



DOCK LINE

Lake Conroe

MAGAZINE

July 2020

GRASTEN
POWER TECHNOLOGIES LLC

Giving Power to the People

How Grasten Power Technologies Is Keeping the Lights on for Lake Conroe Communities with Standby Generators *See page 8*



Enjoying Lake Conroe After Stay-At-Home Orders Have Been Lifted

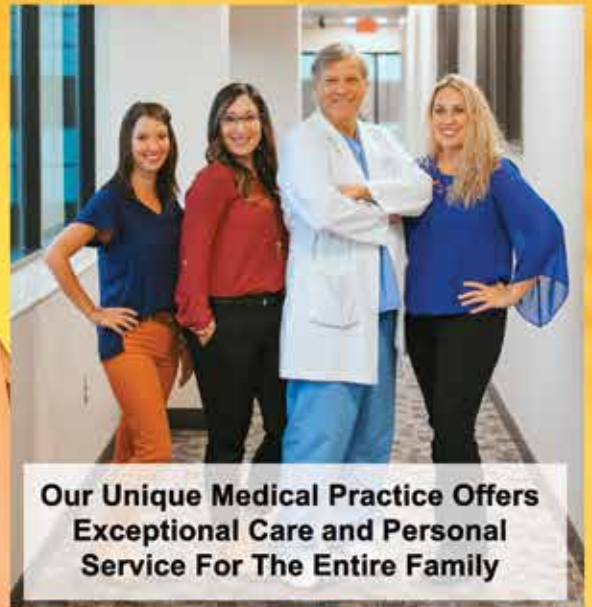
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Unbeatable charm & character describe this one-of-a-kind home that is perfectly situated on 2 private lots w/in close proximity to all Bentwater has to offer (54 holes of Golf, 2 pools, tennis, sports club, restaurants, marina + more)! This home commands 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. \$815,000**



2.47 acres located within ONE MILE of Highway 105 at Lake Conroe and minutes from FM1488/ The Woodlands! With 250+ feet on McCaleb road and great visibility from the recently expanded thoroughfare - This tract has many possibilities to the end user - commercial, residential or a mix-use idea. There is a single family home located on the property that is updated and currently houses a tenant. **907 McCaleb Road in Montgomery ML# 19875490. \$619,000**



Residential, Commercial or Both? Featuring almost 3.5 acres of land with a house + metal building within minutes from FM 3083, N Loop 336 E, I-45 + Hwy 105 and borders the unimproved area of E Semands Avenue; so many possibilities & options! The front 1.5 acres boast a 5 bedroom/3.5 bathroom/2 car garage home that was recently painted and well-kept plus a 40x30 metal building w/insulated ceiling, three - 12x12 Ft Roll

Up Doors, Piped for Compressed Air, 220v electrical in place, covered exterior parking/storage and a fully secured front entrance w/electric gates. The interior offers so much space! A large living room w/fireplace, an island kitchen w/great cabinet space, breakfast room + formal dining room. One bedroom downstairs (used as a home office) with a full bathroom. 4 bedroom upstairs with 2 full bathrooms.

901 Shady Lane, Woodland Estates in Conroe. ML# 10834808. \$495,000



Welcome to the Lake Lifestyle w/unmatched views of the Lake + sunrises/sunsets that are worth millions! Situated on 1.5 lots this Lake Conroe waterfront has over 1,000 square feet of outdoor deck w/unobstructed views of the Lake, the upper deck walks out from main area allowing for great entertainment, the ground level deck allows for Lakeside fishing/boating/swimming or just relaxing & the side yard is equipped w/a play area. The interior will immediately WOW w/views from wall-to-wall! The main level is the updated kitchen w/granite, tile backsplash, solid wood cabinets, breakfast bar w/seating. The living room has 2 full walls of windows, fireplace, door leading to deck. Second floor- Master bedroom w/2 walls of windows, cathedral ceiling, walk out door to private deck overlooking the Lake, 2 walk-in closets, fireplace, double sinks, walk-in shower + tub. 2 secondary bedrooms offer walk-in closets. The lower level is the gameroom w/walk-out door to lower deck (could be 4th bedroom).

183 Capetown, April Sound in Montgomery. ML# 76779354. \$450,000



Five unrestricted acres off Hwy 30 - The opportunity is here! Recent upgrades include: New exterior siding (cement board), new roof, complete AC/Heat system (units, duct work, vents, all of it!), New windows in some of the house and a recent electric panel.

109 Didlake Road in Huntsville ML# 71619903. \$235,000



Don't miss this hidden Gem in the quiet Lake-front neighborhood of Diamondhead in Montgomery that offers boat launch + neighborhood pool! This 3 bedroom/2 full bathroom home has been updated and well-kept! The interior greets with solid wood floors, cathedral ceiling in the living room w/wood beam ceiling accent, fireplace and a sliding glass door that leads to a large covered back deck & the fully fenced backyard.

The kitchen overlooks the living room and boasts an oversized island with granite counters, stove/cooktop, seating and great in-island storage options + SS appliances, pantry w/French doors, full extension drawers, breakfast area + formal dining room. The Master bedroom provides a cozy atmosphere with warm wood floors, wall of windows, private door leading to the back deck, upgraded walk-in shower, double sinks and two closets. The secondary bedrooms are spacious and both have walk-in closets! Features - New Roof 2019, Remodeled 2016.

28823 Diamondhead S, Diamondhead in Montgomery ML# 13643508. \$222,000



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

that will be great for entertaining and a stunning backsplash. Nice Master bedroom with an awesome shower and great storage. The two secondary rooms will be spacious w/great storage. Pictures are of the same floor plan but different houses located in the same neighborhood!

805 W Omeara, Lake Conroe Village in Montgomery ML# 89637679. \$125,900



2 bedroom, 2 bathroom fully furnished condo, Second Floor Unit and all located in the Golf Course/Waterfront community of Walden. Well-maintained, walking distance to pool and golf course, next to the Cafe/Pro Shop/Driving Range. Montgomery ISD! More units available-one and two bedrooms. Call or email for more information.

13151 Walden Road #120, Inverness Condos in Montgomery ML# 73093332. \$995 LEASE

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Just like June, July is shaping up to be like no other we have ever experienced. As we are continuing to learn what new normal behaviors are expected of us with changing variables on a daily basis it gets to be a bit confusing. Nobody seems to know what normal even looks like anymore. Here at Dock Line we will continue to be here to support our community, since now more than ever our community needs all of our support. As we continue to navigate the new waters of this ever changing summer, just know we will still have beach days and cookouts but 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 but throughout it all, the message remains 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 get through this unprecedented time. If we all stick together we will be stronger than ever. Until next month,



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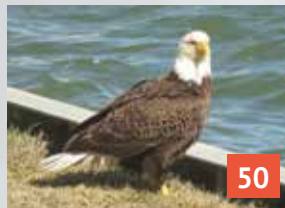


table of CONTENTS

JULY 2020



22



50



56

ON THE COVER

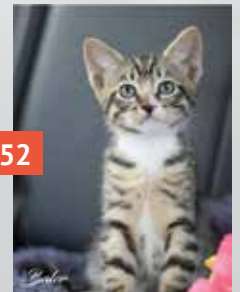


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- 8 Giving Power to the People
How Grasten Power Technologies Is Keeping the Lights on for Lake Conroe Communities with Standby Generators
- 13 A Crash Course in Insurance
- 14 Back to Health
- 16 Not Another Fad Diet - How Healthy Figures Houston is helping people successfully lose the weight and keep it off
- 21 The Lone Star Convention & Expo Center: Upcoming Public Events
- 22 SJRA: Enjoying Lake Conroe After Stay-At-Home Orders Have Been Lifted
- 26 Now what?? - Some answers from STAGE RIGHT of Texas
- 30 Home Loan Relief Is Available for Veterans with VA Home Loans
- 34 It's All In YOUR HEAD
- 35 Clear Direction for Your Retirement™
- 36 Life Line a Doctor's INSIGHT
- 38 Catch 'Em, Clean 'Em & Eat 'Em
- 39 From the Chairman's Desk
- 42 LEGAL ISSUES: Trust or Not to Trust
- 44 Online with Dock Line: The Truth About Running a Successful Online Business - 7 Things You Need to Understand About Making Money Online
- 46 Garden Thyme
- 50 Fishing Hole Nature: Celebrating Our American Bald Eagle
- 52 Celebrating The 4TH of July...
What Does It Mean To Animals?
- 54 Creatures from the Deep
- 56 Friends of Texas Wildlife: It's a Bird...It's a Crane; No, It's a Heron
- 58 Fishing Adventures with Derek Pietsch
- 60 Lake Conroe Fishing Report
- 61 Fish News



26



52



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DOCK LINE MAGAZINE is published by:
Dock Line Magazine, Inc.
P.O. Box 1203, Willis, TX 77378
Telephone: 936-890-7234
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Subscriptions to DOCK LINE MAGAZINE
cost \$25.00 per year. To subscribe, mail a check with your
name and address to:
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Willis, TX 77378

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Giving Power to the People



How Grasten Power Technologies Is Keeping the Lights on for Lake Conroe Communities with Standby Generators

By: Brian Sherman



In 2005, Hurricane Rita, like many major storms that have come through Texas, came with little warning and left an unprecedented amount of damage in its path. The major storms that came in the years that followed proved just as devastating in their own ways. Hurricane Ike left 2.1 million people without power, and Hurricane Harvey, along with devastating flooding, caused power outages for over 500,000 people. For many, it took weeks to have full power restored.

It was after that nightmare of a storm, Hur-



ricane Rita, that Grasten Power Technologies was started. Joshua Keller of Grasten saw the gaping hole in the standby generator industry and knew it needed to be filled the right way. With hundreds of thousands of people without power, the demand for backup generators skyrocketed. However, the biggest problem wasn't that people couldn't get a standby generator, but the service was missing. "With Rita, we saw that there really weren't enough good, quality installers and good, quality service companies. You had a lot of bad installations and very few people were taking care of the generators." He adds. "We wanted to come in and provide five-star service, along with top quality installations."

Grasten quickly became the best standby generator installer in the region. "We have THE best reviews in the generator industry. On every review site, we are five-star rated, with hundreds of reviews," says Joshua Keller. "I can confidently say that we are the best generator installation company in the region."

In fact, Grasten's customers seem to strongly agree:

"I cannot thank you all enough for handling our generator needs. Not only was your quote lower than your competitors, we also ended up with a larger generator. The entire experience was nothing short of amazing. Everyone was always prompt, efficient, professional, and always willing to help or make changes as needed. Could not be more pleased and hope to work with you all again for my personal generator needs"

—Karen P.

If you've ever lost power to your home for even just a few hours, you know how inconvenient and stressful it can be. So, if you're wondering if a standby generator is right for you, let's take a look at two of the biggest reasons

hundreds of homeowners are having them installed in their homes this year:

Natural Disasters

If you've lived in southeast Texas for even just a short time, you know the real threat that hurricanes bring to the area. Nearly every year, it seems we are threatened by another looming storm churning off the Gulf or in the Atlantic, slowly working its way to the Texas coast. People can panic, causing gridlocked traffic as people evacuate and empty shelves in stores as people prepare for the worst, buying food and supplies. Not to mention, these storms bring a high chance of losing power to your home - maybe for days and weeks.

With a standby generator, you'll never have to worry about losing power. In fact, the instant your home loses power, your home will be powered by your generator. You'll never notice the switch.

Failing Infrastructure

The Greater Houston and Lake Conroe areas are growing fast. More and more homes and businesses are moving into the area and the strain on our power grids is scary. Our electrical grids are in great need of renovations and upgrades, and frequent power outages are becoming commonplace. "The grid infrastructure is really, really, old and failing us more and more" warns Joshua. "And they're expecting more storms and more power outages." Even with advancements in renewable energy like solar power coming in the future, the gap is ever widening and the strain on the electrical grid is only growing.

