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River Oaks News

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From the Sports Desk with John Loven

Lions Charge Into 2025-26 Season with Fresh Starts and High Hopes

As students and parents well know, the 2025-26 school year is fully underway. While the CISD Lions returned to classrooms last month, many Castleberry athletes had already been hard at work for weeks.

The football, volleyball and cross-country teams kicked off their training well before the first bell rang.

Football

Castleberry football is once again under the direction of head coach Juan Silva, now in his seventh season leading the Lions.

Silva is the program's longest-tenured head coach since Trent Detamore, who held the position for 13 years in the 1980s and early 1990s. In addition to football, Silva also serves as the boys track coach. A University of North Texas graduate with a de-

gree in business, he later earned a master's in education administration from Lamar University. Silva has more than 25 years of coaching experience and first arrived at Castleberry in 2019, when he guided the Lions to a 7-4 record and a playoff berth. Last year's squad finished 5-6 and also reached the postseason.

The Lions opened the 2025 season Aug. 29 at Clark Stadium against Benbrook, a team coming off an 11-2 campaign and a run to the third round of the playoffs. The game turned into an offensive shootout, with both teams trading scores before the Bobcats edged Castleberry 47-45.

The Lions will look to rebound Friday, Sept. 5, when they travel to Handley Field in Fort Worth to face South Hills. Kickoff is set for 7:30 p.m. *(continued on page 3)*

From Castleberry ISD

Castleberry Invites Community to Join Homecoming Parade Sept. 25

Castleberry ISD will host the annual homecoming festivities the week of Sept. 22.

The district encourages current students, families, alumni, and community to participate in this year's event.

Community members are invited to join the Castleberry tradition and participate in the homecoming parade on Thursday, Sept. 25.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Registration for this year's parade is due by Friday, Sept. 19.

Community floats including local Police and Firefighters, area business owners, church organizations, student clubs/athletes, marching band, homecoming court, and others are all encouraged to participate in this long standing Castleberry tradition.



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• All Letters to the Editor must not be over 250 words, and include the author’s name, address and phone number. Only the name will be included.

• Yeas and Nays are limited to 50 words or less.

• 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 are \$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.

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Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

Volleyball

A new era has begun for the Lady Lions volleyball program under first-year head coach Chris Cagle.

Cagle brings both experience and success to Castleberry. A Southern Methodist University graduate with a degree in political science, he later earned a master's in business from Stephen F. Austin State University. For the past four years, he led Godley Middle School to multiple district championships.

He's joined by assistant coaches Sarah Cruddas, who also heads the softball program, and Castleberry alumna Marina Neal-Aguillon, a 2015 graduate. Together, the staff is working to reset the culture and build momentum for the future.

The Lady Lions are already showing signs of improvement. After finishing 10-21 last season (0-12 in district), the team is off to an 8-9 start this year as of Aug. 26. (Results from the Rio Vista Tournament were unavailable at press time.)

Castleberry hasn't won a district volleyball match since 2019-20, according to MaxPreps, but this year's seniors, Xiomara Garcia, Mariana Rodriguez, Alexa Rivera and Jaquelin Aguirre Torres, are determined to change that story.

The Lady Lions will open District 7-4A play Tuesday, Sept. 9 at home, with first serve set for 6 p.m.

All Photos Courtesy of Allison Pierce

Cross Country

The Castleberry boys and girls cross country teams remain among the school's most consistent and successful programs over the past decade.

They are led by veteran coach Bart Beasley, who has guided the program to elite status since joining CHS in 2005 as head boys basketball coach, a role he continues to hold. Assisting him this year is Freddie Garcia, a 1995 Castleberry graduate who also leads the girls soccer program.

The Lions hit the ground running early, opening their season Aug. 15 at Brock, where the boys placed fifth out of 11 teams and the girls finished seventh out of 11.

They followed with a strong showing Aug. 22 at Hillsboro, with the boys taking 12th in a 26-team field and the girls earning ninth out of 28. Their most recent meet was Aug. 29 at Burleson, though varsity results were unavailable before press time. Next up is the Godley Invitational on Friday, Sept. 5.

This year's seniors bring both talent and leadership: Avril Flores and Mariana Rodriguez for the girls, and Joshua Bonilla, Vann Goines, Emilio Hernandez, Uriel Pereyra and Julio Rojas for the boys.

With experience and tradition on their side, the Lions are poised for another strong season.

Go Lions!

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Free, 24/7 Crisis Counseling Available Through 988 Lifeline

A Lifeline That's Just Three Digits Away

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, rebranded in July 2022 from the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a nationwide, toll-free service providing anonymous, compassionate support via call, text or chat to anyone experiencing a mental health, emotional or substance use crisis.

Always Available, Always Confidential

Help is available 24/7, 365 days a year, and all services, including calls, chats and texts, are free and confidential.

