

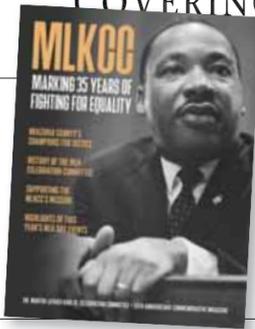
The Facts

COVERING BRAZORIA COUNTY WHERE TEXAS BEGAN

\$2

WEEKEND EDITION

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No end to need

Nonprofits try to help struggling families amid drops in donations, volunteering

By **CORINNA RICHARDSON**
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Everybody needs a little help sometimes, and providing that help is why community nonprofit organizations exist. “Nonprofits are very vital to our community,” said Amber Newman, the executive director of the Boys and Girls Club of Brazoria County. “They help so many people. ... There’s a need in every area, no matter if you’re old or you’re young, if you’re rich or you’re poor.”

Local nonprofit organizations saw an uptick in the need for assistance largely because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The past year may have been one for the history books, but such a need does not disappear when the ball drops on a new year — and nonprofits are not dropping the ball when it comes to meeting that need.



LUNA

“More than ever, there’s been greater and greater scarcity, whether it be for people with their work hours, for people with finding jobs, and that food insecurity,” said Scott Murphree, the program services manager for the Brazoria County Dream Center.



KNAPE

COVID-19 was not in the budget, Dream Center Executive Director Terri Willis said.

“We have delivered 1.6 million pounds of food this year alone, and that’s just having our number up to November,” she said. “Through the drive-thru, to our seniors and to our Backpack Buddy kids.”

After operating as a drive-thru for several months, the Dream Center reopened indoor operations in October, partly because it can take time to better assess clients’ needs.

“They don’t open up until you’re talking to them face-to-face,” Willis said. “I think that’s the most important question is, ‘What else can we help you with? What are your other needs?’ ... There’s a lot of needs out there, still.”

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ADDISON HOWELL/The Facts

A resident browses the shelves at the Brazoria County Dream Center on Dec. 30. There have been extreme capacity restrictions at the Clute nonprofit due to lack of volunteers and social distancing guidelines.



JENNA KIESER/The Facts

Amber Newman, chief executive officer of the Boys and Girls Club of Brazoria County, shares what working for the nonprofit has been like amid a pandemic in Angleton on Tuesday. The nonprofit has several opportunities for volunteers, including sending in recordings of them teaching kids how to do things, such as playing guitar.

NONPROFIT RESOURCES

ACTIONS OF BRAZORIA COUNTY
actionsinc.org
fb.com/ActionSlnc

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF BRAZORIA COUNTY
bgcbc.com

BRAZORIA COUNTY DREAM CENTER
bcdreamcenter.org
fb.com/BC.Dream.Center
792 S. Highway 288-B, Clute

SALVATION ARMY
salvationarmytexas.org/
freeport

UNITED WAY OF BRAZORIA COUNTY
uwbc.org

No COVID spikes seen at 3 districts

By **CORINNA RICHARDSON**
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ANGLETON — While the holiday break might have contributed to a case jump for Brazosport and Sweeny ISDs, numbers for Angleton, Columbia-Brazoria and Danbury ISDs do not yet appear to be especially high as districts wrap up the first week back to school.

Of those three, Angleton ISD is the largest district and has the highest number of active COVID-19 cases — 17 among students and 13 among staff members.

According to the district breakdown, there are active student cases at Angleton Junior High (six), Westside Elementary (five), Rancho Isabella Elementary (two), Central Elementary, Northside Elementary, Angleton High School and in the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (one each).

Four staff members at Westside Elementary, two each at Southside Elementary and at the junior high, and one each at the high school, Northside Elementary and in the Juvenile Justice

■ See **CASES**, Page 4A

Trouble near gaming rooms brings concern

Oyster Creek warns owners it might rescind permits

By **NICK IRENE**
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OYSTER CREEK — City officials will send notices to gaming room owners to crack down on criminal activity near their establishments or face possible sanctions.

“They can either shape up or ship out,” Mayor Justin Mills said.

Oyster Creek Police Chief Ruben Gonzales relayed the long history of calls at many local game rooms during the city council’s Dec. 3 meeting.

“We had aggravated assault, physical disturbances, deadly conducts, terroristic threats, suspicious activity, aggravated kidnapping and aggravated robbery,” Gonzales said in the past meeting. “We have had a couple of hit

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County law enforcement agencies, officers shown appreciation at luncheon



WES WOLFE/The Facts

Brazoria County Commissioner Ryan Cade, left, puts his back into stirring the pot Friday for the Law Enforcement Appreciation Luncheon at the Brazoria County Fairgrounds in Angleton.

By **WES WOLFE**
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ANGLETON — With a new year and significant leadership changes, peace officers from agencies across Brazoria County gathered to have a meal and receive a thanks.

“We wanted to catch you guys on Friday and offer you a lunch and just say thank you,” said Brazoria County Pct. 2 Commissioner Ryan Cade, one of the organizers of the Law Enforcement Appreciation Day Luncheon. “When I first got involved in this crazy game a number of years ago, I was talking to the people. Over and over

again, they said the most important thing to them, in Brazoria County, is to be safe. Go home at night and feel that they are safe.

“Ladies and gentlemen, I’m here today to tell you, beyond a shadow of a doubt, Brazoria County is a safe place to live. That’s because of each and every one of you, and I just wanted to say thank you today.”

National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, started by the group Concerns of Police Survivors and others six years ago, is actually today, but Cade, Brazoria County Sheriff Bo Stallman and the Brazoria County Peace Officers Association decided a weekday would be best

for the lunch.

“One of my missions — it’s actually in my mission statement — certainly, one of our goals is to get Brazoria County law enforcement to be one team, one unit,” Stallman said to the gathered officers. “I want you to know that if anyone in your agency has any kind of issue, that’s what we’re here to do. We’re here to help you. If Pearland (Police Department) or Freeport (Police Department) has an issue, then the Brazoria County Sheriff’s Office has an issue, a concern, or whatever that may be.”

Stallman said Cade brought

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