

DOCK LINE

Tomball

MAGAZINE



May 2020



**Discount
Concrete Leveling**

Concrete Evidence You're Paying Too Much for Slab Repair

See page 8



Fawns: Social Distancing Is Their Thing!

See Page 24

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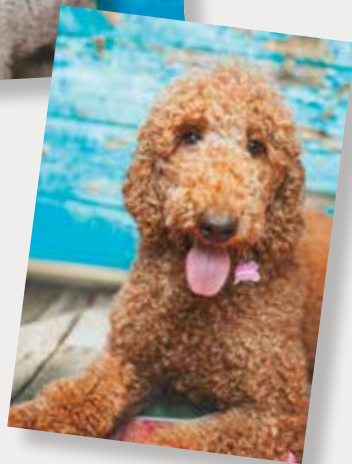
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Traditionally, when we think of May it has been a month of celebrations, accomplishments and the beginning of a new season. Unfortunately, this year with the recent turn of events we have entered a new normal. Our vocabulary has changed with phrases such as zoom meetings, social distancing and wearing masks, followed by the elimination of words like hugs, gatherings and togetherness. Throughout all this change, devastation and uncertainty some things remain the same, we are a community of resilience, compassion and love. It has become apparent now more than ever what a great community we live in. We encourage everyone to take a look around, celebrate the little things and support your local businesses. They need your support now more than ever through this difficult time. If we all stick together we will be stronger than ever. Until next month...

Bentley & Ellie 

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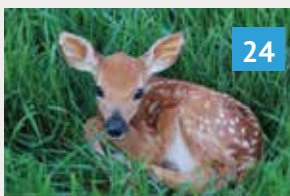
MAGAZINE



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ON THE COVER



Brett Weary is the owner of Discount Concrete Leveling.



Check our Dock Line Magazine page online for any upcoming events that might happen in May 2020

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James M. Bright - Attorney at Law



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Concrete Evidence You're Paying Too Much for Slab Repair



BY: BRIAN SHERMAN



In 2009, Brett Weary started Discount Concrete Leveling Service to provide immediate solutions to people's concrete problems. His desire was to save customers time and money.

"Removing sunken slabs and pouring fresh concrete is expensive," says Weary, "versus raising and leveling existing slabs."

With his knowledge and expertise, he had a desire to provide home owners with cost effective ways to extend the life of their concrete, and that is what he endeavored to do.

Discount Concrete Leveling Service specializes in repairing and restoring broken, uneven driveways, sidewalks, patios and other freestanding concrete areas. The process is efficient and effective, often completed in a single day and at a fraction of what it would cost to replace the problem areas.

A proud Aggie, Brett Weary operates his family-owned small business with customer satisfaction at the forefront. He has worked in customer service for over 20 years and prides himself in not only a job well done but the customer's gratification in knowing they received the attention and workmanship they deserve. How does he do that? Every client of Discount Concrete Leveling Service can feel reassured that their job is being done right because the owner comes and works at every job.

Discount Concrete Leveling Service is located in Houston and provides concrete services to all



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cleaning up and referring each other to small businesses like his that could help and be cost effective.

Not only has Discount Concrete Leveling Service saved their customers thousands of dollars in needless replacements, but this practice has kept old concrete out of the landfills. According to the EPA, roughly 50 percent of materials put into the landfills are concrete and demolition debris materials. These materials are heavy and non-compactable and reduce the air space. The community deserves hard-working, honest business owners to aid in the betterment of their cities.

The consensus for most people is thinking of concrete repairs as costly, and they become fearful. "Don't replace it; level it" is the advice this expert would give to residential homeowners looking for a cost effective way to extend the life of their non-load bearing flatwork.

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of Harris County and Montgomery County. Whenever you call Discount Concrete Leveling Service, you reach a representative ready to respond to your request. Their estimates are completely free. They are committed to serving their new and repeat customers with excellent integrity.

"Being a smaller company allows for greater time for attention to detail and the client's concerns," says Weary, "that is what makes us different from our competitors."

When asked about his favorite thing about his community, Weary described people that have time and again come together to help one another, like in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. He felt appreciated for the hands-on hard work he did for the many homes who had incurred heavy rains and flooding, which caused the earth below their slabs to wash out; resulting in sunken slabs. Despite their hardships, Weary saw neighbors helping one another

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AFTER

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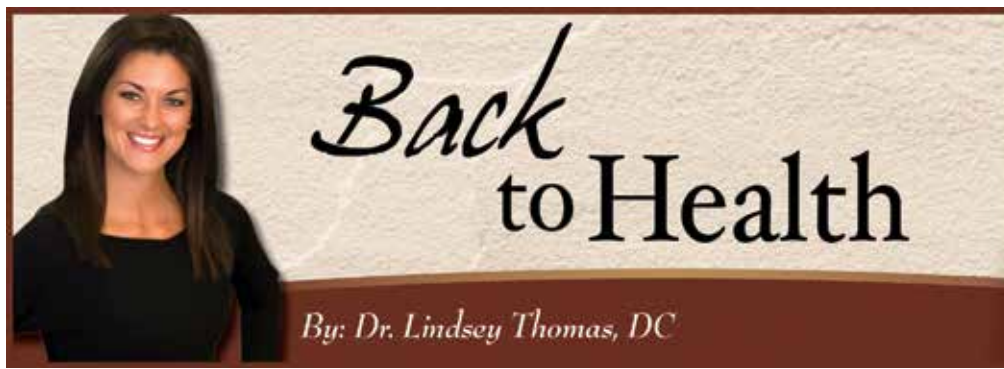
“Water intrusion through the joints degrades the subgrade below the slabs, causing an unstable bedding for the slab,” he says, “and sealing joints between the slabs contributes to extending the life of the slab, [called] expansion joint replacement and sealant with self leveling polyurethane.”

Many happy customers over the years have been pleasantly surprised at how affordable concrete raising and leveling is, especially compared with the cost of tear-out and replacement. The cost of leveling usually represents a savings of 50%-70% over replacement. The leveling process can be completed and ready for use in a matter of hours. In addition to free evaluations and estimates, Discount Concrete Leveling Service offers a two-year warranty on all work. And unlike other repair options, leveling and restoring concrete requires no building permits or municipal inspections.

“Our work is covered under repairs and maintenance,” explained Weary. “That’s one reason we can usually get the work done in a single day. If you have a problem with broken, uneven or misaligned concrete at your home or office, give us a call,” said Weary. “We can stop the problem, put the concrete back in place and make sure it doesn’t happen again.”

Discount Concrete Leveling Service provides cost effective repair services for driveways, sidewalks, patios and other residential and commercial properties throughout Montgomery County and the greater Houston area. For information, visit www.DiscountConcrete-Leveling.com or call 713-568-9456. ♦





Is My Child Too Young to Visit the Chiropractor?

When I tell people that I specialize in pediatrics or they see me adjusting children and babies in my practice, their initial reaction is often one of surprise. I often get the question "Why do they need to be adjusted? They cannot possibly have anything wrong." Parents need to know that their child is never too young to be adjusted. The earliest challenge or stress a growing spine faces is the position it adopts in the womb.

Spinal nerve stress in newborns is more common than previously realized. This stress can be caused by physical, chemical and/or emotional stress. Many women will have heard of fetal positions that can cause problems with labor. What is less well known is that these fetal positions can also place physical stress on the baby's spine. If this position is less than optimal, it can result in a longer and more difficult trip through the birth canal, which can introduce great stress to the infant's skull, spinal column and pelvis. Interventions such as induction, forceps, suction, or caesarean section can actually create additional traumas and compromises to the infant's future health and well-being.

It's important for all mother's to recognize that any stress, not just fetal positioning, en-

countered during her pregnancy will translate to her growing baby. While in the womb, baby's brains develop in direct response to the mom's experience of the world. If a mom is overwhelmed by anxiety or stress during her pregnancy, the "message" communicated to her baby through stress hormones is that they are in an unsafe environment, regardless of whether or not the information is true. The baby's brain will actually adapt to prepare for the arrival into this unsafe environment. Chronic stress in pregnancy tends to sculpt a brain that is quick to react, have reduced impulse control and a decreased capacity to remain calm and content. Chronic joy, on the other hand, allows for the optimal development of each organ, the brain in particular, predisposing the baby to greater health and serenity. Such traits constitute the foundations of lifelong personality.

Chemical stress to the baby is brought on by poor nutrition from the mother. I once heard an expecting mom make the comment that her baby was craving chocolate so she needed to eat chocolate. I'm not saying that you can't indulge every once in awhile but just like we need to put good, nutrient rich foods into our bodies to be healthy, growing babies need the

same. We now know there is a strong link between poor gestational nutrition and diabetes. Could it be possible that we create the sugar "addiction" that is seen in so many children even before they are born?

