



# Benbrook News

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*Benbrook Council Action by John English*

## Jan. 16 Meeting Review

The Benbrook City Council meeting was held on Jan. 16 as scheduled. Mayor Jason Ward called the meeting to order.

Ward then allowed a boy scout troupe leader from Troupe 95 to introduce himself to everyone present. The scout said that he and his troupe were there to observe how the city council meetings are conducted. An invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by one of the boy scouts present. Time was then allowed for citizen comments on any agenda item, but there were none.

The minutes for the meeting held on Jan. 2 were then approved unanimously.

The first item of the evening was a motion to consider a proposal to make an appointment to the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee. Staff recommended that the city replace retired commander Michael Mullinax with Commander Rick Cooper. The motion was approved unanimously.

Next up was a proposal to consider an ordinance amending Title 10-Vehicles and Traffic of the Benbrook Municipal Code Section 10.24-amending school zone times around Benbrook Middle High School. The Fort Worth Independent School District seeks to improve traffic patterns around Benbrook Middle High School by amending the school zone times. Current school hours are 8:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., and current school zone times are 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The proposed new (continued on page 2)

*From the Sports Desk with John English*

## Soccer: Western Hills vs. Lake Worth Ends in Draw; Bobcat Boys Beat Lake Belton

The Western Hills Cougar soccer team played Lake Worth to a 1-1 draw last week.

“The Lake Worth game was up and down,” coach Matt Collins said. “I expect the whole season to be like this. We are young and inexperienced. We played well at times. But at times, we made some critical mistakes.”

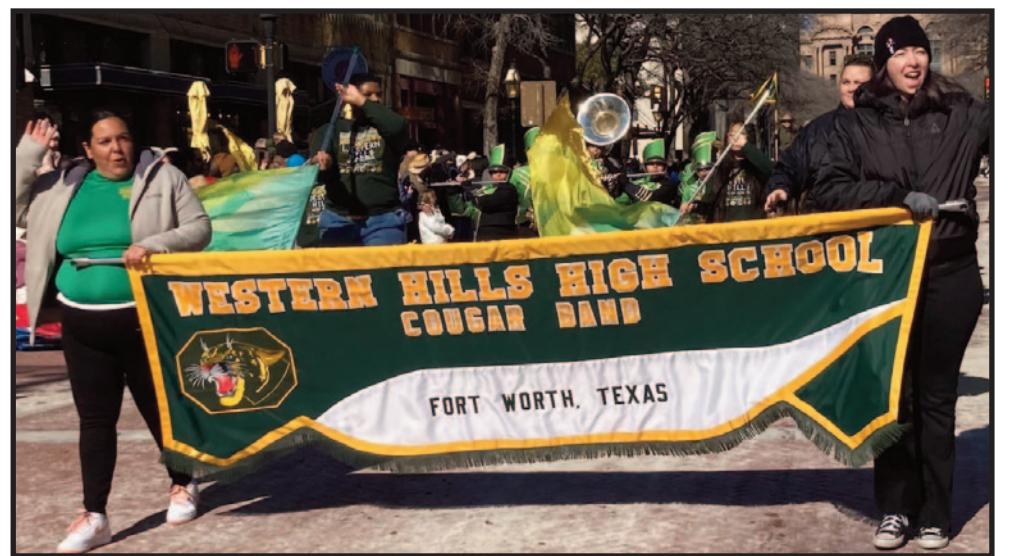
Collins said Bryan Vazquez, Omar Banda and William Araujo “all played well in defense.” (continued on page 3)

*Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt*

## Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo Parade Draws Crowd

Thousands of spectators lined the streets on Main and Houston downtown to watch the annual Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo Parade, that began in 1896. More than 3,000 horses and over 4,000 riders and participants walked the 2-mile route.

