

From Fort Worth ISD

## Seventeen Fort Worth ISD Musicians Selected for Prestigious Texas All-State Honors

Fort Worth ISD proudly celebrates the achievements of 17 talented student musicians selected to perform with Texas All-State Ensembles at the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) Clinic/Convention, February 12 through 15, in San Antonio. These students represent musical excellence across the district, showcasing dedication, skill, and a passion for the arts.

This year, nearly 70,000 students across Texas began the rigorous All-State audition process. Only 1,875 were ultimately chosen to perform in one of 18 All-State ensembles.

Being selected for All-State is the highest honor a Texas music student can achieve.

Fort Worth ISD's Texas All-State Musicians include:

- **Benbrook High School** - Kaden Robles, Bb Clarinet (4A ATSSB Band); Joseph Wilkinson, String Bass (4A ATSSB Band); Sean Starwalt, Tenor Saxophone (ATSSB Jazz Band)
- **Carter-Riverside High School** - Ismael Munoz, Bb Clarinet (4A ATSSB Band); Josiah Medina, Cornet/Trumpet (4A ATSSB Band); Jordan Medina, Bass Trombone (4A ATSSB Band)
- **I.M. Terrell Academy for VPA** - Meirah Koenig, Soprano (SSC Mixed Choir); Jiles Clark, Tenor (SSC Mixed Choir); Daniel Kim, Bass (SSC Mixed Choir); Martin Clapper, String Bass (Philharmonic Orchestra)
- **North Side High School** - Tony Martinez, Bass 1 (LSC Mixed Choir)
- **Paschal High School** - Ty Wilborn, Alto Saxophone (Jazz Band)
- **Southwest High School** - Carson Callaway, Baritone Saxophone (4A ATSSB Band); Aspen Guerin, Alto (SSC Mixed Choir)



laway, Baritone Saxophone (4A ATSSB Band); Aspen Guerin, Alto (SSC Mixed Choir)

- **Western Hills High School** - Kendyl Northrop, Alto (SSC Mixed Choir); Luis Hernandez, Tenor (SSC Mixed Choir); Sebastian Alonso, Bass (SSC Mixed Choir)

Each of these students progressed through District, Region, and Area auditions to earn their place.

Only the top 2.6 percent of musicians who begin the audition process reach this level of distinction. Directed by renowned conductors, All-State musicians will participate in intensive rehearsals and culminate their experience with concerts on Feb. 15 at the Henry B. González Convention Center. These performances are part of the nation's largest music educators convention, attracting over 30,000 attendees from Texas and around the world.

## From the Sports Desk with John English Basketball: Bobcat Boys and Girls Teams Fall to Eastern Hills

The Benbrook boy's basketball team came up just short against Eastern Hills last Friday, and coach Blake Mendez said his team knew it was going to be in for a battle.

The Bobcats lost by a score of 57-52, and Mendez said his team gave it their best.

"We went into this game knowing it was going to be intense and we weren't wrong," Mendez said. "They're ranked 10th in the state for a reason, but we played them tough a couple of weeks ago and we felt like we had a chance. We (continued on page 5)

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Classifieds: Vee Horn, classifieds@suburban-newspapers.com

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# Retirement Reception Honoring Chief Tommy Davis

Pictured at the retirement reception are: (back row, l-r) Firefighter Jake Humphries, Firefighter Mitchell Morgan, Firefighter William Hauss, Firefighter Logan Prater, Firefighter Alex Foreman, Fire-



fighter Garret Miller, Firefighter Alyssa Sheldone, Firefighter Conner Harding, Firefighter David Harold, Firefighter Michael Rich, Firefighter Brian Reeves, Firefighter Michael Poe; (front row) Firefighter Jacob Guterrez, Firefighter Dalton Woods, Lt. Kevin Nicholson, Lt. Sarah Scheinoha, Capt. Jayson McNew, Asst. Chief Jason Tate, Chief Tommy Davis, EMS OPS Chief Jackie Hartman, Capt. Howard Haber, Capt. Bruno Ybarra, Lt. Chris Rossing, Katrina Harris, Firefighter Matt Bridges.



A reception was held Jan. 24 for retiring Benbrook Fire Department Chief Tommy Davis. There were many community leaders, friends, family and co-workers present to share words to express their thanks to this remarkable individual that the engine bay had to be cleared of all of the trucks.

His 39-year public service legacy is a true testament to his servant's heart.

Pictured left: Incoming Fire Chief Jason Tate (left) and outgoing Fire Chief Tommy Davis.

