



Serving the Cities of River Oaks and Westworth Village

River Oaks News

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From the Sports Desk with John Loven

Lions Clinch District Title with Shootout Win on Senior Night

The Castleberry High School boys soccer team faced another big test Thursday night, but in a competitive district race, nearly every game carries major stakes.

Originally scheduled for Friday, March 6, the match against Lake Dallas was moved up a day due to predicted bad weather. The Lions welcomed the Falcons to W.O. Barnes Stadium for their final regular-season home game, and Senior Night, with a district championship on the line.

Castleberry (11-7-3, 7-0-1 in District 8-4A) entered the contest riding the momentum of a 9-2 win over Springtown on March 3. Lake Dallas (5-6-5, 4-1-3 in district) arrived on a hot streak of its own, having won four straight games since tying the Lions 0-0 on Feb. 17, a match Castleberry ultimately won 6-5 in a shootout.

Defense had defined both teams all season. Lake Dallas led the district in goals allowed, surrendering just four goals in eight district games while recording five shutouts. Castleberry's defense had been nearly as stingy, allowing eight goals, two on penalty kicks, and posting three shutouts.

The matchup lived up to its billing.

In front of a strong Senior Night crowd, the teams battled to a 1-1 tie through regulation before Castleberry prevailed 4-2 in a

shootout to clinch the district championship with one game still remaining on the schedule.

First Half

Both teams moved the ball well early but struggled to generate clear scoring chances.

Lake Dallas recorded the first shot on goal at the 33:35 mark, but a free kick from the left side near the 12-yard line sailed wide right.

Castleberry managed two shots on goal in the first half against the Falcons' tough defense. Senior Richard Montes fired a shot high at the 26:20 mark, and senior Uriel Pereyra sent a kick wide right at 22:42.

The Lions' defense matched Lake Dallas' intensity. The Falcons produced three more shots on goal during the half, at 16:35, 15:26 and 8:33, but each attempt was handled cleanly by standout goalkeeper Caleb Castaneda.

The teams went into halftime scoreless.

Second Half

Castleberry generated more offensive pressure early in the second half.

Freshman Israel Arriaga Reyes took a shot at the 32:29 mark, and junior Sebastian Garcia followed with a header at 28:30, but both were stopped by the Falcons goalkeeper.

The Lions nearly broke through at 18:55 when Pereyra slipped a shot past the goalie. Just before the ball crossed the goal line, however, a Lake Dallas defender sprinted in and cleared it away.

Seconds later, Castleberry finally struck.

At the 18:41 mark, junior Giovanni Saldana delivered a shot that found the net, giving the Lions a 1-0 lead.

Lake Dallas answered later in the half after a penalty was called against Castleberry at 11:06. Despite a strong effort from Castaneda, the Falcons' penalty kick slipped just underneath the diving goalkeeper to tie the match 1-1.

Castleberry continued pressing late. Sophomore Cristian Gutierrez narrowly missed at 7:02, and freshman Jorge Hernandez had two close attempts at 6:01 and 3:45.

Castaneda added two more saves down the stretch to keep the game tied, sending the match to a shootout.

From the River Oaks Event Center

Food Bank Distribution Day Tomorrow

The City of River Oaks hosts Food Bank distribution days on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at the River Oaks Event Center, located at 5300 Blackstone Drive.

The Food Bank distribution dates for the month of March are Friday, March 13 and Friday, March 27.

Participants are asked not to line up before 8:30 a.m. and to [follow the designated traffic route](#).

Drivers should remain in their vehicles throughout the process and avoid blocking residential driveways or cross streets to ensure access for police and emergency services.

For additional information, residents may call 817-732-5885.

(continued on page 3)

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• **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 cost \$100.

Mistakes in stories or ads must be reported by Friday at 4 p.m. following Thursday's edition for corrections. Advertising payments are due by 10 a.m. Monday.

Sports Desk

(continued from page 1)

Shootout

Each team was given up to five penalty kicks.

Castleberry went first, and senior Anthony Herrera calmly converted his attempt to give the Lions an early advantage. Lake Dallas answered with a goal of its own to tie the shootout 1-1.

