



84th Year, No. 51 • 7820 Wyatt Drive, White Settlement, Texas 76108 • www.suburban-newspapers.com • December 19, 2024

*From the Sports Desk with John English*

## **Basketball: Boys and Girls Teams Begin District Play**

The Brewer boy's basketball team appears to be picking up steam as district approaches, and could be gelling at just the right time.

The Bears had an outstanding showing in the Fairfield Invitational tournament this past weekend, going 4-1 overall and winning their pool and the tournament championship.

Coach Jason Porostovsky said it was a good, overall effort from his team.

"We had contributions from several players this tourney," Porostovsky said.

"Braylen Brown, Nash Pena, Jayden Jones and Calvin Rweyemamu all had games where they scored well. We had a complete combined effort on the offensive end this tourney."

After getting out to a 1-7 start on the season, the Bears have pulled their non-district record to 7-9 and Porostovsky said he likes the way his (continued on page 2)

*From Suburban Newspapers, Inc.*

## ***Bomber News Holiday Schedule***

The offices of Suburban Newspapers, Inc. located at 7820 Wyatt Dr. in White Settlement will close Monday, Dec. 23 through Friday, Dec. 27 for Christmas, and will be closed Wednesday, Jan. 1 for New Years Day.

There will be no newspapers on Dec. 26.

The deadline to appear in the Jan. 2 digital publications is Monday, Dec. 30 at 4 p.m.

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

*From the White Settlement Public Library*

## **Christmas Crafts at the Library Today!**

Celebrate the holiday season with us at this festive Library Celebration! Enjoy Christmas themed crafts, fun games, and tasty treats on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 4:30 p.m.

Santa will be there for photos, so bring your holiday cheer and your wish list!

This event is free to attend, and all ages are welcome! It's the perfect chance to make merry memories with your family!



**Dear Readers,**

**We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May you and your loved ones have good health, success and joy in 2025.**

**Thank you for letting us share your accomplishments, preserve your memories and promote your businesses in our newspapers. We truly could not do this without you and look forward to continuing our friendships in the new year.**

**Sincerely,**

**Suburban Newspapers, Inc.  
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# Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

team is improving, adding that they still need work in a few areas.

“District starts next Friday and we have the week to prepare,” Porostovsky said. “Every game in our district will be tough considering the competitiveness of all the teams. We need to make a few adjustments and get ready for the third part of our season.”

Porostovsky said he does feel like the non-district schedule has done a good job of getting his team ready for district play.

“We have seen a variety of styles of play in non-district and I feel like we are ready to tackle any types of defense we will see in district play,” Porostovsky said.

On the girl's side, Brewer opened district with a bang, defeating Aledo last week by a score of 46-39.

Coach Teranie Lewis said it was a nice way to start district play.

“I think our team played very well to open district,” Lewis said. “I could really tell that what we have been working on all pre-season is starting to come together.”

Lewis said a few players had especially strong efforts in the game for the Lady Bears.

“Aolani Woldai and Julie Kasonga had a very nice game on offense and Janiah Johnson had a solid defensive game,” Lewis said.

Brewer plays Fossil Ridge tomorrow night in the final game before the Christmas break, and Lewis said she is not treating any different from any other district contest.

“I’m expecting a good game from Fossil Ridge as well as any team in our district,” Lewis said. “Each game will be tough.”



After 12 hours on the road in three days, the Brewer boys basketball team won the Fairfield Tournament Championship.

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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 Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation

# Christmas and New Year's Drivers Urged to Move Over or Slow Down for Tow Trucks and Other Emergency Vehicles

If you see tow trucks and other emergency vehicles stopped on the side of the road with their emergency lights activated, do you know what to do?

Texas law requires drivers to slow down at least 20 miles per hour under the posted speed limit or, if able, to change lanes when they're passing a first responder stopped on the roadside.

Large numbers of travelers are expected on Texas roads during the Christmas and New Year's holidays and chances are, they may break down, get involved in crashes or be stopped by law enforcement. Pay attention to what's happening around you and be prepared to react quickly.

