

# White Settlement Bomber News

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*From the Sports Desk with John English*

## Brewer Basketball Coaches Offer Positive Predictions for District Play

The Brewer girls basketball team came up a little short against Everman this past week, and coach Teranie Lewis said it was a tough way to wrap up the SWAG Tournament for her team.

"I'm not happy with the game against Everman," Lewis said. "We did not play our best throughout the game. We had a lead in the beginning, but lost it and did not recover. We did not have our entire team during that game or the entire tournament, but no excuses."

Nevertheless, the Lady Bears wrapped up the non-district season with a record of 15-9, and as Brewer prepares for Aledo tomorrow night in it's district opening, Lewis said the mindset is simply to win.

"I am confident in this team going into district," Lewis said. "We have learned from every game no matter the outcome. Our non-district schedule has prepared us well."

On the boy's side, Brewer lost to Boswell on Friday night, and coach Jason Porostovsky said that his team got off to a slow start against the Pioneers and could not recover.

"We came out very sluggish and performed poorly in the first half," Porostovsky said. "The second half we

came out with some fire and gave ourselves a chance, but unfortunately we couldn't get over the hump."

The boys will start district next Friday, and with an 11-9 record throughout the non-district season heading into the final week before the start of 5-5A competition, Porostovsky said he is pleased with variety of styles of play to which his team has been exposed.

"Luckily, our non-district has given us the opportunity to see multiple defensive styles," Porostovsky said. "I believe we have faced every style of defense at this point."

The Brewer coach said that, overall, he is optimistic about the mentality of his team as district gets set to get underway, but added that there are still a couple of wrinkles he would like to get ironed out before its district opener on Jan. 14 at Granbury.

"I still believe we have many areas that need improvement as we approach the second half of our season which is district play," Porostovsky said. "Discipline and mental toughness are two areas we will continue to focus on. If we can get those two things corrected, look out - we could be a very tough ball club."

*From the City of White Settlement*

## Bulk Trash Pick-Up Week Begins Jan. 10

White Settlement residents may begin to set items out for bulk trash pick up on the Friday before the second full week of the month. Residents should make sure the trash pile follows the guidelines so that it will be picked up:

- Make sure your items are placed clear of low-hanging limbs and wires, mailboxes, parked cars, or other obstructions.
- The total size of pile/area allowed is 10 cubic yards (8 feet long by 6 feet wide by 6 feet tall) or roughly the size of a Volkswagen Beetle.
- No items generated from other locations, hazardous materials, tires, electronics, appliances with coolant or gas.

The pile must be placed at an address with an active water account to be picked up and bulk piles are picked up by a truck utilizing a hydraulic claw.

*From the White Settlement Library*

## Teen Book Club

One of the exciting programs we're starting in the new year is our Teen Book Club at the Library. This club is for grades 7-12 and the first meeting is on January 13th. The first book is "*Bad Beginning*" (A Series of Unfortunate Events #1).

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Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt

# Robotics at the Benbrook Library



During the holiday vacation, **Arturo and Evander Cardenas** created Robotics at the Benbrook Library.

They represent the First Lego League (FLL), a competition using Lego Mindstorm Robots.

Individuals build and program robots to accomplish missions and compete with other teams in North Texas.

Come out to the library and check it out!



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From Fort Worth ISD

**City of Fort Worth and Tarrant County**  
**Expand COVID Testing Sites, Hours of**  
**Operation**

Both the City of Fort Worth and Tarrant County Public Health are expanding COVID testing sites, adding days, and increasing hours of operation.

The City of Fort Worth is making sure that access to COVID-19 testing remains available by opening new testing sites on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Fort Worth ISD's Scarborough-Handley Fieldhouse, as well as the Como Community Center. These sites are in addition to the current testing site at the TEXRail North Side Station, 3001 Decatur Ave.

These sites are all hosted by the City of Fort Worth and are open to everyone. The city is partnering with Vault Health. Saliva tests will be administered at no cost, with or without insurance, and appointments are not needed.

Here are the days and times for the City's new locations:

**Tuesdays**  
FWISD Scarborough-Handley Fieldhouse,  
6201 Craig St., • 8-11:30 a.m.  
Como Community Center, 4660 Horne St.,  
1-4:30 p.m.

**Thursdays**  
FWISD Scarborough-Handley Fieldhouse,  
6201 Craig St., • 8-11:30 a.m.  
Como Community Center, 4660 Horne St.,  
1-4:30 p.m.

It's anticipated these additional mobile testing sites will remain open for the next several weeks.

Also, announced today, Tarrant County Public Health (TCPH) is expanding COVID-19 testing as demand increases.

Current wait times are not long and results are expected to be given within 24 to 48 hours, according to County officials.

