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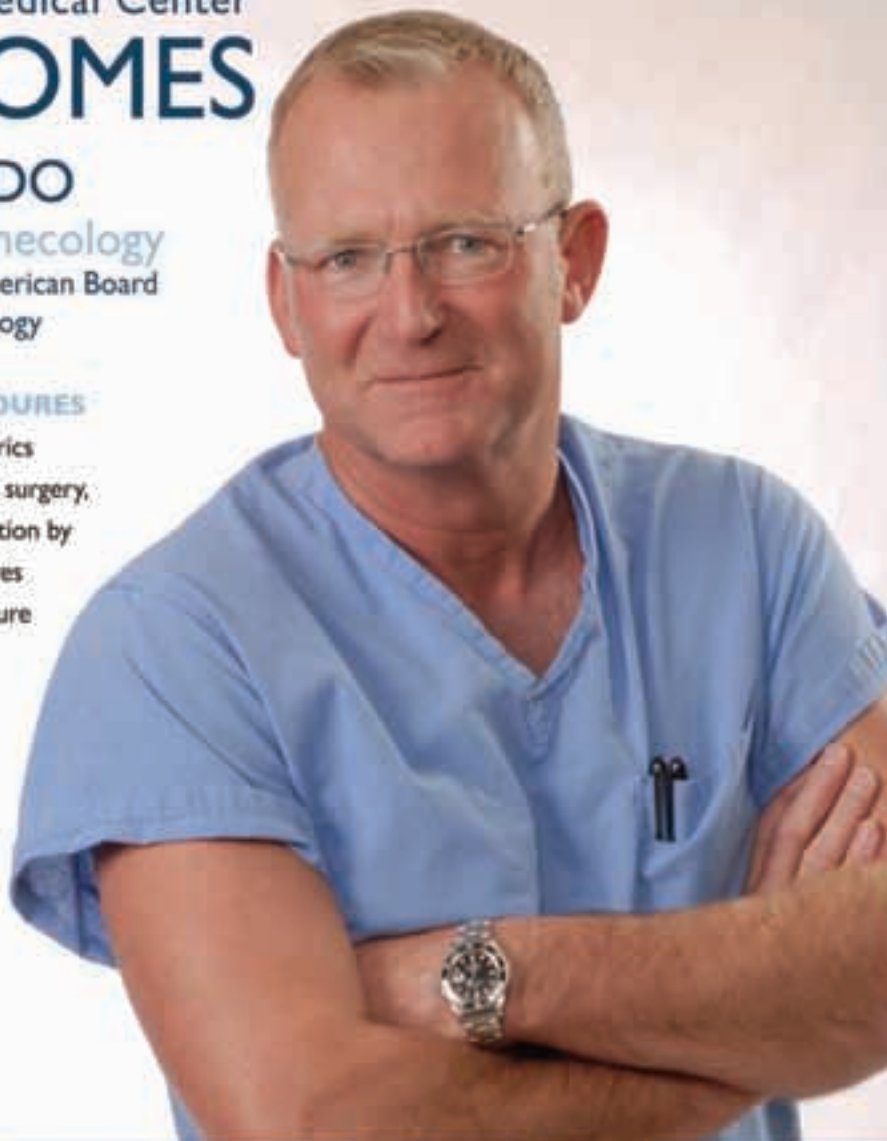
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## On The Cover



A cheery snoman at the Newberry home welcomes the holiday season.

*Photo by Amy Ramirez.*

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## Editor's Note

*Merry Christmas to you all!*

I've been "crazy busy" handcrafting Christmas gifts, mentally preparing for my new grandbaby and trying to get my home decorated for the holidays. My to do list seems endless this time of year. There's the party invitations you can't turn down, the unexpected visits from family members you haven't seen since last year and the candy making that begins weeks before the big day. It's the nature of the "holiday beast," but I know it would feel like something was missing without all of it.

Being "crazy tired" is synonymous with the hustle and bustle of Christmas, too. We spend endless hours wrapping presents for those we love. And what do they do? They tear into them, sending paper, bows and ribbons flying. We really should be remembering the true "reason for the season." It also has everything to do with a perfectly wrapped gift.

### Sandra

Sandra Strong  
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**Rebecca Guinn, M.D.**  
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*An Ennis Independent School District (ISD) afterschool class has become an inspiring exercise in community outreach. Thanks to a unique cooperation between the group and Ennis Regional Medical Center (ERMC), members of Leah Smith's high school art club are learning to draw and sculpt while appreciating the value of serving others.*





# and

— By Randy Bigham

# Soul

In an effort to break the monotony of hospital stays by adding interest to an otherwise static setting, Leah and her students contribute brightly-painted ceiling tiles to patients' rooms in the newly renovated children's wing at ERMC. Created personally by the students, each tile is an original design, depicting subjects from a brave Ennis lion to scenes based on themes that appeal to children. "With this program kids, who are lying sick in a hospital bed, can look up at a piece of art that brings [comfort]," Leah said. "And it's touching to know we have been able to help them get through that experience."

