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# River Oaks News

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## *A.V. Cato Elementary's Brandy Kaminski Selected as Region XI Teacher of the Year*



Region XI is made up of 76 public school districts, 17 public charter schools, 105 charter campuses, and 160 private schools. Some of the districts that you may be familiar with are Fort Worth, HEB, Arlington, Burleson, Azle, White Settlement, Grapevine-Colleyville, Weatherford, Mansfield, and Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD to name a few. Out of all of the Region XI districts Mrs. **Brandy Kaminski** was chosen as the Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Kaminski has been an educator for four years, serving the Castleberry ISD since 2020. She graduated from Western Governors University in 2020, with a bachelor's degree in General Education. She went on to earn a Masters of Science in Curriculum instruction in 2022.

Kaminski is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Education from the American College of Education with an estimated completion in 2025. Prior to joining the

teaching staff at Castleberry ISD, she served as an instructional paraprofessional in Burleson ISD since 2012.

In 2024, Kaminski was honored to be named the Castleberry Independent School District Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Her teaching philosophy centers around building strong relationships with both students and parents, creating a safe and inclusive classroom environment. She is known for her hands-on, project-based learning activities that engage students in critical thinking and scientific exploration. Her whole-student approach ensures that all learners feel valued and empowered to succeed.

One of her standout initiatives is the "Ecosystems Unit," which embodies her teaching philosophy. Kaminski emphasizes inquiry-based learning, hands-on exploration, and the use of multimedia resources to accommodate diverse learning styles. This unit encourages students to investigate different ecosystems, fostering their curiosity, critical thinking skills, and scientific inquiry abilities.

Kaminski's commitment to inclusivity is evident in her differentiated instruction strategies, which cater to students' varying abilities and backgrounds. She provides a range of assignments and projects, allowing

students to express their interests and strengths, thus taking ownership of their learning.

Her passion for creating a sense of community extends beyond the classroom. Through the "Cultivating Community: Lions GO Green – A Community Garden Project," Kaminski has fostered a sense of belonging, collaboration, and environmental stewardship among students. This project not only teaches students about the environment but also helps them understand the importance of community and responsibility.

The judges were highly impressed with Kaminski's work, describing her lessons as strong and differentiated. They praised her submissions as well-written and thorough, noting the great impact of her efforts. The judges collectively agreed that her work was well done, encouraging, and a testament to her dedication to education.

Brandy Kaminski's dedication to education, her innovative teaching methods, and her commitment to her students and the community make her a truly deserving recipient of the Teacher of the Year award.

Her work inspires her colleagues and sets a high standard for excellence in education.

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**The next meeting for the River Oaks City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 20 at 6 p.m. at **River Oaks City Hall** located at **4900 River Oaks Blvd.** . . . **Agendas available online at: <https://riveroakstx.com/departments/2>****

*From Tarrant County Public Health Department*

## Tarrant County Experiences Increase in West Nile Activity

Tarrant County Public Health (TCPH) has observed a significant increase in West Nile virus (WNV) activity for the 2024 season, which runs from April to November.

In the current 2024 mosquito season, there are 28 human West Nile Disease cases with 24 hospitalized and one death reported. Across the county, 482 mosquito samples have tested positive for WNV. Comparatively, the 2023 season ended with 12 human cases and 244 positive mosquito samples.

TCPH urges residents to prevent, protect and take control against mosquitoes.

“As children are headed back to school, family and sporting activities begin to take place at prime mosquito activity times,” said TCPH Director and Local Health Authority Dr. Brian Byrd. “If you are going to be outside, keep the air moving by using a fan.”

The mosquitoes that transmit West Nile virus are most active during the period as the sun begins to rise and when the sun begins to set.

### More Tips to Prevent, Protect and Take Control

- Even on the lowest setting, floor fans can help to keep mosquitoes from landing and biting. Portable hand-held fans can also work well with airflow as low as eight mph.
- Do not leave standing water in pet dishes, saucers of flowerpots or kids toys for more than two days.
- Use “Mosquito Dunks” or “Mosquito Bits” to eliminate mosquito larvae in areas that cannot be drained like bird baths or other ornamental pools.
- Cut down weeds in the yard, paying particular attention to areas that surround the foundation of the house.
- Protect yourself by using EPA-approved repellent.

To keep up-to-date with the status of mosquito traps across Tarrant County, visit our [Mosquito Dashboard Map](#). For more information about West Nile Virus visit the [Be Mosquito Free](#) webpage. Sign up for the latest health alert through our [TCPH Health Alert Network](#).



