studying, reading and writing the most amazing essays I have ever seen.* She was always cheerful and participating in class. I was amazed by her."

Likewise, students receive confidence from Denise. "I grade in green so it won't look like someone bled all over the paper. I grade the good. I take a tremendous amount of time grading. I put, 'You used a simile here, and you didn't even know it. The good writers use similes!' I also put the good, the bad and the ugly. It shocks them to hear about the good in their paper. They puff up a little. They can feel comfortable expressing their own opinions that they can back up."

Denise tells her students that self-assuredness comes with knowing how to decipher poetry and plays. "If they're educated, they'll have a common interest with other educated people," Denise said. "I feel honored to be associated with these people and to help them be successful, not just in my class, but in the future, too. I feel like teaching was a gift for me from God that I was supposed to use the way I'm using it."

"We have so much fun," laughed Denise, "that at the end of every day I get in my car and sigh and say, 'I really enjoyed my day with these students.'" **NOW**



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Around Town NOW



Burleson Police Commander Cindy Aaron, top left, was recently awarded Officer of the Quarter. Desire Spruill, telecommunicator/communications training officer, top center, won the Silent Hero Award for excellence in performance as a 911 operator. Employees on Hanson Pipe & Precast and Basden Steel, top right, worked with the City of Burleson water department employees and firefighters to move large blocks of concrete. The Johnson County Veteran's Monument, bottom left, was restored by local Boy Scouts. The folks at Goodwill Industries, bottom center, accepted a blue princess desk from David Njris. Ribbon cuttings were held at the following, from second row right to second bottom: Family Fun Party Supply, Ambit Energy and The Studio.

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Dr. Neef completed his obstetrics and gynecology residency at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, where he received the 2006 Academic Excellence award. He earned his medical degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Medical School. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in finance from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.

Dr. Neef holds memberships in the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Texas Medical Association. Located in the Huguley medical office buildings, he accepts most insurance plans, including Medicare and Medicaid.

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— By Faith Browning

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TACO SOUP

1 lb. ground beef
1 17-oz. can corn
1 16-oz. can creamed corn
1 10-oz. can Ro-Tel tomatoes
1 pkg. taco seasoning
2 cups water

Brown beef; drain. Throw remaining ingredients together in a large pan; stir and heat for 30 minutes, longer if desired. Garnish (optional) with cheese and tortilla chips. *Olé!*

NICE AND EASY CASSEROLE

1 6-oz. can tuna, chicken or ham

1 12-oz. can cream of mushroom soup
1 pkg. macaroni and cheese, prepared according to pkg. instructions
1 17-oz. can peas or corn, drained
1/2 cup cheddar cheese, shredded (optional)

Mix meat with soup, macaroni and cheese, peas (or corn). Sprinkle with cheese. Bake 20 minutes at 350 F.

DUMP CAKE

1 20-oz. can crushed pineapple or cherries or apples, do not drain fruit juice
1 box dry cake mix, white or yellow
2 sticks butter

The community of Burleson and surrounding areas are blessed to have Harvest House as a giving resource to families in need. Women like Wanda Campbell, Alice Bleeker, Jennifer Brookshire and Kim Adams are a few who help make this ministry the success it is today. Their main mission is to provide assistance with food, clothing and finances for qualifying families.

Harvest House has several projects to provide assistance to families. After seeing a need for guidance in meal preparation, a cookbook was developed to assist clients to prepare meals. They provide school supplies for children and, at Christmas, provide a present to place under the tree. Executive Director Alice Bleeker stated, "Because we build ongoing relationships with our clients, we are able to meet their different needs." **NOW**

To view more of your neighbors' recipes, visit our archives at www.nowmagazines.com.

Place pineapple (or other fruit) on the bottom of 9 x 13-inch pan. Dump dry cake mix on top of fruit. Cut up the sticks of butter; lay them on top of cake mix. Bake at 350 F for 30 minutes, or until cake is bubbly and lightly brown; cool and enjoy! Sprinkle with nuts if you desire.

