

River Oaks News

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From Castleberry ISD

Castleberry ISD to Host Annual Homecoming Traditions in October

homecoming festivities the week of Oct. 9. ticipate in a possible routine.

The district encourages current students, families, alumni, and community to particithe event by Friday, Sept. 29. pate in this year's Superheroes Leading the Way themed event.

For the latest news and information regarding homecoming, visit the district's ditional information about the pep rally. website.

Participate in the Parade

Community members are encouraged to join the Castleberry tradition and participate in the homecoming parade on Thursday, Oct. 12.

Community floats including local Police and Firefighters, area business owners, church organizations, student clubs/athletes, marching band, homecoming court, and much more are all encouraged to participate in this long standing Castleberry tradition.

In order to participate, submit the online registration form by Wednesday, Oct. 4.

Alumni Needed for Friday Pep Rally

The high school will host an alumni pep rally and all students and community members are invited to attend on Friday, Oct. 13, at 3 p.m.

Organizers of the event are looking for former CHS cheerleaders, athletes, band

All alumni who submit this form will be Ratingcontacted by a member of the homecoming committee on Monday, Oct. 2 with ad-

Homecoming Week Timeline

Thursday, Oct. 12

IMMS Community Block Party at 5 p.m. Homecoming Parade at 6 p.m. Community Pep Rally and Burning of the Letters at 7 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 13

Alumni Pep Rally at 3 p.m. Varsity Football Game at W.O. Barnes Stadium at 7:30 p.m. Castleberry High School vs. Western Hills High School Homecoming Royalty and King and Queen will be announced at halftime

All homecoming information will be updated regularly on the district's website and social media pages.

From Castleberry ISD

Castleberry ISD Earns State's Castleberry ISD will host the annual members, teachers, and other alumni to par- $Highest\ Fiscal$ Submit your interest in participating in *Accountability*

> Castleberry Independent School District officials announced that the district received a rating of "A" for "Superior Achievement" under Texas' School FIRST financial accountability rating system. The "Superior Achievement" rating is the state's highest, demonstrating the quality of Castleberry ISD's financial management and reporting system.

> This is the 18th year of School FIRST (Financial Accountability Rating System of Texas), a financial accountability system for Texas school districts developed by the Texas Education Agency in response to Senate Bill 875 of the 76th Texas Legislature in 1999 and amendments under House Bill 5, 83rd Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2013. The primary goal of School FIRST is to achieve quality performance in the management of school districts' financial resources, a goal made more significant due to the complexity of accounting associated with Texas' school finance system.

> "We are very pleased with Castleberry ISD's School FIRST (continued on page 2)

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Fiscal Accountability Rating (continued from page 1)

rating," said Renee Smith-Faulkner, superintendent of schools. "This rating demonstrates how Castleberry ISD is held second and fourth Friday of the month at the to be bagged and placed at the curb for accountable for student learning while efficiently utilizing taxpayers' dollars to achieve Blackstone Drive. these results."

The Texas Education Agency assigned up before 9 a.m. one of four financial accountability ratings to Texas school districts, with the highest and food is often handed out before the 9 being "A" for "Superior Achievement," followed by "B" for "Above-Standard Achievement," "C" for Standard Achieve- participants are asked to remain in their vement," and "F" for "Substandard Achieve- hicles. ment."

For additional information, contact 5885. DeAnne Page, executive director of financial services at 817-252-2023.







From the City of River Oaks

River Oaks Food Bank

The River Oaks Food Bank is open the River Oaks Event Center located at 5300

Many times, the food truck arrives early, a.m. start time.

For more information, contact 817-732- up to \$2,000 for each offense.



From the City of River Oaks

Help Keep Leaves Out of Streets

Leaves and other landscape debris need Wednesday pick-up along with your bulk items! Keeping leaves and debris out of our Attendees are requested to begin lining storm water drainage ways is a top priority, keeping them free and clear for storm water run-off rain events.

