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River Oaks News

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From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers

River Oaks City Council Welcomes Student Leader



The River Oaks City Council turned its spotlight on the next generation of leaders at a recent meeting, where second-grader Emily from A.V. Cato Elementary proudly led both the U.S. and Texas pledges.

Backed by a cheering section of family members, Emily took her place at the front of the chamber as guest leader, earning applause from council members and attendees alike.

City officials said the moment underscored River Oaks' commitment to supporting Castleberry ISD's efforts to give students real-world opportunities to engage in civic life.

"Emily showed impressive confidence and represented her school and community with pride," a council representative said. "Moments like these are important in preparing the next generation of leaders."

From the Sports Desk with John Loven

Lady Lions Rally Past South Hills in Five-Set Thriller

The Castleberry Lady Lions battled through momentum swings and pressure moments Tuesday night, rallying twice to outlast South Hills, 3-2, in front of their home crowd.

Castleberry (10-13) opened the match with grit, storming back from a 24-19 deficit in the first set. Senior Mariana Rodriguez delivered clutch serves, while junior Kaila Dobbins powered a kill and sophomore Kaiyenna Cole added a block. When the dust settled, the Lady Lions had stunned the Lady Scorpions, 26-24.

South Hills responded in set two, erasing a late Castleberry lead to win 26-24. The Scorpions carried that momentum into the third, pulling away for a 25-20 victory despite a late push from senior Alexa Rivera and sophomore Brooke Manning.

Down 2-1, the Lady Lions refused to fold. Rivera ignited set four with multiple kill shots and an ace, while Dobbins and sophomore Camila Resendez controlled the net. Castleberry never trailed, rolling to a 25-13 win to force a decisive fifth.

The tiebreaker saw Castleberry fall behind 9-6 before Rivera again took charge. Back-to-back kills, com- *(continued on page 3)*

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- Yeas and Nays are limited to 50 words or less.
- Engagement Announcements must be published four weeks prior to the wedding.
- Wedding Announcements have a 350 word limit. Anniversaries are limited to 150 words.
- Obituaries are limited to 250 words and are \$100.

Mistakes in stories or ads must be reported by Friday at 4 p.m. following Thursday’s edition for corrections. Payment for advertising is due by 10 a.m. Monday.

Community Invited to Join CHS Homecoming Parade Sept. 25

Castleberry ISD will host the annual homecoming festivities the week of Sept. 22.

The district encourages current students, families, alumni, and community to participate in this year's event.

Community members are invited to join the Castleberry tradition and participate in the homecoming parade on Thursday, Sept. 25.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Registration for this year's parade is due by Friday, Sept. 19.

Community floats including local Police and Firefighters, area business owners, church organizations, student clubs/athletes, marching band, homecoming court, and others are all encouraged to participate in this long standing Castleberry tradition.

Sports Desk

(continued from page 1)

bined with blocks from Manning and Resendez, pushed the Lady Lions ahead. Dobbins sealed the comeback with a late ace, and Castleberry closed out the set 15-12.

The victory, fueled by balanced play and poise under pressure, marked one of Castleberry's strongest performances in recent seasons.

The Lady Lions will travel to Carter Riverside on Sept. 5 before opening district play at home Sept. 9 against rival Lake Worth.

Go Lady Lions!

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Changes to Food Bank Route at River Oaks Event Center Starts Tomorrow

The ine up route and time changes to the Food Bank at the River Oaks Event Center begin tomorrow, Friday, Sept. 12.

Participants are requested to start lining up no earlier than 9 a.m. at the River Oaks Event Center, located at 5300 Blackstone Dr. [Click here to view the graphic.](#)

The City would like to remind drivers not to block residents' driveways or cross streets, in case police or emergency services need access.

Food Bank days are held the second and fourth Fridays of each. month, and participants are requested to stay in their vehicles.

For more information or questions, call 817-732-5885.

From the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

TCEQ Opens 'Take Care of Texas' Video Contest for Student Filmmakers

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is once again looking to see how the state's students Take Care of Texas through its annual Take Care of Texas Video Contest.