It's easy to get a standby generator installed in your home. In fact, if you're building a new home right now, it's the perfect time to

Continued on page 10 ➞



install a standby generator. It can be installed much more aesthetically and efficiently with your new build.

So, you might be thinking now that a standby generator could save you a lot of stress and uncertainty. With hurricane here, the chances of you losing power is about to go through the roof. Now might be the perfect time to invest in a standby generator for your home.

More affordable than you think - especially now.

Before you worry that a standby generator is going to be too expensive, Grasten makes it easy to afford one for your home, on pretty much any budget - especially considering the economic season we are going into with the shutdown. As Joshua Keller explains, "We want to be respectful of everyone's health and time. We understand we're going through trying times. For that reason, we have zero-down financing and zero interest for 18 months, and payments as low as \$100 a month. Even someone on social security can afford it."

You don't have to break the bank to secure your home with dependable power.

Special programs for you right now.

Are you a Centerpoint Energy customer? Grasten has a special offer of up to \$1,500 off a qualifying generator, and for a limited time,

when you purchase a Kohler generator, you'll also get a free 10-year extended warranty, worth up to \$1,795.

Also, Grasten is offering a special deal on Generac generators. Right now, you can receive a 10-year warranty and your first year of maintenance FREE with your qualifying purchase - a \$1,395 value.

If you already own a standby generator Grasten can provide all the maintenance on it regularly so you'll never have to worry about it not working when you need it.

Social Distancing? No Problem.

Grasten is paving the way to make their service as safe and customer-friendly as possible. "We have developed a virtual in-home consultation service," says Joshua. Customers can work with a Grasten technician over a video chat to identify generator issues and determine the service necessary. "We also have a self-site survey link on our website where a customer can walk through the process of choosing the right generator before contacting us directly," Joshua adds. "And generator installs are done outside - you'll never have to come in contact with us." In addition, Grasten is offering a no-touch service all around, including email receipts and digital paperwork.

Leading the Way in the Face of Uncertainty

As many businesses are shutting down, slowing down, or stuck in a holding pattern, waiting out the pandemic, Grasten is pushing forward. In early May, they closed on a new facility to expand their operations. As Joshua explains, "This is huge for us. It's a two acre piece of property, right off the highway. We're going to be building a 13,000 sq. ft. corporate headquarters." Despite the uncertainty, Grasten is growing into the future to provide even better service and care for their community. "We've become a staple in the generator industry. We're now one of the largest generator dealers in Texas. This new corporate headquarters is going to be good for us."

Hurricane season is here. Don't wait. Get a standby generator installed and never worry about losing power again.

If you'd like to get a free quote on a standby generator for your home, contact Grasten Power Technologies today. Call them at 281-259-6500 or fill out the easy form online at www.grastengenerators.com. Their sales and service staff are available Monday - Friday from 8am to 4:30pm, and their emergency service team is available 24/7. ♦

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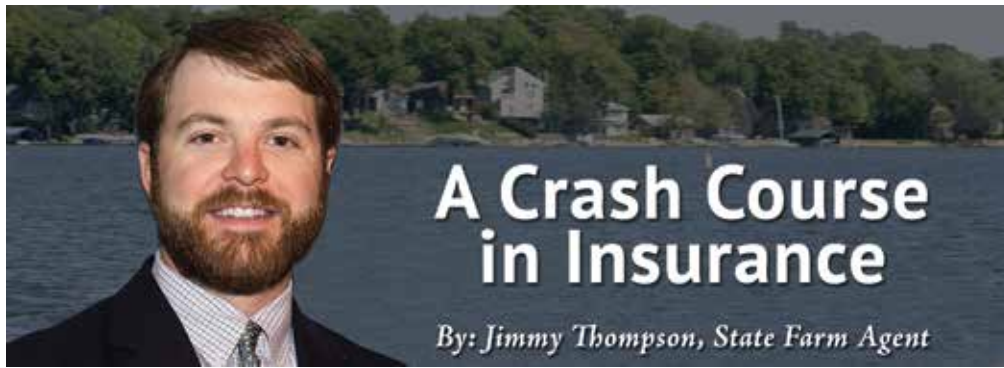
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Do you need flood insurance? It may be the million dollar question! Or at least a very important question!

If your home is in a designated flood zone, then sure.....your lender probably requires that you have flood insurance OR it's just a smart financial decision for your household. But what about those homes that don't fall in the flood zone, that haven't flooded before? Do you need flood insurance? As an agent that has seen flooded home after flooded home, many without flood insurance, it's hard to say no. What I will say is this – at least KNOW what your options are before you say YES or NO!



1.) Flood Insurance is NOT included in your Homeowners policy – but must be purchased as a separate policy.

2.) A flood policy can be as low as \$516 a year and the cost will vary depending on the value of your home, your flood risk, your coverage options, etc.

3.) Most flood policies have a 30-day waiting period before coverage begins (So no – you cannot wait until a storm is tracking for the Texas coast to get coverage).

4.) A flood insurance policy will cover your home up to \$250,000.

To find out more – our team is happy to help. Give us a call or stop by either of our office locations! ♦

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Back to Health

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



"Little League" Elbow



What is it?

Medial Epicondylitis, the medical term for "Little League" elbow, is inflammation of the wrist flexor muscles that attach to the elbow. It is a tendonitis condition of the elbow usual-

ly caused by forceful, repetitive and excessive forward bending of the wrist (like after releasing a baseball). However, in the younger population, the weaker structure within the elbow complex can be the growth plates of the elbow. Injury to these growth plates (apophyses) can be compression, distraction, or torsion related during the mechanics of the throwing motion. Growth plate injuries that are not treated properly can cause life-long limitations and should be avoided at all cost.

An injury that is far more encompassing than epicondylitis, is an ulnar collateral ligament rupture. This ligament takes an abundance of stress/strain during the throwing motion and a tear to this structure will result in "Tommy John" surgery to repair the ligament to return to a pain-free throwing motion.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms of "Little League" elbow typically begin with pain during activity and can progress toward a more constant pain, with or without activity. It is usually a generalized ache with sharp point tenderness to the inside of the elbow. Sharp twinges of pain occur with use of the flexor muscles. It is not uncommon for a moderate to severe case to produce a "squeaky gate" type feeling to the elbow known as crepitus. This is caused by inflammation and excessive deposition of scar tissue into the tendon, known as tendonosis.

**Note - at any time, if there is a limitation of elbow motion, or symptoms persist for longer than 4 weeks, see your doctor immediately.*



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How can I treat "Little League" elbow?

Step 1 - Prevent the injury by limiting the repetition of throws and gradually build up the strength, speed and frequency of throwing, always avoiding throwing through discomfort.

*Utilize a preseason throwing conditioning program.

Step 2 - Recognize the problem, don't try to ignore the pain.

Step 3 - If there is pain...Begin a course of over-the-counter anti-inflammatories (ibuprofen or naproxen) on a consistent basis (ibuprofen-400mg 3x's/day for 2 wks or naproxen-200mg every 12 hours for 2 wks). Note - if you have any stomach, liver or kidney issues, please discuss the medications with your PCP (primary care physician).

Step 4 - Avoid or significantly reduce the aggravating activities.

Step 5 - Stretch the wrist flexors as demonstrated in the attached picture. As with any stretching, it should be done 5-6x-s per day with each stretch being held for 10 seconds-each session should last 3-4 mins.

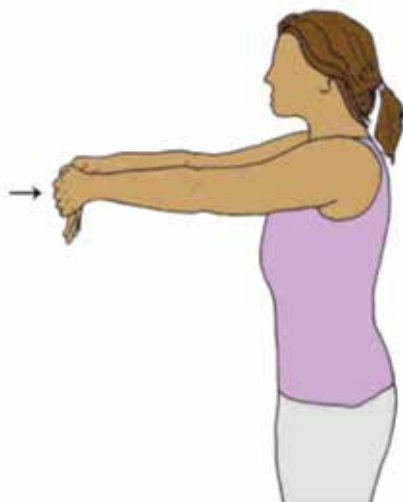
Step 6 - Contrast Ice-Heat-Ice-Heat-Ice applications to the medial elbow changing every 3 minutes (a total of 15 mins.) a minimum of 3 times daily.

Directions-Little League Elbow Stretch

1. Extend your affected arm in front of you, elbow straight with your palm up.

2. Using the uninvolved hand, press the affected wrist downward and gently twist the wrist to turn the thumb in a downward direction (supination).

3. Hold this position for a minimum of 10 seconds and repeat for a 3-5 minute timeframe.



Dr. Custer is the chiropractor at Better Care Chiropractic & Physical Therapy. He is a doctor of chiropractic as well as a former certified Athletic Trainer with previous work duties working as the Gettysburg Area High School Head Trainer/Health Teacher, Philadelphia Eagles Football Club Seasonal Assistant Trainer, and athletic trainer for Bryn Mawr Sports Medicine Center.

If you have questions/comments/suggestions, please feel free to contact Dr. Custer at why-bettercare@gmail.com. ♦

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Not Another Fad Diet

How Healthy Figures
Houston is helping people
successfully lose the weight
and keep it off



BY: HANNAH SHERMAN



Do you find yourself looking in the mirror or down at the scale and not happy with what you see? Has your favorite pair of jeans betrayed you by not wanting to zip up? Are you shocked by your weekly pill box no longer being able to contain all of your prescriptions? So many of us have found ourselves here. Lost. Guilt-ridden. Questioning ourselves. "How did I get here?" So often these feelings trigger us to grab that bag of Cheetos, or a row of Oreos or a pint of Blue Bell. We get caught in this unhealthy cycle. We don't want to be here, but we have "tried everything" and haven't found an answer. But what if this time was different?

Healthy Figures Houston is a weight loss clinic and treatment center dedicated to promoting a healthy lifestyle and creating an environment for your success. Owner Theresa Grider and her knowledgeable staff are there to support and encourage you every step of the way. With their medically supervised programs, either with Appetite Suppressant (prescription only) or a Holistic Approach (all natural) which uses specifically designed Amino Acids to help curb your appetite, you can expect excellent results.

What makes the Healthy Figures plans different from other weight loss programs is that the staff offers one-on-one counseling and continuous support encouraging you every step of the way. They have cultivated a warm, relaxed environment that is inviting rather than intimidating. From the moment you walk in you are greeted by Lorraine Gengo at the front desk and are well taken care of by the Medical Director, Dr. Awobokun, and Nurse Practitioner, Tina Spruell.

One social media reviewer said, "If you are looking for a place to help you lose weight and live a healthier lifestyle, look no further. This place is amazing! The staff truly care about you and provide encouragement and guidance every step of your journey."

Continued on page 18 ➞

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— Joy Iannone

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Countless other reviews echo this sentiment and when told about the praise and acclaim, Theresa teared up and spoke about how much she appreciates each client and how they have impacted her life as well.

In September of 2010, Theresa visited her sister and brother-in-law in East Texas and was astounded by the seemingly miraculous weight loss of her brother-in-law. He went from hardly being able to walk a few feet without getting winded, unable to help maintain their 50 acres and care for their livestock, to being up helping feed the animals and 30 pounds lighter, all in about a month. She returned home and immediately joined her local Healthy Figures franchise.

Now the owner and operator of Healthy Figures Houston, Theresa is a testament to the success of this program.

"Within four months, I was off all my medicine. Three kinds of blood pressure meds, cholesterol meds and nitro for chest pains... I lost 136 pounds the first year. This plan saved my life! And it's easy. It's just eating healthy foods, knowing what foods to eat and when," said Theresa.

Healthy Figures boasts about their many supplements that give you natural energy, boost your metabolism, combat weight loss plateaus and food cravings.

"We have all kinds of supplements and have kept the prices as low as possible. Of course you can lose weight without them, but they just make it a lot easier and a lot faster," explained Theresa.

So many people, men and women of all different ages have benefitted from this program, seeing weight melt away and medications rendered unnecessary, all because they have beaten it with nutrition.

