

Dock Line Magazine

Magnolia

February 2020



Ashley Barber
Founder Simply Maven
Marie Kondo
Professional Organizer
Certified KonMari Consultant
Appearing at

Montgomery County Home & Outdoor Living Show

February 29 & March 1, 2020

Lone Star Convention Center

See page 8



Dead Trees Give New Life

See Page 18

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- Drawings will be done immediately, the lucky winners will be announced and the first winner will be prepped for treatment.
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table of CONTENTS

FEBRUARY 2020



It's hard to believe we are already in the second month of 2020. February has always been a exciting month with lots of festivities but this year brings us even more excitement as we announce our long over due new merger with the great people at Voixly LLC. The innovative new things they bring to Dock Line Magazine will allow us to show our clients even more love when it comes to their marketing visions, the sky's the limit this year and we are stoked.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to all our advertisers, readers and partners for helping us move on through another great year because without your loyalty and support we could not take this next step. Remember to shop local and get out there to enjoy some or all of the fun events your community has to offer in February. Most of all keep reading Dock Line Magazine. Until next month,

Bentley & Ellie 

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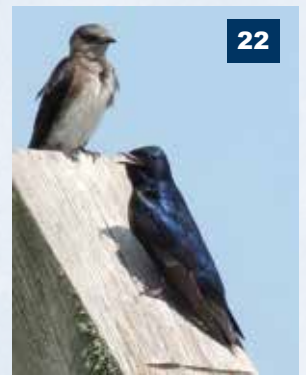
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- 7** In & Around
- 8** Montgomery County Home & Outdoor Living Show
- 10** Back to Health
- 11** MISD Fishing Team Begins New Decade in First Place
- 12** Dental Bites
- 14** SJRA: Only rain in the drain!
SJRA Stormwater Inlet Marking (SwIM) Program
- 16** VA Mission Act Success
- 18** Friends of Texas Wildlife:
Dead Trees Give New Life
- 22** Fishing Hole Nature:
Purple Martin Majesty
- 24** LEGAL ISSUES: Texas Real Property Transfer on
Death Act
- 26** It's All In YOUR HEAD
- 27** Clear Direction For Your Retirement™
- 28** Online with Dock Line: Can You Really "Make
Money Online?"
- 32** Fishing Adventures with Derek Pietsch
- 36** Catch 'Em, Clean 'Em & Eat 'Em



18



22



On the Cover

Ashley Barber, Houston's First Certified KonMari Professional Organizer with Simply Maven will be at the 2nd Annual Montgomery County Home & Outdoor Living Show February 29th and March 1st at the Lone Star Convention Center.

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Sweet Magnolia Pickins Farmers & Artisans Market

When: February 2 & 16, 2020

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Where: Corner of FM 1488 and FM 1774, Magnolia, TX 77354

Sweet Magnolia Pickins is inviting you to shop at their Farmers Market on the first, third and fifth Sunday of each month from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Located at the intersection of FM 1488 and FM 1774, you will find the freshest, homegrown produce in the area! Everything at the Market is homegrown or handmade!

Free “Law Line” Service

When: February 3, 2020

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 Wilderness Campground & Farmer's Market

When: February 5, 2020

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Where: 14310 FM 1488, Magnolia, Texas 77354

Four uniquely different food options will be open at one convenient location. All 4 of our food vendors are masters of their culinary craft and your belly will not be disappointed! The Wilderness Farmers Market, an indoor midweek farmers

market, will celebrate the grand opening of its food court February 5th, founder Homer Allison said. The market, located at 14320 FM 1488, Magnolia, behind Magnolia High School, will feature four food vendors in one location. Selections include: D's Farm Road BBQ, Biryani Hut Indian Food, Kaleb's Krawfish & Seafood, and Bright Relish. The food court will be open 11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. every Wednesday alongside the market, which is open Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. www.battlecryministries.org/the-wilderness-market.

Farmer's Market on Tamina

When: February 15, 2020

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Where: 32907 Tamina Rd., Magnolia, TX 77354

Admission: Free

The Farmers Market on Tamina is located west of The Woodlands. You will find them just off of FM 1488 & FM 2978 in Magnolia, TX within the Westwood subdivision. Central to Montgomery, Conroe, Spring, Tomball & the Woodlands, Come shop a large variety of high-quality farmer and artisan vendors that will keep you coming back each week. ♦



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Montgomery County Home & Outdoor Living Show

February 29 & March 1, 2020

Lone Star Convention Center

The 2nd Annual Montgomery County Home and Outdoor Living Show features appearances by top names in home improvement with over 200 exhibitors sharing products and services. New this year are DIY workshops! Have fun making a floral arrangement with Ashley Wallace of The Tallest Tulip. Board and Brush of Magnolia will work with attendees to build a unique wood home décor project in a fun atmosphere. Create your own and take it home! This is an event you leave with a keepsake!



Ashley Barber, Houston's First Certified KonMari Professional Organizer with Simply Maven, will answer questions one on one with ways to minimize your home to create simplicity. Get rid of the clutter and keep items that bring joy to your life. The KonMari Method is created by Marie Kondo, bestselling author and star of Netflix's hit show, *Tidying Up With Marie Kondo*, and founder of KonMari Media, Inc.

Simply Maven is an organizational coaching company with a mission to teach others the best ways to let go of their stuff, organize their spaces, and create more time and ease in their lives. Owned by KonMari Specialists, Ashley Barber and Jane

McCullough, we show clients – from busy moms to hard-working professionals – how to create an environment where they can thrive.

"I am a big believer in making space for what matters by choosing things that spark joy in an environment you can thrive in", said Ashley Barber. "I will be available Saturday to meet one on one for your personal organizing questions to create a home you love and brings you joy." The KonMari method of organizing focuses on 'curating' what you will use or that has sentimental connections. Developing a different mindset is a lifestyle change from abundance



to simplicity. "Spend time doing things that matter. If you don't have time to store items correctly, you won't have time to do it over again either". Ashley will present, "Choosing Joy! An Introduction to the KonMari Method" several times during the event.

Outdoor Perfection, the featured landscape exhibitor, will display the newest ways to remodel your yard with 20% off during the show to celebrate 20 years of business.

Talk to experts from landscaping, outdoor living, kitchen and bath remodeling, pools, attics, painters, flooring, bathtubs, skylights, pest/



mosquito control, kitchen accessories, hot tubs, windows/window treatments, roofing, garages, furniture, mattresses and much more.

New this year: Coburn's Kitchen and Bath Showroom will have products found on Pinterest but never in Home Depot or Lowe's including the TOTO Washlet Toilet with warm water cleansing, a rear soft spray, adjustable water pressure, and a self-cleaning wand!



See the latest innovations for your next remodeling project. Warren's Southern Gardens and Warren's Outdoor Living will highlight landscape remodels and Spring gardening ideas. Katie Stavinoha, publisher of the Round Top Antiques Show Guide, will share information on the Roundtop Antique Show with 70 venues and over 4,500 dealers attracting people from across the world for antiques.



Visit the luxury kitchen and bath designs from ABM Cabinets featuring custom cabinets in granite and quartz with amazing fixtures to complement the remodel. See the newest Hunter Douglas window treatments of shades, blinds, shutters, and the newest technology of Powerview Motorization that includes safety features with app control by Simple Elegance.

