

From the Sports Desk with John English

WHHS Cougar Athlete Spotlight: Goalkeeper Landon Whitaker



The Western Hills boys soccer team earned a playoff spot again this past season and first-team all-district selection Landon Whitaker was a big part of the reason why.

The Cougars goalkeeper moved up from JV to varsity in 2024, and coach Matt Collins said

he never really missed a beat.

“He was additionally selected as the district’s Most Outstanding Goalkeeper,” Collins said. “I was not sure what to expect. He was a great JV keeper, but that is not a guarantee that he would be a great varsity keeper. He exceeded everyone’s expectations.”

Collins said he has a couple of things he would like to see Whitaker work on this off-season.

“Going into his senior season, I expect him to keep improving his own position,” Collins said. “I also know we need him to be a better and more vocal leader on and off the field. I think a goal that is reasonable for him will be a spot on the all-state team.”

Whitaker, 17, said he was pleased with his inaugural season on the varsity squad, but said he definitely sees room for improvement.

“I am proud of this team for going to playoffs, but to be honest, I am disappointed in our performance this (continued on page 4)

From Friends of the Benbrook Library
Blood Drive July 12



Many patients need lifesaving blood transfusions this summer.

By giving blood, Carter BloodCare donors help people hurt in serious car wrecks, children fighting diseases like cancer and anemia, mothers going through difficult deliveries, and older adults with age-related health issues, among many others.

The Friends of the Benbrook Library and Carter BloodCare need the public’s help at local a blood drive on July 12.

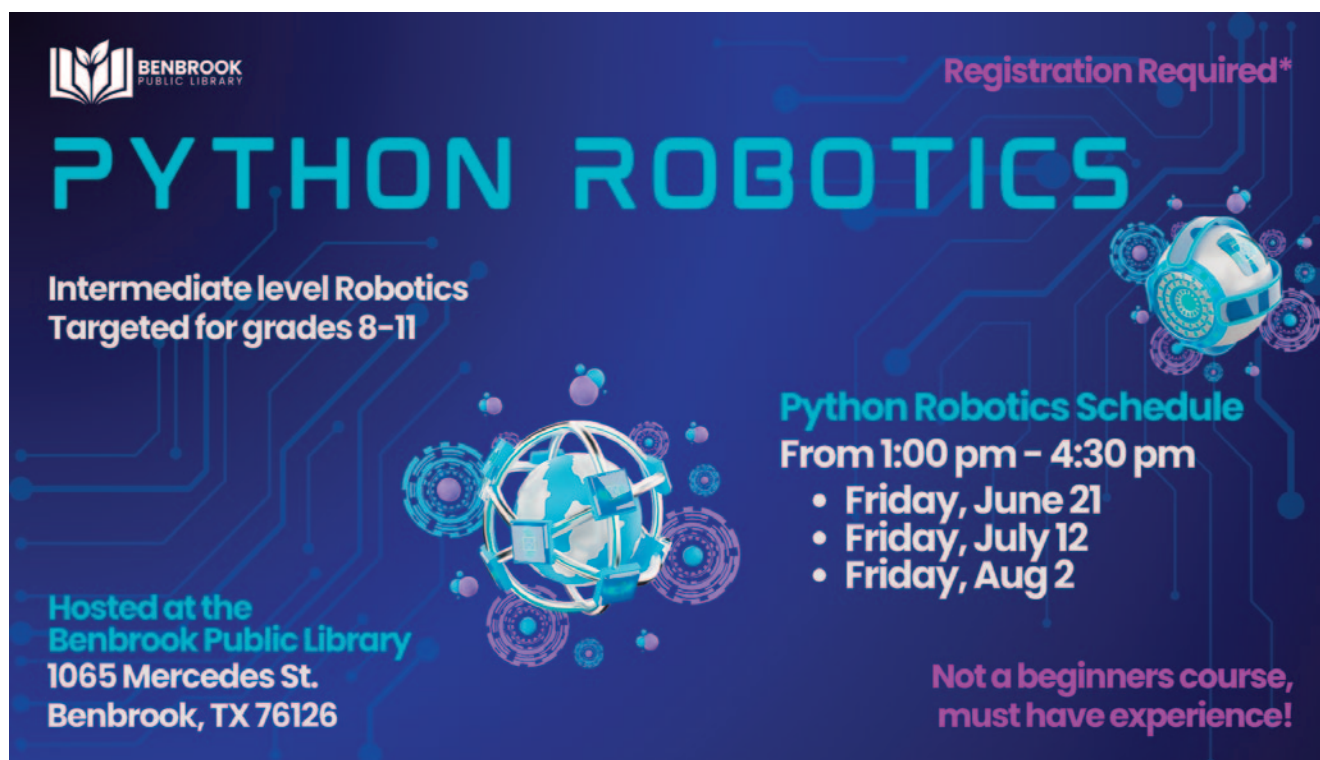
The Carter BloodCare Bus will be at the Benbrook Library, located at 1065 Mercedes St., Benbrook, TX 76126 on Friday, July 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Click this link to sign up for an available spot.

