



River Oaks News

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Thanksgiving Proclamation

New York, 3 October 1789

By the President of the United States of America, a
Proclamation.

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor - and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me “to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.”

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be - That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks - for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation - for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his Providence which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war - for the great degree of tranquillity, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed - for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted - for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer

upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions - to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually - to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed - to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord - To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the encrease of science among them and us - and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New-York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

George Washington

From the Sports Desk with John Loven

Lady Lions Win Home Opener

The season has already begun for the Castleberry Lady Lions 2022-23 basketball team. They opened up on the road against Benbrook, a 32-28 loss on Nov. 8; and traveled to Paschal to play in their tournament on Nov. 10-12. They came home on Tuesday, Nov. 15 to play (continued on page 5)

Happy Thanksgiving!

May you & your family be blessed with prosperity, good health and happiness!

~ from the staff of the River Oaks News ~

Bo Underwood, Publisher

Emily Moxley, Editor

Vee Horn, Denise Honeycutt and John Loven

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From Carter BloodCare

Friends of the Benbrook Library to Host Community Blood Drive in December

This holiday season, residents are invited to give a gift that makes a lifesaving difference for neighbors in need. Donating blood helps local patients in urgent need of transfusions because of surgeries, severe trauma, cancer treatments, organ transplants, difficulties during childbirth, and age-related health issues.

The need for blood is nonstop, even during the holidays. In fact, every two seconds, someone needs a lifesaving transfusion.

The Friends of the Benbrook Library will host a Carter BloodCare community blood drive on Friday, Dec. 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Carter BloodCare Bus in the parking lot of Library located at 1065

Mercedes Street in Benbrook.

Those wishing to donate are requested to select a time slot when you [sign up online](#).

For more information, email friends@benbrooklibrary.org.

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Editor: Emily Moxley, suburbannews@sbcglobal.net

Classifieds: Vee Horn, ca.suburbannews@sbcglobal.net

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817-246-2473

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- **Stay Informed.** There are various apps and alerts you can sign up for to stay on top of any weather developments. You can get the latest storm forecasts online from NOAA's National

Don't wait until an emergency is looming to prepare. Taking key actions now can help you stay safe, informed and connected during a natural disaster, and help you recover in the aftermath.

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Congressman Jack Brooks *by Dr. Ken Bridges*

The machineries of government can be used for good or ill. Some politicians abuse their offices or use them strictly to destroy their political opponents while others try to uplift their communities and make life better for others.

With his more than four decades in Congress, Jack Brooks became an iconic figure who instituted many changes for Southeast Texas.



Jack Bascom Brooks was born in Crowley, Louisiana, in the southern part of the state, in 1922. His family moved to the Beaumont area in 1928. The family struggled in the midst of the Great Depression while Brooks attended Beaumont schools. He earned a scholarship to attend Lamar Junior College when he graduated high school in 1939, majoring in journalism. In 1941, he transferred to the University of Texas where he earned his bachelors degree in 1943.

The nation was in the midst of World War II when Brooks graduated. He enlisted in the Marines in November 1942 as a private while still a student and was sent to the Pacific after graduation. He saw action in some of the fiercest battles of the Pacific Theater, including Guadalcanal and Okinawa. He was honorably discharged as a first lieutenant in 1946. He would later return to the Marine Reserves and serve until his retirement as a colonel in 1972.

Brooks was part of the wave of veterans turning to public service after the war. He was elected to represent Jefferson County in the Texas House of Representatives later in 1946. While serving in the state legislature, he started attending law school at the University of Texas in order to better understand the lawmaking process and to become a better legislator. He earned his law degree in 1949. That same year, he successfully pushed through legislation making Lamar Junior College a four-year college as Lamar University.

He decided not to seek re-election in 1950, instead building a law practice and operating a farm he had bought near Beaumont. In 1952, the ailing Congressman Jesse Combs announced he would not be seeking re-election to the seat he had held since 1945. Brooks jumped into the race to succeed Combs and defeated an army of 12 other candidates to win the Democratic nomination. He went on to win the general election with 79 percent of the vote and was unopposed for re-election in 1954, 1956, and 1958.