Junior Sebastian Garcia then scored for the Lions, while Castaneda delivered a key save on the Falcons' next attempt to put Castleberry ahead 2-1.

Saldana converted the Lions' third kick, and Lake Dallas answered to make it 3-2.

Pereyra stepped up next and buried his shot to extend the lead to 4-2. With the pressure mounting, the Falcons' fourth attempt sailed high over the net, sealing the victory for the Lions.

With the win, Castleberry improved to 11-7-4 overall and 7-0-2 in district play, officially clinching the District 8-4A championship.

**Editor's Note:* The Lions wrapped up district play Tuesday, March 10, at Eagle Mountain with a 1-0 win against the Knights.

Castleberry will enter the UIL state playoffs as the District 8-4A champions.

GO LIONS!

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From the City of River Oaks

River Oaks CCPD Calls Election on 20-Year Renewal

The River Oaks Crime Control and Prevention District has officially called an election for Saturday, May 2, 2026.

The election will ask voters whether to continue the CCPD for an additional 20-year period, [according to the official order filed with city documents](#).

The District, established to provide dedicated funding for local law enforcement and crime reduction strategies through a one-half cent sales and use tax, says the election is authorized under state law and is not a proposal for a new tax or tax increase.

Voters registered in the district will decide the continuation of the funding mechanism that supports policing and public safety efforts in River Oaks.

More details on polling places, ballot language and early voting schedules will be made available as the election date approaches.

CRIME CONTROL PREVENTION DISTRICT

CCPD and what it funds:

- Juvenile Services Detective Position
- Police Vehicles
- Promotional Supplies (National Night Out & Community Engagement)
- Radio System Services
- Ballistic Armor (Bulletproof vests)
- Less Lethal Equipment (Tasers & Beanbag Shotguns)
- CRIMES records management software
- Support for Alliance for Children and One Safe Place (child abuse and domestic violence)



The Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD) is a special purpose district created by the city to generate dedicated funding for law enforcement and crime reduction strategies. Its primary purpose is to provide supplemental financial resources to ensure public safety without strictly relying on the general property tax fund. It is 0.5% from the collected sales tax rate of 8.25%. This is not a new tax or a tax increase.

CASTLEBERRY ISD

2026-2027 DISTRICT CALENDAR

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31	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			

OCTOBER

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

IMPORTANT DATES

July 1-3	District Holiday [Independence Day]
July 29-30	New Teacher Professional Learning
Aug. 3-12	Teacher Professional Learning and Work Days
Aug. 8	Meet the Teacher
Aug. 13	First Day of School
Sept. 7	District Holiday [Labor Day]
Oct. 12	District Holiday [Columbus Day]
Oct. 13	Student Holiday [Teacher Professional Learning Day]
Oct. 26	Student-Led Conferences—no classes
Nov. 23-27	District Holiday [Thanksgiving Break]
Dec. 21-Jan. 1	District Holiday [Winter Break]
Jan. 4	Student Holiday [Teacher Professional Learning Day]
Jan. 5	Student Holiday [Teacher Work Day]
Jan. 18	District Holiday [Martin Luther King Jr. Day]
Feb. 1	Early Release for Student-Led Conferences
Feb. 15	Weather Make-Up Day [District Holiday [Presidents' Day]
Feb. 16	Weather Make-Up Day [Student Holiday / Teacher Professional Learning]
Mar. 15-19	District Holiday [Spring Break]
Mar. 26	District Holiday [Good Friday]
May 26	Last Day of School; CHS and REACH Graduation
May 27	Teacher Half Work Day/Summer School Teacher Half Work Day
May 28	First Day of Summer Learning Program
May 31	District Holiday [Memorial Day]

LEGEND

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

GRADING TERMS

QUARTER	DATE RANGE	PROGRESS REPORT 1	PROGRESS REPORT 2	REPORT CARDS
1	Aug. 13 – Oct. 9	Sept. 1	Sept. 22	Oct. 15
2	Oct. 13 – Dec. 18	Nov. 3	Dec. 1	Jan. 7
3	Jan. 6 – March 12	Feb. 2	Feb. 23	March 25
4	March 22 – May 26	April 13	May 4	June 3

JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

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31	1E	2	3	4	5	6
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14	15W	16W	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27

MARCH

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28	1	2	3	4	5	6
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28	29	30	31			

APRIL

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MAY

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23	24	25	26E	27	28	29

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

From Tarrant Regional Water District Register Today for the 2026 Trash Bash



Volunteers across Tarrant County are gearing up to make a difference as the Tarrant Regional Water District invites the community to roll up their sleeves for the annual Trash Bash cleanup events.

