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River Oaks News

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From the Sports Desk with John Loven

Castleberry Teams Show Grit, Pride Through 2026 Seasons

The 2026 season came to a close for Castleberry High School's baseball and softball programs, but not without moments that reflected the resilience and pride of the Lions and Lady Lions.

Baseball

The Castleberry Lions experienced an up-and-down campaign that showcased both promise and perseverance. The team opened the season with a balanced 3-3 record before hitting a challenging stretch, dropping six consecutive games. *(continued on page 3)*

From River Oaks News Staff Writers

River Oaks Residents Invited to Attend Groundbreaking for Meandering Road Project

Residents are invited to attend a groundbreaking ceremony for the Meandering Road project, a regional effort aimed at improving connectivity and safety in the area.

The ceremony is scheduled for 11 a.m. April 27 at River Oaks Christian Church.

The project is a collaboration between the city of River Oaks, the city of Fort Worth, the Texas Department of Transportation and the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

City officials say the project represents a significant investment in both communities, with a focus on enhancing mobility, roadway safety and long-term livability. Planned improvements include upgraded roadways and intersections, along with new pedestrian and bicycle routes.

The project will also strengthen access between nearby neighborhoods and Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth. In addition, new connections are planned to the Trinity Trail along the West Fork of the Trinity River.

Officials say the effort reflects strong regional collaboration and a shared commitment to improving the corridor while supporting future growth and accessibility.

From Castleberry ISD

Castleberry ISD to Host Campus Preview Night May 14 for Prospective Families

The Castleberry Independent School District is inviting families and educators to get a firsthand look at its campuses during an upcoming preview event designed to showcase programs from early childhood through graduation.

The district will host a Campus Preview Night on Thursday, May 14, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The event is open to prospective families and community members interested in learning more about the district's academic offerings and student opportunities.

Attendees will have the chance to visit campuses, meet staff and experience what district leaders say sets Castleberry ISD apart. The event emphasizes the district's commitment to knowing each student by name and supporting their success at every stage of their education.

District highlights include award-winning schools recognized across the Dallas-Fort Worth area, early literacy support through community partnerships, and STEM and leadership opportunities offered in collaboration with the YouthVantage Alliance. Castleberry ISD also features a Health Science P-TECH pathway that allows students to earn industry certifications.

Students have opportunities to earn an associate degree while still in high school through Early College High School and P-TECH programs. The district also provides free after-school and summer programming for students.

School officials encourage families to attend and explore the range of academic and extracurricular options available throughout the district.

Find information about the upcoming NAS JRB Fort Worth Regional Coordination Committee Meeting on page 5

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Mistakes in stories or ads must be reported by Friday at 4 p.m. following Thursday's edition for corrections. Advertising payments are due by 10 a.m. Monday.

Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

District play began against eventual runner-up Decatur, where the Lions faced tough losses, 13-1 and 10-0. However, Castleberry quickly regained its footing in a way that energized the community, with back-to-back victories over rival Lake Worth. The Lions claimed an 11-8 win before dominating in a 16-0 shutout, evening their district record at 2-2.

Momentum continued with a 2-0 victory over Burkburnett, pushing the Lions to 3-2 in district play and putting them in early contention. Despite the strong midseason push, the remainder of district proved difficult, as Castleberry dropped its final eight games to finish fifth in District 7-4A.

Even through adversity, individual performances stood out. Omar Garcia led the team with a .317 batting average, while Erick Medina made an impact both at the plate and on the mound, recording 13 RBIs and a team-best 1.91 ERA. Nate Funes posted a .458 on-base percentage, showing consistency at the plate, and Keny Erazo's speed led to 19 stolen bases. Defensively, Josiah Gonzalez anchored the field with an impressive .984 fielding percentage.

Softball

The Lady Lions also battled through a competitive season, opening with a 5-6-1 record that reflected their fight early on. District play began on a high note with a commanding 11-0 win over Bridgeport, followed by an impressive non-district shutout of North Crowley, 12-0.

While the Lady Lions showed flashes of dominance, district play proved challenging as they compiled a 4-8 record, ultimately finishing fifth in District 7-4A. Still, the team closed the season in memorable fashion, defeating rival Lake Worth 10-0 at home, a statement win that highlighted their potential.

Several players delivered standout performances throughout the season. Junior Ran'delle Conner led the team with a .431 batting average and 21 RBIs, pacing the offense. Sophomore Alyssa Ramirez posted a strong .544 on-base percentage, consistently creating opportunities. Junior Janelly Ortiz contributed power with two home runs, while junior Laila Martinez added speed with 11 stolen bases. Defensively, junior Victoria Brace led the way with a .986 fielding percentage.