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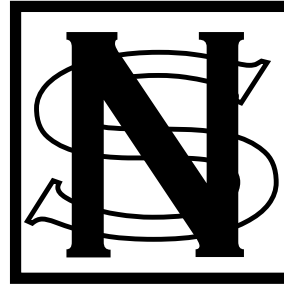
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# Little Projects. **BIG DIFFERENCE.**

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New Episodes at [Water is Awesome.com](http://Water is Awesome.com)

From the Friends of the River Oaks Animal Shelter

## River Oaks Animal Shelter Seeks Donations

The River Oaks Animal Shelter is requesting donations of blankets, sheets, bleach, OdoBan, Dawn Dish Soap, and wet and dry dog food.

Donations may be dropped off at the River Oaks Police Department Dispatch, located at 4900 River Oaks Blvd., River Oaks, TX, 76114.

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From Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation

# Tips For Avoiding Credit Card Skimmers

The Texas Financial Crimes Intelligence Center (FCIC) and the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) have released a new public service announcement with helpful tips for avoiding possible credit card skimmers in gas pumps.

The video on [TDLR's YouTube channel](#) discusses how thieves sometimes attach credit card skimmers on gas pumps to steal payment card information from customers when they purchase fuel.

Most skimmers have been placed deep inside the cabinet and it won't be obvious that something's wrong, but there are still some things consumers can check for before using a credit card at a gas station:

- Look at the pump and cabinet – does it look damaged, or look like it's been tampered with?
- Wiggle the card slot – is it loose?
- Look at the keypad – is it loose or does it look like something has been placed on top of it?

### Additional ways consumers can protect themselves:

Always use a credit card, not a debit card, if they're not going to pay cash – this protects the PIN and prevents access to a bank account.

Set card usage or transaction alerts for bank and credit card accounts. Most major banks offer apps that allow real-time monitoring of accounts.

Regularly monitor credit card and bank statements for fraudulent charges or suspicious transactions.

When possible, don't swipe the credit card – use tap to pay or use a trusted payment app on a mobile phone to pay for fuel.

Whether a credit card skimmer is found by a consumer, a service technician or a merchant, the merchant is responsible for immediately notifying law enforcement and disabling all dispensers where skimmers have been located until law enforcement or TDLR investigators can remove the device. Merchants also are required by state law to notify TDLR within 24 hours.

Merchants and consumers should report skimmers via the TDLR website: <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/Skimmers>.

The FCIC, which coordinates law enforcement investigations into organized financial fraud, was the first statewide unit of its kind in the United States and operates as a partnership between TDLR and the Smith County District Attorney's Office.

TDLR regulates motor fuel metering and quality and collects consumer complaints and merchant reports related to credit card skimmers. The Smith County DA aggressively investigates and prosecutes criminals engaging in organized financial crimes such as fraud related to gasoline pump skimmers.

### About TDLR

*TDLR provides regulatory oversight for a broad range of occupations, businesses, facilities, and equipment in Texas. The agency protects the health and safety of Texans by ensuring they are served by qualified, licensed professionals. Inspections of individuals, businesses, and equipment are done on a regular basis to safeguard the public. Currently, the agency regulates 38 business and occupational licensing programs with almost 1,000,000 licensees across the state.*

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

of property to satisfy a landlord's lien.

Sale held online at [www.selfstorageauction.com](http://www.selfstorageauction.com) beginning Aug. 15, 2024, at 8 am and to conclude Aug. 26, 2024 at 10 a.m.

Cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. All sales to the highest bidder, subject to additional terms noted on website.

Facility address: 8460 Boat Club Rd, Fort Worth, Texas 76179.

Tenant Name: Aaron Alligier

General Description of Property: Huffy Bike, gas tiller, laminate flooring, large dog kennel, furniture, Payne AC unit, set of wheels, yard tools and misc. household supplies and fixtures.

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Facility address: 8460 Boat Club Rd, Fort Worth, Texas 76179.

Tenant Name: Aubree Campos

General Description of Property: Sleeper Sofa, bed and mattress, furniture, wall décor, tool chest, misc. totes and boxes, electronics, CD's, luggage, flat screen TV.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

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Cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. All sales to the highest bidder, subject to additional terms noted on website.

Facility address: 8460 Boat Club Rd, Fort Worth, Texas 76179.

Tenant Name: Shirley Dominy

General Description of Property: Antique rice bed with frame, bobblehead collectibles, antique chair, table, small kennel, fan, artificial tree, clothing, garden hose, misc. totes and boxes.



