

# River Oaks News

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From Castleberry ISD

# Castleberry ISD Receives National Recognition for Music Education Excellence

For the first time, Castleberry ISD has been honored with the "Best Communities for Music Education" designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. Now in its 24th year, the Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. Castleberry ISD is proud to be among only four percent of school districts nationwide who received the prestigious award this year. Additionally, Castleberry ISD is one of only three 4A districts in Texas to earn this esteemed recognition.

"Being counted among the Best Communities in the nation for music education is a testament to how Castleberry ISD values and supports music education in our wonderful district," said Steven Moss, Castleberry ISD fine arts director.

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, Castleberry ISD answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs. Responses were verified by school officials and reviewed by The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.

Castleberry ISD is home to an impressive performing arts community, with 65 percent of the 3,710 students enrolled in at least one music class this school year. The district's talented musicians have been making waves in the world of music education and setting records this year.

From the City of River Oaks

# City Committee And Board Members Wanted

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

If interested, fill out the online application, sign it and either mail or return it in person to: City of River Oaks - City Manager at 4900 River Oaks Blvd, River Oaks, Texas 76114 or email the completed application to the City Manager at mgregory@riveroakstx.com.



Mariachi Los Leones, Castleberry High School's varsity level mariachi ensemble, made history this year by advancing to the 2023 UIL State Mariachi Festival and earning a Superior (Division I) rating. Additionally, the varsity wind ensemble earned straight 1's at the 2023 UIL Region 30 Concert and Sight-Reading Contest, securing their place at the 2024 UIL State Wind Ensemble Festival. These impressive achievements are a testament to the hard work, dedication, and passion of Castleberry ISD's students and educators. (continued on page 3)

From the City of River Oaks

# **Early Voting for May 6 City Council General Election**

Early voting for the May 6 General Election to elect a River Oaks City Council Mayor and Place 5 council member began on Monday, April 24 and will run through Tuesday, May 2. Texas enables residents to vote early in person during the prescribed early voting period to make the voting process more convenient and accessible. Registered voters can go to any of the early voting locations in an election unless specified on the Early Voting Schedule. Click this link to view ID requirements for voting in person; and click this link to view the closest early voting location(s) to an address.

Early voting by personal appearance will be held Monday through Friday, April 24 through (continued on page 3)

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From the Sports Desk with John Loven

# Several CHS Athletes Qualify for Regional Track Meet

girls track teams qualified a handful of competitors for the District Area Track Meet held April 19 at Porcupine Stadium in Springtown. to regionals.

Two girls competed for Castleberry. Elia time of 1:06.96 and Ana Medina finished Lubbock. as the Area Champion in first place with a discus throw of 131'9" to qualify for regionals.

The boys were led by discus throwers Saul Becerra and Miguel Rojas. Becerra joined Medina as the Area Champion in first place as well. His throw sailed to 136'7". Rojas had a throw of 130'1" which gave him a fourth place finish. Both qualified for the regional meet.

The boys had other runners competing. Alex Veliz finished fourth in the 400 with a time of 53.25 and also advanced to the regional meet. Rounding out the boys' squad was the 4 x 400 relay team who joined Veliz

The Castleberry High School boys and by qualifying for regionals with another fourth place finish. Their time was 3:32.46. The team consisted of Alex Veliz, Riley Bentley, Miguel Huerta, and Jose Alvarado. Gio-The majority of our CHS athletes advanced vanni Paredes and AJ Silva were the alternates on this relay team.

The Region I Track Meet takes place April mar Mojica finished seventh in the 400 with 28-29 at Lowery Field Plains Capital Park in

Good Luck! Go Lions and Lady Lions!





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## Music Education Excellence (continued from page 1)

nent of our students' academic and personal growth, and the district is committed to pro- is a dynamic educational community dedviding our students with a comprehensive music program," emphasized Renee Smith-Faulkner, Castleberry ISD superintendent. "Starting in pre-kindergarten, all elementary students participate in music and art through fifth grade. Our district recognizes the profound benefits of participating in the performing arts and is dedicated to ensuring our students have access to this invaluable resource."

Music education has numerous benefits for children, including improved speech and reading scores, higher high school graduation and college attendance rates, stronger everyday listening skills, and enhanced neural processing of sound later in life. Additionally, music education teaches conflict resolution, teamwork skills, and how to give and receive constructive criticism.

To learn more about Castleberry ISD and other notable accomplishments, visit supported in part by the National Associawww.castleberryisd.net.



