



Benbrook News

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Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt

Benbrook Cemetery to Join Wreaths Across America in First-Year Tribute to Veterans



Co-Location Coordinator/Community Liaison Jamie Bengford, Location Coordinator Kelly Sears and Volunteer/Auxiliary Member Martin Gutierrez.

Wreaths Across America, a national nonprofit founded to honor U.S. veterans, continues its year-round mission to *Remember the Fallen, Honor those who serve and Teach future generations about the value of freedom.* The organization coordinates wreath-laying ceremonies each December at cemeteries across the country, ensuring the service and sacrifice of veterans are never forgotten.

This year's theme, "Keep Moving Forward," is inspired by the final words of U.S. Army Capt. Joshua Byers, who was killed in action. The message reflects resilience and the ongoing commitment to honor veterans and their families.

More than 5,200 locations nationwide will participate in the 2025 remembrance event. Benbrook Cemetery will join for the first time, thanks to the efforts of three volunteers from VFW Post 10429: Co-Location Coordinator Jamie Bengford, Location Coordinator Kelly Sears and Auxiliary Member Martin Gutierrez. Their extensive research expanded the known number of veteran graves from an initial 154 to 223. *(continued on page 5)*

From Benbrook News Staff Writers

Benbrook Kicks Off Holiday Season With Photos With Santa, Annual Tree Lighting

The City of Benbrook will launch its holiday festivities this weekend with the return of Pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus and Benbrook's 34th Annual Tree Lighting and Fireworks Show.

Families can visit the Benbrook YMCA on Friday, Dec. 5, from 6 to 8 p.m. for photos with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. The event includes refreshments and reindeer-themed games. Photos cost \$5, with all proceeds benefiting The Spirit of Christmas, a program that supports Benbrook families in need during the holiday season.

For more information, residents may contact the Benbrook Fire Department at 817-249-1727.

The celebrations continue Saturday, Dec. 6, at Dutch Branch Park behind the Benbrook Community Center YMCA, 1899 Winscott Road, where the city will host its annual Christmas tree lighting and fireworks show. The free event begins at 7 p.m. and features a festive entrance by Mr. and Mrs. Claus on a fire truck, an old-fashioned sleigh for photos, and hot cocoa available for purchase. City officials encourage residents to bundle up, bring family and friends, and enjoy one of Benbrook's longest-running holiday traditions.

Benbrook City Council Meets Tonight!
7 pm • City Hall • 911 Winscott Rd.
[Click Here to View Dec. 4 Meeting Agenda](#)

From the Sports Desk with John English

BMHS Hoops Surge: Bobcats Roll Past Abilene Cooper

The Benbrook boy's basketball team earned a big win just before the start of the Thanksgiving break when they defeated Abilene Cooper by a score of 71-56. *(continued on page 3)*

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- **All Letters to the Editor** must not be over 250 words, and include the author's name, address and phone number. *Only the name will be included.*

- **Engagement Announcements** must be published four weeks prior to the wedding. **Wedding Announcements** have a 350 word limit. **Anniversaries** are limited to 150 words.

- **Obituaries** are limited to 250 words and cost \$100.

Mistakes in stories or ads must be reported by Friday at 4 p.m. following Thursday's edition for corrections. Payment for advertising is due by 10 a.m. Monday.

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Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

Coach Blake Mendez said while his team struggled early on, he was pleased with how the Bobcats rallied to earn a nice victory.

“We started slow and Cooper did a great job shooting the ball, especially from three,” Mendez said. “We went into halftime down by two, but we knew we could play better. We made some adjustments defensively that made it tough for Cooper to get to the bucket, and our guys found their confidence in the second half and we were able to pull away.”

Mendez said he had two especially strong efforts in the game against the Cougars.

“Brennan Barton was great on both ends,” Mendez said. “He ended with 26 points,” but his energy was what sparked us. And Jayden Bradshaw was an absolute beast defensively. He is so long and athletic, blocking and contesting shots, he was a difference maker.

With the first two weeks of the season under their belt, the Bobcats were sitting at 2-2 heading into Tuesday night's game against South Hills.

Mendez he is happy with what he has seen from his team to this point, but said there is room for improvement.

“I love the way we have competed,” Mendez said. “But we are still working to get our team fully healthy. Our guys that played football have only been back for a couple of games and we are getting some guys back from injury soon. I think that’s when we will really be able to reach our full potential.”

Benbrook Dam’s Completion Marked a Major Milestone in Flood-Control Efforts



The Benbrook Lake project, a major post-war infrastructure initiative by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Fort Worth District, was officially concluded in December 1950 when construction on the dam was completed.

Work began in May 1947 after approval from Congress under the River and Harbor Act of 1945, part of a regional plan to control flooding along the Trinity River Basin.

