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River Oaks News

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From Castleberry ISD Student Aubrey R.

CISD REACH Students Craft & Deliver Handmade Mums to Irma Marsh's Community Based Instruction Class



Pictured: (l-r) Evelyn M. and Heaven C.



Pictured: (l-r) Alexander R. and Emilio G.

Students at REACH High School delivered handmade mums to the Community Based Instruction (CBI) students at Irma Marsh Middle School on Thursday, Sept. 25.

Over the course of two weeks, REACH students would relocate to their language arts teacher Nadine Mihalicz's classroom during fifth period to work on their mums. Each student incorporated their own flair into their mum, in hopes of a happy recipient. Needless to say, they succeeded.

Students cut, glued, and designed their own mums, with the guidance of Mihalicz. They helped each other when needed, but remained focused on perfecting their craft.

With the day before homecoming rapidly approaching, REACH students began adding their final touches.

The sound of ribbons ruffling and bells jingling filled the bus. After a short drive, REACH students arrived at what was once the middle school they had attended. Heads were held high and smiles were bright while approaching the classroom. A sense of nostalgia could be felt among the REACH students as they, once more, walked the halls of Irma Marsh Middle School.

REACH students were individually introduced to their underclassmen before they delicately placed the mum over their students' heads. *(continued on page 5)*

From the City of River Oaks

Early Voting Begins Oct. 20 for River Oaks General Election

Registered voters in the City of River Oaks will be able to cast their ballots in the upcoming General Election at any voting location within Tarrant County, with early voting set to begin Monday, Oct. 20.

Early voting will run through Friday, Oct. 31, and several convenient locations are available to River Oaks residents.

The closest early voting sites include:

- White Settlement Public Library - 8215 White Settlement Road, 76108
- Tarrant County Sheriff's Office - North Patrol, 6651 Lake Worth Blvd., 76135

The early voting schedule is as follows:

- Oct. 20 through 24: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 25: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Sunday, Oct. 26: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Oct. 27 through 31: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

To vote in the election, residents must be registered. The deadline to register was Monday, Oct. 6, 2025.

For additional information, contact the City Secretary's Office at 817-626-5421, ext. 326.

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• All Letters to the Editor must not be over 250 words, and include the author's name, address and phone number. *Only the name will be included.*
• Yeas and Nays are limited to 50 words or less.
• Engagement Announcements must be published four weeks prior to the wedding.
• Wedding Announcements have a 350 word limit. Anniversaries are limited to 150 words.
• Obituaries are limited to 250 words and cost \$100.
Mistakes in stories or ads must be reported by Friday at 4 p.m. following Thursday's edition for corrections. Payment for advertising is due by 10 a.m. Monday.

From Suburban Newspapers Managing Editor Emily Moxley

Supporting Local News Strengthens Communities!

In an era dominated by national headlines and global corporations, many Americans understand the importance of shopping locally, but far fewer apply that same logic to how they consume news. Yet, experts say supporting local journalism is every bit as crucial to the health of a community as shopping at privately owned small businesses.

Local newspapers, radio stations and digital outlets do more than report city council meetings or Friday night football scores. They serve as watchdogs, storytellers and connectors, the civic glue that helps neighbors understand one another and stay informed about decisions shaping their lives.

“When you buy your morning coffee from the neighborhood café instead of a chain, you’re investing in the fabric of your community,” said Penny Abernathy, visiting professor at Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism and a researcher of local news deserts. “The same is true when you subscribe to or advertise in your local newspaper. You’re keeping democracy alive where you live.”

The Cost of Losing Local Voices

Across the United States, local newsrooms are disappearing at alarming rates. More than 2,900 newspapers have shut down since 2005, according to the Medill Local News Initiative. Many of those that remain have slashed staff, leaving fewer reporters to cover city budgets, school boards and public safety.

When local journalism dries up, communities pay the price. Studies show that areas without robust local news coverage experience higher municipal borrowing costs, lower voter turnout and increased political polarization.

“In towns where no one’s covering local government, fewer people run for office, fewer residents show up to meetings and corruption risks rise,” Abernathy said. “People stop feeling connected to one another, and that civic disengagement spreads.”

