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River Oaks News

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From the Sports Desk with John Loven

Castleberry Boys Roll Past Kennedale With 7-0 Victory

The Castleberry High School boys soccer team moved its Jan. 23 match up to Thursday, Jan. 22, in anticipation of bad weather, and a small but loyal crowd at W.O. Barnes Stadium was rewarded with a dominant performance.

The Lions rolled to a 7-0 victory over the Kennedale Wildcats.

Kennedale entered the match still searching for its first win of the 2026 season at 0-7-1. Castleberry's record was only slightly better at 3-7-2, but the Lions quickly showed they were the superior side.

Less than four minutes into the match, senior Daniel Bustamante's shot at the 36:38 mark was just wide. The breakthrough came moments later when sophomore Cristian Gutierrez finished a corner kick into the back corner of the net at 35:59 to give CHS a 1-0 lead.

The Lions needed only 60 more seconds to strike again. Senior Anthony Herrera's corner found junior Sebastian Garcia, who sent his shot past the Wildcat goalkeeper to make it 2-0.

A few minutes later, senior Uriel Pereya added to the lead, pushing the margin to 3-0 as Castleberry continued to control possession and pace. Junior Giovanni Saldana narrowly missed high at the 32:30 mark, and Garcia had another attempt saved at 30:52.

Kennedale did not manage its first shot of the match until the 28:55 mark, when a header sailed well over the crossbar. It would be the Wildcats' only attempt on goal in the first half.

Castleberry kept up the pressure. Freshman Jorge Hernandez missed just wide, and Herrera's shot at 21:05 was high. Moments later, Herrera found the net, blasting a shot into the top corner with 20:34 left in the half to make it 4-0.

The Lions had three more chances before halftime, from Herrera, junior Alonso McCoy and freshman Josgar Morales Meza, but none found the net, and Castleberry took a 4-0 lead into the break.

Any hope of a Kennedale comeback was quickly erased in the second half. Just 70 seconds in, Meza scored to extend the lead to 5-0. About four minutes later, Saldana added another goal at the 34:40 mark to make it 6-0.

Castleberry continued to generate *(continued on page 4)*

From River Oaks News Staff Writers

Claridge, Turner Sworn in to River Oaks City Council

John Claridge and Leigh Ann Turner were sworn into office during the River Oaks City Council meeting on Jan. 6.

Claridge was elected to represent City Council Place 1 in the Nov. 4 election. Turner was elected to Place 3, following a runoff election held Dec. 13.

Both officials took the oath of office at the January meeting, formally beginning their terms on the City Council.

City officials welcomed the new council members and thanked them for their willingness to serve the community.

From the City of River Oaks

CRUD Mobile to Collect Household Chemicals April 18

River Oaks residents will have an opportunity to safely dispose of household chemical waste when the City of Fort Worth's CRUD Mobile visits City Hall.

The mobile collection unit will be set up in the City Hall parking lot from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 18, 2026, to accept unwanted household chemicals free of charge from residents of Fort Worth and participating cities.

The CRUD Mobile is an extension *(continued on page 4)*

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filed in Mercer County Illinois.
To Andrew Brett Ortloff,
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Elizabethdrake96@yahoo.com

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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. Payment for advertising is due by 10 a.m. Monday.

From the Project Linus Blanketeers

First Monday Quilt Club Stitches Comfort for Children & Families

On the first Monday of every month, laughter, conversation and the steady hum of sewing machines fill Bethany Christian Church in White Settlement as volunteers gather not just to quilt, but to change lives.

The First Monday Quilt Club meets from 9 a.m. to noon at the church at 1500 Meadow Park Drive, bringing together volunteers who create handmade quilts and blankets for those who need comfort most. The group's next meeting is set for Monday, Feb. 2. Instead of a potluck lunch, participants are asked to bring brunch or snack items to share.

The club is part of Project Linus, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide love, warmth and a sense of security to children who have experienced trauma, tragedy or serious illness. Locally, the volunteers serve as the Tarrant County Chapter of Project Linus, creating blankets that are distributed to children throughout the area.

Their work does not stop there. The group also makes coverlets for veterans, nursing home residents and people experiencing homelessness. As needs in the community continue to grow, so does the demand for these handmade gifts of comfort.

Organizers say they are especially in need of volunteers with portable sewing machines to help assemble quilts, but stress that no experience is required.

"There is a place for everyone," organizers said. Volunteers can help by sewing, tying knots, crocheting, sorting fabric or simply lending a helping hand and good spirit. Along the way, many find not only a meaningful way to serve, but lasting friendships as well.

