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# River Oaks News

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From the Sports Desk with John Loven

## CHS Mid-Season Boys & Girls Basketball Update

### Boys Basketball

The Castleberry boys basketball team is currently 8-12, 3-3 in district play. Their season started out a little slow, as they won just one of their first seven games. However, they bounced back in the middle of December where they won 5 of 7 games during that stretch.

They began district play Dec. 17 with a win over Decatur, 51-49. Unfortunately, that was followed up by losses to Eagle Mountain (39-63), Springtown (31-46) and Burkburnett (56-87). Last week the boys got back to their winning ways by defeating

arch rival Lake Worth by the score of 60-57. The Lions will travel to Krum on Friday, Jan. 17 to wrap up their first round of district play.

CHS will begin the second round of district on Jan. 21 at Decatur. Currently, the Lions are tied for fifth place in district.

### Girls Basketball

The Castleberry girls basketball team is having another tough season. They currently have a 6-18 record and are 0-7 in district play.

The Lady Lions actually began the season on a high note. They opened up 2-0 with a couple of wins against Carter Riverside (35-15) and Diamond Hill (58-26). Unfortunately, a four-game losing streak followed those wins.

But the girls bounced back from that streak by winning three of their next four games, defeating Dunbar (31-11), Adamson (24-8), and North Side (39-11).

However, since then they have struggled scoring against their competition.

The Lady Lions will travel to Krum (Jan. 17) and then to Decatur (Jan. 21).

Good luck Lions and Lady Lions!

### Jan. 14 Game - Lions Rally for Victory

The Castleberry boys basketball team took the court against the Bridgeport Bulls on Tuesday, Jan. 14. It was a home game for the Lions as they finished up the first round of district play.

The Lions entered the game 2-3 in district, while the Bulls came in 1-4 in district. Both teams had a common victory over Lake Worth. The Lions had a 60-57 victory over the Bullfrogs and the Bulls had a 72-67 victory over them as well.

This game pitted two teams hoping to end the first round with a win. The game also appeared to be between somewhat evenly matched teams compared to their district play to date.

The Lions fell behind quickly and played catch up most of the game. But they never gave up and out-played the Bulls in the final quarter to gain a hard fought 45-40 victory!

The Bulls sprinted out of the gates in the first quarter. After the Lions won the opening tap, they missed three consecutive 3-point attempts on their first possession (the Lions were 0-6 from downtown in the first quarter). (continued on page 6)

From the City of River Oaks

## Community Invited to Unveiling Ceremony Jan. 21

The public is invited to attend the unveiling of the 50th and 75th Year Anniversary plaques at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 21 at River Oaks City Hall, located at 4900 River Oaks Blvd.

Both time capsules have been sealed away inside the monument, until their opening in 2049 when the City will celebrate its 100th Year Anniversary.

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CASTLEBERRY LIONS logo | DISTRICT HOLIDAY Monday, January 20 | STUDENT HOLIDAY Tuesday, January 21

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From StatePoint

**Top Scams to Watch Out for During Tax Season**

The days of filing paper tax returns are gone, and criminals are taking advantage. With taxpayers managing their sensitive information online, thieves are finding new ways to scam victims. In 2023 alone, the IRS reported \$5.5 billion lost to tax fraud schemes. And the increased prevalence of artificial intelligence means tax scams this year will likely be more sophisticated than ever.

Scammers have an arsenal of weapons, but no matter their tactics, the goal is the same – to have you give them money or access to it. Here are scams to look out for this tax season:

**Tax avoidance scams.** These scams often promise rewards too good to be true. Scammers claim to have specialized knowledge on exploiting loopholes to avoid taxes or maximize returns. High-income filers are heavily targeted through offers of seemingly legitimate annuities or tax shelters.

**Refund scams.** In this scam, a criminal will claim to be someone official notifying of an unclaimed or incorrectly calculated refund, prompting the victim to share information – and possibly bank account numbers – to claim it.

**Violation scams.** This is a fear-based scam, where the criminal poses as an IRS official threatening some punitive action, claiming the victim committed a violation and needs to contact them to resolve the situation.

**Filing support scams.** Similar to tech support scams, criminals offer to help create IRS accounts to assist with the online filing process. Frequently posing as tax preparers, scammers will go through the motions of gathering the victim's personal information for tax forms they never intend to file.