As a congressman, Brooks was an early protégé of Sam Rayburn, who ultimately became Speaker of the House. He was also a strong supporter of the oil industry and worked to bring fed-

eral projects to the Texas Gulf Coast. In 1963, he was part of the tragic motorcade that included President John F. Kennedy, Vice-President Lyndon Johnson, and a host of other Texas dignitaries in Dallas when Kennedy was assassinated. Brooks was aboard Air Force One later that day when Johnson was sworn in as president by Judge Sarah T. Hughes.

Brooks was a strong supporter of Johnson's Great Society programs, helping write groundbreaking civil rights legislation, voting for the establishment of Medicare and Medicaid, and expanding federal aid for college students. During his years in Congress, he served on many committees and ultimately came to chair the House Judiciary Committee and the Committee on Government Operations.

As the Watergate Scandal unfolded during the presidency of Richard Nixon, Brooks became an outspoken investigator into the crimes Nixon had committed, including Nixon's collusion in the break-ins of the offices of his political opponents and subsequent cover-ups. It was Brooks who drew up the five articles of impeachment that the House Judiciary Committee voted on in July 1974, which led Nixon to refer to Brooks as his executioner. The committee rejected two articles, one related to Nixon's acceptance of bribes and related income tax evasion and the other for Nixon's illegal bombing of Cambodia in 1970. Instead, the three articles of impeachment dealt strictly with the events surrounding the break-in of Democratic headquarters at the Watergate complex. Nixon resigned rather than face the humiliation of impeachment.

In 1994, Steve Stockman faced off against Brooks in a rematch for the seat. Though Brooks had defeated Stockman comfortably in 1992 with 56 percent of the vote, the unpopularity of the Clinton administration, coupled with the 1994 ban on semiautomatic weapons, cost Brooks. He narrowly lost the race with 49 percent of the vote. It was his only electoral defeat. He had one of the longest tenures of service in Congress ever and the second-longest for any Texas Congressman, second only to Sam Rayburn. After 42 years in Congress, Brooks moved into a quiet retirement.

Brooks became a respected figure in the region. A statue of him was erected at Lamar University. A park in Galveston was named for him. In 2010, Jefferson County renamed the Southeast Texas Regional Airport near Port Arthur in honor of Brooks.

In 2012, he died just shy of his 90th birthday.

***River Oaks City Hall will be closed
Thursday, Nov. 24 and Friday, Nov. 25
in observance of Thanksgiving.***

Tupelo to Vegas Liberty Hall

Tupelo to Vegas produced by Stardom Entertainment features Elvis Tribute Artist Ben Thompson (Vegas Elvis), Moses Snow (Tupelo Elvis), David Allen (Emcee) plus Shake Rattle & Roll, and backed by the World-Famous Tribute Band, Fever The Band. Combine all these talents together into one performance, you'll have one Rock'n'Roll production for everyone from age 6 to 106.

Stardom Entertainment's newest production *Tupelo To Vegas* takes you through a musical ride of the dynamic career of Elvis Aaron Presley. *Tupelo to Vegas* begins in 1954 at Sun Records in Memphis, Tenn. where Elvis recorded his first song for his mom, Gladys Presley, continues to the Louisiana Hayride 1954-1956 era, then the rock'n'roll era of the late 50s. The journey continues to the movie years, 1956-1969, and closes with the glitz and glamor of Las Vegas & Elvis On Tour years 1969-1977.

Tupelo to Vegas is a musical journey from 1954 to 1977 created by the talents of 2018 Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Champion, Ben Thompson and 2021 Images of The King Champion, Moses Snow backed by Fever The Band, with special guest, Shake Rattle & Roll.

Multi-award-winning Elvis Tribute Artist Ben Thompson from London, England is one of the select few who has the ability to successfully recreate all the eras of Elvis.

Maintaining the authentic high energy performances and the charming charisma that Elvis was known for, has led the 27 year old to travel the world keeping Elvis' legacy alive. Ben's performances are truly respectful and authentic to represent such a name as Elvis Presley. He was crowned Graceland's Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Champion in 2018.

He has performed with Elvis' original backing singers on 30 occasions, which gave Ben the chance to experience one of his dreams. He also starred as Elvis Presley in the blockbuster film *Bladerunner 2049* alongside Harrison Ford.

