

# White Settlement Bomber News

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*From the Sports Desk with John English*

## ***Brewer Bears and Lady Bears Compete in Tournaments***

The Brewer boys basketball team is starting to gel following a strong showing at the Decatur Invitational basketball tournament last weekend.

Coach Jason Porostovsky is working with a less-experienced group than he has in years past and the tournament was a nice shot in the arm for the Bears.

“We made the championship game, winning three games to get there,” Porostovsky said. “Unfortunately some costly turnovers led to our demise in the championship game, but we improved this weekend.”

Brewer went 3-1 in the tournament, and Porostovsky said he had a few stand out performances.

“Nash Pena hit a buzzer-beating three-pointer to propel us past Everman in the first game of tourney,” Porostovsky said. “This team is well-balanced this year. Nash Pena and Jayden Jones were named to the all tournament team, and Mike Washington played stellar with rebounding and holding down the paint. Calvin Rweyemamu defended each game relentlessly with the addition of hitting big shots. Braylen Brown led the way handling the ball and running the offense along with solid defense. Any of those three could have been all-tourney selections as well.” (continued on page 2)

*From the City of White Settlement*

## **Christmas Movie Night at the Rec Center Tomorrow**

Although the annual Christmas parade was unfortunately rained out this year, citizens are invited to join us for an evening of festive Christmas celebration at the Recreation Center on Friday, Dec. 13, from 5 to 8:30 p.m.

There will be food trucks on-site, holiday vendors, and Santa Claus and his merry elves will visit for an amazing night full of joy and magic for the whole family!

Mayor Young will be streaming live from Veterans Park to help light the tree as we ring in the holiday season and settle in to watch the classic *Polar Express* Christmas movie!

*From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers*

## **White Settlement City Council Place 4 Runoff Election Saturday**

The Runoff Election for Place 4 of the White Settlement City Council will be held Saturday, Dec. 14 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Ballots may be cast at the White Settlement Public Library.

*Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt*

## ***Santa Visits Families at White Settlement Historical Museum***

The weather didn't stop patrons from attending the annual visit with Santa at the Historical Museum on Saturday, Dec. 7.

Santa passed out chocolates and candy canes to visitors and the event was just the perfect addition to local holiday festivities.

(photos continued on page 3)



The Snelling family happily sat with Santa! Pictured are: Eli, Keagan, Paula, Santa, Brent, Gideon and Amos.



# Seniors Can Stop Scammers

Financial fraud can be difficult to recognize. This can include identity theft, fake check and wire transfer scams, investment and credit card fraud, and bogus online charitable solicitations. Unfortunately, only one in five of these crimes are reported.

**The National Crime Prevention Council offers the following tips:**

- It's shrewd, not rude to hang up on a suspicious telemarketer.
- Don't give personal information to people you don't know unless you initiated the contact.
- Don't let yourself get pressured into a verbal agreement or signing a contract.
- Be skeptical of online charitable solicitations and other online offers. If interested, ask to receive the information in the mail and check to be sure the company is legitimate.
- Never agree to pay for products or services in advance.
- Get estimates and ask for references on home repair offers and other products or services.

If you suspect fraud, contact your local law enforcement agency immediately.

To learn more about protecting yourself from financial fraud, visit the National Crime Prevention website at [www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org).



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# Sports Desk

(continued from page 1)

Brewer plays in the Fairfield Tournament this coming weekend and Porostovsky said he is expecting more of the same from his team.

“Next week we travel to Fairfield for another tournament and we are hoping to continue to gel at this point,” Porostovsky said. “As a team we are starting to figure some things out and we just need more court time at this point. I know the kids would like to go win the tournament.”

On the girl's side, the Lady Bears went 3-1 in the Cowtown Classic Tournament last weekend to improve to 12-8 on the season.

Brewer defeated Lamar by a score of 53-40, Southlake Carroll by a score of 45-32 and El Paso Americas by a score of 45-31 before losing to Boswell.

The Lady Bears will open district competition at 6:15 p.m. tomorrow evening when they host Aledo.

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# Historical Society

## Meeting and Party Saturday

The White Settlement Historical Society will gather for the Winter Quarterly Meeting and Christmas Party on Saturday, Dec. 14 at noon in the White Settlement Senior Services Center, located at 8211 White Settlement Rd.

Members, family and friends are invited to bring a food item or dessert dish for the refreshments table and a small unwrapped, bagged or boxed gift item to exchange for the White Elephant Gift Exchange to be played along with the singing of Christmas Carols after a short business agenda is concluded.