The initiative brings together thousands of volunteers each year to remove litter from local waterways and surrounding areas, helping protect the environment while keeping North Texas beautiful.

This year, volunteers can lend a hand at two upcoming cleanup events!

The first will take place from 8 to 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 28, at Marine Creek Lake.

A second cleanup is scheduled from 8 to 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 18, along the Trinity River.

Participants of all ages are encouraged to join the effort.

Volunteers will work together to collect trash and debris from shorelines and surrounding areas, making an immediate impact on the health of local waterways.

Trash Bash reflects TRWD's ongoing commitment to litter prevention and environmental stewardship.

By organizing community cleanups, the district hopes to inspire residents to take pride in their local water resources and keep them clean for future generations.

TRWD Trash Bash T-Shirt Deadlines

- Marine Creek Lake: Register by March 13
- Trinity River locations: Register by April 3

Those interested in participating can [register online](#) for a cleanup event.

From North Central Texas Council of Governments NCTCOG Rallies Communities for Cleaner Air as Ozone Season Arrives

Longer days and rising temperatures mark the return of spring and the start of ozone season in North Texas.

With ozone season officially underway, NCTCOG is kicking off community air quality outreach efforts across the region.

On Saturday, March 28, NCTCOG will take part in Earth Party at Trinity Park. Hosted by Keep Fort Worth Beautiful, the event follows the 2026 Cowtown Great American Cleanup and is aimed at bringing together residents to celebrate caring for the community.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about local air quality initiatives and simple steps they can take to make a difference.

Additional outreach events are planned throughout April, providing more opportunities for North Texans to celebrate and learn more about cleaner air.

These events coincide with a critical time for the region.

Ozone season runs annually from March 1 through Nov. 30. With higher temperatures, sunlight and heat interact with precursor pollutants, creating favorable conditions for the formation of ground-level ozone, a harmful air pollutant that negatively affects air quality and public health.

The 2025 season ended with a design value of 83 ppb at two regulatory monitors and as a result, the region remains in non-attainment of both the 2008 and 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone – classified as “severe” and “serious,” respectively – with a deadline to reach compliance by 2027.

Improving air quality is a shared responsibility. NCTCOG offers various online resources to help individuals, businesses and local governments stay informed and take action.

The 2025 Air Quality Handbook provides a full breakdown of the region's air quality and air quality initiatives, and individuals and businesses can stay informed about daily air quality initiatives and

strategies to reduce emissions by signing up for air quality alerts at AirNorthTexas.org/sign-up-for-alerts.

From 4PAWS & Benbrook Animal Shelter Dog of the Week!



Lady is a petite and friendly shepherd who is looking for a new home to call her own. She is approximately 10-12 months old and weighs 40 pounds. She is super smart and loves to go on walks.

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From Texas Parks and Wildlife

Options Abound at Texas State Parks for Spring Break!

For many Texans, spring break is around the corner, and those planning their travel routes and trips should take a gander at the happenings at the more than 89 Texas State Parks.

During busy seasons, many of the most popular Texas State Parks are expected to reach capacity quickly. Park staff strongly encourage anyone planning a trip to reserve a day pass in advance. Reserve day passes online through the TPWD reservation website or by calling the Customer Service Center during regular business hours at 512-389-8900.

If you need a pit stop on your way through the middle of the state to stretch your legs, try Mother Neff State Park right off I-35 outside of Temple and Waco. With six different easy to moderate trails under a mile long, it's the perfect way to get your blood flowing after a long car ride.

