

White Settlement Bomber News

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From White Settlement ISD
**BHS Freshman
Selected to
2025 TMEA
All-State Band**



Brewer High School freshman **Josue Rodriguez** was selected to the 2025 TMEA All-State Band, the highest honor a high school musician can achieve. He is the first BHS All-State musician since 2008.

More than 70,000 high school musicians (band, choir and orchestra) from across the state participate in auditions at the regional, area and state level as part of the All-State audition process each year. Only 2 percent of the auditioned students make a performing group for All-State.

As an All-State band member, Rodriguez will attend the TMEA Convention in San Antonio Feb. 12 through 15. where he will rehearse with world-renowned conductors, attend workshops and concerts, and perform with the Texas All State Band.

From the Sports Desk with John English
**Brewer Basketball
Teams Claim Wins**

The Brewer girl's basketball team made quick work of Saginaw on Friday night, defeating the Lady Rough Riders by a score of 48-13.

The Lady Bears improved to 9-1 in district competition with the victory, and coach Teranie Lewis said she was happy for the win, but definitely saw room for improvement.

"We made it through the game versus Saginaw," Lewis said. "I didn't particularly like the way we played. We were rushing on offense and not making very good decisions on defense. I'm just hoping we got everything out of our system as we head towards the playoffs."

On the boy's side, Brewer also emerged victorious in a game coach Jason Porostovsky said was not without it's struggles.

"We won 48-41 in a very hard-fought game, finding ourselves down the whole first half by as many as 11," Porostovsky said. "We buckled down defensively in the third quarter, forcing some turnovers and took the lead. The fourth quarter saw us lose the small lead, but regain it late again and hold for the victory."

Porostovsky said it was a strong team effort, but added that one player really come through in a big (continued on page 5)

From White Settlement ISD
**WSISD Hires New
Athletic Director**



White Settlement ISD hired **Marte Amrine, Jr.** as its new Athletic Director and Head Football Coach during a special school board meeting on Jan. 27.

Head Coach and Athletic Director for Maypearl ISD the past year, Amrine was ranked second as Dave Campbell's Texas Football's Best First Year Coaches. A coach and educator for the past 19 years, Amrine served as an Athletic Coordinator, Defensive Coordinator and Strength and Conditioning Coordinator in Dripping Springs ISD for nine years.

Head Baseball Coach for Flower Mound for three years, (continued on page 3)



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From the City of White Settlement

Protect Your Pipes! Don't Flush the Wipes

**Ignore the hype
Don't flush the wipe**



You might think that if a label says “flushable,” it means those wet wipes can just go down the toilet without a hitch, right? Unfortunately, that’s not actually the case. Those so-called flushable wipes aren’t as good at disappearing as they claim to be!

Many residents too wipes into their toilets, and that can lead to some serious issues. Toilet paper is designed to break apart easily in our plumbing systems, but flushable wipes are often made from synthetic materials like plastics and polyester, which don’t break down at all.

So, even if they seem to flush away, they can cause major clogs in our sewer systems. This not only creates challenging situations for the sewage professionals who have to clear these blockages, but it can also lead to hefty costs. In fact, some cities have had to spend millions each year just to fix the damage and keep the pipes flowing smoothly.

When wipes mix with cooking fat in our sewage systems, they form a huge, nasty blockage known as a “fatberg.” These fat-

bergs are basically giant blobs of solid waste made up of cooking oils, disposable wipes, hygiene products, and other items that shouldn’t be flushed. They're not just gross, they're also a pain to deal with and can really hit the wallet when it comes to repairs. Plus, these clogs can make an already tough job for workers even more challenging.

Have you ever wondered why some wipes are labeled as “flushable”? Well, it turns out that companies can put that label on their products without any restrictions. They don’t actually have to prove that these wipes can be flushed without causing problems, and honestly, most of them would probably fail that test.

The City of White Settlement Public Works Department is encouraging us to avoid flushing wipes down the toilet and to stick to just our bathroom necessities like toilet paper. Let’s all do our part to keep the pipes clear!



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From White Settlement ISD

Brewer FFA Members Win Ribbons at Agricultural Mechanics Competition



Four Brewer FFA members recently won blue ribbons for their Ag Mechanics projects at the Fort Worth Stock Show Agricultural Mechanics Competition.

Elizabeth Hamor built a fire pit as a first-year student and Julisa Meraz, Liam Klein, and Aiden Poeller competed with the ADA compliant wheelchair accessible shop table.

Sponsor is Kason Peterson.