**Testing Locations**  
Beginning, Wednesday, Dec. 29, the following TCPH contracted sites will begin operating seven days a week. They will be closed Saturday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Year Day.

**Ben Thanh Market**  
1818 E Pioneer Parkway Ste., 100  
Arlington, TX 76010  
Monday to Friday: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.,  
Saturday and Sunday: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Northeast Annex**  
837 Brown Trail, Bedford, TX 76022  
Wednesday to Friday: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.,  
Saturday and Sunday: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Resource Connection – Parking LOT D**  
1500 Circle Drive  
Fort Worth, TX 76119  
Wednesday to Friday: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.,  
Saturday and Sunday: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The following TCPH brick and mortar locations will also offer testing as per schedule posted on [www.tarrantcounty.com/covidtesting](http://www.tarrantcounty.com/covidtesting).

**Arlington Adult Health Services**  
2596 E. Arkansas Lane  
Arlington, TX 76014  
Monday to Friday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Bagsby-Williams Public Health Clinic**  
3212 Miller Ave  
Fort Worth, TX 76019  
Monday to Friday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Northwest Public Health Center**  
3800 Adam Grubb Road  
Lake Worth, TX 76135  
Monday to Friday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Southwest Public Health Clinic**  
6551 Granbury Rd  
Fort Worth, TX 76133  
Monday to Friday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Watauga Public Health Center**  
6601 Watauga Road  
Watauga TX 76148  
Monday to Friday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Additionally, the City of Fort Worth says anyone needing assistance accessing a free COVID-19 test can contact the COVID-19 hotline by mailing [COVID19@fortworth-texas.gov](mailto:COVID19@fortworth-texas.gov) or calling 817-392-8478.

For more information from Tarrant County Public Health, visit [coronavirus.tarrantcounty.com](http://coronavirus.tarrantcounty.com) or call the Tarrant County Public Health information line, 817-248-6299, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

# Jury Services: Reporting for Jury Duty

Jury service plays a vital role in sustaining the American system of justice.

## Why was my name drawn for jury service?

The Texas Legislature is responsible for all laws pertaining to jury service. Every other year the Secretary of State receives the Tarrant County voters list, the driver's license and identification card lists from the Department of Public Safety. The Secretary of State then combines these lists and sends Tarrant County their jury list for the upcoming two years. The Tarrant County jury list begins in January of the even years and ends the last week of December in the odd years. Currently, there are over one million names on our jury list and we mail over 200,000 summons annually. The reason some people never receive a summons is because we are not able to exhaust the list before the end of the two-year cycle.

However, it is now easier than ever to report for jury service. Gone are the days of reporting to the Central Jury Room and waiting all day to see if the courts would need a jury. Now you have a choice. You can report in person as summoned to the Central Jury Room. Or, you can use our online system, [eResponse](#). As long as you register online at least two business days in advance and confirm your status; we will email your jury service instructions. The date you are summoned to appear will not change. If you receive an online assignment, your time and place will change. By using eResponse, you will be sent an email with instructions regarding your jury service which generally, allows you to bypass the Central Jury Room.

## E-Response Online Services Requirements:

- Must have daily email access
  - Must have telephone number
  - Sign into eResponse using your candidate number and date of birth from the summons.
  - Check your email daily
    - You will receive an email to verify your email address.
    - Add juryroom@tarrantcounty.com as safe sender to avoid emails going to the Junk Folder (especially if you are a gmail or yahoo user.)
    - Generally all email notifications are sent out by 5 p.m.
    - Read all emails, remembering to scroll down to read entire email. Follow instructions in the emails.
  - Complete two questionnaires:
    1. Qualification questionnaire will determine qualifications along with verification for legal excuses. Read each question thoroughly.
    2. Court specific questionnaire - accessed through email when notified of court assignment -- requires some duplicate information.
- If no email is received from Tarrant County Jury Services, then appear at the date and time listed on the summons.

## The Selection Process

When you arrive at the Central Jury Room in the Tim Curry

Justice Center, you will check in and be assigned to a court. The courts are primarily in the downtown area. The courts adhere to a strict appearance policy. Appropriate dress for your court assignment should be whatever you would wear to a job interview: no shorts or inappropriate t-shirts and tank tops.

There are two basic types of cases, criminal and civil (including family cases). A criminal case results when a person is accused of committing a crime. You, as a juror, must decide whether the person charged is guilty or not guilty. The accused person is presumed innocent, and the state, represented by the district attorney, must prove guilt "beyond a reasonable doubt." A civil case results from a disagreement or dispute between two or more parties. In a civil case, you, as a juror, must answer questions of disputed facts based upon the testimony and evidence admitted by the judge. The answers to these questions are called the verdict.