The idea to soothe a child through art may have been Leah's, but the passion with which the project has been embraced comes right from the big hearts of the 25 students who make up the afterhours club the teacher established last year. "These kids are in tune with their community and want to give something back," Leah said. "I sounded them on the plan, and they went for it. But they have made this their mission. They love it because they know their work is benefitting someone."

The concept of an art club with a charitable focus came about while Leah was teaching at Duncanville High School. A colleague suggested her students paint ceiling tiles to brighten up the school hallways, as well as children's hospitals in the area. "The idea was so great, I knew I wanted to try it when I came to Ennis," Leah explained. "I just jumped right in with it, and we had a good first group, and we have a good one again this year."

In the past, ERMC has encouraged Ennis High's art department by displaying students' work in

the facility, so there was little convincing necessary when Leah approached administration officials with a proposal to repeat the success her Duncanville class had enjoyed. "Ennis Regional was just then redoing its children's wing with themed rooms," she recounted, "and they asked if we could do tiles that would match the themes. I said 'You bet!'"

The members of Leah's afterschool club went to work at once, contributing three large 5x4 double tiles to three





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patient rooms. "It was a hit," she said, "and our club is now doing three more rooms at ERMCC, so we're really having a good time."

Leah believes art is the perfect medium for impacting lives. "The idea of art is to spark imagination, to create a story," Leah stressed. "Drawing people into the work on display, getting them to think about what the artist is saying; that's the purpose of art." She admits some art can be hard to interpret, but insists most forms of great art are direct in their affect, causing a distinct reaction in the viewer. She instructs her students to follow the route of inspiring feeling in their work, so observers can "get caught up in the emotion of it."

To this end, Leah sees the objective of her club as two-fold: training young people to express themselves artistically





and teaching them the importance of using their talent to better their community. "But really, they are teaching us now," Leah points out. "They care more about giving back than I ever expected. They're models for all of us to follow." The group is led by four student board members: Alma Avila (president), Jessica Gonzalez (vice president), Mayra Chavez (secretary) and Nayely Soto (fundraising chairperson).

In addition to fostering her club members' charitable spirit, Leah's goal is to expose them to world class art and culture. Last year, students were treated to field trips to Fort Worth to the Modern Art Museum and the Kimbell Art Museum. "They loved it, and I had a lot of fun, too," Leah recalled. "It was a blast." She promises museum tours again this year for her art club members who will vote on which venues they attend.

Leah confesses that with education cutbacks due to today's recessionary atmosphere, it's difficult to make ends meet for the club. "Buying paint and other supplies can be really expensive," she said, "so we have fundraisers to help us and, of course, we welcome sponsors." One church organization has recently donated ceiling tiles for the club's ERMIC efforts, and Leah and her students are grateful for the largesse.

Last year, the club took on in-class projects to raise money, selling coffee mugs, coasters, CD and DVD cases, flags

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and other products bearing students' artwork. Current fundraising plans involve a Gallery Night where Ennis High School art teachers will present their pupils' work. "Our art club will also participate," Leah said, "and hopefully we will sell some pieces."

Leah is proud of her classes, both Art 101 students and her club, for being such agile learners. "Some are just curious to learn more about art, and others have a natural gift and a love for it," she said. "But all are good." In her regular class, it's all business, but Leah is able to get to know the kids more in her art club, which is especially proactive and eager to tackle new projects from jewelry design to candle making, work the pupils are so pleased with on completion that they prefer to take them home instead of exhibit them in class. "I like to have their input in all that we do," Leah said. "I want to know what they are most interested in and we go from there."



Apparently, giving to others is what the club does best. Along with finishing the decorative ceiling tiles for ERMC's children's wing, members are now meeting twice a week to design Christmas and New Year's cards for local troops serving overseas. "The kids brought this up as something else they wanted to do to benefit the community," Leah said. "They have a deep sense of responsibility and want to reach out to make a difference, particularly at this time of year."