The cause of many newborn health complaints such as colic, reflux, breastfeeding difficulties, sleep disturbances, allergic reactions, and chronic infections can be traced to nervous system irritation caused by spinal and cranial misalignments.

Throughout childhood, experiences, like falling down and bumps to the head can also be a source of spinal and cranial trauma. Most of the time, the pain from the initial injury "goes away" however the damage suffered continues to affect the future function of the child's nervous system.

In addition, many developmental milestones such as learning to hold up the head, sitting upright, crawling, and walking are all activities that are affected by spinal alignment.

Unless a child has an obvious problem it can be difficult for a parent to recognize when a child's spine may be placing undue stress on the nervous system. There are some signs, which can be indicative of these problems. These include:

- disturbed sleeping patterns
- breastfeeding difficulties in the very young
- restricted head or neck movement to one side
- one shoulder higher than the other
- recurrent ear infections
- persistent sore throats and colds
- colic/reflux
- asthma
- scoliosis
- headaches
- bedwetting and/or constipation
- growing pains
- ADHD

Symptoms or not, parents should have their child's spine checked by a chiropractor.

The first thing a chiropractor will do is conduct a thorough history of your child's health and any complaints. This is followed by a complete physical examination of the child's spine.

Chiropractic care is 'tailored' to the individual and their particular spine, and children are no exception. At Sandstone Chiropractic, we offer specific, gentle adjustments appropriate to the infant's and child's spine.

Spinal adjustments for infants and young children involve very light fingertip pressure to correct spinal misalignments. This amount of force is often not more than a finger touch. This is usually sufficient to reduce stress and restore function to the areas of the spine causing interference to the nervous system. Other techniques involve the use of hand-held instruments, which offer specific and gentle correction.

As chiropractors, we don't ask ourselves how we are going to "fix" your kids because we don't think that they're broken. We ask ourselves what has gotten in the way of your child's natural ability to express his or her optimum health potential.

To make sure your child gets the best possible start in life, give them the gift of chiropractic!! ♦





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STAGE *RIGHT* of Texas

Brings you certainty in uncertain times

By: Carolyn Corsano Wong



STAGE RIGHT of Texas, resident theatre company at the historic Crighton Theatre, is here to bring you some certainty in a rather uncertain world. Here is what we are certain of:

1) We will get thru this. If we all pull together and follow recommendations regarding hygiene and social distancing we can get past this. We need to help each other. Our lives and the lives of our loved ones depend on us working together. We, as a theatre company, will also get thru this: STAGE RIGHT of Texas was founded during the economic slump of 2008. We started in tough times. We started with nothing. Our goal was to provide the Crighton Theatre with the steady dependable income of a resident theatre company. Here we are 12 years later. We provide over 100K/year income to the Crighton, we own our own property in downtown Conroe free and clear where we are planning to build our own rehearsal facility,

we have a huge inventory of props, costumes, tools, set pieces, theatrical drops, etc. Most importantly, we have volunteers that have donated 1000's of hours of their time and talent to help us create magic on the Crighton stage. If you took away every physical asset we own and left us our volunteers; we'd still survive. So, fear not, STAGE RIGHT of Texas will survive. There are other theatre companies that are not doing well right now; they have paid salaried staff (we have none), they have monthly bills for rent of their space (we pay rental for storage space but the Crighton is not charging us rent when we don't

use the facility). So, we ask you to please help our home: the Crighton Theatre. We have not been able to provide expected income due to the postponement of our production of *M*A*S*H*; and many other Spring events at the Crighton have been postponed yet the Crighton still has bills to pay. Please consider making a donation to the Crighton Theatre at this time. Visit their website to find out how: www.crightontheatre.org.

2) The Crighton Theatre, Crown Jewel of Montgomery County, will shine even

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STAGE RIGHT

At the historic Crighton Theatre
Named one of the Top 10 Theaters in
the state to see live theatre
performance by BestThingsTX.com
234 N Main St. Downtown Conroe, TX

2020-2021 Season A Season of Screen to Stage



Sept. 11-27, 2020



Oct. 23 – Nov. 8, 2020



Dec. 4-20, 2020



Feb. 12-28, 2021



Apr. 9-25, 2021



July 9-25, 2021

Season Tickets only \$125
Saturday matinee now available!

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brighter than when you last saw her!

While we have all been staying safe and practicing social distancing, the renovation project at the Crighton has continued. During our production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, our patrons saw the first step in the renovation process: installation of a sprinkler system, removal of the slick ramp of tile and installation of steps, renovation of the bathroom downstairs to a new ADA compatible one, removal of the old kitchen/concession area, and new box office construction. The work next door on the space that will become the expanded lobby, concessions area and downstairs bathrooms is proceeding. New soil has been brought in, trenching for water and electric has begun, and pouring the foundation is to take place soon. Also completed is a new gentle ramp entrance from the street up to the sidewalk in front of the theatre. The silver metal ramp is gone and replaced by a large ramp area right in front of the theatre doors – no more huge step up to the sidewalk from street level!

3) First chance we get; we will entertain you!

When we are given the all clear, we will be ready to take the stage. Our production of M*A*S*H was postponed till June 4-20 of 2021. We transferred all of the tickets bought for the weekends in April 2020 to June of 2021. As of the deadline for this article at the beginning of April, our production of *Peter Pan* is still scheduled to take place in July. We are planning to conduct auditions for the show online. We have also figured out a way to rehearse the show online for as long as we need to. If we are unable to present *Peter Pan* in July due to restrictions on gathering, we will most likely bump it later in the summer if we can find dates or into our next season in September and it will take the place of *The Odd Couple*. At the time I write this, we just don't know, but we do know, as soon as we are able, we will present a show. Here is what is on the horizon, with the dates planned as of early April:



Peter Pan

Lyrics by Carolyn Leigh

Music by Morris "Moose" Charlap

Additional Lyrics by

Betty Comden Adolph Green
Additional Music by Jule Styne
Based on the play by Sir J. M. Barrie
Directed by Sara Preisler

Performances: July 10-26, 2020 Fridays & Saturdays at 8 pm, Sundays at 2 p m and an added matinee July 25 at 2 pm.

Based on J.M. Barrie's classic tale and featuring an unforgettable score by Morris "Moose" Charlap and Jule Styne with lyrics by Carolyn Leigh and Betty Comden and Adolph Green, *Peter Pan* is one of the most beloved and frequently performed family favorites of all time. This high-flying Tony Award-winning

musical has been performed around the world and delighted audiences for 60 years.

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

Our 2020-2021 Season of Screen to Stage:



Sept 11 – 27, 2020 –
The Odd Couple by Neil Simon

The story of two divorced men – neurotic neat-freak Felix Ungar and fun-loving slob Oscar Madison – who decide to live together. Can two divorced men live together without driving each other crazy?



Oct 23- Nov 8, 2020 –
Nunsense by Dan Goggin

The Little Sisters of Hoboken discover that their cook, Sister Julia, Child of God, has accidentally poisoned 52 of the sisters, and they are in dire need of funds for the burials. The 5 remaining sisters decide that the best way to raise the money is to put on a variety show with riotous results.



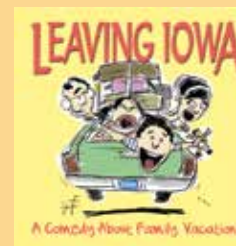
Dec 4 – 20, 2020 –
Elf: The Musical
Based on the motion picture of the same name, with a score by Matthew Sklar and Chad Beguelin. The book is adapted by Bob Martin and Thomas Meehan from the 2003 film.

Buddy, a young orphan, mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. The would-be elf is raised, unaware that he is actually a human, until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father, discover his true identity, and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas.



Feb 12-28, 2021 –
Funny Girl Book by Isobel Lennart, music by Jule Styne, and lyrics by Bob Merrill.

A musical theatre classic which celebrates the exuberant and elegant flavor of Broadway in the 1910s and 20s and the comic genius of Fanny Brice. Featuring such beloved songs as "People", "Don't Rain on My Parade", and "Sadie, Sadie."



Apr 9-25, 2021 –
Leaving Iowa- A Comedy About Family Vacations by Tim Clue and Spike Manton

Hilarious and poignant. A show suitable for ages 10 to 110, "Leaving Iowa" is a postcard to anyone who has ever found themselves driving alone on a road, revisiting fond memories of their youth. A celebration of the dreaded and beloved 'family vacation.'



