

Around the Town with Melody Dennis

River Oaks City Council Members Sworn-In Nov. 17



River Oaks City Council members are: (l-r) **Steve Holland**, **Dan Chisholm**, **Darren Houk**, Mayor **Joe Ashton**, **Yolie Rodriguez**, and **John Claridge**.



The new Mayor in River Oaks, **Joe Ashton**, is surrounded by family at the ceremony. Pictured is: (l-r) Ashton's sister, **Jennifer**; mother, **Karen**; daughter, **Ruby**; father, **Joe**; and niece, **Sidney**.



River Oaks past and present Mayors include: (l-r) former Mayor **Jack Adkisson**, New Mayor **Joe Ashton** and retiring Mayor **Herman Earwood**.



River Oaks City Secretary **Paula Luck** and City Administrator **Marvin Gregory** award retiring Mayor **Herman Underwood** a city flag and other keepsakes.
(photos continued on page 6)

Happy Thanksgiving!

May your family be blessed with prosperity, good health and happiness!

~ from the staff of the *River Oaks News* ~

Bo Underwood, Publisher

Emily Moxley, Vee Horn, Denise Honeycutt and John Loven

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Happy Thanksgiving

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brary.org)). Job description is available upon request.

From Castleberry ISD

A.V. Cato Yearbook Cover Art Contest Winner

A.V. Cato Elem-
entary Principal **Michelle Strambler** and
student **Andrealouise**
Esparza.

The 2020-2021
A.V. Cato Elementary
Yearbook Cover Art
Contest winner is
fifth-grader,
Andrealouise
Esparza.

Andrealouise's
teacher, Ms. Lee,
reports that Andrealouise is a very sweet stu-
dent, a joy to have in class, and is academical-
ly focused.

The fifth-grader has proven her abilities in
a research project she completed on Lewis and
Clark - she went above and beyond in her
work and included information, pictures, and
videos.

Andrealouise takes her time when com-
pleting work and is becoming a great writer.



She also enjoys drawing and is very creative.

Her yearbook cover depicts this year's
school theme: “*You Have To Be Willing To
Listen To Other Voices - You Can't Harmonize
Alone*” inspired from the movie, “*TROLLS
World Tour*”.

Contact the A.V. Cato Elementary office to
order a yearbook and admire the artistic ability
of one of our students.

Way to go Andrealouise!



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Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers

Shop Small Businesses Saturday, Nov. 28

Small Business Saturday is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 28. This nationwide effort is poised to direct retail traffic and revenue to small businesses.

The idea for this special day is to encourage people to shop small during the post-

Thanksgiving weekend and support their local economies. It has become a holiday shopping tradition dedicated to supporting all kinds of businesses, from the corner store, to your favorite local restaurant, to your neighborhood comic book shop, and everything in between!

From the Sports Desk with John Loven

CHS Cross Country Runners Make Usual Trip to State

The Castleberry High School cross country team has high expectations every year. This is program has won many championships and has qualified many runners to state over the last decade. Just three years ago, the girls team almost won the state championship, finishing as the runner-up. That same year they also had the state runner up in the individual standings (Caitlin Buendia).

The COVID-19 affect on the UIL cross country programs kept the CHS boys and girls teams from advancing to the regional meet. Both teams finished third in district (probably the toughest 4A district in the state of Texas) which normally would have qualified them to advance. But, the UIL wanted to limit the number of teams/participants in the meet so they only allowed the first and second place teams from each district to advance – thus eliminating CHS teams from advancing.

However, CHS did qualify four individuals for the regional meet (two boys and two girls). They were seniors Chasten Burks, Alejandro Ramirez, Haylee Bentley and Caitlin Buendia.

Two of the students qualified to advance and assured that Castleberry once again would be represented at the state cross country meet.

Haylee Bentley (who finished 12th) and Alejandro Ramirez (who finished 10th) at the

regional meet qualified for the state meet.

Head coach Bart Beasley shared that it was “recently posted that only 81 high school cross country runners in the state of Texas have qualified for the State Cross Country meet all four years of high school. Only three runners in Class 4A have accomplished this. Haylee Bentley is one of those to make this list.”

Coach Beasley also pointed out that he feels very strongly Caitlin Buendia would have made this list as well if she had been able to compete at regionals.

Also, the only reason Alejandro Ramirez did not make this list is because he did not run cross country his freshman year (this is his third consecutive year to qualify for state).

The state meet was held on Tuesday, Nov. 24 at Old Settler's Park in Round Rock.

Results were not available by press time but look for them in next week's edition.

Joleen Gray Skipworth
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Texas History Minute

A History of Thanksgiving by Dr. Ken Bridges

In what has most certainly been one of the most unusual years in memory, the nation will mark Thanksgiving once again on this fourth Thursday in November. It is part of a long tradition that has spanned many generations, including historical parallels in Texas.

Perhaps the most notable Thanksgiving feast was that of the Pilgrims at the Plymouth Colony on Nov. 22, 1621. It had been a difficult year for the English settlers who had arrived in Massachusetts the previous November. The Wampanoag tribe, which controlled most of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, made offers of friendship to the Pilgrims, sharing their food as the colonists struggled through the winter and then taught them about raising crops in the area.