The club as a whole is motivated beyond Leah's expectations, being more culturally and politically aware than students she's taught at other schools. "The club members are not just in tune with what's happening in the world," Leah said, "they have a determination and energy that you can see, which tells you they're headed for something big. They have such drive. It's obvious they're future leaders." **NOW**





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# Saturday *Surprises*

— By Sandra Strong



## At Home With Brad and Connie Newberry

*Saturday mornings are self-proclaimed “adrenaline rushes” for Connie Newberry. “It’s like Christmas, once a week,” expressed her husband, Brad Newberry, as he looked around their home with pride at what she’s created.*

“Everything in here, and I mean everything,” she added, “came from one of my Saturday morning trips. I’m so excited when I leave the house early in the morning, because I’m never sure what I’m going to find.”

Garage, estate, moving and going-out-of-business sales seem to call Connie’s name. The fun for her is in the hunt, and the

thrill is experienced when she finds those items on her list.

“I know what I’m looking for most of the time,” she confessed. “And I know it when I find it.” As evidenced by their newly remodeled home and the Christmas winter wonderland Connie has created, both inside and out, she’s

had little trouble finding the “exact things” she’s been looking for. The home has a great deal of sentimental value to Brad. For





one reason — he spent his formative years here between the ages of 5 and 19. It wasn't until after his mother's passing that he realized what it really meant to him. "I feel like I've come home," he shared. "Some of the same people still live on the block; the same people who lived here when I was a kid."

For Connie, the home meant a blessing that had been spoken over her had come to pass. "My pastor's wife told me I was going to be blessed with something big," Connie confessed. A couple days later when Brad came home and shared the news, Connie knew the home was that



big blessing. "I thought the house was going to be too small for us," she added, "but I have to admit, I love it more and more every day!"

Brad didn't want to move into the three-bedroom, one-bath home until he and Connie had exchanged their wedding vows. He wanted everything to be just perfect. "I had one month to plan a wedding and move us from a much larger rent house into our new home," Connie explained. "But before we could move in, we had to get all his parents' stuff out."

Previous owners had closed in the garage to allow for a larger living room. Brad's mother opened up the kitchen, living room and eating area by having a couple walls removed. Several needed renovations took place before the newlyweds spent their first night in their new "old" home. A fresh coat of paint was added to the walls, and the flooring was completely redone. Local contractor, John Paul Monreal, added the tile flooring and gave new life to the original hardwood floors that were found when the old, blue, shag carpet was removed.

After the couple moved in, they began remodeling one room at a time, updating the home and bringing it into the 21st century. The country duck

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motif in the kitchen was replaced with a modern Tuscan theme in shades of green, accented by stonework, also the handiwork of John Paul.

Connie has been able to make the home cozy, warm and welcoming by visiting one sale after another, and she's been successful at staying on the budget she set for herself some time ago. "I never take more than \$25 with me on Saturday," she said. "If I have a \$1 in my pocket on Friday, I'll stop at a garage sale. I know I'll find something I need for that \$1. People think I'm crazy, but I don't care."

Every room in the house has been transformed to reflect the taste of the couple, except for one. The next and



final room on her list to remodel is the bathroom. Her goal is to add flagstone, remove the tub completely and add a walk-in shower. The process began with a mirror. "It cost \$30," Connie said, admitting the price nearly killed her. "But, I loved it and had to have it."

"It may take several weeks," Brad added, "but she always comes home with exactly what she's looking for. If she has it on her list, she will find it." Connie has even started "hunting" for family and friends from lists they have provided.

All her Christmas decorations for the



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holiday came from sales. The ornaments, twinkling lights and the Christmas tree are fabulous finds Connie has amassed over the years. People in the



community lovingly compare her home to the Grizzwald's as they "light up the entire neighborhood." Connie finds the comparison endearing.

When it comes to decorating, Connie was born with a natural talent. Decorating is something she's always loved to do, but Brad is always telling her "less is more" for holiday decor. "But then here I come," she said with a smile, "adding just one more thing to the yard



that's already full." She has more than enough lights to illuminate the entire neighborhood. Given the chance, she probably wouldn't hesitate to string them from one end of the block to the other. "You can never have enough lights," she laughed.

Connie has so many nice things to show from her Saturday morning jaunts. She has four bedding ensembles to choose from. Plain curtains, when dressed up with braid and beading, become specialty items with a personal

*John 3:16*



*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

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touch. The \$20 dresser in the master bedroom was given a new lease on life after Connie painted it using a process called “bagging.” The wall arrangement in the kitchen looks as if it was purchased as a grouping, but in reality Connie bought each piece at a different location over a period of several months. The \$20 kitchen sink once called Highland Park home.



All the black frames on the family’s “wall of fame” were Saturday surprises. Clothes she has bought are mixed and matched to make several outfits. A floor standing jewelry box is filled with rings, bracelets and necklaces, all of which Connie proudly purchased at garage sales.

