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River Oaks News

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From the Sports Desk with John Loven

Soccer: CHS Shuts Out NCTA

The Castleberry boys soccer team is off to another good season. They entered their home game on Friday, Jan. 24 with a record of 5-1-2. However, they were coming off their first loss of the year only two days before, a 3-2 loss to Diamond Hill.

The Lions faced a team from North Central Texas Academy (NCTA) with a very impressive 13-2 record. The Pioneers were also coming off a loss as well. The expectation for the night was a good game between two good teams, both hoping to bounce back from losses and get back on the winning track.

The first 10 minutes looked just like that, two evenly matched teams. The possessions shifted back and forth from one end of the field to the other, with neither team really dominating the other. NCTA did have one excellent opportunity to score on a breakaway which resulted in a one on one with CHS goalie Cristobal Salas. But the Pioneer kick missed right, wide of the Salas' outstretched arms defending the net at the 34:15 mark.

The final 20 minutes of the first half saw the Lions slowly begin to take control. Lion Chris Montoya just missed a couple of shots on goal at the 21:30 and 19:36 marks. Between those shots, Gio Saldana also got a shot on goal (20:20) but missed wide right. However, the Lions did finally find the goal at the 9:19 mark. Eddie Zapata got his kick past the NCTA goalie and found the right side of the back of the net for the score. This gave CHS a 1-0 lead which carried on thru till halftime.

The second half began with NCTA getting a shot on goal in the first 5 minutes of action. But their shot, off a corner kick, was high (35:07).

(continued on page 3)

From Castleberry ISD

Sophomores and Juniors to Take PSAT/SAT in March

Castleberry High School sophomores will take the PSAT and juniors will take the SAT on Monday, March 10.

For more information about testing visit CollegeBoard.org. These tests can determine college readiness and are used for college acceptance and scholarships. Students can use their school computers to take practice tests on Bluebook to prepare.

From Castleberry ISD

Castleberry Collegiate Academy Application Deadline Feb. 28

Castleberry ISD recently announced the grand opening of Castleberry Collegiate Academy for the 2025-2026 school year, a groundbreaking opportunity for students to earn their high school diploma and an Associate of Arts degree, tuition-free!

In partnership with Tarrant County College (TCC), Castleberry Collegiate Academy offers a unique Early College High School (ECHS) experience, designed to empower students least likely to attend college. This innovative program combines high school rigor with college readiness, preparing students for success in their educational and professional journeys.

Students will complete their Freshman and Sophomore years on the Castleberry High School campus before transitioning to the TCC Trinity River campus for part of the school day. Graduates will earn:

- Castleberry ISD Distinguished With Honors diploma
- An Associate of Arts Degree

Key Features of Early College High Schools

- Open enrollment with a focus on historically underserved and at-risk students
- Dual credit courses at no cost to families
- Rigorous, accelerated curriculum supported by academic and social services
- A strong partnership with Texas higher education institutions to ease college access

Application Process and Requirements

- Students must be enrolled in 8th or 9th grade during the 2024-2025 school year
- Complete the application and submit the most recent academic record if not enrolled in CISD
- Demonstrate maturity and readiness for college-level coursework
- Commit to an advanced curriculum and attend a one-week summer boot camp
- Participate in a parent/student interview

* *Important Note:* Participation in athletics, fine arts, or other daytime school activities may be limited due to travel and class schedules.

(continued on page 3)

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Collegiate Academy (continued from page 1)

[View the Parent/Student Information Session presentation here.](#)

Enrollment in the Castleberry Collegiate Academy is by application only. Current eighth or ninth grade students need to fully complete the application and meet deadlines for recruitment and registration.

As a designated Early College High School, the Texas Education Agency requires recruitment efforts to target the following areas: Castleberry Collegiate Academy recruitment and enrollment processes shall identify, recruit, and enroll the subpopulations of at-risk students (as defined by PEIMS), including, but not limited to, students who are of limited English proficiency, students with disabilities, or students who have failed a state administered assessment. In addition to those who are at risk as defined by PEIMS, Castleberry Collegiate Academy will also recruit those that are historically underrepresented in college courses (e.g., first generation college goers and students of low socioeconomic status).

Students who do not meet the target recruitment may still apply and get accepted into the school.