Among nearly 150 entries, 70 riding clubs joined the festivities, including the ever popular Hawai’i Pa’u Riders Equestrian Unit from Waimanalo. This group took home four awards, including: Best Riding Club, Most Colorful, Chairman’s Award and Greatest Distance Traveled! Individuals traveled from New Mexico, Oklahoma, Louisiana and several parts of Texas came out to support their Hawaiian ohana (family). (continued on page 5)



The Western Hills High School Marching Band.



The parade began with the American and Texas flags!



Leiala Cook, President of the Hawai’i Pa’u Riders Equestrian Unit represented Hawai’i Island.



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From 4PAWS & Benbrook Animal Shelter

## Dog of the Week!



Macy is a one-year-old, 60-pound Staffordshire Bull Terrier mix. Macy is super sweet, and her big smile is saying she's a friendly, happy girl and looking for a new family to call her own.

She is available for adoption at the Benbrook Animal Shelter, located at 469 Win-scott Road.

Adoption hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Visit [www.4pawsinc.org](http://www.4pawsinc.org) or call 4 PAWS volunteer Lynda at 682-279-0760 to get more information about any of the dogs available.

## Council Action

(continued from page 1)

school zone times would be 7:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and it would go into effect today, Jan. 23. The ordinance was approved unanimously.

Time was then allowed for informal citizen comments, but there were none.

Time was then allowed for council member and staff comments, and council member Renee Franklin reminded everyone that city office closures for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Dr. Larry Marshall complimented the boy scouts present on the volume at which they recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Ward then thanked the boy scouts for their involvement and what they do for the community.

The meeting was then adjourned.



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## **Sports Desk** (continued from page 1)

Over at Benbrook, the Bobcats defeated Lake Belton in a game coach Jared Spoon said was filled with physicality.

“Lake Belton had strong and fast players, but luckily we were able to penetrate their defensive line a couple of times and finish half at 2-0, with a fast break goal from Evan Kramer and a short left-footed strike from Erick Rios,” Spoon said. “The second half was tough as well and we managed to put a couple of more shots in the net, scoring a hat trick for Evan Kramer. At 4-0, we started wearing out (lots of players out) and gave up three goals but stayed in it long enough to pull out a win.

Spoon said he is impressed by what he has seen so far from his team so far this season.

“The guys are working really hard this year and we are confident that it will be a very successful season,” Spoon said.

On the court, the Benbrook boys basketball team came up a little short against Southwest last week and coach Blake Mendez said his team struggled offensively in the game.

“This was a tough defensive battle for four quarters,” Mendez said. “We battled all night and I couldn’t be more proud of how our defense performed. When you hold good teams to 37 points, you expect to win those games, but we couldn’t get shots to fall late. We also missed 12 free throws, which you can’t afford to do against good teams, But I’m proud of the way we are competing every single night in district play.”

Benbrook lost by a score of 37-35 and Mendez said he had a couple of stand out performances.

“Deshawn Dean and Parker Henderson came off the bench and gave us great energy,” Mendez said. “Deshawn was a beast on the boards and Parker gave us a couple of buckets when we really needed them.”

On the girl's side, Benbrook lost a close one to Southwest by a score of 48-43, and coach Leta Lofton said the game was close until the very end.

“Grace Klaerner once again was our leader versus Southwest,” Lofton said. “She had five 3-pointers made down the stretch. All after traveling from Houston scoring winning goals for our soccer team’s tournament. While leading by 3 points with 2 minutes left, we lost the game due to late turnovers and missed free throws.”

Klaerner finished the game with 23 points for the Lady Cats.

On the mat, the Benbrook wrestling team competed in the state duals this past weekend and coach Wade Cribbs said both teams performed well.

“State Duals was an amazing experience and I’m extremely proud of how our athletes performed,” Cribbs said. “Both teams placed fifth and went 2-2 on the day.”

The girls defeated Springtown and Gunter, while the boys beat Whitesboro and Springtown.

The boys and girls both lost to defending state champion Dumas, with the boys losing by only one match.

