Magazine Magazine The Woodlands Mayorehov 2010

November 2019

CAMILLO'S FINE JEWELRY

Local Jeweler Makes All Dreams Come True!

See page 8



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From the Managing Editor



Is it me or did someone forget to open the blinds this morning because it sure is dark enough to make me feel as though I should still be in bed! Texas is a funny state - one day the sun is shining and the next I can't feel my paws because they are so cold, but I guess variety is what makes us love this place called home so much.

We have a very exciting issue this month and as usual, we are very happy to present it to you for your reading pleasure. I also want you to keep your faces glued to Docklinemagazine.com and our social media pages as we have some very big news coming up. We have spent quite of lot of time and energy to get to this point and there will be many things happening over the next few months that should excite you and give you even more reason to read our publication. Each month from this point on you will see quite a lot of changes. Some big, some small, but changes are coming. You will be seeing more articles and more ways of reading Dock Line articles and meeting and shopping with our advertisers. That's all I can say at the moment but we are sure you will be pleased.

Well, that's my big announcement for now! I will be seeing you next month, or who knows, maybe next week!!!

Have a wonderful turkey day and Happy Thanksgiving!



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Dock Line

The Woodland

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ON THE COVER



Dan Camillo, the proud second-generation owner of Camillo's Fine Jewelry located located at 3506 West Davis in Conroe.

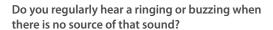




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The Woodlands

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DOCK LINE MAGAZINE is published by: Dock Line Magazine, Inc. P.O. Box 1203, Willis, TX 77378

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Subscriptions to DOCK LINE MAGAZINE cost \$25.00 per year. To subscribe, mail a check with your name and address to: P.O. Box 1203
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Grogan's Mill Farmer's Market

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

Time: 8:00 a.m. - Noon

Where: 2230 Buckthorne Place, The Woodlands, TX 77380 - Buckthorne Place & Grogan's Mill Road at Grogan's Mill Village Center

Presented by Grogan's Mill Village Association. For more information call 713-992-5893. *(Except for some holidays)

Free "Law Line" Service When: November 4, 2019 Time: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Have a legal question? A free call-in public Law Line for residents of Montgomery County who have general legal questions is offered on the first Monday of every month at 281-645-6344 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. by volunteer attorneys from The Woodlands Bar Association. (If the first Monday is a Federal holiday, then the Law Line will be offered on the second Monday of that month.) Topics include bankruptcy, family law, criminal law, consumer protection, and more. The volunteer attorneys do not provide specific counseling yet offer general information and inform people about their rights and options and what legal resources may be available for callers to follow through with their concern. Callers' identities, as well as the identities of the volunteer lawyers, will remain anonymous. This free public service is a project of The Woodlands Bar Association in conjunction with the United Way of Greater Houston, Montgomery County Center. The Woodlands Bar Association is comprised of private practice attorneys from both large and small law firms, judges and corporate attorneys and seeks to promote high legal standards, education and community service in the area. The Law Line offers a local community service opportunity for members to share their unique legal skills to provide service to others. www.WoodlandsBarAssociation.com.



The Woodlands Township Veterans Day **Tribute**

When: November 11, 2019 Time: 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Where: Town Green Park, 2099 Lake Robbins

Dr., The Woodlands, TX 77380

Admission: FREE

For more information call 281-210-3800.

37th Annual Lighting of the Doves Festival

When: November 23, 2019

Time: 3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Where: Town Green Park and The Woodlands Waterway, 2099 Lake Robbins Dr.,

The Woodlands, TX 77380

The Lighting of the Doves Festival is a longstanding tradition in The Woodlands that signifies the start of the holiday season in the community. Symbolizing peace during the holidays, the ceremonial illumination of the giant doves has attracted thousands of visitors each year. The Festival includes traditional and international performances, showcasing the cultural diversity of The Woodlands and holiday traditions celebrated around the world. Featuring snow play areas, vendor booths, children's activities and strolling entertainment, Lighting of the Doves culminates with a special appearance by Santa Claus arriving by sleigh down The Woodlands Waterway and a dazzling fireworks display. For more information call 281-210-3800.



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LOCAL JEWELER MAKES ALL DREAMS COME TRUE!

By: Margie Taylor

Families have used Camillo's Jewelry for over 36 years in our community. Dan Camillo has an outstanding reputation for delivering the best price and value for high-quality jewelry and his customers know it.

