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*From Castleberry ISD*

## CISD Mariachi Program Dominates at UIL and Advances to UIL State Mariachi Festival for Second Consecutive Year



Congratulations to Castleberry ISD's JV Mariachi Los Reyes and Varsity Mariachi Los Leones for earning straight 1's at the UIL Region 5 North Zone Competition held at North Side High School in Fort Worth ISD on Saturday.

Mariachi Los Reyes participated in the UIL competition for the first time in the program's history and walked away with a first division from all three judges. The judges were impressed with their performance and commented, "I can't believe this is a JV group."

Mariachi Los Leones impressed the judges and the audience with several incredibly difficult pieces of music that were performed like professionals, helping them earn straight 1's from every judge and catapulting them to the top of the UIL competition. Their performance was strong enough to advance them to the UIL State Mariachi Competition for the second year in a row.

The State UIL Mariachi Competition will be held from February 22-24 at the Seguin ISD Performing Arts Center. Mariachi Los Leones will perform on Thursday, Feb. 22.

The Varsity Mariachi Los Leones and JV Mariachi Los Reyes are under the direction of Juan Sigala, Jairo Salazar, and Luis Ramirez.

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# Castleberry ISD School Board Candidacy Filing Deadline Approaching for May 2024 Election

Castleberry ISD's Board of Education Election will be held Saturday, May 4, 2024. Place 3 and Place 4 on the District's Board are up for election. The Castleberry ISD Board of Education consists of seven at large board members serving terms of three years, with elections held annually.

Citizens residing within the Castleberry ISD boundaries who are interested in running for a place on the school board may submit their application packet with the filing officer at the Gary S. Jones Administration Building, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Candidate filing packets may be submitted in person, mail, email, or fax. In order to be considered a candidate, a completed packet must be submitted within the filing period, which ends at 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 16.

Gary S. Jones Administration Building  
5228 Ohio Garden Road  
River Oaks, TX 76114

Angela Branch -  
Castleberry ISD Filing Officer  
brancha@castleberryisd.net

Phone: 817-252-2004 Fax: 817-252-2097

To access candidate packets and learn about running for a place on the school board, visit the Board [elections webpage](#). Early voting for the May general election runs from April 22 through April 30. The deadline to register to vote in this election is April 4. Information regarding how to register to vote in Tarrant County is available on the [Register to Vote](#) page of the [Tarrant County website](#).

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**Submit Questions no later than:  
Thursday, February 1, 2024**

Questions must be submitted online no later than 2:00 pm Central Time on the due date listed above.

**DUE DATE: Friday, February 23, 2024**  
Proposals must be submitted online no later than 2:00 pm Central Time on the due date listed above.


All questions and proposals must be submitted via bonfire.

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# Castleberry Boys Claim Win over Bridgeport

The Castleberry Lions and Bridgeport Bulls basketball teams went head-to-head in a district game on Friday, Jan. 26. It was a home game for our Lions, who have struggled this season, as they entered the game with a 7-20 record (1-3 in district play). The Bulls record was only slightly better at 11- 17 (and also 1-3 in district). Both teams’ only district win came at the expense of the Lake Worth Bullfrogs (CHS winning 45-40 while Bridgeport won 56-37). Both teams had also been soundly defeated by the same teams in district (Decatur, Springtown and Krum).

This game looked like it might be a good close game given these facts. For the first three quarters this was pretty much the case. But the Lions pulled away in the fourth quarter and ended up coasting to a 61-45 victory.

The first quarter began just as anticipated with three lead changes and one tie. Junior Everitt Arellano (#12) gave the Lions their first lead of the game in the opening minute. Arellano had a great first quarter. He led the Lions with 7 points and two blocked shots. However, the Bulls nailed a couple of 3-pointers (out of three attempts) in the quarter which helped them take a 14-11 lead heading into the second quarter.

Bridgeport hit the first bucket of the quarter to push their lead to 16-11. This would be their largest lead of the game – and it did not last long. The Lions went on a 9-0 run over the next 3 ½ mi-

minutes to take a 20-16 lead and force the Bulls to call a time out. CHS extended their lead by 2 more points over the final four minutes to take a 26-22 lead into the locker room at halftime.

The third quarter continued to be a battle between the Lions and Bulls. Four lead changes and one tie highlighted the quarter. Bridgeport took the lead 27-26 with a 3-pointer at the 7:04 mark. Junior Amari Dobbins (#21) quickly gave the lead back to the Lions with his bucket with 6:35 left in the quarter.

Fellow junior Khalil Alverio (#23) padded the lead (30-27) with a basket at the 6:12 mark. The Bulls responded with four unanswered points to regain the lead (31-30) with 5 ½ minutes left in the quarter. At 4:51 the score was tied 32-32. Junior Demetrius Valadez’s (#3) basket put the Lions back on top 34-32. This time however, it would be a lead the Lions would not relinquish again. The Lions began to slowly pull away at this point of the game.

Castleberry outscored Bridgeport 12-5 to close out the third quarter. The Lions took a 7-point lead (44-37) into the final quarter.

