

Benbrook News

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Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt

VFW Post 10429 Presents \$14,500 to One Tribe Foundation



Presenting \$14,500 to One Tribe Foundation are: Judge Advocate **Lynn Toomer**, Race Coordinator **Karen Toomer**, Race Coordinator **Jamie Bengford**, Texas State Commander from San Antonio **Robert Martinez**, One Tribe Director **Buck Kern**, One Tribe Representative **Adrian Joel**, VFW Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief from Georgia **Al Lipphardt**, Benbrook Mayor **Jason Ward** and Commander **Troy Collum**.

The mission of One Tribe Foundation is to create a community that raises awareness and combats suicide. The non-profit organization empowers Veterans, first responders, law enforcement and their families through traditional and non-traditional therapies, essentially focusing on building a supportive network to prevent suicide.

This past September, VFW Post 10429 hosted their Fourth Annual "Run for the V"

5K Ruck/Run/Walk with an overwhelming crowd that came out to support this cause.

An elaborate reception was held at their facility on Nov. 19 with distinguished guests, community dignitaries, family and friends that witnessed a \$14,500 donation to One Tribe Foundation on behalf of the Post, State and National VFWs.

The occasion was enjoyed by everyone! (photos continued on page 3)

From the City of Benbrook

33rd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Fireworks Show Dec. 7

The City of Benbrook will host 33rd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Fireworks Show at Dutch Branch Park, located at 1899 Winscott Rd. on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m.

Attendees can watch Mrs. Claus and Santa ride in on the Fire Truck, take pictures in the old-time sleigh, and even enjoy a cup of hot cocoa during the lighting of the tree and the fireworks show. The event is free to the public.

From the Sports Desk with John English

Benbrook Bobcats Advance to Regional Playoffs; Basketball Season Starts

On Thursday, Nov. 21, the Bobcat football team accomplished something that no Fort Worth ISD program has accomplished in 24 years by winning its area round game and advancing to the regional round of the playoffs.

Benbrook defeated Greenwood to reach regionals, the first FWISD team to do so since O.D. Wyatt in 2000, and coach Cody Slater said he could (continued on page 4)

Happy Thanksgiving!

May you & your family enjoy good health and happiness!

From the staff of the Benbrook News:

Bo Underwood, Publisher

Emily Moxley, Editor

Vee Horn, Denise Honeycutt and John English



From the White House Historical Association

A History of White House Presidential Turkey Pardons

Beginning with George Washington, many presidents declared their own days of thanksgiving before Abraham Lincoln made it an official holiday in 1863 and Franklin D. Roosevelt signed legislation in 1941 designating the fourth Thursday in November as the federal Thanksgiving Day holiday.

Reports of turkeys as gifts to American presidents can be traced back to the 1870s.

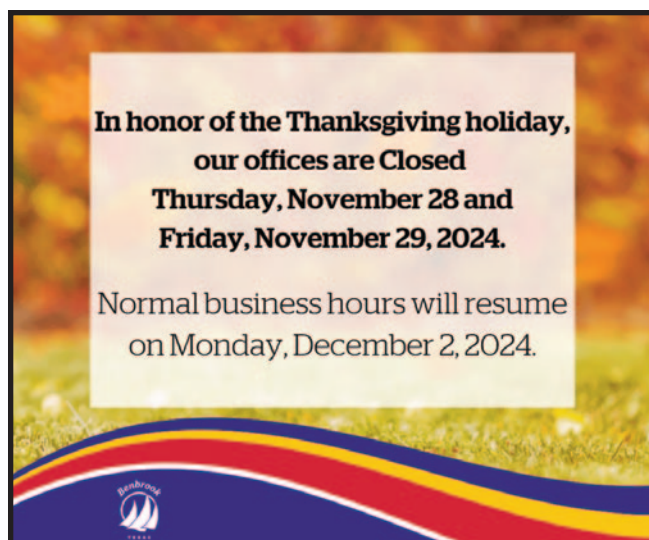
Turkey presentations at the White House became national news in the 1920s with accounts of turkeys taking exciting cross-country trips to the White House and arriving dressed for the occasion in goggles and sweaters, inside their decorated coops.