Additional Professional Speakers appearing at show:

- LIVE broadcast from Randy Lemmon of GardenLine on AM KTRH 740. Meet Randy and get a signed copy of his new book!
- Tom Tynan, host of HomeShow Radio on KTRH 740, until 2pm both days



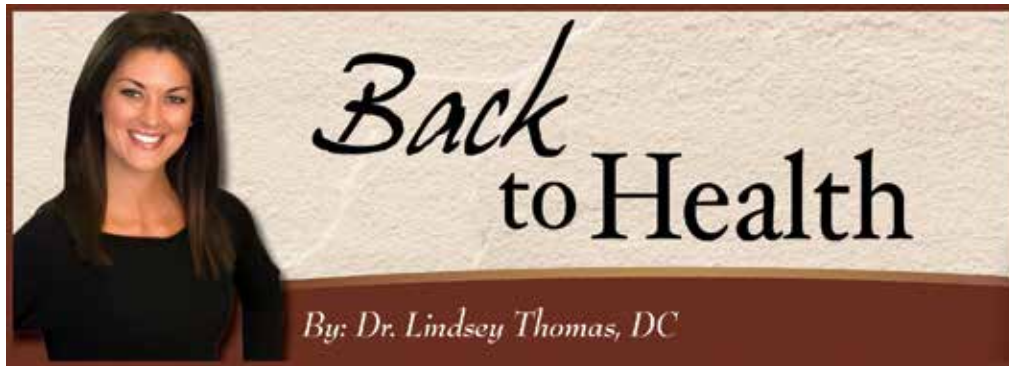
- Dany Millikin, HomeShow Garden Pro speaking on "Unlocking a Better Lawn"
- Montgomery County Master Gardeners—answering questions one-one
- Brandon Heitzweibel, Landscape Designer, Warren's Outdoor Living "Benefits of using Virtual Reality in a Landscape Architectural Presentation"
- Mary Scalli, President, CEO, of Simple Elegance and Accredited Staging Professional Master sharing information on Hunter Douglas Window Treatments and Home Staging
- Sherwin Williams Color Snap Color Consultants

Je'Nae Boyko, Color Consultant from Sherwin Williams encourages attendees to meet one on one with her team. "Meet your local color consultants from Sherwin Williams, see the 2020 color pallets, see the color of the year and discover how to use the ColorSnap Visualizer App to explore color on your next project."

Visit with local home improvement specialists in many categories, including kitchen, bath, spas, landscaping, patio's, trees, outdoor kitchens, game rooms, flooring, windows, doors, mosquito systems, home-painting, patio furniture, pools, roofing, remodeling contractors, builders, generators, storage solutions, mattresses, blinds and shutters, water systems, air conditioning and heating, garage organization, concrete resurfacing and so much more during the event.

Community Assistance Center (CAC) and Inspiration Ranch are the non-profit organizations spotlighted during the Montgomery County Home and Outdoor Show. CAC is a source of hope for Montgomery County residents experiencing financial crisis in basic needs of housing, utilities, food and clothing with a goal of delivering lifelong solutions. Inspiration Ranch provides equine therapy programs to special need individuals with expertise certified through the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International.

Show hours are 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, Feb.29 and 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 1 at the Lone Star Convention Center, 9055 Airport Road in Conroe. Tickets for the show are \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors, and children 12 years and younger free. Visit www.TexwoodShows.com where a downloadable discount coupon for \$2 off admission is available. ♦



A New Attitude Towards Flu Season: Chance or Choice?

With flu season here, it is important for us to recognize some of the lifestyle choices that contribute to our increased susceptibility to the flu.

Our bodies have an incredible ability to adapt to their environments and maintain a state of balance. It is this balance that creates true health and well-being. However, physical, emotional and chemical stresses negatively affect our bodies' ability to adapt and maintain this balance.

All summer long we enjoy the sunshine, fresh air, and an increase in outdoor physical activities. Schedules are less hectic and there is more opportunity to relax. Fresh fruits and vegetables are in abundance, and we tend to eat lighter, more nutritious foods.

With winter comes the stress of the holiday season. Shopping, preparations, and hectic deadlines combined with already busy schedules often force us to replace regular good eating habits with fast food. "Take out" becomes easier to fit into our on-the-go lifestyles than preparing home cooked meals. Foods associated with the holidays also add to the mix of increased chemical stress and decrease our family's immune system function. All the preparation, all the parties, all the rushing, all of the increased stressors begin to take their toll on our family's health.

Considering the amount of stress our families go through during the holidays, is it any wonder that the holiday season is also synonymous with flu season? In chiropractic we recognize that



an increase in these stresses negatively affect the nervous system, which in turn affects the body's ability to function in its maximum state of health. Continuous physical, chemical and emotional stress overload will lead to a state of disease in our bodies, and our bodies respond with decreased immune function.

When the immune system goes into stress overload one of the first signs or symptoms is fever. It is important to note that it is our own immune system that creates fever and the fever is actually the body's way of overcoming the disease or toxicity.

Society tends to take fever-reducing medication at the first sign of fever. When a fever is artificially suppressed in this way, the body's defense system remains inactive allowing the toxin to remain in the body. Once the fever has subsided, the assumption is that one is healthy, which is often not the case. There is actually a great possibility that when the fever-reducing medication has worn off, we will be sicker than before because the toxin never really went away. Fever needs to be monitored, not suppressed.

Regular chiropractic care is one way of helping our bodies maintain a state of balance and cope with the never ending stresses we are exposed to. Our nerve system and immune system function are closely connected. Therefore, spinal nerve stress negatively affects both our nerve and immune systems. Reducing interference to the nerve system on a regular basis with chiropractic adjustments allows the immune system to function better.

Our lifestyles play an important role in our bodies' ability to function in a state of health. Proper nutrition, adequate rest and exercise are all important to keep our immune systems strong and healthy. Choices we make daily and seasonally affect our immune system function.

Although it may seem impossible to resist the stresses imposed on us by the demands of our hectic lifestyle, we can reduce the effects these stresses have on our families' health. The key to health and vitality for your families depends on two ingredients: the lifestyle choices we make that reduce ongoing stressors and what we do to help our bodies adapt to the incoming stressors we cannot change. ♦

MISD Fishing Team Begins New Decade in First Place

By: Mark Hooker

As the first half of the 2019-20 Texas High School Bass Association season came to a close in December on Lake Houston, the MISD Fishing Team could relish in the fact that they would begin the new decade in a familiar spot, First Place in the Houston Division of the THSBA. By finishing in 2nd Place at Lake Houston, the team was able to acquire enough points to break a tie with Brenham for 1st Place. This left your MISD Fishing Team with sole possession of 1st Place, with Brenham lurking in



2nd, and Tomball Memorial in 3rd, out of 23 High Schools in the THSBA Houston Division.

Leading the way for MISD at a stingy Lake Houston was the Team of Fallon Clepper and Wyatt Ford. The newcomers to the Team weighed in one of only 4 five fish limits weighed, out of 144 Individual Teams. By doing so, Clepper and Ford claimed 3rd place, with a total weight of 9.82 pounds. Also doing well for MISD was the team of Jack Haag & Connor Callihan, claiming 13th, and the tandem of Jack Middlebrook following close behind, with a 15th place finish.

It should be no surprise that Fallon and Wyatt are off to a tremendous start, ranking 4th in the Anglers of the Year competition for the Houston Division, as well as being the highest ranked team for MISD. First off, this pair of Freshmen is very talented, and possesses poise beyond their years. They also have an "Ace in the Hole," by having Local Legend Julian Clepper as their Captain.

Also doing well in the Angler of the Year Race is the formidable pair of Dallin Turner and Carson Rennell, currently in 5th overall for the year. "Turner & Hooch" were the best team for MISD in the 2018/19 campaign, leading the Team to a 2nd place finish in both the Conference & Regionals, as well as a 4th place finish, out of 225 High Schools competing in the entire THSBA.

