



Dacey Malone of Titan Bank explains debit card fraud at Women + Wealth + Wisdom.

## Women + Wealth + Wisdom a hit

In March, Corner Post Financial Planning hosted Women + Wealth + Wisdom, a workshop just for women featuring presenters from woman-owned businesses and women executives. 35 attended.

Dacey Malone, Executive Vice President of Titan Bank, discussed challenges in keeping debit cards secure, and Investment Centers of America, Inc.'s Debbie Chandler gave an overview of financial con-

cerns unique to women.

Mandy Woodring, owner of The Cellar, led a wine-sampling, and we rounded out the evening with a discussion of timeless home décor by Melinda Alexander, high-end global antiques dealer.

Corner Post Financial Planning owner John R. Berry organized Women + Wealth + Wisdom as part of a yearlong educational series supported by Titan Bank.

## Client Corner | Karen & Tad Jarrett, Palo Pinto Co.

Karen and Tad Jarrett have built a great life together since he moved to Palo Pinto County to open a veterinary practice in 1987. Just as Brazos Animal Hospital in Mineral Wells has thrived, so has the Jarretts' family.

Karen hails from Mineral Wells, and Tad is from Mission, Texas.

The Jarretts have three adult children, Angie, Chris, and Nicole—all of whom remain in the area—as well as two grandchildren, Pierson, 10, and Riley, 9. Eight cats and



dogs are also a big part of life on their rural property.

They spend much of their free time at Palo Pinto County Cowboy Church, where they hold leadership roles. The family also likes to take hikes on their acreage and play games with the grandchildren.

**You are invited!**

## Securing your future: The role of Social Security

Maximizing your benefits,  
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5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 15

Hosted and sponsored by:

**TITAN**Bank

1701 E. Hubbard St.

Mineral Wells, TX 76067

RSVP: (940) 325-9800

Speaker

John R. Berry, CFP®

Corner Post Financial Planning

## Team Member Update

Jodie Barnes



Jodie operates Corner Post Financial Planning's office located inside Graham Savings.

Prior to stepping into the role of financial advisor, Jodie was administrative assistant in the Mineral Wells office of Corner Post. She won national recognition in 2012 for her work as an assistant from Investment Centers of America, Inc. (ICA).

A Leadership Mineral Wells grad, Jodie is a member of the Graham Lions Club and teaches Junior Achievement.

Jodie is married to Rob, mother to Robyn and Jessica, and "JoJo" to granddaughter Embree.

# Financial spring cleaning\*

It's springtime—time to take stock of your surroundings and get rid of the dirt and clutter you've accumulated this past year. In addition to typical spring cleaning tasks, you may want to take this time to focus on your finances, in particular your debt situation. Here are some tips to help you get you started.

### **Determine whether it makes sense to refinance**

If you have consumer loans, such as a mortgage or an auto loan, look at your interest rates. If you are paying higher-than-average interest rates, you may want to consider refinancing to a lower interest rate, which can result in lower monthly payments and potentially less interest paid over the loan's term.

Keep in mind that refinancing often involves its own costs (e.g., points and closing costs for mortgage loans) that should be calculated into how much refinancing might save you.

### **Consider loan consolidation**

Loan consolidation involves rolling small individual loans into one larger loan, allowing you to make only one monthly payment instead of many.

Consolidating your loans makes it easier to focus on paying down debt. Also, you may be able to get a lower interest rate or extend the loan term. Keep in mind, however, that if you extend the

repayment term on a consolidated loan, it could take you longer to get out of debt and you may end up paying more interest.

### **Decide whether to invest your money or pay off debt**

Another way to reduce your debt load is to take cash you normally would put toward certain investments and use it to pay down your debt. Compare the current and anticipated rate of return on your investments with interest you would pay on your debt. In general, if you would earn less on investments than you would pay in interest on your debts, using extra cash to pay off debt may be the smarter choice.

