

# Dock Line



Magazine

The Woodlands

December 2019

*All*

**FLOORS & MORE**

**Your Neighborhood Flooring  
Store Since 2000!**

See page 8



**Please Give Animals a "Brake"**

See Page 28

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The weather is great they said. We get to fly on a big plane they said. You'll meet new doggie friends they said. What were they talking about??? I walk everywhere I go, it's hot and the other doggie friends are nuts! Oh, and where is the other side of the lake? I look out and all I see is water - lots of water, like never ending water. They say it's an ocean. Ocean! It's water that's salty and I can't touch the bottom, where I get splashed all the time and there is no one around doing it? Looks like some sort of monster that wants my head underwater all the time. They can keep it. Oh, and sand. Where did they get it all? How do they get so much of it in one place? Looks like I have a lot to learn, but I think I like Texas better, just saying...

OK Dock Line Readers. I hope you have noticed our new website? We have gotten lots of compliments about it and we still have a lot of work to do, but it is going to be amazing! Once our phone app becomes available it will be even better. We have been told that print is dead. Well, after 3 years of hard work with many smart people Dock Line Magazine will not only have a digital side that will do things that I can only dream of, we will be printing more magazines than ever before. 2020 will be an amazing year for both our readers and also our advertisers. I can't give all our secrets away but we will have announcements as each phase is in place. Currently we have video production, SEO, web design, more articles and more areas Dock Line Magazine will be servicing. In other words, Dock Line Magazine is growing even faster than we all expected. With our unique formula, our advertisers will see an increase in business and more opportunities to reach their potential customers. That's about all I can say at this time but watch for our announcements as each phase is added. Thank you Dock Line Readers, contributors and advertisers for the last 20 years of supporting us. Looking forward we know you will enjoy Dock Line Magazine even more!

Enjoy the holidays with your family and friends!!!! I know I will...

**GT2** 

# Dock Line Magazine

The Woodlands

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# Dock Line Magazine

**The Woodlands**

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# WILLS - PROBATE FLAT FEES

**James M. Bright - Attorney at Law**



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### Free "Law Line" Service

When: December 2, 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](http://www.WoodlandsBarAssociation.com).

### Grogan's Mill Farmer's Market

When: Saturdays\* December 7, 14, 21 & 28, 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)

### Breakfast with Santa

When: December 14 or 21, 2019

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Where: The Recreation Center at Rob Fleming, 6464 Creekside Forest Dr., The Woodlands, TX  
Admission: \$40 resident family of four; \$45 non-resident family of four, \$8 additional family member  
Enjoy fun, holiday activities with The Woodlands Township Parks and Recreation Department. Pre-registration is required to all programs and spaces are limited to so register today! Registration on event day is not permitted unless space and supplies allow. Please call us at 281-516-7348 to secure your spot! Includes continental style breakfast, a special craft, holiday music and photographs with Santa. Discounts are available for families of two or three.

### Feliz Navi-Dog

When: December 15, 2019

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Where: The Recreation Center at Bear Branch Park, 5310 Research Forest Dr., The Woodlands, TX 77381

Admission: \$5.00 per dog

Bring your fur baby out to Bear Branch Dog Park for a treat hunt and holiday pooch pageant! Enjoy hot cocoa while your pets socialize. Choose two out of the six categories: best behaved, best trick, smallest, largest, and best costume. Pre-registration is required to all programs and spaces are limited to so register today! Registration on event day is not permitted unless space and supplies allow. Please call us at 281-210-3950 to secure your spot!

### Milk & Cookies with Santa

When: December 21, 2019

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m.

Where: The Recreation Center at Rob Fleming, 6464 Creekside Forest Dr., The Woodlands, TX  
Admission: Ages 3-12; \$15 resident; \$20 non-resident, \$5 sibling discount  
Pre-registration is required to all programs and spaces are limited to so register today! Registration on event day is not permitted unless space and supplies allow. Please call us at 281-516-7348 to secure your spot! Have milk and cookies with Santa, hear a Christmas story, decorate cookies and make a holiday plate. Don't forget your camera for a picture with Santa!!! ♦

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## YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD FLOORING STORE SINCE 2000!

*By: Margie Taylor*

When it comes to flooring for your home you want it done correctly by a business with experience and knowledge of flooring options that you can trust. All Floors & More has been “Your Neighborhood Flooring Store” since 2000 serving the Greater Montgomery County area, Tomball/Spring, Sugar Land, Clear Lake, Kingwood, and Hempstead with stores in Tomball, Magnolia, Conroe, and Cypress. Family owned and operated, the dedicated staff take a lot of pride in their work and their ability to satisfy every customer.

Charlton Reich, owner, is passionate about the business. “There is not a day I wake up and say, ‘I don’t do what I love’”. I was interested in flooring at a young age and decided to follow my passion and take a risk.”

All Floors & More provides services to both residential and commercial customers. Services include tile, stone, laminate, resilient laminate, carpet, hardwood floors, LVP, and area rugs. Luxury Vinyl Plank (LVP) flooring has become a common flooring option in the flooring industry due to the moisture proof floors with realistic visuals now associated with the new look water-

proof planks. Homeowners with pets and children love the luxurious wood look that has a pet-proof, scratch-proof longevity surface. Entire luxurious homes are covered in LVP in many homes.

The “more” is also expertise in remodeling bathrooms and kitchens with updated countertops, tile work, custom showers and tubs. Every

*Continued on page 10* ➞







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"Our extensive knowledge of flooring products, credible reputation, and our commitment to excellence allows us to provide the highest quality flooring solutions available today", said Reich. "We aren't perfect, but we are honest and always strive to do outstanding quality work the first time."

All Floors & More continues to go "Above and Beyond" any expectations resulting in 98% positive reviews and continual referrals from past customers for new or continual business opportunities.

From Richie F. "Awesome company!!!! Used them a thousand times already and never failed me!!! Love these guys. Look for Chris!!! Very helpful and always exceeds my expectations!"

