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# River Oaks News

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*From the Sports Desk with John Loven*

## ***CHS Volleyball: Lady Lions Drop Home Opener***

Castleberry High School's volleyball team opened the 2024 season with a new head coach, Jaylen Gonzalez. She inherited a team coming off a very tough season. The 2023 team was winless in district (0-10) and finished 1-29 overall. The 2024 team came into this game riding a four-game win streak and a 5-2 record.

This game was the Lady Lions home opener. The game was played on Tuesday, Aug. 20 against Western Hills, who entered the game with a 1-2 record. The two teams had already played a couple of common opponents. Both squads had defeated North Side. The other team they both had played was Lake Worth. However, the Lady Lions had won while the Lady Cougars had lost to the Bullfrogs. But that made little difference on this night as the Lady Lions fell to the Lady Cougars 3-1.

The match began well for CHS when senior Adi Ibarra (#13) served up an ace to begin the set. Later, the Lady Lions went up 5-2 on junior Xiomara Garcia's (#1) service ace. The Lady Cougars quickly tied the score 5-5. Western Hills went on to outscore CHS 5-1 to take a 10-6 lead. This prompted Coach Gonzalez to call timeout. The Lady Lions would shortly tie the score 14-14. But after 4 straight points by Western Hills, CHS called another timeout. The Lady Lions responded with a 7-1 run. This was highlighted by back-to-back serving aces by sophomore Kaila Dobbins (#2) and a great dink by senior Madalynn Michaels (#9) and gave CHS a 21-19 lead. Dobbins (#2) ended the game with a kill shot to give CHS a 25-22 game one victory.

Game two began well for CHS as they continued the momentum gathered from the end of game one. They took a 5-1 lead. However, things changed dramatically from this point. CHS began making many unforced errors leading to many easy points for Western Hills. The Lady Cougars scored 14 straight points to take a 15-5 lead and control of the game. The tide definitely turned in Western Hills favor. A serving ace by junior Alexa Rivera (#7) closed the deficit, leaving CHS trailing 20-15. But the Lady Lions would get no closer and ended up losing 25-17.

Castleberry never led in game three. After an ace by junior Mariana Rodriguez (#5) and a spike by Dobbins (#2) they did tie the score 3-3. Then the Lady Cougars took control, and outscored the Lady Lions 5-1 to take an 8-4 lead. After a great block by Michaels (#9), CHS closed to within two (trailing 6-8), but that would be as

close as they would get. Western Hills outscored CHS 11-2 to take over the game. They went on to win game three 25-16.

Game four took a similar note. The Lady Lions continued to commit many unforced errors (which they had not done in game one). As in game three, they never led. After falling behind 3-0, they did close to within one with a couple of quick points. But the Lady Cougars soon stretched their lead to 10-5. CHS battled back and closed once more to within one (12-11). But the Lady Cougars outscored the Lady Lions 13-3 to take game four, 25-14, and win the match 3-1.

The Lady Lions are a much-improved team over last year. They fought hard in this game and never gave up. Their undoing in this match were the significant number of unforced errors, which obviously can be corrected. Next up for the Lady Lions is the Rio Vista Tournament on Aug. 29, Venus on Aug. 30, and back at Rio Vista on Aug. 31, South Hills on Sept. 3, and away at Carter Riverside on Sept. 6. Go Lady Lions!

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*From Castleberry ISD*

## **Castleberry ISD Community Eligibility Program 2024-2025**

Castleberry ISD will operate the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program for the 2024-2025 school year. Schools qualifying to operate CEP serve breakfast and lunch to all children at no charge and eliminate the collection of meal applications for free, reduced-price, and paid student meals. This approach reduces burdens for both families and school administrators and helps ensure that students receive nutritious meals.

For additional information please contact Castleberry ISD's Director of Child Nutrition, David Smith using the contact information below.