As the squad looks forward to the new decade, they will compete on Toledo Bend on February 15th, followed by a quick turnaround in March, competing on the 7th at Lake Livingston. It will be here that the MISD Fishing Team is hopeful to claim Conference Title number 5, out of 6 years in existence.

Then, on April 11th, MISD will have the honor and distinction of hosting the Regional Tournament on Lake Conroe. Here, the Team looks to earn its' 3rd Regional Crown, looking to advance as many Individual Teams to the State Championship, to be held on Lake Belton on May 9th & 10th. It will be there, that the squad looks to claim another State Title. ♦

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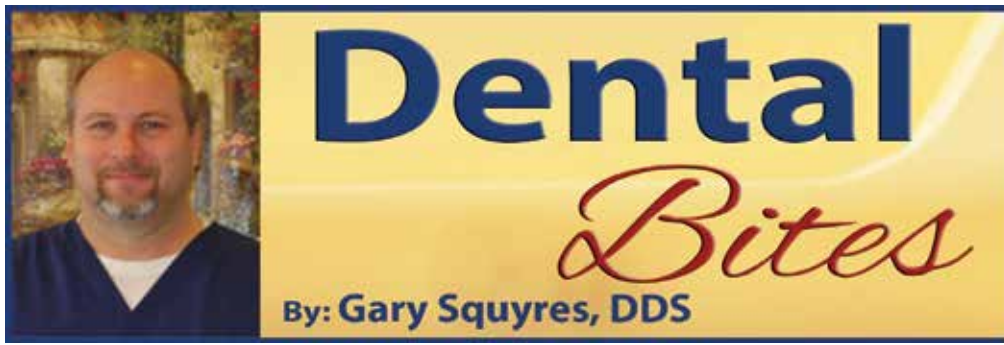
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Some of you may have heard about the following story a couple of weeks ago on the news. If not, I recommend that you take a couple of minutes to read the article. This is definitely a lesson of what not to do if you are experiencing a dental problem.

Adam Martin, a 41-year-old British man, was happily munching on popcorn when a piece got stuck in his teeth. So, he decided to use various objects to dislodge it but was unsuccessful even after trying for three days. He used objects like a pen lid, a toothpick, a piece of wire and a metal nail to remove the piece, but nothing worked.

Believe it or not, the popcorn in his tooth affected his gums and developed into a life-threatening infection that required open-heart surgery.

Martin said the piece of corn got stuck in a back

tooth after he and his wife watched a movie back in September. His multiple removal attempts damaged his gum that eventually led to an infection.

A week after the popcorn got stuck, Martin started suffering from night sweats, headaches, and fatigue. At that time, he thought they were nothing but signs of seasonal flu. However, he soon learned his condition were signs of endocarditis, an infection of the endocardium.

The infection occurs when bacteria from the mouth, skin, and intestines enter the bloodstream.

A month later, he was diagnosed with a mild heart murmur but was sent home from the hospital.

"I had aches and pains in my legs and I just did not feel right at all. I was admitted to hospital the same

day for tests. By this point, I was very worried," Martin was quoted by Fox News.

A few days later, a scan revealed his heart was damaged due to the infection. His family immediately transferred him to another hospital, where he underwent open-heart surgery to repair his mitral valve.

The surgery was successful and Martin's condition soon returned to normal.

Martin deeply regrets not going to the dentist in the first place and his wife believes the problem could've easily been treated with antibiotics had it been caught sooner.

This type of event occurs more often than one would think. If you are experiencing dental concerns please visit your oral health care provider. ♦



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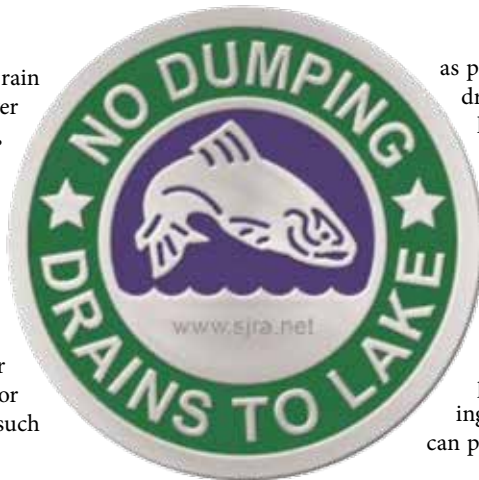


Only rain in the drain!

SJRA Stormwater Inlet Marking (SwIM) Program

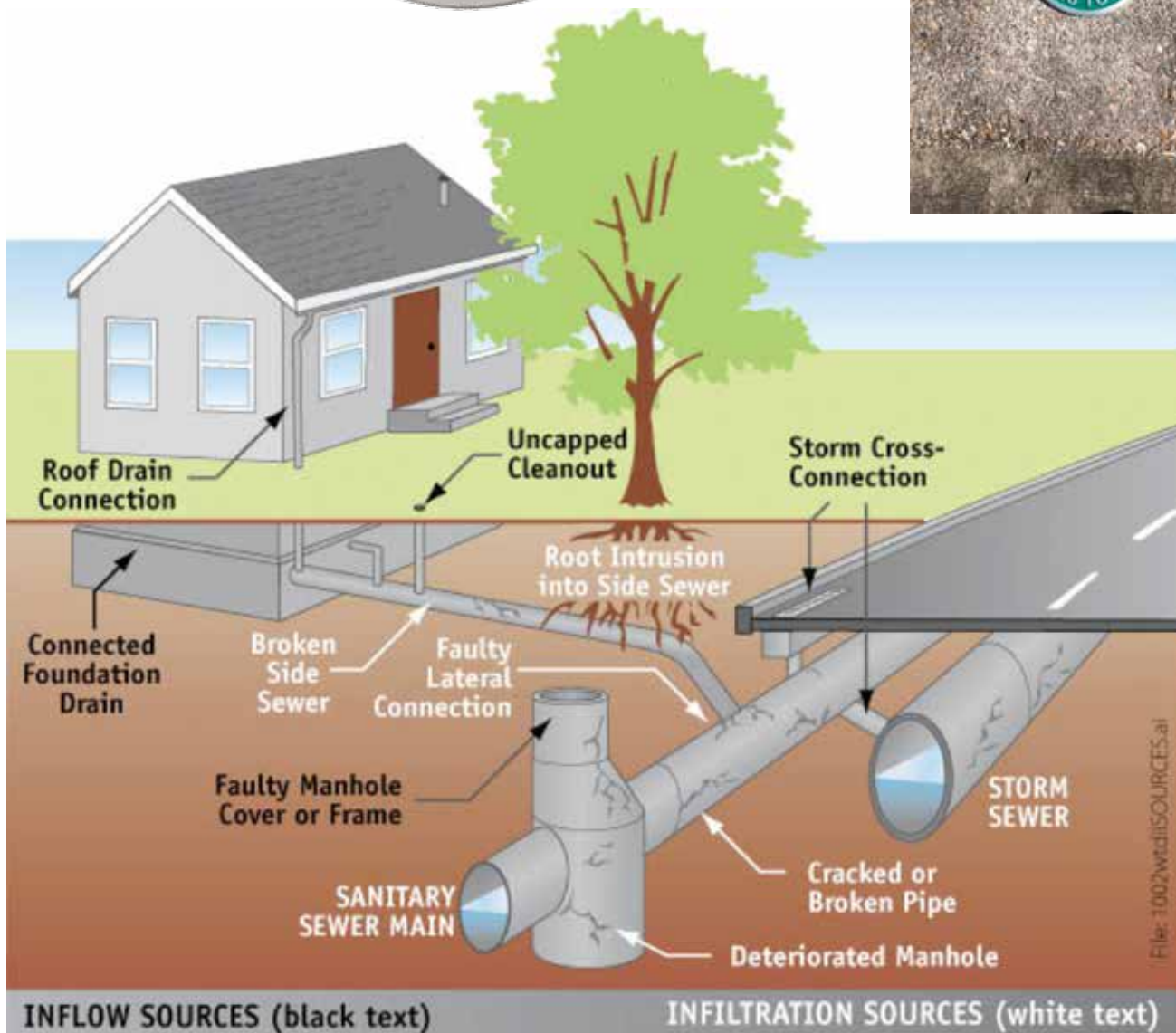
Most people do not realize the rain water that flows down our streets, over parking lots, through parks and yards, and into open drains flows directly into Lake Conroe. Our community actions and behaviors have a significant and direct impact on preserving high water quality in the Lake Conroe Watershed.

