

*Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt*

## American Legion Post 297 Recognizes Purple Heart Day



Pictured are: (l-r) Purple Heart Recipient **Lorin Storey**, Asst. Scout Master **Kevin Case**, Purple Heart Recipient **Ron Fry**, **Drake Christian**, **Jacob Moser**, Purple Heart Recipient **Scott Palomino**, **Aiden Case**, **Kevin Chan** and Advancement Chair **Jennifer Christian**.

The American Legion Post 297 recently hosted a Purple Heart Day event at the facility.

The nation pauses each year on Aug. 7 to acknowledge and remember the sacrifices made by the brave members of our military.

The Purple Heart medal is presented to service members who have been wounded or killed as a result of enemy action while serving in the U.S. military and is a solemn distinction and means of a service member that has greatly sacrificed themselves, or paid the ultimate price while in the line of duty.

This medal in the oldest military award to this day, created in 1780 by the Continental Congress. In 1782, President George Washington created what was known then as the Badge of Military Merit which would be given to soldiers who displayed instances of unusual gallantry in battle but also extraordinary fidelity and essential service in any way. It is now known as the Purple Heart. This medal was one of the first awards in military history that could be given to lower-ranking, enlisted soldiers or

non-commissioned officers for their outstanding service. Today, U.S. service members of any rank who have been wounded or killed in enemy action are qualified to receive a Purple Heart.

Thanks to Army Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the Purple Heart officially received its modern-day look and name in 1932. He also wanted to refresh and rename the award in time for the bicentennial of George Washington's birthday and worked with the Washington Commission of Fine Arts and Ms. Elizabeth Will, a heraldry specialist, in the Army's Office of the Quartermaster General to design the medal. The Purple Heart features George Washington's likeness and designated primarily as a combat decoration.

In the years since, the qualifications that dictate who is eligible to receive a Purple Heart have changed over time and continues to evolve even today.

(continued on page 2)

*From Benbrook Public Library*  
**Library to Close**

**Aug. 21 to Sept. 4  
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!

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## Around the Town (continued from page 1)

### American Legion Post 297 Welcomes Purple Heart Recipients

The members of the Paul Mansir American Legion Post 297 welcomed three Purple Heart recipients on Aug. 6, and it was both an honor and a privilege.

The Purple Heart recipients included Lorin Storey, Ron Fry, and Scott Palomino. Each of these amazing gentlemen spent the afternoon sharing their personal stories with members of the post and community over a special dinner given in their honor. They shared the sacrifices that they made not only for their country, but for each of us, and their message was nothing short of inspirational. The Paul Mansir American Legion Auxiliary Unit 297 invited these Purple Heart recipients to come back for another dinner next year, and they all promised to return.

Individuals who were responsible for helping to plan and implement a very successful event included Chris Willesen, Benbrook Auxiliary Unit 297's Community Service Liaison who spent countless hours speaking to people, getting donations, directing others, and driving many miles to ensure that the day went off without a hitch.

Legion Commander Lora McGee also spent many days at the Post organizing, cleaning, and decorating for the event, making sure that every detail of the meeting hall was inspection ready. Incoming 23-24 Auxiliary President Christi Barnicle was everywhere at once lending a helping hand where needed, and always with a smile.

The kitchen crew outdid themselves planning and preparing a delicious meal, thanks to Nancy Wyatt, Dwight Saunier, Bill Kuehner, Diane Dauwalder, and Renee Annunziato.

The ticket booth was manned by Unit 297 Vice President Theresa Byers, who also ensured that the post was sparkling before the event and Michelle Mier was the bartender for the event, ensuring that everyone had a great time.

The Paul Mansir American Legion Auxiliary Unit 297 of Benbrook, TX would like to give a special thank you to Benbrook City Council Woman Renee Franklin for representing the City of Benbrook in honoring our Nation's heroes, and also to Boy Scout Troup 519 who helped serve the dinner and clean up the

Post after the event. It was an amazing team effort that allowed everyone to enjoy a phenomenal day honoring heroes who sacrificed so much so that we all can have the freedom that we so cherish.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can support veterans, veteran organizations, and volunteer to help your community please visit the American Legion Post closest to you. The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 297 of Benbrook is looking forward to repeating this event yearly, so if you are interested in joining next year you can stay up to date on all the events happening at the post by visiting [www.PaulMansirAmericanLegion.org](http://www.PaulMansirAmericanLegion.org).



