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River Oaks News

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From the City of River Oaks

Understanding the American Flag and the Significance of Flag Day

The American flag, often referred to as the “Stars and Stripes,” is a powerful symbol of the nation’s history, values, and unity. It consists of 13 stripes representing the original 13 colonies and 50 stars representing the current U.S. states. Over time, the flag has become a symbol of freedom, democracy, and the sacrifices made by generations of Americans.

Flag Day is observed each year on June 14 to commemorate the adoption of the United States flag. On that day in 1777, the Second Continental Congress officially approved the design of the American flag. The resolution stated: “*That the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field.*”

Although it is not a federal holiday, Flag Day is an important national observance. It was officially established by President Woodrow Wilson in 1916, and later, in 1949, President Harry S. Truman signed it into law.

Flag Day serves as a time for Americans to honor the flag’s meaning and reflect on the country’s ideals. Many communities celebrate with ceremonies, parades, and educational events to promote patriotism and civic pride.

North Central Texas Council of Governments

NCTCOG Seeks Public’s Help to Make Roads Safer for Bikes

NCTCOG is developing a regional Bicycle Safety Action Plan with the goal of eliminating fatal and serious injury bicycle crashes in North Texas.

The Bicycle Safety Action Plan supports the Regional Transportation Council’s commitment to eliminating all traffic deaths.

It will do this by recommending policies, programs and projects specifically aimed at making it safer for people who choose to bike on the region’s roads.

Public input will play a signifi-

(story continued on page 4)

From the City of River Oaks

Funday Monday Returns to River Oaks

Get ready for a splash of summer excitement! The River Oaks Event Center invites families to beat the heat at Funday Monday, held every Monday through July 28, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event features a giant water slide for kids to enjoy and is open to the public at 5300 Blackstone Drive. Funday Monday promises cool fun and a great way for kids to stay active during the summer break. While admission to the water slide is free, food and drink will be available for purchase.

Important note: Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, who is required to remain on site for the duration of the event. Participants play at their own risk, and the City of River Oaks and the River Oaks Event Center are not responsible for injuries.

For more details, visit www.riveroakscommunitycenter.com or call 817-732-5885.

SUBSCRIBE! [Click Here](#) to have the FREE digital edition of the River Oaks News sent to your inbox!

From the FWGMC

Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club to Meet June 24

The Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club (FWGMC) meets monthly on the fourth Tuesday. The next meeting is June 24 at 7 p.m. at 3545 Bryan Avenue, off I-35. The building has murals and a dinosaur painted on the front.

Founded in 1950, the Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study, exploration and education of geology, mineralogy, and the lapidary arts.

Meetings are always open to the public. Field trips and classes are announced through email to members and on social media when open to the public.

For more information or directions, visit the website at www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org.

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From the City of White Settlement

White Settlement Senior Center to Host Annual Health Fair on July 11

The White Settlement Senior Center is excited to announce its Annual Health Fair, a community-focused event aimed at promoting wellness and healthy living.

The fair will take place on Friday, July 11, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the senior center located at 8211 White Settlement Rd.

This event is a great opportunity for residents to engage with healthcare professionals, gather valuable health information, and participate in wellness activities.

The health fair is designed especially with seniors in mind, but all are welcome to attend.

In addition to health screenings and resources, attendees can expect a supportive and energetic environment.

Those interested in attending are encouraged to register online at wstx.us/recdesk to secure their spot.

Whether you’re looking to check in on your health, connect with others, or simply learn more about wellness resources, this event promises to be informative and uplifting for the whole community.

Legal Notice

Application has been made with a Texas alcohol, beverage commission for mixed beverage permit on premise by The Home Plate Sports Bar Inc., dba The Home Plate. Located at 3137 Alta Mere Dr. B, Fort Worth, TX 76116, Tarrant county Texas. Officers of said corporation; The Home Plate Sports Bar Inc. are Jennifer Mitchell.



White Settlement Historical Museum

8320 Hanon Drive

White Settlement, Texas 76108

817-246-9719

Open: Tuesday - Saturday, 10 AM to 3 PM

Closed: Sunday & Monday

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From Castleberry ISD

Free Summer Meals Offered at Castleberry ISD Campuses

Castleberry ISD will serve free breakfast and lunch to individuals 18 and under through June 27, no sign-up or ID required!

Meals will be served at: A.V. Cato Elementary School, located at 4501 Barbara Road, and Castleberry Elementary School located at 1100 Roberts CutOff Road. Breakfast will be served from 7:45 to 8:30 a.m. and lunch will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Meals will also be served at Irma Marsh Middle School, located at 415 Hagg Drive. Breakfast will be served from 7:45 to 8:15 a.m. and lunch will be held from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Meals must be eaten on campus and the cafeteria will be open; curbside and takeout are not available.