Pictured above: Castleberry High School Band Directors (1-r) Percussion Director Taylor Dwyer, Band Director Josh Perry and Assistant Band Director Wes McCall.

Pictured right: (l-r) Castleberry High School's varsity level mariachi ensemble members, Azael Solis (left) and Miguel Ruiz.

"Music education is an integral compo- About Castleberry Independent School District

Castleberry Independent School District icated to empowering and inspiring learners to become innovative thinkers in a global society. With a team of 598 dedicated staff members, CISD is committed to providing the 3,710 students it serves with the tools and skills necessary to succeed in higher education, a competitive workforce, and as productive citizens. Situated just five miles west of downtown Fort Worth, TX, in a densely populated community covering less than six square miles, the district encompasses the City of River Oaks, a significant portion of Sansom Park, and a portion of the City of Fort Worth. At Castleberry ISD, students are given the opportunity to thrive in a supportive, inclusive environment that encourages personal growth and academic excellence.

About The NAMM Foundation

The NAMM Foundation is a nonprofit tion of Music Merchants and its 15,000 member companies and individual professionals. The foundation advances active participation in music making across the lifespan by supporting scientific research, philanthropic giving, and public service programs. For more information about The **NAMM** Foundation, please visit www.nammfoundation.org.



## **Early Voting**

(continued from page 1)

April 28 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, April 29 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday, April 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Monday, May 1 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Tuesday, May 2 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at River Oaks Annex (old Library), located at 4900 River Oaks Blvd. in River Oaks, or at Tarrant County Elections Center, 2700 Premier Street, Fort Worth, 76111.



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### Earth Day at the NASJRB

Members from the American Legion Post 297 Auxiliary Unit along with employees from the Bxtra at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base hosted an Arts and Crafts event at the facility recently recognizing Earth Day. Tables were set up with colored markers, jewels, pipe cleaners, stickers and colored confetti to decorate rocks and clay pots to plant sunflower seeds. Cupcakes and gold fish were provided for those who participated.

It's unclear who had the most fun, the kids or the adults!



**Niyah Clark** and her mother **Tamera** Clark get creative with their clay pot.



**Thornton Wager**, E5 Petty Officer, U.S. Navy, got in on the action at the event.



Ms. Brown, Grocery Manager; Claudia Acuna, BXtra Department Manager; Laura Brown, BXtra Shift Manager; Christine Willesen and sitting Lisa Hoote, American Legion Post 297 Auxiliary Unit members all enjoyed helping and making crafts.



Nicholas Clark, Sr. helps his son Nicholas Clark, Jr. with hot glue gun work.



Gina Zarate brought her daughters Sophia and Selena to the occasion.

From the Project Linus Blanketeers

# First Monday Quilt Club - Project Linus Volunteers Needed

Come join the fun and fellowship 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 brunch or snack items. Their next meeting is on Monday, May 1.

Project Linus is a non-profit service organization, and the members of this group are Tarrant County Chapter Project Linus volunteers who create handmade quilts and blankets that provide love, warmth, and comfort for local children who have suffered trauma, tragedy, or illness.

Volunteers also make coverlets for veterans, nursing home residents, and the homeless. Unfortunately, the need for these blankets increases each month. They desperately need volunteers with portable sewing machines to help assemble the quilts.

No experience is needed - there is a place for you. 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 develop fantastic friendships.

High school students can receive community service credits for participating. Materials (fabric, batting, thread, and yarn) are provided. Donations of fabric, yarn, thread, sewing machines, sergers, or money to purchase materials are greatly appreciated.

For more information about the mission of Project Linus, visit the website at www.projectlinus.org.

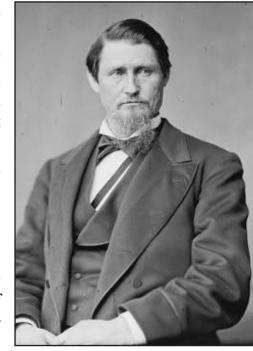
For more information about the First Monday Quilt Club, call Virginia Biela at 817-244-1263.

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### Former Governor of Texas, James Throckmorton by Dr. Ken Bridges

James Throckmorton was a pioneer, doctor, lawyer, congressman, and governor. In spite of an impressive career, he often found himself caught between the great forces of history that were tearing the nation apart.

Throckmorton was born in 1825 in Sparta in central Tennessee. His father was a physician and moved often. Eventually, the Throckmortons made their way to Texas, and the family became early settlers of Collin County, settling not far from what is now Melissa in



1841 near the modern US Highway 75.

