



Serving the Cities of River Oaks and Westworth Village

River Oaks News

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From Suburban Newspapers Staff

A Little Local History



The Consolidated Vultee XB-36, the prototype of the B-36 Peacemaker, first flew on Aug. 8, 1946.

From Castleberry ISD

Meet the Teacher Saturday!

Parents and are students are invited to attend Meet the Teacher hosted by each Castleberry ISD campus the Saturday before the first day of school.

The annual event provides parents and students an opportunity to tour their campus, meet their teachers and administrators, and much more.

- Castleberry High School and REACH Meet the Teacher will be held on Saturday, Aug. 9 from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

- Irma Marsh Middle School Meet the Teacher will be held on Saturday, Aug. 9 from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

- A.V. Cato Elementary, Castleberry Elementary, and Joy James Academy of Leadership Meet the Teacher will be held on Saturday, Aug. 9 10 to 11:30 a.m.

The first day of school is Monday, Aug. 11.

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From the Texas Department of Transportation

Drive Smart, Stay Alert:

TxDOT Issues Back-to-School Safety Reminder

As millions of Texas children head back to school, the Texas Department of Transportation is reminding drivers to stay focused and drive safe in and around school zones and bus stops. This includes adhering to a new Texas law that requires drivers to stop and yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.

Everyone has a responsibility to keep children safe on their way to and from school. TxDOT offers these safety tips for drivers, parents and students:

Tips for Driving in School Zones

- Be aware that traffic patterns around schools may have changed since the last school year.

- Stay alert and put your phone away. Using a handheld electronic device while driving in an active school zone is against the law.

- Always obey school zone speed limit signs. Remember, traffic fines increase in school zones.

- Drop off and pick up your children in your school's designated areas, not the middle of the street.

- Keep an eye on children gathered at bus stops.

- Watch for children who might dart across the street or between vehicles.

Tips for Drivers Sharing the Road with School Buses

- Follow at a safe distance, keeping in mind that school buses make frequent stops.

- Always remain alert for children around buses and remember that they may not always look for vehicles before crossing the street.

- Stop for flashing red lights or a stop sign on a school bus, regardless of which direction you're (story continued on page 4)

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Saturday Aug. 16th

9am-3pm

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Publishers of the Benbrook News, River Oaks News and White Settlement Bomber News

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The publisher/editor reserves the right to reject or edit all copy submitted for publication.
Advertising and Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the opinions, editorial policies or beliefs of the Publisher, Managing Editor or staff of Suburban Newspapers, Inc.

- All Letters to the Editor must not be over 250 words, and include the author’s name, address and phone number. Only the name will be included.
- 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.

UTA West

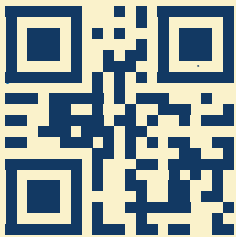
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ON OUR
JOURNEY
TO 2028**



UTA West

UTA.EDU/WEST

TxDOT (continued from page 1)

headed. Continue your trip once the bus has moved, the flashing lights stop flashing or the bus driver signals it’s okay to pass.

- Violations can lead to a fine of up to \$1,250 for a first offense.

Tips for Children Walking or Biking to School

- Always use sidewalks. If there’s not a sidewalk, walk on the left side of the street facing traffic.
- Cross the street at intersections or marked crosswalks. Look left, right and left again before proceeding.
- Always obey crossing guards.
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street. Never assume a driver sees you.
- Look for traffic when stepping off a bus or from behind parked vehicles.
- Always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle.
- Don’t be distracted by electronic devices that take your eyes and ears off the road.
- Follow all traffic rules, signs and signals.

“Be Safe. Drive Smart.” is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel to help end the streak of daily deaths. Nov. 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways.

