

Dock Line



Magazine

Tomball

November 2019



BACKYARD  PARADISE
LUXURY POOLS

Create Your Backyard Paradise
MAKE MEMORIES ENTERTAINING
AT HOME

See page 8



**Black & White &
Different All Over**
See Page 24

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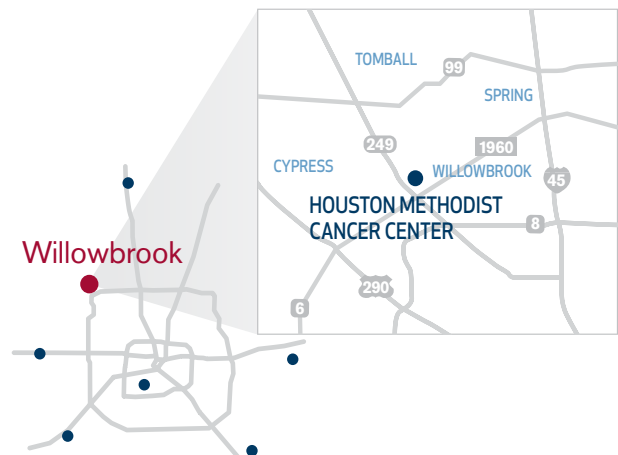
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NOVEMBER 2019

Well, hello friends! Since this is the month of giving thanks, we have decided to make a list of all the things to be thankful for, it is being called appreciation therapy. After giving it some thought we made a list of some of our favorite little things to be thankful for such as a cozy couch, a job where there are very few requirements when you are a dog and everyone still loves you, family, friends and all the great people we have met the past couple of years. The ability to make it around the table undetected on Thanksgiving to score all the great foods that are considered bad for dogs and then return for seconds when the entire family leaves the table to watch the big football game. We are both very thankful to have a dog's life and not to have been born a turkey. Finally we are extremely thankful we get to live in such a great community surrounded by people who have read, supported and helped make our magazine grow. Now that we have finished our list it's your turn.

This November take a moment to consider all the things that you and your family have to be thankful for and as always keep reading Dock Line Magazine.....From our family to yours Happy Thanksgiving.

Bentley & Ellie 

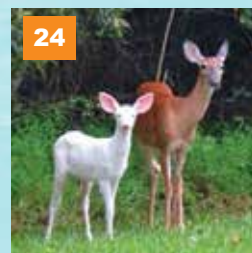
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Tomball

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Tomball Farmer's Market

When: November 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2019

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Where: Corner of Main St. and Walnut St. in downtown Tomball TX

Home to growers, craftsmen & artisans the Tomball Farmers Market is a registered nonprofit and works as a cooperative effort of local families dedicated to providing the highest quality food and handmade products to our community. This market was created by farmers and is operated by farmers. We can only exist and attract more farmers through your continued support. For more information call Sarah Starnes at 281-826-2196 or email tomballfarmersmarket@gmail.com.



HOME GROWN • HANDMADE • YEAR ROUND

Depot Day

When: Saturday, November 9, 2019

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Where: Historic Downtown Depot, 201 South Elm St., Tomball, TX 77375

Admission & Parking - FREE

It's a day filled with railroad memories as Depot Day offers up highly detailed model railways in different scales, memorabilia and artifacts, arts, live music and more. An official National Model Railroad Month event. For more information call Mike Baxter at 281-290-1002.

2nd Saturday at the Depot

When: Saturday, November 9, 2019

Time: 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Where: Historic Downtown Depot, 201 South Elm St., Tomball, TX 77375; Rainout location - Community Center, 221 Market St.

Admission & Parking - FREE

2nd Saturday at the Depot is a family oriented event held on the second Saturday of every month. Enjoy themed arts and crafts, to games, music and a movie under the stars on the giant inflatable screen. Bring your lawn chairs and picnic dinner and join us for a movie under the stars!

Christmas Tree Lighting

When: November 22, 2019

Time: 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Where: Historic Downtown Depot, 201 South Elm St., Tomball, TX 77375

Admission & Parking - FREE

Kick-off the holiday season at the lighting of Tomball's Christmas Tree at Depot Plaza. Live music, sweet snacks and hot chocolate, activities, Santa and Mrs. Claus along with their elf buddy.

54th Annual Tomball Holiday Parade

When: November 23, 2019

Time: 10:00 a.m. - ??? p.m.

Where: Main St. of Downtown Tomball with Free parking available on both the north and south side streets off Main St./FM 2920.

Kick off the Christmas season at the Depot Plaza Christmas Tree Lighting in downtown Tomball. From caroling and a giant sing-along of Christmas favorites, to free holiday snacks, a meet-and-greet with Santa himself, and more, this event is a holiday hit for the whole family.

Miss Tomball Pageant

When: November 23, 2019

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Where: Salem Lutheran Church, 22601 Lutheran Church Rd., Tomball, TX 77377

Following the Tomball Holiday Parade, young ladies from area high schools will compete to be our 2020 Miss Tomball. This year marks the 54th Annual Miss Tomball Pageant. This pageant is a cannot miss Tomball tradition. ♦

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Create Your Backyard Paradise

A large, modern backyard pool with a hot tub, surrounded by a wooden pergola and lounge furniture, overlooking a lake at sunset. The pool has blue mosaic tile borders and steps. The hot tub is in the foreground with a metal handrail. The pergola has a dark wood finish. The lake is calm with a few houses visible in the distance under a blue sky with soft clouds.

MAKE MEMORIES ENTERTAINING AT HOME

By: Margie Taylor

Many homeowners are opting to make improvements on their home and protect their equity instead of selling. One of the appealing ways to expand your space is to increase the value of your outdoor living space by adding entertainment amenities.

Backyard Paradise Luxury Pools has been a part of the Montgomery County community for over 10 years and has seen 100% growth every year! That trend is expected to continue as homeowners have a desire to enhance their backyards with outdoor kitchens, custom pools, patio covers, pergolas, or gazebos.