John F. Kennedy was the first to unofficially pardon a turkey by telling attendees at the presentation, "Let's keep him going."

Patricia Nixon sent gifted turkeys to Oxon Hill Children's Farm, while Rosalynn Carter sent some to a Evans Farm Inn to live in a miniature zoo.

In 1989, the formalities of pardoning a turkey became a White House Thanksgiving tradition when George H.W. Bush remarked, "Let me assure you, and this fine tom turkey, that he will not end up on anyone's dinner table, not this guy -- he's granted a Presidential pardon as of right now -- and allow him to live out his days on a children's farm not far from here."

Since then, each year the president has pardoned a turkey or two in an official ceremony.



From the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney

Be Safe, Not Sorry, This Holiday Season

As you gear up to shop online and have gifts shipped to your home, keep one thing in mind this holiday season, "Porch pirates" are getting bolder.

Many of these thieves will steal packages from your front doorstep even if there's a car in the driveway and a video camera on the door. Some actually follow vehicles from Amazon and other delivery companies, snatching packages shortly after they are delivered.

"This is a time to give, not to take," Tarrant County District Attorney Phil Sorrells said. "If you steal packages, we will find you and prosecute you to the fullest extent of the law."

"Thieves know more people are shopping online and they know people can't al-

ways stay home waiting for a package to be delivered," he said. "We are doing everything we can to keep our community safe."

Here are some ways to reduce your risk of falling victim to Porch Pirates:

- Have deliveries put behind bushes or trash carts, so they can't be seen from the street.
- Require a signature on delivery.
- Ask neighbors to pick up your packages when they are delivered.
- Install a video doorbell camera that might deter criminals.
- Schedule your packages to be delivered when you are home, or have your packages delivered to your place of business.
- Choose in-store pickups, rather than home delivery.

From Carter BloodCare

Blood Drive at Benbrook Public Library Friday, Dec. 13

The Friends of the Benbrook Library will host a Carter BloodCare blood drive event on Friday, Dec. 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the 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.



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Benbrook Council Action by John English

Nov. 21 Meeting Wrap Up - New Meeting Location for Dec. 5

The Benbrook City Council meeting was held on Nov. 21 as scheduled. Mayor Jason Ward called the meeting to order and announced that this meeting would be the last in its current location, as the Dec. 5 meeting would be conducted in the new city hall. An invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Time was then allowed for citizen comments on any agenda item, and Eric Crile, who is running for the Tarrant County Ap-

praisal Board approached the podium. He gave the council members a little background information and his beliefs about the issues the board should be addressing and asked for their vote.

Then, Daniel Bennett of White Settlement approached the podium to also speak about the Tarrant Appraisal District and give his thoughts on the election as it regards local school districts and some of the problems with the board.

Bennett asked that the council members consider supporting Fred Campos, a trustee out of the HEB ISD for the board.

The minutes from the previous meeting held on Nov. 7 were then approved unanimously.

The first item of the evening was to administer the oath of office to members of the Benbrook city council.

Members Renee Franklin (Place 2), Dustin Phillips (Place 4) and Laura Mackey (Place 6) all ran unopposed and were administered the oath of office during the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem nominations were then held, and Dr. Larry Marshall was nominated by Phillips. There were no other nominations and Dr. Marshall was elected Mayor Pro Tem.

Next was a presentation to consider adopting a resolution designating the votes for the Tarrant Appraisal District Board of Directors.

Benbrook has 16 votes, and Council Member Keith Tiner recommended splitting the council's vote 8-8 for Sayeda Syed and Gary Losada.

Franklin agreed (continued on page 4)

Around the Town (continued from page 1)



Members of the Post, Race Committee, Proud Country and community leaders flash their One Tribe Foundation rings.



