

# DOCK LINE

Magnolia

MAGAZINE



August 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*



## SJRA Rehabilitation of Bear Branch Gravity Main Project Update

*See Page 18*



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



# Wiggins Furniture

## 936.441.1959

[www.wigginsfurniture.net](http://www.wigginsfurniture.net)

5459 W. Davis St, Conroe, TX 77304



OPEN

Tuesday thru Saturday • 10 am to 5:30 PM

& By Appointment

**CLOSED SUNDAY & MONDAY**

**\*\*Please be self conscious of Social Distancing,  
help us in helping your families & ours.**

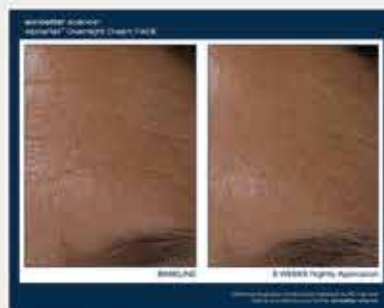


**NOW OFFERING 3%  
FINANCING FOR ALL QUALIFIED BUYERS!**



*You've been asking for it, now we have it!*

AWARD-WINNING SKINCARE  
NOW AVAILABLE!



**Stone Creek**  
WELLNESS &  
MEDICAL AESTHETICS

19782 Hwy 105 West, Suite 122  
Montgomery, TX 77356  
936-582-4555



[www.stonecreekwellness.com](http://www.stonecreekwellness.com)

# KNOWLEDGEABLE. DEPENDABLE. STRATEGIC.



46+/- acres off Highway 105 in Montgomery across from Waterpoint Shopping Center (CVS, Marina, Starbucks + lakeside restaurants) on the Southern shores of Lake Conroe. Prime location for development (optional plans available and City of Conroe Sewer/Water information upon request). **0 Tejas Boulevard in Conroe**  
ML# 29003595. \$2,750,000



Rare, Rustic & Pure Country Living! Located on a quiet 1.5+ acres of land w/a 3 bed/2.5 bath+study main house, 1 bed/1 full bath guest quarters, 40x30 steel frame workshop w/concrete floors, air compressor, bathroom, office, 12 ft. overhead doors (2) & 14 ft. eaves, 40x15 lean-to shed, small pond + 2 entrances (1 is a circle driveway)! This home was built w/vision; from the landscape/accent lights to the hand scraped cedar beams to the

hand selected pecan cabinets. The exterior boasts a 3 sided wrap around porch w/wood ceiling planks, fenced interior yard, finished garage (w/2nd floor quarters) + water well. The interior greets w/a scored concrete floor that offers a distinct look that leads to a GREAT room w/cathedral ceilings, wall of windows & a striking stone FP. The island kitchen overlooks heart of the house w/granite counters, pecan cabinets + walk-in pantry. Private Master bedroom is equipped w/double closets, double vanities, soak tub + walk-thru shower w/multiple shower heads.

**12168 Clint Parker Road in Conroe. ML# 90114299. \$539,000**



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. \$485,000**



Location & Privacy meet under a canopy of trees w/this 3.15 unrestricted acres. Situated outside the gates of Teaswood and w/in minutes of I-45, shopping/restaurants making it the perfect balance of the quiet life & modern conveniences. Fully fenced, large shade trees, natural vegetation, orange, grapefruit and lemon trees, barn/workshop w/office/studio + a private water well! The house boasts extensive outdoor living options w/a deep porch that wraps around two sides of the house + a 18x26 screened in patio w/a high ceiling & views of nature. The front door welcomes you into the living room w/a brick FP w/built in heatilator plus an additional den/gameroom downstairs for extra living space! The very spacious island kitchen is equipped w/a breakfast bar, solid wood cabinets, a brick accent wall w/arched niche for the cooktop + dining room. Two bedrooms are on the first floor including the HUGE Primary bedroom w/double sinks, soak tub + walk-in shower. Two bedrooms and full bathroom up.

**5497 Teas Nursery in Conroe. ML# 57832890. \$474,900**



Estate-style living with a sparkling private pool ready for the Summer! Located on a .34 acre lot with towering shade trees, eye-catching curb appeal, fenced backyard with private pool w/spa, tons of pool decking for sunbathing or entertainment + a second story walk-out deck overlooking the pool/backyard area! The interior greets with high ceilings and distinctive tile floors that flow into the spacious living room offering a wall of

windows that overlook the pool area, floor-to-ceiling brick fireplace + wood built-ins. The island kitchen boasts granite counters, solid wood cabinets, breakfast bar w/seating, breakfast area w/bay window + a dining room (currently being used as a study/office). The Primary bedroom is equipped w/shutters, pvc plank floors, bathroom w/double sinks, vanity area, walk-in shower + a HUGE closet! Upstairs provides 3 very spacious bedrooms with great closets (no carpet in the bedrooms!), Hollywood bath + a gameroom w/dry bar, half bathroom & a walk-out balcony!

**3 Woods Estates Drive, Wedgewood in Conroe. ML# 6963926. \$334,700**



Located in a gated Lake Conroe waterfront subdivision that offers a waterfront pool, boat launch, boardwalk plus great schools nearby! This 4 bedroom home offers light and bright curb appeal that welcomes you to the Lake area! The interior boasts a very spacious living area w/wood-like floors, plenty of windows that bring in natural lighting. The kitchen is open to the living room and is equipped with warm wood cabinets, breakfast bar plus dining area. Large Primary bedroom with views of the Lake, oversized bathroom with walk-in shower. Three secondary rooms with great closet space.

**10761 S Lake Mist Lane, Lake Breeze in Willis. ML# 32273476. \$229,700**



This 3 bedroom/2 full bathroom home sits on a half acre fenced lot with a 30x30 metal workshop with a concrete floor + an uncovered 30x10 storage/parking. Located on a quiet road near Lake Conroe, MISD schools, shopping and major roads. The home boasts over 30 feet of covered front porch that overlooks the yard w/shade trees + additional outdoor entertainment space w/fire pit. The interior offers a spacious living room w/

ceiling fan and plenty of windows allowing for great natural lighting. The kitchen is open to the living room and is equipped with solid cabinets, built-in microwave + dining area. Large Primary bedroom with private door to backyard area, tub + double showers! Updates include fresh paint (inside & out), new wood-like vinyl floors, new a/c and much more!

**18142 Firepine Lane, Marvins Gardens in Montgomery. ML# 12094123. \$184,900**



Located in a quiet subdivision in Willis that is minutes from major roads, restaurants, shopping, schools and golf courses! This 3 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom home 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. Master bedroom is located on the first floor for extra privacy

and offers an outstanding bathroom w/a great walk in closet The two secondary bedrooms are located on the second floor with spacious closets and a shared bathroom with shower/tub combo. Low taxes! Frontier Lakes offers a unique country setting offering three lakes, multiple lakeside parks, and a horse pasture!

**14858 Crockett, Lake Conroe Village in Montgomery. ML# 10687421. \$169,900**

**CREIGHTON**  
REALTY PARTNERS

**844-936-SOLD (7653)**

Email: [tamarah@crp-tx.com](mailto:tamarah@crp-tx.com)

*Tamarah Curtis*  
REALTOR, MLC

**832-876-7097**

Visit [www.MoCoRealty.com](http://www.MoCoRealty.com) to view Tamarah's full inventory of homes/lots/acreage/rentals





# DOCK LINE

Magnolia

## MAGAZINE

### table of CONTENTS

AUGUST 2020



Just like June and July, August 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 definitely 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 we live in. We encourage everyone to take a look around, celebrate the little things and support your local businesses, as they absolutely need your support as we all struggle to get through this unprecedented time. If we all stick together we will be stronger than ever. Until next month, stay safe and take care...

Bentley & Ellie 

Follow Us on  
Facebook & Twitter

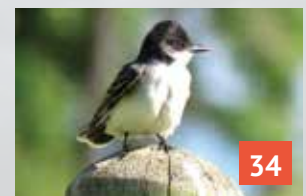


#### ON THE COVER



*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](http://www.grastengenerators.com).*

- 8** Giving Power to the People  
How Grasten Power Technologies Is Keeping the Lights on for Lake Conroe Communities with Standby Generators
- 11** It's All In YOUR HEAD
- 14** Dental Bites
- 16** Back to Health
- 17** Clear Direction For Your Retirement™
- 18** SJRA Rehabilitation of Bear Branch Gravity Main Project Update
- 20** Online with Dock Line: Should You Build Your Own Website? The Pros and Cons of a DIY Website
- 22** An UPDATE from STAGE RIGHT of Texas: The Only Constant in Life is Change
- 24** Blue Water Navy Veterans & Survivors Awarded Big Benefits
- 28** LEGAL ISSUES: LEGAL: WHO DO I PAY FIRST?
- 30** Catch 'Em, Clean 'Em & Eat 'Em
- 32** Friends of Texas Wildlife: Is That a Baby Owl?
- 34** Fishing Hole Nature: Flycatchers & the Texas Bird-of-Paradise
- 36** Fishing Adventures with Derek Pietsch



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

**VISIT US ON THE WEB! [WWW.DOCKLINEMAGAZINE.COM](http://WWW.DOCKLINEMAGAZINE.COM)**



**MILSTEAD**  
RV CENTER

**Services:**  
**Generators**  
**Interior • Roof**  
**Tires • Alignment**  
**Engine • Brakes**  
**Full Service Repair**

**(936) 441-3500**  
2416 North Frazier • Conroe, TX 77303  
**WWW.MILSTEADSC.COM**

AAA Texas ASE CERTIFIED



**WILLS - PROBATE**  
**FLAT FEES**  
**James M. Bright - Attorney at Law**

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

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

**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

**MONTGOMERY OFFICE**  
208 McCown, Suite 114  
Montgomery, Texas 77356  
**(936) 449-4455**

**HOUSTON OFFICE**  
14340 Torrey Chase Blvd., Suite 150  
Houston, Texas 77014  
**(281) 586-8277**

**www.houstontxprobate.com**

Angela Glezman  
PUBLISHER/EDITOR

Bentley/Ellie  
MANAGING EDITORS

Kelly L. O'Quinn  
ART DIRECTOR

David Donahoo, Colton Rucker  
SEO SPECIALISTS

Stephanie Davis  
SALES ASSOCIATES

Brian Sherman  
WRITER

Jessie Smith  
PHOTOGRAPHER

**CONTRIBUTORS:**

James M. Bright  
Dr. Lindsey Thomas, DC  
Chris Wootton, ChFC  
Gary Squyres, DDS  
Bronwyn Clear  
Lisa Wolling  
Tom Stark, MD  
Derek Pietsch  
Carolyn Corsano Wong  
Kay L. Lee

DOCK LINE MAGAZINE - MAGNOLIA  
is published by:  
Magic Marketing, Inc.  
P.O. Box 174  
Conroe, TX 77301  
Telephone: 936-828-4296  
Fax: 936-307-1300  
E-mail: angela@docklinemagazine.com

Subscriptions to DOCK LINE MAGAZINE - MAGNOLIA  
cost \$25.00 per year.  
To subscribe, mail a check with your name and  
address to:  
P.O. Box 174  
Conroe, TX 77301

Dock Line Magazine welcomes reader  
correspondence. We reserve the right to edit  
or reject any material submitted. The publisher  
assumes no responsibility for the return of any  
unsolicited material.

