

Benbrook News

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From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers

Benbrook City Council Meets 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 football
p.m.) in the City Hall Council Chambers, located at 911 Winscott
Road in Benbrook, 76126.

Benbrook
milestone on Friday

The Nov. 21 agenda is available to view here.

From Benbrook Public Library

Teen Slime Party at the Library Nov. 26



The Benbrook Public Library, located at 1065 Mercedes St. in Benbrook, will host a Teen Slime Party on Nov. 26 from 2 to 3 p.m. No registration is required, and all supplies will be provided!

For questions, visit https://www.benbrooklibrary.org or call 817-249-6632.

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From the Sports Desk with John English

Bobcats are Bi-District Champs; Set to Travel to Abilene Tonight

The Benbrook football team achieved a major milestone on Friday night, winning the first playoff football game in school history.

The Bobcats defeated Mineral Wells by a score of 35-24 in the bi-district round of the playoffs,



and coach Cody Slater could not contain his excitement.

"God is good what a night." Slater said. "Our Robert

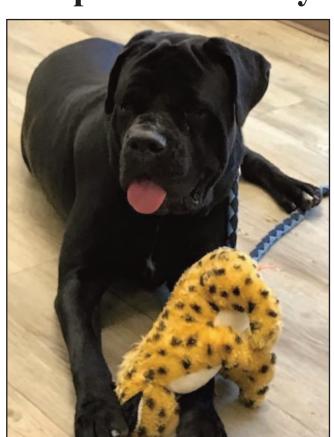
"God is good, what a night," Slater said. "Our Bobcats showed heart, grit and determination in the thrilling 35-24 victory over Mineral Wells. The offense was clicking and the defense held strong when it mattered most, and the entire team came together to secure the win."

Carlos Harris rushed for 105 yards and had two touchdowns, while Brennan Barton finished the game with a passing and rushing touchdown. Brady Gordon had 10 receptions for 82 yards and a touchdown and Kade Cross also had a touchdown reception. Cross also had a punt return for 65 yards and Andy Garcia was 5-5 on PAT's. (continued on page 4)



From 4PAWS & Benbrook Animal Shelter From the Texas Department of Public Safety

Adopt Stitch Today! Vehicle Safety Inspection Program to Change Jan. 1



Stitch (#2843) 2 year-old, 125-pound Cane Corso. He is a happy boy who loves to play with toys and walks well on his leash. He is overcoming some health challenges due to his prior environment.

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

Adoption hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

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.

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sion, 2023), effective Jan. 1, 2025, abol-rant, Travis, Williamson and El Paso. ishes the Vehicle Safety Inspection Program for non-commercial vehicles, eliminated for vehicle owners in emissions eliminating most safety vehicle inspections counties; however, those in emissions statewide.

This means if you live in a non-emissions county and are currently not required vehicle, you will not be required to have your vehicle inspected prior to registration beginning Jan. 1, 2025.

under a new name: the inspection program replacement fee. This fee will be added to your vehicle registration fee.

For owners of new cars, either the current model or preceding model year that has not been previously registered in Texas or another state, there will instead be an initial fee of \$16.75 to cover two years.

The bill does not eliminate vehicle emissions inspections.

Emissions inspections will also still be required in the following Texas counties: Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Montgomery, Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis,

House Bill 3297 (88th Legislative Ses- Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tar-

The safety inspection fee will also be counties will also be subject to the inspection program replacement fee.

All commercial vehicles, regardless of to obtain an emissions inspection on your county, will still be required to have a safety inspection.

Commercial vehicles will be exempt from the inspection program replacement However, the \$7.50 fee remains intact fee as they will still be required to pay for a safety inspection.

> All vehicles will still be required to be registered; the registration process will continue to be managed by the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.





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From Texas Parks and Wildlife

Urban Coyotes: Tips to Discourage Proximity

Have you seen a coyote lately? Sightings increase this time of year as pups are leaving their dens.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department provides expertise and advice on urban wildlife issues, but does not implement nuisance covote control.