TDLR regulates tow truck companies and tow truck drivers, driver education and driving safety courses, and motorcycle safety courses, and as always, the agency asks all drivers to please slow down or move over when you see emergency vehicles stopped on the side of the road.

Tow truck drivers work hard every day to help people who are stranded on the side of the road. And, like everyone else, they are

anxious to return home safely each night. Holiday memories are made when family gathers. Please do your part to make that happen for all.

Safety tips for driving this holiday season:

- Slow down and pay attention to what you're doing. If you get tired, pull over in a safe spot and walk around to re-energize.
- Don't drink and drive, even a little bit.
- Designate a (sober) driver.
- Stay off the mobile phone – this includes texting. Designate a “co-pilot” to oversee the phone while you're driving so you can concentrate on the task at hand.
- Buckle up – all occupants of the vehicle, every trip – no matter how short. Most traffic crashes happen close to home.
- Traveling by motorcycle? Wear a helmet.
- Stay weather-aware. If it's snowy or icy, you'll need to slow down significantly so you don't slide on unexpected icy spots. If it's raining heavily, turn around and don't drown if water is running across the road. Only two feet of rushing water can sweep away a vehicle.
- Leave plenty of time to get to your destination. Roadways are likely to be crowded.

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Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt

# VFW Post 5617 Hosts Annual Pancakes with Santa

The annual Pancakes with Santa event at VFW 5617 was a huge success again this year!

Tickets were distributed to children for 17 bicycles and an array of toys. Santa was available to hear Christmas wishes and to take holiday photos.

Pancakes, sausage patties and various beverages were gobbled and drank and it was a wonderfully festive time.



Gianna Banks visited with Santa (Chub McCory) and Santa's helper Rhonda Fuentes.



VFW Post 5617 members (back l-r) Jr. Vice Commander Derick Eldridge, Trustee Larry Albine, Chaplain Randall Deese, Member Don Dalton and Adjutant Jeremy Sutton. (front l-r) Quartermaster Tim Hotchkin, Commander Dean Borries, Member Alexa Scognamillo and Judge Advocate Mike Dorow.



Pictured above: Bicycles await excited children to take them for a spin.



Sharon Chandler enjoyed her breakfast.



Preparing pancakes, Sr. Vice Commander James Hall.



Pictured left: The Johnson family arrived in matching pajamas for the event (back, l-r) Phillip, Haley (front) Aaron, Addi and Asher.



From StatePoint

## Flu and the Holiday Season: What You Need to Know

December through March is typically peak influenza (flu) season, though this season is off to an earlier start, with high activity currently across the country. While common, flu is a potentially serious and highly contagious respiratory illness.

In time for holiday travel and festivities, a new American Lung Association campaign aims to educate Americans about the flu and steps they can take to protect themselves and others from severe flu illness. Here's what to know:

- Who is impacted by flu?

Flu can affect anyone, however, certain communities are at higher risk of severe illness and complications, such as those living with chronic medical conditions including chronic lung disease, heart disease and diabetes.

During past flu seasons, approximately 90 percent of flu-related hospitalizations were among adults with at least one underlying medical condition.

During the 2022-23 flu season, approximately 30 percent of hospitalizations were among adults with chronic lung disease. People from certain racial and ethnic minority groups are also at higher risk for being hospitalized with flu compared to non-Hispanic white adults.

- What will this year's flu season look like?

Flu activity was relatively low the last two flu seasons, but it causes a significant burden every winter.

Seasonal influenza activity is already elevated and continues to increase across the country. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that as of early December, there have been at least 8.7 million illnesses and 78,000 hospitalizations.

- How can I protect myself?

While covering your cough, washing your hands frequently and staying home when you're sick can help stop the spread

of flu, the very best way to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community is with vaccination.

The flu shot is recommended on an annual basis for everyone six months of age and older and can be given at the same time as COVID-19 vaccination.

Flu vaccination is especially important for people with chronic lung disease and other chronic health conditions.

Speak with your healthcare provider to learn more about influenza and annual vaccination.