FRANKS REALTY PLAZA 5404-5412 RIVER OAKS BLVD, RIVER OAKS, TEXAS, 76114

FRANKS REALTY PLAZA PRESENTS

BACK To SCHOOL BLOCK PARTY

AUGUST 10TH, 2025

FREE EVENT

10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

FADED ART BARBER SHOP	FREE Haircuts & School Supplies from 10 AM - 2:30 PM (Walk-In Only. For students in grades K-12.) Backpacks and school supplies will also be given out—while supplies last!
CHERRY ON TOP CATERING	FREE Summer Bites! Enjoy a delicious mix of bold, savory, and refreshing summer bites the whole family will love—perfect for a summer day of fun and food! MENU: Sweet & Spicy Bacon Wrapped Smoked Sausage Bites, Mini Potato, Crown Cheeseburger Bites, Italian Meatballs, Watermelon Cube Skewers
RIVERSIDE SOCIAL EVENTS	FREE School Supplies & First Day Family Photos Stop by for fun family photo opportunities, school supplies, and sweet treats while supplies last!
FRANKS REALTY	FREE School Supplies School supplies will be given out—while supplies last!

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CASTLEBERRY

ISD

2025-2026 DISTRICT CALENDAR

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
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28	29	30				

OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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28	29	30	31			

IMPORTANT DATES

June 30 - July 4	District Holiday [Independence Day]
July 28 - 29	New Teacher Professional Learning
July 30 - Aug. 8	Teacher Professional Learning and Work Day
Aug. 9	Meet the Teacher [Staff Half Day]
Aug. 11	First Day of School
Sept. 1	District Holiday [Labor Day]
Oct. 13	Student Holiday [Teacher Professional Learning Day]
Oct. 27	Parent Teacher Conference Day
Nov. 24 - 28	District Holiday [Thanksgiving Break]
Dec. 22 - Jan. 2	District Holiday [Winter Break]
Jan. 5	Student Holiday [Teacher Professional Learning Day]
Jan. 6	Student Holiday [Teacher Work Day]
Jan. 19	District Holiday [Martin Luther King Jr. Day]
Feb. 2	Student Early Release Parent Teacher Conference Day
Feb. 16	District Holiday [Presidents' Day]/Bad Weather Make-Up Day
Feb. 17	Student Holiday [Teacher Professional Learning Day/Bad Weather Make-Up Day]
March 16 - 20	District Holiday [Spring Break]
April 3	District Holiday [Good Friday]
May 21	Last Day of School; CHS and REACH Graduation
May 22	Teacher Half Day [Work Day]
May 25	District Holiday [Memorial Day]
May 26	Summer Program Teacher Work Day

CALENDAR LEGEND

Student Holiday New Teacher Professional Learning	[Start of Quarter
Student Holiday Teacher Professional Learning (PL)]	End of Quarter
First/Last Day of School	E	Early Release
Teacher Half Day	W	Bad Weather Make-Up Day
Student Holiday Teacher Work Day (WD)		Saturday/Summer Learning Program
Student Led Conference/College Day		Summer Program Teacher Work Day
Student Led Conference/College Early Release Day		District Holiday

GRADING PERIODS

TERM	DATES	3 WKS PROGRESS REPORTS <small>Available Online</small>	6 WKS PROGRESS REPORTS <small>Available Online</small>	REPORT CARDS <small>Available Online</small>
1	Aug. 11 - Oct. 10	Sept. 2	Sept. 23	Oct. 16
2	Oct. 14 - Dec. 19	Nov. 4	Dec. 2	Jan. 8
3	Jan. 7 - March 13	Feb. 3	Feb. 24	March 26
4	March 23 - May 21	April 14	May 5	May 28

JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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APRIL

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MAY

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JUNE

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

McDonald Observatory: A Beacon of Discovery



Nestled in the Davis Mountains is one of the most important centers of learning in the world located in one of the most remote parts of the state, the famed McDonald Observatory, run by the University of Texas. Throughout its decades of operation, the McDonald Observatory has attracted some of the most important names in twentieth-century astronomy and made important discoveries from the inner solar system to the furthest reaches of the universe.

The observatory was the dream of a quiet banker and lawyer from Paris, Texas, William Johnson McDonald. He had amassed a great fortune and left the bulk of it, some \$1 million (or about \$18.3 million in 2025 dollars), to the University of Texas on his death in 1926 to establish an observatory. Though McDonald had no children, he had several relatives who were enraged at his gift to UT. After several years of court fights, the university's donation was set at \$800,000.

At the time, the university did not have a formal astronomy department, but administrators quickly went on a search for top scientific talent and for a fitting location for the observatory. The university quickly formed a 30-year partnership with the University of Chicago to run the observatory.

