

**LEGISLATURE TO CONSIDER #TOBACCO21 BILL**

The state Legislature opened its 2019 session in April, and it will continue no later than June 6. One bill to watch is House Bill 38, which would raise the legal age to purchase tobacco products from 18 to 21 in the hopes of decreasing teen nicotine addiction.

Leadership from Orleans Parish Medical Society, Jefferson Parish Medical Society and the Smoking Cessation Trust have endorsed the bill. "As a result of numerous studies, we now know that raising the tobacco age to 21 will have a substantial positive impact on public health and save lives," says Jim Pittman of the Smoking Cessation Trust.



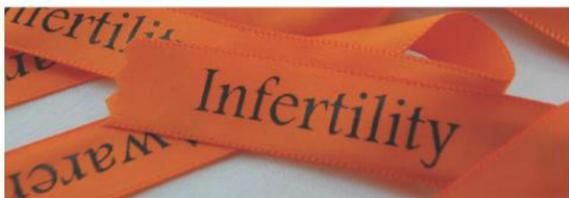
**MICKEY COMING TO BATON ROUGE FOR DISNEY ON ICE**

Experience a little Disney magic without trekking to Orlando or Anaheim when *Disney on Ice Presents Mickey's Search Party* comes to the Raising Cane's River Center Arena from May 9-12. In addition to Mickey and his pals, your die-hard Disney fans will meet Elsa, Belle, Moana, Aladdin, and Ariel during an epic journey to restore Tinker Bell's magic. Tickets range from \$16.50-76.50. ■ raisingcanesrivercenter.com



**LIONS RETURN TO AUDUBON ZOO**

There's a new pride in town as the Audubon Zoo welcomes four lions. With the hope of successful breeding, Nia, Kali, Zuri and Arnold were chosen based on genetic and behavioral matches. Although not yet on public view, zoo visitors can hear their resounding roars. Lions' return to Audubon is thanks to a \$5 million donation from Joy and Boysis Bollinger. "Lions face a number of threats in the wild, and our hope is to teach our visitors that people can coexist with these precious carnivores," says Joel Hamilton, vice president and general curator.



**FERTILITY ADVOCACY DAY IS MAY 16**

Hopeful parents experiencing the wait of infertility will join doctors and other advocates for Fertility Advocacy Day in Washington, DC, on Thursday, May 16. Supporters from Louisiana will speak with legislators about reproductive care issues, specifically increasing infertility awareness and insurance coverage for treatments. "Most of the news relating to healthcare today involves people losing medical benefits or coverage," says Dr. John Stormont, a fertility expert who treats patients in Baton Rouge and Lafayette. "Having the opportunity to speak directly with our representatives will result in improved insurance coverage for the treatment of infertility. We will be successful."



**MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL COMES TO THE RED STICK**

A passion for baseball is nothing new around here. Baseball at the Box is a family tradition for many, and now there's a new tradition to begin with Baton Rouge Rougarou, a new minor league baseball team. Opening Day is Friday, May 31 when the team, which is part of the Texas Collegiate League, will play the Victoria Generals. The league, which uses wooden bats, provides summer experience for the best professional prospects from colleges around the U.S. The summer season includes 28 themed nights plus giveaways and activities for your little sluggers. Tickets start at \$5 with multi-game packages available. Home games will be played at Pete Goldsby Field. ■ brrougarou.com