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River Oaks News

Established 1939 • A Publication of Suburban Newspapers, Inc.

85th Year, No. 21 • 7820 Wyatt Drive, White Settlement, Texas 76108 • suburban-newspapers.com • May 22, 2025

From Castleberry ISD

Summer Food Service Program

Castleberry ISD is one of the nonprofit organizations partnering with the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) to serve free breakfast and lunch meals to all children 18 and under and enrolled students with disabilities up to 21 years old.

Organizations partner with TDA to serve meals in areas where more than 50 percent of children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals in the National School Lunch Program. Eligible sponsoring organizations include schools, faith-based groups, nonprofit summer camps, government agencies and other tax-exempt organizations. All meal sites must be sponsored by an organization that has a contract with TDA.

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a U.S. Department of Agriculture nutrition program administered in the Lone Star State by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA).

For the children who rely on school meals during the academic year, these meals offer a source of good nutrition when school is out for the long summer vacation.

Students do not have to be enrolled in the district to receive the free meals. Meals must be eaten on campus and the cafeteria will be open, and curbside and takeout services are not available. No form of ID or registration is required.

Locations

Meals will be served at:

- A.V. Cato Elementary School, located at 4501 Barbara Road, and Castleberry Elementary School located at 1100 Roberts Cut-Off 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.

- 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.

Food Assistance

Families in need may be able to receive aid through the [Tarrant Area Food Bank](#). If you or your loved ones are in need food, use the [Find Food locator](#) on the Tarrant Area Food Bank's website.

From the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation

Help Keep First Responders Safe!



If you're traveling Texas roads this Memorial Day weekend, make sure to do your part to keep first responders safe.

State law requires drivers to move over or slow down for emergency vehicles, including tow trucks, police cars and fire trucks, stopped on the side of the road with their emergency lights acti-

vated.

Texas' *Move Over or Slow Down* law requires drivers to change lanes or reduce their speed to 20mph below the posted speed limit when passing a first responder stopped on the road with activated overhead lights.

Large numbers of travelers are expected on Texas roads this Memorial Day weekend, which means more breakdowns and traffic stops are likely as well. Drivers should pay attention to what's happening around them and prepare to react quickly.

Failure to follow the state's *Move Over or Slow Down* law could result in hefty fines and possible jail time.

TDLR licenses tow operators and tow companies in Texas, and regulates driver education/driving safety courses, and motorcycle/ATV safety courses.

Tow truck drivers work hard every day to help people who are stranded on the side of the road. And, like everyone else, they are anxious to return home safely each night. Please do your part to make that happen for all.

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River Oaks City Hall and the Event Center will be closed on Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day



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Benbrook News, River Oaks News and
White Settlement Bomber News

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Editor: Emily Moxley, suburbannews@sbcglobal.net
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from the River Oaks News



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From the Texas Department of Transportation

Seatbelts Only Work If You Wear Them

It doesn't matter who you are. It doesn't matter what you do. Everyone needs to buckle up. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is working with law enforcement to remind Texas drivers to wear their seat belt every ride, every time.

First Responder Learns Life Lesson

In May 2023, Polk County Sheriff's Deputy Caleb Boyer rushed to the scene of an emergency without pausing to buckle his seat belt. He was responding to a call. He swerved to avoid hitting a pickup truck pulling an unlit trailer and that's when his car went off the highway, going airborne and rolling over twice. Not buckled in, he was ejected several feet from his patrol vehicle. He lost his left leg and almost lost his life.

"This experience has definitely changed my perspective. No one is invincible," Boyer said. "Now, every time I get in any vehicle, I always make sure to buckle up. And I've taught my 9-year-old son to do the same."

Seat Belts Save Lives

Most Texans buckle up, yet too many crashes turn deadly because someone wasn't wearing a seat belt. In 2024, 1,069 people who died in collisions on Texas roads were not buckled up. Nearly 60 percent of these fatalities occurred at night.

"We all think a crash will never happen to us, but it can happen any time we get in a vehicle," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "A seat belt can save your life or prevent a serious injury, but only if you're wearing it. Take those quick seconds to buckle your seat belt every time, day and night."

What TxDOT is Doing

TxDOT's annual Click It or Ticket campaign aims to save lives by getting drivers and passengers to wear their seat belt 100 percent of the time. To reach that goal, TxDOT is conducting a statewide public education campaign and partnering with law enforcement agencies to step up enforcement of seat belt laws from May 19 through June 1. This includes focusing efforts on ticketing drivers who fail to buckle up or secure their kids in car seats.

Texas law requires everyone in a vehicle to buckle up or face fines and court costs up to \$200. Children younger than 8 years old must be in a child safety seat or booster seat unless they're taller than 4 feet 9 inches. If they aren't properly restrained, the driver faces fines up to \$250 plus court costs.

The Results

No one wants to be pulled over, but the objective is to save lives and prevent injuries. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that the Click It or Ticket initiative in Texas has saved more than 8,200 lives, prevented 148,000 serious injuries and resulted in \$33 billion in economic savings since its inception in 2002.

Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles is an important part of TxDOT's *Drive like a Texan: Kind. Courteous. Safe.* initiative. Drive like a Texan is about embracing the pride, camaraderie and responsibility of being a Texan on the road. By making thoughtful choices, we can all help keep each other safe.

Learn more at [DriveLikeATexan.com](https://www.dritelikeatexan.com).

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From the National Fire Protection Association

Grilling Safety Information Ahead of the Holiday Weekend



Outdoor grilling and cookouts are staples of the warmer months ahead. As many people look to Memorial Day weekend as a cue to dust off their grills, the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) offers tips for grilling safely this holiday weekend and beyond.