CHICKEN SPAGHETTI

3 to 4 boneless chicken breasts
1 medium onion, chopped
1 stick butter
1 12-oz. can cream of chicken soup
1/2 cup milk
1 1/2 cup grated cheese
1 8 to 10-oz. pkg. spaghetti, cooked and drained

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Brown chicken breasts and onion in butter; dice chicken breast. Mix together soup and milk; add cheese. Combine chicken, onion and spaghetti into soup mixture. Pour into baking dish. Bake 30 minutes at 350 F.

BEEF STROGANOFF

1 lb. ground beef
1 small onion, chopped
1 12-oz. can cream of mushroom soup
salt and pepper, to taste
1 cup sour cream
1 12-oz. pkg. noodles, cooked and drained

Brown beef and onion; add soup and simmer. Add salt and pepper to taste. Before serving, add sour cream. Serve over noodles, rice or biscuits.



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Annuities vs. CDs

— By James C. McKelvain

No wonder clients love certificates of deposit. They just hand their money to the friendly bank clerk and know exactly how much they will get back at the end of the term. And they might even walk away with a free toaster, too! Simple as can be. But fixed, deferred annuities share some of a CD's characteristics and have a few unique ones, too.

Safety

Clients, particularly older ones, want safety. CDs issued by banks are backed by the FDIC for up to \$100,000 per account. Annuities have their own guarantees. They're backed by the issuing insurance company's legal reserve requirements established by the state.

Returns

Historically, annuities have enjoyed a sizeable rate advantage over CDs. Annuity rates are typically tied to the

10-year Treasury and CDs are tied to shorter fixed-interest vehicles. In a normal interest rate environment, 10-year Treasuries will always have a higher rate.

For instance, on January 2, 2004, the rate for a one-month Treasury was 0.88 percent. The 10-year Treasury paid 4.23 percent.

Then, four years ago, the Federal Reserve began increasing short-term rates. By August 27, 2007, a one-month Treasury paid 4.74 percent and a 10-year Treasury paid 4.60 percent. The yield curve had inverted, and CDs had higher rates than annuities.

Over the past 12 months, the Federal Reserve has lowered short-term interest rates nine times. As of May 30, 2008, the one-month Treasury's interest rate was 1.98 percent and the 10-year Treasury paid 4.06 percent.

As a result, the yield curve has returned to normal, and annuities again hold an advantage over CDs. According to BankRate.com, the average five-year CD paid 3.77 percent as of 6-19-08. To make a fair comparison, we looked at three well-known fixed annuities with five-year rate guarantees, and we got an average of 4.88 percent. That means if

you put \$50,000 into a five-year fixed annuity instead of a CD, you'd make an extra \$3,287 (before taxes) ... enough to take a nice cruise.

Tax Deferral

Clients must pay taxes on CD interest each year whether or not they actually use the interest or not. Deferred annuity owners do not have that burden, unless they withdraw the interest. The earnings can continue to accumulate tax-deferred until the owner removes them.

What's more, the deferred interest is not included as income when calculating the taxability of Social Security benefits. So owning a fixed annuity rather than a CD could mean not paying tax on Social Security income.

Liquidity

CD owners are not typically able to take withdrawals of their principal. They are allowed to take monthly interest payments, but any withdrawals over the interest amount are typically penalized six months' worth of interest.

Annuity owners can generally take out 10 percent of the contract's value after the first year, penalty-free. Or they



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might be able to withdraw interest each month after the first month. As an alternative, some contracts allow interest payments to be paid monthly and additional withdrawals if interest payments do not exceed the 10 percent maximum.

Plus, there are frequently other penalty-free withdrawal provisions in an annuity contract. Some will let clients remove all their money in case they are hospitalized, have a life-threatening illness, or go to a nursing home. Can't get that with a CD.

One of the greatest features that an annuity offers to clients is the ability to take income. Annuities give clients the ability to receive a guaranteed fixed income over a specified number of years or even for as long as they live. This is a feature that no CD offers. **NOW**

James C. McKelvain is an IRA retirement specialist based in Burleson.

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5-Year	5.00% 1st Year	5.00% Years 2-5	6.00% 1st Year	5.00% Years 2-5

¹Interest rates as of 8/18/2008; subject to change.

