



Have a Happy and Safe Halloween!

River Oaks News

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From the Sports Desk with John Loven

Lions Dominate Bullfrogs 50-13 to Claim Third Place in District Standings



The Castleberry Lions stormed past the Lake Worth Bullfrogs 50-13 on Thursday, Oct. 23, at W.O. Barnes Stadium, taking sole possession of third place in district play, keeping their playoff hopes alive.

Originally scheduled for Friday, the rivalry matchup was moved up a day due to forecasted storms, but the real downpour came from the Lions' offense. Castleberry dominated from start to finish, leaving Lake Worth searching for answers on both sides of the ball.

The Lions struck early and never looked back, jumping out to a 14-0 lead after the first quarter. They poured it on in the second, scoring three more touchdowns while shutting out the Bullfrogs for a commanding 36-0 halftime advantage.

Lake Worth managed a brief rally in the third quarter, putting up 13 points while holding the Lions scoreless, but Castleberry quickly regained control. The Lions added two more touchdowns in the final quarter to seal the 50-13 blowout victory.

Senior running back Isaiah Ford continued his stellar season, rushing for 316 yards and four touchdowns on 33 carries, averaging 9.6 yards per attempt with a long run of 60 yards. His performance set the tone for a dominant ground attack that left Lake Worth's defense gassed.

Senior quarterback Ethan Chappell was *(continued on page 3)*

From River Oaks News Reader Submissions

5U LYSA Flag Football Team Goes Undefeated!

The River Oaks Lions Sports Youth Association's 5U Flag Football Lions wrapped up their regular season, finishing undefeated under the leadership of coach Jordan Cortez. They move onto the playoffs Nov. 1 with a first-round

bye. Team members include Santiago Herrera, Orlando Alvarado, Chrisdon Scott, Karlo Zamora, Lorenzo Ybarra, Elias Nguyen, Santana Mosley, Luka Diaz, Julian Lopez, Erick Medellin, Aidon Austin, Jaxtyn Torres, Braxton Cartwright, Eliahs Cortez and David Rodela.



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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. Payment for advertising is due by 10 a.m. Monday.

Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

efficient through the air, completing five of eight passes for 90 yards and two touchdowns, both to sophomore wide receiver Bryan Cenicerros, who finished with five receptions for 90 yards.

Senior running back Jaydin Locks also found the end zone, while junior Tommy McLaughlin added a two-point conversion. Sophomore kicker Cristian Gutierrez was perfect on six extra-point attempts.

On defense, senior linebacker Nathan Moreno led the charge with eight tackles (four solo) and a forced fumble recovery. He also recorded a sack. Senior defensive back Julian Valdez and junior defensive back Jer-

emiah Sanchez each tallied seven tackles, while freshman linebacker Lewis Rodriguez added a sack of his own.

The win improved Castleberry's record to 5-3 overall and 2-1 in district play. The Lions now face their toughest test yet, an undefeated Alvarado team (7-0, 3-0) averaging 68 points per game. Castleberry will travel to Alvarado on Thursday, Oct. 31, for a 7:30 p.m. kickoff.

Lion fans are encouraged to make the drive and cheer on their team as they look to pull off a Halloween upset.

Go Lions!

From the River Oaks Police Department
River Oaks
Crime Report

The River Oaks Police Department responded to a range of incidents between Oct. 13 and Oct. 26.

On Monday, Oct. 13, officers investigated two cases of criminal mischief in the 1300 block of Roberts Cut-Off Road. The following day, Tuesday, Oct. 14, another criminal mischief report was filed in the 1400 block of Glenwick Drive, and one person was arrested for criminal trespass in the 2600 block of Jacksboro Highway.

On Wednesday, Oct. 15, police made two arrests for assault, one in the 1400 block of Byrd Drive and another in the 5500 block of Thomas Lane. Officers also investigated a theft in the 900 block of Roberts Cut-Off Road and a hit-and-run crash in the 1700 block of Yale Street.

A DWI arrest was made on Thursday, Oct. 16 in the 5800 block of Westworth Boulevard, and a theft was reported in the 1800 block of Long Avenue. On Friday, Oct. 17, one person was arrested for failure to identify in the 4400 block of River Oaks Boulevard.

Police investigated a fraud case on Saturday, Oct. 18 in the 900 block of Red Oak Lane and a theft on Sunday, Oct. 19 in the 1200 block of Long Avenue.

On Monday, Oct. 20, officers arrested one person for evading arrest in the 4800 block of Blackstone Drive and responded to an assault in the 500 block of Roberts Cut-Off Road.

