

# River Oaks News

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From the Sports Desk with John Loven

## Soccer: Lady Lions Fall to Bullfrogs

The CHS Lady Lions soccer team played their second district game on Tuesday, Feb. 4. They entered the game with a 1-0 record in district (2-4 overall), riding a two-game win streak. They played their arch rival, Lake Worth, who entered the game 0-1 in district (6-3-1 overall), riding a two-game losing streak.

The Lady Lions took a 1-0 lead into halftime, and appeared to be headed to their second district victory. But as time was running out in the second half, the Lady Bullfrogs managed to score a goal to tie the game and send it into a shootout. The Lady Lions lost the shootout to break the hearts of the team and their fans.

It was a somewhat cool and windy evening as the game began in W.O. Barnes Stadium. The first eight minutes of the game was played entirely on Lake Worth's end of the field. The Lady Lions managed to get four shots on goal during this time. However, none scored as two were wide and the other two were defended by the Lake Worth goalie. The following 10 minutes found the Lady Lions mostly on defense. The Lady Bullfrogs also managed to get four shots on goal during this time. But just like CHS, none scored.

As the first half continued the Lady Lions kept the pressure on Lake Worth. Shots on goal at 19:40, 19:04, and 6:52 either just missed or were blocked. Finally, with 4:24 left in the first half the Lady Lions got on the scoreboard.

Junior Alexa Rivera's kick from the right side of the field found the top left corner of the net for a goal. Her kick gave CHS a 1-0 on Feb. 18. lead that carried through to halftime.

The second half began with the Lady Bullfrogs quickly getting a couple of kicks on goal. The first one was less than a minute into the half (39:17). It was a one on one with CHS goalie, junior Victoria Flores. Flores dove to her right to defend her goal, which forced the Lady Bullfrogs kick to go wide left.

A few minutes later senior Lady Lion Mia Zavala had a free kick from the 10-yard line. Her kick looked like it might score but the Lake Worth goalie made a good play and deflected it over the net. Zavala later got another shot on goal but it just barely sailed over the net. With 17:07 left, a Lake Worth free kick was defended by Flores. The Lady Bullfrogs got two more kicks on goal but both were wide. Time was running out and the Lady Lions appeared to be headed to their third consecutive victory. But with 1:16 left in the game, Lake Worth tied the game 1-1. Regulation ended with the score remaining 1-1.

The game entered a shoot-out. The first two Lady Lions who faced the Lake Worth goalie were senior Jaelyne Monrea and Emalee Rivera. Both Lady Lions scored on their kicks. The first two Lady Bullfrogs made their two kicks as well. The third shooter for each team missed and the shoot-out remained tied 2-2. Unfortunately, the Lady Lions missed on their final two kicks and Lake Worth made their fourth kick to win the shoot-out 3-2.

The Lady Lions will travel to Saginaw to play Eagle Mountain

Go Lady Lions!

From CASA of Tarrant County

## **CASA of Tarrant County Looking for Volunteers**

is an organization of volunteer advocates who stand up on behalf munities. Everything they have known is gone. Through no fault of abused and neglected children.

#### The Children We Serve

Each year, thousands of children in Tarrant County are confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect. These children have experienced terrible trauma, and their lives are turned upside down. Child Protective Services takes legal responsibility for them, and may place them in a foster home or other facility. Due to too few foster homes, siblings are often split up into different places. Chil-

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Tarrant County dren are rarely able to stay in their own schools, day cares, or comof their own, these abused children have become a part of an overburdened child welfare system. They deserve a voice in the courtroom. They need a CASA volunteer.

#### **Our Volunteers**

CASA of Tarrant County has over 300 active volunteers who come from all walks of life. They span all age ranges. Some are just beginning in the workforce, and others are retired. Over half our volunteers work full-time and have (continued on page 3)

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## CASA of Tarrant County

(continued from page 1)

families. Some have backgrounds in the criminal justice system, social work, or child welfare. Other volunteers have no such experience at all.

#### The History

In 1977, a Seattle Superior Court Judge named David Soukup was concerned about trying to make decisions on behalf of abused and neglected children without enough information. He conceived the idea of appointing community volunteers to speak up for the best interests of these children in court. He made a request for volunteers; 50 citizens responded, and that was the start of the CASA movement. In 1983, Judge Scott Moore, presiding judge of the 323rd Judicial District at that time, along with community volunteers Rhoda Bernstein and Monna Loftis, and CPS Director Wayne Hairgrove, formed the original steering committee that brought the CASA concept to Tarrant County.

Through the years, CASA of Tarrant County has shown consistent growth in the number of children served each year. The ultimate goal is to provide every child in foster care who needs one with a highly trained CASA volunteer. CASA of Tarrant County provides an unduplicated service in our community. Our program is highly respected within the judicial system and maintains an excellent working relationship with all parties associated with the legal process. Additionally, CASA of Tarrant County is an affiliate in good standing with both National CASA Association and Texas CASA.