For more information call 817-246-9719 or visit <http://www.wsmuseum.com/WSHS>.

### Legal Notice

Application has been made with the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission for a BG Wine and Malt Beverage Retail Dealers on-premise by Family Pho Restaurant LLC dba Pho House Asian Kitchen, to be located at 9400 Clifford St. Suite 130, Fort Worth, TX 76108 - Tarrant County Texas. Officers of said corporation Family Pho Restaurant LLC are Ky Lam - Owner.



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From the North Central Texas Council of Governments

# On the Roads this Holiday Season? The 511DFW Phone App Offers Timely Travel Information

As the population in Dallas-Fort Worth continues to grow, so does the need for dependable and accurate travel information. Since the 2017 launch, the North Central Texas Council of Governments' (NCTCOG) free trip-planning mobile app and website, 511DFW, have helped residents and visitors alike with real-time information on traffic and transit routes.

An extension of the 511 phone number, which provides callers information about highway travel conditions, the 511DFW app and [website](#) are intended to help travelers make better decisions about their mode of transportation, time of travel and route.

Both the app and website have undergone recent upgrades that have made them more helpful to local travelers. The website now includes updated information about traffic speeds, electric vehicle charging stations, bike paths and toll lane facilities. Additionally, users can now view traffic camera snapshots. Users of the app can request roadside assistance, report transportation issues such as potholes, and access routes and services from other local agencies.

The travel data fueling 511DFW comes from other apps, such as Google Maps, Waze and Apple Maps; local municipalities provide event and traffic data.

A new location-based roadside assistance feature, available to travelers on highways and toll roads only, allows users to connect

with an agency that can best address their needs, whether they run out of gas or have a flat tire.

An email account is required to sign up to use the app or website, and signing up takes less than a minute.

Mindhop, a New York-based software development company, built the new 511DFW website and designed the mobile app.

The app is available for both iOS and Android devices in English and Spanish.

For more information, visit [www.511dfw.org](http://www.511dfw.org).

## Around the Town (continued from page 1)



Museum President Louis Pastusek, Museum Director Carol Davis, Museum Treasurer Tracy Houpt and Mayor Faron Young.



Aaron and Jennifer James attended the event.

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From the National Fire Protection Association

# NFPA Urges Added Caution: Christmas Day and Christmas Eve Among Leading Days for U.S. Home Fires

Many hallmarks of the holiday season, including Christmas trees, holiday decorations, and festive meals present potential fire hazards that contribute to an annual increase in U.S. home fires at this time of year. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Christmas Day and Christmas Eve are among the leading days of the year for home fires.

“December is a leading month for home fires, in large part because many of the activities we engage in during the holiday season reflect leading causes of home fires year-round,” said Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. “Plus, as colder temperatures impact much of the country, use of heating equipment increases significantly.”

Fortunately, Carli notes, the majority of winter fires can be prevented with a little added awareness and planning.

“By knowing where potential fire hazards exist and taking some basic safety precautions to prevent them, people can enjoy a festive, fire-free holiday season,” said Carli.

The [NFPA Winter Holidays page](#) offers a wide variety of tips and resources to reduce the risk of fires, while the latest NFPA statistics underscore the increased risk of fire during the holiday season and beyond:

## Christmas Trees

- An estimated average of 160 home fires involving Christmas trees caused two civilian deaths, 11 civilian injuries, and \$12 million in direct property damage per year between 2016 and 2020.

- Some type of electrical distribution or lighting equipment, including decorative lights, was involved in more than two of five (44 percent) of home Christmas tree fires. Nearly one in five Christmas tree fires (19 percent) were started by decorative lights.

- The majority (74 percent) of Christmas tree fires occur in December and January.

## Decorations

- An estimated average of 790 home fires that began when decorations (other than Christmas trees) caught fire caused an average of one civilian death, 26 civilian injuries and \$13 million in direct property damage per year between 2015 and 2019.

- One in five home decoration fires occurred in December.
- Year-round, 35 percent of home decoration fires began with candles; in December, the number jumped to 45 percent.

- In more than two of every five fires (44 percent) involving decorations, the decoration was too close to a heat source such as a candle, cooking or heating equipment.

## Candles

- An estimated average of 7,400 home fires (2 percent) started by candles caused an average of 90 civilian deaths (three percent), 670 civilian injuries (6 percent), and \$291 million (4 percent) in direct property damage per year between 2015 and 2019.