Many parks across the state have fishing equipment to rent for anyone who wants to wet a line and take a break. If you're traveling I-30 in the northeast corner of the state, stop at Lake Bob Sandlin State Park and try your hand at East Texas' famous bass fishing.

Coming in or out of Texas in the westernmost part of the state? Take a load off at Monahans Sandhills State Park near Odessa off I-20. You can even rent a sand disc to take on the dunes!

Travel close to the southernmost part of Texas to reach a semi-tropical oasis in the Rio Grande Valley at Resaca de la Palma State Park. This site is the perfect spot for bird watchers as it's a World Birding Site with all kinds of species to find. Visitors can rent or buy a pair of binoculars at the Sabal Gift Shop within the park..

Come for the wetlands and meet the sea at Sea Rim State Park! Kayak at Sea Rim in southeast Texas where you'll experience birds galore. Walk along the Gambusia Nature Trail Boardwalk or the beach. Crabbing and fishing are also popular at this park.

Experience the spring-fed Blanco River at Blanco State Park. Hang out in the sun, swim, tube or paddle. This park is an easy trip for those in Austin or San Antonio.

Most Texas State Parks have nature trails where visitors can meander through the flora and fauna parks have to offer. Find a nature walk or hike near you.

Honey Creek State Natural Area is a haven for protected wildlife species like the golden-cheeked warbler that visitors can explore during guided tours. Access tours through Guadalupe River State Park and enjoy a different side of the river at your own pace.

If you're headed to Garner State Park, pull off to Kickapoo Cavern State Park on Friday through Monday. The park has multiple easy to moderate trails under a mile long. Check out the Stuart Bat Cave close to the entrance of the park off of Ranch Road 674.

Make a point of visiting one of the 50 parks designed and built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s. Mission Tejas, Blanco and Abilene State Parks show great examples of their craftsmanship.

Out near the West Texas town of El Paso, you can stop to look at the hollow basins at Hueco Tanks! There are more than 2,000 pictographs at this site for you to discover. Request a tour ahead of time

and make a reservation as visitors are limited to protect the site.

Travel to Seminole Canyon to see more pictographs in the natural rock shelters carved into the canyon walls. Guided tours are available, and the limestone terrain is great for hiking!

If you're planning on seeing Big Bend Ranch, stop off at Fort Leaton! The historic trading post is the western Visitor Center of the state park and is a great reprieve from the heat, offering a museum, programs, tours and events.

No matter what you do, we recommend you start from the beginning: Are you new to Texas State Parks? Check out the [State Parks for Beginners site](#) with many tips and tricks for the newcomer.

You can reserve day passes and campsites in advance for most parks through the TPWD website. Through the online portal, you can narrow your search by city, activity and even by site. If you want to bike, hike or fish, look for parks with day passes available (up to 30 days in advance). For overnight camping, search the "Camping This Weekend" tab to see which parks have sites open for the upcoming Friday and Saturday.

Texas is notorious for wacky weather, so be sure to check the forecast before hitting the road. Spring storms can sweep in unexpectedly. We recommend having a backup plan in case Mother Nature throws a wrench into your outdoor plans.

Wear proper clothing: Flip-flops may be comfortable, but they aren't the best option for long walks on the trail. Rangers recommend wearing sneakers or boots for hikes. Don't forget the sunscreen, insect repellent and plenty of water. It's important to drink at least 16 ounces of water every hour to prevent dehydration. Bring enough for your four-legged family members, too!

Park staff will be hosting many guided activities during spring break, including bird walks, kayaking tours, archery 101 classes, arts and crafts, yoga in the park and cooking demos, just to name a few. A complete list of activities can be found on the TPWD calendar page. Looking for a specific activity? Check the "Activities" page for recommendations. Visitors will also have many other activities to choose from outside of the scheduled programs, including geocaching, the Junior Ranger Program and strolls on the trails. Whether you're a seasoned angler or want to try fishing for the first time, we encourage you to take advantage of the free fishing from the shore at state parks (no license required). And what better time to do that than when the white-bass run is going strong.

With 87 Texas State Parks located throughout the state, there are plenty of things to see and do. Take a chance and explore a new park or part of the state you have yet to experience. Still looking for overnight reservations? Many unique state parks still have campsites available.