The dam, a rolled-earth embankment spanning 9,130 feet in length and rising 130 feet from streambed to crest, includes a concrete spillway and controlled outlet works designed to manage both floodwaters and routine flows.

Water impoundment commenced on Sept. 29, 1952, marking the beginning of full operational use. Since then, the reservoir has served multiple purposes including flood risk management, water conservation, recreation and regional water supply.

The creation of Benbrook Lake required significant community adjustments, railroads, roads, bridges, utility lines and even several cemeteries were relocated to accommodate the reservoir.

Today, the project remains a critical part of the metropolitan area’s water-management and flood-control infrastructure.

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On the girl's side, the Lady Cats halted a 3-game losing streak just before the Thanksgiving break against Lake Worth with a 47-41 victory.

Benbrook improved it's season record to 4-4 with the win over the Lady Frogs.

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From the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

DAR Ceremony Honors Local Veterans With Quilts, Recognition on Veterans Day

A heartfelt tribute to military service took center stage this Veterans Day as the Mary Isham Keith Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution honored area veterans with a ceremony filled with gratitude, recognition and a symbolic gift of comfort.

Honorary Regent Charlsey Holler delivered a program titled “*Quilts of Valor, Wrapped in Love*,” sharing the mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation, which provides handmade quilts to service members and veterans affected by war.

Holler then presented one of her own creations to Master Sgt. (Ret.) Scott Hodge, wrapping the quilt around him in a gesture meant to reflect the nation’s appreciation for his service. Hodge attended alongside his wife, chapter member Karla Hodge.

Fourteen veterans were recognized individually during the ceremony. Regent Patricia Sinclair presented each with a certificate of appreciation, while Second Vice Regent Laura Tauzel honored them with veteran pins. Those recognized included: Greg Akin (Army), Robin Akin (Army), William Guy Craig (Air Force), Thomas L. Crump (Army), Robert Cushman (Air Force), Christopher Gray (Air Force), Cynthia Gray (Air Force), Scott Hodge (Air Force), Rick Irving (Army), Lesley Pinckard-Maxwell (Navy), Mark T. Maxwell (Navy), Dawn Needles (Army) and Kurt Tauzel (Air Force).

Air Force veteran Jim Hanlon was also honored in absentia.

In addition to the ceremony, members collected donations of snacks, hygiene items and T-shirts for Liberty House, a 30-bed transitional facility that supports homeless male veterans working toward recovery and stability. The organization provides a structured, drug-free environment for veterans facing substance abuse, mental health challenges or housing insecurity.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is a non-political women’s service organization for those who can trace ancestry to individuals who aided the fight for American independence. Those interested in membership may email mikregent2025@gmail.com for more information.

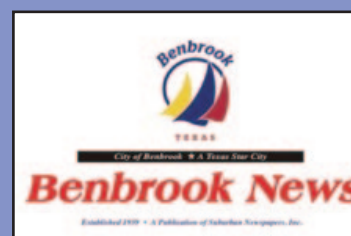


Pictured at the ceremony are: (front, l-r) Greg Akin, Robin Akin, William Guy Craig, Thomas L. Crump, Cynthia Gray, Rick Irving; (back) Mark T. Maxwell, Robert Cushman, Christopher Gray, Scott Hodge, Lesley Pinckard-Maxwell, Dawn Needles and Kurt Tauzel.



Pictured are: Honorary Regent Charlsey Holler, Scott and Karla Hodge.

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From the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Palo Pinto Mountains to Offer First Day Hike Sneak Peek

New Year, New Park! [Palo Pinto Mountains State Park](#), just outside of Fort Worth, is opening its gates on New Year's Day for guided First Day Hikes. Day passes to the park will be limited for this event, and advance reservations are highly encouraged.

"We are so excited to show folks what makes Palo Pinto Mountains so special," said Rodney Franklin, Director of Texas State Parks. "With the park nearly complete thanks to our hardworking staff and partners, this felt like the perfect way to start 2026, exploring one of Texas' newest state parks."

This sneak peek event will allow visitors to go on guided hikes through Palo Pinto Mountains State Park with a park ranger.

About 75 miles west of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, Palo Pinto Mountains State Park is nestled on 4,871 acres of former ranch land in Stephens and Palo Pinto counties. The property features a special collection of rock formations, plants, animals and habitats, including 90-acre Tucker Lake.

On New Year's Day, parks across the state will host First Day Hikes, and many parks will limit admissions based on capacity. Day pass reservations can be booked in advance for any Texas State Park on the TPWD website.

Through the online portal, you can narrow your search by city, activity and even by site. If you want to bike, hike or fish, look for parks with day passes available (up to 30 days in advance).

For more information about [Palo Pinto Mountains State Park](#), visit the park's page on the [Texas Parks and Wildlife Department website](#).