Standouts on the day were Landry Wilkinson and Jayden Nunez who went undefeated.

“Kas Stevens, Nataliegh Zapata, Katie Loyd, Dominic Nunez, Zack Burks, and Mac Shafer also had big days,” Cribbs said.

Cribbs said his teams are in good shape as the district meets approach.

“We’re in a new district, but feel very confident our kids will compete at a high level,” Cribbs said. “We have been gaining a lot of momentum and are looking to put our stamp on the new 20+ team District. We’re looking stay strong and wrestle hard, because Bobcat Pride never dies.”

*From the City of Benbrook*

## **Notice: School Zone Time Change at Benbrook MHS**

At the request of the Fort Worth Independent School District, the Benbrook City Council approved changing the school zone times at the Benbrook Middle High School, located at 201 Overcrest Drive, starting Monday, Jan. 27.

The new morning school zone time is 7:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. and the afternoon school zone time is 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. These changes are aimed at helping to improve traffic flow in the area, as the new times align with school hours.

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From StatePoint

# Helping Children Develop Healthy Device and Media Habits

Can parents control what advertising their children see on Facebook? How do parents limit the amount of time their children spend on Instagram?

A new parent tool, the Glossary of Digital Media Platforms, offers the answers and will be handy for parents of children trying out new phones or other tech-related holiday gifts. The American Academy of Pediatrics Center of Excellence on Social Media and Youth Mental Health developed the free resource, which contains detailed information on popular digital platforms, including Apple, Discord, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Snapchat, TikTok and X, with more to come.

“Parenting around media can be so challenging,” said Jenny Radesky, MD, FAAP, co-medical director of the Center of Excellence. “Figuring out what apps and settings are best for your family is an important part of the conversation. At the center, we created the Glossary of Digital Media Platforms to make it a little easier for parents to learn about each app and figure out what settings and tools exist to keep their kid safe while connecting online.”

Users click on a platform to learn about its default and customizable safety settings; messaging and friending controls; screen-time management settings; parental controls and more.

Parents aren't the only ones looking for assistance when it comes to the online world. Pediatric providers, teachers and others who work with children and teens can introduce the glossary briefly during clinic visits, back-to-school nights, in newsletters, or other communications and encourage families to have conversations about safe and balanced relationships with social media. The tool can also facilitate conversations on concepts like private versus public accounts, time limits and how to block or filter upsetting content.

Here are some examples of how the glossary can be used:

- If children have iPhones, parents can

learn more about the Family Sharing feature, which includes settings to limit who a child can contact, downtime/do-not-disturb settings and the Ask To Buy option that requires a parent to approve purchases.

- If social media and notifications are distracting teens at night, families can use the glossary to look up apps and how to silence notifications or activate other nighttime settings.

- For teens who are stressed out by negative content on social media feeds, the glossary contains information on tools to curate feeds and block and filter content.

- If a child's school has a phone policy, families can look up device or app settings to silence distracting apps during school hours.

The glossary joins a roster of resources available at Center of Excellence on Social Media and Youth Mental Health, which includes conversation starters for parents concerned about how their children are using social media. The center's activity cards can help young children build healthy relationships with media and their devices before they grow into teens and young adults.

Megan Moreno MD, MEd, MPH, FAAP, co-medical director of the Center of Excellence, urges parents and other adults to avoid taking a doom-and-gloom approach when talking about the sometimes-dangerous social media landscape with kids.

Dr. Moreno said, “We can choose open-mindedness. We can choose curiosity. We can choose evidence over hype, and we can stay centered on our children and families.”

## Legal Notice

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit by Shree Ganesh Sakura LLC dba Sakura Japanese Restaurant, to be located at 406 Mercedes St Suite F, Benbrook, Tarrant County, TX 76126. Owner of said business is Netra Ghimire, Owner, and Sudeep Ruwali, CEO.



# Around the Town (continued from page 1)

Marching bands and horse drawn carriages were crowd pleasers, as no motorized vehicles are allowed in this parade.