For more information, or to apply to become a CASA Volunteer, visit the CASA website: https://www.speakupforachild.org.





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# A History of Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day, celebrated on Feb. 14, has roots in both ancient Roman and Christian traditions. The origins can be traced back to the Roman festival of Lupercalia, held in mid-February. Lupercalia was a fertility rite dedicated to the Roman god of agriculture, Faunus, and the legendary founders of Rome, Romulus and Remus. During the festival, men would sacrifice goats, and women would receive a touch of the goat's hide in hopes of enhancing fertility.

The transition to Valentine's Day as we know it began with the Christian martyrdom of Saint Valentine. There are multiple stories surrounding St. Valentine, but the most common one is that he was a priest in Rome during the reign of Emperor Claudius II in the 3rd century. Claudius allegedly banned marriages for young men, believing single soldiers fought better than those with wives and families. Valentine defied this decree, secretly marrying couples and helping Christians who were persecuted under Roman rule. For his defiance, Valentine was arrested and ultimately executed on Feb. 14, around 269 AD. Valentine became a symbol of love and sacrifice.

By the Middle Ages, Feb. 14 had become associated with romantic love, largely due to the influence of Geoffrey Chaucer's *Parliament of Foules* (1382), which linked the date to the celebration of birds' mating season. Over the centuries, the tradition of exchanging love notes and gifts grew. In the 18th century, England popularized the exchange of love messages, flowers, and gifts. Valentine's Day eventually spread globally and became more commercialized, particularly in the United States in the 19th century, where

cards, chocolates, and flowers became the standard expressions of affection. Today, Valentine's Day is a widely recognized celebration of love and affection worldwide.





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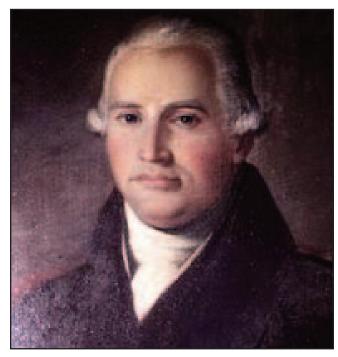


Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

## Red River Expedition of 1806: Betrayal, Tension, and Near-War Between the U.S. and Spain

The Louisiana Purchase of 1803 sparked River was not expected to be dissimilar to States as a number of expeditions were commissioned at the direction of President Thomas Jefferson to explore the new American frontier. The most famous of these adventures was the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804 - 1806, which explored the Upper Missouri River Valley. Of the four major expeditions, one looked to explore the Red River Valley to the frontiers of Texas but became the most disastrous of

The idea of a trek along the Red River to find out more about the reach of the river, its wildlife, and the Native American tribes that lived along it had been conceived not long after Louisiana had been purchased from France.



William Dunbar, the Scottish scientist and Mississippi planter who had immigrated to the United States before the American Revolution, was chosen by Jefferson to plan this venture. In 1805, Dunbar, fresh from his successful expedition along the Ouachita River, accepted, and began sketching out plans for the voyage and the needs for the explorers.

The Ouachita River runs to the North and to the East of the Red River, snaking its way from western Arkansas into eastern Louisiana. An expedition along the Red

a new wave of exploration in the United the Hunter-Dunbar Expedition as most of it the Red River takes a sharp turn in Arkanwould be in a climate similar to those in the Ouachita River Valley.

> Though the French claimed the entire Red River Valley, the Spanish continued to claim the area for themselves. An expedition along the Red River would take American explorers closer to Spanish territory than any other expedition to this time. However, the Spanish had a difficult time maintaining control over the area of the would determine the fate of the expedition upper Red River, and a number of Spanish expeditions were defeating by local Native American tribes. Rarely did the Spanish army even attempt to journey into the area.

By late 1805, the expedition leadership consisted of Captain Richard Sparks, Thomas Freeman, a surveyor who had helped survey the southern border for the United States following the 1795 border treaty with Spain, and botanist and medical student Peter Custis of Virginia. As a result, the Red River Expedition was also called the Freeman-Custis Expedition. The exfrom the Mississippi River port at Natchez, pushed to the Red River.

The group stopped briefly at Natchitoches in what is now western Louisiana. Here, they picked up about 20 more troops tipped off about the expedition and intended to confront it. Though under strict orders not to engage in any military action, they were willing to defend themselves. Three Caddo guides were also included as the expedition was about to move into the area of Louisiana, and Southwest Arkansas, the troops, heavily armed. heart of Caddo tribal territory at the time.