As a donor thank-you gift this month, Carter BloodCare is offering each blood donor a blue-and-white Summer Lifesaver beach towel.

To find the nearest blood drive, visit CarterBloodCare.org.

For questions or for more information, contact Russell Kegley at 817-249-6632.



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From StatePoint Media

Furry Friends Can Cause Distracted Driving - a Few Tips to Stay Safe



Summer road trip season is here! Whether your vacation plans include national parks, sandy beaches or major metro-polises, you may be thinking of bringing the entire family along, even your four-legged companions.

While we love having them near, dogs aren't always safe passengers. A recent poll commissioned by Selective Insurance, a leading home, auto and business insurance carrier, found that in the past 12 months, dogs caused a majority of drivers to be distracted on U.S. roadways.

The study, conducted online by The Harris Poll, found that of licensed drivers who recently (over the last 12 months) drove with their dogs, 91 percent admitted to interacting with them while driving, including interactions requiring the driver to take their hands off the wheel or eyes off the road, and 48 percent acknowledged that they are more distracted when their dog is in the vehicle than when it is not.

"We love our dogs. However, some of their behaviors in the car, such as sitting on drivers' laps, jumping between seats, or sticking their heads out the window, divert drivers' attention from operating a vehicle," said Scott Smith, vice president and director of Safety Management at Selective Insurance. "To help keep our roads safe, drivers need to minimize distractions. That means our beloved pet passengers should be restrained in the back seat, and if they need tending, drivers should first pull over to a safe place."

Some of the more hazardous behaviors that drivers engaged in while recently on the

road with their dog include giving them food/treats/water (36 percent), taking a photo/video of their dog (27 percent) or holding them in place (23 percent) while driving. In addition, 40 percent of drivers who have ever driven with their dog confessed to various reckless driving behaviors as a direct result of having their dog in the vehicle, including swerving out of the lane (11 percent) and hard braking (13 percent).

This summer, as you head out with your dog on journeys near and far, help minimize driving distractions in your vehicle with these tips from Selective Insurance:

- Have your dog ride in the back seat and consider using a partition between the front and back seats.

- Use a dog seatbelt, safety harness or anchored crate to prevent distractions and provide your dog with some protection if there is an accident. A significant 70 percent of licensed drivers who recently drove with their dogs say their dogs were unrestrained in the vehicle. Yet, 82 percent of drivers who recently drove with their dogs agree that having an unrestrained dog in a moving vehicle can distract the driver. Not using a

restraint is risky and could put you in violation of the law. Some states have animal restraint laws for vehicles to help keep drivers safe and focused. However, only 24 percent of licensed drivers who recently drove with their dogs say they are very familiar with such laws in their state. That's compared to 34 percent who say they didn't know these laws existed.

- Plan ahead and identify rest stops along your route so you and your dog can take a break. If you need to make an unplanned stop, avoid the side of the road and instead look for a quiet parking lot. Use these occasions to give your dog food, a little exercise and most importantly in summer, plenty of water.

For additional survey findings, along with tips to keep roadways safe and K-9 companions secure, visit Selective.com. For survey methodology, visit selective.com.

"More pets in homes, especially with the introduction of the pandemic puppy, means more Americans than ever may be hitting the roads with their pooch on road trips this summer. Drivers should understand the risks associated with taking them along for the ride," said Smith.



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From Tarrant County

Half-Payment Property Tax Deadline July 1

Wendy Burgess, Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector, reminds Tarrant County taxpayers that they have an option when paying property taxes.

Taxpayers may pay their current year property taxes in two equal installments. To qualify for this half payment option, taxpayers must have paid one half of the total property taxes owed by Nov. 30, 2023.

If a taxpayer makes a qualifying and timely first installment payment, the second payment is due by July 1, 2024. No penalty or interest will accrue on the second half until after July 1, 2024.