The contest is open to public, private, and home-schooled students throughout Texas in grades six through twelve. This encourages students to learn about protecting the environment and share this knowledge in a short video.

Three high school students will win scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,500 and three middle school students will win gift cards ranging from \$400 to \$800 for camera gear, courtesy of Waste Management of Texas, Inc.

Videos must be 30 seconds long and portray positive ways Texans can help keep our air and water clean, conserve water and energy, or reduce waste. Videos must include the slogan "Take Care of Texas. It's

the only one we've got." Complete requirements for entries are available on the [video-contest requirements webpage](#).

The contest deadline is Dec. 5, 2025. The public will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite videos from Jan. 14 until Jan. 24, 2026. After the public narrows down the entries, a panel of TCEQ staff and representatives from Waste Management of Texas, Inc. will choose the winners. They will be announced by March 2, 2026. First place winners will be invited to the annual Texas Environmental Excellence Awards banquet in June of 2026.

Visit [TakeCareofTexas.org](https://www.takecareoftexas.org) to get inspired by previous years' award-winning videos.

Take Care of Texas is a statewide campaign from TCEQ that encourages all Texans to help keep our air and water clean, conserve water and energy, and reduce waste.



From National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Mary Isham Keith Chapter Hosts Friendship Tea



Mary Isham Keith Chapter members and prospective members don fancy hats for the Friendship Tea group photo.



Pictured: America 250! Chair, Laura Tauzel.

Mary Isham Keith Chapter, NSDAR debuted its America 250! Project, The Traveling Trunk, on Aug. 23, at a social gathering to kick off the year.

Thirty-seven members and prospective members gathered for a Friendship Tea given by Regent Pat Sinclair and the Executive Board and hosted by Honorary Regent Charley Holler in her home.

Betty Coe Manual and Michele Elekes set the stage with beautiful fresh flowers, arranged in a gorgeous display of teapots and teacups. Guests arrived, wearing a variety of charming hats and fascinators, and were given Friendship Bracelets before enjoying the culinary offerings of tea sandwiches, fruits, nuts, fruit-filled muffins, chocolate candies and punch. Everyone enjoyed a time of fellowship and fun.

America 250! Chair Laura Tauzel invited everyone to “experience” the Traveling Trunk, which was filled with museum reproductions, photos, and conversation-starters. The Trunk is designed to be an interactive, hands-on, oral history tool, telling “her-stories” of impactful women from all walks of life who shaped America.

Members were reminded of Abigail Adams, who so poignantly requested of her husband, President John Adams, “Remember the Ladies!”

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a non-political women’s service organization whose members can trace their lineage to an individual who contributed to securing American independence during the Revolutionary War.

Today’s DAR is dynamic and diverse, with over 185,000 members in 3,000 chapters across the United States and abroad. DAR members annually provide millions of hours of volunteer service to their local communities across the country and world. DAR

chapters participate in projects to promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism.

If you are interested in learning more about DAR membership, please email mikregent2025@gmail.com.



From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers

America Honors 9/11 Victims and Families

24 Years After Attacks



Each year, the United States pauses on Sept. 11 to remember the nearly 3,000 people killed in the deadliest terrorist attack on American soil and to honor the families and communities forever changed by the tragedy.

The attacks unfolded on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, when hijacked planes struck the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, and a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. In the years since, annual observances have become central to the nation’s collective memory, balancing grief with resilience.

The largest commemoration is held at the 9/11 Memorial & Museum in Lower Manhattan, where the names of the nearly 3,000 victims are inscribed on bronze panels surrounding twin reflecting pools. Each year, family members read aloud the names of those lost, accompanied by six moments of silence marking key events of the day: the times when each tower was struck, when each tower fell, the attack on the Pentagon, and the crash of Flight 93.

The Pentagon hosts its own ceremony on Sept. 11, often led by the Secretary of Defense, military leaders, survivors and families of those who died when American Airlines Flight 77 struck the building. The event traditionally includes the laying of a wreath at the Pentagon Memorial, where benches are arranged to honor each of the 184 victims.

