

Benbrook News

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Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt

VFW Post 10429 Draws Huge Crowd on Steak Night

The line was out the door for steak night at VFW Post 10429! They serve huge, grilled steaks and pork chops with sautéed onions and mushrooms, along with an enormous baked potato, salad and dessert the first Saturday every month.

The best meal in the community is available at a very reasonable cost to support our veterans! They have a great kitchen crew and cook shack volunteers aim to please. This event is open to the public. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the awesome menu along with fun and fellowship! (photos continued on page 3)



Cook shack volunteers (l-r) **Hank Kratz, Geoff Crewe, Dallas Fousek** and **Paul Sights** aim to please patrons' tastebuds!

From the Sports Desk with John English

Soccer Season Comes to a Close for BMHS Lady Bobcats

The season came to an end for the Benbrook girls soccer team last week, but not before winning another district championship and reaching the regional quarterfinals.

The Lady Cats lost to Salado by a score of 5-1 in the third round of the playoffs, and coach Luz Castillo said it was another outstanding year for the Benbrook girls soccer program.

"It was a great season, and we couldn't be prouder of our team's accomplishments this season," Castillo said. "Despite the tough loss in the regional playoff match, our girls showed incredible determination and fought hard until the end. They've grown so much both individually and as a team. This season has been a testament to their hard work and dedication."

Castillo said the best moment in the game against Salado came from a player who has been getting it done for the Lady Cats for a long time.

"One standout moment from the game was when senior Campbell Cox stepped up to take a penalty kick and scored a crucial goal for our team," Castillo said. "It was a testament to her skill and composure under pressure, and it helped rally the team's spirit. Her performance played a significant role in our overall effort."

Reflecting on the season, Castillo said her players impressed her in a number of ways.

"This young team has shown resilience, teamwork, and growth throughout the entire journey," Cas- (continued on page 2)

Benbrook Council Action by John English

April 4 Meeting Review: City Manager and Secretary Announced

The Benbrook City Council meeting held on April 4 was conducted as scheduled. Mayor Jason Ward called the meeting to order. An invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Time was then allowed for citizen comments on any agenda item, but there were none.

The minutes from the previous meeting held on March 21 were then approved unanimously.

The first item of the evening was to proclaim April as Child the work they do.

Abuse Prevention Month. The proclamation stated that the Alliance for Children provided trauma-informed services for 2,325 children in Tarrant County in 2023.

"Those are hard numbers to read," Ward said.

Mayor Ward then proclaimed April of 2024 as Child Abuse Prevention month for the city of Benbrook and thanked two members of the Alliance for Children who were present at the meeting for the work they do. (continued on page 2)

Sports Desk

(continued from page 1)

tillo said. "Each player has contributed in their own way, and their dedication and hard work have been truly inspiring. While the season may have come to an end, the memories and lessons learned will last a lifetime. I'm incredibly satisfied with the way it unfolded and excited for what the future holds for this talented group."

Castillo said that future appears to be shaping up very bright for her team.

"We have a solid foundation for next season with several returning players who have gained valuable experience and leadership skills this year," Castillo said. "Additionally, we have some promising talent coming up from our incoming freshman and junior varsity team, who have shown great potential during their games this season. I'm confident that with the dedication and hard work of both our returning players and incoming talent, we'll be well-prepared to tackle the challenges and aim for even greater success next season."

In baseball, Benbrook swept its series with Western Hills last week, and followed that up with an 11-1 victory over Trimble Tech on Saturday.

"The bobcats earned their 150th win for the program on Saturday by defeating Trimble Tech," coach Justin Chavez said. "Against Western Hills, we played very well. We were able to get a lot of kids in. We stayed focused and we did exactly what we had to do to win both games."

Sebastian Martinez picked up the win on Saturday versus Trimble Tech.

In softball, Western Hills defeated Diamond Hill-Jarvis by a score of 11-9 last Tuesday night to remain firmly entrenched in the playoff hunt.

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Council Action (continued from page 1)

for the Alliance for Children then approached the podium and thanked the city council.

and partnership with us in our mission," Garcia said.

Time was then allowed for informal citizen comments.

Cheryl Bean, who is running for the Texas House of Representatives District 97, informed residents that she is running and said she would be attending more council meetings to help determine what issues were affecting the residents of Benbrook.

Time was then allowed for council member and staff comments, and council member Dr. Larry Marshall reminded residents that the Blue Angels will be at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base on April 13 and 14.

The meeting then went into Executive session, and when it reconvened, there were two action items taken by the council.

The first was a motion to appoint Jim Hinderaker as City Manager of the City of Benbrook effective the day after the current

Jaylynn Garcia, the MDT Coordinator City Manager's retirement date and authorize the mayor to exercise an employment agreement with Hinderaker.

The second motion was that Beth "We are honored to have your support Fischer be appointed as City Secretary effective the day following the current secretary's date of retirement and authorize the mayor to exercise an employment agreement with Fischer.