The large-screen TV, couch, loveseat, lamps, end tables and coffee table are the only things in the home not purchased at a garage sale. They were a wedding gift from Brad’s sisters.

If anyone hears a voice in the distance saying, “Open, open, open,” assuredly it won’t be the lady from the old Mervyn’s



commercial. More than likely, it will be Connie standing on one side of the garage door, patiently waiting for the next Saturday surprise to catch her eye. **NOW**

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## CHOOSING HIS

# Passion

— By Chanda Willis

*Lately, Mike Hambrick has been viewing things in life through the eyes of his passion. He's been listening to the voice within his heart. "Sharing knowledge with scientific method behind fitness, becoming a better athlete and having a desire to share my experiences is what I really fully enjoy," Mike stated. "Coaching and training is what I've come to know as a lifestyle of mind over matter."*

After seven long years of training and participating in triathlons, Mike knew he wanted to share his passion with others. This desire to help others seemed to inspire and ignite a fire within him. "I spend so much time training myself and others to compete," he explained, "that I

have a great sense of pride in my overall performance. It extends out toward my training and coaching abilities."

Two years later, Mike is still on fire for the year-round sport that has given him so much. He ran the Boston Marathon, which consisted of 26.2 miles, and

completed an Ironman event (140.6 miles total), which included swimming 2.4 miles, cycling 112 miles and finishing with a marathon, completing the 140.6 miles in 11 hours. He did all this while working a full-time job, spending quality time with his family and religiously





training up to 20-25 hours per week.

As a seasoned competitor, Mike knows there are mental and physical attributes that come with triathlon training. These hurdles include perseverance, self-awareness, self-motivation, high energy level, self-examination, learning how to

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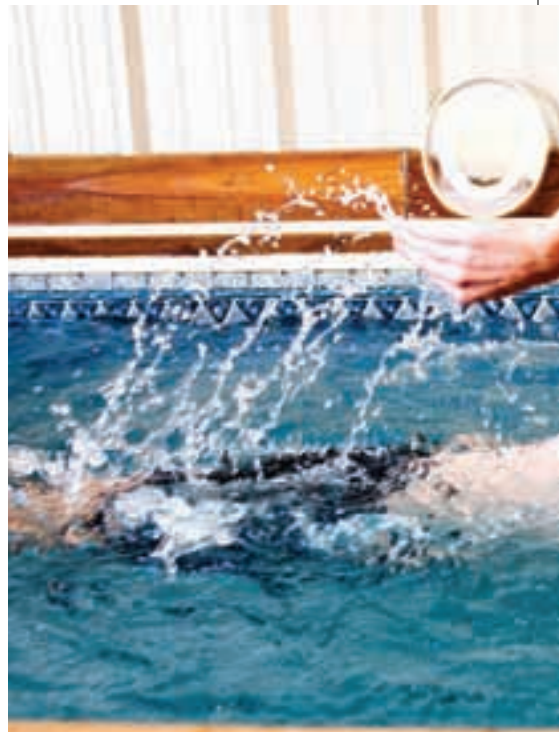
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take the initiative, positive attitude, and above all else, a deep passion and heart for the sport. “When the competitions get tough,” Mike stated, “you learn to listen to your body. You learn to know and feel the often constant pain and stay in tune with what your body is

**“I help them fill a void by helping them choose a lifestyle they can be passionate about.”**

telling you. You must know your limits — when to push and when to back off. You learn to take care of yourself, but you also know how to push your mental determination to the max.”

Although these virtues can be learned, it’s up to each individual to possess the desire to accomplish what they set out to do. The lifestyle Mike has chosen, and the one he shares with others, consists of one simple choice. “You must choose to discipline your mind, your entire body and your emotions through very strict training, and commitment,” Mike explained. “This is how I accomplish my workout goals.”

Mike has developed a personal monthly plan that is working for him.





He follows this plan without fail. This tough regime has helped him move up the marathon and Ironman competition ladder. "Taking the next step to marathons just means one thing," he shared. "It's mind over matter." The plan is basic and simple, much like any other athletic endeavor. Begin with short competitions. Once your body, both physically and mentally, has mastered this first level, you can move on to the next level. "Once you have worked your way through a half-marathon, then you can think about moving up to a full-marathon," Mike said. The same goes for the Ironman competitions. Start out small until you're ready to progress to a full Iron Man competition.

Leading by example is important to Mike. Coaching others means he must take care of his athletes' training sessions, while also staying on top of his own. But, Mike doesn't stress over the logistics of it all. His philosophy is to develop tailored fitness plans to meet the individual needs of his athletes, as well as their capabilities and personal goals. "The plans consist of almost everything," Mike said. "You need the proper amount of nutrition, hydration, rest and sleep to be the best you can be. Training the mind and the body are also important, but the desire to do well has to be there. In the end, all these things must come together in order to find success."