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From North Central Texas Council of Governments

# Regional Transportation Council Discusses High-Speed Rail Route that Would Get Project Back on Track

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) is considering an alternative path for high-speed rail into Dallas that would divert the last mile of the project west of downtown before continuing to the approved Dallas high-speed rail station, past the southern edge of downtown in the Cedars.

RTC members discussed the alternative, offered by North Central Texas Council of Governments staff members, during a work session in July.

The RTC heard further details of the plan during the Aug. 8 meeting at the Irving Convention Center, as part of the Infrastructure Summit 2024.

NCTCOG is involved in a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review of the proposed Fort Worth-to-Dallas high-speed rail project, which would also include a station in Arlington.

The route could be environmentally cleared as early as March 2025.

While this western concept being discussed avoids an area of downtown Dallas with great potential for economic development, it loses the opportunity to connect passengers of high-speed rail to and from Houston with the Eddie Bernice Johnson Union Station, the new Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center and other nearby destinations, as the downtown alignment could have provided.

The new option being discussed would still connect to the approved Dallas high-speed rail station with planned service to Houston, allowing passengers to board the train in Fort Worth or Arlington and reach Houston without having to change trains, in accordance with the RTC's "one-seat ride" policy.

For information on the workshop and to learn more about the project, visit [nctcog.org/dfw-hstcs](http://nctcog.org/dfw-hstcs).



From Meals On Wheels

## Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County In Urgent Need of Volunteers

Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County has an urgent need for meal-delivery volunteers. With the increase in the number of clients along several routes, many could be left without a volunteer to deliver their noontime meals. We currently have 40 open routes desperately in need of volunteers to deliver meals.

"Volunteers are the backbone of what we do," said Carla Jutson, President & CEO. "Not only do they deliver nutritious meals and friendly smiles, but they also provide daily safety checks."

Volunteering takes about one hour, one day a week, Monday through Friday, between 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

For more information or to sign up to volunteer in Tarrant County, visit [mealsonwheels.org/volunteer](http://mealsonwheels.org/volunteer) or call 817-258-6428.

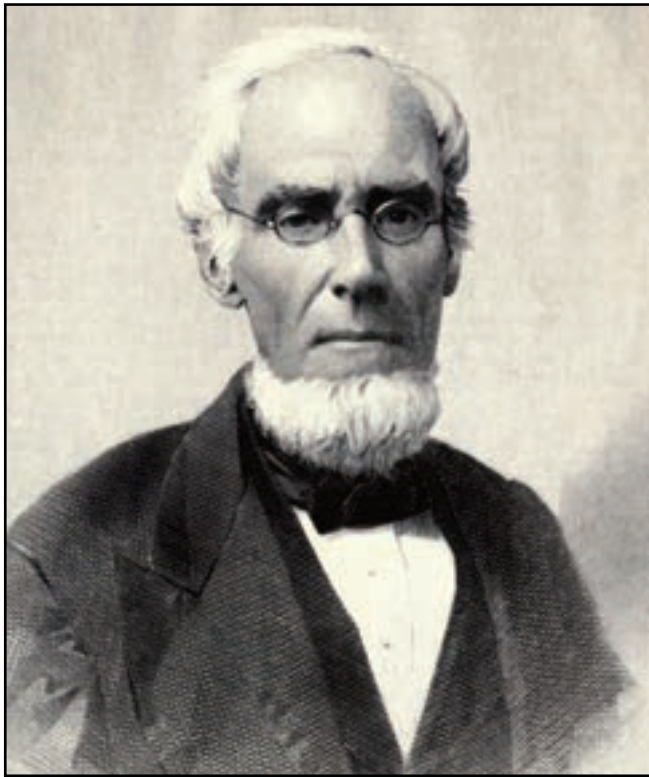
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## 2024 HOME SCHEDULE

AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
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27   Vs Brewer	24   Vs Eagle Mountain	8   Vs Lake Worth
30   Vs Venus		15   Vs Krum
		22   Vs Springtown
		25   Vs Burkburnett

Texas History Minute, by Dr. Ken Bridges

# American Inventor and Manufacturing Pioneer, Gail Borden



Success is never a straight line. Gail Borden's story is how an Indiana farmboy with almost no formal schooling went from being a Texas revolutionary and editor to a celebrated inventor and wildly successful New York factory owner. The calm and curious man nurtured not only revolution in Texas but a revolution in the food industry.

Gail Borden II was born in Norwich, a remote farming community in southern New York in 1801. As did many farmers and pioneers of the time, the family set out often in pursuit of greener pastures a number of times. The family settled for a short time in Kentucky before moving to Indiana. He had little formal education, save for a few courses in 1816 and 1817, to learn surveying. Many details of his youth are incomplete, but it is apparent that he was very intelligent and very principled.

