



# River Oaks News

Established 1939 • A Publication of Suburban Newspapers, Inc.

82nd Year No. 33 • 817-246-2473 • 7820 Wyatt Drive, White Settlement, Texas 76108 • suburban-newspapers.com • August 18, 2022

*From the Sports Desk with John Loven*

## Lions Open Season with Tri-Scrimmage

It may be difficult to imagine but despite the crazy, hot, dry summer we have seen – football season has begun! The Castleberry High School football team, along with thousands of other high schools across the great state of Texas, have been practicing football for a couple of weeks. On Thursday, Aug. 11 the CHS Lions played their first scrimmage of the 2022 season. This involved three teams: CHS, Breckenridge, and Gainesville. This is a format that has become somewhat more popular over the last few years – where three teams will alternate on the field offensively and defensively. The Lions hosted this scrimmage at W. O. Barnes Stadium and began with the varsity squads at about 6:30 p.m. Fortunately, the temperature was closer to “normal” for this time of year, about 97 degrees (but turf temperature was probably closer to 110!).

Castleberry began the scrimmage on offense and faced Breckenridge’s defense. The Lions failed to have any success during this first series on offense (12 plays). After this series CHS went on defense against Gainesville’s offense. The Lions played well as they only allowed the Leopards to muster one first down. Meanwhile CHS also recovered a fumble during this 12-play series.

The Lions then rested while the other two schools took the field for 12 plays. Castleberry then came back on offense and faced Breckenridge again. Unfortunately, the results were about the same in this second offensive series. The Lions followed with another defensive series against Gainesville. However, this time the Leopards were able to score on the Lions when their quarterback scrambled, broke a couple of tackles and ran 50 yards for a touch down.

After another rest while Breckenridge and Gainesville competed the Lions defense got a crack at (continued on page 3)

*From Castleberry ISD*

## Castleberry ISD Improves Student Academic Growth and District Accountability Rating During 2021-2022 Year

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has released the academic performance ratings for school districts throughout the state. Castleberry ISD students, teachers, and schools continue to make significant progress as seen in the 2022 state accountability ratings. In fact, Fort Worth’s Morris Foundation recently recognized Castleberry ISD as the second highest improved district in Tarrant county, improving student success by 19 percent, compared to the state average of 12 percent.

Castleberry ISD has received an overall performance score of 86, or a B. This is a three-point increase from the 2019 score of 83. Superintendent Renee Smith-Faulkner shared an important message for all families regarding the district’s rating. The video is available on [YouTube](#).

In 2020, school districts and campuses were labeled Not Rated: Declared State of Disaster, making these ratings the first districts and campuses have received since before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each campus in the district also received an individual rating.

### Campus Ratings

- A.V. Cato Elementary 87
- Castleberry Elementary 78
- Joy James Academy of Leadership 92
- Irma Marsh Middle School 77
- Castleberry High School 83
- REACH High School 97

(continued on page 2)

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# Dickies Arena to Host Event Friday

With the additional burden of back-to-school expenses being felt, the Tarrant Area Food Bank is taking some of the stress off families by increasing their food distribution schedules through the end of August, including their large scale Back-to-School Mega Mobile event at Dickies Arena on Friday, Aug. 19.

The TAFB Mobile Markets are designed to serve all residents of the Tarrant area who need food assistance.

Additionally, with this increase in mobile events, TAFB continues to rely on volunteers to help run the events. The demand for volunteers is high while the need is great. If you can give your time to help serve others, please visit [www.tafb.org/volunteer](http://www.tafb.org/volunteer) to view and sign-up to volunteer at the Tarrant Area Food Bank.

TAFB will hold a Mobile Market event at Herman Clark Stadium Wednesday, Aug. 31 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The Back-to-School Mega Mobile Market will be held at Dickies Arena—Yellow Lot 3434 Trail Drive in Fort Worth, Friday, Aug. 19 from 8 to 10 a.m. Families can expect to receive some kid-friendly nutritious meals as a part of the 50 pounds of food each family will receive.

