



City of Benbrook ★ A Texas Star City

Benbrook News

Established 1939 • A Publication of Suburban Newspapers, Inc.

83rd Year No. 1 • 817-246-2473 • 7820 Wyatt Drive, White Settlement, Texas 76108 • suburban-newspapers.com • January 5, 2023

From the Sports Desk with John English

Benbrook MHS and Western Hills HS Basketball Teams Gear Up for District Play

The Western Hills boys basketball team competed in the Bridgeport tournament this past week where coach Blake Dunson said the Cougars were a little short-handed, but still competed well.

“Some players that have been playing major minutes for us were gone, but it gave some younger players an opportunity to step up and contribute, which was a big positive for us as a team,” Dunson said. “We went 0-4 for the tournament including a 1-point overtime loss to Boyd, and a close game against a tough Stephenville team. Overall, I was happy with our effort and the experience that our younger players gained over the two days.”

Dunson said Junior Stephun Williams continued to play well and led Western Hills in scoring and rebounding throughout the tournament.

“He was selected to the All-Tournament team for his great performance,” Dunson said.

Over at Benbrook, the Bobcats did not compete over Christmas break this year and coach Blake Mendez said it may have been just what the doctor ordered.

“Christmas Break has been incredible,” Mendez said. “We didn’t have a holiday tournament so we’ve gotten an opportunity to just practice and fix some of the things that have been hindering us this year. We also has some alumni from some successful teams from years past come home and give us some really good looks in practice.”

Mendez said he is excited about the start of district competition and believes that the non-district schedule did a good job of getting his team ready.

“We played a mostly 5 and 6A non-district schedule,” Mendez

said. “So our win/loss record doesn’t show success, but we needed to learn how to play up to competition. We have some tough teams in our district, and we feel like playing up against bigger schools is going to help us compete.”

On the girls side, Benbrook coach Leta Lofton said the break was a good opportunity for her team to heal up a bit.

“Our focus over the Christmas break was getting our team mended after a bout of injuries with ankles and wrist,” Lofton said. “We have everyone back except for our two guard. We should get her back in the next week.”

Lofton said Benbrook's chances in District should be good provided everyone stays healthy and in order reach the post-season, it will take a few more things.

“Our district is very competitive, and it is necessary for us to be mentally and physically prepared to win each game,” Lofton said. “In order for us to capture a playoff spot we must win the games we know we are capable of winning.”

Over at Western Hills, coach Avante Smith's team lost to O.D. Wyatt in a final tune up before the start of district competition.

“We didn't have an answer for their bigs and their athleticism,” Smith said. “I thought it would be a good test right before we start back with district play on Tuesday with Benbrook.”

Western Hills will play Dunbar tomorrow night, and Smith said the Lady Cougars will have their hands full.

“Dunbar is the reigning district champ and will, as always, be a tough one,” Smith said on Saturday. “I know last year's games were rough and our girls haven't forgotten that. They've been working hard to get better everyday, and I know they'll be motivated to prove it this week against two really good opponents.”

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From the City of Benbrook

Bulk Trash and Brush Pick Up

Items placed curbside on Wednesdays by 7 a.m. will be collected within 72 hours (Saturday by 7 a.m.).

If possible, loose brush should not exceed 4 feet in length, 6 inches in diameter, or 100 pounds.

Remember to place these items away from mailboxes, sprinkler systems, sewer clean-out, water meter boxes, and overhead power lines.

Allied Waste/Republic Services will not pick up construction material or household hazardous waste.

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From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers

Benbrook City Council Meeting Tonight

The Benbrook City Council meets the first and third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. (with a pre-meeting work session at 7 p.m.) in the City Hall Council Chambers, located at 911 Winscott Road in Benbrook, 76126.

The Jan. 5 agenda is available to view [here](#).



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Benbrook News, River Oaks News and White Settlement Bomber News

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From the City of Benbrook

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Site

Benbrook residents may take household hazardous waste to the Fort Worth Environmental Collection Center (ECC) at no cost.

Proof of Benbrook residency is required (utility bill, driver's license). The Fort Worth ECC is located at 6400 Bridge St. and is open for drop-offs Thursdays and Fridays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If you have questions, please call 817-392-EASY (3279).