After a bountiful harvest that fall, the Pilgrims decided to organize a feast to give thanks to God for their good fortune. In the spirit of gratitude, the Wampanoags were invited to join them in what became a three-day feast. The meal was quite different than the usual fare seen on American tables today. Using what was available locally, they ate swans, seals, deer, fish, and lobsters.

Such celebrations to give thanks to God were not unusual among Europeans in general during that time period. By the time of the famous 1621 Thanksgiving at the Plymouth Colony, other feasts to give thanks had occurred already in other parts of the nation.

In 1541, Spanish conquistador Francisco Vazquez de Coronado had a special Thanksgiving Mass held for him and his men not far from what is now Amarillo and the Palo Duro Canyon in celebration of their good fortune.

In 1565, Spanish conquistadores led by Pedro Menendez de Avile at the settlement of St. Augustine, Florida, held a special Roman Catholic mass and later a feast to give thanks to God for their safe arrival. They invited members of the local Timucua tribe to join them.

In 1598, more than 500 Spanish colonists led by Don Juan de Onate arrived at San Elizario, near modern-day El Paso, and had a special day to give thanks for their own good fortune. This has led some to claim San Elizario as the site of the First Thanksgiving.

As for the Pilgrims, the Plymouth colonists and the tribes did not repeat the occasion in 1622. In 1623, after a difficult year of droughts that threatened the crops, late rains rescued the harvest. As it proved to be much more bountiful than expected, the colonists again had a celebration to give thanks that November. Tragically, relations with the Wampanoag tribe deteriorated in the ensuing decades with the initial gestures of friendship forgotten and the tribe shattered by war.

Nevertheless, New England residents would continue to have periodic Thanksgiving observances in the years afterward, often organized by the local churches.

In spite of a few instances of Thanksgiving observances in the South, it did not catch on as an annual observance as it did in New England. The tradition, however, spread northward into the British colonies in Canada, where observances remained mostly local until the late 1800s. It was established as an official national holiday in Canada in 1957, and because of Canada's shorter growing season, on the second Monday in October.

New York became the first state to declare Thanksgiving a holiday, starting in 1817. Efforts were made to make it a national holiday in the 1820s, led by noted writer and educator Sarah Josepha Hale of New Hampshire. Up until the Civil War, the date of Thanksgiving was left to the states and made more of a local observance. Dates for Thanksgiving ranged from early October through the end of December.

In 1863, Secretary of State William H. Seward convinced President Abraham Lincoln to make it a national holiday on the last Thursday in November. Lincoln announced the holiday as a day to give thanks to God for the blessings the nation had and added that all Americans should remember the widows and orphans the war created.

In 1941, the holiday officially became the fourth Thursday in November from that point onward. President Harry Truman started the tradition of pardoning one turkey for Thanksgiving in 1947.

Other nations have also adopted Thanksgiving, inspired by the American example. Liberia, which was founded by former American slaves, marks Thanksgiving as the first Thursday in November, dating back to 1821. Brazil made the fourth Thursday in November its Thanksgiving holiday in 1966 after their ambassador to the United States saw the American holiday firsthand.

Turkey sales have topped \$1 billion annually in the past few years. Many churches and communities still continue with the initial spirit of Thanksgiving by reaching out to the poor and homeless with food drives and community Thanksgiving meals prepared and served by volunteers.

Though the coronavirus pandemic may dampen many travel plans and gatherings out of precautions for public health, millions of Americans will still pause to consider what they are thankful for.

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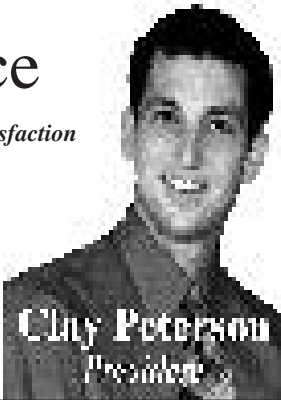
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THREE DAY WEEKEND
FORECAST



Friday, Nov. 27:

AM - Mostly cloudy, with a high near 63. W/NW wind 5-10mph becoming N in the morning. Winds could gust as high as 20mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

PM - A 40% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 46. North wind around 10mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.



Saturday, Nov. 28:

AM - A 50% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 59.

PM - A 30% chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 40.



Sunday, Nov. 29:

AM - A 20 % chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 58.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 36.

EXTENDED FORECAST: [CLICK HERE](#)

River Oaks City Council Swearing-In (photos continued from page 1)



New River Oaks Mayor **Joe Ashton** is sworn in as his daughter **Ruby** holds the Bible.



Retiring Mayor **Herman Earwood** passes the torch as he gives new Mayor **Joe Ashton** a plaque. Mayor Ashton's daughter **Ruby** holds the plaque.



New City Council member **Yolie Rodriguez** is sworn in as her father watches.



Mayor **Joe Ashton** awards **Yolie Rodriguez** a plaque commemorating her placement as a new City Council member.



Returning city councilman **Dan Chisholm** is sworn in as his wife, **Sharon**, holds the Bible.



Mayor **Joe Ashton** presents **Dan Chisholm** with a plaque commemorating his election to a second term on the council.



Pictured left: River Oaks Event Center Co-directors, **Shirley Wheat** (left) and **Shirley Bloomfield**, wish retiring Mayor **Herman Earwood** a pleasant retirement and thank him for the many good things he did during his 17 years on the council.

Happy Thanksgiving!