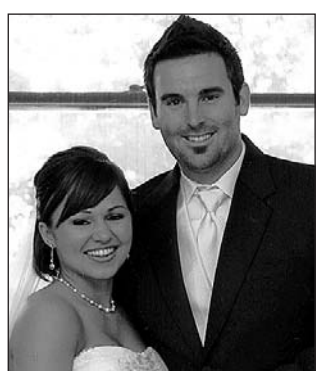


Weddings



Valerie and Cole McGee

Brax-McGee

Valerie Brax and Cole McGee were married June 21, 2008, in Paola.

Parents of the couple are Don and Kathy Brax of Washington and Curtis and Debbie McGee of Olathe.

Maid and matron of honor were Tiffany Brax of Washington and Lynette Hiebert of Hillsboro. Best man was Trent McGee of Olathe.

The bride graduated from Washington High School, Manhattan Christian College and Kansas State University-Manhattan. She is a teacher in the Olathe School District.

The groom graduated from Berean Christian School and Manhattan Christian College. He is a children's minister at Olathe Christian Church.

They are at home in Olathe.



Ashley and Mike Murphy

Alkire-Murphy

Ashley Alkire and Mike Murphy were married April 12, 2008, at Central Christian Church in Belleville. The Rev. Randy Paugh of Belleville officiated.

Parents of the couple are Mike and Colleen Alkire of Belleville and Jeff and Linda Murphy of Kinsley. Matron of honor and best man were Lindsey Craft and Kevin Coss, both of Kinsley.

The bride graduated from Belleville High School. She is a 911 dispatcher for the Hays Police Department.

The groom graduated from Kinsley High School. He works for Auto-Chlor.

They are at home in Hays.



Al and Amy Tamimi

Cossaart-Tamimi

Amy Cossaart and Al Tamimi were married Aug. 1, 2008, at the home of the bride's family in Hutchinson.

Parents of the couple are Jerry Ricksecker and Sharon Stephenson, both of Hutchinson, and Abas and Sana Tamimi of Israel.

Maid of honor was Ashley Cossaart of Hays.

The bride graduated from Sterling College with a degree in communications.

The groom graduated from Wichita State University with a degree in electrical engineering. He works for Sunflower Electric, Hays.

They are at home in Hays.

Watch this: Cell phones taking over

Young adults lose the wrist watch in favor of their phones

By DAVID HO
Cox News Service

NEW YORK — In the age of the cell phone, is time running out for the wrist watch? Charlie Wollman thinks so. The 16-year-old student from New Jersey doesn't own a watch. To tell time, he pulls out his wireless phone or glances at public clocks.

"A phone has more accurate time, automatically switches time zones and is always with you," said Wollman, who edits the TeenTech-Blog Web site. He said he might wear a watch someday to make an impression, but as his generation grows up and goes to work, "the watch may increasingly lose meaning."

With more teens and young adults sharing that opinion, the watch industry is at a crossroads.

"It's definitely true that we're seeing a decline in the number of watches sold to younger people," said Louis Galie, senior vice president for technology at Timex Corp., the top U.S. watch maker. He said fewer young people wear watches today than five years ago.

Watch buying also is down overall. In 2007, 30 percent of adults said they bought a watch within the last year, compared to 35 percent in 2004, according to Experian Consumer Research.

Worldwide, the number of watches sold is down about 20 percent since 2005, Galie said. He said the biggest sales declines are with low-end models, especially sub-\$10 watches that represent 15 to 20 percent of the market's total value.

However, the watch industry still does very well at making money, with last year the best ever and global revenues up 15 percent since 2005, Galie said. He said sales are steady

for mid-priced watches costing up to \$150 and are improving above that, with substantial growth for watches costing \$1,000 and up.

Still, a question looms: Will the current generation of young people, who eschew watches, keep their wrists bare as they get older?

"The entire jewelry industry, not to mention the economy of Switzerland, is waiting for the answer," joked Jeffrey Cole, director of the Center for the Digital Future, which looks at the social effects of technology.