**Social media scams.** Social media serves as a great place for criminals to find potential victims and carry out tax scams, fraudulently claiming to offer different types of services or possessing unique knowledge or access.

**Recovery scams.** Once a victim is scammed, criminals will try to strike again – believing the victim is gullible. Exploiting a time of vulnerability, they'll contact the victim with promises of helping them recover their losses and will leverage this as an opening to commit additional crimes.

While it is not always easy to pick out a scam, here are indicators to watch for:

- Promise of a big pay-out. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

- Request for your account information. The IRS will never ask for your credit or debit account information over the phone.

- Random contact. The IRS contacts taxpayers by mail first and will never contact via random phone calls or digital means. The IRS will not leave prerecorded, urgent, or threatening voicemails.

- Demands or threats. The IRS can't revoke your driver's license, business licenses or immigration status and cannot threaten to immediately bring in local law enforcement. Taxpayers are allowed an appeals process, so any message of "now or else" won't come from an official channel.

- Request for you to click a weblink. Odd or misspelled web links can take you to harmful sites instead of IRS.gov.

The IRS recommends these best practices to protect against tax fraud:

- Get an early start. File early so criminals have less time to impersonate you.

- Set up a verified account. Set up your own IRS account before someone else can and use an Identity Protection PIN – a six-digit number known only to you and the IRS.

- Wait for written notice. Do not respond to any supposed communications from the IRS if you haven't first received official notification through U.S. mail. If you get a call from someone claiming to be the IRS, hang up and call the official number on the website before engaging. Further, never click a link sent digitally as initial contact.

Apply good cyber hygiene. Do not use public Wi-Fi when filing your tax returns. Do use strong passwords, secured network connections and multi-factor authentication. Run all software updates and keep systems current.

If you fall victim to a tax scam, report it to the IRS. For more scam protection tips, visit PNC's Security & Privacy Center at [pnc.com](http://pnc.com).

One wrong click can cause tremendous damage that ends up earning bad guys a windfall. However, a little caution can go a long way in helping you avoid a costly tax scam.

# First Woman on the Supreme Court - Sandra Day O'Connor



The Supreme Court of the United States is the highest court in the land and the last word on the authority and meaning of the Constitution short of an amendment. The court has handed down many decisions affecting American life and law. The justices who preside over the court sometimes become household names. Texas has produced a number of noted legal minds to serve on the court, including the nation's first woman justice, Sandra Day O'Connor.

Sandra Day was born in March 1930 in El Paso, the oldest of three children to ranchers Harry and Ada Day. The family also acquired a huge ranch in Arizona, so the future justice spent a lot of her childhood going back and forth between Arizona and Texas. Years later, she and her brother would compile some of their memorable childhood exploits in the book *"Lazy B: Growing Up on a Cattle Ranch in the American Southwest."*

At school, she excelled. Fellow students remembered her as extremely intelligent and very kind. She graduated from El Paso's Austin High School in 1946 at the age of 16. She quickly enrolled at Stanford University in California. She graduated with high honors in 1950, earning a degree in economics. Wanting to go further, she applied for and was accepted into Stanford Law School.

The law would change her life. At Stanford, she met and briefly dated future Chief Justice William Rehnquist. Rehnquist even went so far as to propose to her in 1951, but she declined. She soon began dating fellow student John Jay O'Connor of California while the two worked on the school's law journal. After she graduated in 1952, the two married.

In spite of graduating from one of the nation's most prestigious law schools, she found it difficult to find a job as an attorney because she was a woman. No private firm would hire her, and even state and local prosecutors were reluctant to hire her. Eventually, she talked her way into a position with the San Mateo County prosecuting attorney's office as a deputy county attorney. She would receive no salary and would not even have her own office. Nevertheless, she worked hard to show her skill. Eventually, she was given a modest salary and given more responsibilities.

Her husband was drafted into the army in 1954. O'Connor went to Germany with him and worked as a civilian attorney with the army's Quartermaster Corps until her husband's honorable discharge in 1956. The two then moved to the Phoenix area where her husband had received a position with a noted local law firm. They would soon have the first of their three sons. For the time being, she stayed home with their growing family.