"I think the fact that they lose weight so quickly and so easily is the biggest surprise of all," says Theresa. "And once I can convince them to drink a gallon of water a day then they're really surprised. Water makes such a difference in your life. It flushes all the toxins out and you drop weight like crazy!"

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic,

Americans have been social distancing themselves and staying home. No longer as active and more prone to stress eating, many have packed on extra weight and embraced unhealthy habits. Jokes about gaining the "Quarantine 15" are circulating social media sites. Though we may try to laugh it off, we all know the long-term effects of stress and stress related weight gain can be detrimental to both our waistline and overall health.

Since reopening, the Healthy Figures Houston community is growing. Friends and relatives who have seen amazing results are returning and referring others to try out the programs that have helped them reach their weight loss goals.

"Past customers are coming back because they want to take control over this and one thing they can manage is what they put into their bodies, and not let stress hormones take control and make them gain the weight back," said Nurse Practitioner Tina Spruell.

If you are looking to have more energy, get in shape, lose pounds and inches, and be healthy again, all while feeling supported and championed, contact Healthy Figures Houston at (281) 298-2599 or info@healthyfigureshouston.com. You may request a consultation and learn more at their website www.healthyfigureshouston.com. ♦

Continued on page 20 ➞







Convention & Expo Center

Upcoming Public Events

You can also access the Public Events
at www.thelonestar.org

(These events are subject to change)

DATE	EVENT/OCCUPANT	CONTACT INFO	FACILITY	GENERAL INFORMATION
JULY 2020				
7/9/2020	MCCD Public Hearing	936/538-8060	Convention Center	5:30 - 6:30 pm
7/14/2020	Box 44 - Primary Runoff Election	936/539-7843	Convention Center	7 am - 7 pm
7/25-26/2020	High Caliber Gun Show	texasgunshows.com	Convention Center	Sat: 9 am - 5 pm Sun: 10 am - 4 pm
AUGUST 2020				
8/1/2020	ABR Houston AllStars 2020	spacecity.frenchies@gmail.com	Fairgrounds	11 am - 6:30 pm
8/1/2020	Bulls, Bands, and Barrels	bullsbandsandbarrels.com	Expo	7 - 11:30 pm Doors open at 5:30 pm
8/1/2020	Montgomery County Funky Junque Gypsy Market	holidayextravaganza@yahoo.com	Convention Center	10 am - 5 pm
8/8/2020	COVID-19 Paso Fino Schooling Show S.W.P.F.H.A.	ellenperez@consolidated.net	Expo	10 am - 6 pm
8/8/2020	Woods & Water Kids Banquet	woodsandwaterkids.org	Convention Center	6:30 - 10:30 pm
8/10/2020	CLCC State of the State	936/538-7101	Convention Center	11:30 am - 1:30 pm
8/21-22/2020	Cox ATA Martial Arts	coxata.com	Convention Center	Fri: 7 - 9 pm Sat: 7:30 am - 5 pm
8/29-30/2020	Montgomery County Home & Garden Show	montgomerycountyhomeandgarden.com	Convention Center	Sat: 9 am - 6 pm Sun: 10 am - 5:30 pm



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Enjoying Lake Conroe After Stay-At-Home Orders Have Been Lifted



With stay-at-home orders being lifted, school ending early, and summer here, the number of boats on Lake Conroe waters increases every single day. The lake level is bobbing at 200 feet above mean sea level (msl), which is one foot down from the conservation pool level of 201 feet msl. As always, with any level, there is the need to keep an eye out for water haz-



ards. With the start of boating season, the San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) wants to remind boaters of some basic water safety rules.

Underway means not at anchor, made fast to the shore or aground.

Know who can operate a boat. Any person who is at least 13 years of age and born after September 1, 1993, must complete an approved Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) boater education course before jumping in the driver's seat. A person less than 13 years of age is only permitted to operate personal water craft (PWC) vessels with motors of less than 15 horsepower and sail-



Examples of watercraft are: boat, Jet Ski, motorized ski-board, Sea Doo

boats less than 14 feet in length when accompanied on board by a person who is 18 years of age or older.

Have the proper safety equipment. All personal flotation devices (PFDs) must be U.S.



Coast Guard approved, in serviceable condition, readily accessible, and of the appropriate size for the intended user. All children under 13 years of age in motorboats that are under 26 feet in

The law requires that certain equipment be kept on board at all times, and other items are simply a good idea. You can obtain a complete list of both required and recommended equipment through the TPWD website at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/>.

length must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD while underway. Put on your flotation device and make sure it fits properly before you enter the water. When already in the water, buoyancy, stress and anxiety of the moment can put you in danger. Check your flotation fit before you board your boat.

Fire extinguishers are another required item that is all too often forgotten. It is essential that your fire extinguisher is accessible and charged. When used early enough a fire extinguisher can make a huge difference and possibly save the entire boat and those onboard. Also, extinguishers need to be checked regularly. Don't forget about the routine maintenance.

Drive safe. Alcohol is the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents. In Texas, it is illegal to operate a watercraft with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 or higher. The penalties for a boating while intoxicated (BWI) are the same as for driving while intoxicated (DWI): First conviction carries a fine up to \$2,000 and/

That's right...just like it is against the law to drive a car on the road while being impaired, getting behind the wheel of a watercraft will result in the same punishments.

or up to 180 days in jail. Second conviction carries a fine up to \$4,000 and/or jail time up to one year. Third conviction carries a fine up to \$10,000 and/or 2-10 years in jail. According to law enforcement, a person's driver's license will be automatically suspended if operating an engine-powered watercraft having a manufacturer's rating of 50 horsepower or above and the person refuses to provide a specimen (breath or

Continued on page 24 ➞

What's that strange boat?

While out enjoying the Lake this spring you may encounter an unfamiliar looking boat. SJRA has contracted with the Texas Water Development Board to conduct a volumetric and sedimentation survey of Lake Conroe. The survey will serve a number of purposes. First, it will provide for an estimate of the volume of water impounded in the lake at a given water surface elevation. A comparison of data derived from the current survey with that from previous surveys will allow for a determination of the approximate loss in capacity of



the Lake as expressed in acre-feet per year. Water volume, when provided in acre-feet, is simply a measure of surface area in acres multiplied by depth in feet. For example, a one acre area that is one foot deep is one acre-foot of water (the equivalent of 325,851 gallons). Data obtained from this effort will also be utilized in long-term water supply planning and will allow for the development of a contour map of the lake bottom. The last time that a survey of this nature was performed on Lake Conroe was during the summer of 2010. The survey vessel itself, which is rather conspicuous, is equipped with a multi-frequency depth sounder and global positioning system that allow for the collection and storage of survey data.



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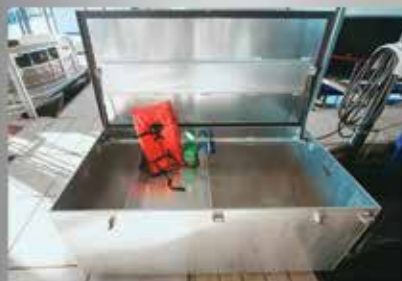
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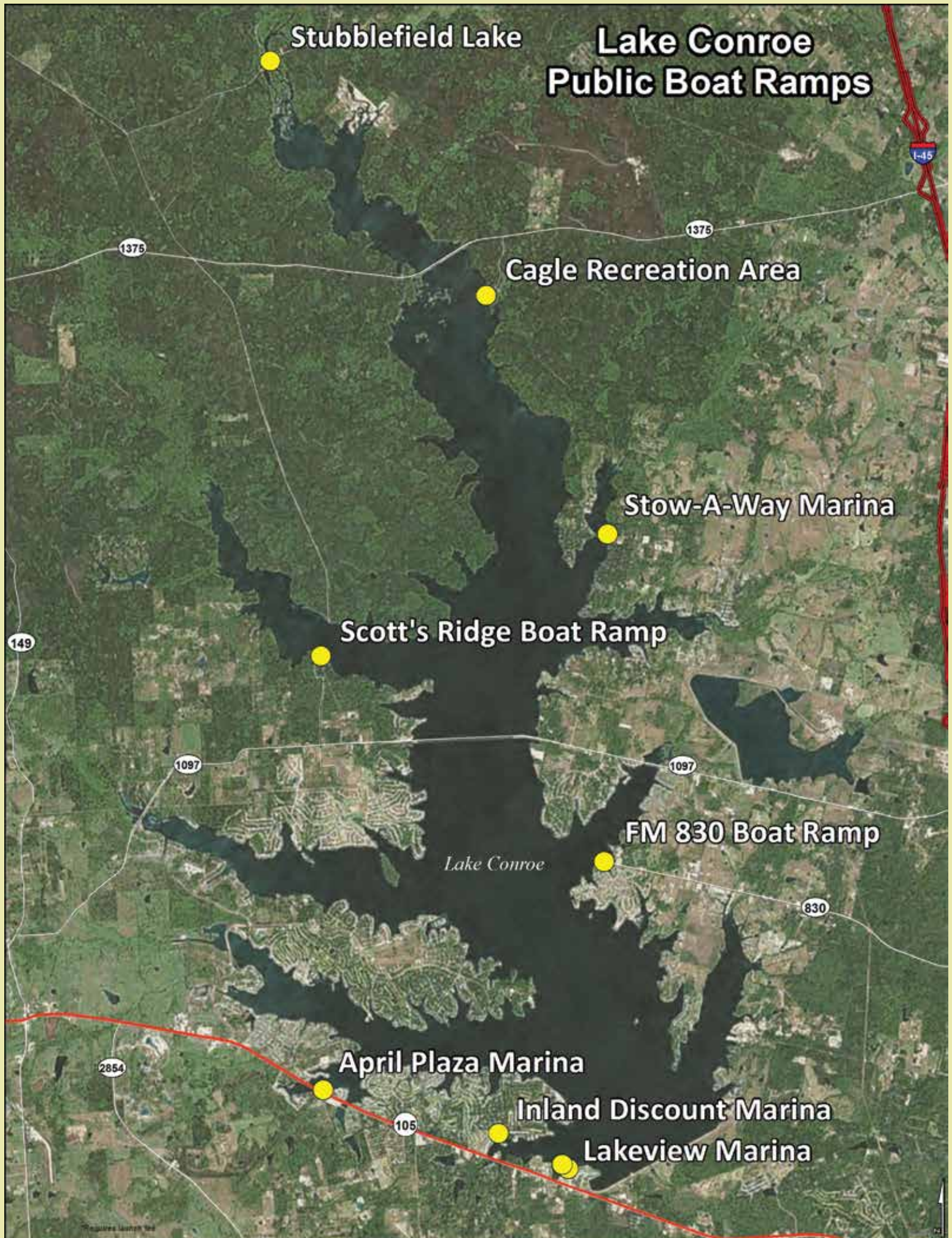


The Bison ProFab "Big Stick" Rod Box (\$635)
will securely store up to six, 6' long rods and reels

When your boating plans for the day don't include putting a line in the water, the Rod Box keeps your expensive gear out of the way and protected from an errant footstep! Some of our customers are also using the Rod Box to secure and store their trolling motors – contact us for more details. It's also a convenient place to keep that extra set of boat keys – just in case!



Both the Rod Box and Dock Box are fabricated from 5052 aluminum, feature welded construction and stainless steel hardware. The boxes are vented and the doors/lids are gasketed to protect your belongings from the weather. The Rod Box has a key locking latch handle and the Dock Box features a padlock hasp on the lid. The lid also has compression struts that will hold the lid open. Both units have a mill aluminum finish. Powder coating is available upon request.



Lake Conroe Public Boat Ramps

Stubblefield Lake

Cagle Recreation Area

Stow-A-Way Marina

Scott's Ridge Boat Ramp

FM 830 Boat Ramp

April Plaza Marina

Inland Discount Marina

Lakeview Marina

Lake Conroe

blood) to determine intoxication. The period of suspension for first time offenders is 180 days.

