

From the Sports Desk with John English

Player Feature: Bobcat Ethan Tucker

Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt

VFW Post 10429 Hosts Annual Cook-Off, Families Explore Big Rigs at Benbrook's "Touch-a-Truck" Event



Some athletes play the game well, and some athletes play the game the right way. Ethan Tucker does both.

The Benbrook first baseman/catcher was an integral cog in this year's Bobcat squad, which won an undefeated district championship and advanced to the area round of the post-season.

Coach Justin Chavez said Tucker really blossomed in 2026.

"Ethan had a breakout season," Chavez said. "He definitely went above and beyond what we expected out of him this season."

Chavez said Tucker brought a couple of things to the team this season.

"He won't tell you this, but he definitely brings leadership to our team," Chavez said. "He's a stand-up guy and he represents our team. He represents our community and he represents his (continued on page 5)



Cook Off Judges were: (clockwise) Mel Allen, Jan Davis, Derrick Mitchell, Bear Jermerson and John Haberer.

Members of the community gathered May 15-16 at VFW Post 10429 for the annual cook-off, featuring entries of chicken, ribs and brisket prepared by local competitors.

Participants set up smokers, pits and campers on the post grounds for the sanctioned event, turning the facility into a weekend showcase of barbecue skills and friendly competition. Commander Eddie Terry presided over the awards ceremony recognizing standout entries across categories.

In addition to the cook-off, attendees took part in cornhole games and browsed a silent auction that included a handmade quilt among the featured items. Organizers said the event offered a mix of competition and community fellowship throughout the weekend. (continued on page 4)



Pictured at the Tough-a-Truck event: (front, l-r) Daiquan Byas, Ezra Byas, Narmari Thomas, (back) Hilda Gonzalez, Ashton Thomas and Dia Thomas cooled off with shaved ice.

Families came together on Tuesday, May 12 in the YMCA parking lot for a hands-on "Touch-a-Truck" event that gave children an up-close look at emergency and construction vehicles.

Fire trucks, police cars and motorcycles, an ambulance, bulldozers, excavators, dump trucks, garbage trucks and utility vehicles were on display, allowing kids to climb inside, honk horns and activate lights and sirens under supervision. The interactive setup drew (continued on page 6)

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

From Suburban Newspapers, Inc. Staff Writers

From Decoration Day to Memorial Day: The History Behind America's Day of Remembrance



Pictured above: The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington County, Virginia, is the burial site of a World War I soldier whose remains were unidentifiable. After a design competition was held in 1928, the project was completed in 1932.

As Americans prepare to observe Memorial Day on May 25, communities across the country will gather for ceremonies, parades and moments of reflection honoring the men and women who died while serving in the United States military.

For many, the holiday also signals the unofficial start of summer, marked by backyard cookouts, family trips and long weekends. But historians say Memorial Day's roots are grounded in grief, remembrance and national healing following the Civil War.

Originally known as "Decoration Day," the observance began in the years after the Civil War, which claimed more American lives than any other conflict in U.S. history. As communities mourned fallen soldiers, people began decorating graves with

flowers, wreaths and flags in tribute to the dead.

Historians note there is no single agreed-upon birthplace of Memorial Day. Several towns and cities across the nation claim to have held early commemorations. In 1966, however, the federal government officially recognized Waterloo as the holiday's birthplace because of its community-wide observance held May 5, 1866.

The first official national observance took place May 30, 1868, at Arlington National Cemetery. The event was organized by the Grand Army of the Republic, a Union veterans organization led by Gen. John A. Logan. More than 5,000 people reportedly attended the ceremony, where flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers buried at Arlington. Future President James A. Garfield delivered a speech during the event.

The observance was initially intended to honor soldiers who died during the Civil War. Following World War I, the meaning expanded to recognize Americans who died in all military conflicts. Over time, "Memorial Day" gradually became the more commonly used name.

Congress officially established Memorial Day as a federal holiday in 1971 under the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which moved the observance to the last Monday in May to create a three-day weekend for federal employees.

Today, Memorial Day remains one of the nation's most solemn observances. At Arlington National Cemetery, the president traditionally lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, while members of the military place

American flags at thousands of gravesites ahead of the holiday weekend.

Across the country, volunteers and veterans organizations continue the tradition of decorating graves and holding remembrance ceremonies. A National Moment of Remembrance, established by Congress in 2000, encourages Americans to pause at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a minute of reflection.

Memorial Day is often confused with Veterans Day, but the two holidays serve different purposes. Veterans Day honors all who have served in the armed forces, while Memorial Day specifically recognizes those who died during military service.

More than 150 years after its origins, Memorial Day continues to serve as a reminder of the sacrifices made by generations of American service members. While traditions have evolved over time, historians say the holiday's central purpose remains unchanged: honoring those who gave their lives in service to the nation.



