

DOCK LINE

The Woodlands

MAGAZINE



May 2020



**Stay Comfortable This
Summer with Reids AC & Heat**



PINNACLE
AWARD WINNER

281-351-9922

www.Reidsacandheat.com

Delivering Five Star Service

See page 8



**COVID-19 is Wreaking Havoc at
Wastewater Treatment
Facilities Due to an Increase of
"Flushable" Products**

See Page 18

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DENVER, CO
PERMIT NO. 5377

SandStone

HEALTH

Our team has grown to ***support you*** in more ways than ever before. We now offer a complete solution for your total health and well-being.

Comprehensive care for every step in life

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

**The Right Choice
Can Change Everything®**



Our mission at Sandstone Family Medicine is to provide patients the most innovative and highest quality care. We strive to form lasting relationships with the entire family by including patients in the decision-making process and acknowledging them as active participants in their health.

NOW OPEN!

795 Fish Creek Thoroughfare
Suite 270
Montgomery, TX 77316



Our philosophy is to provide the best possible care recommendations, and then allow the patient to choose the type of care they wish to receive. We hope to create lasting relationships with patients who are committed to regaining their health, and who allow us to participate in their full recovery. The committed patients who listen and take action on our recommendations get the best results.

Conroe
Magnolia
Montgomery
Spring Harmony



Sandstone Center for Neurofeedback

By using neurofeedback we are able to retrain the brain by correcting frequency abnormalities associated with various neurological conditions such as ADD, ADHD, autism, anxiety, depression, PTSD, memory loss, and auditory processing issues just to name a few. At the Sandstone Center for Neurofeedback, we combine neurofeedback therapy with various brain-base therapies in order to stimulate optimal results.

8850 Six Pines Drive
Suite 250
Shenandoah, TX 77380

*Visit us online for more information or please call: **281.203.0070***

Follow us @sandstonehealth for news and updates  

www.sandstonehealth.com



DoingWhat'sRight
CONSTRUCTION

281.419.4144

dwrconstruction.com

445 Spring Hill Dr • Spring, TX 77386



FOR A LIMITED TIME
20% OFF
ALL PROJECTS



*Kitchen & Bath
Remodels*




*Patio Covers &
Outdoor Kitchens*





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...

GT2 

Follow Us on
Facebook & Twitter



To view Dock Line Magazine online, scan this QR code and use it as a shortcut to link to our website using your smart phone's camera.



DOCK LINE

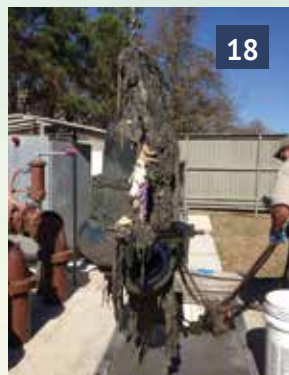
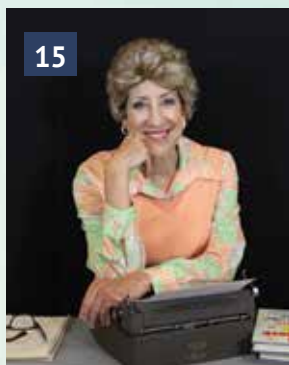
The Woodlands

MAGAZINE



table of CONTENTS

MAY 2020



ON THE COVER



Reids AC & Heat has the knowledge and tools to prepare your HVAC system for the toughest times of the year. You can reach them at (281) 351-9922 or online at <https://reidsacandheat.com/>. Office hours are Mon-Fri. 7:30 am-5:00 pm, phone calls are accepted 24/7. You can find them at 25435 FM 2978 Suite 102, Tomball, TX

- 8 Stay Comfortable This Summer with Reids AC & Heat
- 12 STAGE RIGHT of Texas – Brings you certainty in uncertain times
- 15 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
- 17 Clear Direction for Your Retirement™
- 18 SJRA: COVID-19 is Wreaking Havoc at Wastewater Treatment Facilities Due to an Increase of "Flushable" Products Wastewater Operators along with Patty Potty Urge Everyone to Only Flush the 3 P's
- 19 NF&G: National Forests and Grasslands in Texas temporarily shuts down overnight camping in Wildlife Management Areas
- 20 Beautiful Lawns Year Round
- 21 COVID19: What Businesses are Saying
- 26 Online with Dock Line: Why Now is the Perfect Time to Start an Online Business - And how anyone can start right away.
- 28 LEGAL ISSUES: EQUITABLE ADOPTION



