

84th Year, No. 47 • 7820 Wyatt Drive, White Settlement, Texas 76108 • www.suburban-newspapers.com • November 21, 2024

## From White Settlement ISD **Region Band**



Nine Brewer Middle School students recently earned a place in the All-Region Band.

They are: (front row, 1-r) Symphony Gipson, Christiana Rodriguez, Azul Navarro-Camarillo; (back) Jacob Portales, Desmond Culp, Nicholas Obert, Pablo Bautista, William Obert and Ryan Zarate.

Directors are Ethan Streeter and Marissa Davis.

### From White Settlement ISD **BMS Students Selected to All-** Lady Bears Sign Commitments



Aolani Woldai



Julie Kasonga

Two Brewer High School Lady Bears Basketball players, Julie Kasonga and Aolani Woldai, signed letters of commitment to play at the collegiate level on Wednesday, Nov. 13.

Kasonga will play at Texas Women's University, and Woldai at the University of Texas El Paso.

### From White Settlement Police Department WSPD Christmas Card Contest Deadline Nov. 27

White Settlement children are invited to design Christmas cards that will be sent to police chiefs across the country and our community partners. The contest is divided into four categories: 3 to 4 years old; 5 to 7 years old; 8 to 10 years old and Kids with Learning Differences.

The White Settlement Police Department select one winner from each category, and their designs will become the official WSPD Christmas cards. Police Chief Chris Cook will present the winners with a challenge coin and some special prizes.

So, get those pencils, crayons, and markers, because it's time to create a masterpiece! Entries must be submitted to Laura Gonzalez at lgonzalez@wspd.us by Tuesday, Nov. 27. Winners will be announced on Friday, Nov. 29.

Don't forget to sign your design in the bottom-right corner!

Subscribe today & have the White Settlement Bomber News sent to your inbox! **CLICK HERE!** 

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### Suburban Newspapers, Inc. From the Texas Department of Public Safety Vehicle Safety **Inspection Program** to Change Jan. 1

House Bill 3297 (88th Legislative Session, 2023), effective Jan. 1, 2025, abolishes the Vehicle Safety Inspection Program for non-commercial vehicles, eliminating most safety vehicle inspections statewide.

This means if you live in a non-emissions county and are currently not required to obtain an emissions inspection on your vehicle, you will not be required to have your vehicle inspected prior to registration beginning Jan. 1, 2025. However, the \$7.50 fee remains intact under a new name: the inspection program replacement fee. This fee will be added to your vehicle registration fee. For owners of new cars, either the current model or preceding model year that has not been previously registered in Texas or another state, there will instead be an initial fee of \$16.75 to cover two years.

The bill does not eliminate vehicle emissions inspections. Emissions inspections will also still be required in the following Texas counties: Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Montgomery, Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, Travis, Williamson and El Paso.

The safety inspection fee will also be eliminated for vehicle owners in emissions counties; however, those in emissions counties will also be subject to the inspection program replacement fee.

All commercial vehicles, regardless of county, will still be required to have a safety inspection. Commercial vehicles will be exempt from the inspection program replacement fee as they will still be required to pay for a safety inspection.

All vehicles will still be required to be registered; the registration process will continue to be managed by the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.



## **2025 COMMUNITY CLEANUP EVENTS**

- New location at 8212 Albert Street
- It will be held on the 7 designated Saturdays only from 8 am to 5 pm

-Event dates are March 15th, April 12th, May 17th, June 21st, September 20th, October 18th, and November 15th

- Residents must obtain a voucher from the utility billing customer service prior to the cleanup event

- Must bring active residential water bill and valid drivers license

- One drop-off is allowed per voucher per event

- Appliances containing freon, tires, electronics, or household hazardous waste cannot be accepted

- Dumping outside of designated dates and times is prohibited ORD.30.47(C) 1-11





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### **Publishers of the** Benbrook News, River Oaks News and White Settlement Bomber News

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### Suburban Newspapers, Inc. From the Sports Desk with John English Bears Basketball Season Starts

With basketball season just getting underway, hopes are high for the Brewer boys and girls programs, both of which have emerged as two of the strongest local teams in recent years. The Brewer girls finished 29-5 overall last season and went 12-0 in district competition to win the 5-5A district championship.