For more information, visit cisd.info/summermeals.

cisd.info/summermeals



FREE SUMMER MEALS

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH TO 18 AND UNDER—MAY 29 THROUGH JUNE 27—NO SIGN-UP OR ID REQUIRED!

From the City of River Oaks

City Seeks Applicants to Serve on City Boards

The City of River Oaks is currently seeking applicants interested in serving on a City Board.

Interested persons may fill out an [application](#), sign it and either mail it in or return it in person to the River Oaks City Manager at River Oaks City Hall, located at 4900 River Oaks Blvd, River Oaks, Texas 76114. You may also email the completed application to the City Manager at mgregory@riveroakstx.com.

The River Oaks City Council will make appointments at the July 1 council meeting.

North Central Texas Council of Governments

Region's Population Tops 8.7 million



Population in North Central Texas grew to over 8.7 million in 2024, for a Jan. 1, 2025 total population of 8,718,500.

The region grew by more than 230,000 people in the past year, and by over 900,000 people in the five years since the 2020 Census.

Fort Worth (32,191) added more residents than any other city, followed by Dallas (29,510), Celina (15,980), McKinney (11,310), and Princeton (9,838).

For the third straight year, Collin County led the region in population growth, adding almost 76,000 new residents, followed by Tarrant County with over 35,000 and Denton County with over 31,000.

For more information, visit NCTCOG's [Regional Data Center](#).

From the White Settlement Public Library

TinkerLab Offers Free Summer STEAM Fun at the Library

The White Settlement Public Library is excited to host TinkerLab, a free summer program designed to inspire creativity and curiosity through hands-on STEAM activities: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math.

TinkerLab will be open to kids of all ages every Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m., starting June 12 and running through July 31.

Participants can explore a variety of engaging projects either individually or in small groups. The program encourages learning through play and experimentation, offering a great opportunity for children to stay active and engaged during the summer months.

Children under the age of 11 must be accompanied by an adult.

TinkerLab will be held at the White Settlement Public Library, located at 8215 White Settlement Road.

For more information, visit www.wstx.us/181/library or call 817-367-0166.

Come explore, learn, and tinker this summer!

NCTCOG Bikes (continued from page 1)

cant role in the development of the safety plan, along with analyses of crash statistics and the roadway system.

To help gather the opinions of the users of the transportation system, NCTCOG is conducting a short survey.

Complete the [survey](#) for a chance to win a \$100 Visa gift card.



WHITE SETTLEMENT LIBRARY

Summer Movies

AT THE LIBRARY

MONDAYS AT 1 PM

JUNE 9: DOGMAN

JUNE 16: MOANA 2

JUNE 23: SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 3

JUNE 30: MUFASA: THE LION KING

JULY 7: PADDINGTON IN PERU

JULY 14: A MINECRAFT MOVIE

JULY 21: THE DAY THE EARTH BLEW UP

JULY 28: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE

8215 WHITE SETTLEMENT RD

817-367-0166 | WWW.WSTX.US/LIBRARY

WSPUBLICLIBRARY

ON THE BIG SCREEN!

From the White Settlement Public Library

Summer Shows at the Rec Start Tomorrow!

Join us every Friday afternoon this summer for a free live show that's sure to amaze, entertain, and inspire. Each week brings a brand-new fun-filled event: weather science, music, magic, animals, hands-on science, and more!

Brought to you by the White Settlement Public Library, these events are open to all ages and held just next door to the library at the Recreation Center Gymnasium, located at 8213 White Settlement Road, at 1 p.m. each Friday from June 13 through Aug. 1

Here's the lineup:

- June 13: Storm Science with Texas Storm Chasers
- June 20: Mr. Blue Shoes (interactive live music show)
- June 27: Wildlife on the Move: Cool Cold-Blooded Critters
- July 11: Gregg Kazam Magic Show
- July 18: Stormwater Heroes
- July 25: Discovery Lab on Wheels
- Aug. 1: Monkey See Monkey Do Mobile Zoo

COLOR OUR WORLD SUMMER STORYTIME

TUESDAYS | 10:30 AM

JUNE 10 - JULY 29

Celebrate a summer of creativity at Storytime! Explore the magic of art, color, and imagination through books, music, and hands-on fun. Designed for preschool-age kids, but all ages are welcome!