Athletic Director

(continued from page 1)

Amrine was a Defensive Coordinator in Brock, Seguin and New Caney ISDs. His experience also includes serving as a Head Powerlifting and Head Track Coach.

He earned a Bachelor of Behavioral Science Degree in Secondary Education from Hardin Simmons University, where he was a four-year letterman and defensive end.

"We're going to coach hard, love hard and make Brewer a destination," he said.

He and his wife, Rachel, have two sons, Bryson, a sophomore at Texas Tech, and Brock, a senior.

From the White Settlement Library

TinkerLab is Back Feb. 13

January's TinkerLab session was cancelled for inclement weather, but we'll be back in action on Feb. 13 from 3:30-5:30! Don't miss out on this fun, free library event!

TinkerLab at the White Settlement Public Library is a program that facilitates creativity and learning.

During TinkerLab hours, kids of all ages can participate in a variety of activities with a focus on STEAM learning (Science - Technology - Engineering - Arts - Math).

Current TinkerLab hours are the second Thursday of each month from 3:30 - 5:30. This is a come-and-go event - you will not be missing out if you need to arrive late!

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Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit by Shree Ganesh Sakura LLC dba Sakura Japanese Restaurant, to be located at 406 Mercedes St Suite F, Benbrook, Tarrant County, TX 76126. Owner of said business is Netra Ghimire, Owner, and Sudeep Ruwali, CEO.

From the Project Linus Blanketeers

First Monday Quilt Club Volunteers Needed

Come join the fun and enjoy great fellowship at our monthly meeting with the Quilt Club volunteers while you make a difference in our community and bless others by making quilts for Project Linus.

The First Monday Quilt Club meets on the first Monday of each month at Bethany Christian Church located at 1500 Meadow Park Drive in White Settlement from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Instead of a potluck lunch, ladies are asked to bring brunch or snack items. Their next meeting is on Monday, Feb. 3.

Project Linus is a non-profit service organization. The members of this group are Tarrant County Chapter Project Linus volunteers who create handmade quilts and blankets that provide love, warmth, and comfort for local children who have suffered trauma, tragedy, or illness. Volunteers also make coverlets for veterans, nursing home residents, and the homeless. Unfortunately, the need for these blankets increases each month. They desperately need volunteers with portable sewing machines to help assemble the quilts.

No experience is needed - there is a place for you. Anyone can help if you can follow

instructions, sew, tie a knot, crochet a blanket, or tell a good joke. Volunteers have lots of fun and develop fantastic friendships.

High school students can receive community service credits for participating. Materials (fabric, batting, thread, and yarn) are provided. Donations of fabric, yarn, thread, or money to purchase materials are greatly appreciated.

For more information about the mission of Project Linus, visit www.projectlinus.org.

For more information on this group and meetings, call Virginia Biela at 817-244-1263.

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Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

way.

“We had another balanced attack with every player scoring,” Porostovsky said. “But Austin Haley’s performance sticks out the most with timely steals, a couple on nice passes and 8 points.”

With the first half of district behind them, Porostovsky said he is pleased with where his team stands.

“I really like where we are at right now,” Porostovsky said. “The kids are really focused on getting better each day.”

On the pitch, the boy's soccer team lost to Chisholm Trail by a score of 3-1 last Friday and coach Rafael Franco said it was a tough week for his team.

“The game was very intense,” Franco said on Saturday. “Unfortunately, yesterday morning our top scorer Lupe Diaz had an unfortunate knee injury during practice, which caused him to miss the game and most likely the entire season. Not an excuse, but this af-

ected our attacking game, making it hard to create scoring chances. Chisholm Trail High School has a very solid team, and they performed very well, executing the few chances they had.”

Franco said he was especially proud of one of his player's performances in the game.

“Jonathan Cortez overcame adversity,” Franco said. “After making a huge defensive mistake that cost us the first goal, he scored a goal that brought up the team's energy and put us back in the game.”

On the mat, the Bears competed in a dual with Aledo this past week, a final warm up before the district meet.

Coach Sonny Feexico while things did not go as planned, it was a good warm up for district.

“Our dual with Aledo was a good one,” Feexico said. “Unfortunately, we didn’t get the win as a team, but our kids wrestled well. We lost by 3 points on the boys side but we had a couple of wrestlers out as a precaution because of injury and will hopefully get them healed up for district next week. Aledo is in our district, so we had an opportunity to see them before district and see how we matched up.”

On the girl's side, Brewer also came up short at the dual.