Just as chain stores can crowd out local shops, national media outlets can overshadow hometown voices. While major networks cover global and national issues, they rarely tell the story of a new park opening, a high school’s robotics team winning state, or how new zoning laws will affect local homeowners.

A Community Investment

Like small businesses, local news outlets often operate on thin margins. Subscriptions, donations and local advertising are their lifelines. Every digital subscription or print renewal helps fund coverage that larger organizations overlook.

“When people support local media, they’re helping fund journalism that directly affects their everyday life,” said Austin Jenkins, a former statehouse reporter and journalism advocate. “It’s like putting your dollars where your democracy lives.”

Supporting local outlets also has a multiplier effect. Studies show that money spent in local businesses circulates within the community at a much higher rate than money spent at national chains. Similarly,

dollars invested in local media tend to go back into local jobs, from reporters and editors to photographers and printers.

Building Trust and Connection

Another benefit of local journalism is trust. A 2023 Gallup/Knight Foundation survey found that Americans trust local news organizations far more than national ones. That trust stems from proximity, readers know the reporters, and reporters know the readers.

Local journalists are part of the community they cover. They go to the same schools, the same grocery stores, the same churches, and that creates accountability and empathy you can’t get from a newsroom hundreds of miles away.

How to Support Local News

Residents can make a difference by subscribing, donating, advertising or even sharing articles on social media. Nonprofit models and community-supported journalism are also gaining traction, giving readers new ways to contribute.

“Every subscription counts,” Abernathy said. “If every household in a community paid the cost of one coffee a week toward local journalism, most local papers could thrive again.”

Just as “shop local” campaigns remind consumers to support their neighborhood businesses, community leaders are calling for a similar rallying cry: read local, subscribe local, support local news.

Because when a town loses its newspaper, it loses more than headlines, it loses part of its identity. And just as small businesses keep main streets alive, local journalism keeps democracy close to home.

Thank You!



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From the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office

Stranded on a Tarrant County Highway? Call Courtesy Patrol!



The Tarrant County Sheriff's Courtesy Patrol is hitting the highways with one goal in mind: keep traffic moving and pollution down.

Funded through a federal Clean Air grant with support from the

Texas Department of Transportation and the North Central Texas Council of Governments, the Courtesy Patrol teams constantly monitor major highways across the county.

Their mission ranges from helping stranded motorists, with flat tires, dead batteries or an empty gas tank, to removing road hazards and abandoned vehicles. Every quick fix helps unclog roadways, ease congestion and cut air pollution.

Patrol members also back up law enforcement at crash sites by helping direct traffic so officers can focus on investigations. While they wear the Sheriff's Office patch, Courtesy Patrol staff are not deputies and have no law enforcement authority. Instead, they serve as first responders for everyday road problems.

Motorists can call the Sheriff's non-emergency number for help in situations such as:

- Being stranded with vehicle trouble
- Spotting hazardous road conditions or debris
- Noticing suspicious activity at a rest area
- Reporting obviously intoxicated or reckless drivers

To speed assistance, callers should be ready to provide their name, cell number, a vehicle description, exact highway location (mile markers help) and whether the issue is inside a city or elsewhere in the county.

If the situation is an emergency, motorists should call 9-1-1. The non-emergency number is 817-884-1213.

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) number to call for 24-hour, non-emergency number for roadside assistance is 1-800-525-5555, answered 24 hours a day by a live operator.

What to do if Your Vehicle Breaks Down

- Stay calm.
 - Park as far off the traveled portion of the highway as possible.
 - Make your vehicle visible - turn on your flashers.
 - Exit the vehicle from the passenger's side, away from traffic.
 - Open the vehicle's hood and leave it open.
 - Tie a light colored cloth to the antennae or door handle.
 - If possible, stay with the vehicle until uniformed law enforcement arrives, especially at night or during bad weather.
 - Place a "Send Help" sign in a window so it is visible to other motorists.
 - If someone stops to help, keep your doors locked, crack a window, and ask them to call law enforcement for help.
- If you decide you must walk, write down: your name, the date, the time you left, the direction you are going, the plate number of the vehicle you are riding in and a description of the vehicle, any names and descriptions of the person/people you are riding with, and notify law enforcement of the location and circumstances in which you left your vehicle.

