



City of Benbrook ★ A Texas Star City

# Benbrook News

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*From Fort Worth ISD*

## ***FWISD Application Requirement for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals***

Starting this week, Fort Worth ISD (FWISD) will distribute letters and applications to the households of the children in the District about eligibility benefits. Families can get ahead of the game by completing the Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals available now at <https://www.fwisd.org/meals> and return the completed form online or to any school office.

For the 2022-23 school year, FWISD must return to charging for school meals and offering free and reduced-price meals based on student eligibility at Non-CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) schools. Schools qualifying to operate the CEP provide breakfast and lunch to all children at no charge and eliminate the collection of meal applications. For a complete list of CEP schools, visit Child Nutrition Services / COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS (CEP) ([fwisd.org](http://fwisd.org)).

Only one application needs to be completed per household. Schools will notify the household of the child's eligibility. The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) administers school nutrition programs in Texas and offers an eligibility calculator at [www.SquareMeals.org/ProgramEligibility](http://www.SquareMeals.org/ProgramEligibility).

Decisions regarding payment for school meals are made at the national-government level, not by the school nutrition team or TDA. The dedicated staff at FWISD looks forward to serving healthy, balanced meals to students in the new school year. These meals, whether paid, free, or reduced-priced, offer a good source of nutrition for children.

The following criteria will be used to determine a child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meal benefits:

### **Income Eligibility**

1. Household income that is at or below the income eligibility levels

### **Categorical or Automatic Eligibility**

2. Household receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

### **Program Participant Eligibility**

3. Child's status as a foster child, homeless, runaway, migrant, or displaced by a declared disaster

4. Child's enrollment in Head Start or Even Start

### **Income Eligibility**

For those households that qualify for free or (continued on page 5)

*From Suburban Newspapers*

## **Benbrook Mayor Honors**

## **Centenarian with Birthday Proclamation**



**Marge Cole**, pictured here with Benbrook Mayor **Jason Ward**, was presented with a Proclamation and flowers for her 100th Birthday on Aug. 12.

Mrs. Cole has been a Benbrook resident for 61 years and is a great attribute to the community.

She has been a long-time member of the Benbrook United Methodist Church.

She has three children, five grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

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From the Sports Desk with John English

## BMHS & WHHS - Volleyball and Cross Country Preview

With volleyball season now underway, Benbrook and Western Hills are looking to pick up right where they left off in 2021.

Both schools captured a playoff berth last season, and Benbrook coach Frances Davies said she is impressed with what she has seen from her team early on.

"This season is shaping up pretty nicely so far," Davies said. "We unfortunately have some big shoes to fill from the last graduating class, so the lineups are changing constantly to find the perfect flow. We do however have a lot of young talent that are stepping in and stepping up."

Davies said Abbie Miller, Breanna Butler, Jadyn Harris will help lead the way for the Bobcats this season.

"Each kid brings their own flare and energy to the team and are helping to create that fire that will help push us to be successful," Davies said.

The Benbrook coach said there will be a couple of big changes from last year.

"We are losing our 6'5" tower Madison Sorrell," Davies said. "Replacing her has proven to be an interesting puzzle both offensively and defensively, but the girls are good at adapting on the fly and work hard, so it's coming together. The other is just the norm of marrying seasoned varsity athletes with fresh/young new faces and getting them cohesive and comfortable in their play."

Benbrook finished 30-9 over last season and won a district championship, and Davies said it will take "hustle and heart" to have a chance to repeat as district champions.

"We have a saying already, which is 'if you don't go, you won't know,' which basically comes down to go for everything and play everything, even if you think it's impossible," Davies said. "You never know when something amazing will happen, so go for it all."

Over at Western Hills, coach Michael Yeager said he will have a younger team this coming season, but said he is seeing some good signs early on.

"We are going through some growing pains this season," Yeager said. "We hope to be where we need to be by the time district play begins. The girls work really hard, and they continue to improve every time we go out. We have several promising young players who will gain a lot of varsity experience this season."

