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River Oaks News

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From the City River Oaks Hometown Christmas Parade Basketball: CHS Lions Bested and Tree Lighting **Rescheduled for Dec. 14**

The City of River Oaks Hometown Christmas event was rescheduled to Saturday, Dec. 14 at City Hall, located at 4900 River Oaks Blvd.

The parade will begin at 6 p.m. with a tree lighting to follow at City Hall.



From the Sports Desk with John Loven at Home

The CHS boys basketball team is experiencing a bit of a slow start. The Lions played a home game against Hillsboro on Tuesday, Dec. 3. The Eagles entered the game with a record of 2-2. Meanwhile, the Lions were coming off their first win of the season on Nov. 30 against Northside (54-39). The Lions fought hard throughout the game against the Eagles, kept the game very close and at times they took the lead. But eventually the Eagles grew their slim lead in the fourth quarter and went on to best the Lions 43-36.

The first quarter set the tone for the entire game as the score remained close throughout. With 4:03 left in the first quarter, junior Julio Rojas gave the Lions a 6-4 lead with his basket. However, Hillsboro closed the quarter with a couple of three-pointers (they attempted eight in the first quarter, making three). This gave them a 10-9 lead as the quarter ended.

The second quarter was very much the same as the first quarter. The Lions continued to trail, but always stayed within a bucket, or two. With under two minutes left until halftime, junior Michael Ramirez hit a basket to give CHS the lead, 16-15. But again, Hillsboro hit a bucket before the guarter ended and retook the lead 17-16 as the teams headed to the locker rooms for halftime.

Ramirez continued to keep the Lions close in the third quarter. He scored 7 of the Lions 9 points in the quarter. His three-pointer with 40 seconds left in the quarter gave the Lions a 25-23 lead. But unfortunately, once again, the Eagles hit their own threepointer to capture the lead again 26-25 as the quarter ended.

The fourth quarter proved to be the difference in this game. The Eagles opened up with back-to-back three-pointers and took a 32-27 lead, which proved to be too much for the Lions to make up this time. Senior Demetrius Valadez did his best to keep the Lions in the game. Valadez had not scored in the game until the fourth quarter. But he got it going in the final quarter, as he was responsible for 9 of the Lions 11 points scored in the quarter. The Lions tried to close the score but for the most part could not find the range as they went 0-4 from the three-point line in the final quarter. Eventually the Eagles squeezed out a 43-36 victory over the Lions.

The Lions were led in scoring by Ramirez with 11 points. He was followed by Valadez with nine points, (continued on page 6)

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From National Crime Prevention Council Seniors Can Stop Scammers

Financial fraud can be difficult to recognize. This can include identity theft, fake check and wire transfer scams, investment and credit card fraud, and bogus online charitable solicitations. Unfortunately, only one in five of these crimes are reported.

The National Crime Prevention Council offers the following tips:

• It's shrewd, not rude to hang up on a suspicious telemarketer.

• Don't give personal information to people you don't know unless you initiated the contact.

• Don't let yourself get pressured into a verbal agreement or signing a contract.

• Be skeptical of online charitable solicitations and other online offers. If interested, ask to receive the information in the mail and check to be sure the company is legitimate.

• Never agree to pay for products or services in advance.

• Get estimates and ask for references on home repair offers and other products or services.

If you suspect fraud, contact your local law enforcement agency immediately.

To learn more about protecting yourself from financial fraud, visit the National Crime Prevention website at www.ncpc.org.

Legal Notice

Application has been made with the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission for a BG Wine and Malt Beverage Retail Dealers on-premise by Family Pho Restaurant LLC dba Pho House Asian Kitchen, to be located at 9400 Clifford St. Suite 130, Fort Worth, TX 76108 - Tarrant County Texas. Officers of said corporation Family Pho Restaurant LLC are Ky Lam - Owner.

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From the National Fire Protection Association **NFPA Urges Added Caution: Christmas Day and Christmas Eve Among Leading Days for U.S. Home Fires**

Many hallmarks of the holiday season, including Christmas of candle fires in each of these months. trees, holiday decorations, and festive meals present potential fire hazards that contribute to an annual increase in U.S. home fires at this time of year. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Christmas Day and Christmas Eve are among the times the daily average; Christmas Eve ranked second. leading days of the year for home fires.

