

# DOCK LINE

Lake Conroe

## MAGAZINE



JUNE 2020

## PIER 105 MARINA

Sales - Service - Storage

A Marina That Can Do it  
All...How Family-Run Pier  
105 Marina is Changing The  
Lake Conroe Experience

See page 8



Lake Conroe Clean Rivers  
Sampling Program:  
Earning A 5-star (er, Frog) Rating  
See Page 26

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Infection control has always been a top priority for our practice and our processes are made so that when you receive care, it's both safe and comfortable. We will continue to follow infections control recommendations made by the American Dental Association (ADA), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

You will see some changes when it is time for your next appointment. The changes are being implemented to help protect our patients and staff. For example:

- \* Our office will communicate with you beforehand to ask some screening questions. You'll be asked those same questions again when you arrive to the office for your child's appointment.
- \* Upon your child's arrival to their appointment, we will take their temperature and ask them to wash their hands before their appointment begins.
- \* You will see that our waiting room will no longer offer magazines, children's toys or books, due to those items being difficult to clean and disinfect.
- \* Appointments will be managed to allow for social distancing between patients. That will mean that additional family members will not be allowed to attend appointments. Children will only be accompanied by one guardian, when necessary.
- \* In an effort to reduce the number of patients in the reception area at any one time, we will ask that you text/call the office upon your arrival from the parking lot for your child's appointment to check in. An office team member will help you prepare necessary paper work, payments, or additional documentation prior to your child's appointment time.
- \* Please bring your own mask, gloves, sanitizer and pens from home for your personal use.

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This year our kick off to summer has a much different meaning than years past. Although we will still have beach days and cookouts there will also be social distancing, smaller gatherings and more staycations. Our new normal is anything but normal. It is true our vocabulary has changed with the continuation of phrases such as zoom meetings, social distancing and wearing masks, followed by the elimination of words like hugs, large gatherings and togetherness. Throughout all this change, some things remain the same. We are a community of resilience, compassion and generosity. It has become apparent now more than ever what a great community in which we live. 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 as we all struggle to navigate our way through this unique time in which we are living. If we all stick together we will be stronger than ever. Until next month...



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# DOCK LINE

Lake Conroe

## MAGAZINE



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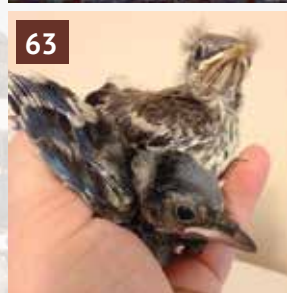
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# KNOWLEDGEABLE. DEPENDABLE. STRATEGIC.



Unbeatable charm & character describe this one-of-a-kind home that is perfectly situated on 2 private lots w/in close proximity to all Bentwater has to offer (54 holes of Golf, 2 pools, tennis, sports club, restaurants, marina + more)! This home commands attention from the first step inside! The great room boasts a cathedral ceiling w/exposed beam ceiling accents, a full wall of windows overlooking the outdoor entertainment area, a soaring floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace + rich hand scraped wood floors. The island kitchen is equipped w/a Chef approved 6 burner cooktop, double ovens, eye-catching granite & antiqued copper apron front sink. Right off the kitchen you will find a convenient flex space and/or office that is located next to the walk-in pantry. The gameroom is located downstairs w/matching exposed beams, FP and wall of windows + dry bar. Two bedrooms w/two full baths are located downstairs; one being the Master w/double sinks/vanities, oversized walk-in shower + soak tub.

**197 Edgemar Road, Bentwater in Montgomery. ML# 97723593. \$825,000**



12+ acres with a house + 50x30 metal building! The acreage offers automatic front gate, fencing + cross fencing, water to each pasture, large shade trees plus a ton of privacy, horse ready! The exterior of the house boasts a wrap around covered porch equipped with ceilings fans and a detached garage with game room/ additional bedroom/flex space above (heated/cooled) with brand new flooring. The interior welcomes with high ceilings in the living room w/wall of windows, fireplace and door leading to the back patio. An island kitchen with Silestone counters, warm wood cabinets, gas cooking + breakfast area with bay window. Office/study off living room + game room with double French doors. Master bedroom is on the first floor and offers a generous amount of space with a sitting area, double sinks, large soak tub + walk-in shower w/ seamless glass surround. 3 bedrooms upstairs with 2 full bathrooms. Features include: Rinnai water heater, water softener w/filter, shop offers sewer/water/tv/network.

**12619 Maxwell Street, Timber Line Estates in Willis. ML# 65104389. \$580,000**



Welcome to Walden! This all brick one story home offers 4 bedrooms and a quiet back yard! Situated on almost a quarter acre lot within walking distance to the Sports Club, walking trails and boat launch (Lakeside pool, parks, marina, Golf Course are some of the amenities Walden offers)! The interior boasts a spacious living room w/a corner fireplace, wall of windows and tile floors. Large kitchen with granite counters, serving area overlooking the living room, tons of cabinets, and dining area with a tray ceiling. Sizable Master bedroom with Double sinks, walk-in shower, soak tub and generous walk-in closet. Split plan with 3 secondary bedrooms (bedroom #4 could easily be a study/office with French Doors). The backyard is large and private with a covered patio!

**11610 Walden Road, Walden in Montgomery. ML# 94424771. \$220,000**



A welcoming home tucked in the trees on a private 1 acre lot in Montgomery Trace w/in walking distance to one of the Lakes (nature trails/6 parks/playgrounds/nature reserves are included amenities)! The interior provides a spacious + comfortable living for the whole family. The focal point of the house is the kitchen w/spacious center island w/stylish Calacatta Quartz countertops, stacked stone backsplash, eye-catching glass tile inlay over the 5 burner cooktop, breakfast room, butler's pantry + dining room.

The two-story living room is equipped w/fireplace, built-ins + wood floors. The owner's retreat has double vanities, walk-in shower, soak tub + private door leading to patio. Office w/French doors + flex room (could be a 2nd study/media room/man cave or 5th bedroom). Upstairs, you will find a huge game room, hidden storage room, 3 LARGE bedrooms & 2 full bathrooms. Enjoy outdoor entertaining & nature watching on the oversized covered back patio! 12x10 storage building included! **8936 Stone Oak Drive, Montgomery Trace in Montgomery. ML# 95390097. \$426,000**



TWO Lake Conroe Waterfront lots in Wildwood Shores. Live the resort life with all the many amenities Wildwood Shores has to offer. Enjoy hunting, fishing, hiking trails, boat docks, 2 pools, tennis and basketball courts, playground for the kids and picnic areas. Wildwood Shores is located on the North end of Lake Conroe next to the Sam Houston National Forest that is 163,000+ acres of hiking trails, horseback riding, and feeding the fish. This IS the hidden GEM of Lake

**Conroe. 0 Harbor Point, Wildwood Shores in Huntsville**

**ML# 30655729. \$145,000**



Location is unmatched (minutes from schools, shopping, restaurants & The Woodlands), the neighborhood offers a sparkling pool, splash area, playground, sidewalks, great schools + the house is undeniably charming! In this 5 bedroom home, the floor plan could not be matched w/ 2 bedrooms/2 full bathrooms down & a very sizable gameroom upstairs w/3 bedrooms/2 full bathrooms up! The result is the perfect formula for a chic, modern-day floorplan! The interior

greeted w/warm wood floors that lead to the spacious living offering a cast stone fireplace + an entire wall of windows! The kitchen immediately pulls your attention with the island that comfortably seats 4 or more, granite counters, stylish wood cabinets that are classic yet modern, SS appliances, gas cooktop, butler's pantry, enormous walk-in pantry + formal dining room. Master bedroom boasts double sinks, oversized walk-in shower + soak tub and a closet that will not be disappointing! Exterior includes a front and back covered patio.

**1534 Judson Oak Drive, Holly Terrace at Jacobs Reserve in Conroe.**

**ML# 18417696. \$387,500**



Don't miss this RARE find! Situated on a park-like 1.38 acres with mature trees, manicured flower beds and a sparkling swimming pool! This 3 bedroom/2 full bathrooms + study house boasts newly installed wood-grain tile throughout, all new windows, fresh interior paint, updated ceiling fans in every room + much more! The interior greets w/ a spacious living room w/brick fireplace, wood ceiling beams and wall of windows that overlooks the pool area. Light &

bright kitchen w/stylish granite counters with a subway tile backsplash, bar seating, glass cooktop overlooking the dining room w/bay window. The Master bedroom offers great natural light, awesome storage/closet and an oversized shower with whirlpool tub. The secondary rooms are large and offer great closets. The exterior is equipped with a private water well, oversized garage, 2 storage sheds, an almost 20x30 covered slate patio by the pool, extensive pool decking + an estate style driveway for extra parking! High & dry! No flooding.

**23311 Brook Forest Road, Brook Forest in New Caney.**

**ML# 48956773. \$320,000**



This hard to find one-story home offers space + functionality & situated on a very private lot w/in the comfort of Stewarts Forest (recreation areas, playground, swimming pool, centrally located + more)! The interior greets with high ceilings and leads to an impressive island kitchen w/42" maple cabinetry, granite countertops, SS appliances, water filtration at the sink, sizable pantry & a large breakfast bar overlooking the very spacious living room. This home features 4 bedrooms in a split plan layout. The secluded Master bedroom

offers two picture windows overlooking the private backyard, crown molding, double vanities/sinks, oversized walk-in shower w/seamless glass surround, corner soak tub + a great closet! The 3 secondary bedrooms are all very roomy and offer great closet space. The backyard welcomes with a cozy covered patio that overlooks the natural habitat of the untouched land behind the house. Don't miss out on this very well-kept and clean one story!

**963 Doire Drive, Stewarts Forest in Conroe**

**ML# 78389530. \$224,000**

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# *A Marina That Can Do it All...*

## How Family-Run Pier 105 Marina is Changing The Lake Conroe Experience

BY: MATTHEW CALHOUN



Boating is an experience that stays with you for a lifetime. It can be a fun new hobby and a great way to spend time with your family. However, if your boat isn't docked at the right marina things can go bad quickly. Instead of boating without any back-up, you need a marina that understands the needs of a boating family. With over 40 years of experience, Pier 105 Marina is here to make your boating experience the best it can be. You can expect nothing less than exceptional customer service, a full-service marina, and the extra touch of a family-owned business. Although the name of the marina may have changed over the years, Pier 105 Marina just keeps getting better.

### **Family-Owned Business**

When going on adventures on Lake Conroe it can feel daunting, whether you're a first-time boat owner or one who is more experienced.

When you are on Lake Conroe, you want expert advice and service. You can only find that with marinas like Pier 105. Pier 105 Marina which as of January 1st, 2020 is a family-owned business again. That has only strengthened their team and kept the most skilled on hand as Tim Johnson, General Manager, explains, "Our Customer Service and the team here makes us stand apart. Mike Asaro has been the Service Manager and Lead Mechanic for 40 years. Our service department is completely Mercury, Mercruiser and Yamaha Certified for Service and Repair. Our Valet Tractor Drivers Austen Greenwald and Isaiah Trott are absolutely loved by our members. We are a smaller family marina that focuses on customer service, and meeting all of our customer's needs".

If you decide on Pier 105 Marina you can rest easy knowing that decades of experience are on staff to help you every step of the way.

Whether you need an upgrade to your boat or need to be hauled out of the lake, the team at Pier 105 Marina has the skills and knowledge to best serve you. But that's not all, they are also the only full-service Marina on Lake Conroe.

### **A full-service marina that can take care of all your needs**

Choosing a marina can be difficult. Don't make the mistake of picking the wrong Marina and realizing they can't help you that much. Unlike others, Pier 105 Marina is a full-service marina that can help you even in the worst of times "We are the only full-service marina on the lake. At our facility, you can buy a boat, sell a boat, service your boat, repair your boat, store your boat, etc.. Everything under one roof. No one else on the lake offers all of these services at one location" says Tim.

With everything being housed in one lo-





cation, customers feel secure knowing they are never without help. As Tim points out, "Our members can have everything they need handled here. We are the only haulout slip/forklift on Lake Conroe. Customers who do not have a trailer for their boat, or do not want to deal with a trailer can drive their boat over. We can lift it with our travel hoist, or use our marine forklift to lift their boat out of the water for service, repair, or cleaning. We also have a full-service fiberglass shop coming June 1st."

Pier 105 Marina understands that you've spent thousands of dollars on your boat, and know you need a marina that can provide exceptional care to your boat. Pier 105 Marina has services that make boating easy and let you get back to the important things, whether your boat is on the lake or in dry storage. "Customers on the lake that have no trailer or boat owners



*Continued on page 10* ➞









who want to keep their boats in dry storage can expect the boat to stay in an enclosed storage building and we valet launch them with our tractor. No need to haul your boat to and from the lake with your truck. Just show up and enjoy" says Tim. This gets you on the water faster and easier without the hassle and without wasting time. Also, your boat is safely stored away and can be easily accessed.

Planning on making your boat your permanent residence? Pier 105 Marina has you covered there too. "The customers that buy boats from us but live on the lake don't need to buy a trailer; they can just drive it up to our courtesy docks when it is time for service." It's a one-

stop-shop that can service all your needs and all you need to do is "Call ahead to schedule service/repair, then drop off your boat on the scheduled date. No need to mess with a trailer or anything," says Tim.

#### In short, you can expect:

- Boat repair
- Boat maintenance
- Boat detailing and cleaning
- Boat and trailer sales Valet boat service
- Boat and trailer storage
- General store
- Exciting Renovations Are Underway



*Continued on page 12*





### Being Safe Within Our Community

When asking Tim about Lake Conroe this year, he had some cautions for those hoping to get on the water this summer. "Be safe - the lake is more crowded than we have ever seen it this year. With a large number of people using the lake and the low lake level due to seasonal lowering by the SJRA, everyone needs to be extra careful and attentive." When you take a trip to the Pier 105 Marina the team is ready to give advice and help keep you safe on the water. The ultimate goal for Pier 105 Marina is to see "everyone coming out having a good time, seeing everyone happy and enjoying the lake. Everyone comes out here to get away and have a good time."