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

VISIT US ON THE WEB! WWW.DOCKLINEMAGAZINE.COM



FOREST CROSSING ANIMAL HOSPITAL



Family-owned and operated
Member of MCVMA, TVMA, AVMA



The Standard of
Veterinary Excellence



Cat Friendly
Practice



Wellness Care
Geriatric Care
Surgery
Diagnostic Imaging
Nutrition Consultation
Dentistry
Boarding & Day Care
Grooming



**CALL US TO SCHEDULE
AN EXAM TODAY!**

ForestCrossingAnimalHospital.com • 936-483-8141

2330 F.M. 1488 Suite 100 | The Woodlands, TX 77384

WILLS - PROBATE FLAT FEES

James M. Bright - Attorney at Law



-- WILLS --

Small or Large Estates • Trusts for Child/Grandchild
Designate Guardian • General or Specific Gifts
Statutory Powers of Attorney • Living Wills/Directives

-- PROBATE --

Apply for Probate • Prepare Documents
Letters Testamentary • All Court Appearances
File Inventory • Publish Creditor Notice

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

MONTGOMERY OFFICE

208 McCown, Suite 114
Montgomery, Texas 77356

(936) 449-4455

HOUSTON OFFICE

14340 Torrey Chase Blvd., Suite 150
Houston, Texas 77014

(281) 586-8277

www.houstontxprobate.com

DOCK LINE The Woodlands MAGAZINE

Verle "Ozzy" Osborne
PUBLISHER

Linda Sharver
EDITOR

GT2/Coconut
MANAGING EDITORS

Kelly L. O'Quinn
ART DIRECTOR

Susan Osborne
OFFICE MANAGER

David Donahoo, Colton Rucker
SEO SPECIALISTS

Walt Thompson
DIRECTOR OF SALES

Angela Glezman
Stephanie Davis
SALES

Brian Sherman
Matthew Calhoun
WRITERS

Jessie Smith
PHOTOGRAPHER

CONTRIBUTORS:

James M. Bright
Walt Crowder
Chris Wootton, ChFC
Carolyn Corsano Wong
Derrick Bryant Photography

DOCK LINE MAGAZINE is published by:
Dock Line Magazine, Inc.
P.O. Box 1203, Willis, TX 77378
Telephone: 936-890-7234
E-mail: ozzy@docklinemagazine.com

Subscriptions to DOCK LINE MAGAZINE
cost \$25.00 per year. To subscribe, mail a check
with your name and address to:
P.O. Box 1203
Willis, TX 77378

Dock Line Magazine, Inc. welcomes reader correspon-
dence. We reserve the right to edit or reject any mate-
rial submitted. The publisher assumes no responsibil-
ity for the return of any unsolicited material.

DOCK LINE MAGAZINE, INC.© 2020, all rights re-
served. All editorial and advertising copy belongs
solely to DOCK LINE MAGAZINE, INC. Reproduction in
whole or part without express written permission is
strictly prohibited. Articles are the opinions and ex-
periences of other people and we do not necessarily
approve, agree with, and/or condone those opinions.



DOCK LINE

All of your marketing needs, under one roof.

PRINT – WEB DESIGN – SEO – SOCIAL MEDIA – VIDEO PRODUCTION



For more information about all of our services
visit bit.ly/dockline



Stay Comfortable This Summer with Reids AC & Heat

By: Matthew Calhoun

If you have ever spent even just one summer in Texas, you know how hot it can get! Temperatures often reach into the triple digits, which can cause your HVAC system to struggle if not properly maintained. Don't stress though, Reids AC & Heat has the knowledge and tools to prepare your HVAC system for the toughest times of the year. Be prepared and save money with Reids AC & Heat this year.

Experience you can count on

When it comes to dealing with the blistering Texas heat you don't want to leave your AC unit in the hands of an untrained technician. Reids AC & Heat was founded in 1992 and is 100% locally owned. As Reid puts it, "With over 40 years of experience, Reids AC & Heat offers quality work at competitive rates. Our technicians are certified air-conditioning and heating professionals. We are fully insured for your protection. We service all makes and models of residential air conditioning, heating equipment, and commercial refrigeration equipment. At Reids AC & Heat, your satisfaction is always guaranteed."

Reids AC & Heat has built a client base that has come to expect perfection and dependability, and they live up to that reputation. Every customer is treated with care and services and is based on your home's needs. You can expect nothing but the best according to happy customer James Davis:

"Our AC went out on the worst night when our baby had a fever. Reids AC came to the rescue at 9:00 pm on a Saturday and got our AC running again. We cannot thank him enough for being there for us when we needed him the most. We highly recommend Reids AC!"