"It is exciting to create a design that you know families will enjoy for their lifetime, making memories that last forever", said owner Mitchell Buckley. "I started building pools with my dad over 20

years ago and have always enjoyed not only building pools but creating something that is a permanent structure in someone's backyard".

It all starts with an idea of what you would like to add your backyard. The designers will come to your home to learn about your vision and if it includes a place for privacy, an outdoor kitchen, a luxurious pool (maybe a swim up bar), or specific lighting. Photo books are helpful for determining specific needs with added accessories like waterfalls, wireless remote-control devices, shady space, benches, or walkways that lead to a firepit. After some decisions are made, the designer will complete a 3-D rendering of the enhancements for your backyard. The drawing enables the customer to transform his dream into reality, make changes if not exactly the way it was visualized, and then

the work begins. Customers will be given a quote, a time for completion (dependent on weather), and then choices will be made for material used on the project.

Choosing the appropriate component for continued outdoor quality and durability is where the experience of Backyard Paradise is vital. Every detail of the renovation will include professional electricians, plumbers, and landscape artists to create a safe and enjoyable paradise for entertaining family and friends.

"We also renovate pools. If your pool is over 10 years old it may be time to replace tile, add LED lighting, take out the diving board to add a slide, or enhance the path to the pool by replacing the deck. At Backyard Paradise we care about our customers and want them to stay with us to add upgrades, any



***Our projects range from
\$75k - over \$1 million.
Helping you create your
dream backyard!***

maintenance on their pool or service the products we built.”

“We serve all of Montgomery County whether it’s a homeowner, a subdivision, commercial business, or a hotel”, said Mitchell. “Backyard Paradise will not ever use inferior products; we vet our contractors and we care about the customer satisfaction. When deciding on a contractor choose experience over price. Honesty and integrity keep us as one of the top referrals in the industry”.

A customer recently boasted about Backyard Paradise:

“After preparing the area for a pool a storm hit the area and damaged the retention wall with large amounts of dirt sliding back into the pool. The dirt had not had adequate time to stabilize before the storm hit. After hearing about the mess, Mitchell brought a team of workers to build barriers and



Continued on page 10 ➔



Decision making made easy - visit our spacious showroom!

move the water around the pool. This was after 8 pm on a Friday evening!"

The business continues to grow because every effort is made to make the customers dreams a reality. Even if a mistake was made, Backyard Paradise will own the issue and communicate the process details of making it be up to and beyond the customer's satisfaction.

Reviews are a great way to learn about any business and Backyard Paradise has 59 Google Reviews with a 4.9 rating.

"The whole experience with Backyard Paradise was wonderful! In fact, I would give

them 6 stars if Google would allow it. Any kind of construction can be extremely stressful, but all the people within the company made the experience seamless, the communication was great, and they always exceeded expectations. We were lucky to deal with owner, Mitchell, for our design, and everyone that we dealt with daily, was great as well. The team all truly cared about our family getting the highest quality of pool as quickly as possible. And trust me with the recent heat, it was greatly appreciated. Highly recommend Backyard Paradise Luxury Pools!!"

(Rick Gaul)



We take pride and are well known for our excellent customer service that sets us apart from the rest.



We do not just build pools...Anything to make your backyard a paradise.

"A wonderful experience building our pool, pergola, and outdoor kitchen. Jan created an amazing design and Mitchell and his team built quickly including attention to detail with constant communication throughout project. It turned out amazing and we now live and enjoy our outdoor paradise. It's wonderful to make such great memories in your own backyard. Can't say enough great things!"
(Barbara Garner)

"Our pool is beautiful. This company delivers custom quality work done in a professional and appropriate manner. The work completed is outstanding and the owner stands by his work. The contractors were always bragging about this company to us. He will create a beautiful backyard paradise for you. Coleman was our designer."
(Mona Windham)

Mitchell reminds customers, "Even though your project is finished, we won't disappear on you! Backyard Paradise will be there if you need us!"

Specializing in any outdoor projects, call the experts at Backyard Paradise Luxury Pools for custom pools, kitchens, cabanas, covered patios, firepits, additions to an existing pool or any other outdoor entertainment enhancement.

Learn more about Backyard Paradise Luxury Pools by visiting their website at www.BPLuxuryPools.com. Submit a request for service on the website or call (936) 588-8806. Their office is located at 2114 McCaleb Road, Montgomery. The office hours are Monday through Friday 9:00am-6:00pm. ♦

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Speed Networking Event

At the November Cy-Fair Express Network Luncheon on Thursday, November 21st, Cy-Fair Express Network Luncheon, members and guests will participate in a fun, quick paced Speed Networking Event. This is a great way to meet and get to know those in attendance and to share your business with others in the community. Bring plenty of business cards and join us for this fun event and grow your circle of influence.

About Cy-Fair Express Network (CYFEN)

Now over 60 members strong, Cy-Fair Express Network's vision is to be a community and national leader for the support of professional women by providing a nurturing environment for business development, networking, education and mentoring. Our members have opportunities to pursue excellence and achieve both local and national recognition. CYFEN is part of the national organization of American Business Women's Association (ABWA), for more information go to www.CYFEN.org.

About American Business Women's Association (ABWA)

Founded in 1949, ABWA provides business training and networking opportunities for women of diverse occupations and backgrounds. ABWA has dedicated 60 years to women's education, workplace skills and career development training. For more information, visit, www.abwa.org. ♦

Luncheon Details

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Networking 10:30 a.m.; Luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m.

