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River Oaks News

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From the Sports Desk with John Loven

Boys Soccer Rolls to Another Victory

The Castleberry boys soccer team has been hard to beat this year. They sported a 11-1-3 record (4-0-1 in district) as they entered the second round of district play.

Castleberry hosted Collegiate Academy at W.O. Barnes Stadium on Friday, Feb. 21. The Phoenix came into the game with a 3-5-1 record (1-3 in district). Our Lions had dominated the Phoenix back on Jan. 31 by the score of 6-2. Castleberry hoped for another convincing victory on this bitterly cold night in River Oaks. However, early on it looked like the Phoenix would be a little harder to put away the second time around. But eventually Coach Smith's far superior Lion squad exerted their strength and won easily by the score of 5-1.

The first 15-20 minutes of the game was spent almost entirely on the Phoenix end of the field. Just minutes into the game CHS got its first shot on goal at the 37:24 mark but failed to score. At the 30:30 mark senior Christian Serrato's free kick had a chance to score but it was successfully defended by the Phoenix goalie. The Lions got two more shots on goal in the next couple of minutes (29:05 and 28:38) but both missed.

Despite the fact that so much of the game was spent on the Phoenix end of the field, the very limited time that the Phoenix had on offense resulted in a surprising four shots on goal in a 10-minute stretch. One shot missed, and the other 3 were defended by CHS junior goalie Caleb Castaneda. One was a diving deflection away from the net.

As the first half slowly headed to the final few minutes, the score was still, surprisingly, tied 0-0.

Finally, with 5:27 left until half, the Lions broke the tie. Senior Eddie Zapata's kick from the left side of the field found the right side of the back of the net. This gave the Lions a 1-0 lead, and the flood gate opened! Less than 2 minutes later, at the 3:48 mark, junior Fernando Hernandez scored for a 2-0 Lion lead. And then with just 46.9 seconds left until half, senior Ethan Padilla's penalty kick got past the Phoenix goalie and pushed the lead to 3-0 as the teams ended the first half.

The Lions wasted little time after the second half had begun to add to their lead. At the 36:01 mark it was senior Christopher Montoya's turn to score. His goal gave the Lions a 4-0 lead.

A few minutes later Serrato became the fifth Lion of the night to score. His long kick from 20 yards out sailed over the goalie's head to the back of the net with the 32:45 mark of the second half. This pushed the lead to 5-0. The Lions had quite a few more shots on goal, including multiple kicks by freshman Cristian Gutierrez and junior Anthony Herrera, but they would not score again. The Phoenix did avoid the shut out with a goal at the 15:15 mark, which resulted in the final score of 5-1.

The Lions will end district play at home against Eagle Mountain. Then it is on to the playoffs!

Go Lions!

From the City River Oaks

Crud Mobile Event Scheduled

This year's household hazardous waste mobile collection event is scheduled to be held on Saturday, April 5 from 9 to 11 a.m. in the city hall parking lot located at 4900 River Oaks Blvd.

Residents are required to bring a copy of a River Oaks water bill to participate.

This is a great opportunity to get rid of those household hazardous waste products at no charge. For what will and will not be accepted, see the flyer on the [City of River Oaks website](#).

From Tarrant County

Financial Assistance Options in Tarrant County

Community Action Partners may offer the most assistance for residents of Tarrant County. They offer free government grant money for hardships, job placement, gas cards for work and other support. The goal is to offer short-term, immediate financial help.

Rent/mortgage assistance for qualified people to help them stay in their home or apartment. The non-profit will provide help with paying rent or a mortgage for Tarrant County residents.

Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (continued on page 3)

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From the City of River Oaks

Dial 2-1-1 for Statewide Assistance

2-1-1 North Texas is a free, statewide 24-hour referral service.

By dialing 2-1-1, callers can receive information about community and social services, such as food pantries, emergency shelter, rent assistance, utility bill assistance, and senior services to name a few.

2-1-1 North Texas, a collaboration of the North Texas Area United Way and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, is committed to helping Texas citizens connect with the services they need.

