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River Oaks News

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From the Sports Desk with John Loven

Lions Close to Upset of Cougars but Fall in Second Half

Castleberry head football coach Juan Silva had his team ready for their game against Western Hills. The Lions were coming off their first win of the season the week before against Diamond Hill (38-0). But the Cougars were also coming off a win as well and sported a nice 4-2 record (2-1 in district). They were averaging 41 points a game with a very strong rushing attack featuring a nice 1-2 punch with their starting quarterback (Keyon Butler) and running back (Tyreke Lewis). On paper, this game looked to heavily favor the Cougars. But we all know games are not played “on paper.” Castleberry gave Western Hills all they wanted and then some. The Lions scored first and led at the end of the first quarter. With just under 4 minutes left until halftime the game was tied. But the turnover bug hit the Lions in the second half and they could not keep pace with the Cougars scoring and eventually fell 50-35.

Castleberry kicked off to begin the game. The defense looked great on the first WHHS drive, and they forced a three-and-out. After a short 28-yard Cougar punt, the Lions began on their own 36-yard line. Sophomore Cayden Perez (#6) opened up at quarterback and quickly asserted himself by gaining 30 yards rushing on his first three plays. Senior running back Miguel Arroyo (#32) then ran for 6 yards before Perez (#6) finished the five-play drive with a 28-yard touchdown run. Perez then ran in the 2-point conversion to give CHS the lead 8-0 with 8:28 left in the first quarter.

It took the Cougars one play to respond. On first down their running back out-ran the Lion defenders for a 79-yard touchdown run. However, their point-after-touchdown was no good and they still trailed 8-6 with 7:58 left in the quar- (continued on page 5)

From Castleberry ISD

Castleberry HS Scheduled to Host Community Blood Drive Event

Castleberry High School Student Council is hosting a community blood drive with Carter BloodCare on Thursday, Oct. 27 from 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The event will take place on the Carter BloodCare Bus, which will be parked in front of W.O. Barnes Stadium located at 4801 Blackstone Drive in Fort Worth.

High school blood drives help to develop student leaders and give many their first taste of civic involvement. CHS student, Saleyah Z., VP of Stuco said, “By hosting blood drives on campus, we can develop leadership skills, help those in need, and inspire students and staff to volunteer and be involved with the community.” Additionally, high school students often want to donate blood because it gives them an unmatched sense of accomplishment – they’ve helped save a life!

Another student, Manuel N., said he hopes to “Motivate kids to continue donating in their adult life, as well.” Some of today’s most dedicated blood donors began giving blood in high school.

Since blood transfusion is an essential part of medical care, CHS is excited about partnering with Carter BloodCare and invites the community to participate to ensure blood availability for patients in more than 200 hospitals and healthcare facilities across north, central and east Texas.

Carter BloodCare is the preferred partner for the campus when hosting blood drives. “I prefer Carter Blood Care over the American Red Cross for several reasons. First, they [Carter BloodCare] have a leadership workshop every year that we [Student Council] participate in,” said Lauren McCrary, who has organized the blood drive events for the high school since 2011. “Second, they [Carter BloodCare] have a (continued on page 2)

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Hello Fellow District 99 Residents,

My name is Mimi Coffey and I am running to be your State Representative. I have spent most of my entire life in District 99. I have raised my 4 children here. As a defense attorney of 27 years, I am used to fighting uphill battles and negotiating. I will fight hard for the needs of our northwest Tarrant County residents.

Our property taxes are too high. Women's reproductive rights have been taken away. Our public schools are in a crisis with a shortage of teachers. It is getting harder for the majority of northwest Texans to make ends meet with rising costs. As a small business owner of 22 years, I know what it takes to run a successful business and take care of your people. The pandemic has taught us that to survive we must embrace change. I am ready to serve both Democrats and Republicans alike. District 99 is military and defense industry heavy. I understand and respect this as my father served in the Army and retired from Lockheed-Martin (General Dynamics). I have the utmost respect for our incumbent representative and if elected, plan to continue his tradition of excellent service to the community.

I invite you to visit my website, mimicoffeyfordistrict99.com for more information. I'm asking for your vote so that we can put PEOPLE OVER POLITICS. Feel free to text or call me direct at 817-205-4861.