The Tarrant County Tax Office began mailing property tax statements in mid-October. Most taxpayers should have received their statement by now. We are in the process of mailing statements to taxpayers with an Over 65 or Disability Exemption, and it may be mid-November before they are received. Failure to receive a notice does not impact the validity of the tax or penalty and interest imposed.

If your mortgage company escrows your taxes, the property tax statement was sent to the mortgage company the second week of October.

If a statement hasn't been received, one can be printed from our new payment portal at Tax Online, or email taxoffice@tarrantcountytx.gov to request one. Sign up for Paperless Billing on our Property Tax page and have future statements delivered electronically to your email.

Partial payments are accepted at any time after statements are mailed.

Payments can be made in person at any of the eight Tax Office locations. Operating hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

There is no additional fee for e-checks. Electronic checks and credit cards are accepted over the internet at Tax Online or by phone at 817-884-1110.

There is a fee for the use of debit and credit cards payable directly to the card provider. We highly encourage feeless payment by e-check to avert any potential issues with a physical check while in transit to our office.

Contact us with questions at 817-884-1100 or by email at taxoffice@tarrantcountytx.gov.

Summer Bucket List

have a family picnic	star gaze
have ice cream for dinner	make a bird feeder
make s'mores in your backyard	fly paper airplanes
have a backyard camp out	make homemade play dough
make a pillow/blanket fort	catch lightning bugs
blow bubbles	make ice cream in a bag
run through sprinkler	play charades
make tie-dye shirts	pick fruit
set up a slip & slide	go for a bike ride
neighborhood relay races	go camping
homemade sno-cone making	put on a puppet show
make chalk art	go on a nature walk
play frisbee	Find a creek to stomp in
play kickball	splash in rain puddles
hike at a local park	visit a local historical site
movie night	visit a local cave
backyard movie night	learn car maintenance
make flower chains	have a picnic
search for a 4 leaf clover	eat breakfast for dinner
go to an area pool	go for a night swim
batting w/water balloons	summer book club
night bowling w/water balloons	make kool-aid popsicles
make a solar oven & cook	have a craft night
play leap frog	dance party
play red rover	family service project
game night	science experiment
puzzle night	nature scavenger hunt
finger paint	homemade nerf gun targets
make homemade pizza	bing watch a family show
have a homemade spa day	play frisbee golf
feed the ducks	family karaoke night
make an obstacle course	fly a kite
geocaching	roller skate outside

From Benbrook Public Library

Family Fort Night Tomorrow at the Library

Come join us for a fun event for the whole family!

The Benbrook Public Library will host a mini campout throughout the library in a Family Fort Night on Friday, June 21 starting at 5 p.m. [Registration is required - click here.](#)

So, join us in making pillow/blanket forts (please bring your own - we will supply ways to hold up the forts), telling campfire stories, eating classic camping food, and more!



Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

season,” Whitaker said.

“I thought this team had a lot more potential than we showed out and could have gone a lot further than we did. I think it took a while for us to find where everyone fit in the team and it was just too late when we did.”

Whitaker said coming into the season, he believed Western Hills would win district.

“I was putting in work in the offseason to get better and felt we were a top contender in District 7,” Whitaker said. “We definitely were for the first half of district, but after our loss in penalties to Diamond-Hill, we experienced a loss of momentum and it hurt team morale.”

The objectives for next season are pretty clear-cut.

“I want us to win a district championship,” Whitaker said. “I think it can be done if we avoid the same mistakes that we made last season and find opportunities for improvement. I also look forward to the playoffs, as that’s when the real season starts, and I want to see us go far.”

Whitaker, who is also involved in the AFJROTC program and student leadership, said he has a couple of other interests outside of his sport.

“I enjoyed my time in choir, but ended up dropping it to prioritize soccer,” Whitaker said. “I still have a passion for music and have been learning guitar and piano.”

Reflecting on the season as a whole, Whitaker said a couple of memories stand out above the rest.

“As cliché as it sounds, my favorite moments this season were those spent with my teammates off the pitch,” Whitaker said. “I remember everyone going to Johnathan’s (Ramirez) house for a cookout. His dad was on the grill, everyone was laughing and enjoying each other’s company along with a homemade meal. I cherish those times because that’s when we grew as a team and got closer on the pitch.”

Collins said he believes that the sky is the limit for Whitaker next year.

“Landon wants to attend the US Naval Academy,” Collins said. “So his focus needs to be on Annapolis. If he focuses on that, he will be a better leader. He’s training hard right now on his game. He’s a focused kid. I am confident if he can put it together, he can wind up where we dream he can be.”