Though both teams faced their share of challenges, the 2026 seasons for Castleberry baseball and softball were defined by determination, rivalry wins and individual excellence, a foundation the programs will look to build on in the years ahead.

From River Oaks News Staff Writers

River Oaks Encourages Community Pride through Yard of the Month Program

Residents in the City of River Oaks are once again being encouraged to showcase their curb appeal as the city's annual Yard of the Month program gets underway for 2026.

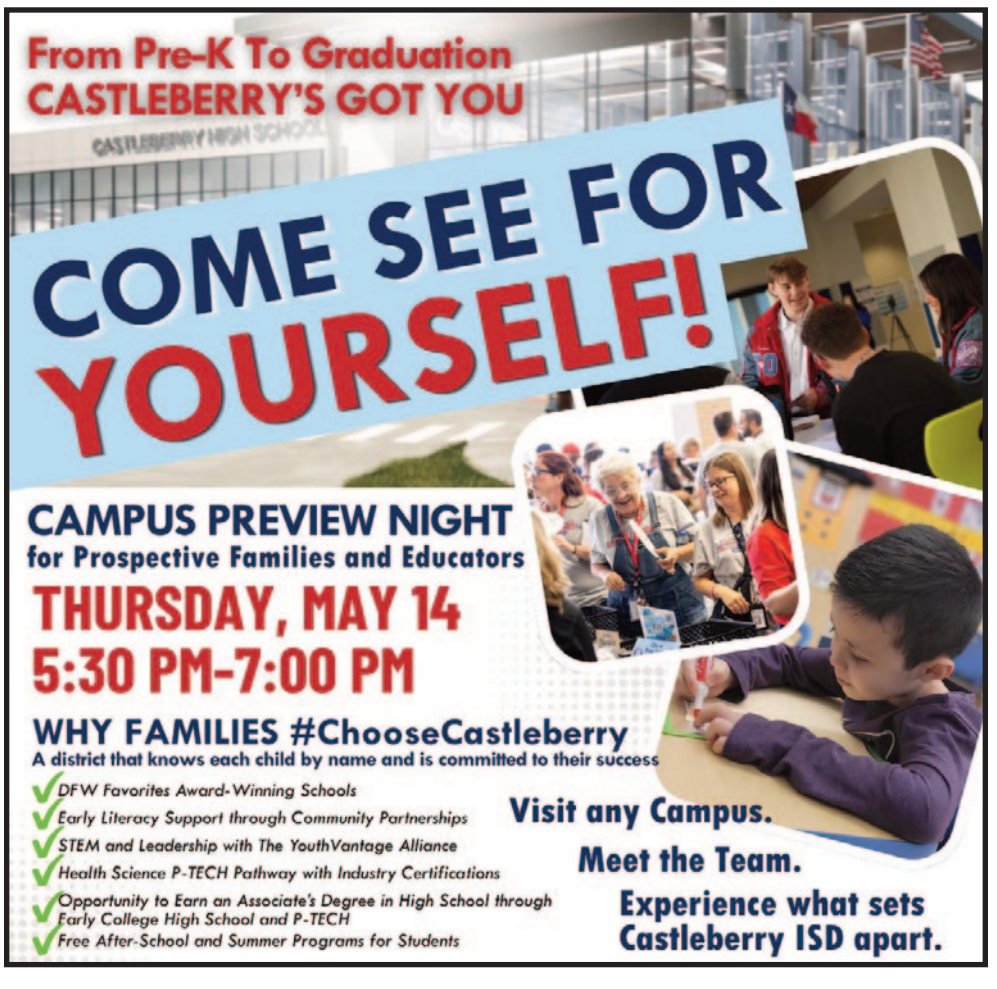
Managed by the city's Parks Board, the program recognizes homeowners who demonstrate exceptional care and creativity in maintaining their yards, helping enhance the overall appearance of the community.

Each month from April through September, one property is selected for the honor based on its visual attractiveness, originality and overall maintenance. Judges also consider landscaping that incorporates a variety of native plant species, highlighting both beauty and sustainability.

All residential properties within River Oaks are automatically eligible, and nominations can be submitted by residents for their own yard or a neighbor's. Submissions must include the property address, names of both the nominee and nominator, and a photo of the yard.

The Parks Board reviews nominations and selects winners during its monthly meetings. Award recipients receive a Yard of the Month sign to display and are later recognized at a City Council meeting alongside other seasonal winners.

Nominations are accepted on a rolling basis, with entries due by the end of each month to be considered for the following month's award.



From Suburban Newspapers, Inc. Staff Writers

Top 5 Scams Targeting North Texas Seniors and How to Avoid Them

Older adults across North Texas are increasingly being targeted by sophisticated scams that can cost victims thousands of dollars. Officials with the Federal Trade Commission and AARP warn that scammers often prey on trust, urgency and fear, making senior citizens especially vulnerable.