Want to learn more about Pier 105 Marina? Contact them at 936-588-1126 or 855-241-9919. You can also find them online at [www.pier105.com](http://www.pier105.com) or in-person at 15525 Marina Drive Montgomery, Texas, 77356. Hours are Monday: Closed, Tues-Sun: 8 am-5 pm. ♦





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# Back to Health

By: Dr. Todd R. Custer D.C., Athletic Trainer



## POST LAMINECTOMY SYNDROME

### What is a laminectomy?

The term "lamina" refers to the section of bone that forms the back half of the spinal canal. The term "ectomy" refers to surgical removal, so a laminectomy is the removal of the area of bone in the back of the circular ring around the spinal cord. When is a laminectomy performed? A laminectomy is performed when a nerve root or the spinal cord is being compressed. The most common culprit causing the nerve compression is an injury to the intervertebral disc. By removing the back section of bone, it allows the nerve root or spinal cord to slide backwards (away from the disc material) reducing compression and irritation of the nerves.

### What are the symptoms of a pinched nerve?

Since the nerve roots that exit the neck and back control muscular movement and skin sensation of the arms and legs, a person will notice a sharp burning sensation down an arm or leg,

a numb/tingle sensation to a section of arm or leg, and/or weakness of a specific muscle group in the arm/leg.

### When does a "pinched nerve" require surgery?

Most "pinched nerves" respond well to conservative care (chiropractic manipulation and rehabilitation). However, if weakness of the leg is noted and/or loss of bowel/bladder is present, decompressive surgery is indicated.

### Why does post laminectomy syndrome develop?

Following a laminectomy surgical procedure, the body's normal healing process will begin to repair the surgical area. The body will not just leave an empty cavity but will fill the area with scar tissue. If the scar tissue binds to the nerve root or forms too densely, it may cause a "pinching" of the nerve and produce symptoms of numbness/burning and/or weakness of the leg just like prior to surgery. Early movement

is the key. Your surgeon will recommend a progressive walking program that will activate the back muscles and stretch the scar tissue to avoid post-laminectomy syndrome. Your surgeon will refer you to rehabilitation to further facilitate strengthening and stretching of the surgical scar tissues.

### How prevalent is post laminectomy syndrome?

According to a study performed by Wheeler, published in eMedicine (July 2007), 10-15% of laminectomy procedures develop some degree of post laminectomy syndrome.

### What can I do to prevent it?

Quality postsurgical rehabilitation - A good post-surgical rehabilitation program will include activities that glide the nerve roots to prevent nerve root adhesions, stretch/strain the scar tissue to promote a stronger and more mobile collagen scar tissue, and develop adequate core strength to reduce the incidence of re-injury of the previously injured disc and ligament structures. While the majority of laminectomy cases do not develop into post laminectomy syndrome, there are currently no predictors for those individual's more prone to poor outcomes. Therefore, I highly recommend participating in post surgical rehabilitation to reduce potential complications.

*Todd R. Custer, D.C., A.T.C. - Doctor Custer is a doctor of chiropractic and certified athletic trainer, and has been rehabilitating injured athletes at the high school, collegiate, and professional levels (Philadelphia Eagles Football Club) since 1994. Dr. Custer graduated from Texas Chiropractic College summa cum laude, and is currently treating patients at the Better Care Chiropractic & Physical Therapy. ♦*



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**Dr. Todd Custer**  
Chiropractor/Athletic  
Trainer



**Dustin Cook, P.T.**  
Physical Therapist





**Looking for the Perfect Vacation this Summer without Leaving Home? Dominion Pool Group Can Turn Your Backyard into a Waterland Paradise!**

BY: MATTHEW CALHOUN





A backyard pool is more than just a tank filled with water. The right pool can become a place to make memories, share stories, and bond with our friends, family, or neighbors. However, what people often find when shopping for a pool are cookie-cutter designs and budget materials. In fact, oftentimes pool buyers who don't go to a custom pool designer end up having low-quality equipment installed or constant maintenance issues with their pool. Dominion Pool Group, on the other hand, prides itself on giving families what they want most—a pool and backyard that is custom to their needs and gives them a space to make memories all their own. With Dominion Pool Group, the pool is adapted to fit your lifestyle, and you don't have to settle for less even if you want a traditional pool.

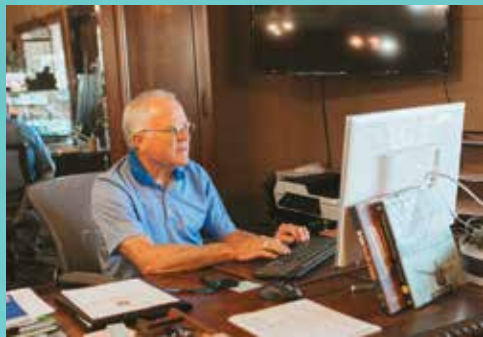
*Continued on page 18 ➡*











### From Simplistic to Sensational

There is a common saying that Dan Pendley references in regards to their pool design services: "simplistic to sensational." Instead of getting only a few cookie-cutter choices, whether it's pool shape, materials, or extras, Dominion Pool Group specializes in dealing with all types of materials and options for you to choose from. Whether you want a classic design or something entirely new that can fit your needs, whatever you can dream up they can make it a reality. They ensure a family's dream of owning a backyard oasis is a pleasant experience, unencumbered by the worries of its technical details, design limitations, construction standards, or its expected life span for repair or replacement. When you visit their 4,000 square foot design center you'll have "over 400 tile and materials samples to choose from. Here we have numerous flagstone and travertine samples, decking materials, and plaster samples to choose from to truly customize your pool. Unlike others who work around the area, we aren't



working out of our pickup. We are a one-stop-shop that can service all your swimming pool needs" says Dan Pendley.

If you're thinking "custom pool builders aren't worth the money", think again. There are some important factors to understand about the pool industry and why you need a custom builder for your pool. The pool industry is much like the homebuilding industry in that there are tract/production home builders, custom/tract home builders, and custom home builders. However, when it comes to pools, many people think all pools are created equal.... a pool is a pool, is a pool.

### Except it's not.

A tract pool, or cookie-cutters as they are called in the pool industry, is cheaper than a custom pool, just like a tract home is cheaper than a custom home. This is not because the custom builder makes more profit, but instead, because they are usually more experienced, use better quality products/materials, employ

highly skilled contractors and provides better warranties, communication, and customer service. Most importantly, they design and build a one-of-a-kind home for each client.

### Over 30 Years of Experience and Countless Awards

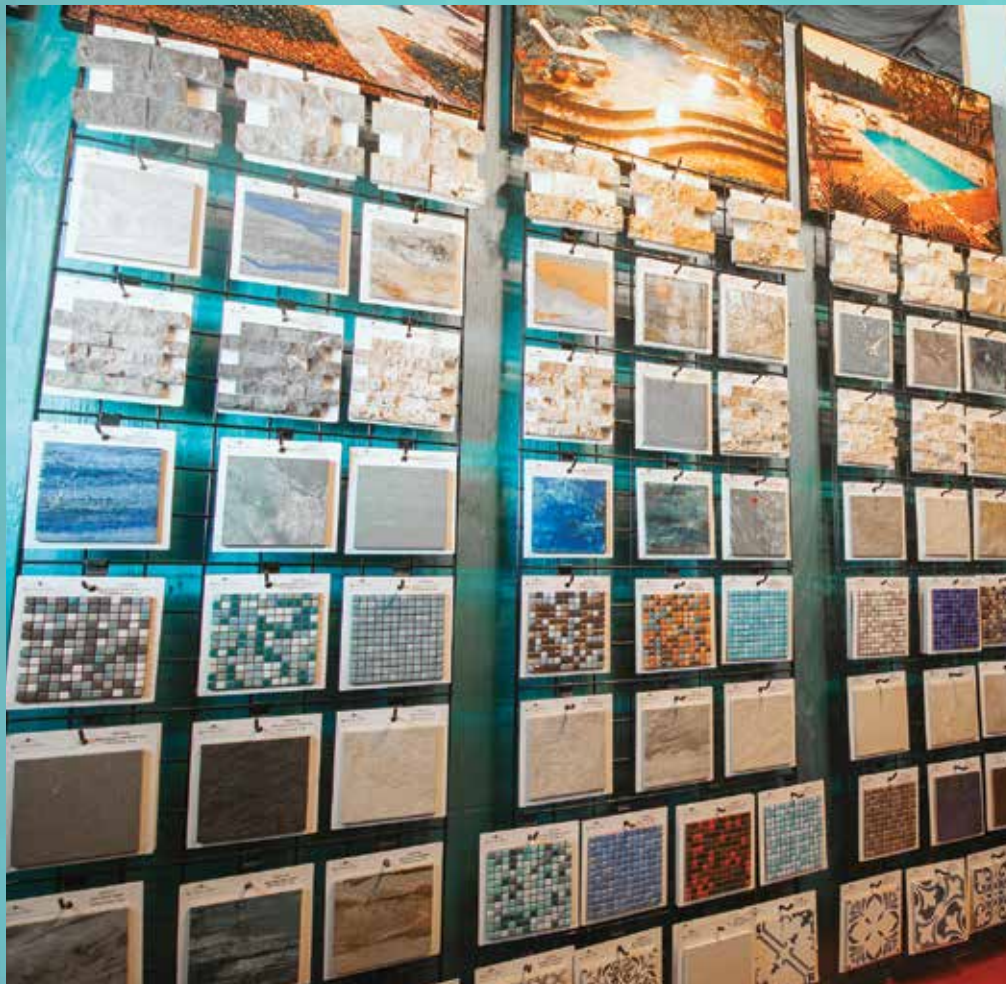
Dominion Pool Group has built over 4,000 swimming pools, spas, and water features. They have worked on pools worth over \$1,000,000, and some that are only \$30,000. You can also expect eye-popping designs. As Dan Pendley points out, "We have won over 200 design awards in several categories, including multiple awards from Aqua Magazine like being named to the top 100 pool companies in the nation. While Pool & Spa News, the pool industry's national trade magazine, named the Pendley's as having one of the top 50 companies in the U.S. This coveted Industry's Choice Award is earned by those companies exhibiting the highest caliber of professionalism, design skills, expertise in construction, sales and marketing techniques, business practices, customer satisfaction, and community service."

### A Truly Holistic Design Process

One of the things that makes the process so memorable for Dominion Pool Group customers is the special care and attention to every detail. When you decide to invest in a custom pool with them, a Dominion Pool design consultant will contact you to set up a meeting

*Continued on page 20* ➞





to come to your home to discuss the features, likes, dislikes, and a budget for the pool you are considering. They will evaluate your backyard, topography, the architecture of your home, focal and access points, family needs/usage, tree locations, locate utilities, check for easements, and a number of other things. It will be necessary to have a site or plot plan of your house and property available for their consultant. Following the initial consultation, your designer will return to the office and design a custom pool to incorporate all the features and benefits which were discussed. They will then contact you to schedule an appointment to come to their office/showroom for a no-pressure, professional presentation of your custom Dominion Pool. Here, you will be able to see the many samples of the materials being suggested such as tile, coping, deck, and plaster.

The best part? You can design just about anything that you can imagine. Want a waterfall? You got it! Want a hot tub shaped like the State of Texas? Dominion Pool Group can do that! Want an outdoor kitchen to go with your pool? Yes, Dominion Pool Group does that too. Even better, when going through the design process you will be able to see exactly what your pool will look like as each project is designed with the newest, state of the art, interactive 3-D computer software which allows us to create vivid presentations that will give our clients a clear understanding of their project in extraordinary detail. Dominion Pool Group can simulate how your pool will look at different





parts of the day, and from different angles. Essentially, if you want to know what your pool will look like from your second-story balcony at 8:00pm, Dominion Pool Group can do that too.

They specialize in:

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- Grills & Outdoor Kitchens
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- Pool Remodeling & Restoration
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- Water Features
- Landscape Design & Installation Services
- Mosquito Control Systems
- Shade Structures
- Outdoor Furniture



### The Staycation

Having a custom-designed pool can turn any backyard into a vacation destination. Instead of worrying about where your child will be this summer, or whether or not you'll have anything fun to do, invest in a Dominion Pool custom pool. It's great for when you want to have fun, but don't want to leave your home. It will also boost your home's value. You don't have to worry about mediocrity with Dominion

Pool Group, instead, give your family the staycation it deserves!

You can contact Dominion Pool Group at (936) 597-SWIM (7946), or online at [dominion-poolgroup.com](http://dominion-poolgroup.com). If you'd like to tour their in-house design center you can find them in Historic Montgomery at 306 John A Butler Street, Montgomery, TX 77356, Monday-Friday: 9:00am – 6:00pm, Saturday: By Appointment. Stop in and see the friendly way they do business. ♦



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# Dinner and a Show...is Back!

**Shogun Japanese Grill  
& Sushi Bar in Conroe  
is Firing Up the Grill  
as Restaurants Reopen  
their Doors**

**BY: BRIAN SHERMAN**



Shogun Japanese Grill & Sushi Bar has been favored by Conroe residents for many years now. As one of the most entertaining dining offerings in the area, Shogun found themselves, like every other restaurant during the quarantine, having to close their doors to the public. While they could still provide food to-go to their customers, the real shining light of the restaurant - the show - would stop. For a place like Shogun, that should be a devastating turn of events. However, while the show is fun, entertaining, and loved by almost everyone, the restaurant is built around an exceptional culinary offering. The food is just plain good.

