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# River Oaks News

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*From the Sports Desk with John Loven*

## Castleberry Lions Basketball Boys Rumble Past Steers



The Castleberry High School boys basketball season has begun with a bang. They entered their contest with Northside sporting a 2-0 record, having defeated Diamond Hill (88-39) and Palmer (57-51).

This game was played over the Thanksgiving break on Saturday, Nov. 27 at CHS. During the first few minutes of the game the score was close but eventually the Lions began to build a lead. The lead steadily grew to double digits and the Lions coasted to an 81-58 victory.

Northside broke on top and with 5:13 left in the first quarter, actually led CHS 4-2. But that would be their last lead of the game as from this point on the quarter was taken over by CHS senior Jamiere Reid

(#12). Reid, by himself, outscored the entire Steer squad 16-4 for the rest of the quarter as he nailed four 3-pointers. The first quarter ended with the Lions leading 19-8.

Any chance the Steers had of getting back in the game was quickly squashed by the Lions. Senior Steve Hernandez (#11) hit back-to-back buckets in the first minute of the second quarter. While Reid cooled off, the rest of the team picked up the slack as six Lions scored points in the second quarter. The quarter was led by junior Miguel Huerta (#21) who hit two 3-pointers on his way to 10 points. Fellow junior Eddie Hernandez (#1) chipped in 6 points in the quarter as well. The quarter ended with an unbelievable half court shot by senior Anthony Valadez (#3) that just beat the buzzer and gave the Lions a 47-28 half-time lead.

Northside opened the third quarter by pressing the Lions. Initially the press disrupted the Lions a little but its effectiveness was short lived. However, the press combined with back-to-back 3 pointers by the Steers did allow them to pull within 13 points of the Lions (down 49-36).

At this point the Lions steadily pulled away and the game was never in doubt. In the latter part of the third quarter the home

crowd was brought to their feet when senior Gaston Ortega (#10) dunked the ball and pushed the CHS lead to 64-41. Ortega would get another dunk in the first minute of the fourth quarter.

Castleberry entered the final quarter leading 70-41. Northside did heat up a little bit from the 3-point line in the fourth quarter. They nailed four of eight attempts from “downtown”. This managed to help them actually outscore the Lions in the fourth quarter 17-11. But it was not near enough as the outcome had already been determined.

The Lions went on and cruised to the 81-58 victory.

Castleberry was led in scoring by Reid (#2), (despite only scoring in the first and third quarters), with 22 points.

Hernandez (#1) was close behind with 18 points.

The Lions were very balanced in their scoring on the night as four players finished in double digits.

The others were Ortega (#10) with 12 points and Huerta (#21) with 10 points (all in the second quarter).

The Lions traveled to Fort Worth Country Day on Nov. 30 before playing in the Venus tournament (Dec. 2-4).

Go Lions!

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# The Attack on Pearl Harbor: 80 Years Later *by Dr. Ken Bridges*



Pictured above: USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor.

It came to be called the “*Day Which Will Live in Infamy*.” The attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, was a devastating loss for the nation. When the attack began at 7:55 a.m. by Japanese forces, the Americans on the scene realized that their lives in that moment had changed. The American entry into World War II would transform the face of the war and forever alter the course of the nation and of the men and women who fought to protect it.

By December 1941, most of the globe was engulfed in World War II while the United States tried to stay out of it. Nations on five continents were already embroiled in conflict. American military and political leaders somberly noted that the nation would likely be drawn into the fight as well while they watched Allied losses mount. To the last, America tried to avoid war. As the United States continued to negotiate for peace with Japan, Japan plotted a sneak attack.

Japan had unleashed sneak attacks at the beginnings of previous wars. And Japanese military officials hoped that crippling American naval forces while they went on a massive offensive across the Pacific would neutralize American advantages and allow Japan a quick victory.