DOCK LINE MAGAZINE® 2020, all rights reserved.  
All editorial and advertising copy belongs solely to  
DOCK LINE MAGAZINE. Reproduction in whole or  
part without express written permission is strictly  
prohibited.

Articles are the opinions and experiences of other  
people and we do not necessarily approve, agree  
with, and/or condone those opinions.



Summertime Laser  
Hair Removal  
Special  
**25% Off**



*Southern Secrets  
Med Spa*

Mon-Friday 9-5  
Saturdays available upon request  
**832-263-1300**

**SouthernSecretsMedSpa.com**

All services at Southern Secrets Med Spa are performed by highly trained medical professionals & nurse practitioners at our discrete location north of Houston in Conroe, TX.

# 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 season 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.**

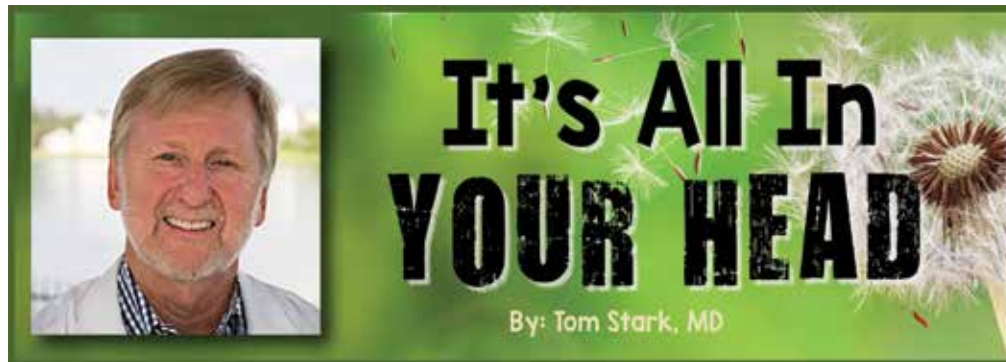
Grasten is paving the way to make their service as safe and customer-friendly as possible. "We have developed a virtual in-home consultation service," says Joshua. Customers can work with a Grasten technician over a video chat to identify generator issues and determine the service necessary. "We also 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](http://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. ♦



## YOUR MEDICATIONS CAN MAKE YOUR NOSE AND THROAT FEEL BAD

In my role as a practicing ENT specialist, obviously I see patients with nose woes and throat inflammation including chronic throat clearing or cough. Often these conditions are the result of allergies or infections. I have previously written about treatments for these conditions using both over-the-counter and prescription medications.

This month I would like to talk about how medications that are prescribed for unrelated medical problems can result in symptoms such as nasal congestion and dryness of the nose and throat leading to thick postnasal drip. When I talk about this type of problem it is not considered to be a medication allergy but is classified as a side effect.

The human body is tremendously complex and almost any chemical ingested into it can lead to an unexpected result. However many of the commonly prescribed medications have predictable side effects.

The first side effect that I encounter is nasal congestion or a stopped up nose sensation. I see this most commonly seen with medications to lower high blood pressure. Many medications for hypertension work by causing the tiny muscles around blood vessels to relax. Unfortunately this action also leads to the blood vessels just under the surface of the nasal lining enlarging. This makes the nasal tissues get bigger which is what all of us experience as congestion. A DE-congestant, such as Sudafed, actually acts to constrict these blood vessels, making the tissue smaller and making breathing easier. Unfortunately Sudafed can raise your blood pressure, so long term use needs to be monitored.

Here is a list of other types of medications which have been noted to have side effects of nasal stuffiness and congestion: aspirin, ibuprofen, hormone replacements (including birth control), antidepressants, anti-anxiety drugs and even ED meds like Viagra.

Dryness of the mouth and throat is also a common medication side effect. Blood pressure medications containing diuretics to remove fluid from the body can result in excessive dryness including thickening of the normal

nasal secretions to create an irritating thick postnasal drainage. Drugs to control irritable bowel spasms, bladder spasms or frequent urination frequently lead to throat dryness and a feeling of frequent need to clear your throat. Other medications causing this problem include antihistamines, anti-anxiety medications and antidepressants, Parkinson's disease meds, nausea treatments and oral inhalers for

asthma or COPD.

One other specific medication causing problems is blood pressure medicine in the class called ACE inhibitors. The most common one of these is known as Lisinopril. This drug frequently has a side effect of any persistent dry tickle cough. Once it is discontinued the cough usually goes away quickly.

Obviously not everyone will suffer these side effects. And I certainly do not recommend stopping prescription medications without having a conversation with your primary physician's office. But often looking outside the common causes such as allergy or infection provides better remedy of these persistent problems. ♦



**EAR NOSE AND THROAT SERVICES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**



  
 Tom Stark M.D.

  
 Christl Dodd, P.A.

**CONVENIENTLY LOCATED ON HWY 105 W**

- Hoarseness and other voice problems • Thyroid nodules and masses
- Salivary gland disorders
- Chronic ear infections • Vertigo, and balance issues
- Chronic sinus infections

TEAR • NOSE • THROAT

**THOMAS**

**STARK, MD**

ALLERGY • SINUS

18059 HWY 105 W,  
Ste 115  
Montgomery, TX 77356  
**P: 936-582-7000**  
[www.tomstarkmd.com](http://www.tomstarkmd.com)



# DKB

## Dream Kitchen & Bath



### SHOWROOM LOCATION

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

[DREAMKITCHENANDBATHTX.COM](http://DREAMKITCHENANDBATHTX.COM)  
[DREAMKITCHEN2@AOL.COM](mailto:DREAMKITCHEN2@AOL.COM)



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



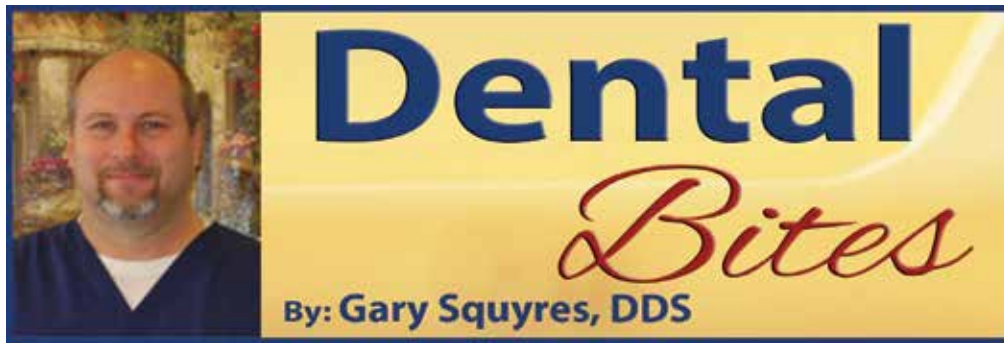
## **COMPLETE HOME REMODELING**

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

# **DKB**

**Dream Kitchen & Bath**





## Cracked Tooth Syndrome

### What Is It?

Unlike teeth with obvious fractures, teeth with cracked tooth syndrome usually have fractures that are too small to be seen on X-rays. Sometimes the fracture is below the gum line, making it even more difficult to identify. Cracked tooth syndrome more often occurs in molars, usually lower molars, which absorb most of the forces of chewing. People who grind or clench their teeth may be more susceptible to cracked tooth syndrome because of the constant forces put on their teeth. Sometimes a person's normal bite causes certain molar cusps (the highest points of the tooth) to exert so much pressure on the opposing tooth that it cracks. Teeth with large fillings or teeth that have undergone root canal treatment are weaker than other teeth and may be more likely to crack. People

with one cracked tooth are more likely to have others, either at the same time or in the future.

### Symptoms

You may experience pain in the tooth when you bite or chew. However, it probably will not happen all the time. The tooth may be painful only when you eat certain foods or when you bite in a specific way. You will not feel a constant ache, as you would if you had a cavity or abscess but the tooth may be more sensitive to cold temperatures. If the crack worsens, the tooth may become loose. Many people with cracked tooth syndrome have symptoms for months, but it's often difficult to diagnose because the symptoms are not consistent.

### Diagnosis

Diagnosis of cracked tooth syndrome is often difficult. Your dentist will do a thorough ex-

amination of your mouth and teeth, focusing on the tooth in question. He or she may use a sharp instrument called an explorer to feel for cracks in the tooth and will inspect the gums around the tooth for irregularities. Your dentist also may take X-rays, although X-rays often do not show the crack. Your dentist may use a special instrument to test the tooth for fractures. One instrument looks like a toothbrush without bristles that fits over one part of the tooth at a time as you bite down. If you feel pain, the cusp being tested most likely has a crack affecting it. Your dentist may shine a fiber-optic light on the tooth or stain it with a special dye to search for a crack. If the tooth already has a filling or crown, your dentist may remove it so he or she can better inspect the tooth.

### Expected Duration

How long symptoms last depends somewhat on how quickly a cracked tooth can be diagnosed. Even then, treatment may not always completely relieve the symptoms.

### Prevention

If you grind or clench your teeth, talk to your dentist about treatment. Grinding can increase your risk of cracked tooth syndrome.

