

From the Sports Desk with John English

Benbrook Wrestling Trio Qualifies for State!



The Benbrook wrestling team completed in the regional wrestling meet this past weekend and qualified three athletes for the state tournament.

Mac Shafer, Desmond Chambers and Bailey Lott (pictured left) all qualified for the state tournament and coach Wade Cribbs said he could not be more proud of their efforts.

“All of our kids competed extremely hard,” Cribbs said. “Our wrestlers represented their families, the FWISD, and the Benbrook Community with the highest level of class, character and fight.”

(continued on page 5)

Benbrook Council Action Benbrook City Council Adopts Mitigation Plan, Aligns Board Terms

by John English

The Benbrook City Council meeting was held on Feb. 5 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, and Kate Branson approached the podium and discussed concerns about Castle Park. Branson said she was a part of the group of volunteers that built the park, and how much it means to the community.

“My niece now brings her kids to the park,” Branson said. “And when I called her last week and said they were tearing it down, they literally cried.”

Branson asked that necessary repairs be made and that *(continued on page 3)*

From the Benbrook Public Library

Benbrook Library Introduces Princh for Easy, Secure Mobile Printing

Printing documents at public facilities in Benbrook is becoming easier and more secure with the use of Princh, a mobile and web-based printing service now available at participating locations.

Princh allows users to print documents directly from

their personal devices without needing to install printer drivers or log on to a public computer. The service supports printing, copying, scanning and secure payment, offering a streamlined option for residents who need quick access to printing services while on the go.

To use Princh, residents can choose from three simple methods. The first option is to download the Princh app, available for both iOS and Android devices.

Once installed, users can upload documents directly through the app and send them to the printer. A second option allows users to scan a QR code posted at the information desk, which directs them to upload documents for printing. *(continued on page 6)*



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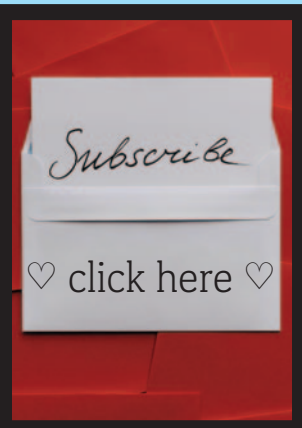
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Council Action (continued from page 1)

the park be made wheelchair accessible so the park could remain open. Branson received applause when she left.

The minutes from the previous meeting held on Jan. 15 were then approved unanimously.

The first item of the evening was a motion to consider a resolution on the 2025 Tarrant County Hazard Mitigation Plan and Benbrook Annex. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Next was a motion to align Board and Commission terms with the fiscal year. Under the proposed process, applications would be due by the third Monday of July, city council would accept the applications no later than the second council meeting in August, interviews would be conducted and appointments made by the second council meeting in September.

A motion was made to implement an Oct. 1 to Sept. 30 cycle, which would be a one-time transition adjustment by shortening the current board and commission terms so they conclude on Sept. 30 rather than Dec. 30. The motion carried unanimously.

Next was a motion to accept the finance report ending on Dec. 31, 2025. For the General Fund, revenues for the month of December totaled \$8,085,100, while year-to-date revenues totaled \$10,511,960. Expenditures for the month of December totaled \$2,188,982, while year-to-date expenditures totaled \$6,232,060.

Revenues for the Economic Development Corporation for the month of December totaled \$200,486, while year-to-date revenues totaled \$584,846. Expenditures for the month of December for the Economic Development Corporation totaled \$548,838, while year-to-date expenditures totaled \$865,321. The finance report was accepted unanimously.

Next was a motion to accept the quarterly investment report. Investments for the City of Benbrook totaled \$31,933,089 and the EDC totaled \$7,797,965. The investment report was accepted unanimously.

Next was a proposal to make an appointment to the Civil Service Commission Place 3. Jeremy Kerwin was serving in Place 3, and he has been offered reappointment and has accepted pending City Council members approval. Kerwin's appointment was approved unanimously.