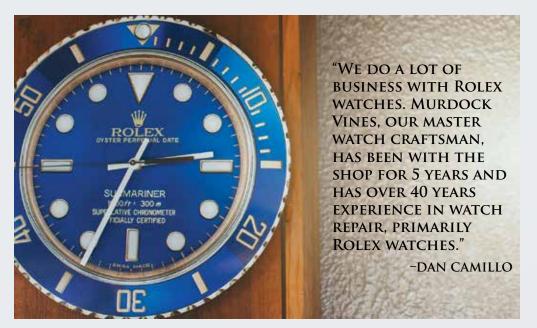
"We have seen 3 generations come into the store from the same family-Grandpa, his son, and now the grandson coming in for engagement rings", said Dan Camillo. "They all want to put a ring on it!" Some may remember the billboard on I-45 near FM 2854 with a girl asking to "put a ring on it". Subsequently the next billboard said, "he finally put a ring on it!". This got a little notoriety on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno for Camillo's Jewelry.

"I started out by working with my dad growing up in Conroe. He asked what I thought about the jewelry business, and I said let's give it a try. Well, that's all I've ever done since then. I used to have a briefcase and visit car lots with all my watches. I was known as Dan, Dan, the Jewelry Man! I went to Weisner's and Lyn Hawthorne's place when she owned the Toyota dealership in Conroe," remembered Dan.

Jewelry isn't all they do. Most stores don't work on Rolex watches, but Camillo's does. They are also known for buying and selling gold, silver and old bills or coins. They recently received an older \$1000 bill that was valued at \$4800!



Largest jewelry selection in Montgomery County



"We do a lot of business with Rolex watches. Murdock Vines, our master watch craftsman, has been with the shop for 5 years and has over 40 years-experience in watch repair, primarily Rolex watches. William Burgos is the master jeweler with 30 years as a crafter designing jewelry. All work is performed in our store and we never send out anything. That way we know how it works, where the item is, and that it is the very best quality.

Camillo's has a reputation as a high-end jewelry store often sought after through word of mouth by celebrities. Alice Cooper, classic rock artist, was in town for a concert recently and came in to get a special designed skull logo with diamonds for all his band members. A recent photo showed all the band members with knuckles out sporting the rings made by Camillo's. Lady Gaga sent a representative to Dan to get a uniquely designed pendant. Word of mouth and a good reputation is everything.

Dan is a gemologist, master jewelry crafter and learned a lot over the years. With experienced craftsmen in the store anyone can come in with an idea, a precious gem they want in the piece and Dan III (Dan's son) can convert the idea into a CAD design to customizing any jewelry piece. Designs are not limited to jewelry either.

"The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo selected Camillo's to design the pins and souvenirs over the years. We have customized guitar picks. Nothing is beyond our scope. Recently a longtime friend came in wanting something special for his wife. We designed a piece worth

Continued on page 10 ∞



Family owned and operated, serving Conroe for 35 years.



\$48,000 with an engraved box to keep it clean and safe from elements. That was a very memorable piece," shared Dan.

Camillo's is a family-run business. Mom, MaryAnne works the front greeting customers and maintaining the books, son, Dan is an experienced craftsman, and Dan II puts a smile on his face and does his best every day to give every customer their best day when they call or come in his shop.

"It's all about community. I grew up in Conroe, graduated in 1982 from Conroe High School, and as a business we contribute to many local organizations including the Cattleman's Ball, The



We buy, clean, and repair watches with our very talented in-house watchmaker, Murdock Vines.



Crighton Theatre restoration project, and my biggest passion, the kids at St. Jude."

"Trusted relationships in the community have kept us going strong for over 35 years. Camillo's is a fine jewelry store vested in customer service above and beyond any expectations. Any issues are resolved on the spot so everyone can

have a good day!"

From creating a custom design to repair and upgrading heirlooms to a modern look, Camillo's Jewelry is your one stop shop for the perfect gift of fine jewelry, watches, or gold exchange. Get to know the family and your neighbors in the com-

Learn more about Camillo's Jewelry by visiting their website www.CamillosJewelry.com or call (936) 539-4367. The showroom is located at 3506 West Davis in Conroe. Open Tuesday through Friday 9:00am-6:00pm, Saturday 9:00am-4:00pm. Closed Sunday and Monday. ◆









We will custom build a piece just for you.





Presents





Merelli" known as "El Stupendo", the greatest tenor of his generation to appear for one night only as the star of the opera.

