



City of Benbrook ★ A Texas Star City

# Benbrook News

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*From the Sports Desk with John English*

## BMHS and WHHS Volleyball

The Benbrook MHS volleyball team is coming off of a strong 2022 season in which they finished 12-0 in district competition and won a district championship.

Coach Frances Davies said she is feeling good about the way things are looking early on and is expecting another successful year.

"The season is shaping up nicely," Davies said. "We lost seven seniors this past year, with three of them being critical positions - both setters and the libero position. We have a lot of young ones stepping up as well as a couple new faces to the program that are all fighting for those starting positions. I think it'll be a great season."

Strong returners include back-to-back District MVP Ravyn Dash and fellow outside Luci Rotman, middle, Martha Greene last season's New Comer to the District, and a power Opp, Breezy Butler.

"We're still pretty strong across the net, just have to create some chemistry with the new setters," Davies said.

The Lady Cats advanced to the area round of the playoffs in 2022 following a bi-district round victory against Ferris.

Davies said, at the moment, she is trying to evaluate which lineup is likely to produce the best results for the Lady Cats.

"We are filling three crucial roles with younger girls that are new to varsity this year," Davies said. "Our dynamics are very different in that my hitters are having to re-create connections with new setters, which takes a lot of time, and we don't have a lot of that currently. We are also trying figuring out who will step into the role as libero (lead defensive player) after losing Abbie Miller who was a four-year starter and set a few records for digs, aces, and passing percent-

ages. We're honestly just playing Tetris and trying to figure out what fits best."

Benbrook finished 26-14 overall last season, and Davies said to repeat on their success, Benbrook will need a couple of things.

"I think being open and ready for constant changes," Davies said. "Because we lost so many girls and are having to fill, it will be a full trial by error preseason. Just trying to see who works best with whom, what is the best fit in the back row, and what is most successful. I think they can handle it though. They're hungry to go for that four-peat of undefeated district champs."

Davies said she is expecting a challenging district season as well.

"The toughest district opponent is always a tough question because I never know what they're incoming players look like," Davies said. "We don't know how many move-ins everyone is getting, how many did they lose or new coaches. We just plan/practice like every team will be the toughest we'll meet and know that every team is coming to try to take away our title. There isn't going to be a 'give me' match."

Over at Western Hills, the Lady Cougars are looking to rebound from a tough 2022 season this year and get back into the playoffs.

Coach Michael Yeager could not be reached for comment on this story.

*Benbrook Council Action*

## Aug. 3 Meeting

### Wrap-Up

The Benbrook city council meeting held on Aug. 3 was conducted as scheduled. Mayor Jason Ward called the meeting to order. An invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Time was then allowed for citizen comments on any agenda item, but there were one.

Minutes from the previous meeting held on July 20 were then approved unanimously.

The first item of the evening was to accept the resignation of Beth Jones from Place 7 on the Planning and Zoning Commission and to determine the method to fill her vacancy.

Council member Dustin Phillips recommended that the council accept the resignation, but hold off on filling the position until a normal application process could be completed. The recommendation was accepted unanimously.

Next up was a resolution repealing curfew for minors pursuant to House Bill 1819 of the 88th Texas Legislature.

The 88th Texas Legislature prohibits cities from adopting or enforcing an order, ordinance, or other measure that imposes a curfew on juveniles.

The motion (continued on page 2)

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# Benbrook Council Action (continued from page 1)

to repeal the curfew carried unanimously.

Next up was a proposal to ratify the Economic Development Corporation Budget for fiscal year 2023/2024.

The EDC requested that the city council approve their 2023/24 budget at \$760,478.

The funds would be delineated for the following projects: 5705 Storefront Improvement Program Grant (ongoing) at \$150,000; 5706 NW Winscott Infrastructure (enviro, maintenance) at \$50,000; 5707 Westpark Corner (maintenance) at \$10,000 and 5722 Benbrook Blvd. (beautification) at \$20,000.

If approved, the projected end-of-year, fiscal year 2023/24 fund balance would be \$8,153,420. The budget was approved unanimously.

Next up was a motion to approve the finance report for the period ending on June 30.

For the General fund, revenues for the month of June totaled \$898,189 and expenditures of \$1,743,927.

Year-to-date, revenues were \$22,608,817 and expenditures totaled \$16,326,369.

For the EDC, revenues for the month of June were \$221,331 and expenditures totaled \$117,793.

Year-to-date, revenues were \$1,773,803, and expenditures were \$722,035.

The finance report was approved unanimously.

Next up was a proposal to accept the quarterly investment report for the period ending June 30.

Investments for the General fund were \$47,238,883 and the EDC had \$7,243,983. The investment report was accepted unanimously.

Next was a proposal to adopt a resolution denying the Distribution Cost Recovery Factor application proposed by Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC.