- When should I see a doctor?

If you do get sick, call your doctor as soon as possible for diagnosis and treatment, especially if you're at high risk for complications.

You should also consult your doctor if you have complications such as difficulty breathing, chest pains or a cough persisting for weeks or months after other symptoms go away.

To learn more, visit [Lung.org/prevent-flu](http://Lung.org/prevent-flu).

Before you gather with loved ones for the holidays, take steps to protect them from flu.

Practice good health habits and get your annual vaccination as early as possible.

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From the Klassy Kloggers

## Free Clogging Lessons in January

The Klassy Kloggers will offer free beginner clogging lessons during the month of January 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.

To sign up, contact Instructor/Director Shirley Anderson at 254-246-1972, or just show up.

**MAY YOUR  
HOLIDAYS BE  
MERRY & BRIGHT!**



From White Settlement ISD

## Families Can Still Apply for Free & Reduced Meals

Families may still apply for free and reduced meals through their [Schoolcafe](#) account. Parents or guardians may create an account online, or request a paper application from your student's campus front office.

The Child Nutrition Office can be reached at 817-367-1310.

High school students on free and reduced meals may qualify for free ACT and SAT testing, college application fees, and reduced fees for the UT On Ramps Dual Credit classes.



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Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

# The History of Charles M. Schulz's Christmas Classic



**Charles M. Schulz** created a comic strip that captured the hearts of millions in the nearly 50 years that *Peanuts* ran in thousands of newspapers around the world. Schulz, an amiable and soft-spoken Minnesota native and World War II veteran, had been drawing the daily strip since 1950. Fifteen years later, he would be responsible for a Christmas story that has since become a cultural icon. But it was almost entirely by accident.

In April 1965, executives at the Coca-Cola Company contacted their advertising agency, McCann-Erickson in New York, and asked if there were any Christmas specials they could sponsor that winter, still months away. The ad agency immediately suggested an adaptation of Schulz's *Peanuts* strip even though none had even been proposed and Schulz had not even thought of the idea.

Within days, Schulz, along with producer Lee Mendelson and animator Bill Melendez, produced a story outline. Executives at CBS agreed to air the special but only gave it a budget of \$76,000 (or \$768,000 in 2024 dollars).

In spite of the special's purpose of advertising Coca-Cola, Schulz chose a storyline that was critical of crass profiteering and emphasizing the simple message of the Christmas spirit. By the early 1960s, many cultural commentators had already criticized the commercialization of Christmas and the emphasis on gifts and holiday spending. In 2023, Americans spent hundreds of billions on Christmas by one estimate, so much that many businesses depend on brisk Christmas shopping to stay afloat. The number is likely to be repeated in 2024.

In the storyline that emerged, inspired by strips that Schulz had run previously, the main character Charlie Brown was feeling disconnected and depressed as Christmas approached. Everyone around Brown made demands on receiving extravagant gifts, including his sister, Sally, asking Santa Claus in a letter to make it simple by just sending "\$10s and \$20s."

As part of directing a Christmas play, Charlie Brown and his

friend Linus, a blanket-toting theologian, attempt to buy a Christmas tree. The two find a lot filled with the aluminum Christmas trees that had become popular by the early 1960s. Thinking the aluminum trees were too superficial, Charlie Brown chose the one live tree available - a small, dilapidated sapling. Mocked by his friends about his choice of tree later, he asked what the meaning of Christmas was, prompting Linus to quote Luke 2:8-14 from the Bible, on the birth of Christ.

"And that's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown," Linus said to Charlie Brown, satisfied and inspired by the answer.

The network, studio executives, and advertisers were reluctant to include the monologue. The biggest question they had was whether it was in good taste to take a scriptural message so special to millions of Americans and turn it into a cartoon.

Television had only been widely available for a little over a decade by the 1960s. Television animation had been around for almost as long, but critics did not see it as very sophisticated. Schulz, however, insisted that the scene be included.

In the process, it became the first time the Bible was quoted in a television cartoon.

