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River Oaks News

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From River Oaks News Staff Writers

Castleberry ISD Art Students Earn Top Honors at VASE Competitions!

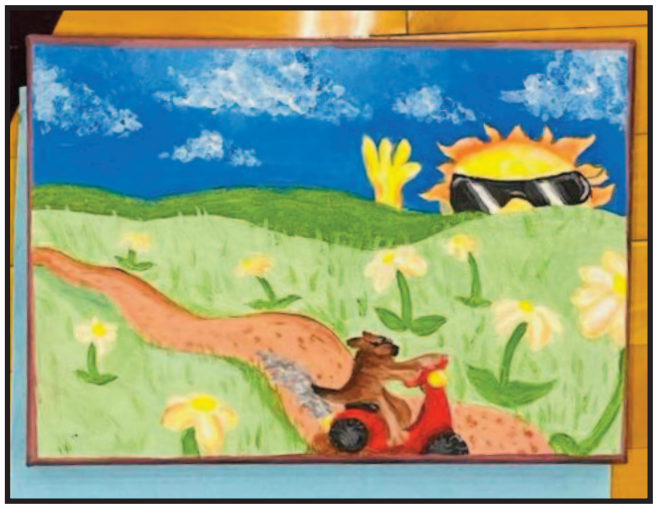
Castleberry High School visual arts students earned top honors at the Texas Art Educators Association Visual Arts Scholastic Event on April 25.

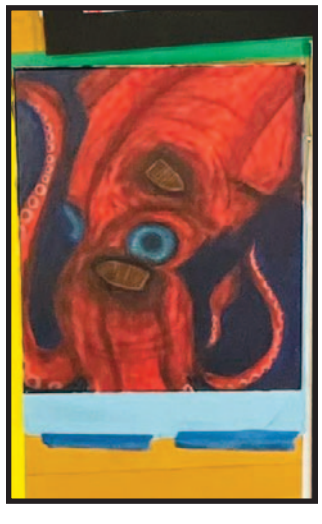
Recognized students with a rating of a 4 (highest possible) include Brooklyn R. Potter for "*Tonic Immobility,*" Jose A. Moreno for "*Trabajo En Progreso*," and Aidan K. Brown for "*Juvenile Intimacy*." (*photos above*)

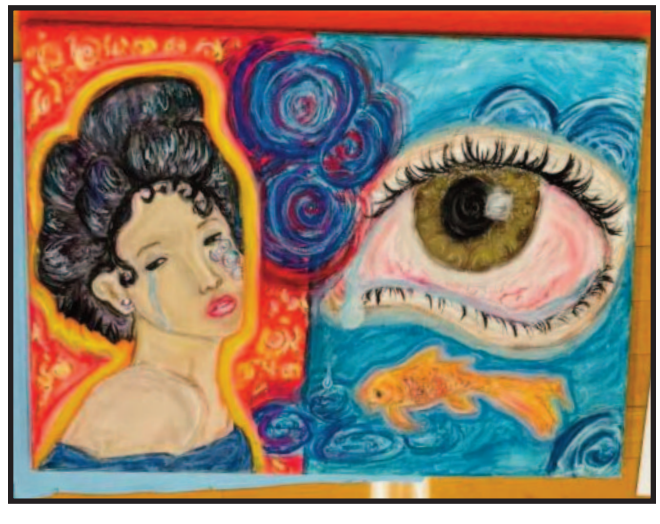
School officials credited Ms. Gonzalez for her commitment to excellence in visual arts education.

At the middle school level, students from Irma Marsh Middle School also excelled at the TAEA Junior VASE competition, where 28 students earned the top rating of 4. (*photos below*)

District leaders praised the efforts of Mr. Brown and Mr. Robinson for supporting student achievement in the visual arts.







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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.*

• ***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. Advertising payments are due by 10 a.m. Monday.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Look, Don't Touch: Leave Baby Wildlife Where You Find Them

Warmer weather across Texas means more time outdoors and more encounters with wildlife. Spring and early summer are also when many species give birth and raise their young, which can lead to confusion when animals appear to be alone.

Each year, well-meaning Texans pick up young wildlife, especially fawns and baby birds, believing they have been abandoned. In most cases, that is not true. Removing these animals from the wild can do more harm than good and, in many cases, is against the law.

"People want to help, but intervening is often the worst thing you can do," said Richard Heilbrun, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Wildlife Division Deputy Director. "Most young animals are not abandoned, their parents are nearby and will return. The best thing you can do is give them space."