Special guest Austen Smith from Keller made an appearance,

who won the Olympic Bronze Medal in the 2024 Women's Skeet Shooting event in Paris.

Overall, the event was enjoyed by everyone who attended!



The TCU Marching Band.



Recipients of the Purple Heart.



Contestants from the area vying for the title of Miss Texas and Miss Texas Teen.



Hawai'i Pa'u Rider: Kary Takemoto, Ni'ihau Island.



Hawai'i Pa'u Rider: Daphne Wingate Chung, Maui Island.



Hawai'i Pa'u Rider: Karen Garingo, Ni'ihau Island.



Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

# Short Story Author - William Sydney Porter



He was best known for a short pen name, "O. Henry." The man behind the stories, William Sydney Porter, was a complicated character with a sharp imagination. Porter wrote hundreds of stories in his short career and became one of the best-known short story writers of the twentieth century.

Porter was born in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1862. His father was a doctor and his mother died of tuberculosis when he was a child. He showed a deep imagination and strong artistic talents as a child. He loved reading from an early age. As a teenager, he began working at his uncle's drugstore as a pharmacist and drew sketches of the customers in his spare time.

In 1882, he moved with a friend to South Texas to attempt to rehabilitate his shaky health. He worked for a time on a sheep ranch as a ranch hand and a cook. Two years later, he moved to Austin to work as a pharmacist. It was in Austin that Porter began writing. Initially, it was a hobby, but it gradually took up more and more of his time.

In 1887, he married and took up a new job. Porter worked for four years at the Texas General Land Office drawing maps and took a job as an accountant at an area bank in 1891. However, three years later, the bank came across several accounting errors, accused him of embezzlement, and fired him. At that point, he took up writing full time, publishing his own weekly humor magazine, *The Rolling Stone*. Though pop-

ular, the magazine failed within a year and Porter soon found work with *The Houston Post*.

Not long after the move to Houston, federal auditors charged him with embezzlement from his former bank job. He was arrested but released on bail. He soon fled to New Orleans where he continued to write and took up the pen name of O. Henry after a conversation with a friend. He then fled to Honduras but returned to the United States when his wife's health collapsed. His wife died within weeks of his arrival, and he was again arrested.

The trial was held in Austin, where he was sentenced to five years in prison in 1898. Ironically, the same courthouse today is owned by the University of Texas and has been rechristened O. Henry Hall.

He was released in 1901 for good behavior. In 1902, he moved to New York where he landed a job writing weekly stories for *The New York World Sunday Magazine*. He would write more than 300 short stories between 1902 and his death, many known for a sudden, surprise twist at the end.

Perhaps his most famous story was "*The Gift of the Magi*," originally appearing in December 1905. It is the touching tale of a young couple in turn-of-the-century New York who want to get something special for each other for Christmas but have no money. Unbeknownst to each other, they give up something they prize to buy their gifts. The wife sells her luxuriant hair to afford a silver chain for her husband's pocket watch. The husband, however, had sold his watch to pay for jeweled hair combs for his wife which were so popular at that time. The story has since been retold many times and dramatized on screen in many forms.

Two other stories included "*The Cavalero's Way*," (1907) which introduced The Cisco Kid, a character reproduced by many other authors; and "*The Ransom of Red Chief*," which appeared in *The Saturday Evening Post* in 1907 as the tale of two kidnapers who kidnap a rich, spoiled brat in hopes of ransom but end up paying the father for him to take the incorrigible child back.

His heavy drinking steadily took its toll on him. It cost him his marriage. His second wife left him in 1909. He descended further into the bottle and died in 1910 at age 47.

In spite of his sad end, he was praised in later years. Schools in Garland and Austin were named for him as well as in his native Greensboro.

In 1918, the prestigious O. Henry Award was established in his memory for outstanding short story writers.