Animators worked feverishly to produce the thousands of images needed for a cartoon before the deadline. With 12 images needed each second for a 25-minute special, their work was cut out for them as each needed to be drawn and colored by hand. Children auditioned to voice the characters with 8-year-old Peter Robbins cast as Charlie Brown and Christopher Shea as Linus, who would both repeat their roles in future specials. CBS executives were uncertain how audiences would react to the cartoon, trying without success to convince Schulz, Mendelson, and Melendez to make changes to the production, already over budget.

*A Charlie Brown Christmas* aired on Dec. 9, 1965. More than 15.5 million households watched. It immediately became a classic. The heartwarming message that Christmas was more than about shopping became a comfortable reminder for millions. The special won an Emmy Award in 1966. It had such a profound impact on American culture that aluminum Christmas trees ceased to be made by 1968. In the following years, the special was translated into numerous other languages and broadcast in countries around the world. CBS agreed to produce more *Peanuts* cartoons, averaging about one per year into the 1990s. And a slew of other Christmas specials, inspired by the *Peanuts* success, would follow in the years afterward.

With the popularity of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, CBS would air the special each December until 2000 when it was picked up by ABC for a few years afterward. Now, it is broadcast on digital streaming networks.

Nearly 60 years after the first airing, it is still a program enjoyed by millions of children and also parents and grandparents who grew up watching it. Its simple message criticizing the commercialization of the holiday and emphasizing the true meaning of Christmas still resonates in the twenty-first century as countless people continue to look to Christmas as a time of family and togetherness.

From National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

# Mary Isham Keith Chapter, NSDAR Awards Vocational Nursing Scholarships

Mary Isham Keith Chapter recently presented scholarships to three vocational nursing students at Tarrant County College.

The chapter began awarding scholarships to deserving students in the Tarrant County College LVN program at the Trinity River East Campus in downtown Fort Worth in 2018.

Regent Charlsey Holler presented Briana Becerra, Jazima Alford, and Jayeda Trosclair with a \$250 scholarship and certificate.

Honorary Regent Diana Lussier presented them with gift cards. Several of the nursing faculty attended the presentation, including Dr. Nikolaos Moraros, Divisional Dean of Nursing and Dr. Karen Heard, Assistant Dean of Nursing, PCT & Vocational Nursing.

The scholarship committee includes Dr. Judith Carrier, founding president of the Southeast Campus, Dr. Linda Hines who served for 46 years at the college, and Hon-

orary Regent Joye Evetts.

DAR is a non-profit, non-political volunteer service organization and lineage society with the mission of community service, historic preservation, and education. More than 1 million women have found purpose in DAR membership.

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



Pictured: Dr. Linda Hines, Jazima Alford, Briana Becerra, Jayeda Trosclair, Regent Charlsey Holler with Honorary Regents Diana Lussier and Dawn Needles.



Pictured: Regent Charlsey Holler, Briana Becerra, Dr. Nikolaos Moraros and Dr. Karen Heard.

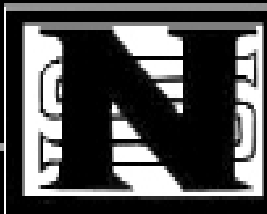


Pictured: Regent Charlsey Holler, Jayeda Trosclair, Dr. Nikolaos Moraros and Dr. Karen Heard.



Pictured: Regent Charlsey Holler, Jazima Alford, Dr. Nikolaos Moraros and Dr. Karen Heard.

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## Three Day Weekend Forecast



### Friday, Dec. 20:

**AM** - Sunny, with a high near 57. N/NE wind 5 to 10 mph.  
**PM** - Clear, with a low around 32. N/NE wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.



### Saturday, Dec. 21:

**AM** - Sunny, with a high near 56. Calm wind becoming S/SE around 5 mph in the morning.  
**PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 39. SE wind around 5 mph.



### Sunday, Dec. 22:

**AM** - Mostly sunny, with a high near 61. S/SE wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.  
**PM** - Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51. S/SE wind around 10 mph.

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