“We did not have the same numbers in our line up like Aledo had on the girl's side,” Feexico said. “Our girls battled and inexperience got the best of us. But the girls are definitely improving and that’s all I can ask from them.”

Going into the district meet, Feexico said the objective is to wrestle well and get as many Brewer wrestlers as possible to qualify for region.

“We qualified two boys and one girl last season, but had four others that were one match away from the qualifying,” Feexico said. “We have had tremendous improvement from last year and hopefully we can get twice as many wrestlers to qualify for regionals this year.”

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The White Settlement Independent School District (WSISD) is accepting proposals for Classroom Furniture for Tannahill. The Request for Proposal – 2425-06 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 13, 2025, at 2:00 pm and proposals are due by February 27, 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.

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Questions must be submitted no later than 2:00 pm CST on Monday, February 10, 2025.

Proposals must be submitted no later than 2:00 pm CST on Monday, March 3, 2025.

The White Settlement School District reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals and to make awards as they may appear to be advantageous to the district and to waive all formalities with respect thereto. Bidders are encouraged to submit proposals well in advance of the deadline. The district is not responsible for the bidder's technical difficulties that may be experienced at the time of bid closing.

General John Bankhead Magruder



He was called “Prince John,” but he was far from royalty. He was part of two losing wars but was popular among his troops. General John Magruder, a Virginia-born Confederate general, took charge of Texas defenses from late 1862 onward, and led a series of colorful adventures along the way.

John Bankhead Magruder was born in 1807 in Port Royal, Virginia, a small port city not far from Washington, DC. His father was a planter and attorney, but he fell into bankruptcy and lost everything by 1820. He began attending the University of Virginia in 1825 and soon received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

He enrolled at West Point in 1826. Magruder was an able cadet, graduating fifteenth out of forty-two in his class in 1830. The newly commissioned lieutenant was then assigned to the 7th Infantry and soon transferred into artillery. It was a quiet time for the army, and he went from post to post. He found time to study law and became a licensed attorney. In 1845, he was transferred to General Zachary Taylor’s forces in Corpus Christi as the United States prepared for the admission of Texas into the Union and to enforce American claims on the Rio Grande. War with Mexico erupted a few months later,

and Magruder served ably in the Mexican War, and slightly wounded in 1847. He served alongside many other officers who would lead armies in the Civil War some fifteen years later.

After the war ended in 1848, he was assigned to a post in California where he managed to also become a popular attorney, real estate speculator, saloon owner, and also ran a railroad while still tending to his army duties.

As Abraham Lincoln assumed the presidency in 1861, Magruder was assigned to a post in Washington, DC. When Virginia seceded in April, Magruder chose to defend Virginia and joined the Confederate army as a colonel. Given his extensive knowledge of military defenses in the area, he was put in charge of the Arm of the Peninsula east of Richmond. Popular among his troops, it was said by one friend, “he could fight all day and dance all night.” With successful efforts against Union incursions into the area, Magruder was rewarded with promotion to major general later that summer.

By spring 1862, General George McClellan attacked the eastern peninsula of Virginia. Magruder was outnumbered nine-to-one, but managed to use the bogs and thick forests to his advantage. He managed to fool McClellan into believing Confederate forces were stronger than they were, and delayed the Union advances for several critical days. However, as Robert E. Lee took command and attempted to reorganize Confederate forces into a counter-offensive by late June, Magruder was bogged down by poor communication and poor coordination. He was accused of being drunk, and faced the charge without resorting to character attacks against his critics. In the end, the charges never stuck.

He was transferred to command the District of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona in October 1862. By this point, the Union Navy had just seized Galveston. He organized a counterattack of artillery and Confederate gunboats. Magruder attacked on New Year’s Eve. By the next day, he had captured three Union ships and forced the rest to flee. Galveston remained in Confederate hands

for the remainder of the war.

Magruder maintained his headquarters in Houston while directing officers throughout Texas to enforce the draft and maintain order. Working with Confederate units in Louisiana and Arkansas, he managed to keep Union forces from invading Texas. After Lee surrendered in Virginia in April 1865, Magruder, along with Gen. Kirby Smith, tried to hold out against Union forces but realized all was lost. On June 2, they formally surrendered. But he understood how leaders in the losing side of uprisings and civil wars had been treated historically. Fearing for his life, as did many other Confederate officers and officials, Magruder fled to Mexico.

Magruder offered his services to Emperor Maximilian, the puppet king installed by the French after they seized control of Mexico in 1862. France had used the pretense of Mexico’s immense foreign debt owed to France as a pretense for invasion and the distraction of the American Civil War as a cover. The ever-unpopular Maximilian found himself the target of increased uprisings in 1865 and welcomed the services of a respected general.