This is the type of service and experience you can expect when you make a call to Reids AC & Heat. Whether it's a commercial property or a residential home, you can expect nothing but the best. For Reids, it's about going the extra mile for those who have put their hard-earned money into a local business.

Services that save you money

Would you like to ensure that your HVAC system keeps running even in the hottest parts of the summer? How about making sure your heater doesn't give out during the middle of the winter? Reids AC & Heat has you covered. You can sign up for their service club membership, which helps you save money. As Reid points out, "It provides two services a year: one for an air conditioner tune-up and one for a heating safety tune-up. You will receive a discounted rate on repairs, and equipment, and other amazing deals that we only send to our

Continued on page 10 >>



**Reids
AC & HEAT**
Delivering Five Star Service

North Houston's Most Trusted A+ Rated Heating & Cooling Since 1992





BBB
Pinnacle
Award
Winner



LENNOX
#TAGLB012399C



Google
Reviews ★★★★★

25435 FM 2978, Suite 102
Tomball, TX 77375
(281) 351-9922
PHONES ANSWERED 24/7
Office Hours:
Mon-Fri 7:30 - 5:00

- ✓ **Certified AC, Heating & Ventilation Specialist**
- ✓ **Fast Same Day Service on Most Calls**
- ✓ **Service, Repair, and or Replacement Options Available**
- ✓ **Licensed & Insured 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed**

www.reidsacandheat.com

\$25 OFF

ANY REPAIR
EXCLUDING
SERVICE CALLS
AND TUNE-UPS
Expires 5/31/20

FREE

SERVICE CALL
DURING REGULAR
BUSINESS
HOURS WITH REPAIR
Expires 5/31/20

10% CASH
DISCOUNT

ON ALL NEW
SYSTEMS
Expires 5/31/20

A/C TUNE-UP \$69
FOR THE FIRST
SYSTEM AND \$59
FOR EACH
ADDITIONAL
Expires 5/31/20

Finally a weight loss program
that works and is affordable!

Medically monitored, non-surgical weight loss program that works!

Obesity lowers the immune
system. Let us help you now!





25914 Woodglan Drive
Spring, TX 77386
WWW.HEALTHYFIGURESHOUSTON.COM

**Call to schedule your
Consultation today!**
281-770-9886

Visit us on FACEBOOK and see
what our patients are saying!
Healthy Figures-Houston






members throughout the year. "The owner of Reids AC & Heat is hands-on with each installation. "If any customer has a complaint, Reids is always there to make it right" says Reid. This is true for both residential and commercial installation. Don't wait to call, as Reid says, "it is important to maintain your AC and Heating system year-round to provide the maximum comfort. Continued maintenance from the start can prevent costly repairs in the future." Signing up for service club membership is going to save you money because you can prevent major catastrophes from happening.

Reids AC & Heat offers competitive pricing and flexible service times.

Reids AC & Heat offers competitive pricing and flexible service times. This means you can make an appointment on your schedule and they can do the rest. Reids' team also uses specialized tools when dealing with your HVAC system to get your system up and running as fast as possible. Still not sold on their services, but having a problem with your HVAC system? That's okay because you can get a full diagnosis for any repairs that are needed for only \$59.

That's it! Whether it takes an hour or 3 hours to diagnose the problem, it only costs you \$59! After a complete diagnosis, a service technician will give you a cost for the repair.

In addition, Reids A/C & Heat also has a coupon section on their website which will give you instant discounts.

Being part of a community

Reids AC & Heat loves being part of the Tomball community. "We have a variety of customers in our community which we love! We have customers that have lived here their entire life, or just moved from across the country to a completely new environment. When moving to a new home, a new part of the country, or you're a long-time resident, our technicians can help you with any questions you may have." If you are new to the area and want to make sure your A/C and heater is up to the challenge of Texas weather, call Reids A/C & Heat!

However, you may be wondering about the type of people you are letting into your home. Reid only hires the best HVAC personnel to work for him and is committed to proving it. Certified employees have all passed background tests and drug screenings, so you have no need to worry about who comes into your home. Technicians are focused on helping you have the best heating repair experience. You don't have to take their word for it, though. As Reid says, "We

have received the BBB Award of Excellence for over 12 years in a row. In 2016, we won the Pinnacle Award for the entire City of Houston. We are known for this level of customer satisfaction because it starts with the first phone call to the technician arriving on time, and keeping the customer updated on delays."

