

Celebrating over 80 Years of News!

# White Settlement Bomber News

Established 1940 • A Publication of Suburban Newspapers, Inc.

85th Year, No. 7 • 7820 Wyatt Drive, White Settlement, Texas 76108 • www.suburban-newspapers.com • February 13, 2025

*From the Sports Desk with John English*

## ***Brewer Basketball: Bears and Lady Bears Enter Postseason***

The Brewer girl's basketball team is once again the district champion after wrapping up the season with a 60-26 win over Azle.

Coach Teranie Lewis said it was a strong effort in the team's season finale and leading into the playoffs.

"I thought the team played great against Azle," Lewis said.

Lewis said multiple players contributed to the victory.

"The entire team played well, but Julie (Kasonga) and Aolani (Wol-dai) stood out," Lewis said. "Janiah (Johnson) hit some nice three pointers in this game and Clara Williams played some great defense. We've won three straight games."

As the team geared up for it's bi-district match up against Grapevine on Tuesday, Lewis said her team was competing well.

"I am feeling good about the level we are playing," Lewis said. "Of course we are always looking to improve on something, but I love the way our team competes. They are a fun group to coach."

On the boy's side, the Bears came up short against Aledo last week in a game coach Jason Porostovsky said his team struggled early on.

"We had an abysmal first quarter offensively," Porostovsky said. "I feel like we were too excited and rushed some shots early putting us in an 11-4 deficit after one quarter."

Calvin Rweyemamu led Brewer in scoring with 17 points, while Austin Haley added 11 and Jayden Jones pitched in 10 points for the Bears.

Porostovsky said despite the loss to Aledo, he is pleased with how

his team is playing as the post-season approaches.

"Our kids understand the importance and are truly giving everything they have. We just need to clean up a few areas so we can make a run in the playoffs," Porostovsky said.

On the mat, Brewer wrestlers competed in the regional tournament this past weekend, and coach Sonny Feexico said it was a challenging outing for his teams.

"This was a very tough tournament to try to qualify for state," Feexico said. "But I will tell you, our kids didn't lay down for anyone. They battled, competed, and a few even wrestled through some injuries. I was very proud how we came out and wrestled."

Two Bears wrestlers are moving onto the state meet.

"On the boys side, freshman Caleb Cedeno Mendoza finished in second and his brother, senior Josue Cedeno Mendoza is returning to state after finishing fourth," Feexico said. "It is a pretty special thing for the two brothers to qualify for State together in the same season."

Feexico said the expectations for the state meet are pretty straightforward.

"Our focus for state will be just like any other competition," Feexico said. "We're gonna focus on what we can do and take advantage of any opportunities that our opponents give us. Another week of hard work in practice is on the horizon and hopefully our two brothers can finish with a state medal around their neck when all is said and done."

*From the City of White Settlement*

## **Parks & Recreation Master Plan Open House Feb. 25**

White Settlement residents and community stakeholders are invited to take part in one of the upcoming open house meetings where you can share your input on our local parks. This is part of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan process that will guide development of the parks system for years to come.

The first Open House will be held Tuesday, Feb. 25 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Pecan Grove Convention Center, 405 N. Las Vegas Trail. The second Open House event will take place March 1 from 10 a.m. to noon at City Hall, 214 Meadow Park Dr.

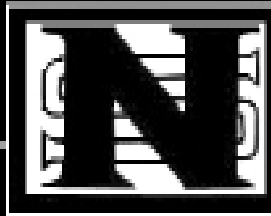


STUDENT / STAFF HOLIDAY  
**NO SCHOOL**

FRIDAY, FEB. 14  
& MONDAY, FEB. 17

Students will return Tuesday, Feb 18.