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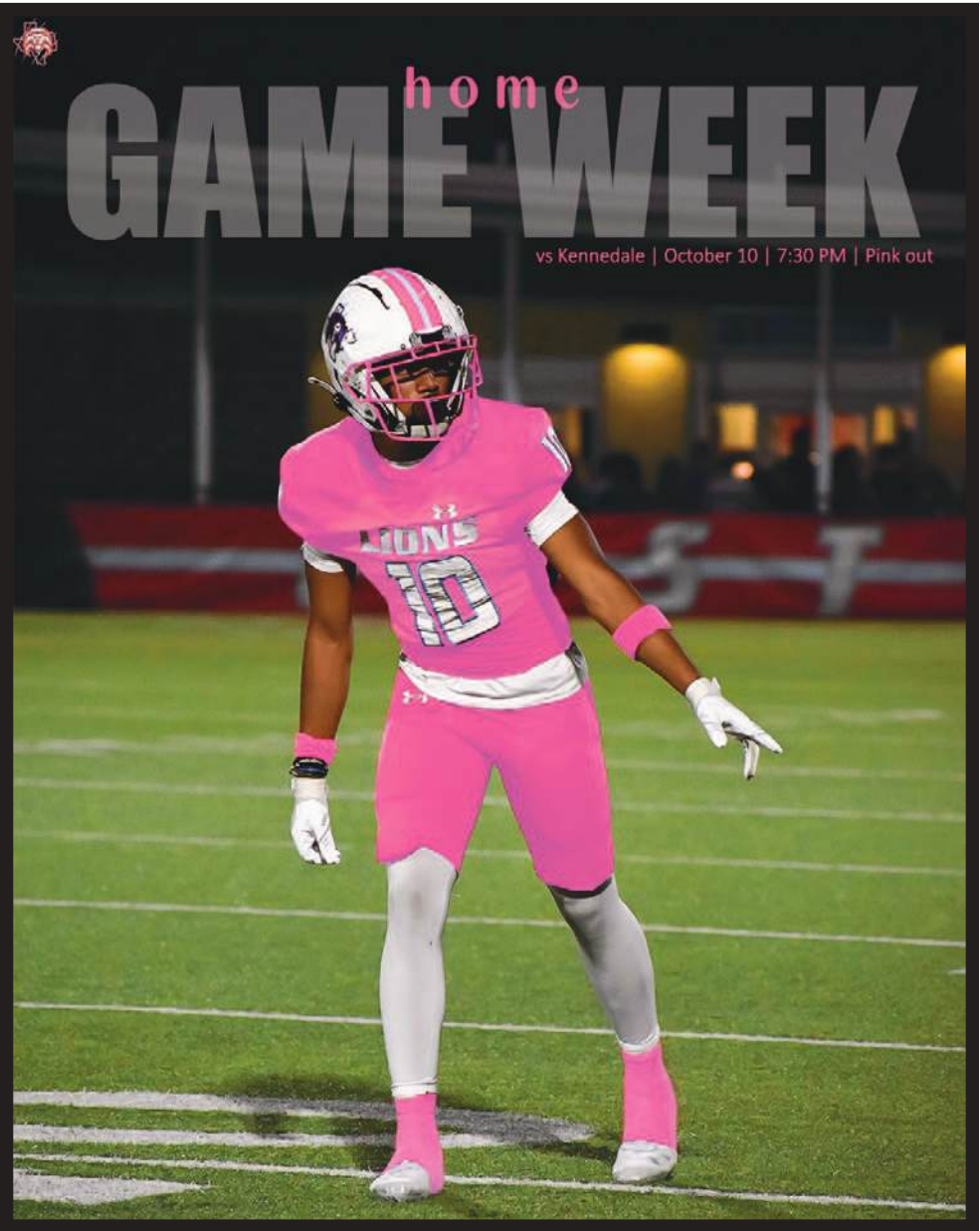
WHITE SETTLEMENT
Public Library

Homecoming Mums

(continued from page 1)

When asked why she decided to make a mum in the first place, REACH student Chelsea C. replied, “I wanted to see their smile.”

There is no doubt that this reasoning was shared amongst most of the students. Wanting to see these IMMS students be included was the key purpose of making the mums. A tradition has begun at REACH High School, and will surely continue in the future.