The expedition moved northward through what is now the Shreveport area and entered what is now Arkansas by June. The trip had been hampered by the relatively shallow waters of the river at the time but were pleased with their efforts.

They soon began moving westward as sas. The journey had been without incident up to this point. Their encounters with the Caddos had been welcoming. However, the Caddos warned that they had learned that Spanish troops were on their way to capture the expedition. The explorers realized the entire journey was now in danger but decided to press forward regardless.

Their actions over the next few days and perhaps even the fate of relations between the United States and Spain. However, as they moved westward into Texas, they never imagined what had led to the expedition's doom.

#### Part II

The Red River Expedition of 1806 was supposed to be another in a string of scientific triumphs for the United States as it explored the new territories of the Louisiana Purchase. Captain Richard Sparks, Thomas Freeman, and Peter Custis led a team along the Red River into Southwest Arkansas and plorers, numbering 24 at this point, left into North Texas to the sourcewaters of the Red River in what is now the Texas Panhan-Mississippi Territory, in April 1806 and dle to learn about the local Native American tribes as well as the geography, plant life, and animal life. However, it would end in failure after a stunning betrayal.

Three months into the expedition, the as rumors spread that the Spanish had been voyage had been slow but successful as it entered Arkansas. It soon turned along the river and headed toward Texas. By July 28, the team was about halfway along the length of the river, roughly northwest of New Boston. At a bend in the river, an area now called Spanish Bluff, the team sudwhat is now Northeast Texas, Northwest denly noticed a large force of Spanish

> Sparks, the commander of the nearly four dozen army troops on the Red River Expedition, estimated that perhaps a thousand Spanish soldiers had assembled against them, an incredibly large force for the area at the time.

Regardless of (continued on page 5)

## Texas History Minute (continued from page 4)

had on the Red River as a boundary in what profit was his only loyalty. is now Bowie County, Texas; all the Americans realized that their lives were at risk. pected at the time. Fellow officers, and They were entirely at the mercy of the Spanish army. The Spaniards had orders to defend what they considered Spanish territory with deadly force if necessary.

Somehow, the Spanish had located the would not. party. Francisco Viana, commander of Spanish forces in East Texas, had received information in Nacogdoches that the Red River Expedition was moving up the river by April and sent a letter of protest to American officials. His forces raced to the Red River to intercept the group.

The Americans were stopped and held. With tension surrounding each hour and the negotiations of Sparks, Viana ordered them down the river back into the United States.

Badly outnumbered, the expedition agreed, barely escaping with their lives. The encounter had lasted a full day, and it could easily have ignited a war between the two countries. Not long afterward, the Red River Expedition crossed back from Texas into what is now Arkansas and continued back down the river without incident.

The source of the betrayal was from within the highest levels of American gov-James Wilkinson, had long worked as a spy for Spain, supplying information on the successful Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Wilkinson's treachery was widely suseven friends and aides never entirely trusted him, but they were never able to collect enough evidence. Their patriotism meant

In 1805, Wilkinson had been named territorial governor for the Louisiana Territory, which through a somewhat confusing naming scheme meant the territory north of what is now Louisiana, including Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. What is now Louisiana was the District of Orleans.

Wilkinson, at one point the most senior member of the army, continued his betrayals in his new post. As soon as he learned of President Thomas Jefferson's plans for exploring the Louisiana Purchase, he secretly told Spain of these plans, for a price. Spain, fearful of Americans pushing into their territory, was determined to see the voyages fail. In the end, the Red River Expedition was sabotaged. The lives of American citizens and American troops under Wilkinson's command were put in mortal danger by his actions.



By 1807, Jefferson replaced Wilkinson ernment. The source, U.S. Army Gen. with his personal secretary, Meriwether Lewis, now a great hero to Americans after

what legal claims the United States or Spain American activities for a price. Personal Wilkinson was later forced out of the army after his disastrous performance in the War of 1812. However, he would somehow manage to find his way back into political good graces and named ambassador to Mexico in 1816.

> Wilkinson died in 1825 as he attempted staying faithful to the law though Wilkinson to cash in on his position as ambassador with a large land grant for himself in Texas. He was buried in Mexico City. Several decades after his death, around the 1850s, a large cache of correspondence was found within Spanish colonial records in Louisiana, showing without a doubt that Wilkinson was actively working as a spy for Spain and had betrayed the United States on numerous occasions, including his information on the scientific expeditions into the West.

> > None of the leaders of the Red River Expedition ever saw the direct evidence that the voyage had been compromised. In spite of the disastrous effort, they went on to lead respectable lives.

> > Custis became a respected doctor and planter in North Carolina until his death in 1842.

Freeman served as surveyor general of the United States until his death in 1821.

Though the expedition had cataloged hundreds of species of animals and plants and established a cordial relationship with the Caddo tribe that dominated Northeast Texas, the abrupt halt of the expedition left the data in a haphazard and disorganized state.