Pictured are: (l-r; back row) Auxiliary President **Christi Barnicle** and Commander **Lora McGee**; (front) Purple Heart Recipients **Lorin Storey, Ron Fry and Scott Palomino**.



A drawing was held at the event where (l-r) **Christine Willesen** presented **Renee Franklin** with a prize.



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From the Sports Desk with John English

## Western Hills Cougar Football to Host Maypearl Aug. 25

With football season just around the corner, Western Hills is looking to pick up where they left off in 2022 by challenging for another playoff spot and potentially a district championship.

The Cougars finished last season with a 6-4 record overall for the regular season and earned a post-season berth.

Coach Blake Moilan said he was pleased with what his team was able to accomplish last year.

“Our 2022 season was pretty great,” Moilan said. “For the third straight season, we made the playoffs. We finished the season with a 6-5 record. We broke several school records, and we graduated a great group of seniors, including six that will be playing college football.”

Moilan said things are shaping up pretty well for 2023 and feels like his team is starting to gel.

“We will have some new faces,” Moilan said. “Starting on offense, it looks like Junior quarterback Kyu Wilson will be taking the reins and leading the offense. Kyu is athletic and will do a great job leading the offense. Our offense will look a bit different this year as well with our new offensive coordinator Andrew Manks. We are excited about Coach Manks and his offensive changes.”

Due to the excessive heat this summer, Moilan his staff have taken precautions to keep his players safe.

“It's hot,” Moilan said. “The Fort Worth ISD has a policy in place to deal with heat. We must follow it and our athletic trainers do a great job of keeping us safe. We have plenty of water, water breaks built into practice, and we avoid being on the field during the hottest times of day.”

Strong returners for the Cougars include the following: O-Line - returning starters - Rod Gray, Landon Price, Jayson Aden, and K'heaven Johnson; RB - EJ Jones; Receivers - Kaream Williams (388 yards receiving), D'Mareay Hornsby (249 yards receiving), Brycen Foster, Michael Williams, and Jeremiah Stribling.

On defense, DLine- D'shun Hawkins 36 total tackles, Rod Gray 9 tackles, K'heaven Johnson 32 total tackles; Linebackers - love Willis 58 total tackles, Dominic Salazar 35 total tackles, Trishtan Willis, and TJ Hammon; and Defensive Backs - Javares Hamilton 58 total tackles, Cavon Washington, Xavier Richmond are all returning.

Moilan said he expects Kennedale to be the Cougars toughest opponent this year as usual.

“Traditionally, they have a great program that make a playoff run each year,” Moilan said. “They run a unique offense that we don't see with any other team. Coach Barrett does a great job and has been doing a great job for a long time.”

Moilan said for Western Hills to have another strong season, it will take a couple of things.

“We will need to continue to build on what we have started,” Moilan said. “We have some key pieces to replace, but we have a lot of players that have experience returning on both sides of the ball. We will need to get the ball rolling early in the season and get off to a great start. Our non-district schedule teams all have new head coaches that will be having their teams playing well.”

Western Hills will host Maypearl in its season opener at 7 p.m. on Aug. 25.



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# American Legion Post 297 Installs New Officers

The American Legion Post 297 recently installed their newly elected 2023-2024 officers at the facility. Distinguished guests included Jeff Perkins, Past Department Commander; Holly Heatly, Auxiliary Department President; Bill Wetmore, Past Post/SAL Commander and Renee Franklin, City Council Member.



Post Officers (l-r) **John Ashton**, Rider Director; **Lora McGee**, Commander; **Christi Barnicle**, Auxiliary President and **John Rogstad**, SAL Commander.



Auxiliary Unit (sitting, l-r) **Caroline O'Brien**, Member at Large; **Lora McGee**, Commander; **Michelle Casey**, Asst. Sergeant at Arms; **Erin Roden**, Chaplain and **Shae Kuehner**, Treasurer; (standing back) **Sarah Wright**, Historian; **Christi Barnicle**, President; **Donna Patterson**, Dept. Sergeant at Arms; **Barbara Sykes**, District 12 President; **Sheila Christoph**, Membership Chair; **Teresa Byers**, Unit Vice President; **Bobbie Jackson**, Secretary and **Nancy Wyatt**, Member at Large.