Acceptable Items

- Automotive fluids (up to 10 gallons)
- Batteries
- Cleaners and chemicals (up to 10 gallons)
- Cooking oil (up to 10 gallons)
- Lawn/garden/pool chemicals (up to 20 gallons)
- Light bulbs (up to 20 bulbs)
- Paint and painting supplies (up to 30 bulbs)

Unacceptable Items

- Ammunition and explosives
- Appliances and electronics
- Building materials
- Bulk trash and yard waste
- Butane/propane cylinders
- Medicines and medical waste
- Tires
- Asbestos/PCBs/radioactive items

Business, commercial, and industrial waste cannot be accepted under Texas regulations.

Learn more about the City of Benbrook's trash, recycling, and environmental programs [here](#).

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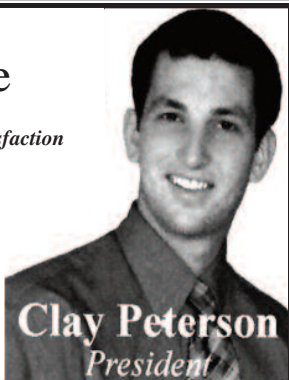
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Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater North Texas

Scholarship Applications Accepted Through April 1

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater North Texas (RMHCNTX) announced the opening of applications for its Scholarship Program, which grants more than \$60,000 to 30 local high school seniors each year. Funded by North Texas McDonald's owner/operators and donations from the community, the annual scholarships recognize students for their outstanding academic achievements and community involvement.

Applications are open online at rmhcntx.org/scholarships and must be submitted by April 1, 2023. All students can apply regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender, disability, or national origin. To qualify for an RMHC Scholarship, students must:

- be a high school senior
- be younger than 21 years old
- be eligible to attend a two- or four-year college or university with a full course of study
- be a legal U.S. resident
- live in the geographic areas of the

RMHC of Greater North Texas Chapter and all required documentation by the deadline.

"Each year, we're proud to support high school seniors in our community as they pursue their education," said David Floyd, local McDonald's Owner/Operator and Board Treasurer of RMHCNTX. "We hope

this scholarship allows students to focus on their academics without having to worry about finances."

Since the Scholarship Program was founded in 1988, more than \$2.5 million has been awarded to more than 1,500 North Texas high school seniors. For more information and to apply, visit rmhcntx.org/scholarships.

About RMHC of Greater North Texas

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater North Texas (RMHC of Greater North Texas), a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that creates, finds and supports programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children and their families. Our programs are grassroots-driven to enable us to offer help where children and families need it most – right in their own communities. RMHC of Greater North Texas is part of a global network of Chapters making a positive impact on the lives of children and families in 65 countries and regions around the world.



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City Accepting Volunteers for My Benbrook Mile Program

The City of Benbrook encourages individuals and groups to participate in the My Benbrook Mile Program.

This program allows citizens the opportunity to contribute to a cleaner environment by working together to clean up city roadways and park areas.

Participating groups self-monitor a road or park and plan clean-up events based on the schedules of group members.

Groups may plan monthly clean-ups or as the area dictates. Groups may deposit collected trash and debris (in plastic bags) at the City Maintenance Shop located at 467 Winscott Road. The

City can provide trash bags, latex gloves and reflective safety vests as requested.

Once a My Benbrook Mile location has been determined and the group establishes a commitment to adopt the area, a road sign designating the group is erected in the area.

To determine the appropriate area for your group, or for any questions, and to receive an assigned area for clean-up, contact Amanda Chi at 817-249-6008.

From the City of Benbrook

City Hall to be Closed Monday, Jan. 16 for Holiday

Benbrook City Hall, located at 911 Winscott Rd. will be closed all day on Monday, Jan. 16 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a federal holiday in the United States marking the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.

It is observed on the third Monday of January each year. Born in 1929, King's actual birthday is Jan. 15.

The holiday is similar to holidays set under the Uniform Monday Holiday Act.

4PAWS Pet Adoptions are available at the Benbrook Animal Shelter located at 469 Winscott Rd. Fridays & Saturdays: 10am-2pm Sundays: 11am-3pm

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Here's to a New Year - 2023 by Dr. Ken Bridges

Once Christmas has passed, the world looks to a new year. Many wonder what the new year will bring. It will be a year marked with war in some nations and peace in others. There will be triumph, and there will be heartbreak. But in the meantime, the world pauses to celebrate the end of one year and the hopes for the next.

In New York City, the famous dropping of the Times Square Ball marks the new year. It is a tradition dating back to New Year's Eve 1904 when Adolph Ochs, then owner of *The New York Times*, devised it as a way of celebrating the new year by having the glass ball lowered on the roof of his newspaper building. The modern ball, its fifth incarnation, is glass, six feet in diameter, and weighs more than 1,200 pounds. It was manufactured by Waterford Crystal and has more than 9,500 LED lights illuminating it. It is the most popular new year's observance in the United States.