The goal is to present accurate, well-organized, and easy-to-find information from over 60,000 state and local health and human services programs.

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From the Texas Department of Transportation

TxDOT Warning Drivers of Spike in Texting Scams Targeting TxTag Customers

SCAM ALERT

TxTag Customer Service:
1-888-468-9824

Texting scams are targeting toll customers in Texas saying they're from TxTag, and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is warning everyone to be on the lookout.

There have been multiple reports of TxTag customers receiving text messages claiming to have a balance due or past due. These SMS text phishing scams, also known as smishing, have been occurring since April, but appear to have increased recently. TxDOT is working to have fraudulent websites taken down in hopes of preventing customers from becoming victims.

TxTag takes customer account security and verification very seriously. While TxTag currently communicates with customers via email, text and outbound phone calls, it will not send text messages regarding final payment reminders or past due balances. Any text messages sent to TxTag customers will be sent from 22498.

TxDOT asks TxTag customers to be vigilant of these ongoing scams and contact TxTag Customer Service directly at TxTag.org or by calling 1-888-468-9824, should customers receive an unsolicited text, email or message purporting to be from TxTag or another toll agency. They should also not click on or open any links.

Emails and texts are sent to the email address and/or the phone number that customers provide in their account. Customers are required to opt into email and/or text notifications in order to receive emails and/or texts from TxTag. If customers are unsure if they are opted into email and/or text notifications, they can log into their TxTag online account or contact TxTag customer service to confirm.

TxTag requires all customers to confirm their account information and verify their identity before providing any information to ensure they are speaking with the correct person on the account.

If a customer receives a phone call, email or text message they believe may be a scam, they should contact TxTag customer service directly at TxTag.org or by calling 1-888-468-9824.

Anyone who believes they have received a fraudulent text can file a complaint with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) at www.ic3.gov.

Financial Assistance

(continued from page 1)

(known as CEAP) provides grants and financial assistance with utility bills: electric, gas, and heating bill fuel assistance. In addition, the CEAP program will also repair or replace an existing heater, propane tank, air conditioner, or central air unit.

Atmos Energy "Share the Warmth" aids Atmos Energy customers whose income is at or below 200 percent of Federal Income Guidelines or with extenuating circumstances. Assistance from Atmos is limited to once per year.


Tarrant County Department Of Human Services is a government agency that includes assistance with paying mortgage, emergency rent and utilities.

Another financial assistance program called SUAP (Special Utility Assistance Program) has limited cash grants that can be used to provide electric and gas service assistance to eligible households up to three times a year from January through August.

Cash aid and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) are also available.

For more information, call Tarrant County Human Services at 817-531-5620; the Community Enrichment Center at 817-281-1164; or Cornerstone Assistance Network at 817-632-6000

Safe Haven of Tarrant County is only for women facing/fleeing violence. Safe Haven can be reached at 817-535-6462 or 817-535-6040.

	
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From the American Red Cross

March is Red Cross Month

The American Red Cross North Texas Region is kicking off its annual March is Red Cross Month celebration to honor Texans who deliver support when help can't wait during emergencies. Additionally, the Red Cross is helping to bridge access to health care for blood donors by providing free A1C testing, commonly used to screen for diabetes and prediabetes, on all successful blood, platelet and plasma donations in March.

Red Cross Month is a national tradition that began in March 1943, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued the first proclamation—and each U.S. president has followed suit ever since.

“During Red Cross Month, we proudly recognize our volunteers who step up to represent the best of humanity to care for our neighbors in times of crisis,” said Linda Braddy, CEO of the American Red Cross North Texas Region. “With all our disasters across East Texas occurring more often with greater impact, the support of local heroes is critical to the health of communities. Please join them to help ensure no one faces an emergency alone by donating, volunteering or taking a class to learn lifesaving skills.”

Supporting community health has long been part of the Red Cross, which traces its roots to its founder, Clara Barton. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one-third of people lack access to regular primary care in the U.S., where diabetes affects 1 in 10 people, and nearly a quarter of those living with it have been undiagnosed.