Choosing to follow his true passion means a sense of freedom for Mike. Not only is he able to offer advice from his vast experience to others, he's able to

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empower them to follow the desire that speaks to them from a place deep within themselves. "I teach them how to look inside their heart," Mike said. "I help them fill a void by helping them choose a lifestyle they can be passionate about."

Of all the events in a triathlon, running is Mike's strength. It also happens to be his favorite. "It may sound funny to others, but running de-stresses me," he admitted. "Running is like my therapy. It helps me relax and come back to a clear mind after a hard day."

His schedule and the schedules of his athletes would not be possible without the support of his wife, Tricia, and daughter, Autumn. They have shared in so many of his victories. "Once, after the end of a race," Mike remembered, "Autumn came forth baring a snow cone, and Tricia had a banana to comfort and support me, the exhausted daddy and husband. But all I felt like doing was puking; it was the thought that made me proud."

Finding a balance between his job as a distribution manager, an adult triathlon coach, his own personal training and spending quality time with his family is the hardest task of all. Mike struggles with it at times. "The hardest thing for me is time away from my family," Mike declared. "Some days, I get it right and other days I don't, but I always strive for balance."

Mike would love for Autumn to one day share in his passion. It could easily be something they did together, thus it could be classified as family time. "I've been trying to make a bribe to my daughter, an exchange really," Mike laughed. "An iPhone for her, but only if she participates in a triathlon for kids for me." Just recently Autumn asked her dad if the deal was still on. "She really wants that iPhone," he said, "but she's not too keen on what she has to endure to get it."

Mike's life seems to have very little free time these days. When he isn't coaching his athletes for triathlons or general fitness, he can be found in a myriad of other places. He works his manager's job by day and trains for his year-round passion by night. "The mind has to be the motivator," Mike reiterated. "In the end, it's all about passion, balance and a lifestyle choice." Mike freely admits that he is living his dream because he chose to follow his passion. **NOW**





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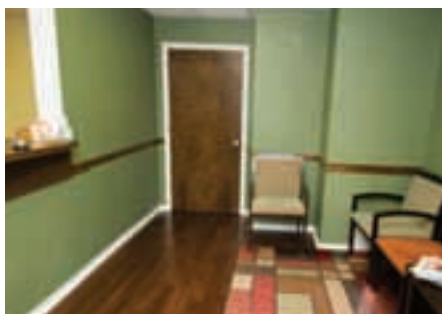
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**From left:**

Glen D. Wilson, CPA, Tracie Wood and Greer Yeldell, CPA. Staff members pose outside. You can wait in a comfortable waiting area.



# Focused to Serve

*The main goal is still client success and satisfaction.*

— By Sandra Strong

Life, with its many twists and turns, brought Glen Wilson, CPA and Witherspoon, Yeldell & Co., P.C. together in August of 2001. The success Yeldell, Wilson & Co., P.C. enjoy today is a result of two like firms coming together. “It couldn’t have worked out better,” Greer Yeldell added. “It was fortunate that Glen was here when Gary Witherspoon left the firm to pursue other opportunities in 2005.”

Currently, there are three partners – Greer, Glen and Tracie Wood, who was made a partner in 2005. As partners, they each have their area of expertise within the firm. Greer oversees all audits, while Glen is the tax partner. Tracie’s partnering duties are far-reaching. “She is over our bookkeeping and payroll departments,” Greer shared, “but also manages a high

volume of audit clients.”

The three partners take pride in the firm’s staff, each of whom are not afraid of long hours and difficult, detailed work. “They are the pillars of what makes the firm successful at servicing its clients,” Greer and Glen both agreed.

Although the firm’s main focus involves tax and audit services, they also process payrolls and handle monthly bookkeeping responsibilities for outside entities. “Audits are a way companies can know on paper that their financial statements are not materially misstated,” Greer said.

“A lot of firms don’t perform audits,” Greer added. “You’re either in or you’re out of that type service with its own set of standards.”



The benefits of an “unqualified opinion” from an audit, the best rating you can receive, provide different things for different entities. Two good examples are governmental and corporate audits. “Municipal audits are helpful when issuing bonds and applying for grants,” Greer explained. “Corporate audits are helpful when a corporation is securing financing for expanding its operations. The goal is to assist clients in obtaining funding from various sources.”

The work for the upcoming tax season intensifies later this month. For Glen, the last couple of months of the year are devoted to preparing for the upcoming tax season. “I begin looking at client information,” Glen said, “to continue the process of year-end tax planning for them, working to minimize the tax liabilities they may have.”