"We can help everyone!"

Think your home is too old or different to be worked on? Not so with Reids A/C & Heat. "We can help everyone! New homes, older homes, and anywhere in between. Our company can maintain, service, repair, replace, and do full installs on any stand-alone residential homes. We also have a commercial side that can look at different equipment and systems." Reids AC & Heat is ready for you and whatever you can throw at them.

You can reach Reids AC & Heat at (281) 351-9922 or online at <https://reidsacandheat.com/>. Office hours are Mon-Fri. 7:30 am-5:00 pm, phone calls are accepted 24/7. You can find them at 25435 FM 2978 Suite 102, Tomball, TX 77375. ♦

Lifetime Warranty
**Shaw Handscraped
Hardwood**
Starting at
\$4.99/sq ft. Installed
Including Pad & All Trim
Exp. 5/31/20

Waterproof Flooring
Starting at
\$3.99/sq ft. Installed
Includes All Trim
Exp. 5/31/20

**Quartz
Countertops**
Starting at
\$36.99/sq ft. Installed
Exp. 5/31/20

**Lifetime Stain
Warranty Carpet**
\$1.99/sq ft. Installed
Includes Spillproof Pad & Removal of
Old Carpet
Exp. 5/31/20

Wood Tile
Starting at
\$4.99/sq ft. Installed
Installed: Includes Tile,
Thinset & Grout
Exp. 5/31/20

All

FLOORS & MORE

*Your Neighborhood
Flooring Store*

WOOD | CARPET | TILE | LAMINATE
GRANITE COUNTERTOPS | LVP
KITCHEN | BATHROOMS

Making Home Design Easy & Convenient for our Busy Customers
We Will Bring the Showroom to You!

Visit One of Our 4 Locations • www.allfloorstore.com



281-857-6851

- **FREE ESTIMATES!**
- **12 Months Same As Cash**
- **1st Quality Products**
- **Family Owned & Operated**
- **Certified Installers**
- **Lifetime Installation Warranty**



©DERRICK BRYANT PHOTOGRAPHY

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 prop

Continued on page 14 ➡

The Perfect Venue For Your Next Special Event!

ASK ABOUT OUR NEW HOURLY RENTAL RATES!



7021 Kingston Cove Lane • Willis, TX 77318
www.sevencoves.net • 936-856-6111



The Seven Coves Clubhouse is a fantastic location for your next party, wedding, family reunion or business meeting with spectacular views of Lake Conroe. Accommodations for 150 with dance floor, bar, kitchen and featuring a spacious deck and gazebo with ample and convenient parking.

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!

Call today to reserve
936-441-7469



Funded in part by The City of Conroe visitconroe.com

erty 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 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 pm 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 Isabel 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

By: Carolyn Corsano Wong



Continued on page 16 ➞



"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





At the time of my drafting this article, we are still in quarantine due to Covid-19 as I am sure many of you are. It has certainly been a mix of emotions for all of us from both a business and personal stand-point and we have a long road ahead from many perspectives.

Whether you know it or not, economies run on hope. The hope that tomorrow will be better than today encourages us to invest in our future. So, let me just encourage you to keep a positive perspective when the world seems to do nothing but drowned us in negative data.

I am reminded of a verse in a Book I hold dear that says "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33). My hope does not come from the daily swings of the stock market or newest virus news. Where does your hope come from?

In short, we should count our blessings, daily. I am thankful for our employee's safety thus far and I am grateful for the safety and additional time spent with my wife and children and for the technology that allows us to stay "connected" with friends and family despite the social distancing. Be thankful in all things and we continue to pray for those going through and affected by our current plight. Now, on with the article.

On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law. This \$2 trillion relief package is intended to assist individuals and businesses during the ongoing crisis. Some of the major relief provisions are summarized here.

Unemployment Provisions

- An additional \$600 weekly benefit to those collecting unemployment benefits, through July 31, 2020
- An additional 13 weeks of federally funded unemployment benefits, through the end of 2020, for individuals who exhaust their state unemployment benefits
- Unemployment benefits through 2020 for many who would not otherwise qualify, including independent contractors and part-time workers

Recovery Rebates

Most individuals will receive a direct payment from the federal government. Technically a 2020 refundable income tax credit, the rebate amount will be calculated based on 2019 tax returns filed (2018 returns in cases where a 2019 return hasn't been filed) and sent automatically via check or direct deposit to qualifying individuals. To qualify for a payment, individuals generally must have a Social Security number and must not qualify as the dependent of another individual.