Under Texas law, it is illegal to possess most native wildlife without the proper permits. It is unlawful to take, capture, possess, or attempt to relocate wildlife except as allowed by state regulations.

White-tailed deer fawning season typically begins in early to mid-May. Fawns are born with spotted coats that help them blend into their surroundings. Does will often leave their fawns hidden for hours at a time while they feed, returning periodically to nurse. A fawn found alone, lying quietly in grass or brush, is likely not abandoned.

Baby birds are also commonly mistaken for being abandoned. Many species, including doves, blue jays and mockingbirds, spend time on the ground as they learn to fly. These young birds, known as fledglings, may appear vulnerable but are still being fed and watched by their parents nearby. If the bird has feathers, open eyes and is moving around, it is likely in a normal stage of development and has not been abandoned. Remember, most native bird species are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, so it's important to avoid disturbing or injuring them.

The public is encouraged to observe wildlife from a distance and avoid approaching or handling animals. Getting too close can prevent a parent from returning and may place the young at greater risk.

Turtles are also frequently encountered this time of year, particularly on roadways. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has information about helping turtles cross the road. Remember, wild animals do not make good pets and removing them from their habitat can harm their survival and health

If a wild animal appears sick, injured or orphaned, the first step is to contact a TPWD permitted wildlife rehabilitator to see if they are able to receive that species. TPWD advises against attempting to handle or transport wildlife yourself.

While not currently in Texas, New World Screwworm (NWS) has recently been detected about 60 miles from the Texas-Mexico border. Newborn mammals are very susceptible to infestations by NWS. If you see maggots on a live animal, immediately report the sighting to your local wildlife biologist. Early detection and reporting are key to managing and eradicating a NWS infestation.

Learn more about what to do upon encountering orphaned or injured wildlife on the TPWD Wildlife Division website. Tips from biologists regarding fawns and baby birds are available on the TPWD YouTube channel.

From the Project Linus Blanketeers

First Monday Quilt Club to Meet May 4

The First Monday Quilt Club meets from 9 a.m. to noon at the church, 1500 Meadow Park Drive, making quilts and blankets for those in need. The next meeting is Monday, May 4; instead of a potluck, bring brunch or snacks to share.

The club is part of Project Linus, a nonprofit providing comfort to children facing trauma or illness. Local volunteers serve Tarrant County and also create items for veterans, nursing home residents and people experiencing homelessness. Organizers say demand is growing.

Volunteers, especially those with portable sewing machines, are needed, though no experience is required. High school students can earn service hours. Materials are provided; donations are welcome.

For information, visit projectlinus.org or call Virginia Biela at 817-244-1263.

From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers

Fancy Nancy Mother's Day Tea Party Set for May 7

Young princes and princesses , with mothers and grandmothers, are invited to the Fancy Nancy Mother's Day Tea Party on Thursday, May 7, at the White Settlement Senior Center. Festivities begin at 4:30 p.m.; the event moved to the larger venue after outgrowing the library classroom.

Inspired by the children's book character, the celebration encourages guests to dress up and enjoy activities including friendship bracelets, tea party treats, a photo booth and the return of the popular Cake Walk.

From the White Settlement Historical Museum

WSHM Brings History to Life at Third Annual "Walk Through History" Event May 9

Community members will have a chance to step back in time as the White Settlement Historical Museum hosts its third annual "*Walk Through History*" reenactment event on Saturday, May 9.

The free, family-friendly event will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the White Settlement Historical Museum grounds, located just west of City Hall and the fire station on Hanon Dr.

Organizers say the event is designed to celebrate the city's heritage while giving residents a hands-on look at daily life from earlier eras.

The day will begin with an Honor Parade at 10:30 a.m., featuring members of the White Settlement Fire Department and Police Department. The parade will recognize local first responders while setting the tone for a day focused on community pride and history.

Throughout the event, visitors can take part in a variety of interactive demonstrations and activities. Families and children will have the opportunity to experience traditional tasks such as corn grinding, washboard laundry and butter making, offering a glimpse into the routines of past generations.

Live entertainment will also be featured, with period-style music performed by Buttermilk Junction. Organizers say the music will help create an immersive atmosphere reflective of earlier times.