"Price was so reasonable. They did our floors 6 years ago and redid them due to water damage for the same price. Very professional work", said Christie Eaves.

"I had new vinyl plank flooring installed in my condo last week and am very pleased with the job. Charlton was very helpful as were the other

employees I met during the process. The installation went smoothly, the workers were friendly and knowledgeable. The price was about \$1,000 less than what Home Depot quoted for similar flooring and install", from Michele in Houston.

So many reviews and comments from past customers, but All Floors & More doesn't like to be recognized for their attention to detail and what they do everyday to instill trust and loyalty in the people they serve through their products and services.

Charlton Reich does not like the attention but is grateful. "We help families in the community because it's who we are. I thank God every day for the ability to do this. It is important to be honest and always perform to the best of your ability".

Tara Harris was amazed by their service and professionalism. "The whole process was extremely easy, professional and great customer service (even when we rescheduled our install 5 times). I couldn't recommend more honest guys than Chris and Charlton! They even put up with my 4 kids under 5. Thank you again for our beautiful floors at the best price in town!!"

Serving customers all over Texas at their 4 locations: Magnolia, Conroe, Tomball/Spring, and Cypress, All Floors & More guarantee selling, servicing, and installing only the BEST products. All Floors & More looks forward to the opportunity of offering their services to the community. They are the flooring experts, so you don't have to be!

Read about the different components of flooring and their benefits to make a decision you can

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Open at all locations Monday through Thursday 10:00am-6:00pm, Friday 10:00am-5:00pm and Saturday 10:00am-3:00pm. Stay connected on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/allfloorstore/>. ♦



*We are very customer friendly to all who walk through the door at any of our four locations.*



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# STAGE RIGHT

## Look out! The horrible Herdmans are coming! STAGE RIGHT Presents The Best Christmas Pageant Ever – The Musical Dec. 6-22

By: Carolyn Corsano Wong Photos by: Michael Pittman Images

STAGE RIGHT of Texas, resident theatre company at the historic Crighton Theatre in downtown Conroe, is pleased to present the area premiere of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever - The Musical* with book and lyrics by Jahnna Beecham, music and lyrics by Malcolm Hillgartner based on the play by Barbara Robinson. The show will be directed by Tina Cafeo.

The Herdmans are the worst kids in the histo-

ry 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.

Director Tina Cafeo has assembled a delightful cast to bring this funny and heartwarming show to the Crighton stage for the very first time in the area:

Leading the cast as Grace is Amy Sowers. Amy is a founding member of STAGE RIGHT and is the executive director of Bravo Company: the children's educational wing of STAGE RIGHT.

Amy has recently performed as Mistress Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and Ursula in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Bob Bradley is played by Frank Purcel. This will mark Frank's Crighton debut. Frank is a retired IT consultant who has sung with the Houston Symphony chorus, Houston Grand Opera chorus and Indianapolis Opera Chorus. Charlie Bradley is played by Sam Siemonsma. Sam is no stranger to STAGE RIGHT. You may have seen him perform in *Mary Poppins*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* or *Annie*. He was encouraged by his theatre friends & amazing voice teacher Brenda Storseth to get involved in musical theater and we're very glad he has! Charlie's sister Beth Bradley is being played by Kayden Solomon. This show marks Kayden's Crighton debut. Kayden has been performing since the age of six making this her 16th show! Some of her favorite roles include *James* and *The Giant Peach* (Ladahlord), A

LOOK OUT! The Herdmans are here!





*Tree Lot Christmas* (Karly), *101 Dalmatians* (Pepper), and *Beauty & The Beast* (Chip). Jim King is returning to the Crighton stage to play Reverend Hopkins. Jim was last seen on stage as the Narrator in *Into the Woods* and was Col. Pickering in *My Fair Lady*. Becki Kinch will again grace the Crighton stage as past pageant organizer Helen Armstrong. Becki has enjoyed performing with STAGE RIGHT in past shows such as *Hello Dolly!* in the ensemble, the “eager to please” Maxine in the acting role of “show stage manager” for *42nd Street*, and a dual role of Granny and her moooving portrayal of cow Milky White in *Into The Woods*. Also returning from *42nd Street* is Debbie LaRue appearing as the hoity-toity Luanne. In addition to performing on stage Debbie has done some backstage work for STAGE RIGHT including costumes for *Savannah Sipping Society*. Prior to that, she was actively involved for 18 years in the Dhahran Theater Group located in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Melodie Lippold is portraying church lady Betty. Melodie was in the ensemble of *Hello Dolly!* and sings with the Woodlands Show Chorus. One of STAGE RIGHT’s most valued and lauded volunteers is making a rare stage appearance in this show: Denise DeBolt is playing Connie. Denise is also Costumer, Set Designer, and Scenic Artist & Prop Mistress for this show! She’s been a volunteer with STAGE RIGHT since 2013. Denise received a Pursuit of Excellence award and has accumulated eight Monties for her work on *Singin’ in the Rain*, *Mary Poppins*, and *Young Frankenstein*. Appearing as Imogene Herdman is the talented Daire McLeod. With professional TV credits already to her name, Daire has appeared here most recently as Pepper in *Annie*, a hyper sugar-addicted beauty queen, Barbie Spangles in *Glitz* - *The Little Miss Christmas Pageant* and the iconic Lucy in *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. James Pate is appearing as Ralph Herdman. James leads the cast of *Willy Wonka* as Charlie Bucket and was also seen over at the Owen as Flounder in *The Little Mermaid*. New to the Crighton is Tripp Brown who is playing Leroy Herdman. Also new to a STAGE RIGHT main stage production is Cooper Ashley playing Claude Herdman. Cooper is a member of Bravo Company. He appeared in *Rockin’ Robin Hood* as Robin of

Continued on page 14 ➞

“No, there is no biting in Bethlehem.”