The amount of the recovery rebate is \$1,200 (\$2,400 if married filing a joint return) plus \$500 for each qualifying child under age 17. Recovery rebates are phased out for those with adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeding \$75,000 (\$150,000 if married filing a joint return, \$112,500 for those filing as head of household). For those with AGI exceeding the threshold amount, the allowable rebate is reduced by \$5 for every \$100 in income over the threshold.

While details are still being worked out, the IRS will be coordinating with other federal agencies to facilitate payment determination and distribution.

Retirement Plan Provisions

- Required minimum distributions (RMDs) from employer-sponsored retirement plans and IRAs will not apply for the 2020 calendar year; this includes any 2019 RMDs that would otherwise have to be taken in 2020
- The 10% early-distribution penalty tax that would normally apply to distributions made prior to age 59½ (unless an exception applies) is waived for retirement plan distributions of up to \$100,000 relating to the coronavirus; special re-contribution rules and income inclusion rules for tax purposes apply as well
- Limits on loans from employer-sponsored retirement plans are expanded, with repayment delays provided

Student Loans

- The legislation provides a six-month automatic payment suspension for any student loan held by the federal government; this six-month period ends on September 30, 2020

Business Relief

- An employee retention tax credit is now available to employers significantly impacted by the crisis and is applied to offset Social Security payroll taxes; the credit is equal to 50% of qualified wages up to a certain maximum
- Employers may defer paying the employer portion of Social Security payroll taxes through the end of 2020 and may pay the deferred taxes over a two-year period of time; self-employed individuals are able to do the same
- Net operating loss rules expanded
- Deductibility of business interest expanded
- Provisions relating to specified Small Business Administration (SBA) loans increase the federal government guarantee to 100% and allow small businesses to borrow up to \$10 million and defer payments for six months to one year; self-employed individuals, independent contractors, and sole proprietors may qualify for loans

Prior Legislative Relief Provisions

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) also included relief provisions worth noting:

- Requirement that health plans cover COVID-19 testing at no cost to the patient
- Requirement that employers with fewer than 500 employees generally must provide paid sick leave to employees affected by COVID-19 who meet certain criteria, and paid emergency family and medical leave in other circumstances
- Payroll tax credits allowed for required sick leave as well as family and medical leave paid

There is likely to be a steady stream of guidance forthcoming with details relating to many of these provisions. We're here to help provide you Clear Direction For Your Retirement and to answer any questions you may have. Be smart, stay safe, stay well and God bless.



2040 North Loop 336 W, Suite 125
Conroe, Texas 77304
(936) 449-5952
www.woottonfinancial.com

Investment Advisory services offered through Game Plan Advisors, Inc., a registered investment advisor. Insurance services offered through Wootton Financial Group, Inc. Game Plan Advisors, Inc. and Wootton Financial Group, Inc. are affiliated through common ownership. Neither Game Plan Advisors, Inc. nor Wootton Financial Group, Inc. offer legal or tax advice. Please consult the appropriate professional regarding your individual circumstance.



COVID-19 is Wreaking Havoc at Wastewater Treatment Facilities Due to an Increase of “Flushable” Products



Wastewater Operators along with Patty Potty Urge Everyone to Only Flush the 3 P's

Wastewater treatment operators across the world have had the disgusting job of dealing with products that people toss down the drain and flush down the toilet for years. Obviously some of the items are to be expected, but often times it is full of objects that really shouldn't be there. The “flushable” marketing strategy adopted by numerous manufacturers magnified that issue significantly, and it continues to get worse and worse.

Since 2014, the San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) with the help of the vivacious Patty Potty, has sounded the alarm with a #NoWipes in the Pipes message asking everyone to Trash Em...don't Flush Em.

“People are flushing all kinds of things down the toilet!” Patty points out. “It's not a trash can, you know! Some paper products and wipes are advertised as ‘flushable’ but they aren't. Sure, they will flush down, but they won't flush OUT. Wipes don't decompose they get caught up in wastewater treatment plant screens and filters -- and that costs money to clear and repair!”

Patty speaks for the pipes. She is a 1950's housewife...somewhat prissy, often bossy, and completely in charge of her home and family. She is a likeable messenger who, armed with her pink plunger, is on a mission to put an end to stuff being flushed down toilets that ends up costing everyone money.