While she was raising her young sons, she began getting active in Arizona politics. Arizona's Sen. Barry Goldwater was the Republican nominee for president in 1964, and O'Connor volunteered for his campaign. Though Goldwater lost, in 1965, Democratic Gov. Samuel Pearson Goddard appointed her as Arizona's assistant attorney general. In 1969, Gov. Jack Williams, a Republican, appointed her to an opening in the state senate. She worked well with the senators of both parties, gaining a reputation as a moderate and an able negotiator and legislator. In 1973, she was named Senate Majority Leader, becoming the first woman in the country to head any state legislative chamber.

In 1974, she returned to the law and was appointed as judge for the Maricopa County Superior Court, a prestigious position on the highest court in the state's largest county. In 1978, she was elected to the Arizona Court of Appeals.

In July 1981, Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart announced his retirement. President Ronald Reagan narrowed down a list of choices and decided to nominate O'Connor to fill the vacancy. She later reported she was surprised by the nomination and did not know she was a finalist for the position. By September, she was confirmed by the U. S. Senate to become the nation's first woman justice on the Supreme Court where she would serve for the next 24 years.

## Part II

Sandra Day O'Connor had already made a mark on history by the time she was in her forties. In 1973, the Texas native became the first woman to head a state legislative chamber when she became Senate Majority Leader in the Arizona state senate. On August 19, 1981, the announcement of a woman nominee to the U. S. Supreme Court made headlines around the world in a time when rights for women were advancing across the globe.

El Paso native Sandra Day O'Connor would make history again.

Conservatives who had supported Ronald Reagan's election as president were initially concerned about (continued on page 5)

## Sandra Day O'Connor (continued from page 4)

her record as a moderate in the Arizona legislature. O'Connor, however, calmly won over her critics. In spite of their initial misgivings, her nomination was nevertheless approved by the Senate unanimously on Sept. 21. She was sworn in four days later.

Judicial independence was a recurring theme in her career on the bench. O'Connor did not take an ideological approach. Instead, she looked at each case individually, which often made it difficult to predict how she would decide a question before the court. Throughout her long career, her decisions both thrilled and frustrated both liberals and conservatives. In the end, she earned the respect of Americans across the political spectrum.

She tended to side with conservatives on the bench, including her old friend from Stanford Law School, William Rehnquist, who himself would become chief justice by 1986. O'Connor remarked that she felt a great deal of pressure being the first woman on the court. In the early 1980s, there were still very few women serving as judges, and she knew it would be difficult to name another woman to the court if she faltered and recognized her position as a role model for women looking to careers in the law. She often said, "It's wonderful to be the first at something, but I don't want to be the last."

Though she was still the newest member of the court, she quickly took a leadership role in deciding the culture of the court. Getting people to work together was a skill she brought to the Arizona legislature, and she began a Supreme Court tradition of the justices having lunch together to promote a sense of teamwork.

Questions surrounding religion, firearms, civil rights, and abortion routinely came before the court. In 1983, she ruled with the majority in *United States v. Place*, declaring that it was not unconstitutional for drug-sniffing dogs to sniff luggage and property in a public place, but it was unconstitutional to hold such luggage until a police dog arrived.

In 1986, in *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services*, four of the conservative justices were ready to overrule the controversial

*Roe v. Wade* decision of 1973 that legalized abortion. O'Connor's vote in the Pennsylvania case was decisive in which she upheld the *Roe* decision but allowed limitations to be enacted. She was a skeptic in affirmative action cases before the court, but she often discussed the need for racial equality in education.

As her time on the court continued, she began becoming more of a swing vote on close decisions that divided the court. In 1993, she warmly welcomed Ruth Bader Ginsburg as the second woman on the Supreme Court, and the two developed a respected working relationship though they disagreed on many decisions. As early as 2000, O'Connor began expressing a desire to retire from the court. Her husband's health was uppermost in her mind as he slowly succumbed to Alzheimer's Disease.

In *Bush v. Gore*, she was part of the majority in the controversial decision that ordered the State of Florida to end recounts in the 2000 presidential election, a contest that came down to the results in that state. In the years afterward, she often wondered whether the court should have intervened at all. In 2003, she wrote the decision in *Lockyer v. Andrade* that upheld California's "three strikes law" mandating life sentences for individuals convicted of their third felony.