Whitaker's Favorites

Favorite Athlete: Allison Becker

Favorite Sports team: Liverpool FC

Favorite Food: Shrimp Alfredo

Favorite Movie: *Top Gun*

Favorite TV Show: *Suits*

Book Currently Reading or Last Book Read:

“*Can’t Hurt Me*” by David Goggins

Favorite Musical Group or Performer:

Dexter & the Moonrocks

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- Shop now for later



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- 4 Persons = \$72,300
- 5 Person = \$78,100
- 6 Persons = \$83,900
- 7 Persons = \$89,700
- 8 Persons = \$95,450



<https://www.tarrantcounty.com/en/community-development-and-housing-department.html>

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From Tarrant County

Dell DeHay Law Library

The Law Library was established in 1944 but did not officially open until October 1945. Over the next 30 years, the Law Library's staff and collections grew.

By 1979, it had received acclaim for its services, in large part, due to Dell DeHay, who served as Librarian from 1962 to 1979. That year, the Law Library became the Dell DeHay Law Library of Tarrant County in her honor. Continued growth and expansion led the Law Library to move to its present quarters on the fourth floor of the 1895 Courthouse during the 1983 renovation. For more about the Law Library's history, visit our [History Timeline](#).

The Dell DeHay Law Library of Tarrant County serves the legal research needs of the Tarrant County legal community and the general public. The Law Library is funded by a combination of a portion of court filing fees and user service fees. The Law Library receives direction and guidance from the Tarrant County Commissioners and the County Administrator.

To view a PDF list of all library policies, follow the [Law Library Policies link](#).

The Dell DeHay Law Library of County is staffed by six wonderful individuals: Cara, Amanda, Brittany, Deneshia, Nancy, and Yancy.

The Law Library is located on the fourth floor of the 1895 Courthouse, in room 420, at 100 W. Weatherford Street, in downtown Fort Worth.

[Follow this link to view a map](#) showing the area around the 1895 Courthouse.

Parking

The most convenient parking is in the Tarrant County Calhoun Street Parking Garage. It is located on the corner of Weatherford and Calhoun. Calhoun is a one-way street running north to south. The garage entrance is on Calhoun across from the side entrance of the Family Law Center. Be prepared to pay to park. The parking garage accepts all major credit/debit cards.

Parking is also available at parking meters on all four sides of the Courthouse. Most of the meters have a two-hour time limit and are strictly enforced. If you have handicap plates or a placard, parking at the meters is free, but time limits still apply.

Public Transportation

Patrons using public transportation can use the following links to help plan their trip to Downtown Fort Worth.

- [Plan Your Trip - Trinity Metro Trip Planner](#)
- [Trinity Metro Routes and Schedules](#)

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From Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney

Citizen Prosecutor Academy



The Citizen Prosecutor Academy (CPA) is an 12-week program designed to give citizens an in-depth understanding of the criminal justice system in Tarrant County.

With our Assistant Criminal District Attorneys and Investigators as instructors, participants review each step of the prosecutorial process to gain an insider's perspective on how the system works.

Classes are held on Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m.

Graduation will be hosted upon completion of the Academy program.

The Fall Academy begins Thursday, Sept. 5, and graduation will be Thursday, Nov. 21.

This topics of the past academy classes have included:

- Adult Sexual Assault
- The Civil Division
- Conviction Integrity
- Digital Forensic and Technical Services
- Diversion Programs
- Felony: An Overview
- Gang Unit
- Grand Jury
- Intake
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Intoxication Manslaughter, DWI and No Refusal
- Introduction to a Trial
- Introduction to the Criminal Justice System/Criminal District

Attorney's Office

- The Juvenile System
- Mental Health & Protective Orders
- Misdemeanor Crimes
- Special Victims Unit
- Victim Advocates
- White Collar/Public Integrity Crimes

Follow this link to view the [Criminal District Attorney Prosecutor Academy Application](#).

For more information on the CDA Citizen Prosecutor Academy please call: 817-884-1400.

Donate Plasma to Save Lives this Summer

Plasma donation is an impactful, meaningful way to give back to your community this summer. By donating plasma, you can help people like Mabelle Pecoraro.

Pecoraro lives with Hereditary Angioedema (HAE), a rare disease that can cause attacks of swelling, and often pain, in specific parts of the body, including the stomach, hands, feet, arms, legs, genitals, throat and face. Like with many serious and rare diseases, the therapies used to treat HAE require human plasma donations.