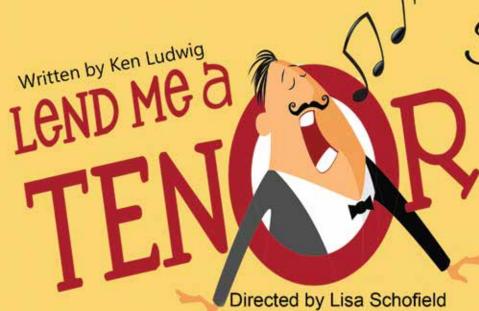
Tito arrives late, and through a hilarious series of mishaps, he is given a double dose of sleeping pills and passes out. His pulse is so low that Saunders and his assistant, Max think he is dead. In a frantic attempt to salvage the evening, Saunders persuades Max to get into Merelli's costume and fool the audience into thinking he's Stupendo. Max succeeds and lives up to his idol, but Merelli wakes up and gets into an identical costume ready to perform. Now two opera singers are running around in the same costume, and two ladies running after them, each thinking she is with Stupendo.

Lend Me a Tenor opens at The Owen Theatre Friday, October 25th and runs through November 9th. For tickets call our box office at 936-539-4090 or on our website www.owentheatre.com.



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Performances:

Oct. 25 - Nov. 9

For tickets & information call

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Funded in part by the Conroe Commission on Arts and Culture



GARDENING IN NOVEMBER

Did you know it is possible to have a gorgeous, green lawn in January and February? You can be the envy of your neighbors this winter by over-seeding your lawn with rye grass now.

Here are some frequently asked questions:

WHEN SHOULD I OVER-SEED?

The short answer: NOW. "Annual Ryegrass" is the least expensive, most readily available, and most commonly used. However, you may prefer to use "Perennial Ryegrass" or a "Perennial Ryegrass Blend" for a higher quality appearance. Although it is a bit more expensive, it will last a little longer into the spring.

WILL OVER-SEEDING DAMAGE MY TURF?

No. In fact, over-seeding can help the overall health and appearance of the lawn by reducing the growth of cool-season weeds.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES TO OVER-SEEDING?

Advantages include: A lush, beautiful, green

lawn through the winter months; fewer weeds during the dormant season.

Disadvantages: Weekly mowing is required. Additional fertilization is necessary as the ryegrass draws nutrients that the warm-weather grass will need in the spring.

FERTILIZATION

I have already mentioned the need for an additional feeding of the turf for good rye grass growth. But for those lawns that do not over-seed, it is a good idea to go ahead and apply a late fall "winterizer" to the turf. This will promote strong root growth during the dormant months, and will help "kick-start" the grass next spring.

WEED CONTROL

Consider applying a pre-emergent herbicide early in November if you have not already done so. This will help control a large variety of winter weeds, preventing them from germinating. (Do not treat with pre-emerge herbicide if you are planting a winter grass such as Rye.) BROWN PATCH

We have talked a great deal about Brown Patch previously. Continue to watch for those brownish - yellowish rings. If they are present, treat immediately with a fungicide, or call a professional lawn-care company for assistance. Sometimes, depending on weather conditions, two treatments are needed for sufficient control.

The fungicide will kill the fungal spores, and therefore the Brown Patch will cease to spread. However, the grass will only green-up with new growth. Therefore, if you have rings when the grass goes dormant, you will see the rings all winter - until new growth appears in the spring time. So it is important to treat immediately and hope for new growth BEFORE dormancy.

ANNUAL FLOWERING PLANTS

As in the month of May, November is a very popular month for planting beds of annuals. Some will bloom nicely from now through April (depending upon the mildness of the winter), while others will save their best for the spring.



Pansies are our most cold-hardy annuals, and usually produce a colorful show all winter. However, the deer love them! There are a large number of other plant materials that can add a variety of brilliant color for our normally mild winters. Now is the time! IT'S SHOWTIME!!

ROSES

These guys generally continue in full bloom in November. In fact, many rose gardeners consider the fall flowers to be the finest of the year.

Roses can provide a great deal of pleasure when cut and brought indoors. Cut them just as the buds start to open, and leave the stems long enough for arranging. Feel free to take longer stems, 8 - 12 inches, from more vigorous bushes. Limit stem length to 6 - 8 inches on less-vigorous

HAPPY THANKSGIVING! WOW! This IS the November issue! So...from my family, and my staff... let us be among the first to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving, and a pleasant beginning to the Christmas Season!

SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS AND **COMMENTS**

Thank you for continuing to send us your questions and comments. We can be contacted at our offices at 281-681-1025, or through our web site: www.LawnRangerCompany.com.