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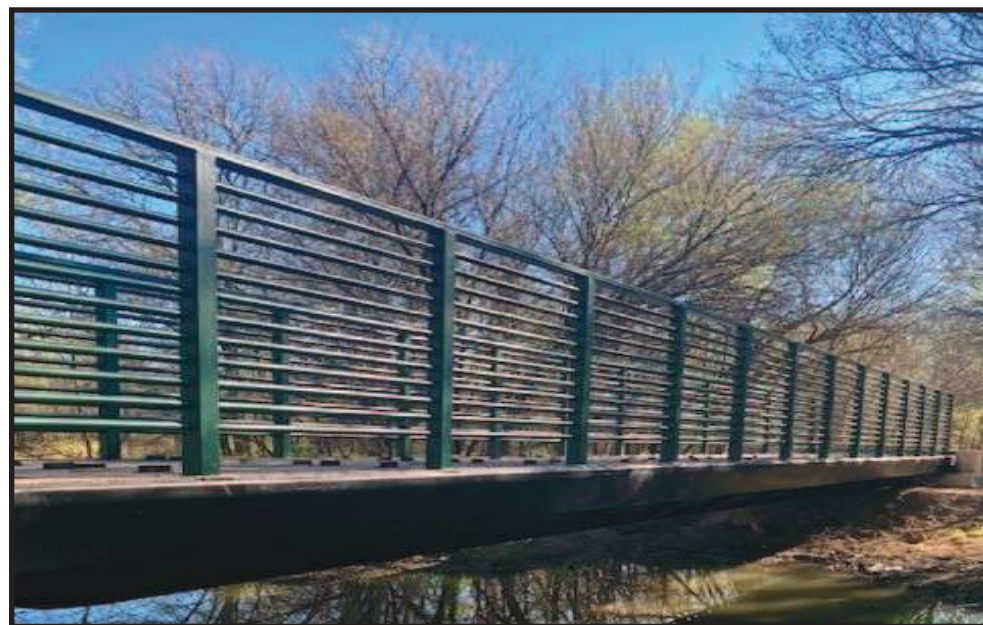
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From Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Trailway Reconnected: Bridge Restoration Reopens Full Length of Lake Mineral Wells State Park Trailway



After a lengthy closure, the full 20-mile stretch of Lake Mineral Wells State Park Trailway is officially open to the public thanks to the completion of a major bridge repair between FM 1195 and the National Vietnam War Museum.

The repair, constructed using a repurposed railroad car, restores safe, continuous access to one of the region's most beloved recreational assets.

"The Lake Mineral Wells State Trailway opened on June 6, 1998, on National Trails Day. It is exciting that we are able to complete this restoration project and reopen the trail again," stated Nikki Elms, Park Complex Superintendent. "Rails to Trails projects help restore economic prosperity to neighborhoods and underserved populations and preserve our railway heritage while promoting personal and environmental health for our visitors. This aligns with the local community being recognized in 2024 as the Wellness Capital of Texas."

This project is a prime example of the investment Texas State Parks has been able to make into existing parks thanks to the dedication of Sporting Goods Sales Tax funding in 2019.

This key section of the trailway was shut down due to a significant bridge failure caused by compromised support beams and shifting abutments. The innovative new structure not only improves water flow and sustainability but also pays tribute to the trailway's origins as a historic railroad corridor linking Weatherford and Mineral Wells.

"Bringing this portion of the trailway back to life has been a true community effort," said Rose Jordan, Director of Tourism for Mineral Wells. "We're grateful for the heart and help of folks like Rhett Warren and Glenn Rogers. The timing couldn't be better—just in time for National Trails Day, when we celebrate the power of trails to connect people, places and stories."

The restoration effort, which took two years from concept to completion, was made possible by the Friends of Lake Mineral

Wells State Park & Trailway, former State Representative Glenn Rogers, local attorney Rhett Warren, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Infrastructure Division, and the dedicated staff of Lake Mineral Wells State Park and Trailway.

During the project, the entire trail also underwent maintenance that included hazard tree removal, brush clearing, culvert repair and new surfacing. Texas State Parks restored restrooms at trailheads and added a brand-new facility at Cold Springs in 2024.

"Our Friends Group is excited about the bridge replacement and all of the other work that has been done to the trail in the past few months," said Rhett Warren, president of the Friends of Lake Mineral Wells State Park and Trailway. "The trail is in its best shape in years. We send a big thanks out to TPWD and the park staff for all their hard work. I encourage everyone to get out and hike it, bike it, run it, or ride it on horseback and take advantage of this wonderful asset."

The Lake Mineral Wells Trailway offers a scenic, accessible route for hikers, cyclists and equestrians of all skill levels. With gentle grades and open vistas, the reclaimed railbed now serves as a safe and serene pathway through the Western Cross Timbers region, rich in both natural beauty and historical significance.

"In November of 2022, I visited the Trailway Bridge site to assess the issue and advocate for funding," said former State Representative Glenn Rogers. "We brought those concerns to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials in Austin, and I'm pleased the repairs were fully funded. The Trailway is one of many scenic treasures in the Mineral Wells area, and full access means more people can experience the beauty of this landscape."