*NEW LOCATION:

Longwood Golf Club, 13300 Longwood Trace, Cypress, TX 77429

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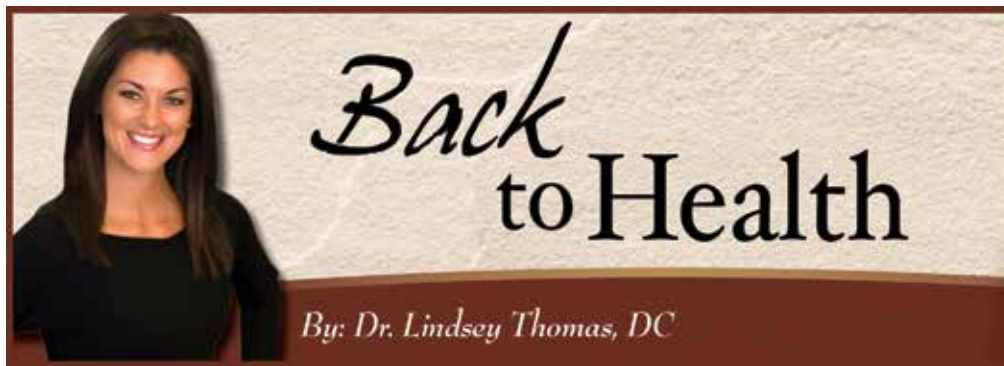
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STRESS: How much is too much?

Your boss has been hounding you because you missed a deadline, the kids won't stop screaming, and to top it off you just got a flat tire on your commute home. You're seriously stressed out! Does this scenario sound familiar?

Stress has become a constant presence in our minds and bodies. How deeply stress has infiltrated our lives is evident when you consider imagining yourself standing eyeball to eyeball with a giant tiger.

Psychology tells us that in life-and-death moments like these, the body prepares for a "fight



or flight" response. In just about thirty seconds of panic, look what happens to your body. Your palms tingle. Your hair stands on end. You start to sweat. Your eyes dilate. Your heartbeat quickens. Your blood pressure rises. Your stomach turns, and digestion switches off. The blood drains from your face. Your body releases dozens of emergency chemicals to deal with the situation.

Now imagine something even more frightening. Imagine your mind trapped in this situation for a whole waking day. Hour after hour, day after day, year after year throughout your lifetime. The fight-or-flight reaction developed as a sudden response to a life-threatening situation, not a constant state of mind and body. But unfortunately, that is just what is happening in today's society.

When stress starts interfering with your ability to live a normal life for an extended period of time, it becomes dangerous to your health. The longer the stress lasts, the worse it becomes. You might feel fatigued, unable to concentrate or irritable for no good reason.

Chronic stress causes wear and tear on your body, too. This is evident in physical symptoms including headaches, upset stomach, elevated blood pressure, chest pain, and problems sleeping.

The overeating, smoking, drinking and other bad habits people use to cope with stress only makes the problem worse.

Can there be life without stress? The simple answer is "no." Being alive requires a balance of stressors in the body. This balance is called homeo-

stasis. Our body is in a constant state of creation and destruction, with formation of new cells and removal of dead cells. How we interpret our life within our body and our environment is important. We need stress to live but not all day every day.

Everyone can and should carefully examine their lives and make an honest attempt to reduce the stress producing circumstances that make unnecessary demands upon them. Determine which things you can do something about and concentrate your time and energy on them rather than on things you cannot control.

We need to emphasize wellness, relaxation, and positive thinking, whatever the circumstance.

Don't Go Hungry. A hungry body leads to all sorts of problems: disturbed digestion, restless sleep, mental fatigue. Start the day right with a good, hearty breakfast!

Work Toward a Good Night's Sleep. When

one gets eight full hours of rest, the body's natural clock is set in harmony, regulating digestion and allowing the heart and the mind to function at full efficiency. One good indication that you and your family are getting the full quota of rest: you should feel hungry enough to want a good breakfast.

Make time for yourself each day, even if it's 10-20 minutes.

Chiropractic should also play an important role in stress management. When a stress-inducing event occurs, muscles contract, breathing becomes faster and deeper, heart rate increases, and digestion is halted. Continually contracted muscles cause a decrease in spinal motion and nervous system function, which lowers your ability to deal with stress. Chiropractic can work for everyone



because it reduces the nervous system stress, allowing the body to adapt to our daily stress overloads more efficiently.

Chiropractic care, positive thinking, and other stress management techniques can create a sense of well-being and lead to a longer, more productive, happier, and healthier life. ♦

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It's Family Portrait Time

Christmas is only 15 weeks away - it's time to book your family portrait session!

Take advantage of the excitement and joy the holiday season brings and spend some quality time with your loved ones making memories. After all, the best gifts aren't things you can buy at a store. The best gifts are the memories we make with the people we love.



Finally! A Perfect Holiday Gift

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SandStone

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When Sandstone Chiropractic was established in Montgomery, Texas in 2009 - We made it our mission to provide the families of our community with a new perspective on their health by delivering the highest quality of care in a comfortable and holistic setting. Since then, the demand for the same experience in family medicine, neurofeedback and regenerative medicine presented itself. This provided us with the opportunity to continue our pattern of growth by creating a unique blend of comprehensive healthcare to better serve our community and their loved ones. **Sandstone Family Medicine and Sandstone Regenerative Medicine are NOW OPEN** in the Woodforest community.

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STAGE RIGHT

Has the Answer to Your Holiday Dilemma!