In Shanksville, Pennsylvania, the Flight 93 National Memorial serves as the focal point for remembrance. The memorial honors the passengers and crew who fought back against hijackers, preventing a likely strike on the U.S. Capitol. Bells of Remembrance ring out during the ceremony, with each name read aloud.

Beyond the memorial sites, communities across the nation mark the day in ways both solemn and civic. Fire departments often hold services honoring the 343 New York City firefighters who died while responding to the World Trade Center. Schools and universities incorporate lessons and moments of silence to educate

younger generations with no living memory of the day. Houses of worship, from churches to mosques to synagogues, offer prayers for peace and healing.

In 2009, Congress designated Sept. 11 as the National Day of Service and Remembrance. The initiative encourages Americans to honor the lives lost and the sacrifices made by first responders through volunteer work and acts of charity. Nonprofits and civic groups organize blood drives, food donations and community service projects, turning a day of mourning into one of action and solidarity.

Presidents, regardless of political party, have used the anniversary to call for unity and to reflect on the resilience shown in the aftermath. Ceremonies often include the lowering of flags to half-staff and speeches at memorials. In recent years, live broadcasts and streaming have allowed millions to participate virtually, extending the reach of remembrance beyond physical memorials.

For families of victims, the day is both a public and private occasion. Many describe Sept. 11 as a time to reflect on personal memories, gather with loved ones and ensure that the lives of their relatives are remembered beyond the tragedy. Support organizations, such as the Families of September 11 and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, continue to provide resources for survivors and relatives.

The legacy of 9/11 also remains central to national security and foreign policy. Annual observances often include recognition of U.S. military personnel who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as first responders who continue to face health challenges linked to the attacks. The 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund and the World Trade Center Health Program, both federally supported, provide long-term assistance for responders and survivors.

As the nation marks each anniversary, the commitment to remembering Sept. 11 endures. Through ceremonies, service, education and quiet reflection, Americans strive to honor the victims, support their families and reaffirm the vow made in the aftermath of the attacks: to never forget.

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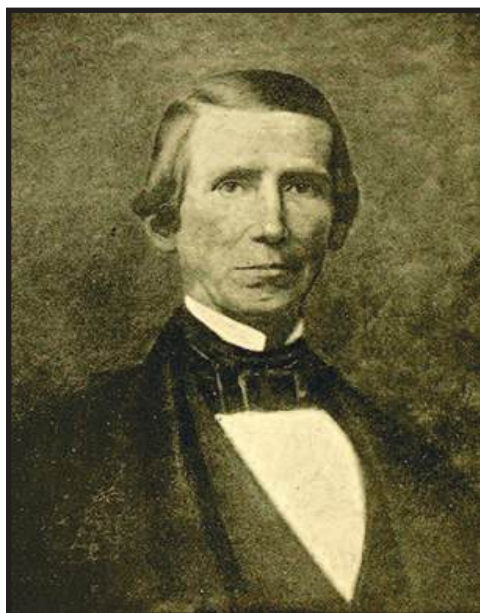
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Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

James Pinckney Henderson: Texas' First Governor Helped Secure Statehood and Global Recognition

James Pinckney Henderson may not have been one of the most famous of early Texas figures, but his actions were perhaps some of the most important. As a lawyer, diplomat, and the state's first governor, he helped build strong foundations for the future of Texas.



Henderson was born in North Carolina in 1808. By the age of 21, he had graduated from the University of North Carolina Law School and earned admission to the state bar. He became known for his voracious study habits during his years in school, poring over law books up to eighteen hours per day.

For Henderson, failure to give oneself entirely to a task was never acceptable. His dedication won him great admiration among his peers. Because of this, he rose quickly to the rank of colonel in the North Carolina militia.

In 1835, he moved to central Mississippi where he opened a law practice. However, news of the events unfolding in Texas captured his attention. The Texas Revolution had arrived, and Henderson was determined to be a part of it. Inspired by the fight for Texas independence, he quickly raised money and volunteers for the effort, but the fighting was over by the time they arrived in June 1836. Texas nevertheless promoted him to general and sent him back to the United States to try to raise more volunteers, fearing Mexican forces could return.