Moses Snow, winner of the Images of The King Champion 2021, is from Haslet. Moses is a one-of-a-kind Young Elvis Presley Tribute Artist (ETA). He started his journey in the Elvis music world at the young age of 13 and is considered by many to be the future of the Elvis Tribute World! Moses has entertained both nationally and internationally. With his swift moves and boyish charm, you will make you think you are genuinely watching Elvis in the early career of the 1950s.

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Lady Lions Basketball

(continued from page 1)

Diamond Hill.

The Lady Lions ran out to an 11-point lead in the first quarter and never looked back. They completely dominated the Lady Eagles and went on to win 51-24.

Senior Anna Medina (#34) had a phenomenal first quarter for Castleberry. She scored nine of CHS's 13 points, and had four steals and one block – all in the first quarter! This helped the Lady Lions race out to a 13-2 lead at the end of the quarter.

The Lady Lions used their height advantage over the Lady Eagles and continued their dominance into the second quarter. This quarter was led by senior Jacklyn Ortiz (#10) who score 7 points in the period for Castleberry. The Lady Lions increased their lead to 28-6 by halftime.

Any chance Diamond Hill might have thought they had to get back into the game was quickly squashed in the opening minutes of the third quarter. Castleberry scored the first 9 points of the quarter. This gave the Lady Lions a 37-6 lead and basically iced the game for Castleberry. No less than five Lady Lions scored points in the third quarter. Castleberry entered the final quarter with a 43-13 lead.

The fourth quarter was the best quarter for Diamond Hill. They scored 11 points – nine of which came on three 3-pointers (the Lady Eagles were 3 of 9 from 'downtown' in the fourth quarter). But it was far too little too late. The Lady Lions only scored 8 points in the quarter but still won in a lopsided score of 51-24.

The team had a very balanced attack. Nine girls put up points for the Lady Lions. They were led by Medina (#34) with 13 points. Right behind her was Ortiz (#10) with 12 points. Junior Natalie Diaz (#2) scored 6 points. She was followed by senior Katelynn Smith (#24), Elise Lopez (#11), sophomore Jayleen Lopez (#3), and Marianna Giron (#4) who each scored 4 points apiece. Rounding out the scoring was sophomore Madalynn Michaels (#21) and junior Arleth Resendiz (#1) who both scored 2 points.

The Lady Lions play Carter Riverside at home on Nov. 21. They will then travel to Polytechnic to play on Nov. 29. The varsity game is scheduled to tip off at 6:15 p.m. on both nights. Go Lady Lions!



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From the White House Historical Association

A History of White House Presidential Turkey Pardons

Beginning with George Washington, many presidents declared their own days of thanksgiving before Abraham Lincoln made it an official holiday in 1863 and Franklin D. Roosevelt signed legislation in 1941 designating the fourth Thursday in November as the federal Thanksgiving Day holiday.

Reports of turkeys as gifts to American presidents can be traced back to the 1870s.

Turkey presentations at the White House became national news in the 1920s with accounts of turkeys taking exciting cross-country trips to the White House and arriving dressed for the occasion in goggles and sweaters, inside their decorated coops.

John F. Kennedy was the first to unofficially pardon a turkey by telling attendees at the presentation, "Let's keep him going."

Patricia Nixon sent gifted turkeys to Oxon Hill Children's Farm, while Rosalynn Carter sent some to a Evans Farm Inn to live in a miniature zoo.

In 1989, the formalities of pardoning a turkey became a White House Thanksgiving tradition when George H.W. Bush remarked, "Let me assure you, and this fine tom turkey, that he will not end up on anyone's dinner table, not this guy -- he's granted a Presidential pardon as of right now -- and allow him to live out his days on a children's farm not far from here."

Since then, each year the president has pardoned a turkey or two in an official ceremony.

Happy Thanksgiving

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Three Day Weekend Forecast



Friday, Nov. 25:

AM - A 20% chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 54. North wind 15-to-20mph, with gusts as high as 30mph.
PM - A 20% chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 43.



Saturday, Nov. 26:

AM - Mostly sunny, with a high near 59.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 44.



Sunday, Nov. 27:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 63.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 45.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)