VFW State Inspector **Clarence Jackson**, and wife, Life Member **Norita Jackson**, from VFW Post 6796 in Dallas participated at the function.



VFW Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief **Al Lipphardt** came to visit from Georgia, with his wife, **Carol**.



From San Antonio, VFW State of Texas Commander **Robert Martinez**, participated at the event.

Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

not be more proud of his team.

“I am super excited for our kids, coaches, fans, and community,” Slater said.

Brennan Barton combined for 256 all purpose yards and three touchdowns for the Bobcats in the win and Brady Gordon rushed for 147 yards and a touchdown.

Defensively, Jacob Carpenter and Waylon Barton had interceptions, Desmond Chambers led the team in tackles and Lucas Jackson and Ethan Tucker both caused fumbles.

On special teams, Andy Garcia “was exceptional on PATs” and made two field goals, and Lucas Martinez caused a fumble on kick-off team.

Benbrook faces Brock next, and Slater said he is expecting a serious challenge.

“Brock is a really good football team,” Slater said. “Coach Mathis and his staff do a really good job. We expect them to give us their best.”

In the last 35 seasons, only three FWISD teams have reached the regional quarterfinals: Trimble Tech in 1989, O.D. Wyatt in 2000 and Benbrook in 2024.

Slater said this is a really big deal for the Bobcats football team.

“We are super excited, but we are still hungry for more,” Slater said. “I’m so proud of our kids and coaches and we are thankful for the parents, fans, and community's support. We hope everyone shows up on Friday.”

The game will be played at 7 p.m. on Nov. 29 in Godley.

On the court, as the high school basketball season gets underway, Benbrook coach Blake Mendez said he feels like his team has the experience this year to challenge for a playoff sport once again.

“The last couple of years we have been really young,” Mendez said. “Those young guys that got varsity experience as freshmen and sophomores are upper classmen now, and we are looking for them to make this their team and lead us to another playoff spot.”

The Bobcats finished 7-6 in district last season to take fourth place and reach the playoffs.

They return three starters in Jayden Hall, Brennan Barton and Jayden Bradshaw from last year's team. Mendez said he is confident that his team is capable of an even stronger season than 2023-24.

“We have a good mix of kids this year,” Mendez said. “We have some decent size paired with some guys that can handle and shoot the ball. I think we are going to be deep. And our kids don’t care who gets the credit. They just want to win.”

Over at Western Hills, the Cougars finished 8-5 in district competition to take third place last season, and coach Justin Harrison said inexperience may be an issue for WHHS this season.

“We are a very young team with only one starter and three varsity guys returning,” Harrison said. “The kids are learning a new system with this being my first year as well. They are improving and adapting to my coaching style and expectations at a nice pace. We should be competitive in district this year as we look to get into

the playoffs again.”

The Cougars return starter Jaylen James, and other players to watch for Western Hills include Robert Jones, Stefon Holman and Grayson Ehirim.

“We should be competitive in district this year as we look to get into the playoffs again,” Harrison said. “We're not very big, so we're going to rely on our defense and scrappiness to propel us to victory. On Tuesday, we were able to force over 20 turnovers. This is the standard of what I want our program to be. A hard-working group that turns you over and share the ball on offense.”

Council Action (continued from page 3)

with the nomination for Syed, but was not in support of Losada, and asked that Crile or Campos be considered. Tiner then said he would be willing to amend his nomination to 8 for Syed and 8 for Campos. Mackey seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Next up was a motion to consider applications for boards and commissions.

The even numbered places on the various boards and commissions will expire on Dec. 30, 2024.