Jul 9-25, 2021 – ***The Wizard of Oz*** (RSC version 1987) by L. Frank Baum adapted by John Kane from the motion picture screenplay for the Royal Shakespeare Company. With music and lyrics from the MGM motion

picture score by Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg, Background music by Herbert Stothart

Dorothy lives on a farm in Kansas until a cyclone arrives, and picks her, her house, and her dog Toto up and deposits them in the land of Oz. There with the aid of the Scarecrow, Tin Man and Cowardly Lion she travels to Oz so the Wizard may send her home again, because there's no place like home.

Single tickets to *Peter Pan* can be purchased online at www.stage-right.org or by calling the Crighton box office. Season Tickets for our upcoming season can be purchased by calling the Crighton Theatre box office at 936-441-7469. All 6 shows are only \$125. Season tickets are your best investment if you intend to attend multiple shows in our fantastic lineup. In addition to your tickets for each show, we also provide one Friends Ticket for each season package purchased. That way you can invite a friend to join you to see one show during the season for free. Your seats will be reserved for the next season, your name will be in every playbill and you can always change the date of attendance for free! We hope you'll consider joining us for our lucky 13th Season at the historic Crighton Theatre!

Please keep up with the most current information regarding dates for shows on our website: www.stage-right.org or the Crighton Theatre website www.crightontheatre.org. Please keep safe, stay well and we look forward to seeing you all at the Crighton soon! ♦

ERMA BOMBECK: *At Wit's End* to be presented at the Historic Crichton Theatre June 12-21, 2020 to Raise funds for Polycystic Kidney Disease Research

The Crichton Theatre, named one of the Top 10 Theatres in the state to see live theatre performance by BestThingsTX.com, will present *Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End* by Allison Engel and Margaret Engel. The show will be produced by TSF, Inc. and presented by arrangement with Samuel French Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company.

The play is a loving comic tribute to one of our country's most beloved voices, who captured the frustrations of her generation by asking, "If life is a bowl of cherries, what am I doing in the pits?" From her troubled childhood, where she found comfort in the words of Dorothy Parker and Robert Benchley, through her rise to fame as a journalist and public figure, discover the story behind America's beloved humorist who championed women's lives with

wit that sprang from the most unexpected place of all – the truth. Born in 1927 to a 16 year old mother and working class father, Erma struggled against what was expected of her: to work in menial jobs until she found a husband. Instead, she determinedly pursued her dream of being a writer and had her first writing job at 15 yr- writing obituaries for the local paper. As a stay-at-home wife and mother Erma continued her career and at the height of her fame her column "At Wit's End" was syndicated in 900 newspapers across the country. Erma's humorous and brutally honest observations on life in suburbia also spawned best-selling books including: *I Lost Everything in the Post-Natal Depression* (1973); *The Grass Is Always Greener over the Septic Tank* (1976), which was adapted (1978) into a television film; and *If Life*

Is a Bowl of Cherries, What Am I Doing in the Pits? (1978). Erma continued her career as a writer, public speaker and champion of women's rights till shortly before her death in 1996 due to complications from a kidney transplant.

"When you look like your passport photo, it's time to go home."

This one-woman show stars award winning actress and Crichton favorite Carolyn Corsano Wong. Carolyn, Founder, Artistic Director and Executive Producer for STAGE RIGHT of Texas (resident theatre company at the Crichton), has appeared in many productions at the Crichton Theatre including *Hello Dolly* (Dolly Levi), *The Wild Women of Winedale* (Willa Wild), *Young Frankenstein* (Frau Blucher), *The Wizard of Oz* (Wicked Witch) and *Always, Patsy Cline* (Louise Seger). In addition to starring in the show, Carolyn is also producing and co-directing with her husband Steve Wong. As an added treat, the Wongs have obtained permission from the Bombeck Family to incorporate pictures of Erma Bombeck into the production. So while Erma's story is unfolding on the stage, the audience will be able to see Erma's life in pictures projected on a large screen that will be incorporated into the set design.

As with all STAGE RIGHT shows, a need in the community is highlighted and then a spotlight is thrown on an organization that is trying to help fill that need. For this show, the need is quite personal: Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD). Like Erma Bombeck, Carolyn was diag-

"All of us have moments in our lives that test our courage. Taking children into a house with a white carpet is one of them."

nosed with this incurable disease in her 20s. And, like the Bombeck family, Carolyn's family has struggled with kidney failure, dialysis, and the agonizing wait for a transplant. PKD is a chronic, genetic disease causing uncontrolled growth of fluid-filled cysts in the kidneys, often leading to kidney failure. It affects all racial and ethnic groups equally. PKD affects an estimated 600,000 people in America and 2.4 million worldwide. More than 50% of people with Autosomal Dominant PKD will develop kidney

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By: Carolyn Corsano Wong



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"I have seen my kid struggle into the kitchen in the morning with outfits that need only one accessory: an empty gin bottle."

weekend at the Crighton in June of 2021 (just think, they'll be more bathrooms downstairs by then!). Please check with the Crighton website to see any updates to show dates. I hope to see you soon. Until then remember the words of Erma Bombeck: "If you can't make it better you had better laugh at it, and if you can laugh at it, you can live with it." ♦

"My second favorite household chore is ironing. My first being hitting my head on the top bunk bed until I faint."



failure by age 50. Once a person has kidney failure, dialysis or kidney transplant are the only treatment options. Parents have a 50% chance of passing the disease to their children, so it often affects many people in one family. A talk-back session will be held after each performance where information about PKD will be presented and how patrons can help by funding research efforts and learn about kidney donation. Profits from ticket sales and concession sales will be donated to the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation (www.pkdcure.org) which is dedicated to finding a cure. We hope you can visit Carolyn's fundraising page: Carolyn "At Wit's End" in Conroe and make a donation.

Show dates are June 12 – 21, 2020 with Friday & Saturday performances at 8 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. There will also be a Saturday matinee on June 20 at 2 pm. Performances will be held at the historic Crighton Theatre at 234 N. Main in downtown Conroe. Tickets for *Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End* are \$26 for adults, \$24 for seniors 62 yr and older and \$17 for youth 16 yr and under. Tickets for STAGE RIGHT season subscribers are only \$20. Group discounts are available for groups of 10 or more by calling the box office. Tickets can be obtained by calling the Crighton Theatre box office at 936-441-SHOW (7469) or online at www.crightontheatre.org.

This show is sure to appeal to anyone that has had a mother or a kidney.

P.S.: As I send this information in early April to the Dock Line for publication in their May editions, I honestly don't know if we will be able to present the show due to the Covid-19 restrictions on gathering. If unable to present the show this June, I have booked one



COVID19

What Businesses are Saying

COVID-19 is having a profound impact on all of our lives. Medical professionals and hospitals are being stretched to the limits and everyone is making huge adjustments to their lives to save others. Who knew we would live in a time when the wisest advice for everyone to follow is simply to do nothing? Stay home, stay away from others, and wait it all out.

While we're all doing our part to keep everyone safe and healthy, small businesses are seeing a profound shift in how they do business, if they even can. "Business as usual" is out. Innovation and outside of the box thinking is in. At Dock Line, we work with small businesses every day to help them be seen in their communities and to grow. We've been hearing from them about their struggles and their successes during this strange, uncertain time.

In this article, we wanted to invite you in on the conversation and let you hear straight from the business owners and managers how they're handling all of this. As you'll see, some are finding a way to thrive by making adjustments, while others are having a more difficult time. Both messages are important, and we want you to know what's going on out there and how we can help our local businesses make it through together.



How a Family-Owned Franchise has Adapted to Customers

Although Coronavirus has hampered the economy, that hasn't stopped this family-owned franchise. Bloomin' Blinds in Montgomery County is run by Dallas Schultz with his father Dave and they have found creative ways to still reach customers while practicing social distancing, "We use conferencing software to do virtual consulting on custom blinds, shades, and plantation shutters sales. Customers call us and we ask them a few questions about their windows, their lighting requirements, their privacy goals, and their budget," says Dave. From there, they set up a virtual consultation appointment in which they send an email that will help customers with correct measurements of their windows, and preparation for the virtual conference. During the consultation, they will use photos and videos to make their recommendation on what's best for your home, and the materials needed. Within 24 hours you will have a written quote for your new blinds.

Before ordering materials though they still need to have an in-home visit, however, much of the work is done beforehand. Most in-house appointments are fairly quick and extreme precaution is used, "We take the health of our customers and family seriously. Expect to see us wearing masks, gloves, using hand sanitizer, and wiping down what is being handled." The reason for an in-home visit is so the blinds can be tailor-made for your home. Even in this time of uncertainty, you don't have to settle for less with Bloomin' Blinds. In addition, if you choose Bloomin' Blinds for your business you're also helping out Texas manufacturers "We primarily use many of the Texas manufacturers of window coverings. They employ

Texans and buy much of what they need from other Texas businesses. All this money mostly stays in Texas, helping hundreds of Texas families all across the state."

