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# River Oaks News

*Established 1939 • A Publication of Suburban Newspapers, Inc.*

83rd Year No. 30 • 7820 Wyatt Drive, White Settlement, Texas 76108 • [www.suburban-newspapers.com](http://www.suburban-newspapers.com) • July 27, 2023

*From Castleberry ISD*

## Castleberry High School Freshman Lion Camp 23-24

Registration for the camp will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the North Gym at Castleberry High School, located at 215 Churchill Road.

Freshman Camp will be from 9 to 11 a.m. The freshmen will have an opportunity to participate in four mini-sessions, engaging games, and tour parts of the building.

Students will be entered in the prize drawing at the conclusion of the camp.

A parent session will be held from 9 to 9:30 a.m. Paleta will be available for purchase after the camp from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

**You can find all CHS girls and boys sports game schedules on the CISD website!**

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**July 27**  
9am - 11 am  
**CLASS OF 2027**

**FRESHMAN LION CAMP**

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Registration 8:30  
Parent Sessions 9:00-9:30

Castleberry High School North Gym

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**CASTLEBERRY LIONS**

*From Castleberry ISD*

## Register Today for Castleberry ISD's Annual Back to School Bash

Castleberry ISD families are invited to the district's annual Back to School Bash on Friday, Aug. 4 at Castleberry Elementary, located at 1100 Robert's Cut Off from 9 a.m. to noon. This event will help families prepare for the upcoming school year.

Local community organizations and departments within Castleberry ISD are joining forces to provide giveaways, services, and interactive training opportunities to ensure families have the resources needed to start the new school year on a positive note.

To ensure smoother processing and minimize wait times, the

district kindly requests that families attend the event at the following times:

- Last names starting with A to E: 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
- Last names starting with F to L: 9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- Last names starting with M to Q: 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
- Last names starting with R to Z: 11:15 a.m. to noon

The first 1,200 student names submitted on a parent/guardian's [registration form](#) are guaranteed a clear backpack and school supplies!

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## Texas Senator, Barbara Jordan by Dr. Ken Bridges



**Barbara Jordan** was a woman of many firsts in her career. In her relatively short time in Congress and the Texas State Senate, she left an immeasurable impact and in a cynical and dark age in American politics, she became for many across the nation a voice of conscience.

Jordan was born in Houston in 1936, the youngest of three children. Her father was a respected Baptist minister. The church was a central part of her life in her youth, and she excelled in school. She graduated with honors from the segregated Phillis Wheatley High School in 1952.

She could not attend the University of Texas, her first choice, because segregation was still in effect. However, she went to Texas Southern University instead, studying history and political science on her way to becoming a lawyer. She became a champion debater, easily beating contenders from the most prestigious universities in the nation. After graduating with high honors in 1956, she entered Boston University School of Law, gaining a law degree by 1959.

After serving as a professor of political science for a year at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, Jordan returned to Houston to practice law. She dove into politics, but lost two races to the state legislature in the early 1960s. In 1966, she was elected to the State Senate, the first black woman to receive such an honor in Texas. She was widely respected by her colleagues and rose to the position of president pro tem.

Over the years, it has become a tradition in Texas that both the governor and lieutenant governor leave the state for a day so that the president pro tem of the State Senate becomes acting governor for a day. On June 10, 1972,

Gov. Preston Smith and Lt. Gov. Ben Barnes left Texas for a day as part of that tradition. In what became a footnote in a life of achievement, Jordan thus became the first African-American woman in American History to serve as a governor, even as only an acting governor for a day.

Later that year, she was elected to Congress, again the first black woman ever elected from Texas. She sponsored or co-sponsored hundreds of laws during her six years in Congress.

Jordan was given a place on the House Judiciary Committee, and the committee undertook the grave task of considering impeachment for President Richard Nixon for his activities during the Watergate scandal. Jordan quickly became a leader in the debate.