By: Carolyn Corsano Wong



Can you believe it is already November?! Wow, did this year fly by. Are you trying to figure out what to give a loved one for the holidays? Well, worry no more! STAGE RIGHT has the answer: tickets to a great show at the historic Crighton Theatre would be terrific gifts. We have some fantastic shows coming up that are sure to put a smile on the face of any ticket holder. Just look below and choose a show, call the box office and purchase tickets. If all the shows look good, you can still purchase a season ticket for a prorated amount (since we've already got 2 shows in the books). Pick the performance date you like and if that doesn't work, your gift recipient can always call the box office and change to a different performance (same seats subject to availability). All productions have 10 performances: Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, Sundays at 2 pm and an added Saturday matinee on the final weekend at 2 pm. Here's what's coming up:



The Best Christmas Pageant Ever – The Musical
Book and lyrics Jahnna Beecham
Music and lyrics by Malcolm Hillgartner
Based on the play by Barbara Robinson
Directed by Tina Cafeo

Performance Dates: Dec. 6 – 22, 2019

The Herdmans are the worst kids in the history of the world—so when they crash Sunday school and demand parts in the Christmas pageant, the whole town panics. There's not supposed to be biting or cigar-smoking in Bethlehem, and while these kids have never even heard the Christmas story, they definitely have rewrites! Soon everyone is calling for reluctant director Grace Bradley to cancel the whole thing. It's up to Bradley and the Reverend to help their community see the Christmas story and the Herdman kids through new eyes in this buoyant musical adaptation of the funny and touching holiday classic. This delightful comedy with a touching heart-warming finale will be the area premiere of the musical adaptation.



Thoroughly Modern Millie
New Lyrics by Dick Scanlan
New Music by Jeanine Tesori

Book by Richard Henry Morris and Dick Scanlan

Original Story and Screenplay by Richard Morris for the Universal Pictures Film

Directed by Manny Cafeo

Performances: Feb 14-Mar 1, 2020

The winner of six Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Thoroughly Modern Millie was the 2002 season's most awarded new show on Broadway! Based on the 1967 Academy Award-winning film, Thoroughly Modern Millie takes you back to the height of the Jazz Age in New York City, when "moderns," including a flapper named Millie Dillmount, were bobbing their hair, raising their hemlines, entering the workforce and rewriting the

rules of love. This high-spirited musical romp is a delightful valentine to the long-standing spirit of New York City and the people who seek to discover themselves there.

Set in New York City in 1922, Thoroughly Modern Millie tells the story of young Millie Dillmount from Kansas, who comes to New York in search of a new life for herself. Her grand plan is to find a job as a secretary for a wealthy man and then marry him. However, her plan goes completely awry. The owner of her dingy hotel kidnaps young girls to sell to the Far East, her wealthy boss is slow in proposing marriage and the man she actually falls in love with doesn't have a dime to his

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STAGE RIGHT
2019-2020
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Dec. 6 - 22, 2019



April 10 - 26, 2020



Feb 14-Mar 1, 2020



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name... or so he tells her. A happy ending will prevail, of course.



M*A*S*H

Adapted by Tim Kelly

From the book by Richard Hooker

Directed by Meredith Ann Gaines

Performance Dates: April 10 – 26, 2020

Audition Dates: Feb. 23 & 24, 2020

M*A*S*H stands for Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, and joining it are two unpredictable madcaps, Hawkeye and Duke. They can't be dealt with casually, however, because they are also two of the best chest surgeons in South Korea. They decide to wage a campaign to get a young Korean to the United States and entered in a good school. Along the way, Hawkeye has a scene with a woman psychiatrist who believes he's been trying to lobster-trap mermaids in a rice paddy! There's a jolly encounter with the baby-talking Bonwit sisters, the worst tap-dancing act the U.S.O. ever sent overseas. A sergeant is selling dumb GIs fishing

rights in the Bay of Phum. Radar O'Reilly, a soldier with incredible hearing, anticipates things before they happen. The proprietor of a painless dental clinic is cured of dark moods by the recreation of an old monster movie—and a monster! It's all here, including a little romance mixed in with dramatic moments and a genuine love of life. Oh, yes—the Korean boy does get his education in the United States.



Peter Pan

Lyrics by Carolyn Leigh

Music by Morris "Moose" Charlap

Additional Lyrics by Betty Comden Adolph Green

Additional Music by Jule Styne

Based on the play by Sir J. M. Barrie

Directed by Sara Preisler

Performances: July 10-26, 2020

Auditions: Apr 19-20, 2020 (tentative)

Based on J.M. Barrie's classic tale and featuring an unforgettable score by Morris "Moose" Charlap and Jule Styne with lyrics by Carolyn Leigh and Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Pe-

ter Pan is one of the most beloved and frequently performed family favorites of all time. This high-flying Tony Award-winning musical has been performed around the world and delighted audiences for 60 years.

Peter and his mischievous fairy sidekick, Tinkerbell, visit the nursery of the Darling children late one night and, with a sprinkle of pixie dust, begin a magical journey across the stars that none of them will ever forget. In the adventure of a lifetime, the travelers come face to face with a ticking crocodile, a fierce Indian tribe, a band of bumbling pirates and, of course, the villainous Captain Hook. Featuring the iconic songs, "I'm Flying," "I've Gotta Crow," "I Won't Grow Up" and "Never Never Land," and a rousing book full of magic, warmth and adventure, Peter Pan is the perfect show for the child in all of us... who dreamed of soaring high and never growing up.

But wait, there's more (and it's not a set of Ginzsu knives)!

As a special added attraction, STAGE RIGHT season ticket holders will be offered a discounted ticket to a special event - *Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End* by Margaret & Allison Engel. A loving comic tribute to one of our country's most beloved voices, who captured the frustrations of her generation by asking, "If life is a bowl of cherries, what am I doing in the pits?" From her troubled childhood, where she found comfort in the words of Dorothy

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Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End

By Allison Engel & Margaret Engel



Parker and Robert Benchley, through her rise to fame as a journalist and public figure, discover the story behind America's treasured humorist who championed women's lives with wit that sprang from the most unexpected place of all – the truth. This one-woman show stars award winning actress and Crighton favorite Carolyn Corsano Wong. Carolyn, Artistic Director and Executive Producer for STAGE RIGHT of Texas, has appeared in many productions at the Crighton Theatre including *Hello Dolly* (Dolly Levi), *The Savannah Sipping Society* (Randa Covington), *The Wild Women of Winedale* (Willa Wild), *The Wizard of Oz* (Wicked Witch) and *Always, Patsy Cline* (Louise Seger).