"Like" us on Facebook at www.facebook. com/lawnrangercompany. Follow us on Twitter: @ lawnranger_walt. Check out a few videos at www. youtube.com/lawnrangercompany. ◆

VOTED "BEST OF THE WOODLANDS" 2010, '11, '12, '13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19





Clear Direction for Your Retirement™

by Chris Wootton, ChFC®





The Dawn of **Negative Rates**

I want to start this month's article by letting you know how happy I am that you, our dear reader, join us every month. I hope even further that the information we provide to you is both relevant and helpful and we encourage you to share it with those you know. If you like the content, you may also want to register for our informational monthly e-newsletter. So, head over to www.WoottonFinancial.com and get registered. We also want to wish you a happy Thanksgiving with your family and friends. Despite the unfortunate division of our current political climate and the uncertainty of the financial realm in the times ahead, we still have much to be thankful for. Now, on to this month's focus.

Perhaps you've heard recently within the financial media circles about the specter of negative interest rates. You may be saying, "What's a negative interest rate, who would ever invest like that?" Well, let's focus on government bonds for sake of example. A government issues debt (like a U.S. Treasury bond) to fund operations and in return pays you (the investor) a rate of interest to compensate you for investing in said debt. Simply said, you have just become a lender to the government.

Now, imagine if you will that you lend your hard-earned retirement dollars to someone and you then have to pay them for the "privilege" of doing so. Or, suppose you're asked to invest and then you're told immediately how much money you'll lose for doing so. That's negative interest rates. Investing that implicitly has a negative return the moment you enter the transaction. Think of it like paying someone a storage fee to park your cash and receiving nothing from it in return. Simply said, negative rates are a real concern in the global bond space right now.

Balderdash, you may say! No one would ever do that! Well, do it they have and ignoring it or worse yet denying its reality could be detrimental to your retirement investment plan. In August of this year, the German government sold 30-year bonds at negative rates paying no coupon interest at all. In fact, in August, \$700 billion of global debt went into negative rate territory. Most of the negative-yielding debt is in the government bond space due to its "safety" factor but there is also about \$60 billion in U.S. Corporate debt in that

territory as well. With 10 year U.S. Treasuries yielding about 1.7% (at the time of this writing), account for inflation and the 10 year is also in negative territory. Although the U.S. is currently not quite as bad as some of its global neighbors, the risk is still there for many different reasons too lengthy to address here. Suffice to say it is becoming more and more likely the trend will continue within the developed world.

Bottom line, given that bond prices and yields move inversely, if investors foresee low growth and low inflation ahead they are typically more likely to buy bonds that offer lower returns.

They believe that the possible price increase of the bond offers return even though yields may be negative. Interestingly, what is seen as the biggest bond market plunge risk to those in these high price, low yield bonds is the possible recovery of global economies in regaining economic momentum and reversing course on monetary easing.

This is really important in terms of staying on top of your retirement income plan and overall investment plan and philosophy, two of the five primary retirement plan areas of focus I speak about frequently. Global economics can turn on a dime and what's good today may not be good tomorrow, you must be flexible in this regard. If you'd like to get a fresh look at your retirement plan or simply get started with one we'd love to help you discover clear direction for your retirement. Have a happy Thanksgiving and eat some turkey and dressing for me.





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STACTE

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 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

Continued on page 18 ∞

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Dec. 6 - 22, 2019



April 10 - 26, 2020



Feb 14-Mar 1, 2020

Tickets: www.stage-right.org 936-441-7469



July 10-26, 2020

Funded in part by The City of Conroe visitconroe.com

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

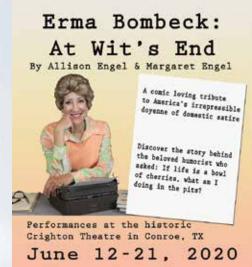
Auditions: Apr 19-20, 2020 (tentative)

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, Peter Pan is one of the most beloved and frequently performed family favorites of all time. This highflying 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 bungling 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 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.







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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.stageright.org. Give your special someone a truly magical theatre experience instead of the same old fruit cake this year!





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Resiliency of The Woodlands Division

By: Chris Meeks, Woodlands Division Manager

Resilience...Webster's Dictionary defines resilience as an ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change. As a Utility Manager for a water and wastewater system, adjustment and change are daily occurrences. Utility Managers take many things into consideration when planning for changing operations including natural disasters, financial impacts of fluctuating usage, and balancing the desire for stable rates with increased maintenance needs. From weather patterns to

fluctuating usage to community growth, the daily operations of a water and wastewater system have to be adaptive at all levels. Why? It's our job at the San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) to ensure the end-users—all water and wastewater users—never have to think about it.