> Both motions were approved unanimously.

The meeting was then adjourned.







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Around the Town (continued from page 1)



Mel and **Herminia Allen** took the orders.



Canteen Manager Lori Barta and Mixology Specialist Kathy Kinder.



Peggy and **Bob Trinidad** wait in line to order their meal.



The Kitchen Crew includes: (front, l-r) Patty Bravo and Judy Grantland; (back) Jack Casey, Kimberly Kowalski and Eric Ward.



This group waited patiently to place their order: Kim McDonald, Hope Osborne, Darlene Soad, Danny Brigance, Judy Thoton, Scott Reed, Tim Collie, Deanne Green, Gwen Crabtree, Becky Bradham, Lorraine Collins and Vanessa Mason.





Community Members and Visitors Enjoy the Solar Eclipse

The solar eclipse was an amazing phenomenon witnessed by several individuals in our hometown. The anticipation I observed from those gathered to watch was completely overwhelming!

As the moon moved into place, the sun was totally eclipsed and the skies went dark! The temperature dropped, locusts were chirping - and then the applause of spectators that participated in this spectacular event was amazing! At different locations were food trucks, shaved ice, free popcorn and eclipse glasses.



These spectators came from Oregon and California to meet up with family in Fort Worth: Jessica Crandall, Ryan Crandall, Jasmyn McKown, Bob Castillo, Matt Bailey, Sarah Szilard and Matt Doidge.



Diego, Sophia, Naomi and Erica Ruelas prepare for the eclipse.



Lyle Brown, Garvey McCue, Robyn Brown and Abi McCue came to watch the eclipse from Tennessee and Georgia.



Mary Madderom and **Trevor Madderom** hosted guests from Florida, **Darlene Madderom** and **Beverly Secraw**.



Manual Acnanza, Pete Alcala and Lee Roy Lewis found the perfect spot to watch the eclipse.

Reducing the Runtime: Engine Off North Texas

Engine Off North Texas (EONT) is a regional air quality initiative that connects members of local governments, businesses and the public to resources and information about reducing engine idling focused mainly on heavy-duty diesel vehicles. Ten counties in the region are designated as nonattainment for federal ground-level ozone pollutant standards. Of the on-road mobile emissions sources, heavy-duty vehicles contribute around 48% of nitrogen oxides (a ground-level ozone forming pollutant). Therefore, air quality initiatives like EONT are focused on reducing pollution from the heavy-duty transportation vehicle sector which can lead to improving the environment and human health. EONT offers information on local governments' ordinances and policies encouraging heavy-duty diesel vehicle idle reduction, and promotes installation and use of idle-reduction infrastructure and devices that can help reduce diesel engine emissions.

This program provides guidance and educational materials at

Engine Off North Texas (EONT) is a regional air quality initive that connects members of local governments, businesses lated to idling impacts and idle reduction strategies.

North Texans can report excessive heavy-duty diesel truck idling to NCTCOG in one of two ways: by visiting our website at www.engineoffnorthtexas.org; or by calling 877-NTX-IDLE (1-877-689-4353) -- which results in owners of heavy-duty diesel vehicles being notified by mail. In 2023, EONT received 49 idling reports and distributed materials to entities in jurisdictions with idle restriction ordinances.

Currently, 29 local governments in the North Central Texas region have active idling ordinances on the books. EONT continues its efforts in North Texas to identify and address unnecessary idling activity to reduce diesel engine emissions. To learn more about the current status of regional air quality, visit nctcog.org/air-quality.

From North Central Texas Council of Governments

April is Car Care Awareness Month

Are you Car Care Aware? April is spring National Car Care Awareness Month and that means taking a few extra steps to ensure your vehicle is in good working condition for the seasons ahead. Not only could preventative maintenance save you both time and money, but it could also keep the air we breathe clean and you and your passengers safe on the roadway.

Vehicle preventative maintenance includes making sure your check engine light is not illuminated, tires are inflated properly and have plenty of tread depth left, windshield wipers aren't cracked or torn, and your fluids are all topped off. Discovering that your vehicle wasn't prepared for the springtime showers can be dangerous, so plan ahead.

As spring quickly gives way to more intense summertime temperatures, ensuring that your cooling system is up to the task is important, as well. An overheated engine could not only leave you stranded but cost you substantially in repairs. Luckily, an engine will generally give you warning before disaster strikes, so keep an eye on the coolant level as well as the temperature gauge.

If you notice that the dreaded check engine light has appeared on the dashboard, don't delay! Have it looked at by a qualified technician. Prolonging that repair could not only cost you more money in the long run, but is making your vehicle pollute excessively as well, affecting our regional air quality. In addition, you won't pass your annual vehicle inspection. Stay safe and remember to be Car Care Aware! For more information on this regional air quality and vehicle safety initiative, visit ntxcarcare.org.