Throckmorton's father died in 1842, and he had to help care for his seven brothers and sisters. Later, he went to Kentucky to study medicine. He returned to Texas in 1847 when the Mexican War erupted and served as an army surgeon. After the war, he established a successful medical practice in Collin County and helped establish a private school in Mantua. However, he grew disenchanted with medicine and turned to law.

He served three terms in the Texas House of Representatives from 1851 to 1857. While in the legislature, he focused on education and railroad development, two causes that would mark his career. In 1857, Throckmorton rose to the state senate and allied with Sam Houston against the rising forces of secession in Texas. Throckmorton became a close advisor to Houston, now governor, as the Civil War loomed, but the election of Abraham Lincoln as president in 1860 prompted a wave of secession that engulfed Texas.

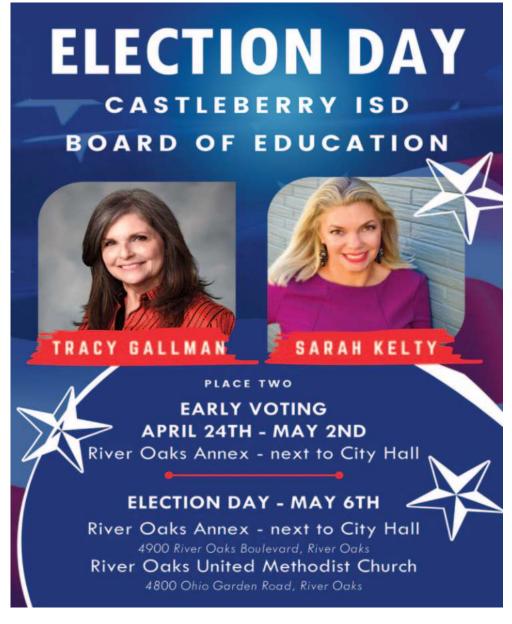
In 1861, he was a delegate to the secession convention and became one of only eight delegates to reject disunion. He remained close to Houston in the desperate weeks as Houston crossed the state pleading to save the Union. Because of their efforts, Collin, along with several counties along the Red River (including Fannin, Lamar, and Grayson), voted against secession in a February referendum. However, in the fevered atmosphere, most voted in favor of secession.

Throckmorton stepped forward and volunteered to defend Texas during the Civil War, rising from captain to general by 1864. In 1866, he chaired a convention of Unionists to draft a new constitution for the state, one that recognized the realities of the postwar South. The new constitution was ratified and Throckmorton was elected governor with 79 percent of the vote.

The war wrecked the state's economy and violence plagued both whites and freedmen alike. Texas contended with this chaos as Union troops attempted to re-establish order. Throckmorton attempted to rebuild the state, emphasizing new schools and rail-roads. While the slaves had been freed, the policy of the United States government was that giving the freedmen the vote and equality under the law was essential to preserving the freedoms of the former slaves. While Throckmorton accepted the end of slavery, giving African-Americans the vote was a step he could not take, and he clashed with federal officials. Barely a year after Throckmorton became governor, Gen. Philip Sheridan ordered him and other elected officials removed from their posts for opposing Reconstruction.

In 1872, his ban on holding office was lifted and he plotted his political comeback. He was elected to Congress in 1874 and reelected in 1876. A respected figure, he was named Chairman on the Committee on Pacific Railroads in 1877, an important position as the railroads surged westward across the frontier. He soon moved for higher offices. In 1878, he ran for governor but lost the nomination. In 1881, he lost a bid for U. S. Senate. The next year, however, he ran for Congress and won easily.

In 1886, he announced his retirement and returned to Texas. He resumed his law practice in McKinney as his health declined. He died in 1894. Throckmorton remained widely respected in his community, with residents later naming a street after him and erecting a statue in his honor.



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# Three Day Weekend Forecast



### Friday, April 28:

**AM** - Showers and thunderstorms. Sunny; high near 81. S/SE wind 5-15mph, gusts as high as 20mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

**PM** - Possibility of a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy; low around 55. SE wind around 15mph becoming N after midnight. Wind gusts as high as 25mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.



### Saturday, April 29:

**AM** - A 30% chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 68. N/NW wind around 20mph, with gusts as high as 30mph.

**PM** - A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy; low around 52. N/NW wind 10-15mph, with gusts as high as 25mph.



### Sunday, April 30:

**AM** - Sunny, with a high near 76. NW wind 10-15 mph, with gusts as high as 20mph. **PM** - Clear; low around 52.

### **Extended Forecast Click Here**