According to the agenda, on June 30, 2023, Oncor Electric Delivery Company, LLC (“Oncor” or “Company”) filed an application to amend its Distribution Cost Recovery Factor (“DCRF”) and update its Mobile Generation Riders to increase distribution rates within each of the cities in its

service area.

In the filing, the company asserts it is seeking an increase in distribution revenues of approximately \$152.78 million.

The Company is also seeking to update its Rider Mobile Generation and Rider Wholesale Mobile Generation to recover revenue related to mobile generation unit leasing and operation.

The Rider would recover approximately \$1.07 million.

The resolution authorizes the city to join with the Steering Committee of Cities Served by Oncor (“OCSC”) to evaluate the filing, determine whether the filing complies with law, and if lawful, to determine what further strategy, including settlement, to pursue.

The purpose of the resolution would be to deny the Distribution Cost Recovery Factor application proposed by Oncor.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Time was then allowed for informal citizen comments, but there were none.

Time was then allowed for council

member and staff comments, and council member Renee Franklin reminded people of a few events happening over the last week.

The meeting was then adjourned



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From Benbrook Public Library

# Library to Close for Renovations

The library will close starting Monday, Aug. 21 through Monday, Sept. 4 to renovate the existing space.

We are working on a feasibility study for the new building that is projected to be about 5 to 6 years away, and with that longer time frame than expected, we need to change some areas so that it better reflects our patron usage and helps support our staff.

The main areas we are renovating are the MakerSpace, staff areas, and the teen room.

Even though we are closing for two weeks, we expect this renovation to take place over the entire month of September - so please be patient with us!

From the City of Benbrook

# City of Benbrook's TextMy-Benbrook Messaging Service

The City of Benbrook has made it easier than ever to engage with citizens when it launched the TextMyBenbrook messaging service.

Residents can report non-emergency concerns such as potholes, code violations, or missed garbage pickups by sending a text with a photo and location description to TextMyBenbrook at 817-443-6249.

Residents can report their concerns to TextMyBenbrook 24/7; however, text messages will be processed Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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# Quick Indoor Organizing Projects to Tackle Now

From leaving on vacations and weekend getaways to heading out for a hike or to a sporting event, frequent in-and-out traffic in summer can leave our spaces a mess. While a deep clean can be reserved for fall, home organizing expert Abby Lawson of the popular *Abby Organizes* blog says there are quick ways to tidy up the home now.

• **Easy Entrance and Exit:** A new survey by Duck brand finds 76 percent of people feel “overwhelmed” by their family members’ mess. To help control clutter near the entryway, install Duck brand Easy Mounts Interior Drywall J Hooks to give items like beach bags, hats and umbrellas a designated spot. Lawson says she also likes to put a basket by the door, so her kids have a place to toss their shoes.

“Helping everyone adopt a routine when they come in the door encourages tidiness,” Lawson explains. “If you have little kids, move the hooks to their level, so hanging their bag becomes part of their routine.”

• **Medicine Cabinet Makeover:** The outdoor season brings its fair share of challenges like sunburn, bug bites, bee stings and rashes. Stock a cabinet with must-have emergency supplies. Lay a shelf liner on the shelf, so surfaces stay clean and dry from leaking bottles and sticky spills. Lawson keeps these essentials on a shelf near her entryway, so it’s easy for her family to apply sunscreen or bug repellent quickly on their way to the park or pool.

• **Order for Overflow:** More than half of the people surveyed say clutter in the living room is the “most annoying” mess their family members make on a regular basis. Lawson says she uses hooks on the inside wall of her hall closet to hold an organizer. This creates extra storage for small toys as well as hand soap and toilet paper. She also recommends that households establish a consistent cleanup time to “reset” the room.

“No matter how much we try to clean up, staying organized will come down to the habits that we have,” Lawson says. “Institute a

daily or weekly reset where everyone in the family works together to get everything back to where it goes. That will keep the clutter from piling up.”

• **Gather Your Gadgets:** From tongs to skewers, we often use the same tools to cook in the summer. Lawson suggests storing go-to grilling gadgets in a caddy, so they can easily be taken from inside to out. She also says to divide drawers with small trays and use shelf liner with fun prints and patterns under the trays to add a pop of color to the area.

Additionally, put bulky items like egg, pineapple and watermelon slicers in a basket on a higher shelf, so they don’t take up drawer space.

• **Car Clean-Out:** Whether you’re heading on a day trip or a road trip, the car can easily get chaotic. Lawson recommends putting an organizer on each of the back seats, so kids’ snacks, electronics and car games are easily accessible. These pockets can also be a handy place for hand sanitizer, trash bags and water.

Setting up these simple organizing systems with the help of useful products and organizing tools will encourage tidy habits for a neat home all season long.

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## Novelist Katherine Anne Porter by Dr. Ken Bridges



Katherine Anne Porter was one of the most noted of Texas novelists. Her career spanned decades, and though her output was limited it had a profound impact on many aspiring writers from the 1930s through the 1970s.