High school students can earn community service hours by participating, and all materials, including fabric, batting, thread and yarn, are provided. Donations of supplies or monetary contributions to help purchase materials are also welcome and appreciated

Those interested are encouraged to come for the fellowship and stay for the joy of making a difference, one stitch at a time.

For more information about Project Linus and its mission, visit www.projectlinus.org.

For details about the local group and meeting times, call Virginia Biela at 817-244-1263.

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Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

scoring chances, with shots from Gutierrez, Meza, Bustamante and Hernandez, but the score held until the final minutes. With 4:19 remaining, Meza scored his second goal of the night to cap the scoring and seal the 7-0 win.

Castleberry's match at Bridgeport scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 27, was canceled due to weather. The Lions will open district play at home Feb. 3 against CAATCCN. Kickoff is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Go Lions!

From Castleberry ISD

Feb. 13 Deadline Set for Castleberry ISD School Board Candidates

The Castleberry Independent School District Regular School Board Trustee Election will be held Saturday, May 2, 2026. Two seats on the district's School Board, Place 1 and Place 2, are up for election.

The Castleberry ISD School Board consists of seven at-large trustees who serve staggered three-year terms, with a portion of the seats up for election each year.

Residents who live within Castleberry ISD boundaries and are interested in running for a place on the School Board may file a candidate application packet with the district's election filing officer through 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, 2026.

Candidate packets may be submitted in person during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Castleberry ISD Administration Building:

Castleberry Independent School District
Gary S. Jones Administration Building
5228 Ohio Garden Road
Fort Worth, TX 76114

Election Filing Officer:
Angela Branch
Email: brancha@castleberryisd.net
Fax: 817-252-2097

Alternatively, candidates may submit a signed, sworn, and notarized scanned application by fax or email.

There is no filing fee to run for a position on the Castleberry ISD Board of Trustees.

Additional information, including candidate qualifications and election documents, is available on the Castleberry ISD Board Elections webpage.

Early voting for the May 2026 general election will take place April 20 through April 28, 2026.

The deadline to register to vote in this election is Thursday, April 2, 2026.

Information on voter registration and voting locations in Tarrant County is available through the Tarrant County Elections website.

CRUD Mobile (continued from page 1)

of Fort Worth's Environmental Collection Center and accepts a wide range of materials, including paint and stains, motor oil, antifreeze, batteries, fertilizers, pesticides, pool chemicals, solvents, fluorescent light bulbs, pharmaceuticals and other household chemicals.

Items that will not be accepted include ammunition, asbestos, building materials, electronics, explosives, medical waste, propane or butane cylinders, tires, televisions, smoke detectors and radioactive materials.

Residents are asked to bring a recent water bill as proof of residency and to keep chemicals in their original containers whenever possible. Liquid paint should be sorted by type before arrival. Chemicals should be transported in the trunk of the vehicle rather than the passenger compartment.

If a product is still usable, residents are encouraged to give it to someone who can use it instead of bringing it for disposal.

For questions about specific items, residents may call 817-392-EASY for more information.

From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers

Understanding Artificial Intelligence and Why It Should Be Used Carefully

Artificial intelligence, often called AI, is becoming a bigger part of everyday life. From online chat programs and phone assistants to navigation systems and medical software, AI is being used in more places than ever before. While the technology can be helpful and efficient, experts say it is important for the public to understand that AI is not perfect and should not always be trusted without question.

AI refers to computer systems designed to perform tasks that usually require human intelligence. These tasks include understanding language, recognizing images, sorting information and making predictions or decisions.

Most modern AI systems learn through a process called machine learning. This works in a way similar to how people learn through practice and experience. A computer program is shown large amounts of data and learns to find patterns within that information. Over time, it becomes better at making predictions or identifying objects, words or behaviors.

Although AI can be powerful, it also has important weaknesses.

One major concern is biased data. AI systems learn from the information they are given. If that data is unbalanced or incomplete, the results can be unfair or inaccurate. For example, if an AI system is trained mostly on photos of light-skinned people, it may have more trouble recognizing people with different skin tones. This can cause serious problems in areas such as hiring, law enforcement or healthcare.

Another limitation is that AI does not truly understand the world. It can process information and follow rules, but it does not have emotions, values or common sense. Because of this, it may produce results that seem logical but are ethically questionable. An AI system designed to reduce costs, for instance, might suggest changes that negatively affect workers without understanding the human impact.

AI systems can also appear overly confident. They sometimes provide answers or recommendations without clearly showing how uncertain those answers might be. In fields such as medicine or self-driving technology, this can be dangerous because mistakes can have serious consequences.

Researchers and technology leaders say there are several ways to make AI more reliable and fair.

One important step is using more diverse and representative data. When AI systems are trained using information from many different groups and communities, they are more likely to produce accurate and balanced results.