Did you know there is an app to help you enjoy all our state parks have to offer? Download the official Texas State Parks Guide app on the Apple App Store or from Google Play to access park maps, find events, check park alerts, and more.

For more information, visit the Texas State Parks website at [TexasStateParks.org](https://www.texasstateparks.org).

Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

R.L. Thornton: The Mayor Who Helped Build Modern Dallas

Sometimes the men dismissed for their failures early in life can become the greatest successes.

The story of R. L. Thornton is the story of a man raised in poverty and with barely an eighth grade education became synonymous with the success of Dallas in the 1950s.

Robert Lee Thornton was born in 1880 in Hamilton County, just west of Waco. His parents were farmers.

In 1887, the family had their land stolen from them in a title dispute. As a result, they lost absolutely everything and were left in deep poverty.

They moved to Ennis, just south of Dallas, where the young Thornton helped the family by picking cotton and taking whatever work he could find. As a result, his education was sporadic, and he quit school after the eighth grade. He continued to work odd jobs until he was hired as a store clerk.

Determined to make something of his life, Thornton attempted to restart his education by taking a business course in Dallas. After one course, around 1904, he tried his hand at sales, becoming a traveling salesman in Oklahoma for a candy company. His success was lackluster, so he tried to start his own business. Thornton's first attempt, a stationery business, folded quickly. He quickly started a mortgage company, but it, too, failed.

Thornton tried again in 1916, starting a bank with two other partners. Thornton served as president of the Dallas County State Bank, later the Mercantile National Bank, for 30 years.

The bank found early success by capitalizing on a new type of



consumer loan for bankers – automobiles. America had fallen in love with the car by the 1920s, and Thornton became an immense success by becoming one of the first North Texas bankers to offer car loans. Soon, other businesses were asking him to serve as an executive with their businesses as well.

By 1933, the business community honored him by naming him president of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce. He was intensely active in Dallas civic affairs, serving with many charitable organizations.

He helped bring the 1936 Texas Centennial Exposition to Dallas's Fair Park area, adding permanent exhibits to the area.

From 1945 to 1960, he also served as president of the Texas State Fair.

In 1952, at the age of 72, Thornton was ready for new adventure as he ran for Dallas mayor. Already known as "Mr. Dallas" for his many accomplishments for the city, he won the election easily.

Though Dallas and neighboring Fort Worth were intense business rivals at this time, the need for a modern highway connecting the business districts of the two growing cities was clear.

Thornton pushed through the Dallas-Fort Worth Turnpike, which later became Interstate 30, which opened in 1957 and became an immediate success.

In 1957, the city also completed the new Dallas Memorial Auditorium, which eventually became one of the largest convention centers in the world. The city completed important renovations and expansions to Love Field.

Housing construction boomed while business leaders unveiled a string of ambitious development plans. "Keep the dirt flying" became Thornton's slogan for an ambitious city. Dallas's population increased dramatically, from just over 450,000 at the beginning of his term to nearly 700,000 by 1961.

In 1960, at the age of 80, he declined to seek another term as mayor. He entered into a quiet retirement in 1961 before his death three years later.

Thornton today is perhaps best remembered in the North Texas area as the namesake for the R. L. Thornton Freeway, a stretch of Interstate 35 East through Dallas as well as the city's R. L. Thornton Elementary School.

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7820 Wyatt Drive Fort Worth, TX 76108

817-246-2473

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courtneytimshomes@kw.com

FENCING

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ECE ROOFING LLC
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SERVICES PROVIDED

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3290 Lackland Rd.
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TREE SERVICE

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Business Directory Listings - \$15 per month - 3 line max.!

Contact classifieds@suburban-newspapers.com

Weekend Forecast



Friday, March 13:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 79. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
PM - Clear, with a low around 53. South wind around 10 mph.



Saturday, March 14:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 82. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 63. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.



Sunday, March 15:

AM - Mostly sunny, with a high near 85. South southwest wind 15 to 20 mph becoming north in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 39.

Extended Forecast [Click Here](#)