Time was then allowed for informal citizen comments.

Resident Greg Clem approached the podium and said he sees the city staff driving policy more than the City Council, and would like to see that change with the council guiding more of the City of Benbrook's policy. Clem also expressed concern about flooding along Timberline Drive along with a lack of transparency surrounding the issue.

Time was then allowed for council member and staff comments, but there were none.

The meeting was then adjourned.

From the City of Benbrook **Benbrook Artisans & Farmers Market** **Returns for 2026 Season**

Fresh produce, handcrafted goods and local flavors will once again take center stage as the Benbrook Artisans & Farmers Market returns for the 2026 season at Dutch Branch Park.

Hosted by the Benbrook Economic Development Corporation, the market will open at 10 a.m. on select Sundays throughout the year near the YMCA at 1899 Winscott Road. Visitors are encouraged to look for posted signs directing traffic to the park.

The 2026 market dates include March 1 and March 29, with no market scheduled in April. Additional dates are May 3, June 7, July 5, Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1 and Dec. 6.

Local farmers and artisans will offer a variety of fresh, seasonal produce, plants and flowers, along with specialty items such as baked goods, sweet treats, local honey, artisanal cheeses, meats, preserves and tamales.

Shoppers can also find dog treats, candles, soaps, body products, jewelry, art and garden items.

For more information about the Benbrook Artisans & Farmers Market, call 817-821-7386.

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From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers

Free Collectible Evaluations Offered in Benbrook Feb. 17–21

Residents looking to learn the value of coins, jewelry and collectibles will have an opportunity later this month when Premier Gold, Silver & Coin hosts a free evaluation event in Benbrook.

The event will be held Tuesday through Saturday, Feb. 17–21, at the Hyatt Place, 5900 Cityview Blvd. in Fort Worth. No appointment is required, and all evaluations will be conducted in person by company experts to ensure accurate and fair assessments.

Hours for the event are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Items of interest include U.S. paper currency printed before 1934, graded coins and commemoratives, gold coins, scrap gold, sterling flatware and tea sets, and gold, silver and platinum jewelry. The company will also evaluate broken or unwanted jewelry,

watches, running or broken, sports memorabilia, pop culture collectibles, comics, guitars and amplifiers, war memorabilia, pocket knives, Zippo lighters and vintage toys.

A wide range of U.S. coins will be accepted for evaluation, including Morgan dollars, Walking Liberty half dollars, Franklin half dollars, Kennedy half dollars, Mercury dimes, Washington quarters, Buffalo nickels, Liberty nickels, Wheat pennies, Barber coins and pre-1964 Roosevelt dimes, according to event materials.

Pricing information is not provided by phone or online, and all items must be evaluated in person.

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Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

On the court, the Benbrook boy's basketball team had a strong effort against Carter-Riverside last Friday, defeating the Eagles by a score of 70-22.

Coach Blake Mendez said his team played especially well on offense.

"This was a great shooting game for us," Mendez said. "We came out hot from behind the arc and continued it throughout the game. We were clicking on both sides of the ball, the guys were having fun, and it was fun to watch."

Mendez the victory over Carter-Riverside was a total team effort.

"You have a few games over the year where everyone gets an opportunity to get into the game and get a bucket and this was one of those games," Mendez said. "It's fun seeing the kids get excited for their teammates."

On the girl's side, Benbrook came up a little short against Carter-Riverside on Friday night and coach Leta Lofton said her team struggled throughout the game.

"It was a tough night for the Lady Bobcats as we faced Carter-Riverside," Lofton said. "A cold shooting night coupled with turnovers

led to our defeat."

Grace Klaerner had another strong night for the Lady Cats, with 19 points, 3 assists, 7 steals, and 3 blocks in the game.

Benbrook will wrap up the regular season against Dunbar, and has qualified for the post-season.

Over at Western Hills, the Cougars defeated Diamond Hill-Jarvis by a score of 56-45 last Friday night.