# CLASSIFIEDS



# 817.246.2473

7820 Wyatt Drive • Fort Worth, TX • 76108

**DEADLINE: Monday at Noon.**

### AIR & HEATING

#### PRECISION AIRE & HEAT

“Licensed and insured for your protection” Warranty on all parts and labor • Up-front pricing. No overtime charges. Senior & Military discounts. 100% Financing available. W.A.C. • All credit cards accepted. Call **817-563-COOL(2665)** TACL26642

### COMPUTER



Virus Removal & Upgrades, Office Furn. Fax & Copy Services Toner Cartridges A+, Network+ Certified call for an Appointment **817-945-comp(2667)** or 817-437-8580

### CONCRETE

**LEON'S CONCRETE SERVICES**  
Commercial, Residential, Sidewalks Slabs, Patios, Driveways, Steps Retaining Walls Brushed  
**817-371-8597**  
Licensed and Insured  
leon@leonstreeservice.biz

### DRAIN CLEANING

#### Bill Blankenship Contracting Inc.

Sewers, sinks, grease traps, camera & locating.

A+BBB Rated contractingblankenship@outlook.com  
Master Plumber M8479. **817-831-4000**

### ELECTRIC SERVICES

#### CALL MORTON ELECTRIC

For All of Your Electrical Needs & Wants! No Job is too Small! Located in White Settlement & will serve the surrounding areas. Fair Prices! TECL 25541 John Morton **817-771-6356**

### HANDYMAN

#### HARTMAN'S HONEY DO'S

We will do the job your Honey can't or won't. Lite-electrical, plumbing and carpentry. Fences, roof, tile & sheetrock repair. Handicap grab bars & much more. Free Est. **817-249-2028**

### HOME IMPROVEMENTS

#### Bill Blankenship Contracting Inc.

YOUR ONE STOP REMODELING CONTRACTOR Residential/Commercial

Kitchens, baths, showers, add-ons, custom cabinets. lic.# M8479 A+BBB Rated contractingblankenship@outlook.com

**817-831-4000**

### PAINTING SERVICES

#### HAYWOOD PAINTING

Interior & Exterior. Remove popcorn, wallpaper, tape bed texture & exterior wood repair, Over 30yrs. exp. Ref. Free Est. Call **817-454-6489**

### PLUMBING SERVICES

#### LONNIE BRAVO PLUMBING

Drain cleaning, slab leaks, electronic locate & repair. Sewer repair, gas test, tankless water heaters, bathroom & kitchen remodeling **817-715-6747** M38813 Senior & Veterans discounts.

FINANCING AVAILABLE W/LOW PAYMENTS.  
WWW.LONNIEBRAVOPLUMBINGLLC.COM

#### Bill Blankenship Contracting Inc.

Drain stoppage, water leaks, water heaters, sewers replaced, water repiping, camera sewers, faucets installed, gas lines, Repair/Replaced.

A+BBB Rated contractingblankenship@outlook.com  
Master Plumber M8479. **817-831-4000**

### LANDSCAPE & LAWN SERVICE

#### ALEX'S LAWN SERVICE

FREE Est. Trash hauls, cleanup, tree trimming leaf removal & fertilizing. No job too Big/Small Sr. Disc. **817-793-9096.**

### I MOW 4 YOU

Will Do Mowing & Leaf Work!

Free Estimates w/Scheduled Work!

**817-988-2249**



### TREE SERVICES

#### Rubens Tree Service

**Fire Wood Special**  
Removal, Trimming, Pruning, Hauling off.  
Call Ruben  
**817-513-0233**

#### Leon's Tree Service

Expert Takedowns

• Trimming • Hauloffs • Stump Removal • Fire Wood  
Lic. & Insured **817-371-8597**

### Chad's Tree Service

Insured For Your Protection

- Trimming • Removals • Stump Grinding
- Systematic Tree Feeding



Satisfaction Guaranteed  
FREE ESTIMATES

**817-246-5943 or 817-221-2201**

### SERVICES PROVIDED



#### Mr. Sweeps

Chimney Cleaning Special!