## Legal Notice

### NOTICE TO VENDORS

Notice is hereby given that the following RFP will be accepted by WHITE SETTLEMENT School District (140890) on or before Monday, March 3, 2025, **no later than 2:00 PM CST**. Late proposals will be rejected as non-responsive. Forms and specifications may be obtained, and submissions received at the website referenced below until the designated time.

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Link for all interested vendors:

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**All Questions and Proposals must be submitted online.**

Questions must be submitted no later than 2:00 pm CST on Monday, February 10, 2025.

Proposals must be submitted no later than 2:00 pm CST on Monday, March 3, 2025.

The White Settlement School District reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals and to make awards as they may appear to be advantageous to the district and to waive all formalities with respect thereto. Bidders are encouraged to submit proposals well in advance of the deadline. The district is not responsible for the bidder's technical difficulties that may be experienced at the time of bid closing.

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~Albert Einstein

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## 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.

## From 4PAWS & Benbrook Animal Shelter Dog of the Week!



**Loretta** is a four-month-old, 20-pound terrier mix. She is learning commands and walking on a leash. She would be a great family dog!

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.

## Legal Notice

The White Settlement Independent School District (WSISD) is accepting proposals for Classroom Furniture for Tannahill. The Request for Proposal – 2425-06 can be accessed and submitted online at <https://wsisdebid.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>. A paper copy of the bid can be obtained on the WSISD website, [www.wsisd.com](http://www.wsisd.com), by visiting the Purchasing section of the Business Services page. If assistance is needed, please contact Nancy Escobar at [nancy.escobar@wsisd.net](mailto:nancy.escobar@wsisd.net). The deadline for questions is February 13, 2025, at 2:00 pm and proposals are due by February 27, 2025, at 2:00 pm. It is preferred that proposals be submitted online at <https://wsisdebid.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>. If a hard copy proposal will be submitted, it should be addressed to White Settlement ISD, Attn: Nancy Escobar, 8224 White Settlement Road, White Settlement, TX 76108. Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted. White Settlement ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

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## Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

got down early and we were able to settle in and fight back. We took the lead late in the game and could have iced it with some timely free throws but we weren't able to convert on them. Eastern Hills did a great job keeping their composure. Ultimately we didn't make enough plays down the stretch at lost by 5, but I think we proved to ourselves that we belong on the court with some of the best."

Mendez said one player had an especially strong outing.

"Jayden Hall had a fantastic game," Mendez said. "The kid works so hard on both ends of the court. Often he's guarding the other teams best player, and he ran our offense well. He ended with 17 points."

On the girl's side, Benbrook lost to Eastern Hills last Friday as well, and coach Leta Lofton said her team played well in the first half.

"The Lady Cats performed to the best of their ability," Lofton said. "Being down by 6 at half, we were unable to close the gap against a team that plays multiple athletes without missing a step. Eastern Hills was able to wear us down and cause multiple turnovers. We played with great effort, however turnovers and inability to score down the stretch proved to be detrimental in closing the gap and sealing the win."

Point guard Gianna Lucero led the team offensively with 12 points.

On the pitch, the Western Hills boys lost to Mineral Wells on Friday by a score of 2-1 on Friday, and coach Matt Collins said the Rams were a worthy opponent.

"Mineral Wells has always been a tough team," Collins said. "They are physical, but the right kind of physical. You have to work hard to beat them. We gave it a good fight, but they got the best of us."

Collins said sophomores Yeferson Tovar and Ricardo Tellez "played well in the midfield."

The Cougars start up district this week, and Collins said there are still some question marks heading in.

"Every game is tough in Texas," Collins said. "We are very, and I mean very young. This season is going to be up and down. But we

are getting better and for now, that's the key."

For the Benbrook girls, a loss to Paschal this past week did not detract from a great performance from her team this week with district looming in the near future.

"The team performed really well and showed great unity, aggression and passion on the field," Castillo said. "We were missing a few key players due to injuries and illness, but the team never let that stop them. They played with heart and gave it their all. Even though we came up short on the scoreboard, the effort they put in was clear, and that's what matters most."

Castillo said she had two particularly strong efforts in the contest.

"Junior defender Kira Cleveland had an exceptional game," Castillo said. "She made several crucial saves and was a rock at the back for us. Her defensive work was vital. Junior center-mid Lily Carias also stood out. She was constantly on the attack, stealing the ball back and driving us forward. Her energy and work ethic were instrumental in keeping us competitive throughout the game."

Castillo said with district about to start, her team is prepared for the difficulties it presents.