Upon the election of Sam Houston as president of the Republic of Texas in September, the new president chose Henderson as a trusted part of his new cabinet. He served briefly as attorney general before becoming secretary of state in 1837. Houston wanted to bring Texas into the Union, but the American government was hesitant. With the United States unwilling to provoke Mexico by bringing Texas into the Union, foreign support became vital.

Houston thus named Henderson as the Texas Ambassador to both France and Great Britain, two of the most powerful nations in the world at the time. Through his deliberate and persistent negotiations, Henderson persuaded the two reluctant powers to not only recognize Texas independence but also to agree to generous trade terms.

He returned to Texas after Houston's term ended in 1838. Shortly afterward, he opened a private law practice in San Augustine and settled in with his new wife.

His last duty for the Texas Republic was perhaps his most important. In January 1844, the re-elected President Houston sent

him to Washington, DC, with Isaac Van Zandt to negotiate an annexation treaty with the United States. Threats of war with Mexico and protests by abolitionists over slavery in Texas hampered negotiations, but using fears of British domination over Texas and Henderson's persistence won the day. An annexation treaty was signed on April 12, 1844.

After approval by both governments and Texas voters, plans for a new state government emerged. Henderson was nominated to be the state's first governor in the December 1845 elections. As it was still a new state with comparatively few settlers, less than 10,000 voters participated in the election on Dec. 15. But Henderson was the prohibitive favorite against Dr. James B. Miller, a physician and relative political unknown. Henderson won easily, with 82 percent of the vote. On Dec. 29, Texas officially became the 28th state in the Union.

Much of Henderson's tenure as governor was dominated by organizing the new state government and the large debt that Texas had accumulated. The new state legislature named Henderson County in East Texas for him in 1846. The City of Henderson, also named for him, had been founded three years before in Rusk County, further east of his namesake county.

Perhaps his greatest challenge was the long-threatened war between Mexico and the United States that finally erupted in 1846. The border dispute that exploded on the Rio Grande galvanized the United States into action. Mexican forces were pushed steadily from the border and ultimately vanquished altogether.

In 1847, with his two-year term coming to an end, Henderson announced he would not seek re-election. He spent the next few years practicing law in San Augustine before he was once again called back into public service.

One of the state's first two US Senators, Sen. Thomas Jefferson Rusk, died suddenly in 1857. In November, Gov. Elisha M. Pease appointed Henderson to fill the remainder of Sen. Rusk's term. However, Henderson himself died in June 1858, barely 50 years old.

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Obituary

Ann Louise Stewart
(Née Palmer)



Ann Louise of Sabetha Kansas, passed away peacefully on Sept. 1, in Hollywood, Florida, at the age of 74.

Ann was born on April 30, 1951, to Bunce and Janice Palmer. She spent her early years in Sabetha with her brother Steve and sister Gwen, attending local schools before embarking on a life filled with love, family

and travel. As a dedicated military spouse, Ann lived in New Jersey, Oklahoma, and Kentucky before settling in White Settlement, Texas. It was there she met James Stewart and they were married in 1987. They later relocated to Florida after James's retirement.

Ann worked as a medical transcriptionist for many years, both at a local hospital in Texas and later from home in Florida. Her speed, terminology and precision made her an invaluable part of the medical teams she supported.

Outside of work, Ann found great joy in family gatherings, nature and travel. She so enjoyed family reunions, visiting bird sanctuaries, and treasured her cross-country adventures with her sister. Her warmth, humor, and devotion to her family touched the lives of all who knew her.

Ann is survived by her loving husband James Stewart; their children MaryJan, Jennifer, Deborah, Robert, and Lisa; her sister Gwen Sherrard; and a large, loving extended family including grandchildren, great-grandchildren, cousins, nieces, nephews, and countless dear friends.

A Celebration of Life Gathering for Ann and her brother Steve will be held May 24, 2026, all day at The Main Event in Sabetha, Kansas.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Audubon Society in honor of Ann's memory and her love of nature and family.

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Weekend Forecast



Friday, Sept. 12:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 94. South wind 5 to 10 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 71. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.



Saturday, Sept. 13:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 93. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 71.



Sunday, Sept. 14:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 93.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 70.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)