

From the Sports Desk with John English

Western Hills Ends Football Season with a Win over Carter-Riverside; Benbrook MHS Defeats Venus - Heads to Playoffs

The Western Hills football team (pictured right) wrapped up the regular season on a high note with a 48-21 victory over Carter-Riverside on Friday night. Coach Blake Moilan it was a good overall effort from the Cougars.



“This was a total team win,” Moilan said. “We are really proud of the kids, especially our seniors. The word of the week was 'finish.' We knew we were not playing for the playoffs, so we had to go out and play for pride. Our kids did just that.”

Moilan said he had a couple of stand out performances in the game.

“Rodney Hills scored three times, one kickoff return to start the game and two touchdown runs,” Moilan said. “EJ Jones wrapped up his senior year with a 196 yard night, two touchdowns and over 1600 yards on the season. Brendan Garner added a 70 yard touchdown catch and run and Kyu Wilson stripped the ball and ran for a 28-yard touchdown. Brycen Foster ended the night with four sacks and double digit tackles. Tyler Willis had 11 tackles as well.”

Looking back on the season, Moilan said while the record was not what he was hoping for, there were several positive take-aways.

“We finished 2-8 for the season, but had several close games that would have completely flipped our season around,” Moilan said. “We have to learn that there is no reset button and we have to play every play, every quarter. We will return nine starters on offense and four on defense. We had a lot of

guys get varsity experience for the first time. That is exciting as we head into off season and start getting ready for next season.”

Over at Benbrook, the Bobcats (pictured below) also won their season finale, defeating Venus by a score of 48-6.

Benbrook opens the playoffs with Mineral Wells tomorrow at 7 p.m. at Kangaroo Stadium in Weatherford.

(continued on page 2)



Benbrook Council Action by John English

Nov. 7 Council Meeting Review

The Benbrook City Council meeting was held on Nov. 7 as scheduled.

Mayor Jason Ward called the meeting to order. An invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Time was then allowed for citizen comments on any agenda item, but there were none.

The minutes from the previous meeting held on Oct. 17 (continued on page 2)

Council Action (continued from page 1)

were then approved unanimously.

The first item of the evening was a motion to approve the finance report for the period ending on Sept. 30. Revenues for the General Fund totaled \$924,321 with year-to-date revenues of \$28,789,554. Expenditures for the month were \$1,525,801 and year-to-date expenditures totaled \$23,042,307.

For the Economic Development Corporation, revenues for the month of September were \$186,722 and year-to-date were \$2,555,560. Expenditures for the month of September were \$42,611 and year-to-date expenditures totaled \$3,921,319. The finance report was approved unanimously.

Next up was a motion to accept the quarterly investment report for the period ending on Sept. 30.

The City of Benbrook has \$33,579,908, or 84.1 percent of the investment portfolio and the EDC has \$6,364,541 or 15.9 percent of the portfolio. The investment report was accepted unanimously.

There was then an item to consider adoption of a resolution to review and accept an Administrative Regulation F5-Investment Policy. There were no changes proposed to any aspect of the policy. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Next was a motion to approve the Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax Distributions for Fiscal Year 2024/25. The city is requesting \$122,871 for marketing and promotion and \$33,500 for Heritage Fest. The total requests for the budget was \$182,871. The Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax Budget was approved unanimously.

Next was a motion to approve an Administrative Regulation G19-Prohibited Technology Policy. The policy prohibits certain social media applications, such as TikTok, on government devices. The proposed technology policy would be formally documented as Administrative Regulation G19. The policy was approved unanimously.

Next was a proposal to purchase a Refresh Scale Computing System. The city placed bids, and Maverick Computer Services-Scale Computing offered the lowest bid at a cost of \$224,747.80. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Time was then allowed for informal citizen comments, and a Colleyville resident Sayeda Syed, who is a candidate for the Tarrant County Appraisal District's Board of Directors, approached the podium and requested the council members' vote. Syed attended a council meeting in Benbrook in September as well.