As inflation continues to rise to record levels, families are shopping for back-to-school supplies at higher prices. Many families are making economic tradeoffs. No one should have to choose between food and school supplies.

Tarrant Area Food Bank is also experiencing inflationary pressures to meet higher than expected demand.

TAFB has spent over \$1M per month of unbudgeted funding since May of 2022 to cover the cost of the purchased food to meet the community need. Each family will receive a 50 pound box of food for the family with an assortment of dairy, produce and protein.

# CISD Accountability Rating

(continued from page 1)

## Academic Distinctions

Distinctions are awarded in key areas relative to other comparable campuses across the state. Castleberry ISD campuses earned a combined total of eight distinctions. Castleberry High School earned distinctions in the areas of Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Postsecondary Readiness, and Comparative Closing the Gaps. Joy James Academy of Leadership earned distinctions in the areas of English Language Arts/Reading, Comparative Academic Growth, and Comparative Closing the Gaps.

For more information on Castleberry ISD's accountability report, and detailed reports for each campus, visit the [TXschools.gov](http://TXschools.gov) website.



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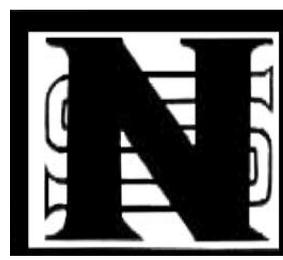
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## CHS Tri-Scrimmage (continued from page 1)

Breckenridge's potent offense (which had already scored twice against Gainesville). The Buckaroos got their third touch down of the night on a 70-yard run by one of their running backs. Following this series, the Lions offense returned to the field to face Gainesville – but still failed to move the ball effectively.

After another break for CHS while the other schools were on the field, the Lions defense got a second crack at the Breckenridge offense. This time the defense played better and did not allow a score. The Lions also forced a couple of fumbles that they recovered against the Buckaroos. The Lions offense took the field again after this but could not move the ball against Gainesville's defense.

After a short break the teams played with a 30-minute running clock. During this time penalties were now enforced and quarter-back sacks were marked at the spot (earlier in the scrimmage penalties had not been enforced and sacks were returned to the original line of scrimmage). At the end of this 30-minute segment Breckenridge had scored five touchdowns, Gainesville one, and Castleberry did not score.

Scrimmages are used for coaches to evaluate personnel. The performances of the players show specifically what needs to be worked on and improved. What was very obvious from this three-team scrimmage was that Breckenridge is a pretty good football team – definitely the best team on the field on this particular night anyway.

As far as the Lions are concerned – they certainly have some things they will need to improve on to have a good season. A big one would be the offensive line. The group had a hard time opening holes for running backs and a very tough time protecting the quarterback (which resulted in 13 sacks and three interceptions). Defensively the Lions showed a great deal of toughness and aggressiveness – traits you like to see on defense. However, what hurt them the most defensively appeared to be too many missed tackles.

Hopefully, after another week of practices improvements will be made and the Lions will do much better in their next scrimmage. That will take place on Thursday, Aug. 18 at Sanger. The varsity is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. Go Lions!



# WATER *Neighborly*

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# Former Governor of Texas, Pa Ferguson by Dr. Ken Bridges

Pa Ferguson was one of the most controversial governors in the history of Texas. The consequences of his administration would be felt for years. As a result of his actions, in 1917, Ferguson became the only Texas governor impeached and removed from office.

James Edward Ferguson, also called "Farmer Jim" or "Pa," was born in Bell County in 1871. His father died when he was four. He was kicked out of a local prep school, Salado College, at age 12 for misbehavior. He left home at 16, traveling and taking odd jobs until he returned to farm in Bell County. He became a lawyer in 1897, married Miriam A. Wallace in 1899, and expanded into real estate, insurance, and banking.