### Treatment

Treatments for cracked tooth syndrome do not always completely relieve the symptoms. Treatment depends on the location, direction and extent of the crack. Cracks vary from superficial



All Insurance PPO's Accepted

Gary Squyres DDS

*Family & Cosmetic Dentistry*

281.252.8809 • [www.magnoliasmiles.com](http://www.magnoliasmiles.com) • 514 Honea Egypt, Suite 100 • Magnolia, Texas 77354

Monday -  
Thursday  
8am-5pm



ones in the outer layers of the tooth to deep splits in the root affecting the pulp (the center of the tooth, which contains the tooth's nerves). If the crack affects one or more cusps of a tooth, the tooth may be restored with a crown. If a crack affects the pulp, you probably will need root canal treatment. About 20% of teeth with cracked tooth syndrome require root canals. After a root canal, the tooth will no longer be sensitive to temperature, but it still will respond to pressure. This means that if you felt pain when you bit down before the root canal, you probably will not feel it as intensely as before, but you may feel it from time to time. In some severe cases, the tooth may need to be extracted. Some cracks extend into the root of the tooth under the bone and there's no way to fix the tooth. If your dentist decides the tooth needs to be extracted, you can have it replaced with an implant or a bridge.

#### Prognosis

Treatment of cracked tooth syndrome is not always successful. Your dentist should inform you about the prognosis. In some people, a restoration with a crown will relieve all symptoms. In others, root canal treatment solves the problem. Some people continue to have occasional symptoms after treatment, and may need to have the tooth extracted. ♦



## Jessie Smith Photography

Capturing sweet moments for  
you and your entire family!

Follow me on Instagram @JessieSmithphoto  
Book a Session: JessieSmithPhoto@gmail.com

# LEVEL IT! DON'T REPLACE IT!



## Discount Concrete Leveling



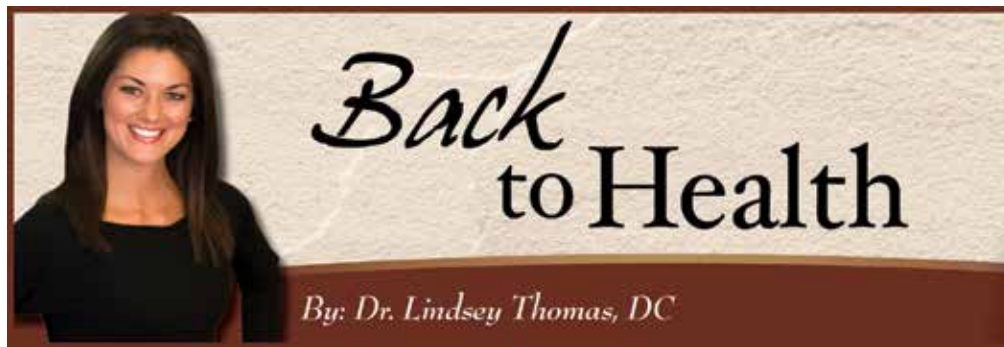
## Save thousands over Replacement

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

# 713-568-9456

INSURED & BONDED

# www.DiscountConcreteLeveling.com



## Your Child's Backpack: A Source of Spinal Stress?

It has become a picture that parents are most proud of - their child heading to the school bus, looking forward to their first day of school. They are well-prepared, with pencils, erasers, notebooks and backpacks in tow.

Backpacks can be very useful for your children. Many of them come with multiple compartments that help kids stay organized by keeping important books and papers in place. Backpacks are better than shoulder bags or purses for carrying these supplies, since the back and abdominal muscles (the strongest muscles in the body) are used to support the weight of the pack. However, to take full advantage of these benefits without the disadvantage of feeling overburdened or in pain, it is important that children use backpacks properly. This means watching the weight of the pack and carrying it correctly.

Wearing backpacks improperly or carrying ones that are too heavy put children at increased risk for spinal injury. Postural compensations carrying the heavy loads are causing what chiropractors term repetitive stress injury to many children.

According to the American Chiropractic Association, young children are suffering from back pain much earlier than previous generations, and the use of heavy backpacks is a contributing factor. Heavy backpacks can cause a child to hyperextend, or arch, his or her back, or lean the head and trunk forward to compensate for the weight of the bag. These postures can stress the muscles in the neck and back, increasing the risk of injury and fatigue. The natural curves in the upper, middle and lower back can become distorted, which will cause irritation to the spine. A rounding of the shoulders could also result if a back has to compensate for a heavy load.

Wearing a backpack on one shoulder may cause a child to lean to one side in order to compensate for the extra weight. The middle back, ribs and lower back can become stressed on the side of the body opposite of where the backpack is placed. Carrying the pack on one shoulder may also cause upper back pain and a strain in the shoulders and neck.

There are methods for preventing posture problems and other condition associated with toting a heavy backpack. The number one preventative method is to limit the weight of the backpack. Many healthcare profession-

als agree that backpack loads become a health problem when they reach 15% or more of your child's body weight. For example, a child weighing 50 pounds should carry no more than 7.5 pounds in their backpack; children weighing 100 pounds should carry no more than 15 pounds on their back; and children and adolescents weighing 150 pounds should not carry more than 22.5 pounds. A recent study has revealed that 55 percent of students are carrying backpacks weighing more than 15% of their weight.



As you prepare your child to head back to school, here are some tips on how to ensure that his backpack is safe, as well as ways to be proactive when it comes to the amount of weight your child carries to and from school everyday.

- Wear both straps and avoid the one-strap styled back packs. Uneven distribution of the load causes postural compensations and spinal stress.

- When putting on and removing backpacks, bend at the knees or have the pack at a higher level such as on a desk or table. Sudden twisting motion adds to the potential of injury.

- Arrange the backpack so it rests evenly and snugly in the middle of the back. Shoulder straps should be adjusted to allow the child to

put on and take off the backpack without difficulty and permit free movement of the arms. Straps should not be too loose, and the backpack should not extend below the lower back.

- Keep the load at 10-15% or less of the student's bodyweight. Carry only those items that are required for the day. Request additional textbooks to be kept at home instead of hauling heavy books to and from school.

- Clean out the backpack once a week to remove any unnecessary items that can create more weight.

- Organize the contents of the backpack by placing the heaviest items closest to the back.

- A padded back and wide shoulder straps will reduce pressure on the back, shoulders, and underarm regions, and enhance comfort.

- Hip and chest belts help to transfer some of the backpack weight from the back and shoulders to the hips and torso.

- Reflective material enhances visibility of the child to drivers in the evening hours.

If you begin to notice the following signs, it may be an indication that the backpack is too heavy or not positioned correctly on the back:

- Postural adaptations when wearing the backpack such as: excessive leaning forward, spinal tilt to one side or an elevated hip sup-

porting the excess weight

- Difficulty when putting on or taking off the backpack

- Pain or discomfort when wearing the backpack

- Tingling or numbness in arms and even into fingers

- Redness or soreness in neck, upper back and shoulder muscles

- Lower back pain with either gradual or sudden onset

Every child has a desire to have the "coolest" backpack, but if it's not functional then it's doing more harm than good. A great compromise is to find a backpack that is aesthetically pleasing to your child as well as provides him/her comfort each school day! ♦



Clear Direction for Your Retirement™

by Chris Wootton, ChFC®



WWW.WOOTTONFINANCIAL.COM

# Social Security & Medicare Challenges

Social Security and Medicare are two of the most important programs to Americans in retirement and crucial for most in planning for income and medical during those years. How will Social Security and Medicare be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Pardon the pun but the doctor is still out on the exact answer to this. Trustees however acknowledge that the estimates and analysis included in their reports do not reflect the potential effects.

Each year, the Trustees of the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds release lengthy reports to Congress that assess the health of these important programs. The newest reports, released on April 22, 2020, discuss the current financial condition and ongoing financial challenges that both programs face, and project a Social Security cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2021.

## Social Security Trust Funds

The Social Security program consists of two parts, each with its own financial account (trust fund) that holds the Social Security payroll taxes that are collected to pay Social Security benefits. Retired workers, their families, and survivors of workers receive monthly benefits under the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) program; disabled workers and their families receive monthly benefits under the Disability Insurance (DI) program. The combined programs are referred to as OASDI. Other income (reimbursements from the General Fund of the U.S. Treasury and income tax revenue from benefit taxation) is also deposited in these accounts. Money that is not needed in the current year to pay benefits and administrative costs is invested (by law) in special Treasury bonds that are guaranteed by the U.S. government and earn interest. As a result, the Social Security Trust Funds have built up reserves that can be used to cover benefit obligations if payroll tax income is insufficient to pay full benefits.

*Note that the Trustees provide certain projections based on the combined OASI and DI (OASDI) Trust Funds. However, these projections are hypothetical, because the trusts are separate, and generally one program's taxes and reserves cannot be used to fund the other program.*

## Highlights of Social Security Trustees Report

- Social Security's total cost is projected to be higher than its total income (including interest) in 2021 and all later years. The U.S. Treasury will need to withdraw from trust fund reserves to help pay benefits. Trustees project that the hypothetical combined trust fund reserves (OASDI) will

be depleted in 2035, the same as projected in last year's report, unless Congress acts.

- Once the hypothetical combined trust fund reserves are depleted in 2035, payroll tax revenue alone should still be sufficient to pay about 79% of scheduled benefits initially, with the percentage falling gradually to 73% by 2094.
- Based on the "intermediate" assumptions in this year's report, the projected cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to be announced in the fall of 2020, will be 2.3% (last year's report projected a COLA of 1.8% and the actual COLA was 1.6%). This COLA would apply to benefits starting in January 2021.

## Medicare Trust Funds

There are two Medicare trust funds. The Hospital Insurance (HI) Trust Fund helps pay for hospital care (Medicare Part A costs). The Supplementary Medical Insurance (SMI) Trust Fund comprises two separate accounts, one covering Medicare Part B (which helps pay for physician and outpatient costs) and one covering Medicare Part D (which helps cover the prescription drug benefit).

## Highlights of Medicare Trustees Report

- Annual costs for the Medicare HI Trust Fund exceeded tax income each year from 2008 to 2015. There were small fund surpluses in 2016 and 2017. In 2018 and 2019, expenditures exceeded income, and deficits are expected for all later years.
- The HI Trust Fund is projected to be depleted in 2026, the same year as projected in last year's report. Once the HI Trust Fund is depleted, tax and premium income would still cover 90% of estimated program costs, declining to 78% by 2044 and then gradually increasing to 90% by 2094. The Trustees note that long-range projections of Medicare costs are highly uncertain because the health-care landscape is shifting and the effects are unknown.

## Why are Social Security and Medicare Facing Financial Challenges?

Social Security and Medicare are funded primarily through the collection of payroll taxes. Because of demographic and economic factors, including higher retirement rates and lower birth rates, there will be fewer workers per beneficiary over the long term, worsening the strain on the trust funds.

## What is Being Done to Address These Challenges?

Both reports continue to urge Congress to address the financial challenges facing these programs soon, implementing them gradually as to lessen the impact on the public. Combining some of the following solutions may also lessen the impact of any one solution.