Show dates are June 12 – 21, 2020 with Friday & Saturday performances at 8 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. There will also be a Saturday matinee on June 20 at 2 pm. Performances will be held at the historic Crighton Theatre at 234 N. Main in downtown Conroe. Tickets for *Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End* are \$26 for adults, \$24 for seniors 62 yr and older and \$17 for youth 16 yr and under. Group discounts are available for groups of 10 or more by calling the box office. Carolyn is offering a \$20 ticket to any STAGE RIGHT season ticket holder. This show is sure to please anyone who has ever had a mother.

For season ticket information/and or to create a gift certificate please call the box office at 936-441-7469. Tickets to any one show can be purchased by calling or online at www.stage-right.org. Give your special someone a truly magical theatre experience instead of the same old fruit cake this year! ♦



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Snooze, Unfollow, or Unfriend?

Hands up if you feel you never have enough hours in the day to get everything done?

By: Dock Line Social Media Team

Hands up if you feel you never have enough hours in the day to get everything done? We're too busy in our daily lives to be distracted with constant interruptions. But this is what social media can do if we aren't careful. All those pings and pop-ups are continually demanding attention, dragging you away from what you should be doing. So how can you cut it all back?

Facebook

Facebook can be a complete time suck – One of your friends posts about what she just had for dinner, and you feel the urge to click the like button. Then you decide to comment because she's recently commented on one of your posts. Suddenly, you begin to get a stream of notifications as everyone else does the same.

But you don't have to! For starters, you can opt-out of notifications right after you left your comment. There are three small dots – click them and find all of the options Facebook offers. Choose "Turn off Notifications". You will also find an "Unfollow" option. Only choose it if you don't care to see anything that particular friend posts. You can still visit her personal Facebook page and see how she is doing, but her updates won't appear on your feed.

When you unfollow someone – this isn't as severe as unfriending them but helps to cut back on the notification noise. They won't know they have been unfollowed by you. If you have friends who rant about politics or things you disagree with too often for example, use the unfollow option, so you don't see them in your News Feed but are still friends with them.

Twitter

Twitter is a high-speed content platform, and that means notifications can sound like you have a slot machine in your pocket with all the pings. But you can filter notifications on the platform in

three ways:

- Quality filter – this turns off lower-quality content such as duplicate or automated tweets but not from people you have interacted with

- Mute notifications – you can turn this on for words or phrases you want to avoid seeing (like those political rants if that's not your thing)

- Advanced filters – these give you even greater control about what types of content appear and lets you fine-tune your notifications

You can also turn off notifications on your mobile in the 'Settings and Privacy' section.

Instagram

One of the biggest attention-grabbers on Instagram are push notifications when someone likes or comments on your post. But you don't have to have these turned on. You can decide to check these comments when the timing suits you. Go to your profile and tap the three-line hamburger menu then the Settings icon. Go to notifications and adjust the settings.

You can also turn notifications on or off for someone you follow by going to their profile then Following > Notifications. Turn it off, and you won't get notified when they post something new. But you will still follow them and can check their profile any time you like!

Update- Instagram recently began rolling out a test to hide likes on posts in 7 countries. It's unclear at this time whether it will also eliminate the "like" notification but it probably will. The owner

of the account will be able to see likes but the followers will not.

If you have any questions about this article or would like additional tips and tricks or information. Don't hesitate to contact us at social@docklinemagazine.com! ♦



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Winter Flocks - The Boys are Back In Town!

This is the time of year when outdoor activities slow down for us people. Planting is over until spring, lawns quit growing and mowing stops. Nights are longer, days are shorter, and the cold winds hustle us humans inside. And a large number of our land birds head further south for winter. Yet this is the season when thousands of water birds from the north fly down to our region, join up in large flocks, and settle into the lakes and rivers of East Texas.

Although some of these same birds are here in small numbers during the summer, in winter cormorants, white pelicans, gulls, and terns all come to the local waterways in enormous numbers. Each flock is like a giant bird party with nonstop gabbing, socializing, squabbling, and feeding.

Cormorants come in by the thousands! Some people cringe because these big goofy duck-like birds foul their docks and coves, and turn the trees white with droppings! But they are amazing underwater acrobats, chasing and catching fish while diving and swimming 30' below the surface. Although silent during the summer, in large winter flocks they grunt like pigs! It is an amazing sound!

Majestic American White Pelicans arrive by the hundreds, each devouring several pounds of fish per day. They paddle and fish on the lakes and rivers during the winter days, and during the evenings they usually roost in coves or down behind the reservoir dams, protected from the harsh north winds.

Forster's Terns are pert little scissor-tailed birds that love the open water. Sitting far out in the lake they hunt for small fish. Terns hunt by plunge-diving into the water, stunning and eating small surface fish. They smack into the water so hard it seems as if their bones would break!



Pert little scissor-tailed Forster's Terns prefer the open water. During the winter months they display black feather patches that run from their eyes to ears.



The Boys Are Back In Town! Double-Crested and Neotropic Cormorants

Gulls of all kinds swarm into the area for winter. Laughing Gulls, Bonaparte's Gulls and Ring-Billed Gulls are the most common. They mass together on sand bars or along protected shorelines. Terns often roost with them. During daytime the gulls flit about over the open water, swooping down on surface fish using a grab-and-go technique, or stealing other birds' catches.

When spring comes around and the cold weather breaks, these water lov-



In winter pelicans and cormorants often swim and hunt together in great numbers.



American White Pelicans gather by the hundreds below the Lake Livingston Dam.

ing flocks pick up and migrate to their various northern breeding grounds, leaving us behind until the next winter. Be aware that these birds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act which makes it illegal to harass, possess or harm them, or their nests and eggs.