**\$10 OFF**

Dryer Vent or Chimney Cleaning  
www.MrSweepsChimneyCleaning.com

**817-692-5624**



## Suburban Newspapers, Inc.

~ Veteran Owned ~



Publishers of the

*Benbrook News, River Oaks News and*

*White Settlement Bomber News*

Publisher: Boyden Underwood, publisher@suburban-newspapers.com

Editor: Emily Moxley, suburbannews@sbcglobal.net

Classifieds: Vee Horn, classifieds@suburban-newspapers.com

**7820 Wyatt Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76108**

**817-246-2473**

<http://www.suburban-newspapers.com>

**D & M SERVICES** Small to Big Jobs. Repair/remodeling, painting, plumbing drains lines cleared, & Fencing, reasonable. Military & Snr. Disc. **817-233-5339**

From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers

## A History of Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day, celebrated on Feb. 14, has roots in both ancient Roman and Christian traditions. The origins can be traced back to the Roman festival of Lupercalia, held in mid-February. Lupercalia was a fertility rite dedicated to the Roman god of agriculture, Faunus, and the legendary founders of Rome, Romulus and Remus. During the festival, men would sacrifice goats, and women would receive a touch of the goat's hide in hopes of enhancing fertility.

The transition to Valentine's Day as we know it began with the Christian martyrdom of Saint Valentine. There are multiple stories surrounding St. Valentine, but the most common one is that he was a priest in Rome during the reign of Emperor Claudius II in the 3rd century. Claudius allegedly banned marriages for young men, believing single soldiers fought better than those with wives and families. Valentine defied this decree, secretly marrying couples and helping Christians who were persecuted under Roman rule. For his defiance, Valentine was arrested and ultimately executed on Feb. 14, around 269 AD. Valentine became a symbol of love and sacrifice.

By the Middle Ages, Feb. 14 had become associated with romantic love, largely due to the influence of Geoffrey Chaucer's *Parliament of Fowles* (1382), which linked the date to the celebration of birds' mating season. Over the centuries, the tradition of exchanging love notes and gifts grew. In the 18th century, England popularized the exchange of love messages, flowers, and gifts. Valentine's Day eventually spread globally and became more commercialized, particularly in the United States in the 19th century, where cards, chocolates, and flowers became the standard expressions of affection. Today, Valentine's Day is a widely recognized celebration of love and affection worldwide.

Around the Town by Denise Honeycutt

## VFW Post 8235 Attends Veterans Appreciation Day at FWSSR

Tarrant County Commissioner 4, Manny Ramirez hosted a Veteran's Appreciation Day event at the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo (FWSSR) on Monday, Feb. 3. VFW Post 8235 was proud to be invited to attend and have a display in the vendors area.

The FWSSR has a long history of supporting veterans on this special day. It gives patrons the chance to realize the personal sacrifices and risks veterans made for the benefit of the nation.

VFW Post 8235 has also been a part of Fort Worth's history, established on March 18, 1970. The Post recognizes area veterans that bring positive values and characteristics back to their community and many find a home at VFW Post 8235. It's been noted often that the camaraderie, hard work and dedication of Post members is the secret to success.



Pictured (l-r) at the Fort Worth Stock Show Rodeo on Feb. 3 are: Member Bob Cook, Past Commander Martin Agee, Commander Randall High and Quartermaster Philip Casey.

BREWER MIDDLE SCHOOL

INTERESTED IN JOINING BMS ROYAL STARS?

Royal Stars DANCE TEAM

MANDATORY PARENT MEETING

DANCE TEAM TRYOUTS

INCOMING 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS

TUESDAY, FEB. 18 - 6 P.M. - BMS CAFE

WHITE SETTLEMENT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Parent/Guardian Must Attend

**Ginger Brown's**

Old Tyme Restaurant & Bakery

Open 7 Days a Week!

Monday thru Friday: 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

6312 Jacksboro Hwy, Lake Worth, TX 76135

817-237-2114

Home of the World Famous Cinnamon Rolls!

From *CASA of Tarrant County*

# CASA of Tarrant County Looking for Volunteers

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Tarrant County is an organization of volunteer advocates who stand up on behalf of abused and neglected children.

