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River Oaks News

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Trinity Regional Flood Planning Group

Public Invited to Submit Vital Data for 38-County Flood Planning Effort

The Region 3 Trinity Regional Flood Planning Group (Trinity RFPG) urges anyone affected by flood-related issues to participate in the recently launched online data collection survey and interactive web map.

The survey and map are available at <https://trinity.halff.com/> and through the Public Comment page, which is open now through Tuesday, Feb. 11, for consideration in the 2028 Trinity Regional Flood Plan.

Participation from the general public and groups with flood-related responsibilities will strengthen the RFPG's ability to update and maintain a flood plan that represents local flood planning resources, flood-related risks, flood mitigation needs and potential solutions. Individuals or organizations that participated during the initial cycle of Regional Flood Planning are still encouraged to review the updated interactive web map and submit updated information to keep planning efforts current and address any new flooding concerns.

When visiting the data collection website, representatives from cities and other entities must register by providing an email and creating a password. Once logged in, fewer than 25 questions and an interactive map prompt a review of flood history, storm drainage systems and critical infrastructure.

Members of the general public are also encouraged to participate and share their knowledge of flood-prone areas and zones where flood mitigation might be needed with the Trinity RFPG. To access the public input map, users will need to provide their name, physical address and email address. The RFPG will use contact information only to confirm unusual or extreme responses. Most public responders will not be contacted.

If anyone has relevant documents or data to submit or additional questions about the data collection process, please contact Project Manager Stephanie Griffin with Halff Associates, Inc. at 817-813-5704 or sgriffin@halff.com.

For more information or to subscribe to receive future updates, visit the website at Trinityrpfpg.org or email info@trinityrpfpg.org.

From North Central Texas Council of Governments

NAS JRB Fort Worth Regional Coordination Committee Meeting Jan. 27

The next NAS JRB Fort Worth Regional Coordination Committee meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 27, at 1:30 p.m. at the Pecan Grove Conference Center, located at 405 N. Las Vegas Trail, White Settlement, 76108. [Click this link to view the Jan. 27 agenda.](#)

An election for 2025-2026 officers will be held. The nominees for each position are: Chair - Larry Marshall, City of Benbrook; Vice Chair - Dan Chisholm, City of River Oaks; Secretary - Jeff James, City of White Settlement and Treasurer - Gary Stuard, City of Lake Worth.

From Texas Coalition for Animal Protection

Free Feline Fix Day Jan. 29

Texas Coalition for Animal Protection (TCAP) recently announced the first Free Fix Day of 2025 - Wednesday, Jan. 29! In 2024, TCAP sterilized over 16,000 feral and community cats! [Click this link to learn more.](#)

During the Free Fix Days, TCAP provides free sterilizations and rabies vaccines for feral and community cats. This event will take place at each of the seven TCAP clinics located in Allen, Arlington, Denton, Garland, Hurst, Joshua, and Weatherford. Each location will serve 75 cats on a first-come, first-served basis. There's no limit to how many cats each caregiver can bring, and no appointment is needed. Cats must arrive in individual live traps or pet carriers and will receive an ear tip as part of the process.

For every cat brought in, the Caretaker will receive a voucher for a free spay or neuter and rabies vaccine for another cat at a future date. Our team will help you schedule the additional service when you redeem your voucher.

If you're outside the first 75 cats in line, please wait! We'll provide one voucher per cat for the next 75 cats in line. Please note that the line will close promptly at 9 a.m., and only caregivers with cats in line will receive vouchers. TCAP will cover any additional fees for in-heat, cryptorchid, or pregnancy procedures.

Caregivers are responsible for elective services, such as vaccines, pain medication, or viral testing.

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From the City River Oaks

Upcoming River Oaks Food Bank Event Jan. 24

The River Oaks Food Bank donation days are held on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at the River Oaks Event Center, located at 5300 Blackstone Drive in River Oaks.

Attendees are encouraged to begin lining up by 8:30 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 drive through.

For more information, call 817-732-5885.