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Presented by arrangement with Broadway Licensing





**Amy Sowers as Grace with Kayden Solomon and Sam Siemonsma as Beth and Charley Bradley**

Locksley and *Midsummer Night's Dream* as Mote. Appearing as Ollie Herdman is Austin Krueger. In his 14th show at the tender age of 8 yrs., Austin's favorite part thus far, has been Woodstock from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. He has enjoyed being in several other STAGE RIGHT productions including *Willie Wonka* (James), *Glitz - Little Miss Christmas Pageant* (Elf), *Annie* (Wacky), and most recently *Cinderella* (Gus Gus). Another Cinderella mouse also appears in this show: Amy Massey is playing Gladys. A member of Bravo Company, Amy first appeared in STAGE RIGHT's *Glitz - The Little Miss Christmas Pageant* (Rona Chernobyl), *Annie* (Mabel-orphan ensemble) and *Cinderella* (Lucy Mouse). Splitting the role of Alice Wendle-

ken are Collisa Payne and Emma Melley. Collisa has appeared in *Willy Wonka*, *Glitz - The Little Miss Christmas Pageant*, where she played the sassy Angela Aquafresca, and most recently *Annie* where she had the opportunity to play an adorable orphan. This is Emma's 4th production on stage and her 1st with STAGE RIGHT. Sharing the role of Ivy Reed are Addison Burleson and Mia Melley. Addison has been a dancer since she was 5 yrs. old, and moved into competition dance by age nine. Addison also enjoys sports, gymnastics, baseball and soccer. This is Mia Melley's second production with STAGE RIGHT. In addition to performing on stage she also enjoys practicing with stage

make-up and taking voice lessons. Newcomer Josh Fine is playing Elmer Hopkins. Josh has performed elsewhere and loves meeting new people. Returning to the Crighton as Teddy Shoemaker is Wesley Burns. This is Wesley's third appearance with STAGE RIGHT. Wesley made his Crighton Theater debut as Rerun in *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and was also in *Glitz - The Little Miss Christmas Pageant Musical*. Playing the Nurse is Lauren Thompson. This is Lauren's Crighton debut. She performed in two previous school plays in California in the two years she lived there. Lauren's roles in school include *Lost But Now I Am Found* and a lead role in *The Born Again Identity*. The chorus includes Lilly Prescott, Sean Sears and Cheyanne Williams. Lilly Prescott is very excited to be performing on the Crighton Theatre stage for the second time. Her first performance was with Missoula Children's Theatre in *Blackbeard The Pirate* (Parrot). Sean Sears has been on a roll of roles! He first appeared in *42nd Street* then went on to *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Annie* and most recently *Cinderella*. Cheyanne Williams has been involved in theater for 3 years. She has been in two plays at the Crighton Theatre: *Twinderella* and *Rockin' Robinhood*.

#### **SPOTLIGHT NON-PROFIT**

In keeping with the reason for the season, we are asking our patrons to consider bringing NEW (in the original package) socks, underwear and blankets for donation to the Salvation Army. Let's help our neighbors in need this holiday season!

#### **SHOW DATES:**

December 6-22, 2019, Friday & Saturday nights at 8 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. There will also be a Saturday matinee 12/21 at 2 pm. Tickets available at 936-441-7469 or [www.stage-right.org](http://www.stage-right.org). ♦

**Beth Bradley and some not too happy girls**





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# Beautiful Lawns Year Round

The Woodlands, TX      *By: Walt Crowder, Pres.*  
Lawn Ranger Company, Inc.



## Gardening in December

### MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

From the entire staff at Lawn Ranger Company, we wish our readers a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS! And we wish you the very best throughout the coming year.

Our offices will close at the end of the day on Monday, December 23rd and will reopen on Thursday, January 2nd, 2020.

Have fun with family and friends this Christmas season! Make it special!

### TROPICAL PLANTS

You'd think it wouldn't be necessary to worry about "winter protection" of our plants during the relatively mild winters in this part of the country. And it probably wouldn't be necessary...IF we didn't have such a love for tropical plants. The fact is that a large number of landscapes in our area include tropicals – either in the ground or in con-



tainers. Occasionally we have temperatures that dip cold enough to remind us of just how fragile tender plants can be. Tropical plants aren't exactly "winter hardy" plants.

Here is some good news: while the temperature may drop into the 20's for a few nights and the tops of the plants may get frost-bitten, the ground generally doesn't freeze in Southeast Texas. There-

fore the roots and bulbs or rhizomes are generally very reliable about coming back. Cannas, gingers, caladiums, and amaryllis are examples of plants that can be left in the ground if the soil drains well. I would be careful about leaving them in the ground in wet or poorly drained soils.

### PROTECT YOUR PLANTS

You can help ensure the survival of the below-ground parts of your plants by placing several inches of mulch over the soil in the shrub and flower beds. We recommend a 2"- 3" depth in flower beds, and 3"- 6" around the base of shrubs. Fine shredded pine mulch and pine straw are among the better options. These products stay loose and don't pack, thereby improving their insulating qualities.

Mulch may help keep the lower stems, crown, and roots alive, but it won't protect the uncovered upper part of the plant. To protect the upper parts of these plants when temperatures dip into the 20's, consider covering them with canvas or fabric. Plastic is not recommended. It's best to build a frame to support the weight of the cover, and provide a heat source under the cover. A light bulb or a heat lamp is most commonly used. If this is impractical, consider covering only those that you value the most.



Another idea is to wrap the plants with miniature Christmas lights. Not enough heat is generated to cause damage to the plant, but it can make a big difference in the plant's survival. Again, this may not be practical in larger landscapes.

"Can I turn off my sprinkler system now? Unless you've over-seeded with rye-grass, lawns are now quite care-free. Cooler weather and frequent rains will reduce the need for watering the turf.

However, I suggest you monitor the moisture in the soil – not too dry, not too wet. And remember, flowers and plants might have watering needs that are different from the turf grass.

### 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](http://www.LawnRangerCompany.com)

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## Retirement Income and Investing – Will it last?

