

From the Sports Desk with John English

Coach Slater Praises Fight as Benbrook's Season Ends in Bi-District Round



photo courtesy Missy Burks

The season came to an end for the Benbrook football team on Friday night, as the Bobcats lost by a score of 28-12 to Eagle Mountain in the bi-district round of the playoffs.

Benbrook wrapped up the season with a record of 6-5 with a 4-1 mark in district competition.

Coach Cody Slater said he was proud of how his team played in the game against Eagle Mountain and said but for a few mental mistakes, the outcome might have been a different story.

“Eagle Mountain is a good football team, and they executed when it mattered,” Slater said. “We had opportunities, but turnovers and missed chances really hurt us. Our kids played hard from start to finish, they never quit, and they kept fighting even when things didn’t go our way. The effort was there, the heart was there, but in playoff football, the margin for error is *(continued on page 3)*”

UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS:

- Dec. 5: Pictures with Mr. and Mrs. Claus
Benbrook YMCA • 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- Dec. 6: 34th Annual Tree Lighting and Fireworks Show, Dutch Branch Park
1899 Winscott Rd. • 7 p.m.

Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt

American Legion Post 297 Auxiliary Unit Collects Coats



Pictured are: (front, l-r) Commander/Sgt. at Arms Lora McGee, At Large Tessie Kau, Asst. Sgt. at Arms Donna Patterson, Chaplain Karen Hauffman, Member Pixie Whettmore, Vice President Lynda Sutton, Historian Sarah Wright, Member Paula Bollinger; (back-row) At Large Laurel Weaver, Member Rene Franklin, President Theresa Byers, Member Ann Doans and Community Liaison Christine Willesen.

The American Legion Post 297 Auxiliary Unit is once again stepping up to support military families as winter approaches. Each year, the unit collects and distributes winter coats to Fleet & Family Services at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, ensuring dependents in need have warm clothing for the colder months.

This season, volunteers delivered not only coats but also full Thanksgiving meals to several families on the base.

Unit leaders said the ongoing effort reflects their commitment to serving both NAS JRB Fort Worth and the surrounding community.

Benbrook City Council Meets Tonight!
7 pm • City Hall • 911 Winscott Rd.
[Click Here to View Nov. 20 Meeting Agenda](#)

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Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

small, and they capitalized on ours.”

The Bobcats struggled during the non-district schedule in 2025, going 2-3 through it's first 5 games, but rallied in the second half of the season finishing 4-1 through it's last five contests.

Reflecting on the season as a whole, Slater said he is pleased with what his team was able to accomplish.

“I’m incredibly proud of this group,” Slater said. “This team battled through adversity all year and continued to raise the standard for our program. Making the playoffs again is a testament to their commitment, toughness, and belief in each other. The seniors laid a strong foundation, and they’ve left their mark on Benbrook football.”

The Bobcats appear to be in good shape heading into next season, as well, with a corps of solid starters returning on both sides of the ball, along with some upcoming talent.

“We feel good about the group coming back,” Slater said.

“We’ve got key starters returning on both sides of the ball, and a strong sophomore and junior class behind them. We also have several young players who grew up fast this year and will step into bigger roles. The future is bright. We just have to attack the off-season with purpose.”

Slater said that he would like like his players to take a couple of things away from the 2025 season.

“I hope they take pride in the work they put in and understand that success comes from doing things the right way every day,” Slater said. “I hope they remember how much this team cared about each other and how powerful it is when a group buys in and plays for something bigger than themselves.

“And most importantly, I hope they leave knowing they were part of something special that will stay with them long after football is over.”



photo courtesy Missy Burks



photo courtesy Missy Burks



photo courtesy Missy Burks



photo courtesy Missy Burks

From *HolidaysAndHeroes.Org*

From *4PAWS & Benbrook Animal Shelter*

Holidays & Heroes Calls on Community to Help Support Local Military Families

Could You be a Pal for Paco?

Holidays & Heroes, a North Texas nonprofit, is urging community members to get involved in its seasonal mission of supporting enlisted military service members and their families.

Paco is an adorable, blue-eyed, 7-month-old Staffordshire Terrier mix who weighs 40 pounds. He would be a delightful addition to any home for the holidays! Won't you add him to your family?



Based at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth (NAS JRB), the organization provides Thanksgiving meals, Christmas gifts, and year-round community support during military-supported events.