A Range of Ways to Reach Out

You can connect with a trained crisis counselor by:

- Calling 988
- Sending a text to 988
- Using the website chat at 988lifeline.org

Support for Everyone

Whether you're facing anxiety, depression, addiction, suicidal thoughts, loneliness or are concerned for someone else, 988 offers judgment-free support. It's not limited to suicidal crises. Services are available in English and Spanish, and interpreters can assist in over 240 languages.

How It Works Across the Country

When you connect with 988, calls are routed to the nearest participating crisis center based on your area code, though some regions are transitioning toward location-based routing like 911.

A National Initiative

The 988 lifeline links an extensive network of local, state, and national crisis centers overseen by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). It serves as the cornerstone of the National Suicide Prevention Initiative and has evolved from a 10-digit line established in 2005 into the current 3-digit simplicity.

Additional Resources and Custom Support

The 988 website offers resources tailored to various groups, like veterans, youth, LGBTQI+ individuals, Indigenous communities and more, plus tools for helping others, crisis center info, and stories of recovery and hope.

988 is more than a number, it's a lifeline, always ready to listen and help.

How to Sign Up to Speak at the Tarrant County Commissioners Court

Tarrant County residents have the opportunity to share their thoughts directly with local leaders by speaking at Commissioners Court meetings.

The Commissioners Court, made up of the county judge and four commissioners, is the county's governing body. Community members are encouraged to take part by addressing items on the agenda during regular sessions.

There are two ways to register:

- Online: Visit the [county's agenda page](#) and click the "Register to Speak" button located under the item you want to comment on.
- In person: Sign up at the courthouse before the meeting begins.

No matter how you register, participants are expected to follow the court's rules of decorum. These rules ensure that meetings remain respectful and orderly.

Agendas, registration forms and decorum guidelines can all be found on the county's website at tarrantcountytx.gov/ccagenda.



From United States Daughters of 1812

General Edward H. Tarrant Chapter Members Attend Fall Workshop



Pictured are: (back row, l-r) Lorie Williams, Joyce Ogle, Wanda Samek, Dawn Needles, Jane Doclar, Laura Muller, Alice Stone; (front row) Lisa Kight-Alcala, Linda Hines, Linda Simmons, Colleen Petosa and Sue Cravy.



Pictured are: (l-r) Christine Copeland, Jean deSchweinitz, Colleen Petosa, Trish Bowen, Sue Cravy, President Lori Duhon, Jane Doclar and Dawn Needles

Members of the General Edward H. Tarrant Chapter, United States Daughters of 1812 attended the Texas Society, U.S.D. 1812 Fall Workshop on Aug. 13 & 14 in Temple, TX, where they learned about new initiatives of various national committees. Members also supported the State President’s project, which is to help fund three National Society scholarships.

One of the objectives of the society is to identify and mark the graves of those who supported the American cause during the War of 1812. The chapter recently marked the gravesite of their namesake, General Edward H. Tarrant, at the historic Pioneers Rest Cemetery in Fort Worth.

Chapter dues and donations help fund the annual society scholarship, document and maintain historic area cemeteries, award outstanding ROTC and JROTC students, and undertake local historical projects.

For more information on how to find your ancestors or to learn about the society’s programs, email lineagesocieties@att.net.

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From the Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation

Texas Lottery Transfers To TDLR

All Texas Lottery and Charitable Bingo operations transferred to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) on Sept. 1, 2025. The transition of the state lottery to TDLR will not affect Texans’ ability to participate in games offered by the Texas Lottery and Charitable Bingo.

SB 3070 (89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session) dissolved the Texas Lottery Commission and moved all lottery and charitable bingo operations to TDLR.

Between the end of the regular legislative session and Aug. 31, TDLR hired several employees to help guide both agencies through the transition. Members of the team will remain in place as TDLR completes additional tasks assigned by the Legislature, including

reviewing each existing contract no later than Dec. 1, 2025, and establishing a lottery advisory committee. The existing Bingo Advisory Committee remains in place.

All Texas Lottery Commission positions are now TDLR positions. Employees in the new Lottery and Charitable Bingo division will be housed in the George H.W. Bush Building in Austin.

“We appreciate the responsibility the Texas Legislature and the Governor have entrusted to TDLR,” said TDLR Executive Director Courtney Arbour. “Everyone at TDLR welcomes the Lottery and Charitable Bingo team. We’ve already had productive interactions with them and look forward to working together.”

Arbour will oversee all TDLR and Lottery functions.

Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

From Texas to the Final Frontier: Gene Roddenberry and the Birth of Star Trek

Texas has been home to many imaginative scientists, artists, and writers. Because of their dreams and determination, they changed how people saw the world. One Texas writer in particular, Gene Roddenberry, created one of the most successful science fiction stories today, *Star Trek*.