## The Children We Serve

Each year, thousands of children in Tarrant County are confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect. These children have experienced terrible trauma, and their lives are turned upside down. Child Protective Services takes legal responsibility for them, and may place them in a foster home or other facility. Due to too few foster homes, siblings are often split up into different places. Children are rarely able to stay in their own schools, day cares, or communities. Everything they have known is gone. Through no fault of their own, these abused children have become a part of an overburdened child welfare system. They deserve a voice in the courtroom. They need a CASA volunteer.

## Our Volunteers

CASA of Tarrant County has over 300 active volunteers who

come from all walks of life. They span all age ranges. Some are just beginning in the workforce, and others are retired. Over half our volunteers work full-time and have families. Some have backgrounds in the criminal justice system, social work, or child welfare. Other volunteers have no such experience at all.

## The History

In 1977, a Seattle Superior Court Judge named David Soukup was concerned about trying to make decisions on behalf of abused and neglected children without enough information. He conceived the idea of appointing community volunteers to speak up for the best interests of these children in court. He made a request for volunteers; 50 citizens responded, and that was the start of the CASA movement. In 1983, Judge Scott Moore, presiding judge of the 323rd Judicial District at that time, along with community volunteers Rhoda Bernstein and Monna Loftis, and CPS Director Wayne Hairgrove, formed the original steering committee that brought the CASA concept to Tarrant County.

Through the years, CASA of Tarrant County has shown consistent growth in the number of children served each year. The ultimate goal is to provide every child in foster care who needs one with a highly trained CASA volunteer. CASA of Tarrant County provides an unduplicated service in our community. Our program is highly respected within the judicial system and maintains an excellent working relationship with all parties associated with the legal process. Additionally, CASA of Tarrant County is an affiliate in good standing with both National CASA Association and Texas CASA.

For more information, or to apply to become a CASA Volunteer, visit the CASA website: <https://www.speakupforachild.org>.



**Callahan's Appliance Inc.**  
Sales • Service • Parts

**In-Home Service**

**Huge.....! Appliance Sale!** Scratch & Dent, Re-conditioned 20% to 50% Off Retail!

**817-244-5404**

8120 White Settlement Rd. FW 76108

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**

**CLICK HERE!**



**White Settlement Historical Museum**

8320 Hanon Drive  
White Settlement, Texas 76108  
817-246-9719

Open: Tuesday - Saturday, 10 AM to 3 PM  
Closed: Sunday & Monday  
<http://www.wsmuseum.com>  
FREE ADMISSION - GROUPS WELCOME!



Follow Us!

[facebook.com/WSBomberNews](https://facebook.com/WSBomberNews)

From *Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County*

## Volunteers Needed to Help Make A Difference

Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County is seeking meal-delivery volunteers to make a difference in the lives of our elderly and disabled neighbors in Tarrant County. The increase in the number of clients along several routes, could lead to many clients being left without a volunteer to deliver their noontime meals.

“Volunteers are the backbone of what we do,” said Alissa Deaton, 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-Friday, between 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. There are many open routes throughout Tarrant County, especially in underserved neighborhoods.

For more information, please visit [mealsonwheels.org/openroutes](https://mealsonwheels.org/openroutes).



**BENBROOK CAFE**  
Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

Open 7 Days a Week!  
**Mon. thru Sat.:**  
6am to 9pm  
**Sunday: 6am to 3 pm**  
4902 US-377,  
Fort Worth, TX 76116  
**817-244-1372**



**Moe's Home Cooking Cafe**

Open 7 Days a Week!  
**Mon. thru Sat.:**  
6am to 9pm  
**Sunday: 6am to 3pm**  
4705 River Oaks Blvd,  
Fort Worth, TX 76114  
**817-378-9262**

From the American Red Cross

# Donors Needed Now to Build Up the Blood Supply

The American Red Cross urges donors to give blood or platelets to help build up the blood supply after thousands of donations went uncollected last month. People of all blood types, especially those with type O negative blood, are encouraged to make and keep their donation appointments so hospitals can continue to ensure critical care for patients this winter. As February continues, so does the potential for additional weather systems to disrupt blood drives. Flu and other seasonal illnesses are spreading, which could also force more people to cancel scheduled donation appointments, compounding the impact to collecting lifesaving blood products.

