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River Oaks News

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From the American Red Cross

Donors Needed in July to Prevent a Blood Shortage

The American Red Cross continues to see a concerning trend – blood donations are being sent to hospitals faster than they are coming in. The Red Cross has collected about 50,000 fewer blood donations than needed over the last two months. Donors are asked to make an appointment to give blood now to avoid a looming blood shortage.

To help head off a more serious situation, the Red Cross is teaming up with Warner Bros. Discovery for the 35th anniversary of Shark Week and the theatrical release of *Meg 2: The Trench*. The public is encouraged to celebrate a summer of sharks and help shore up the national blood supply by giving in July.

In thanks for helping, the Red Cross is offering several incentives to donors who

come out to give blood or platelets in the coming weeks. Additionally, in response to the great need for blood, those who hurry in to help by coming to give July 1-16 will receive a limited-time bonus \$15 gift card by email to a merchant of their choice.

- July 12-Aug 12: Those who come to give will be automatically entered for a chance to win a three-night New York getaway for two with a private shark dive adventure at Long Island Aquarium. Details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/Shark.

- July 17-31: Presenting donors will receive an officially licensed Shark Week T-shirt, while supplies last. Donors will also be automatically entered for a chance to win a three-night New York getaway for two with a private shark dive adventure at Long Island Aquarium. Details are available at

RedCrossBlood.org/Shark.

By scheduling and keeping appointments in July, donors can help provide for those in immediate need of lifesaving care.

To schedule an appointment to donate, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

From Texas Comptroller's Office

Sales Tax Holiday Aug. 11 - 13

The Comptroller encourages all taxpayers to support Texas businesses while saving money on tax-free purchases of most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks (sold for less than \$100) during the annual Tax-Free weekend.

Qualifying items can be purchased tax free from a Texas store or from an online or catalog seller doing business in Texas. In most cases, you do not need to give the seller an exemption certificate to buy qualifying items tax free.

This year's sales tax holiday begins Friday, Aug. 11, and goes through midnight Sunday, Aug. 13.

The sales tax (continued on page 2)

From the Spay Neuter Network

Free Spay and Neuter Mobile Clinic

The Spay Neuter Network will hold a free spay and neuter mobile clinic for dogs and cats on Friday, July 28 at the Fort Worth Animal Care Shelter located at 4900 Martin Street in Fort Worth.

This event is by appointment only. [Register online to reserve a time.](#)

Surgery check-in is at 7:30 a.m. and sur-

gery pick up is 3:30 p.m. Rabies vaccine, microchip, parvo/distemper (dogs), FVRCP (cats) included with surgery.

Appointments can be made at www.spayneuternet.org or by calling 972-472-3500.

Free surgery and vaccines provided by Operation Kindness.

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Sales Tax Holiday (continued from page 1)

exemption applies only to qualifying items you buy during the sales tax holiday. Items you buy before or after the sales tax holiday do not qualify for exemption, and there is no tax refund available.

Additional Charges Affect the Sales Price

Delivery, shipping, handling and transportation charges by the seller are part of the item's sales price.

Since clothing, backpacks and school supplies have to be less than \$100 to qualify, you have to look at the item's total sales price to determine if you can buy it tax free.

For example, you buy a pair of jeans for \$95 with a \$10 delivery charge for a total price of \$105. Because the jeans' total price is more than \$100, tax is due on the entire \$105 price.

If a delivery charge is billed per item, and an invoice has both exempt and taxable items, only the qualifying exempt item's delivery charge is exempt.

If the delivery charge is a flat rate per package, and the amount charged is the same regardless of how many items are included in the package, the total charge can be attributed to any one of the items in the package.

Sales Tax Holiday Refund Requests

If you pay sales tax on qualifying items

during the sales tax holiday, you can ask the seller for a refund of the tax paid. The seller can either grant the refund or provide their customer with Form 00-985, Assignment to Right to Refund (PDF), which allows the purchaser to file the refund claim directly with the Comptroller's office.

Qualifying Items

[Click Here](#) to view the list of clothing, footwear and other qualifying items.

[Click Here](#) to view the list of school supplies.

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From the North Central Texas Council of Governments

NCTCOG Hosts Online Input Opportunity

The North Central Texas Council of Governments is hosting an online public input opportunity now through Aug. 8 to allow residents to learn more about transportation initiatives and participate in the regional planning process. To submit comments and questions to NCTCOG, email nctcogJuly23@publicinput.com or visit www.publicinput.com/nctcogJuly23, where you can also watch the presentations.