Time was then allowed for council member and staff comments, but there were none.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

On the court, the Benbrook volleyball team lost to Krum in the bi-district round of the playoffs last week, and coach Frances Davies her players get it their all.

"While we did unfortunately lose in three sets, I am incredibly proud of how the girls performed," Davies said. "Krum is a very strong team, and we held our own the entire time and the girls never stopped fighting. They continued to play big and bold the entire time and they should be very proud of what they've accomplished."

Davies said it her team played well as a unit, but said there were three especially-good performances.

"This was another one of those games where it really was a fully joint effort," Davies said. "I will say that Martha Greene and Gentry Grunden really stepped up and put up big blocks to help our defense and Zoe Frater really did help our hitters by getting them excellent sets."

Davies said her team made a lot of progress in 2024.

"Going into this season, we knew it was going to be a bit of roller coaster with us in a rebuild after losing three very big role-players for us," Davies said. "However, the returners came in ready to lead and they truly did, while the newcomers came in eager to earn and maintain their place on the roster and contribute in whatever way to help the success of the team. All coaches were very impressed with their chemistry early on, and I will absolutely attribute a lot of our big wins to that. They absolutely played for the we over the me this year. Couldn't have been more proud of all the accomplishments this year."



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From 4PAWS & Benbrook Animal Shelter

Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt

Wrigley is Available to Adopt

Tarrant County Veterans Day Parade Draws Hundreds of Spectators



Wrigley (#2841) is three-month-old Shepherd mix puppy. He is sweet and lovable, loves to play with toys and will be so much fun for your family.

He is available for adoption at the Benbrook Animal Shelter, located at 469 Winscott 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.

Please visit www.4pawsinc.org or call 4 PAWS volunteers, Ursula at 817-262-3086 or Lynda at 682-279-0760, to get more information about her or any dogs available for adoption.

The Tarrant County Veterans Day Parade was held on Monday, Nov. 11 along Forest Park Blvd. This year marks 175 years since the first military post was established in North Central Texas on Nov. 14, 1849; the U.S. War Department officially granted the name “Fort Worth” to the post near the confluence of the Clear and West forks of the Trinity River.

Participants gathered at Panther Island and the parade began promptly at 11 a.m. Several high school bands, JROTC units, various organizations and automobile clubs joined together for this overwhelming event that was enjoyed by everyone who attended.



Quartermaster/Adjutant **Philip Casey** and Commander **Randall High** from VFW Post 8235.



Commander **Lora McGee**, **Keagan Novick**, Auxiliary Treasurer **Shay Kuehner** with granddaughter, **Kiley**, and **Philip Davis** from American Legion Post 297.



Peter Robey decorated his Corvette appropriately for the occasion.



Fort Worth Mayor **Mattie Parker** was the Grand Marshall of the Parade.

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(photos continued on page 4)

Veterans Day Parade (continued from page 3)



The Benbrook Middle School Junior Cadet Corps also marched.



Members from the 395th Army Band entertained the crowd.



The Colors led the parade route.



Granbury ISD STAR Accelerated High School students placed flags along the parade route. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Linda Goforth, Erin Moore, Armani Patton and teacher, Nicole Chaplin-Lewis; (back) Mason Vickers, Harleigh Collins and Kaden Marfia.



Arlington Heights High School Navy JROTC.



North Crowley High School Army JROTC.

Texas History Minute, by Dr. Ken Bridges

The 'Lost Battalion' and Texans in WWII

War was near in November 1941. The men of the Second Battalion of the 131st Field Artillery of the Texas National Guard prepared for the worst as they sailed to Hawaii. These men had come together from North-Central Texas to serve their country, and hailed from Abilene, Decatur, Lubbock, and the Wichita Falls area. Their capture three months later and the fate of what became the "Lost Battalion" became one of the most harrowing stories of Texas troops during World War II.

Their initial voyage in late 1941 proceeded with little incident. They docked briefly at Pearl Harbor in late November and were sent on to Australia to bolster Allied forces in anticipation of Japanese action.