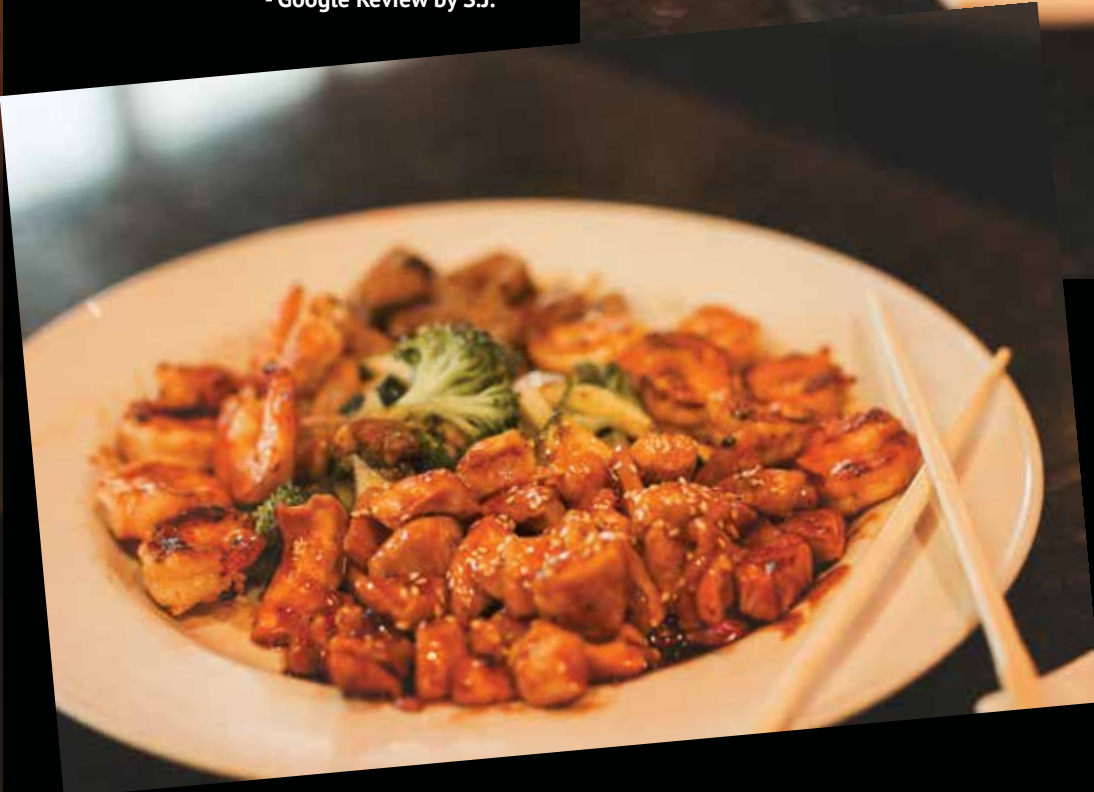
#### More than Food...A Dining Experience

If you don't know what show I'm talking about, then you've been missing out. Shogun is a local staple for Japanese cuisine in Conroe. But the food is only half of the equation. Shogun offers a unique dining experience through their hibachi grill. While the restaurant offers traditional seating and the option for "normal" dining, they also feature many hibachi grill seating arrangements in which the seats and table are built around a large flat grill. The hibachi chefs are trained, not just to cook the food on the grill, but to also put on quite a show. You'll see them flipping spatulas, making "onion volcanoes", expertly preparing and grilling the food, and a little playful fun in between.

Local patrons and out of towners alike love the experience. Here's what a few of them had to say:

*"Great hibachi chefs. Doesn't ever get old, it's always great to see them throwing around spatulas and knives with such delicacy."*

- Google Review by S.J.



"We usually just eat at the sushi bar but tonight we took our daughters so we decided on the hibachi grill. Food was delicious and our cook Lukas was very entertaining. We had our 2 yr. old granddaughter with us also and he kept her interested the whole night. Which by the way is hard to do. Our server was also very attentive." - Google Review by Jennifer S.

#### The Secret Ingredient to Every Dish

During the quarantine, the show would be lost to the customers of Shogun. Yet, the restaurant learned during this time just how much people love the food, even if it doesn't

Continued on page 24 ➞





come with a show. People were still ordering their favorite dishes to go. Yes, the food here is always good, especially if you like Japanese cuisine. Yet, there is something more that goes into making delicious food at Shogun in Conroe.

You'll find menu options like sushi, Teppanyaki, hibachi dishes, bento boxes, and much more. You can also choose from chicken, steak, seafood, filet mignon, and other specialty meat options. Whatever you prefer, you'll find a dish you love at Shogun.

While the restaurant prides itself on using only top of the line ingredients, the real secret ingredient is the man behind the food, executive chef Steven Xu. Having been at Shogun for over 10 years, he is a big reason behind the restaurant's success.

Steven Xu has been cooking professionally



for over 30 years. "As a little boy, I watched my mother cook. I learned from her and have been cooking ever since," says Steven. From then, a lifelong passion was born. Now Steven is the executive chef at Shogun in Conroe. His passion shines through every dish in the restaurant. Although the restaurant offers many dishes centered around chicken and steak variations, Steven will tell you his favorite thing to prepare is seafood. He reminisces, "When I was younger, I lived by the coast. I have always loved preparing seafood." So, next time you come to Shogun, ask for Steven and order seafood. You'll be glad you did.

#### **The Show is Back!**

The one thing that Steven Xu and the staff at Shogun wanted everyone to know is that they are now open! In fact, when I came in to meet with Steven he was standing behind a hibachi grill himself, putting on a show and mak-





ing food for some of his first guests back in the restaurant.

During the quarantine period, Shogun wasn't sitting around waiting for the go ahead to open back up. They were making upgrades and improving the look of the already well-designed dining area. You'll get a great show,

amazing food, and an immersive Japanese themed atmosphere.

So, come back in to Shogun Japanese Grill & Sushi Bar and enjoy the show again..or for the first time if you've never had the privilege of the hibachi grill experience.

Shogun Japanese Grill & Sushi Bar in Con-

roe is open 7 days a week, Monday through Thursday from 11:30AM to 10:00PM, Friday and Saturday from 11:30AM to 11:00PM, and Sunday from 11:30AM to 9:30PM. You can find them at 2107 W Davis St # A, Conroe, TX. View their menu online at [ishogun.com](http://ishogun.com) or give them a call at (936) 756-6866. ♦



# Shogun

## Japanese Grill & Sushi Bar



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# Lake Conroe Clean Rivers Sampling Program: Earning A 5-star (er, Frog) Rating

Lake Conroe was constructed in the late 1960s to the early 1970s in a joint venture between the San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) and City of Houston with the sole purpose of providing a drinking water source to serve future demand in the greater Houston Metropolitan area.

As a partner in the project, SJRA takes great pride in operating and maintaining the Lake Conroe Dam and Reservoir. Included in the responsibilities is the charge of assessing the quality of the water in the reservoir. In cooperation with the Houston Galveston Area Council (HGAC), SJRA administers the Clean Rivers Program (CRP) on Lake Conroe. The CRP is a water quality initiative overseen by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for the purpose of monitoring the overall health of Texas Waterways.

Continuous monitoring of the quality of water in Lake Conroe is important not only because of its function as a regional drinking water source, but also due to its popularity as a recreational destination for boating, fishing, and a variety of other water sports and hobbies. The TCEQ requires water bodies to meet established water quality standards based on their "use." The official "uses" of Lake Conroe, as designated by TCEQ, are drinking water supply, recreation, and fish consumption. Therefore Lake Conroe is held to the most stringent water quality standards set forth by TCEQ.

There are currently ten monitoring sites



Water Sampling



in the Lake Conroe CRP Program (Figure 1). These sites are all located in the main body of the lake and were chosen to capture water quality parameters from all of the major contributing tributaries. At each designated site, SJRA samples for 11 different water quality parameters (See Table 1). Some specimens are collected, preserved, and delivered to an outside lab for detailed analysis.

Other samples are considered field parameters and are collected instantaneously with a water quality measuring device called a sonde (See Figure 3). The sonde is deployed over the side of a boat to different depths in the water column. At each defined depth, four water quality parameters are measured: pH, specific conductivity, temperature, and dissolved oxygen. Data collected with the sonde can be downloaded to a personal computer and charted in order to detect changes in water quality throughout the water column for each month of the year. This information is useful to Texas Parks and Wildlife fisheries biologists as well as water treatment facility operators.

Another sampling device is known as a secchi disk and is used to measure the turbidity—or level of clarity—of water (See Figure 4). The secchi disk is lowered into the water until it is no longer visible, at which point a depth measurement is taken and recorded. The greater the depth that the secchi disk remains visible, the less turbid the water. These extensive sampling procedures allow SJRA to establish a complete picture of the water quality in Lake Conroe.

Data gathered from each sampling site is then compared to TCEQ water quality standards and screening levels. If a parameter exceeds the standard or screening level for a continued period of time, the lake will be deemed impaired by TCEQ. To date, Lake Conroe has never been determined to be impaired and, in fact, remains one of the cleanest water bodies in the region. Each year HGAC issues a Basin Highlights/ Summary Report, which ranks all water bodies in the region based on overall water quality. The rankings range from poor water quality, identified as a one frog rating, to excellent water quality, receiving a five frog rating (See Figure 2). SJRA is proud that Lake Conroe is considered a 5-frog reservoir (See Figure 1).

Lake Conroe has excellent water quality and SJRA works diligently to protect this

*Continued on page 28 ➞*

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great resource for the public. It will take SJRA and the public working together to keep water quality at such a high level. If you have any questions about the water quality program on Lake Conroe, please contact Shane Simpson at [ssimpson@sjra.net](mailto:ssimpson@sjra.net).

#### Precautions Regarding COVID-19

(Lake Conroe open to families at this time)

Lake Conroe continues to stay open and can provide a welcome change to staying indoors. If visiting Lake Conroe, please continue to observe federal, state, and local COVID-19 guidelines including:

- Follow CDC recommendations on social distancing.
- Limit gatherings of people to a family unit.
- Follow recommended hygiene practices including frequent hand washing when visiting any common spaces such as marinas, gas stations, or boat launches.

“Our highest priority is for the health and well-being of Lake Conroe visitors and businesses,” said SJRA General Manager Jace Houston. “We want people to get outside with their families and enjoy the lake. We just need people to do it in a way that keeps them safe and healthy.”

“Precinct 1 advises everyone to enjoy Lake Conroe but make sure that you are following best practices and social distancing while on the water,” said Lt. Cade Montgomery County Precinct 1 Constable’s Office.

“Make sure to keep your party to family units only, wash your hands, and for more information regarding COVID-19 visit [www.mctx.org](http://www.mctx.org).”

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](http://www.sjra.net), like SJRA on Facebook @SanJacintoRiverAuthority, follow us on Twitter @SJRA\_1937, or find us on Instagram @SanJacintoRiverAuthoritySJRA. ♦

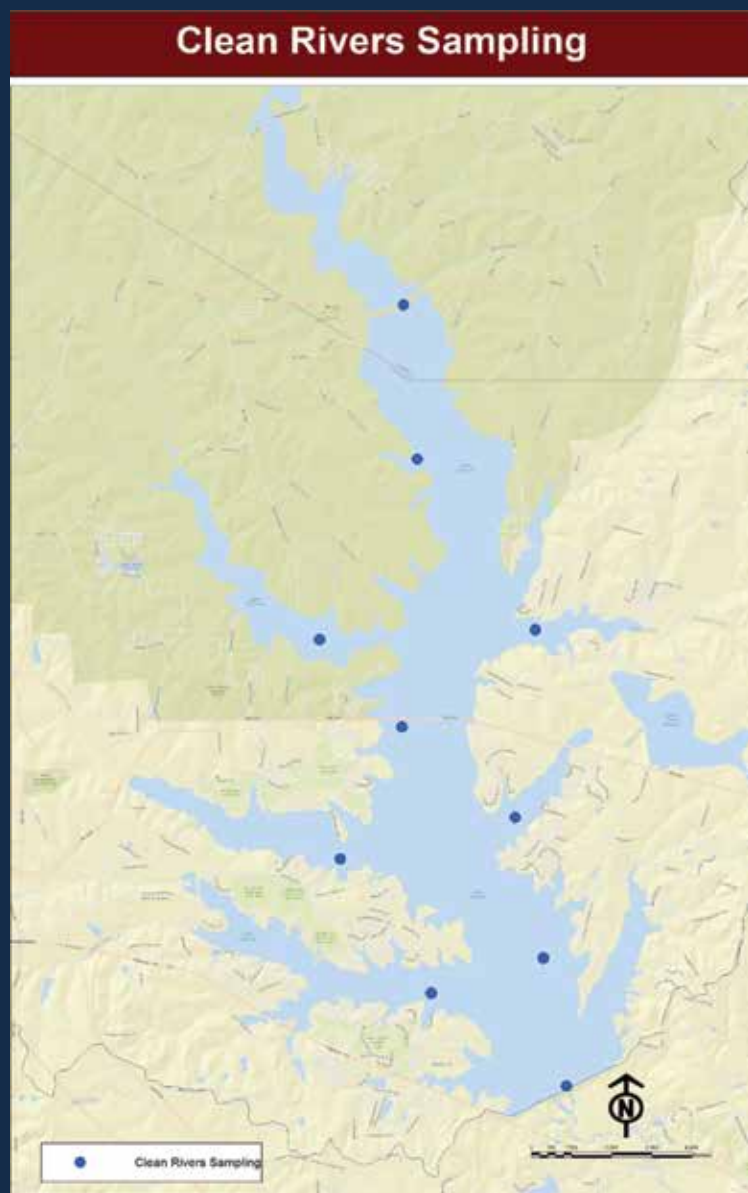


Fig 1. CRP Lake Conroe Sampling Locations



Fig 2: HGAC 2019 Regional Water Quality Summary Frog Chart

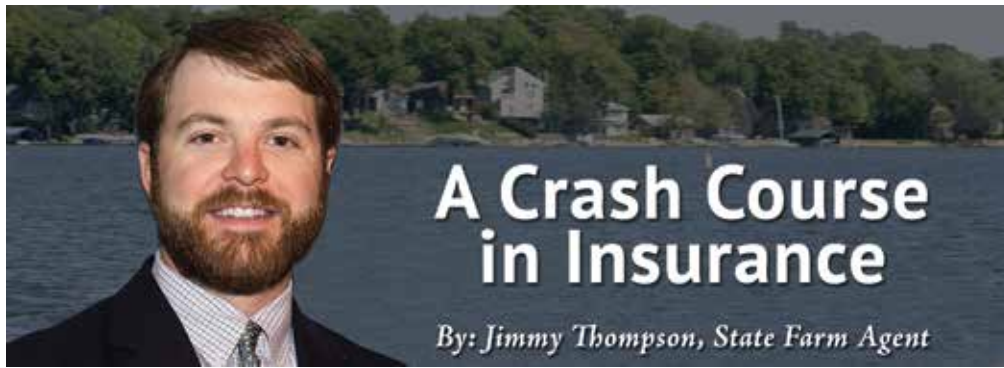
Parameters	TCEQ Screening Levels/ Standards Limits
Alkalinity	N/A
Chloride	>50 mg/L
E Coli	MPN/ 100mL
Ammonia	0.11 mg/L
Nitrate	>.37 mg/L
Secchi Depth	N/A
Sulfate	>50 mg/L
Total Phosphorus	>.20 mg/L
Total Suspended Solids	N/A
Chlorophyll	>26.7 ppb
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	N/A
Dissolved Oxygen	<3.0 mg/L
Specific Conductivity	N/A
Temperature	> 32.22 °C
pH	N/A

Table 1: Parameters and TCEQ Screening Levels/ Standards Limits for CRP Lake Conroe



Fig. 3: MS5 Hydrolab Water Quality Sonde





## State Farm Mutual Returning \$2 Billion Dividend to Auto Insurance Customers AND Announces \$2.2 Billion in Auto Rate Cuts!