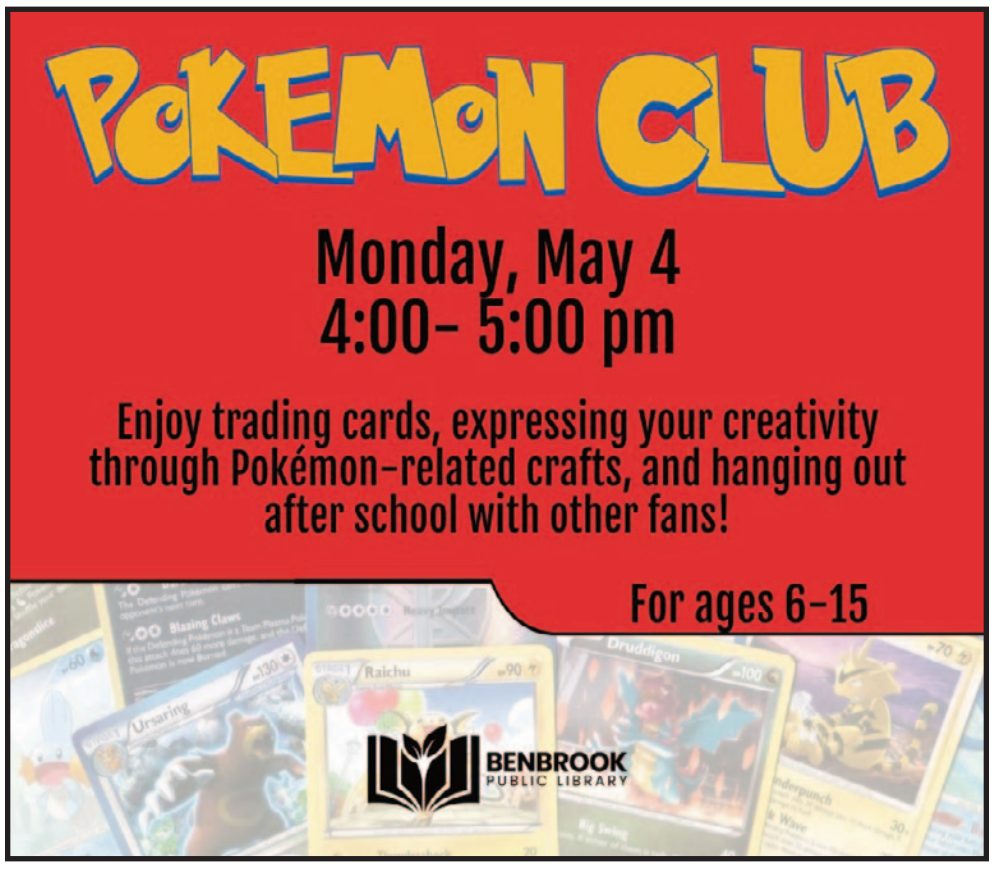
Additional highlights include blacksmithing demonstrations, costumed historical reenactors and antique-style chuckwagon and fire pit cooking. Attendees will also be able to view a World War II-era Jeep, adding a military history element to the event.