Castleberry ISD - Attention: David Smith, Director  
Child Nutrition Department 215 Churchill Road, Fort Worth, TX 76114 ; Phone: 817-252-2040; E-mail: [smithd3@castleberryisd.net](mailto:smithd3@castleberryisd.net)

## Find a Spot to Fish

Fishing is a fun, affordable way for families and friends to spend time together outdoors.

Try fishing for free (without a fishing license) in state parks, or [buy your fishing license](#) to help support healthy fish populations and their habitats.

### State Parks Where You Can Fish for Free

Texas State Parks are proud to host "Free Fishing in State Parks," a year-round program to encourage spending time enjoying one of America's greatest pastimes. Fish without fishing license or stamps in Texas state parks. Just bring your fishing gear and friends to a state park, pay the entry fee, and you're ready to fish!

### Parks with Loaner Equipment

If you don't have any fishing gear, don't worry. Many state parks loan fishing equipment for use in the park! [Check the list](#) of parks with loaner equipment, or call the parks directly.

### Fishing Regulations

Bag (number of each type of fish) and length limits and other regulations still apply. Ask about these restrictions at the park or see fishing regulations in the [Outdoor Annual](#).

### Fishing in Federal Waters

Fishing is under federal jurisdiction beginning at nine nautical miles off the coast of Texas. Texas Parks and Wildlife attempts to maintain regulations consistent with the federal rules, but occasionally there are differences. Either of the two sites listed below

can provide rules and regulations for federal waters, including the latest changes.

Red snapper fishing is regulated by the state within the first nine nautical miles from shore. That season is not closed and regulations for fishing within state waters are found on this site.

However, in federal waters, red snapper fishing is regulated by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The red snapper season in federal waters varies from year to year but typically opens June 1 with the duration determined annually based on Annual Catch Limits.

If those dates change, the new information will be posted on this site and provided as a news release to papers across the state.



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From the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District

# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Urges Safety Awareness Ahead of Labor Day Weekend

As the Labor Day weekend approaches, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, emphasizes the importance of safety during this time of recreation and celebration.

In 1994, USACE established the National Water Safety Program with the purpose of diligently tracking public recreation fatality statistics and trends. Based on the data, resources are allocated to ensure safe and enjoyable experiences at our nation's lakes and reservoirs.

In fiscal 2023, the Fort Worth District saw a remarkable 19.96 million visitors across its lakes and reservoirs which included the use of 53 life jacket loaner stations, 49 swim beaches, 43 marinas, 325 boat ramps, and 6 canoe/kayak launches. Despite these resources, there were significant concerns highlighted by the data where 34 fatalities were recorded:

- 93 percent of water-related fatalities were male, ages 18 and older.
- 90 percent of water-related fatalities occurred without the use of a life jacket.
- 35 percent of fatalities happened in non-designated swimming areas.
- 40.4 percent of fatalities occurred while swimming, and 44.7 percent while boating.

As we celebrate Labor Day and honor the contributions of American workers and the social and economic progress they drive, the Fort Worth District encourages everyone to celebrate responsibly while prioritizing safety. Our dedication to safety remains unwavering, and it is crucial to remember the heightened risks associated with summer activities. We urge everyone to follow these essential tips for a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend:

1. **Travel Safely:** Be well-rested before embarking on a road trip. Plan for frequent breaks, share driving duties if possible, and have your vehicle checked by a mechanic. Pack an emergency kit with a flashlight, jumper cables, tool kit, tire gauge, and flares. Make sure everyone wears seat belts, obey speed limits, and avoid distractions like texting while driving. Plan your route ahead of time. Remember, alcohol and driving do not mix.

2. **Boating Safety:** Before hitting the water, perform a safety check of your vessel, including life jackets, throwable devices, fire extinguishers, visual distress signals, sound-producing devices, and when applicable, wear a kill switch. Remember to have a first aid kit easily

accessible. Avoid restricted areas, know the water rules, and inform someone on land of your plans. Remember, alcohol and boating do not mix.