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Community Blood Drive (continued from page 1)

great grants program for schools that meet their blood drive goals. Third, their staff [Carter BloodCare] are more experienced at drawing blood."

This blood drive event is not limited to students. The community and Castleberry ISD employees are encouraged to take part in this life saving event.

Important Reminders for Donors

- Donors must be at least 17 years old (or 16 years old with parental consent) to donate.
- Donors must weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good general health.
- Must bring photo ID.
- Students with a tattoo or body piercing can donate blood if the procedure was in a licensed Texas facility. No wait time is required.
- Be sure to eat a good meal and drink plenty of fluids prior to and after their donation. Carter BloodCare offers fluids and snacks before and after the donation.
- Avoid strenuous activity for at least 24 hours after donating.

Carter BloodCare is committed to helping donors have the best possible experi-

ence while participating in this valuable community service. After the donation, if you or your child have any medical questions, please contact the Carter BloodCare Donor Advocate Department.

Castleberry High School has been awarded a grant from Carter BloodCare for the past two years. McCrary said, "For the 2019-2020 school year we received a \$1,000 grant and for the 2021-2022 school year we received a \$500 grant."

For questions or concerns, please contact: event organizer Lauren McCrary 817-252-2150.

Important Information

[Click here](#) to reserve your spot at this blood drive.

[Click here](#) to download the Parental Consent form (for students 16 years old).



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CISD Students Interview Founder Of Wakelet for Podcast



Castleberry ISD’s STEM @ River District students had a rare opportunity last week when the team members of Wakelet, a digital curation platform, traveled to the USA from Manchester, United Kingdom, to be guests on the first episode of the district's new student podcast series.

The Lion’s Tech Tips podcast series aims to explore all the ways Irma Marsh Middle School students use tech for good as responsible digital sportsmanship, inside and outside the classroom. In the inaugural first episode of the series recorded last Thursday, the Lion’s Tech Tips crew interviewed Jamil Khalil, Founder of Wakelet, and Tisha Poncio, Digital Learning Specialist, to learn how the resource Wakelet can be used as tech for good.

“Wakelet is the EdTech party bus. What Wakelet does is provide students the opportunity to share out with the world while learning how to make good choices with the content they’re curating,” said Poncio, during recording.

Additionally, all CISD STEM @ River District and CTE students heard from Khalil, about how he came up with the idea to create the digital curation tool that is now used world-wide. Castleberry ISD students have access to the free online resource and are encouraged to create their own portfolio, work on group projects, and much more, all while utilizing tech for good.

Learn more about Castleberry ISD and the events happening in the district at www.castleberryisd.net.

The North Fort Worth Historical Society's
16th Annual Saints and Sinners Tour
October 29 & 30, 2022
Oakwood Cemetery
701 Grand Avenue

Walking Tours: 1:00 pm and 3:30 pm on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.
Adults-\$15 and Students/Children \$10
(Pay Admission at the Gate)

***NOTICE:** There will NOT be Twilight Tours this year due to the close proximity of seating in the Chapel. Social Distancing is not possible and we want to keep everyone safe.

For more information please call 817-625-5082 or email: nfwhs@sbcglobal.net

A group of people dressed in historical costumes are standing in a cemetery. They are wearing long dresses, hats, and other period clothing. The background shows tombstones and trees.

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A Harley motorcycle is shown on a large crescent moon. The motorcycle is a classic cruiser style with a large engine and a tall seat.

Three pumpkins with carved faces are on the left, and a friendly-looking ghost is on the right. The pumpkins have different expressions, some happy and some scary.

The Brothers Lubbock - Politicians and Civil War Figures

by Dr. Ken Bridges

Two orphaned brothers headed west in search of adventure and a new life. The story is common in the annals of the frontier. In the case of brothers Francis and Thomas Lubbock of South Carolina, their story would play an important role in Texas history.

Francis Richard Lubbock was born in Beaufort, South Carolina, in 1815 to Dr. Henry and Ann Lubbock. While still an infant, the family moved to Charleston, where younger brother Thomas was born in 1817. Tragedy struck the family in 1829 when their father died. With the family struggling, the 14-year-old Francis quit school to work as a clerk.

In 1835, after the death of their mother, the two brothers moved to New Orleans, where the elder Lubbock worked with a variety of businesses and the 17-year-old Thomas worked as a cotton agent. The revolution erupting in Texas captivated their attention.