- Candle fires peak in December and January with 11 percent

of candle fires in each of these months.

- In three of every five candle fires, the candle was too close to something that could catch fire.

- Christmas is the peak day for candle fires with roughly 2.5 times the daily average; Christmas Eve ranked second.

- Falling asleep was a factor in 10 percent of the home candle fires and 12 percent of the associated deaths.

## Cooking

- Cooking is the leading cause of reported home fires (49 percent) and home fire injuries and the second-leading cause of home fire deaths.

- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires.

- Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve.

Fires caused by heating equipment, the second-leading cause of U.S. home fires year-round, peak during the winter months, when temperatures drop and more people use heating equipment to keep their homes warm. Put a Freeze on Winter Fires, an annual NFPA campaign with the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), works to educate the public about ways to stay safe during the colder months, offering tip sheets and other resources to help reduce the risk of heating fires and other winter hazards.

About the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®)

*Founded in 1896, NFPA is a global self-funded nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. For more information, visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org). All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at [www.nfpa.org/freeaccess](http://www.nfpa.org/freeaccess).*

The offices of Suburban Newspapers, Inc. will close for the holidays from Monday, Dec. 23 through Friday, Dec. 27, and Wednesday, Jan. 1.

**There will be no newspapers on Dec. 26.**

The deadline to appear in the Jan. 2 digital publications is Friday, Dec. 20 at 4 p.m.

The office will reopen Monday, Dec. 30 at 10 a.m.



# WSPD Receives Top 20 in Country National Night Out Award

The National Association of Town Watch notified the White Settlement Police Department that the agency placed 19th in the nation and received the 2024 National Night Out Award for community populations between 15,000 and 50,000 residents.

This is the third consecutive year that the department has received a national award for the National Night Out activities hosted by the city.

“This is a huge honor for the City of White Settlement and our residents,” said Faron Young, Mayor for White Settlement. “I am very proud of our Police and City Departments for ensuring this annual event is an opportunity to build positive relationships between community members and law enforcement.”

“This prestigious designation is a testament to the dedication and commitment to community engagement programs that

seek to bolster trust, raise public safety awareness, and connect residents with local police officers, city officials, federal law enforcement, and military personnel,” said Chief of Police Christopher Cook. “I want to thank our community for turning out in large numbers to support the department and initiatives.”

The department hosted National Night Out on Tuesday, Oct. 1, which included:

Local, school, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and partners; military branches; Social service organizations; local public and private schools; Tarrant County organizations; food vendors; private businesses; events for children; and an aerial drone show (end of night event).

This annual event is managed by the Strategic Communications Team led by Corporal Laura Gonzalez.

# Cease the Grease this Christmas



The 2024 Holiday Grease Roundup is in full swing. Now through Jan. 12, we invite you to drop off your used cooking grease at the convenient 8212 Albert Street drop off location.

As a reminder, hot grease is easy to pour down the drain, but it can cause some serious issues once it cools down. Unfortunately, it can solidify and create stubborn clogs that are a pain to get rid of. We know it's easy to overlook this problem, but trust us, it's better to take care of it before it causes blockages and other plumbing headaches.

Let's keep the holiday spirits high and take a few moments to dispose of your used cooking grease properly. Your pipes will thank you later!

From the Klassy Kloggers

# Free Beginner Clogging Lessons Offered in January

The Klassy Kloggers will offer free beginner clogging lessons during the month of January. The classes will be held from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. each Monday starting on Jan. 6 at Harberger Hill Community Center, located at 701 Narrow St., Weatherford, 76086.

For those interested in signing up, contact Instructor/Director Shirley Anderson at 254-246-1972, or just show up.



## WHITE SETTLEMENT POLICE DEPT. TOP 20 AGENCY AWARD

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Texas History Minute, by Dr. Ken Bridges

## American General, Engineer, and Author - Henry M. Robert

Galveston, once the most important port city in Texas, suffered a crushing blow with the hurricane of 1900.

Once the waters receded and the extent of the damage became clear, the city faced the overwhelming task of rebuilding.

One of the most important tasks, surviving residents decided, was to ensure that such a disaster never repeated itself. This meant the construction of a seawall along the coast to shield the city from the full fury of future storms. To design the wall and oversee its construction, Galveston recruited a team of the best engineers they could find, led by one of the most respected names in engineering at the time, Gen. **Henry Martyn Robert**.

How so many people died in the 1900 hurricane was never fully established. Some fled the devastation in the days afterward, and many others were washed out to sea, their fates never to be known.