"Our non-district schedule is always designed to challenge the team," Castillo said. "We deliberately schedule tougher teams, including 5A and 6A schools, to help the girls grow and face different types of competition. This year, we've done just that. The girls placed third in our tournament in Baytown, which was a great result considering the level of teams there. Our non-district games have really prepared us for the challenges ahead, and we're ready to continue our push for the district title. This team is incredibly talented, and we're aiming to keep our tradition alive and go for our fifth consecutive district championship."

On the mat, the Benbrook wrestling teams had strong efforts at the Benbrook Tri this past week against district opponents South Hills and Carter-Riverside, with the girls defeating South Hills 44-24 and Carter Riverside 60-0, and the boys beating South Hills 71-12 and Carter Riverside 66-18 on senior night.

"We're going to miss our seniors, but are extremely proud of how they showed out on our final dual of the season," coach Wade Cribbs said.

Landry Wilkinson, Nataliegh Zapata, Jayden Nunez and Kas Stevens "continued their dominating record breaking seasons, all going 2-0 at the meet."

The district meet starts today and runs through tomorrow, and Cribbs said expectations are high.

"We are peaking at the right time and are expecting big things from our teams at district," Cribbs said. "The boys and girls both have a tough task with Azle. Their boys won the 5A state duals championship last weekend and the girls were the UIL state runner ups last year."

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From StatePoint

## Gen-Z is Guiding the Retail Revolution - Here's What to Know

Customer expectations continue to evolve at breakneck speed, and 2025 is likely to usher in further changes to brick-and-mortar stores as retailers compete for shoppers' attention. With Gen-Z's spending power projected to reach \$12 trillion by 2030—according to Nielsen IQ—industry experts say that they're leading the retail revolution.

"Gen-Z are digital natives, fiercely value-driven, and accustomed to on-demand, personalized experiences. As such, shoppers can expect retailers to dive into new technologies as they strive to deliver innovative experiences that are as seamless and personalized as they are meaningful in the new year," says Christa Anz, global marketing director at Sensormatic Solutions, a leading global retail solutions provider.

According to Sensormatic Solutions data, experience and convenience remain top factors in consumer purchasing decisions among all generations, with crowds and lines (53%), out-of-stocks (46%) and long waits for pickups (29%) cited as shoppers' top pain points. Fortunately, the foundation for improvements has been laid. Retailers are employing emerging technology to meet these desires, and consumers will soon start to see the benefits.

For example, solutions that draw on organizational data to provide predictive analytic insights can help retailers get ahead of disruptions to ensure customer service issues are addressed proactively and resolved quickly. Meanwhile, the same types of data can be used to enhance personalization and gamification in retail apps, websites and loyalty programs, making them simpler and more satisfying for shoppers to use.

Technology and personalization efforts will also help ensure customers get the products they want, right when they want them. RFID-enhanced inventory tracking will improve in-store pickup, and end-to-end supply chain digitalization efforts will help retailers and manufacturers address material shortages, severe weather and other challenges expected in 2025. Additionally, shoppers can expect to be connected with products they need—and those they don't yet know they need—thanks to the ubiquity of data retailers now have access to and refinements in the way businesses use that information to personalize offers. According to "Frontiers in Psychology," personalization efforts boost loyalty in 68% of customers, making the implementation of this technology a win-win.

Another rising trend is retail media. P2PI predicts that in 2025, retail media advertising spend will surpass linear TV spend. Despite their popularity, most consumers are unaware of how retail media networks im-

pact their shopping experiences and improve their interactions with brands. Using in-store and online data to create omnichannel customer and demographic profiles, retail media networks help stores adjust inventory tactics, promotions, displays and more to reflect the preferences of their customers.

On the security side of the equation, Sensormatic Solutions notes that the impact that loss prevention and safety measures will have on customers will likely wane this year. This shift comes as more retailers adopt a smart hybrid approach, with a focus on balancing safety and satisfaction. The combination of physical deterrents and item- or category-level inventory data allows retailers to protect the most at-risk parts of the store (and the people in them) without adding unnecessary friction elsewhere.

Finally, market pressures will continue to guide retailers. As 2025 unfolds, private-label products are expected to gain popularity, appealing to shoppers looking to save and retailers looking to boost revenue.

For more insights into the 2025 shopping landscape, visit [sensormatic.com](https://sensormatic.com).

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*From the Project Linus Blanketeers*

## First Monday Quilt Club Volunteers Needed

Come join the fun and enjoy great fellowship at our monthly meeting with the Quilt Club volunteers while you make a difference in our community and bless others by making quilts for Project Linus.

The First Monday Quilt Club meets on the first Monday of each month at Bethany Christian Church located at 1500 Meadow Park Drive in White Settlement from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Instead of a potluck lunch, ladies are asked to bring brunch or snack items. Their next meeting is on Monday, Feb. 3.