Two additional thefts were reported Thursday, Oct. 23, one in the 1800 block of Inspiration Lane, along with a report of a protective order violation in the 4700 block of Hope Street.

On Saturday, Oct. 25, police investigated a hit-and-run crash in the 1400 block of Westwick Drive, and on Sunday, Oct. 26, one person was arrested for narcotics possession in the 900 block of Roberts Cut-Off Road.



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From Social Thinking

This Halloween, Remember: Kindness Makes the Best Treat

As Halloween night approaches, neighborhoods across the country prepare for costumed children, candy bowls and festive fun. But experts and advocates are reminding families to keep one simple message in mind: be kind.

While trick-or-treating may seem like a lighthearted tradition, for some children, the experience can present unique challenges. A campaign from Social Thinking, a social learning organization, encourages adults to practice “flexible thinking” and empathy for kids who may experience the evening differently.

Some children are nonverbal or have speech delays, and verbal greetings can feel overwhelming or difficult. Others might communicate in different ways, through gestures, smiles or simply showing up with a candy bag in hand.

Patience and understanding can go a long way, especially when a child takes extra time to choose candy. For children with developmental or neurological differences, small tasks like making a decision or grasping a small object can be an important opportunity to build independence and confidence.

Inclusivity also extends beyond young children. Seeing a teenager out trick-or-treating might raise eyebrows for some, but advocates say that teens deserve to enjoy the evening, too. For many teens, especially those with social or emotional challenges, trick-or-treating provides a rare chance to connect with others in a positive, low-pressure way.

And not every trick-or-treater will arrive in costume. While dressing up is often seen as a central part of Halloween, for some children, it’s simply not possible. Costumes can be uncomfortable, restrictive or overwhelming for those with sensory processing differences. “A child without a costume may have sensory differences,” the campaign reminds adults. Fabrics, masks and face paint can cause distress or physical discomfort, making participation in other ways, like carrying a pumpkin bucket or joining friends, the best option.

The broader message is simple: Halloween should be a night where everyone feels welcome. It’s a celebration of imagination and community, not conformity.

For children with invisible disabilities or neurodivergent traits, the smallest gestures of patience and acceptance can make a world of difference.

This Halloween, communities have the chance to model empathy, inclusion and understanding. After all, the real spirit of the holiday isn’t found in the candy bowl, it’s in the kindness we share with one another.

From the City of River Oaks

City Reminds Residents to Trim Tree Limbs for Public Safety

The City of River Oaks Code Enforcement Division is reminding residents to keep tree limbs properly trimmed to maintain safety and accessibility throughout neighborhoods.

According to city regulations, tree branches must be cut back if they extend lower than 14 feet above public streets or 7 feet above sidewalks and walkways. These height requirements are designed to help ensure that vehicles, pedestrians and emergency responders can move safely and without obstruction.

“Tree maintenance is about more than appearance, it’s a matter of public safety,” a Code Enforcement spokesperson said. “When limbs hang too low, they can block visibility for drivers, damage vehicles or create hazards for people walking on sidewalks. Keeping trees trimmed also helps fire trucks and other large vehicles travel safely through our streets.”

Residents are responsible for maintaining any trees or shrubs that extend from their property into public areas. The city encourages homeowners to inspect their trees regularly, particularly after storms or high winds that can cause branches to sag or break.

Proper maintenance includes pruning trees to the required height and disposing of yard debris through the city’s approved collection services. Untrimmed or overhanging branches that violate city code may result in a notice from Code Enforcement and potential fines if not addressed.

The division also reminds residents that keeping public walkways and roadways clear benefits everyone, improving visibility, preventing accidents and keeping River Oaks neighborhoods attractive and safe.

For more information on trimming requirements or to report hazardous overgrowth, contact the City of River Oaks Code Enforcement Division at City Hall or visit the city’s website for details.



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Patriot Paws Brings Purpose and Pups to DAR Meeting

Members of the Mary Isham Keith Chapter of the Daughters of the American



Revolution were treated to an inspiring presentation on service and second chances at their October meeting, as representatives from Patriot Paws shared how their organization helps veterans regain independence through the partnership of well-trained service dogs.

Based in Rockwall, the nonprofit Patriot Paws trains and provides service dogs, at no cost, to disabled American veterans and others with mobility challenges. The organization partners with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, where carefully selected inmates help train the dogs, and with Texas A&M University, where students also participate in the training program.

A.C. Sanders, a U.S. veteran and volunteer ambassador, explained how the program transforms lives, both for the veterans and for those involved in training the dogs. Volunteer puppy trainer Karen Hunnicutt introduced members to Paige, a 5-month-

old black lab mix already displaying remarkable focus and discipline. Paige will one day be paired with a veteran in need, once her training is complete.