Around the Town (continued from page 1)

A ceremony will be held at Benbrook Cemetery on Dec. 13 at 11 a.m., followed by the laying of remembrance wreaths. This event is open to the entire community. Residents are encouraged to attend and take part in this solemn tribute.

Those wishing to support future efforts may sponsor a \$17 wreath for the 2026 ceremony at: WreathsAcrossAmerica.org/TX1453P.



From 4PAWS & Benbrook Animal Shelter

Kiki Will Warm Your Couch, and Your Heart!

Kiki is an 18-month-old, 71 pound, German Shepherd mix. She is very gentle, loving, and walks great on a leash. She would make a great addition to any family.

Visit the Benbrook Shelter, located at 469 Winscott Rd., Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. or Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Visit www.4pawsinc.org or call 4 PAWS volunteers Ursula at 817 262-3086, or Lynda at 682-279 0760 to set up a meet-and-greet or to get more information about any of the dogs available



UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS:

- **Dec. 5: Pictures with Mr. and Mrs. Claus**
Benbrook YMCA • 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- **Dec. 6: 34th Annual Tree Lighting and Fireworks Show, Dutch Branch Park**
1899 Winscott Rd. • 7 p.m.

From the White Settlement Fire Department

Winter Coat Drive

The Tarrant County Fire and Arson Investigators Association has launched its annual "Little Coats, Big Hearts" drive to help keep local children warm this winter. The organization is collecting new coats, hats and gloves for school-age children in need, with donations distributed before Christmas break.

The drive is accepting new, kid-sized coats and jackets, along with sweaters, hoodies, long-sleeve shirts, hats, gloves and scarves. Organizers ask that all items be new and in good condition.

Donations may be dropped off at White Settlement Fire Department Station 18, located at 8308 Hanon Dr. A full list of locations is available at tarrantcountyarsontaskforce.org. The deadline to donate is Dec. 10.

The association said the effort aims to ensure that no child in the community faces the winter months without warm clothing, especially as temperatures begin to fall ahead of the holidays.

From the North Central Texas Council of Governments

NCTCOG to Discuss Funding Opportunities at Dec. 8 Meeting

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) invites the public to provide input on recent transportation initiatives, including funding opportunities for electric vehicle charging stations and traffic signal improvements, during a hybrid public meeting at noon Monday, Dec. 8.

The meeting will be held in the Transportation Council Room at the NCTCOG offices, located at 616 Six Flags Drive in Arlington.

Those unable to attend in person can view the meeting online at PublicInput.com/nctcogDec25. Residents can also participate by calling 855-925-2801 and entering code 1011.

Public comments will be accepted until Jan. 6.

The meeting will feature a staff overview of the end of the 2025 ozone season, along with next steps moving forward. The season came to an end Nov. 30, and the region remains in nonattainment for both the 2008 and 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Continued inability to reach attainment will increase challenges for projected regional growth.

Additionally, staff will present funding recommendations to deploy electric vehicle (EV) charging stations on public sector property in North Central Texas.

In July 2025, NCTCOG opened the North Texas Electric Vehicle Charging Station Call for Projects to award funding to build EV charging stations using funding from the Federal Highway Administration's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Community Program.

Finally, staff will provide an overview of the proposed funding process for the Traffic Signal Program, including agency eligibility requirements, the evaluation criteria for funding requests and the categorization of traffic signal improvements. The program aims to establish a structured process for evaluating and funding traffic signal initiatives as requests are received.

Residents planning to use transit to attend the meeting can take advantage of \$6 round-trip rides from the CentrePort/DFW Airport Station to NCTCOG via the Arlington Transportation app. Visit ArlingtonTX.gov/ondemand to download the app.

For special accommodations related to disabilities or language interpretation, please call 817-608-2365 or email cbaylor@nctcog.org at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

From Suburban Newspapers Managing Editor, Emily Moxley

A Little History About Your Favorite Local Newspapers

Suburban Newspapers, Inc. has served suburban communities west of Fort Worth since the early 1940s. The company, currently headquartered at 7820 Wyatt Drive, was founded in 1939, according to business filings and public records.

Over the decades, Suburban Newspapers built a network of weekly community papers, most notably *White Settlement Bomber News*, as well as titles serving Benbrook, River Oaks and other Tarrant County locales.

The Bomber News dates back to at least 1939, with digitally archived issues beginning in 1956, giving the chain roots older than the incorporation itself.

As of 2020, Suburban Newspapers pivoted from print to fully digital distribution. Publisher Bo Underwood donated hundreds and possibly over 1,000 archival issues from across the chain, ranging from the 1950s through the 2000s, to the White Settlement Historical Museum. Much of the archive has since been digitized and made publicly available via the University of North Texas Libraries' Texas Digital Newspaper Program.