In one famous speech in 1974, in a steady, careful voice, Jordan expressed her belief in the Constitution and the rule of law over politics. As she said to her colleagues and a nationally televised audience, "My faith in the Constitution is whole, it is complete, it is total. I am not going to sit here and be an idle spectator to the diminution, the subversion, the destruction of the Constitution."

Nixon resigned before an impeachment vote could be taken, but Jordan became a re-

spected leader across the nation in the process and the reforms that followed. In 1976, she became the first African-American woman to give the keynote address at the Democratic National Convention, an address that was met with thunderous applause. In 1992, she again spoke to the convention, reminding the delegates and the nation of the need for change.

Jordan declined to run for a fourth term in 1978. She returned to Texas and began teaching at the University of Texas. She served as chairman of the U. S. Commission on Immigration Reform for two years under President Bill Clinton. In 1994, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Jordan remained a beloved figure on the UT campus in her later years. However, her health continued to decline. She died in January 1996 at the age of 59. Some scholars have since listed her speeches as among the best ever spoken by an American politician.

In the years since her death, a number of schools and streets have been named in her honor, including in her native Houston. As for the university she could not attend as a youth because of her skin color, the University of Texas has since erected a statue to her on campus.



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*Benbrook News, River Oaks News and  
White Settlement Bomber News***

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

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Classifieds: Vee Horn, ca.suburbannews@sbcglobal.net

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From White Settlement Fire Department

# Grilling Safety Tips

As summer heats up, it's time to fire up those grills and enjoy delicious outdoor barbecues! Safety is the top priority, so here are some essential grilling tips to keep in mind:

1. Location, location, location: Place your grill outdoors on a level surface away from any structures, overhanging branches, or flammable materials. Keep a safe distance of at least 10 feet.
2. Clean it up: Before grilling, remove grease or fat buildup from the grates and trays. A clean grill reduces the risk of flare-ups and unwanted fires.
3. Proper lighting: When using a gas grill,

- follow the manufacturer's instructions for lighting. Keep the lid open and don't lean over the grill when igniting it. If the flame goes out, wait for the gas to dissipate before relighting.
4. Supervision is key: Never leave a lit grill unattended. A momentary distraction could lead to an accident. Ensure someone responsible is present at all times.
5. Keep kids and pets safe: Establish a designated safety zone around the grill, and make sure children and pets stay away from it. Educate them about the dangers of hot surfaces and open flames.

6. Watch those clothing choices: Avoid wearing loose or flammable clothing that could easily catch fire. Opt for short sleeves and use long-handled tools to keep a safe distance.
  7. Extinguish with care: After grilling, make sure the coals are fully extinguished. For gas grills, turn off the burners and the gas supply. Allow the grill to cool down before moving or covering it.
- Remember, prevention is key to a safe grilling experience. Spread the word and help keep the community safe by sharing these tips! Have a sizzling summer and happy grilling!



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# Grilling Safety

There's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries. Follow these simple tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling.

## SAFETY TIPS

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

## CHARCOAL GRILLS

- There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.


## PROPANE Grills


Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. **If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department.** Do not move the grill.

If the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least **5 minutes** before re-lighting it.


## FACTS

- July is the peak month for grill fires.
- Roughly half of the injuries involving grills are thermal burns.





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# Tips to Make Your Back-to-School Shopping Game Plan



Staying on top of consumer trends can make for a better shopper experience this back-to-school season, helping you land the best deals on the right products at the right time.

The results of a new survey from Sensormatic Solutions show that despite new shopping options popularized during the pandemic, such as buy-online-pick-up-in-stores (BOPIS), 79 percent of respondents plan to conduct their back-to-school shopping in stores this year, a slight increase from 2022. The most important factors when shopping in-store include price (91 percent), product availability (75 percent) and a safe and comfortable store environment (44 percent).

