



*Serving the Cities of River Oaks and Westworth Village*

# River Oaks News

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84th Year, No. 24 • 7820 Wyatt Drive, White Settlement, Texas 76108 • [www.suburban-newspapers.com](http://www.suburban-newspapers.com) • June 13, 2024

*From Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County*

## Tarrant County Meals on Wheels Volunteers Urgently Needed for Deliveries

Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County has an urgent need for meal-delivery volunteers. With the summer months upon us and the increase in the number of clients along several routes, many could be left without a volunteer to deliver their noontime meals.

“Volunteers are the backbone of what we do,” said Carla Jutson, President & CEO. “Not only do they deliver nutritious meals and friendly smiles, but they also provide daily safety checks.”

Volunteering takes about one hour, one day a week, Monday through Friday, between 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. We have many open routes throughout Tarrant County, especially in underserved neighborhoods.

For more information or to sign up to volunteer in Tarrant County, please visit [mealsonwheels.org/volunteer](http://mealsonwheels.org/volunteer) or call 817-258-6428.

*From the City River Oaks*

## River Oaks City Offices to Close Wednesday, June 19

River Oaks City Hall and the River Oaks Event Center will be closed on Wednesday, June 19 in observance of Juneteenth.

Wednesday Bulk pickup for sections 2 and 3 (regular residential garbage days on Monday and Thursday) will be moved to Thursday, June 20.

# SUBSCRIBE!

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*From the North Central Texas Council of Governments*

## NCTCOG Launches Public Input Opportunity

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is hosting an online input opportunity now through July 9.

This opportunity will allow residents to learn more about and participate in the regional transportation planning process.

To submit comments and questions to NCTCOG, email [nctcog-June24@publicinput.com](mailto:nctcog-June24@publicinput.com) or visit [publicinput.com/nctcogJune24](http://publicinput.com/nctcogJune24).

Residents are encouraged to submit comments and questions on proposed modifications to the FY2024 and FY2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

The UPWP provides a summary of transportation and related air quality planning activities to be conducted in the region over a two-year period.

Proposed modifications to the FY2024 and FY2025 UPWP will be posted in the files tab near the bottom of the page.

For more details on the UPWP, visit [nctcog.org/upwp](http://nctcog.org/upwp).

Information will also be provided about the following initiatives and programs: Interactive Public Input: Map Your Experience, the NCTCOG Spatial Data Cooperative Program, the Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan and Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities.

For special accommodation due to disability or language interpretation, contact Jackie Castillo at 817-695-9255 or [jcastillo@nctcog.org](mailto:jcastillo@nctcog.org).

### *About the North Central Texas Council of Governments*

NCTCOG is a voluntary association of local governments established in 1966 to assist local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development.

NCTCOG's purpose is to strengthen both the individual and collective power of local governments and to help them recognize regional opportunities, eliminate unnecessary duplication, and make joint decisions.

NCTCOG serves a 16-county region of North Central Texas, which is centered in the two urban centers of Dallas and Fort Worth.

*Obituary*



**Casey Nathaniel Johnson**

Casey Nathaniel Patton Johnson, a beloved son, husband, father, and dedicated soldier, passed away on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at the age of 36 in Clarksville, TN.

A funeral service honoring Casey was held on Friday, April 5, 2024, at the Neal-Tarpley-Parchman Funeral Home officiated by Allen Little. Service included a beautiful tribute to Casey's life, with friends and family coming together to share stories and memories. Following the service, Casey was laid to rest with full military honors in Kentucky Veteran Cemetery West.

Born on June 5, 1987, in Weatherford, TX. He spent his early years in White Settlement and was a Brewer High School graduate in the Class of 2006.

After a 16-year career SGT Casey Johnson retired from the US Army. Casey demonstrated unwavering commitment and courage. He fearlessly embarked on multiple deployments, including missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Persian Gulf where he displayed his selflessness and dedication. For his sacrifices and valor, Casey was awarded the esteemed Purple Heart along with numerous service medals and accommodations as a testament to his bravery and resilience.

Casey is survived by his devoted wife, Kim, and their four sons: David, Conner, Aiden, and Bentley. He is also survived by his mother, Nancy Bolin, and his siblings: Taylor (Ashley) Lynn, Alicia (Allen) Little, Lola (Kyle) Lucas, Brandi (Eddie Saucedo) Johnston, and Emily (Ryan) Hamrick.