Give with your whole heart this month. To book a time to give blood or platelets, use the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

As a thank-you, all who come to give through Feb. 28, 2025, will get a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of choice.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities:

## **Arlington**

• Thursday, Feb. 13: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Family Healthcare Associates, 1300 S Fielder Rd.

• Thursday, Feb. 20: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Cooper Street YMCA, 7120 S Cooper Street

## **Bedford**

• Friday, Feb. 28: 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., Bedford YMCA, 2801 Forest Ridge Dr.

## **Benbrook**

• Friday, Feb. 14: 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Benbrook Community Center YMCA, 1899 Winscott Road

## **Carrollton**

• Thursday, Feb. 27: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Carrollton Regional Medical Center, 4343 N. Josey Lane

## **Corinth**

• Wednesday, Feb. 26: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., CoServ, 7701 S. Stemmons

## **Dallas**

• Thursday, Feb. 20: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Dallas County Records Building, 500 Elm St.

• Friday, Feb. 21: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, 8011 Douglas Ave.

• Friday, Feb. 21: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., American Red Cross, 2055 Kendall Dr.

• Tuesday, Feb. 25: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Royal Lane Baptist Church, 6707 Royal Ln.

• Friday, Feb. 28: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., American Red Cross, 2055 Kendall Dr.

## **Denton**

• Friday, Feb. 28: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Medical City Denton-Professional Building, 3537 South Interstate 35 E

## **Flower Mound**

• Saturday, Feb. 15: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Trinity Presbyterian Church, 5500 Morriss Road

## **Fort Worth**

• Thursday, Feb. 13: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Texas Wesleyan University Nicholas Martin Hall, 1309 Wesleyan St.

• Friday, Feb. 14: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., American Red Cross, 6000 Western Place, Ste. 100

• Wednesday, Feb. 19: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Medical City Fort Worth, 900 8th Ave.

• Wednesday, Feb. 19: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Texas Christian University, 2901 Stadium Drive

• Friday, Feb. 21: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., American Red Cross, 6000 Western Place, Ste. 100

• Saturday, Feb. 22: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, 5953 Bowman Roberts Rd.

• Thursday, Feb. 27: 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., Hulen Mall, 4800 S Hulen St. **Granbury**

• Friday, Feb. 14: 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Hood County YMCA, 1475 James Road

## **Grand Prairie**

• Thursday, Feb. 27: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Grand Prairie Family YMCA, 4556 S Carrier Parkway

## **Highland Village**

• Tuesday, Feb. 25: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Highland Shores Community Center, 1 Community Center Rd.

## **Mansfield**

• Saturday, Feb. 15: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mansfield YMCA, 78 Regency Parkway

## **Mesquite**

• Saturday, Feb. 22: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wildwood Baptist Church, 531 S Walker St.

• Thursday, Feb. 27: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., St Stephen United Methodist Church, 2520 Oates Dr.

## **Plano**

• Friday, Feb. 28: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Medical City Plano, 4001 West 15th Street

## **Prosper**

• Friday, Feb. 14: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Atmos Energy, 471 Industry Way

• Friday, Feb. 21: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Prosper, 970 N Coit Road

## **Richardson**

• Saturday, Feb. 15: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Canyon Creek Project, 2800 Custer Parkway

## **Rockwall**

• Thursday, Feb. 13: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Hyatt Place Dallas/Rockwall, 1600 La Jolla Pointe Dr.

## **Southlake**

• Tuesday, Feb. 25: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Timarron Country Club, 1400 Byron Nelson Pkwy

## **Stephenville**

• Thursday, Feb. 20: 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., Tarleton State University Thompson Student Center, 1452 W Jones St.