Stormwater runoff drains directly to waterways without being filtered or treated at a wastewater treatment plant or sewage facility. It picks up pollutants such



as pet waste, grass, oil residue, pesticides, and fertilizers on its way to the drain and the lake. Additionally, disposing of liquids such as paint, gasoline, or motor oil in the storm drain is the same as dumping it directly right into the lake.

Contaminated stormwater runoff can be harmful to plants and animals that inhabit the lake, can clog pipes and drains increasing the risk of flooding, and can pose a health risk to those





who come in contact with the water fishing, swimming, or skiing.

With a focus to preserve the high quality of Lake Conroe, the San Jacinto River Authority's (SJRA) Stormwater Inlet Marking (SwIM) Program was created in 2015 as a visual reminder that only rain belongs down the drain. SwIM is an educational and "hands-on" outreach program to improve water quality by raising awareness of illegal dumping of pollutants into the storm sewer system.

The program not only aims to reduce dumping, but it also serves as a community service activity. The SwIM Program gives local communities, schools, groups, and others the opportunity to lend a hand by applying storm drain inlet marker medallions to the top of storm drains in neighborhoods throughout the Lake Conroe Watershed.

Lake Conroe is currently one of the highest quality bodies of water in the greater Houston area, meeting or exceeding all the Clean Water Act standards for contact recreation, public water supply, and aquatic habitat. Proper removal of pet waste, trash pick-up, suitable chemical disposal, and accurate fertilizer application can all preserve the high quality of Lake Conroe.

For more information on SwIM or to schedule a SwIM inlet marking event contact SJRA at <https://www.sjra.net/lakeconroe/stormwater-inlet-marking/>

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 Coun-

ty. For additional information on SJRA visit our website at www.sjra.net, like SJRA on Facebook @SanJacintoRiverAuthority, follow us on Twitter @SJRA_1937, or Instagram @SanJacintoRiverAuthoritySJRA. ♦



VA Mission Act Success



By: *Kay L. Lee, Veterans Service Officer*

When VA began implementing the VA MISSION Act this past June, they knew it had the potential to make an enormous positive impact for Veterans. Now, more than six months later, we know that that is the case: With the MISSION Act, VA is helping more Veterans access the care and services they need, when and where they need them.

One of the biggest accomplishments VA has achieved under this law is the launch of a new, consolidated community care program. This program uses simplified eligibility standards that are easier for Veterans, their families, VA staff, and community providers to navigate. This new network now includes 880,000 community providers across the country.

This program also includes a new urgent care benefit that allows Veterans to seek care for minor injuries and illnesses from urgent care clinics that are a part of VA's contracted network

But improving access to community care is just one piece of the puzzle. Under the MISSION Act, VA is now implementing "anywhere to anywhere" telehealth, meaning VA can bring provider expertise across state lines and into Veterans' own living rooms – meeting them where they are. VA recently announced the delivery of telehealth services to more than 900,000 Veterans over 2.6 million episodes of care in fiscal 2019 – an increase of 17% over the previous year. This extraordinary progress gives Veterans more convenient care options without traveling to their provider's office.

Looking toward the future

The provisions of the MISSION Act stretch out to 2034, and VA progress will continue. In the next few months VA will enhance secure information sharing with community providers, delivering safer, better-coordinated care for Veterans. The VA has also stood up a new Innovation Center, intensified focus on underserved facilities, started a pilot program to include Veteran peer support in primary care, and will expand VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers to support Veterans of all eras.

If veterans want additional information on VA & State benefits, please contact Montgomery County Veterans Service at 936-539-7842 or via email at vetsvc@mctx.org. ♦

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0 Semands Street in Conroe

ML# 86403315. \$2,350,000



A private & elegant country estate that is conveniently located on a quiet street off FM1488 w/in minutes of shopping, restaurants, schools, Lake Conroe, The Woodlands + more! Situated on a 2.44 acre lot this custom home boasts an open floor plan, expansive living spaces + numerous

options for outdoor entertainment! Exterior features include eye-catching facades, warm stone/stucco accents, arched walkways/doorways, wrought-iron balconies, courtyard, TWO full size garages (4 car spaces) + a private water well! The interior will immediately WOW once you walk through the iron front doors to the two story foyer! The interior was designed w/the following: high ceilings, heavy use of hardwood and travertine tile floors, architectural details including arches and use of large picture windows, stylish granite throughout, high-end cabinetry + very spacious bedrooms. 5 bedrooms, game room, office/sitting room, bonus room, covered/uncovered porches/patios/balconies, breakfast + formal dining room.

315 Mapleleaf Street, Country Forest in Magnolia

ML# 41144855. \$710,000



Motivated Seller, BRING ALL OFFERS! The estate-style drive welcomes you home to a 1.1 acre lot surrounded by shade trees & located on a quiet street. The outdoor living not only offers spacious covered/uncovered patio/porch space + privacy, but a pool w/waterfall! The home

greeted w/a cozy porch that overlooks the front yard w/eye-catching wood accent ceilings. Interior - large living room w/high ceilings, wall of windows, wood floors and fireplace. The kitchen overlooks the living area & is equipped w/solid surface countertops, gas cooking, solid cabinets, breakfast area + formal dining w/French doors. All bedrooms downstairs (only room upstairs is the gameroom). Master bedroom offers 2 walls of windows, double sinks, soak tub + walk-in shower. 2 secondary bedrooms w/shared full bath. Large gameroom/flex space upstairs! The backyard offers a sunroom/enclosed back patio, fencing, pool + decking! The neighborhood offers a fishing lake, park + more! Seller has done a ton of updates!!!

8946 Catamaran Way, Ridgeland Shores in Montgomery

ML# 41531627. \$359,900



RARE FIND! Ranch style 3 bedroom/2 bathroom home perfectly situated on a +/- 1.3 acre lot! Located on a quiet street close to I-45 and FM1314 near shopping and schools + no flooding! The property boasts large shade trees, a private water well + the use of a stocked fishing pond almost steps from your back patio!

The interior greets with a large living room with high ceilings, fresh paint, new carpet, fireplace + great views of the pond!

The kitchen offers solid wood cabinets, brand new double ovens/cooktop/vent hood, tile backsplash, new stylish tile floors + a spacious dining room w/fresh paint. Master bedroom is HUGE w/large picture windows overlooking the pond + fresh paint, new carpet and new eye-catching tile surround in shower/tub! Two secondary bedrooms w/great closets, fresh paint + new carpet. Second full bathroom has new tile floors and a walk-in shower.