Common sense reminders:

- Communicate to someone that is not going with you, where you plan to go and when you Plan to return
- Take a waterproof cell phone on board with you
- Keep a list of emergency numbers handy
- Be aware that the conditions on the lake can, and often do, change in an instant
- Keep a first aid kit on board
- Bring plenty of water for every passenger

"Accidents on the lake significantly increase during the summer months," said Lt. Tim Cade of the Montgomery County Precinct 1 Constable's marine division. "Since boating traffic and lake activity drastically pick up when temperatures rise, it is even more important to do your part by following safety precautions to guarantee a positive, fun, and safe trip to Lake Conroe.

Lake Conroe is a destination of choice for recreational enthusiasts from the greater Houston metropolitan area and across the State of Texas. Of course we want to make sure it stays that way, but, most importantly, we want every-

one to go home safely at the end of an outing.

You can find Lake Conroe rules and a map of the public boat ramps online at www.sjra.net/lakeconroe. For general questions concerning state boating laws you can go to the Texas Parks and Wildlife website at www.tpwd.state.gov.

One of the major river authorities in Texas, SJRA's mission is to develop, conserve, and protect the water resources of the San Jacinto

River basin. Covering all or part of seven counties, the organization's jurisdiction includes the entire San Jacinto River watershed, excluding Harris County. For additional information on SJRA visit our website at www.sjra.net, like SJRA on Facebook @SanJacintoRiverAuthority, follow us on Twitter @SJRA_1937, find us on Instagram @sanjacintoriverauthoritySJRA, or connect with us on LinkedIn @San Jacinto River Authority. ♦

Did you know that SJRA mows and weeds Ayers Island and the East beach? While you are on the water, check it out. Just remember to practice social distancing and dispose of your trash properly.





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STAGE RIGHT of Texas



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Now what?? Some answers from STAGE RIGHT of Texas

BY: CAROLYN CORSANO WONG

STAGE RIGHT of Texas, resident theatre company at the historic Crighton Theatre (you remember us, right?) has some answers for you in what we are hoping is the aftermath of a global pandemic.

Are you still doing *Peter Pan*?

Yes, we are producing *Peter Pan*. Out of an abundance of caution though, our board in consultation with the show's production team decided that it would be best to delay the show. The new dates for *Peter Pan* are September 11-27, 2020. So, *Peter Pan* will take the slot of the first show of our next season.

Why was *Peter Pan* delayed? I see people out and about and restaurants open and even other venues open?

As of press time for this article, live performance venues are currently under capacity restrictions and social distancing measures



are still in effect. With capacity restrictions in place, the 541 seat Crichton Theatre is reduced to a little over 150 seats. We lose money if we run a show with only that amount of folks in the audience especially an expensive show like *Peter Pan* that comes with the exorbitant cost to fly performers. Additionally, maintaining 6' distance is impossible on stage and backstage during a performance. Our cast and crew in preparation for a July show, as it was originally scheduled, would have to be in close proximity singing, dancing rehearsing, etc. much prior to July to be ready for a July performance. We just didn't feel comfortable having our artists put themselves at risk prior to July especially when guidelines from the CDC and the state have recommended distancing remain in place. Other venues may

Continued on page 28 ➡



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

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have decided not to abide by the distancing recommendations or perhaps they feel they are able to do so in their venue. Our venue has a reduced sized lobby area due to renovation construction and still only one toilet downstairs. People unable to climb the stairs to go to the upstairs restrooms would be out the door waiting to use the restroom in order to maintain social distance of 6'. Theatre is a contact sport and the backstage area at the Crighton is very close quarters. We have chosen to do what we felt is in the best interest of our artists, patrons and our organization.

If *Peter Pan* is now in September, what happens to the next season line-up of shows?

Moving *Peter Pan* from the last show slot of our 2019-2020 season to the first slot of our 2020-2021 season has obviously necessitated a re-shuffle of our new season. *Peter Pan* will replace *The Odd Couple* which was originally scheduled for September of 2020. Here is our show line-up going forward barring complete and total disaster:



Sept 11 – 27, 2020 – *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

Based on J.M. Barrie’s classic tale, *Peter Pan* is one of the most beloved and frequently performed family favorites of all time. This high-flying Tony Award-winning musical has been performed around the world and delighted audiences for 60 years.



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

The Little Sisters of Hoboken discover that their cook, Sister Julia, Child of God, has accidentally

poisoned 52 of the sisters, and they are in dire need of funds for the burials. The 5 remaining sisters decide that the best way to raise the money is to put on a variety show with riotous results.



Dec 4 – 20, 2020 – *Elf-The Musical* Based on the motion picture of the same name, with a score by Matthew Sklar and Chad Beguelin. The book is adapted by Bob

Martin and Thomas Meehan from the 2003 film.

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



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

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



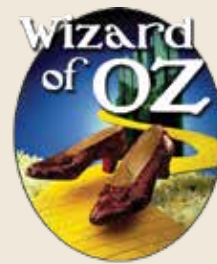
Apr 9-25, 2021 – *The Odd Couple* by Neil Simon

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



June 6-20, 2021
*M*A*S*H* Adapted by Tim Kelly from the book by Richard Hooker (this show was postponed from April of 2020)

*M*A*S*H* stands for Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, and joining it are two unpredictable madcaps, Hawkeye and Duke. They can’t be dealt with casually, however, because they are also two of the best chest surgeons in South Korea. They decide to wage a campaign to get a young Korean named Ho Jon to the United States and entered in a good school. If you loved the book and subsequent TV series, you’ll love the play.



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

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

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

What happened to Leaving Iowa: A Comedy About Family Vacations?

We decided to cut that show from the 2020-2021 season and replace it with the better known show *The Odd Couple* (that was bumped out of September to make way for *Peter Pan*). Don’t worry. We’ll most likely put it on our next season. It’s a delightful family friendly show and one that is sure to appeal to anyone that has travelled through our great country while sitting in the back seat with your siblings slowly driving your parents crazy.

Now, I’m real confused! I’m a season ticket holder and I already paid for some of these shows, how is that going to work??

Fear not. You will get what you paid for. For folks that had season tickets to our 2019-2020 season, you already paid for *Peter Pan* and *M*A*S*H*, so, when you renew your season subscription, you will be only charged for 5 shows (*Nunsense*, *Elf*, *Funny Girl*, *The Odd Couple* and *Wizard of Oz*).

If you were a season subscriber in 2019-2020 and already renewed for the 2020-2021 season and paid in full the \$125, we owe you a refund, or we can give you extra tickets to a show of your choosing. You can get that by contacting the box office at 936-441-7469. Remember we moved *M*A*S*H* to a June slot where we normally don’t do a show, but your tickets will still be good for that so you’ll have tickets to all 7 shows above.

If you are a new season subscriber, the lineup of 6 shows is *Peter Pan*, *Nunsense*, *Elf*, *Funny Girl*, *The Odd Couple* and *The Wizard of Oz*. If you’d like to purchase separate tickets to see *M*A*S*H* that will be an add on and you can either buy them online or call the box office and see if your season seats are available for the performance you’d like to attend.

You lost me. I’m still confused.

Don’t worry, this all looks far more confusing on paper than it really is. If you have questions, please call the Crighton box of-

fice and they can answer any questions you might have and get all your ticketing issues resolved.

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

Please keep up with the most current information regarding dates for shows on our website: www.stage-right.org or the Crighton Theatre website www.crightontheatre.org. Please keep safe, stay well and we look forward to seeing you in September (hey, that would make a great song title)! ♦



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

A resource for borrowers with loans insured or guaranteed by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), or the Rural Housing Service (RHS)

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Mortgage Payment Forbearance provides a mortgage payment moderation option for all borrowers who, either directly or indirectly, suffer a financial hardship due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) national emergency.

No documentation is required to prove your hardship beyond your assertion that you are suffering from such a hardship. However, if you can still make your mortgage payments, you should continue to do so.

A forbearance is a temporary postponement or reduction of mortgage payments. It is not payment forgiveness. Under the CARES Act, borrowers are entitled to an initial forbearance period of up to 180 days, upon a borrower's request. Also, upon a borrower's request, the forbearance must be extended for up to an additional 180 days. A borrower can, at any time the borrower chooses, shorten the forbearance and resume repayment of the loan.

Mortgage Payment Forbearance Request

To request this forbearance, do the following:

- Contact your mortgage servicer to request forbearance. Contact information is found on your monthly mortgage statement.

- Utilize servicers' websites or email as a primary method of communication and be patient. Servicers are facing large volumes of requests.

- Remember, the missed payments must be repaid, although they may be paid back over time. Forbearance of payments doesn't mean forgiveness of payments.

Mortgage Payment Forbearance

- Be sure to contact your servicer as soon as your hardship is over, or you can resume making your regular monthly mortgage payment to end the forbearance. Discuss what repayment options are available.

- If you were current on your mortgage when the CARES Act forbearance was granted, your mortgage servicer is required to report your account as current during the forbearance period to the Credit Reporting Agencies.

- If you were delinquent on your mortgage when the CARES Act Forbearance was requested, your mortgage servicer is required to maintain the delinquent status reported to the Credit Reporting Agencies during the forbearance period. However, if you bring your mortgage current during the forbearance period, your mortgage servicer is required to report the status as current.

Repayment Requirements for Veterans Affairs Mortgages

Servicers of VA loans cannot require borrowers to make a lump sum payment immediately after a borrower exits a CARES Act forbearance. VA has a suite of loss mitigation options that can assist Veteran borrowers who must repay amounts that were subject to a forbearance. In addition, VA is continuing to evaluate other options to further assist borrowers affected by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) national emergency. For additional information, please visit our website at www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/index.asp, where you can find a list of frequently asked CARES Act questions. In addition, you may call (877) 827-3702 to contact a VA Regional Loan Center.

Other Resources

- All homeowners (including those with FHA, VA and USDA loans) can use Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) "Find a Counselor" tool to find counseling agencies approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in your area. Online counseling is available.

- You can also call the HOPE™ Hotline, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at (888) 995-HOPE (4673).

For more finance-related information visit CFPB's coronavirus website www.consumerfinance.gov/coronavirus for mortgage relief options, tips to keep up on your finances, and more.

For more information on VA & State Benefits contact Montgomery County Veterans Service at 936-539-7842 or email at vetsvc@mctx.org. ♦

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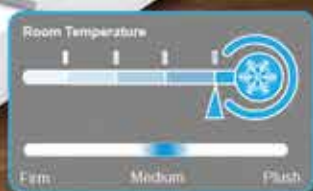
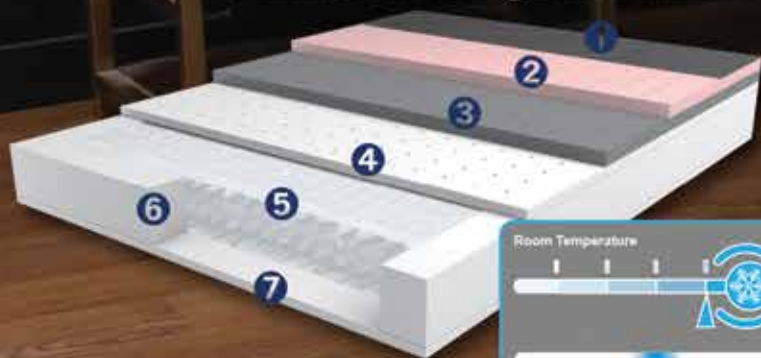
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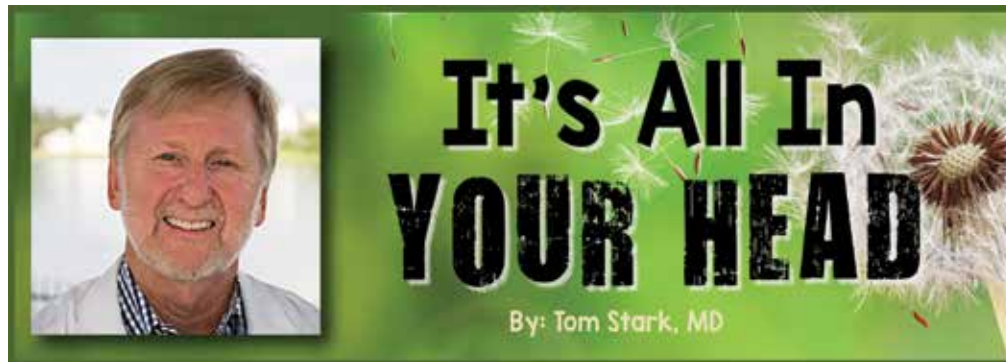
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Allergy Shots VS Drops

After completing my formal residency training in Otolaryngology (ENT) in 1983 I later completed a fellowship in Allergy in 1989. At that time all patients who tested positive for allergies were treated with desensitization therapy via injections "allergy shots".