Following the presentation, Regent Pat Sinclair announced that Patriot Paws for Service Dogs will serve as the chapter’s ongoing community service project during her term, allowing members to support the mission year-round.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a non-political women’s service organization whose members trace their ancestry to patriots who contributed to America’s independence during the Revolutionary War. Each year, DAR members collectively contribute millions of volunteer hours to serve their communities across the nation and abroad.

For more information about the Mary Isham Keith Chapter or DAR membership, email mikregent2025@gmail.com

KEEP IN MIND TO
BE KIND

(ADULTS NEED TO PRACTICE
FLEXIBLE THINKING TOO!)

A CHILD WHO DOESN'T SAY
"TRICK-OR-TREAT" MAY HAVE
COMMUNICATION DIFFERENCES

A CHILD TAKING A WHILE TO CHOOSE
CANDY MAY BE PRACTICING THEIR
EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING SKILLS
OR FINE MOTOR SKILLS

A TEEN TRICK-OR-TREATING
MAY NEED TO ENJOY
BEING A KID A BIT LONGER

A CHILD WITHOUT A COSTUME MAY
HAVE SENSORY DIFFERENCES

Social Thinking
MORE THAN 25 YEARS

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From the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Explore the Wild Side of Texas: Free Admission to All State Parks Nov. 2



If you've ever dreamed of exploring the rolling hills, rugged canyons, or quiet beaches of Texas but haven't made the trip yet, Nov. 2 is your perfect chance.

In celebration of Texas State Parks Day, all 89 Texas State Parks will offer free day-use admission for one day only, an open invitation to experience the beauty and adventure waiting across the Lone Star State.

The tradition, first introduced during the 2023 Texas State Parks Centennial, returns this year as a way to encourage Texans to reconnect with nature and one another.

"We hope that Texas State Parks Day will inspire all Texans to get outside and explore what our great state has to offer," said Rodney Franklin, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) State Parks Division Director. "We encourage you to spend time with family and discover what makes our state parks so special."

From the piney woods of East Texas to the desert landscapes of Big Bend Country, there's a park for every kind of explorer. Hikers can take in breathtaking trails, cyclists can cruise scenic routes, and families can enjoy everything from paddleboarding and swimming to bird watching and picnicking under centuries-old oak trees. Many parks will also host guided walks, educational programs, and family-friendly events throughout the day.

Visitors can browse the TPWD website to find events and activities happening nearby, whether you want a quiet retreat or a full day of outdoor excitement.

As Texas State Parks Day approaches, park officials are also reminding guests of another way to enjoy nature year-round, especially for those who've served the country.

Ahead of Veterans Day on Nov. 11, veterans, active-duty military members, and Gold Star families can take advantage of the Parklands Passport Program, which provides free entry to all Texas State Parks throughout the year.

"Texas Parks and Wildlife joins everyone in expressing our appreciation to veterans and the service men and women of our military," Franklin said. "We thank you for your service and hope you

enjoy the cooler fall weather and beautiful colors in one of Texas' state parks."

Whether it's hiking the trails at Garner State Park, kayaking through Caddo Lake's mysterious cypress groves, or spotting wildlife at Palo Duro Canyon, there's no shortage of experiences waiting across Texas.

Visitors are encouraged to make reservations in advance, as some parks may reach capacity during the free-admission event.

Reservations can be made online through the TPWD website. All other fees, including camping and facility rentals, will still apply, and parks will operate under normal hours.

So mark your calendar for Saturday, Nov. 2, pack a picnic, and set out for a day of discovery. Whether you're a first-time visitor or a lifelong park lover, Texas State Parks Day is your invitation to explore the wild beauty that makes the Lone Star State unforgettable.

From the Project Linus Blanketeers

First Monday Quilt Club: Project Linus Volunteers Needed



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 snack items. Their next meeting is on Monday, Nov. 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 warmth and comfort for local children who have suffered tragedy or illness. Volunteers also make coverlets for veterans, nursing home residents, and the homeless. No experience is needed. 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 high school students can receive community service credits for participating. Materials (fabric, batting, thread, and yarn) are provided.

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.

Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

From All Hallows' Eve to Trick-or-Treat: The Evolution of Halloween Through the Ages



Halloween is tomorrow! It's a day filled with excitement, charged with the spirit of adventure that makes childhood such a memorable time. Many children never outgrow their love for the day and pass on the joy of trick-or-treating to their children and grandchildren or enjoy Halloween parties as adults. Schools and churches regularly sponsor trunk-or-treat events and Halloween parties. It is most popular in the United States, Canada, and Great Britain. Halloween has a history dating back centuries.