10053 Stidham Road in Conroe

ML# 16210984. \$249,900



2.12 acre lot in sought after Teaswood! Teaswood offers executive estate living with tree lined streets, rolling terrain, nature trails, gated access and custom homes throughout. White Oak Creek offers a refreshing backdrop to any custom design! 3 more lots available contiguous with this lot (could be a total of 11.3 acres).

10205 Paradise Valley, Teaswood in Conroe

ML# 25787989. \$189,900



Well maintained and ready for you! This 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home will not last long! Enjoy entertaining family & friends in your large fenced front and backyard; perfect for the family pet as well! Covered back patio is 22x12 and the front patio is 12x7, both great for relaxing! Kitchen offers granite countertops and

great counter space + a breakfast area w/built in seating. Spacious living room w/wall of windows and laminate wood floors. Large Master with great closet space + a shower/tub combo.

10945 Royal Forest Drive, Royal Forest in Conroe

ML# 30727298. \$169,700



Located in a quiet subdivision in Montgomery that is minutes from Lake Conroe, restaurants, shopping, schools and golf courses! This 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom bungalow offers an eye-catching exterior with a generous front porch that will welcome relaxation! The floor plan offers a spacious living room that flows into the dining room and overlooks the kitchen that

boasts rich wood cabinets, granite countertops, breakfast bar that will be great for entertaining and a stunning backsplash. Nice Master bedroom with an awesome shower and great storage. The two secondary rooms are spacious w/great storage.

834 Omeara, Lake Conroe Village in Montgomery

ML# 13444501. \$124,900



Available now! This 4 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom home is conveniently located in the gated subdivision of Lake Breeze that boasts a subdivision pool, Lake Conroe access, close proximity to schools and I-45 access. Fenced backyard, detached 2 car garage. **10761 S. Lake Mist Lane, Lake Breeze in Willis**

ML# 95344036. \$1,900.00

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Dead Trees Give New Life

By: Lisa Wolling, Executive Director

Oh no, that tree is dead! We've all probably said that at one time or another. Spring arrives, all the trees and plants are budding out and "springing" back to life, but there's that one tree that just doesn't come back. The first inclination, of course, is that the tree has got to go. However, leaving dead trees is a vital part of maintaining a healthy environment, as dead trees can truly provide life after death.

The forestry term for a standing dead or partially dead tree is a snag. However, many people are starting to refer to these ghosts as "wildlife trees". In North America, as many as 85 species of birds, 50 species of mammals, and many, many reptiles and amphibians depend on dead trees



Many small mammals will nest in hollow tree limbs or tree cavities. Left: baby flying squirrel. Center: baby raccoon. Right: baby fox squirrel (injured by tree-cutting equipment)



Most owls in our area prefer to nest in tree cavities if they are available. Left: barred owlet. Center: Great Horned owlets. Right: Eastern Screech owlets. They were left homeless after dead trees were cut down, destroying their nests.

for shelter, food, and nesting. Dead trees are, of course, also home or food for many types of invertebrates (such as insects, spiders, worms, and more), which in turn also attract the birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians that feed on them. However, by far the greatest benefit dead trees provide to wildlife are cavities, or holes, in branches or trunks. These cavities are vitally important nesting

and sheltering sites to many species, such as:

- Many types of birds will only nest in cavities, such as woodpeckers, chickadees, bluebirds, nuthatches, wrens, tree swallows, titmice, kestrels, and wood ducks
- Eastern screech owls, barred owls, barn owls, and great horned owls
- Mammals such as flying squirrels, gray

squirrels, fox squirrels, raccoons, bats, porcupines. Even opossums, which are marsupials, will use tree cavities as dens.

Woodpeckers are the primary excavators for drilling cavities into snags. Abandoned woodpecker holes are then used by other species of birds that depend on them for nesting sites. Cavities are also used by frogs, snakes, honeybees, wasps, and



All of these songbirds nest in cavities. Left: bluebird. Center left: red-bellied woodpeckers. Center right: black-capped chickadees. Right: red-headed woodpecker. These birds are insect eaters and beneficial to have around yards and gardens.

spiders. In addition to providing shelter, dead trees or trees with dead limbs are also invaluable to wildlife for other reasons:

- Eagles, hawks, or owls use snags or dead branches when hunting to get a clear view of prey
- Ospreys may nest in larger snags near open water
- Birds that catch insects on the fly (such as flycatchers, smaller hawks, kites, shrikes, kestrels, and small owls) will use snags to launch their aerial attacks
- Snakes use logs from snags for multiple things, such as sheltering, hunting for prey, sunning themselves (for thermoregulation), or hibernating in winter.
- The woodpeckers who depend on snags for nesting also excavate them for insects, which provide them with the food they need for themselves and to raise their young. Some woodpeckers also store food (such as nuts or acorns) in holes they drill into dead trees.
- Salamanders use rotting logs as both shelter and a source of food (insects)
- Many species of fungi grow only on dead wood

In wooded areas, it is thought that to maintain a healthy environment four or five snags should be left per acre. Of course, safety to people and property should be taken into consideration, and it is advisable to seek the advice of a professional arborist in some cases. It is important to assess the feasibility of leaving a dead tree as is, modifying the tree, or having to remove it due to safety concerns. Bear in mind that all dead trees will eventually lose limbs and fall, so retained dead trees should always be periodically reevaluated and trimmed or removed as needed. Not all snags can or should be saved. However, in some cases removing the entire tree may not be necessary.

When assessing a dead tree, look to see if there is any risk to a structure, pathway, or driveway from either falling limbs or the tree itself. Consider shortening the tree to a height that reduces its risk of falling. The wider the trunk and taller the tree, the more value it is to wildlife. However, even a tree 10 feet in height can be of value for foraging and possibly for nesting. If limbs need to be trimmed back to lessen the fall hazard, try to leave at least 18" in length or longer (if you can safely do so). Limbs that are 6" or more in diameter are better suited for cavity excavation. If there is too much of a risk of falling limbs causing damage, you can always remove most limbs, just leaving some short and sturdy ones cut close to the trunk that can at least be used for perching.

While snags may not be the most attractive element of your landscape, they are invaluable to many types of wildlife, and they can provide you years of interesting and varied wildlife viewing. Please consider including snags in your landscape plans. If wildlife animals have a natural place to nest and shelter, it also greatly reduces the chances that they will try to get into your home, garage, or attic.

Friends of Texas Wildlife will be having an Open House on Saturday, March 21 from 11 am to 3 pm. At this open house, we will have many interesting educational displays. All our educational animals will be there for you to visit with (opossum; box turtles; snake; owls; and hawks).

Staff from the Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center will be there with some of their snakes. For the first time ever, we will be offering "behind the scenes" tours of our flight enclosures and intake center. This is the only time this year our entire facility will be open to the public. \$5 per person, kids 3 and under free. More details available at www.ftwl.org.

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, February 8. Come on out and visit us, learn a little more about lo-

cal wildlife, do some fun activities and a craft, and meet some of our non-releasable wildlife educational animals. We also host birthday parties, Spring Break & summer 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.ftwl.org, and then click on "How to Help". ♦



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Article and photos
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Master Naturalist



At about 8" in
length with a 15"
wingspan, Purple
Martins are the
largest swallows in
North America.