The troops heard the news of the attack on Hawaii while on the high seas. Army officials briefly considered recalling them to Hawaii, but the decision was made to send them onward. After spending Christmas 1941 in Australia, the men were then ordered to assist Australian, British, and Dutch troops in the Dutch East Indies (modern-day Indonesia) against Japan.

Though only a small contingent of troops, the Second Battalion prepared to defend the large island of Java. Japan invaded on Feb. 27, 1942. Pressure from Japanese forces mounted, and the Allies fell back into smaller and steadily less defensible corners. The USS Houston was sunk, with the loss of 700 American sailors. More than 300 survivors reached Allied lines.

Cohesion soon broke down, and it was every force for itself. The Americans were cut off in the mix, unable to rally and unable to communicate with other units. On March 8, Java fell to Japan, and the Texans were captured, along with more than 32,000 other Allied troops.

The news stunned America, but the War Department had no idea what had happened to the troops of the Second Battalion or the Houston survivors. Communications simply ceased. Families and neighbors grieved, worried, and prayed, not knowing what fates awaited their loved ones half a world away.

The 534 captured of the Second Battalion, along with the Houston, became known as the Lost Battalion and suffered in Japanese prison camps throughout the war.

The Geneva Convention of 1929 specified that prisoners were to be given proper shelter and medical care and not to be tortured. Nations were also supposed to inform each other of captives. Japan refused to ratify the treaty, and during the war resorted to a medieval mentality that surrender was disgraceful and prisoners deserved the worst. And the worst they delivered, many later answering for their war crimes.

One group separated during the battle for Java, Battery E, was eventually sent to Japan to work as slave labor in the shipyards and coal mines until they were freed in 1945. Eight of these 99 men died in captivity.

Most of the remainder of the Lost Battalion were held for seven months in Java before put to work in their own slave labor camps

building the Burma Railway for Japan.

For nearly a year, more than 66,000 Allied prisoners along with more than 230,000 Southeast Asian civilians were forced to build a 258-mile rail line from Burma to Thailand across treacherous mountain passes and unrelenting jungles. The overworked men had little food or water, no medical care, and were beaten or murdered by guards. Seventy thousand men died building the railroad.

After completion of the "Death Railway" in 1943, the men were sent back to prison camps in the Dutch East Indies.

Over the next two years, they were sent to various places across Southeast Asia to serve Japanese whims. They suffered from poor health, poor nutrition, and beatings. In all, 163 men from the Lost Battalion died in Japanese camps.

In September 1944, American submarines on routine war patrols came across Japanese merchant ships carrying hundreds of Allied prisoners. Once safely back in Allied hands, the POWs began telling how they had worked with survivors of the Second Battalion in Burma. News that some of the men were still alive was relayed to waiting families. They now had renewed hope, but these hopes were tempered by the knowledge of what the prison camps were like.

It would be nearly another year of hard fighting before the Lost Battalion could be rescued. In August 1945, Japan surrendered. By this time, most of the imprisoned Second Battalion were in camps in Java and Thailand. Two American C-54 transports were brought in to bring them to a hospital in Calcutta, India, before returning home.

After some time back in Texas, families organized a welcome home celebration in October 1945. The men formed the Lost Battalion Association and met regularly in the ensuing years. In a brutal chapter from a war full of brutality, the men may have been lost for a time but were never forgotten.

From the Fort Worth Decorative Painters

FWDP to Meet Nov. 18

The Fort Worth Decorative Painters will hold their monthly meeting on Monday, Nov. 18 at 6 p.m., at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center, located at 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd in Fort Worth.

Dusti Dancer will instruct a Holly dish.

For more information contact Suzane at 817-269-2821 or visit the website at www.fwdecorativepainters.com.

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From North Central Texas Council of Governments

DFW Ozone Season Ends

Nov. 30



North Texans concerned about high levels of ozone pollution can breathe a sigh of relief: Ozone season for the 10-county nonattainment area is coming to an end. In the Dallas-Fort Worth area, ozone season lasts from March 1 through Nov. 30. That's because there's a greater risk of ground-level ozone pollution when temperatures are higher and there's less wind. Area residents typically get a breather from those weather patterns in the winter.