Yeager said he also has some strong veteran players back. "Kayla Ervin and Tankxley are returning from last years playoff season," Yeager said. "They will be six rotation players and should provide a great deal of leadership. Monica Jones will also be returning as a senior this season and will be a varsity captain."

The Cougars finished 18-13 overall last season and finished fourth in district, and Yeager said he is pleased with the team chemistry so far this season.

"While we have several players returning, depth will be an issue," Yeager said. "I'm hoping that some of the younger players will step up and fill some voids. There is a close bond between this group of players and I think that will be an advantage for us."

In cross country, coach Syna Donart said Benbrook will also have a relatively young program this season, but with a lot of talent moving in.

"We have a lot of runners out to compete this season," Donart said. "We will be young, but several runners ran middle school last year."

Donart expects Connor Sandquist and Levi Brawley to be among the team leaders on the boys side this year, and Bella Aranda and Campbell Cox to help lead the way on the girl's side.

Donart said she likes the effort she is seeing from the team so far this season and said she does anticipate good competition from her district.

"We are working hard to continue our success and be as competitive as we have in the past," Donart said. "Diamond Hill is going to be a tough opponent for the girls, and they have a male runner who also competed at the state meet last year. On the boys' side, Carter Riverside always has a tough team."

Benbrook won a district championship last season on (continued on page 5)



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# 14th Annual Benbrook Heritage Fest Seeking Vendors

The City of Benbrook will host Heritage Fest on Saturday, Oct. 1 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Dutch Branch Park.

Vendors will be provided the opportunity to display and sell their products.

If you are interested in participating, contact Sydney Turner at [sturner@benbrook-tx.gov](mailto:sturner@benbrook-tx.gov) before Sept. 2 to book your place - space is limited.



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# Former Governor of Texas, Pa Ferguson by Dr. Ken Bridges

Pa Ferguson was one of the most controversial governors in the history of Texas. The consequences of his administration would be felt for years. As a result of his actions, in 1917, Ferguson became the only Texas governor impeached and removed from office.

James Edward Ferguson, also called “Farmer Jim” or “Pa,” was born in Bell County in 1871. His father died when he was four. He was kicked out of a local prep school, Salado College, at age 12 for misbehavior. He left home at 16, traveling and taking odd jobs until he returned to farm in Bell County. He became a lawyer in 1897, married Miriam A. Wallace in 1899, and expanded into real estate, insurance, and banking.

He was elected governor in 1914, his first election. He was a popular figure, signing laws protecting sharecroppers and providing state funding for rural schools. He was re-elected in 1916. Though he had signed legislation creating three new colleges, he found himself in a feud with professors at the University of Texas. Angry that two professors had openly criticized his administration, Ferguson demanded that the Board of Regents fire them. The Regents refused. In retaliation, Ferguson vetoed the entire appropriation for the university.

The fight with the university touched off a massive scandal. At the same time, officials had begun looking into Ferguson’s finances. A grand jury in Travis County learned that in 1915, Ferguson had transferred \$5,600 (more than \$164,000 in 2022 dollars) from the state to a bank in Austin and then to his bank in Temple that he used to pay off a private debt. In July 1917, he was indicted for misappropriation of funds. The legislature then came back into session to consider impeachment, an attempt Ferguson immediately condemned.

Impeachment under the modern Texas constitution is similar to the process at the federal level. The Texas constitution gives the lower house of the legislature power to impeach judges, the governor, and state-wide elected officials. Impeachment is the equivalent of an indictment. To impeach, the House simply needs a majority vote on the different charges involved. The House then chooses members to act as managers to present the case to the Senate for trial, essentially acting as prosecuting attorneys. Senators will then act as jurors while the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court presides over the proceedings. The Senate can call witnesses to testify and vote to convict with a two-thirds majority vote.

The entire process is substantially the same in most of the other states. Eight governors have been removed from office through impeachment. Oklahoma has impeached and removed two governors, and West Virginia impeached four members of its State Supreme Court at the same time in 2018. Early in 2022, the South Dakota attorney general was impeached after an alleged hit-and-run auto accident. Usually, officials accused of impeachable offenses resign before impeachment proceedings begin.