Donors' Impact

"Plasma donors directly impact my ability to live a full and productive life. Therapies made from these donations allow me and my son, who also lives with HAE, to receive ongoing treatment for our conditions," says Pecoraro.

Plasma, a straw-colored liquid that carries red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets, helps to maintain a steady level of blood pressure, supports the immune system and delivers critical nutrients to cells.

Plasma donations are used to replace crucial proteins people living with rare and serious diseases lack, and to produce therapies that treat diseases such as primary immune deficiencies, hereditary angioedema, hemophilia, Alpha-1 Antitrypsin deficiency and various bleeding and neurological disorders.

There is a critical and ongoing need for plasma donations, as these life-saving medicines treat people in more than 100 countries around the world. Every year, it takes more than 1,200 plasma donations to treat one hemophilia patient, more than 900 plasma donations to treat one alpha-1 patient and more than 130 plasma donations to treat one primary immune deficiency patient.

"Plasma donors do the amazing, as plasma is used to develop life-saving therapies for people living with rare and serious diseases. We encourage those who can donate to visit a nearby CSL Plasma donation center," says Rachpal Malhotra, MD, head of plasma donor safety, CSL Plasma.

Eligible, qualified plasma donors also receive payments in connection with donating plasma.

The Donation Process

To donate, you must be in good health, between the ages of 18-74, weigh at least 110 pounds, and have had no tattoos or piercings within the last four months. You must also meet the health and screening requirements and have valid identification with a permanent address.

Although wait times may vary at each location, the collection process takes approximately 90 minutes after the first donation.

It is recommended that you drink four to six 8-ounce glasses of water, fruit juice or other caffeine-free liquid at least two to three hours before donation, avoid caffeinated beverages, avoid alcohol of any type for 24 hours beforehand, eat a meal prior to donation and get adequate sleep.

CSL Plasma has 320 plasma donation centers across the United States.

Visit cslplasma.com for more information and to find a center near you. The CSL Plasma donor app is also available for Apple and Android device users.

"I thank all donors and encourage anyone who is considering donating to remember that doing so does make an impact for people like me and my son," says Pecoraro.

From Tarrant County

Tarrant County's Homeowner Repair Program

Tarrant County's Homeowner Repair Program is available for those who live outside of Fort Worth while still remaining inside Tarrant County lines. Some repairs available with this program include electrical, plumbing, roofing and weatherization.

Your home must be valued under \$239,000. There are also certain income guidelines that must be carefully followed. In addition to those, you must have owned and lived in your house for at least one year, have a clear title to the property, have paid your real estate taxes, and more. You can [view the brochure for the program at this website](#).

If you have any questions or need more information, please call Tarrant County Community Development at 817-850-7940.

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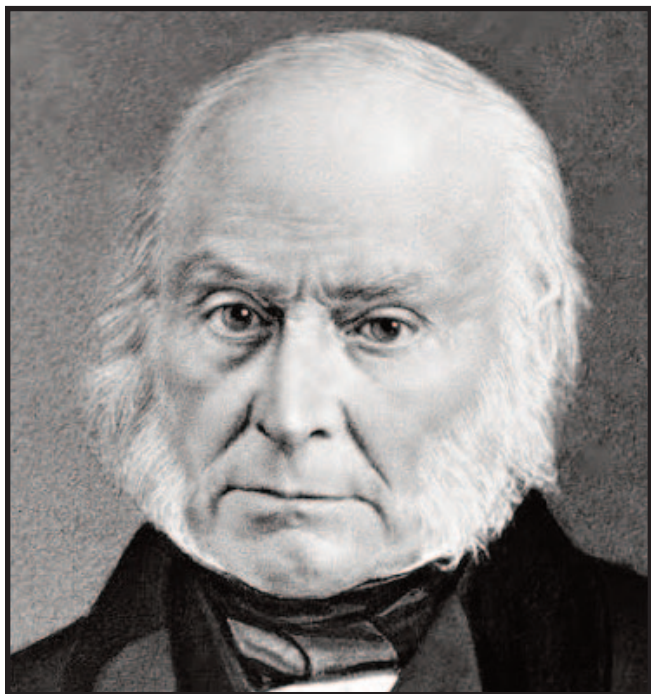
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Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

The Adams-Onis Treaty of 1819



Before the Texas Revolution and the annexation debates of the 1830s and 1840s, portions of Texas were briefly considered part of the United States, all stemming from the Louisiana Purchase. With the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the United States doubled in size overnight. America had pushed far to the West into the wide expanses of the High Plains and to the frontiers of Texas.