Human oversight is also critical. AI should be used as a tool to assist people, not replace them. In healthcare, for example, AI can help analyze test results or scan images, but doctors should still make the final decisions based on their training and judgment.

Another key goal is transparency. Developers should be able to explain how their systems work and why certain decisions are made. If an AI system recommends approving or denying a loan, users should be able to understand what factors were considered. Clear explanations can help build trust and allow problems to be identified and corrected.

Looking ahead, experts say improving AI will require cooperation among researchers, businesses, government officials and the public.

Open discussion about AI is important. Communities need to talk about both the benefits and the risks of the technology so people can better understand how it is being used and how it affects their lives.

Education also plays a major role. Teaching students and adults how AI works and what its limits are can help people make informed decisions and ask better questions about the technology they use every day.

Many organizations are also calling for clear ethical guidelines for AI development. These guidelines would focus on fairness, accountability and transparency, helping to ensure that new technologies are used responsibly.

AI is expected to continue shaping daily life in the years ahead. While it offers many advantages, experts caution that it should always be used carefully and thoughtfully.

The next time someone interacts with a virtual assistant, a recommendation system or another AI-powered tool, it is worth remembering that these systems can be helpful but are not flawless.
By staying informed and supporting responsible use of the technology, communities can help make sure AI serves people in a fair and trustworthy way.

Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

Frontier Jurist John Hemphill Helped Shape Early Texas Law as First Chief Justice

The law has long produced great figures and colorful personalities in Texas History.

Among those was frontier jurist John Hemphill. He was the first chief justice of the state supreme court in Texas, and as such, he made Texas law into an instrument to be used by all people.

Hemphill was one of the first great legal minds to preside over a Texas court.

John Hemphill was born in South Carolina on Dec. 18, 1803, the son of a Presbyterian minister and Irish immigrant. As a young man, he attended Jefferson College in Pennsylvania and briefly served as a teacher.

Though college-educated, he never attended a formal law school. As was the custom at the time, he apprenticed himself to a local attorney to study the law. Within a matter of months, Hemphill was allowed to practice law in South Carolina. By 1831, he had established his own law practice. He was an outspoken lawyer and briefly edited a newspaper in Sumter.

After Texas gained its independence from Mexico in 1836, he became fascinated by the events unfolding in the new republic. He headed west in 1838 and began a law practice at Washington-on-the-Brazos, where he quickly became a respected figure.

In January 1840, the Texas Congress selected him to be associate justice on the Supreme Court of the Republic of Texas. As a justice, he had to shape how the law in Texas would be interpreted by the courts. Texas was just developing its own law system and was still working with laws left over from Spanish and Mexican rule. Realizing he had to be able to understand the cases coming before him that were based in Spanish law, Hemphill quickly learned Spanish to be able decipher and apply the intricacies of these old laws.

By December, the Texas Congress had elevated him to the position of chief justice of the supreme court. As chief justice, he played a careful role in crafting the practice of law in Texas. He ruled on several cases that gave women inheritance rights equal to men and increased ease of settlers to claim property. Hemphill believed that the law must not be used to oppress but instead be used to recognize the rights of all citizens. Overall, he believed that a judge must act with honor and that the law must be exercised with respect to evidence and the rights of the people.

As an active supporter of statehood, he attended the state constitutional convention in 1845 and helped draft the new state constitution for Texas as it prepared to become a state. Later changes in the state constitution made the supreme court an elected position rather than an appointed position as it was with federal judicial positions and judgeships in several other states. Hemphill's popularity did not make this an obstacle. He easily won the election to the position of chief justice in 1851, followed by re-election five years later.

In 1858, the town of Hemphill was named after him in Sabine County and made the county seat. That same year, the state legislature rejected Sam Houston's bid for re-election to the U. S. Senate and instead elected Hemphill to succeed him in the Senate.

However, his time in Washington did not last long. Two years later, as Texas seceded from the Union, Hemphill openly supported secession and was expelled from the Senate along with other southern supporters of secession. Texas immediately chose him to represent Texas at the new Provisional Confederate Congress. Hemphill served on the Judiciary and Finance committees but failed to win a full term in the fall 1861 election.

Hemphill died Jan. 3, 1862. In 1876, the state legislature honored his service by naming Hemphill County, located in the Panhandle, after him.

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Weekend Forecast

Friday, Jan. 30:

AM - Mostly sunny, with a high near 45. North wind 5 to 10 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 18. North wind 5 to 15 mph.

Saturday, Jan. 31:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 32. North wind 5 to 15 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 19. North northeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Sunday, Feb. 1:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 46. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
PM - Clear, with a low around 28.

Extended Forecast Click Here