Purple Martin Majesty

January and February are the months to thoroughly clean and wash out your Purple Martin houses! The cleaner the house, the better your chances of attracting nesting martins. Soon now, the old males migrate back to Texas from South America and scope out nesting sites. Females and younger birds follow along later, and they eventually all come together in tight little family colonies. There is safety in numbers, and groups roost together, nest together, raise their young together, hunt together and warn each other of predators. If you are lucky enough to have some choose your martin houses, you will enjoy a constant noisy

whirlwind of community activity until the young birds have fledged and they all migrate back to South America in the fall.

Purple Martins are the largest swallows in North America with a 15" wing span but short forked tails. Like all swallows, martins are aerial insectivores that expertly snatch bugs while flying, so you won't see them at your seed feeders. They prefer to nest near water due to the flying insect hatches that swarm up from lakes and ponds. Although some people believe they are great for mosquito control, studies prove martins eat only a few mosquitoes! They tend to fly much higher to



*This handsome purple
fellow is singing to
his love, and she
is considering his
proposal.*

*This one invasive common
house sparrow ran off an
entire family of Purple
Martins. Without some
human intervention he will
keep this entire block of martin
apartments for himself.*



Females & juveniles look similar with white undersides and simpler coloring.



catch their meals.

Unfortunately, there has been a decline in Purple Martin populations over the last few decades due to competing, non-native common house sparrows and starlings. These invasive species take over martin nesting sites, toss martin eggs and kill the chicks in the process. An entire martin condo with a dozen apartments can be forcefully taken over by just one determined male house sparrow!

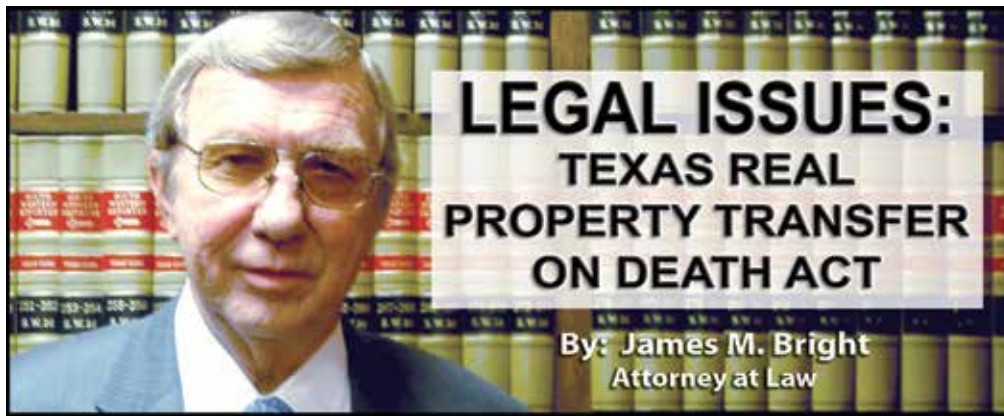
In general Purple Martin houses have divided apartments, multiple perches, and are on retracting poles. The retracting pole allows the house to be brought down and cleaned before the next season starts. Man-made deterrents such as “sparrow spookers” can be attached to dissuade invasive bird species from destroying martin nests and taking command of the entire house. In addition, many people have had great nesting success by hanging batches of hollow gourds with the proper hole entry size.

For more information consider an excellent resource by Texas Parks and Wildlife. “The Purple Martin and its Management in Texas” by James D. Ray. It can be found online tpwd.texas.gov/publications.

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! ♦

Colonial birds prefer colonial birdhouses! This type of housing allows Purple Martins to live, nest and hunt together.





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

Effective on September 1, 2015, Texas joined a growing group of other states by passing legislation that can transfer title to real property upon the death of a person without going through probate proceedings. It should be noted that this procedure does not eliminate the need for a Last Will and Testament or for the trust provisions in that Will, but it does fill a long needed niche for those persons who have relatively simple estates and have the ability to pass other assets owned as non-probate assets. This article is dedicated to answering common questions which are anticipated surrounding this new law/estate planning tool.

- WHAT IS A "TRANSFER ON DEATH DEED?" - Simply stated, it's a deed which does

not take effect until your death. It yields a result similar to a survivorship designation on your bank account. It will automatically pass title to the beneficiaries that you name without the need of a probate proceeding. It is anticipated that this tool will be particularly useful when the only real asset owned by decedent is an interest in real property such as the Homestead.

- CAN I NAME AN ALTERNATE BENEFICIARY, JUST IN CASE THE PRIMARY BENEFICIARY NAMED HAS PRECEDED ME IN DEATH? Yes, in a typical situation where a deceased spouse wishes to pass his/her interest in community property to the surviving spouse and then to the children if there is no surviving spouse, this creates a very simple and uncomplicated method of doing so.

- WHO CAN EXECUTE THIS TYPE OF

DEED? Anyone who holds title to real property in Texas can execute a transfer on death deed.

- WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS TYPE OF DEED TO BE EFFECTIVE? (Est. §114.055)

1. It must contain the essential elements and formalities of a deed;

2. It must state that the transfer of an interest in real property to the designated beneficiary is to occur at death; and

3. It must be recorded before the transferor's death in the deed records of the County Clerk's office of the county in which the real property is located.

- IS IT A TESTAMENTARY DOCUMENT? No, it is a non-testamentary document; therefore, the deed passes title to the real property involved outside of probate. (Est. §114.053)

- IS IT REVOCABLE? Yes, if you wish to cancel or otherwise void the deed during your lifetime, it can be done fairly simply through a revocation filed in the real property records with the same formality as the original deed. This is true even if another instrument, such as your Will, contract, or other document contains provisions which have contrary terms. (Est. §114.053)

- CAN I USE A POWER OF ATTORNEY TO EXECUTE THIS TYPE OF DEED? No, this is not a power that can be delegated to another person through a power of attorney. (Est. §114.054)

- WHAT IF MY WILL AND MY TRANSFER ON DEATH DEED ARE DIFFERENT IN

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THE DISPOSITION OF MY REAL PROPERTY? A Will may not revoke or supersede a transfer on death deed. Therefore, if your Will gives "Black-acre" to Joe, and your transfer on death deed gives the same "Blackacre" to Sally, the title to "Black-acre" passes to Sally. ((Est. §114.05 7(b))

• WHAT IF I MAKE MY SPOUSE THE BENEFICIARY OF MY TRANSFER ON DEATH DEED AND THEN GET A DIVORCE? If a marriage between the transferor and a designated beneficiary is dissolved after a transfer on death deed is recorded, a final judgment of the court dissolving the marriage operates to revoke the transfer on death deed to that designated beneficiary, if notice of judgment is recorded before the transferor's death in the records of the County Clerk's office of the county where the deed is recorded. ((Est. §114.057 (c))

• HOW DOES THE COUNTY CLERK DETERMINE WHEN THE PROPERTY TITLE PASSES FROM THE TRANSFEROR TO THE TRANSFEREE? A copy of the transferor's death certificate should be filed in the County Clerk's office in the county where the property is located in the deed records.

• MUST I HIRE AN ATTORNEY TO DRAFT THE DEED? The simple answer is both, yes and no. There is nothing in the law that prevents you from drafting your own legal documents, but most people find out (many in a hard way) that the relatively minor legal cost of performing this service is very small compared to the cost of the litigation and unintended consequences which could ensue from improperly drafted documents.

• WHAT IF I OUTLIVE ALL THE BENEFICIARIES NAMED IN MY TRANSFER ON DEATH DEED? If there are no surviving beneficiaries of this transfer on death deed, then the deed shall be deemed to be canceled by you.