As I talked with Bloomin' Blind's Dave Schultz he did have a word of caution for those buying custom products. When asking for a deposit most companies should charge you 50% of the total cost. This is a sign of a healthy business as most manufacturers require you to have a deposit put down by the dealer before they will accept the order. That 50% helps cover the costs of producing the materials and fill the order faster. As Dave puts it, "All parties have equal skin in the game, and that's why 50% is the norm. Experience shows me that businesses who are experiencing serious financial problems will start to require deposits of 60% and as even high as 75%. That is too much. There is little motivation for them to expedite the install." Before going with a custom blinds installer, make sure to do your due diligence and research your options. The owners of Bloomin' Blinds have learned that adapting to customer's needs, taking safety precautions, and being upfront about pricing has helped them move forward. Even though times are tough, they have found local their business and local community ready to take on this threat.

To get a quote for your windows, contact them at (936) 236-6800, or reach out to them at their website at <https://www.bloominblinds.com>.



Being Proactive

The Lawn Ranger Company has been deemed an essential business, but that hasn't made things easy during this crisis. Activities have slowed down for all businesses, but the local Lawn Ranger Company is making some headway during this

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crisis "We are being proactive with customers, making phone calls and reaching out to clients," says, president Walt Crowder. "Right now we are focused on providing extra services at good prices," with offices still open for business Walt isn't limiting any options on jobs, tackling both commercial and residential jobs. An important lesson in this crisis is the ability to change and help customers where they are. You need to engage the customer on how you can complete the task without risking any more lives. That means you have to change how customers interact with you.

Walt and his crew are still working on landscaping services such as preparing for summertime, treating shrubs and gardens for insects and pests, or putting in irrigation systems. "Our crews are out working trying to provide a service at a rapid pace so workers and customers stay out of harm's way." Although business is not the same as a normal year, Walt has calming advice that he gives to everyone, including his workers, "This is a rough time, what we are going through is unprecedented, and what other small businesses are going through is unprecedented, however, we must pull together and weather the storm." Only by helping each other out, using social distancing at work, and buying local can Texans get through this.

Walt and his team are dedicated to reaching customers where they are. Whether that means you consult with The Lawn Ranger Company online, on a call, or on a video chat, Walt and his team want to help you achieve the lawn you have always wanted. They can do this while staying safe by following the CDC's guidelines which will protect your family as well. Don't hesitate to send pictures and use your phone to communicate without exposing yourself to the virus.

If you would like to reach out to The Lawn Ranger Company contact them by phone at 281-681-1025. You can also contact them at <https://lawnrangercompany.com/>.

STAGE RIGHT

The show must go on!

Live theatre is always better to see in person, and every night is different.

Due to the Coronavirus though, Stage Right of Texas, a resident theatre company at the Crighton Theater, has had to make some changes. Since gatherings of more than ten people have been banned they have had to postpone their production of *Mash* until June 2021. "People have understood and accepted our decision to postpone," says Carolyn Corsano Wong.

However, that hasn't stopped preparing them for the future. Stage Right still has a show coming this July, *Peter Pan*, which has required some thoughtful solutions on how to prepare for this upcoming production. With auditions coming in April, Stage Right has switched to having both auditions online and rehearsals online. Possible participants in the show will submit video auditions on their website "We have had to adapt and be flexible due to the uncertainty." Carolyn still had a lot of positivity about adapting to this new normal though, "What's the point of getting stressed out when you have no control over it?" It's about adapting to the circumstances the best someone can. Years of experience in the acting arena have taught Carolyn and her team how to deal with the difficulties this virus brings, "It's a lot like theater and Improv, whatever happens just go with it." Even though there is a lot of uncertainty in the future this company is adapting to any problem just like they would with any other show. For the future, Carolyn said her team is exploring working online and giving classes online to customers.

When asked how best to support Stage Right, she didn't keep the discussion only focused on the theatre company but also the Crighton Theatre. Carolyn noted "For our organization, we are in good shape in the fact that when we are not at the Crighton Theatre so we don't have to pay rent, so who this is actually hurting the most in our line of work is the theatre itself. They still have expenses to pay." Carolyn also noted that if people wanted to support local theatre they should donate to the Crighton

Theatre. She also touched on some of the things this whole process has shown her "It can also be hard to see the beautiful things, but people are helping others, we are dependent on each other, and it is important that we take care of each other."

Most importantly, Carolyn is looking forward to when we can all sit down to a great night of theatre. If you would like to learn more about Stage Right contact them at their website at <https://stage-right.org/> or on their Facebook page @stagerightoftexas. Don't forget to check out Peter Pan this July!

Animal Shelter Volunteers of Texas A community that cares

The Animal Shelter Volunteers of Texas are busier than ever, "Unfortunately, many people are dumping dogs because of the pandemic" says Ruby Cross, marketing coordinator. The amount of animals that are now in their foster care system has nearly doubled to the impact of Coronavirus. "Our biggest goal during this time is to take in as many as we can to make sure these animals are safe," and the team at ASVT has found unique ways to accomplish this. Taking more of their services online and processing more applications than ever before. ASVT is a network of volunteers that are committed to seeing animals taken care of even during a crisis. Although it takes a bit more time and effort, ASVT is still scheduling meetings and fostering using social distancing guidelines.

What is important right now, is that the community comes together, like they have been, with fostering and monetary donations. "As animals come in and need surgery, we make sure they get that operation," says Ruby. "We are non-profit and monetary donations are going to save the lives of countless animals during this crisis." You can also help in other ways, by emailing ASVT at their website and seeing how best to help with supplies and other items. "It's business as usual for us during this time because we have to stay on top of this," says Ruby. In addition, ASVT is still helping with the Montgomery Animal Shelter and placing animals from that facility into foster homes. Unlike during normal operations, they can't ship dogs to facilities in Iowa to be adopted which is putting a strain on the shelter. Fostering and donations are a key step you can take to help mitigate some of the repercussions of this virus.

One of the good things about this situation is that Animal Shelter Volunteers of Texas is seeing a record number of adoption and fostering applications during this time. "We would like to thank the community for their patience during this time, as people have submitted applications we have been working on processing them nine hours a day." Part of the reason is because of the background information required to adopt and to make sure the pet is going to a responsible owner. More importantly, fostering is the best way to help ASVT and animals. "Fostering saves lives," says Ruby. It's a better process for making sure these dogs are safe during this time because it is temporary.

ASVT does not have its own shelter and is not affiliated with any facility, although they will help shelters find foster homes when they can. If you would like to get in touch with ASVT contact them at <http://www.asvtexas.org/> or on Facebook @ASVTx. You can be part of this on-going rescue effort today!



Keep Moving Forward

Keep moving forward is the vision for Forest Crossing Animal Hospital. Deemed an essential business, this highly rated animal hospital in

Montgomery County is still facing the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Bzozowski, the owner of Forest Crossing Animal Hospital is very aware of the effects on his industry, "In my profession, the challenge is simply staying open. A lot of veterinarians, even though we are considered essential, aren't able to stay open just because the business isn't there." He added, "Some of them just don't want to take the risk." Risk is something every business is dealing with head-on. Even essential businesses have to adjust how they do things in order to be available to their customers. Dr. Brzozowski understands this better than most. "I'm a high-risk person myself, being a diabetic, but I have a duty to be here for my patients as well."

As to how they are adapting, their approach is a familiar one. "We've gone to curbside, essentially. People aren't allowed in the building. We do everything as remotely as we can over the phone, collecting the patients from the vehicles, bringing them in, doing the exams and the treatments we need to do, then bringing them back out to them." said Dr. Brzozowski. And they are also taking innovative measures to reach their customers such as telemedicine and video conference via an app.

Dr. Brzozowski has some timely wisdom for pet owners during this uncertain time. "Don't put things off. Don't wait until your pets are really sick, then it adds to the cost," he also added, "Don't get behind on your rabies vaccines and parasite testing and prevention."

When asked what advice he would give to other business owners right now, his message is that of a seasoned medical professional - prevention and preparation are the keys. "For businesses, save as much as you can and be as cost-effective as possible. Also, stay up to date on and in the loop on programs available to small businesses." And perhaps most importantly, "Stay up to date on the most accurate news." Lastly, he wants to leave business owners with this: "Listen to your clients and keep them informed. At the end of the day, they are the ones who are actually paying that electric bill and insurance bill. If they aren't happy, then that doesn't happen."