But Magruder soon realized just how perilously close to the abyss that Maximilian had become. The United States had made it quite clear that French intervention in Mexico would not be tolerated. With unrest growing, the French pulled their army out of Mexico in 1866 and urged their puppet king to leave as well. Convinced he was beloved by the people, he decided to stay instead. As rebel armies advanced and Maximilian’s armies crumbled, Magruder read the writing on the wall. He fled back to the United States in early 1867. Not long afterward, Maximilian was overthrown, captured, and executed by firing squad.

The one-time Confederate soldier and Mexican advisor found a general amnesty for Confederate officers in the United States and capitalized on his wartime adventures. He spent the next several years off-and-on the lecture circuit making a tidy living regaling audiences with his tales. Magruder died at his home in Houston in 1871.

From StatePoint

Gen-Z is Guiding the Retail Revolution - Here's What to Know

Customer expectations continue to evolve at breakneck speed, and 2025 is likely to usher in further changes to brick-and-mortar stores as retailers compete for shoppers' attention. With Gen-Z's spending power projected to reach \$12 trillion by 2030—according to Nielsen IQ—industry experts say that they're leading the retail revolution.

"Gen-Z are digital natives, fiercely value-driven, and accustomed to on-demand, personalized experiences. As such, shoppers can expect retailers to dive into new technologies as they strive to deliver innovative experiences that are as seamless and personalized as they are meaningful in the new year," says Christa Anz, global marketing director at Sensormatic Solutions, a leading global retail solutions provider.

According to Sensormatic Solutions data, experience and convenience remain top factors in consumer purchasing decisions among all generations, with crowds and lines (53%), out-of-stocks (46%) and long waits for pickups (29%) cited as shoppers' top pain points. Fortunately, the foundation for improvements has been laid. Retailers are employing emerging technology to meet these desires, and consumers will soon start to see the benefits.

For example, solutions that draw on organizational data to provide predictive analytic insights can help retailers get ahead of disruptions to ensure customer service issues are addressed proactively and resolved quickly. Meanwhile, the same types of data can be used to enhance personalization and gamification in retail apps, websites and loyalty programs, making them simpler and more satisfying for shoppers to use.

Technology and personalization efforts will also help ensure customers get the products they want, right when they want them. RFID-enhanced inventory tracking will improve in-store pickup, and end-to-end supply chain digitalization efforts will help retailers and manufacturers address material shortages, severe weather and other challenges expected in 2025. Additionally, shoppers can expect to be connected with products they need—and those they don't yet know they need—thanks to the ubiquity of data retailers now have access to and

refinements in the way businesses use that information to personalize offers. According to "Frontiers in Psychology," personalization efforts boost loyalty in 68% of customers, making the implementation of this technology a win-win.

Another rising trend is retail media. P2PI predicts that in 2025, retail media advertising spend will surpass linear TV spend. Despite their popularity, most consumers are unaware of how retail media networks impact their shopping experiences and improve their interactions with brands. Using in-store and online data to create omnichannel customer and demographic profiles, retail media networks help stores adjust inventory tactics, promotions, displays and more to reflect the preferences of their customers.

On the security side of the equation, Sensormatic Solutions notes that the impact that loss prevention and safety measures will have on customers will likely wane this year. This shift comes as more retailers adopt a smart hybrid approach, with a focus on balancing safety and satisfaction. The combination of physical deterrents and item- or category-level inventory data allows retailers to protect the most at-risk parts of the store (and the people in them) without adding unnecessary friction elsewhere.

Finally, market pressures will continue to guide retailers. As 2025 unfolds, private-label products are expected to gain popularity, appealing to shoppers looking to save and retailers looking to boost revenue.

For more insights into the 2025 shopping landscape, visit sensormatic.com.

BREWER CHEER TRYOUTS

Interested in becoming a Brewer High School Cheerleader? Join us at our **MANDATORY** parent meeting to learn about the upcoming 2025-26 season.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD

6:30PM-7:30PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION

rachel.volk@wsisd.net & kristen.hager@wsisd.net



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Weekend Forecast



Friday, Jan. 31:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 65. Northwest wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
PM - Clear, with a low around 40. North northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm.



Saturday, Feb. 1:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 70. Light south wind increasing to 5 to 10 mph in the morning. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.
PM - Clear, with a low around 48. South southwest wind around 10 mph.



Sunday, Feb. 2:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 76. South southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
PM - Clear, with a low around 54.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)