The full- and part-time staff members in addition to the three partners comprise the firm’s total of 22 employees. This large number is not at all surprising given the different areas and volume of work at Yeldell, Wilson & Co., P.C. There are four predominate areas of service within the firm – payroll (three employees), tax (six employees), audit (three employees) and bookkeeping (five employees). The two remaining staff members are found in the area of administration. Of the total 22 in the firm, six are certified public accountants and eight others are degreed accountants.

In keeping up with the constant changes in the areas of tax and audit, continuing education classes are a must for all employees. The firm offers in-house training seminars and external courses for the tax and audit professionals within the firm before the busy seasons get fully underway. “The three-day, in-house tax training event brings everyone up-to-date on any new tax laws,” Glen said. “It allows us to do year-end tax planning efficiently and accurately.”

Accuracy and customer service are the main things Yeldell, Wilson & Co., P.C. has relied on to grow the firm. The focus has always been the client – servicing the client and helping the client become more successful. It’s this top-of-the-line accuracy and customer service clients have come to expect year after year. **NOW**



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Bowie student Sara Ruiz honors her father, Veteran Mike Ruiz.



Carol Rejcek from Apple Annie's Garden Gate Floral and Gifts hands out candy at the Ghosts and Goblins Bash.



Logan Payne wins 1st in forms and 3rd in sparring at a recent karate competition.



A ribbon cutting is held for Ennis Flowers.



Chief Ross Jones, Joseph Smith, Anthony R. Watson, Jesse Ferry and Matthew Rags are veterans honored at the Bowie Elementary Veterans Day Program.

*Merry Christmas from our Home to Yours*

A red cardinal is perched on a branch, looking towards the camera.

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# The GYN and You

— By Dr. George Kingsley

A visit to the gynecologist evokes many thoughts and behaviors — embarrassment, fear, procrastination and denial. In fact, many women rate a pap and pelvic exam right up there with a root canal on their list of least favorite activities. Nonetheless, finding a gynecologist you trust and are comfortable with has never been more important. It seems that the recommendations for health screening change so often that confusion is common. Here's a quick guide for women's health care throughout your life.

## Adolescence

This is a time to consider establishing a relationship with a gynecologist to discuss the wide variety of changes young women experience. It is an important time to begin educating girls about their bodies and what is "normal." This is also an opportunity to consider if vaccinations against the HPV virus are appropriate (ideally done at age 11 or 12). Rarely are pelvic exams necessary in this age group so discussions can be held while fully clothed.

## Teens

Sexual activity among teens brings a wide variety of health issues from STDs, teen pregnancy (both desired and unplanned), weight issues and/or body image crisis. Teens need to feel completely at ease discussing their feelings and experiences in these areas. A visit with the gynecologist allows them to make more informed decisions about when to begin sexual activity, as well as how to take responsibility for their health decisions. Contraception and STD prevention is a critical issue for teens. Learning how to establish healthy lifestyles at a young age is essential.

## Young Adults

The first pap and pelvic exam may occur with a pregnancy exam. For non-pregnant women, a breast exam, pap test and pelvic examination begins routinely at age 21. Current guidelines recommend screening every two years in ages 21-29.

Less frequent pap testing should not mean avoiding a visit to the gynecologist altogether. Annual evaluations allow for other screening, including weight and blood pressure, reviewing current choices for birth control and timing of childbearing. Optimizing health and planning a pregnancy can dramatically reduce risks and complications.

## Older Adults

Annual examination with breast cancer screening is a major focus. A breast examination should be performed by your gynecologist every year. Routine mammography screening begins at age 40 and should be repeated every one to two years. After age 50, mammography should be done annually. This is also an important time to discuss the changes that occur during the peri-menopause — the two to 10 years prior to menopause. During this time, menstrual irregularities, as well as hormonal fluctuations are common. Although hormone replacement therapy is not routinely recommended, it may be appropriate for some women who find the symptoms most bothersome.

## Golden Years

Post-menopausal women still need to maintain a regular evaluation cycle. Though no longer concerned with pregnancy or menstrual problems, they often have issues with osteoporosis, sexual dysfunction and increasing risks for gynecologic cancers. Annual visits help to make sure specific risk factors are addressed and screening tests are properly scheduled. Early diagnosis of a cancer results in much lower rates of pain, suffering and death.

In short, you should not fear or dread your visit to the gynecologist. Over time, honest and open communication with your gynecologist will prove to be an excellent investment in your health. **NOW**

Dr. George Kingsley  
Obstetrics & Gynecology  
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# When Investing, “Face to Face” Beats Fingers on a Keyboard

— By *Jeff Irish*

These days, you can purchase just about anything you want on the Internet. However, you can still benefit from a human, face-to-face experience for some purchases — such as your investments. And that’s why you may want to work with a financial professional. Unlike a computer interface, a financial professional will take the time to truly know your situation today — and then help you make adjustments tomorrow.