Thomas Lubbock and a group of other New Orleans residents organized a unit, the New Orleans Grays, and marched into Texas to support independence. He participated in the Siege of Bexar in late 1835, temporarily wresting San Antonio from Mexican control. After the Texas Revolution, he worked as a businessman and a Texas Ranger.

In 1836, Francis Lubbock followed his brother to Texas and settled in what became Houston and set up a store. He became heavily involved in politics and was appointed as comptroller by Texas President Sam Houston in 1837.

In 1857, he was elected lieutenant governor of the state but lost re-election in 1859 to Ed Clark, a Unionist. Nevertheless, Lubbock was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1860. He and other southern delegates clashed with northern delegates over the conciliatory platform they pushed to preserve the Union. The Democratic Party fractured, and a convention of southern Democrats, chaired by Lubbock, pushed their own candidate, Vice-President John Breckinridge over the national Democratic candidate, Stephen A. Douglas.

In the meantime, Thomas Lubbock was an ardent secessionist and campaigned for years for secession. Once Texas seceded in 1861, he went to Virginia to enlist in the Confederate Army, fighting in the Army of Northern Virginia during the Civil War. He saw many battles and died at a Kentucky hospital in 1862 as a colonel at age 44.

Ed Clark became governor in 1861 after then-Gov. Sam Houston was forced from office. That fall, Lubbock challenged his old foe Clark in the gubernatorial election. Lubbock won by a scant 124-vote margin.

As governor, the Civil War was the focus of Francis Lubbock's administration. He was an outspoken defender of the Confederacy and the draft. He even pushed for drafting non-citizens into the

army as well. He attempted to increase trade with Mexico, even offering to trade United States bonds held by Texas and cotton for weapons. Lubbock attempted to spur defense manufacturing in Texas, to little effect. The chaotic whirlwind of Civil War politics consumed his administration, and he declined to run for re-election in 1863.

Lubbock enlisted in the Confederate Army at the age of 46 and was made a lieutenant colonel. He helped organize supplies and troops for the defense of Louisiana during the 1864 Red River campaign and served on the staff of several generals. In August 1864, Lubbock was appointed as a military aide to Confederate President Jefferson Davis. He went to Virginia to update Davis on activities west of the Mississippi River. This voyage was made even more difficult with the Union naval blockade of the South and that Union forces now controlled the Mississippi River, cutting the Confederacy in half. Lubbock spent the next several months in Richmond, watching the Confederacy disintegrate as Union forces encircled the city and laid siege to it.

The Union Army broke through Confederate lines in April 1865, and the Confederate government fled, Lubbock included. Davis, Lubbock, and a number of others headed south in a mad flight to avoid capture and to try to keep their government alive. Several days later, Lubbock was captured in Georgia. He was held at an army prison in Delaware where he awaited his fate. After eight months, he was released as part of an amnesty program and returned to Texas.

In 1876, the Texas legislature organized Lubbock County in West Texas in honor of Thomas Lubbock. Its namesake city was organized a few years later and a century later would grow to a city of more than a quarter of a million residents.

The surviving Lubbock brother, Francis, continued to piece his life back together after the Civil War and Reconstruction and eventually re-entered politics. He served as state treasurer from 1878 to 1891.

Francis Lubbock died quietly at his home in Austin in 1905 at age 89.

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CHS Football (continued from page 1)

ter.

The Lions second possession began with Perez (#6) getting injured and was forced to leave the field (he did not return to play). Sophomore Demetrius Valadez (#7) came in and finished the game as the Lions quarterback. On third-and-11, he connected with senior A.J. Silva (#3) for a 16-yard gain and a first down. Arroyo (#32) then gained 39 yards on back-to-back runs. Later the eight-play drive ended when Valadez (#7) ran 17 yards for a touchdown. Senior Diego Torres (#8) point-after-touchdown was good. With 5:16 still left in the first quarter the Lions were ahead 15-6 over the surprised Cougars. However, another big play for Western Hills got them right back in the game when on third-and-six the Cougars quarterback ran for 71 yards for a score. Their 2-point conversion left them trailing by 1 point (15-14) with 3:44 left in the quarter.

