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River Oaks News

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Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt

All American Festival in River Oaks

The All American Festival was held on June 29 in River Oaks.

Several vendors, food trucks, music, games and prizes, a mechanical bull, dancing, fun and fellowship was enjoyed by everyone who participated.

A fireworks show completed the evening which the crowd appreciated to end the amazing occasion.

At the Registration Table were: (l-r) **Crystal Mendoza, Carmen Hernandez, Michael Soto** and **Juan Mendoza**.

RO Police Officer **TC Williams** with **Kenny Choccuc, Maria Choccuc** and **Jonathan Solis Choccuc**.

DJ **Joe Rich** entertained the crowd with amazing music.

Pictured are: (l-r) **Elena Ortiz, Diana Hernandez, Linda Blacker** and **Monte Hundt who** came out to support the event.

A train was enjoyed by all the children.

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Honoring Hometown Heroes

Thank You, Army Veteran Michael Densmore

Suburban Newspapers, Inc. honors our Hometown Heroes, veterans of our armed forces and first responders who live and work in our communities.

We give thanks to our Heroes for all the sacrifices they have made to serve our country and keep our hometown safe!

The American soldier embodies courage etched from history's crucible, standing as a sentinel of freedom on distant shores and at home.

With steadfast resolve, they carry the weight of duty, bound by an oath to defend liberty's sanctity.

Through trials of conflict, they forge bonds of brotherhood, their valor a beacon in the darkest hours. They are driven by an unwavering commitment to honor, integrity, and service.

Their sacrifice echoes through generations. In their uniform beats the heart of a nation, a guardian of democracy, a symbol of hope and resilience.

• • •

We Want to Thank You!

If you are a veteran or first responder, or know of an individual you'd like to highlight, email suburbannews@sbcglobal.net or call the Suburban Newspapers office at 817-246-2473.

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From the American Red Cross

Stay Water Safe: Designate a Water Watcher this Summer

In a group setting, tragedies often occur because people assume someone else is supervising children in the water. Along with close and active supervision by parents or caregivers, designate a water watcher whose sole responsibility it is to supervise children during any in-water activity until the next person takes over.

An appropriate water watcher:

• Is at least 16 years of age (adults preferred).

• Has the skills, knowledge and the ability to recognize and rescue someone in distress or can immediately alert someone nearby who does or can.

• Knows CPR or can immediately alert someone nearby who can.

• Has a working phone to call for emergency help, which is typically 9-1-1.

• Has a floatation device and/or reaching object that can be used in a rescue.

• Is ALERT and not under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or distracted by texting, telephone, or talking to others or reading.

Make your own water watcher card to ensure that your water watcher is clearly identifiable to all. Rotate water watchers in designated periods of time, such as every 15 minutes. As water watchers rotate, pass the card to the new water watcher.

Go to redcross.org/waterwatchercard to make your own water watcher card.

Chain of Drowning Survival

A person who is drowning has the greatest chance of survival if these steps are followed:

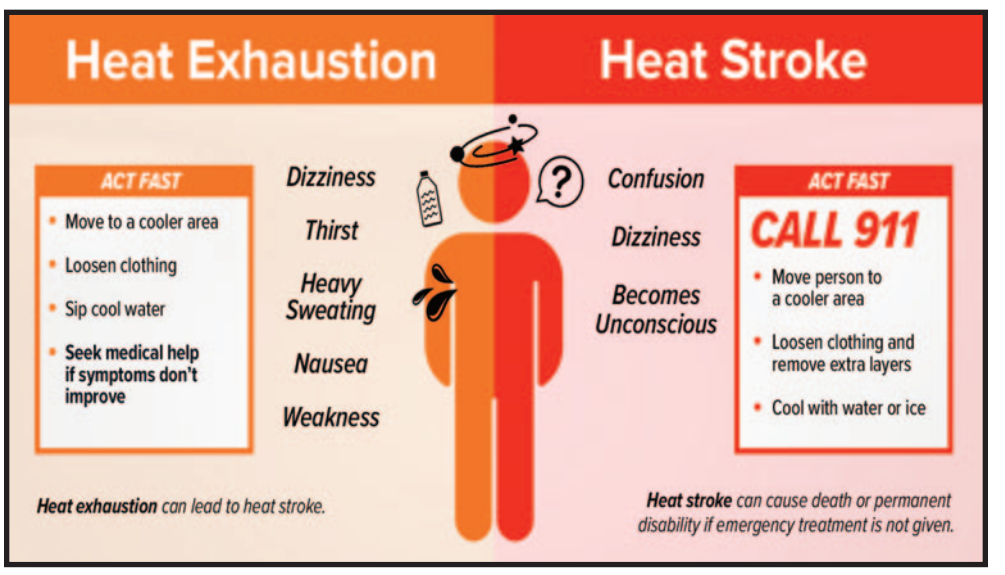
• Recognize the signs of someone in trouble and shout for help.