Today, Suburban Newspapers remains active as the publisher of the digital-only *White Settlement Bomber News*, *Benbrook News* and *River Oaks News*, providing local reporting, community notices, classifieds and legal advertisements.

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Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

As Pearl Harbor's 84th Anniversary Nears, a Fading Generation Leaves Lasting Lessons

It came to be called the Day Which Will Live in Infamy. The attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, was a devastating loss for the nation. When the attack began at 7:55 a.m. by Japanese forces, the Americans on the scene realized that their lives in that moment had changed.

The American entry into World War II would transform the face of the war and forever alter the course of the nation and of the men and women who fought to protect it.

By December 1941, most of the globe was engulfed in World War II, while the United States tried to stay out of it. Nations on five continents were already embroiled in conflict. American military and political leaders somberly noted that the nation would likely be drawn into the fight as well while they watched Allied losses mount. To the last, America tried to avoid war. As the United States continued to negotiate for peace with Japan, Japan plotted a sneak attack.

Japan had unleashed sneak attacks at the beginnings of previous wars. And Japanese military officials hoped that crippling American naval forces while they went on a massive offensive across the Pacific would neutralize American advantages and allow Japan a quick victory.

In 90 minutes on what had been a quiet Sunday morning, the American fleet was wrecked. Four battleships were sunk with the other four crippled. Many other ships and planes were severely damaged. One hundred 59 planes were destroyed. And in the end, 2,403 Americans were killed.

One of the first Americans to spring into action was a Waco native and African-American named Doris Miller, who worked in the mess hall on the ill-fated USS West Virginia. As his ship was struck and men scattered, he leaped toward an unmanned anti-aircraft gun and started firing at as many Japanese fighters as possible before the crew had to abandon ship, most likely

shooting down the first enemy aircraft of the war in the process.

But America sprang into action. The United States responded with its own declaration of war the next day. Many of the damaged ships saw action later in the war. And three things saved the Pacific fleet that day: the oil refineries that fueled the ships and planes were spared; and the aircraft carriers were on patrol, ships that acted as floating air bases that proved indispensable in the island-hopping campaigns that marked the Pacific war. The third factor was the unbreakable American resolve. Many of the ships sunk on Dec. 7 were able to be raised from the sea, repaired, and sent back into action later in the war.

Unfortunately, Doris Miller, did not make it home. He was killed in action in 1943 when his ship was struck by a torpedo. He was only 24. The Houston school district later named a school after him. In 2020, the navy named an aircraft carrier after him.

In 1958, the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association was formed among the veterans who were there on Dec. 7, 1941. At its peak, the organization boasted 70,000 members. In the years after the war, special remembrance ceremonies were held at Pearl Harbor each year.

Time moved on in a nation that continued to grow in its freedom in the decades of peace that followed the war. The world was freed from the nightmares of mass executions, tortures, genocides, and bloodshed that the Axis Powers inflicted upon the world.

The Pearl Harbor generation had survived the worst challenges the nation had experienced, the Great Depression and World War II, and showed that there was nothing that the United States could not overcome. The principles of courage, unity, justice, and liberty became more than slogans for that time. They were ideas that saved humanity.

Many Texans served distinction in all branches of the service, including Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, a Denison native, who became overall Allied commander, and Adm. Chester Nimitz, a Fredericksburg native, who commanded the American naval fleet in the Pacific.

Only a handful of survivors remain. Aaron Cook of Fort Worth, one of the last, would spend his later years telling students about his experiences.

"I grew up in one day," Cook told Houston's ABC-13 in 2016. "I hope that they realize that, you know, it's something that we don't want to do again." Cook died in 2019 at age 96.

J.C. Alston of Troy, the son of farmers from the Texas Panhandle often said how important it was that people remembered what happened that day. "We've got to be alert and not let this happen again." Alston died at his home in October at age 98.

Now as the 84th anniversary approaches, a chapter in history prepares to close. It has been estimated that perhaps less than 20 still remain, each now past the age of 100. Those who were there and those who gave everything to protect the nation have a revered place in the collective American memory.

The millions who came after and grew up in a time of peace still salute those who were there. The lessons from that terrible day still resonate for American foreign policy but also for a nation decades later shaken by epidemics, economic chaos, and distrust: that there is nothing that America, when united, cannot overcome.



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Weekend Forecast



Friday, Dec. 5:

AM - Partly sunny, with a high near 55. Calm wind becoming S/SW around 5 mph.

PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 39. S/SE wind around 5 mph becoming calm.



Saturday, Dec. 6:

AM - Mostly sunny, with a high near 64. S/SE wind around 5 mph becoming W in the afternoon.

PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 40. West wind around 5 mph becoming N/NW after midnight.



Sunday, Dec. 7:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 60. North wind around 5 mph.

PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 34.

Extended Forecast [Click Here](#)