In order to be considered for admission into the Castleberry Collegiate Academy, you must:

- Be a current 8th or 9th grade student
- Complete the entire application
- Send the most current academic record/report card if you do not currently attend a CISD campus
- Demonstrate maturity and potential to matriculate through a college setting

- Understand that we offer an Advanced and college-level curriculum
- Complete the parent/student interview process
- Commit to attending summer boot camp for one week

[Castleberry Collegiate Academy Guidance and Counseling Addendum](#)

Submitting Your Application

Once you have read and understand the admission criteria, click the link below to submit your application. Please know that once the application form is started, it must be completed in its entirety. You will NOT be able to save and resume later. You might consider typing essay answers in a word processing program prior to beginning the online application. You will be able to copy and paste answers from a word processing program into the online form.

If you would like to view the application before opening the application submission form, [view the preview application link.](#)

[Visit the Castleberry Collegiate Academy webpage](#) for additional information and details.

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Sports Desk

(continued from page 1)

Over the next 7 minutes the teams exchanged missed shots. But at the 27:23 mark the Lions took full control of the game. Zapata got his second goal of the game to give the Lions a 2-0 lead. A few minutes later he almost got his third goal of the night but his kick was defended by the Pioneers goalie.

The Lions got a little lucky with their next score. Lion Gerardo Garcia took a shot. However, the NCTA defender, in his attempt to kick the ball away, instead knocked the ball into the net past his own goalie. This gave the Lions a commanding 3-0 lead with a little over 15 minutes remaining to play (15:45).

At this point the Lions concentrated on playing defense. The Pioneers did get 7 shots on goal in the remaining time but none of them found pay dirt. The Lions kept the shutout and went on to win 3-0.

The Lions (6-1-2) next game will take them to Grapevine to play Collegiate Academy (2-2-1) on Jan. 31, scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

Go Lions!

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO VENDORS

Notice is hereby given that the following RFP will be accepted by WHITE SETTLEMENT School District (140890) on or before Monday, March 3, 2025, **no later than 2:00 PM CST**. Late proposals will be rejected as non-responsive. Forms and specifications may be obtained, and submissions received at the website referenced below until the designated time.

E-Rate Category One WAN Services and Category Two Services
From 470 Application Number: C1 250007873 and C2 250017083

Link for all interested vendors:

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All Questions and Proposals must be submitted online.

Questions must be submitted no later than 2:00 pm CST on Monday, February 10, 2025.

Proposals must be submitted no later than 2:00 pm CST on Monday, March 3, 2025.

The White Settlement School District reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals and to make awards as they may appear to be advantageous to the district and to waive all formalities with respect thereto. Bidders are encouraged to submit proposals well in advance of the deadline. The district is not responsible for the bidder's technical difficulties that may be experienced at the time of bid closing.

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From StatePoint

Gen-Z is Guiding the Retail Revolution - Here's What to Know

Customer expectations continue to evolve at breakneck speed, and 2025 is likely to usher in further changes to brick-and-mortar stores as retailers compete for shoppers' attention. With Gen-Z's spending power projected to reach \$12 trillion by 2030—according to Nielsen IQ—industry experts say that they're leading the retail revolution.

"Gen-Z are digital natives, fiercely value-driven, and accustomed to on-demand, personalized experiences. As such, shoppers can expect retailers to dive into new technologies as they strive to deliver innovative experiences that are as seamless and personalized as they are meaningful in the new year," says Christa Anz, global marketing director at Sensormatic Solutions, a leading global retail solutions provider.

According to Sensormatic Solutions data, experience and convenience remain top factors in consumer purchasing decisions among all generations, with crowds and lines (53%), out-of-stocks (46%) and long waits for pickups (29%) cited as shoppers' top pain points. Fortunately, the foundation for improvements has been laid. Retailers are employing emerging technology to meet these desires, and consumers will soon start to see the benefits.

For example, solutions that draw on organizational data to provide predictive analytic insights can help retailers get ahead of disruptions to ensure customer service issues are addressed proactively and resolved quickly. Meanwhile, the same types of data can be used to enhance personalization and gamification in retail apps, websites and loyalty programs, making them simpler and more satisfying for shoppers to use.

Technology and personalization efforts will also help ensure customers get the products they want, right when they want them. RFID-enhanced inventory tracking will improve in-store pickup, and end-to-end supply chain digitalization efforts will help retailers and manufacturers address material shortages, severe weather and other challenges expected in 2025. Additionally, shoppers can expect to be connected with products they need—and those they don't yet know they need— thanks to the ubiquity of data retailers now have access to and refinements in the way businesses use that information to personalize offers. According to "Frontiers in Psychology," personalization efforts boost loyalty in 68% of customers, making the implementation of this technology a win-win.