The French government was very evasive in what they considered to be the extent of the Louisiana Territory. The question of whether the United States owned any portion of Texas was ultimately put in the hands of one of America's top diplomats, **John Quincy Adams**.

The French connection to Texas dated back into the 1600s. In 1682, French explorer Robert Cavalier, Seuer de la Salle, claimed the entire Mississippi River Valley and all of its tributaries for France. This, by default, included the Red River, stretching to include the entire modern Texas panhandle and the watershed in the counties all along the modern North Texas border with Oklahoma. It also came to include the French claim on the Sabine River and the lands of what is now most of East Texas and the failed colony in Matagorda Bay.

John Quincy Adams, born in 1767, was the son of John Adams, the nation's second president and part of the committee that wrote the Declaration of Independence with Thomas Jefferson. Like his father, he was

a skilled attorney and learned the art of diplomacy while his father served as the American ambassador to The Netherlands and later to Great Britain.

In 1794, President George Washington appointed Adams as ambassador to The Netherlands, at only the age of 27. Two years later, Washington also named him to double as ambassador to Portugal. He would serve as ambassador to Prussia from 1797 until 1801 before returning to the United States. He became the U.S. Senator from Massachusetts in 1803.

Not long after Adams arrived in Washington, DC, Congress learned about the treaty with France purchasing Louisiana. France had turned the entire area over to Spain after the end of the French and Indian War in 1763.

Forty years later, with Spain under control of French leader Napoleon Bonaparte, Spain was forced to give the land back to France. Uncertain what to do with the territory and needing money to finance his wars, Napoleon had his ministers sell the territory to an eager United States for \$15 million (or about \$335 million in 2019 dollars). There was brief debate over what territory was included with Louisiana, whether France was the rightful owner of the territory, and whether the federal government had the authority to even purchase the land. Seeing the overwhelming opportunity, the United States Senate, including Adams, voted to approve the treaty by a vote of 26-6.

Adams had become Secretary of State under President James Monroe in 1817. By 1818, the United States faced a Spain that had regained its independence but was a rapidly weakening power. Spain faced rebellion in its colonies from Argentina to Mexico. Spain was unable to control Florida, and raids by the Seminoles into the United States had become a contentious issue.

Spanish control in the area included the entire modern state of Florida, but the areas of the Alabama and Mississippi panhandles and the far eastern reaches of Louisiana east

of the Mississippi River and north of Lake Pontchartrain had been seized by American settlers in 1810, even though Spain still had legal ownership. Adams entered into negotiations with Spanish Ambassador Luis de Onis to purchase Florida. Spain had rejected earlier offers, but with Spain facing a collapsing position in the Americas and the threat of American military power, Onis reluctantly gave in.

Onis, however, was not willing to give up everything in exchange for nothing. As negotiations continued, Onis pressed for clear border between the U.S. and Spain, a request that Adams was willing to support. As American claims on East Texas were shaky at best, Adams gave ground on claims into the Sabine and Red River Valleys.

The Adams-Onis Treaty would acquire East Florida and also set a western border at the Sabine River to the Thirty-Second Parallel and North to the Red River. The border would then run along the Red River to the One-Hundredth Meridian to the Arkansas River and then to the Rocky Mountains and to the Pacific Ocean. The treaty was signed on Feb. 22, 1819.

The treaty was approved by the Senate though there were many expansionists upset by what they saw as the "giveaway" of Texas. When the subject of annexing the independent Texas arose in the 1830s and 1840s, many supporters loudly called for the "re-annexation" of Texas. The treaty nevertheless gained Florida for the Union and gave East and North Texas its modern boundary. It also gave America a solid claim on the Pacific Ocean as a boundary. Texas would later be admitted, becoming the 28th state admitted into the Union on Dec. 28, 1845.

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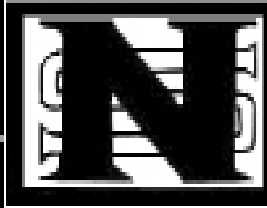
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Weekend Forecast



Friday, June 21:

AM - Mostly sunny, with a high near 92. Light southeast wind becoming east southeast 5 to 10 mph in the morning.

PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 74.



Saturday, June 22:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 94.

PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 76.



Sunday, June 23:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 97.

PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 78.

Extended Forecast [Click Here](#)