In an effort to help current customers during these challenging times.....State Farm Insurance, its employees and agents are pleased to announce a \$2 billion dividend that will go to our auto insurance customers. With many schools and businesses closed during COVID-19 and many of us working from home and participating in social distancing, people are driving less right now, so we're returning that value to customers!

Current customers do not need to take any action to receive this dividend, which will appear as a credit on their auto policy.

In addition to the \$2 Billion dividend to current customers, State Farm recently announced a \$2.2 Billion national auto rate reduction! Based on continued

trends, State Farm is working to reduce auto rates in every state including Texas. The national average for those rate reductions is 11%!!

On a local level.....both our Conroe and Willis Agencies are helping to raise money and provide food to The Montgomery County Food Bank through our Quotes for Good Initiative. For every quote our offices run in April, May and June – our office is donating \$10 to the Montgomery County Food Bank. So far we have donated over \$1,000 in food and funding!! Call either office to learn more about Quotes for Good and how we can donate on your behalf! ♦



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# STAGE RIGHT of Texas

## PRESENTS PETER PAN

By: Sara Preisler Photos created by: Sara Preisler and Adam Isbell



Madison Mapes as Peter Pan

The magical musical *Peter Pan* is planning on coming to the Crighton Stage sometime this Summer / Fall of 2020. Presented by Stage Right of Texas, this musical that is full of imagination is sure to thrill and entertain audiences of all ages. The show's memorable songs include "Never Never Land", "I Won't Grow Up" and "I'm Flying" and just like the songs says, Peter Pan will be flying in this production. This production is directed by multiple Montie Award winner: Sara Preisler.

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.

Sara has put together a cast of extraor-



Wyatt as Captain Hook

dinary proportions to bring this fairytale to life. Leading the cast as Peter Pan is Madison Mapes. Audiences may remember her most recently as Grace, a stepsister in Stage-Right's production of *Cinderella* or as Dorothy Brock from *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. Madison definitely brings the charm, wit, and humor of *Peter Pan* to life, which is what helped earn her this title role. Playing her arch nemesis, Captain Hook, is Wyatt Langelhennig. This is Wyatt's first

theatre production with Stage-Right. Wyatt is currently studying at LSCM, but has been seen performing at the Texas Ren Faire. Wyatt's portrayal of Hook definitely showcases his ability to bring comedy and cruelty to life, however still remaining likeable to an audience.

Also returning to the stage is a Conroe favorite, Katie Kowalik as Wendy Darling. Katie, who will soon be a sophomore in high school, was last seen on the Crighton Stage as Anne Frank in the *Diary of Anne Frank*. The other roles of the darling family are played by Keegan Pepper as John, Austin Krueger as Michael and Christina Sato as Mrs. Darling. You may remember Keegan as the blanket-toting Linus in *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. Austin was most recently seen in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* and last season had audiences rolling as Gus-Gus in *Cinderella*. A new Crighton Favorite, Christina Sato, returns after recently catching the theatre bug from her roles as Muzzy in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and the Evil Stepmother in *Cinderella*.

Finally returning to the Crighton Stage are the Manning sisters. Paige Manning is taking on the role of Tiger Lily, the dance lead, Indian princess in this version. Paige will no doubt be amazing in this role after all her dance training, she currently is an instructor at Crowd Pleasers Dance. Sara knows she is going to blow audiences away when the crowd finally gets to see her. Paige's younger sister, Parker Manning, will be taking on the role of Liza, the ballet-dancing Darling family housekeeper. Parker, still in High



The Darling Family



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School, has already been spending her summer's training in dance at the Joffrey Academy in New York. Sara has been mentoring both of these girls since they were 6 years old and is so excited to have them back and both on stage together again.

Rounding out the cast of principle roles is John Kenward as Smee, Chelsea Sato as the Crocodile and Keali Krueger as Nana/Jane. John Kenward will humor audiences with his comedic portrayal of Smee. And the Crighton's most loved costumer, Debbie Preisler will truly be transforming Chelsea and Keali into our loveable animal friends.

Sara Preisler brings together many new and old faces to round out other roles in this production. Some of the folks you will get to see in this production, Mia Brandimarte, The Rickwalt Sisters, Wesley Burns, Cash Fournier are a few of the Lost Boys. A couple of Hook's trusty pirates are played by Matthew Wehrig, Todd Brady, Josh Fine, Carlos Sato and Heba Toulan. And a few of our advanced dancing Indians, Danielle Stringfellow, Elianna Barosh, Addison Burleson, Cossette Czarnopis, and Emma Dantzler.

Sara's artistic team is made up of Cricket Pepper and Layne Roberts, who recently all worked together on the showstopper *Cinderella*. Cricket, who some may say is a perfectionist, is taking on the role of Stage Manager, Set Designer, Prop Mistress and Co-Choreog-

*Continued on page 32* ➞

**Dates: Temp. July 10 – 26th, 2020**

**Call or Visit: 936 - 441 -7469**

**stage-right.org for info**

**Crighton Theatre**

**234 N. Main Street**

**Conroe, TX 77301**

**STAGE  
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Stage Right Announces:

# 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

By arrangement with Music Theatre International MTISHOWS.COM

**Funded in part by the City of Conroe CVB visitconroe.com**





**Christina as Ms. Darling**



**Parker Manning as Liza**



**Paige Manning as Tiger Lily**

rapher and Asst. Director. Her attention to detail and spunky assertiveness definitely make her a stand out in all her job titles. Multiple award-winning actress Layne Roberts is Music and Assistant Directing in this production. Layne, sometimes known as the musical genius of Conroe, is up for the challenge of teaching the entire cast to sing over online rehearsals. Right now the entire production process is having to take place via ZOOM meetings until it is safe for a cast this size to rehearse. Of course, if it's a Preisler production, it can't be done without outstanding costumer and mother, Debbie Preisler. And helping bring the set and props to life is Kara Kowalik, who isn't afraid of glitter, which is a requirement for this production.

*Peter Pan* will be presented at the Historic Crighton Theatre (Recently named one of the top 10 venues in the state by BestThingsTx.com to see live theatre). Located at 234 N Main Street, Conroe, Texas 77301. Stage Right currently has the show running July 10 – 26th of 2020, but those dates could change depending on the current situation. Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2 pm. For updated information on this production and to purchase tickets please visit online at [www.stage-right.org](http://www.stage-right.org) or by calling the box office at 936-441-7469. Discounts are available by calling the box office. More Information about STAGE RIGHT can be found out on our website at [www.stage-right.org](http://www.stage-right.org). ♦



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# DRC-MC Celebrates Volunteers Service

The Annual Volunteer Luncheon hosted by the Dispute Resolution Center of Montgomery County, Inc. (DRC-MC) looked a little different this year with volunteers, staff, and Judges joining together online to celebrate the year's achievements and thank their volunteers. This year's theme "Hat's Off to our Volunteers" allowed everyone to join wearing their fanciest or funniest hat providing much needed comical relief during this trying time.

The DRC-MC is a non-profit in Downtown Conroe that has been offering dispute resolution services and training to the community for over 30 years. In order to continue serving the community throughout this pandemic, the DRC-MC has been offering Online Mediation since the beginning of April, with more than 20 volunteers trained to handle Zoom and phone mediations.



DRC-MC volunteers work tirelessly throughout the year to help others resolve their conflicts peacefully and last year alone they donated over \$250,000 worth of mediation time to assist the community. In order to serve as a volunteer mediator at the DRC-MC, volunteer mediators spend extensive amounts of time receiving training in how to handle litigation related or pre-litigation General mediations (including contract disputes, estate issues, landlord tenant issues, and neighborhood disputes, etc.), Family mediations (including custody, child support, divorce, etc.), and Child Protective Services cases. But according to Elaine Roberts, Executive Director of the DRC-MC, "volunteers went above and beyond what they usually do in order to ensure that volunteers, community members and attorneys could continue to safely mediate disputes during the pandemic. Twenty-four experienced mediators underwent intense training in order to learn how to conduct online and phone mediations via Zoom and so the DRC-MC was able to establish one of the first such non-profit online mediation programs in the state."

The DRC-MC always enjoys recognizing their volunteers at a Volunteer Appreciation event and did not want the current pandemic to stop them from recognizing their volunteers' hard work and achievements this past year. Thirty-three people joined on a Zoom call to recognize the volunteers, including staff, volunteers, and local Judges. Judges in attendance

included Kristin Bays, Presiding Judge of the 284th District Court, Kathleen Hamilton, Presiding Judge of the 359th District Court, Patrice McDonald, Presiding Judge of County Court 3, Associate Judge Scharlene Valdez Overstreet of the 410th and 418th District Courts and Wayne Mack, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1. Each judge shared the positive ways mediation has impacted their courts.

Although, Jennifer Robin, Presiding Judge of the 410th District Court was unable to attend, she asked her thank you letter be read to the volunteer mediators during the virtual celebration. Included in the letter was the following excerpt. "During the Covid-19 pandemic, when social distancing was mandated, your innovative solutions for remote mediations allowed for continuity of the services you have historically provided this community. You stepped up to the plate when your community needed you the most, helping litigants resolve their disputes in an informal setting without court intervention, with the trickle-down effect of enabling Montgomery County courts to have more time to reach those cases that needed

immediate emergency relief."

Amber Gong, Volunteer Coordinator for the DRC-MC presented the following awards to volunteer mediators for their services during the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year:

DRC-MC Longevity Awards: Ben DeVries-21 years of service, Charlsie Moore-20 years of service, and Gaye Henley-17 years of service

DRC-MC Achievement Awards During 2019: Lois Voth-241.5 mediation hours, Charlsie Moore-175.25 mediation hours, and Glenna Rodgers-158.25 hours

Diamond (mediated a minimum of 125 hours in one calendar year): Lois Voth, Tom Tuohy, Glenna Rodgers, Charlsie Moore, Norm

Gautier, and John Herbig

Ruby (mediated a minimum of 100 hours in one calendar year): Glenda Livingston, Bruno Brunasso, and Dennis Wymore

Emerald (mediated a minimum of 75 hours in one calendar year): Carmen Troyo and Amy Lecocq

## HERO Board Awards:

Mediators of the Peace (Help with JP docket call 6 times in the fiscal year): Sara A., John Cintron, Tillie Eaker, Lena Gibson, Chris Renne, Gary Smith, Dave Teall, and Dennis Wymore

Life Saver (Same day, last minute scheduling): Francis Bourgeois, Ben DeVries, Norm Gautier, John Herbig, Charlsie Moore, Pattie Nolan, Ronnie Pace, Glenna Rodgers, and Tom Tuohy

Influencer Award (Interact regularly on our Social Media Pages): Sara A., Ben DeVries, Mike Fortner, Tammie Haynes, Amy Lecocq, Jack Lewis, Charlsie Moore, Diana Pino, Gene Roberts, Glenna Rodgers, Carmen Troyo, and Lois Voth

Community Engagement (Board Members who attend the Bookmark Art Contest Awards Ceremony and one other PR event): Glenna Rodgers and Lois Voth

Disputes are currently being handled online via Zoom, during regular office hours, Monday through Friday. The Dispute Resolution Center of Montgomery County, Inc. (DRC-MC) was established in 1988 by Commissioners Court and the Montgomery County Bar Association and offers an affordable way to prevent disputes from escalating into serious civil or criminal matters.

Find out more about the Dispute Resolution Center of Montgomery County by visiting [www.resolution-center.org](http://www.resolution-center.org). Visit the DRC-MC Facebook page at [www.Facebook.com/MontgomeryCountyDRC](http://www.Facebook.com/MontgomeryCountyDRC) Call (936) 760.6914, Ext. 2 from 8:00am-5:00pm, Monday - Friday.

For additional information contact: Savannah Martin, Marketing/Communications Coordinator for the Dispute Resolution Center of Montgomery County, Inc. (DRC-MC) at [savannah.martin@mctx.org](mailto:savannah.martin@mctx.org) or (936) 760-6914, Ext. 4. ♦



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# GI Bill or Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Student

Since the passage of Public Law 116-128 on March 21, 2020, VA has continued to work with Congress to preserve education benefits for impacted students during this difficult time. On April 21, 2020, Congress passed the Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020. This new law will give the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) additional authorities to continue GI Bill and VR&E payments for the period beginning on March 1, 2020 and ending on December 31, 2020. First, it will allow for the continuation of payments to students participating in the Work Study Program who are furloughed or have to stop working. It will also allow VA to continue to pay benefits for up to 4 weeks to GI Bill and VR&E students whose classes are suspended, even if school is still open. Also, there is a provision for restoration of entitlement for GI Bill and VR&E students who lose credit due to school closure or schools' suspension of training. Finally, the new law will allow VA to extend the delimiting date for Montgomery GI Bill, Post-9/11 GI Bill, and VR&E students if they are unable to attend training due to COVID-19. VA already has the authority to extend delimiting dates for Survivors and Dependent Educational Assistance Program (DEA) beneficiaries. VA is working to immediately implement the new changes upon enactment to ensure students continue to receive their education benefits.