Learn more about the incredible nature in our area by joining a chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist organization. To find a chapter close to you, or to read about the state program, go online to www.txmn.org. Volunteer and get involved! ♦



Ring-bills, Laughing Gulls, and terns all flock together in the shallows around Wolf Creek Park.

Black & White & Different All Over

By: Lisa Wolling, Executive Director

Over the years Friends of Texas Wildlife has been assisting animals, we have been very privileged to see some unusual coloration in our wild friends. This month's article will discuss some of color mutations that can show up in animals of many species.

Albinism is an inherited genetic condition that reduces the amount of melanin pigment formed in the skin, hair and/or eyes. Albinism can be found in mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and invertebrates. True albinism is quite rare in nature, but there are reports and sightings of many different types of albino animals. Not all white animals are albinos, however; true albino animals lack any pigment in all body parts, and they have pink or very light blue eyes. Albino

However, in some cases coloration may not matter much. Predators such as hawks may rely more on shape and movement to identify prey, so the color of the prey may make little difference. Melanin normally protects the skin from UV damage, so animals with albinism are more sensitive to sun exposure. Animals that are normally nocturnal may be less negatively impacted by albinism than diurnal animals. Some animals, such as squirrels, have retinas that are different, so they are not as negatively impacted by albinism. Albino animals may also have more difficulty finding mates as they are often considered outcasts by their peers.

Leucism is a condition in which there is partial loss of pigmentation in an animal. This can result in a mostly white animal, or an animal which

oration. A white tiger is another example of a leucistic animal (it lacks the normal orange pigment but retains the black stripes). Animals which are referred to as "piebald" or spotted are leucistic; the patches are where there is lack of pigment in the skin, fur, or feathers. Leucism is much more common than albinism.

Melanism is when an animal develops more melanin than is normal for the species, leading to all black coloration of feathers, fur, or scales. Melanistic animals are somewhat common in nature, with some species even passing on the trait as a genetic adaptation. Black leopards and jaguars are two of the more commonly-recognized melanistic animals. In some species, it appears that melanistic coloration may be an adaptation to the environ-



Two examples of albinism: at left, an albino raccoon. At right, an albino fawn next to its mother, who displays normal coloration. Note the total lack of pigment throughout the animal's fur and the pink eyes.

animals face some definitive survival challenges. Albinism affects eyesight as the absence of melanin results in abnormal eye development, which often means that those with albinism struggle with depth perception or other vision issues. These vision issues may make it more difficult for albino animals to find food or avoid danger. Lacking protective coloration, albino animals may also be more likely to be seen by both predators and prey.

lacks one color pigment in particular, or patchy coloration occurring in skin, hair, feathers, or scales. However, the coloration of eyes and nails are not affected. For instance, a robin may have normal black coloration but lack the red coloration, which would result in a black bird with a white breast. Or an opossum might appear totally white with just black ears; this animal lacks black pigment to most of its fur, but the ears maintain their normal col-

ment. In other instances, it could be the result of the cross-breeding of similar species (examples could be the offspring of fox squirrel/gray squirrels breeding, or the hybrid mix of domestic dogs and wolves). Some research seems to indicate that melanistic wolves and large cats are more common in heavily-forested areas, where light levels are lower. Each year at our wildlife center, we get one or two melanistic baby squirrels. We have even gotten sib-



Examples of leucistic animals. They lack some pigment, either overall, or in patches. Top left: fox squirrel, lacking gray pigment. Top right: raccoon, lacking black pigment. Bottom left: opossum lacking most black pigment. Bottom right: robin lacking patches of black pigment.

lings where one or two are normal color, and one is melanistic. Other than their unique and beautiful coloration, they are alike in all other aspects.

Seeing an animal of any species with unique coloration is truly a special experience. Many animals with abnormal coloration seem to do just fine in the wild, so it doesn't necessarily mean they need assistance or rescuing. As with anything else, if the animal appears to be acting normal and doesn't seem sick or injured, it is best to enjoy its unique beauty and leave it alone.

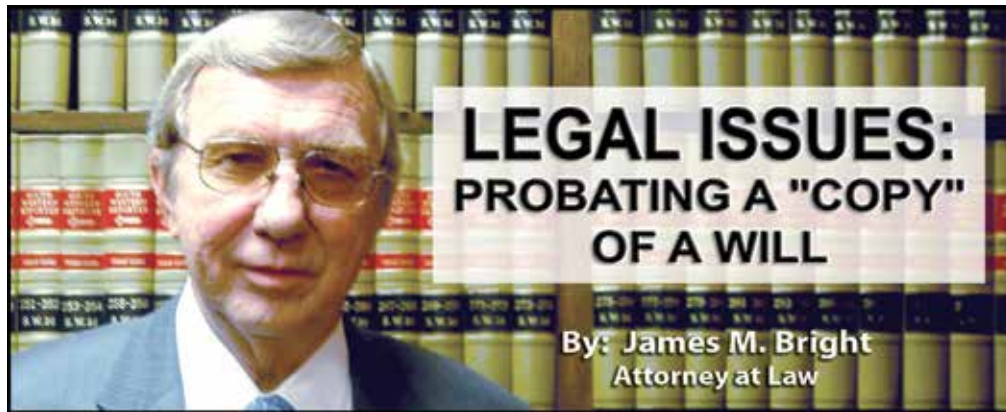
To learn more about what we do and view pictures of many of the animals we assist, please visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SavingTexasWildlife. Our educational visitor's center is open the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., located at 29816 Dobbin Hufsmith Road, Magnolia, Texas, so the next open house date will be Saturday, November 9. Come on out and visit us, learn a little more about local wildlife, do some fun activities and a craft, and

meet some of our non-releasable wildlife educational animals. We also host birthday parties, camps, and educational presentations. For more information about events, birthday parties, camps, or educational presentations for scouts, schools, or other groups, please visit our website or email

ftwl.education@gmail.com. There are many other ways you can help support our efforts, too (such as Kroger Community Rewards, Amazon Smile, etc.). Details can be found at www.ftlw.org, and then click on "How to Help". ♦



Examples of melanistic animals. Their coloration is predominantly black. Left: melanistic raccoon. Center: melanistic cardinal. Right: melanistic fox squirrel.