The free A1C screening aims to help address this gap by empowering blood donors with valuable information to maintain their health and well-being. This new offering is part of the Red Cross's longtime work to support community health, which also includes disaster relief efforts such as basic disaster health and mental health services.

Donors can expect to receive the results of their test within one to two weeks through the Red Cross Blood Donor App or online donor portal, and they are encouraged to consult their healthcare provider if their A1C level is elevated.

Visit redcross.org/GivingDay to make a financial donation and be a part of our annual Giving Day, March 26, during Red Cross Month. A gift of any size helps provide emergency shelter, food, relief supplies, basic health care, emotional support and financial assistance for people affected by disasters of all sizes.

You can also visit RedCrossBlood.org, use the Red Cross Blood Donor App or call 1-800-RED CROSS to book a time to give in March and learn more about your health. Additionally, all who come to give blood, platelets or plasma March 1-31 will receive a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. See redcrossblood.org/March for details on both offers.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or follow us on social media.

From the Project Linus Blanketeers

First Monday Quilt Club

Project Linus

Come Join the Fun!

Come join the fun and enjoy great fellowship at the 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, March 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.



**Feb. 27 is
National Strawberry
Day!**

General Edward H. Tarrant Chapter, United States Daughters of 1812

General Edward H. Tarrant Chapter Attends State Council Meeting

The General Edward H. Tarrant Chapter, United States Daughters of 1812 had 12 members attended the 122nd Annual State Council on Feb. 14 and 15 in Temple, Texas, where they received numerous awards.

Former Tarrant Chapter Presidents Jane Doclar and Linda Simmons were on the planning committee for the Council and organized an informative and fun gathering, celebrating the 250th Birthday of the U.S. Navy. Both days were filled with business sessions, musical entertainment, and a memorial service for those members who had passed in 2024.

Gordon R. England, former U.S. Secretary of the Navy, was the honored guest and keynote speaker at Saturday's Star-Spangled Banner Banquet. His presentation was *The U.S. Navy and Beyond*. England was presented with the U.S.D. 1812 Excellence in History Award by State President Kellie Mathieu.

David Hamaker, State President of the General Society of the War of 1812, Texas Society attended the banquet as well and received the Spirit of 1812 Award for his work in saving the history of the War of 1812. Music at the banquet was provided by country blues artist Mia Suzanne Walker, who is a United States Air Force veteran. Walker was presented with a certificate of appreciation for her performance and thanked for her military service.

The U.S. Daughters of 1812 is a non-profit, non-political service organization and lineage society. Its programs promote patriotism and preserving authentic records of men in civil, military, and naval service from 1784-1815 inclusive.

For information on how to find your ancestors or about the programs, email lineagesocieties@att.net.

Prospective members are always welcome.

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Pictured (l-r) are: Lisa Kight-Alcala, Colleen Petosa, Linda Simmons, Linda Hines, Jean deSchweinitz, Chapter President Lori Duhon, USD 1812 State President Kellie Mathieu, Dawn Needles, Laurie Behn, Jane Doclar and Lorie Williams.



Pictured (l-r) are: Jane Doclar, State President of the General Society of the War of 1812 David Hamaker and Linda Simmons.



Gordon England addresses the assembly.



Linda Simmons provided "Music of the Sea."



Jane Doclar holds a part of the USS Constitution, the oldest American ship afloat today. The lighter wood is from the British ship, Victory. The USS Constitution was the heavier of the two ships because of the large amount of dense live oak wood used in construction. This made it exceptionally strong and resistant to damage and earned it the nickname "Old Ironsides."

Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

Claire Chennault and the Flying Tigers: Pioneers of American Air Power in World War II



1st American Volunteer Group - Flying Tigers.

The Flying Tigers were one of the first American air units to fight the Japanese as World War II began. A gruff Texas native, **Claire Chennault** organized the volunteer force in the months before the United States entered the war. His determination and the success of his pilots drew the attention of the world to an almost forgotten corner of the global conflict. Chennault's Flying Tigers helped lay the foundation for the defeat of the Japanese in China.