- Raising the current Social Security payroll tax rate (currently 12.40%). According to this year's report, an immediate and permanent payroll tax increase of 3.14 percentage points to 15.54% would be necessary to address the long-range revenue.
- Raising or eliminating the ceiling on wages currently subject to Social Security payroll taxes (\$137,700 in 2020).
- Raising the full retirement age beyond the currently scheduled age of 67 (for anyone born in 1960 or later).
- Reducing future benefits. According to this year's report, to address the long-term revenue shortfall, scheduled benefits would have to be immediately and permanently reduced by about 19% for all current and future beneficiaries, or by about 23% if reductions were applied only to those who initially become eligible for benefits in 2020 or later.
- Changing the benefit formula.
- Calculating COLA for benefits differently.

You can view a combined summary of the 2020 Social Security and Medicare Trustees Reports and a full copy of the Social Security report at [ssa.gov](https://ssa.gov). You can find the full Medicare report at [cms.gov](https://cms.gov).

Income planning around these areas is an important part of a well-rounded financial plan. Let us help you get Clear Direction for Your Retirement. Stay safe and God bless.

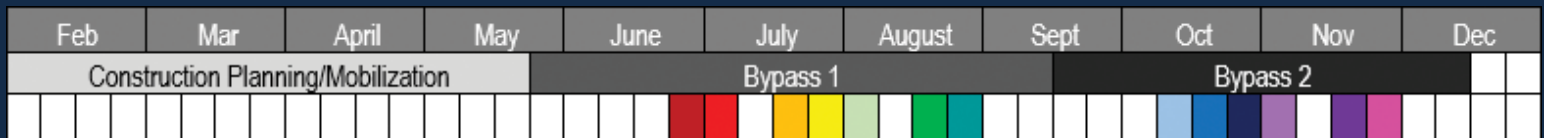


2040 North Loop 336 W, Suite 125  
Conroe, Texas 77304  
(936) 449-5952  
[www.woottonfinancial.com](https://www.woottonfinancial.com)

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



# SJRA Rehabilitation of Bear Branch Gravity Main Project Update



Over time infrastructure needs to be evaluated for repairs and improvements. As the operator of three wastewater treatment plants that serve the needs of Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs) throughout The Woodlands, the San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) began improving the Bear Branch Gravity Main wastewater collection system in early 2020. When completed, the structural integrity of the more than 2.5 miles of pipe and associated manholes in the Village of Cochran's Crossing will be restored, preventing aquifer groundwater and stormwater from entering the collection system through possible leaking joints and manhole covers.

## PROJECT UPDATE JULY 2020

SJRA's construction contractor, SAK Construction, mobilized February 2020. Since then, SAK has installed:

- Temporary access roads so that the heavy equipment can reach all of the manholes and pipes to be rehabilitated.

- The first of two bypass systems so that wastewater service remains uninterrupted while the project is completed.

SAK will begin a cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) lining process as well as manhole rehabilitation efforts. By using CIPP, SJRA will be able to significantly increase the life of our aging gravity sewer system in the most cost-effective manner that also reduces the construction schedule and impacts to the community. The CIPP process will be completed in smaller segments as shown below. SAK will be onsite 24-hours per day. Once the first half of the segments are rehabilitated, SAK will relocate the bypass to then start the second half of the project. Below is a map that identifies each segment, the two bypass pipelines, and the estimated construction schedule (dates subject to change).

## What is Bear Branch Gravity Main?

### Why does it need to be rehabilitated?

The Bear Branch Gravity Main, a major sewer collection main for the SJRA Woodlands

Division Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) No. 2 service area, was installed in 1985, and requires rehabilitation based on physical condition assessments conducted in previous years. The gravity main is approximately 16,000 linear feet of existing 42-inch to 72-inches in diameter reinforced concrete sewer pipe.

## What is Cured-in-Place-Pipe (CIPP)?

CIPP is a trenchless technology to rehabilitate and repair existing pipes without having to excavate or replace the pipes. It is a joint free, seamless pipe lining that is installed within the existing pipe. It is one of the most widely used rehabilitation methods for existing aging sewer lines.

## What is the process for CIPP lining installation to rehabilitate the pipe?

- Divert existing sewer line flow by diversion pumps from one manhole to another.
- Mechanically clean and televise existing sewer line, remove debris, and check for failures.



- Mobilize trucks and equipment to a designated upstream manhole to receive the CIPP lining and at a downstream manhole that the CIPP lining will stop.

- The process of CIPP involves inserting and running a felt lining made of fiberglass into a preexisting pipe that is the subject of repair and rehabilitation. Resin within the liner is then exposed to a curing element (hot water) to make it attach to the inner walls of the pipe. Once fully cured, the lining now acts as a new pipeline.

- Because there are several different diameters of pipe within the pipeline, this process will be required to be repeated several times.

#### Why are there pipes laying on the ground?

In order to rehabilitate the gravity main system, the selected construction method requires that the existing system (underground sewer line) be taken out of service, in sections. The temporary above ground pipes will be used to bypass sections of the existing system while they are rehabilitated using CIPP.

#### What are normal construction hours?

Temporary access roads have been installed along the project route to allow the

specialized CIPP equipment to access the pipes and manholes. Once the contractor starts the CIPP process, the crew will work 24/7 until that segment is complete. They will then move their equipment to the next segment to proceed with the next CIPP lining installation. There may be construction traffic on the access roadway during the night; however, if you see something suspicious, please report it to Montgomery County Sheriff's Department at 936-760-5800.

#### Will there be noise, dust, or odors from the construction activities?

As with any construction, there may be activities that cause noticeable noises, but the contractor is required to minimize impacts to the neighboring communities. The contractor will mitigate dust impacts using water trailers as needed. Potential odors may be present in the vicinity of the where the bypass pipes are discharging into manholes and when the contractor is cleaning the existing sewer pipe in advance of installing the CIPP. The lining process may have a smell similar to nail polish.

#### Will the area be restored and temporary roads and water crossings be removed?

The current scope of work requires SJRA's

contractor to restore any areas impacted by construction activities. Planning and coordination between SJRA and The Woodlands Township may require some revisions to restoration activities.

#### When will this project be completed?

The project is currently anticipated to be complete by spring of 2021.

One of the major river authorities in Texas, SJRA's mission is to develop, conserve, and protect the water resources of the San Jacinto River basin. Covering all or part of seven counties, the organization's jurisdiction includes the entire San Jacinto River watershed, excluding Harris County. For additional information on SJRA visit our website at [www.sjra.net](http://www.sjra.net), like SJRA on Facebook @SanJacintoRiverAuthority, follow us on Twitter @SJRA\_1937, find us on Instagram @sanjacintoriverauthoritySJRA, or connect with us on LinkedIn @San Jacinto River Authority. ♦

# Online with Dock Line

## Should You Build Your Own Website?

### *The Pros and Cons of a DIY Website*

In light of recent events in the world, you may be one of the many who have found themselves with a lot more time on your hands and stuck at home. You might also be one of the many unfortunate people who have lost their job, or if you have your own small business you've seen a drastic drop in growth. Wherever you are on the "affected by coronavirus" scale, it's likely you have been considering other options for income - mainly in the online space.

Perhaps you have an idea for a side business and need a website, or you already have a small business and you need to get your business online. Whatever your starting point, getting your own website is a crucial

step in setting yourself up for success, and growing into something bigger, especially now. So, where do you start?

Well, for most beginners, the cheapest option seems to be the most attractive route. There are many DIY website builders that let you start for free. Wix, Weebly, Wordpress.com, and Go Daddy are just a few of the places that let you build a website for free. But is that the best way to go about getting your business online?

Let's look at that factor and the other major pros and cons of building your own website.



**Pro: You can build your own website for free.**

Free is appealing for obvious reasons. You can get a website without the financial investment. If you're just starting out, you might not have a lot of money to put into your website. You may be putting whatever startup money into a different aspect of your business, and a free website gives you some wiggle room to do that.

**Con: Free looks "cheap".**

While "free" always sounds good, it also has a flip side that can mean "cheap". We've all seen the result of DIY free websites online. With the amount of time we all spend browsing websites nowadays, it's fairly easy to recognize when someone has gone the DIY route. The design is poor. The navigation is difficult. The messaging is confusing. The colors don't flow right. Overall, it's just not appealing and we tend to leave the website just as soon as we visited.

**Pro: DIY websites are easy to build.**

Most free DIY website builders are super user friendly. You don't usually need to be tech-savvy to start building your own website. Also, many of the DIY website options offer "drag and drop" types of builders to make it even easier. You can choose pre-built blocks and sections and quickly put together a simple design on your own in just a couple of hours.

**Con: DIY websites are limited to your own design skills and the DIY website builder's capabilities.**

The downside to building your own website is that most people are not web designers, even though we tend to give ourselves the benefit of the doubt. We also tend to have a bias toward things we created, not being able to see flaws in our work. DIY websites are a perfect example of this. People often think the website they built looks amazing, when in reality it's not attractive to visitors or potential clients. Poor website design can be detrimental to your business as websites are often the first impression people get of your business. Also, DIY website builders leave out a lot of design aspects employed by professional web designers in order to keep things as user friendly and affordable as possible.

**Pro: DIY websites give you complete control.**

Building your own website can be appealing because you have control over everything...or at least you feel like you do. You can build the site and complete it on your own schedule. You can make changes whenever you like. You can invest your own time in keeping it updated and secure.

**Con: DIY websites lack security, get outdated quickly, and require time to maintain.**

As any business owner will attest, time becomes more scarce and more valuable as your business grows. Finding time to devote to your website becomes more difficult, especially if you aren't very tech savvy. DIY websites already lack the level of security most professionally hosted websites provide. Keeping your website secure becomes more difficult over time. Not to mention, your DIY website will likely look outdated in just 6 months. Trends and technologies change quickly online. You'll need to stay up to date with what's "in" and what's working. Not only will you need to devote time to maintain your website, you'll also need to educate constantly on web design tactics.

If you're serious about your new venture, or want your current business to be taken seriously online, then avoid the DIY website option. You'll thank yourself later, and your customers will be grateful, too. Plain and simple, if your business is important enough to you, you'll invest in a professional website. Although you will spend more money up front, you'll see a return on your investment many times over.

