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From White Settlement ISD

WSISD Schools Closed for Holiday Monday, Jan. 20

White Settlement ISD schools will be closed Monday, Jan. 20 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Stay informed of closures and view the district calendar on the [White Settlement ISD website](#).

From White Settlement ISD

Jan. 13 School Board Meeting Rescheduled for Jan. 21

The school board meeting originally scheduled for Jan. 13 was rescheduled to Tuesday, Jan. 21. This will ensure that staff has enough time to prepare for the meeting, as the district was closed for the inclement weather on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 9 and 10.

Regular scheduled board meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month in the Board Room of the White Settlement ISD Administration Building, located at 8224 White Settlement Road. Citizens are encouraged to attend.

After these monthly meetings, the [WSISD Board Minutes](#) are posted for interested community members to review.

From the City of White Settlement

One Stop Recycle Drop Event to be held March 1

Join us for a free recycling event as we will have household hazardous waste, paper shredding, tires and electronics recycling on Saturday, March 1. This event is for White Settlement residents only and you will need to show your most recent water bill to participate.

(continued on page 3)



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FREE
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From White Settlement ISD

Free Supper for All WSISD Students at Brewer Middle School!

All enrolled White Settlement ISD students 18 and younger are invited to eat dinner for free at Brewer Middle School (BMS), located at 1000 S Cherry Lane from 4 to 5:45 p.m. Monday through Thursday. No application is required and menus are available on the [district's website](#). Participants may enter through the front doors of BMS and will be directed back to the cafeteria.

For questions or more information, contact the White Settlement ISD Child Nutrition Department at 817-367-1310.

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From White Settlement ISD

WSISD School Board Candidate Application Period Deadline Feb. 14

The White Settlement ISD Board of Trustees consists of seven members elected to serve, without compensation, for overlapping terms of three years each. Elections are conducted annually in May. Following the election, the board elects a president, vice president, and secretary to serve for one-year terms.

Place 4 and Place 5 will be available in the May 2025 election.

The date for the 2025 school board election is Saturday, May 4. The application period for a place on the ballot for school trustee is Jan. 15 through Feb. 14.

Applications will be available at the WSISD Administration Building during regular office hours Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 14. The drawing for places on the ballot will be conducted in the Human Resource Office at 10 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 24.

The Election will be held at WSISD Administration Building, 8224 White Settlement Road, White Settlement, TX. 76108. Polling locations, dates, and times will be available on the county election website: [Tarrant County](#).

From the City of White Settlement

PJs and Popcorn at the Rec Jan. 31

Snag your favorite stuffed buddy and come hang out with us in your pajamas at the Recreation Center, located at 8213 White Settlement Road, on Friday, Jan. 31 at 6:30 p.m. to watch the movie “IF.” Snack, popcorn and lots of fun will be available!

From White Settlement Library

Teen DIY: Origami Fortune Cookies

Join us at the Library on Monday, Jan. 27 at 4:30 p.m. for this creative DIY event! We'll show you how to fold your own fortune cookies, and you can fill them with your own unique messages. Seventh through 12th graders are welcome!



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Recycle Drop

(continued from page 1)

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From White Settlement Police Department

Police Chief Appointed to the IACP Civil Law Enforcement and Military Cooperation Committee



The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) recently announced that White Settlement Chief of Police Christopher Cook was being appointed to the IACP Civil Law Enforcement and Military Cooperation Committee. The appointment term extends through Dec. 31, 2027.

The Civilian Law Enforcement/Military Cooperation Committee (CLEMCC) acts as a liaison agency between military law enforcement and civilian law enforcement. The goal of the committee is to foster a closer relationship between the civilian and military law enforcement disciplines so that each discipline can take mutual advantage of the other's skills, knowledge, training research and development, and equipment in the law enforcement field for the benefit of

the people who are served.

There are only 30 appointed members on this Committee from across the United States consisting of military police and civilian law enforcement leaders. Chief Cook will be the only Texas Police Chief on the Committee.

The White Settlement Police Department maintains strong partnerships with the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Air Force Plant #4, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, U.S. Navy Police, Naval Criminal Investigative Service, U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations, U.S. Air Force Security Police, U.S. Army 90th Aviation Battalion, and the Texas National Guard Armory.