Patty's message -- NO WIPES IN THE PIPES -- might be staged in the 50's, but it continues to be vitally important in today's water-conscious

world. Especially given the recent issues with COVID-19 and the shortages of paper products. In fact, wastewater treatment operators are having to work overtime to deal with the increase in “flushable” products that are making their way to the treatment facilities.

“With empty store shelves in the toilet paper aisle, Woodlands Water Agency (WWA) is worried that residents will resort to using alternatives like wipes or napkins and then flush those items down the toilet,” WWA's GM James M. Stinson, PE stated.

“SJRA wants to remind



everyone to only flush toilet paper and toss wipes into the trash can," Chris Meeks SJRA Utility Enterprise O&M Manager said. "Anxiety over the COVID-19 pandemic could end up causing major problems in our system and messy overflows to deal with."

SJRA, WWA, and Patty urge residents to take the "Potty Potty Pledge" to help protect water quality and the environment -- by taking actions that will help prevent costly plumber bills and water treatment plant repairs, as well!

For more information on Patty visit her website at www.pattypotty.com, like her on Facebook @nowipes, follow her on Twitter @nowipes, and find her on Instagram @nowipesinthepipes.

For information on WWA visit their website at <https://woodlandswater.org>, like them @WoodlandsWater and follow them on Twitter @WJPA_Water.

One of the major river authorities in Texas, SJRA's mission is to develop, conserve, and protect the water resources of the San Jacinto River basin. Covering all or part of seven counties, the organization's jurisdiction includes the entire San Jacinto River watershed, excluding Harris County. For additional information on SJRA visit our website at www.sjra.net, like SJRA on Facebook @SanJacintoRiverAuthority, follow us on Twitter @SJRA_1937, or find us on Instagram @SanJacintoRiverAuthoritySJRA. ♦



National Forests and Grasslands in Texas temporarily shuts down overnight camping in Wildlife Management Areas

In alignment with current federal, state and local guidance for social distancing and to ensure health safety of its employees, visitors and volunteers, National Forests and Grasslands in Texas will temporarily shut down overnight camping in Wildlife Management Areas effective April 11.

Wildlife Management Areas impacted by this announcement include:

- Caddo National Grasslands WMA (Caddo National Grasslands)
- Alabama Creek WMA (Davy Crockett National Forest)
- Bannister WMA (Angelina National Forest)
- Moore Plantation WMA (Sabine National Forest)
- Sam Houston National Forest WMA (Sam Houston National Forest)

Other recreation opportunities, such as hunting/fishing/hiking on the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas remain available to the public.

To protect public health and safety all visitors to the forest are encouraged to:

- Avoid visiting the forest if you are sick and/or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- Follow CDC guidance on personal hygiene and social distancing before and during your visit to the forest.
- Take your trash with you when you leave. Trash overflowing the receptacles becomes litter and can be harmful to wildlife and attract predators.
- Please make arrangements to use the restroom before or after your visit to the forest. Unmanaged waste creates a health hazard for our employees and for other visitors.
- If an area is crowded, please search for a less occupied location. Also consider avoiding the forest during high-use periods.

The USDA Forest Service continues to assess and temporarily suspend access to recreation areas that attract large crowds and cannot meet social distancing guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Visitors to national forests are urged to take the precautions recommended by the CDC. For tips from the CDC on preventing illnesses like the coronavirus, go to: www.coronavirus.gov

Information from the U.S. Department of Agriculture is available at: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

For up-to-date information on the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas visit www.fs.usda.gov/texas. ♦

TRASH 'EM DON'T FLUSH 'EM!

NO WIPES IN THE PIPES!

PattyPotty.com

SJRA IS A PROUD SPONSOR OF THE PATTY POTTY PROGRAM



Beautiful Lawns Year Round

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



GARDENING IN MAY

Our lives look and feel much different this spring than ever before in our lifetime. We are learning that so much of our life is a "routine" that we don't have to think about. Suddenly all "routines" and habits have been turned upside down. Now we must "think" about every move we make.

I have learned things like: apparently I don't generally wash my hands often enough; I touch my face too often; I stand too close to people when in a conversation or in a line. Oh, and how many times in recent weeks have I instinctively extended my hand for the customary handshake when approaching someone?

All this "remembering" and "thinking" about what to do, or not, is wearing on our last nerve!

Meanwhile, we must not allow what we CAN'T do stop us from doing what we CAN do.