Project Linus is a non-profit service organization. The members of this group are Tarrant County Chapter Project Linus volunteers who create handmade quilts and blankets that provide love, warmth, and comfort for local children who have suffered trauma, tragedy, or illness. Volunteers also make coverlets for veterans, nursing home residents, and the homeless. Unfortunately, the need for these blankets increases each month. They desperately need volunteers with portable sewing machines to help assemble the quilts.

No experience is needed - there is a place for you. Anyone can help if you can follow instructions, sew, tie a knot, crochet a blanket, or tell a good joke. Volunteers have lots of fun and develop fantastic friendships.

High school students can receive community service credits for participating. Materials (fabric, batting, thread, and yarn) are provided. Donations of fabric, yarn, thread, or money to purchase materials are greatly appreciated.

For more information about the mission of Project Linus, visit [www.projectlinus.org](https://www.projectlinus.org).

For more information on this group and meetings, call Virginia Biela at 817-244-1263.

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*Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges*

## General John Bankhead Magruder



He was called “Prince John,” but he was far from royalty. He was part of two losing wars but was popular among his troops. General John Magruder, a Virginia-born Confederate general, took charge of Texas defenses from late 1862 onward, and led a series of colorful adventures along the way.

John Bankhead Magruder was born in 1807 in Port Royal, Virginia, a small port city not far from Washington, DC. His father was a planter and attorney, but he fell into bankruptcy and lost everything by 1820. He began attending the University of Virginia in 1825 and soon received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

He enrolled at West Point in 1826. Magruder was an able cadet, graduating fifteenth out of forty-two in his class in 1830. The newly commissioned lieutenant was then assigned to the 7th Infantry and soon transferred into artillery. It was a quiet time for the army, and he went from post to post. He found time to study law and became a licensed attorney. In 1845, he was transferred to General Zachary Taylor’s forces in Corpus Christi as the United States prepared for the admission of Texas into the Union and to enforce American claims on the Rio Grande. War with Mexico erupted a few months later,

and Magruder served ably in the Mexican War, and slightly wounded in 1847. He served alongside many other officers who would lead armies in the Civil War some fifteen years later.

After the war ended in 1848, he was assigned to a post in California where he managed to also become a popular attorney, real estate speculator, saloon owner, and also ran a railroad while still tending to his army duties.

As Abraham Lincoln assumed the presidency in 1861, Magruder was assigned to a post in Washington, DC. When Virginia seceded in April, Magruder chose to defend Virginia and joined the Confederate army as a colonel. Given his extensive knowledge of military defenses in the area, he was put in charge of the Arm of the Peninsula east of Richmond. Popular among his troops, it was said by one friend, “he could fight all day and dance all night.” With successful efforts against Union incursions into the area, Magruder was rewarded with promotion to major general later that summer.

By spring 1862, General George McClellan attacked the eastern peninsula of Virginia. Magruder was outnumbered nine-to-one, but managed to use the bogs and thick forests to his advantage. He managed to fool McClellan into believing Confederate forces were stronger than they were, and delayed the Union advances for several critical days. However, as Robert E. Lee took command and attempted to reorganize Confederate forces into a counter-offensive by late June, Magruder was bogged down by poor communication and poor coordination. He was accused of being drunk, and faced the charge without resorting to character attacks against his critics. In the end, the charges never stuck.

He was transferred to command the District of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona in October 1862. By this point, the Union Navy had just seized Galveston. He organized a counterattack of artillery and Confederate gunboats. Magruder attacked on New Year’s Eve. By the next day, he had captured three Union ships and forced the rest to flee. Galveston remained in Confederate hands

for the remainder of the war.

Magruder maintained his headquarters in Houston while directing officers throughout Texas to enforce the draft and maintain order. Working with Confederate units in Louisiana and Arkansas, he managed to keep Union forces from invading Texas. After Lee surrendered in Virginia in April 1865, Magruder, along with Gen. Kirby Smith, tried to hold out against Union forces but realized all was lost. On June 2, they formally surrendered. But he understood how leaders in the losing side of uprisings and civil wars had been treated historically. Fearing for his life, as did many other Confederate officers and officials, Magruder fled to Mexico.

Magruder offered his services to Emperor Maximilian, the puppet king installed by the French after they seized control of Mexico in 1862. France had used the pretense of Mexico’s immense foreign debt owed to France as a pretense for invasion and the distraction of the American Civil War as a cover. The ever-unpopular Maximilian found himself the target of increased uprisings in 1865 and welcomed the services of a respected general.