First of all, I want to wish each every one of our readers and their families a very Merry Christmas. Since the season of giving is upon us, I want to try to give you some helpful guidance in thinking about income during retirement.

The most common question I receive is whether a client's savings are going to generate enough income to last for their lifetime. Our income and the longevity of it is important to both living and giving (in whatever fashion that means to each of you) through retirement.

For many, this thought brings angst in the sense that they may have never thought about it in-depth or they may have thought about it and just never followed through on investigating how it applies to their situation specifically. So let me ask you, do you have a specific plan addressing the question of your retirement income, where it will come from and the likelihood of whether it will last? Is there a written strategy to address this? What are the positives and negatives to the solution? A good fiduciary firm can help you with these questions and I will tell you that there is no time like the present to address this important part of your financial plan.

What I see most often is people simply retiring with investments of various types, mostly subject to the risks of the financial markets, but who haven't evaluated and coordinated this risk with the rest of their financial plan

(investments, taxes, income, insurance, etc). Unfortunately, they don't consider how this risk and lack of planning could affect their income longevity and how to seek mitigation of those risks effectively.

Many say that they "need" the higher returns so they have to have the risk to make it through retirement. Although this could be true, it is seldom the case and if it's never been appropriately evaluated specifically to your unique situation it is at best a guess. Let me ask you, how much market risk (or let's more appropriately describe it as risk of loss) do you really need in retirement? What rate of return goal do you need for your specific financial plan? Let me give you an example of the dangers of not addressing investment risk specifically in relation to retirement income.

Let's assume that you are one of those I mentioned above who believes they need all the risk of the market to successfully navigate retirement and ignores planning around all other areas (like what your withdrawal rate should be). We will further assume you go full bore and simply choose the passive return of the S&P index (1) including dividends (that is, no risk management). You retire with \$1,000,000 and want to draw income of \$80,000 per year and inflation is 4%. Like most folks, we'll assume your assets are withdrawn from retirement accounts (IRA, 401k, etc.) at an effective income tax rate of 20%. Historically speaking, the results by year of retirement might look like this:

**Retire in 1980** – After 30 years you are successful and have ~\$700,000. Congratulations!

**Retire in 1990** – After 16 years you run out of money. Plan failure. Uh oh!

**Retire in 2000** – After 6 years you run out of money. Plan failure. Oh my!

Successful Investor Benjamin Graham in his book 'The Intelligent Investor' said, "Successful investing is about the management of risk..." Note, he did not say the management of returns. He also had this to say, "The best way to measure your investing success is not by whether you're beating the market but by whether you've put in place a financial plan and a behavioral discipline that are likely to get you where you want to go". Did you get that last part? What income plan and investment discipline are you leaning on? Do you have one? Do you understand it and its implications to you? Has your advisor discussed volatility and drawdown in your portfolio to set appropriate expectations? What's your next Bear Market exit strategy or the lack thereof? Will you simply ride it out after the example I've just given you? Big returns are great but big losses can ruin your day.

Folks, we are many years into a bull market and have seen extreme volatility to the up and downside in one of the best economies in quite some time by many measures. However, with recessionary signals on the horizon, not evaluating your risks in regards to investments and how it will affect income in retirement is a big mistake. Especially, if you are close to or have started retirement distributions. We can help you with this. Give us a call for your no obligation review today. It would be a great way to end the year and begin the new with a fresh understanding of what challenges your retirement plan may or may not have! I'll see you soon. Blessings.

(1) Historical S&P Returns from Robert Shilling and Yahoo Finance.  
(2) Indices are unmanaged and investors cannot invest directly in an index. Unless otherwise noted, performance of indices do not account for any fees, commissions or other expenses that would be incurred. The Standard & Poor's 500 (S&P 500) is an unmanaged group of securities considered to be representative of the stock market in general. It is a market value weighted index with each stock's weight in the index proportionate to its market value.

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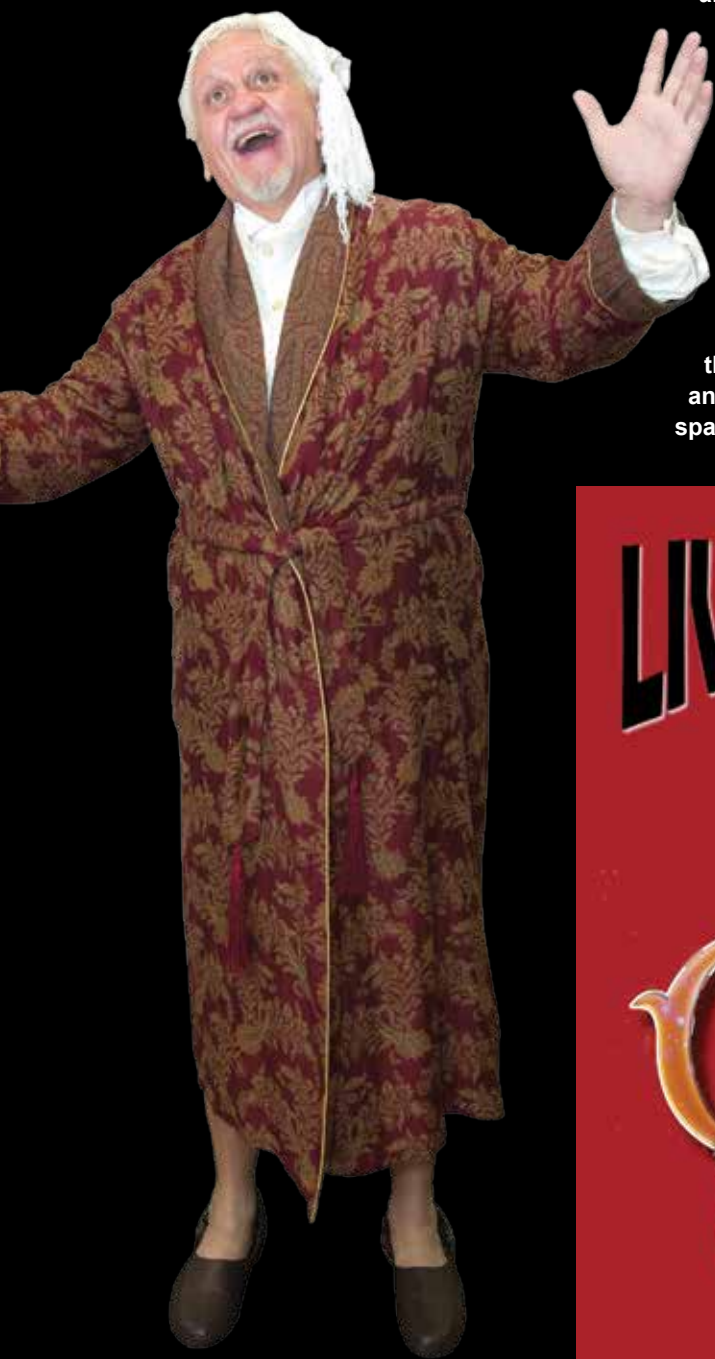
# A Christmas Carol