Observances of the new year date back thousands of years as ancient peoples recognized the regular shifting patterns of stars at night and the sun in the day and their connection to particular seasons. The earliest observances of Jan. 1 for the beginning of the year began with the Romans around 713 BC. The Romans named the first month of their lunar calendar year January after the Roman god Janus, who supposedly was the god of time and also the god of beginnings and transitions. According to legend, Janus had two faces, one looking into the past and the other looking into the future. It was a day marked with great celebrations.

The tradition of Rosh Hashanah marks the tradition of the Jewish new year, which means "head of the year" in Hebrew, a tradition dating back to the Old Testament. This holiday is not observed in January but sometime in September or October, depending on the lunar calendar. The two-day celebration includes many symbolic foods, including apples dipped in honey to mark a sweet new year. It is a national holiday only in Israel and Ukraine. In 2023, it will begin at sunset on Sep. 15 and run through Sept. 17.

In most countries throughout the world, Jan. 1 is an official holiday to mark the beginning of the new year. Even many non-western countries will observe Jan. 1 as New Year's Day because of the overwhelming influence of European and American business and culture for the past few centuries as they ultimately adopted the modern Gregorian calendar used throughout the West, even in officially atheist nations like China.

The Chinese New Year will not start until Jan. 22. Under the Chinese Zodiac system dating back many centuries, 2023 marks the Year of the Rabbit. In China, the rabbit is associated with luck, so the Year of the Rabbit is usually considered a lucky year. In China, fireworks are set off to mark the new year and to also scare

off demons and forces of darkness.

Similarly, Jan. 22 will mark the traditional Vietnamese New Year, known as Tet. The Vietnamese lunar calendar is very similar to the Chinese calendar. The Vietnamese Zodiac, however, makes the cat a symbol of 2023 instead of the rabbit but similarly considered to be lucky. By tradition, a great feast is prepared, family reunions are held, and many celebrations are held in cities across the country. Many in Vietnam see Tet as the beginning of spring as well. Cleaning the home is also part of the traditional observances to symbolically clean out the bad spirits from the previous year.

Different types of food are also associated with the New Year's celebrations. In India, rice is eaten for prosperity in the new year. Buttered bread is supposed to be good luck in Ireland. In Spain, people traditionally eat 12 grapes at midnight, one at each chime, to bring luck for the year. In the American South, black-eyed peas are eaten for good luck for the new year. Leafy green vegetables like collard greens are supposed to symbolize prosperity.

In some cultures, it is also customary to exchange gifts on New Year's Day. In Ancient Persia, eggs were given as symbols of fertility in the new year. When observances of Christmas and religion were outlawed in the Soviet Union, Russians responded by shifting gift-giving from Christmas to New Year's Day.

In Scotland, gifts of silverware or pastries are traditionally given for luck. In the Philippines, Christmas and New Year's Day celebrations are often combined.

There are many other superstitions for luck surrounding celebrations. In France, the weather on New Year's Day is supposed to be an omen for the year's weather. Brazilians wear white for good luck while households in Puerto Rico sprinkle sugar outside their homes to invite good fortune inside. In Scotland, the first person to enter the home in the new year is also supposed to symbolize a person's luck for the year.

To this day, New Year's Day is still a time to reflect on the past and look forward to the days ahead. What 2023 and the years beyond hold is as yet a mystery. But as Winston Churchill once said, "The further in the past we look, the farther ahead we can see."

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From Tarrant County

Jury Services: Reporting for Jury Duty

Jury service plays a vital role in sustaining the American system of justice.

Why was my name drawn for jury service?

The Texas Legislature is responsible for all laws pertaining to jury service. Every other year the Secretary of State receives the Tarrant County voters list, the driver's license and identification card lists from the Department of Public Safety. The Secretary of State then combines these lists and sends Tarrant County their jury list for the upcoming two years. The Tarrant County jury list begins in January of the even years and ends the last week of December in the odd years. Currently, there are over one million names on our jury list and we mail over 200,000 summons annually. The reason some people never receive a summons is because we are not able to exhaust the list before the end of the two-year cycle.