If you need expert advice on getting a website that best represents the quality of your business, let us know! Dock Line is quickly becoming the local leader in web design services. Demand for professional web design in Montgomery County is growing exponentially. If you need a beautiful website for your business that helps it grow month after month and year after year, then let's talk. Contact us today at [ozzy@docklinemagazine.com](mailto:ozzy@docklinemagazine.com). ♦

**A Different Niche!**  
*Your home décor store*

End of Summer Sale

10% off All Chandeliers

Corkcicle®  
Tyler Candle Company®  
nora fleming®  
Forty West · Uttermost® · Peepers®  
Michel Design Works®  
and so much more.

936.286.8073  
Hours: Tues-Fri. 10am-6pm  
Sat. 10am-3pm  
Closed Sunday & Monday  
2114 McCaleb Road, Bldg. A, Suite 100  
Montgomery, TX 77316

[www.adifferentniche.com](http://www.adifferentniche.com)  
Faye Milstead, Owner, [fm@homedecor2114.com](mailto:fm@homedecor2114.com)

# STAGE RIGHT

## An **UPDATE** from **STAGE RIGHT** of Texas: The Only Constant in Life is Change

By: Carolyn Corsano Wong



*Lisa Schofield in The Wild Women of Winedale. Change is hard.*

STAGE RIGHT of Texas, resident theatre company at the historic Crichton Theatre, has announced that they are moving their production of *Peter Pan* to at least December of 2020 and are not going to be selling season tickets to their planned 2020-2021 Season. The board of directors has decided that theatre under gathering restrictions is not safe or financially practical so they are going to keep moving the productions until a time when gathering restrictions are not in effect.

### **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 once again. The new tentative dates for *Peter Pan* are Dec 4-20, 2020. Tickets will not be on sale until gathering restrictions are eliminated.

### **Why was *Peter Pan* delayed again?**

Due to the surge in Covid-19 cases in June, restrictions of gatherings to no more than 10 persons are back in effect. We can't rehearse *Peter Pan* for presentation in September with only 10 people present at a time. Additionally, live performance venues are currently under capacity restrictions and social distancing measures are still in effect. With capacity restric-

tions 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. We have chosen to do what we felt is in the best interest of our artists, patrons and our organization.

### **What happens to the next season line-up of shows: 2020-2021 Season of Screen to Stage?**

STAGE RIGHT is not going to be selling a season package for 2020-2021. Since *Pe-*



*The lovely Kathleen Baker in midtransformation as Cinderella*



*Lizzie Camp in Thoroughly Modern Millie*

*ter Pan* is up in the air (sorry about the pun), it would not be wise to sell season packages since we don't know when the shows will actually take place. We will most likely start the same season of shows planned for 2020-2021

money due to the pandemic restrictions and have no source of income until we are able to present a show. If you'd instead like a credit to a show next season, we'd be happy to accommodate that as well. If you already purchased

season tickets to our 2020-2021 season, we will refund your money.

**You lost me. I'm confused.**

If you have questions, please call the Crighton box office and they can answer any questions you might have and get all your ticketing issues resolved.

Please keep up with the most current information regarding dates for shows on our website: [www.stage-right.org](http://www.stage-right.org) or the Crighton Theatre website [www.crightontheatre.org](http://www.crightontheatre.org). Please keep safe, stay well and we look forward to seeing you back at the historic Crighton Theatre when this whole mess is over. On the plus side, when you do come back all of the renovations to the lobby may be finished! What a grand re-opening that will be! ♦



*Our last bow on the Crighton stage*

(*The Odd Couple*, *Nunsense*, *Elf*, *Funny Girl*, *Leaving Iowa*, and *Wizard of Oz*) for a 2021-2022 season. In the meantime, if it is safe to gather again we will come up with alternate small cast shows and hopefully a fundraising event to entertain folks.

**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. Folks that had season tickets to our 2019-2020 season, you already paid for *Peter Pan* and *M\*A\*S\*H*. When we are able to present those shows without social distancing requirements, you will see them in the seats you selected. If you would rather not wait and just want your money back, we'll do that. We hope though that you'll consider waiting until we can safely present these shows since we have already lost



*The Horrible Herdmans became not so horrible in The Best Christmas Pageant Ever-The Musical*



# Blue Water Navy Veterans & Survivors Awarded Big Benefits



By: Kay L. Lee,  
Veterans Service Officer

In 2019 the Court of Veterans Appeals ruled (*Procopio v Wilkie*) that Navy Veterans serving within 12 nautical miles of the Republic of Vietnam (Blue Water) from June 9, 1962 through May 7, 1975 were presumptively exposed to the herbicide Agent Orange and now made eligible to receive compensation for disabilities which developed due to that exposure.

Claims made by these veterans, which were previously denied now qualified for reconsideration base on the new criteria. This also meant retroactively awarding the compensation claim to the date of the veteran's initial claim.

Since the start of the fiscal year in September 2019 through April 30, 2020, the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) Claims Department has assisted veterans in receiving over \$250 million in retroactive payments plus annual increases.

Of the \$250 million, \$107 million was in retroactive pay disbursed to 7,088 veterans throughout the state. That's an average of over \$15,000 per veteran. Additionally, \$145 million in annual increases was disbursed to 7,088 veterans throughout the state, an average of over \$20,000 per veteran.

Add to that in May, \$444,394 in retroactive accrued benefits was awarded to the widow of a Blue Water Navy Veteran. The award was the result of a great collaborative effort between Montgomery County Assistant Veteran Service Officer Karen Karr and TVC Houston Strike Force members Milton Austin and Van Stringer. Benefits were awarded back to 2005, with Special Monthly Compensation, for this substitution of claimant case.

"The case reflects outstanding work for a Texas veteran and his family to recognize his contribution to this country and the benefits he earned through his service," said TVC Claims Operations Manager Ryan Pavlu.

Claims activity for the state has been on the rise with interactions with veterans up 600% between March 23 and May 28, 2020.

We are very proud of Karen and her continued service to the veterans & survivors in our community.

It is the mission of the Montgomery County Veterans Service Office to assist our veterans and their families with their VA & State Benefits with compassion and competency.

For more information on VA & State Benefits, contact our office at 936-539-7842 or via email at [vetsvc@mctx.org](mailto:vetsvc@mctx.org). ♦

**We are still open and taking precautions to keep you safe during your visit.  
Also offering Televisits at this time.**



• Primary Care • Sports Physicals • Dermatology • Geriatrics • Allergy Management  
• Sports Medicine • Well-Woman Exams • Primary Orthopedics • Pediatrics

- **Laser Skin Rejuvenation**
- **Acne Scar Treatment**
- **Skin Pigment Treatment**
- **Tattoo Removal**
- **Dysport and BioTE**

508 Medical Center Blvd. Suite 350  
Conroe, Texas 77304

P 936.760.9900 F 936.760.9926

[FamilyLifeMedical.com](http://FamilyLifeMedical.com)

Our Unique Medical Practice Offers Exceptional  
Care and Personal Service For The Entire Family





# DOCK LINE

All of your marketing needs, under one roof.

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



For more information about all of our services  
visit [bit.ly/dockline](http://bit.ly/dockline)



**A symbol of our  
dedication to  
our **community****





## MAINTAINING OUR COMMITMENT TO SERVE OUR GROWING COMMUNITIES

When Sandstone Chiropractic was established in Montgomery, Texas in 2009 - We made it our mission to provide the families of our community with a new perspective on their health by delivering the highest quality of care in a comfortable and holistic setting.

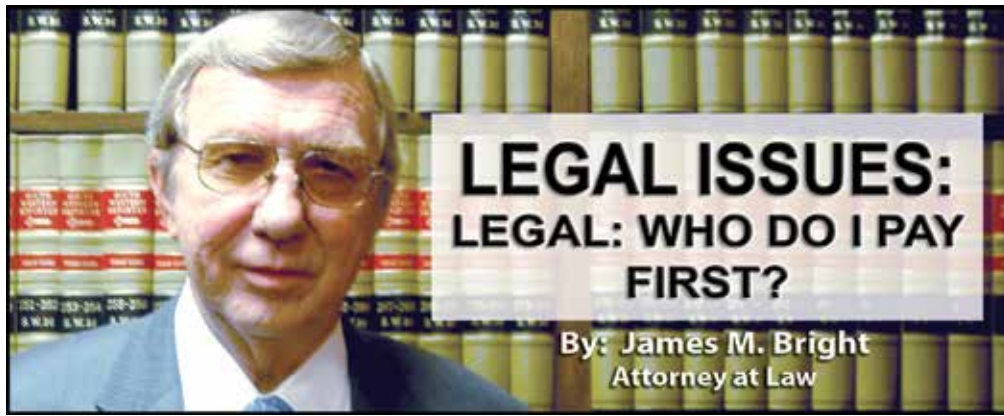
Since then, the demand for the same experience in family medicine, neurofeedback and regenerative medicine presented itself. This provided us with the opportunity to continue our pattern of growth by creating a unique blend of comprehensive healthcare to better serve our community and their loved ones.

**Chiropractic | Neurofeedback | Family Medicine | Regenerative Medicine**

**SandStone**  
HEALTH

To schedule an appointment or for more information please call: 281.203.0070

[www.sandstonehealth.com](http://www.sandstonehealth.com)



*The following is provided for informational purposes only and is not, nor should it be construed as legal advice. This particular article refers to payments by Executors for an estate and should not be deemed to be general advice.*

In my practice I am often asked by people who are serving as executor of an estate, "If there are multiple debts due, and I do not have sufficient funds to pay them all, which debts should I pay first?"

There is great temptation to pay the creditor which makes the most noise, thereby proving the old adage, "the squeaky wheel gets the grease."

This practice of yielding to the most pressure is not, however, typically in the best interest of the estate or in the best interest of the executor. Based upon my personal experience

and the experience relayed by executors with whom I've worked, the "squeakiest wheel" is often the one that should receive the lowest priority (i.e., unsecured debts, such as those from credit cards).

First is proper to determine what amount, if any, should be set aside for maintenance of a surviving spouse or decedent's surviving minor children. Space in this column is not sufficient to explain the family allowance in detail, but it shall suffice to say that surviving spouses and minor children are due allowance, if particular conditions exist. (Estates Code §353.101 et seq.).

Other claims against the estate of the decedent shall be classified and have priority of payment as follows: (Estates Code §355.102).

**Class I** - Funeral expenses and expenses

of last sickness for a reasonable amount to be approved by the court, not to exceed a total of \$15,000, with any excess to be classified and paid as other unsecured claims. It should be noted that \$15,000 is not a very large sum to cover expenses of the last illness and funeral expenses. It should also be pointed out that this limit only applies to those estates where there are insufficient funds to pay all debts.