The technique of shot immunotherapy had changed very little since the 1930s. The injections were administered in a doctor's office, usually once a week though that schedule might vary.

In Europe in the 1970s and 1980s allergists started treating patients with extracts of allergy causing pollen administered under the tongue. They found this to be an effective form of allergy desensitization. After multiple train-

ing courses in seminars I incorporated allergy drops, referred to as sublingual immunotherapy (SLIT) in the year 2000.

I am frequently asked, which is better shots or drops. Like so many areas and medicine this has been researched on multiple occasions through large studies performed mainly at Universities or other large medical centers. And the answer seems to be that as far as achieving desensitization from allergies both types of therapy are equally effective.

I consider myself to be a science-based physician analyzing evidence. However, after being in practice for over 35 years I realize that the practice of medicine is also an art. Just because scientific papers state that the shots and

the drops are equal in effectiveness does not mean that in an individual patient they are the same.

I have personally switched patients from shots to drops or vice versa and seen improved results using a different form of therapy. I still believe that in many patients injection therapy with conventional allergy drops done in a safe and standardized manner provides excellent relief of allergy symptoms, usually within 6 months or less of starting the treatment. But I also know drops will do that also.

Additionally, there is the issue of cost to the patient. Even though oral allergy drop therapy is recognized throughout the world to be effective and safe, the United States FDA has not approved it officially. The bottom line of this decision is that neither commercial medical insurance companies or Medicare will pay the cost of the drops. The cost is therefore up to the patient to pay.

In my office allergy injection shots are provided in a clean, sanitized setting by an experienced technician. Since the outbreak of coronavirus we have taken extra measures to maintain cleanliness and distancing between patients.

So the question of which is better to relieve your allergies, traditional shots or more modern drops under the tongue is answered on an individual patient-by-patient basis, and only after discussing the options fully. ♦

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10 Steps to Surviving a Layoff or Separation Package

With the markets rip-roaring as they have since March of this year (that's a strange event that could take up another article or two), many have been deceived as to the carnage that has been wrought due to the shuttering of the U.S. economy over Covid-19. Its effects will be felt for some time to come and the impact for millions of businesses and their employees will be less than optimal to say the least.

Although unemployment numbers nationally are improving, it's still really ugly and many are finding themselves in unfamiliar territory that can be both emotional and stressful. I am talking about layoffs and separation packages which have been quite high of late and there's another wave to follow with many companies as the federal PPP loan program deadlines come to an end. This will allow companies who took those loans to let employees go as needed without negating the forgiveness factor of their loan if they've met the requirements of the program.

If you are an employee or business owner who suddenly finds themselves out of work or facing the prospect of such an event, our prayers are with you and I want to give you 10 steps to help prepare you for what comes next.

1. KEEP CALM AND GET A PLAN

You think more clearly when you're not panicked. Take a deep breath and don't burn any bridges as you leave your employer. Do it with grace and respect and when things improve you might find that you are right back there working as they begin to restaff. Remember, many businesses will close their doors forever and the owners and managers are having to make some very tough decisions as well. It's not fun for either side. Furthermore, you need to immediately begin to plan financially for what you will do next. Don't wait!

2. EXAMINE YOUR LIVING EXPENSES

Most people have no idea what they spend monthly, that is a big problem with or without a job? With a layoff or separation package you need to know facts. Figure out quickly how much income is needed to survive. Once identified, this is your baseline expense for planning around it financially. Gather your financial

data, meet with a fiduciary planning professional and this will help you determine if you need to look for another job and what to do next one way or the other.

3. INVENTORY YOUR RESOURCES

What assets are available to help you meet your baseline expense need? Savings, checking, investment and retirement accounts (including pensions) are all possible candidates. Even real estate and royalties. The CARES Act will also allow workers who lose employment to withdraw up to \$100,000 from a qualified plan without the usual 10% penalty if you are under 59.5 years of age (taxes would still be owed however).

4. SEVERANCE PAY

Although severance is not mandatory in the U.S., many employers offer it. Don't forget to factor this into the equation. It's not unusual for these packages to provide 6-12 months of income and can even include continued medical benefits for a period of time depending on the employer. This can buy you some valuable time while planning your next steps.

5. UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

If you've lost your job through no fault of your own (like a layoff) you may be eligible for unemployment. On average this replaces 40-45% of your weekly income and the maximum weeks of benefit allowed are state dependent (Texas is 26 weeks). Additionally, under the CARES Act, if you qualify you may also receive federal unemployment of \$600 per week until the deadline (currently 7/31/20 as of this writing).

6. EVALUATE YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE OPTIONS

If your company offers to pay for an extended period of medical coverage, great! If you're at least 65, it could be better to go the Medicare route. If not, depending on your circumstance, you may be eligible for COBRA (Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act) benefits of 18 or 36 months. COBRA is typically more expensive than what you're used to paying with your employers offset to the expense.

Another option is to evaluate the individual insurance market for relief with a less expensive plan. However, benefits may not be as good and the special

pandemic enrollment window is limited to 60 days in 2020. Check out www.healthcare.gov for more information.

7. GET A NEW SOCIAL SECURITY ESTIMATE

This can help your financial professional determine when is best to start your income. Don't skimp on getting comprehensive financial planning in this regard. Your professional should have your best interest at heart, not theirs.

8. EVALUATE PENSION OPTIONS

Annuity payments? Lump-sum? Is your pension even available to you? Your financial planner should help you optimize what is best for your situation. Gather your pension estimate options and get started. There is not a one-size-fits-all solution to this area of evaluation and it can be complex integrating this cash flow into your long-range plan.

9. DO YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO WORK?

No seriously, some folks love to work and don't ever plan on retiring formally. However, work is a lot different if done because you want to instead of because you feel like you have to. Knowing you can stop working if desired can be very freeing to working itself.

10. SEEK PROFESSIONAL HELP!

You are not alone and surviving a layoff or separation can be doable with some planning and perspective. Let us help you put the retirement pieces of your financial puzzle into place. It might just reduce your stress, liberate you from worry and hopefully give you Clear Direction for Your Retirement.



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Macular Degeneration

As many as 11 million people have some form of Macular Degeneration. It is projected to double in 2050 according to Bright Focus Foundation. Macular Degeneration or AMD typically affects those 75 and older with a ¼ chance of this population acquiring the condition. Those who acquire AMD under the age of 75 are at greater risk of blindness.

There are two types of Macular Degeneration; Wet and Dry. In the dry form, the light sensitive cells of the macula slowly break down, distorting and finally prohibiting the recognition of light photons. This is the most common type, accounting for 90 percent of diagnosed cases.

Wet macular degeneration accounts for approximately 10 percent of cases, but results in 90 percent of legal blindness. It is considered advanced macular degeneration. Wet AMD is always

preceded by the dry form of the disease. Not all Dry forms convert to the Wet form.

Age-related macular degeneration is an irreversible destruction of the macula, which leads to loss of the sharp, fine-detail, vision required for activities like reading, driving, recognizing faces, and seeing the world in color. Visual acuities with the disease can range from 20/30 to legal blindness.

Although there is no cure for Macular Degeneration, if caught early, there are things you can do to slow down its progression. Regular exercise and healthy weight maintenance. Eating a diet that is high in fruits, vegetables, and fish. Keeping your blood sugar and cholesterol in normal ranges. Quit smoking and other tobacco products. Protect your eyes from the

harmful UV rays and blue light.

There are a few warning signs that you can look out for such as:

- Reduced central vision
- Visual distortions, such as straight lines seeming bent
- Decreased intensity or brightness of colors
- Difficulty recognizing faces
- And trouble seeing at night

There are screening tools your eye doctor can use for early detection. Dilated eye exams, Ocular Coherence Tomography, and AdaptDx are all tools which can pick up early signs of AMD. Ask your eye doctor which of these options are available.

Here at Cameron Optical your eye health is our number one priority. As with any disease early detection is the best so make having a yearly eye exam a priority! ♦



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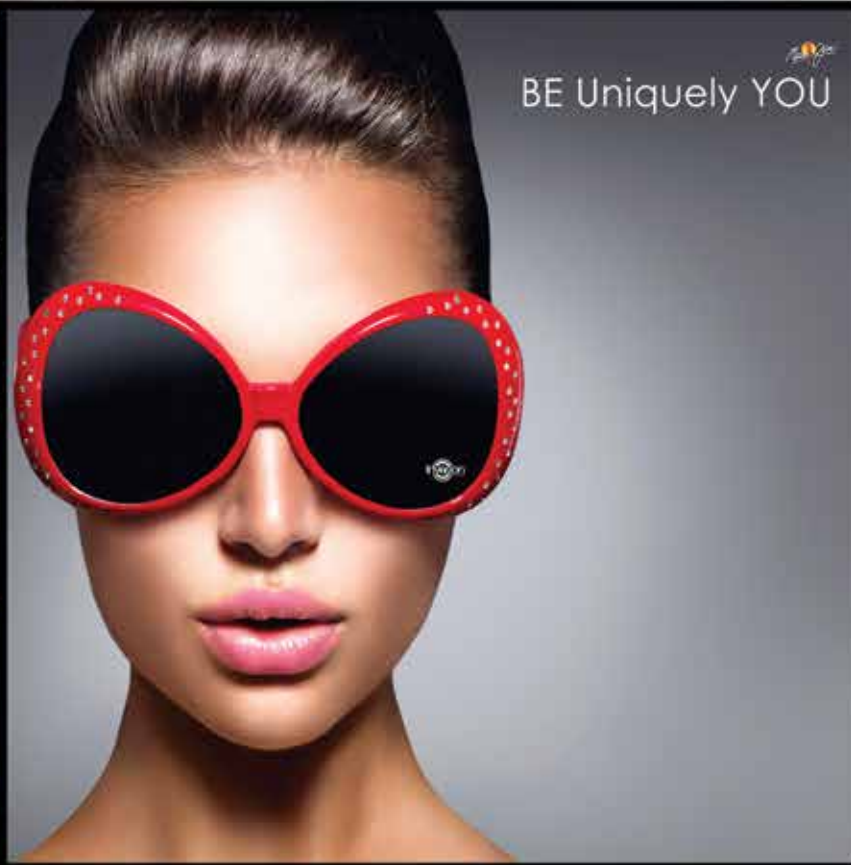
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- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 (4 oz.) mahi mahi fillets

Heat the olive oil in a pan over medium-high heat.

Stir the maple syrup, Cajun seasoning, and garlic powder together in a small bowl.

Brush the maple syrup mixture over the mahi mahi fillets.

Cook the mahi mahi until the fish flakes easily with a fork, 3 to 5 minutes per side.

Salmon W/Brown Sugar Glaze

- 1/4 cup packed light brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 4 (6 oz.) boneless salmon fillets
- salt and ground black pepper to taste

Preheat the broiler and set the oven rack at about 6 inches from the heat source; prepare the rack of a broiler pan with cooking spray.