He was elected governor in 1914, his first election. He was a popular figure, signing laws protecting sharecroppers and providing state funding for rural schools. He was re-elected in 1916. Though he had signed legislation creating three new colleges, he found himself in a feud with professors at the University of Texas. Angry that two professors had openly criticized his administration, Ferguson demanded that the Board of Regents fire them. The Regents refused. In retaliation, Ferguson vetoed the entire appropriation for the university.

The fight with the university touched off a massive scandal. At the same time, officials had begun looking into Ferguson's finances. A grand jury in Travis County learned that in 1915, Ferguson had transferred \$5,600 (more than \$164,000 in 2022 dollars) from the state to a bank in Austin and then to his bank in Temple that he used to pay off a private debt. In July 1917, he was indicted for misappropriation of funds. The legislature then came back into session to consider impeachment, an attempt Ferguson immediately condemned.

Impeachment under the modern Texas constitution is similar to the process at the federal level. The Texas constitution gives the lower house of the legislature power to impeach judges, the governor, and state-wide elected officials. Impeachment is the equivalent of an indictment. To impeach, the House simply needs a majority vote on the different charges involved. The House then chooses members to act as managers to present the case to the Senate for trial, essentially acting as prosecuting attorneys. Senators will then act as jurors while the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court presides over the proceedings. The Senate can call witnesses to testify and vote to convict with a two-thirds majority vote.

The entire process is substantially the same in most of the other states. Eight governors have been removed from office through impeachment. Oklahoma has impeached and removed two governors, and West Virginia impeached four members of its State Supreme Court at the same time in 2018. Early in 2022, the South Dakota attorney general was impeached after an alleged hit-and-run auto accident. Usually, officials accused of impeachable offenses resign before impeachment proceedings begin.

The framers considered impeachment an important check on the power of the presidency and against corruption. Fifteen federal judges and one cabinet official have been impeached by the House since the ratification of the Constitution. Eight federal judges have been convicted in the Senate and removed from office. Though three presidents have been impeached, none have ever been removed from office.

With charges growing against Ferguson, the House of Representatives drew up 21 charges against him and voted to impeach.

They then sent the charges to the State Senate for trial. The State Senate reduced the charges to ten, half of which dealt with the transfer of the \$5,600. Three others dealt with the veto of university funding as an abuse of power and official oppression. After a trial, the Senate -- all Democrats -- voted him out of office by a vote of 25-3 and banned him from holding any state office.

Though he was kicked out of office and disgraced in front of his colleagues, Ferguson was still very popular among his hard-core supporters and rallied back. He never faced any criminal charges regarding his conduct. He started his own newspaper that fall, Ferguson Forum, to promote his views that the impeachment was illegitimate. Barred from state office, he ran for president in 1920 on the American Party ticket. He only made the ballot in Texas, winning just under 10% of the vote. He lost the 1922 Democratic Primary race for U. S. Senate by a wide margin. In 1924, his wife, Miriam "Ma" Ferguson won election as governor as a stand-in candidate in a tightly-contested race. His wife was defeated for re-election in 1926, following questions of improper use of her pardoning power. She would serve one more term as governor from 1933 to 1935. Ferguson convinced his wife to run one more time in 1940. Ma placed a distant fifth. The Fergusons retired from public life afterward with James Ferguson dying in 1944 with his wife passing away in 1961.

Though no Texas official has been impeached and removed from office at the state level since Ferguson, Texas politics has hardly been scandal-free. Scandals of all sorts, from the brazen to the bizarre, have occurred for decades at all levels.

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# Invasive Australian Redclaw Crayfish Present in Texas



Researchers from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley recently collected invasive Australian Redclaw Crayfish (*Cherax quadricarinatus*) at the first known site in Texas. From January–February, three specimens were collected at an apartment complex pond that connects to a nearby resaca in the Brownsville area.