In 90 minutes on what had been a quiet Sunday morning, the American fleet was wrecked. Four battleships were sunk with the other four crippled. Many other ships and planes were severely damaged.

One hundred fifty-nine planes were destroyed. And in the end, 2,403 Americans were killed.



One of the first Americans to spring into action was a Waco native named **Doris Miller**, who worked in the mess hall on the ill-fated USS West Virginia. As his ship was struck and men scattered, he leaped toward an unmanned anti-aircraft gun and started firing at as many Japanese fighters as possible before the crew had to abandon ship, most likely shooting down the first enemy aircraft of the war in the process.

But America sprang into action. The United States responded with its own declaration of war the next day. Many of the damaged ships saw action later in the war. And three things saved the Pacific fleet that day: the oil refineries that fueled the ships and planes were spared; and the aircraft carriers were on patrol, ships that acted as floating air bases that proved indispensable in the island-hopping campaigns that marked the Pacific war. The third factor was the unbreakable American resolve.

Unfortunately, Doris Miller did not make it

home. He was killed in action in 1943 when his ship was struck by a torpedo. He was only 24. The Houston school district later named a school after him. In 2020, the navy named an aircraft carrier after him.

In 1958, the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association was formed among the veterans who were there on Dec. 7, 1941. At its peak, the organization boasted 70,000 members. In the years after the war, special remembrance ceremonies were held at Pearl Harbor each year.

Time moved on in a nation that continued to grow in its freedom in the decades of peace that followed the war. The world was freed from the nightmares of mass executions, tortures, genocides, and bloodshed that the Axis Powers inflicted upon the world. The Pearl Harbor generation had survived the worst challenges the nation had experienced – the Great Depression and World War II – and showed that there was nothing that the United States could not overcome. The principles of courage, unity, justice, and liberty became more than slogans for that time. They were ideas that saved humanity.

Only a handful of survivors remain in Texas, where there were once hundreds. Aaron Cook of Fort Worth, one of the last, would spend his later years telling students about his experiences. “I grew up in one day,” he told Houston’s ABC-13 in 2016. “I hope that they realize that, you know, it’s something that we don’t want to do again.” Cook died in 2019 at age 96. J. C. Alston of Troy, the son of farmers from the Texas Panhandle often said how important it was that people remembered what happened that day. “We’ve got to be alert and not let this happen again.” Alston died at his home in October at age 98.

Now as the 80th anniversary approaches, a chapter in history prepares to close. The theme for this year’s remembrance ceremony will be “Valor, Sacrifice, and Peace.” There are very few left who remember that day firsthand. Those who were there and those who gave everything to protect the nation have a revered place in the collective American memory. The millions who came after and grew up in a time of peace still salute those who were there. The lessons from that terrible day still resonate for American foreign policy but also for a nation decades later shaken by epidemics, economic chaos, and distrust: that there is nothing that America, when united, cannot overcome.



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From StatePoint

# Five Ways to Protect Your Holiday Budget



It may be the season of cheer, but for many, the holidays are rife with anxiety about expenses. A recent survey shows that staying on budget is Americans' top concern this holiday season, followed by incurring long-term debt, shipping costs and being charged late or hidden fees.

Here are five tips to protect your holiday budget:

1. Set a spending cap with friends and family. Americans plan to spend \$998 on gifts this holiday season, according to the National Retail Federation. 'Tis the season for giving, but make sure you don't overspend. Know your budget up front and communicate that with loved ones. Another idea to limit spending is to put everyone's name into a hat. Each person draws one name and buys a gift for just the person they selected. You can add a bit of intrigue by keeping the identity of your recipient a secret until you open gifts!

2. Take advantage of deal days. Timing is everything for getting the best prices. Do your homework in advance to pay significantly less. Super Saturday before Christmas is great for last-minute gifts.

3. Purchase gift cards to easily track spending. Gift cards are a popular, convenient gift, but some would-be buyers may hesitate to purchase them out of fear that the business may end up closing, especially those still struggling during the ongoing pandemic.