*the Musical*

*By: Roger Ormiston*







Charles Dickens' timeless holiday ghost story is gracing the stage at The Owen Theatre from December 6-22, in musical form! Presented by The Players Theatre Company, the classic tale comes to life through songs, both whimsical and heartbreaking, and dance routines that will have you swaying in your seat. It is a complicated production with many moving parts, but directors Roger Ormiston and Amber Babcock have put together an incredibly talented and hard-working cast and crew that is up to the task.

The tale centers around the curmudgeonly Ebenezer Scrooge, played by Rex Comer, who has delighted audiences as a vocalist for decades, but is making his theatrical debut right here on the Owen stage! Scrooge, a cold-hearted miser without a kind word or a generous act to spare for

anybody, is visited by the ghost of his old business partner and last friend, Jacob Marley, brought to life by fan favorite Kat Gilcrease, recently seen playing Gomez Addams in *The Addams Family*, and Franz Liebkind in *The Producers*, both produced by Stage Right. Marley warns Scrooge that the greedy way they lived their lives leads to a torturous and lonely afterlife. In order to spare his friend the same fate

he suffers in death, he sends to Scrooge three ghosts in order to convince him of a better way to live.

The Ghost of Christmas Past, a role that introduces affable Carl Marshall to the community stage, reminds Scrooge of his humble beginnings, and of the people he loved before his heart grew cold.

The Ghost of Christmas Present, played by Hannah Gilchriest, a bubbly young woman who last joined the Players as Joanie in *Happy Days*, gives Scrooge a peek into what Christmas is like for the

*Continued on page 20* ➞

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# A CHRISTMAS CAROL

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*Directed by Roger Ormiston*

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people in his life, including his clerk, tender and hard-working Bob Cratchit. Cratchit is played by Christopher St. James, a familiar face in Conroe's theater scene, who has recently warmed our hearts as Harold Hill in CCT's production of *Music Man*, as Professor Bhaer in The Players' *Little Women*, and most recently as one of the Disciples in The Players' production of *Godspell*. Scrooge is introduced to the struggles and strengths of the Cratchit family, including sweet and sickly Tiny Tim, played by nine-year-old Alayna Yerian, who over the past year has sung and danced her way into the hearts of Conroe theater-goers in Stage Right's productions of *Cinderella* and *Annie*, and who came away with a Montie Award for Best Featured Actress in a Musical for her role as Molly in *Annie*.

Finally, Scrooge is confronted by the Ghost of Christmas Future, the most terrifying specter of all, brought to life by young Lauren Orsak, new to The Players, but no stranger to the stage, having most recently played Martha in *Arsenic and Old Lace* and Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof*, both as produced by AD Players. This ghost shows Scrooge what his future holds if he refuses to let his heart be moved.

"What I want people to notice about this production," said Ormiston in a candid in-



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interview, "is the great variety of people involved in the show. Some have been with us for a long time. Some used to be involved and have come back to work on this show. Some have been involved with theatre in other venues. Some are new to theatre altogether. This is what community theatre is all about!"

Join the many local families who have already made The Players' Christmas performance part of their annual holiday tradition. Audiences, young and old, will be awed and touched by this beloved holiday classic.

**A Christmas Carol - The Musical** will be presented at The Owen Theatre, located at 225 Metcalf Street Conroe, TX 77305. The play runs 90 minutes long, with no intermission. Performance dates are December 6, 2019 through December 22, 2019, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2pm. An additional Thursday performance has been placed on the schedule for December 19 at 8pm. Tickets can be purchased at [owentheatre.com](http://owentheatre.com), or by calling the box office at 936.539.4090 between 3-6pm, Tuesday through Friday.

And of course, in the immortal words of Tiny Tim, "God bless us, every one!" ♦

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# Online with Dock Line

## The Importance of Google My Business

*In the current race to improve rankings, Google My Business cannot be overlooked. It needs to become part of your marketing strategy, and rate as one of the most important things you do.*

By: Dock Line Social Media Team

### The Importance of Google My Business

If you haven't already done so you should ensure you have added your business to Google, but stopping there is not enough, you then need to optimize your listing to make sure it is working for you.

### Where Do Customers Come From?

This might sound like a trite question, but you must understand how your customers find you. In the current age of technology, social media is another critical piece of the jigsaw, and you might well have someone on board to take care of your social platforms. Most businesses find that Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are the best to be active on, for B2B companies you should also consider LinkedIn. Social media works well with referrals, and this is another essential way to increase your customer base. Previous customers share and comment on their positive experiences. Because human nature is to trust friends by extension, you become a reliable source for new customers as you have been endorsed.

If you are a local business, then Google My Business should not be overlooked. Did you know each second Google receives over 63,000 searches on any given day? If you do the math, you will see that this means, there are 5.6 billion searches each day. You are going to want some of that action, and suddenly you can see why Google My Business becomes one of the most crucial internet platforms for your company.