The Lions quickly stretched their lead to 51-37 in the first 1 ½ minutes of the fourth quarter. As hard as the Bulls tried, the Lions would not allow them to get any closer than 11 points through the remainder of the fourth quarter.

Castleberry ended up outscoring Bridgeport 17-8 in the final quarter to win 61-45.

The Lions had a very balanced scoring attack on the night. Arellano (#12) led the team with 13 points. He was followed by M. Ramirez (#2) and Dobbins (#21) both with 12 points. They were closely followed by Luis Hernandez (#11) with 11 points and Valadez (#3) with 9 points and Alverio (#23) with 4 points.

Castleberry will play Decatur Lake Worth on the road on Feb. 2. The Lions will then return home on Feb. 6 to play Springtown. Tip off is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Go Lions!

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From the Project Linus Blanketeers

# First Monday Quilt Club: Come Join the Fun with Project Linus

Start the New Year in a wonderful way by joining the fun and having fellowship with the Quilt Club volunteers while you make a difference in our community and bless others by making quilts for Project Linus.

The First Monday Quilt Club meets on the first Monday of each month at Bethany Christian Church, located at 1500 Meadow Park Drive in White Settlement from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Instead of a pot-luck lunch, ladies are asked to bring brunch or snack items. Their next meeting is on Monday, Feb. 5.

Project Linus is a non-profit service organization, and the members of this group are Tarrant County Chapter Project Linus volunteers who create handmade quilts and blankets that provide love, warmth, and comfort for local children who have suffered trauma, tragedy, or illness.

Volunteers also make coverlets for veterans, nursing home residents, and the homeless. Unfortunately, the need for these blankets increases each month. They desperately need volunteers with portable sewing machines to help assemble the quilts.

No experience is needed - there is a place for you. Anyone can help if you can follow instructions, sew, tie a knot, crochet a blanket, or tell a good joke. Volunteers have lots of fun and develop fantastic friendships.

High school students can receive community service credits for participating. Materials (fabric, batting, thread, and yarn) are provided. Donations of fabric, yarn, thread, sewing machines, sergers, or money to purchase materials are greatly appreciated.

For more information about the mission of Project Linus, visit [www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org).

For more information about the First Monday Quilt Club, call Virginia Biela at 817-244-1263.

From the City of White Settlement

## AARP Tax-Aide at the Library

AARP tax-aide volunteers will once again be offering free tax preparation assistance this year at the White Settlement Public Library, located at 8215 White Settlement Rd, White Settlement, TX, 76108. These services are by appointment only and slots are limited!

You can make an appointment at this link: [bit.ly/taxaidewsl](https://bit.ly/taxaidewsl)  
Appointments begin on Monday, Jan. 29 and end on Monday, April 15. They will be holding appointments at this location on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays only.

Hours are: Mondays - 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Thursdays - noon to 4:30 p.m.; Saturdays - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



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# Texas Railroad Commissioner Ernest O. Thompson



Not everyone is destined to win all the races they race or the fights that they fight. And on some special select occasions, some of those daring souls are recognized for what they do achieve and the importance of the work to which they dedicate their lives. One of those figures is one-time Amarillo mayor Ernest O. Thompson. Thompson was denied his attempt to become governor decades ago, but his impact as a Railroad Commissioner still has a strong impact on modern Texas.

Thompson was born in Alvord, a small community in Wise County, in 1892. In 1902, the family moved to Amarillo, where his father ran a drug store. As a youth, he was considered bright and hard-working. And he always had an eye for opportunity, cleverly coming up with ways to find work or talk his way into a job.

He graduated from the University of Texas with a law degree in 1917. He joined the army in the midst of World War I, serving in the infantry. In 1918, Thompson was cited for his innovative techniques with mass, coordinated machine gun fire and promoted to lieutenant colonel. He returned to Amarillo in 1919 to practice law. Thompson was one of the organizers of the American Legion, a group of veterans dedicated to helping veterans.

In 1928, he ran for mayor, pledging to cut utility rates and won easily. In 1932, Gov. Ross Sterling appointed Thompson to the Texas Railroad Commission.

The role of the Railroad Commission steadily expanded from railroad hauling rates to regulating oil pipelines and oil and gas production by

World War I. It expanded to other forms of energy and transportation in the 1920s. The wild East Texas oil field was producing a fortune, but waste and reckless drilling threatened its long-term stability. Drilling too much too quickly for too long had ruined the production yield in oil fields in other parts of the country, even though the oil was still available. Overproduction had caused East Texas oil prices to drop 90%.

Thompson introduced a series of measures that limited production and oversaw safety measures, all designed in a way that protected the interests of smaller producers and still protected the interests of corporations. In a short time, prices stabilized, safety began to improve, and production remained sustainable. In appreciation for his efforts, Gov. James V. Allred of Wichita Falls appointed Thompson colonel in the Texas National Guard in 1936. Though Thompson was not a producer himself, he was recognized globally as an expert on oil production. In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt sent him as the American delegate to the World Petroleum Conference in France.