3. **Stay Hydrated and Protected:** Drink plenty of water, especially in the heat, and provide bottled water for guests at gatherings. Use sunscreen with appropriate SPF and reapply as necessary. Avoid too much caffeine or alcohol, which can cause dehydration.

4. **Outdoor Chores:** If engaging in outdoor activities or chores, inspect power tools and cords for any damage. Ensure tools are suitable for outdoor use.

5. **Swimming Safety:** Always use the buddy system when swimming and avoid alcohol consumption. Wearing a properly fitted life jacket significantly reduces the risk of drowning.

While these tips are not all-inclusive, they will drastically minimize accidents in and around our lakes and reservoirs and prevent you from becoming a statistic. Enjoy this end-of-summer holiday, have a memorable and accident-free Labor Day weekend.

*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 by crafting 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, Sept. 2.

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 [www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org).

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

	
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# Keep An Eye Out For Abandoned Or Deteriorated Water Wells

Texas hunters headed out for dove season are asked to watch for abandoned or deteriorated water wells, and to report any they find to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

There are thousands of abandoned or deteriorated water wells in Texas, so chances are that hunters could spot these potential safety hazards that also contribute to groundwater pollution. Abandoned or deteriorated water wells can contaminate groundwater by providing a direct conduit for chemicals and other surface contaminants, such as animal waste and pesticides, to directly enter aquifers. Uncapped wells also present a physical danger to humans and animals who can be severely injured or killed when they fall partially or completely into the well.

What does an abandoned or deteriorated water well look like? There could be a plastic, steel, brick or concrete casing (pipe) that extends above ground, or there could be a hole in the ground with no apparent bottom. Some abandoned wells have concrete or brick casing extending above ground or a windmill with missing blades. Abandoned or deteriorated well casings or pipes may be cut off at ground level, posing an additional threat.

- Wells are “abandoned” when they are not in use, as defined by Texas Occupations Code, Section 1901.255.

- A “deteriorated” well is a well that is causing or likely to cause pollution of any water in the state, including groundwater.

If you’re aware of abandoned or deteriorated wells, report them to TDLR: <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/abwells/default.aspx>. When filing the report, please include an address or GPS Coordinates and any photos or video of the well, if possible.

To avoid problems related to a water well that’s no longer in use, landowners should install a locking well cap or sanitary well seal – not just a cover over the well – to prevent unauthorized use or entry into the well. The well cap should not be easily removable by hand and should be capable of withstanding 400 pounds of weight. Septic systems should be pumped and inspected as often as recommended by the local health department. Care should be taken when mowing or working near the well.

Landowners are responsible for abandoned or deteriorated water wells on their property, and once they’re aware of an abandoned well on their property, they must plug it within 180 days. Landowners can plug the well themselves (in compliance with Title 16, Texas Admin-

istrative Code, Section 76.104: Capping and Plugging Wells Standards) or hire a well driller or pump installer licensed by TDLR to plug the well or bring the well into compliance.

If a landowner chooses to plug the well themselves, they are required to plug the well in accordance with [TDLR’s well plugging specifications](#) and submit a State of Texas Plugging Report to TDLR within 30 days from the date the well was plugged.

### About TDLR

TDLR provides regulatory oversight for a broad range of occupations, businesses, facilities, and equipment in Texas. The agency protects the health and safety of Texans by ensuring they are served by qualified, licensed professionals. Inspections of individuals, businesses, and equipment are done on a regular basis to safeguard the public.

Visit TDLR’s website for more information and resources. You can search the TDLR licensee database, and also find past violations in which a final order was issued against companies or individuals. TDLR’s Customer Service line is available anytime between 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 1-800-803-9202.

**Friends of the River Oaks Animal Shelter**

The shelter is in desperate need of blankets, sheets, bleach, Odoban and Dawn dish soap.

Donations Can be dropped off at the River Oaks Police Dispatch.

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From Tarrant County Fire Marshal

# Tarrant County Issues Ban on Outdoor Burning

The Tarrant County Commissioners Court approved an outdoor burning ban on Tuesday, Aug. 20, for unincorporated Tarrant County. With this Order, there will be no outdoor burning without the approval of the

Tarrant County Fire Marshal's Office for the next 90 days, excluding cooking, welding and the use of fire pits for social gatherings.