Coach Teranie Lewis is pleased with what she has seen from her team so far and said her players are already showing signs of improvement.

"I think things are shaping up well for the season," Lewis said.

"We didn't start the way we wanted but we've definitely grown since the first game."

The Lady Bears defeated FW Southwest by a score of 90-14 in the bi-district round, and lost to Colleyville Heritage by a score of 41-35 at area. Strong returning players from last season's playoff team include Julie Kasonga and Aolani Woldai. Lewis said her expectation from her team is to be efficient.

"The objectives for this coming season are to play hard, but smart," Lewis said. "We have to do the little things and make every opportunity count."

To have another strong year, Lewis said it boils down to three things: "We have to play our game, be smart and work together," Lewis said.

On the boy's side, Brewer went 30-6 last season with an 11-1 mark in district competition, going three rounds in the playoffs.

The Bears defeated FW Wyatt 74-46 in the bi-district round, beat Argyle 59-56 at area and lost to Colleyville Heritage by a score of 40-39 in the regional quarterfinals.

Coach Jason Porostovsky said he lost some firepower from last year's team, for sure, but is impressed by what he's seen from his squad early on.

"We have a whole new group this year," Porostovsky said. "They have worked hard this off-season, and we are eager to get started."

Players that Brewer will expect to help lead the way in 2024-25 include Nash Pena, Calvin Rweyemamu, Jayden Jones, and Austin Haley, all of which gained valuable experience on last year's team. Porostovsky said for the time being, the focus needs to be on making progress.

"We want to get better each day that we have the opportunity to compete," Porostovsky said.

The Brewer coach said to have a successful season it will require execution and the right mindset.

"We will need to compete as one unit for the entirety of the game and believe in each other and ourselves," Porostovsky said.

The offices of Suburban Newspapers, Inc. will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday, Nov. 28 and Friday, Nov. 29. <u>We will have publications sent out on Nov. 28.</u> The deadline to appear in the Pec. 5 digital publications is <u>Wednesday, Nov. 27 at Noon.</u> The office will reopen Monday, Pec. 2 at 10 a.m.



TCAP will host a Free Fix Day on Wednesday, Nov. 27. During Free Fix days, TCAP offers free sterilization and rabies vaccines for feral and community cats. This event will take place at six TCAP clinics located in Arlington, Burleson, Denton, Garland, Hurst, and Weatherford! Seventy-five cats will be seen at each location on a firstcome, first-served basis.

There's no limit on the number of cats per caregiver, and no appointment is required. Cats must arrive in individual live traps or pet carriers, and all cats will receive an ear tip.

Each cat accepted will receive a voucher for a free spay/neuter for another cat at a future date. Participants will be able to make an appointment for a free feral spay or neuter at a future date using the voucher. This voucher also includes a rabies vaccine.

Participants are requested to stay in line if they are outside of the first 75! The TCAP team will provide one voucher per cat present for sterilization vaccine for the next 75 cats.

Only those already in line with cats will receive the voucher. The line cuts off no later than 9 a.m. The total impact per location is 225 cats. Caretakers will be responsible for any additional elective services such as vaccines, pain medication, or viral testing at the time of service.



### Suburban Newspapers, Inc. From Texas Parks and Wildlife Urban Coyotes - Tips to Discourage Proximity



Have you seen a coyote lately? Sightings increase this time of year as pups are leaving their dens.

ment provides expertise and advice on urban wildlife issues, but does not implement nuisance coyote control.

Urban and suburban coyotes, like urban deer, are symptoms of a broader issue. People continue to expand housing subdivisions and other human development into what used to be open range wildlife habitat, especially on the expanding fringes of large metropolitan areas. This is increasing the potential for encounters and conflicts be- that falls to the ground. tween people and wildlife.

actions cannot eliminate urban coyote problems, although this can be part of the solution in some situations.

take steps to coexist with coyotes and other attract coyotes urban wildlife.

tions people can take to manage covotes:

and water inside.