This is where an excellent Social Media Strategist comes in; it is their job to ensure that every possible outlet is considered for your business, not just the prominent places. Google My Busi-

ness needs to be treated with as much importance as other platforms, and this means daily updates, images and videos should be posted. This helps to ensure that your page ranks towards the top when Google visitors use the relative search terms.

### Put Your Business in the Spotlight

The statistics above should speak for themselves, but it is also worth knowing that Google is the first port of call for customers looking for local businesses. Furthermore, almost 75% of these searchers go onto make purchases online. It makes

business sense to open as many doors as possible, making yourself highly visible to prospective customers looking for products and services that match your own. It is a more specific platform for business, as while we know and utilize the merits of platforms like Facebook it is worth remembering that users are there for a lot of reasons not specifically to find businesses and services.

Google My Business is a much better function than the old style of Google listings and Google Plus. It has a lot more relevance and gives you the chance to create a dedicated business pro-





file with the most up to date information, and of course, because Google owns it, it is favored in the search engine rankings. You may even find your Google My Business profile outranks your website, but in this case, that is not a problem.

#### The Takeaway

In the current race to improve rankings, Google My Business cannot be overlooked. It needs to become part of your marketing strategy, and rate as one of the most important things you do. If you would like help with Google My Business or any of the other marketing channels you should be targeting, have a chat with us at The Dock Line Social Media Strategy Team today!

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](mailto:social@docklinemagazine.com)! ♦

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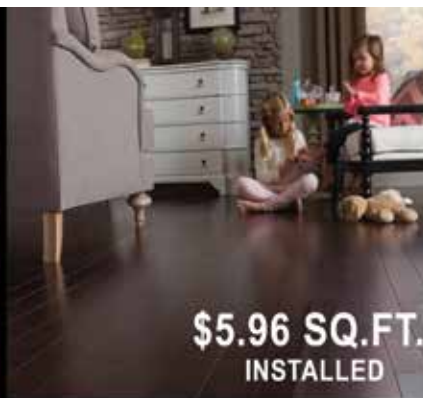
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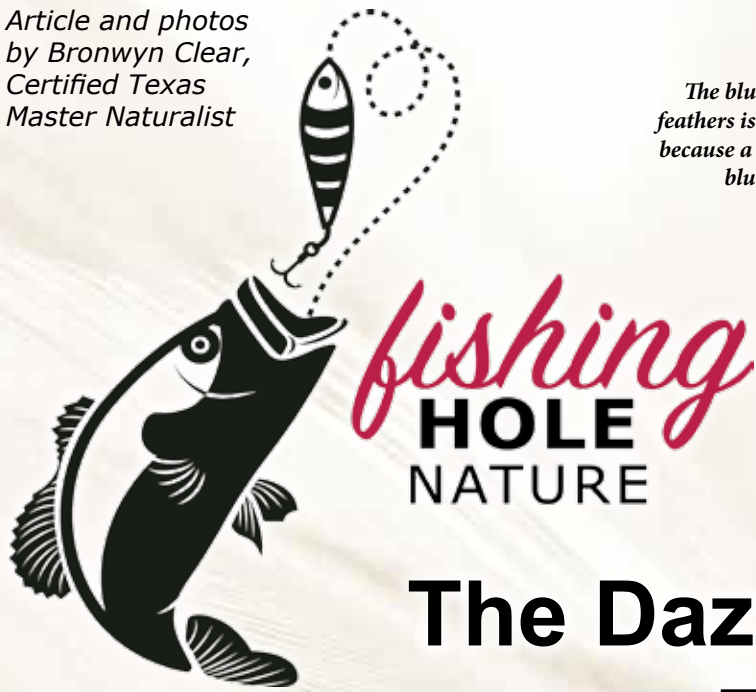
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*The blue in a bluebird's feathers is an optical trick because a bluebird has no blue pigmentation!*



## The Dazzling Colors Of Feathers

Birds can be such glorious colors...reds, blues, greens, oranges, yellows, and some are even iridescent! We humans see a particular feather color because that is the color reflected back to our eyes, while all other colors in the spectrum are absorbed by the feathers. But it becomes even more complex because the feather color we see happens in two ways. One way is due to pigmentation, and the other is due to microscopic feather structure.

Those bold red feathers of a male cardinal and the pink feathers of a flamingo are created by what they eat. Seeds, insects, plants and crustaceans all have carotenoids, which are fat soluble red-orange-yellow pigments. These colorful pigments are absorbed into some birds' systems. Birds such as cardinals and flamingos are able to process the pigment so the color permeates their bodies and feathers. In flamingos the pink is caused by the crabs, crustaceans and algae they eat. In cardinals it's plants, seeds and insects. If you found a feather from either bird and crushed it to a powder, you would see red or pink powder because those pigments are disbursed throughout their feathers. Additionally, a melanin pigment naturally occurs in birds (and humans) which causes feathers to be primarily brown and/or black. Finally, some birds can produce green feathers due to the amino acids, or porphyrins, in their systems. In



*Is it boring to see a bird with only brown and black melanin pigmentation? No way! Ospreys are stunning!*



*Special feather microstructure scatters light like a prism, and causes the shimmering iridescence of green-headed mallards.*

short, what birds eat and how their bodies process food give their feathers almost all the colors in the crayon box. Almost all, except for blue!

Blue. Now there is a bird of a different color! In nature there is no blue pigment in blue feathers...not in bluebirds, blue jays, parrots or any bird with blue feathers! So why do we see blue if there is no blue pigment? Blue is created when light hits the birds' unusual microscopic feather structure, and all the colors of the light spectrum that humans can see are absorbed, except for blue. Blue is reflected back, and therefore is what we see. If a molted blue feather is crushed into powder thereby destroying the feather structure, we would only see a pile of brown dust! Amazing! Blue feathers are truly an optical trick. In addition, the iridescence seen in some birds - the chin of a hummingbird, the shimmer of a green-headed mallard - is also caused by feather microstructure rather than pigmentation. To create iridescent feathers





*The astounding feather colors of a painted bunting are made in a mix of ways – amino acids, pigment-rich foods, and feather microstructure. This fellow has it all going on!*

light is refracted off of a special feather structure, as if it were a prism, making the feathers shimmer and glow.