The Cougar defense was able to contain the Lions offense on their next possession. A nice 50-yard punt by Torres (#8) left the Cougars to start deep in their own end of the field on the 7-yard line. A 67-yard run on second down by the Cougars quarterback quickly got them out of that hole. Two plays later he threw a 23-yard pass for a touchdown to end the 93-yard drive. Two-point conversion failed but the Cougars did take the lead 20-15 with 46 seconds still left in the first quarter. Big plays were killing the Lions as they had given up runs of 79, 71, and 67 yards which led to three touchdowns.

As hard as it may seem, the scoring was not yet over in the first quarter. Sophomore Daniel Ortiz (#2) had a very nice run back of 26 yards of the short Cougar kickoff. This set the Lions up on the Cougar 41-yard line. Valadez (#7) then ripped off a 41-yard run for another touchdown. The 2-point conversion failed but the Lions had regained the lead 21-20 with 27 seconds still left in the first quarter. A wild first quarter finally came to an end after a combined six touchdowns had been scored.

The Cougars were finally forced to actually drive the ball on their next possession, and the Lions finally limited the big plays. However, Western Hills was able to march 86 yards on a 13-play drive. The drive was aided by two 15-yard penalties against the Lions plus a Cougar fumble which was recovered by another Cougar. Their quarterback finished the drive with a 6-yard run for a score. The two-point conversion was good and Western Hills regained the lead 28-21 (5:17/second quarter). The teams exchanged turnovers on the next two plays. First CHS, on a fumble on the Western Hills kickoff. But the Cougars fumbled on their next play and Silva (#3) picked it up and ran it out to the Lions 31-yard line. Valadez (#7) sprinted for 50 yards before being caught. Then, two plays later, he ran 19 more yards for the score. Torres' (#8) point-after-touchdown was good and with 3:49 left until halftime the score was tied 28-28.

But on this wild night, the scoring was not yet done for the half. The Lions pooch kick backfired and the Cougars ran it back

past midfield for excellent field position on their final first half possession. Seven plays later they faced a fourth-and-goal from the 7-yard line as time was running out in the half. Their quarterback found his receiver in the endzone for a touchdown with just six seconds left in the half. Two point try was successful and just like that the Cougars took the lead back 36-28. Junior Alex Veliz (#9) had a nice 40 yard run back of the ensuing Cougar kickoff as time expired and the teams left for their lockerooms for halftime.

The Lions received the second half kickoff. They quickly marched the ball 32 yards in five plays to the Cougars 38-yard line. At this point it seemed the Lions became "snake bit" for the second half. They fumbled the ball on their next play and a Cougar picked it up and ran it back for a touchdown. Two point try failed but Western Hills extended their lead to 42-28 (9:54/third).

Two plays later the Lions fumbled again and gave the ball to the Cougars in great field position on the 29-yard line. But the Lion defense rose up and stopped the Cougars on fourth-and-one on the 20-yard line. But CHS failed to move the ball and were forced to punt. The punt snap sailed over Torres' head and he was tackled on his own 3-yard line, giving the ball back to the Cougars. Western Hills scored two plays later and converted the 2-point conversion. Their lead now increased to 50-28 (5:23/third). The Lions had committed three turnovers in three second half possession which had led to 14 points.

But the Lions still had plenty of fight left in them. They took the next Cougar kickoff and began on their own 22-yard line. Ten plays later they had moved 52 yards, mostly on runs by sophomore Demonte Washington (#25) and a nice throw by Valadez (#7) to junior Riley Bentley (#11). But on fourth-and-six from the Cougar 26-yard line their pass fell incomplete and the Lions turned the ball over on downs.

The Lions continued to fight. The defense forced a punt and CHS got the ball near midfield in good field position. Five plays later they were on the Cougars 15-yard line knocking on the door step. But again, the Lions shot themselves in their own foot when they lost their third fumble of the second half (fourth in the game). But again, the defense held and forced another Cougar punt. Castleberry got the ball back and began on their own 23-yard line. They move the ball 20 yards out to the 43 but on fourth-and-two they failed to convert.