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BBQ Cook Off (continued from page 1)

The gathering drew strong support from participants and visitors alike, continuing the post's tradition of hosting events that bring residents together in support of veterans and local engagement.



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Grand Champion with Commander Eddie Terry with Big Salinas Barbecue - Randy Salinas.



Rib Winner: first place Get Sum On Ya - Alvie Bancom and his assistant!



Rib Winner: second place Big Salinas Barbeque - Randy Salinas.



Rib Winners: (l-r) with Commander Eddie Terry, third place Rogue Smokers - Connie Glock, Shawn Terry and Will Clock.



Brisket winners were: (l-r) third place Get Sum On Ya - Alvie Bancom, second place VFW Motorcycle Group 19 - Mike Seifert and first place Big Salinas Barbeque - Randy Salinas.



Chicken winners were: (l-r) third place Rogue Smokers - Will Glock, second place Get Sum On Ya - Alvie Bancom and first place Big Salinas Barbecue - Randy Salinas.

Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

family very well because he is a respectable polite and caring young man. He is a team first guy in those types of kids are hard to find these days.”

Benbrook was knocked out of the playoffs by Brock in the area round, and Tucker said it was a hard pill to swallow.

“It was disappointing to see it come to an early end but I’m really happy with my personal performance,” Tucker said. “But more importantly to me I was happy with the relationships I made with my teammates and how much I got to see the team grow, especially the younger guys.”

Tucker, 17, hit .429 for the season with four home runs and said his favorite memory was traveling with the team to Corpus Christi.

Reflecting on his time at Benbrook, Tucker, who also serves on his church’s worship team, said he hopes his teammates remember him as someone who conducted himself the right way.

“I hope the legacy I left to my younger teammates and the entire program was a legacy of kindness and humbleness,” Tucker said. “More than anything, I hope that my younger teammates saw me

as a kind, encouraging voice in the dugout when things were hard and a strong courageous voice when a leader was needed.”

But it’s not over yet.

Tucker, who also plays football and is in the band and the national honor society, was also nominated to play in the THSBCA All-Star game on June 13.

The Benbrook senior said that was special for him.

“It was an honor to hear I was selected for the all star game,” Tucker said. “It felt like a lot of hard work was finally paying off.”

For Chavez, he could not be more proud.

“We have three seniors that started for us as freshman, and he was not one of them,” Chavez said. “But throughout his career, he has continued to work and craft his game on and off the field, at practice and on his own,” Chavez said. “He is well-deserving of this honor. Ethan is going to be missed every day because of the person he is, not because of the baseball player that he is. He comes in with a great attitude every day and enjoys the game of baseball. I can’t wait to see what he does at the next level. He’s only going to get better.”

Tucker’s Favorites

Favorite Athlete: Shin Soo Choo

Favorite Sports team: Texas Rangers

Favorite Food: Taco Bell

Favorite Movie: *Interstellar*

Favorite TV Show: *The Office*

Book Currently Reading or Last Book Read: The Bible

Favorite Musical Group or Performer: Charley Crockett

Legal Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

Finding of No Significant Impact & No Practicable Alternative

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and Executive Order 11988, the United States Air Force has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment and No Practicable Alternative to work within the floodplain for Storm Drain System Improvements at Air Force Plant 4, operated by Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company, located in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, TX. The project will upgrade storm drain systems to reduce flood risk.

The Environmental Assessment and FONSI/FONPA are available for public review and comment during a 30-day period ending on May 31, 2026. These documents may be reviewed at White Settlement Public Library, 8215 White Settlement Road, White Settlement, TX 76108; and at Fort Worth Public Library Clifford Crossing, 9336 Clifford Street Suite 120, Fort Worth, TX 76108.

Written comments must be received by May 31, 2026, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company Facilities Engineering, Attn: Angela K. Pereira, PE, PO Box 748 MZ 6445, Fort Worth, TX 76101, or via email to angela.k.pereira@lmco.com.

Legal Notice

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer’s Off-premise Permit (BQ) by Star Food Mart Camp Bowie, LLC dba Star Food Mart, to be located at 7320 Camp Bowie W Blvd., Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas. Officer of said corporation is Akber Kurji, business Owner and Manager.

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Jimmie Wesley VS Luewinda Wesley who resides in Tarrant County
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Jimmie Wesley, 704-493-3443

Touch-a-Truck (continued from page 1)

steady crowds throughout the day.

A food truck was also available on-site, offering refreshments for attendees as families explored the equipment and participated in demonstrations.

Organizers said the event is designed to connect the community with local first responders and public works crews while giving children a safe, engaging experience with the vehicles they often see on the road but rarely get to explore up close.