In addition, this bill will allow VR&E students to continue to receive payments if a school permanently closes or a course of study is disapproved for up to 120 days or the end of the term, whichever occurs first. GI Bill students already have access to this benefit. It will also permit VR&E to extend payments for an additional two months while VR&E participants are seeking employment. Furthermore, it will allow VR&E to extend the 18-month limitation on employment services.



By: Kay L. Lee, Veterans Service Officer

## What should GI Bill and VR&E Students know?

At this time, there is no action required from a GI Bill or VR&E student. VA will provide new guidance and schedule training sessions with all VA approved schools and training facilities soon. We will work closely with work site managers and schools to ensure enrollments are accurately certified and processed timely.

We are committed to providing regular updates to you through direct email campaigns and social media about VA's effort to implement these new changes.

If you have questions about your GI Bill benefits, please contact the Education Call Center at 1-888-442-4551 between 8 AM and 7 PM Eastern Time, Monday-Friday. GI Bill students may also learn more from the Student COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions webpage at: <https://benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/index.asp>

For more information on VA & State Benefits contact Montgomery County Veterans Service at 936-539-7842 or via email at [vetsvc@mctx.org](mailto:vetsvc@mctx.org) or via Facebook (Montgomery County Veterans Service). ♦



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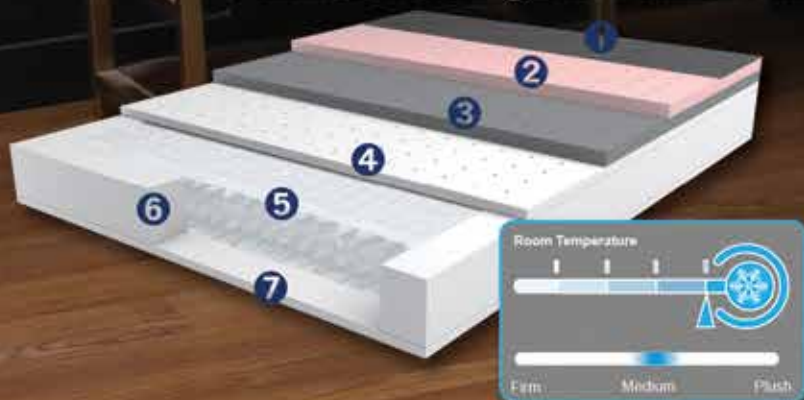
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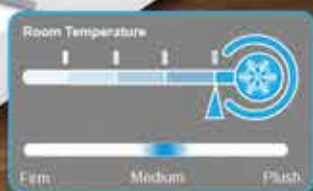
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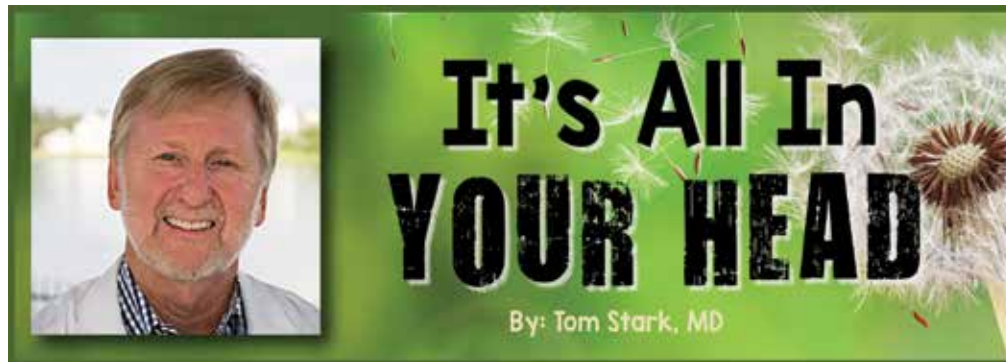
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## NEW TREATMENT FOR SEVERE SINUSITIS

Successfully treating diseases and infections of the sinuses is a challenging part of my professional life. Multiple medications, home remedies (like nasal washing) and surgical procedures are available and most provide relief. However, there is one type of chronic sinusitis that is difficult to obtain a long-standing cure. This is the type in which patients develop severe swollen tissue within the nasal passages and sinuses called polyps. Only 25-30% of patients with repeated or chronic sinus infections develop polyps. However, even after extensive surgical removal and a regiment of medical therapy the recurrence rate of polyps is approximately 40%. While polyps are not cancerous, their presence inside the nose and sinuses

causes obstruction of airflow, severe drainage, facial pressure and often a severe loss of sense of smell.

Recently, there has been a breakthrough development in the treatment of this condition of the sinusitis with polyp formation. It involves administration of a "biologic" treatment as an injection therapy. The medication which is known as Dupixent



(dupilumab) has been FDA approved for the treatment of asthma for approximately 5 years. Within the last year it has gained approval for the treatment of nasal polyps.

The class of biologic therapies have been available for over 20 years. Some are known for treatment of conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis or psoriasis with familiar names such as Humira or Enbrel. They act by blocking part of the immune system that is usually involved with autoimmune diseases. A severe side effect of these medications often is suppression of the immune system making patients susceptible to infections such as tuberculosis or fungal

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infections.

I am much more excited about Dupixent because it has no blockage of the healthy part of the immune system. Intensive research has shown that nasal polyps are the result of the overproduction of a specific type of inflammatory chemical known as Interleukin-4. When Interleukin-4 is produced along with another type, Interleukin-13 the resultant reaction leads to severe swelling of the area involved. In the lungs the result is asthma, in the skin the result is eczema and in the nose the result is polyps. The new medication is actually an antibody to the Interleukin-4 protein that surrounds it and inactivates it before it can cause the disease process.

Because Dupixent does not significantly impair the immune system there is no need to test for conditions such as tuberculosis or fungal infections.

The medication is available as an injection that is usually administered by the patient at home every 2 weeks. Don't worry, the needle is very tiny and there is almost no pain.

I currently have patients on this medication who have noticed great relief of their polyps. Many of them are very happy to recover their sense of smell within 2-3 injections. It is an exciting advancement and one more tool available for me to help patients with this serious problem. ♦



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## TO SUMMER EYES

Summer is fast approaching. Increased outdoor activities means extra strain and potential damage to our eyes. Although we should protect our eyes all year round, here are some tips to ensure healthy happy eyes all summer.

Exposure to the sun's UV rays contributes to the development of superficial growths, Cataracts, and Macular Degeneration. Ideal sunglasses should wrap to your face. This minimizes the amount of peripheral light reaching the ocular surface. The lenses should be UV blocking. On non-prescription lenses look for UV A, B and C blocking technology. Polarized lenses will block an additional 50% of light. Top all this off with anti-reflective and mirror coatings and you are reducing harmful light by another 30%.

You can customize your sun wear further



by selecting certain lens tints to match your activities. Technologies exist to enhance your visual performance for golfing, biking, trail riding and fishing. Golfing lenses increase the number of shades of green you see allowing you to read the green better. Biking lenses are designed to enhance your contrast so you can

see subtle changes in the terrain like cracks, bumps and dips. Fishing lenses enhance and filter the color blue offering improved clarity on the water. The variety of lens options come in both prescription and non-prescription.

Nearly all contact lenses have UV blocking technology. Keep in mind only the area covered by the contact is protected from UV rays and sun glasses should be worn to protect the eyelids and additional ocular surface. The eyelid is a common place for skin cancer to occur. Any new or suspicious spots should be brought to the attention of your eye care specialist.

Contact lenses are also a great addition to your summer eye wear. Don't want to wear your only pair of glasses while out jet skiing? Consider investing in a small package of single use daily contact lenses. Single use lenses are now available in a wide range of parameters. So, don't be shy to ask your Eye Doctor about daily lens options if you wear a multifocal or astigmatism correction. Single use lenses are also great to take on trips. No need to carry solution and plenty of extras in case of tears.

Contact lenses may seem like a great option while enjoying water sports. Caution should be taken when wearing contact lenses and swimming especially in fresh water. Transfer of bacteria, other microbials and allergens



occur frequently in the water. Any contact lens wearer developing red irritated eyes days after swimming should report to an eye clinic for evaluation. Some micro-organisms can cause serious damage to your eyes in a short period of time. To avoid potential issues avoid wearing your contact lenses in the water. If you cannot function with out your lenses consider wearing goggles.

The right optical products can aid in your summer fun in the sun. We may not think of them as anything more than accessories but the correct accessory may improve your golf game or prevent Macular Degeneration.



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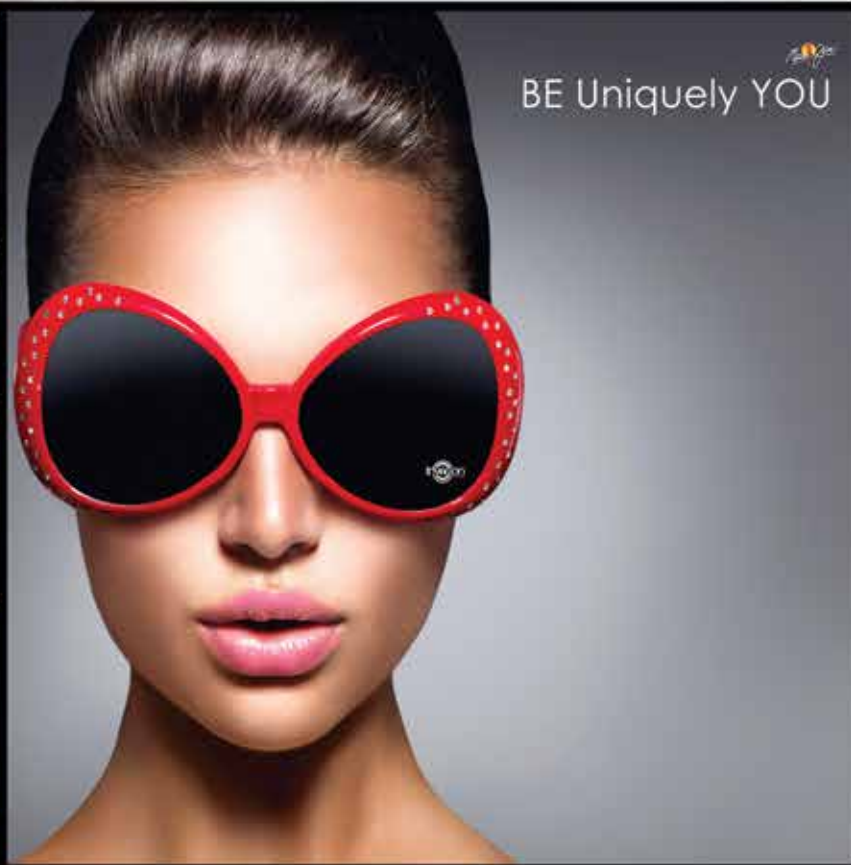




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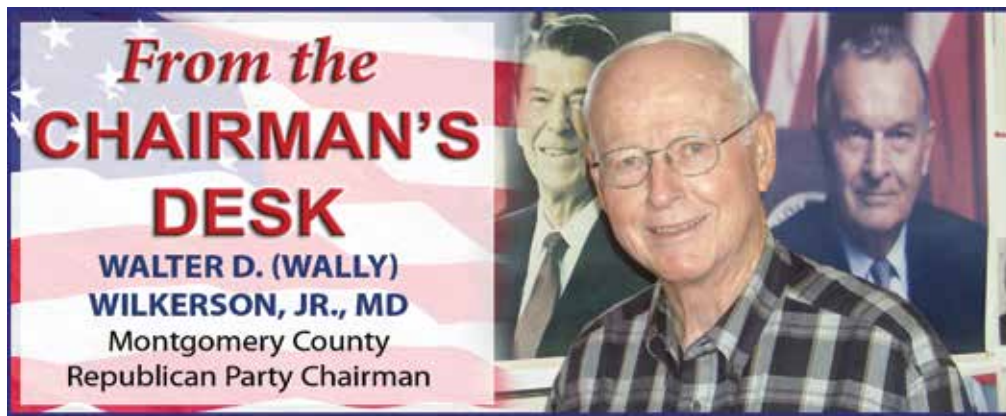
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## Voting by Mail

Voting by mail ballot has been available for certain Texas voters for an extended period of time. Those 65 years of age or older, those with a disability, those expected to be absent from the county and those confined in jail have been eligible to take advantage of voting by mail. Recently there has been a fair amount of discussion about making this method of voting at the national level. I received an email from a concerned citizen regarding his mail ballot. He asked: "How do I know my vote has been counted?" I contacted the non-partisan County Elections Administrator, Suzie Harvey, for the answer. Below is a detailed description of the intricate and secure process of counting the mail ballots.

"When each mail ballot is received, that information is recorded and the sealed Carrier En-

velope is filed in a locked and secure container. Audits are performed at each stage of mail ballot processing as follows: When the Early Voting Ballot Board (EVBB) convenes, the sealed Carrier Envelopes, each voter's application for a ballot, the list of all voters who submitted a ballot, and a transmittal slip that shows the number of voters and ballots are transferred to the EVBB Judge.

EVBB compares the list to the carrier envelopes and verifies that all are accounted for. The EVBB reviews the application and verifies that the signature on each Carrier Envelope was made by the same voter who signed the application and, if accepted, separates the ballot (sealed in the secrecy Ballot Envelope) from the Carrier Envelope for voter privacy. After at least ten (10) Ballot Envelopes are separated from

the Carrier Envelopes, they may be opened to retrieve the voted ballots. The number of ballots is confirmed to the number on the list and written on a transmittal slip, and the ballots are placed in a secure container with two different locks and a serial numbered tamper evident seal. The seal number(s) are recorded on a log which is signed by the EVBB Judge, at least one other EVBB member, any poll watchers, and the Elections Administrator.

When the double locked and sealed container is transferred to the Elections Administrator, the seal number is confirmed to the log, and the container may be unlocked. The number of the ballots in the container is confirmed to the quantity on the transmittal slip and the number on the list. The ballots are scanned, and the quantity scanned is confirmed to the quantity on the transmittal slip and the number on the list.

On Election Day, the scanned mail ballots are tabulated (counted), and the number of ballots tabulated is confirmed to the quantity on the transmittal slip and the number on the list.