“Outdoor grilling is a popular option for cooking food, but it does present risks,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA.

NFPA data shows that between 2017 and 2021, U.S. fire departments responded to an annual average of 11,421 home fires involving grills, hibachis, or barbecues, including 5,763 structure fires and 5,659 outside or unclassified fires. These fires caused an annual average of two civilian deaths, 176 reported civilian injuries, and \$172 million in direct property damage.

July was the leading month for grilling fires (16 percent), followed by June (14 percent), May (12 percent) and August (11 percent); grilling fires in November through February accounted for 4 percent or less each year.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), for the same fire-year period, an annual average of

22,155 patients went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grills.

Nearly half (47 percent) of the injuries were thermal burns, including both burns from fire and from contact with hot objects. These burns typically occurred when someone, often a child, bumped into, touched, or fell on the grill, grill part, or hot coals.

In fact, children under five accounted for an average of 2,820 of the contact-type burns (46 percent) per year.

“These numbers highlight the risks that outdoor grilling presents. Still, there's no reason to avoid grilling during Memorial Day or having summer cookouts,” said Carli. “By following simple safety precautions, people can significantly reduce the risk of potential injury or experiencing a grilling fire.”

NFPA offers a wealth of tips, recommendations, and resources for grilling safely, including these key messages:

- For propane grills, check the gas tank for leaks before use in the months ahead. (Watch NFPA’s video on how to check for leaks.)
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Place the grill well away from the home, deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grilling area.
- If you use starter fluid when charcoal grilling, only use charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire. When you have or are finished grilling, let the coals cool completely before disposing in a metal container.
- Never leave your grill unattended when in use.

For additional grilling safety information, check out the NFPA Podcast episode on grilling safety, a blog on fire code grill requirements, and an additional video on some lesser-known grilling safety tips.

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Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

Memorial Day's Origins: How a Nation's Grief Shaped a Lasting Tradition



After the guns fall silent and the parades pass by, how should family, friends, and a community continue to remember those who give their lives for their country?

While politicians and scholars debate the impact of particular wars, those closest to those men and women who perished in war are left with the bitter tears and broken hearts. As a way to honor the fallen and grieve their loss, Memorial Day was established as a day for that purpose. The modern observance has its roots in the Civil War. It had been a tradition for many years in many areas up to the 1860s, but especially in the rural South, for cemetery associations, churches, and families to take a day in spring to clean the wild growth of weeds at the graves of loved ones as well as plant flowers or decorate the graves in some way. As much as it was an act of remembrance and respect for those who had passed on, it was also a time for communities and families to come together.

There had already been special observances at cemeteries for the Civil War fallen while the war still raged on. After the Civil War had ended in 1865, the nation mourned the loss of nearly 700,000 lives. Brother had fought against brother; cousin had fought against cousin. Shortages of food and medicine and disruptions of the few basic services that existed added to the civ-

ilian deaths across the South. In those moments, the political and ideological divisions that had separated North and South for so long fell away, and bitter foes and separated families were reunited in grief.

Some southerners were setting aside days to honor the Confederacy's fallen. Starting in 1866, the Ladies Memorial Association in Georgia began marking April 26 as a day of remembrance, marking the anniversary of the surrender of Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston as Memorial Day, an observance that soon spread. After 1868, southern states began making Confederate Memorial Day into state holidays.

However, some organizations, such as the Grand Army of the Republic, a society of Union war veterans, helped establish and spread the tradition of Decoration Day in the South. The organization was founded shortly after the Civil War.

In 1868, Union Gen. John A. Logan, now head of the Grand Army of the Republic, called for Decoration Day to take place on May 30 of that year to honor the deceased of both sides. Why the particular day was chosen has been a matter of speculation by historians for some time. Some theorize that it was chosen to avoid marking the anniversary of any particular battle or major event in the war while others believed it was for more practical purposes given the later arrival of spring in the North.

The organization faltered in the South in the 1870s and was reorganized across the region in the 1880s, with dozens of chapters in Arkansas. Decoration Day activities were just one activity but became an important tradition. Annual Decoration Day activities included work at cemeteries for both northern and southern dead and educating children about the importance of the day.

As early as the 1880s, Decoration Day began to be called Memorial Day, and this only became more common in the early 1900s. After World War I, the scope of Decoration Day began to change. More than

117,000 American soldiers died in just a few months of fighting in Europe in 1917 through 1918. Though Armistice Day on November 11 (which became Veterans Day in 1954) came to honor the service of the soldiers of World War I, the tradition of honoring those who died in wartime continued.

Now more than 50 years after the end of the Civil War, and with those survivors and their widows passing on, their children and grandchildren continued to honor the memories of the Civil War and added those who died in their generation's great conflict. Though it was recognized by many states as a holiday and had expanded into an honored tradition in many communities, it was not a holiday observed at the same time nationwide. Gradually, it expanded to include all those men and women who died in all wars.

In 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act into law, which created the three-day Memorial Day weekend, moving it from the May 30 date that so many states already observed. Since 1971, as part of that act, Memorial Day has been observed on the last Monday in May as an official federal holiday.

Today the Department of Veterans Affairs manages 135 national cemeteries. Hundreds of thousands of Americans have died in American wars since the nation's founding, and Memorial Day is but one moment to stop and reflect on what they died for. Though these men and women were but ordinary people with their own lives and dreams for the future, they died so that others may have theirs.



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Weekend Forecast



Friday, May 23:

AM - Mostly sunny, with a high near 88. East northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southeast in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 73. South southeast wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.



Saturday, May 24:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 93. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 74. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.



Sunday, May 25:

AM - A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 91. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
PM - Showers and thunderstorms likely after 1am. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

Extended Forecast Click Here