If you would like to get in touch with the staff at Forest Crossing Animal Hospital you can reach them at 936-271-9300, or online at <https://forestcrossinganimalhospital.com/>.



Still here for patients

Thomas Stark, MD is an established and respected ENT doctor in our area. As a medical professional, he is taking the COVID-19 situation very seriously.

He and his team are also taking the necessary precautions to keep people safe, but most importantly, they are doing everything they can to be available to patients. "The main thing we have done is we kept our doors open." Said Dr. Stark, "And we are emphasizing hygiene in all our waiting areas and all our exam rooms."

Most importantly, they are limited contact with people and are utilizing advancements in medical care by expanding the proactive outside of the walls of the Doctor's office. "Of course, we are screening patients over the phone. We are offering a lot of advice and seeing patients over the telephone. Telemedicine is becoming more and more popular because you may be able to treat someone without them having to go to the hospital." With telemedicine, people can stay in touch with their doctor more often, which will help with preventative measures and keeping patients healthy. Insurance companies love this because it keeps people from having to visit a hospital in some cases, and keeps people from taking a hospital bed during this critical time.

As a medical professional, Dr. Stark is quick to put the focus on the people doing the heavy lifting right now in the medical professions. "My hats are off to the ICU, respiratory therapists, and frontline doctors."

If you want to know how you can support businesses like Dr. Starks, the advice is simple: "Continue to think of us, and realize that we are open and seeing patients." So many people are forced to shut their doors, but

it's important to know who is still open and available to help. With all the media surrounding the COVID-19 situation, Dr. Stark added a strong word of caution. "Don't take this lightly". He adds, "It doesn't make everyone have the same outcome, but it needs to be taken seriously."

Many people have now seen Dr. Fauci, the medical professional accompanying President Trump. Dr. Stark has first-hand experience with him. "I've worked personally with Dr. Fauci. He is a smart guy who is calm under fire. He's seen worse." Basically, he wants us to know that Dr. Fauci knows what he's talking about and should be trusted.

Finally, Dr. Stark has some helpful advice for businesses during this time. He says, "It looks to me that being able to get money from the SBA is helpful." And also, "Try to be there as much as possible over the phone. Keep your presence known to people."

If you would like to get into contact with Dr. Stark call (936) 582-7000 or find them online at <https://tomstarkmd.com/>.



Flexible Healthcare

Connect Hearing is staying open for essential workers and emergency services. "What we have been doing," says Lauren Chapman, marketing associate, "is making sure our appointments are by emergency only." That means they care for essential workers and emergency employees such as healthcare workers. "We also have a focused goal on increasing sanitation in our facilities for our customers." When you step into a Connect Hearing facility you will be treated to a clean and sterile environment. Customers can feel safe knowing that people are following CDC safety guidelines as appropriate and surfaces and counters are being cleaned.

For those essential employees who do not want to come into the facility, but still need to see a medical professional Connect Hearing is offering Telehealth services. "Options and appointments are available online to patients and they can take advantage of our online resources." Customers don't have to wait to get in contact with someone about their medical issues. "We want customers to feel and stay safe during this time, we are here for them during this time," says Lauren Chapman. Connect Hearing encourages customers to not hesitate to call their local Connect Hearing facility and to work through problems. The team at Connect Hearing is focused on providing services how you need it and meeting the needs of their patients.

As a last note, when asked about how they plan to change for the future and how other companies can as well they found it best to "Be flexible in the services you provide, always have an alternative to turn to if you can." As this pandemic has spread, Connect Hearing is finding new ways to correspond with patients to protect their health. You will still be able to find the same care you always have at Connect Hearing, the process may just be a little different to protect yourself.

If you would like to find out more about Connect Hearing or schedule an appointment you can find them online at <https://www.connecthearing.com/>. You can also contact them at 1-888-426-6632. Feel free to take advantage of their blog and advice resources to help you with your ear care needs.



Adjustment is key

"Doing business is not the same as it was two months ago," says Doini at Everest Siding and Windows. "Our main concern is making sure our employees are safe and can support their families during this crisis." Everest Siding and Windows is still offering

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in-home consultations. However, that means they are taking every precaution to protect both the customer and employee. "We can have that meeting at the customer's home, but we will be practicing social safety guidelines and conducting consultations over the phone as well." You can also email them pictures of your home, and they will send you an estimate by email. When you meet with their consultants, they are going to use social distancing guidelines and sanitization methods to keep you and your family safe. "We are still going to be able to give the customer the information they need to make the best decision for their home. We are going to do that from a safe distance though, whether over the phone, over email, or in-person." In addition, most employees that usually work in the office are working from home to protect themselves and others. You can still contact them at any time, and any of your questions can be answered by an employee over the phone. "Everyone has responsibilities," says Doini, "and all of our employees understand that."

For those interested in carrying out a remodel or special project during this time, Everest Siding and Windows are offering 3-month and 6-month no interest, no payment, finance options. When you consult with one of Everest's experts, you can plan accordingly to your budget and payment options. Everest is committed to working with customers through this crisis, bringing exceptional materials and experience when they come to work on your home.

"I can't think of one person in this country that hasn't been affected by this virus, but we will persevere" added Doini. "Be safe and stay strong!" If you are interested in a special project for your home, you can contact Everest Siding and Windows at 832-773-8221. You can also reach them at info@everestsidingandwindows.com or their website at www.everestsidingandwindows.com.



Preparation for risk is more important now than ever.

We live in an uncertain time, full of many unknowns and even more

risks. When it comes to handling risk, Wootton Financial Group, Inc. is no stranger. In fact, the financial management group thrives on managing risk for its clients. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many people are already experiencing the effects of the financial crisis it has caused. While most people panic when it comes to their investments like retirement, Wootton Financial is a voice of wisdom and hope.

When asked how they are handling these sudden uncertain times, Chris Wootton, owner, and Principal and Investment Adviser at Wootton Financial Group, gives a simple, yet powerful response:

"Executing the plan that we already had in place. We were already prepared for this." After all, the trusted financial group is a strong advocate for education and preparation. So, during this time, rather than shrinking back waiting out the storm, they are pushing forward. "We increased communication both to clients and the community. We increased our marketing rather than scaling back. We want to thrive, not just survive and we want that for others" Chris added.

When it comes to running their own business during the quarantine, Chris Wootton again speaks of preparation. "We already were prepared by having the technological ability to operate remotely. Every employee was set up so that we maintain our security protocols, but can work from anywhere. We had been doing video conferencing already for years." Chris admits that technology always presents several challenges, but they have been at the forefront of finding innovative ways to give their clients and employees the best possible experience.

Especially during economic uncertainty, it's important to understand that not all financial offices are the same. "We have a much more dynamic approach to managing risk for our clients compared to the static approach most companies are used to. We are not afraid to exit markets in a disci-

plined approach when necessary, instead of holding everything and riding it to the bottom. Seeking to avoid bear market losses in your investment can add long term value to what you're doing." By employing this strategy, Wootton invests actively and seeks to provide a better benefit for its clients in the long run.

"It is important for people to understand that the markets won't go up forever and it's easy to get complacent," Chris says. "A bull market cannot run forever. We have always had a mindset focused on preparation for times like these. It's only a matter of time for markets to level out and correct." More importantly, he adds, "The time to get prepared is not during a crisis. It's beforehand. But you're here now. So focus on what you can do now to make positive changes for next time. And there will be a next time."

So, what should you do right now to help mitigate your financial risk? Get a plan. Chris points out, "It doesn't cost you anything to have a conversation with us. You don't even have to go anywhere. We can meet over the phone or through online capability. We offer a complimentary consultation that includes a high-level review and an initial plan to show you what's possible and try to offer value on the front end of a relationship."

Lastly, Chris imparts some simple, yet timely wisdom, "Have faith. Be hopeful. Stay safe. Be smart. There is always opportunity in adversity."

To offer you encouragement during these uncertain times, Chris Wootton is inviting you to attend a Free Webinar featuring Olympian Ruben Gonzalez titled "From Surviving to Thriving: Addressing Mental Toughness and Risk in Tough Times." Watch it for free on the Wootton Financial Facebook Page or on woottonfinancial.com. You can also get a hold of Wootton Financial Group, Inc. at 866-416-1703 or 936-449-5952.



Evolve Your Business

Located in the fairly new Marcel Town Center in Conroe, Office Evolution is finding creative ways to deal with the changes

brought on by COVID-19. A popular co-working and private office rental company in Conroe, Office Evolution is stepping up to help other businesses during these tough times.

"We're reaching out to the community as much as we can," says Phil Anderson, one of the franchise owners at The Woodlands location. "We're supporting our restaurants right here in the Marcel Town Center by ordering from them and keeping them supported. We also formed a small support group with the tenants to work together in terms of marketing and things like that."