As part of these partnerships, the department patrols areas in coordination with the appropriate military jurisdiction, responds to calls for service at military installations and facilities, and assists with special event planning such as community events and air shows.

"I am grateful for this opportunity to serve on this committee to continue building stronger collaboration between our law enforcement profession and our Armed Forces," said Chief Cook. "Having a representative Texas voice on the international stage is critical as we continue to advocate for strategies to assist our military law enforcement partners."

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From the Sports Desk with John English

Boys and Girls Basketball Undefeated in District Play

The Brewer boys basketball team continued their winning ways this past week, defeating Azle by a score of 60-48 on Jan. 7.

The Bears are sitting atop the district 5-5A standings in a 2024-25 season that was supposed to be a rebuilding year for Brewer after the team was hit hard by graduation.

The victory over Azle moved the Bears district record to 4-0 and improved their overall season record to 14-12.

Coach Jason Porostovsky said that his team appeared to be firing on all cylinders in the victory and that a number of athletes played a part.

“We got contributions offensively, with Nash Pena leading the way with 14 points, Braylen Brown having 13, Jayden Jones having 12, and Xavier Prentice pitching in 8 points,” Porostovsky said. “It was a well-rounded effort the whole night.”

Brewer has won 5 of their last 6 games, and Porostovsky said as the half way point of district play approaches, his team is doing three things well at the moment.

“Right now, we are playing very well as a team on both ends of the floor,” Porostovsky said. “Kids are locked in on their assignments and we also share the ball very well.”

On the girl's side, the Lady Bears basketball team defeated Azle by a score of 65-38 on Tuesday before their bye on Friday night.

The victory improved Brewer's district record to 6-0 and the team is also in first place in the 5-5A district standings with the first half of district play under its belt.

Coach Teranie Lewis said in an interview last week that she attributes much of the Lady Bears' success to a couple of factors.

“Our team's defensive effort has been very good,” Lewis said. “They've also been very coachable in practice, games and film sessions. That has helped a lot with in-game adjustments and attention to detail.”

Legal Notice

The White Settlement Independent School District (WSISD) is accepting proposals for Classroom Furniture for BMS. The Request for Proposal – 2425-04 can be accessed and submitted online at <https://wsisdebid.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>. A paper copy of the bid can be obtained on the WSISD website, www.wsisd.com, by visiting the Purchasing section of the Business Services page. If assistance is needed, please contact Nancy Escobar at nancy.escobar@wsisd.net. The deadline for questions is February 6, 2025, at 2:00 pm and proposals are due by February 13, 2025, at 2:00 pm. It is preferred that proposals be submitted online at <https://wsisdebid.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>. If a hard copy proposal will be submitted, it should be addressed to White Settlement ISD, Attn: Nancy Escobar, 8224 White Settlement Road, White Settlement, TX 76108. Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

White Settlement ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

From the White Settlement Public Library

Tax Preparation Assistance

AARP tax-aide volunteers will once again be offering free tax preparation assistance this year at the Library. These services are by appointment only and slots are limited!

[You can make an appointment at this link.](#)

Appointments will begin Monday, Jan. 27 and will run through tax day on Monday, April 14. The schedule is: Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursdays from noon to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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From the White Settlement Public Library

2025 Book Club Selections & Meetings

A new year means new Book Club selections! Our Book Club voted on their 2025 book list last month, and the results are in! Check out the graphic (*pictured left*) for this year's titles.

The Book Club meets at the White Settlement Library on the third Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. We order multiple copies of the books through Interlibrary Loan (ILL) so everyone can join in.

[Sign up via this link](#) or stop by the front desk to reserve your copy and be a part of the discussion! You may also be able to access electronic copies of the books through Libby.