**How to Donate Blood:** Download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-733-2767. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card, a driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

# Red River Expedition of 1806: Betrayal, Tension, and Near-War Between the U.S. and Spain

The Louisiana Purchase of 1803 sparked a new wave of exploration in the United States as a number of expeditions were commissioned at the direction of President Thomas Jefferson to explore the new American frontier. The most famous of these adventures was the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804 - 1806, which explored the Upper Missouri River Valley. Of the four major expeditions, one looked to explore the Red River Valley to the frontiers of Texas but became the most disastrous of all.

The idea of a trek along the Red River to find out more about the reach of the river, its wildlife, and the Native American tribes that lived along it had been conceived not long after Louisiana had been purchased from France.



**William Dunbar**, the Scottish scientist and Mississippi planter who had immigrated to the United States before the American Revolution, was chosen by Jefferson to plan this venture. In 1805, Dunbar, fresh from his successful expedition along the Ouachita River, accepted, and began sketching out plans for the voyage and the needs for the explorers.

The Ouachita River runs to the North and to the East of the Red River, snaking its way from western Arkansas into eastern Louisiana. An expedition along the Red

River was not expected to be dissimilar to the Hunter-Dunbar Expedition as most of it would be in a climate similar to those in the Ouachita River Valley.

Though the French claimed the entire Red River Valley, the Spanish continued to claim the area for themselves. An expedition along the Red River would take American explorers closer to Spanish territory than any other expedition to this time. However, the Spanish had a difficult time maintaining control over the area of the upper Red River, and a number of Spanish expeditions were defeated by local Native American tribes. Rarely did the Spanish army even attempt to journey into the area.

By late 1805, the expedition leadership consisted of Captain Richard Sparks, Thomas Freeman, a surveyor who had helped survey the southern border for the United States following the 1795 border treaty with Spain, and botanist and medical student Peter Custis of Virginia. As a result, the Red River Expedition was also called the Freeman-Custis Expedition. The explorers, numbering 24 at this point, left from the Mississippi River port at Natchez, Mississippi Territory, in April 1806 and pushed to the Red River.

The group stopped briefly at Natchitoches in what is now western Louisiana. Here, they picked up about 20 more troops as rumors spread that the Spanish had been tipped off about the expedition and intended to confront it. Though under strict orders not to engage in any military action, they were willing to defend themselves. Three Caddo guides were also included as the expedition was about to move into the area of what is now Northeast Texas, Northwest Louisiana, and Southwest Arkansas, the heart of Caddo tribal territory at the time.

The expedition moved northward through what is now the Shreveport area and entered what is now Arkansas by June. The trip had been hampered by the relatively shallow waters of the river at the time but were pleased with their efforts.

They soon began moving westward as the Red River takes a sharp turn in Arkansas. The journey had been without incident up to this point. Their encounters with the Caddos had been welcoming. However, the Caddos warned that they had learned that Spanish troops were on their way to capture the expedition. The explorers realized the entire journey was now in danger but decided to press forward regardless.

Their actions over the next few days would determine the fate of the expedition and perhaps even the fate of relations between the United States and Spain. However, as they moved westward into Texas, they never imagined what had led to the expedition's doom.

## Part II

The Red River Expedition of 1806 was supposed to be another in a string of scientific triumphs for the United States as it explored the new territories of the Louisiana Purchase. Captain Richard Sparks, Thomas Freeman, and Peter Custis led a team along the Red River into Southwest Arkansas and into North Texas to the sourcewaters of the Red River in what is now the Texas Panhandle to learn about the local Native American tribes as well as the geography, plant life, and animal life. However, it would end in failure after a stunning betrayal.

Three months into the expedition, the voyage had been slow but successful as it entered Arkansas. It soon turned along the river and headed toward Texas. By July 28, the team was about halfway along the length of the river, roughly northwest of New Boston. At a bend in the river, an area now called Spanish Bluff, the team suddenly noticed a large force of Spanish troops, heavily armed.

Sparks, the commander of the nearly four dozen army troops on the Red River Expedition, estimated that perhaps a thousand Spanish soldiers had assembled against them, an incredibly large force for the area at the time.