Please come see this sweetheart at the Benbrook Shelter, 469 Winscott Rd. Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. or Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

How to Help

Visit www.4pawsinc.org or call 4 PAWS volunteers Ursula at 817-262-3086, or Lynda at 682-279-0760 to set up a meet-and-greet or to get more information about any of the dogs available.

- Volunteer: The group needs help at its large Thanksgiving distribution and Christmas party each season.

- Donate: Financial contributions allow Holidays & Heroes to continue serving military families in need.

- Sponsor a Family: Local individuals or businesses can be paired with a military family to provide holiday gifts or other support.

About Holidays & Heroes

Founded in 2015 by Kerre Randel Ortelgel, Holidays & Heroes began as a small “party with a purpose” and has grown into one of Dallas–Fort Worth’s most recognized military holiday organizations.

From the *Benbrook Public Library*

Benbrook Library Announces Early Closings for Thanksgiving Week

The nonprofit is governed by a six-member board and operates under the motto “Serving those who serve us.”

Ortelgel was inspired to start the organization due to her proximity to NAS JRB Fort Worth, where she saw firsthand the needs of enlisted families.

The Benbrook Public Library will adjust its operating hours during Thanksgiving week, closing early at 5 p.m. each day, according to a holiday schedule released by the library.

Holidays & Heroes is recognized for its transparency and accountability, holding a Platinum status on GuideStar. Since its founding, it has served more than 4,500 individuals, more than 1,100 military families, with the help of over 200 community volunteers.

The library will also be closed on Thursday, Nov. 27, and Friday, Nov. 28, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. Normal operating hours will resume following the holiday weekend.

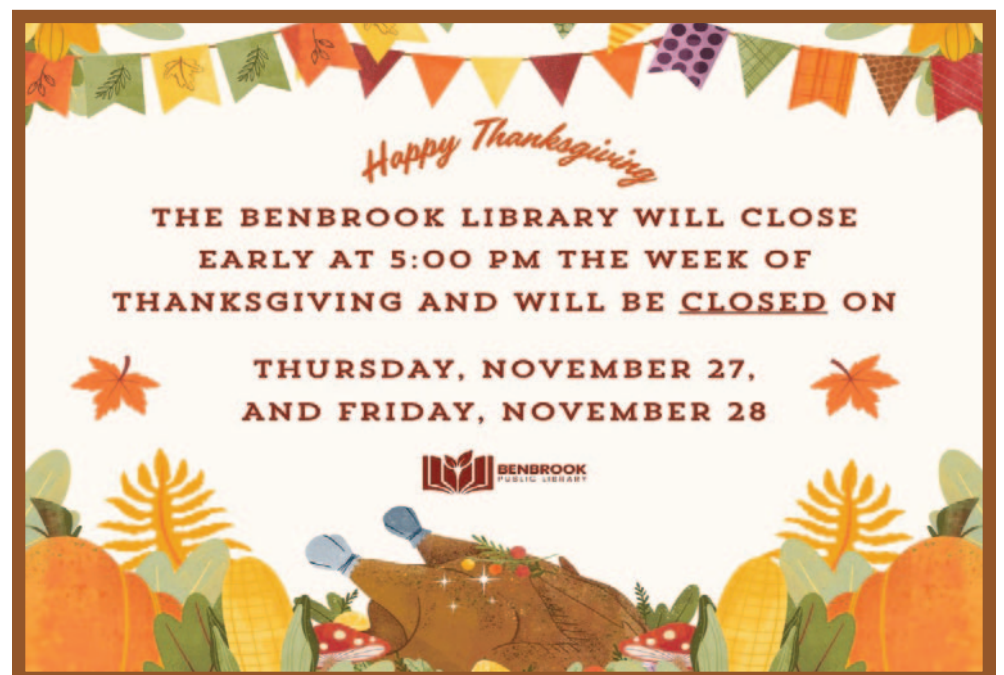
Impact on the Community

According to officials, Holidays & Heroes helps deliver the message that military families, especially those in the lower enlisted ranks (E-1 through E-6), are not forgotten by the community.

For additional information, patrons may contact the Benbrook Public Library or visit the website.

Through its efforts, the nonprofit strengthens the bond between civilians and the military community, turning a simple holiday gesture into meaningful, year-round outreach.

For more information or to get involved, visit the Holidays & Heroes website.



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Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt

Annual Holly Daze Craft Fair at Arlington Heights United Methodist Church was a Success!