“Consumers are still viewing in-store shopping, particularly in the

back-to-school season, as an experience to be enjoyed rather than an errand,” says Kim Melvin, global leader of marketing and communications at Sensormatic Solutions. “Retailers are accommodating and encouraging this point of view, and it’s creating a better, more responsible, and more agile industry for customers and retailers alike.”

Consumers are also less worried about how the current U.S. economy will impact their back-to-school shopping budget than they were last year. Despite talk of a recession, 51 percent say their budget will not be impacted or that they even plan to spend more this year, a notable increase as compared to 43 percent in 2022. Consumers plan to spend the most on clothing and apparel (70 percent), shoes (58 percent) and school supplies (53 percent).

No matter how much you’ve budgeted for back-to-school shopping or what items you plan to spend the most on, you can use these top strategies from Sensormatic Solutions to make your back-to-school shopping experience successful and stress-free:

- 80 percent of respondents plan to begin their back-to-school shopping in July or August – an increase over last year – so don’t wait. If you’re like many shoppers, and price and product availability are heavily factored into your shopping habits, you may want to jump on the trend of shopping earlier in the season to ensure you’ll find the supplies you need at the best prices.
- Don’t worry about what days you plan to head to the store. In-store traffic is likely to be steady throughout the week, with 35 percent of consumers saying they’re more likely to shop on weekdays, 32 percent saying weekends and 33 percent saying they have no preference.
- With 75 percent of respondents saying product availability is an important factor when shopping in-store, consider planning out your shopping list to ensure retailers have your items in-stock before you arrive. Thankfully, technologies like inventory intelligence are making brick-and-mortar shopping more reliable and convenient.

For additional survey results and insights, visit <https://www.sensormatic.com/resources/ar/2023/back-to-school-survey-2023>.

“Gearing up for a new school year is always exciting for both parents and kids. And with a bit of knowledge of how your fellow consumers plan to get their seasonal shopping done, you can develop smart shopping strategies,” says Melvin.

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From Tarrant County

# History of Tarrant County

Tarrant County's roots lie in the 'Old West' and much of our heritage can be traced to the era of the cowboy and the cattle drives that passed through Tarrant County. Tarrant County is one of 254 counties in Texas which were originally set up by the State to serve as decentralized administrative divisions providing state services and collecting state taxes.

Tarrant County, one of 26 counties created out of the Peters Colony, was established in 1849. It was named for General Edward H. Tarrant, commander of militia forces of the Republic of Texas at the Battle of Village Creek in 1841. The village of Grapevine; the Texas Ranger outpost of Johnson's Station (in what is now south Arlington); and Bird's Fort, a short-lived private fort just south of present-day Euless, were early areas of western civilization in the region.

On the bluff where the Tarrant County Courthouse now stands, a military post was established in 1849 by a company of the 2nd U.S. Dragoons under the command of Major Ripley A. Arnold. The fort was named in honor of General William Jenkins Worth, a hero of the Mexican War and commander of United States forces in this region.

From as early as 1856, regular stagecoach service passed through Tarrant County, carrying mail and passengers from the east on to the frontier forts and the West Coast. By the 1870s, mail stagecoaches arrived and departed from downtown Fort Worth six days a week. From the close of the Civil War and through the late 1870s, millions of cattle were driven up the trail through Tarrant County (roughly following Interstate 35 West) to the railheads in Kansas. After the Texas & Pacific Railroad reached Tarrant County and Fort Worth in 1876, Fort Worth became the largest stagecoach terminus in the Southwest - a hub for rail passengers to continue their journeys west by stagecoach.



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Three Day Weekend Forecast



Friday, July 28:

AM - Sunny and hot, with a high near 101. South wind around 10 mph.  
PM - Mostly clear; low around 79. S/SE wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.



Saturday, July 29:

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 79. S/SE wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.



Sunday, July 30:

AM - Sunny and hot, with a high near 104. S/SW wind around 10 mph becoming southeast in the afternoon.  
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 80.

Extended Forecast Click Here