Season the salmon with salt and pepper and arrange onto the prepared broiler pan. Whisk together the brown sugar and Dijon mustard in a small bowl; spoon mixture evenly onto top of salmon fillets.

Cook under the broiler until the fish flakes easily with a fork, 10 to 15 minutes. ♦

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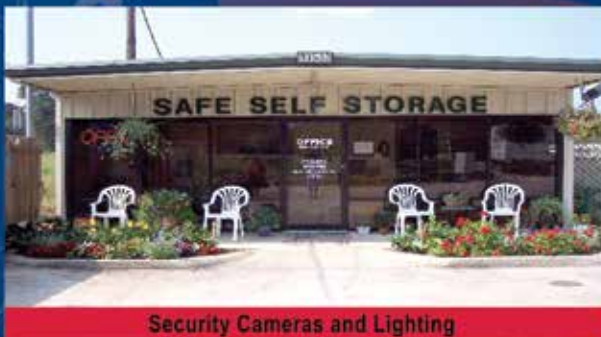
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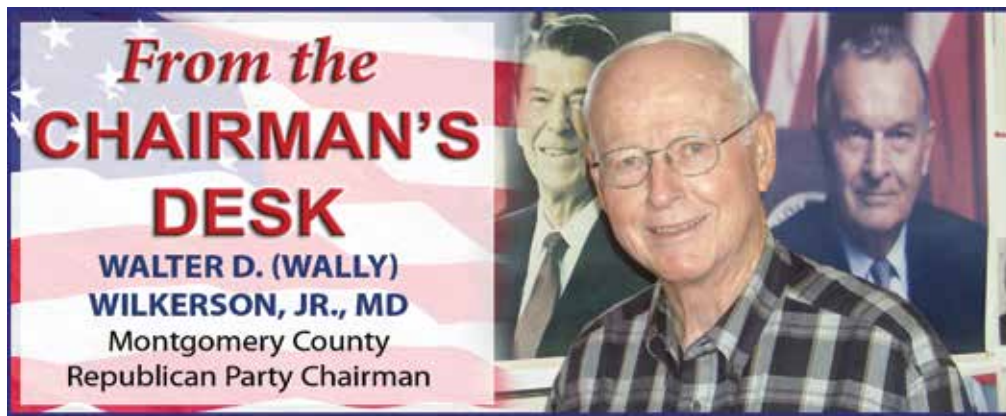
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Forgotten Outbreak

Recognized author Richard Holmes recently wrote in the Wall Street Journal Review section an article titled "When Outbreaks Give a Voice to the Forgotten". "During London's 1849 cholera epidemic, an unlikely chronicler let city's poor speak out- in ways now echoed in today's social media." Cholera is a bacterial infection of the small intestine by the bacteria *Vibrio Cholera*. The classic symptoms are vomiting and severe diarrhea that can result in dehydration and frequently death within hours. Vaccines are given orally but protection can only last for about six months. An estimated 3-5 million people are infected annually, predominately in areas with poor sanitation and unclean drinking water.

Holmes wrote: "Throughout 1849, London endured a cholera outbreak in which 14,173 people died-mostly in the poor districts of the East End, like Whitechapel and Bermondsey, astride the River Thames. No one had discovered the disease's exact cause or the means of transmission, though it was thought (incorrectly) to be an airborne 'miasma'....There was no known treatment." A London newspaper, The Morning Chronicle, assigned a freelance writer to investigate the illness. In September of 1849, he wrote a 10,000 word article, "A Visit to the Cholera Districts of Bermondsey". The report was shocking to the readers. The author was revealed to be Henry Mayhew, a 37 year old reporter known as minor comic novelist.

"With reckless courage, Mayhew had gone directly to the worst affected area to see for himself. What he found was shocking and unforgettable- gagging urban stench, putrid open sewers, infested docks, seething rubbish pits and pallid sickly inhabitants, especially the children," Holmes reported. He wrote: "In the sunlight the sewer water appeared the colour of strong green tea". From 1849 to 1851, Mayhew published 82 articles about working class London. He wrote that "he was supplying information concerning a large body of persons, of whom the public has less knowledge than the most distant tribes of the earth". The articles finally received the attention of the scientists. In 1850 the London Epidemiology Society was founded.

Due to the work of a young unknown physician, the possibility of public health began to emerge. Dr. John Snow famously identified a "single public water pump in Broad Street, Soho, as the waterborne source of local cholera contamination, and he dramatically had the pump handle removed to prove his point." Equally important was his introduction of elementary concepts of public health. Mayhew had "transformed polite Victorian journalism into startling nonfiction reportage of daily life and, above all, the living speech of the industrial city". Holmes noted: "In fact, you could now celebrate Snow with an uncontaminated pint of beer at the present John Snow Pub on London's Broadwick Street- except that it is, of course, closed because of the corona virus." ♦

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**LEGAL ISSUES:
TRUST OR NOT
TO TRUST**

By: **James M. Bright**
Attorney at Law

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

Once we reach the age of 50-55, the self-proclaimed revocable living trust advisors seem to come out of the woodwork, descending upon us like locusts and telling us that we need a revocable living trust if we love our families. *(We are even made to feel that if we do not have a Revocable Living Trust we might be the type of person who would kick the dog.)*

Contrary to this conclusion, it is this firm's experience that many people love their spouses, cherish their children and never kick dogs without having a revocable living trust. When I am approached to draft this type of trust, my first question is, "What purpose is it to serve?" There are many good reasons, but there are typically just as many reasons that favor a dif-

ferent approach. The big question is, "What are you attempting to accomplish?"

Many people tell me that they want a Revocable Living Trust as opposed to a Will simply because a friend, neighbor, parent or a really nice person who called on the phone told them that they needed it. There can be many reasons for having a trust; "in fact," most of the Wills that this firm prepares has a testamentary trust, but trusts (either Living or Testamentary) need to solve a particular problem.

Having a testamentary trust in your Will that serves a particular purpose is far different than making a revocable living trust the primary instrument in your estate planning.

Some of the false or misleading reasons given for having revocable living trusts that this firm hears include:

- MY CHILDREN WILL PAY INHERITANCE

TAXES UNLESS THEY INHERIT IN A TRUST – This assertion is very misleading because most Texas estates do not pay inheritance taxes in the first place. Under current laws, your estate pays no estate tax on the first \$11,580,000.00 (\$23,160,000.00) for a married couple, whether you have a trust or not.

• **A TRUST WILL SAVE PROBATE COSTS** – This statement may or may not be true, depending on the following:

TRUE - If all of the assets that are owned by an individual are included in the trust. This means every bank account, every piece of real property, every automobile, every brokerage account and every other thing that was owned by that individual are captured by the trust and titled in the name of the trust.

PART TRUE AND PART FALSE – If every asset of every kind is held by the trust, then you will avoid probate, but that is not usually what happens. In addition to a revocable living trust, you should have a "pour-over Will." This type of Will is intended to capture everything you own at the time of death and pour it over into the trust for planned distribution.

FALSE - If your trust does not capture assets, it will actually cost more in both time and money than a well-drafted Will. You will bear the meticulous burden of keeping the assets in the trust for years, and your family will still need to go through probate for the pour over Will.

• **PROBATE WILL TAKE YEARS** – Ordinarily this is NOT TRUE. Texas has very reasonable laws regarding probate. A probate proceeding with a Will can take as few as three weeks, but on an average, based on this firm's experience, not more than 90 days from the time that your probate attorney is contacted until you have "Letters Testamentary," giving the executor power to act, and all reporting to the Court has been completed.

• **PROBATE IS VERY EXPENSIVE AND WILL TAKE A PERCENTAGE OF THE ESTATE** is a FALSE statement. Most attorneys charge an hourly fee, and a few will quote you a onetime flat fee. Percentage fees in probate are normally not done.

• **MY BENEFICIARY IS A SPENDTHRIFT AND WILL WASTE THE INHERITANCE IF NOT PLACED IN TRUST.** This is a very common problem that can just as easily be handled in a testamentary trust as it can in a revocable living trust. The difference being that you do not need to go through the arduous task of keeping all of your property titled in the revocable living trust during your lifetime.

This firm is not making a declaration against revocable living trusts. "In fact," they are very often the best way to settle an estate. What this article is intended to do is to say, that "it is not the only tool in the box." It may be the proper tool and it may not be---depending on your particular circumstances. For instance, if you own real property in more than one state, a revocable living trust, at least as regards that particular asset, might be the best and least ex-

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The determination of which tools are best to use in particular circumstances are best done with the guidance of an attorney of your choice who is experienced with wills, trusts and probate. The best results are not always accomplished with someone soliciting your business through telephone calls, mailers, dinner invitations or even well-meaning family or friends.

As always, it is recommended that you talk to an attorney of your choice rather than one who solicited you through a phone call, mailer or dinner invitation.

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. ♦

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Online with Dock Line

The Truth About Running a Successful Online Business

7 Things You Need to Understand About Making Money Online

Have you ever thought about building an online business? Many have, but few have actually followed through. We've all seen "experts" online telling us how easy it is, but once we start to look into it things seem to get complicated quickly. Dock Line helps people build online businesses every day, and we want to share with you some of the most important things to understand first. In this article, you'll discover exactly what it takes to build and run a successful online business.

1. It takes a lot of work up front.

Although we are constantly sold the idea that making money online is "so easy", the truth is that it will take a lot of work. There are so many pieces you need to put in place, research you need to do to get the right pieces, and time to build and implement those pieces. These include your website and all the pages needed to make your business work, copywriting (extremely important to get this right), design, branding, social media pages, online store components, and so much more. Unless you're already an expert and know how to do all of this, you'll have to put in a lot of time to learn, or you'll need to hire someone to help you. All that is just to get things set up and ready to work. Then you'll need to invest a lot of time into running the business. This includes advertising, marketing, customer service, fulfillment, and much more. If you're serious about running an online business be prepared to put in the work, and stick with it for the long haul.

2. You will need to put some money into it.

"Free" is a powerful marketing word. We gravitate toward it and give away our information to get something free online. There are many offers online that sell the idea that you can start an online business with no financial investment. While there may be some ways to do that, the truth is that if you're serious about creating a real online business, it's going to require more than a free method. When it comes to starting and running a successful online business, you will need to put some money into it... possibly a lot of money up front. Don't let that push away from your online business idea, though. It's worth investing money if you know you'll get a

return on your investment. Plan on spending some money building all the components to make your business work (website, software, etc.) and on expert advice to help you do it all right.

3. It requires lots of testing.

Once you get all the pieces in place to sell your offer, don't be surprised if buyers don't flood to your website and buy what you're selling. More than likely, it'll be a slow start, especially if nobody has heard of you online. Even if you do have an audience, your first take on selling something might not go over well. Don't let that deter you from your idea. Everyone experiences this in some way in the beginning. You'll need to test your offer, test your sales pages, test your ads, test your copywriting, and many other components of your pitch and presentation. This is one of the reasons online business scares off a lot of people. They don't understand how common failure is and how many times you need to go back to the drawing board to get things just right. Stick with it, test and test some more, and you'll make it work.

4. Your offer needs to be really good.

More than likely, your product, service or idea is not completely original. There is most certainly something similar already available in the market. However, don't let that keep you from moving forward with your idea. If anything, it proves that your idea already works. It also means that in order to stand out, your offer needs to be really good. And you will do better if you have multiple offers at several different price points, from low to high. Start with a low price offer, like a book, short video series, intro or sample product or something similar that costs you little to produce and can be acquired without much buying resistance from your potential buyers. More than anything, your initial offer needs to have a much greater perceived value than its price would suggest. For instance, many online entrepreneurs will sell a book with a "Free + Shipping" method that gives the buyer a lot of value for a little investment. They will then use that book purchase as a lead-in to a higher priced item like a course, and then an higher priced item, and so on.