4. Track when products are discounted with a browser extension. Do you want the best deals but don't have the time to spend searching for them? There are extensions

you can download on web browsers that will compare prices and even apply the best coupon codes at checkout.

5. Use credit card rewards. You've earned those points throughout the year and now is a great time to cash them in. The simplest way to use points is for gift cards, as it's one of the top requested gifts and there are many categories to choose from, including restaurants, clothing and grocery stores. Another option is to take advantage of the money saved from a statement credit to cover the expense of holiday gifts.

Being mindful of your spending now can help you have a low-stress holiday season and start the new year off on the right foot.

From the City of White Settlement

# Toy Drive Drop Off Locations



The City of White Settlement is one of over 800 communities that collect toys annually in partnership with Toys For Tots. Please consider dropping off a new, unwrapped toy at one of our four drop boxes in the City.

Now through Dec. 9, drop off boxes will be located at City Hall, the Library, the Police Station, and the Fire Station.



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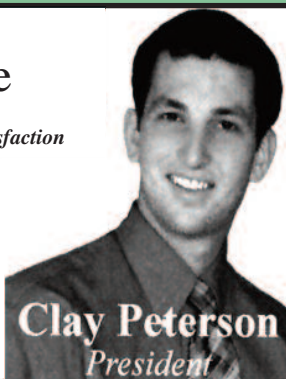
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From the City of White Settlement

## Blood Drive Dec. 10 at WS Public Library

The City will once again partner with Carter BloodCare to host a community blood drive on Friday, Dec.10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Library Classroom, located at 8215 White Settlement Road.

One blood donation can save up to three lives, so we hope you'll consider signing up. You can [reserve your donation spot online](#).

For more information, contact Aaron Hall at ahall@wstx.us.

From the City of White Settlement

## 2021 Christmas Parade Saturday

The Light the Night Christmas Parade will be held Saturday, Dec. 4 at 6 p.m.

The parade will begin at Brewer Middle School, located at 1000 S Cherry Ln. Floats and parade walkers will follow Cherry Lane to White Settlement Road, turn left and follow to a right turn N. Las Vegas Trail, then left on Clifford Street to end at Veterans Park.

From the City of River Oaks

## River Oaks City Council Meetings

The City Council of River Oaks meets on the second and fourth Tuesday night of each month.

Agendas for the meetings are available as soon as they are posted on the [City's website](#), 72 hours prior to each meeting.

Minutes of each meeting will also be available once they are completed and posted.

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*From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers*

# Local Resident Spreads Cheer by Decorating Tree Along Trinity Trails Walking Path

A local resident who walks along the Trinity Trails has, for several years now, taken to decorating a particular shrub with Christmas ornaments.

Joyce Winford along with a group of her walking-friends gather together the week after Thanksgiving each year to hang ornaments along the branches of a large shrub, located approximately half a mile from the Art Cowsen parking lot along the Trinity Trail.

In 2020, the walking group hung over 300 ornaments along the trail and over 400

ornaments on the tree. The friends cultivate the decorations throughout year by shopping after-Christmas sales, garage/yard sales and accepting donations from friends and family.

After the holidays, the group gathers again in January to pack everything up for the following year.

Joyce and the “Trail Gang” are inviting anyone who wishes to participate in the holiday fun to join them in decorating the tree this year.





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Three Day Weekend Forecast



Friday, Dec. 3:

AM - Mostly sunny; high near 78. S/SW wind 5-15mph, with gusts as high as 20mph  
PM - Partly cloudy; low around 56. South wind around 10mph.



Saturday, Dec. 4:

AM - Mostly sunny, high near 71. SW wind 10-15mph, becoming N in the afternoon - gusts as high as 20mph.  
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 49.



Sunday, Dec. 5:

AM - Mostly sunny, with a high near 66.  
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 43.

Extended Forecast Click Here