The area we live in is prone to natural disasters such as hurricanes and flooding. Unfortunately, there is no sure fire way to protect utility assets against these disasters, but there are ways

to mitigate negative effects. For example, SJRA Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) No. 1 is located next to Panther Branch on Sawdust Road. Parts of the facility are in the floodplain and without mitigation measures would flood when the creek rises. Many years ago, to mitigate this issue, an earthen levee was installed around the western side of the facility to keep the creek from flooding the plant. Since the levee was installed, the facility has not flooded. Other mitigation measures such as portable generators, spare parts, motors and pumps, in-house repair capabilities, and redundant equipment have assisted the division in maintaining water and wastewater services during these events. These mitigation measures are put in place so when the need arises, staff can quickly restore or recover from natural disasters while avoiding a service disruption.

Weather patterns also have a great effect on water usage. Isolated storms that last a couple of days followed by warm, sunny days is the norm. Long periods of rain as seen between 2015 or more recently, September 2018 - February 2019, reduce water usage and in turn reduce the revenue into a water utility. Being a governmental entity, we have limited reserves to stabilize rates through multiple years of reduced demand caused by higher-thannormal rainfall. We utilize industry best practices and follow industry guidelines to maintain adequate reserves so rates do not fluctuate like a rollercoaster from year to year, but these reserves are typically designed to maintain rates for a couple of years of wet weather. For SJRA Woodlands Division, this means we have a three-month operating reserve and an emergency reserve. The three-month operating reserve assists in maintaining cash flow during periods of wet weather and low water usage. This helps us maintain a steady maintenance and production cycle even when the demand is down. The emergency reserve acts in the opposite manner. This reserve is used only in major emergencies.

Fluctuating usage and community growth also affect service and resilience. When a community becomes built out and growth slows down, demands for water and wastewater services begin to level off and reach a point of more static demand. Over the last 40+ years, The Woodlands, Texas has been growing and expanding. This trend of growing is coming to a close as the available land in the





Mike Arnett



"It's more than a name, it's a way of doing business."































Montgomery County portion of The Woodlands, Texas is developed. A static demand assists in planning efforts for long-term water supply and wastewater services, but it is not always good for financial reasons. The Woodlands area is, in utility terms, a "new" community. Generally, this means that the utility is less than 50 years old. This has pros and cons. The community has a healthy utility system, however the need to replace its assets is increasing. In order to stay on top or slightly ahead of the replacement curve, the renewal of infrastructure such as water and wastewater lines, pumps, motors, concrete tanks, and basins needs to be a priority in order to keep the utility functional with no service disruptions. The renewal of assets takes time and money. Residents in a growing community oftentimes don't realize the costs of renewing assets as rates can sometimes hold steady since demand increases, however with a community that is not rapidly growing and demands have steadied, rate increases are needed to maintain the desired level of service and keep up with inflation rates. The balance between maintenance needs and rate increases is a delicate one that involves understanding priorities and the associated risk that sometimes comes with delaying projects.

What does this mean to you? This means that every day the employees of the SJRA Woodlands Division conduct tasks to ensure drinking water is clean and within regulations and that wastewater flows away without you having to think about it. This also means that during long-term planning efforts and budget cycles we evaluate needs, priorities, and community impacts balancing these items for the benefit of the entire community. Our goal is to keep rates as low as possible while maintaining the quality and consistency that our customers desire.

One of the major river authorities in Texas, SJRA's mission is to develop, conserve, and protect the water resources of the San Jacinto River basin. Covering all or part of seven counties, the organization's jurisdiction includes the entire San Jacinto River watershed, excluding Harris County. If you would like to know more about SJRA, what we do, and how we work for the community, check out our website at www.sjra.net, like SJRA on Facebook @SanJacintoRiverAuthority, or follow us on Twitter @SJRA_1937. ◆





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 popups 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 com-

ments 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!