Lawn Ranger Company's crews in all Di-

visions (Fertilization and Weed Control, Landscape Installation, Lawn Maintenance, Irrigation/sprinklers, Lighting) are continuing to work, as our services have been deemed acceptable to continue operating. For that, I and the families who depend on us, are deeply grateful. I am deeply saddened for those, especially our customers, who have lost jobs, and for the companies that are temporarily or permanently closed.

Our crews and office staff are taking extreme precautions to protect themselves and each other, as well as our customers.

Many cool-season annuals are now in decline or already gone. May is a transition month as we move from the comfortable 80's to the more intense summer heat with temperatures reaching into the upper 90's. It may be time to think about replacing the annuals with a summertime variety. Remember, the hotter it gets,

the more difficult it becomes to spend time in the garden. Do it now before the thermometer rises too much.

When planting new color annuals, remove the weeds and other unwanted plants from the bed. Turn the soil to a depth of at least 6 inches. Spread a 3 or 4 inch layer of compost, rotted leaves, finely ground pine bark, or peat moss over the bed. Blend this addition into the bed and rake it smooth. You are ready to plant!

It is most appealing to the eye to plant new material in staggered rows, or a checkerboard pattern, rather than in straight lines or squares.

After planting and watering, apply a 3 or 4 inch layer of mulch around each plant.

Newly planted flower beds will need to be watered thoroughly. Then water as deeply as needed, as opposed to a "light watering" every day. Keep the soil and roots moist. It is best to water early in the day.

For the turf grass, this is the perfect time to aerate the lawn, and apply a good, properly formulated fertilizer.

You are invited to send us your questions and comments. We can be contacted at our offices at 281-681-1025, or through our web site: www.LawnRangerCompany.com. "Like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/lawnranger-company. Follow us on Twitter: @lawnranger_walt and Instagram: lawnrangercompany

Check out a few videos at www.youtube.com/lawnrangercompany. ♦

Voted "BEST OF THE WOODLANDS" for the last 11 years.

Don't Put Your Rolex in the Mail When you can Have it Done in Our Store

- All Watches Done on Premises
- Quality Craftsmanship
- Look and Run Like New

**WE RECOMMEND SERVICE
EVERY 3 TO 5 YEARS**

CAMILLOS
FINE JEWELRY

Conroe's Five Star Jeweler

3506 West Davis • Conroe, TX 77304

936-539-4367 • www.camillosfinejewelry.com

**In Business in Conroe
for 35 Years**

**ROLEX REPAIR
\$499
SERVICE PLUS
PARTS**

EXPIRES 05/31/20
WE SERVICE ALL FINE
WATCHES

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

Continued on page 22 ➞

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

Continued on page 24 ➞

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. ♦



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 run-

ning 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. ♦



DENTAL IMPLANT RESTORATION With ClearChoice®

Get a Beautiful, Confidence-Inspiring Smile

Whether you want to restore a complete upper and lower set of teeth or a single tooth with implants, the ClearChoice Dental Implant Center of The Woodlands will help you get back to looking and feeling your best.

Chastity's family recognized her discomfort and the negative impact her teeth had on her well being. Now with dental implants, she feels like herself again, and isn't afraid to show off her new smile.

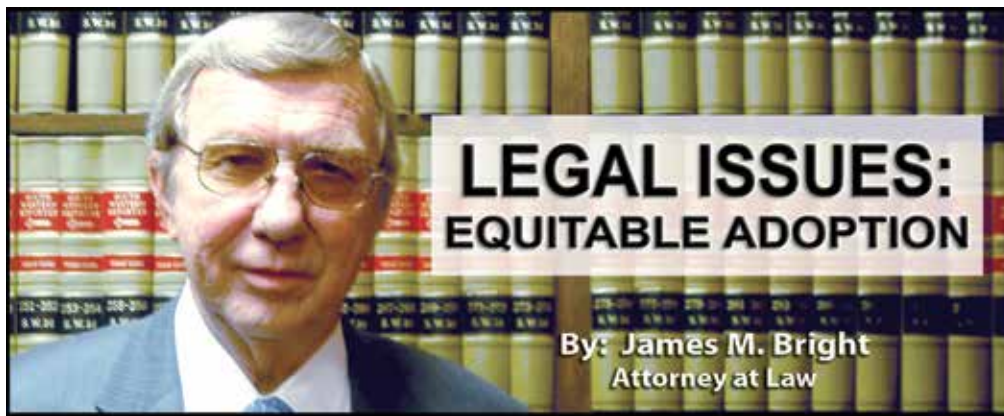
— Chastity, *Smile Healthy® Success Story*
ClearChoice® The Woodlands