Urban and suburban coyotes, like urban deer, are symptoms of a broader issue. People continue to expand housing subdivisions and other human development into what used to be open range wildlife habitat, especially on the expanding fringes of large metropolitan areas. This is increasing the potential for encounters and conflicts between people and wildlife.

Trapping and similar nuisance control actions cannot eliminate urban coyote problems, although this can be part of the solution in some situations.

The real solution and the greater need facing Texans right now is public education. We need to inform and empower people to take steps to coexist with coyotes and other urban wildlife.

There are some common sense precautions people can take to manage coyotes:

- Do not feed coyotes! Keep pet food and water inside.
- Keep garbage securely stored, especially if it has to be put on the curb for collection. Homeowners can use tight-locking or bungee-cord-wrapped trashcans that are not easily opened.
- Keep compost piles securely covered; correct composting never includes animal matter like bones or fat, which can draw coyotes even more quickly that decomposing vegetable matter.
- Keep pets inside, confined securely in a kennel or covered exercise yard, or within the close presence of an adult.
- Walk pets on a leash and accompany them outside, especially at night.
- Do not feed wildlife on the ground; keep wild bird seed in feeders designed for birds elevated or hanging above ground, and clean up spilled seed from the ground; coyotes can either be drawn directly to the seed, or to the rodents drawn to the seed.
 - Keep fruit trees fenced or pick up fruit that falls to the ground.
- Do not feed feral cats (domestics gone wild); this can encourage coyotes to prey on cats, as well as feed on cat food left out for them.
- Minimize clusters of shrubs, trees and other cover and food plants near buildings and children's play areas to avoid attracting rodents and small mammals that will in turn attract coyotes
- Use noise making and other scaring devices when coyotes are seen. Check with local authorities regarding noise ordinances. Portable air horns, motor vehicle horns, propane cannons, low-powered pellet guns, and thrown rocks can be effective.

Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

Defensively, Deshawn Deane had eight tackles, Cross had an interception, tackle-for-loss, and five tackles while Lucas Jackson finished the game with six tackles and an interception.

Benbrook will play Greenwood in the area round tonight and Slater said his team will have their hands full.

"Greenwood is a really good football team. Coach Hill and his staff do a great job. We have to have a great week of practice and every day we have to fight for another day and week to give our self the best opportunity to secure another victory."

On the court, girl's basketball season is just getting underway and Benbrook and Western Hills were both playoff programs last season.

Benbrook went 8-4 in district competition last year to claim third place in 9-4A competition, and coach Leta Lofton said her team is showing some promise early on.

"So far, we are 2-2 with our losses coming against top teams," Lofton said. "We're working to iron out the kinks and prepare for district play."

A few of the Lady Cats' stronger returners include Grace Klaerner, McKenzie Brookshire and Julianna Velasquez this season.

Klaerner is the only returning starter for Benbrook, and Lofton said she is looking for her to compete for the school record in the number of 3 point goals in 2024-25.

Lofton said for the season as a whole, there are a few expectations for the Lady Cats.

"Our goal is to just take one game at a time, gain experience and push forward to district play and the playoffs," Lofton said.

Over at Western Hills, the Lady Cougars also claimed a playoff spot last season, going 6-6 overall in district competition and finishing in fourth place.

Players to watch for the Lady Cougars this season include Braylah Brooks, Anjell Smith and Samiyah Nicholas.

From Carter BloodCare

Blood Drive at Benbrook Public Library Friday, Dec. 13

The Friends of the Benbrook Library will host a Carter Blood-Care blood drive event on Friday, Dec. 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in teh Benbrook Library parking lot, located at 1065 Mercedes St

To reserve a spot, visit the website and log-in, or create a new account. Each volunteer donor will receive a brand-new blanket.

For more information, contact Russell Kegley at 817-249-6632.

From Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Take Care of Texas Video Contest



The Take Care of Texas Video Contest is a fun way for young people to learn about protecting the environment and come up with creative ways to share this knowledge with others!

Students are invited to create a 30-second video that shows positive ways to Take Care of Texas. All entries must include the slogan "Take Care of Texas. It's the only one we've got." and portray positive ways Texans can help keep our air and water clean, conserve water and energy, and reduce waste.

Ninth through 12th grade students can win scholarships: first place prize is \$2,500, second place is \$1,500 and third place is \$500.

Sixth through eighth grade students can win gift cards for camera equipment: first place is a \$800 gift card, second place is \$600 and third place is \$400.

Contest sponsor Waste Management of Texas, Inc. will award prizes to the creators of the best videos. The contest closes on Dec. 6, 2024 and winners will be announced March 3, 2025.

Participants must submit their video online.



From Texas Coalition for Animal Protection

Free Feline Fix Day Nov. 27



TCAP will host a Free Fix Day on Wednesday, Nov. 27. During Free Fix days, TCAP offers free sterilization and rabies vaccines for feral and community cats. This event will take place at six TCAP clinics located in Arlington, Burleson, Denton, Garland, Hurst, and Weatherford! Seventy-five cats will be seen at each location on a first-come, first-served basis.

There's no limit on the number of cats per caregiver, and no appointment is required. Cats must arrive in individual live traps or pet carriers, and all cats will receive an ear tip.

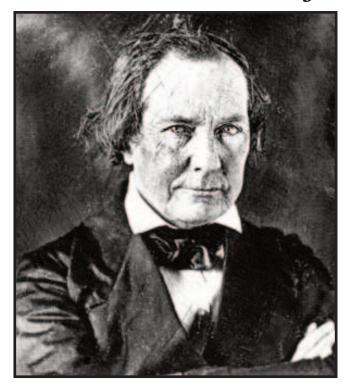
Each cat accepted will receive a voucher for a free spay/neuter for another cat at a future date. Participants will be able to make an appointment for a free feral spay or neuter at a future date using the voucher. This voucher also includes a rabies vaccine.

Participants are requested to stay in line if they are outside of the first 75! The TCAP team will provide one voucher per cat present for sterilization vaccine for the next 75 cats.

Only those already in line with cats will receive the voucher. The line cuts off no later than 9 a.m. The total impact per location is 225 cats. Caretakers will be responsible for any additional elective services such as vaccines, pain medication, or viral testing at the time of service.



Second President of the Republic of Texas, Mirabeau B. Lamar



Mirabeau B. Lamar was a man of talent and imagination but also one with a complicated legacy. He was the third president of the Republic of Texas, just a few years after arriving in Texas from Georgia. He has been called the "Father of Texas Education" but also faced criticism for disastrous policies that led to bloodshed and debt. Even with a mixed record, Lamar remains a subject of fascination for many.

He was born on his father's cotton plantation in eastern Georgia in 1798. He was the second oldest of nine children. Lamar was intensely curious and read voraciously as a child. In his early adult years, he enthusiastically pursued a number of projects but had mixed success. He spent time as a merchant and as a newspaper editor. His well-connected family got him a job as personal secretary to the governor in 1823, which allowed him to travel the state and meet with many people. In 1826, he married; and the couple soon had a daughter.

In 1828, he moved to the western Georgia community of Columbus and started a successful newspaper, the *Columbus Enquirer*, a pubthat still operates Ledger-Enquirer. Lamar was soon elected to the state senate. After his wife died in 1830, he fell into a period of deep mourning and declined to seek re-election. But he soon found a new purpose and began studying law. He was admitted to the bar in 1833 and mounted a failing bid for Congress that year.

When his older brother died in 1834, a depressed Lamar traveled to Texas and stayed

with his old friend James Fannin. He soon re- 1883. turned to Georgia to settle his affairs before returning to Texas to stay. By this point, the Texas Revolution had erupted. Lamar volunteered for the Texas army immediately, initially serving as a private. As the Mexican Army approached San Jacinto in April 1836, Lamar led a daring raid to rescue to fellow Texas soldiers surrounded by Mexican troops. He was given command of a cavalry troop for the Battle of San Jacinto.