Office Evolution already has a focus on supporting small businesses with their approach to office space. Now, they're reaching beyond the walls of the office to help the local community where they can. And that starts with encouraging everyone to support their local businesses however possible.

"Order from your favorite local restaurant," says Phil. "If you're locked down, follow your businesses online." He adds. With many companies with retail locations unable to serve their customers in their buildings, they are innovating and finding new ways to reach their customers.

Delta Life Fitness, one of the fellow tenants of the Marcel Town Center, for instance, are offering workouts online. Phil is encouraging its customers to join in.

As far as Office Evolution, they're doing what they can to support their members, and even new tenant prospects. "We're still open from 10-2. We are also meeting with people by appointment only (one-at-a-time) so as to limit social interaction." They are also helping to accommodate their members while abiding by the social distancing protocols in place. They are even helping out their "virtual" members, who would normally only have access to a common work area. "Even if you're a virtual member,

we can accommodate you. We have enough rooms to allow you to use a private office right now. You can come in for a day only if needed. We're offering private offices for daily, weekly, or monthly right now," says Phil.

As far as advice to their customers, and everyone else dealing with the uncertainty we're in, Phil offers this advice: "We know that this it's a trying time. Lots of things are changing right now. Our members are part of our family. We are working with them 24/7 and reaching out to them to help how we can. Most importantly, make sure you know your fellow tenants. Get to know your neighbors. They can be a wealth of support during this time."

Learn more about Office Evolution at www.officeevolution.com/locations/woodlands.

Hello Beautiful Boutique

Being there for our neighbors

Although the doors of Hello Beautiful Boutique are closed that doesn't mean business has stopped. "Customers still have access to our online shopping and can have any of our store's items shipped right to their home" states Judy Burks, the owner. Judy and her crew are also not opposed to curbside pickup as she recounted in one story "as one of our crew members was a closing shop a lady pulled up asking for some laundry detergent, using social distancing and sanitization, our crew member was able to help her get the laundry detergent she searched all over to find." That type of customer service is expected and encouraged at the Hello Beautiful Boutique (HBB). In fact, during this time HBB is offering free shipping on all purchases made online.

When asked about her customers Judy said: "let them know that we are praying for all of them, and we do appreciate the loyalty from customers who are shopping online, and God will get us through this." Judy and her team are looking forward to when they can open their doors and want to make sure customers know they will be there for any needs they have. After 46 years in the business, Judy also has some advice for any that are experiencing a rough time "a business is only as successful as the people you surround yourself with, and because of their hard work we have been able to continue to keep paying our employees." This is the time to invest in families, to help each other out. Surround yourself and your business with people that want to have success by pulling others up rather than tearing them down. Judy wanted to stress to businesses to keep their employees because we will get through this only by treating each other with kindness.

If you would like to purchase an item you can order online at <https://www.hellobeautifulboutique.com/>. If you have an item that you need today or want help navigating the online store you can contact Michelle (a store worker) at 936-442-0025, Robin (store manager) at 936-718-8093, or Judy herself at 936-443-9614. Hello Beautiful Boutique wants you to know that they are still working to make sure you have the best customer service!



greater houston
PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY, PLLC

Do Your Part to Stay Safe

Like most small businesses right now, Greater Houston Pediatric Dentistry is facing its own set of challenges. Although they are considered an essential business, the local dental practice is making huge adjustments to the way they do business. Safety is their biggest concern. "We are struggling with simply being closed for business and not knowing when we can safely open." Says Dentist Linh Luu. She adds, "As dentists, we work in the airway on a daily basis. Currently, we can only see life-threatening emergency cases,

which is very minimal considering that our profession is at the highest risk."

It's not just the safety involved with dental procedures that makes it difficult for Greater Houston Pediatric Dentistry to practice. As we're seeing in many other places in our nation, safety supplies are not readily available. Dr. Luu explains, "In addition, with the incredible shortages in supplies, we do not have and cannot obtain the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) to allow us to safely see patients."

When asked how people could support their local business, Dr. Luu's focus is not on their specific business, but on the entire community. "Please stay home and do your part to flatten the curve," she says. "Please take this seriously and listen to medical advice and leadership. Your actions affect others. If we all do our part now, we can all get back to normalcy sooner and all businesses can open again."

"We are doing our part by seeing only emergencies to keep our team safe and to keep children out of the ER for dental issues." Says Dr. Luu. Others should take the same approach. Even if you are considered essential, safety is still more important than ever. The best thing you can do to prevent from getting sick is perhaps the most common, and often neglected advice out there: "Eat balanced meals, exercise, and remember to brush and floss!"

Lastly, Dr. Luu imparts some simple, profound wisdom to all of us. "Stay safe and be kind to each other. We will all get through this."

Learn more about Greater Houston Pediatric Dentistry at greaterhoustonpediatricdentistry.com/ or by phone at 936-703-2131.



Learning to come back stronger than ever

Unfortunately, Stone Creek Wellness & Medical Aesthetics has been mandated to close till April 30th due to Coronavirus. Even though Linda Teague and her crew want to help customers they have taken this step to protect themselves in their employees. That hasn't stopped them from planning and preparing "We are watching Webinars on new and current services and products. When we are able to open again we would love to have new or better techniques or products to offer our clients!" says Linda Teague. Health and wellness don't need to wait during this time, in fact, it should be one of your top priorities. During the stress of Coronavirus make sure you are taking moments to adjust to this new normal and take care of yourself.

During this time of uncertainty Stone Creek Wellness & Medical Aesthetics wants customers to know they value the relationships of their customers. Linda and her team want everyone to stay well and stay healthy. When asked about her customers Linda noted "Our clients are already being very supportive! Many have pre-purchased services, which we have offered at special pricing." If you are interested in any products, Stone Creek is offering 20% off on all online purchases and is including free shipping.

The most important detail Linda wanted to highlight is her thanks to the community "We miss all of you terribly and want to thank you for your continued support during these uncertain times! We know this time will pass and look forward to squeezing you all in soon!" Whether you are a first time customer or a long-standing user of their products Stone Creek does not disregard you or your family. It has, and will continue to be, an honor to serve you with quality care and service.

If you would like to check out any products Stone Creek Wellness & Medical Aesthetics can be found at <https://stonecreekwellness.com/>. You can also get in contact with Linda at linda@stonecreekwellness.com, or by text at 936-203-0429. ♦

FAWNS: SOCIAL DISTANCING IS THEIR THING!

By: Lisa Wolling, Executive Director

In light of the current Covid-19 precautions, many people are spending more time in and around their yards and gardens, as well as talking walks outside for some fresh air. Our wildlife center has been busier than ever since so many people are now happening upon wildlife. Some are truly injured or orphaned and do need help, but many of the animals being found are simply babies that are “doing their thing”. Just because a baby or young animal is observed “on its own” does not necessarily mean that it is abandoned or needs assistance. Sometimes they are simply learning and exploring a little on their own. Sometimes their wild mother is close by. Understanding what is normal and natural is vitally important to assure that wildlife babies are not needlessly “rescued” and taken away from their parent(s).

Every year, from late April through July, we get many calls regarding fawns that people discover, seemingly with no mother nearby, and callers are concerned that the fawns may have been abandoned. Unfortunately, many of these fawns wind up being “kidnapped” when rescuers unknowingly pick them up and take them home, meaning well but actually interfering with what is natural behavior for white-tailed deer. Very young fawns have no scent, and when they are under two weeks old they are too small and weak to run from predators, so the mother deer (doe) will leave her fawn in a safe, quiet spot to keep them safe from predators. In the case of twin or triplet fawns, the doe often beds them all down in separate locations and will move from one to the other checking on them. The doe comes back every few hours to check on her fawn and nurse it. Natural behavior for the fawn is to lie curled up on the ground, most often with their head down, and to be very still. A person can walk right up to a fawn and it will not run. This is normal behavior. Fawns and does have been practicing social distancing before it became “cool” for the humans to do so! As the fawn gets a little older, the doe may stay away for hours at a time, sometimes for up to eight hours, returning to her fawn(s) only after dark. Once a doe finds a spot she feels is safe, she may leave her fawn there for days at a time. The fawn may be found in the same general location, but it still appears healthy and exhibits no signs that it needs to be helped (such as pacing, crying, or appearing to be dehydrated). Fawns that are found resting and appear healthy should be left alone. Mom is nearby and will return every few hours to check on her baby and nurse them. Please do not intervene.