But Magruder soon realized just how perilously close to the abyss that Maximilian had become. The United States had made it quite clear that French intervention in Mexico would not be tolerated. With unrest growing, the French pulled their army out of Mexico in 1866 and urged their puppet king to leave as well. Convinced he was beloved by the people, he decided to stay instead. As rebel armies advanced and Maximilian’s armies crumbled, Magruder read the writing on the wall. He fled back to the United States in early 1867. Not long afterward, Maximilian was overthrown, captured, and executed by firing squad.

The one-time Confederate soldier and Mexican advisor found a general amnesty for Confederate officers in the United States and capitalized on his wartime adventures. He spent the next several years off-and-on the lecture circuit making a tidy living regaling audiences with his tales. Magruder died at his home in Houston in 1871.

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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### APPLIANCES

**CALLAHAN'S APPLIANCE**  
 8120 White Settlement Rd  
 817-439-2080

### COMPUTERS

**MICHAEL'S PC Repair**  
 817-945-2667  
[michaelspcs@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelspcs@hotmail.com)

### ELECTRIC

**E-CONN ELECTRIC**  
 817-831-2600  
[www.econnllc.com](http://www.econnllc.com)

### ROOFING

**ECE ROOFING LLC**  
 817-831-2600

### TREE SERVICE

**CHAD GREEN Tree Service**  
 817-246-5943 or 817-800-6059 (cell)

### FENCING

**LYNCO Fencing**  
 817-246-5641

**BOB YOUNG Fencing**  
 817-495-5543

[bobyoungfences@hotmail.com](mailto:bobyoungfences@hotmail.com)

### REAL ESTATE

**TAMMY WRIGHT, BROKER**  
 Wright Realty Services DFW  
 Cell: 682-472-9041  
[wrightrealtyservicesdfw@gmail.com](mailto:wrightrealtyservicesdfw@gmail.com)

### PAINTING

**HAYWOOD Painting**  
 817-371-8597

### HOME IMPROVEMENT

**ECE Construction LLC**  
 817-831-2600  
**BILL BLANKENSHIP Contracting**  
 Residential/Commercial • M8479  
 817-831-4000  
[contractingblankenship@outlook.com](mailto:contractingblankenship@outlook.com)

### INSURANCE

**PETER POLINSKY Insurance**  
 817-560-9400

[peter@polinsky-insurance.com](mailto:peter@polinsky-insurance.com)  
**HEALTH INSURANCE**  
 (all year/ages) Medicare &  
 Obamacare 817-874-7569  
[Marilyn-Kaye.com](http://Marilyn-Kaye.com) - Online Quotes

### SERVICES PROVIDED

**AMERICAN LEGION Post 297**  
 817-249-2791

[alpost297@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alpost297@sbcglobal.net)  
**LEON'S CONCRETE & TREE SERVICE**  
[Leon@leonstreeservice.biz](mailto:Leon@leonstreeservice.biz)  
[marlenplascencia04@gmail.com](mailto:marlenplascencia04@gmail.com)  
 Licensed & Insured! 817-371-8597  
**CHRIST THE KING Anglican Church**  
 3290 Lackland Rd.  
 Fort Worth, Tx 76116  
 Every Sunday worship at 9:30am

### LANDSCAPE/LAWNS

**I MOW 4 YOU**  
 817-988-2249

[corvetteron@hotmail.com](mailto:corvetteron@hotmail.com)  
**ALEX'S Lawn Care**  
 817-793-9096

### PLUMBING

**LONNIE BRAVO Plumbing**  
 817-715-6747

[lonniebravo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lonniebravo@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.lonniebravoplumbingllc.com](http://www.lonniebravoplumbingllc.com)  
**BILL BLANKENSHIP Contracting**  
 Residential/Commercial • M8479  
 817-831-4000  
[contractingblankenship@outlook.com](mailto:contractingblankenship@outlook.com)

**Business Directory**  
 Listings - \$10 per month!  
[classifieds@suburban-newspapers.com](mailto:classifieds@suburban-newspapers.com)

## Weekend Forecast



### Friday, Jan. 31:

**AM** - Sunny, with a high near 65. Northwest wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.  
**PM** - Clear, with a low around 40. North northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm.



### Saturday, Feb. 1:

**AM** - Sunny, with a high near 70. Light south wind increasing to 5 to 10 mph in the morning. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.  
**PM** - Clear, with a low around 48. South southwest wind around 10 mph.



### Sunday, Feb. 2:

**AM** - Sunny, with a high near 76. South southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.  
**PM** - Clear, with a low around 54.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)