After Election Day, the voter history for each absentee voter is submitted to the Secretary of State, and the number of records is confirmed to the quantity on the transmittal slip and the number on the list. The voter history file for each election is available to the public upon request and can conveniently be requested and obtained from the Elections website. After the election, a manual count is performed on the mail ballots for a race in at least three precincts, which are selected by the Secretary of State, to show that the results match the results of the automatic tabulating equipment." ♦

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## From Surviving To Thriving In Difficult Times

On behalf of myself and the Wootton Financial team, I hope you are yours are staying safe and well. It has been an interesting year thus far to put it mildly and we continue to pray for our community, our country and our leaders as they navigate this pandemic event.

There is an old saying "may you live interesting times". We are certainly in a period of history that accomplishes that. There is tremendous fear and uncertainty on all fronts. The Corona Pandemic, the economic impact as a result and just what life will look like on the backside of it all from many different perspectives.

Bottom line, people and businesses are hurting and feeling as though they are simply surviving each day. Millions have lost their jobs with more to come. I know of many working for major corporations who have already been told that essentially it could get worse later this year before it gets better in that regard. Businesses, especially small businesses, are struggling to stay afloat or worse yet closing their doors altogether. People are both sick and dying from this virus and those that aren't worry about whether they'll end up as such. Depression is on the rise as well as things that associate with this debilitating condition. It's a lot to take in.

How are we to deal with such an onslaught of difficulty and uncertainty all at once? We certainly have both difficulty and uncertainty in life on a daily basis

but to have it all unfold at once can feel daunting to many. So, how do we go from surviving to thriving during times such as this?

I'm no pastor or therapist by any means so I don't have all the answers but I have learned a few things over my 47 years on this planet. I was told as a youngster that there are some aspects of life I can control and others I can't and not to fixate, fret and falter on the latter. I believe our faith plays a tremendous role in reducing anxiety and giving hope to many. I also believe our mental approach to such times and our actions through it play a role as well. This is certainly not an exhaustive analysis but they are proven principals.

This doesn't downplay or lessen the difficulty and struggle, it's real. However, how we prepare for and handle such events before, during and after determines whether we simply survive it or thrive in it to be better prepared for the future and this can look different for everyone.

With this said, I have a special treat for you our dear readers. At the end of this article I am providing a link to a video we've prepared with a dear friend of mine for over 25 years, Ruben Gonzalez. Ruben is a four-time Olympian in the luge in four different decades, a best-selling author and a world-wide public speaker. He knows a thing or two about adversity, mental toughness and pursuing your dreams and goals in the midst of uncertainty.

In addition to your faith, family and friends, I hope this video gives you some hope and encouragement during these times. That it helps you to thrive and not just survive. Feel free to share it with friends and follow our website and various social media channels for more helpful videos and info.

We are certainly here to answer any financial related questions or concerns you may have during this time. Whether it's a complimentary investment and financial planning consultation, what to do about a job loss or ideas on how you could seek to thrive financially during these times, we want to help you find Clear Direction for your Retirement®.

So, grab a beverage and enjoy the video. Blessings to you all.



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### Easy Key Lime Pie

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- 1 6 oz. can frozen limeade
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 6 oz. graham cracker pie crust

Place the condensed milk, limeade, and heavy cream in the bowl of an electric mixer. With the whisk attachment, beat until fluffy, medium peaks form. The consistency will not change that much once the pie is refrigerated, so whip it until it is the consistency you want. Pour the filling into the pie crust.

Refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight, until the pie is set. Serve with whipped cream.

### Grilled Fish with Avocado Salsa

- 1 ripe avocado
- 2 ripe plum tomatoes, each chopped into 6
- 1 small red onion, finely sliced
- 3 tbsp. olive oil, plus some for drizzling
- Juice of half a lemon or 1 lime
- Small bunch coriander, leaves only
- 2 - 6 oz. fish fillets, skin on

Halve the avocado and use a teaspoon to scoop chunks of the flesh into a bowl. Gently mix all the other ingredients, except the fish, in with the avocado, set aside.

Heat a griddle pan until very hot. Season the fish with pepper, and salt if you want, then drizzle with a little olive oil. Griddle the fillets for 2-3 minutes on each side until charred and cooked through. Serve with the avocado salad. ♦

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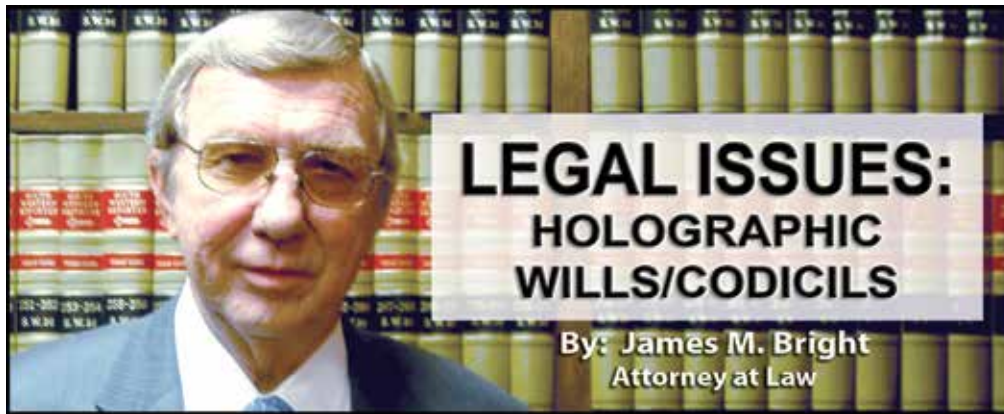
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*The following is provided for informational purposes only and is not, nor should it be construed as legal advice.*

Holographic wills/codicils are those last wills and testaments and/or codicils that are totally in the handwriting of and signed by the decedent.

Many people ask me if holographic wills are recognized in Texas as valid wills and if they can be probated in Texas courts. The answer is "Yes," holographic wills are common in this state, and they demand the same respect as an attorney-prepared will even though they may present special problems at time of probate. Holographic wills must meet the requirements of being a will and be specific enough to understand the intent of the testator.

The first requirement to probate any will, holographic or formal, is that the document offered is "in fact" a will or codicil. The following essential elements are necessary to probate any will or codicil, but they become even more pronounced when the document offered is holographic.

**1. The Will or Codicil must identify the testator.** This element is usually met fairly easily, but on rare occasions is omitted. A good example is from my own practice where the testator had a formal will prepared by an attorney, but decided for some unknown reason to make some changes through a handwritten codicil. The formal will stated that he might wish to make a list of personal items that he wanted to pass to particular individuals, and that he

would keep that list with his formal will as instruction for his executor. Often testators leave instructions to executors through documents that do not meet the formal requirements of a will for gifts of small and non-valuable assets and which the executor has the option to follow or not to follow. If you wish for your codicil to be enforceable under the law, it must meet all four of the elements outlined in this article. Unfortunately, in the cited case, when the testator left the list, it not only contained numerous high value art items, but it was unsigned and showed no intent to make a gift. The list was nothing more than an inventory list of art items, and, therefore, was unenforceable.

**2. The Will or Codicil must be written with testamentary intent.** In order to be admitted to probate and for the testator's wishes to be enforceable, it must be clear that the person making the will or codicil intends to have the document treated as a testamentary directive. The most common and least ambiguous way to do this is to make a statement that "this is my last will and testament," but it is not uncommon in holographic wills for the testator to simply start listing how property is to pass without making it clear that such listing is an expression of testamentary intent. If the intent cannot be unambiguously determined by a simple reading of the document, then it probably will not be considered a will or codicil.

**3. The person writing the Will must have "testamentary capacity."** For this element, it does not matter if the will is holographic or formal. If the testator lacks testamentary capacity on the day that the will or codicil is signed, then the document is not an enforceable will/codicil. Standards for establishing testamentary capacity are well established by both statute and case law. The important thing to determine is that the testator had capacity on the exact date of the will.

**4. The Will or Codicil itself must adhere to requisite testamentary formalities.** For a holographic will or codicil to be upheld, it must be totally in the handwriting of the testator and signed by the testator. On occasions, this firm has found that sometimes a well meaning person will add additional language by typing, printing or handwriting. If a portion of the will/codicil is typewritten, printed or in the handwriting of a person who is not the testator, then courts will likely apply the "surplusage rule." If applied, this rule will allow probate of the offered will, but will disregard the language that is not in the testator's handwriting.

Although adherence to the above basic elements will qualify a holographic will for probate, they do not ensure that the enforcement of the will provisions can be followed without extreme difficulty and added expense. For example, on one holographic will handled by this firm, the testatrix met the burden on all the

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above-cited elements, but inadvertently created two more time-consuming problems as follow:

- Intended heirs were not clearly identified because the testator simply referred to seven named beneficiaries by their first names only. This did not make the will impossible to probate, but it did make it necessary to clarify the identity of each named person and to show the relationship with the decedent/testator. This required a separate legal action designed to identify the heirs who had been identified by first names only and to have a declaration by the court showing the identities. This procedure would not have been needed if the will had been properly drafted.

- The testator decided to make additions to the will after the date of the original signing. Although the changes were still in her handwriting, they were made and dated approximately three months later and did not include a new signature. As a result, the part added later (i.e., the codicil) did not meet all of the requisites of a valid codicil and was ignored by the Court.

The testatrix was able to save a few dollars at the time of drafting by leaving a holographic will, but caused her family to spend three or four times more than would have been required to probate the will than if it had been professionally prepared.

The bottom line is this: It is usually less expensive to let a professional draft the needed documents. If you are the only living person in an aircraft that is doomed to crash unless safely landed, it is not only wise but also prudent to try to land the aircraft yourself. However, if there is a professional pilot on board who knows how to avoid the crash, you will probably be best served by turning over the controls to the professional. The same is true when it comes to drafting your will.

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

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

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# Online with Dock Line

## Pandemic-Proof Your Business

### *Lessons Learned from COVID-19 about Marketing Your Business Online*

The COVID-19 pandemic brought with it a lot of hard lessons for business owners. If your business was deemed non-essential, then no-doubt you are facing a lot of uncertainty and may be struggling to keep your doors open (quite literally). However, we also learned that if your business has a strong online presence, then the blow was softened considerably as you could still sell your products and services online. All it took was a shift in attention and some creative marketing strategies and your business was rocking and rolling again. At the very least, you weren't stuck waiting as you struggled to pay for your staff and to keep the lights on.

So let's look at the specific ways businesses struggled during the COVID-19 pandemic because they weren't equipped to operate online.

#### **1. If your business is not online at all...get online now!**

Many businesses had to shut their doors to the public, bringing their interaction with customers - and sales as a result - to a grinding halt. People weren't spending their time shopping in stores, but it doesn't mean they weren't still shopping. With everybody stuck at home and spending more time browsing online, any shopping outside of essential businesses like grocery stores moved online. People weren't spending their time in brick and mortar stores, but in online stores.

If your business has a functional, value-driven website then there is opportunity for you to get people's attention and point them toward your products and services. If you don't have a website, or have an old, poorly designed website with little content, then you're going to lose out on tons of potential business. In fact, if your website is the only impression you give consumers and it is a bad impression, it could not only prevent people from using your services, but it could hurt your business down the road by creating a negative association with your brand. The point is this: get online, build a strong presence, offer your services and products through your website, and create content that brings people to your site. And do it now.

#### **2. If your business is not active on social media...get active now!**

Facebook and Instagram are the best channels for small businesses, with Instagram by far being the best channel for organic engagement. Why Instagram? Well, consumers love visual content more than anything else. In fact, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Instagram posts got 20x more engagement on average compared to Facebook.

Now, this isn't to say that you shouldn't also be active on Facebook. Facebook is one of the very best places to advertise your business. Facebook ads can work wonders if you target them correctly and your offer is good.

However, if you aren't active on social media, then you are missing out on a huge opportunity to build your business. Nearly all of your ideal customers are on social media in some way. As a business, you need to be active on the channels your potential customers are on, and you need to provide valuable, helpful content to attract them. Try posting once a day if possible and make sure it has a visual aspect - photo or video based.

#### **3. If your business does not produce content specifically for online audiences...start it now!**

Video is, by far, the number one way people like to consume content online. The next best thing is also visual-based - posting photos. However, just as important as the visual aspect itself is the copy you use - the words associated with each post. Many businesses make the mistake of just selling all the time. That's the fastest way to lose people's attention and persuade them to stop following you. Instead post content that is valuable, helpful, inspirational, or charitable.

You may not be a professional copywriter, but you can still post content that people love just by being genuine. However, if you can hire a professional, by all means do it. People love a story, and they love when you make them the hero - not yourself. This means that you shouldn't just talk about yourself or your business unless it is done in a way that directly



benefits the consumer. For instance, your story of building your business can be an inspiration for someone who needs hope. But as a general rule, make the consumer the focus. Nurture them along so they become fans of your brand, then when the time is right you can offer them something.

**4. If you don't have products or services you can sell online... create them now!**

Speaking of your "offer", are you able to sell your products or services online? We learned during the pandemic just how detrimental it can be if your business is not deemed essential and you don't have something to sell online. If you can relate to that then it's time to think outside the box when it comes to traditional business. Plain and simple you need to do one of two things. First, if you do have products or services that you can sell online, but don't have an online store on your website, then you need to create one now. If you think your products or services can't be sold online, then you need to get innovative and create them.

For instance, if you offer a service that requires face-to-face interaction with customers, then you can create a video chat alternative that can be done remotely. If you offer automotive services that require your customers to come to you, find a way to offer the same service by going to them - in a safe and secure way. The point is, whatever you offer can be transformed into an online offering. Yes, it may require some out-of-the-



box thinking, but it might just transform your business.

If you find yourself fitting one or several of these categories above and your business needs to get online ASAP, then let us know. At Dock Line we specialize in getting businesses online. From social media services where we do everything for you like creating captivating content and managing your audience, to web design services that give you an online store for your offerings and valuable content to attract consumers. We also provide exceptional video services to create valuable content that your customers will love, and so much more. Let us know how we can help! Just reach out at [ozzy@thedockline.com](mailto:ozzy@thedockline.com). ♦

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# Garden Thyme

By: Growers Outlet

## The Virus

In years past I have always talked about June Bug Beetles in the month of June. This year I am going to talk about something that I should have been more aware of after being in the outdoor beautification business for as long as I have.