1111 Medical Plaza Drive, Suite 100
The Woodlands, Texas 77380
Dental Implant Associates of The Woodlands, P.A.

SCHEDULE A FREE CONSULTATION TODAY. Call 888.552.4065 or Visit ClearChoice.com

Rhonda F. Jacob, DDS, MS, Prosthodontist, David R. Mulherin, DDS, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon, ClearChoice Dental Implant Centers® are locally owned and operated by licensed dentists, and are part of a professional affiliation of implant practices operated by oral surgeons, prosthodontists, and restorative dentists across the U.S. A majority of patients (and approximately 80% of Minnesota patients) qualify for same day implants and can have their procedure in one day after initial workup, without additional bone graft surgery, and may leave the office that same day with provisional prostheses and the final prostheses to be placed later. Results may vary in individual cases. Both general dentists and specialists in some states. Dental implants are not a recognized specialty. Dental specialists are specialists in oral maxillofacial surgery and prosthodontics. Limited services available at satellite offices. Dental implants can last a lifetime. Studies show that dental implants are likely to last at least 25 years with proper care and maintenance in most cases.



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 en-

joy 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.

- 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

Still here to help you hear

Through challenge comes innovation

Connect Hearing is delivering hearing care in a way that best protects the well-being of our clients and staff.

Seeing clients' by appointment now!

While access to centers will be temporarily restricted, we're now seeing clients for one-on-one emergency appointments and taking additional sanitization measures in line with expert medical advice.

TeleHealth Services

Many services can now be provided over the phone or online chat including:

✓ Hearing assessments	✓ General support
✓ Training and counseling	✓ Fine-tuning hearing aids*

Call to book a contact-free consultation

9001 Forest Crossing E The Woodlands TX 77381

18001 Hwy 105 West 101 Montgomery Tx 77356

281.671.9626

connecthearing.com

Connect Hearing

YOUR HEARING PROFESSIONALS

* Conditions apply. See marveldeals.connecthearing.com to find out more.

SALE ON NOW
SAVE UP TO
\$1500*

decendent 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:

JAMES M. BRIGHT

14340 TORREY CHASE BLVD., SUITE 150
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77014

Email: topics@houstontxprobate.com

Locally Owned; Since 1995



Featuring the Green Lawn System

Landscape Division

- Design & Installation
- Enhancements
- Color Change
- Irrigation Installation & Repair
- Landscape Lighting

Maintenance Division

- Year Round Lawn Maintenance

Fertilization Division

- Fertilization
- Pest and Disease Control



FREE

"Landscape Lighting"
Demo with Purchase of
Landscape Installation
or Landscape
Enhancements

FREE

Sprinkler System
Inspection (LI7198)
with Purchase of
Fertilization Program
NEW FERTILIZATION CUSTOMERS
UP TO 5 ZONES

281.681.1025

www.LawnRangerCompany.com

LEVEL IT! DON'T REPLACE IT!



**Discount
Concrete Leveling**



*Save thousands
over Replacement*

- ♦ 2 Year Warranty
- ♦ Driveways ♦ Patios
- ♦ Sidewalks ♦ Walkways
- ♦ Pool Decks
- ♦ Tree Root Removal

713-568-9456

INSURED & BONDED

www.DiscountConcreteLeveling.com

DKB

Dream Kitchen & Bath



SHOWROOM LOCATION

6911 FM 1488 STE C
MAGNOLIA, TX 77354
TEL. 832.934.1600
FAX. 832.934.1602

DREAMKITCHENANDBATHTX.COM
DREAMKITCHEN2@AOL.COM



**CALL TODAY FOR YOUR
FREE ESTIMATE AND
DESIGN
CONSULTATION!**



COMPLETE HOME REMODELING

**FLOORING
CABINETRY
COUNTER TOPS
SHOWERS
STAIRS
AND MORE!!**

DKB

Dream Kitchen & Bath



GRASTEN

POWER TECHNOLOGIES LLC

2418 N. Frazier • Conroe, TX 77303

*We value your health – Now Offering
Virtual In-Home Consultations and
No Money Down Financing.*



TECL#31032
Master Electrician
License #51087

281-259-6500

www.grastengenerators.com

0% Interest Financing

**Payment Plans
Starting at \$99/month!**

**Full Year of Preventative
Maintenance, FREE!**

**Call for a
Free Estimate today!**

GENERAC

*Automatic Standby
Generators*

24/7
Quality
Service

- Sales, Service & Installation
- Residential & Commercial Generators

Power through the storm.