Cases will usually be heard by juries of six or 12 jurors (six in county courts and 12 in district courts). A larger group, called a panel, will be sent to the trial courtroom. When you arrive at your court, the bailiff there will instruct you.

Jurors will be questioned by each of the lawyers under the supervision of the judge. This interview process is called voir dire. The voir dire is a way for the parties to select an impartial jury. You may be questioned individually or as a group to determine selection of the jury. For example, the lawyer may ask you questions to see if you are connected to the trial or if you have any prejudice or bias toward anyone in the trial.

The questions of the attorneys and judge are not intended to embarrass you, but rather to help the lawyers in the jury selection process. You may ask the judge to allow you to answer some questions away from the other jurors. A juror may be excused from the panel if it is shown that the juror cannot act impartially concerning the case to be heard. In addition, each side is allowed to remove a given number of jurors from the panel without having to show any reason.

The trial jury will be the first six or 12 of the remaining jurors on the panel. After the voir dire, the selection of jurors will be announced and the remainder of the panel will be returned to the central jury room. If you have a special need or an emergency after you have been selected as a juror on a trial panel, tell the bailiff in the courtroom.

Should the parties to a suit unexpectedly reach a settlement or agree to a plea, the bailiff will announce this to the panel and instruct you to return to the jury room for further instructions. A settlement or plea does not mean a juror's time has been unproductive.

**NOTE:** You may be asked to complete a questionnaire either in the central jury room or after you arrive in the court. The information on these forms is used by the attorneys for both sides during the voir dire process to expedite the jury selection. The oath has been administered to you, therefore you are still under oath when you answer these questions.



# Different Cultures Observe and Celebrate a New Year *by Dr. Ken*



A weary world looks ahead to this new year. New Years observances are usually a time of reflection over the past year as news organizations replay the top stories of the previous year and poke fun at the failed predictions for the year while millions of people look back on their experiences of the previous year and ponder their expectations for the year ahead.

The year 2022 will be noted for many things, especially Feb. 22, a day, which will happen to be a Tuesday, which will be all twos: 2/22/22.

Millions of people will make new years resolutions, some will be kept and others will fall by the wayside. The most common resolutions for 2021 were: losing weight/getting into shape, saving more money, traveling more, making new friends, and finding a new/better job. Public opinion polls for new years resolutions for 2022 are not that different: getting into shape, spending more time with loved ones, and saving money.

Observances of the new year date back thousands of years as ancient peoples recognized the regular shifting patterns of stars at night and the sun in the day and their connection to particular seasons. Many ancient cultures would mark the winter solstice, Dec. 21, as the beginning of the year as the days started getting longer and spring approached. In some societies, the vernal equinox, the beginning of spring in March, was seen as the beginning of the year as well as the time to begin planting. The Babylonians were known as early as 2600 BC to mark this day with cel-

ebrations and new year's resolutions.

The earliest observances of Jan. 1 for the beginning of the year began with the Romans around 713 BC. The Romans named the first month of their lunar calendar year January after the Roman god Janus, who supposedly was the god of time and also the god of beginnings and transitions. According to legend, Janus had two faces, one looking into the past and the other looking into the future, reflecting Romans looking back and looking forward with the new year's revelry.

During the Middle Ages, New Years celebrations were largely pushed aside in favor of religious observances, such as Christmas. Pope Gregory XIII restored Jan. 1 as the official observance of New Year's Day in 1582. In most countries throughout the world, Jan. 1 is an official holiday to mark the beginning of the new year. Even many non-western countries will observe Jan. 1 as New Year's Day.

The Chinese New Year, however, will not start until Feb. 1. Under the Chinese Zodiac system dating back many centuries, 2022 will mark the Year of the Tiger. The year 2021 was the Year of the Ox, a symbol of strength; and 2020 was the Year of the Rat, an animal known as a trickster in Chinese mythology. In China, the tiger is a symbol for strength, bravery, and independence and fireworks are set off to mark the new year and to also scare off demons and forces of darkness. Variations on these new years traditions are found in South Korea, Japan, and Cambodia.

Similarly, Feb. 1 will also mark the traditional Vietnamese New Year, known as Tet. The Vietnamese lunar calendar is very similar to the Chinese calendar. By tradition, a great feast is prepared, family reunions are held, and many celebrations are held in cities across the country. Many in Vietnam see Tet as the beginning of spring as well. Cleaning the home is also part of the traditional observances to symbolically clean out the bad spirits from the previous year.

In Orthodox Christian nations, the

Julian calendar is still used for religious observances. Under this calendar, the new year does not begin until Feb. 14. This is most commonly observed in nations such as Russia and Ukraine.