The severe drought conditions in unincorporated areas of Tarrant County have prompted the Tarrant County Fire Marshal to request the ban on outdoor burning to protect lives and properties of Tarrant County residents. The Texas A&M Forest Service supports the request for an outdoor burning ban.

For information on [outdoor cooking](#), the use of firepits and [outdoor welding](#) guidelines, go to [www.tarrantcountytx.gov/burnban](http://www.tarrantcountytx.gov/burnban).

A violation of the Court Order prohibiting outdoor burning is a Class C Misdemeanor with a fine up to \$500.

## Burn Ban

When Tarrant County is under imminent threat of severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from the threat of wildfires due to drought conditions, the Tarrant County Commissioners Court will approve a ban on outdoor burning for a period of 90 days.

During this time no open flames, sparks or embers are allowed. For our residents in the rural areas, we strongly suggest that you make sure you keep an area of approximately 30 feet mowed around your home and out buildings to prevent a fire from reaching your structures.

If sufficient amounts of rainfall occur during a burn ban, the Tarrant County Fire Marshal may request a repeal of the burn ban.

If burning is allowed, the [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Chapter 111, Subchapter B](#), governs outdoor burning in the State of Texas. The Tarrant County Fire Marshal's Office reminds you that if you conduct an outside burn, you must observe the following requirements:

- Burn only in the unincorporated areas of Tarrant County.
- Contact the Tarrant County Regional Communications at 817-232-9800 on the day you plan to burn to register your address and to confirm it is an allowable burn day. The Tarrant County Regional Communications is open 24/7.
- The party responsible for the burn must be present at all times and remains liable for damages.
- Begin burning no earlier than one hour after sunrise, and end the same day no later than one hour before sunset – no burning at night.
- Make sure the smoke does not blow towards a neighbor's house or onto a road.
- The burn must be downwind and at least 300 feet from structures on adjacent properties.
- Only burn brush, tree limbs, grass clippings, leaves or household trash. The material must be generated from the property. No

hauling in or burning of construction materials, heavy oils or chemical wastes.

- No burning if wind speeds (either constant or gusts) are greater than 23 mph.
- To conduct prescribed burns, you must contact the Tarrant County Fire Marshal's Office for approval.

## Report Illegal Burns

To report someone illegally burning outdoors, call the Tarrant County Regional Communications at 817-232-9800 or the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office at 817-884-1315.

The authority to conduct outdoor burning under this regulation does not exempt or excuse any person responsible from the consequences, damages or injuries resulting from the burning and does not exempt or excuse anyone from complying with all other applicable laws or ordinances, regulations and orders of governmental entities having jurisdiction -- even though the burning is otherwise conducted in compliance with this regulation.

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From Tarrant County Community Development and Housing

## Home Owner Rehabilitation Program

The home owner rehabilitation program offers a housing rehabilitation program to Tarrant County residents living outside the boundaries of the cities of Fort Worth, Arlington and Grand Prairie.

Rehabilitation includes major system failures, which includes roof, foundation, electrical and plumbing.

For more information, see brochure for [Home Owner Repair Program](#) and [ADA Barrier Removal Program](#).

General contractors are needed! If you want to work as one of the contractors for this program, contact Program Manager Brad Hearne at 817-850-7961 or email [BLHearne@tarrantcountytx.gov](mailto:BLHearne@tarrantcountytx.gov).

## Emergency Solutions Grant Program

The [Emergency Solutions Grant \(ESG\)](#) program provides homeless persons with basic shelter and essential supportive services. Tarrant County assists with the operational costs of the homeless shelter facilities and provides short-term homeless prevention assistance to income-qualified persons at imminent risk of losing their own housing due to eviction.