Born Eugene Wesley Roddenberry in El Paso in 1921, he was the eldest child in a Southern Baptist family. In 1923, his father accepted a position at the Los Angeles Police Department, and the family left Texas for California.

As a child, Roddenberry was very imaginative. He loved reading science fiction and had fair grades in school. He considered following in his father's footsteps and began taking criminal justice courses when he later enrolled at Los Angeles City College. However, the approach of World War II shifted his focus.

Increasingly interested in aviation, he began taking flight lessons through the military's Civilian Pilot Training Program. He earned his pilots license and enlisted in the Army Air Corps less than two weeks after Pearl Harbor. He became a B-17 bomber pilot with the Thirteenth Air Force, based out of Hawaii. He earned a Distinguished Flying Cross and rose to the rank of captain.

After the war, Roddenberry worked for Pan Am Airways as an international pilot. In 1947, his Lockheed L-049 crashed in Syria. He suffered two broken ribs in the crash. As the plane caught fire, he worked to pull as many injured passengers from the wreckage as he could. Fifteen passengers died, but he saved many others, and led the survivors through the desert to find help. He flew for Pan Am for another year before resigning to pursue his dreams of being a writer.

Success did not come easily. Having difficulty earning a living to support his wife and young children, he joined the LAPD in 1949. Using his police experience, he soon became a technical advisor for the early drama *Mr. District Attorney*, for which he also wrote the occasional episode. He later worked as a writer for *Highway Patrol*. He was also selling scripts for popular westerns as well. He was doing so well that he resigned from the police force in 1956.

In 1958, he started writing for the popular westerns *Bat Masterson* and *Have Gun – Will Travel*. He won an award from the Writer's Guild of America for an episode of the latter that year. Roddenberry tried to develop several different television series, but he had difficulty selling any to the networks.

In 1963, NBC picked up his series *The Lieutenant*, a drama about the lives of Marines starring Gary Lockwood and Robert Vaughan that ran for only one season.

Roddenberry began developing a new science fiction series in 1964 that ultimately became *Star Trek*. Networks were hesitant, but Roddenberry pitched it as a futuristic western based on a starship. CBS rejected the series outright, but NBC was interested. The pilot episode that emerged, *The Menagerie*, starring Jeff Hunter as Captain Pike, Leonard Nimoy as Mr. Spock, and Roddenberry's future wife, Majel Barrett, did not impress the network. Executives feared the theme of aliens, ESP, and an interracial crew would not sit well with audiences. However, they enjoyed the concept of the program and ordered it revamped.

Roddenberry complied, keeping Nimoy and bringing in William Shatner to play Captain James T. Kirk. The second pilot aired in 1966, and the program immediately developed a steady following of fans. Roddenberry kept the show focused on morality plays and allegories of the current events of the 1960s. Overall, he based the series on his idea of a utopian future for humanity, one where war, poverty, crime, and disease had ended and all races worked together as equals. This hopeful view of the future attracted many fans looking for an escape from the chaotic and violent events of the decade. However, ratings were low; and Roddenberry often clashed with network executives. The series was nearly cancelled in 1968, but a letter-writing campaign allowed *Star Trek* to proceed to a third season.

After the series was cancelled in 1969, Roddenberry's personal life was a mess. His marriage had fallen apart, and he had several affairs. He ultimately divorced and remarried. He tried to develop several other science fiction series and movies but none was ever particularly successful.

Star Trek's popularity continued to grow after its cancellation. In 1976, NASA invited the cast to the unveiling of the space shuttle prototype, called *Enterprise* as the result of a writing campaign. By the late 1970s, he entered discussions to revive *Star Trek* as a television series, but the unexpected success of *Star Wars* in 1977 led studio executives to push for a movie version instead.

The *Star Trek* movie premiered in 1979. Three more movies followed in the 1980s, leading to an updated version of the series with a new cast, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, in 1987. Several more series would emerge in the following decades.

He died of a heart attack at his doctor's office in Los Angeles in 1991. As a final salute to the science fiction pioneer, a portion of his ashes were flown aboard a flight of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* in 1992.

Though many of his other works have been largely forgotten, *Star Trek* has become a billion-dollar franchise from TV shows, merchandising, and movies.

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Weekend Forecast



Friday, Sept. 5:

AM - Mostly cloudy, with a high near 96. S/SW wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

PM - A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67. South wind around 10 mph becoming north after midnight.



Saturday, Sept. 6:

AM - A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 82. NE wind 5 to 10 mph.

PM - A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67. E/NE wind around 5 mph.



Sunday, Sept. 7:

AM - Showers likely, with thunderstorms also possible. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 77. E/NE wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%

PM - A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66. Chance of precipitation is 40%

Extended Forecast Click Here