²Contract is issued by ING USA Annuity and Life Insurance Company.

³Guarantees are based on the claims-paying ability of ING USA Annuity and Life Insurance Company.

⁴This is a summary only. Read the contract for complete details. The product and its features may not be available in all states and are subject to change.

⁵Withdrawals may be subject to Federal/State income tax and, if taken prior to age 59 1/2, an additional 10% Federal penalty tax.

⁶Gifts and other qualified plans already provide tax-deferred tax that provides for an annuity withdrawal schedule and benefits, such as contract guarantees, death benefits and the ability to receive a lifetime income are outlined within the contract for a fee. Please be sure the features and costs of the product are right for you when considering the purchase of the annuity.

⁷Neither the company nor its agents or representatives can provide tax, legal or accounting advice. Please consult your attorney to be advised about your specific circumstances.

⁸Contract form number 01-00-0000

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October 2008

Community Calendar

Every Wednesday

Breakfast Club networking group meeting, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m., Cracker Barrel. Contact (817) 295-2161.

Second and Fourth Wednesdays

Burleson Lions Club meeting, noon - 1:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church. Contact (817) 980-9436.

Every Thursday

Prime Time Connections networking group meeting, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m., Burleson Area Chamber of Commerce. Contact Kay Ray at (817) 703-8141.

Burleson Network Connection networking group meeting, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Sammy's Italian Restaurant. Contact (817) 295-2161.

Third Thursdays

American Business Women's Association (ABWA) Empowering Women Express Network meeting, 5:45 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center. RSVP to Daphne Brewer at (972) 723-6551.

Fourth Thursdays

ABWA's Burleson Charter Chapter, 6:30 p.m. for networking, 7:00 p.m. for meeting and meal at a local restaurant. RSVP to Linda Houst at (817) 295-7060 or ljh67@sbcglobal.net or Sue McKnight at (817) 295-3220.

Every Friday

Burleson Business Builders networking group meeting, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m., JJ Mocha's. Contact (817) 295-2161.

Every Saturday

Old Town Farmers Market, 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., City Market (formerly Bransom's grocery store). To reserve a booth, contact Kent George at (817) 447-5400, ext. 236.

October 7

Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, 6:00 p.m., City Hall. (817) 447-5400.

October 9

Burleson City Council meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall. (817) 447-5400.

October 11

Burleson's 15th Annual Founders' Day Celebration, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. in historic Old Town. Featuring carnival rides, musical entertainment, western gun fighters, tours of the Interurban Depot and Museum, historic self-guided walking tours, great foods, arts and crafts — all in homage of your city's original flavor. Founders Day spotlights the rich heritage of the Burleson community, founded on October 10, 1881. For more information or to reserve a vendor's booth, call (817) 447-3522 or (817) 343-2589.

October 13

Columbus Day. BISD schools will be closed.

October 14

Burleson Heritage Foundation meeting, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Heritage Visitors Center, 124 W. Ellison (the old Interurban Building in Old Town). (817) 447-1575.

October 21

City of Burleson Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, 6:00 p.m., City Hall.

October 21 - 24

TAKS Test Days at BISD.

October 23

Burleson City Council meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall. (817) 447-5400.

October 27

Burleson Independent School District Board meeting, 6:30 p.m., 1160 S.W. Wilshire Blvd. (817) 245-1000.

For more community events,
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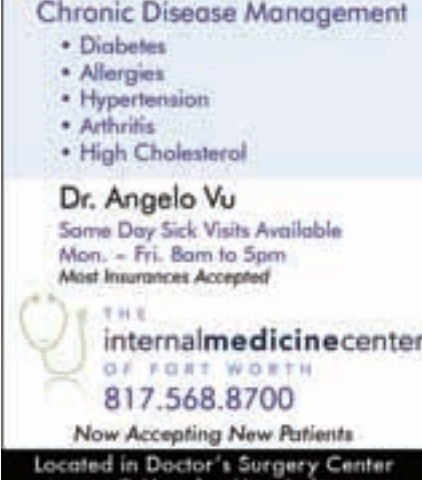


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