Sometime around the first part of January, I found myself following the news out of China about a new virus that started from bats. I had never paid any attention before to any of the viruses coming out of China and I am not sure why this one caught my attention, but something seemed a little different. Governments were acting in ways I had never seen before. Cities were being blockaded, buildings were being locked up and the citizens of China were being arrested for being on the streets. I started asking myself, why does this seem different from the viruses of the past? It was China after all but I had never seen this kind of reaction to a virus before. I was not convinced when our government told us not to worry. I was becoming genuinely concerned and finally convinced my wife that we needed to start stocking up on essential supplies.

Some time in March it seemed that this was starting to get more serious. There were rumors of national guard mobilization and lockdowns, both local and national.

I was starting to get concerned for my business. If there was a lockdown would we

be able to open? Would we even be able to get to the nursery to water plants? "They" said this was extremely dangerous for people with certain comorbidities. I met most of them and decided to stay home and let my employees do what they could to sell what inventory we had so we would not have to throw much away.

They did an excellent job of selling our products while following the "rules". We sold most of the items that were semi-perishable and finally decided to shut down even though we were considered an essential business, because we sold vegetables and fertilizers. I figured we could "make it" until next spring and that it was too dangerous to re-open.

After 5 weeks of isolating, my wife and I had enough. My employees convinced me to re-open, but it didn't take much effort at that point. We started reordering inventory and I quickly put together an online store so we could offer some type of curbside pickup.

The first day we were open was an emotional experience for me. Our customers, many of whom had not been out of their homes for 4-5 weeks, were extremely happy. It was moving to hear many people say that they had been waiting for the day for us to re-open.

I had no idea that the essential part of our business was to help with people's emotional state. It became evident to me that for many people this was a way they could stay distract-





ed from all the negative news around them as well a break from boredom. Hopefully this will have caused many people to discover the joys of gardening.

On a similar note, it has been recognized that Vitamin D which comes from sunshine, helps the body's immune system fight respiratory infections. So, working outside in your yard will make you feel better and protect you at the same time.

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Just go to our website, [www.growersoutletinwillis.com](http://www.growersoutletinwillis.com) and click on the "ONLINE GARDEN CENTER" button.

It is still a work in progress with many more products and helpful gardening info to be added.

#### A Garden To Do List for the month of June



#### for our area will include the following:

\*Be watching for chinch bug damage that usually starts in your grass adjacent to concrete walks and drives.

\*Look out for spider mite damage on things like junipers once it starts getting hot.

\*Now is a good time to plant vinca and portulaca. These are great heat lovers and easy to take care of summer annuals.

\*Any of your roses that are prone to black



spot should be treated on a bi-weekly basis with a product like Bonide Infuse. Don't wait until the black spot occurs before treating. Once black spots form they will not go away.

\*If you haven't already done so, re-mulch your trees and shrubs with good quality mulch like Landscapers Pride Black Velvet mulch or pine bark mulch.

\*Check your herbs and veggies on a regular basis for any damaging insects.

\*Be on the lookout for whiteflies, mealy bugs and aphids. These can damage your investment in plants.

\*Be alert for slug and snail damage. Come by the Growers Outlet and pick up the correct products to use. We carry a great effective organic product that is safe for people and pets.

\*If you have any stubborn broadleaf weeds you can spray them with Bonide Weed Beater for Southern Lawns now that temps are well above 80.

\*If you are ready to apply your second application of lawn fertilizer use Microlife 6-2-4 organic fertilizer, Nitro Phos SuperTurf or Nitro Phos Sweet Green before the end of June.

For great gardening products and information, come by the Growers Outlet and visit with any member of our team to get the help you need or go to our website at [WWW.growersoutletinwillis.com](http://WWW.growersoutletinwillis.com). We have the products and knowledge to help you have the prettiest yard on the block. ♦

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Article and photos  
by Bronwyn Clear,  
Certified Texas  
Master Naturalist



## *fishing* **HOLE** NATURE



*When not singing in the trees, they can be spotted foraging through the grass for a meal.*

# The Northern Mockingbird Texas State Bird

*"Mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy. They don't eat up people's gardens, don't nest in corncribs, they don't do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. That's why it's a sin to kill a mockingbird."*

*– To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee.*



*You won't find them at your seed feeders because they eat insects in the warmer months and berries in winter.*



The Northern Mockingbird is a very popular and intelligent character. They hold a place in our culture, songs, books and movies. Mockers are found in great numbers nesting all over North America, and they are such delightful songbirds that they have been named the state bird for 5 different states, including Texas.

Medium in size, mockingbirds have striking white patches on their wings and tails that can be prominently seen while in flight. Otherwise, they have rather bland gray bodies with long legs and tails, small heads, skinny bodies, but very colorful personalities! During mating season, the male makes most of the nest. It has an outer geometric structure of large twigs and a center of softer material for the eggs and chicks. If a female likes his songs and nest work, she will lay a clutch of blue eggs with brown speckles. The chicks will hatch about two weeks afterward,

and in two more weeks the chicks will fledge.

Named for its ability to mimic, the mockingbird's medley is copied from many other birds such as bluebirds, cardinals, and even bald eagles. Sometimes from frogs and toads as well! The better he is at singing, the better he will be at attracting a lady. It is not unusual for one bird to have many songs in its current repertoire, and both females and males sing complex tunes. Although you may think there are 5 different birds singing in a nearby tree, the songs could all be coming from just one gleeful hopeful mockingbird. They sing anytime of the day, and amazingly, even at night!

Although they sing high up in the trees, they are ground foraging omnivores. Mockingbirds prefer bugs from the grass in summertime, and berries from low shrubs in the winter. A few summers ago one particular mocker fol-

lowed behind our lawnmower, gobbling grasshoppers that flipped up as the mower went by. Every week this mockingbird would swoop down and chase behind the mower! It was an easy meal for an intelligent opportunistic bird, and great entertainment for us bystanders.

To hear a mocker's birdsong, go to [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern\\_Mockingbird](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern_Mockingbird). Recorded birdsong is a service offered by Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Or just walk outside to your back porch and listen. Sit back and enjoy the free concert given by your little winged virtuoso!

Learn more about the incredible nature in our area by joining a chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist organization. To find a chapter close to you, or to read about the state program, go online to [www.txmn.org](http://www.txmn.org). Volunteer and get involved! ♦



*A mockingbird nest has a geometric twig framework with a center nest made of soft Spanish Moss. Their eggs are light blue with brown speckles.*

*Mockingbirds are plain in looks, but beautiful in song!*





# Ready to Adopt a Rescue Pet...

## *Senior, Baby or In-Between?*

**By: Ruby Cross, Animal Shelter  
Volunteers of Texas, 501c3 (ASVT)**

Adopting a rescue pet will change your life! A new pet won't just make you more social, it will make you the most popular person with your friends, family, neighbors, and even strangers. Everyone becomes your best friend.

Research shows that, when conducting a task that's stressful, people actually experienced less stress when their pets were with them than when a supportive friend was present!

When adopting a pet, one choice you'll need to make is whether to adopt a senior, an adolescent, or an adult. It's not always an easy decision. There are advantages and disadvantages of adopting pets of different ages.

There are many reasons why a rescue pet is a better choice than acquiring a pet from a breeder.

You save a life and you can choose from a great selection of pets. You can get to know a pet before bringing it home.

Foster parents know about each pet's temperament, activity level, and personality. By visiting with the foster and the pet, you can find a pet that is perfect for your family.

During this difficult time we are all going through makes our efforts to save animals even more challenging. Our largest Spring fundraiser had to be cancelled. Sadly our operating expenses are ongoing.

Medical expenses are at an all-time high.

### **Meet Petey Peanut!**

Petey is an adorable 6 year old Chihuahua that was perfectly healthy, until the day he wasn't. He took a turn for the

worse overnight and spent three days at our local vet, then moved on to a specialist at Texas A&M. He spent a week there until he started eating and healing. Despite significant testing it was difficult to pinpoint his diagnosis. Finally meds worked and he is now in recovery mode. He is known as ASVT's \$6,000 Chihuahua. But we never say no to a medical case when an animal can be saved. We always depend on our local vets and specialists to advise us on the best medical treatments. Petey will be available for adoption soon.

### **ASVT Senior Pets**

Older pets are wonderful. They're calm, mellow, sweet, lovable, and sometimes already



younger pets.

- They are a great fit for families with busy lifestyles.
- They are so grateful for a second chance.



house-trained. Yet, as wonderful as animals over the age of 7 are, they often represent the highest-risk population at shelters across the United States, where nearly 3 million dogs and cats are put down each year.

We all ask, how is that possible? How is it that the ideal companions are in this situation? This happens to a lot of senior pets by no fault of their own. Sometimes due to financial issues, illness, or another life crisis, pet owners find themselves unable to care for their pets. Then once older animals are surrendered to shelters, they can get overlooked because of their age. This is when "Rescues" come to the rescue! Foster homes save the day and strive to find the perfect home for these senior pets.

There are many reasons why pets over the age of 6 or 7 make ideal furry family members:

- They tend to be less rambunctious than



Senior pets are great company for seniors. Many senior people find the calmness of an older pet very comforting. They appreciate having a companion who is content to move through life at a slower speed.

Adding a furry friend to your family is an exciting decision. However, like most decisions, there are so many choices and it's hard to know where to start.



***Petey Peanut in recovery mode!***





#### ASVT Puppies & Kittens

Maybe you are thinking about a puppy or kitten. Puppies and kittens are enchanting little characters. They're funny and cute and full of energy. But like all babies, need a lot of care and attention.

Your puppy or kitten will need to be trained what to do and not do. Lots of safe ex-

*Continued on page 60* ➞

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You can visit our website to sign up to volunteer and/or foster and donate using our DONATE button. Donations help us pay for medical expenses, food, supplies and transporting animals to areas with high adoption needs.

ASVT also sponsors a Spay/Neuter Program for community animals whose owners cannot afford to have their pets altered. This helps decrease the rise of community puppies and kittens that will end up in the shelters.

The accomplishments of ASVT would not be possible without partners like Ransom's Steakhouse, Wiesner Automotive, Animal Hospital of Montgomery, Dock Line Magazine and so many more. ♦



are not really for your family. There are the wonderful "In-Between" pets that are also looking for a loving family.

Adult pets are great for first time pet parents. If this is your first pet, or if you cannot devote the time necessary to train, socialize, and exercise a young pet, an adult pet could be a better choice for you.

You usually know what you are getting with an adult pet. When you choose an adult pet, you have a pretty good idea about him or her. You can see their physical traits and get some idea of basic temperament, even though pets newly in rescue foster homes may not always show their true personality right away.

Adult pets will love you as much as a puppy or kitten. Adult pets are open-hearted. Some completely overcome their pasts in a matter of days; others may take a few weeks or months, and a few will carry a little baggage for even longer. Working with your adopted pet to help overcome any issues necessary to enjoy their new life can be a very rewarding experience and result in a long-term, loving relationship.

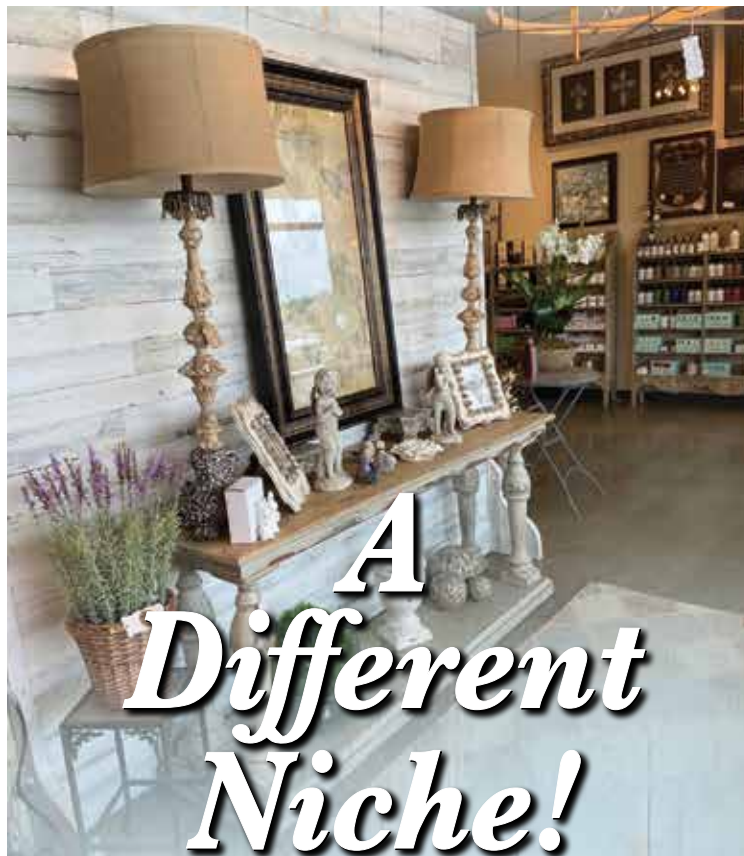
Animal Shelter Volunteers of Texas always has a variety of senior, adolescent and "In-Between" foster pets. If you are ready to adopt a rescue pet please take time to look at all our available pets on our website. All the pets shown here are ready to be adopted. All it takes is the first step... submit an Adoption Application for the pet of your choosing at [www.ASVT-Texas.org/adoption-application.html](http://www.ASVT-Texas.org/adoption-application.html)

ercise is needed and you will need to socialize with other people and animals. As puppies and kittens learn and grow, they will get into things, chew things, make messes and have accidents in the house.

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# SPRING & SUMMER; THE BIRDS ARE NESTING!

By: Lisa Wolling, Executive Director

As we move from spring into summer, no doubt you will continue to see lots of busy backyard birds and hear them singing their beautiful courtship songs. Due to our warmer weather for an extended period of months, songbirds here may nest and raise several broods of young each

year, starting in early spring and then continuing through summer and into early fall.