"December is a leading month for home fires, in large part because many of the activities we engage in during the holiday season reflect leading causes of home fires year-round," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. "Plus, as colder temperatures impact much of the country, use of heating equipment increases significantly."

Fortunately, Carli notes, the majority of winter fires can be pre-fires. vented with a little added awareness and planning.

"By knowing where potential fire hazards exist and taking some by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve. basic safety precautions to prevent them, people can enjoy a festive, fire-free holiday season," said Carli.

The NFPA Winter Holidays page offers a wide variety of tips and resources to reduce the risk of fires, while the latest NFPA statistics underscore the increased risk of fire during the holiday season and beyond:

Christmas Trees

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• An estimated average of 160 home fires involving Christmas trees caused two civilian deaths, 11 civilian injuries, and \$12 million in direct property damage per year between 2016 and 2020.

• Some type of electrical distribution or lighting equipment, including decorative lights, was involved in more than two of five (44 percent) of home Christmas tree fires. Nearly one in five Christmas tree fires (19 percent) were started by decorative lights.

• The majority (74 percent) of Christmas tree fires occur in December and January.

Decorations

• An estimated average of 790 home fires that began when decorations (other than Christmas trees) caught fire caused an average of one civilian death, 26 civilian injuries and \$13 million in direct property damage per year between 2015 and 2019.

• One in five home decoration fires occurred in December.

• Year-round, 35 percent of home decoration fires began with candles; in December, the number jumped to 45 percent.

• In more than two of every five fires (44 percent) involving decorations, the decoration was too close to a heat source such as a candle, cooking or heating equipment.

Candles

• An estimated average of 7,400 home fires (2 percent) started by candles caused an average of 90 civilian deaths (three percent), 670 civilian injuries (6 percent), and \$291 million (4 percent) in direct property damage per year between 2015 and 2019.

• Candle fires peak in December and January with 11 percent

• In three of every five candle fires, the candle was too close to something that could catch fire.

• Christmas is the peak day for candle fires with roughly 2.5

• Falling asleep was a factor in 10 percent of the home candle fires and 12 percent of the associated deaths.

Cooking

• Cooking is the leading cause of reported home fires (49 percent) and home fire injuries and the second-leading cause of home fire deaths.

• Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking

• Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed

Fires caused by heating equipment, the second-leading cause of U.S. home fires year-round, peak during the winter months, when temperatures drop and more people use heating equipment to keep their homes warm. Put a Freeze on Winter Fires, an annual NFPA campaign with the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), works to educate the public about ways to stay safe during the colder months, offering tip sheets and other resources to help reduce the risk of heating fires and other winter hazards.

About the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®)

Founded in 1896, NFPA is a global self-funded nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. For more information, visit www.nfpa.org. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at www.nfpa.org/freeaccess.

The offices of Suburban Newspapers, Inc. will close for the holidays from Monday, Dec. 23 through Friday, Dec. 27, and Wednesday, Jan. 1. There will be no newspapers on Dec. 26. The deadline to appear in the Jan. 2 digital publications is Friday, Dec. 20 at 4 p.m. The office will reopen Monday, Dec. 30 at 10 a.m.

Suburban Newspapers, Inc. From the Alzheimer's Foundation of America High School Seniors Impacted by Alzheimer's Invited to Apply for AFA's Teen Alzheimer's Awareness Scholarship

scholarships of up to \$5,000 to college-bound high school seniors affected by Alzheimer's disease or other dementia-related illnesses as part of its annual Teen Alzheimer's Awareness Scholarship. Entries can be submitted at www.alzfdn.org/scholarship and must be received by Saturday, March 1 at 5 pm (eastern time).

Eligible teens are invited to apply for the scholarship by submitting an essay, 1,500 words maximum, or submitting a video no more than four minutes long describing how Alzheimer's disease has impacted their lives, what they have learned about themselves, their family and/or their community through their experience with Alzheimer's, and how they plan to advocate or raise awareness in the future.