The framers considered impeachment an important check on the power of the presidency and against corruption. Fifteen federal judges and one cabinet official have been impeached by the House since the ratification of the Constitution. Eight federal judges have been convicted in the Senate and removed from office. Though three presidents have been impeached, none have ever been removed from office.

With charges growing against Ferguson, the House of Representatives drew up 21 charges against him and voted to impeach.

They then sent the charges to the State Senate for trial. The State Senate reduced the charges to ten, half of which dealt with the transfer of the \$5,600. Three others dealt with the veto of university funding as an abuse of power and official oppression. After a trial, the Senate -- all Democrats -- voted him out of office by a vote of 25-3 and banned him from holding any state office.

Though he was kicked out of office and disgraced in front of his colleagues, Ferguson was still very popular among his hard-core supporters and rallied back. He never faced any criminal charges regarding his conduct. He started his own newspaper that fall, Ferguson Forum, to promote his views that the impeachment was illegitimate. Barred from state office, he ran for president in 1920 on the American Party ticket. He only made the ballot in Texas, winning just under 10% of the vote. He lost the 1922 Democratic Primary race for U. S. Senate by a wide margin. In 1924, his wife, Miriam “Ma” Ferguson won election as governor as a stand-in candidate in a tightly-contested race. His wife was defeated for re-election in 1926, following questions of improper use of her pardoning power. She would serve one more term as governor from 1933 to 1935. Ferguson convinced his wife to run one more time in 1940. Ma placed a distant fifth. The Fergusons retired from public life afterward with James Ferguson dying in 1944 with his wife passing away in 1961.

Though no Texas official has been impeached and removed from office at the state level since Ferguson, Texas politics has hardly been scandal-free. Scandals of all sorts, from the brazen to the bizarre, have occurred for decades at all levels.



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# Free and Reduced School Meals

(continued from page 1)

reduced-price meals based on income, an adult in the household must fill out free and reduced-price meal application and return it to Child Nutrition Services, 601 E. Northside Dr. Fort Worth, TX 76164. Those individuals filling out the application will need to provide the following information:

1. Names of all household members
2. Amount, frequency, and source of current income for each household member
3. Last 4 digits of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application or, if the adult does not have a social security number, check the box for “No Social Security number”
4. Signature of an adult household member attesting that the information provided is correct

## Categorical or Program Participant Eligibility

FWISD is working with local agencies to identify all children who are categorically and program eligible. FWISD will notify the households of these children that they do not need to complete an application. Any household that does not receive a letter and feels it should, can contact Child Nutrition Services at 817-814-3540.

Any household that wishes to decline benefits should contact Child Nutrition Services at 817-814-3540.

Applications may be submitted anytime during the school year. The information households provide on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eli-

gibility. Applications may also be verified by the school officials at any time during the school year.

## Determining Eligibility

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, Child Nutrition Services will review applications and determine eligibility. Households or guardians dissatisfied with the Reviewing Official’s eligibility determination may wish to discuss the decision with the Reviewing Official on an informal basis. Households wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to Angela Lowe, CNS Assistant Director, 601 E. Northside Dr. Fort Worth, TX 76164, 817-814-3500.

## Unexpected Circumstances

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household’s income falls at or below the attached current income eligibility guidelines.

In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), color, national origin, age, or disability. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

For more information, visit FWISD’s Child Nutrition Services at <https://www.fwisd.org/CHILDNUTRITION> or call 817-814-3500.

# Volleyball and Cross Country

(continued from page 1)

both the boys and girls sides.

Over at Western Hills, coach Suzette Pritchett said she is feeling optimistic about her team's this coming season as well.

“My cross country teams are working hard progressing from last years standings,” Pritchett said.