• Rescue and remove the person from the water (without putting yourself in danger).

• Ask someone to call Emergency Medical Services (EMS). If alone, give 2 minutes of care, then call EMS.

• Begin rescue breathing and CPR.

• Use and AED if available and transfer care to advanced life support.



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• Buy gift cards for later
• Consider shopping small first
• Order Takeout or Delivery
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• Shop now for later

BE CARING

• Show your Appreciation
• Check in with small business owners and employees
• Refer your faves to family and friends
• Reschedule, if needed. Don't cancel.

Small businesses contribute to the unique identities of communities.

From Suburban Newspapers Staff

Fascinating Facts about the American Flag

These facts highlight the rich history, symbolism, and protocol associated with the American flag, making it a cherished national symbol.

• **Design Evolution:** The current design of the American flag, featuring 13 stripes and 50 stars, has been in use since July 4, 1960, after Hawaii became the 50th state.

• **Stars and Stripes:** The flag consists of 13 horizontal stripes, alternating red and white, representing the original 13 colonies that declared independence from Britain.

• **Symbolism of Colors:** Red symbolizes valor and bravery, white represents purity and innocence, and blue signifies vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

• **Stars Represent States:** The 50 stars on the flag represent the 50 states of the United States of America.

• **Origin:** The first official national flag, known as the "Stars and Stripes," was adopted on June 14, 1777.

• **Betsy Ross:** Betsy Ross is credited with sewing the first American flag based on a design presented to her by a congressional committee in 1776.

• **Standard Dimensions:** There are standard proportions and dimensions for the flag, including the ratio of the flag's width to its length being 10:19.

• **Flag Day:** June 14th is celebrated as Flag Day in the United States to commemorate the adoption of the flag in 1777.

• **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was written in 1892 and has been modified several times since.

• **Folding Tradition:** There is a specific protocol for folding the American flag, which involves 13 folds, each with symbolic meaning.

• **Half-Staff Protocol:** The flag is flown at half-staff to signify mourning or respect, and there are specific guidelines on when and how to do this.

• **Apollo 11 Mission:** The American flag was famously planted on the moon on July 20, 1969, during the Apollo 11 mission.

• **Executive Order 10834:** This order by President Eisenhower in 1959 established the current design configuration of the flag with 50 stars arranged in nine rows of stars staggered horizontally and eleven rows of stars staggered vertically.

• **Respect and Care:** There are guidelines on how to properly display and care for the flag, including rules about its illumination and handling.

• **Legal Protection:** The flag is protected by federal law against desecration and disrespect, although interpretations and applications of these laws have been debated.

From the Texas Department of Transportation

TxDOT Asking for Feedback on Record $104 Billion 10-Year Plan

To help keep a thriving Texas economy moving, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is drafting a record-breaking 10-year transportation plan, and the public is invited to weigh in on potential projects in communities across the state.

The 2025 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) draft proposes $104.2 billion in transportation spending, making it the second year in a row that the UTP plan exceeds $100 billion.

The UTP provides a road map to help develop projects around Texas to improve safety, address congestion and connectivity, and preserve roadways for Texas drivers. The UTP also addresses public transportation, maritime, aviation, rail, freight and international trade, and bicycle and pedestrian connectivity. TxDOT works with its transportation partners to identify projects to be included in the UTP and updates it every year.

"The UTP serves as TxDOT's strategic 10-year blueprint for advancing projects statewide," said Executive Director Marc Williams. "Collaborating with our transportation partners and communities ensures that we continue connecting you with Texas while prioritizing safety, delivery, innovation and stewardship."

TxDOT invites the public to learn about the draft of the 2025 UTP and offer comments during a virtual public hearing on Wednesday, July 31, at 2 p.m.

The public may join the meetings virtually by phone or online at TxDOT.gov.

The "draft 2025 UTP" public comment period begins Friday, July 5, and ends Monday, Aug. 5, at 4 p.m. Visit the UTP Public Involvement webpage to learn more ways to offer comment. Both the public meeting and hearing presentations will be recorded and available for viewing during the time period. An online comment form link is also available for submission in English, Arabic, Cantonese, Hindi, Mandarin, Spanish and Vietnamese.