The following is provided for informational purposes only and is not, nor should it be construed as legal advice.

Many times this firm is faced with a request for probate of a Will when the original has been lost and only a photocopy is in existence. The question presented is, "Can a copy of the Will be probated when the original cannot be found?" The answer is "yes," under certain circumstances a copy can be probated, but only after an offering of evidence regarding the original that is sufficient to overcome the rebuttal presumption that the original was destroyed by the testator in an effort to revoke it.

The proof required to prove up a copy of a Will is in addition to the proof required to prove the original of the Will. Pursuant to Est. Code §256.156, the extra steps involved are:

1. The cause of nonproduction of the Will not produced in court must be proven, and that proof must be sufficient to show the court that the Will cannot by any reasonable diligence be produced; and
2. The contents of the Will must be substantially proved by the testimony of a credible witness who has read either the original or a copy of the Will, has heard the Will read or can identify a copy of the Will.

The ideal witness to present this evidence through testimony is a person who has seen the original Will since the death of the testator and can testify that the copy submitted is a true and correct copy of the original that was seen. That being said, it is highly unusual those exact facts can be shown.

In a recent case handled by this firm, the decedent and witness (husband-and-wife) executed Wills at the same time in the late 1980s that were exact mirror Wills of each other. The Wills were signed in the offices of an attorney who was near the age of retirement at the time of execution and was located in a distant city. Mr. and Mrs. X received only a copy of the Will and had the attorney retain the original in his office. Unfortunately, when Mrs. X died, Mr. X had only a photocopy of the Will, and, in spite of a diligent search, was not able to recover the original. It is probable, based upon the attorney's age, that he predeceased Mrs. X in death.

Fortunately, Mr. X was able to convince the court, through his testimony and by a preponder-

ance of the evidence, that the original of the Will had not been destroyed by Mrs. X, and that the photocopy filed with the court was a true and correct copy of the Will that Mrs. X signed.

The case of Mr. and Mrs. X was further simplified by the fact that all children of the decedent were also the children of her husband, and all children were willing and able to make an appearance in the probate court to assure that there were no heirs for whom there was not an accounting.

When lines of heirship are clearly defined and easily provable as in the above example, probating a copy of the Will is only slightly more difficult and requires only slightly more proof. This matter is, however, greatly complicated when provisions of the Estates Code Article 258.002 are applied. These conditions place an additional burden on the person offering a copy of the Will to probate by requiring that citation be issued to "all parties interested in the estate" of the decedent.

The broad term, "all parties interested in the estate," of the decedent encompasses all possible heirs, which includes any person who would have been a beneficiary of the estate under the laws of intestate succession, as if no Will had existed. At first blush, this doesn't seem to create much of a problem, but when you apply it to the real world, the problems become very difficult and much more expensive to overcome.

An example can be shown from my own practice. Decedent in that case was an elderly gentleman who had four children, three of whom had predeceased him. This was not a close-knit family, and he had an unknown number of grandchildren whom he had never met. In fact, he had not seen three of his four children in more than 40 years. He prepared a Last Will and Testament, leaving everything that he owned including his home, to a granddaughter whom he did know and who also was his primary caretaker for the last 15 years of his life.

The above described estate should have been simple to settle, and would have been, but for the fact that the original Will was not available and we had to rely on a photocopy. The procedural nightmare that ensued was the necessity for serving citation on persons that nobody had spoken to or seen for the last 40 years. We were not even certain as to the number of the children or grandchildren who were alive or deceased, leaving lineal descen-

dents of their own.

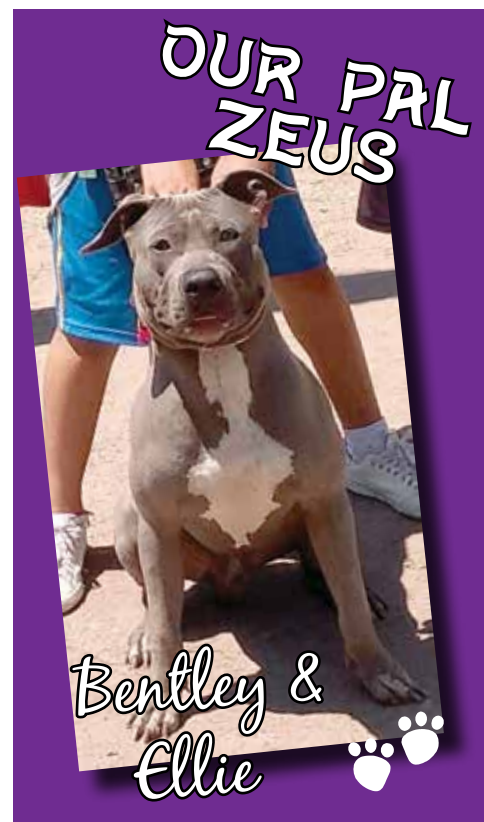
The bottom line is that the original of your Will is a valuable document and should be protected from accidental destruction. It is also a good idea to let your executor know the location of the original. You do not need to provide a copy or the original to the executor, unless you wish to do so, but you do need to advise the executor regarding the location of the original.

Probating of a loved one's Will should not be excessively time-consuming or difficult, but the court needs to be certain that the Will admitted to probate is truly the Last Will and Testament of the decedent.

As always, when you are dealing with an attorney, you should be certain that he/she has demonstrated expertise in that particular area of the law.