Examples of ways that Alzheimer's impacted a student's life can include:

• Having a loved one with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia-related illness

• Helping care for someone with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia-related illness

• Volunteering or working in a care setting that serves individuals with dementia

• Raising Alzheimer's awareness in their school or community • Conducting Alzheimer's research

The program is open to current high school seniors living in the United States who will be attending a U.S. college or university

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) is offering this fall. Students already attending college are not eligible to participate.

> The top prize awarded is a \$5,000 scholarship. Additional prizes are awarded for runners up and honorable mentions. More than \$481,000 in college scholarships have been awarded since the program's inception.

> AFA provides these scholarship funds through the generous support of charitable donors. Individuals wishing to support this and other programs and services for families affected by Alzheimer's disease can do so by visiting www.alzfdn.org/donate or calling AFA at 866-232-8484.

About Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA)

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide support, services and education to individuals, families and caregivers affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias nationwide and to fund research for better treatment and a cure. Its services include a National Toll-Free Helpline (866-232-8484) staffed by licensed social workers, the National Memory Screening Program, educational conferences and materials, and "AFA Partners in Care" dementia care training for healthcare professionals. For more information about AFA, call 866-232-8484, visit www.alzfdn.org, follow us on Twitter or connect with us on Facebook, Instagram or LinkedIn.

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From the North Central Texas Council of Governments **511DFW Phone App Offers Timely Travel Information**

As the population in Dallas-Fort Worth continues to grow, so does the need for dependable and accurate travel information. Since the 2017 launch, the North Central Texas Council of Governments' (NCTCOG) free trip-planning mobile app and website, 511DFW, have helped residents and visitors alike with real-time information on traffic and transit routes.

An extension of the 511 phone number, which provides callers information about highway travel conditions, the 511DFW app and website are intended to help travelers make better decisions about their mode of transportation, time of travel and route.

Both the app and website have undergone recent upgrades that have made them more helpful to local travelers. The website now includes updated information about traffic speeds, electric vehicle charging stations, bike paths and toll lane facilities. Additionally, users can now view traffic camera snapshots. Users of the app can request roadside assistance, report transportation issues such as

potholes, and access routes and services from other local agencies.

The travel data fueling 511DFW comes from other apps, such as Google Maps, Waze and Apple Maps; local municipalities provide event and traffic data.

A new location-based roadside assistance feature, available to travelers on highways and toll roads only, allows users to connect with an agency that can best address their needs, whether they run out of gas or have a flat tire.

An email account is required to sign up to use the app or website, and signing up takes less than a minute.

Mindhop, a New York-based software development company, built the new 511DFW website and designed the mobile app.

The app is available for both iOS and Android devices in English and Spanish.

For more information, visit www.511dfw.org.

Suburban Newspapers, Inc. Texas History Minute, by Dr. Ken Bridges **American General, Engineer, and Author - Henry M. Robert**

Galveston, once the most important port city in Texas, suffered a crushing blow with the hurricane of 1900.

Once the waters receded and the extent of the damage became clear, the city faced the overwhelming task of rebuilding.

One of the most important tasks, surviving residents decided, was to ensure that such a disaster



never repeated itself. This meant the construction of a seawall along the coast to shield the city from the full fury of future storms. To design the wall and oversee its construction, Galveston recruited a team of the best engineers they could find, led by one of the most respected names in engineering at the time, Gen. Henry Martyn Robert.

How so many people died in the 1900 hurricane was never fully established. Some fled the devastation in the days afterward, and many others were washed out to sea, their fates never to be known.

As many as 8,000 people were dead, and just as many were left homeless. The entire city was in ruins. The city was unable to function, and the government effectively collapsed. Once order was restored under a new commission form of government, the first in the nation, the city began the work of constructing the seawall, which would require tremendous effort and imagination. The city turned to Gen. Henry M. Robert, who readily accepted the task.

Robert was born on the Atlantic coast on the southern tip of South Carolina in 1837. His father, a preacher, educator, alter president of Morehouse College, was an outspoken abolitionist and left South Carolina because of his stands. The younger Robert grew up in Ohio and was nominated to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1853. His grades at West Point were excellent as he studied engineering. He graduated in 1857 with a commission as a lieutenant.