Another rising trend is retail media. P2PI predicts that in 2025, retail media advertising spend will surpass linear TV spend. Despite their popularity, most consumers are unaware of how retail media networks im-

pact their shopping experiences and improve their interactions with brands. Using in-store and online data to create omnichannel customer and demographic profiles, retail media networks help stores adjust inventory tactics, promotions, displays and more to reflect the preferences of their customers.

On the security side of the equation, Sensormatic Solutions notes that the impact that loss prevention and safety measures will have on customers will likely wane this year. This shift comes as more retailers adopt a smart hybrid approach, with a focus on balancing safety and satisfaction. The combination of physical deterrents and item- or category-level inventory data allows retailers to protect the most at-risk parts of the store (and the people in them) without adding unnecessary friction elsewhere.

Finally, market pressures will continue to guide retailers. As 2025 unfolds, private-label products are expected to gain popularity, appealing to shoppers looking to save and retailers looking to boost revenue.

For more insights into the 2025 shopping landscape, visit sensormatic.com.

From the Project Linus Blanketeers

First Monday Quilt Club Volunteers Needed

Come join the fun and enjoy great fellowship at our monthly meeting with the Quilt Club volunteers while you make a difference in our community and bless others by making quilts for Project Linus.

The First Monday Quilt Club meets on the first Monday of each month at Bethany Christian Church located at 1500 Meadow Park Drive in White Settlement from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Instead of a potluck lunch, ladies are asked to bring brunch or snack items. Their next meeting is on Monday, Feb. 3.

Project Linus is a non-profit service organization. The members of this group are Tarrant County Chapter Project Linus volunteers who create handmade quilts and blankets that provide love, warmth, and comfort for local children who have suffered trauma, tragedy, or illness. Volunteers also make coverlets for veterans, nursing home residents, and the homeless. Unfortunately, the need for these blankets increases each month. They desperately need volunteers with portable sewing machines to help assemble the quilts.

No experience is needed - there is a place for you. Anyone can help if you can follow instructions, sew, tie a knot, crochet a blanket, or tell a good joke. Volunteers have lots of fun and develop fantastic friendships.

High school students can receive community service credits for participating. Materials (fabric, batting, thread, and yarn) are provided. Donations of fabric, yarn, thread, or money to purchase materials are greatly appreciated.

For more information about the mission of Project Linus, visit www.projectlinus.org.

For more information on this group and meetings, call Virginia Biela at 817-244-1263.

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Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit by Shree Ganesh Sakura LLC dba Sakura Japanese Restaurant, to be located at 406 Mercedes St Suite F, Benbrook, Tarrant County, TX 76126. Owner of said business is Netra Ghimire, Owner, and Sudeep Ruwali, CEO.

From the City of River Oaks River Oaks City Council Candidate Application Period to Begin in July

New legislation passed for home rule, where city manager and city council ruled cities have the option by Resolution to move their general election dates to November of each year, instead of May.

The River Oaks City Council adopted **Resolution 1126-2024** on June 18, 2024, changing the date on which the city holds its general election for officers to the November uniform election date, pursuant to section 41.0052 of the Texas Election Code. In the Nov. 4, 2025 General Election, Council places 1 and 3 will on the Ballot.

The first day to apply for a place on the General Election ballot will be July 19, 2025 (dates are subject to change from the 2025 legislation).

Legal Notice

The White Settlement Independent School District (WSISD) is accepting proposals for Classroom Furniture for Tannahill. The Request for Proposal – 2425-06 can be accessed and submitted online at <https://wsisdebid.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>. A paper copy of the bid can be obtained on the WSISD website, www.wsisd.com, by visiting the Purchasing section of the Business Services page. If assistance is needed, please contact Nancy Escobar at nancy.escobar@wsisd.net. The deadline for questions is February 13, 2025, at 2:00 pm and proposals are due by February 27, 2025, at 2:00 pm. It is preferred that proposals be submitted online at <https://wsisdebid.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>. If a hard copy proposal will be submitted, it should be addressed to White Settlement ISD, Attn: Nancy Escobar, 8224 White Settlement Road, White Settlement, TX 76108. Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted. White Settlement ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

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General John Bankhead Magruder



He was called “Prince John,” but he was far from royalty. He was part of two losing wars but was popular among his troops. General John Magruder, a Virginia-born Confederate general, took charge of Texas defenses from late 1862 onward, and led a series of colorful adventures along the way.