The family-friendly gathering was well attended and provided an afternoon of learning, interaction and entertainment for residents across the Benbrook area.



Zachary Payne taught a few kids about the skidsteer, with Taylor Wolff, Oliver Wallace and TJ Wolff.



Karis Washington from Republic Services shared how to operate the garbage truck with Blaire Rose, Blakeley, Carly Libby, Charlie Stephen and John Peter.



Citizens on Patrol: (l-r) Don Pilliod, Yvonne Kirby, Cheryl Fortiner, Mike Lacki and Norma Eubanks.



Police Sgt. Denson visited with Lea, Nathan and Nichola Purczynsky.



Paramedic Rossing showed Mateo Gutierrez how to operate the fire water hose.

Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

When Rivers Drew the Line: The Greer County Border Dispute

Above: Historic maps of Greer County show the disputed territory claimed by Texas between the North Fork and South Fork of the Red River before the U.S. Supreme Court awarded the land to Oklahoma in 1896.

Texas is an immense landscape, and the land seems to stretch on forever. The question of the Texas border has resulted in many disputes. One infamous land dispute in the late 1800s resulted in a piece of Texas called Greer County becoming a part of Oklahoma.

The dispute arose over a portion of a fork in the Red River. On the border of what is now Wilbarger County, the Red River forks into two distinct rivers. One fork, called at one time the South Fork and now often referred to as the Prairie Dog Town Fork, continues westerly into the Panhandle. Another fork, called the North Fork, goes straight northward from the main branch of the Red River before curving back westward and into the Panhandle along what is now Interstate 40.

In 1819, the United States signed the Adams-Onis Treaty with Spain, which set portions of the Texas border at the Red River. Years after Texas gained its independence from Mexico and then joined the Union, it claimed the North Fork of the Red River as part of its boundary with the 100th Meridian marking the eastern edge of the Panhandle. The areas to the north of the Red River were set aside as the Indian Territory, lands reserved for Native American tribes.

A series of surveys were completed by the federal government in the 1850s to further define the border. As the surveys were completed, Texas officials moved to secure their claim by organizing the entire region between the North Fork of the Red River and the 100th Meridian as Greer County.

The county was named for veteran Texas politician John Alexander Greer. Greer had a respected career that included serving as the last Secretary of the Treasury of the Republic of Texas under President Anson Jones in 1845 and later served as the second lieutenant

governor of Texas from 1847 to 1851. He died in 1855. The Texas Legislature named the county in his honor in February 1860.

After the interruptions of the Civil War and Reconstruction that disrupted development, settlement in the area picked up steadily in the 1880s. In 1879, when Congress created a new federal judicial district for North Texas, Greer County was included rather than being pushed into the Indian Territory. By 1886, the town of Mangum was established as the county seat, with schools and ranches being established across the area.

After the Indian Territory was opened to settlement and Native American claims stripped away, the federal government took interest in Greer County. Where Texas had claimed the North Fork as the border, the federal government claimed the South Fork as the border, putting Greer County in the newly rechristened Oklahoma Territory. A protracted legal fight erupted. In 1895, the Supreme Court heard testimony from both sides but ruled that the southern fork was the real boundary, ruling in *United States v. Texas* in 1896. Congress formalized the ruling later that year, giving Oklahoma full rights to Greer County.

Since Oklahoma was admitted as a state in 1907, Greer County was subdivided into four counties: Greer, Beckham, Jackson, and Harmon. The area today is thinly populated, and the area economy is mostly devoted to ranching.

Border disputes between Texas and Oklahoma continued for more than a century. By 2000, Texas and Oklahoma agreed to a formal river boundary at the vegetation line on the south bank of the Red River and Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River. The fight over Greer County proved to be just one of many confrontations in the long rivalry between Texas and Oklahoma.

NAY:

Traffic congestion continues to frustrate drivers traveling north on Hwy. 377 at Winscott Road in Benbrook. The right-turn lane heading toward Winscott begins too close to the intersection, causing backups as drivers merge at the last moment. Motorists attempting to turn right often wait through multiple light cycles because through-traffic fills the lane before the turn area begins. - Benbrook Resident, Sandra Hart



From 4PAWS/Benbrook Animal Shelter

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Weekend Forecast



Friday, May 22:
AM - A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, high near 84.
 South wind around 5 mph.
PM - A 50 % chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, low around 67.
 S/SE wind 5 to 10 mph.



Saturday, May 23:
AM - A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, high near 82.
 S/SE wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%
PM - Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy, low around 65. S/SE
 wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%.



Sunday, May 24:
AM - A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, high near 80. Calm
 wind becoming N/NE around 5 mph.
PM - A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, low around 65.

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