Returning runners for the Cougars include Emmanuel Nshimiyimana, Yeshua Muhindo, Daniel Prince, Benjamin Prince, Iggy Singleton and Oscar Guerra on the boy's side and Leslie Gutierrez, Michelle Gutierrez, Candace Ndekelengwe, Rachael Ndekelengwe and Gabby Cuevas on the girl's side.

Both Nahimiyimana and Muhindo qualified for region last season for Western Hills.

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# Invasive Australian Redclaw Crayfish Present in Texas



Researchers from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley recently collected invasive Australian Redclaw Crayfish (*Cherax quadricarinatus*) at the first known site in Texas. From January–February, three specimens were collected at an apartment complex pond that connects to a nearby resaca in the Brownsville area.

An earlier 2013 sighting of a female crayfish of this species with several young was also identified on iNaturalist, indicating this species has been present at this location for some time. This is just the second detection of this species in the wild in the United States with the other being in California.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Aquatic Biologist Dr. Archis Grubh surveyed numerous sites in the area during July and found three additional Australian Redclaw Crayfish between the apartment pond and a nearby resaca two miles away.

“We don’t know when these invasive crayfish were first introduced or how far they have spread, but we do know they can have a negative effect on local species and biodiversity,” said Grubh. “Spreading the word about this invasive species and reporting sightings to TPWD can help us better understand where it is distributed and potentially take steps to help prevent its spread.”

Both male and female Australian Redclaw Crayfish have been collected, so the potential for reproduction is a concern in these waterbodies. The species can reproduce prolifically, with females brooding up to five times a year at 1,000 eggs per clutch. Australian Redclaw Crayfish grow rapidly and can reach maximum size, up to two pounds, in under a year. These large crayfish can significantly alter habitat and vegetation, competitively exclude native crayfish, and impact native fish communities by direct predation. Australian Redclaw Crayfish can also carry Crayfish Plague as well as other parasites/diseases that could impact native crayfish.

Australian Redclaw Crayfish, along with all other members of the crayfish Family Parastacidae, are prohibited exotic species in Texas and cannot be legally purchased, sold or possessed in aquariums. It’s also illegal to release these crayfish into a public

waterbody.

“Release of aquarium life is unfortunately a key means by which invasive species such as these crayfish are introduced,” said Monica McGarrity, TPWD Senior Scientist for Aquatic Invasive Species.

“Well-meaning, uninformed aquarium owners sometimes release their pets thinking they’re doing the best thing for them, but if they do survive, they can become invasive and harm the native aquatic species and ecosystem. Aquarium owners should research alternatives to aquarium dumping and help prevent introductions of the next invasive species.”

Australian Redclaw Crayfish are identifiable by their large size, large left claws with a red patch on the outer edge and the presence of four distinct ridges on the top of the head. Their preferred habitat includes slow-moving streams and stagnant water bodies (e.g., oxbows and resacas) with high turbidity. They are mobile over moist terrestrial vegetation and can move between waterbodies. The introduction to new areas increases with seasonal rainfall that can wash the crayfish across waterbodies.

Sightings of Australian Redclaw Crayfish should be reported to TPWD by emailing photos and location information to [aquaticinvasives@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:aquaticinvasives@tpwd.texas.gov).

To learn more about alternatives to release of aquarium life, visit the [Never Dump Your Tank website](#).

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## Three Day Weekend Forecast



### Friday, Aug. 19:

**AM** - Sunny; high near 95. Calm wind becoming S/SE around 5mph in the morning.  
**PM** - Partly cloudy; low around 74. E/SE wind 5-10mph becoming S after midnight.



### Saturday, Aug. 20:

**AM** - A 20% chance of thunderstorms. Mostly sunny; high near 97. S wind 5-10mph, with gusts as high as 20mph.  
**PM** - Mostly cloudy; low around 76. S/SE wind around 10mph, with gusts as high as 25mph.



### Sunday, Aug. 21:

**AM** - A 30% chance of thunderstorms. Partly sunny; high near 95. S wind around 10mph, with gusts as high as 25mph.  
**PM** - A 50% chance of thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy; low around 76.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)