It is believed that future cases filed in the court will further clarify this statute. It should further be noted that this relatively new legislation does not replace the need for estate planning--- it only puts another tool in the toolbox of your estate planning attorney when he/she is drafting your Last Will and Testament.

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

IF YOU WISH TO SUGGEST A TOPIC FOR THIS COLUMN, SEND TO:

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A Great Addition to My Office

I have been writing articles in this space for over 5 years now, and I really enjoyed doing. Usually I tried to educate those of you reading about different aspects of medical conditions I treat as an Ear Nose and Throat specialist.

Today I want to briefly talk about some staff changes that have occurred in my office. I am pleased to now that Christi Dodd, Physician's Assistant will be joining me in my practice. Christi has had many years of experience in dealing with patients. She has been a physician's assistant in Montgomery for years working for primary care physicians. Many of you may have seen Christi in either the office of Dr. Tomlinson or Dr. Zobal. She is well-respected and has an excellent reputation which she has justly earned.

Before working for a primary care physician Christi worked for another ENT specialist in College Station.

For those of you who are unclear about the role of a Physician's Assistant, they have extensive education and training much like medical school. In the State of Texas, a PA must work under a licensed physician but can independently see patients, diagnose the problem as well as prescribe most medications.

Christi will be working under my supervision and I will be available to answer difficult questions on patients with very complex problems.

I hope the holiday season finds you well and in overall good health despite all the stresses it can bring. It also can bring joy, and I hope all of you had your share of holiday fun.

I am excited about the changes in my office and the challenges for the New Year! ♦

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Why an Income Analysis is a Critical Part of Your Retirement Plan

Part 2

In the first article of our series “Why an Income Analysis is a Critical Part of Your Retirement Plan”, we detailed several factors that need to be taken into consideration when developing your retirement income plan, including:

- Increasing longevity for both men and women
- The reality that woman typically outlive most men by over two-years
- The fact that women traditionally don't derive as much Social Security benefit for several reasons
- Rising healthcare costs

In this second installment, we're going to cover an additional healthcare consideration that could significantly eat into your retirement savings...long-term care.

Take Good Care of My Baby

As outlined above, one of the reasons a retirement plan income analysis is so important is that people are simply living longer and living longer means you need to make sure you have enough retirement savings to cover the duration of your life.

Living longer doesn't always mean living better and with longer lifespans comes the reality of needing care for sickness or general age-related decline that make it difficult or impossible to care for one's self.

With the very real prospect of the average retiree living to their mid-eighties...84.3-years-old is the average age males live to and 86.7 for females...there is an ever-increasing need for long-term care. On average, over half of all American's (52.3 percent) turning 65 will need long-term care at some point...46.7 percent of men compared to 57.5 percent of women.^[1]

According to *Genworth's 2019 Cost of Care Survey*, median long-term care costs can range from approximately \$45,000 to \$97,455 per year. Factors affecting the cost include geographic location, type of care needed and length of stay. Those costs obviously

represents a substantial cost and could consume a large chunk of your retirement nest-egg, negatively impacting your financial stability and peace of mind.

Government programs of Medicare and Medicaid might not offer a lot of help either. Medicare doesn't provide benefits for long-term care; while Medicaid does pay for long-term care, it requires "spending down" assets before it will provide any coverage.^[2] Waiting to purchase personal long-term care coverage can be expensive, as rates increase with age.

I Wanna Hold Your Hand

Many Americans require care that may not qualify for long-term care facilities or in-home services. As a result, more individuals are finding themselves in the role of primary caregiver, both in the years leading up to and during retirement.

It's estimated that 34 percent of caregivers are 65 years or older.^[3] In some cases, they are caring for an aging spouse, and in others they are providing for a disabled child. The number of grandparents raising grandchildren has also increased dramatically. More than 2.7 million grandparents have primary custody of their grandchildren, an increase of more than 7 percent from 2009.^[4]

Caregivers often find it rewarding to take responsibility for loved ones, but it can also take a toll on the caregiver's financial and physical well-being. Tending to a chronically ill or disabled loved one may mean additional expenses that place a financial burden on the household. Many caregivers spend more than 20 hours a week providing care for ill loved ones,^[5] making it difficult to work outside the home. Taking in extended family may also mean postponing retirement or returning to the workforce to provide for the additional people in the household.

A solid financial plan is flexible and adaptable to life as it happens. After laying the initial groundwork in a retirement income analysis,

your financial advisor should meet with you regularly to review the plan and adjust to any life events as they happen, no matter the circumstances.

Your financial advisor can assist you in structuring a long-term care strategy that accounts for your unique needs. The planning conducted in a retirement income analysis can provide you with more choices and options you might not have considered, increasing the likelihood your funds will last as long as you do.

If you need help planning your retirement, contact us today to schedule a free income analysis. We'll help you determine if you have enough to retire comfortably, when you can retire and help you put all the pieces of your retirement plan in place.

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Online with Dock Line

Can You Really “Make Money Online?”

Cutting through the spam to find out what really works, and how much work it really takes.

By: Brian Sherman

How many times have you seen those ads promising you an escape from your 9 to 5 job, living a life of luxury while you make tons of money using only a laptop and an internet connection? It's safe to say that no one is immune to these kinds of messages coming across their social media feeds almost daily. At this point, we aren't fooled. People running those ads are just selling something and we aren't "buying" it. But it does make you wonder...

Aside from the sensationalist advertising that bombards us with the promise of financial freedom, is it actually possible? Can you really make money online? Can you really make enough to quit your job and travel the world?

Well, actually, yes, you can, but to understand how, you need to let go of all those ideas you've been given and discover what it really takes. You also need to change your perception about the time commitment necessary to do it.

So, forget about all the survey-taking and network marketing and let's focus on a value-based way of making money:

blogging. Starting and running a blog is one of the best ways to provide value to the world and make money online...if you do it right.

In short, here is the most common way to make money online



by blogging in 3 steps:

1. Start a blog
 2. Run ads on your blog
 3. Sell something through your blog
- (Again, this is the most common way.

There are hundreds of

other ways, but for the sake of simplicity let's focus on this method.)

That's really all you need to do. However, making a list like that simplifies the formula too much. In reality, here is a more honest approach:

1. Start a blog about something you care a lot about and that other people are interested in, too. The more defined the topic, the better.

2. Learn the basics of writing for SEO (search engine optimization) and write articles that rank high on Google. It will take 3-6 months or longer to start seeing ranking results.

3. Start an email list of subscribers and email them new, highly valuable content consistently.

4. Depending on the size of your audience and the amount of competition, you will need to write 50-100 articles or more before you start to run ads. Basically, when your monthly traffic numbers exceed 10,000 visitors, you can start to make money through ads on your website.

5. Write and publish consistently for 2 years, minimum.

6. Add affiliate links to your blog (like Amazon Affiliates) and send readers to those links through articles and resource pages.

7. Create your own product or write a book and start selling it.

If you follow those steps you will make money online, guaranteed. If you continue this process for 5-10 years, you could eventually make a lot of money every month. However, you must know that it will take time to start seeing results, like real money in your bank account. Also, when you do start making money, it will be small amounts that trickle in. It will snowball into a lot more money over time...if you stick with it month after month for several years.

Before you go searching online for how to start a blog, please consider the following advice:

1. If you're just after the money, don't do it.

If your sole goal is to make money, then I strongly suggest not doing it. Why? There is a good chance you will get burnt out when things don't happen soon enough and you'll likely stop and start

something else instead. You will make money when you provide value consistently for a while. That means you need to focus on something that you care about yourself - something that you consider valuable.