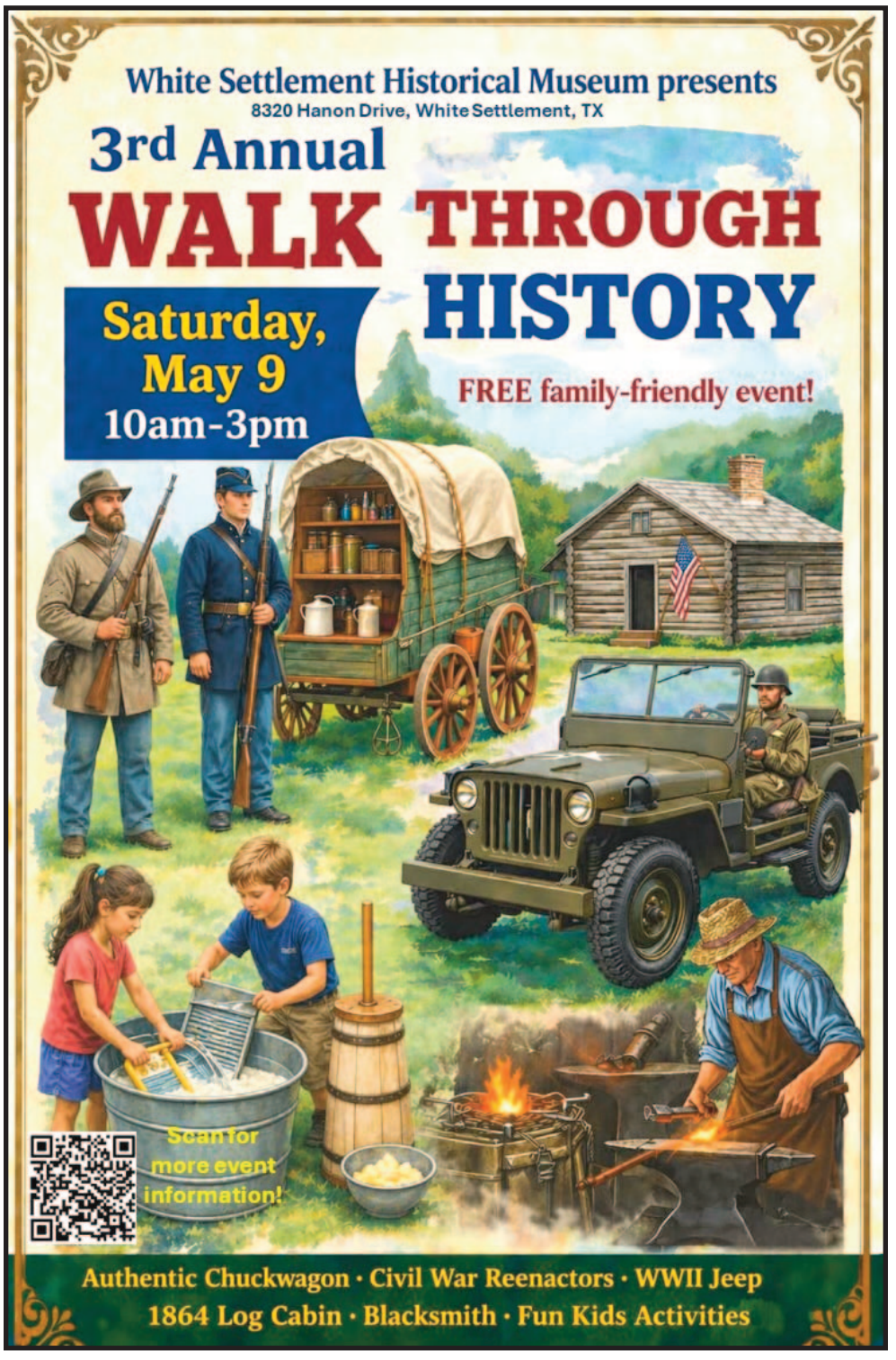
The "*Walk Through History*" event has grown in recent years, drawing families, history enthusiasts and longtime residents interested in preserving and celebrating White Settlement's story. Museum officials say the goal is to make history accessible and engaging for all ages.

By combining education with hands-on activities, the event provides a unique opportunity for younger generations to connect with the past while giving longtime residents a chance to reflect on the traditions that helped shape the community.

Admission to the event is free, and organizers encourage residents to attend, bring their families and spend the day exploring local history.

For those looking to experience a piece of White Settlement's heritage, the "Walk Through History" event offers a hometown celebration of the people, skills and stories that continue to define the community.





From the Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

NHTSA Reminds Drivers to Avoid Distractions

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration calls on drivers to take a proactive role in road safety by following and spreading this message: Eyes Forward. Don't Drive Distracted.

Cell phone use and any activity that takes the driver's attention away from safe driving are distracted driving behaviors. Distracted driving endangers everyone on the road including other drivers, passengers, pedestrians and bicyclists.

According to NHTSA, 16,482 people died and about 1.6 million people were injured in distraction-affected crashes from 2020 to 2024.

In 2024 alone, there were 3,208 people killed in traffic crashes involving at least one distracted driver, accounting for 8 percent of all traffic fatalities that year.

An estimated additional 315,167 people were injured in traffic crashes involving distracted drivers in 2024.

Safe driving requires focused attention. Adopting these phone-free driving habits is key to creating a safe driving environment for everyone on the road:

- Pull over and park in a safe location before using the phone to send or read a text message.
- Ask a passenger to be the "designated texter" and allow them to manage calls and messages during the drive.
- Avoid social media scrolling and any form of messaging while behind the wheel.
- Use "Do Not Disturb" mode to silence notifications.
- Drivers can put their phone in the trunk, glove box or back seat of the vehicle to break the habit of driving distracted.

Cell phone use while driving is dangerous. Phone-free driving and keeping hands on the wheel is committing to keeping all eyes on the road and focusing on driving. Remember: Eyes Forward. Don't Drive Distracted.

For more information on distracted driving, visit NHTSA.gov/DistractedDriving.