From the City of Benbrook

Mark Your Calendars for Touch-a-Truck May 21

The City of Benbrook invites you to explore a variety of service trucks and other vehicles and meet the people who protect and serve the Benbrook community, Tuesday, May 21, from 6 to 8 p.m.

This event is great fun for kids of all ages! An Ambulance, Patrol Car, Tractor, Ladder Truck, Fire Engine, and Animal Control Truck will be on display. Vendors will also be onsite where attendees can purchase food.

For more information, call 817-249-6008.



Texas History Minute

Erastus "Deaf" Smith by Dr. Ken Bridges

Erastus "Deaf" Smith was perhaps one of the most unique figures to emerge from the early years of Texas History. In spite of a nearly total hearing loss, "Deaf" Smith still served Texas with courage and distinction. While he may not have been able to hear, Texas listened closely to what he had to say.

Smith was born in Duchess County, New York, about 80 miles north of New York City. His parents, Chilaib and Mary Smith, were farmers. In 1799, they moved to Natchez in the Mississippi Territory in pursuit of the new lands available.

According to reports, Smith



lost nearly all of his hearing due to an unspecified illness he suffered as a child. In the years before vaccines and antibiotics, such tragedies were not unusual and any of a number of diseases curable with modern medicine could have been responsible. Nevertheless, his vision and keen sense of discernment remained intact, and Smith remained determined not to let this loss discourage him in any way.

He briefly visited Texas in 1817 before returning to Mississippi. In 1821, he returned to Texas and settled in San Antonio where he married a local widow. Together, they had four children. In 1825, he became one of the first settlers in the community of Gonzales, the first American settlement in Texas west of the Colorado River.

In 1835, when Mexican Gen. Martin Perfecto de Cos briefly seized control of San Antonio, they blocked Smith, who had been away for some time, from seeing his family.

At the age of 48, he joined the forces of Stephen F. Austin in an attempt to break the siege and served as a scout. Smith's careful observation revealed that Cos did not have the resources to survive a long siege. Half-starved, Cos and his army surrendered in December.

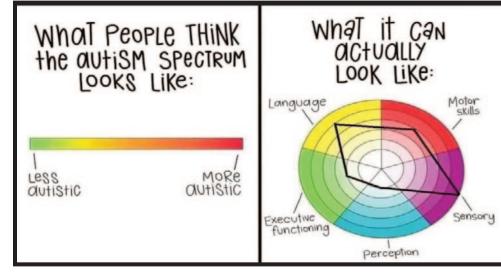
Smith stayed in San Antonio to help with the defense of the city while his wife and children fled to nearby Columbia. Mexican forces returned the next February. After Col. William Barret Travis wrote his now-famous appeal to Texans and the world for aid, he sent Smith with the letter to Gen. Sam Houston, commander of all Texas forces. Houston sent Smith back to the Alamo to learn of its fate, only to return with the news of its fall and the slaughter of its defenders.

Houston promoted Smith to the rank of captain and continued to use him for reconnaissance while Texas forces pulled back toward San Jacinto. Smith captured a number of Mexican spies and messengers and as the battle at San Jacinto approached and cut down a wooden bridge with an ax to cut off a possible retreat by Mexican forces. After the battle in April, Smith was entrusted with delivering the orders of the surrendering Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna to all remaining Mexican forces to leave Texas.

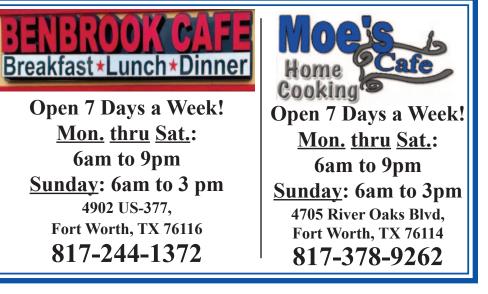
Smith returned to military service briefly in 1837 as a Ranger to deflect Mexican forces attempting to enter Texas at Laredo. Shortly afterward, Smith moved to Richmond, just west of modern-day Houston. His time here would not last long. In November, he contracted a sudden illness and died. He was only 50 years old.

The Telegraph and Texas Register newspaper in Houston revered his life upon the news of his death, "This singular individual was one whose name bears with it more respect than sounding titles. Major, Colonel, General, sink into insignificance before the simple name of "Deaf Smith.""

The Republic of Texas later put his image on the Texas \$5 bill. In 1876, the state legislature named Deaf Smith County in the Panhandle in memory of the revered hero of the Texas Revolution.







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Weekend Forecast



Friday, April 12:

<u>AM</u> - Sunny, with a high near 79. South wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 57. South wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.



Saturday, April 13:

<u>AM</u> - Mostly sunny, with a high near 81. South wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. <u>PM</u> - Partly cloudy, with a low around 64. South wind around 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.



Sunday, April 14:

<u>AM</u> - Partly sunny, with a high near 86. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. <u>PM</u> - Mostly cloudy, with a low around 68.

Extended Forecast Click Here