In the meantime, Edwin Fowlkes donated a stretch of his family's lands in Jeff Davis County in the Davis Mountains as the site. From its position in remote West Texas, it has an almost perfect position for ground-based astronomers. The dry air

means many clear nights for observing. And it is so far from any large city that there are no streetlights to break the darkness of the night sky. Astronomers are left with only the wide open sky and their love of the stars above.

As the observatory became operational, Dr. Otto Struve, a Ukrainian-born astronomer serving at the University of Chicago, was named its first director in 1932. At the same time, he was also running the prestigious Yerkes Observatory in Wisconsin. Struve had previously discovered two asteroids and made important discoveries regarding binary stars. He quickly established McDonald Observatory's reputation as an important center for research. Struve oversaw the completion of the observatory's renowned 2.1-meter telescope in 1939 on Mt. Locke, a scope now named after Struve. At the time of its completion, it was the second-largest telescope in the world, and it was unveiled with great fanfare among scientists.

Dr. Gerard Kuiper of The Netherlands took charge of the observatory as director in 1947. Kuiper was already a respected name in science. By this point, his discoveries included the discovery of the moon Miranda around Uranus and the small moon Nereid around Neptune. He would also discover carbon dioxide in the atmosphere of Mars and the existence of a thick methane atmosphere around Saturn's moon Titan, the only moon in the solar system with an atmosphere. He helped position the university and the observatory as an important center for astronomy in the years after World War II. He would step down in 1949 but return as director between 1957 and 1959. The Kuiper Belt, a ring of dust, comets, and small asteroids and planetoids between 3 billion and 5 billion miles from Earth that surrounds the solar system, was named for him based on his 1951 theory of its existence.

In between Kuiper's terms as director, Dr. Bengt Stromgren of Denmark ran the observatory from 1951 to 1957. Stromgren made a number of important breakthroughs for astronomy, including the discovery that

stars are mostly hydrogen and a new photometry system that allowed astronomers to analyze starlight with greater accuracy.

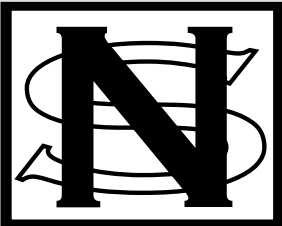
Dr. William Morgan would follow between 1959 and 1963 and became a respected figure for his work in understanding the structure of galaxies. He was able to determine that the Milky Way galaxy is itself a spiral galaxy, with arms of stars, gas, and dust curling for tens of thousands of light years around the galaxy's central core. Dr. Harlan Smith would be the observatory's longest serving director, taking the reins in 1963. He opened a new era for the observatory by gaining the funds to build a new 2.7-meter telescope in 1963, complete in 1968 at a cost of \$5 million (or about \$45.6 million in 2025 dollars). The telescope's main mirror weighs nearly four tons. He served until 1989. The telescope was later named in his honor.

The observatory would continue to develop new instruments and experiments to observe the universe. This included a series of radio telescopes that listened to radio waves from the stars that operated from 1968 until it was dismantled in 1989. The McDonald Laser Ranging System operated at the observatory between 1982 and 2019 for measurements on satellite orbits and the Moon's geologic features.

The Hobby-Eberly Telescope was completed in 1994 on Mt. Fowlkes. With 91 mirror segments, it is 11 meters in diameter, making it one of the largest in the world. It is currently used as a part of a survey of dark energy. It is one of five main optical telescopes currently in use at the observatory.

Today, the McDonald Observatory continues to function as an important center of research for astronomers around the world. Regular tours are provided for the public at the Frank Bash Visitor Center, named for another respected prior director. The observatory also hosts star parties for visitors to gaze the night skies with the professional astronomers, offering the chance to look through the largest scopes when not in use. The State of Texas named the observatory a historic site in 1968.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



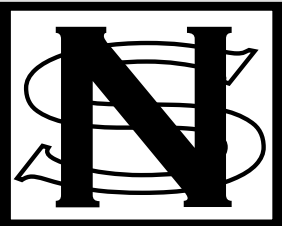
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Weekend Forecast



Friday, Aug. 8:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 98. South wind 5 to 10 mph.
PM - Clear, with a low around 77. South southeast wind around 10 mph.



Saturday, Aug. 9:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 96. South wind around 10 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 75. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.



Sunday, Aug. 10:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 95. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 75.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)