The roots of Halloween lay deep in old Christian traditions. Halloween is separate from the old harvest festivals common in Europe before the arrival of Christianity, but elements of these traditions would continue in celebrations in the British Isles.

Pope Gregory III established All Saints' Day on Nov. 1 as a day of remembrance in the 730s. From its earliest days, the night of October 31 was marked as the beginning of the observance. All Saints' Day was considered to be a day to remember the deceased, particularly the saints and martyrs of the church. The English began referring to All Saints' Day as Allhallowtide or Hallowmas by 1471. The word came from older, more archaic words "hallow," which meant "holy" while "tide" meant "time." On the night before, All Hallow's Eve, many Roman Catholics at the time would visit cemeteries and pray for the dead. Over time, "All Hallow's Eve" or "All Hallow's Evening" was whittled down to "Halloween."

Elements of trick-or-treating began in the Middle Ages as the poor would go to the wealthy and ask for special treats for the day, soul cakes, in exchange for praying for their deceased loved ones. By the 1800s in Scotland and Ireland, trick-or-treating had evolved into dressing into costumes and going door-to-door for treats and moved away from the religious observance.

In Poland, the tradition for Halloween night has long been that people would pray out loud as they walked through forests in order to comfort the souls of the deceased. In Spain, church bells ring through the night to remind the faithful to pray for the dead. In Eastern Orthodox countries of East Europe, however, prayer vigils are still sometimes held on the night of Oct. 31. As more Scottish

and Irish immigrants moved to the United States, the trick-or-treating tradition came with them. Many American children began making their own costumes for Halloween by the late 1800s. The term "trick-or-treating" began to appear in the early twentieth century, and the famed Halloween tradition had fully established itself across the nation by the 1920s. Today, various estimates have stated that as many as 40 million American children participate in trick-or-treating each year.

Many other features of Halloween are centuries old. In Ireland, the jack-o-lantern was carved from turnips and carried on All Hallow's Eve to scare off evil spirits, a tradition dating back centuries. By the time this tradition arrived in the United States by the nineteenth century, the native pumpkin began to be used instead. Bobbing for apples, a popular Halloween game, dates to the 1700s.

Unlike Christmas, Halloween, particularly as it is practiced in the United States, is not as widely celebrated around the world. Many of the traditions observed in America are practiced in Canada, Scotland, and Ireland. Halloween is slowly catching on in Japan and in areas of South Korea, Germany, and India, mostly in the forms of costumes and Halloween parties. It is starting to gain popularity in Italy, Greece, and France. Even Saudi Arabia began celebrating in recent years. Across Mexico and Latin America, All Saint's Day and Day of the Dead are celebrated back-to-back on successive days. Observances for the Day of the Dead are preferred, taking place each year on Nov. 2 as many will dress up as the dead on a day to remember friends and family who have passed on. A popular legend on the Day of the Dead in Latin America is that the spirits of the deceased will walk the Earth once more on that night. Schools in Ireland will often close on Halloween while in Mexico, schools will often close on the Day of the Dead.

In modern times, Americans buy upwards of 90 million pounds of candy each year. This amounts to nearly \$4 billion. The most popular candy in 2024 was Reese's Peanut Butter Cups followed by Peanut M&Ms, according to orders from Instacart. Utah orders the most candy of any state per capita, about 50 percent above the national average. In Texas, 2024's most popular candy were Sour Patch Kids. The most popular children's costume in 2024 was Beetlejuice, followed by Deadpool, both inspired by the popularity of last year's films. Spiderman was the most popular in 2023, with an estimated 2.6 million children dressing up as Spiderman in some form. Americans typically spend more than \$8 billion each year on costumes and decorations for the evening's festivities, according to the National Retail Federation. USA Today, however, reported that Americans could spend as much as \$13 billion on Halloween this year.

Halloween has been a special part of childhood for generations. With its continued popularity and mountains of candy, it will continue to be a part of American culture for years to come.

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Weekend Forecast



Friday, Oct. 31:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 71. Calm wind becoming south southeast around 5 mph in the afternoon.
PM - Mostly cloudy, with a low around 49. Southeast wind around 5 mph.



Saturday, Nov. 1

AM - A slight chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible. Mostly sunny, with a high near 65. East wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 44. North wind around 5 mph.



Sunday, Nov. 2:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 68. North northeast wind around 5 mph.
PM - Clear, with a low around 47.

Extended Forecast Click Here