2025 Book List	
January 21, 2025	The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah
February 18, 2025	The Broken Girls by Simone St. James
March 18, 2025	Fly Away by Kristin Hannah
April 15, 2025	Light from Heaven by Jan Karon
May 20, 2025	The Marriage Pact by Michelle Richmond
June 17, 2025	Lost and Found Bookshop by Susan Wiggs
July 15, 2025	The Secret Life of Sunflowers by Marta Molnar
August 19, 2025	The Reckoning by John Grisham
September 16, 2025	Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult
October 21, 2025	Sundown Motel by Simone St. James
November 18, 2025	The Postcard by Anne Berest
December 16, 2025	Christmas Bells by Jennifer Chiaverini
January 20, 2026	The Book of Lost Names by Kristin Harmel

First Woman on the Supreme Court - Sandra Day O'Connor



The Supreme Court of the United States is the highest court in the land and the last word on the authority and meaning of the Constitution short of an amendment. The court has handed down many decisions affecting American life and law. The justices who preside over the court sometimes become household names. Texas has produced a number of noted legal minds to serve on the court, including the nation's first woman justice, Sandra Day O'Connor.

Sandra Day was born in March 1930 in El Paso, the oldest of three children to ranchers Harry and Ada Day. The family also acquired a huge ranch in Arizona, so the future justice spent a lot of her childhood going back and forth between Arizona and Texas. Years later, she and her brother would compile some of their memorable childhood exploits in the book *"Lazy B: Growing Up on a Cattle Ranch in the American Southwest."*

At school, she excelled. Fellow students remembered her as extremely intelligent and very kind. She graduated from El Paso's Austin High School in 1946 at the age of 16. She quickly enrolled at Stanford University in California. She graduated with high honors in 1950, earning a degree in economics. Wanting to go further, she applied for and was accepted into Stanford Law School.

The law would change her life. At Stanford, she met and briefly dated future Chief Justice William Rehnquist. Rehnquist even went so far as to propose to her in 1951, but she declined. She soon began dating fellow student John Jay O'Connor of California while the two worked on the school's law journal. After she graduated in 1952, the two married.

In spite of graduating from one of the nation's most prestigious law schools, she found it difficult to find a job as an attorney because she was a woman. No private firm would hire her, and even state and local prosecutors were reluctant to hire her. Eventually, she talked her way into a position with the San Mateo County prosecuting attorney's office as a deputy county attorney. She would receive no salary and would not even have her own office. Nevertheless, she worked hard to show her skill. Eventually, she was given a modest salary and given more responsibilities.

Her husband was drafted into the army in 1954. O'Connor went to Germany with him and worked as a civilian attorney with the army's Quartermaster Corps until her husband's honorable discharge in 1956. The two then moved to the Phoenix area where her husband had received a position with a noted local law firm. They would soon have the first of their three sons. For the time being, she stayed home with their growing family.

While she was raising her young sons, she began getting active in Arizona politics. Arizona's Sen. Barry Goldwater was the Republican nominee for president in 1964, and O'Connor volunteered for his campaign. Though Goldwater lost, in 1965, Democratic Gov. Samuel Pearson Goddard appointed her as Arizona's assistant attorney general. In 1969, Gov. Jack Williams, a Republican, appointed her to an opening in the state senate. She worked well with the senators of both parties, gaining a reputation as a moderate and an able negotiator and legislator. In 1973, she was named Senate Majority Leader, becoming the first woman in the country to head any state legislative chamber.

In 1974, she returned to the law and was appointed as judge for the Maricopa County Superior Court, a prestigious position on the highest court in the state's largest county. In 1978, she was elected to the Arizona Court of Appeals.

In July 1981, Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart announced his retirement. President Ronald Reagan narrowed down a list of choices and decided to nominate O'Connor to fill the vacancy. She later reported she was surprised by the nomination and did not know she was a finalist for the position. By September, she was confirmed by the U. S. Senate to become the nation's first woman justice on the Supreme Court where she would serve for the next 24 years.

Part II

Sandra Day O'Connor had already made a mark on history by the time she was in her forties. In 1973, the Texas native became the first woman to head a state legislative chamber when she became Senate Majority Leader in the Arizona state senate. On August 19, 1981, the announcement of a woman nominee to the U. S. Supreme Court made headlines around the world in a time when rights for women were advancing across the globe.

El Paso native Sandra Day O'Connor would make history again.

Conservatives who had supported Ronald Reagan's election as president were initially concerned about (continued on page 7)

Sandra Day O'Connor

(continued from page 6)

her record as a moderate in the Arizona legislature. O'Connor, however, calmly won over her critics. In spite of their initial misgivings, her nomination was nevertheless approved by the Senate unanimously on Sept. 21. She was sworn in four days later.