However, it is now easier than ever to report for jury service. Gone are the days of reporting to the Central Jury Room and waiting all day to see if the courts would need a jury. Now you have a choice. You can report in person as summoned to the Central Jury Room. Or, you can use our online system, **eResponse**. As long as you register online at least two business days in advance and confirm your status; we will email your jury service instructions. The date you are summoned to appear will not change. If you receive an online assignment, your time and place will change. By using eResponse, you will be sent an email with instructions regarding your jury service which generally, allows you to bypass the Central Jury Room.

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 - Add juryroom@tarrantcounty.com as safe sender to avoid emails going to the Junk Folder (especially if you are a gmail or yahoo user.)
 - Generally all email notifications are sent out by 5 p.m.
 - Read all emails, remembering to scroll down to read entire email. Follow instructions in the emails.
 - Complete two questionnaires:
 1. Qualification questionnaire will determine qualifications along with verification for legal excuses. Read each question thoroughly.
 2. Court specific questionnaire - accessed through email when notified of court assignment -- requires some duplicate information.
- If no email is received from Tarrant County Jury Services, then appear at the date and time listed on the summons.

The Selection Process

When you arrive at the Central Jury Room in the Tim Curry

Justice Center, you will check in and be assigned to a court. The courts are primarily in the downtown area. The courts adhere to a strict appearance policy. Appropriate dress for your court assignment should be whatever you would wear to a job interview: no shorts or inappropriate t-shirts and tank tops.

There are two basic types of cases, criminal and civil (including family cases). A criminal case results when a person is accused of committing a crime. You, as a juror, must decide whether the person charged is guilty or not guilty. The accused person is presumed innocent, and the state, represented by the district attorney, must prove guilt "beyond a reasonable doubt." A civil case results from a disagreement or dispute between two or more parties. In a civil case, you, as a juror, must answer questions of disputed facts based upon the testimony and evidence admitted by the judge. The answers to these questions are called the verdict.

Cases will usually be heard by juries of six or 12 jurors (six in county courts and 12 in district courts). A larger group, called a panel, will be sent to the trial courtroom. When you arrive at your court, the bailiff there will instruct you.

Jurors will be questioned by each of the lawyers under the supervision of the judge. This interview process is called voir dire. The voir dire is a way for the parties to select an impartial jury. You may be questioned individually or as a group to determine selection of the jury. For example, the lawyer may ask you questions to see if you are connected to the trial or if you have any prejudice or bias toward anyone in the trial.

The questions of the attorneys and judge are not intended to embarrass you, but rather to help the lawyers in the jury selection process. You may ask the judge to allow you to answer some questions away from the other jurors. A juror may be excused from the panel if it is shown that the juror cannot act impartially concerning the case to be heard. In addition, each side is allowed to remove a given number of jurors from the panel without having to show any reason.

The trial jury will be the first six or 12 of the remaining jurors on the panel. After the voir dire, the selection of jurors will be announced and the remainder of the panel will be returned to the central jury room. If you have a special need or an emergency after you have been selected as a juror on a trial panel, tell the bailiff in the courtroom.

Should the parties to a suit unexpectedly reach a settlement or agree to a plea, the bailiff will announce this to the panel and instruct you to return to the jury room for further instructions. A settlement or plea does not mean a juror's time has been unproductive.

NOTE: You may be asked to complete a questionnaire either in the central jury room or after you arrive in the court. The information on these forms is used by the attorneys for both sides during the voir dire process to expedite the jury selection. The oath has been administered to you, therefore you are still under oath when you answer these questions.

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 8120 White Settlement Rd
 817-244-5404

SERVICES PROVIDED
COLUMBIA College
 817-377-3276
ftworth@CCIS.edu
AMERICAN LEGION Post 297
 817-249-2791
alpost297@sbcglobal.net

PLUMBING
PLUMBING by Richard
 817-907-0472
rvmunoz001@gmail.com
LONNIE BRAVO Plumbing
 817-715-6747
lonniebravo@sbcglobal.net

ROOFING
ECE ROOFING LLC
 817-831-2600
 817-615-7164

Three Day Weekend Forecast



Friday, Jan. 6:

AM - Sunny; high near 70. South wind 5-15mph, with gusts as high as 25mph.
PM - Partly cloudy, low around 52. S wind 10-15mph, with gusts as high as 20mph.



Saturday, Jan. 7:

AM - Mostly sunny, high near 63. SW wind around 5mph becoming 10mph in the afternoon.
PM - Partly cloudy, low around 40.



Sunday, Jan. 8:

AM - A 20% chance of showers. Mostly sunny; high near 55.
PM - A 30% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, low around 39.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)