Regardless of (continued on page 7)

## Texas History Minute (continued from page 6)

what legal claims the United States or Spain had on the Red River as a boundary in what is now Bowie County, Texas; all the Americans realized that their lives were at risk. They were entirely at the mercy of the Spanish army. The Spaniards had orders to defend what they considered Spanish territory with deadly force if necessary.

Somehow, the Spanish had located the party. Francisco Viana, commander of Spanish forces in East Texas, had received information in Nacogdoches that the Red River Expedition was moving up the river by April and sent a letter of protest to American officials. His forces raced to the Red River to intercept the group.

The Americans were stopped and held. With tension surrounding each hour and the negotiations of Sparks, Viana ordered them down the river back into the United States.

Badly outnumbered, the expedition agreed, barely escaping with their lives. The encounter had lasted a full day, and it could easily have ignited a war between the two countries. Not long afterward, the Red River Expedition crossed back from Texas into what is now Arkansas and continued back down the river without incident.



The source of the betrayal was from within the highest levels of American government. The source, U.S. Army Gen. **James Wilkinson**, had long worked as a spy for Spain, supplying information on

American activities for a price. Personal profit was his only loyalty.

Wilkinson's treachery was widely suspected at the time. Fellow officers, and even friends and aides never entirely trusted him, but they were never able to collect enough evidence. Their patriotism meant staying faithful to the law though Wilkinson would not.

In 1805, Wilkinson had been named territorial governor for the Louisiana Territory, which through a somewhat confusing naming scheme meant the territory north of what is now Louisiana, including Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. What is now Louisiana was the District of Orleans.

Wilkinson, at one point the most senior member of the army, continued his betrayals in his new post. As soon as he learned of President Thomas Jefferson's plans for exploring the Louisiana Purchase, he secretly told Spain of these plans, for a price. Spain, fearful of Americans pushing into their territory, was determined to see the voyages fail. In the end, the Red River Expedition was sabotaged. The lives of American citizens and American troops under Wilkinson's command were put in mortal danger by his actions.



By 1807, Jefferson replaced Wilkinson with his personal secretary, **Meriwether Lewis**, now a great hero to Americans after the successful Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Wilkinson was later forced out of the army after his disastrous performance in the War of 1812. However, he would somehow manage to find his way back into political good graces and named ambassador to Mexico in 1816.

Wilkinson died in 1825 as he attempted to cash in on his position as ambassador with a large land grant for himself in Texas. He was buried in Mexico City. Several decades after his death, around the 1850s, a large cache of correspondence was found within Spanish colonial records in Louisiana, showing without a doubt that Wilkinson was actively working as a spy for Spain and had betrayed the United States on numerous occasions, including his information on the scientific expeditions into the West.

None of the leaders of the Red River Expedition ever saw the direct evidence that the voyage had been compromised. In spite of the disastrous effort, they went on to lead respectable lives.

Custis became a respected doctor and planter in North Carolina until his death in 1842.

Freeman served as surveyor general of the United States until his death in 1821.

Though the expedition had cataloged hundreds of species of animals and plants and established a cordial relationship with the Caddo tribe that dominated Northeast Texas, the abrupt halt of the expedition left the data in a haphazard and disorganized state.

In later years, the Red River Expedition was largely forgotten over the diplomatic disaster that resulted.

**Eggsquisite Cafe**

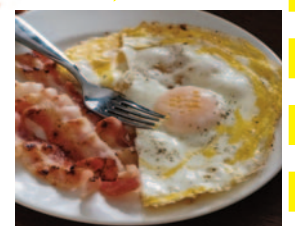
BREAKFAST & LUNCH

"You're Eggsquisite"

9316 Clifford St  
Fort Worth, Tx 76108  
7 Days A Week!  
7am-2:30pm

682-224-2832  
eggsquisitecafe.com

Show Coupon!  
Mon - Fri to  
receive \$5 off  
\$25 or more!  
Exp. 2/28/25



# BUSINESS DIRECTORY



**SUBURBAN NEWSPAPERS, INC.**  
*White Settlement Bomber News • Benbrook News • River Oaks News*  
 7820 Wyatt Drive Fort Worth, TX 76108  
 817-246-2473  
[suburban-newspapers.com](http://suburban-newspapers.com)