5. You need to understand your ideal customer really well.

Nowadays, it's nearly impossible to make real money through an on-line business if you don't know exactly who your ideal customer is. The more specifics you can know, the better. You need to know demographics, yes, but also more detailed information like where they hang out online, what their spending habits are, what hobbies they enjoy, and what gets their attention. You also need to understand exactly how your offer helps them at a core level. Basically, you need to understand the pain they experience that your product "cures". You also need to know what causes that pain and how they have tried to solve it in the past. The more you know about your perfect customer, the more targeting your offer will be, and the more sales you'll make.

6. You need a funnel that works.

In the online space, a funnel is simply the set of steps that a customer goes through to purchase your offer. When you place your product or service for sale on your website, you need to get potential buyers to see it. That means you need to find out where your customers are online and get them to come to your website. Once they do, you need to move them through your funnel until they are paying customers. Like a real funnel, an online marketing funnel is larger at the top and gets smaller toward the bottom. At the top of the funnel is where everyone first sees your offer. From there, fewer people will get to your website, then even fewer will click on your offer, and even fewer will buy. If your funnel is set up right it can run like clockwork, almost entirely automated, and bring in customers while you sleep. It can be complicated though, so you may need to get some help from an online marketing expert. If one part of your funnel is broken or "leaking" you could lose out on a lot of sales.



7. You need to find your customers online and know how to market to them.

Having a working funnel is one thing, but getting people into the funnel is another challenge all its own. You need to find out where your customers are online, what they are searching for, and how they buy. Once you find them, you then need to know how to get in front of them, get their attention, and compel them to check out your offer. This means using methods like SEO, content marketing (including video), social media advertising, and many more strategies. The point is, your online business needs customers and you'll need to invest in marketing strategies that are proven to work. Yes, you need to spend money to make money, but once you've nailed down the exact marketing strategy that works best for your business, you'll know exactly how much it will cost to get a customer. For instance, if you discover that for every dollar you put in to your marketing machine you make three dollars, you can just keep putting money into your marketing machine and keep making more money than you spend.

This article is not meant to make you shy away online business. Actually, it's to help you realize exactly what it takes to be successful. Yes, it will take a lot of work up front, but once you get a system that works, it can be a gold mine. If you are serious about starting an online business, let us know. Dock Line now offers a full suite of online marketing services that can build your entire online platform, funnels, marketing pieces, social media channels and so much more. If you're interest in getting started with an online business, or to get your current business online and crushing it, send us an email at ozzy@docklinemagazine.com. ♦

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Garden Thyme

By: Growers Outlet

CHINCH BUGS IN YOUR LAWN

Chinch bug damage has been seen in our area as early as the first part of July in years where we have had extreme hot and dry temperatures starting in May. Even though we have had a very mild spring, there is still the possibility of an infestation of *Blissus leucopterus hirtus* Montandon or the common "chinch bug".



The southern chinch bug, is bar none, the most damaging insect pest of St. Augustine grass in Texas. Well that was before we started seeing the return of the sod webworm. Hopefully, we are done with those for a while. Chinch bugs can be a problem anywhere St. Augustine grass is grown. Although it is a serious pest only on St. Augustine grass lawns, the southern chinch bug occasionally may feed on zoysia grass, centipede grass, Bahia grass or Bermuda grass.

Identification

Expanding, irregular patches of dead or stunted grass surrounded by a halo of yellowing, dying grass often provide the first clues of chinch bugs. These islands of dying grass tend to increase in size and merge as insect numbers increase. Damage can develop rapidly, especially in sunny locations during hot, dry weather. Chinch bug damage can be confused with certain lawn diseases or other physiological disorders. Detecting significant numbers of the insects themselves is the best proof of chinch bug damage.

Adult southern chinch bugs are small and slender, measuring 1/6 to 1/5 of an inch long. They have black bodies with white wings, each of which bears a distinctive, triangular black mark.

Flotation is the best method for detecting and estimating chinch bug numbers. After removing the top and bottom lids of a coffee can and turning it into a metal cylinder, push it into the ground with a twisting motion. Use a knife, if necessary, to cut the grass around the rim. Fill the can with water for about 10 minutes and check for chinch bugs as they float to the sur-

face. For 4-inch diameter coffee cans, damaging numbers of chinch bugs are present when you have an average of more than 2 bugs per sample. For a 6-inch diameter can, an average of 4 to 5 chinch bugs or more per sample would indicate damaging numbers. Several samples should be taken from different locations in the damaged (but not dead) grass.

Managing Chinch Bugs

Cultural control

Managing this pest begins with proper lawn care. By keeping thatch to a minimum, for example, you reduce chinch bug numbers and make other control methods more effective. Proper mowing practices can help reduce thatch buildup. For optimum turfgrass health, no more than 35 to 40 percent of the leaf blade should be removed at a time when mowing. This means that lawns generally should be mowed at least once a week during the growing season. Mulching or recycling mowers shred grass clippings into smaller pieces that are decomposed more easily by soil microbes. Research has shown that proper use of mulching mowers reduces the need for fertilizers and, as a result, reduces the build-up of excessive thatch. Also, top dressing with something like leaf mold compost works to reduce thatch buildup.

Applying excessive fertilizer also enhances thatch formation and makes the grass more attractive as a food source for chinch bugs. Organic, or slow-release, fertilizers reduce the risk of over-fertilization because they release nitrogen more slowly.

Too little or too much water also can cause chinch bug problems. Chinch bugs prefer hot, dry environments. Dry weather enhances survival of chinch bug nymphs and eggs by reducing the incidence of disease within chinch bug populations. Also, drought-stressed lawns are more susceptible to chinch bug injury. On the other hand, over-watering causes saturated oxygen-deprived soils that cannot sustain the microbes needed to decompose thatch.

St. Augustine grass lawns should be watched closely during the summer for signs of drought stress. The lawn should be watered immediately when edges of grass blades begin to curl, grass fails to spring back quickly when walked on, or the turf begins to have a dull bluish-gray color, apply enough water to wet the soil profile approximately 6 inches deep and let it dry out between irrigations. Too frequent watering promotes shallow root systems in St. Augustine grass, making it more susceptible to injury by chinch bugs.

Chemical control

Good cultural practices include water and fertility management, and thatch control. Improvement with these practices will dramatically reduce the need for insecticides to control chinch bugs. However, when chinch bugs are present, some corrective action is needed. While chemical insecticides can rapidly reduce chinch bugs when used according to label directions, most labeled materials do not last long and may require repeat applications. First determine whether a problem truly exists when considering pesticides for chinch bug control. You should check areas with suspected infestations several times. Insecticides can prevent further injury when chinch bugs are abundant enough to cause visible damage. Use spot treatments where chinch bugs are restricted to isolated areas of the lawn. Treat the off-color turf and all surrounding infested areas with something like Nitro Phos Bug Out or Bifenthrin. Inspect the site every 3 to 5 days for at least 2 weeks to determine if the infestation is under control. Spot treatments help prevent environmental contamination. They also minimize the impact of pesticides on beneficial insects.

Things To Do In The Landscape For July

- Roses can be pruned lightly.
- Adjust watering as temperatures rise.
- Remember to deep water your trees at least once per week if rainfall is low. Soaker hoses work best.
- It is not too late to treat for grubs.
- Watch for lace bugs on azaleas.



- Be on the lookout for chinch bugs in your lawn.
- Trim off faded blooms on your crape myrtles.

This will extend the bloom time. While trimming, inspect for aphids, scale, and/or whiteflies. These things are easier to treat for when caught early.

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 and click on the ONLINE GARDEN CENTER BUTTON to shop or browse 24/7 or check out our Facebook page, Growers Outlet-Willis Texas, for real-time knowledge and product availability. Remember that 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



Along a creek in San Jacinto County this handsome juvenile bald eagle is ready to fend for himself. He will develop his white head and tail feathers at maturity, around 5 years old.

Celebrating Our American Bald Eagle

Every July we like to remind folks about our splendid East Texas American Bald Eagles – the symbol of our nation's independence and strength. Powerful, bold and distinctly American these birds are simply magnificent! With a wingspan of up to 7+ feet, and standing about 3 feet tall, an adult bald eagle only develops its white head and tail at maturity when it reaches about 5 years old.

With an estimated US population of over

140,000 birds, our current eagle population is strong. For over 30 years the Corp of Engineers, the United States Geologic Survey, and thousands of volunteers around the United States have come together to keep tabs on U.S. eagle populations. An event called the Mid-Winter Eagle Count has volunteers take part in this nationwide survey. The process calls for local volunteers to drive non-overlapping routes around waterways during a designated morn-



With a wingspan of over 7 feet and standing tall at 3 feet, the bald eagle is the largest bird-of-prey in the US.



A spectacular mature bald eagle.

ing in January. This prevents any duplication in the numbers. The volunteers count eagles, list juveniles versus adults, and write down their locations or the directions that they are flying. Why in January? It is the perfect time to count eagles because less tree foliage allows more birds to be seen, also because mature eagles are not solitary at this time. They have reunited with their mates, repaired their enormous nests, and laid new eggs. Families stay close together until April or May when the 3' tall youngsters are ready to leave the nest.

Some eagles migrate through our area on their way to other locations, some come to nest and raise families here before moving on, while still others stay in East Texas all year around! Our lakes and rivers are powerful draws for these birds because their main food source, fish, is in abundant supply. Voracious fish eaters, they are opportunistic and will steal catches away from other fishing birds, but they also hunt ducks, coots, snakes, turtles, rodents and



Humans with great vision see 20/20. But eagles see 20/5, which means they can easily see from 20 feet what a strong-sighted human can only see from 5 feet. This allows eagles to locate tiny prey from great distances.

other tasty creatures. They are true apex predators of the bird world. Fortunately, there is plenty of food for all in our area, and the eagles know East Texas is a fine place to raise a family, or maybe to just stop by for a meal on their way to another destination.

Did you know it is illegal to possess even one bald eagle feather? The bald eagle was removed from the endangered species list in 2007, but as our national symbol it remains federally protected from hunting, harassment, and all other human interference. All bald eagle feathers are to be turned over to the National Eagle Repository in Colorado, which is run by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

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



Both male and female eagles are great parents, both caring for their young and bringing them food.

Celebrating The 4TH of July...

What Does It Mean To Animals?

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

We all love to celebrate and July 4th is traditionally a day for respectful fun and thanks for the freedom that was made possible in 1776. Now, here we are in 2020 Independence Day in Montgomery County, but it is a tough time for Animal Shelter Volunteers of Texas (ASVT) to celebrate wholeheartedly when animals in our community are suffering. ASVT are in the trenches daily striving to give "independence from suffering" to animals in need. We are contacted daily about starved, abused and unwanted dogs and cats and there are more out there that are not being helped.

Our community and animal shelters are overflowing and there is no end in sight....unless we promote SPAY & NEUTER.

Yes, over 300 puppies and kittens were taken in by ASVT in the past five months and more keep arriving. If you have ever considered adopting, now is a perfect time, but we still need to concentrate on spay/neuter.

Don't worry – we will not run out of puppies or kittens! We are at disgraceful epidemic levels of unwanted, neglected and abused animals.

You can visit our website www.ASVTexas.org to see all our pets available for adoption. All pets shown in this article are available for YOU to adopt!

Meet some of our puppies and kittens.



Montgomery County has implemented a TNR program and it works!! TNR is reducing the number of suffering, unwanted cats and kittens in the county!

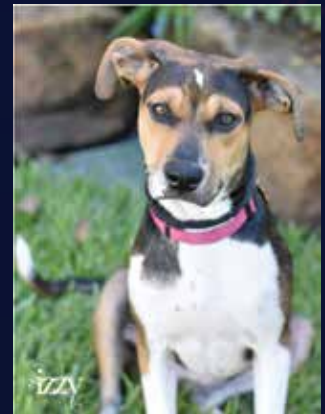
TRAP NEUTER & RETURN (TNR) is one of the solutions that will help prevent an escalated epidemic in our community. "WE" can

help make the difference.