As many as 8,000 people were dead, and just as many were left homeless. The entire city was in ruins. The city was unable to function, and the government effectively collapsed. Once order was restored under a new commission form of government, the first in the nation, the city began the work of constructing the seawall, which would require tremendous effort and imagination. The city turned to Gen. Henry M. Robert, who readily accepted the task.

Robert was born on the Atlantic coast on the southern tip of South Carolina in 1837. His father, a preacher, educator, and president of Morehouse College, was an outspoken abolitionist and left South Carolina because of his stands. The younger Robert grew up in Ohio and was nominated to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1853. His grades at West Point were excellent as he studied engineering. He graduated in 1857 with a commission as a lieutenant.

The Army Corps of Engineers was responsible for not only building military fortifications but also river and port improvements, bridge construction, and even military railroad construction. His position had him traveling often. Among his first assignments was building fortifications near Vancouver, British Columbia, in 1859 as a border dispute between Great Britain and the U.S. threatened to escalate. This incident was known as the "Pig War" as a war nearly began due to an argument between an American and Irish farmer, over a pig in a garden.

Matters much more serious would dominate the next stage in his career. During the Civil War, he helped design, build, and maintain defensive fortifications for Washington, DC, and Philadelphia. He



also helped improve defenses for New England ports against any possible surprise Confederate attack.

After the war, he worked on river improvements in Washington and Oregon as Engineer for the Division of the Pacific. He would spend six years afterward working on improving harbors for Wisconsin and Michigan along the Great Lakes. Later, he would help build a series of locks and dams on the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers to help barge traffic and help control flooding.

Robert was used to the order of military briefings and the chain of command, but he was inexperienced with civilian crowds. Presiding over a meeting over harbor improvements for the city of New Bedford, Mass., at First Baptist Church in 1876, the meeting disintegrated into a screaming match. He immediately researched parliamentary procedures to make sure future meetings would run more smoothly. After researching protocols in Congress and the state legislatures, he wrote a book that eventually became known around the world as "*Robert's Rules of Order*."

In 1895, Robert became part of the Board of Engineers, a group of officers who oversaw the Corps of Engineers, leading the board until 1901. It was here that he studied ways to possibly deepen the southern end of the Mississippi River to improve traffic. In his final act in his long army career, he was promoted to Chief of Engineers in April 1901. He would serve for three days before retiring after 48 years in the army.

Galveston invited him in 1901 to head a board of engineers to design and build the new seawall that included Alfred Noble and H.C. Ripley. The city, county, and state would all pitch in on financing. The wall would be built on wood pilings and concrete, designs Robert carefully examined. But the seawall was not enough, Robert and the other engineers realized. The city itself needed to be raised. Every building in the city was raised eight feet, building by building and block by block with whatever dirt, sand, and debris was available. All of this was done by hand. In October 1902, construction on the first mile of the seawall began. By July 1904, the seawall ran for 3.3 miles along the Gulf Coast at a height of 17 feet.

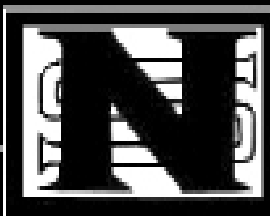
The city's first major test was the 1915 hurricane. A storm at least as powerful as the disastrous 1900 storm scored a direct hit, but the areas behind the seawall faced little damage. The seawall worked, and Galveston became a major tourist destination again by the 1920s. Robert died at his home in western New York in May 1923 at age 86. In the meantime, "*Robert's Rules of Order*" has become the standard rules for holding meetings across the United States and many nations around the world for civic clubs, schools, and even government meetings.

Between 1904 and 1963, the seawall was extended even further, ultimately running ten miles. Discussions on improving the sea wall have circulated in the community for several years.

The beach has faced problems from erosion and increasingly powerful hurricanes. In spite of a century of hurricanes, the wall has continued to keep the city safe from the deadliest storms from the sea.



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## Weekend Forecast



### Friday, Dec. 13:

**AM** - Cloudy, with a high near 66. S/SE wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

**PM** - A slight chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52. S/SE wind 10 to 15 mph becoming W/SW after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.



### Saturday, Dec. 14:

**AM** - Mostly sunny, with a high near 66. W/SW wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north in the afternoon.

**PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 42. North wind around 5 mph becoming east after midnight.



### Sunday, Dec. 15:

**AM** - Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. S/SE wind 5 to 10 mph.

**PM** - A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms after midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 55.

**Extended Forecast [Click Here](#)**