**AIR & HEATING**

**PRECISION Aire & Heat**  
 817-563-2665  
[precisionaire@sbcglobal.net](mailto:precisionaire@sbcglobal.net)

**APPLIANCES**

**CALLAHAN'S APPLIANCE**  
 8120 White Settlement Rd  
 817-439-2080

**COMPUTERS**

**MICHAEL'S PC Repair**  
 817-945-2667  
[michaelspcs@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelspcs@hotmail.com)

**CONCRETE**

**Leons Concrete Services  
 an Tree Services** 817-371-8597

**ELECTRIC**

**E-CONN ELECTRIC**  
 817-831-2600  
[www.econnllc.com](http://www.econnllc.com)

**FENCING**

**BOB YOUNG Fencing**  
 817-495-5543  
[bobyoungfences@hotmail.com](mailto:bobyoungfences@hotmail.com)

**HOME IMPROVEMENTS**

**ALPINE SERVICES PLUS**  
 817-296-2880  
 .....  
**Bill Blankenship Contracting**  
 Residential/Commercial • M8479  
[contractingblankenship@outlook.com](mailto:contractingblankenship@outlook.com)  
 817-831-4000  
 .....  
**ECE Construction LLC**  
 817-831-2600

**REAL ESTATE**

**TAMMY WRIGHT, BROKER**  
 Wright Realty Services DFW  
 Cell: 682-472-9041  
[wrightrealtyservicesdfw@gmail.com](mailto:wrightrealtyservicesdfw@gmail.com)

**RESTAURANTS**

**EGGSQUISITE CAFE**  
 9316 Clifford St. 76108 • 7days a week  
 682-224-2832 [eggsquisitecafe.com](http://eggsquisitecafe.com)

**PAINTING**

**HAYWOOD Painting**  
 817-371-8597

**LANDSCAPE/LAWNS**

**I MOW 4 YOU**  
 817-988-2249  
[corvetteron@hotmail.com](mailto:corvetteron@hotmail.com)  
 .....  
**ALEX'S Lawn Care**  
 817-793-9096

**SERVICES PROVIDED**

**AMERICAN LEGION Post 297**  
 817-249-2791  
[alpost297@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alpost297@sbcglobal.net)  
 .....  
**CHRIST THE KING ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
 3290 Lackland Rd.  
 Fort Worth, Tx 76116 *Every Sunday  
 worship at 9:30am*

**TREE SERVICE**

**CHAD GREEN Tree Service**  
 817-246-5943 or 817-800-6059 (cell)

**PLUMBING**

**LONNIE BRAVO Plumbing**  
 817-715-6747  
[lonniebravo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lonniebravo@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.lonniebravoplumbingllc.com](http://www.lonniebravoplumbingllc.com)  
 .....  
**Bill Blankenship Contracting**  
 Residential/Commercial • M8479  
[contractingblankenship@outlook.com](mailto:contractingblankenship@outlook.com)  
 817-831-4000

**ROOFING**

**ECE ROOFING LLC**  
 817-831-2600

**INSURANCE**

**PETER POLINSKY Insurance**  
 817-560-9400  
[peter@polinsky-insurance.com](mailto:peter@polinsky-insurance.com)  
 .....  
**HEALTH INSURANCE**  
 (all year/ages) Medicare & Obama  
 care 817-874-7569 Marilyn-  
 Kaye.com - Online Quotes

## Weekend Forecast



### Friday, Feb. 7:

**AM** - Mostly cloudy, with a high near 53. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.  
**PM** - Cloudy, with a low around 48. South wind around 10 mph.



### Saturday, Feb. 8:

**AM** - A 20% chance of showers before noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 70. S/SE wind 10 to 20 mph becoming NW in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.  
**PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 26. N/NW wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.



### Sunday, Feb. 9:

**AM** - Sunny, with a high near 43. North wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.  
**PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 27.

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