Lamar was soon appointed the interim secretary of war for the newly independent Republic of Texas. In the elections held in the fall of 1836, Lamar was elected vice-president, Sam Houston.

Texas as an independent republic did not have political parties, but the clearest political lines were whether Texans supported or opposed Sam Houston. Under the Texas Constitution of 1836, a president could not serve successive terms. The 1838 election quickly became a contest between Lamar, who often clashed with Houston, and a little-known senator, "Honest Bob" Wilson, who always claimed he would be just as honest as the circumstances permitted. Lamar won in a landslide.

extensive agenda. His ambitions were larger than the resources Texas had. Unlike Houston, Lamar had an antagonistic attitude toward Native Americans and declared in his inaugural address that the tribes should either be "expelled or exterminated." He also called for a national bank, a school system, and a national university. After Houston's effort to secure annexation to the United States failed, Lamar announced he would oppose such efforts as president.

In 1839, he decided to move the capital from Houston, the namesake city of his chief rival, to the small settlement of Waterloo on the Colorado River. The city was renamed Austin, and Lamar founded what became the Texas State Library as the official archives. Lamar laid the groundwork for public schools in Texas, but a statewide system would not be established until after the Civil War. Thousands of acres of land were set aside as a trust for a university, but the University of Texas would not be established from this land until

Peace efforts with Mexico failed, and few governments were willing to recognize Texas. In 1840, he defied Congress and sent an expedition to Santa Fe to try to consolidate the Texas claim on the Rio Grande as a border. Lamar sent dozens of men with tens of thousands of dollars in goods to try to initiate trade with the distant city. Upon their arrival, they were immediately arrested by Mexican troops in a diplomatic disaster for Texas. He sent the Texas Army to raid Native American settlements, but this resulted in a fierce response from the Comanches, who launched a fierce series of raids on settlements across Central running on a separate ticket from the winner, Texas in 1841, leaving many casualties in their wake.

> Government spending doubled, and inflation soared as the Texas dollar collapsed. When he left office in 1841, succeeded by Houston, the national debt had quadrupled into millions of dollars.

After Texas was annexed and became a state in 1845, he was elected to the new state legislature representing Eagle Pass. When war erupted with Mexico in 1846, the now 48-yearold Lamar was determined to serve. He volunteered and was noted for his service at the Battle of Monterrey in September. Afterward, Lamar savored the victory and prepared an he was assigned to command a small post in Laredo.

> He continued to mange his plantation in Richmond after the Mexican War. A book of his poems, Verse Memorials, was published in 1857. Politics, however, was never far from his mind. In 1857, President James Buchanan appointed Lamar to serve as US Ambassador to Nicaragua. Shortly afterward, Buchanan named him to serve as ambassador to both Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

> Lamar was proud of his work as ambassador. His tenure became an impressive capstone to his career, but health problems increasingly made it difficult to serve. He returned to his plantation in Richmond in October 1859 to recuperate but died of a heart attack two months later in December at age 61.

> In later years, Lamar was widely praised for his efforts on behalf of education, though it took decades for those efforts to be realized.

> In 1932, the new Lamar University in Beaumont was named for him. Schools and streets across the state are also named for him.

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Weekend Forecast



Friday, Nov. 22:

<u>AM</u> - Sunny, with a high near 64. Calm wind becoming north northeast around 5 mph. <u>PM</u> - Mostly clear, with a low around 43. East wind around 5 mph becoming south after midnight.



Saturday, Nov. 23:

<u>AM</u> - Sunny, with a high near 71. South wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. <u>PM</u> - Mostly clear, with a low around 55.



Sunday, Nov. 24:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 79. **PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 53.

Extended Forecast Click Here