• Keep garbage securely stored, especially if it has to be put on the curb for collection. Homeowners can use tight-locking or bungee-cord-wrapped trashcans that are not easily opened.

• Keep compost piles securely covered; correct composting never includes animal matter like bones or fat, which can draw coyotes even more quickly that decomposing vegetable matter.

• Keep pets inside, confined securely in The Texas Parks and Wildlife Depart- a kennel or covered exercise yard, or within the close presence of an adult.

> • Walk pets on a leash and accompany them outside, especially at night.

> • Do not feed wildlife on the ground; keep wild bird seed in feeders designed for birds elevated or hanging above ground, and clean up spilled seed from the ground; covotes can either be drawn directly to the seed, or to the rodents drawn to the seed.

• Keep fruit trees fenced or pick up fruit

• Do not feed feral cats (domestics gone Trapping and similar nuisance control wild); this can encourage covotes to prey on cats, as well as feed on cat food left out for them.

• Minimize clusters of shrubs, trees and

The real solution and the greater need other cover and food plants near buildings facing Texans right now is public education. and children's play areas to avoid attracting We need to inform and empower people to rodents and small mammals that will in turn

• Use noise making and other scaring de-There are some common sense precau-vices when coyotes are seen. Check with local authorities regarding noise ordinances. • Do not feed coyotes! Keep pet food Portable air horns, motor vehicle horns, propane cannons, low-powered pellet guns, and thrown rocks can be effective.

> In a world where small businesses thrive on community support, let's champion those who work hard to better our towns!

> This holiday season, and in the coming new year, let's come together to support businesses that prioritize local partnerships, create jobs, and foster creativity.

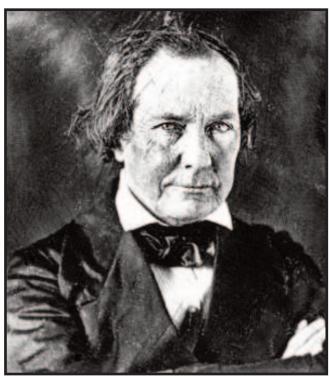
> Your choice matters! By backing those who back small businesses, you contribute to a vibrant, diverse economy that benefits us all.







### Suburban Newspapers, Inc. Texas History Minute, by Dr. Ken Bridges Second President of the Republic of Texas, Mirabeau B. Lamar



Mirabeau B. Lamar was a man of talent and imagination but also one with a complicated legacy. He was the third president of the Republic of Texas, just a few years after arriving in Texas from Georgia. He has been called the "Father of Texas Education" but also faced criticism for disastrous policies that led to bloodshed and debt. Even with a mixed record, Lamar remains a subject of fascination for many.

He was born on his father's cotton plantation in eastern Georgia in 1798. He was the second oldest of nine children. Lamar was intensely curious and read voraciously as a child. In his early adult years, he enthusiastically pursued a number of projects but had mixed success. He spent time as a merchant and as a newspaper editor. His well-connected family got him a job as personal secretary to the governor in 1823, which allowed him to travel the state and meet with many people. In 1826, he married; and the couple soon had a daughter.

In 1828, he moved to the western Georgia community of Columbus and started a successful newspaper, the Columbus Enquirer, a publication that still operates as the Ledger-Enquirer. Lamar was soon elected to the state senate. After his wife died in 1830, he fell into a period of deep mourning and declined to seek re-election. But he soon found a new purpose and began studying law. He was admitted to the bar in 1833 and mounted a failing bid for Congress that year.

When his older brother died in 1834, a depressed Lamar traveled to Texas and stayed

with his old friend James Fannin. He soon re- 1883. turned to Georgia to settle his affairs before returning to Texas to stay. By this point, the Texas Revolution had erupted. Lamar volunteered for the Texas army immediately, initially serving as a private. As the Mexican Army approached San Jacinto in April 1836, Lamar led a daring raid to rescue to fellow Texas soldiers surrounded by Mexican troops. He was given command of a cavalry troop for the Battle of San Jacinto.