An earlier 2013 sighting of a female crayfish of this species with several young was also identified on iNaturalist, indicating this species has been present at this location for some time. This is just the second detection of this species in the wild in the United States with the other being in California.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Aquatic Biologist Dr. Archis Grubh surveyed numerous sites in the area during July and found three additional Australian Redclaw Crayfish between the apartment pond and a nearby resaca two miles away.

“We don’t know when these invasive crayfish were first introduced or how far they have spread, but we do know they can have a negative effect on local species and biodiversity,” said Grubh. “Spreading the word about this invasive species and reporting sightings to TPWD can help us better understand where it is distributed and potentially take steps to help prevent its spread.”

Both male and female Australian Redclaw Crayfish have been collected, so the potential for reproduction is a concern in these waterbodies. The species can reproduce prolifically, with females brooding up to five times a year at 1,000 eggs per clutch. Australian Redclaw Crayfish grow rapidly and can reach maximum size, up to two pounds, in under a year. These large crayfish can significantly alter habitat and vegetation, competitively exclude native crayfish, and impact native fish communities by direct predation. Australian Redclaw Crayfish can also carry Crayfish Plague as well as other parasites/diseases that could impact native crayfish.

Australian Redclaw Crayfish, along with all other members of the crayfish Family Parastacidae, are prohibited exotic species in Texas and cannot be legally purchased, sold or possessed in aquariums. It’s also illegal to release these crayfish into a public

waterbody.

“Release of aquarium life is unfortunately a key means by which invasive species such as these crayfish are introduced,” said Monica McGarrity, TPWD Senior Scientist for Aquatic Invasive Species.

“Well-meaning, uninformed aquarium owners sometimes release their pets thinking they’re doing the best thing for them, but if they do survive, they can become invasive and harm the native aquatic species and ecosystem. Aquarium owners should research alternatives to aquarium dumping and help prevent introductions of the next invasive species.”

Australian Redclaw Crayfish are identifiable by their large size, large left claws with a red patch on the outer edge and the presence of four distinct ridges on the top of the head. Their preferred habitat includes slow-moving streams and stagnant water bodies (e.g., oxbows and resacas) with high turbidity. They are mobile over moist terrestrial vegetation and can move between waterbodies. The introduction to new areas increases with seasonal rainfall that can wash the crayfish across waterbodies.

Sightings of Australian Redclaw Crayfish should be reported to TPWD by emailing photos and location information to [aquaticinvasives@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:aquaticinvasives@tpwd.texas.gov).

To learn more about alternatives to release of aquarium life, visit the [Never Dump Your Tank website](#).

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From the American Red Cross

# American Red Cross Seeks Volunteers to Assist Residents Impacted by Wildfires

Devastating wildfires continue to pop up and burn throughout North Texas, threatening communities, destroying property and upending lives. Due to the ongoing threat from wildfires, the American Red Cross North Texas Region is asking for individuals to become Red Cross volunteers and take part in future relief efforts.

“Our volunteer workforce is critical in carrying out the mission of the American Red Cross,” said Katrina Farmer, Red Cross North Texas Disaster Officer. “Volunteers respond to house fires, tornadoes, floods and more, offering the immediate assistance that our neighbors need. Please join our more than 1,600 North Texas volunteers and support your community.”

Since March 1, the Red Cross has responded to more than 160 wildfires in greater North Texas. Red Crossers provided immediate and long-term aid, staff shelters and evacuation points and set up canteen services for firefighters. Disaster Action Team, Disaster Recovery Casework, Mass Care Team and Shelter Services volunteers are on the frontlines of recovery response, and they are especially needed now. Visit [redcross.org/volunteer](https://redcross.org/volunteer) and sign up today.

Disaster Action Team volunteers meet the disaster-caused needs of individuals and households, such as lodging and clothing, and connecting them with long term recovery services. Disaster Recovery Caseworkers provide follow-up and recovery planning services, including referrals, for individuals and households following disasters.