Let’s first look at two key areas a financial professional will consider today:

- **Your risk tolerance** — By asking the right questions, a financial professional can help you determine if you’re a moderate, conservative or aggressive investor and then recommend those investments that are suitable for your risk tolerance.

- **Your time horizon** — If you’re saving for a down payment on a new home you expect to purchase within two or three years, you may want an investment that offers significant preservation of principal. But if you’re saving for retirement, and you’re three decades away from it, you’ll likely need investments that offer the potential for growth. Your financial advisor can help you choose the mix of short- and long-term investments that can help you make progress toward all your goals.

Now, let’s look at the types of milestones that a financial professional can help you with as your life progresses:

- **New child** — When you bring a new child into your life, you also add new responsibilities. Do you have sufficient life insurance? Do you plan on helping the child pay for college? If so, what college funding vehicles should you consider? A

financial professional can help you answer these questions.

- **New spouse** — Whether you’re getting married for the first time or you’re remarriage, you’ll have to reconcile your financial picture with that of your new spouse. A financial professional can review both your situations and possibly recommend ways for you to reduce debt, eliminate redundancies in your investment portfolios and consolidate insurance coverage.

- **Career change** — When you change jobs, you may have to make many investment-related decisions: Should you move the assets from your old employer’s 401(k) to an IRA? Or should you roll over your old 401(k) to your new employer’s plan, if a rollover is allowed? Knowing your options when you leave your job can help you make the right choice for your retirement savings. A qualified financial professional can help you review and understand your rollover options.

- **Retirement** — Once you retire, you’ll have several issues to consider: How much can you withdraw from your investments each year? From which accounts? Should you rebalance your portfolio to provide more potential sources of income? What about the transfer of your wealth? A financial professional who is familiar with your situation can help you make the right moves to enjoy the retirement lifestyle you’ve envisioned.

So, when you really want to invest, leave the “virtual” world behind and connect with a financial professional — someone who has gained insight into your individual needs and who has the experience and expertise to help you build, maintain and adjust a portfolio that can help you move toward your goals. **NOW**

*Jeff Irish is an Edward Jones representative based in Ennis.*

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

During this holiday season and every day of the year, we wish you all the best.

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# Calendar

DECEMBER 2011

## All Month

*My Favorite Christmas* is playing at Ennis Public Theatre, North Ennis Business Park, 2705-C N. Kaufman Street. Call (972) 878-7529 for more information on specific dates and show times.

Lights of Ennis. Historic downtown Ennis will be decorated for the holiday season with thousands of white lights.

## December 2, 3

Waxahachie Junior Service League Christmas Market and Preview Party: **Friday**, 6:00-9:00 p.m., **Saturday**, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center. Preview party will feature an exclusive shopping experience that includes cocktails, refreshments, live entertainment and a silent auction. Friday admission: \$25 and is good for Saturday also. Saturday's market will feature unique gifts, photos with Santa, door prizes and more. WJSL cookbooks will also be available for purchase. Saturday only admission: \$5, children 10 and under are free. For more information, visit [www.waxahachiejssl.org](http://www.waxahachiejssl.org). To purchase tickets in advance, call (214) 636-2020.

## December 9-11

New Hope Christmas Program: 7:00 p.m., 2005 E. Ennis Avenue. Admission is free for all ages. For more information, please call us at (865) 607-1163.

## December 19-30

EISD Winter Break

## December 24

Christmas Eve services: 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 300 N. Sherman. Bring your whole family to "Carols, Candles and Communion." For more information, call (972) 875-7491.

## Ongoing:

## Mondays and Wednesdays

Sign Language Class: 4:00-5:15 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Avenue, Ennis. Classes are free and available for all ages. No sign up required.

## Third Mondays

Ellis County Aggie Moms meeting: 7:00 p.m. at Waxahachie First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin, Waxahachie. For more information, visit [www.elliscountyyaggiemoms.org](http://www.elliscountyyaggiemoms.org).

## Fourth Mondays

Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County: 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 Grand Avenue.

## Third Wednesdays

The Ellis County Christian Women's Connection: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Waxahachie Country Club.

For more information, contact Kay at (972) 935-2054 or Margaret at (972) 937-1016 for reservations. Cost is \$13.

## Thursdays

Chess for Kids: 6:00-7:30 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Avenue, Ennis. Elementary age and above. No sign up required.