From the City River Oaks

Possible Phone Scam Alert

River Oaks residents should be advised that it has recently been brought to our attention of a possible phone scam alert.

Residents should always contact the River Oaks City Hall at 817-626-5421 and have it verified when any phone solicitor states they are permitted by the City of River Oaks for them to do work in your area.

Also, know that any solicitor going from door to door is required to have a solicitors permit.

Contact the River Oaks Police Department at 817-626-1991 and report any suspicious activity and they will investigate it.

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FREE ADMISSION - GROUPS WELCOME!

From StatePoint

Helping Children Develop Healthy Device and Media Habits

Can parents control what advertising their children see on Facebook? How do parents limit the amount of time their children spend on Instagram?

A new parent tool, the Glossary of Digital Media Platforms, offers the answers and will be handy for parents of children trying out new phones or other tech-related holiday gifts. The American Academy of Pediatrics Center of Excellence on Social Media and Youth Mental Health developed the free resource, which contains detailed information on popular digital platforms, including Apple, Discord, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Snapchat, TikTok and X, with more to come.

“Parenting around media can be so challenging,” said Jenny Radesky, MD, FAAP, co-medical director of the Center of Excellence. “Figuring out what apps and settings are best for your family is an important part of the conversation. At the center, we created the Glossary of Digital Media Platforms to make it a little easier for parents to learn about each app and figure out what settings and tools exist to keep their kid safe while connecting online.”

Users click on a platform to learn about its default and customizable safety settings; messaging and friending controls; screen-time management settings; parental controls and more.

Parents aren't the only ones looking for assistance when it comes to the online world. Pediatric providers, teachers and others who work with children and teens can introduce the glossary briefly during clinic visits, back-to-school nights, in newsletters, or other communications and encourage families to have conversations about safe and balanced relationships with social media. The tool can also facilitate conversations on concepts like private versus public accounts, time limits and how to block or filter upsetting content.

Here are some examples of how the glossary can be used:

- If children have iPhones, parents can

learn more about the Family Sharing feature, which includes settings to limit who a child can contact, downtime/do-not-disturb settings and the Ask To Buy option that requires a parent to approve purchases.

- If social media and notifications are distracting teens at night, families can use the glossary to look up apps and how to silence notifications or activate other nighttime settings.

- For teens who are stressed out by negative content on social media feeds, the glossary contains information on tools to curate feeds and block and filter content.

- If a child's school has a phone policy, families can look up device or app settings to silence distracting apps during school hours.

The glossary joins a roster of resources available at Center of Excellence on Social Media and Youth Mental Health, which includes conversation starters for parents concerned about how their children are using social media. The center's activity cards can help young children build healthy relationships with media and their devices before they grow into teens and young adults.

Megan Moreno MD, MEd, MPH, FAAP, co-medical director of the Center of Excellence, urges parents and other adults to avoid taking a doom-and-gloom approach when talking about the sometimes-dangerous social media landscape with kids.

Dr. Moreno said, “We can choose open-mindedness. We can choose curiosity. We can choose evidence over hype, and we can stay centered on our children and families.”

Legal Notice

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit by Shree Ganesh Sakura LLC dba Sakura Japanese Restaurant, to be located at 406 Mercedes St Suite F, Benbrook, Tarrant County, TX 76126. Owner of said business is Netra Ghimire, Owner, and Sudeep Ruwali, CEO.

Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt

Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo Parade Draws Crowd

Thousands of spectators lined the streets on Main and Houston downtown to watch the annual Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo Parade, that began in 1896. More than 3,000 horses and over 4,000 riders and participants walked the 2-mile route.

Among nearly 150 entries, 70 riding clubs joined the festivities, including the ever popular Hawai'i Pa'u Riders Equestrian Unit from Waimanalo. This group took home four awards, including: Best Riding Club, Most Colorful, Chairman's Award and Greatest Distance Traveled! Individuals traveled from New Mexico, Oklahoma, Louisiana and several parts of Texas came out to support their Hawaiian ohana (family).