She was born Callie Russel Porter in May 1890 in Indian Creek, a small, unincorporated community in Brown County in Central Texas. Her father was a cousin to Texas writer William Sydney Porter, better known by his pen name O. Henry. Brown County also happened to be the home of noted western and horror novelist Robert E. Howard. Porter was the fourth of five children, but tragedy followed her for much of her early life. An older brother had died while still an infant. When she was two, her mother died shortly after giving birth to her youngest sister.

Distraught and left with four young children to raise, Harrison Porter took his children and moved in with his mother, Catherine Anne Porter. The family spent the next few years living in the modest house in Kyle, a small community just south of Austin. From a young age in Kyle, she began writing stories. The future writer became very close to her grandmother in those years. But in 1901, her grandmother died while taking her on a trip to see relatives in West Texas. Afterward, her father moved the family sporadically across Texas and Louisiana. Porter's education became increasingly sporadic, and she never attended high school.

In 1906, she married John Henry Koontz, a Lufkin-area rancher. It would be the first of five marriages for Porter. The marriage was a disaster from the beginning, wrecked by Koontz's alcoholism. Porter reported later

that he flew into horrible rages fueled by his drinking. She alleged at one point that he threw her down a flight of stairs, resulting in a broken ankle.

She left for Chicago in 1914 and filed for divorce, asking that her name be legally changed to Katherine Anne Porter in the process. She also picked up a writing job at the *Chicago Tribune*. She even began appearing a few silent film roles as extras while writing a story for Chicago film companies, with one company paying her \$12 per day. After her divorce was finalized, she married Otto Tassett, a marriage that fell apart within months.

At that same time in 1915, she was diagnosed with tuberculosis and sent to a sanatorium. While hospitalized, she began writing stories full time. Her fortune changed when she learned she had been misdiagnosed, and she returned to Texas in 1917 as a society writer for the Fort Worth Critic.

The next year, she moved to Denver to write for the *Rocky Mountain News*. But 1918 was also the year of the Spanish Flu Epidemic. More than 500,000 Americans died from the flu that year. Porter came down with the flu and nearly died herself.

After her recovery, she spent most of the next decade travelling, living mostly in Mexico and New York City. Her first published short story, "Maria Concepcion," (1922) was inspired by her experiences in Mexico.

She married three times and divorced three more times between 1926 and 1942. As talented as she was, she found writing very frustrating. She once said, "I have written and destroyed manuscripts quite literally by the trunkful. I spent 15 years wandering about, weighted horribly by masses of paper and little else." She published a widely acclaimed and influential collection of short stories in 1930, "Flowering Judas and Other Stories."

Among her most famous story was the award-winning "Pale Horse, Pale Rider" (1939). This was a collection of three novellas which took place during the 1918 flu pandemic, inspired by her own illness. The story was adapted into several television movies in the 1950s and 1960s. This was followed up by another short story collection, "The Leaning Tower" (1944).

She spent many of her years from the

1930s onward travelling the world, writing essays for *The Nation* and *The New Republic* and writing short stories. She met prominent writers, celebrities, and world leaders in her travels. However, she only wrote one novel. *Ship of Fools* (1962) took twenty years to write. The tale of misfits sailing to Europe in the early 1930s became instantly famous and was adapted into a movie in 1965.

In 1965, she published *The Collected Stories*, her latest anthology. This earned her the Pulitzer Prize in 1966 as well as the National Book Award. She would continue to write for many more years. Porter died at her home in Maryland at the age of 90 in 1980.

Her birthplace in Brown County was recognized by the state as a state historic landmark in 1990.

In Kyle, the family home continued to stand years after Porter's death. In 1997, the city, along with several local charities and benefactors, bought the old homestead and began renovating it. In 2000, it was declared a national landmark and the city established the Katherine Anne Porter Literary Center at the home.

Operating today through a partnership with Texas State University in San Marcos, the organization invites noted writers to speak at symposiums and offers programs to help aspiring writers.



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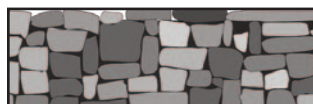
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Three Day Weekend Forecast



Friday, Aug. 11:

AM - Sunny and hot, with a high near 106. South wind around 15mph, with gusts as high as 20mph.  
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 80. Breezy, with a south wind 15 to 25mph, with gusts as high as 35mph.



Saturday, Aug. 12:

AM - Sunny and hot, with a high near 105. South southwest wind 15 to 20mph, with gusts as high as 30mph.  
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 80. South southeast wind around 15mph, with gusts as high as 25mph.



Sunday, Aug. 13:

AM - Sunny and hot, with a high near 106. South southwest wind around 15mph, with gusts as high as 20mph.  
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 79.

Extended Forecast Click Here