In 2005, she announced her retirement from the court and was succeeded by Justice Samuel Alito. She soon became the chancellor at the College of William and Mary in Virginia. She would still sit in on cases as a visiting judge on occasion. In 2009, President Barack Obama awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom in honor of her work on the Supreme Court. In 2009, John O'Connor, her husband of 57 years, died. In 2013, she wrote a book on some of the interesting episodes in the history of the Supreme Court called "*Out of Order*."

In her later years, her brilliant mind began to fade. Alzheimer's Disease struck and began to take its toll. She began to get more forgetful, and her physical health was declining. In 2018, she announced her retirement from public life, discussing her health issues. She spent her last few years in a nursing home in Phoenix, with her family and friends protecting her privacy and dignity.

The nation's 91st Supreme Court justice died quietly in December 2023 at age 93.

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White Settlement ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

*From the City River Oaks*

## River Oaks Food Bank Donation Tomorrow

The Jan. 10 distribution date was rescheduled to tomorrow, Friday, Jan. 17 at the River Oaks Event Center, located at 5300 Blackstone Drive in River Oaks. Attendees are encouraged to begin lining up by 9 a.m. to get a place in line. The supply truck often arrives early, meaning the food is given to line members earlier than the posted time. Participants are requested to stay in their vehicle, as the food bank is a drive through. For more information call 817-732-5885.

# Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

After this, Bridgeport scored 9 unanswered points and at the 4:25 mark of the first quarter CHS trailed 9-0.

Senior Amori Dobbins finally broke the ice for the Lions with a pair of free throws with 3:16 left in the quarter. The Lions continued to chip away at the Bulls lead. However, Bridgeport still led 12-6 at the end of the first quarter.

The Lions could not seem to hold onto the ball as the second quarter began. They committed five turnovers in the first 3 minutes of the quarter. This resulted in them not scoring until the 3:39 mark of the second quarter, falling behind by 9 points.

At the 2:50 mark, the Bulls hit a 3-pointer to gain their largest lead of the night (18-8) and appeared to be pulling away from the Lions. However, junior Erick Medina hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to pull CHS within 7 points. The Lions entered the locker room at half trailing 18-11.

Castleberry came out in the third quarter and ramped up their defensive pressure. They forced the Bulls into four turnovers in the first 2 minutes. This helped CHS take their first lead of the game 19-18 thanks to a bucket by senior Everitt Arellano with 5:40 left in the quarter.

Arellano had a monster of a third quarter as he scored 9 points in the period. Bridgeport made two free throws to regain the lead at the 5:17 mark. Arellano put the Lions back on top 21-20 with another basket. After this, the Bulls slowly regained the upper hand and took a 33-28 lead as the teams entered the final quarter.

Senior Michael Ramirez quickly hit a 3-pointer for the Lions to start the fourth quarter to cut the Bulls lead to 2.

The Lions would tie the score 37-37 with a 3-pointer by Dobbins. The teams exchanged baskets to keep the score tied at 39-39 with 4:43 left in the game.

Both teams then went on a scoring drought as they went scoreless over the next 4 minutes. But with 42 seconds left in the game, Dobbins put CHS in the lead for good 41-39.

The Lions then connected on four consecutive free throws to ice the game, two-each by senior Demetrius Valadez and Arellano. The fans were delighted with the fourth quarter comeback for a 45-40 victory for the Lions.

The Lions were led in scoring by Dobbins with 15 points. He was followed by Arellano with 11 points and Valadez with 10 points.

The Lions end the first round of district play with a record of 3-3. They will begin round two on Friday, Jan. 17 at Krum.

Go Lions!



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## Weekend Forecast



### Friday, Jan. 17:

**AM** - Partly sunny, with a high near 66. S/SW wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.  
**PM** - Partly cloudy, with a low around 38. S/SW wind 10 to 15 mph becoming N/NW after midnight.  
Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.



### Saturday, Jan. 18:

**AM** - Sunny, with a high near 52. North wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.  
**PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 27.



### Sunday, Jan. 19:

**AM** - Mostly sunny, with a high near 38.  
**PM** - Partly cloudy, with a low around 18.

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