The Lions were still fighting down to the very end. The defense forced yet another punt. Their final possession began on their own 3-yard line. Veliz (#9) ran for 13 yards before Valadez (#7) connected with Silva (#3) on an exciting 54-yard reception. A late hit penalty tacked on 15 more yards on the play. On third-and-goal Veliz (#9) got the touchdown to cap off a 97-yard drive with just 12 seconds left. Torres' (#8) point-after-touchdown was good. The Lions had fought hard but could not overcome second half turnovers and lost 50-35.

Castleberry returns to W.O. Barnes Stadium on Friday, Oct. 21. They will face Dunbar with kickoff at 7:30 p.m. Go Lions!

What to Do if Your Mortgage Application is Denied

If you dream of homeownership, having your mortgage application denied can be devastating. If this does happen to you, it's important to remember that you're not alone. Thirteen percent of all purchase mortgage applications -- a total of nearly 650,000 -- were denied in 2020, according to federal government data.

Before quickly reapplying for a loan, it's important to first understand the reasons your loan was denied. The lender is required to disclose that information to you within 30 days of its decision. You can also call your lender for further explanation. Having this knowledge will help you work toward building your eligibility for a mortgage.

In some instances, the situation involves a quick fix, such as providing missing or incomplete documentation. However, if the reasons cited for your application denial involve down payment cost, a low credit score, an adverse credit history or a high debt-to-income ratio, here are six steps you can take toward recovery:

1. Consult a Housing Counselor. Consider speaking to a community-based credit counselor or a HUD-certified housing counselor. They can help you create a plan to increase your savings, decrease your debt, improve your credit, access down payment assistance or take advantage of first-time homebuyer programs.

2. Improve Your Credit. In a 2022 Freddie Mac survey of consumers denied a mortgage application in the past four years, three in five cited debt or credit issues as reasons given for their initial denial. If this describes you, take time to improve your credit profile before applying for another loan. Good credit demonstrates responsible money management and gives you more purchasing power, opening doors to better loan terms and products.

3. Pay Down Debt. In the application process, lenders will look at your recurring monthly debts, such as car payments, student loans and credit card loans. By lower-

ing or paying down monthly debts, you can build a positive credit history and lower your debt-to-income ratio. Not sure where to start? Tackle your debt with the highest interest rate first.

4. Obtain Gift Funds. If you're short on money for your down payment, you may be able to use gift funds from a family member to decrease the amount you need to borrow.

5. Find a Co-Signer. A co-signer applies for the loan with you, agreeing to take responsibility for the loan should you default. The co-signer's credit, income and debts will be evaluated to make sure they can assume payments if necessary. In addition to ensuring your co-signer has good credit, you should make sure they are

aware of this responsibility and have sufficient income to cover the payment.

6. Look for a Lower-Cost Home. Remember, you should only borrow an amount you feel comfortable repaying. You may need to look for a lower-cost home than you're financially prepared to purchase and maintain.

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Phyllis Annette McMinn

Phyllis Annette McMinn passed away Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2022 at the age of 93.

Interment will be at Greenwood Memorial Park. A gathering of friends and family will be held in Nashville at a later date.

For most of her life, Phyllis made her home in River Oaks, TX. She relocated to Nashville, TN in 2013 with her daughter and son-in-law.

Phyllis was a kind, gentle woman who possessed a quiet strength and an artistic talent. She took comfort and meaning from her Christian faith throughout her life.

Phyllis continued to learn and grow through her years and was accepting of everyone. She blessed everyone in her life with her unconditional, modest, and steadfast love.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Grover 'Jack' McMinn; son, Michael McMinn; parents, Ruth and Lloyd Donley; brother, Bob Donley and his wife, Rose.

She is survived by her daughter, Becky Stephens and husband, Paul; granddaughters, Sarah Stephens, Shelley Lancaster and husband, Randall; great-grandchildren, Maxwell and Madeleine Lancaster; nephew, Terry Donley and wife, Rose; and niece, Brenda Donley.

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Three Day Weekend Forecast



Friday, Oct. 21

AM - Sunny, with a high near 88. SW wind 5-15mph, with gusts as high as 25mph
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 62. S wind around 15mph, with gusts as high as 30mph.



Saturday, Oct. 22:

AM - Mostly sunny, with a high near 88. South wind 15-20mph, with gusts as high as 35mph.
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. South wind 15-20mph, with gusts as high as 35mph.



Sunday, Oct. 23:

AM - Partly sunny, with a high near 87.
PM - A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 69.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)