Cole said his focus groups pointed to the surprising trend of many teens not wearing watches and telling time with phones. A small follow-up survey with about 500 people last December found more than 60 percent of people aged 12 to 24 don't wear watches, he said.

The center's research, now in its eighth year, also shows that many teens still don't wear watches when they

reach their early 20s, he said.

The watch industry has already lost some seasonal gains around graduation time, when watches were once popular gifts, said Timothy Dowd, an analyst with the Packaged Facts product research firm. He said kids want portable electronics instead.

"Even if there's a little bump up for a little while, I have a feeling the industry should be hedging their bets," he said. "Long term, rival devices are going to just keep taking dollars away from the watch market."

But Galie of Timex is optimistic, saying that watches regain popularity when consumers reach their 20s and 30s. He said that pattern has already happened in Europe and Asia and may become clear in the U.S. in a few years.

"There's something about the watch as an item of jewelry which brings people back to it, not just to tell time,"

Galie said. He said a watch also is one of the few widely accepted jewelry options for men.

Cole agreed that the cell phone timekeeping trend is not "a Rolex problem," saying people don't spend \$5,000 on a watch to keep appointments.

Galie said the watch industry is struggling to remake its identity.

"Are watches relevant at all any more for their primary function ... telling time? The answer may be no," he said. Galie said the watch business is "going from an industry which was inherently functional to an industry which becomes more inherently decorative."

Traditional mechanical watches are regaining prominence after decades of dominance by battery-powered models, he said. At the other extreme, high-tech is popular, especially in sports watches that include global positioning technology and other features.

Books / Test scores show value of reading

FROM PAGE B1

"Then you'll have parents who have never read to their kids. This is a good time to talk to them about reading to their kids instead of just sitting them in front of the TV."

In the three years Senseman has participated in the program, she's given away several thousand books, from Dr. Seuss to Clifford the Dog to bulldozer books for boys.

"Parents can keep track of their kids' developmental stages through the books they read," Senseman said.

The Turn a Page, Touch a Mind program was brought to Salina in 2004 by pediatricians Dr. Edgar Rosales and Dr. Shashi Sharma at Mowery Clinic, 737 E. Crawford.

At that time, Rosales was president of the Kansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

"I received a call from the Kansas Health Foundation, who were interested in

funding a literacy program in Kansas," Rosales said. "The original program, 'Reach Out and Read,' was designed for indigent families, and they wanted to expand it to include all children in the state."

'We were floored'

The Kansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics received a \$760,000 grant from the Kansas Health Foundation to start the literacy program.

"We were floored," Rosales said. "A great grant would have been \$50,000, and we thought we'd get about \$10,000."

By the end of the first year of the program, Rosales and Sharma had given away nearly 1,500 books to children under their care.

"The program was created as much for parents as it is for children," Rosales said.

"It creates an interaction between parents and their children. Hopefully, it will encourage parents to go

out and buy more books for their children."

The Kansas Health Foundation was so impressed at the positive results that in 2005 they offered a challenge grant of \$1 million dollars, if a matching million dollars could be raised by the Kansas Pediatric Foundation, the charitable arm of the Kansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The \$1 million took about two years to raise, Rosales said, with funding from private donors.

The \$2 million will be used to create a permanent endowment fund to purchase books for physicians participating in the Turn a Page, Touch a Mind program in Kansas.

There now are 20 Kansas sites serving children in 14 communities, including Salina, Hays, Abilene, Topeka, Garden City, Hutchinson, Newton and Wichita.

"The money will be able

to buy books for generations to come," said Beth Shearer, Salina, director of development for the Kansas Pediatric Foundation.

By 2007, books distributed by statewide sites totaled more than 46,000 at a cost of \$174,641.

Why this matters to you

To add more sites to the program will require more funding, Shearer said, but the effort will pay off in great dividends in the long run.

"There are tests showing that kids who read books score better on vocabulary tests," Shearer said. "By the fourth grade, they're reading at a higher level."