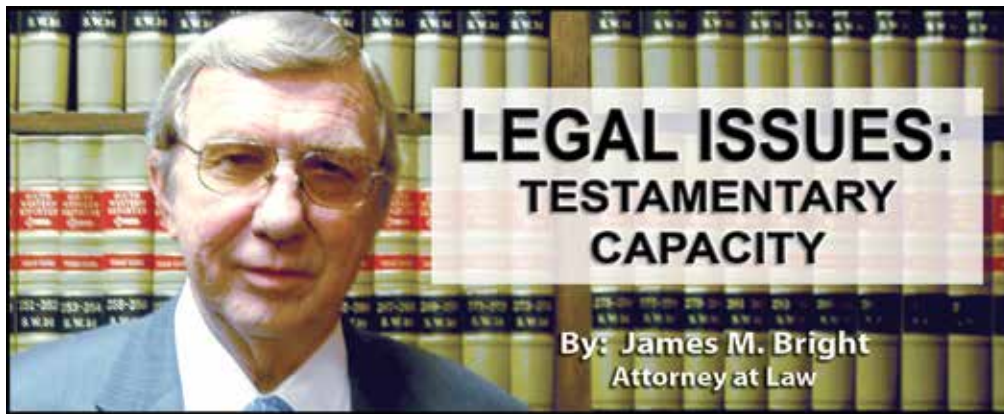
This leads us finally to the painted bunting. These males are a dazzle of colors! They not only have that special feather microstructure that makes us see blue, they also have all possible types of biochemical pigmentation! It's all mixed and jumbled in this one bird, and we see amazing feathers of red, green, yellow, orange, and blue. A painted bunting is a living rainbow!

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](http://www.txmn.org). Volunteer and get involved! ♦



*The red in cardinal feathers is caused by the colorful fat soluble pigments found in what they eat – insects, seeds and plants.*





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

An area of concern experienced by many persons who visit my office involves determination of when a person has sufficient testamentary capacity to make a will and when they do not.

Pursuant to Estates Code §251.001, there is a two-part test to determine testamentary capacity.

The first portion of the test is a simple status and age requirement and is usually fairly easy to prove. The intended testator must be at least eighteen years of age or be lawfully married or be a member of the armed forces of the United States or the auxiliaries thereof or be a member of the maritime service.

The second portion of the test is more problematic and requires that a testator be of "sound mind." The litigation sometimes triggered by this requirement revolves around the definition of

sound mind together with an understanding of what is *not* part of the definition of sound mind. The concern about this element of the test ends up being very subjective in nature and therefore is open to different interpretations.

Rebuttable presumption of capacity - The law assumes that an adult person who has not been legally adjudicated as incapacitated is capable of making a will. The burden of proof falls upon the person, if any, who is questioning the competence of the testator regarding capacity to make a will.

Elderly are not presumed to lack capacity - Many people (*usually very young ones*) make the false assumption that just because someone has achieved the status of having advanced years, they are no longer competent. Such an assumption is not supported by law. The law will not shift the burden of proof from the person questioning capacity to the testator's representative to prove capacity.

Even temporary incompetence will not prove lack of competence on the day of the will. A person may be incompetent at one time but competent at a different time. *Dubree v. Blackwell*, 67 S.W.3d 286 (Tex.App.—Amarillo 2001). The Court determined in the Dubree case that even though a person might suffer from a degree of diminished capacity, they can still have "lucid" clear moments.

What is required for capacity? The law has been fairly clear on this point in Texas for many years and with few refinements for the past 130 years. (*Prather v. McClelland*, 13 S.W. 543 (Tex. 1890)). The five-part analysis offered in that case has the person contesting the will try to prove the falsehood of one or more of these factors while the proponent of the will attempts to show that each of the five factors did "in fact" exist at the actual time of the will signing.

- Sufficient ability to understand the business in which he is engaged;
- Sufficient ability to understand the effect of his act in making the will;
- The capacity to know the objects of his bounty;
- The capacity to understand the general nature and extent of his property;
- Memory sufficient to collect in his mind the elements of the business to be transacted, and to hold them long enough to perceive, at least their obvious relation to each other, and to be able to form a reasonable judgment as to them.

Testamentary Capacity vs. Contractual Capacity - It is safe to say that it is commonly accepted that it takes less mental capacity to make a will than it takes to enter into a contract.

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Some of the scholars regarding this truth have rationalized that the testator's duty is less in signing a will because he need not take into consideration the effect that signing the will may have on his/her life. This logic argues that because the testator will no longer be living at the time that the will takes effect, and that because he/she shall always have the right to revoke the will, the burden of competency is "in fact" less.

In my own practice, if there is an obvious or at least reasonable expectation of a contest being filed due to the possible allegation of "lack of capacity," we attempt to make notes on the record. Although this firm does not hold itself out to have any type of expertise in the diagnosis of mental acuity, we do have an ability to conduct conversations with the testator which can reveal the elements outlined in the Prather case quoted earlier. If the person who is making the will can discuss their families with me and know to whom they are leaving their property and why, it is believed that notes to the file regarding those conversations could be very valuable down the road if a contest is filed.