The 30th annual Holly Daze holiday market was held Saturday, Nov. 15 at Arlington Heights United Methodist Church, drawing shoppers eager to kick off the Christmas season.

Vendors showcased a variety of hand-crafted items, including woodwork, hand-painted gourds, pottery, holiday wreaths, and knitted and crocheted goods.

Organizers said the event was a major success, attracting a large crowd and providing a festive atmosphere for visitors to shop, celebrate, and support local artisans.

“This market has become a cherished tradition for our community,” vendor Melissa Holloway said. “It’s wonderful to see so many people coming together to get into the holiday spirit.”

The market offered attendees a chance to find unique gifts while enjoying the sights and sounds of the season.



Director of the Handbell Ministry Frank Shroyer and Kakkie Cunningham assisted in coordinating the event.



Camille Thomason displayed her colorful gourds.



Melissa Holloway and Diane Gleaton brought their amazing wreaths.



Penny Stevens and Annette Havermann shared their treasures.

From the City of White Settlement

Light the Night Christmas Parade Dec. 6

The holiday season kicks off with the annual “Light the Night” Christmas Parade at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6, at Veterans Park. The city invites residents and visitors to celebrate the season with festive floats, twinkling lights and community spirit. The event is open to all ages, and local organizations, businesses and community groups are encouraged to participate. Those interested in joining the parade can register online at wstx.us/recdesk.



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From Cook Childrens

From Val Lopez, Texas Department of Transportation

Rising Virus Cases Prompt Push for Childhood Vaccinations

North Texas SH 199 Project Hits Milestone



With the holidays, and a surge of respiratory viruses, right around the corner, Cook Children’s is urging parents to make sure their children are fully up to date on all AAP-recommended vaccinations. That includes flu shots and RSV protection for eligible infants, ideally before families hit the road or gather for Thanksgiving.

A major transportation upgrade is underway in northwest Tarrant County, as TxDOT advances a significant bridge and roadway expansion project on SH 199 over Lake Worth.

Getting vaccinated is easier than ever. Parents can call their child’s primary care doctor, check with their local health department or visit a neighborhood pharmacy to find out where vaccines are available.

The project hit a key milestone last month, when traffic was shifted to the newly constructed eastbound SH 199 bridge. This traffic switch marks a major step forward in the broader project, which also includes improvements to surrounding roadways and cross streets.

Thanksgiving often kicks off a season of crowded stores, packed airports and busy family get-togethers, all of which help viruses spread quickly. Cook Children’s experts say immunization remains the strongest defense against severe illness, hospitalization and complications caused by respiratory infections.

The project is part of TxDOT's Texas Clear Lanes initiative, a statewide program focused on reducing congestion in the state’s largest metropolitan areas.

There are already signs the season is heating up in North Texas. Between Nov. 9 through 15, Cook Children’s Medical Center Fort Worth tested 757 children for Flu A, Flu B and RSV. Positivity rates reached 2.9 percent, 0.8 percent and 7.8 percent respectively, highlighting the need for preventative steps now, not later.

The new westbound bridge opened to motorists in May. The existing bridges will remain in service and be repurposed as frontage road bridges, helping to maintain traffic flow and connectivity throughout the construction process and beyond. East of the lake, TxDOT will add new main lanes to further boost traffic capacity.

“Holiday preparation should be more than making a list and checking it twice,” said Laura Romano, D.O., a hospitalist at Cook Children’s. “It should include making sure your children are fully protected against the flu and RSV. Vaccines not only shield your kids from severe illness, but they also protect vulnerable family members like grandparents or a newborn cousin, and even the people you pass in a store or sit next to on a plane.”

TxDOT awarded the \$104 million contract to Sema Construction Inc. in June 2020. Substantial completion is expected by Spring 2026.

About Texas Clear Lanes

Backed by dedicated funding approved by Texas voters in 2014 and 2015, the Texas Clear Lanes program targets the state’s 100 most congested roads with strategic planning and construction.

For more information on the Texas Clear Lanes initiative and upcoming projects, visit [Texas Clear Lanes](#).

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Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

The Texan Who Tried to Warn America: Adm. Richardson's Fight to Protect the Pacific Fleet



The Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 has been studied at length by military minds and academics for decades. The naval officer in charge of the Pacific Fleet in the months before the attack was a Texas native, Admiral James Otto Richardson. As the United States began preparing for war in 1940, Richardson pointed to weak defenses at Pearl Harbor that he feared would lead to disaster.