With the current design value of 83 parts per billion (ppb), the Dallas-Fort Worth region continues to work toward compliance with the federal government's standards for ozone pollution. There are two such standards for North Texas: one from 2008 that established a limit of 75 parts per billion and a more recent 70 ppb standard from 2015. Due to missed deadlines for complying with the standards, the North Texas region has been reclassified and faces stricter air quality requirements. The region was upgraded from serious to severe nonattainment under the 2008 standard, with a deadline of 2027 to achieve compliance. Additionally, the region moved, on request of Governor Greg Abbott, from moderate to serious nonattainment under the 2015 standard and must reach attainment by end of 2024.

In the meantime, NCTCOG continues to support the implementation of various programs and policies to help the area meet attainment of both standards and avoid further sanctions. Efforts include:

- Federal air quality performance measures
- Emissions reduction strategies
- Continuing to coordinate with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on regional impacts of reclassification

Area residents can help by:

- Using public transportation
- Reducing the number of trips by combining errands
- Reducing the use of single-occupancy vehicles by carpooling
- Taking part in air quality education programs, such as Air North Texas

- Avoiding idling vehicle engines

Sign up for air pollution alerts at AirNorthTexas.org.

From Tarrant County

Community Warning: Ongoing Jury Duty Scam

Tarrant County residents are being warned of an ongoing Jury Duty Scam. Tarrant County Jury Services will never contact you by phone to pay a fine for failing to appear for jury service. Know what you should do when you get a phone call.

What's happening:

Citizens are being contacted by phone by a man that identifies himself as an officer of the Sheriff's Office, Police Department or a Constable's Office. The caller informs the citizen that they failed to report for jury duty and a fine has been assessed. The fine ranges from \$2,000 to \$4,000. The caller advises the citizen that there is a warrant for their arrest and they must report to court. The caller usually tells them to report to a specific judge at a specific court location like 100 W. Weatherford, Room 4C. The citizen is instructed to go to a local Walmart or grocery store to obtain a Green Dot Money Card which is a pre-paid reloadable debit card.

The scam artists are using disposable cell phones so they have no problem giving the citizen a phone number to call them back. Also, they tell the citizen they can contact a specific official with Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office to verify the information.

Once the citizen gets the Green Dot Money Card, they are instructed to give the Green Dot Money Card information over the phone which will satisfy the fine and the warrant will be dismissed. This allows the scam artist to get the money so there is no actual face-to-face contact. The scam artists sound very convincing over the phone. They threaten the citizen with jail and fines in order to get them to comply.

What you should do:

Write down the phone number the person is calling from. Do not give the caller any personal information about yourself. Contact your local police department and request to file a complaint.

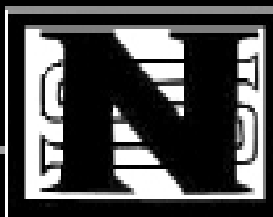
What you should know:

Tarrant County Jury Services would never contact you by phone to pay a fine for failing to appear for jury service. Typically, we would send a failed to appear notice before taking any action.

If a warrant is issued for your arrest, there is no warning phone call. The courts do not allow citizens to pay a fine in lieu of jury service. A fine can be assessed, and in some cases jail time, but it would still result in the jury service being rescheduled to a later date.

More information may be found on the Tarrant County Jury Duty website.

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Weekend Forecast



Friday, Nov. 15:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 70. Light S/SE wind increasing to 5 to 10 mph in the morning.
PM - Clear, with a low around 47. South southeast wind around 5 mph.



Saturday, Nov. 16:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 73. South wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 59. South southeast wind around 10 mph.



Sunday, Nov. 17:

AM - A 30 percent chance of showers after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 75. South wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
PM - Showers likely, mainly after midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Extended Forecast [Click Here](#)