The Army Corps of Engineers was responsible for not only building military fortifications but also river and port improvements, bridge construction, and even military railroad construction. His position had him traveling often. Among his first assignments was building fortifications near Vancouver, British Columbia, in 1859 as a border dispute between Great Britain and the U.S. threatened to escalate. This incident was known as the "Pig War" as a war nearly began due to an argument between an American and Irish farmer, over a pig in a garden.

Matters much more serious would dominate the next stage in his career. During the Civil War, he helped design, build, and maintain defensive fortifications for Washington, DC, and Philadelphia. He

also helped improve defenses for New England ports against any possible surprise Confederate attack.

After the war, he worked on river improvements in Washington and Oregon as Engineer for the Division of the Pacific. He would spend six years afterward working on improving harbors for Wisconsin and Michigan along the Great Lakes. Later, he would help build a series of locks and dams on the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers to help barge traffic and help control flooding.

Robert was used to the order of military briefings and the chain of command, but he was inexperienced with civilian crowds. Presiding over a meeting over harbor improvements for the city of New Bedford, Mass., at First Baptist Church in 1876, the meeting disintegrated into a screaming match. He immediately researched parliamentary procedures to make sure future meetings would run more smoothly. After researching protocols in Congress and the state legislatures, he wrote a book that eventually became known around the world as "Robert's Rules of Order."

In 1895, Robert became part of the Board of Engineers, a group of officers who oversaw the Corps of Engineers, leading the board until 1901. It was here that he studied ways to possibly deepen the southern end of the Mississippi River to improve traffic. In his final act in his long army career, he was promoted to Chief of Engineers in April 1901. He would serve for three days before retiring after 48 years in the army.

Galveston invited him in 1901 to head a board of engineers to design and build the new seawall that included Alfred Noble and H.C. Ripley. The city, county, and state would all pitch in on financing. The wall would be built on wood pilings and concrete, designs Robert carefully examined. But the seawall was not enough, Robert and the other engineers realized. The city itself needed to be raised. Every building in the city was raised eight feet, building by building and block by block with whatever dirt, sand, and debris was available. All of this was done by hand. In October 1902, construction on the first mile of the seawall began. By July 1904, the seawall ran for 3.3 miles along the Gulf Coast at a height of 17 feet.

The city's first major test was the 1915 hurricane. A storm at least as powerful as the disastrous 1900 storm scored a direct hit, but the areas behind the seawall faced little damage. The seawall worked, and Galveston became a major tourist destination again by the 1920s. Robert died at his home in western New York in May 1923 at age 86.

In the meantime, "Robert's Rules of Order" has become the standard rules for holding meetings across the United States and many nations around the world for civic clubs, schools, and even government meetings.

Between 1904 and 1963, the seawall was extended even further, ultimately running ten miles. Discussions on improving the sea wall have circulated in the community for several years.

The beach has faced problems from erosion and increasingly powerful hurricanes. In spite of a century of hurricanes, the wall has continued to keep the city safe from the deadliest storms from the sea.

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Sports Desk

(continued from page 1)

all in the final quarter. Rounding out the scoring for the Lions was junior Amori Dobbins with seven points, Rojas with six points, senior Khalil Alverio with two points and sophomore Brian Ceniceros with a point.

Castleberry will play at home on Dec. 17 against Decatur. Tip off for that home game is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Go Lions!

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Weekend Forecast





<u>AM</u> - Cloudy, with a high near 66. S/SE wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. <u>PM</u> - A slight chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52. S/SE wind 10 to 15 mph becoming W/SW after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.



Saturday, Dec. 14:

<u>AM</u> - Mostly sunny, with a high near 66. W/SW wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north in the afternoon. <u>PM</u> - Mostly clear, with a low around 42. North wind around 5 mph becoming east after midnight.



Sunday, Dec. 15:

<u>AM</u> - Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. S/SE wind 5 to 10 mph. <u>PM</u> - A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms after midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 55.

Extended Forecast Click Here