Tarrant County Homeless Coalition Homeless Hotline: 817-996-8800

If you live outside of Fort Worth, Arlington or Grand Prairie, have low income, have a notice to vacate or eviction letter and need rental assistance, apply for assistance using the [Prevention Screening Form](#).

Texas History Minute, by Dr. Ken Bridges

# The 40th Governor of Texas, Preston Smith



While Texas has many outspoken figures in its history, there were also the quiet workers who made an impact. One such man was two-term governor Preston Smith.

Smith was born into a family of sharecroppers in 1912 in rural Williamson County. Like many farm families of the time, it was a large household, with thirteen brothers and sisters in all. Eventually, the Smiths settled

near the West Texas community of Lamesa, where Smith graduated high school in 1928.

After graduation, Smith moved to Lubbock where he enrolled at Texas Tech, working his way through college. He graduated with a business degree and began a small chain of movie theaters in the city by the 1940s. In 1944, he was elected to the state house of representatives, the first of three terms.

Smith took a few years off from politics to tend to his business interests in Lubbock and take care of his growing family. In 1956, he returned to politics with a victory in the election for state senate. In 1962, he was elected lieutenant governor by a wide margin.

When President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, Gov. John Connally was also seriously wounded in the attack. His critical injuries forced Smith to assume the role of acting governor in the months it took Connally to recover. Smith was praised for his steadiness in the face of the tragedy.

In 1968, Connally declined to seek a fourth term as governor, leaving an opening for Smith. He jumped into a wide field for the Democratic Primary in 1968. In one appeal to voters, he

sent out letters to the 47,000 families named Smith in the state, asking, "Don't you think it's about time one of us was governor?" Smith ended up winning the primary and swept to a win in the general election with 57 percent of the vote.

Smith was the first governor from West Texas. He secured some improvements for education, such as a plan to phase in a raise for teachers over a ten year period as well as increased funding for vocational schools. He won approval of a state minimum wage law and helped secure new medical schools in Houston and Lubbock.

Smith was described as an affable and grandfatherly figure which won him a lot of admirers for his straightforward and open approach to governing. However, his public relations efforts were sometimes clumsy, leading detractors to call him "Pop," for "Poor Old Preston."

After his second term began in 1971, the state government was embroiled in what became known as the Sharpstown Scandal. A Houston businessman named Frank Sharp had tried to push through favorable anti-regulatory legislation for his bank and insurance company, giving certain legislators stock in his companies. House Speaker Gus Mutscher, who had engineered the legislation, ended up being indicted and convicted in the scandal though that conviction was later overturned.

Though Smith was never implicated in any wrongdoing, the scandal undermined faith in his administration. He ran for a third term in 1972 as calls for reform rose. He was humiliated with a fourth-place finish in the primary, far behind South Texas businessman and rancher Dolph Briscoe.

He attempted a political comeback in 1978, running for governor again, but he placed third in the primary. He remained active in Lubbock and worked as a lobbyist for Texas Tech for many years. He served as chairman of the state College and University Coordinating Board in the early 1980s.

His health declined following a car accident in 2003. He died in October of that year at the age of 91. He was widely praised by both Democrats and Republicans for his years of dedicated service to the state.

The next year, his hometown of Lubbock honored his memory by renaming the airport after him.



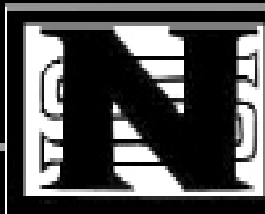
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## Weekend Forecast



### Friday, Aug. 30:

**AM** - A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 94. South southeast wind around 5 mph becoming east in the afternoon.

**PM** - A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 73. East wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.



### Saturday, Aug. 31:

**AM** - A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 90. Calm wind becoming east northeast around 5 mph in the morning.

**PM** - A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 73. East northeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.



### Sunday, Sept. 1:

**AM** - Showers and thunderstorms likely, mainly after 1pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 89. Light northeast wind increasing to 5 to 10 mph in the morning. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

**PM** - A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 72.

**Extended Forecast [Click Here](#)**