Judicial independence was a recurring theme in her career on the bench. O'Connor did not take an ideological approach. Instead, she looked at each case individually, which often made it difficult to predict how she would decide a question before the court. Throughout her long career, her decisions both thrilled and frustrated both liberals and conservatives. In the end, she earned the respect of Americans across the political spectrum.

She tended to side with conservatives on the bench, including her old friend from Stanford Law School, William Rehnquist, who himself would become chief justice by 1986. O'Connor remarked that she felt a great deal of pressure being the first woman on the court. In the early 1980s, there were still very few women serving as judges, and she knew it would be difficult to name another woman to the court if she faltered and recognized her position as a role model for women looking to careers in the law. She often said, "It's wonderful to be the first at something, but I don't want to be the last."

Though she was still the newest member of the court, she quickly took a leadership role in deciding the culture of the court. Getting people to work together was a skill she brought to the Arizona legislature, and she began a Supreme Court tradition of the justices having lunch together to promote a sense of teamwork.

Questions surrounding religion, firearms, civil rights, and abortion routinely came before the court. In 1983, she ruled with the majority in *United States v. Place*, declaring that it was not unconstitutional for drug-sniffing dogs to sniff luggage and property in a public place, but it was unconstitutional to hold such luggage until a police dog arrived.

In 1986, in *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services*, four of the conservative justices were ready to overrule the controversial *Roe v. Wade* decision of 1973 that legalized abortion. O'Connor's vote in the Pennsylvania case was decisive in which she upheld the *Roe* decision but allowed limitations to be enacted. She was a skeptic in affirmative action cases before the court, but she often discussed the need for racial equality in education.

As her time on the court continued, she began becoming more of a swing vote on close decisions that divided the court. In 1993, she warmly welcomed Ruth Bader Ginsburg as the second woman on the Supreme Court, and the two developed a respected working relationship though they disagreed on many decisions. As early as 2000, O'Connor began expressing a desire to retire from the court. Her husband's health was uppermost in her mind as he slowly succumbed to Alzheimer's Disease.

In *Bush v. Gore*, she was part of the majority in the controversial decision that ordered the State of Florida to end recounts in the 2000 presidential election, a contest that came down to the results

in that state. In the years afterward, she often wondered whether the court should have intervened at all. In 2003, she wrote the decision in *Lockyer v. Andrade* that upheld California's "three strikes law" mandating life sentences for individuals convicted of their third felony.

In 2005, she announced her retirement from the court and was succeeded by Justice Samuel Alito. She soon became the chancellor at the College of William and Mary in Virginia. She would still sit in on cases as a visiting judge on occasion. In 2009, President Barack Obama awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom in honor of her work on the Supreme Court. In 2009, John O'Connor, her husband of 57 years, died. In 2013, she wrote a book on some of the interesting episodes in the history of the Supreme Court called "*Out of Order*."

In her later years, her brilliant mind began to fade. Alzheimer's Disease struck and began to take its toll. She began to get more forgetful, and her physical health was declining. In 2018, she announced her retirement from public life, discussing her health issues. She spent her last few years in a nursing home in Phoenix, with her family and friends protecting her privacy and dignity.

The nation's 91st Supreme Court justice died quietly in December 2023 at age 93.

From the White Settlement Public Library

Artist Trading Card Workshop

The Artist Trading Card (ATC) Workshop is Thursday, Jan. 16 at 4:30 pm at the Library! Come explore the world of ATCs and get creative with miniature works of art! We'll provide everything you need to create your own cards and give you the chance to trade them with fellow participants. All ages are welcome, and no experience is required, just bring your imagination and a love of creativity!



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Weekend Forecast



Friday, Jan. 17:

AM - Partly sunny, with a high near 66. S/SW wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 38. S/SW wind 10 to 15 mph becoming N/NW after midnight.
Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.



Saturday, Jan. 18:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 52. North wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 27.



Sunday, Jan. 19:

AM - Mostly sunny, with a high near 38.
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 18.

Extended Forecast [Click Here](#)