He and his brother served in the Indiana Militia for a time. In 1822, he was part of a group that saved a freed slave from being lynched. Afterward, with little formal education, Borden was able to land a job as a school teacher in Mississippi. He later also became county surveyor and a deputy federal surveyor. By 1828, he married and started a family.

By 1829, his brother, Thomas Borden, also a surveyor, had moved to Texas and enticed his brother and his family to try their

luck in the new land. Borden accepted the challenge and arrived in Galveston on Christmas Eve. He began farming in what is now the Fort Bend County area. Within a few months, Borden was hired by Stephen F. Austin as a surveyor for his growing colony, on the recommendation of his brother.

Things changed quickly in Texas as a great wave of change swept the land. American colonists who had come to Texas grew uneasy at the increasing depredations of an increasingly unstable Mexican government.

In 1832, Borden became part of the committee of correspondence at San Felipe, communicating concerns about Mexico with other Texas communities. He served as a delegate to the Convention of 1833, which included future Texas presidents Sam Houston and David G. Burnet, which called for separate statehood for Texas from the Mexican state of Coahuila y Texas in order for Texans to more directly address their own affairs.

In 1835, Borden began working with his brother Thomas and Joseph Baker, a Maine native and school teacher, to start a newspaper. The *Telegraph* and *Texas Register* saw its first edition on Oct. 10. It rose in prominence, essentially becoming the newspaper of record during the days of the Texas Revolution and the Texas Republic. Its editorials rallied the people of Texas during the revolution and called for aid from the United States. In 1836, the paper printed the *Texas Declaration of Independence* and one of the first copies of the new constitution for the Texas Republic.

After the end of the revolution in 1836, he worked with local officials to plan the layout for the City of Houston. He and his brother sold their stakes in the newspaper in 1837. Borden became the official port collector for Galveston that year. Starting in 1839, he served as an alderman in Galveston and began selling real estate.

He initially tinkered with primitive refrigeration systems, to no avail. Despite efforts by men like Borden and others, modern refrigeration simply did not exist in the 1840s. This made it very difficult to

preserve food for long periods. This led him to create a dehydrated meat biscuit by 1849, one designed to stay edible even after long-term storage. Though his invention won praise by fellow inventors, the meat biscuit was not popular with consumers.

He continued inventing, and in 1853, created condensed milk through a vacuum process. This allowed milk to be stored for extended periods, vital for remote areas. Borden's condensed milk was patented in 1856. That year, Borden attempted to produce it in a factory he bought in Connecticut. His effort faltered quickly. In 1857, he reorganized and founded "Gail Borden, Jr. and Co." to produce condensed milk. The company still struggled.

In 1858, entrepreneur Jeremiah Milbank gained a 50 percent partnership in the company, giving it the funds needed. The company was renamed the New York Condensed Milk Company.

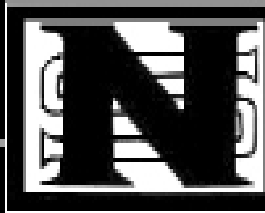
The new company slowly started finding customers. When the Civil War began in 1861, the New York Condensed Milk Company began working with the U.S. Army to sell Borden's condensed milk. Condensed milk allowed troops to store milk without fear of spoiling while maintaining high standards for nutrition.

Though Borden had long since moved to New York and amassed a fortune, Texas was never far from his thoughts. In 1872, the small town of Borden in Colorado County was organized and named for him. Borden donated money to build two schools in the area. Though segregated schools were the law at the time, Borden built a white school and an African-American school to provide for the children of both races. He continued to support these and other schools. He donated money to build five churches in the area and gave extensively to other charities.

He died in January 1874 at the age of 72. Afterward, the state legislature created Borden County, south of Lubbock, in 1876, named in his honor.

The county seat, Gail, also named for Borden, was founded in 1890.

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## Weekend Forecast



### Friday, Aug. 16:

**AM** - Sunny and hot, with a high near 103. South southwest wind around 5 mph.

**PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 80. South southeast wind around 5 mph.



### Saturday, Aug. 17:

**AM** - Sunny and hot, with a high near 105. South southwest wind around 5 mph.

**PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 81. South southwest wind around 5 mph.



### Sunday, Aug. 18:

**AM** - Sunny and hot, with a high near 105. Southwest wind around 5 mph becoming southeast in the afternoon.

**PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 80.

**Extended Forecast [Click Here](#)**