The City formally advertised to accept applications for the boards and commissions appointments and the deadline for receiving applications was Nov. 4. Franklin made the request that all new applicants be interviewed along with any standing board members wishing to change for the process for application evaluations and have those interviews take place on Dec. 11 starting at 6 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The next item of the evening was to consider amending Chapter 8.08 of the Benbrook Municipal Code. A new section entitled “Miscellaneous Sanitation Nuisances” addresses issues such as stagnant water, sewage overflows, property conditions that result in vermin and/or parasites and nuisances associated with compost piles. It would also prohibit the illegal deposit or discharge of liquid waste and provided added verbiage regarding notification of the violation procedures. The ordinance passed unanimously.

The next item was a proposal to consider accepting the Tarrant County Emergency Services District #1 Fire/EMS Services contract. The contract was approved unanimously.

Time was then allowed for informal citizen comments, but there were none.

Time was then allowed for council member and staff comments, and Franklin wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and reminded residents that city hall is closed on Thanksgiving Day and the day after Thanksgiving.

Tiner then recognized the student-athletes in Benbrook for representing the city well.

Ward then reminded members once again that the next meeting at 7 p.m. on Dec. 5 would be held in the new building.

The meeting was then adjourned.

From the Mary Isham Keith Chapter, National Daughters of the American Revolution

NSDAR Celebrates Veterans Day and Native American Heritage Month

Mary Isham Keith Chapter's November chapter meeting was a wonderful gathering filled with thanksgiving and celebration, learning about Native American culture, and presenting awards.

The chapter honored veterans with a Veteran Tribute Table of family veteran photos. Attendees were given poppies to wear on Nov. 11 by Laura Tausel, Commemorative Events Chair and Chaplain Betty Coe Manuel read the poem, *In Flanders Fields*.

Kim Simpson presented *A Glimpse of Native American Heritage*, informing about her Native American heritage and the culture of the Kiowa and Cherokee people. She shared personal family artifacts and a video of a Pow Wow and Native American dancing. Kim was presented a certificate and a donation was made in her honor to Bacone College, a private Indian college in Muskogee, Oklahoma. The NSDAR promotes the continuing education of the history and culture of Native Americans, as well as the support of the educational and cultural pursuits of its citizens.

Finally, chapter member Katrina Lorenzen was presented the Historic Preservation Award by Historic Preservation Chair, Virginia Brown, for her work restoring Jackie Cochran's Beech Aircraft at the Fort Worth Vintage Air Museum. This aircraft was the last plane owned by Cochran. It was donated to the museum and is being restored as part of a program to honor women in aviation.

The NSDAR is a non-profit, non-political volunteer service organization and lineage society. More than one million women have found purpose and passion in DAR membership.

For more information, how to find an American Revolutionary patriot or DAR and programs, email mikregent2023@gmail.com.



Pictured: Historic Preservation Chair Virginia Brown, Regent Charley Holler and Katrina Lorenzen.



Pictured: Kim Simpson and Chapter Regent Charley Holler.



Pictured: The Veteran Tribute table display.



Pictured: Regent Charley Holler and Katrina Lorenzen with the Jackie Cochran display.

Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

A History of Thanksgiving

The nation will mark Thanksgiving once again on this fourth Thursday in November. It is part of a long tradition that has spanned many generations, including historical parallels in Texas.

Perhaps the most notable Thanksgiving feast was that of the Pilgrims at the Plymouth Colony on Nov. 22, 1621. It had been a difficult year for the English settlers who had arrived in Massachusetts the previous November. The Wampanoag tribe, which controlled most of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, made offers of friendship to the Pilgrims, sharing their food as the colonists struggled through the winter and then taught them about raising crops in the area.

After a bountiful harvest that fall, the Pilgrims decided to organize a feast to give thanks to God for their good fortune. In the spirit of gratitude, the Wampanoags were invited to join them in what became a three-day feast. The meal was quite different than the usual fare seen on American tables today. Using what was available locally, they ate swans, seals, deer, fish, and lobsters.

Such celebrations to give thanks to God were not unusual among Europeans in general during that time period. By the time of the famous 1621 Thanksgiving at the Plymouth Colony, other feasts to give thanks had occurred already in other parts of the nation.