Here are five of the most common scams affecting seniors in the region, along with tips to stay protected.

1. Imposter Scams: Imposter scams remain the most frequently reported fraud nationwide. Criminals pose as government officials, utility workers or even family members, claiming there is an urgent problem that requires immediate payment.

Scammers may pretend to represent agencies like the Social Security Administration or local law enforcement, threatening arrest or loss of benefits.

How to avoid it: Never provide personal information or payment over the phone to unsolicited callers. Hang up and contact the agency directly using a verified number.

2. Medicare and Health Insurance Fraud: Fraudsters target seniors by offering "free" medical equipment or services in exchange for Medicare information. Once obtained, scammers bill the government for services never provided.

How to avoid it: Guard your Medicare number like a credit card. Review statements regularly and report suspicious charges immediately.

3. Tech Support Scams: In these scams, a pop-up or phone call claims a computer has been infected with a virus. The scammer, posing as a technician from companies like Microsoft or Apple, asks for remote access or payment to "fix" the issue.

How to avoid it: Legitimate companies do not contact users this way. Avoid clicking on pop-ups and never grant remote access to unknown individuals.

4. Romance Scams: Romance scams often begin on social media or dating sites, where criminals build relationships over time before asking for money. Victims may be convinced they are helping a loved one in need.

How to avoid it: Be cautious of individuals who quickly express strong emotions or request financial assistance. Never send money or gifts to someone you have not met in person.

5. Lottery and Sweepstakes Scams: Victims are told they have won a prize but must pay taxes or fees upfront to claim it. Once payment is sent, the prize never arrives.

How to avoid it: If you didn't enter, you didn't win. Legitimate sweepstakes do not require upfront payment.

Staying Safe

Experts emphasize that awareness is the first line of defense. Seniors should talk openly with family members about suspicious calls or messages and report scams to the Federal Trade Commission at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.

Local law enforcement agencies throughout North Texas also encourage residents to stay vigilant and check on older neighbors who may be at risk.

By recognizing common tactics and taking simple precautions, seniors can better protect themselves from becoming victims of fraud.

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From River Oaks News Staff Writers

Cast Your Vote in the River Oaks Crime Control District Election

Voters in River Oaks will decide the future of local public safety funding when the River Oaks Crime Control and Prevention District holds an election on Saturday, May 2, 2026.

The election was formally called by the district's board and will ask residents to consider a measure related to the continuation of the district and its associated sales and use tax. The tax is used to support crime prevention efforts and law enforcement-related services within the city.

According to election notices, ballots will allow voters to determine whether the district will remain in place to fund public safety initiatives. If approved, the measure would continue the dedicated funding mechanism that helps provide resources for policing, equipment and crime reduction programs in the community.

Polling will take place on Election Day, with voters casting ballots at designated locations within the city. Early voting is also scheduled in the days leading up to the election, giving residents multiple opportunities to participate.

Officials encourage all eligible voters to review the proposition ahead of time and make plans to vote. The outcome of the election will determine whether the district continues its role in supporting public safety efforts in River Oaks.

Crime Control and Prevention Districts are commonly used by Texas municipalities as a way to dedicate a portion of local sales tax revenue specifically to law enforcement and crime prevention initiatives, helping cities maintain and enhance public safety services.

From the River Oaks Event Center

Food Bank Distribution Day Tomorrow

The City of River Oaks hosts Food Bank distribution days on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at the River Oaks Event Center, located at 5300 Blackstone Drive.

Participants are asked not to line up before 8:30 a.m. and to follow the designated traffic route.

Drivers should remain in their vehicles throughout the process and avoid blocking residential driveways or cross streets to ensure access for police and emergency services.

For additional information, residents may call 817-732-5885.

From North Central Texas Council of Governments

NAS JRB Fort Worth Regional Coordination Committee Meeting set for Monday, April 27

The next NAS JRB Fort Worth Regional Coordination Committee meeting will be held in person on Monday, April 27, at 1:30 p.m. at the River Oaks Community Center, 5300 Blackstone Dr., River Oaks, TX 76114.