Under no circumstances should you or your landscaper ever sweep, rake, or blow The food bank works as a drive-thru, and leaves into the street. This is a violation of the River Oaks discharge code MS4 prohibited 13.10.017 (d) and violators can be fined





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Free Admission Tomorrow at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden

76107 offers quarterly free admission days. a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Garden is a place where all are welsouvenirs here and have a relaxing experi-

The Fort Worth Botanic Garden, located first day of Hispanic Heritage Month on Friat 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd in Fort Worth, day, Sept. 15. The gardens are open from 8

We're expecting a large attendance on come and free admission days offer the op- this day, so please watch the FWBG social portunity for anyone to make emotional media pages for all the available parking

For questions, please contact us at 817-The next free admission day will be the 463-4160 or email admissions@fwbg.org.



Join us! We will host a hiring event Thursday, September 21st from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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Expert Tips to Organize Your Home for Fall

From the walk-in closet to the kitchen pantry, catch-all spots make all the difference in daily routines -- but only if they're kept neat and tidy.

Family organizing expert Jessica Litman is on a mission to help families declutter and stay organized. She's sharing her pro tips for getting your home in shape for this busy time of year.

Clear Away Cabinet Clutter. 'Tis the season for autumn chili, stew and other comfort foods. That means it's also time to put your essential slow cookers and pans where you can reach them, so food prep will be hassle-free.

"When the weather starts to cool, I swap out summer cookware for winter bakeware," says Litman. "I put the grilling items in the back of the cabinet and pull the turkey roaster and baking dishes to the front."

For added storage, Litman recommends using a shelf rack or vertical organizer to keep cutting boards and pie pans neatly upright and easily accessible.

Prep the Pantry. Create a system that gives grab-and-go snacks and cooking necessities a home. This will help keep the kitchen tidy in the midst of busy work and school schedules.

"Do a pantry cleanout," Litman says. "Remove everything from the area and wipe down the shelves. Take the canned goods you didn't eat and donate them to a local food bank."

Use a combination of shelf liners and new containers to restore order to the space. Measure the shelves, cut the liner to length and then lay it flat. The shelf liner is durable, waterproof and designed to keep surfaces dry while making them easy to wipe clean. Use the measurements to get an idea of what size bins will best fit the area. Store crackers, cereal, oats and pasta in clear containers with labels, and put spices and seasonings in a slim organizer.

"Set up items similarly to grocery store shelves by placing like items together," Litman suggests. "When you do this, it's like you are shopping in your pantry instead of hunting for things.

Out with the Old. Before pulling out your fall wardrobe, declutter the piles of "stuff" from the closet. This will make your space seem bigger and more organized.

"Remove clothes from this past season," Litman recommends. "Look through each garment. If you didn't wear it, donate, toss or sell it."

Now that there is more room, hang an over-the-door shoe rack for rain boots and work shoes and use a closet organizer to store accessories, such as belts, purses and scarves. Litman also recommends dry cleaning winter jackets now so they're ready to wear when cold weather comes.

Find Balance in the Bathroom. Whether it's the primary bath or the kids' washroom, make the most of your space by organizing everything into different categories, like towels and haircare. Once everything is grouped, you can decide what will be kept where based on the available areas. Use a tray on the counter and bins in pullout drawers.

Litman says to wipe and line surfaces, especially under the sink before putting essentials away. She also recommends waiting until after the organizing process to buy bins and caddies, so you know exactly what you need.

From Protecting Animals of White Settlement

Low Cost Vaccination Clinic

The Protecting Animals of White Settlement (PAWS) team will host Texas Coalition for Animal Protection (TCAP) at the White Settlement Recreation Center for a low cost vaccination clinic on Saturday, Sept. 23 from 10 a.m. to noon.

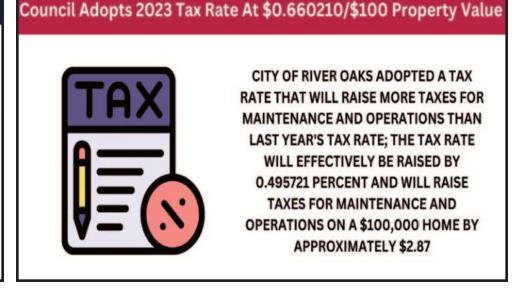
PAWS will also distribute city licenses for accompanying rabies shots. The cost for each dog license is \$10 (cash or check).

For more information, call 817-246-1043.