### **Come up with a strategy to eliminate credit card debt**

If you have a significant amount of credit card debt, come up with a payment strategy to help eliminate it. Options include:

- ♦ Making lump-sum payments with any inheritance or employment bonus
- ♦ Prioritizing repayments toward cards with the highest interest rates
- ♦ Utilizing balance transfers
- ♦ Making additional payments

Making more than the required minimum payment is especially important when it comes to credit card debt. If you only make the minimum payment, you'll carry the bulk of your balance forward for many years without reducing your overall balance.

\*These are the views of Broadridge and not necessarily of the named representative or ICA and should not be construed as investment advice. Neither the named representative nor ICA gives tax or legal advice. All information is believed to be from reliable sources; however, we make no representation as to its completeness or accuracy. Please consult your Financial Advisor for further information.

# Financial lessons from Spring Training\*

Spring training is a tradition that baseball teams and baseball fans look forward to every year. No matter how they did last year, teams in spring training are full of hope that a new season will bring a fresh start. As this year's baseball season gets under way, here are a few lessons from America's pastime that might help you reevaluate your finances.

## **Sometimes you need to proceed one base at a time**

There's nothing like seeing a home run light up the scoreboard, but games are often won by singles and doubles that get runners in scoring position through a series of base hits. The one base at a time approach takes discipline, something that you can apply to your finances by putting together a financial plan. What are your financial goals? Do you know how much money comes in, and how much goes out? Are you saving regularly for retirement or for a child's college education?

## **Cover your bases**

Baseball players minimize the odds that a runner will safely reach a base by standing close to the base to protect it. What can you do to help protect your financial future? Try to prepare for life's "what-ifs." For example, buy the insurance coverage you need to make sure you and your family are protected—this could be life, health, disability, long-term care, or property and casualty insurance. And set up an emergency account that you can tap instead of dipping into your retirement funds or using a credit card for unexpected expenses.



## **You can strike out looking, or strike out swinging**

Fans may have trouble seeing strikeouts in a positive light, but every baseball player knows that striking out is a big part of the game. As Ted Williams once said, "Baseball is the only field of endeavor where a man can succeed three times out of ten and be considered a good performer."

In baseball, there's even more than one way to strike out. A batter can strike out looking by not swinging at a pitch, or strike out swinging by attempting, but failing, to hit a pitch.

Accept the fact that you're going to have hits and misses, but that doesn't mean you should stop looking for financial opportunities. For example, when investing, you have no control over how the market is going to perform, but you can decide what to invest in and when to buy and sell, according to your investment goals and risk tolerance.

Warren Buffett, a big fan of Ted Williams, strongly believes in waiting for the right pitch. "What's nice about investing is you don't have to swing at pitches," Buffett said. "You can watch pitches come in one inch above or one inch below your navel, and you don't have to swing. No umpire is going to call you out. You can wait for the pitch you want."

*Note: All investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal.*

## **Every day is a brand-new ball game**

When the trailing team ties the score (often unexpectedly), the announcer shouts, "It's a whole new ball game!" Or, as Yogi Berra famously put it, "It ain't over 'til it's over." Whether your investments haven't performed as expected, or you've spent too much money, or you haven't saved enough, there's always hope if you're willing to learn both from what you've done right and from what you've done wrong.





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## Community Post

John was happy to be able to attend the **Mineral Wells** Area Chamber of Commerce's State of the Community luncheon with some friends and clients recently. What an inspiring and motivating program for a town that has so many positive things going on!

John also attended the **Jacksboro** Chamber Banquet in February. Congratulations to outgoing president Brad Burnett and incoming president Mike Smith. The city has lots going on including a new subdivision. It's great to see good things happening!

Last but not least, congratulations to our financial advisor Jodie Barnes, who was inducted into the **Graham** Lions Club in March.

## Client Briefs

- ◆ Congratulations to **Vicki and Harris Brooks** on the birth of her first grandchild, Millie Anne Lusk!
- ◆ Congratulations to **Gary Allen** on retiring from the Texas Department of Public Safety!



*Jackie and Roy Pitcock, center, visit with Corner Post's Jodie Barnes and John R. Berry at the opening of our office inside Graham Savings.*

Your financial plan needs a solid post to start with. | 940-325-9800