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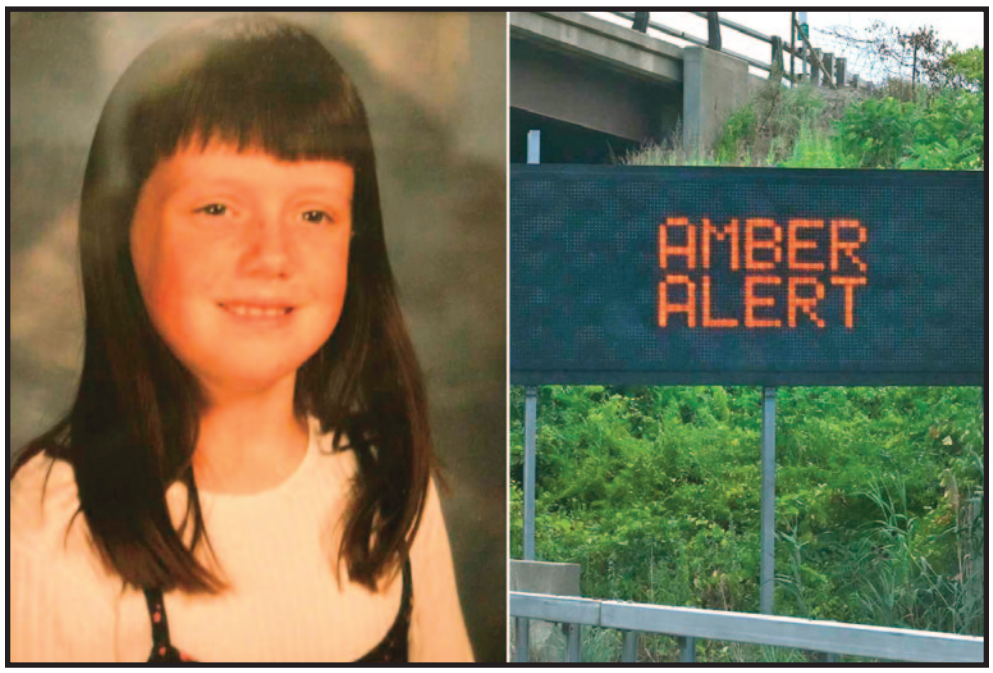
Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

Amber Hagerman and the Amber Alert System



What can be worse for any parent than to lose a child? People across Texas and the nation today may hear the warning of a lost or abducted child by radio, television, internet or text, commonly called an Amber Alert. But an Amber Alert does not refer to a color. It is the painful reminder of a little girl and a horrible tragedy.

Amber Hagerman was nine years old in January 1996. She was described as a delightful and protective young girl. On Jan. 13, she and her younger brother were visiting her grandparents in east Arlington.

It was a Saturday that started with all the excitement and joy that any weekend offers for a young child. The two youngsters decided to ride their bikes in the empty parking lot of a nearby, closed grocery store. It was daylight, and there were other people around. And what nine-year-old could resist the chance to ride a bike on a free afternoon?

As the two rode, a man in a black pickup truck suddenly appeared, grabbed Amber Hagerman and drove off. One witness stepped forward and told what she had seen, but the details were sketchy. Police leaped into action and conducted a relentless search. But four days later, her lifeless body was found less than five miles from the abduction site.

The heartbroken family, with the support of the community, decided to help others in the midst of their grief. Congressman Martin Frost of Dallas introduced the Amber Hagerman Child Protection Act that summer, which created a national registry of sex offenders and provided new resources for law enforcement. President Bill Clinton signed the act into law that year.

Locally, North Texas radio stations began organizing a new warning system through law enforcement to alert area residents of an abduction or a lost child. In such situations, time is essential. As a result, the Amber Alert system was in place by October 1996, named in memory of young Amber Hagerman.

By the year 2000, Congress passed new legislation encouraging all states and communities to create a similar warning system. By 2005, every state had its own local system in place. Within a few years afterward, similar warning systems were in place in Canada and parts of Europe.

New communications tools and a public willing to assist have proven an effective new tool for protecting children.

Years later, leads trickle in to the Arlington Police Department in the Hagerman case, but it remains unsolved. The maniac responsible was never brought to justice.

Because of the Amber Alert system in place across the nation, many lives have been saved and hundreds of children have been returned to their loving families unharmed.

The Amber Alert website, https://amberalert.ojp.gov, states that as of December 2020, 1,029 children have been successfully recovered through the AMBER Alert system. But for one Texas family, it will always be too late, and they will always be haunted by the sight of an empty chair at the table and the memories of what might have been.

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Weekend Forecast

Friday, April 24:

AM - Partly sunny, high near 87. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, gusts as high as 20 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 65. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southeast in the evening.

Saturday, April 25:

AM - Mostly sunny, with a high near 88. South wind 5 to 10 mph.
PM - A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1am. Partly cloudy, with a low around 67. South southeast wind around 10 mph.

Sunday, April 26:

AM - Partly sunny, high near 88. South wind 10 to 15 mph, gusts as high as 30 mph.
PM - Mostly cloudy, low around 51. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

Extended Forecast Click Here