In 1541, Spanish conquistador Francisco Vazquez de Coronado had a special Thanksgiving Mass held for him and his men not far from what is now Amarillo and the Palo Duro Canyon in celebration of their good fortune.

In 1565, Spanish conquistadores led by Pedro Menendez de Avile at the settlement of St. Augustine, Florida, held a special Roman Catholic mass and later a feast to give thanks to God for their safe arrival. They invited members of the local Timucua tribe to join them.

In 1598, more than 500 Spanish colonists led by Don Juan de Onate arrived at San Elizario, near modern-day El Paso, and had a special day to give thanks for their own good fortune. This has led some to claim San Elizario as the site of the First Thanks-

giving.

As for the Pilgrims, the Plymouth colonists and the tribes did not repeat the occasion in 1622. In 1623, after a difficult year of droughts that threatened the crops, late rains rescued the harvest. As it proved to be much more bountiful than expected, the colonists again had a celebration to give thanks that November. Tragically, relations with the Wampanoag tribe deteriorated in the ensuing decades with the initial gestures of friendship forgotten and the tribe shattered by war. Nevertheless, New England residents would continue to have periodic Thanksgiving observances in the years afterward, often organized by the local churches.

In spite of a few instances of Thanksgiving observances in the South, it did not catch on as an annual observance as it did in New England. The tradition, however, spread northward into the British colonies in Canada, where observances remained mostly local until the late 1800s. It was established as an official national holiday in Canada in 1957, and because of Canada's shorter growing season, on the second Monday in October.

New York became the first state to declare Thanksgiving a holiday, starting in 1817. Efforts were made to make it a national holiday in the 1820s, led by noted writer and educator Sarah Josepha Hale of New Hampshire. Up until the Civil War, the date of Thanksgiving was left to the states and made more of a local observance. Dates for Thanksgiving ranged from early October through the end of December.

In 1863, Secretary of State William H. Seward convinced President Abraham Lincoln to make it a national holiday on the last Thursday in November. Lincoln announced the holiday as a day to give thanks to God for the blessings the nation had and added that all Americans should remember the widows and orphans the war created.

In 1941, the holiday officially became the fourth Thursday in November from that point onward. President Harry Truman started the tradition of pardoning one turkey


for Thanksgiving in 1947.

Other nations have also adopted Thanksgiving, inspired by the American example. Liberia, which was founded by former American slaves, marks Thanksgiving as the first Thursday in November, dating back to 1821. Brazil made the fourth Thursday in November its Thanksgiving holiday in 1966 after their ambassador to the United States saw the American holiday firsthand.

Turkey sales have topped \$1 billion annually in the past few years. Many churches and communities still continue with the initial spirit of Thanksgiving by reaching out to the poor and homeless with food drives and community Thanksgiving meals prepared and served by volunteers.

Though the coronavirus pandemic may dampen many travel plans and gatherings out of precautions for public health, millions of Americans will still pause to consider what they are thankful for.



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from Founders Online, National Archives and Records Administration

Thanksgiving Proclamation

New York, 3 October 1789

By the President of the United States of America, a Proclamation.

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor - and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me "to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."

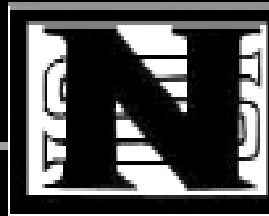
Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be - That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks - for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation - for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his Providence which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war - for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed - for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted - for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions - to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually - to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed - to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord - To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the encrease of science among them and us - and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

George Washington

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Weekend Forecast



Friday, Nov. 29:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 54. North wind around 5 mph becoming east in the afternoon.

PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 37. South southeast wind around 5 mph.



Saturday, Nov. 30:

AM - Mostly sunny, with a high near 63. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north northwest in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 35. North wind around 5 mph.



Sunday, Dec. 1:

AM - Mostly sunny, with a high near 54.

PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 35.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)