Each year, NCTCOG works to approve and update the Regional 10-Year Plan. This plan identifies major projects to be implemented in the region. The public input opportunity will provide a project list from Fiscal Year 2024 to Fiscal Year 2033 for review and comment. Air quality improvement is an important focus for NCTCOG, with the region classified as nonattainment for ozone. Working closely with regional partners, NCTCOG develops and implements strategies, policies and programs to enhance air quality. In addition, there are periodic opportunities for public and private entities to compete for funding to reduce fleet emissions. Highlights of Dallas-Fort Worth fleet projects implemented using grant funds will be provided, as well as a list of current funding opportunities available to fleets.

An overview of the recently completed DFW Discovery Trail branding and wayfinding project will also be provided, including final branding recommendations.

NCTCOG's Community Gardens Program Guide provides information, resources and tools for cities and others to develop and implement community garden programs in their areas. An overview of this new initiative will be available.

Information will also be provided about the following initiatives and programs: Certification of Emerging and Reliable Transportation Technology (CERTT) Program: Round 2 results, Walk to School Day promotion 2023, Engine Off North Texas and Mobility 2045: 2022 Update administrative revisions.

For assistance with special accommodations or to request printed copies of the information, contact Jackie Castillo at 817-695-9255 or 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. Currently, NCTCOG has 228 member governments including 16 counties, 169 cities, 19 school districts and 27 special districts. For more information on the Transportation Department, visit www.nctcog.org/trans.



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Hosted by Chris Grundy

How You Can Trim Expenses to Save for What Matters Most



Whether you're saving to buy a home, putting money in your child's college fund or just trying to cover higher costs for necessities, you may be looking for ways to keep more money in your wallet so you can spend on the things that matter most. And you're not alone.

In fact, a recent national survey from Experian found that 66 percent of respondents are actively looking for ways to trim expenses from their monthly budget.

There is no better time than the present to get started. The basics of saving money lay a great foundation for stretching your dollars and taking control of your finances. This includes budgeting, paying off debt, establishing savings goals, automating savings and cutting back on unnecessary expenses.

However, you may not know there are other less obvious ways to keep more money in your wallet. Don't leave money on the table, here are three creative ways to save more now:

- Shop around to save on monthly bills: Most people spend time shopping around for a new TV or other purchase to get the best price, but overlook the opportunity to save by comparing monthly bill providers. Experian has an auto insurance comparison shopping service that can help you potentially save up to \$900 per year on your policy. The service provides you with multiple, tailored rates from up to 40 leading and well-established auto insurance carriers, al-

lowing you to find a policy that meets your needs.

- Look for ways to maximize credit card rewards: You can save big and manage spending at no cost with the right credit cards and reward programs. To help you find the best card, whether you want cash back or no APR terms, Experian offers a free marketplace that leverages your financial information against lenders' requirements to match you with tailored offers.

- Try negotiating rates: Negotiating monthly bills is crucial for finding extra savings. Take a look at your payment terms and plans to see if you can renegotiate for lower rates on expenses like cable or cell service. If you feel that calling service providers is tedious and time consuming, there are services that can help. A new feature available in a paid Experian CreditWorks Premium Membership negotiates lower rates on eligible monthly bills on your behalf so you can stop overpaying. Those who use this feature see an average savings of \$263. If you'd like to negotiate directly with your provider, make sure you ask them about all the offers they are willing to extend to you so you know all your options and get the new, accepted offer in writing.

"Even when times aren't tough, it is always good to practice budgeting and money-saving habits to position yourself in the best way possible before you need it," said Andrea Woroch, a nationally recognized consumer finance and money-saving

expert. "Tapping into these tools from Experian can help you save in ways you may not have been aware of and help you keep your finances on track now and in the future."

There are more ways Woroch recommends to save, including reducing your monthly spend on debt by consolidating credit card debt to a 0% balance transfer card and avoiding impulse shopping by deleting payment and shipping details stored in online retail accounts, as well as unsubscribing from store emails. To be more strategic at the grocery store and cut wasteful purchases, you might also consider meal planning.

To learn more about saving and Experian resources, visit Experian.com/savings.

It's always important to find ways to save. Leveraging available tools can help you get control of your expenses and keep more money in your wallet.

From Texas Comptroller's Office

Are You an Unclaimed Property Holder?