James Bright has been admitted to practice before the Federal Courts for the Southern District of Texas and Eastern District of Texas as well as all of the Justice Courts, Probate Courts, County Courts at Law, District Courts, Courts of Appeal and Supreme Court for the State of Texas. He maintains an office in Houston and by appointment another at 208 McCown Street in the heart of historic Montgomery. Contact may be made by telephone (936) 449-4455 or (281) 586-8277. For more information about wills or probate in Texas, please see- www.houstontxprobate.com. ♦

IF YOU WISH TO SUGGEST A TOPIC FOR THIS COLUMN, SEND TO:
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9-14-19 Practicing for FLW BFL Super Tournament

Sam Rayburn – Prop Ear Shears Off

Trey and I went to Sam Rayburn to practice first for my FLW BFL Super Tournament coming up next week and second for the College Tournament to requalify for the Bassmaster National Championship again for next summer. We caught a few fish and were just getting started when we were running across the lake to find some more sports to fish when the boat sounded weird. It was making a funny noise and it did not sound good at all. We didn't know what it could be because we did not hit a thing. All we were doing was driving. I stopped the boat and pulled up the motor and we noticed the problem, a wing from the prop had sheared off. We'll guess what that means. No more fishing for us. I guess God sends us to where we are supposed to be and since I was practicing for the tournaments I was not going to get to go to my Papa's 90th Birthday lunch. I think he had other plans. Trey and I called to see if any of our friends were on the lake so we could be towed but we were far from the truck so instead I hitched a ride with another man that took me to my truck instead of towing the boat that distance. I drove the truck to the nearest ramp and Trey met me with the boat. We got home at midnight and borrowed a spare prop from Mr. Hooker because I was determined I needed to get the boat fixed and drive all the way back to Sam Rayburn to practice. It was another 2 ½ hours of driving one way. My dad and I could not get it to work on our boat. Like I said someone else thought I should be at Papa's NINETIETH BIRTHDAY.



I went to the party and was glad I was able to make it. My Papa was happy also. Both Grant and I were both there with him.

So, my new plan was to get my homework done and leave for the tournament Thursday night to go try to practice again after the prop comes in. The hurricane came up and they closed the school on Wednesday and Thursday so now I can get my work done before I go and have a head start and

can leave earlier and make up for the lost practice. Things always seem to work out how they are supposed to.

9-21-19 FLW BFL Cowboy Super Tournament Sam Rayburn

Today I fished the FLW BFL Cowboy Super Tournament at Sam Rayburn. This tournament you receive double points for the fish you catch to qualify for the Regionals. Doug is my co-angler that is fishing with me from Huntsville, Texas. We fished the lily pads with frogs. I lost a lot of big ones in the pads. Between 10-11 am I was flipping



bushes with a Texas Rig Rage Crawl and caught my limit of 5. I ended up in 54th place with 9 pounds. My partner zeroed. Was not a good day. I kept up my limit so I am standing in 24th in points out of 258 Pro Anglers. I will be going to the Regional Championship at Grand Lake in Oklahoma.

9-28-19 Outlaw Outdoors Qualifying Tournament for

Bassmaster College National Championship

Today is a great day, partly sunny with clouds. The temperature is 75 degrees this morning but will warm up to a blazing 88 degrees.

This is the second year they are doing the



Qualifying Tournament for the Bassmaster National Championship. Last year Trey and I won it. They are doing two of these tournaments this year but only one winner from each tournament is qualified. Today there are 66 teams fishing. We are fishing on Sam Rayburn.

It was a nice calm morning and we were parked in the grass on the shoreline waiting for takeoff. The country music is playing and it's getting brighter as first light is approaching. Getting in my bag to get a little snack for breakfast. We really do not like to stop to eat when we are fishing. Yesterday we were on the fish. When we pre-fished we found a lot of fish up north deep and shallow. We sure hope all that works out for us today. Aaron and Drew are also representing Texas A&M Galveston in this tournament. My other friends Joe and Dillon are also here from their schools.

The tournament director says a prayer for all of the angler's safety fishing on the lake and then they play the national anthem. The tourna-



ment director calls out number 41 as we drive by Mr. Holloway is standing on the dock. He is the fishing coach from Schreiner University and said, "You boys need to come fish at Schreiner". I just smiled as we drove off to catch our fish.

Our first stop was at Five Fingers. We were fishing with a hollow body frog. I caught a 2 pounder in the first 10-15 minutes of fishing. Ten minutes later Trey has a 2-3 pounder blow up on a frog.

We left Five Fingers and went to our next spot, Veach. It was covered with thick lily pads. We frogged and nothing. NO BITES AT ALL.

No need in sticking around there so we headed to the Canyons. We saw about 40 teal and wood ducks. I am sure Trey was thinking about duck hunting since the fishing was not going so well at this point. We fished 2 brush piles in the first hour with NO LUCK, NO BITES AT ALL. We could not give up. We found fish at practice and they were big fish. We'll all of a sudden it picked up. Trey caught a 3 pounder on a Texas Rig ½ oz. with a Mister Twister 10" worm. Then I caught one. We caught our limit by 11 or 12. During that time we culled 3 times.

By 12 noon it got windy. The waves got huge, like 3 feet, by the time we got to the weigh in we were soaked. It took us 40 minutes to get in crawling over the waves.

Aaron and Drew came in before us and weighed in 5 fish weighing 16.32 pounds taking 6th place. Joe and Donzae came in 10th place with 14.64 pounds. We ended up coming in 17th place with 5 fish weighing 13.92 pounds. Not near as good as we had hoped. Still it is always great to be on the water fishing and enjoying the great outdoors with my great friend Trey. Thanks to our sponsors, Shipley Do-Nuts, Big D Marine, Strike King and Cast-A-Way that support us throughout the fishing season and make all this possible. **Throw It Out, Pop It In, Fish On! ♦**



Around **Town**

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National Night Out in Tomball





2020 Miss Tomball Pageant

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