**Class II** - Expenses of administration and expenses incurred in the preservation, safe-keeping and management of the estate, including expenses awarded by the court for defending the Will, and unpaid expenses of administration awarded in a guardianship of the decedent. It should be further noted that even though attorney's fees may be paid as Class II expenses, they only gain this status of priority if they are incurred to protect the interest of all the beneficiaries. A person who files a contest to the Will in an effort to achieve a favorable outcome for himself is not entitled to Class II treatment of his claim.

**Class III** - Certain secured claims for money, including tax liens, so far as the same can be paid out of the proceeds of the property subject to the mortgage on the property or other lien, and when more than one mortgage lien or security interest shall exist upon the same property, they should be paid in order of their priority.

**Class IV** - Claims for the principal amount and accrued interest on delinquent child sup-



MISTER ROBERT'S  
**RUSTIC  
RAREHOUSE**

936-588-2771

13782 HWY 105 W, Conroe, TX 77304

**NEW LOCATION:** 13080 HWY 105 W, Conroe, TX 77304

[www.RusticRarehouse.com](http://www.RusticRarehouse.com)



- Unique collection of NEW, distressed & solid wood furniture
- Product customization
- High quality furniture built to last
- Knowledgeable & helpful staff
- Free local delivery





**New Items are in!**

To view some of our collection visit our website, Facebook & Instagram

 [facebook.com/rusticrarehouse](https://facebook.com/rusticrarehouse)

 [@mister\\_roberts\\_furniture](https://www.instagram.com/mister_roberts_furniture)

**OPEN**

Wed - Sat: 10am - 6pm

Sun: 11am - 5pm





port and child support arrearages that have been confirmed and reduced to money judgment as determined by applicable sections of the Texas Family Code.

**Class V** - Claims for taxes, penalties, and interest under other select statutes.

**Class VI** - Claims for the cost of confinement established by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice under Section 501.017 of the Texas Government Code.

**Class VII** - Claims for repayment of medical assistance payments made by the state of Texas under applicable sections of the Human Resources Code to or for the benefit of the decedent. If the decedent was the beneficiary of Medicaid, and if such application for benefits was made after March 1, 2005, the state of Texas may file a claim for reimbursement for all Medicaid benefits received by the decedent as a Class VII claim.

**Class VIII** - All other claims. This is the lowest priority of claims and includes, but is not limited to, all unsecured claims such as credit card debt. Even though credit card companies may be the most aggressive in attempting to collect a debt from the estate of the decedent, they are actually in the lowest position of priority of payment.

If the estate that you are serving as the executor is one of those that is fortunate enough to have a much greater balance of assets than liabilities, then these priorities, while still important, have less of a long-term impact so long as the executor pays or settles all of the debt.

If, on the other hand, the estate that you are serving as the executor does not have sufficient assets to pay all claims against the estate in total, it is extremely important that you make a determination regarding which debts are to be paid and in what order. As always, you are encouraged to seek the services of a qualified attorney of your choice.

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

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

**JAMES M. BRIGHT**

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

**Email: [topics@houstontxprobate.com](mailto:topics@houstontxprobate.com)**



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT  
OF A FAMILY OWNED BUSINESS!**

**THE BARKLY**  
PET RETREAT & SPA

Info@thebarkly.com  
www.TheBarkly.com  
936.447.2275  
15000 FM 2854  
Montgomery, TX 77316

• Excellent Customer Service • Affordable Rates  
• We Support Dog Rescues • Outstanding Groomers  
• Boarding • Grooming • Daycare • Training

Mon-Sun 7am-7pm

**\$10 Off**  
Any Daycare  
Package

**\$10 Off**  
3 Consecutive  
Nights

Free Nail  
Grinding with  
Premium  
Grooming

Free Upgrade  
to Flea & Tick  
Shampoo

**NO REFUNDS OR EXCHANGES ON PREPAYMENTS**



**BACK TO SCHOOL SESSIONS**  
**SCHOOL PORTRAITS MADE EASY**

**Graduation Sessions**

Did your kids miss out on graduation pictures for the 2020 school year? We can fix that! Whether it's your child's first milestone graduating Kindergarten or their last, earning their high school diploma, let's celebrate their achievements with graduation portraits done by a Certified Professional Photographer.

**Back to School Sessions**

Back to school sessions are a great way to get your kiddos hyped for the start of the school year, whether they'll be attending in person or online. They're a sweet way to show how much they've grown and let your child know how proud you are of them as they take on a new academic year.

Don't miss out on capturing the special moments of your child's educational journey! I know how to create stunning school pictures that bring your child's unique personality to life. Sibling photo sessions available! Contact me for more details for in-studio graduation & back to school sessions!

**281-543-5938**  
**[kathy@dandkphotos.com](mailto:kathy@dandkphotos.com)**

**D&K Photography**

# CATCH *Em* CLEAN *Em* & EAT *Em*

## Blackened Salmon Soft Tacos



- 1 1/4 pounds skinless salmon fillet, cut into 4 pieces
- 2 tablespoons blackening spice mix or Cajun seasoning (no salt added)
- 1/2 small head romaine lettuce, thinly sliced (about 4 cups)

- 1/2 cup fresh cilantro
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
- Kosher salt and pepper
- 8 small flour tortillas, warmed
- Low-fat sour cream, for serving

Heat a large skillet over medium heat. Coat both sides of the salmon with the seasoning mix and cook, covered, until opaque throughout and blackened, 3 to 4 minutes per side.

Meanwhile, in a large bowl, toss together the lettuce, cilantro, oil, lime juice, and 1/4 tsp. each salt and pepper.

Flake the salmon into pieces. If desired, spread sour cream on the tortillas, then fill with the salmon and top with the lettuce mixture.

## Chocolate Lemon Ice Cream Pie

- 1 9" chocolate graham cracker piecrust
- 3/4 cup chocolate fudge ice cream topping, divided
- 1 (10-ounce) jar lemon curd
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- 4 cups vanilla ice cream, softened



Spread half of the chocolate ice cream topping in the bottom of the piecrust and freeze.

In medium bowl, combine lemon curd, lemon zest, and ice cream; beat until blended. Spoon into piecrust on top of chocolate topping.

Drizzle with remaining chocolate ice cream topping; swirl the topping into the ice cream mixture with the tip of a knife. Freeze until firm. You can slice this right out of the freezer. ♦

*Send Us  
Your Recipes!*

E-mail to: [linda@docklinemagazine.com](mailto:linda@docklinemagazine.com)

## DENTAL IMPLANT RESTORATION

# With ClearChoice®

## Get a Beautiful, Confidence-Inspiring Smile

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

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

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



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

**SCHEDULE A FREE CONSULTATION TODAY. Call 888.552.6076 or Visit [ClearChoice.com](http://ClearChoice.com)**

Rhonda F. Jacob, DDS, MS, Prosthodontist, David R. Mulherin, DDS, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon. ClearChoice Dental Implant Centers® are locally owned and operated by licensed dentists, and are part of a professional affiliation of implant practices operated by oral surgeons, prosthodontists, and restorative dentists across the U.S. A majority of patients (and approximately 90% of Minnesota patients) qualify for same day implants and can have their procedure in one day after initial workup, without additional bone graft surgery, and may leave the office that same day with provisional prostheses and the final prostheses to be placed later. Results may vary in individual cases. Both general dentists and specialists in some states. Dental implants are not a recognized specialty. Dental specialists are specialists in oral maxillofacial surgery and prosthodontics. Limited services available at satellite offices. Dental implants can last a lifetime. Studies show that dental implants are likely to last at least 25 years with proper care and maintenance in most cases.

# El Bosque

## MEXICAN GRILL

DIA DE LOS  
MUERTOS

Where families come together to eat!

Face Mask  
Required

to be seated  
and served

We are open for dine in and  
offering online ordering.

**SAVE 10% ON YOUR FIRST  
ONLINE ORDER**

Curbside pick up and delivery still  
available when you order online.

Join us at our new location!

1111 W Dallas St #105  
Conroe, TX 77304

At the corner of Dallas St  
and Lewis St

**936.539.3823**

El Bosque  
MEXICAN GRILL

**Sunday  
Breakfast**



**8 AM TO 11 AM**

For more information go to  
[elbosquemexicangrill.com](http://elbosquemexicangrill.com) or @elbosquemexicangrill  
on Facebook.

Join us for a delicious Mexican  
breakfast with made-to-order  
omelettes!



# IS THAT A BABY OWL?

By: Lisa Wolling, Executive Director

We are fortunate in our part of Texas to have four different types of owls that can be found. Quite often at our intake center, we get calls about "baby great horned owls". In our area, great horned owls are generally hatched early in the year, as early as January. While there are times we do get in baby great horned owls, many times what people actually find are the smallest owl in our area, the Eastern Screech Owl (which in everyone's defense, do look a lot like miniature Great Horned Owls).

Eastern Screech Owls are short, stocky owls. Adults are only about 6 to 10 inches tall and weigh on average only  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a pound. They have pointed ear tufts similar to those of the Great Horned Owl and are either mostly gray or mostly reddish-brown in color. The red (or rufous) coloration seems to be more common in southern states. The screech owls' coloration is in no way connected to their gender, nor does the coloration change throughout their lifetime; gray owls remain gray and red owls remain red. In fact, both color morphs can occur within the same clutch of babies. Their

eyes are pale yellow in color.

The Eastern Screech Owls are the most strictly nocturnal of all North American owls, so they are far more often heard than seen. They are known for their trilling or whinnying song. Screech Owls are common in most types of woods and prefer to be near water. Although they would rather nest in tree cavities, they can also be attracted to man-made nesting boxes, and pairs are monogamous. Eggs are laid in late March or early April, with 2 to 5 eggs being usual. The eggs hatch after 26 days. During nesting, the female stays in the nest except for brief dawn and dusk excursions. She and the nestlings are fed by the male. The owlets fledge at about four weeks of age, but they gain flight and hunting skills slowly. The family will stay together for another 8 to 10 weeks as the owlets depend on their parents for food while they hone their own hunt-



Top left: juveniles almost ready for release. Top right: red morph adult Eastern Screech Owl. Bottom left: gray morph showing their wonderful camouflage. Bottom right: adult gray morph Eastern Screech Owl.

ing skills. Both parents feed and tend to the youngsters at this stage.