Lamar was soon appointed the interim secretary of war for the newly independent Republic of Texas. In the elections held in the fall of 1836, Lamar was elected vice-president, running on a separate ticket from the winner, Sam Houston.

Texas as an independent republic did not have political parties, but the clearest political lines were whether Texans supported or opposed Sam Houston. Under the Texas Constitution of 1836, a president could not serve successive terms. The 1838 election quickly became a contest between Lamar, who often clashed with Houston, and a little-known senator, "Honest Bob" Wilson, who always claimed he would be just as honest as the circumstances permitted. Lamar won in a landslide.

extensive agenda. His ambitions were larger than the resources Texas had. Unlike Houston, Lamar had an antagonistic attitude toward Native Americans and declared in his inaugural address that the tribes should either be "expelled or exterminated." He also called for a national bank, a school system, and a national university. After Houston's effort to secure annexation to the United States failed, Lamar announced he would oppose such efforts as president.

In 1839, he decided to move the capital from Houston, the namesake city of his chief rival, to the small settlement of Waterloo on the Colorado River. The city was renamed Austin, and Lamar founded what became the Texas State Library as the official archives. Lamar laid the groundwork for public schools in Texas, but a statewide system would not be established until after the Civil War. Thousands of acres of land were set aside as a trust for a university, but the University of Texas would not be established from this land until

Peace efforts with Mexico failed, and few governments were willing to recognize Texas. In 1840, he defied Congress and sent an expedition to Santa Fe to try to consolidate the Texas claim on the Rio Grande as a border. Lamar sent dozens of men with tens of thousands of dollars in goods to try to initiate trade with the distant city. Upon their arrival, they were immediately arrested by Mexican troops in a diplomatic disaster for Texas. He sent the Texas Army to raid Native American settlements, but this resulted in a fierce response from the Comanches, who launched a fierce series of raids on settlements across Central Texas in 1841, leaving many casualties in their wake.

Government spending doubled, and inflation soared as the Texas dollar collapsed. When he left office in 1841, succeeded by Houston, the national debt had quadrupled into millions of dollars.

After Texas was annexed and became a state in 1845, he was elected to the new state legislature representing Eagle Pass. When war erupted with Mexico in 1846, the now 48-yearold Lamar was determined to serve. He volunteered and was noted for his service at the Battle of Monterrey in September. Afterward, Lamar savored the victory and prepared an he was assigned to command a small post in Laredo.

> He continued to mange his plantation in Richmond after the Mexican War. A book of his poems, Verse Memorials, was published in 1857. Politics, however, was never far from his mind. In 1857, President James Buchanan appointed Lamar to serve as US Ambassador to Nicaragua. Shortly afterward, Buchanan named him to serve as ambassador to both Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

> Lamar was proud of his work as ambassador. His tenure became an impressive capstone to his career, but health problems increasingly made it difficult to serve. He returned to his plantation in Richmond in October 1859 to recuperate but died of a heart attack two months later in December at age 61.

> In later years, Lamar was widely praised for his efforts on behalf of education, though it took decades for those efforts to be realized.

> In 1932, the new Lamar University in Beaumont was named for him. Schools and streets across the state are also named for him.

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# Weekend Forecast



### Friday, Nov. 22:

<u>AM</u> - Sunny, with a high near 64. Calm wind becoming north northeast around 5 mph. <u>PM</u> - Mostly clear, with a low around 43. East wind around 5 mph becoming south after midnight.



### Saturday, Nov. 23:

<u>AM</u> - Sunny, with a high near 71. South wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. <u>PM</u> - Mostly clear, with a low around 55.



### Sunday, Nov. 24:

<u>AM</u> - Sunny, with a high near 79. <u>PM</u> - Mostly clear, with a low around 53.

### **Extended Forecast Click Here**