2. Commit to two years...minimum.

It takes time to rank on Google and to build trust with an audience. People start and stop blogs all the time. Your potential audience will pay more attention to you after they have seen you for a while and you've earned their trust by providing real value to their lives. This is the biggest reason people quit their blog. They don't see results fast enough and start to wonder if they are doing things wrong or if their content isn't very good. Ignore those thoughts and keep going.

3. You will have to grow as a person.

Committing to something for two years or more takes a lot of self-discipline and self-motivation. If you're the type of person who wants a quick fix, easy approach, then you will struggle. Commit to changing your habits and breaking out of old ways of thinking. Start a writing routine that ensures you publish consistently. Set

goals and work hard to reach them. Get crystal clear on why you want to make extra money and what you plan to do with it.

Most importantly, you will need to let go of your expectations about how long it should take and how much money you should make.

So, do you have a passion that you love learning about? Are you an expert about something that you could help others get better at? Do you have a hobby that you spend a lot of time on? If you have something valuable to share with the world and are willing to devote a few years to sharing it, then yes, you can make money online.

If you want to (eventually) make money online and start sharing your wisdom or curiosity with the world through a blog, then let us know! At Dock Line Magazine, we have several resources to get you started. If you'd like more info and want these resources sent to you, just send me an email at brian@docklinemagazine.com. Good luck! ♦

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Fishing ADVENTURES

with Derek Pietsch



TIME ON THE WATER

The most relaxing time to me is when I am on water. Recently, I have been doing a few other sports on the water. I have started surfing and also duck hunting. I have done these two sports before but just now have really practiced to really get better and enjoy them even more. Hope you enjoy the images from my journey on the water as much as I did.

12-18-19 Lake Tawakoni

I went to meet my friend, Parker at Lake Tawakoni, which is close to Lake Fork. We fished with Garrett, one of his friends from college and



Lee Lavesay, he is a pro on the Elite Bassmaster team.

We fished shallow water and I used green pumpkin chatter bait. Lee and the other guys used an Alabama rig, Jerk bait and rattle trap. I ended up catching the biggest fish, which was a 6 pounder. Parker caught 2 fish, Garrett caught one, I caught 5 and Lee caught 5. It was a great day with my friends.

12-22-19 Duck Hunt

I just recently started to learn about duck hunting. Trey has always been an avid duck hunter and now I know why he loves it so much. Before the hunting season started, I helped Taylor build duck blinds. I really enjoyed learning to build them with my friends. We got them all ready and then it was time to hunt. Being out in nature is so fulfilling to me. You are always there at the best times when you duck hunt. It's right when nature wakes up and right before the sun goes down



and most creatures settle down for the evening. I watched videos on how to call a duck and I actually got pretty good at it. I sat in the blind and called them for my friends. I learned how they talk on the ground, in flight and when they are ready to fly away when they are in danger. That same day I shot one of the prettiest ducks ever. It was a wood duck, it had so many beautiful colors. Those are hard to find. I shot it down in the creek.

12-29-19 Surfing at Surfside

One of the things that I love to do when I am not fishing is to surf. I got a surfboard for Christmas. My dad used to surf when he was in high school, he was always going to surfside every chance he could.

Grant and I went down to Surfside to catch a few



waves. I enjoy the peace I have with the water and nature. This also helps build my endurance and my arms for fishing. As you all know when I fish on the beach for the bull reds I swim out to the 3rd sandbar and cast my line and swim back. This is a good way to keep your arms in shape for fishing. It's good for the heart, the soul and helps strengthen my arms. When Trey and I are out fishing at the tournaments we fish till the last second. I know it's very tiring and if you fish hard like we do you cast well over a 1,000 casts a day. Now that will wear your arms out if you are not used to it.

1-4-20 Time to Fish

Trey and I have not had much time to fish over the holidays. We decided to go to Fayette for the day and go fishing. We caught a few nice ones and also 2 on one lure. We always enjoy going there.





1-2-20 Surfing on a Rainy Day

This time I took my mom with me. I know she loves being at the beach so I took her along for the ride. On the way there we stopped at a store to get gas and a man named Chester, a disabled veteran approached me and wanted to talk about fishing with veterans. He told me that he wrote the poem that was in the 911 museum and was raising money by selling decals and t-shirts to buy land with a pond for veterans and their families to come fish. If anyone is interested in supporting the veterans here is the website to order your t-shirt. Customparriottees.com. He also had a coin from the Chris Kyle Frog Foundation that he received from Chris's wife for supporting the veterans.

When we arrived at the beach it was a dreary day. It was fine because I was going to be in the water anyway. My friend, Collin from school

came and met me at the Octagon. This is the same place my dad and his friends would go to surf. It stayed dreary most of the day but we caught a few waves and were happy. The sun peaked through the clouds briefly, only to disappear a few minutes later. The surf was not that big, but big enough to catch several good rides. It started to rain more in the afternoon and I was getting tired so we packed up and went home. **THROW IT OUT, POP IT IN, SURF ON!**

1-11-20 Hunting Ducks in Matagorda

Trey and I were invited to go to Matagorda to hunt. We had a great time hunting pintail ducks. ♦

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Chicken and Sweet Potatoes With Shallots

1 1/2 pounds sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 2-inch pieces

kosher salt and black pepper

4 tablespoons olive oil

4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts (each 6 ounces)

4 shallots, sliced into thin rings

2 tablespoons roughly chopped fresh rosemary

Place the sweet potatoes in a large pot. Add enough cold water to cover and bring to a boil.

Add 1-teaspoon salt, reduce heat, and simmer until tender, 14 to 16 minutes. Reserve ¼ cup of the cooking water, drain the sweet potatoes, and return them to the pot. Mash with the reserved cooking water.

Meanwhile, heat 1 tablespoon of the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Season the chicken with ½ teaspoon salt and ¼ teaspoon pepper.

Cook the chicken until golden brown and cooked through, 7 to 8 minutes per side. Transfer to plates. Wipe out the skillet. Heat the remaining 3 tablespoons of oil over medium-high heat. Add the shallots, rosemary, ½ teaspoon salt, and ¼ teaspoon pepper and cook, stirring, until the shallots are tender, 3 to 4 minutes.

Serve the chicken with the potatoes and drizzle with the shallot mixture.

Balsamic-Glazed Lamb Meat Loaf

2 slices white sandwich bread, torn into small pieces

1-pound ground lamb

1 large egg

4 cloves garlic, chopped

2 tablespoons fresh thyme leaves

kosher salt and black pepper

2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 small red bell pepper, thinly sliced

1/2 red onion, thinly sliced

2 15.5-ounce cans cannellini beans, rinsed

1-tablespoon fresh lemon juice

Heat oven to 400° F. In a large bowl, combine the bread and 3 tablespoons water. Add the lamb, egg, half the garlic, half the thyme, ¼ teaspoon salt, and ¼ teaspoon pepper.

Place the mixture on a foil-lined baking sheet and shape into a 6-inch loaf (about 3 inches thick). Bake, brushing with the balsamic vinegar several times during cooking, until a thermometer inserted in the center registers 150° F, 30 to 35 minutes. Let rest at least 5 minutes before slicing.

Meanwhile, heat the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the bell pepper, onion, and the remaining garlic and thyme and cook, tossing occasionally, until the vegetables begin to soften, 4 to 5 minutes. Add the beans, ½ teaspoon salt, and ¼ teaspoon pepper and cook until heated through, 2 to 3 minutes; stir in the lemon juice. Serve with the meat loaf. ♦

Send Us Your Recipes! E-mail to: linda@docklinemagazine.com

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