Fawns are sometimes found in locations that are not the safest; unfortunately the doe beds her baby or babies down very early in the morning, just before dawn, so a spot that was quiet and safe at that time of day may become less safe as the world wakes up. Fawns may even be found either on a roadway or on the side of a roadway. If a fawn in this situation appears otherwise healthy, and is lying curled up, the fawn should be gently picked up and moved to a safe distance off the road and then left for the mother. Sometimes people call us about fawns inside of their fenced yards. The doe has most likely placed her baby there intentionally (she may even have given birth there). The doe can easily jump the fence to get in and out, but she knows her fawn will be contained there. If your yard is safe from dogs, etc., just be patient and enjoy watching mom and her baby. If you have dogs and cannot keep them away from the fawn for

a few days, the fawn can be moved to the other side of the fence for mom to reunite with. It is a myth that the mother will abandon her baby if a human has touched it, so it is ok to move a fawn if it is in a dangerous location. Fawns are hard wired to follow anything bigger than they are when they are very young; for this reason, if you do have to move a fawn, it may attempt to follow you. Be persistent; put the fawn back and get away as quickly as you can, even if you need to make several attempts. If needed, lay the fawn down facing away from you, pat it several times between the shoulder blades (mom’s way of saying “stay put”), and then walk quickly away from the hind end of the fawn.



A fawn DOES need help if: it is found standing by a dead mother; it is obviously ill or injured; is lying on its side with legs straight out and/or thrashing; it is crying; it is wet and/or cold (especially if the inside of the mouth is cold); it is covered with ants; it has a lot of flies around it or has fly eggs or maggots visible; it is in imminent danger of attack by dogs or other predator animals (not just “there are dogs in the area”; mom will protect her baby from dogs if they get too close); it is well after dark and the mother has still not returned and fawn has not moved from where you found it. If any of these are observed, wrap the fawn in a blanket and place it in a

box or large carrier. The most important thing is to get the fawn warm and dry (if it is wet). Towels warmed in the dryer work well, as do hot water bottles, Ziploc bags filled with warm water, and/or a heating pad set on low. Please do not feed the fawn any type of milk or formula. Fawns that are cold and/or dehydrated cannot digest anything, so feeding can cause it to go into shock or actually kill it. Please call a wildlife rehabilitator or wildlife center ASAP. Until a rehabilitator can be reached, the fawn can be given warmed children’s Pedialyte or another type of re-hydrating drink in a regular baby bottle. Keep the fawn warm, quiet, and away from domestic pets. Most often simply understanding what normal behavior is for wildlife babies is the best way to keep them safe and with their natural parent or parents.

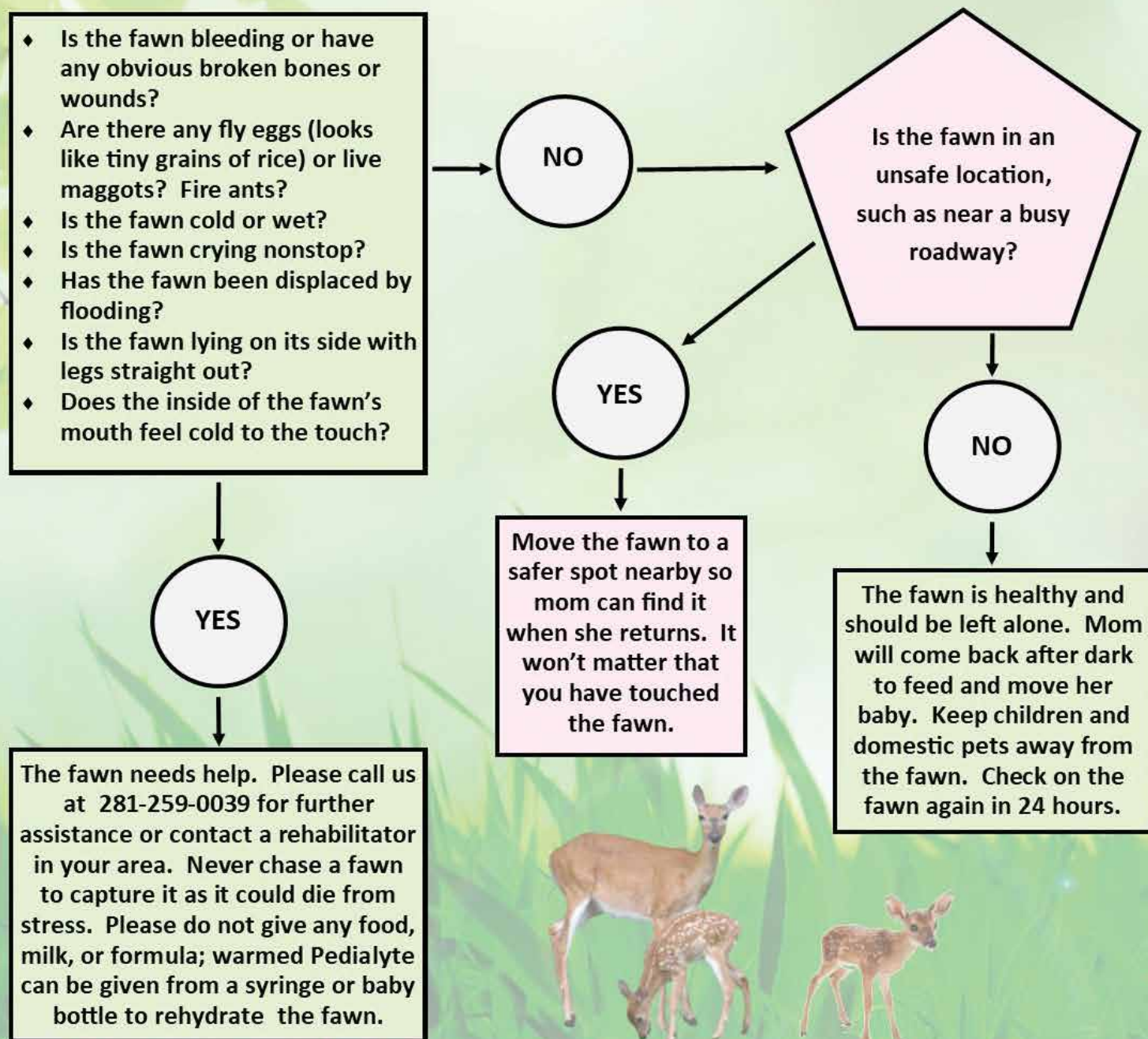
Until restrictions are lifted on the current stay-at-home and social distancing guidelines, our center remains open for only limited hours each day. An appointment is necessary prior to bringing any animals to our facility, and paperwork will be filled out over the phone to facilitate a quick intake process. We do monitor emails after hours, so if you find an animal or need assistance, you can email ftwl.help@gmail.com. Our education center will remain closed until things can return to normal, or at least a “new normal”. We remain committed to helping wildlife, but these restrictions have of course affected our finances and ability to fundraise. We realize many people are having a difficult time right now, but if you are able, please consider supporting us and our efforts through Kroger Community Rewards or AmazonSmile. We receive quarterly donations from both of those organizations. You shop, we benefit!

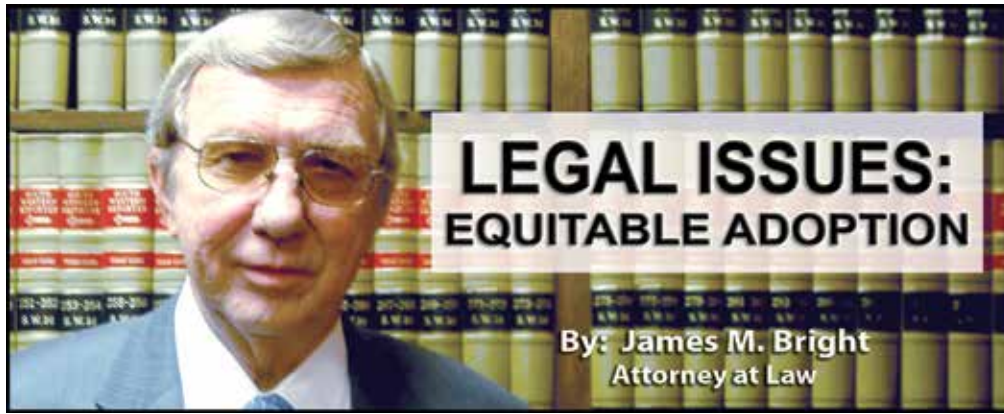
To learn more about what we do and view pictures of many of the animals we assist, please visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SavingTexasWildlife. Details can be found at www.ftlw.org, and then click on “How to Help”. We also have a great deal of helpful information on our website about other species of animals and how to assess if they need help or not. Stay healthy everyone! ♦



I Found a Baby Deer

In our part of Texas, baby deer (fawns) are typically born May-July. First-time moms (does) typically have one fawn, and thereafter twins or triplets are common. Until they are about two weeks old and strong enough to keep up, fawns are left alone while their mothers go off to feed. The doe will usually bed each fawn down in a separate location and return to nurse and move them at dusk and dawn. Does generally bed their fawns down in tall grass or bushes, but she will leave them any place she deems safe (including people's yards). Every year, many fawns are needlessly kidnapped by well-meaning people who find them and assume they are abandoned. Please never move or pick up a fawn unless it is in IMMEDIATE danger. If you do find a fawn, refer to this chart for guidance. Baby's best chance is with its natural mother.