Richardson was born in Paris in September 1878. After he graduated from high school, he did not immediately attend college. In 1898, he instead received a congressional appointment to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He excelled in his studies, graduating fifth in his class in 1902.

His first assignment was with the Asiatic Squadron helping with naval support of American attempts to suppress a rebellion in the Philippines. He was transferred to the Atlantic Fleet in 1905. He came to command two small torpedo boats in 1907, the USS Tingay and the USS Stockton. In 1909, he was tapped to enter the Naval Academy's special graduate engineering school, part of the first group of officers selected for this special training and education program. By 1914, he rose to head the Bureau of Steam Engineering, responsible for monitoring the navy's fuel supply.

Richardson had an honorable record and steadily moved up the ranks. He served as executive officer of the battleship USS Nevada during World War I. He then rose to command the USS Asheville, a gunboat, by 1922 when he led the navy's patrols of the South China Sea. Periodically, his service was interrupted by further studies at the naval academy and the Naval War College. He commanded the heavy cruiser USS Augusta from 1931 to 1933. While serving as Budget Officer with the Navy Department, he was promoted to rear admiral in 1934.

As Assistant Chief of Naval Operations in 1937, he was at the forefront to the navy's response to two events that riveted the world's attention. When famed aviator Amelia Earhart disappeared in the Central Pacific, Richardson helped coordinate the navy's search operations. He also helped formulate the information and response to Japan's sinking of an American gunboat, the USS Panay, in China's Yangtze River. Japan's invasion of China and steady expansion in East Asia became a grave concern to the United States.

In January 1940, Richardson was named commander-in-chief of the United States Fleet, one of the senior-most positions in the navy, which also put him in command of the Pacific Fleet. In June 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the Pacific Fleet to move its headquarters to Pearl Harbor. Roosevelt believed that the nation must begin preparing for a possible war. He also believed that while Pearl Harbor was still thousands of miles from the Japanese sphere of influence, the presence of the fleet in the Central Pacific sent a strong message of disapproval to Japan and might dissuade Japan from further incursions in the Far East. In the meantime, the United States continued to negotiate with Japan for it to cease its military actions, negotiations that continued until December 1941.

Richardson was respected as an expert on Japanese military tactics throughout the military and by civilian politicians. He expressed grave fears over headquartering the Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, especially since Japan had a history of engaging in sneak attacks. He looked at the situation from a careful tactical

standpoint. Pearl Harbor was a good natural harbor that had been under American control for decades. But Hawaii was more than two thousand miles away from mainland naval bases at San Francisco and San Diego, far from any emergency support, and unprepared for an attack. He brought his pointed criticisms of the situation to Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox and Admiral Harold Stark, the Chief of Naval Operations. Twice he went to Washington to explain his position in person, to no avail.

He pushed for increased air patrols and for bolstering the defenses of the facility. He coordinated with his army counterparts on war game scenarios to practice for a possible invasion, a practice begun by previous Pearl Harbor commanders. He was discouraged when army forces on the island were never able to repel a naval invasion.

Years after World War II, Richardson said that he never believed that a carrier-based attack on the base would happen. He had anticipated a more traditional naval invasion with battleships, destroyers, and landing troops. In 1940, however, the United States still had very few military resources to spare in spite of increasing preparations. In February 1941, Richardson was relieved of command in favor of Adm. Husband E. Kimmel.

Richardson was assigned to the Navy General Board, an advisory body within the Navy Department in Washington. Like the rest of the nation, he was shocked and horrified by the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. He stepped down from the position in October 1942. He spent the remainder of the war working with the Navy Relief Society, a navy charity designed to help sailors and Marines and their families. He also worked as senior member of a special committee to reorganize America's defenses.

After his formal retirement from active duty in 1947, he lived the rest of his life quietly in Washington, DC, occasionally writing on his naval experiences. In 1973, he released his memoirs, *On the Treadmill to Pearl Harbor*.

He died at his home in 1974 at the age of 95.

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Weekend Forecast



Friday, Nov. 21:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 74. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 49. West northwest wind around 5 mph.



Saturday, Nov. 22:

AM - Mostly sunny, with a high near 66. North northwest wind around 5 mph.

PM - A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 48.



Sunday, Nov. 23:

AM - A 30 percent chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 67.

PM - A 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51.

Extended Forecast [Click Here](#)