Let us honor Casey's memory as a courageous soldier, a loving husband, father, and son, who brought laughter and joy to all. Though he may no longer be with us, his spirit will continue to shine brightly through the memories he created and the love he shared. Casey's legacy will forever inspire us all to live our lives with bravery, dedication, and a commitment to bringing joy to others.

*From the City River Oaks*

## **Food Bank Event Tomorrow at River Oaks Event Center**

The River Oaks Food Bank donation days are held on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at the River Oaks Event Center, located at 5300 Blackstone Drive in River Oaks.

Attendees are encouraged to arrive by 8:30 a.m. to get a place in line.

The supply truck often arrives early,

meaning the food is given to line members earlier than the posted time.

Attendees are requested to stay in their vehicle, as the food bank is drive through.

For more information, call 817-732-5885.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO REVIEW  
 WHITE SETTLEMENT ISD'S  
 Annual Federal Program Funding Sources:  
 Elementary and Secondary Schools Act  
 Individual with Disabilities Education Act  
 Perkins V: Strengthening Career and Technical  
 Education for the 21st Century  
 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency  
 Relief (ESSER)

White Settlement ISD will hold a public meeting at 5:30pm, June 17, 2024 at the Administration Building located at 8224 White Settlement Rd., White Settlement, Texas 76108.

The purpose of the meeting is to review and allow public comment regarding the plan for spending these federal funds.

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# VFW Post 5617 Hosts Dinner Honoring USS Westchester County Attendees



In no particular order, VFW Post 5617 Vietnam Veterans **Ralph Bradley, Mike Dorow, Gerald Reyelts, Ernest Godsey, Pete Alcala Raymond Arenas and Charles Mills** with Wesco honorees and White Settlement Mayor **Faron Young** and his wife, **Tina** (far right).

The USS Westchester County, LST 1167 met in Fort Worth on Friday, June 7 in remembrance of lost shipmates and the ship's unique history in the Vietnam War. In the early morning hours of Nov. 1, 1968, the USS Westchester County or "Wesco" suffered the highest loss of life of any Navy vessel in the entire war.

The Wesco was assigned to the Mekong Delta Army/Navy Mobile Riverine Force in December 1967. The ship's main mission was to land troops and cargo directly onto a beach, however, by 1968 the Wesco

served as a support ship for the Riverine Force and soldiers of the 9th Infantry Division's 3rd Battalion, 34th Artillery.

On Nov. 1, 1968, onboard the deck of the Wesco, were five fully fueled Army helicopters and directly below on the tank deck, 350 tons of explosives and ammunition were stored. At 0322 hours, limpet mines attached to the hull of the ship by Viet Cong swimmer/sappers, exploded with devastating results. Fortunately, the quick actions of the officers and crew prevented a major catastrophe. The resulting explosion never ignited the ammunition on the tank deck or the fully fueled helicopters.

A total of 25 men were killed in action from the explosion. Within days, the Wesco was beached and a coffer dam was built to allow for repairs.

By Nov. 14, the Wesco embarked on a 2500 mile voyage to Yokosuka, Japan and permanent repair.

By 10 March 1969, the ship was once more headed into harm's way for duty off the coast of Vietnam. A true testament to a resilient and courageous crew.

At the Memorial Service for the Wesco's fallen at Ton San Nhut Air Force Base, the following tribute echoes across the ages:

*Not for fame or rewards,  
Not for place or rank,  
Not lured by ambition or goaded by necessity,  
But in simple obedience as they understood it.  
Those men suffered all, dared all and died.  
Lest we forget.....Lest we forget.*

For us the living, let us always remember the crew of the Wesco, and their place in history.

A Memorial was set at the National Vietnam Memorial Museum in Weatherford. VFW Post 5617 hosted a delicious Chicken Fried Steak menu for the guests of honor, with various desserts that was enjoyed by everyone who participated. (photos continued on page 4)



Pictured (l-r) are: **Nolan Nelson**, Lt. JG Engineer '69-'71 from Oregon, **Will Duffy** whose brother Keith Duffy was killed in action came from New York, **Paul Maier** Lt. JG Supply Officer '68-'70 from Virginia, Surgeon **Gerald Reyelts**, **Bill Kaupas** PO 2 Signalman '70-'72 from Florida and **Terry Morris** EM2 Electrician '67-'69 from Washington.