“The way the Disaster Action Team works is we wait for a call or a text letting us know we are needed” said Carla Signoret, Red Cross Disaster Action Team volunteer. “When a fire happens, we get the address and relevant details about the event. We try to reach the client within the first couple of hours. Our job is to be there, offer support and get their information so that those affected can get assistance.”

Mass Care Team members meet the emergency needs of individuals and communities affected by large scale disasters. Shelter volunteers support the day-to-day activities within a shelter, which may include working in reception, registration, feeding, dormitory, information or other vital areas.

The Red Cross is able to fulfill its humanitarian mission thanks dedicated volunteers and community support. Volunteers make up 90 percent of the Red Cross workforce and are essential to disaster response efforts. The Red Cross has volunteer opportunities for everyone. Find out more about making a real difference in people's lives by visiting [redcross.org/northtexas](https://redcross.org/northtexas).

## Prevent Wildfires

As hot, dry conditions continue throughout the region, there is an elevated risk for wildfires. It is important for everyone to remain vigilant and reduce activities that could spark a wildfire. People cause 85 percent of wildfires by burning debris, using equipment improperly, discarding cigarettes carelessly, leaving campfires unattended and by arson.

- Don't drive your vehicle onto dry grass or brush. Hot components under your vehicle can spark fires.
- Use equipment responsibly. Lawn mowers, chain saws, tractors, and trimmers can all spark a wildfire.
- Use caution any time you use fire. Dispose of charcoal briquettes and fireplace ashes properly, never leave any outdoor fire unattended, and make sure that outdoor fires are fully extinguished before leaving the area.
- If residential debris burning is allowed – use caution! After obtaining any necessary permits, ensure that burning is not currently restricted in your area.
- Store combustible or flammable materials in approved safety containers away from the house.
- Keep the gas grill and propane tank at least 15 feet away from any structure. Do not use the grill during potentially dangerous fire weather conditions. Always have a fire extinguisher or hose nearby.

## Be Prepared

It is important to be prepared in case of an emergency. Use the [Red Cross Wildfire Preparedness Checklist](#) to make sure you and your household are Red Cross Ready. Make an [emergency preparedness kit](#), have a plan to stay connected with family and friends, download the [Red Cross Emergency App](#) and [First Aid App](#) and practice an evacuation plan.

## About the American Red Cross:

*The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit [redcross.org/northtexas](https://redcross.org/northtexas) or [cruzrojaamericana.org](https://cruzrojaamericana.org) or visit us on Twitter at @RedCrossNTX.*

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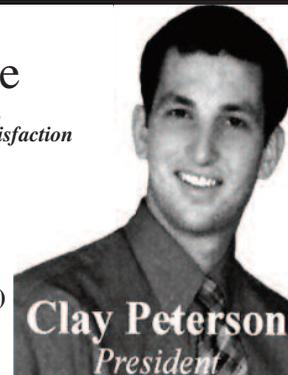
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<b>TREE SERVICE</b> CHAD GREEN Tree Service 817-246-5943 C THREE Lawn & Tree Service 817-249-YARD (9273) WWW.C3LAWNAND TREE.COM	<b>APPLIANCES</b> CALLAHAN'S APPLIANCE 8120 White Settlement Rd 817-244-5404		

## Three Day Weekend Forecast



### Friday, Aug. 19:

**AM** - Sunny; high near 95. Calm wind becoming S/SE around 5mph in the morning.

**PM** - Partly cloudy; low around 74. E/SE wind 5-10mph becoming S after midnight.



### Saturday, Aug. 20:

**AM** - A 20% chance of thunderstorms. Mostly sunny; high near 97. S wind 5-10mph, with gusts as high as 20mph.

**PM** - Mostly cloudy; low around 76. S/SE wind around 10mph, with gusts as high as 25mph.



### Sunday, Aug. 21:

**AM** - A 30% chance of thunderstorms. Partly sunny; high near 95. S wind around 10mph, with gusts as high as 25mph.

**PM** - A 50% chance of thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy; low around 76.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)