WHAT IS TNR? Here are some facts from Alley Cat Allies to help inform you: Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), the humane approach to addressing community cat populations. It saves cats lives and is effective. Trap-Neuter-Return is successfully practiced in hundreds of communities and in every landscape and setting. It is exactly what it sounds like: Cats are humanely trapped and taken to a veterinarian to be neutered or spayed and vaccinated. After recovery, the cats are returned to their home—their colony—outdoors. Kittens and cats who are friendly and socialized to people may be adopted into homes.

What about puppies you ask? ASVT has implemented a Spay/Neuter program to prevent further overpopulation of puppies also.

The stray animal population in Montgomery County is HUGE! Public and private shelters are overcrowded. The community at large is mostly unaware of the problem and doesn't realize there are relatively easy, inexpensive ways to help solve the problem. Spaying female and neutering male animals guarantees no new puppies or kittens are born.



do our best to help.

This month we celebrate our Independence Day and also celebrating National Pet Fire Safety Day on July 15. An estimated 500,000 pets are affected annually by home fires, however, nearly 1,000 house fires each year are accidentally started by the homeowners' pets, according to a data analysis by the National Fire Protection Association.

Prevent your pet from starting fires...

ASVT and other animal rescue organizations in the local area have money to grant to low income families to help offset the cost of spaying and neutering. If you, your friends, family or colleagues have dogs or cats that have not been spayed or neutered, contact ASVT at ASVTexas@gmail.com. We will





- Extinguish open flames – Pets are generally curious and will investigate. Ensure your pet is not left unattended around an open flame and make sure to thoroughly extinguish any open flame before leaving your home.

- Remove stove knobs – Be sure to remove stove knobs or protect them with covers before leaving the house. According to the National Fire Protection Association, a stove is the number one piece of equipment involved in pets starting a fire.

- Invest in flameless candles – These candles contain a light bulb rather than an open flame, and take the danger out of your pet knocking over a candle. Cats are notorious for starting fires when their tails turn over lit candles.

- Beware of water bowls on wooden decks – Do not leave a glass water bowl for your pet outside on a wooden deck. The sun's rays when filtered through the glass and water can actually heat up and ignite the wooden deck beneath it. Choose stainless steel or ceramic bowls instead.

Fourth of July fireworks can be entertaining for humans, but can be a nightmare for animals.

Keep your pets safe this year by taking a few easy safety steps:

- Make sure collars and microchips are up-to-date.
- Don't take your dog to see fireworks.



- Use a crate or keep them in a quiet room.
- Take your dog for a walk before the fireworks start.
- Play soothing sounds or white noise to calm your pets.
- Encourage hydration.
- Consider a sedative if your pet has a history of anxiety.
- Use a "Thundershirt."
- Have treats on-hand as a dis-

traction.

- Consider staying home with your pet to keep them calm through the trauma.



HOW CAN YOU HELP US HELP THEM? ADOPT, SPONSOR, VOLUNTEER, FOSTER, DONATE!

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 Wiesner Automotive, Empire Electric, Ransoms Steakhouse, Animal Hospital of Montgomery, Dock Line Magazine and so many more. ♦

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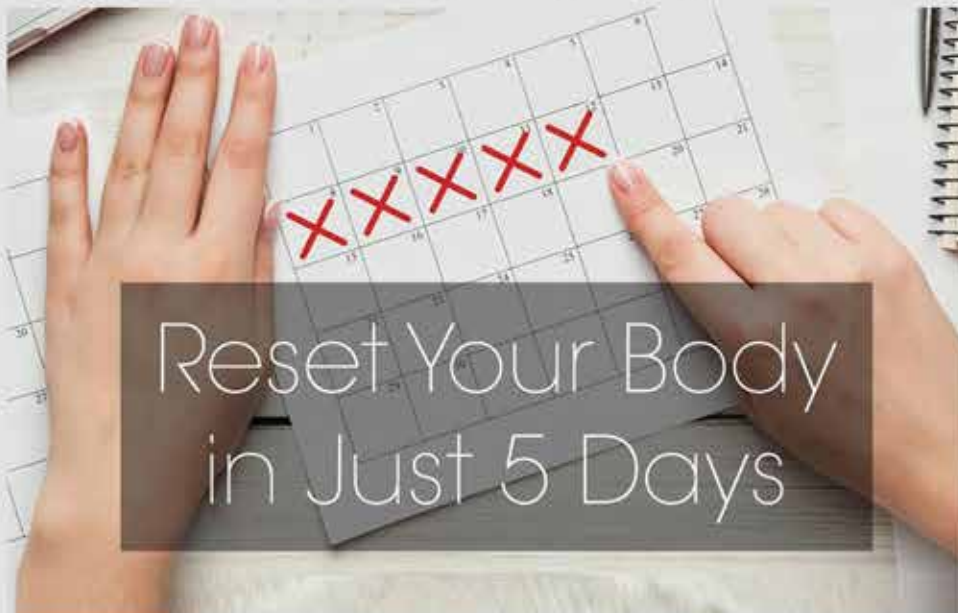
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IT'S A BIRD...IT'S A CRANE; NO, IT'S A HERON

By: Lisa Wolling, Executive Director

We certainly have a wide variety of wading birds in our area, both permanent residents as well as migratory birds. Quite often, we have people call our wildlife center regarding "cranes" they have found. While it is possible that sandhill cranes or even whooping cranes might be spotted occasionally during winter months, we have no cranes that make their home in our area on a permanent basis. What we do have are two very large species of wading bird; the Great White Egret and the Great Blue Heron. This month's article will focus on the beautiful Great Blue Heron.

The Great Blue Heron is a very striking bird with a blue/gray back and black sides. Their belly is gray and white striped. Males and females are

pair may raise one or two broods each year and generally remain monogamous during that time, but they usually choose new partners each year.

Great Blue Herons will eat nearly anything they can catch, including fish, amphibians, reptiles, small mammals, insects, crustaceans, and other birds. They hunt mainly by wading in shallow water and impaling prey with their spear-like bill. They will also hunt from floating objects such as logs and docks. They generally forage and hunt for food alone. They will defend their feeding territories from other predators by defensively approaching intruders (other birds or even humans) with their head thrown back, wings outstretched, and bill pointed up in the air. Herons are



Left: Great Blue Heron fledgling. At birth they are covered with gray down. Right: adult Great Blue Heron

quite similar in color and size. They have a huge, 6' wingspan, and hold their neck in a distinctive S shape while flying while trailing their long legs behind them. They are the largest herons in North America. Great Blue Herons have a permanent range in much of the southern United States, including all of Texas.

Great Blue Herons generally breed in colonies located in trees close to lakes or other wetlands. Occasionally they will construct a nest on the ground within wetland reeds or mangroves. The male generally will collect much of the nesting material and bring it back to the female, who then weaves a saucer-shaped nest. The pair then lines the nest with pine needles, moss, dry leaves, and reeds. Nest building can take up to two weeks, after which the female lays two to six eggs. Both parents incubate the eggs for 25 to 30 days. When chicks hatch, their eyes are open and they are covered in pale gray down. The chicks remain in the nest anywhere from 49 to 81 days with both parents feeding them. A nesting

sometimes unwelcome visitors to yards that include ponds; a length of drainpipe placed in the pond can provide fish a place to hide from feeding herons and other predators.

While their numbers are thought to be stable, Great Blue Herons are being impacted by loss of habitat (especially nesting areas) due to logging, development, and traffic (both on roadways and waterways). Pollution and other causes of reduced water quality also can have an impact on these birds.

To learn more about what we do and view pictures of many of the animals we assist, please visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SavingTexasWildlife. Details can be found at www.ftlw.org, and then click on "How to Help". We also have a great deal of helpful information on our website about other species of animals and how to assess if they need help or not. If you need assistance with an animal in need, please email us at ftwl.help@gmail.com. ♦



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Fishing ADVENTURES

with Derek Pietsch



Catch A Fish, Surf A Wave, Jump Off A Cliff

During these uncertain times trying to find things to do that keep us calm and peaceful is essential for life. For me that is being thankful I can enjoy nature that God has created everywhere for us to enjoy.

I really enjoy surfing. It brings me peace along with excitement when I can catch a wave and get barreled. If you are surfing in Galveston or Matagorda you really have to watch the weather to see when the waves will be good. It's not like being in a place like Hawaii where the waves are always a lot bigger than they are here. One day I decided to go to Matagorda to surf. The weather forecast showed the surf would be good and I just wanted to catch a few good waves and enjoy the day. There was

a little boy and his dad that was parked next to me. They came by and talked to me and the little boy followed me around with his boogie board taking to me about surfing. It was pretty cool. It reminded me of the day my dad took me out to surf in California. They also sat on the back of their truck watching me surf. I caught some good waves and had a great day.

One morning I went to Galveston to meet my friend Austin. He wanted to go shark fishing with me. I am the only

one that can swim like a fish and I guess is crazy enough to swim out to the third sandbar. It's really a long way to swim that far, so I swim out by myself and cast the line and then swim back in. I put the line in the holder on the beach then wait for fish to take my bait. When the line starts moving, I set the hook. Austin has never caught a shark





before so I let him reel it in. That day we only caught 2 sharks and they were small. It was an exciting day for Austin with a fighting shark on the line. We both had a great time. Don't let that cute little shark smiling face fool you. You have to be careful how you hold them because the little ones are very flexible and they will spin their head around and bite you.

Parker and I made a trip up to Stillhouse Hollow Lake. It is in Belton, Texas. We fished and it was a beautiful sunny day. Parker caught the only fish. It was about 5 pounds. He caught it punching grass with a big jig. When we were done fishing, we decided to jump off a 40-foot cliff. Great ending to an incredible day! **THROW IT OUT, POP IT IN! SURF ON! ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS! LIVE LIFE! ♦**



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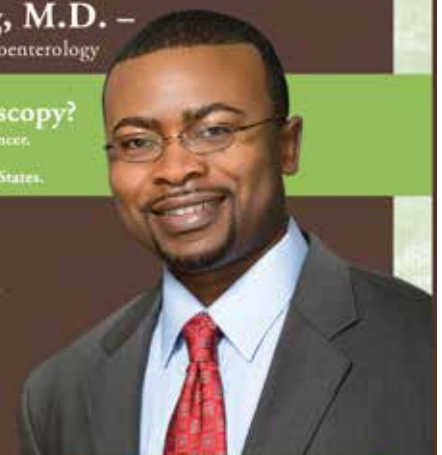

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Lake Conroe FISHING REPORT



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

Black Bass: For the first part of daylight you can catch some Bass by fishing along rock or concrete structures using crank baits or plastic worms Texas rigged. After the sun rises your best bet is to use Carolina worm rigs around main lake points, old roadbeds and submerged pond dams in 8' - 15' depths. The south end of the lake seems to be the best during the mid and late summer.

Crappie: Crappie action may be a little slow during this time of year, but if you are patient, dropping minnows or small jigs around bridge pilings, brush piles or tree stumps, you can manage a decent catch at times.

White Bass & Hybrid Striped Bass: Both of these fish are found in the same areas and can be caught best by trolling small pet spoons behind deep diving crank baits along submerged humps and points in 15' - 25' depths. The number of White Bass has increased in the last two years and it makes for better action.

Catfish: Catfish action is also very steady at this time. I like to bait up several areas along creek and river channels and also along a drop off near main lake points in 15' - 25' depths. Milo and range cubes are both good baits to bring in good numbers of cats. Dip baits, shrimp and chicken livers are all good baits to catch catfish. ♦

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Dr. Luu's passion for working with children developed early in life and led her to incorporate that into her dental career. She completed her pediatric dentistry residency at the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. During her residency, Dr. Luu had extensive training in hospital and clinical pediatric dentistry.

She has treated and managed patients with complicated medical conditions ranging from hemophilia, congenital heart conditions, and childhood cancer, to unique syndromes and special needs. She is an expert in dental prevention, craniofacial growth and development, oral trauma, and has extensive training in treating cleft lip and palate in babies and young children.



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