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The playground equipment at McGee Park was recently inspected and found that in its current condition to be unsafe and was recommended to be closed until repairs can be made. We apologize for the inconvenience, but our children's safety must come first.



The 1937 New London Natural Gas Explosion by Dr. Ken Bridges

it is a tragedy that still haunts a small East aches, a symptom of gas poisoning, but no judge prevented any possibility of anyone Texas town. On one terrible day in 1937, a one made the connection between the reports ever being held accountable for the worst school building in New London exploded, of illness and the odorless natural gas supply killing nearly 300 children.

The oil industry had transformed Rusk County in a very short time since oil was first than 500 students attended, along with 40 discovered in 1930. Oil workers and investors had swarmed into the area. The oil industry was creating many jobs, shielding the community from the effects of the Great Depression that affected the rest of the country. In the ensuing years, oil workers were injured or killed in natural gas explosions or oil rig accidents. Safety and environmental regulations did not exist, and company owners viciously fought any suggestion that they should ever be enacted. The easy money kept coming in, and practically no one thought about the consequences.

the rewards of the oil money in the meantime and built the impressive \$1 million London School building (\$17.6 million in 2016 dol- to New London. lars) in 1932.

with the full knowledge and consent of the school board and the superintendent, cancelled the \$300 monthly natural gas bill (or \$5,028 in 2016 dollars). Instead, a team of neighboring Louisiana. plumbers tapped into a residual gas line from Parade Gasoline Co., owned by H. L. Hunt, put at 319. and connected the unrefined gas to the some homeowners and local businesses, and Parade was aware of the school district's plans.

Not long afterward, some students re-

It is every parent's worst nightmare. And portedly began complaining about headthe building was using.

> teachers. At around 3:05 p.m., as the day was winding down, Lemmie Butler, a rethe sander in his classroom as he had many times before.

A spark flew.

And the gates of hell opened.

The spark ignited a cloud of natural gas that destroyed half of the building in an instant. Desperate parents rushed to the scene, digging through rubble with their bare hands. Police and firefighters were overwhelmed. Local oil workers brought heavy moving The New London School District reaped equipment and torches to cut through the debris. Within the hour, Gov. Jimmy Allred

The new Mother Frances Hospital (which tragedy. In January 1937, school district officials, still exists) was scheduled to open in nearby Tyler the next day but opened early to accommodate the injured from New London.

The death toll, including teachers, was

In the aftermath, the school district was filed against the district and Parade, but Judge Robert T. Brown, ignoring law, precedent, and evidence, dismissed them all.

In one moment, an unfeeling and uncaring school disaster in American History.

Hundreds of families were devastated, and March 18 started as a typical day. More one judge decided that business would proceed as usual. No justice was ever served. No one was ever convicted, and neither the school district nor the gas company nor spected shop teacher, innocently turned on anyone else responsible ever had to pay a dime.

> School superintendent W.C. Shaw, whose son died in the blast, resigned and left New London.

Texas passed important new safety regulations in an emergency session later in 1937. These laws included a requirement that an odor be added to natural gas in case of leaks. The Engineering Registration Act was passed to ensure that engineers would be licensed and that only qualified personnel could run gas lines. Fire drills in schools are now resent Texas Rangers and emergency services quired; and all public buildings must have doors that open outward, all in light of the

The school was soon rebuilt. A memorial was placed near the site in 1939, listing the names of all those who perished. A museum Volunteers came from across the state and across the street from the explosion site opened in 1998, curated by a survivor.

The tragedy has been the subject of several books and documentaries, including "When Even Angels Wept" (2009), a firstschool. This was a common practice among exonerated. More than 70 lawsuits were hand account told by survivors. The physical wounds healed, but for hundreds of families and an entire community, the hearts remained broken.







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Three Day Weekend Forecast



Friday, Sept. 15:

<u>AM</u> - Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 82. East wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

PM - A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67. East northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.



Saturday, Sept. 16:

<u>AM</u> - A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 84. North northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

<u>PM</u> - A 20% chance of showers before 1am. Partly cloudy, with a low around 65. North wind 5 to 10 mph.



Sunday, Sept. 17:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 85. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph. **PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 64.

Extended Forecast Click Here