Different types of food are also associated with New Year's celebrations. In India, rice is eaten for prosperity in the new year. In parts of Europe and the United States, leafy green vegetables such as spinach are seen by many as symbolizing money and prosperity for the new year. In the American South, black-eyed peas are eaten for good luck. In Turkey, pomegranates are eaten for luck as a symbol of life and fertility.

There are many other superstitions for luck surrounding celebrations. In France, the weather on New Year's Day is supposed to be an omen for the year's weather. In Denmark, unused plates are smashed against doors to ward off bad luck. Brazilians wear white for good luck.

To this day, New Year's Day is still a time to reflect on the past and look forward to the days ahead. And the world hopes for a worry-free year with 2022. Ahead lies a calendar filled with possibilities.

## Benbrook American Legion Post 297

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# Is it Too Late to Reduce Your Mortgage Payment by Refinancing?



Experts say that with mortgage rates beginning to rise, refinancing your home now might be your last best chance to lower your monthly mortgage payment, as rates remain near all-time lows.

Those who refinanced early in 2021 have already reaped the benefits. Borrowers who refinanced their 30-year fixed rate mortgage into another 30-year fixed rate mortgage during the first half of 2021 saved over \$2,800 in mortgage payments on principal and interest annually, according to a recent Freddie Mac research report.

But mortgage rates are rising. Indeed, in October 2021, the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage, which is the most common type of mortgage, rose to its highest point since April, surpassing 3.0 percent. Freddie Mac forecasts that mortgage rates will continue to rise, averaging 3.5 percent for the 30-year fixed in 2022. That's up from an average of 3.0 percent in 2021.

So is it time to refinance your home loan? To help you make an informed decision, here are some answers to commonly asked questions about the refinancing process:

- What does refinancing mean? When you refinance your mortgage, you're applying for a new mortgage to replace your current one, which will result in a new rate, term and monthly payment. The most common type of refinance is a no cash-out refinance, in which you're refinancing the remaining balance on your mortgage.

- When should I consider refinancing? Generally speaking, refinances make the most financial sense when average interest rates are at least half a percentage point lower than the interest rate on your current mortgage. Another reason to consider refinancing is if your financial situation has improved, allowing you to secure a loan with a shorter term and own your home sooner. Finally, if you currently have an adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM) and it's adjusting upward, you may wish to convert to a fixed-rate

mortgage that provides you with the security of consistent payments.

- Is refinancing free? Although refinancing your mortgage could save you money both in the long- and short-term, it isn't free. For the most part, refinancing costs are similar to what you paid when you purchased your home, including a loan origination fee. There are required services involved, such as appraisals, and state and local fees that can vary significantly based on where you live. The average cost to refinance is almost \$5,000, so you should carefully consider how long you plan to stay in your home to ensure the savings to outweigh the costs.

- Who should handle my refinance? You don't have to use your current lender to refinance your loan. In fact, it's in your best interest to shop around and compare multiple lenders' loan estimates in search of the best terms and cost. It may take more time, but even a difference as small as one-quarter of a percentage point can save you thousands of dollars over the life of your home loan. The good news? Rates are often negotiable. In other words, you can ask lenders to match the rate quoted by another lender.

There may be no time like the present to lock in the lowest possible rate and receive the highest monthly savings.

As with any big financial endeavor, you'll want to do your homework, look carefully at your short- and long-term goals, and work closely with your lender to do a cost-benefit analysis.

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*From Tarrant County*

## Dial 2-1-1 to Access Free Assistance

Just as 9-1-1 became an easy way to reach emergency medical, police and fire services, 2-1-1 is revolutionizing the way Texans get information about important non-emergency services. (This information can be reached by dialing 817-258-8100.)

Highly-trained information and referral specialists housed at Tarrant County United Way assist callers in an eight-county area. This confidential and nationally-accredited service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The information specialists help callers find answers to questions about issues such as: Caregiver Support; Child Care; Financial Assistance; Food; Health Services; Housing; In-Home Services; Legal Assistance and. Transportation.

Tarrant County United Way is one of the Area Information Centers that make up the 2-1-1 Texas network now serving all Texas counties. 2-1-1 Texas is a program of United Way in collaboration with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

2-1-1 information is also accessible over the Internet at <http://www.tarrantcounty211.org>.

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY



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## Three Day Weekend Forecast



### Friday, Jan. 7:

**AM** - Sunny; high near 51. Light E/SE wind becoming S/SE at 5-10mph in the morning.  
**PM** - Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. South wind around 10 mph.



### Saturday, Jan. 8:

**AM** - Partly sunny; high near 71. South wind 10-15mph, with gusts as high as 20mph.  
**PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 47.



### Sunday, Jan. 9:

**AM** - Mostly sunny, with a high near 60.  
**PM** - Partly cloudy, with a low around 32.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)