The bridge reopening marks not just a physical reconnection of the trail but a symbolic reminder of what can be achieved when local passion and statewide partnership come together to preserve outdoor spaces for future generations.

Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

Pioneering Geneticist Hermann Muller: The Texas Scientist Who Unlocked the Dangers of Radiation and Transformed Genetics



The gene is the fundamental building block of life. Genes determine how cells function and what traits are passed from one generation to the next. Little was understood about them when they were discovered in the late 1800s. However, the research of one Texas scientist and Nobel Prize winner, Dr. Hermann Muller, led to major breakthroughs in understanding the nature of genes.

Hermann Joseph Muller was born in New York City in 1890. His father was a metalworker, and his mother was a British immigrant. He became fascinated with biology at a young age. He graduated from high school at the age of 16 and entered what is now Columbia University. He ultimately completed his bachelors degree in biology in 1910 from Columbia and earned a doctorate by 1916.

In 1915, Muller was offered a position at Rice University in Houston as a biology professor and researcher. Rice had only been founded three years before, and its leaders were anxious to establish its reputation as a center for scientific research. He continued to focus his research on the genetics of flies and increasingly looked at genetic mutations. However, the lack of available lab assistants during World War I greatly limited his abilities to continue his

research. He left Rice and teamed up with his former mentor at Columbia University. As part of the continuation of their work, Muller was able to determine by 1920 that the size of wings of flies was determined genetically, a major breakthrough in understanding genetics.

He returned to Texas as a professor and researcher at the University of Texas in the fall of 1920. While at UT, he conducted some of his most important work regarding genetics. In 1923, he began using x-ray radiation in his genetic studies. Muller was becoming increasingly renowned among scientists, and he was invited to serve as a special professor in physiology at the University of Chicago in 1925 before resuming his work in Austin.

By 1926, Muller was able to conclusively demonstrate that x-rays caused lethal mutations in flies. The discovery cemented his reputation in the scientific community.

By 1928, he was also able to show that high levels of radiation also caused fatal damage in other types of insects and in plants such as corn and strongly suggested that radiation also posed a danger to human beings. He came to write dozens of scientific articles outlining his many findings.

Up to that time, very little was understood about the effects of radiation on animal tissues and cells.

Scientists experimenting with radiation had reported strange burns and increased cancer rates for years. While the words "radiation" and "mutations" became embedded in the imaginations of many science fiction novelists, comic book creators, and the general public in the years to come, Muller's experiments conclusively showed the destructive effects of high levels of x-rays on cells. The x-ray was quickly becoming an indispensable tool in medical diagnostics in the 1920s, but Muller's discovery demonstrated the need to limit the power of x-ray scans and exposure.

Muller left the University of Texas in 1932 and spent the next several years work-

ing in labs and teaching at various universities in the United States and Europe. In 1942 and 1943, he worked once again at the University of Chicago where he briefly worked on aspects of the Manhattan Project, America's top-secret effort to produce an atomic bomb during World War II.

In 1945, Muller accepted a position as professor of zoology at Indiana University. In 1946, he was given the Nobel Prize in Medicine for his work in genetics, the most respected award in science. In his acceptance speech, Muller warned of the dangers of radiation, suggesting that there may not be a safe level of x-rays or other types of high-energy radiation. He spent the last years of his life warning about the dangers of nuclear war and radiation poisoning, calling for an end to the nuclear arms race of the 1950s and 1960s and calling for an end to nuclear testing.

Scientists not only impact the world with their own discoveries but also with the students they teach. Muller had a tremendous influence on his students, helping to train a number of important scientists. Dr. Wilson Stone, a longtime professor at the University of Texas, studied under Muller and continued his work on radiation and demonstrated how ultraviolet radiation affected bacteria and was later a consultant for the Atomic Energy Commission. Muller also helped train Dr. George Snell, who shared the 1980 Nobel Prize in Medicine for his work that showed the link between genes and successful organ transplants. Famed astronomer Carl Sagan also studied under Muller, working in one of his labs while still an undergraduate. Muller died at his home in Indianapolis in 1967 at the age of 76.

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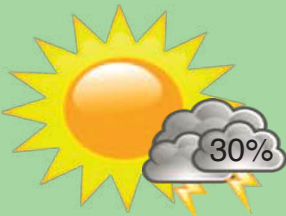
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Weekend Forecast



Friday, June 13:

AM - A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 90. South wind 5 to 10 mph.
PM - A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 74. S/SE wind around 5 mph.



Saturday, June 14:

AM - A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 1pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 90. South wind around 5 mph.
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 75. S/SW wind around 5 mph.



Sunday, June 15:

AM - A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 92. S/SW wind around 5 mph.
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 75.

Extended Forecast Click Here