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Trinity Regional Flood Planning Group

# Public Invited to Submit Vital Data for 38-County Flood Planning Effort

The Region 3 Trinity Regional Flood Planning Group (Trinity RFPG) urges anyone affected by flood-related issues to participate in the recently launched online data collection survey and interactive web map. The survey and map are available at <https://trinity.halff.com/> and through the Public Comment page, which is open now through Tuesday, Feb. 11, for consideration in the 2028 Trinity Regional Flood Plan.

Participation from the general public and groups with flood-related responsibilities will strengthen the RFPG's ability to update and maintain a flood plan that represents local flood planning resources, flood-related risks, flood mitigation needs and potential solutions. Individuals or organizations that participated during the initial cycle of Regional Flood Planning are still encouraged to review the updated interactive web map and submit updated information to keep planning efforts current and address any new flooding concerns.

When visiting the data collection website, representatives from cities and other entities must register by providing an email and creating a password. Once logged in, fewer than 25 questions and an interactive map prompt a review of flood history, storm drainage systems and critical infrastructure.

Members of the general public are also encouraged to participate and share their knowledge of flood-prone areas and zones where flood mitigation might be needed with the Trinity RFPG. To access the public input map, users will need to provide their name, physical address and email address. The RFPG will use contact information only to confirm unusual or extreme responses. Most public responders will not be contacted.

If anyone has relevant documents or data to submit or additional questions about the data collection process, please contact Project Manager Stephanie Griffin with Halff Associates, Inc. at (817) 813-5704 or [sgriffin@halff.com](mailto:sgriffin@halff.com).

For more information or to subscribe to receive future updates, visit the website at [Trinityrpfpg.org](http://Trinityrpfpg.org) or email [info@trinityrpfpg.org](mailto:info@trinityrpfpg.org).

From Fort Worth ISD

## Gun Safety Town Hall Jan. 23

Join us on Thursday, Jan. 23 at 6:30 p.m. at William James Middle School, 1101 Nashville Avenue, 76105 to learn more about how you can keep your families safe! Safe gun storage saves lives.

This non-political presentation will highlight how to safely store firearms, how safe gun storage goes beyond unintentional injuries, and ways to safely store firearms that fit your family's needs.

There will be drawings throughout the presentation for a biometric gun safe, so be sure to attend!

From Texas Coalition for Animal Protection

## Free Feline Fix Day Jan. 29

Texas Coalition for Animal Protection (TCAP) recently announced the first Free Fix Day of 2025 - Wednesday, Jan. 29! In 2024, TCAP sterilized over 16,000 feral and community cats!

Learn more at <https://ow.ly/SXNT50UJHCn>

During the Free Fix Days, TCAP provides free sterilizations and rabies vaccines for feral and community cats. This event will take place at each of the seven TCAP clinics located in Allen, Arlington, Denton, Garland, Hurst, Joshua, and Weatherford. Each location will serve 75 cats on a first-come, first-served basis.

There's no limit to how many cats each caregiver can bring, and no appointment is needed.

Cats must arrive in individual live traps or pet carriers and will receive an ear tip as part of the process.

For every cat brought in, the Caretaker will receive a voucher for a free spay or neuter and rabies vaccine for another cat at a future date. Our team will help you schedule the additional service when you redeem your voucher.

If you're outside the first 75 cats in line, please wait! We'll provide one voucher per cat for the next 75 cats in line.

\*Please note that the line will close promptly at 9 a.m., and only caregivers with cats in line will receive vouchers.

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## Weekend Forecast



### Friday, Jan. 24:

**AM** - Sunny, with a high near 56. SW wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 34. South wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.



### Saturday, Jan. 25:

**AM** - Partly sunny, with a high near 56. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**PM** - Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42. S/SE wind 5 to 10 mph becoming N/NE after midnight.



### Sunday, Jan. 26:

**AM** - A 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 50. North wind 5 to 10 mph.

**PM** - Mostly cloudy, with a low around 38. North wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Extended Forecast [Click Here](#)**