Claire Lee Chennault was born in Commerce in 1890. Circumstances, however, led the family to leave for Northeast Louisiana while Chennault was still young. He proved to be a bright student and eventually attended Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program.

In 1913, he left LSU to become a school principal back in Northeast Louisiana. He married, and the two had eight children together. When the United States entered World War I in 1917, he completed his officer training and was assigned to aviation section of the army signal corps to train as a pilot. From there began his love affair with the skies.

After World War I, he returned to Texas for further combat pilot training at Ellington Field in Houston. He spent much of the 1920s as part of an army air corps stunt flying exhibition team and eventually became a combat flight instructor based at Brooks Field in San Antonio by 1928. In spite of his skills, his prickly personality led to conflicts with his superiors and fellow officers. As he continued to be passed over for promotions, he retired from the army in 1937.

In the meantime, Japan had conquered Manchuria in 1931 and was

priming to conquer the rest of China. Chennault was recruited by Chinese officials after his retirement to inspect Chinese air capabilities. Soon after his arrival in June 1937, Japan attacked; and Chennault had to quickly rebuild the smashed Chinese Air Force. He recruited pilots from wherever he could find them, trained them, and used whatever planes he could against the Japanese, including both American and Russian. But it was having little effect as Japan continued to advance throughout 1938 and 1939.

By late 1940, Chennault and a delegation from the Chinese government traveled to the United States to make a direct appeal for aid. President Franklin Roosevelt agreed to send 100 P-40 Warhawk fighters. From there, Chennault recruited 300 American volunteers, including pilots and ground crew, as the First American Volunteer Group, paid at rates significantly higher than the regular military. With few supplies in a distant part of the world, Chennault had to improvise with materiel and tactics.

By August 1941, his men, who quickly became known as the Flying Tigers, were fully organized. In the days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Flying Tigers were in action, shooting down nearly 300 Japanese fighters in a matter of days, mostly in southern China. Chennault won wide acclaim for leading attacks against Japan while America still recovered from the initial attacks.

With the success of the Flying Tigers, the army absorbed the entire group in April 1942, promoting Chennault to brigadier general. Most of what had been the Flying Tigers became the Fourteenth Air Force, expanded, and maintaining the high aerial victory rates. However, Chennault continued to argue with his superiors over policies and tactics. His forces undertook tasks from air support for Chinese forces to preparations for the allied invasion of Burma. In July 1945, he was re-assigned to Washington, DC. He retired from the service a second time that October.

He returned to China in 1946 and served four years as president of Civil Air Transport before returning to Louisiana. *Way of the Fighter*, his memoirs, were published in 1949. He was diagnosed with lung cancer in 1957. He had been a heavy smoker, and little could be done for his type of cancer at the time. Chennault decided to live his last days to the fullest and took a tour of Europe and Taiwan. By July 1958, his strength was fading, but the air force honored him with a promotion to lieutenant general. Chennault died a few days later in a New Orleans hospital at the age of 67.

Chennault was widely honored in the years after his death. He was featured on a stamp in the 1980s. He was also inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in Dayton, Ohio, in 1972. The Chinese government unveiled a series of memorials and museums honoring the Flying Tigers and Chennault starting in 2005 to mark the end of World War II in China, while the government in Taiwan presented a special award in memory of Chennault to his family.

His childhood home in Commerce is now noted with a historical marker.

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<p>ELECTRIC E-CONN ELECTRIC 817-831-2600 www.econnllc.com</p>	<p>RESTAURANTS EGGSQUISITE CAFE 9316 Clifford St. 76108 • 7days a week 682-224-2832 eggsquisitecafe.com</p>		

Weekend Forecast



Friday, Feb. 28:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 74. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 48. South wind around 5 mph becoming W/NW after midnight.



Saturday, March 1:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 75. W/NW wind around 5 mph becoming east in the afternoon.
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 49. East wind 5 to 10 mph.



Sunday, March 2:

AM - Mostly sunny, with a high near 74. S/SE wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 60. S/SE wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)