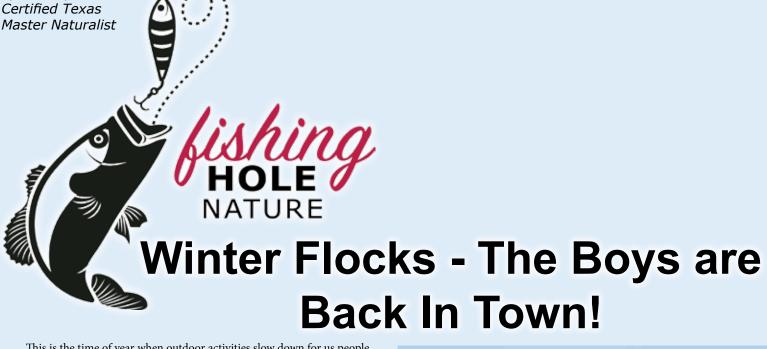


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This is the time of year when outdoor activities slow down for us people. Planting is over until spring, lawns quit growing and mowing stops. Nights are longer, days are shorter, and the cold winds hustle us humans inside. And a large number of our 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.

Article and photos by Bronwyn Clear,

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.



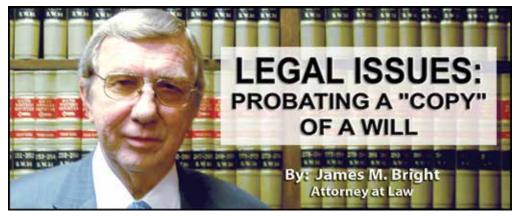
American White Pelicans gather by the hundreds below the Lake Livingston Dam.

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.



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

The contents of the Will must be sub-2. stantially 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 preponderance 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.

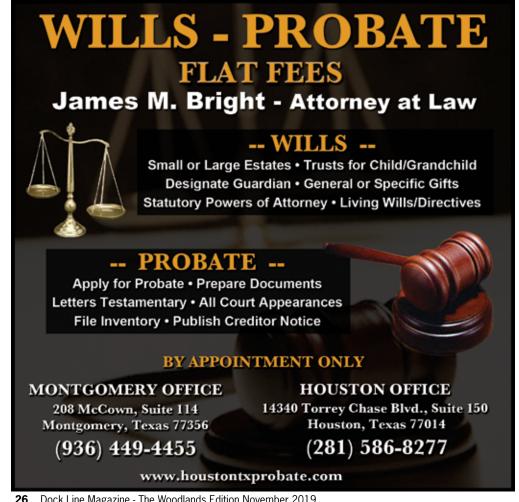
When lines of heirship are clearly defined and easily provable as in the above example, probating a copy of the Will is only slightly more difficult and requires only slightly more proof. This matter is, however, greatly complicated when provisions of the Estates Code Article 258.002 are applied. These 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

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 descendents 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

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: IAMES M. BRIGHT 14340 TORREY CHASE BLVD., SUITE 150 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77014 Email: topics@houstontxprobate.com







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 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.





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.

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 lacks one



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.

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 coloration. 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 environment. 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 siblings 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.

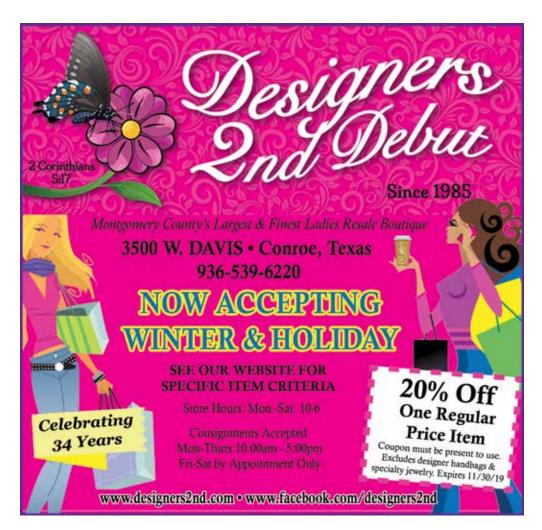
Seeing an animal of any species with unique coloration is truly a special



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

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". ◆



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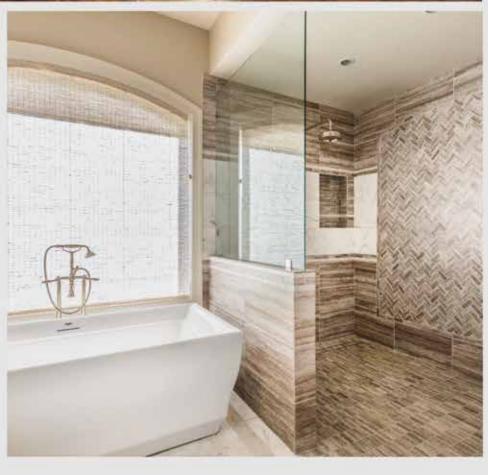
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