Pictured are: (l-r) Sons of the American Legion (SAL) **John Rogstad**, Commander; **Bill Kuehner**, Adjutant; **John Ashton**, Financial Officer and **Mark Bolinger**, Chaplain.



Riders are: (front, l-r) **Steve "Palliden" Hammond**, Treasurer; **Mark "Joker" Bolinger**, Chaplain; **Rachel "Mermaid" Rogstad**, Road Captain/Asst. Secretary; **John "Polar Bear" Rogstad**, Sergeant at Arms; (back) **Susan "Bluebird" Ashton**, Secretary/Historian; **John "Scruffy" Ashton**, Director and **Ron "Taz" Hand**, Asst. Director/Chaplain.



Pictured left: (l-r) Legionnaires **Wes Bowman**, Executive Board; **Lora McGee**, Commander; **Dwight Saunier**, Sergeant at Arms; **Juan Garcia**, 1st Vice President and **Ron Hand**, Chaplain.



Raffle winners **Shae Kuehner** and **Ron Hand**.



**Tristan Anderson**, **Lex Johnson** and **Kelian Rogstad** (l-r) received certificates for their outstanding participation and continuous assistance within the Post.



## UTEP - The University of Texas at El Paso by Dr. Ken Bridges

As schools and universities across Texas begin their school years, teachers and administrators continue their work to educate students and improve lives. The University of Texas at El Paso has long been such an institution, serving as one of the pioneers for education in West Texas.

At the turn of the century, El Paso leaders were looking to escape the image of the lawless frontier town.

By 1910, the city's population had reached 39,000. Mining was a strong component of its economy. Copper mining in the area and especially copper, silver, gold, and lead ores mined across the border in Mexico were smelted within the city, creating a multi-million dollar economic boon for El Paso. Given the city's unique needs and its location more than 500 miles from the state's flagship university, the importance of a college devoted to mining was clear.

The state legislature passed the bill sponsored by Sen. Claude Hudspeth creating the State School of Mines and Metallurgy in 1913, which was signed into law by Gov. Oscar B. Colquitt. The college opened in September 1914 with just 27 students in a building just off the Fort Bliss compound. The students paid no tuition. They simply paid a one-time \$30 registration fee (\$721 in 2016 dollars) and would pay occasional lab fees ranging from \$1.50 to \$25 per course.

The college struggled in its early years. One enduring story was that the college established a football team in 1915, but only because of the donation of \$800 (nearly \$19,000 in 2016 dollars) from one professor, John Kidd, for whom a future stadium would be named. Enrollment rose to only 39 students by 1916. That fall, the campus was hit by a devastating fire that destroyed the main building. El Paso residents rallied to save the college. Fundraisers were held and land was donated for the college to move and rebuild.

By fall 1917, the college reopened with new buildings at its present location. After World War I, reorganizations by the state

legislature led to a rapid series of changes on campus.

In 1919, the college was merged with the University of Texas to become the University of Texas Department of Mines and Metallurgy. The next year, the name was changed to the Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy and became widely known as "the College of Mines."

Football continued to be a popular part of campus culture. In 1935, the college hosted the first annual Sun Bowl championship game. However, since the college did not have its own field yet, the first three Sun Bowls were played at El Paso High School. The first Sun Bowl on the college's campus was not played until 1938.

The name would change once again to Texas Western College by 1949. In 1961, the college trained the first group of Peace Corps volunteers, part of President John F. Kennedy's program to bring new schools, hospitals, food, and clean water to poverty-stricken communities in the Third World.

In 1967, the University of Texas System was reorganized again, with Texas Western College now becoming the University of Texas at El Paso. It expanded rapidly and

steadily offered new programs, with its first doctoral program being offered in 1974 (in geology) and a new nursing program starting in 1976.

Today, UTEP has more than 25,000 students and offers more than 160 different undergraduate and graduate degrees.

It is currently the only university in the nation with an active mine shaft on campus, still used for training miners.

The pursuit of knowledge can sometimes take us in unusual directions.



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## Key Things to Do After Having a Baby

Becoming a new parent is a joyous occasion, but no matter how many parenting books you've read, nothing can completely prepare you for your baby's arrival. With every pregnancy comes a long to-do list, but here are five tips to review after having a baby.