In 1938, he decided to run for governor. Thompson started the primary season as the prohibitive favorite to succeed Gov. Allred. Initially, his biggest opponent for the Democratic nomination was William McCraw, the state attorney general and a former Dallas prosecutor, and corporate attorney Tom Hunter of Wichita Falls. A slew of other candidates joined in, with most of the debate centered on the lingering effects of the Great Depression and calls for aid to schools and the poor and a state teacher's pension.

That spring, W. Lee "Pappy" O'Daniel, a popular Fort Worth-based radio broadcaster whose noon broadcasts of popular country music and his homespun humor won him thousands of fans, jumped into the race. A master showman, Pappy O'Daniel drew huge crowds to his campaign rallies with his wit and free concerts performed by his Light Crust Doughboys band. Few polls were conducted, but it was clear who had the advantage. Thompson held onto hopes that he could enter the usual runoff. But O'Daniel won the July primary with 51% of the vote, with Thompson finishing a distant second with only 21%. O'Daniel then went on to win the general election with an astounding 97% of the vote.

Thompson was still on the Railroad Commission but decided for a re-match against O'Daniel in 1940. The result was about the same, with O'Daniel winning 54% of the vote to 21.6% for the runner-up Thompson.

When World War II erupted, Thompson, now

nearing 50, rejoined the army. As the Allies needed a steady supply of fuel as much as they needed troops in the field, Thompson was sent back home to his duties on the Railroad Commission to ensure a steady flow of oil and natural gas to the military. Texas was a key part of this effort.

Thompson was elected to three more terms on the Railroad Commission after the war. Gov. Allan Shivers appointed Thompson as general of the National Guard in 1952.

As the years advanced and his health started to decline, Thompson decided to retire. In January 1965, he formally stepped down from the commission. He built a steady list of honors for his work. Amarillo had named a park in his honor, and Alvord placed a historical marker in the community. And to further honor of his years of service, the State of Texas renamed the old Austin Daily Tribune Building after Thompson later in 1965. He died just 18 months later at age 74. His 33 years on the Railroad Commission is still the longest in state history. The 11-story building named for him is today home to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

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From Statepoint

Suicide Prevention: Recognize the Signs

Children and teens can be moody, but when signs of mental health troubles last for weeks, don't assume it's just a passing mood.

Suicide is a leading cause of death among U.S. children, teens and young adults ages 10-24, and rates have been on the rise. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all teens be screened for suicide risk starting at age 12.

While no single cause has been identified, suicide is often preceded by depression that is undiagnosed or untreated. Most youth show some warning signs or behavior changes in advance. Families and their doctors can work together to identify if a child or teen is struggling with depression, anxiety or substance use, all of which increase the risk of suicide.

Don't be afraid to ask your child or teen to talk about their mental health or if they're contemplating suicide. Asking directly is the best way to know what your child is thinking. Studies show that it is safe to ask about suicide risk and that asking the question will not put the idea into their head. Note that your child may initially turn away or be silent, but actions may speak louder than words. Watch for major changes in your child's sleep patterns, appetite and social activities. Self-isolation, especially for kids who usually enjoy hanging out with friends or participating in activities, can signal serious difficulties.

If your child says something like "I want to die" or "I don't care anymore," some suggested responses are:

- "I'm sorry you are feeling this way—can you share a bit more?"
- "It sounds like you're in tremendous pain and you can't see a way out."
- "Maybe you're wondering how life got this complicated and difficult."
- "Right now, you're not sure of the answers to the problems you're facing."
- "You must really, really be hurting inside to consider ending your life."

Common causes of stress that increase the risk of suicide include major life-changing events, including the loss of a loved one to death, divorce, deployment or incarceration. Bullying, discrimination, racism and stigma surrounding mental heath or suicide can also increase risks. Children who have witnessed or are suffering violence or domestic abuse, engage in self-harming behavior or experienced a suicide in their school or friend group are also at higher risk of suicide.

Research has shown there are protective factors that help reduce the risk of suicide, including ready access to health care. Maintaining close connections to family, friends and one's community is also important.

Parents and guardians should limit access to lethal means, such as removing firearms and locking up medications or other potential poisons or weapons in the home. Half of youth suicides occur with firearms—and suicide attempts with firearms are almost always fatal. Teens and adolescents who attempt suicide with a firearm almost always use a gun found in their house, studies find.

"Suicide is often impulsive and a moment of crisis can escalate quickly," said Janet Lee, MD, FAAP. "If your child is considering suicide, call or text 988 or chat on 988lifeline.org right away. The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, as well as prevention and crisis resources."

For more information, visit [HealthyChildren.org](http://HealthyChildren.org).

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## Weekend Forecast



### Friday, Feb. 2:

**AM** - Cloudy, with a high near 68. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.  
**PM** - Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Low around 54. South southeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%.



### Saturday, Feb. 3:

**AM** - Partly sunny, with a high near 65. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%.  
**PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 45. South southwest wind around 10 mph.



### Sunday, Feb. 4:

**AM** - A 20% chance of showers after noon. Sunny, with a high near 63. West wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north northwest in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.  
**PM** - Partly cloudy, with a low around 46. North northwest wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)