# Around the Town (continued from page 3)



Pictured are: Nolan Nelson, Will Duffy, Paul Maier, Bill Kaupas, Terry Morris, Jim Johnson, Jim Yeager and John Sloan.



Pictured (l-r) are: Robin Norcutt, E4 Score Keeper, '69-'73 from Arizona, Sr. Vice Commander Dean Borries, Sue Kaupas and Jim Johnson 3rd Class Boats Mate from Edinburg, TX.



Kitchen crew: (l-r) Buddy Powers, Janie Albin, Quartermaster Tim Hotchkin, Joe Bennett, Jamie Jo Williams, Sr. Vice Commander Dean Borries and Tara Boswell.

**In Memoriam**  
**In Honor of our Fallen Brothers:**

**United States Navy Personnel Shipmates**  
 SA Jackie Charles Carter  
 SK1 Richard Cortez Cartwright  
 QM2 Chester Donald Dale  
 RD3 Keith William Duffy  
 SM3 Timothy Charles Dunning  
 PN1 David Gleason Fell  
 ETN2 Thomas George Funke  
 RM3 Gerald Booth Hamm  
 QMSN Floyd William Houghtaling III  
 SK1 Aristoteles Del Ropsario Ibanez  
 YN1 Jerry Smith Leonard  
 RM3 Joseph Anthony Miller, Jr.  
 RM1 Rodney Walter Peters  
 YN3 Cary Frank Rundle  
 RM3 Reinhard Joseph Schnurrer, Jr.  
 QM2 Thomas Herbert Smith  
 CS1 Anthony Richard Torcivia

**United States Navy Personnel**  
**River Assault Division 111**  
 EN3 Harry John Kenney

**United States Army Personnel**  
**Ninth Infantry Division**  
 SP4 Leslie Von Bowman  
 SP4 Wilfredo Cintron-Mendez  
 PFC Ernest Frissle Cooke, Jr.  
 SP4 Paul David Jose  
 SGT. Dennis Kenneth O'Connor

**Republic of Vietnam Personnel**  
 Sailor Unknown To Us, Navy  
 Tiger Scout Unknown To Us, Navy

## Select White Settlement Bomber News Archives Digitized by UNT Libraries

In May of 2020, Suburban Newspapers, Inc. donated a large collection of publications from their archives to the White Settlement Historical Museum. This included the *White Settlement Bomber News* spanning in years from 1956 to 2020. The collection also included issues of the *River Oaks News*, *Benbrook News*, *North Fort Worth News* and other Fort Worth area newspapers. In January, the entire sorted collection of the *White Settlement Bomber News* was provided to the University of North Texas Libraries to be digitized and loaded online to the [Portal to Texas History website](#).

UNT Libraries just recently loaded newspapers from the years of 1957, 1985 and 1986 (including the one issue from 1956) on the Portal's website – a total of 155 issues. The remaining years will require a multi-year effort to raise the funding required through various grant programs, to complete the digitization.

The White Settlement Historical Museum is also working with neighboring Historical Societies and Museums to find a home for the other publications.

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*Saturday, June 29th 2024*

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### Legal Notice

The White Settlement Independent School District (WSISD) is accepting proposals for Cafeteria Tables. The Request for Proposal – 2324-17 can be accessed and submitted online at <https://wsisdebid.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>. A paper copy of the bid can be obtained on the WSISD website, [www.wsisd.com](http://www.wsisd.com), by visiting the Purchasing section of the Business Services page. If assistance is needed, please contact Nancy Escobar at [nancy.escobar@wsisd.net](mailto:nancy.escobar@wsisd.net). The deadline for questions is June 27, 2024, at 2:00 pm and proposals are due by July 11, 2024, at 2:00 pm. It is preferred that proposals be submitted online at <https://wsisdebid.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>. If a hard copy proposal will be submitted, it should be addressed to White Settlement ISD, Attn: Nancy Escobar, 8224 White Settlement Road, White Settlement, TX 76108. Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted. White Settlement ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

From Mental Health First Aid

## Free Mental Health First Aid Training Session June 26

According to Mental Health America, 17 percent of adults in Texas, or 3.6 million people, are experiencing mental illness. Texas Health Resources is hoping to create a stronger community support system for individuals in crisis by offering free Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training. The virtual one-day course teaches participants the risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns. Led by experienced trainers, the program features interactive videos, breakout sessions and other activities, with discussions on depression and mood disorders; anxiety disorders; trauma; psychosis; and substance use disorders.