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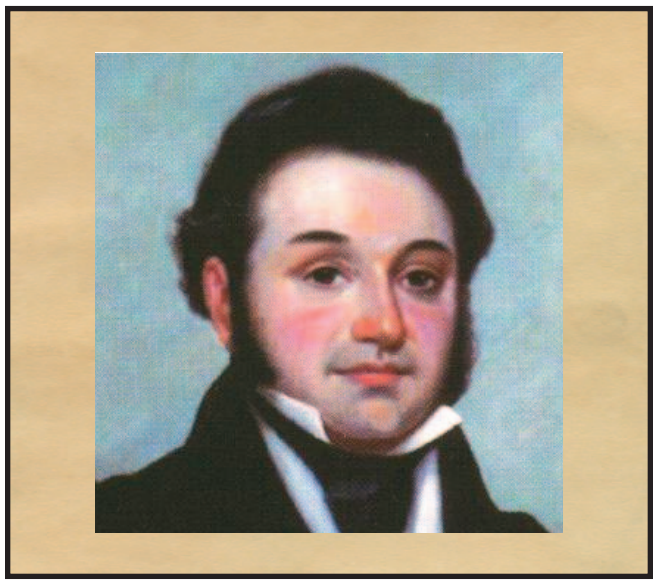
Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

Zavala's Vision and Leadership Helped Shape Texas Independence



a Lorenzo de Zavala was a man of great ideas. He was an outspoken writer and editor as well as a diplomat, businessman, physician, and statesman. With all these accomplishments in his short life, he became revered as one of the architects of Texas independence.

He was born in 1788 in the Yucatan in southern Mexico when it was still under Spanish rule. From a young age, it was clear he had a brilliant mind, voraciously reading any book he could find. His family arranged for the best education possible, and he eventually learned to speak four languages.

He started several newspapers as a young man, writing against the Spanish monarchy and its oppressive rule over the region. Because of these stands, he was arrested in 1814. Unswayed, he continued his writings and also began studying medicine. By the time he was released in 1817, he had become a practicing physician.

After Mexico's independence in 1821, he was elected to the national Congress in 1822 and to the Senate in 1824. He briefly served as governor of the State of Mexico, the largest state in Mexico and briefly served as the secretary of the treasury.

Zavala's star was rising in the politics of the young Mexican nation. However, the infighting and intrigues that plagued Mexico in those years soon derailed his career. In 1830, the president was ousted in a coup led by the vice-president, and Zavala was arrest once again.

Recognizing the danger to his life, Zavala fled to New York. When the government changed again, he returned to Mexico. By 1834, with Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna in charge, Zavala was sent as a diplomat to France. But when Santa Anna became a dictator to put down the unrest in Mexico, Zavala resigned and returned to America.

In 1835 while in New York, he reunited with Stephen F. Austin, whom he had met on many occasions while in Mexico. Austin convinced him to come to Texas. Zavala settled in what is now Channelview, a Houston suburb, at a home he called Zavala Point.

As the Texas Revolution erupted, Zavala served on the Permanent Council in October 1835 and helped coordinate supplies for the Texas army. To protect themselves from Santa Anna's despotism, he and others began arguing that Texas must be independent.

Zavala was elected to represent the Harrisburg (modern-day Houston) area in the Convention of 1836. There, with 58 other delegates, he signed the Texas Declaration of Independence on March 2.

He led the effort to create a stable constitution, one close to the Constitution of the United States. Thus, the Republic of Texas was born.

Impressed by his accomplishments and his passion for the cause of Texas, the convention chose him to be the interim vice-president, serving under interim President David G. Burnet. He served for seven months until the elected administration of President Sam Houston took charge in October.

Initially, Zavala was selected to accompany Santa Anna back to Mexico to argue for their government to accept the agreements he had made with Houston after his defeat at San Jacinto. Mexico, however, argued the treaties were made under threat and therefore invalid. The outright rejection ended the plan to escort him back.

He died after a sudden illness in November 1836, at the age of 48. Zavala helped steer Texas through its most desperate days. He would be honored greatly across the state in future years. Legislators named ZavalaCounty in South Texas for him in 1858.

Many schools are named for him as well as the State Archives building in Austin.

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Weekend Forecast

Friday, May 1:

AM - High near 57. Northeast wind 10-15 mph, gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%.

PM - A 30% chance of showers. Cloudy, then gradually becoming partly cloudy, with a low around 48. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph, gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday, May 2:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 71. North wind around 5 mph.

PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 51. North wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

Sunday, May 3:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 76. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 56. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

Extended Forecast Click Here