Marching bands and horse drawn carriages were crowd pleasers, as no motorized vehicles are allowed in this parade.



Hawai'i Pa'u Rider: Kulia Joseph, Molokini Island.



Hawai'i Pa'u Rider: Jonalynn Sing, Ka-ho'olawe Island.



Pa'u Escort Clay Chung.



Pa'u Escort Ken Higa.



Tarrant County Sheriff's Posse.



Hawai'i Pa'u Rider: Debbie Hopkins, Kauai Island.



Obituary



Glenda Fay Landers

In loving memory of Glenda Fay Landers, a selfless, strong mother, passed away Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025 at her home.

Glenda was born Jan. 3, 1942 to Eldon and Alma Womack.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dee Landers and great grandchild, Abigail Fleming.

She is survived by: her sister, Carole Saunders; her daughter, Robin Fleming; her sons, Joel Landers and Timothy Landers; eight grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Glenda will be immensely missed.

From Castleberry ISD

CISD STEM Academy at River District: Preparing Students for the Future



Castleberry ISD offers a dedicated STEM Academy for secondary students, providing a rigorous educational experience with a strong emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and math. This school-within-a-school model, established at Irma Marsh Middle School, welcomes new cohorts of sixth graders each year.

Students may apply to the STEM Academy during the spring of their fifth-grade year. Applications open annually in January and close at the end of March. All applications are reviewed based on the STEM Academy rubric, and applicants are notified of their acceptance by early April.

The STEM Academy equips students with advanced academic knowledge and essential job skills that prepare them for success in college, careers, and military service. The curriculum includes a specialized focus on cybersecurity and computing concepts, ensuring that students are well-prepared for the technology-driven future. Upon entering ninth grade, students can also apply to the Castleberry Collegiate Academy to earn an Associate's degree and a Level 1 Cybersecurity certificate from Tarrant County College.

CISD STEM @ River District began welcoming its first cohort of students in the 2020-2021 school year and continues to foster academic excellence in the fields of STEM and beyond.

Applications for the 2025-2026 school year are due by Friday, March 28 at 11:59 p.m. [Click here](#) to view the application options.

Legal Notice

The White Settlement Independent School District (WSISD) is accepting proposals for Classroom Furniture for BMS. The Request for Proposal – 2425-04 can be accessed and submitted online at <https://wsisdebid.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>. A paper copy of the bid can be obtained on the WSISD website, www.wsisd.com, by visiting the Purchasing section of the Business Services page. If assistance is needed, please contact Nancy Escobar at nancy.escobar@wsisd.net. The deadline for questions is February 6, 2025, at 2:00 pm and proposals are due by February 13, 2025, at 2:00 pm. It is preferred that proposals be submitted online at <https://wsisdebid.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>. If a hard copy proposal will be submitted, it should be addressed to White Settlement ISD, Attn: Nancy Escobar, 8224 White Settlement Road, White Settlement, TX 76108. Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

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

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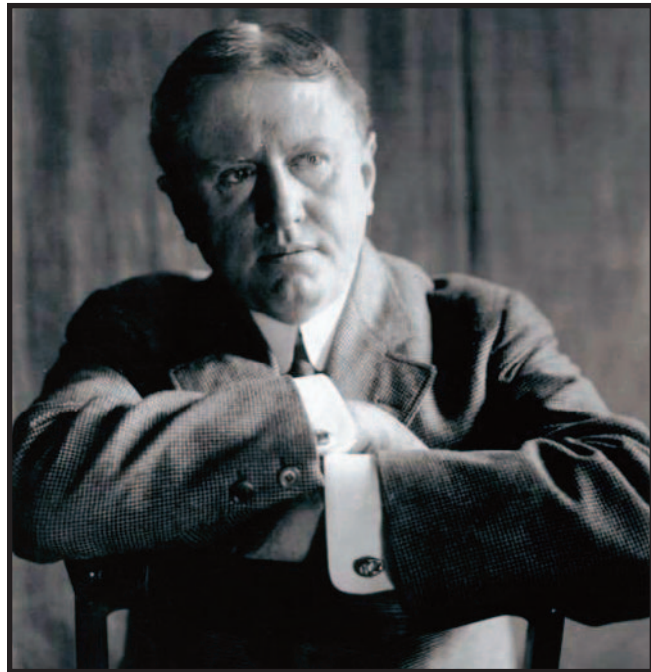
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Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