The next MHFA training session will take place on June 26, with [monthly offerings](#) through the end of the year. Some online prework is required for registration, and participants who finish the course can earn Mental Health First Aider certification.

The MHFA program is based on a five-step action plan known as ALGEE: ASSESS for risk of suicide or harm; LISTEN nonjudgmentally; GIVE reassurance and information; ENCOURAGE appropriate professional help; ENCOURAGE self-help and other support strategies.

“Mental Health First Aid training is not a substitute for professional assistance, but it does provide education and resources for the average citizen who may encounter someone in need and not know how to respond,” said Matt Dufrene, vice president of Texas Health. “We invite local individuals and organizations to take this training and help us build a healthier community.”

Texas Health brought MHFA training to North Texas in 2021 by investing in a train-the-trainer program. To date, more than 550 individuals have earned MHFA training in North Texas. The course is open to anyone interested in knowing how to identify, understand, and respond to a mental health crisis.

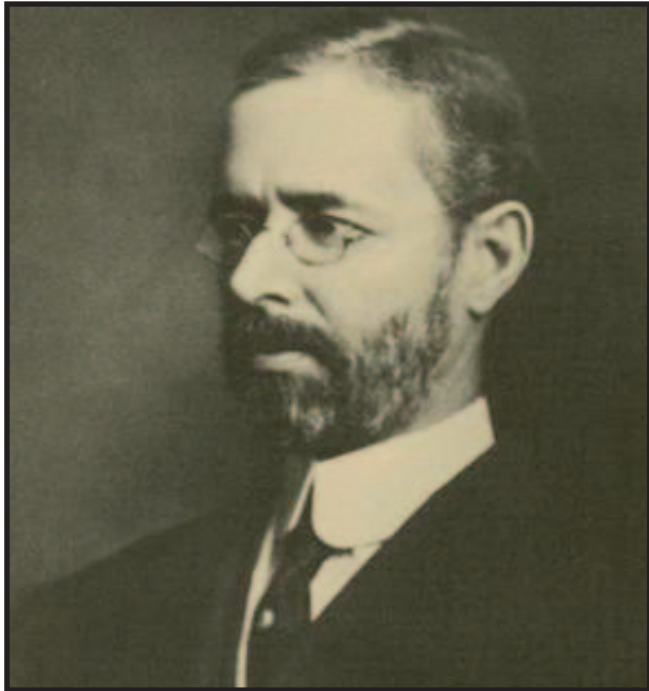
To register for the MHFA course, go to: <https://info.bluezones-project.com/mhfa>. Organizations interested in bringing MHFA training to their employees can contact [CommunityHope@TexasHealth.org](mailto:CommunityHope@TexasHealth.org).

### Legal Notice

The White Settlement Independent School District (WSISD) is accepting proposals for Educational Play Center. The Request for Proposal – 2324-18 can be accessed and submitted online at <https://wsisdebid.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>. A paper copy of the bid can be obtained on the WSISD website, [www.wsisd.com](http://www.wsisd.com), by visiting the Purchasing section of the Business Services page. If assistance is needed, please contact Heidi Monsees at [hmonsees@wsisd.net](mailto:hmonsees@wsisd.net). The deadline for questions is June 17, 2024, at 2:00 pm and proposals are due by June 20, 2024, at 2:00 pm. It is preferred that proposals be submitted online at <https://wsisdebid.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>. If a hard copy proposal will be submitted, it should be addressed to White Settlement ISD, Attn: Heidi Monsees, 8224 White Settlement Road, White Settlement, TX 76108. Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted. White Settlement ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

# American Philosopher, Sidney Edward Mezes



The early 1900s was a formative time for education in Texas. Sidney Mezes, a one-time president of the University of Texas, rose to the forefront to serve as such a leader as well as a diplomat and a thinker. In the process, the son of a pioneer gold prospector in California became one of the most respected philosophers in the nation and a leader in Texas education.

Sidney Edward Mezes was born in September 1863 in Belmont, California, then a tiny village nestled between San Francisco and San Jose in the years after the Gold Rush. His parents were both immigrants, with his father having arrived from Spain and his mother from Italy. His father, Simon M. Mezes, was an attorney who arrived with the early wave of gold prospectors and other fortune-seekers.