In later years, the Red River Expedition was largely forgotten over the diplomatic disaster that resulted.



## **Donors Needed Now to Build Up the Blood Supply**

The American Red Cross urges donors to give blood or platelets to help build up the blood supply after thousands of donations went uncol-8th Ave. lected last month. People of all blood types, especially those with type O negative blood, are encouraged to make and keep their donation ap- 2901 Stadium Drive pointments so hospitals can continue to ensure critical care for patients this winter. As February continues, so does the potential for additional ern Place, Ste. 100 weather systems to disrupt blood drives. Flu and other seasonal illnesses are spreading, which could also force more people to cancel scheduled donation appointments, compounding the impact to collecting lifesaving blood products.

Give with your whole heart this month. To book a time to give blood or platelets, use the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit 1475 James Road RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

As a thank-you, all who come to give through Feb. 28, 2025, will get a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of choice.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities:

#### **Arlington**

- Thursday, Feb. 13: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Family Healthcare Center, 1 Community Center Rd. Associates, 1300 S Fielder Rd.
- Thursday, Feb. 20: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Cooper Street YMCA, 7120 S Cooper Street

#### **Bedford**

• Friday, Feb. 28: 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., Bedford YMCA, 2801 Forest Ridge Dr.

#### **Benbrook**

• Friday, Feb. 14: 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Benbrook Community Center Church, 2520 Oates Dr. YMCA, 1899 Winscott Road

#### Carrollton

• Thursday, Feb. 27: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Carrollton Regional Medical 15th Street Center, 4343 N. Josey Lane

#### **Corinth**

- Wednesday, Feb. 26: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., CoServ, 7701 S. Stemmons **Dallas**
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- Friday, Feb. 21: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saint Michael and All Angels Epis- Custer Parkway copal Church, 8011 Douglas Ave.
- Friday, Feb. 21: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., American Red Cross, 2055 Kendall Dr.
- Tuesday, Feb. 25: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Royal Lane Baptist Church, 6707 Royal Ln.
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#### **Denton**

• Friday, Feb. 28: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Medical City Denton-Profes- Thompson Student Center, 1452 W Jones St. sional Building, 3537 South Interstate 35 E

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5500 Morriss Road

#### **Fort Worth**

- Thursday, Feb. 13: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Texas Wesleyan University Nicholas Martin Hall, 1309 Wesleyan St.
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- Wednesday, Feb. 19: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Medical City Fort Worth, 900
- Wednesday, Feb. 19: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Texas Christian University,
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- Saturday, Feb. 22: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, 5953 Bowman Roberts Rd.
  - Thursday, Feb. 27: 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., Hulen Mall, 4800 S Hulen St. Granbury
- Friday, Feb. 14: 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Hood County YMCA,

#### **Grand Prairie**

• Thursday, Feb. 27: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Grand Prairie Family YMCA, 4556 S Carrier Parkway

#### **Highland Village**

• Tuesday, Feb. 25: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Highland Shores Community

#### Mansfield

• Saturday, Feb. 15: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mansfield YMCA, 78 Regency Parkway

#### Mesquite

- Saturday, Feb. 22: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wildwood Baptist Church, 531 S Walker St.
  - Thursday, Feb. 27: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., St Stephen United Methodist

#### Plano

• Friday, Feb. 28: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Medical City Plano, 4001 West

#### **Prosper**

- Friday, Feb. 14: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Atmos Energy, 471 Industry Way
- Friday, Feb. 21: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Prosper, 970 N Coit Road

#### Richardson

• Saturday, Feb. 15: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Canyon Creek Project, 2800

#### Rockwall

• Thursday, Feb. 13: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Hyatt Place Dallas/Rockwall, 1600 La Jolla Pointe Dr.

#### Southlake

• Tuesday, Feb. 25: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Timarron Country Club, 1400

#### **Stephenville**

• Thursday, Feb. 20: 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., Tarleton State University

**How to Donate Blood**: Download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-733-2767. All blood types are • Saturday, Feb. 15: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Trinity Presbyterian Church, needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card, a driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at checkin. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

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## Weekend Forecast



### Friday, Feb. 7:

<u>AM</u> - Mostly cloudy, with a high near 53. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph. <u>PM</u> - Cloudy, with a low around 48. South wind around 10 mph.



#### Saturday, Feb. 8:

<u>AM</u> - A 20% chance of showers before noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 70. S/SE wind 10 to 20 mph becoming NW in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 26. N/NW wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.



## Sunday, Feb. 9:

<u>AM</u> - Sunny, with a high near 43. North wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. <u>PM</u> - Mostly clear, with a low around 27.

## **Extended Forecast Click Here**