Short Story Author - William Sydney Porter



He was best known for a short pen name, "O. Henry." The man behind the stories, William Sydney Porter, was a complicated character with a sharp imagination. Porter wrote hundreds of stories in his short career and became one of the best-known short story writers of the twentieth century.

Porter was born in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1862. His father was a doctor and his mother died of tuberculosis when he was a child. He showed a deep imagination and strong artistic talents as a child. He loved reading from an early age. As a teenager, he began working at his uncle's drugstore as a pharmacist and drew sketches of the customers in his spare time.

In 1882, he moved with a friend to South Texas to attempt to rehabilitate his shaky health. He worked for a time on a sheep ranch as a ranch hand and a cook. Two years later, he moved to Austin to work as a pharmacist. It was in Austin that Porter began writing. Initially, it was a hobby, but it gradually took up more and more of his time.

In 1887, he married and took up a new job. Porter worked for four years at the Texas General Land Office drawing maps and took a job as an accountant at an area bank in 1891. However, three years later, the bank came across several accounting errors, accused him of embezzlement, and fired him. At that point, he took up writing full time, publishing his own weekly humor magazine, *The Rolling Stone*. Though pop-

ular, the magazine failed within a year and Porter soon found work with *The Houston Post*.

Not long after the move to Houston, federal auditors charged him with embezzlement from his former bank job. He was arrested but released on bail. He soon fled to New Orleans where he continued to write and took up the pen name of O. Henry after a conversation with a friend. He then fled to Honduras but returned to the United States when his wife's health collapsed. His wife died within weeks of his arrival, and he was again arrested.

The trial was held in Austin, where he was sentenced to five years in prison in 1898. Ironically, the same courthouse today is owned by the University of Texas and has been rechristened O. Henry Hall.

He was released in 1901 for good behavior. In 1902, he moved to New York where he landed a job writing weekly stories for *The New York World Sunday Magazine*. He would write more than 300 short stories between 1902 and his death, many known for a sudden, surprise twist at the end.

Perhaps his most famous story was "*The Gift of the Magi*," originally appearing in December 1905. It is the touching tale of a young couple in turn-of-the-century New York who want to get something special for each other for Christmas but have no money. Unbeknownst to each other, they give up something they prize to buy their gifts. The wife sells her luxuriant hair to afford a silver chain for her husband's pocket watch. The husband, however, had sold his watch to pay for jeweled hair combs for his wife which were so popular at that time. The story has since been retold many times and dramatized on screen in many forms.

Two other stories included "*The Cavalero's Way*," (1907) which introduced The Cisco Kid, a character reproduced by many other authors; and "*The Ransom of Red Chief*," which appeared in *The Saturday Evening Post* in 1907 as the tale of two kidnapers who kidnap a rich, spoiled brat in hopes of ransom but end up paying the father for him to take the incorrigible child back.

His heavy drinking steadily took its toll on him. It cost him his marriage. His second wife left him in 1909. He descended further into the bottle and died in 1910 at age 47.

In spite of his sad end, he was praised in later years. Schools in Garland and Austin were named for him as well as in his native Greensboro.

In 1918, the prestigious O. Henry Award was established in his memory for outstanding short story writers.

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Weekend Forecast



Friday, Jan. 24:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 56. SW wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 34. South wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.



Saturday, Jan. 25:

AM - Partly sunny, with a high near 56. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
PM - Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42. S/SE wind 5 to 10 mph becoming N/NE after midnight.



Sunday, Jan. 26:

AM - A 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 50. North wind 5 to 10 mph.
PM - Mostly cloudy, with a low around 38. North wind 5 to 10 mph.

Extended Forecast [Click Here](#)