### 1. Start building an emergency fund.

Being financially prepared for anything can help protect your growing family. Managing your cash flow and setting aside a specified amount each month for an emergency fund will have your future self thanking you. Whether it ends up being an unplanned doctor's bill or emergency car repairs, you'll be prepared to meet the cost. Use a free online emergency fund calculator to determine what's a good amount of cushion for your situation.

### 2. Review your life insurance plan.

Although this big, exciting event just happened and the last thing you want to think about is something bad happening, it's always better to be prepared. A set amount of money each month towards a life insurance plan can help your family in a worst-case scenario, providing financial security and the ability for your family to maintain their current lifestyle. Life insurance could pay for daycare to allow the surviving spouse to work, fund your child's education and provide income replacement to help pay off a mortgage. **Hint:** Ask your insurance agent about bundling your home, auto and life insurance – it may be able to save you money.

### 3. Apply for your baby's Social Security number and birth certificate.

Social Security numbers (SSN) and birth certificates are not automatically generated upon birth. Nurses or the hospital will more than likely offer you the steps to apply for your baby's SSN and to fill out the birth certificate. However, it is important to complete these items promptly to avoid a delay or issues in adding your baby as a dependent on tax forms, health plans and more.

### 4. Add your baby to your health plan and benefits.

Most insurance plans allow 30 to 60 days to add your new baby to a health plan so that the birth and continued care are covered. Be sure to add your new dependent or the hospital might bill the full amount for your stay. Contacting your health insurance provider is the easiest way to ensure your new dependent is added.

**Hint:** Before your baby is born, compare health plans to see which insurance plan will cover more birth and postnatal costs.

### 5. Start saving for college.

It's no secret that student loan debt is out of control. Putting away a set amount of money each month into a secure account can set up your child with a healthy debt-free financial future. If your child chooses to take an alternative path, they can use that money for a down payment on their first home. Be sure to discuss with an accountant the different long-term savings options available.

As new parents, you can provide all the TLC required for your new bundle of joy, but following these five steps will help set up you and your baby for success, no matter what life throws at you.

*Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt*

## American Legion Post 297 Auxiliary Unit Hosts Back to School Event



Members of the Auxiliary Unit from American Legion Post 297 along with employees from the NASJRB Exchange and Fleet and Family Department passed out and collected back to school items for dependents on the Base. A variety of school supplies were available for those who participated at the event.

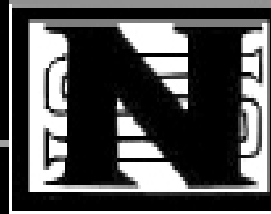
Pictured are: (l-r) **Claudia Acuna**, Sales Manager; **Tonita Bechert**, Store Manager; **Nancy Wyatt**, Member at Large; **Michelle Casey**, Asst. Sgt. at Arms; **Christine Willesen**, Service Liaison Commander; **Donna Patterson**, Dept. Sgt. at Arms; **Orah Millard**, Fleet & Family Representative; **Christi Barnicle**, Auxiliary President; **George Aurelio**, Fleet & Family Representative and **Lora McGee**, Commander.



Pictured are: in the Bus (l-r) **Christi Barnicle**, Auxiliary President and **Michelle Casey**, Asst. Sgt. at Arms; (standing) **Donna Patterson**, Dept. Sgt. at Arms; **Nancy Wyatt**, Member at Large; **Lora McGee**, Commander and **Christine Willesen**, Service Liaison Commander.



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The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 22 at 7 p.m. at 3545 Bryan Avenue; Fort Worth, Texas 76110. Meetings are always open to the public. The purpose of this club is to delve into the study of geology, mineralogy, and the lapidary arts.

For more information or directions, please visit [www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org](http://www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org).

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# Three Day Weekend Forecast



## Friday, Aug. 18:

AM - Sunny and hot, with a high near 108. S/SW wind 5 to 10 mph.  
PM - Clear, with a low around 79. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.



## Saturday, Aug. 19:

AM - Sunny and hot, with a high near 105. S/SW wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.  
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 79. SE wind around 10 mph becoming south southwest after midnight.



## Sunday, Aug. 20:

AM - Sunny and hot, with a high near 107. W/SW wind 10 to 15 mph becoming E/NE in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.  
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 80.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)