## First and Third Thursdays

Mom's Connected: 9:30-11:30 a.m., Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1200 Country Club Rd. Free fellowship for moms of all ages. For more information, contact [ennismoms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ennismoms@sbcglobal.net).

## Third Fridays

Veterans Networking Group: 6:00 p.m., Zula's Coffee House, 1804 West Highway 287 Business. For more information, contact Mike Lamb at (214) 763-0378 or at [vetsnetgrp@att.net](mailto:vetsnetgrp@att.net).

## Fourth Saturdays

Bristol Opry: 7:00 p.m., featuring local singers and musicians. Sponsored by Bristol Cemetery Association and Caring Hands of Bristol. For more information, contact Jim Gatlin at (972) 846-2211.

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to [sskoda.nowmag@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sskoda.nowmag@sbcglobal.net).*

**Happy Holidays**  
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## In The Kitchen With Melinda Shaw

— *By Sandra Strong*

It seems as if Melinda Shaw has been cooking all her life. “I always wanted to help my mom and grandmothers cook,” she remembered. “I would help them pick the garden, can and freeze the items, bake, whatever they were doing in the kitchen I wanted to do, too.”

Melinda always prepares a birthday dinner for each family member. Holidays mean some of the family’s favorite dishes, but Melinda also loves introducing a new dish to the festivities. “The whole family enjoys decorating cookies at Christmas,” Melinda shared. “I will make the dough, and then everyone in the family will cut out and decorate the cookies. As Me-Maw, I’m looking forward to the help I’ll get from Lainey and Will as we decorate Christmas cookies.” **NOW**

### Hawaiian Delight Pie

- 1 small pkg. instant vanilla pudding**
- 1 8-oz. can crushed pineapple**
- 1 8-oz. Cool Whip**
- 1 cup pecans, chopped**
- 1 graham cracker pie crust**
- 2-3 bananas**
- 1 pt. fresh strawberries**

- 1.** In a large mixing bowl combine pudding and the entire can of pineapple together.
- 2.** Mix until pudding is dissolved and not powdery.
- 3.** Gently mix in Cool Whip and pecans.
- 4.** Layer sliced bananas onto bottom of pie crust; pour pudding mix on top. Garnish with sliced strawberries.

### Pork Chop/Potato Casserole

- 5-6 pork chops**
- 2 cups buttermilk**
- 1-2 cups flour, seasoned with salt and pepper to taste**
- 4-5 potatoes**
- 1 onion**
- Butter**
- 1 10.5-oz. can cream mushroom soup**
- 1 5-oz. canned milk**

- 1.** Dip pork chops in buttermilk; then in seasoned flour. Brown thoroughly and set aside to drain.
- 2.** Slice potatoes thinly; slice onion and separate into rings.
- 3.** In long buttered casserole dish, arrange

- sliced potatoes, rings of onion; salt and pepper to taste and dollop with butter.
- 4.** Lay pork chops on top of potatoes.
- 5.** Mix soup and milk together. Pour soup mixture over the pork chops and potatoes.
- 6.** Cover with foil. Bake at 350 F for about 1 1/2 to 2 hours or until tender.

### Blueberry Crunch

- 1 21-oz. can blueberry pie filling**
- 1 cup pecans, chopped**
- 1 box white cake mix**
- 1 stick butter, melted**

- 1.** Layer the pie filling in a casserole dish.
- 2.** Sprinkle pecans on top of the pie filling.
- 3.** Pour the box of cake mix on top of the pie filling. Then pour the melted butter on top of that.
- 4.** Bake on 400 F for 30 minutes or until lightly browned.

### Corn Casserole

- 1 11-oz. can shew peg corn, drained**
- 1 15-oz. can summer sweet corn, drained**
- 1 11-oz. can fiesta corn, drained**
- 1 stick butter**
- 12 oz. cream cheese**
- 4 Tbsp. flour**
- 1 cup milk**
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 3 jalapeños**
- Grated cheese**

- 1.** Pour drained corn in the casserole dish. Add the butter and cream cheese; melting it all together. (I melt mine in the microwave.)
- 2.** Mix together the flour, milk, salt and jalapeños. Add this mixture to the corn mixture.
- 3.** Bake, uncovered, 375 F for 30 minutes. Sprinkle grated cheese on top and cook for 5-10 more minutes.

### Sausage Balls

- 1 lb. sausage, uncooked**
- 2 cups Bisquick Baking Mix**
- 1 pkg. grated cheddar cheese**

- 1.** Mix together the sausage and Bisquick Baking Mix.
- 2.** Add cheese; mix together well.
- 3.** Make into small balls and place on baking pan. Bake at 350 F until brown, turning every 15 minutes.