John Bankhead Magruder was born in 1807 in Port Royal, Virginia, a small port city not far from Washington, DC. His father was a planter and attorney, but he fell into bankruptcy and lost everything by 1820. He began attending the University of Virginia in 1825 and soon received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

He enrolled at West Point in 1826. Magruder was an able cadet, graduating fifteenth out of forty-two in his class in 1830. The newly commissioned lieutenant was then assigned to the 7th Infantry and soon transferred into artillery. It was a quiet time for the army, and he went from post to post. He found time to study law and became a licensed attorney. In 1845, he was transferred to General Zachary Taylor’s forces in Corpus Christi as the United States prepared for the admission of Texas into the Union and to enforce American claims on the Rio Grande. War with Mexico erupted a few months later,

and Magruder served ably in the Mexican War, and slightly wounded in 1847. He served alongside many other officers who would lead armies in the Civil War some fifteen years later.

After the war ended in 1848, he was assigned to a post in California where he managed to also become a popular attorney, real estate speculator, saloon owner, and also ran a railroad while still tending to his army duties.

As Abraham Lincoln assumed the presidency in 1861, Magruder was assigned to a post in Washington, DC. When Virginia seceded in April, Magruder chose to defend Virginia and joined the Confederate army as a colonel. Given his extensive knowledge of military defenses in the area, he was put in charge of the Arm of the Peninsula east of Richmond. Popular among his troops, it was said by one friend, “he could fight all day and dance all night.” With successful efforts against Union incursions into the area, Magruder was rewarded with promotion to major general later that summer.

By spring 1862, General George McClellan attacked the eastern peninsula of Virginia. Magruder was outnumbered nine-to-one, but managed to use the bogs and thick forests to his advantage. He managed to fool McClellan into believing Confederate forces were stronger than they were, and delayed the Union advances for several critical days. However, as Robert E. Lee took command and attempted to reorganize Confederate forces into a counter-offensive by late June, Magruder was bogged down by poor communication and poor coordination. He was accused of being drunk, and faced the charge without resorting to character attacks against his critics. In the end, the charges never stuck.

He was transferred to command the District of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona in October 1862. By this point, the Union Navy had just seized Galveston. He organized a counterattack of artillery and Confederate gunboats. Magruder attacked on New Year’s Eve. By the next day, he had captured three Union ships and forced the rest to flee. Galveston remained in Confederate hands

for the remainder of the war.

Magruder maintained his headquarters in Houston while directing officers throughout Texas to enforce the draft and maintain order. Working with Confederate units in Louisiana and Arkansas, he managed to keep Union forces from invading Texas. After Lee surrendered in Virginia in April 1865, Magruder, along with Gen. Kirby Smith, tried to hold out against Union forces but realized all was lost. On June 2, they formally surrendered. But he understood how leaders in the losing side of uprisings and civil wars had been treated historically. Fearing for his life, as did many other Confederate officers and officials, Magruder fled to Mexico.

Magruder offered his services to Emperor Maximilian, the puppet king installed by the French after they seized control of Mexico in 1862. France had used the pretense of Mexico’s immense foreign debt owed to France as a pretense for invasion and the distraction of the American Civil War as a cover. The ever-unpopular Maximilian found himself the target of increased uprisings in 1865 and welcomed the services of a respected general.

But Magruder soon realized just how perilously close to the abyss that Maximilian had become. The United States had made it quite clear that French intervention in Mexico would not be tolerated. With unrest growing, the French pulled their army out of Mexico in 1866 and urged their puppet king to leave as well. Convinced he was beloved by the people, he decided to stay instead. As rebel armies advanced and Maximilian’s armies crumbled, Magruder read the writing on the wall. He fled back to the United States in early 1867. Not long afterward, Maximilian was overthrown, captured, and executed by firing squad.

The one-time Confederate soldier and Mexican advisor found a general amnesty for Confederate officers in the United States and capitalized on his wartime adventures. He spent the next several years off-and-on the lecture circuit making a tidy living regaling audiences with his tales. Magruder died at his home in Houston in 1871.

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Weekend Forecast



Friday, Jan. 31:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 65. Northwest wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
PM - Clear, with a low around 40. North northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm.



Saturday, Feb. 1:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 70. Light south wind increasing to 5 to 10 mph in the morning. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.
PM - Clear, with a low around 48. South southwest wind around 10 mph.



Sunday, Feb. 2:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 76. South southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
PM - Clear, with a low around 54.

Extended Forecast Click Here