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

Most Texas residents are aware that their conduct can lead to the possible imposition of status as a "common-law" or "informal" marriage. Not as well-known, and not receiving the same amount of attention, is the concept of equitable adoption, also sometimes called adoption by estoppel. A finding of equitable adoption by the court places a child in the same position to inherit property as if he/she had been formally adopted or had been a natural child.

This status sometimes occurs when someone has taken a child into his home, either as a stepchild or otherwise, nurtured the child and treated him as if the child were his own. Historically, there have been three elements which

needed to be proven before a child could enjoy the position of being adopted by estoppel. Those elements are:

- The existence of an agreement by the adoptive parent(s) that they agreed to adopt. This agreement need not be in writing, but may be implied by the actions of the parties. This agreement may be proven by either direct evidence or circumstantial. Arguably, it is because there is no exact legal test for the existence of an agreement that the courts of appeal are not always consistent in their decisions. For example, a minority of the courts have required that both natural parents consent to the adoption, while a majority of the courts have held that an equitable adoption may occur even if the natural parent does not consent. Willingness &/or intent of the adoptive parent to enter into

an agreement is typically the element of proof that is the most difficult for a person seeking equitable adoption to establish.

- Performance by the child which provides consideration for the agreement by the adoptive parent. Reportedly, this is usually the easiest element to establish in support of equitable adoption. This can be shown by examples of love shown to the parent.

- Reliance - Although no longer considered a necessary element of proof, historically the child had to know of the agreement to adopt and then to act in reliance upon it.

The Texas Court of Appeals case of Spiers v Maples, 970 S.W. 2d 166 (Tex. App.--Fort Worth 1998) helps to clarify the required elements, and it, along with a line of other cases established that the third element of proof (reliance by the child), is no longer needed to establish adoption.

A "bare-bones" and brief synopsis of the facts in the Spiers case is as follows:

- Cross (the child) was given to Moody (the adoptive parent) at a very young age by Cross's natural mother.

- Moody reared Cross as her own child.

- Cross attended school and was enrolled as if Moody was her natural mother.

- Cross did not find out that Moody was not her mother until she was 21 years of age and ordered her birth certificate in anticipation of getting a marriage license.

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- Moody and Cross celebrated all holidays and birthdays as a family.

- Cross had no memories of being anywhere other than with Moody as her mother until she married at age 21.

- Cross treated Moody as if she were her mother, taking care of her when she was ill and providing her with love and affection.

- Moody listed Cross on her tax returns as a dependent child.

- Moody died without a will.

- When Moody died, a claim was asserted by Moody's sister and brother that they were the only heirs of Ms. Moody's estate because Cross had never been formally adopted.

- The trial court held, and it was affirmed by the Court of Appeals, that not only had Cross been equitably adopted, but also that she was the sole heir of Moody.

Although the Spiers court held that equitable adoption existed, the holdings between courts have not been consistent. In some of these cases, being with alleged adoptive parents from an early age, referring to them as "mommy" and "daddy," attending school under the alleged adoptive parent's name was not conclusive. In many of these cases, the claim for equitable adoption failed. These cases are typically decided upon the smallest of differences in distinguishable fact.

A later Texas Court of Appeals case Dampier v. Williams, 493 S.W.3d 118, 121-122 (Tex.

App.-Houston [1st Dist.] 2016, no pet.) swings the pendulum back from Spiers and insists that the age of the child might also be of some consequence. The Dampier case can be distinguished because the attempted equitable adoption was by an adult who did not meet the decedent until the claimant was 19 years old and the decedent was about 49 years old.

Based upon case law, it is clear that children reared by parents who are not their natural parents may have intended or unintended consequences on how that parent or alleged parent's estate passes upon the parent's death. The importance of this issue is enhanced greatly when the courts are dealing with blended families. The bottom line, as always, is if you wish to include or exclude a child from inheriting the property that you own at the time of your death, you need to hire an attorney to draft the will that clarifies your intent.

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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Online with Dock Line

Why Now is the Perfect Time to Start an Online Business

And how anyone can start right away.

It's no secret to anyone now. We are headed into a recession. The effects of the coronavirus outbreak and the stay-at-home orders put in place have caused the economy to come to a grinding halt. Jobless claims are going through the roof and it seems that the idea of making extra money or growing wealth is out of the question.

But is it it, really? Did you know that during the Great Depression starting in the late 1920's there were more millionaires created than in any other time in American history? Yes, a recession means a dramatic shift in how business is done and a lack of financial security in many traditional markets. However, there is a financial truth you must understand, especially during a recession. It's simply this: money does not disappear. The flow of money just changes directions.

All you have to do is find where the flow of money is going and get in the current. Perhaps the best place to go is online. Right now, while people are stuck at home, online browsing, shopping, and video streaming are booming. People are spending more time on social media and consuming more online content than ever. If you have something to get their attention and you can provide value to them, they will gladly pay you for it. This is the basis for any online business.

Have you ever heard of Pat Flynn? He runs the website SmartPassiveIncome.com. He easily makes over \$2 million dollars a year from his online business. No, it's not any kind of scam or get-rich-quick gimmick. It's a realm business offering real value. He started his online business in 2008 after being let go from his entry-level architecture job - the career he went to school for and worked hard to get into. When the recession hit in 2008, he was one of the millions of casualties of the financial crash. But he pivoted and started to build something of value online. Today, he is one of the most respected online business experts in the world.

I'm not telling you that you will start making millions of dollars this year if you start an online business. But I am telling you that if you're willing to do the work, continually learn and apply what you learn, and take the risk of actually starting an online business, you could easily replace your current income...eventually. The truth is that most people who start

an online business give up very early in the process. If you have a solid idea and you put hard work into building it consistently for a year or more, then it will pay off. Most people quit after even just a month.

So, what could you start today? You may be thinking that you aren't savvy enough to start an online business, but that's simply not true. The barriers to entry are so few now, that all it takes is some persistence and trial and error. Here are some easy online business ideas you could start pursuing today that could pay off huge if you stick with them.

Online Businesses You Could Start Today

1. Your own Blog

If you missed the "Online with Dock Line" article in the March 2020 issue of Dock Line Magazine, it's worth finding and reading. In the article, we discussed how to start your own blog. It's one of the easiest ways to start an online business and all you have to do once it's set up is to start sharing your knowledge about a specific subject. Over time, you'll get more and more visitors to your blog and you'll be able to package your knowledge into a product like a book or online course. You can also place ads on your website for additional passive income. If you stick with and publish consistently for 2 years, it will make money if done right. If you want a step-by-step guide on starting your own blog, just go to our "How to Start a Blog" article at docklinemagazine.com/how-to-start-a-blog. You can have your own blog website up and running for less than \$100 easily and you could start publishing content today.

2. Affiliate Marketing

If you don't have your products to sell, you can easily sell other people's products and earn a commission on each sale. For instance, Amazon has an affiliate program that is free to join. All you have to do is share a link to a product on Amazon and if someone clicks the link and buys the product, you'll get a commission off the sale. There are many people making a lot of money every month just from Amazon affiliate links. There



are many other companies that offer affiliate programs for their products. All you need is a simple website, like a blog, and a place to publish the affiliate links, like in helpful articles or resource pages.

3. Social Media Marketer

Do you spend a lot of time on social media? Do you know how to easily create attractive posts that other people love to engage with? Are you good at creating conversations online around social media posts? Do you know how to run simple ads on Facebook and other platforms? If you can do any of those, businesses will gladly pay you to do it for them. Most business owners don't have the time to spend creating social media posts or running ads on social media platforms. Many businesses will gladly pay \$500 - \$1,000 a month or more to have someone do it for them. You don't even need a website to market your services. Just create a Facebook page for your business and start running your own ads promoting your services. Create a few different options based on the amount of posts and ads you'll create and start reaching out to businesses offering to help them grow online.

If you'd like more info on how to start an online business, or if your business needs an online presence to keep growing even during a recession, just let me know! Send me an email at brian@docklinemagazine.com. ♦



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