His father had helped several Spanish families in the San Francisco area keep the claims on their lands as pressure from settlers and miners as well as various con artists sought to thrust them off their property. In the process, Mezes was able to buy some of this land and set it aside to form what became Redwood City, the county seat of San Mateo County in the 1850s, and for whom a city park is named. This helped provide a comfortable childhood for the future scholar, which included trips to Europe.

He graduated from what was then the University of California in 1884 (now the University of California at Berkeley) with a degree in engineering. After his father's death that year, Mezes took a different path and began studying philosophy. He enrolled at Harvard University in 1889, receiving a second bachelors degree in

1890 and a masters degree in philosophy in 1891.

While he was completing his doctorate through Harvard, he spent the 1892-93 school year teaching philosophy at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania. After finishing his Ph.D. in 1893, he spent a year teaching at the University of Chicago.

He was offered an adjunct teaching position at the University of Texas in 1894. In 1898, he took a look at ideas and perceptions of God with *The Conception of God*. He took on questions of spirituality and the existence of God. At the same time, he touched on ideas of time, memory, and reality. Mezes argued that God lives in an eternal state of the present, with all things happening in one everlasting moment and that time as mortal men understand it, is meaningless to God. "Time is no reality; things seem past and future, and, in a sense, non-existent to us, but in fact are just as genuinely real as the present is," Mezes wrote. "Every reality is eternally real, pastness and futurity are merely illusions."

He became a full-time professor in 1898. In 1901, he wrote an influential work on ethics, titled *Ethics, Descriptive and Explanatory*. He earned a promotion to Dean in 1902, serving as a philosophy professor simultaneously.

In 1908, Mezes was appointed President of the University. He was the fifth person to hold the position. He was widely respected for his work as a scholar and administrator. The college expanded steadily. He added a new library and a new Department of Economic Geology. Within five years, enrollment expanded 20 percent, from 2,500 students to 3,000.

In 1913, the newly-inaugurated President Woodrow Wilson asked him to become U.S. education commissioner, but he declined. Instead, Mezes decided to take a new position as the fourth president of the City College of New York.

He assumed his new post in 1914. He left the university on good terms, and the board of regents asked him his opinions on the direction of the university. He published this as *The Future of the University of Texas* in 1914, which helped form a blueprint for expansion.

The same spirit of innovation he brought to UT he brought to CCNY. Here, the college added schools of civil administration, business, education, and engineering, becoming a respected institution in New York.

At the request of Wilson, Mezes became the director of a committee of scholars informally called "The Inquiry" to investigate the causes of the war and to identify and evaluate possible solution to prevent a future war. These suggestions were later formulated into *Wilson's Fourteen Points*, which he outlined in a speech in January 1918. At the end of the war, Mezes served as a diplomat as part of the American delegation negotiating the Treaty of Versailles, the shape of the peace to come. He wrote a section from a 1921 series of recollections titled *What Really Happened at Paris*.

By the mid-1920s, Mezes began experiencing serious health problems. The situation became so bad that he retired as the CCNY president in 1927 at the age of 64, having seen enrollment quadruple from 5,200 to more than 20,000. He returned to California; and when his health permitted, he traveled to Europe and different parts of the U.S. The University of Texas honored him with the special title of president emeritus in 1929. He died at his home in Pasadena, California, in 1931.

The University remembered his many contributions and dedicated a new building in his memory in 1953. Mezes Hall today is a multi-use classroom building used by various departments and organizations on campus, including the Texas Politics Project, the Spanish Department, the Government Department, and the European Studies Department.

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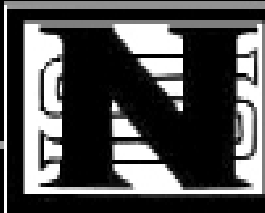
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## Weekend Forecast



### Friday, June 14:

**AM** - Sunny, with a high near 93. Calm wind becoming southeast around 5 mph in the afternoon.  
**PM** - Clear, with a low around 71. Southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm after midnight.



### Saturday, June 15:

**AM** - Sunny, with a high near 94. Light south wind becoming south southeast 5 to 10 mph in the morning.  
**PM** - Clear, with a low around 74.



### Sunday, June 16:

**AM** - Sunny, with a high near 95.  
**PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 75.

**Extended Forecast [Click Here](#)**