During the day, screech owls prefer to remain hidden in tree cavities or old woodpecker



BisonProFab.com or call 281-356-0026

## The Patio Cart

35H x 43W x 33D

Can be customized with names and logos



Manufactured out of Stainless steel or powder coated Aluminum, this cart is perfect for a small Grill or Griddle stand, Margarita machine, serving cart, or just some extra storage in your garage or patio. A key lockable cabinet on one side to secure your important items from theft and the weather and 3 drawers with roller bearing slides on the other side. A pull handle on the right side easily maneuvers this cart on heavy duty roller bearing casters. The Stainless version has an elegant brushed finish that matches other stainless outdoor cooking equipment. The powder coated aluminum version can be coated any color to match your existing garage or patio designs.



## OUTDOOR PRODUCTS THAT ADD CONVENIENCE AND ORGANIZATION TO YOUR LEISURE LIFE!

### The Fire Pit

24H x 36W x 36D

Can be customized with names and logos



This rugged fire pit is laser cut out of 3/16 inch thick A-36 carbon steel. It's no weld modular design allows you to simply take it apart like a puzzle and easily haul it in the flat in a truck or RV to your next outdoor gathering. Shown below with our Bison logo and high temperature powder coated finish, the design can be customized with a DXF of your company logo or name cut out of the sides. This pit would make a great gift that will keep you warm and last for years. Weight Est. 160 lbs.



holes. At dark, they emerge to hunt, with most prey being taken in the few hours just after nightfall. Eastern Screech Owls eat small birds, rodents, and surprisingly large numbers of earthworms, insects, crayfish, tadpoles, frogs, and lizards. They will also eat bats, scorpions, spiders, snails, and occasionally fish. Screech Owls are ambush hunters; they prefer to observe from a perch in a tree or bush and then dive down to pounce on prey. Because they often take prey on the ground and consume large numbers of insects, Screech Owls are particularly susceptible to poisoning from pesticides and fertilizers.

As with all owls, Eastern Screech Owls are perfectly designed hunters. Their skeletal structure is very light and strong, and many of the bones which would be separated in mammals are fused together in owls, making them strong to support their weight on the ground. In addition, some of their larger bones are hollow with bony internal bracing. This helps reduce overall weight. Owls are known as silent flyers, so you will never hear an owl flapping overhead. Their flight feathers are edged in fringe-like tips, which cuts down on air turbulence and effectively muffles the sound of flight. Many owl species have asymmetrical ears. Having ears located at different heights on their head makes them more able to pinpoint the location of sounds in multiple directions. While owls cannot, despite common myths, turn their heads all the way around, but they can rotate them up to 270 degrees in ei-

ther direction. They have fourteen neck vertebrae (twice as many as humans) and they also have a special arrangement of the jugular veins to ensure that blood supply is not impeded as the neck is rotated. As nocturnal animals, owls have disproportionately large eyes. These large eyes help to improve their hunting efficiency, especially under low-light conditions. Their well-developed eyes are actually not eyeballs as such, but elongated tubes which are held in place by bony structures in the skull. For this reason, an owl cannot move its eyes at all to look side to side or up and down, but rather they need to pivot their head to look around.

If you happen to be out and about after dark, keep your eyes and ears peeled to see if you can observe these little nocturnal beauties. If you want to learn to recognize some of their calls, check out the following link: <https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/eastern-screech-owl> and click on "songs and calls".

With the ongoing concerns during the Covid outbreak, we continue to do our best to remain open while keeping

everyone safe. We are extremely grateful to our wonderful volunteers for helping to assure that we can stay open. For the time being, we remain open, but our hours are limited, and we are accepting animal intakes only by appointment. If you need assistance, please call 281-259-0039, or email to our emergency email at [ftwl.help@gmail.com](mailto:ftwl.help@gmail.com). For the time being, our visitor's center and educational programs remain closed.

To learn more about what we do and view pictures of many of the animals we assist, please visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SavingTexasWildlife](https://www.facebook.com/SavingTexasWildlife). ♦



*Eastern Screech Owl babies are tiny little fluffballs about the size of a billiard ball. You can still see the "egg tooth" on these little ones (at the end of the beak, which helps them to peck out of their shell). They will fledge at four weeks of age, but are still dependent on their parents for another 8-10 weeks.*



# R3<sup>®</sup>

## R WORLD IS CALLING.



**DARK LIGHTNING**  
2020 MT-07



**DARK ATTRACTION**  
2020 MT-07



**TOP FUEL MOTORCYCLE**

[WWW.HOUSTONYAMAHA.COM](http://WWW.HOUSTONYAMAHA.COM)

9550 CYPRESS CREEK PARKWAY  
HOUSTON, TX 77070  
281-890-2020

Professional rider on closed course. Dress properly for your ride with a helmet, eye protection, riding jacket or long-sleeve shirt, long pants, gloves and boots. Do not drink and ride. It is illegal and dangerous. Yamaha and the Motorcycle Safety Foundation encourage you to ride safely and respect the environment. For further information regarding the MSF course, call 1-800-446-9227. Some models modified and shown with aftermarket accessories intended for closed course operation only. ©2018 Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A. All rights reserved.  
•YamahaMotorsports.com




Article and photos  
by Bronwyn Clear,  
Certified Texas  
Master Naturalist



*Eastern Kingbirds appear very formal, dressed in black "coats, tails & hats" with white "shirts".*

## Flycatchers & the Texas Bird-of-Paradise

Flycatchers migrate into our area to spend spring and summer. Scissor-tails, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbirds, and many others. They mate, nest and raise their young here, and then in late fall they gather together in large flocks and head south to spend warm winters in Mexico or Central America.

Some flycatchers, such as the aptly named Eastern Phoebe, are "little brown jobs" with not much to characterize them other than their repeating call of "PHOEBE". Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, also known as the Texas Bird-of-Paradise, are all-time favorites with exotic long split tails, light grey bodies and peachy-orange wing

and belly markings. Eastern Kingbirds appear very formal and pert in their tuxedo feathers of black and white.

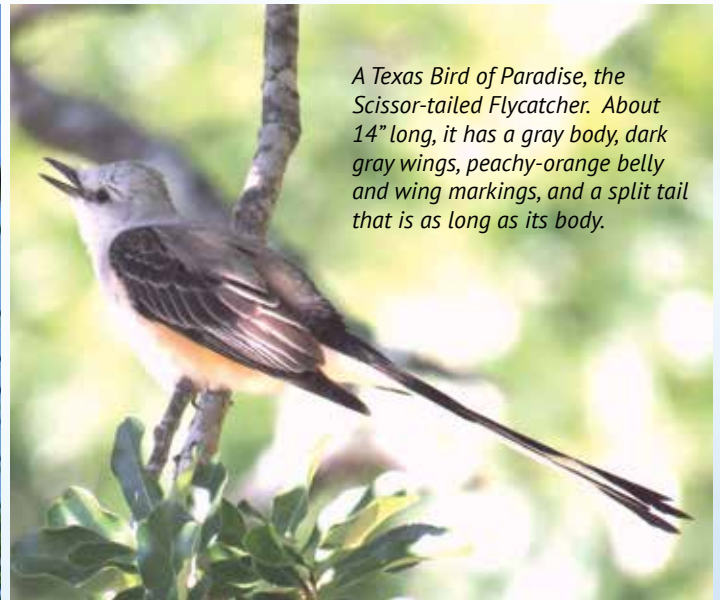
As expected by their name, flycatchers are primarily insectivores which can execute tight spinning maneuvers to catch insects on the wing. You will see them almost anywhere,



*This 'little brown job' is an Eastern Phoebe flycatcher, and she is sitting defiantly on her nest. Can you make out her flat beak?*



*This Eastern Kingbird flycatcher is 70' up in a tree, snatching up high flying insects. Sometimes the flying insects are low to the ground and sometimes high in the sky. The birds go where the getting is good.*



*A Texas Bird of Paradise, the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. About 14" long, it has a gray body, dark gray wings, peachy-orange belly and wing markings, and a split tail that is as long as its body.*

on telephone wires, up in high trees, on fence posts, or spots near the water to catch lake insect hatches. Farmers and ranchers appreciate them because they eat grasshoppers, flies and other insects that harm crops and animals.

You can tell if a bird is a flycatcher by looking at its beak shape. The types of bills that catch flying insects tend to be very flat and look like pancake spatulas! These flat beaks

have more surface area than birds with pointed bills which makes them best for catching fast winged insects. This flat beak gives flycatchers an advantage.

To see photos of our Texas bird-of-paradise in flight, check out Google images and videos for "Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in flight". Or look on youtube.com. These sky dancers are breathtaking aerial artists, fluttering verti-

cally up and down as much as 100 feet during mating season. It is worth the time to watch a scissor-tailed aerial show.

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



*Look straight into any flycatcher's face and you can see how very flat their bill is. Like a spatula! All the better to catch winged insects.*

# Fishing ADVENTURE

with Derek Pietsch



Today Parker and I went fishing at Lake Fork. We fished and fished and guess what? Zero Fish.

Since we did not catch anything yesterday, today will be a challenge to find where they are hiding. Parker's brother-in-law and girlfriend went with us today. She caught a 5 pounder. The challenge was on. I was determined we would catch some good fish today.

Parker and I were basically fishing in the same place making the same cast. He caught 2 spotted bass. I was fishing with a football jig. I caught a 5 pounder, and a 4 pounder. We kept on fishing in that honey hole. It was just fun catching since yesterday was a big 0. I caught 9 fish on the same spot.

Parker was having fun and did not want to leave. I needed to drive back but he kept insisting we stay a little longer. The gas tank in the boat was saying it was empty and he ignored it, thinking there was still gas in the tank. Surprise, the boat came to a screeching halt. We flagged down a guy on the lake and he went to get us some gas. He brought it back and we put it in the tank and it still did not start. He took Parker back to get more gas and that boat would not crank. This man called his wife and she had a little car and we all jumped in. I was scrunched and my head touched the roof. It was crazy, but thankful we were rescued. We all needed to get home and it was getting late. She took me, his brother-in-law and girlfriend to our cars. The man took Parker to the boat launch.

What an adventure. I did not make it home till 1 a.m. exhausted.

## July 4, 2020 Happy 4th of July

What a great way to celebrate the 4th of July. Fishing at Galveston with my best friends Trey and Travis. The catch of the day was redfish and trout. There is a 5 trout limit and a limit of 3 redfish per person. We caught our limit of 3 redfish each and 6 trout. Used plastic swimbaits for bait. Having a great time with my friends and cooking up our catch.