Salinan Jennifer Barnett and her daughter, Brookelyn, 4, have been reading books together since Brookelyn was 6 months old. That was when Dr. Rosales presented Brookelyn with her first book, "It's All About Baby."

"She took to books right

away," Jennifer said as her daughter shyly buried her head in her mother's shoulder. "She loves books. She carries them around all the time, and we always read before bed."

On this day, during Brookelyn's 4-year check-up, she and Jennifer read Brookelyn's new book, "Maisy's Bedtime" three times before they left Rosales' office.

Jennifer said reading at such an early age has made a marked difference in Brookelyn's learning skills.

"She knows her ABCs and can count to 30 now because of the counting books she's read," Jennifer said. "I think it will help her out with her education down the road. I didn't read a lot as a child, so it makes me feel good that she's into books and enjoys them."

■ Reporter Gary Demuth can be reached at 822-1405 or by e-mail at gdemuth@salina.com.

School / Daydreaming is all right

FROM PAGE B1

14. The gifts of being well fed, well rested, well mannered and well covered for medical, dental and after-school care.

15. The confidence to deal with bullies (stand up straight, look them in the eye, don't start a fight, but don't back down); how to ask questions (raise your hand and wait to be called

on); and to never stop asking questions, especially "why?"

16. To be the best or at least pretty good at something; and to know that it's OK not to be good at everything.

17. To spend more time with humans and less with machines.

18. To have nothing to do once in a while but daydream.

19. To have someone love them unconditionally, regardless of their grades; someone to "beam" at them, to light up when they walk into the room.

20. Finally, they need to know that school won't last forever, but learning is a lifelong process.

And even if their mom forgets to make pictures, she'll always think they look pretty cute.

Babies

Skylar Ann Douglas

A daughter, Skylar Ann, was born June 20, 2008, to Ryan and Sheila Douglas of Salina.

Siblings are Kobe, 5, and Jace, 3.

Grandparents are Gary and Shirley Cihal of Dwight, Neb., and Steve and Nancy Douglas of Lincoln, Neb.

Great-grandparents are Rodney and Helen Poe and Mary Cihal, all of Seward, Neb.; Robert and Helen Douglas of Malmo, Neb.; and Audrey Hansen of Omaha, Neb.

Elliot Graeme Knox

A son, Elliot Graeme, was born Aug. 9, 2008, to William V. III and Jeanne E. Knox of Lake Dallas, Texas.

Siblings are Emily Faye, 11, and Griffin Campbell, 9.

Grandparents are Dr. John G. and Marilyn J. Bonaguro of Boerne, Texas; William V. Knox of McRae, Ark.; and LaVonne R. Knox of Salina.

Great-grandfather is William V. Knox of Harmony, N.C.

Maggie Elizabeth Scheck

A daughter, Maggie Elizabeth, was born July 7, 2008, to Corey and Catherine Scheck of Salina.

Siblings are Allison, 3.

Grandparents are Martin and Renda Weaver and Richard and Sylvia Rice, all of Salina, and Kenneth Scheck of Russell.

Great-grandparents are William Weaver of Salina and Ila Siemers and Maxine and Melvin Scheck, all of Russell.

Rebecca Ann Schutz

A daughter, Rebecca Ann, was born Aug. 6, 2008, to Vince and Laurie Schutz of Salina.

Siblings are Sarah, 11, and Hannah, 2.

Grandparents are Betty Christensen of Salina, Damon and Laura Christensen of Concordia and Wilfred and Mary Pahls of Tipton.

Nikolas Aaron Stoppel

A son, Nikolas Aaron, was born July 25, 2008, to

Aaron and Mandy Stoppel of Salina.

Siblings are Dylan, 9, and Anissa, 11.

Grandparents are Don and Cher Giersch, Larry and Sherry Wagoner and Ken Stoppel, all of Salina.

Great-grandmother is Regina Stoppel of Ness City.

Laser Aesthetics



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