At our intake center, we commonly get calls from people who have

*Continued on page 64*



Photos left and left center show nestling birds. Note they are not fully feathered. Birds in left center photo have "pin feathers", which resemble toothpicks. The birds in right center and right photos are fledglings. Notice they are fully feathered and more recognizable as to what species they are (blue bird, blue jay, and mockingbird).

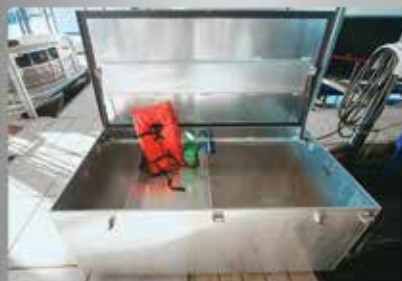


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rescued baby birds. There are times when a nest may fall, or a hatching or nestling baby bird may get blown or knocked out of its nest. Very young baby birds found on the ground do need help; these baby birds are either unfeathered, or have a little fuzz, or are just beginning to get feathers (pin feathers look a bit like toothpicks sticking out of a baby bird). These babies are helpless and cannot fly yet, or even walk or hop. If a nest can be located, the baby can be placed back into the nest. It is not true that if a baby bird is picked up or has "human scent" on it the parents will reject it (in fact, most songbirds have little or no sense of smell anyway). If a nest cannot be reached or located, many times it is possible to put up a substitute nest. Simply take a small basket, or small plastic container (like a Cool Whip or margarine container), poke a couple of drainage holes in the bottom, and line it with some grass and leaves. Then take the new nest and attach it to a tree (with bungee cord, string, or even nail it) close to where the baby was found. Put the baby or babies in the new nest and observe from a distance to see if the parent birds resume caring for the baby or babies. With most songbirds, both the male and female tend to the young, so even if something happens to one parent, the remaining parent should still be able to raise the chick(s). If parents do not return after a few hours, please call for assistance. Do not feed the baby birds anything; dehydrated or cold babies cannot digest any food, so attempting to feed them could do more harm than good. If it is late in the day, simply keep the babies warm and quiet overnight (parents do not feed their babies after dark in the wild anyway). A heating pad on LOW can be put half under the makeshift nest if needed. If babies are found late in the day, you can try re-nesting the following morning to see if reuniting is successful. Please call us if you have any concerns or questions about what to do.

Quite often when we get calls on baby birds, they are actually fledglings. These are baby birds that are fully feathered with a little stubby tail, and many are easily recognizable (as in "that's a baby blue jay"). Baby birds "fledge" and leave the nest TO learn how to fly, not WHEN they know how to fly. This is natural behavior. They can be seen hopping around

on the ground or flitting from low bush to low bush. This is completely normal. As they learn to fly, their parents are still tending to them and bringing them food. These birds do not need rescuing! This is the most dangerous time for baby birds, but they just need a day or two before they can fly quite well. Try to keep cats and dogs inside during the day if fledglings are seen, or if they are in danger from domestic pets perhaps try moving the fledgling(s) away from dangerous areas by placing them in a low bush or tree. It is simply not possible for wildlife centers or rehabilitators to take fledgling birds simply to protect them from domestic dogs or cats. Just imagine the numbers of animals involved in such a scenario...not to mention licensing guidelines limit rehabbers to "injured or orphaned animals". It is not feasible to take fledglings simply to protect them from what "might" happen. Also, a word about cats...we love ALL animals, and many (most?) rehabbers also have lots of domestic pets. However, allowing unsupervised cats outside to predate on birds (as well as other small wildlife animals) has a huge impact on songbird mortality. It is much safer for cats as well as wildlife to keep cats inside. We see first hand every day the damage domestic cats inflict on many types of wildlife, but particularly on birds. If you do let your cats outside, then at least refrain from intentionally attracting birds to your yard (no birdfeeders, birdhouses, hummingbird feeders, etc.). Remember that bird houses will eventually mean fledgling baby birds, so unless you can keep your cat inside when babies are present, it would be kinder to not encourage them to nest where the cats are present.

Most often simply understanding what normal behavior is for nesting birds is the best way to keep them safe and not unnecessarily separate them from their parents. We have more helpful information on our website at [www.ftwl.org](http://www.ftwl.org). To learn more about what we do and view pictures of many of the animals we assist, please visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SavingTexasWildlife](https://www.facebook.com/SavingTexasWildlife). We will continue to post on our website and Facebook page about our hours of operation and protocols during the Covid-19 concerns; at this time, unfortunately, our educational center remains closed. ♦



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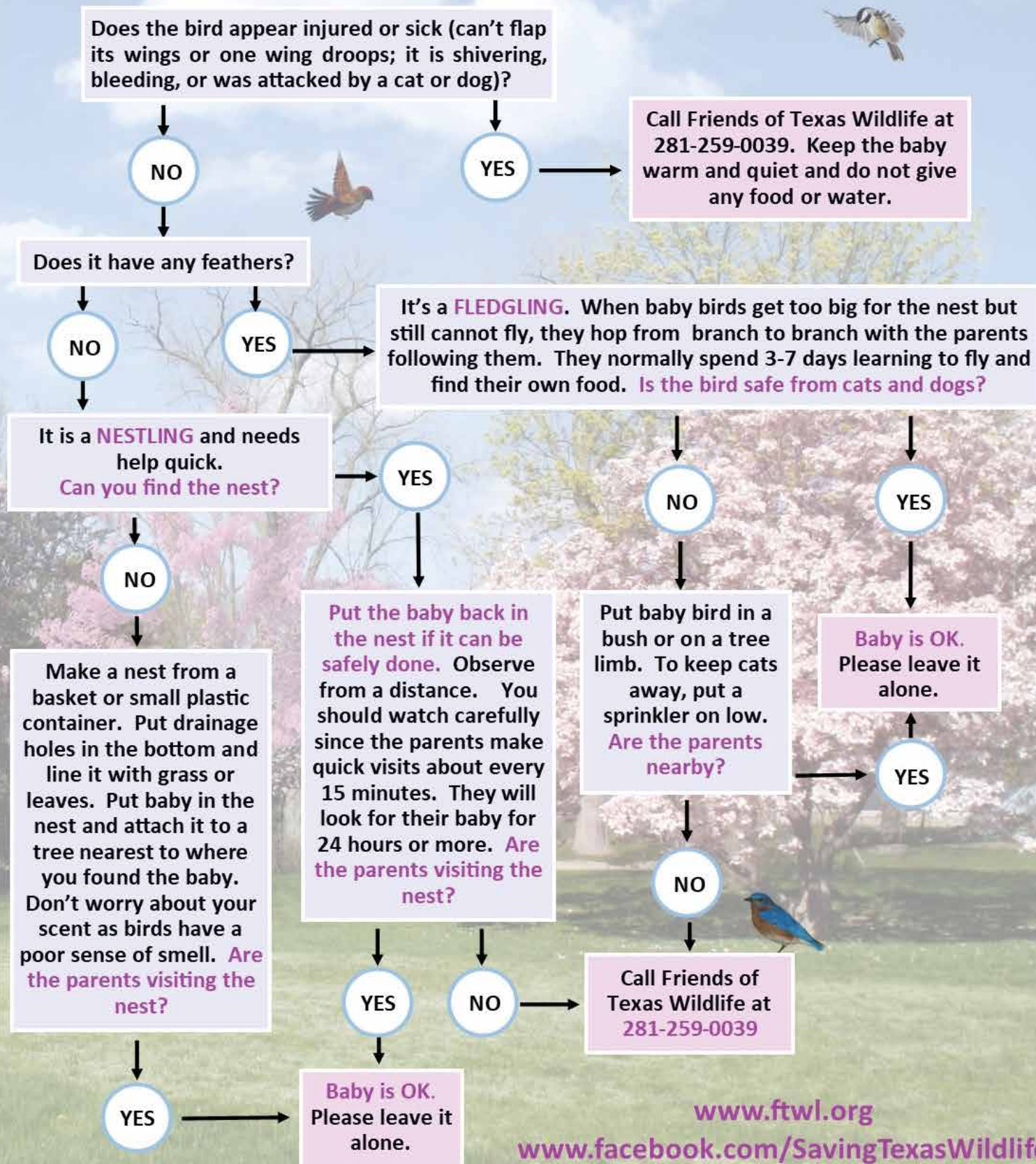
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# I Found a Baby Bird

Every year, countless baby birds are “rescued” by well-meaning people who find fledgling babies out of the nest. Fledgling baby birds are old enough to be out of the nest, but they cannot yet fly. Assessing when a baby bird may need help (or not) is important to know. If you find a baby bird you are concerned about, please refer to this chart for guidance.



[www.ftwl.org](http://www.ftwl.org)

[www.facebook.com/SavingTexasWildlife](https://www.facebook.com/SavingTexasWildlife)





## 5-11-20 BACK IN THE BOAT BASS FISHING

Today I went out in the boat on Lake Conroe. It was a beautiful day to fish. The temperature was in the 70's and a nice breeze was



blowing. I could fish all day in this weather. I have not been fishing that much lately, so I decided today was the day I would try to locate some fish. The first few spots I went to when I started were not good. The blue herons were sitting around watching me to see if I was going to catch something. Not at that spot. Maybe I am just throwing the wrong bait. I knew the fish were around, I just had to find them and give them something appetizing to eat.

I came up to a brush pile then changed the bait I had been using and bam. Caught one.

It was about 3 pounds. I moved to another location and caught another small one. I went to a few more places trying to find them and nothing. It was time to go put some gas in the boat. Good thing I got there when I did because I didn't realize I was running on fumes. I headed back home to take a break.

Several hours later I decided I was going to go back out again. I was catching fish and it was a great day to be on the water. Not many boats were on the lake. Soon after I left I had a nice big bass on. I caught this one on a Carolina rig. It was approximately 6 or 7 pounds, not sure because I didn't have my scale. Fished till dark. Caught a few more but they were all smalls. The big one got me fired up.

## 5-12-20 Tuesday Night Tournament- Conroe Bass

Parker called me last week and asked if I



would fish with him and I told him no because I had not been on the lake and didn't know where the fish were. This time I said, "Yes" because I went out and found some pretty nice fish and felt confident to go ahead and invest my money and give it my best.

There were 37 teams fishing tonight. It was raining super hard when we got to the take-off, so we're delayed 45 minutes. Even



though we drew number 5, it didn't help us because it was a shotgun start since we were late taking off. We were one of the last boats to leave. Since we were delayed everyone had the same weigh in time, which was 9 p.m. There were 37 teams fishing in the Tuesday Night Tournament on Lake Conroe.

It rained on us for the first hour of the tournament. At least it slowed down because when we arrived it was coming down in heavy sheets and drifting across the water. Parker's dog, Chance was on board and he was getting wet as well. My mom told us he would be the good luck charm for tonight. We arrived at the first spot and Parker caught a little one. Then he hooked another fish and it hung him up and broke him off in a brush pile.

Our second spot we went offshore and I caught 1 on a Texas rig. Next spot I caught 3 on a Texas rig and a crank bait. Parker also caught 3.

We were going down the bank when Parker set the hook, the drag was loose, causing it to slip and the fish jumped twice. When he was pulling it in the net it jumped and threw the hook and the head was coming out of the net. I said, "Where do you think you are going?" and scooped it back in the net. Parker put him in the live well. We kept fishing and going down the bank. We caught some 2-3 pounders, culling along the way.

I was throwing a Texas rig and a fish thumped it hard and my eyes got big. I knew I had a "Big One". It jumped twice. I said, "Big One, Big One!" Parker netted it. I got it in the boat and we high fived. It was a 6 pounder. We culled another fish.

I was fishing and got hung up on the bank. While I was busy shaking it off and getting it unhooked Parker was throwing a crank bait. He caught a 3 pounder and we culled our last fish. We felt we had a great day of fishing even though we were cut short 45 minutes by the delay.

We proudly pulled our fish out of the well and were excited to get in line to see what we had in our bag. We raced up the hill with Chance tagging along wagging his tail. I think he was proud of the fish we had in our bag. There were several anglers and captains







from Montgomery High School competing at this tournament. We got to the scales and we couldn't decide which one of our big fish was the largest so we weighed both of them. I caught one and so did Parker. My fish weighed 6-11. It was nice size but it was not the big fish for the night. There were two different guys that had 9 pounders. They put our 3 fish on the scale and the total weight was 15.55. That was a good bag, but there were still anglers in line so we had to wait to see the final out-



come. Then another team came up, they pulled a beast out of their bag. It weighed 9.4 pounds. We waited anxiously to see how much his total bag weight was. Luckily it was less than ours. I was scared when another guy pulled out 2 six pounders and was worried the third fish was going to be a 4 pounder. Thank goodness it was a 2 pounder. We talked to Mr. Clepper as we waited.

They announced all the winners and then they called out our names and we won first place. Parker and I caught fish on every spot. It was so much fun and I am glad I fished.  
**THROW IT OUT, POP IT IN, FISH ON! ♦**







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# Lake Conroe FISHING REPORT



**BY: BUTCH TERPE  
AT STOW-A-WAY MARINA  
& R/V PARK**

**Black Bass:** During the early morning hours I start out by fishing boat docks, rocks and bulkheads using shallow running crank baits or Texas Rigged plastic worms. Once the early morning bite slows down I like to concentrate on deeper structures like pond dams, roadbeds and main lake points in 8'-15' depths. This is when the Carolina Worm Rig works best because you can use a heavier weight on this rig and stay in contact with the bottom more than with the Texas Rig.

**Crappie:** Crappie action usually slows down some, but by fishing minnows and small jigs around bridge pilings and brush you should be able to catch a fair mess of these fish.

**White Bass & Hybrid Striped Bass:** This is a great time of year to catch a good number of white bass along with some hybrids. They tend to school together around main lake points and humps and near both islands on the south part of the lake. I like to troll pet spoons behind deep diving crank baits in order to catch and locate these fish.

**Catfish:** Catfish are very active during this time of year. Early morning hours until noon is when they seem to bite the best. I start out by baiting up an area with range cubes to heat up the action. Then by using either shrimp, chicken liver or dip baits you shouldn't have any trouble catching a good mess of cats. ♦

~~~~~

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