## July 5, 2020 Surfing on Lake Conroe

This evening I went out in the boat with my

parents. It's really busy with boats on July 4th so I like to go out after everything calms down. The best time is early in the morning or late in the evening about an hour before sunset. The lake is quiet except for the birds and the sound of the waves as we move on the water. It is one of the most relaxing times of the day. I get my board out and enjoy the rest of the evening. My legs are burning, what a great workout. It's all worth it. At the end of day enjoying a great sunset. Doing What You Love. Loving What You Do. Enjoying the Great Outdoors.

## July 8-9 2020 Fort Gibson Practice

Trey and I are getting ready for the tournament on Fort Gibson. It was originally scheduled in March, but got cancelled because of



the Coronavirus. Today we went out where the lake meets Ft. Gibson up the river. It was a giant rock wall. Current was on one side of it. Overflow from the lake was above us flowing over the rocks.



We used spinner baits and big worms. Got about 30 bites and caught a few fish. At the end of the day we shook them off. While we were idling, a big paddlefish jumped up about 3 feet in the air and scared Trey. Some of them we saw were about 5 feet long.

We went out today and practiced and caught about 13 pounds of fish. Going to continue to practice and try to locate the big fish.

Our trolling motor was giving us trouble and was not working correctly. We did not have time to fix it so I went to Walmart and purchased a paddle. Trey already had one in the boat and I bought another one. I don't know how that is going to work but we will try our best.

I called Lee Livesay, one of my buddies on



the Bassmaster Elite Series and talked to him and told him that the trolling motor broke on Trey's boat. We both had paddles and we would use them. Lee knew that was not going to work so he called his one of his buddies, named Billy that lives in Oklahoma and told him we were in a bind. He asked him if we could borrow his boat and he said, "OK". That was such a generous offer but we did not feel that we knew him enough to take out his nice boat. Lee talked to us and said, "Go ahead and use it, you can't paddle and fish at the same time". We had never accepted something like this before. We did not even know this man and he was willing to help us. So, we both looked at each other and said, "Let's do this". We got in the truck and drove an hour away and picked up Billy's boat and talked with him and transferred our equipment into his boat. We just met one of the most generous guys. We were extremely grateful that he trusted us to use his boat. We drove back to the hotel and finally got to bed around midnight. Set our alarm to wake up at 4:30 a.m.

## July 10, 2020 FLW Fort Gibson Tournament

It was a Friday morning with a slight breeze blowing. We were one of the last teams to take off. There were 82 teams in the tournament today. We were driving the bright green Skeeter and were about to set out on a great day of fishing.

We headed to the south end of the lake first. That is where we had the most bites during practice.

Our first stop was at a transition bank with a brush pile. This is when the rocks go from big to small with sand. This was one of the patterns we discovered. At 12 feet deep there was a school of fish. I caught the first keeper on the first cast. It was 2 ¼ pounder. Trey cast once and then on the second cast he landed a 6 pounder. He was going crazy, but he had to keep it down because there were other boats near us and we didn't want to make it obvious our spot was good. What a great way to start a tournament. For a solid hour it was non-stop action. Every cast we were getting bit or hook-

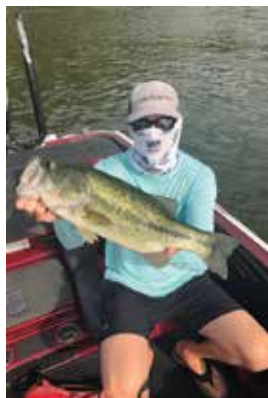




ing fish. We were on a roll and this was fun! At this spot we caught 10 fish, 5 of which were keepers. It slowed down and we left and went to the next spot.

We went to a brush pile half way up the river. This is another spot we went to during practice and I shook off some fish the day before. We didn't catch a thing. It was getting cloudy and as we looked in the distance you could see it raining about 500 yards away.

Rain came and went. We went back to the first spot where we caught the big fish and got the most bites. We did this because the day before a storm rolled in just like today, they bit like crazy and we were hoping for a repeat. Well as you know things change and that did not happen.



We saw some a high school boat fishing nearby so that hole was probably fished out.

We decided to go north running way up the river. It was a 30-minute run. Got to another transition bank with a brush pile fishing in 10-12 feet of water. The thermocline

was at 12 feet. Trey and I were listening to Podcast Bass University on the way to the tournament about how the thermocline effects fishing. We realized why we were catching fish at a certain depth.

A thermocline develops when layers of water separate into several layers and the lowest level of water in the lake is full of rotted decaying matter, therefore depleting the oxygen. Since this bottom layer is depleted of oxygen baitfish like the gizzard and threadfin shad and other fish cannot survive below the thermocline. When you have reached the thermocline there is a sudden change in temperature. We were fishing right above the thermocline.

We were up north going up the bank fishing some of the lay downs. On my 3rd cast I hooked a 4 pounder. I culled one of my fish up. Right after I caught mine Trey was throwing the big worm on a small lay down and as soon as it hit the water, he picked up on it and it was dead



weight. Had it on for two seconds and it pulled off. He didn't have a good hook set. After that we only had one more bite. We had ten bites on this same spot the day before.

We went to four to five more places and didn't catch a thing.

We ran all the back to the South end of the lake. We were low on gas. Running from one end of the lake to the other that we used fifty gallons of gas. We stopped at the gas station and put in five gallons, that would be enough to get us back to the weigh in.

Trey was throwing a jig and made a cast. He was dragging it across a brush pile and got hung up. He started popping it hard trying to release it and it came out. He drug it for two seconds and got popped. He had a fish on. Set the hook, it felt good. Fighting it, as he was reeling it in, he knew it was going to be a good cull. Landed it and culled one of the smaller ones. We only had one more small fish.

The lures we were using were the Magnum Trick Worm, Ol Monster and a Football jig. We ran out of spots so I started idling looking for new spots. We found another brush pile and on the first cast I set the hook and it pulled 3 strips of drag and the fish pulled straight into the brush pile and broke me off. That was our winning fish. It only needed to be a 4 pounder, but I know it was way bigger than that. It dominated me and I could not do a thing. It was so strong it broke me off.

We fished a few more places with no luck. Last place we went to we caught 4 keepers. That did not help, they were all too small. We fished as far as the lake goes from the south end all the way to the north end of the lake. We covered everything that looked good.

When we arrived at the weigh-in we pulled into a boat stall and parked the boat. We had a good bag on board but it sure would have been better if we had my fish that broke off or Trey's bigger fish that we lost to cull up the last small fish. Since we are social distancing for Covid-19 they only let one of us go up on stage with a mask to weigh the fish. Our bag weighed 17-5. They had me hold up our fish. It was exciting. I told them the big one was Trey's. We were excited! I told Trey and my mom I did not think it would hold. There was going to be someone else that had a few more pounds. There were still people in line and we were patiently waiting as they stepped up to weigh in fish. Then the Oklahoma's team came up and



had a bag weighing 19-14 and took over first place. We were still happy to come in second, but the most exciting thing was that we qualified to go to the FLW National Championship. The top 10 teams qualified. It will be held in 2021. It was a great tournament and we want to thank our new friend, Billy for being so generous and letting us borrow his boat. We sure could not have covered the water we did with a paddle instead of a trolling motor. This is what makes fishing so great. Meeting great people that are so generous and help others. It is all part of the journey, we will never forget this. Trey and I cannot thank Billy enough for letting us use his boat.

When the tournament was over, we took the boat back to Billy. He told us that 4 to 5 people called him and wanted to know why he let those Texas guys use his boat. He told them that we were friends with Lee so we must be good guys. You could spot this boat anywhere. It was fluorescent lime green and obviously this guy Billy knows everyone on the lake. **THROW IT OUT, POP IT IN, FISH ON! ♦**



# *This Summer ADOPT, Don't Shop*



Who Rescued Who  
CANINE REHABILITATION AND RESCUE

Interested in adopting,  
fostering or donating?

[www.facebook.com/adopt.wrw](http://www.facebook.com/adopt.wrw)  
[adopt.whorescuedwho@gmail.com](mailto:adopt.whorescuedwho@gmail.com)  
[www.whorescuedwho.us](http://www.whorescuedwho.us)

Who Rescued Who's mission is to aid homeless, abandoned and neglected dogs, to nurture them in the foster care of volunteers, to provide veterinary care and socialization, and to place them in permanent loving and responsible homes at the same time, educating people on the importance of companion animals in our society.



**Most eligible forever home companions...**

Sponsored by:



**CREIGHTON**  
REALTY PARTNERS  
CALL OR TEXT ANYTIME

TAMARAH CURTIS  
832-876-7097  
[tamara@creighton.com](http://tamara@creighton.com) [www.McCall Realty.com](http://www.McCall Realty.com)

**DOCK LINE**  
MAGAZINE



[www.jenningstrace.com](http://www.jenningstrace.com)  
713-703-7123

## JENNINGS TRACE

Houston's Premiere Wedding Venue



## YOUR DREAM WEDDING IN AN UNFORGETTABLE SETTING

### **Modern design meets an intimate backdrop.**

Promising your love to another in the presence of your closest friends and family is the most memorable experience of your life. It deserves a setting that captures the beauty, intimacy, and love of the moment. Come see why Jennings Trace's modern style is perfectly designed for your special day.

Jennings Trace was intentionally created with weddings in mind. Breathtaking views and gorgeous features combined with a spacious, yet intimate atmosphere create an unforgettable wedding experience.

### **A venue made for creating moments that last a lifetime.**

While your special day will be full of events that bring joy, laughter, tears, and lots of fun, it will go by fast. What gets remembered most are the moments - the bride's entrance, the kiss, the announcement, the first dance, the looks shared between newlyweds, the time spent with friends and family. Every detail of Jennings Trace is crafted to create unforgettable, photo-worthy moments that get remembered for a lifetime.

It's the most important day of your life. Let us make it the most beautiful one, too.

**Schedule a tour today and see why your most important wedding day decision could be the easiest one.**



# GRASTEN

POWER TECHNOLOGIES LLC

2418 N. Frazier • Conroe, TX 77303

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



TECL#31032  
Master Electrician  
License #51087

**281-259-6500**

[www.grastengenerators.com](http://www.grastengenerators.com)

**0% Interest Financing**

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

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

**Call for a  
Free Estimate *today!***

## GENERAC

*Automatic Standby  
Generators*

24/7  
Quality  
Service

- Sales, Service & Installation
- Residential & Commercial Generators

Power through the storm.