Unclaimed property can be any financial asset or safe deposit box contents that has been abandoned by the property owner for one or more years.

Examples of unclaimed property are: abandoned bank accounts, uncashed checks, overpayments, payroll and vendor checks, unredeemed gift cards, insurance proceeds, dividends and mineral interests.

How do I search for unclaimed property?

Business and individuals can search for their unclaimed property using the online tool located at ClaimItTexas.gov.

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American Composer, Pianist, Arranger and Conductor -

Scott Bradley by Dr. Ken Bridges

Texas musician **Scott Bradley** was never widely known outside of the studio, but his music was the heart of some of the most iconic American cultural icons of the 20th century, most notably, the famed cartoon duo of Tom and Jerry.

Bradley was born in Russellville, Arkansas, in 1891. He developed a love of music early and taught himself. By the 1910s, he headed to Houston to put his musical talents to work. He found work as a conductor for orchestras and theaters throughout Southeast Texas as well as radio stations. At the same time, he continued to write his own music. Though he was a successful musician, Bradley still took lessons from more experienced musicians to fine-tune his own craft.

By the early 1920s, California was rapidly becoming the heart of the entertainment world. Bradley left Texas in 1926 to become a conductor for a Los Angeles radio station. In 1929, he was hired by The Walt Disney Studio as a staff musician. However, Walt Disney had a falling out with some of his staff in 1930. One of Disney's chief animators went to form his own cartoon studio for which Bradley worked for several years.

By the 1930s, the cartoon short feature had become a staple part of the moviegoing experience. Seeing the success of Disney and others with the growing popularity of animation, Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer Studios decided to form its own cartoon studio in 1937 to compete. Bradley was quickly hired to help provide the music.

In 1940, MGM animators William Hanna and Joseph Barbera created the Tom and Jerry cartoon, though they were originally named Jasper and Jinx. Bradley went on to write and conduct the large orchestras for the music in the 114 original cartoons made between 1940 and 1957.

Since Tom and Jerry almost never spoke, most of the stories relied on Bradley's music to set up and underline the different jokes, playful tensions, and transitions from one scene to the next. The physical humor and lack of dialogue helped make the cartoons immensely popular around the world as Bradley's music needed no translations.

One 1947 cartoon in particular, "*The Cat Concerto*," placed



music at the center of the episode as Tom played a concert pianist whose piano happened to be Jerry's home. Jerry got his revenge against Tom by making it difficult for the desperate cat to finish. Thanks to Bradley's music direction, the cartoon won the 1948 Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film, the fourth consecutive Academy Award for Tom and Jerry.

Bradley also composed the musical score for the 28 Barney Bear cartoons made by MGM between 1939 and 1954. Bradley would also go on to provide the music for the 24 Droopy cartoons produced between 1943 and 1957 and the Screwy Squirrel cartoons made in the late 1940s.

In 1957, MGM closed its cartoon studio as part of a corporate restructuring effort. Though MGM would continue to produce cartoons, the large budgets were gone and an entirely new group of directors, animators, and musicians were hired. Bradley's contract was cancelled; and at the age of 65, he decided to retire.

In those nearly two decades of the first batch of Tom and Jerry cartoons, Bradley was part of a team that earned eleven Academy Award nominations and won eight Academy Awards for the cartoons. Overall, he composed 250 cartoon music scores.

Bradley died at his home in California in 1977 at the age of 85 as a new generation of youngsters discovered in television reruns the cartoons he helped bring to life. A compilation album of his musical scores from some of these cartoons was released in 2006.

Today, these cartoons continue to be seen on television and on video daily in homes around the world.

From City of White Settlement

Register Today for the Second Annual Cardboard Boat Race

Registration is now open for the second annual Rock the Boat Cardboard Boat Race Event to be held Saturday, Sept. 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Splash Dayz Waterpark, located at 405 N Las Vegas Tr. in White Settlement.

Contestants will build a cardboard boat and race to the end of the wave pool. This free event is sure to be a ton of fun!

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Three Day Weekend Forecast



Friday, July 14:

AM - Sunny and hot, with a high near 103. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 80. South wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.



Saturday, July 15:

AM - Sunny and hot, with a high near 102. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 79. Southeast wind around 10 mph.



Sunday, July 16:

AM - Sunny and hot, with a high near 99. South wind around 10 mph becoming north in the afternoon.
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 79.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)