*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](http://www.houstontxprobate.com). ♦*



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# Please Give Animals a “Brake”

By: Lisa Wolling, Executive Director

One of the most commonly-asked questions wildlife rehabilitators get from the general public is the following: by rehabilitating wild animals, aren't we interfering with nature, and shouldn't we simply let nature take its course? If rehabilitators were simply rescuing animals that were down from storms, or other natural occurrences, that statement would ring true. However, the reality is that about 90% of the wildlife animals that are injured or orphaned are need-

rather than where they are going, so they are more apt to be hit while they are hunting. Conversely, owls will be hunting after dark. It is difficult to be on the lookout for flying birds while you are driving, of course. Be more alert if you are driving on tree-lined roads (birds of prey may be chasing prey that is out in the open, i.e. along roadways). Roughly 85-90% of the birds of prey we care for at Friends of Texas Wildlife have been struck by a vehicle, and of course birds are



Left: Armadillo, hit by vehicle in August, severely injured. Left center: Armadillo in November, still recovering, but armor is healing. Right center: Fawn hit by vehicle, broken leg. Right: All healed up and ready for release.

ing assistance due to human impacts (habitat loss; poisoning; attacks by domestic dogs or cats; gunshot). However, the most common reason for wildlife animals needing help is that they have been struck by a vehicle. As our county and surrounding areas continue to grow, this is a problem that will no doubt unfortunately get worse. Animal/vehicle accidents are not only dangerous (if not fatal) for the animal, but they cause millions of dollars of damage to vehicles every year. There are some important things to bear in mind to help avoid, as much as possible, hitting wildlife animals.

It is helpful to be at least somewhat familiar with what animals are most common in our area and a little about their normal behavior. In our part of Texas, we don't have too many wildlife animals that are active during daylight hours, so that minimizes somewhat the risk of hitting anything during the day. However, birds of prey such as hawks and falcons, as well as songbirds, are active during the day. With raptors, they tend to be focused on prey they are chasing

the most difficult to avoid because it is so difficult to see them coming. Squirrels are also active during the day, and they are another commonly hit animal, mainly due to their behavior. In a squirrel's mind, the best way to avoid capture is to run erratically in order to confuse the predator. This strategy works fairly well if you are being pursued by a hawk or coyote. However, it is largely ineffective against cars...an alert driver might swerve to avoid hitting a squirrel, only to have said squirrel dart right back into the path of the car. Best thing to try to avoid hitting a squirrel is to brake, but not alter direction (because usually the squirrel WILL alter direction).

It never ceases to amaze us how many turtles and tortoises come in after being hit. If ever there was an animal that should be easy to avoid, it would be these. They are not generally known for darting out into traffic. We would hate to think that people might hit them intentionally. As reptiles, they have a very slow metabolism, and even with very grave, fatal injuries, death comes slowly to them. It is horrific...please help them out if you can. If it can be safely done,

any turtle on the road should be relocated to the side of the road. Make note of which direction the turtle is headed, and then take them to the side of the road they were trying to get to. Especially in spring and early summer, turtles are on the move to breed and lay eggs. They know where they want to go, so don't relocate them, just help them to cross the road.

Many of the mammals we have in our part of Texas are nocturnal. We commonly see raccoons, opossums, skunks, and armadillos coming in as victims of being struck. Most of these animals are relatively slow moving, and they are not too likely to suddenly dart out in front of a car. Where they tend to get into trouble is on poorly-lit roads, or roads with curves where they cannot be easily seen. Raccoons have very good eyesight and hearing and will generally try to run to avoid getting hit. Skunks, opossums, and armadillos all have fairly poor eyesight. By the time they can SEE a car, it's often too late for them to run. A skunk's defense, as we all know, is



Left: Great Horned Owl, hit by vehicle, broken wing (wing is wrapped for stabilization while it heals). Right: All healed up. Release day!





*Left: Red-tailed hawk, hit by vehicle, broken beak. Right: Months later, all recovered and ready for release.*

to turn around to spray anything they deem threatening (rather than run), so that is clearly not helpful to avoid being struck. Opossums are timid and slow so that, coupled with their poor eyesight, just leaves them almost defenseless against cars. They also have a very thin skull as compared to other animals, so if they do get hit, they suffer more severe head trauma. Then there are armadillos...when they get scared, their reaction is to jump straight up in the air, about three feet. Although this may work to frighten off other predators, again it is not a good strategy against a car or truck. By the time they see a car, and react by jumping, it is almost inevitable that they will be hit. All these animals are common in suburban as well as rural areas, so please be aware of their normal behavior and slow down a little at night, especially on very dark roads or roads with curves. Given the chance, they will move along and out of your way.

The most costly and dangerous vehicle/animal accidents involve deer. There are several things to keep in mind to avoid having a collision with a deer.

Most important is to be extra alert during the times deer are most active, which is from sunset to midnight and during the hours shortly before and after dawn. Remember that deer seldom run alone, so if you see one, there are probably others nearby or behind the one you see. Obviously use extra caution if you see any deer crossing signs. Use your high-beam headlights on darker roads (if there are no oncoming cars). The higher beam will better illuminate the eyes of any deer nearby. If there is a deer in the roadway, brake firmly but do not swerve and stay in your lane. Many accidents occur when drivers swerve and either hit another vehicle or lose control of their own vehicle. Once you stop, blow your horn to frighten the deer off the road.

The best way to avoid collisions with wildlife is to simply be aware and alert to your surroundings. Distracted driving is dangerous on many levels, so try to pay attention and slow down when conditions warrant it. Not only will that help to keep wildlife safer, but it will keep you and your loved ones safer too!

During this festive time of year, we want to send our best wishes to everyone for a wonderful holiday and a happy and healthy new year. Please remember that Friends of Texas Wildlife is wholly dependent on fundraising and donations to support the thousands of animals we rehabilitate every year. We truly cannot do what we do without the support of the community we serve. Donations can be made at [www.ftwl.org](http://www.ftwl.org) (via Paypal or credit card), or mailed to our physical address at 29615 Highland Boulevard, Magnolia, TX 77354.

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/SavingTexas-Wildlife](http://www.facebook.com/SavingTexas-Wildlife). 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, December 14. 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](mailto: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](http://www.ftlw.org), and then click on "How to Help". ♦



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