Public comments and feedback are important in developing the plan. Available in English and Spanish, the UTP Fact Sheet provides an overview of the program.

The Texas Transportation Commission approves the UTP annually in accordance with Texas state law at its August commission meeting and publishes the approved UTP on TxDOT.gov.

Contact TxDOT Public Information Officer Alice Rios at mary.shaw@txdot.gov or 214-770-1020 if you have questions.

The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, maritime, rail and public transportation across the state.

Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

American Inventor and Engineer - Otis Boykin

Persistence makes all the difference, whether in history or science. And it is that persistence that can change the world, in ways both large and subtle. The work of engineer Otis Boykin helped facilitate a revolution in electronics, from the pacemaker to guided missiles.

Boykin was born in Dallas in August 1920. His parents had very modest means but worked very hard. His mother was a maid, and his father was a carpenter. However, his mother's health was weak, and she died of heart failure when Boykin was just a year old. His father struggled on and eventually became a minister.

Boykin proved to be a brilliant and hard-working student. He graduated at the top of his class from the segregated Booker T. Washington High School in Dallas. He won a scholarship to Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, a respected, historically African-American university. While a student at Fisk, he worked at the university's aeronautics lab, where researchers devised new components and designs for aircraft. He graduated in 1941.

Not long after graduation, he moved to Chicago where he started working for a number of engineering firms. He began working with and developing new electrical systems. By the end of World War II, Boykin decided to move on and start his own company, Boykin-Fruth, Inc., a research and consulting firm. He also decided to expand his educational horizons and began graduate school at the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1946. In spite of his passion for learning, he had to drop out the next year because of high costs.

Boykin began working with and developing new types of resistors, electrical components that regulate the flow of electricity in a circuit. Resistors were a critical part of the electronics revolution that emerged in the 1960s and 1970s as improvements helped make all sorts of electrical devices more durable, more efficient, and cheaper. In 1959, Boykin received his first of 26 patents for a wire precision resistor. In 1961, he received another patent for a new, inexpensive, and more efficient resistor.

Computer giant IBM quickly became interested in Boykin's new resistors and began incorporating them into their new generation of mainframe computers and experimental computers and circuits. As a result, IBM began to make computers that were smaller and faster. His components also began being used in such products as television sets. Before long, the military became interested and started using his resistors in new guided missile systems.

Perhaps his greatest impact was his work with the pacemaker. The pacemaker itself is a simple device with two components: the pulse generator, which contains a battery that sends the electrical impulses to the heart, which are regulated by Boykin's resistors, and the electrical leads connecting to the heart. The ability to regulate the heartbeat through the resistor makes the pacemaker practical. Pacemakers today are used to treat abnormal heartbeats, heart failure, and a variety of other heart ailments. They are installed in relatively minor procedures. Pacemakers are sometimes installed temporarily for patients recovering from heart attacks. Thousands of people now have pacemakers, saving countless lives.

In the mid-1960s, he left for France to continue working as a consultant. Boykin continued developing new electrical components and other devices. He also invented a chemical air filter and a theft-proof cash register.

In his later years, he returned to Chicago where he continued to tinker with new devices. However, his health started to fail. In spite of his work with the pacemaker that saved countless others, Boykin's genius could not save himself from his own heart problems. His condition was beyond the reach of medicine as it existed at that point. He died of heart failure in 1982 at the age of 62.

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO RIVER OAKS RESIDENTS

The 2023 Water Quality Report for the City of River Oaks, also known as "The Consumer Confidence Report" (CCR), is available to the public as mandated by the EPA and as controlled by the TCEQ. The CCR details where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares with regulatory standards. The CCR was mailed to all water customers on June 28, 2024 and copies of the report are also available in the City Hall located at 4900 River Oaks Blvd. For more information, please contact the City Manager at 817-626-5421, Ext. 324.

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el aqua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono Ana Padilla al tel. 817-626-5421 ext. 314.

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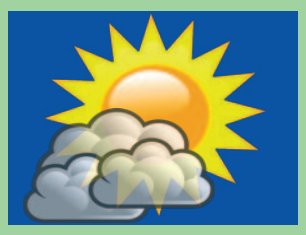
Weekend Forecast

Friday, July 5:

AM - A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 94. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north northeast in the afternoon.
PM - A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 74. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.



Saturday, July 6:

AM - A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 92. North northeast wind around 5 mph becoming east in the afternoon.
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 74. East southeast wind around 5 mph.

Sunday, July 7:

AM - Mostly sunny, with a high near 95. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
PM - A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1am. Mostly clear, with a low around 73.

Extended Forecast Click Here