From the City of River Oaks

River Oaks Food Bank Open Twice Monthly at Event Center

The City of River Oaks hosts Food Bank distribution days on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at the River Oaks Event Center, located at 5300 Blackstone Drive.

Participants are asked not to line up before 9 a.m. and to [follow the new designated traffic route](#). Drivers should remain in their vehicles throughout the process and avoid blocking residential driveways or cross streets to ensure access for police and emergency services.

For additional information, residents may call 817-732-5885.

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Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

Jim Bowie: The Man Behind the Knife and the Legend of the Alamo

More than 180 years after his death, the mention of Jim Bowie still stirs the imagination of admirers around the world. But Bowie was more than just the knife or the battle at the Alamo. Overall, it was a remarkable and colorful life of adventure.

James Bowie was born in 1796 in rural southwestern Kentucky. He was one of ten children. When he was four, the family moved to Missouri before moving to Louisiana

two years later. Along the way, all the Bowie children worked hard to build and run the family farms. As little formal education was available, they were taught at home. Bowie was very adept at languages and learned to read and write in Spanish and French.

He volunteered for service late in the War of 1812 but saw no combat. After the war, he and his brother Rezin Bowie bought several farms and plantations in both Louisiana and Arkansas Territory, hoping to turn healthy profits from real estate. He also sold slaves through work with pirate Jean Lafitte and often borrowed money from Lafitte to pay for his land speculation.

He had several run-ins with the law. Bowie participated in the Long Expedition of 1819 in which James Long led a group into Texas in an attempt to wrest it away from Spanish authorities and into American hands. In the late 1820s, Arkansas authorities charged him and his brother with fraud, claiming the Spanish land titles they had sold were forgeries. However, all the alleged evidence disappeared from the courts. Bowie's duel with Rapides Parish Sheriff Norris Wright became legendary. After a series of fights and arguments, the two fought in a duel in 1827 later known as the Sandbar Fight. Bowie, shot and stabbed himself, killed Wright with the famous knife given to him by his brother. Rezin Bowie claimed to have made the first Bowie Knife in the 1820s, giving it to his brother for protection.

Bowie moved to Texas in 1830. His first years in Texas were happy and successful. In 1831, he married the 19-year-old daughter of the provincial vice-governor, and the two quickly had two



children. Tragically, his wife, children, and in-laws all died in a cholera epidemic in 1833. In his grief, he began drinking heavily. His health declined, and his anger at actions of the faltering Mexican government increased.

In 1835, Bowie participated in a number of battles with Mexican troops. When word arrived in January 1836 that thousands of troops under Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna were approaching San Antonio, Bowie headed to the city with 40 volunteers to the stronghold of the Alamo, an old mission in the city.

Gen. Sam Houston had ordered that the Alamo be abandoned, believing that the mission could not be defended and that the troops could be better used elsewhere. Instead, the 188 defenders under Bowie and William Travis chose to stay and fight. Bowie was in command when Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna arrived with his large force. The siege of the Alamo began Feb. 24. However, Bowie collapsed with an unidentified illness and was confined to bed during the fighting. After days of intense battles, the Alamo fell on March 6.

Several different versions have circulated about the final hours of Bowie. Some suggested he was killed by Mexican troops on his cot in his quarters after the fall of the Alamo. One story suggested that he died of natural causes as the battle raged. Another version insisted that Bowie had been propped up on his cot, with his pistols in his hand, when his body was discovered. Regardless of the final circumstances of his death, Bowie, in spite of his critical illness, decided to stay with his men in the defense of the Alamo to the very end.

After his death, Bowie became a larger-than-life icon of Texas and the American frontier. The Bowie Knife became an indispensable part of American folklore. His story has been recounted numerous times in movies and television shows.

Several communities named schools after him. Bowie County in the northeast corner of the state was named for him in 1840, and the small city of Bowie in Montague County was named for him in 1881.

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Weekend Forecast



Friday, Oct. 10:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 87. East southeast wind around 5 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 61. South southeast wind around 5 mph.



Saturday, Oct. 11:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 89. South wind around 5 mph.
PM - Clear, with a low around 63. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.



Sunday, Oct. 12:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 89. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 67.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)