On the pitch, the Benbrook boy's soccer team won in a 4-3 shoot out against Eastern Hills on Friday after playing to a 2-2 draw.

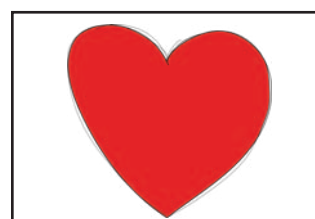
Over at Western Hills, the Cougars went 1-1 last week, defeating Benbrook by a score of 2-0 on Tuesday night, but losing to Carter-Riverside 2-0 on Friday.

On the girl's side, the WHHS Lady Cougars halted a two-game skid with a 4-3 win over Carter-Riverside.

The Lady Bobcats soccer team improved to 4-0 in district with a 9-1 victory against Eastern Hills last Friday.

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From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers

How Valentine's Day Became a Celebration of Love



Valentine's Day, celebrated annually on Feb. 14, is widely associated with romantic cards, flowers and candy. Its origins, however, trace back centuries and combine elements of ancient Roman tradition, early Christian history and medieval literature.

The holiday is named for St. Valentine, though historical records indicate there may have been more than one Christian martyr with that name. According to Catholic tradition, Valentine was a priest, or possibly a bishop, who lived in Rome during the third century under the reign of Emperor Claudius II.

One of the most enduring legends holds that Claudius II banned marriages for young men, believing unmarried soldiers fought better in battle. Valentine is said to have defied the order by secretly performing Christian marriages. When discovered, he was imprisoned and later executed around A.D. 269. His feast day was established by the Catholic Church to honor his martyrdom.

Another account suggests Valentine was killed for helping persecuted Christians escape Roman prisons. Some legends also claim that while imprisoned, Valentine healed the blind daughter of his jailer and left her a farewell note signed "from your Valentine," a phrase often cited as the origin of modern Valentine messages.

While these stories are difficult to verify historically, Valentine's association with love and devotion persisted. In A.D. 496, Pope Gelasius I officially declared Feb. 14 as St. Valentine's Day, replacing earlier pagan festivals held around the same time.

One such festival was Lupercalia, a Roman celebration observed in mid-February that involved fertility rites and matchmaking rituals. As Christianity spread, many pagan traditions were absorbed or reinterpreted within the Christian calendar, and Valentine's Day gradually took on a more symbolic meaning centered on love.

The romantic connection to Valentine's Day strengthened during the Middle Ages. English poet Geoffrey Chaucer is often credited with linking the holiday to romance in his 14th-century poem "*Parliament of Fowls*," which describes birds choosing their mates on St. Valentine's Day. This literary association helped cement the idea

of Feb. 14 as a day for courtship.

By the 18th century, exchanging handwritten notes and tokens of affection had become common in England. The practice spread to the American colonies, and by the 19th century, mass-produced Valentine's Day cards made the tradition more accessible to the public.

Today, Valentine's Day is celebrated in many countries and has expanded beyond romantic relationships to include expressions of affection among friends, family members and classmates.

While its modern customs have evolved, the holiday's roots remain grounded in centuries-old traditions that blend history, legend and cultural change.

Though the true details of St. Valentine's life may never be fully known, his name continues to be linked to acts of love, sacrifice and devotion, themes that still define Valentine's Day more than 1,700 years later.

Mobile Printing (continued from page 1)

For those who prefer not to use an app, Princh also offers a web-based option, where users can visit the Princh website and upload files manually.

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Once documents are uploaded, users can select print settings such as color, number of copies and page size. Payment is handled securely through the Princh platform before printing begins, reducing the need for cash transactions or staff assistance. After payment is completed, documents are released at the printer.

The service is designed to support a wide range of needs, from students printing school assignments to residents handling job applications, forms or personal paperwork. By allowing users to print directly from smartphones, tablets or computers, Princh reduces wait times and increases convenience, especially during busy hours.

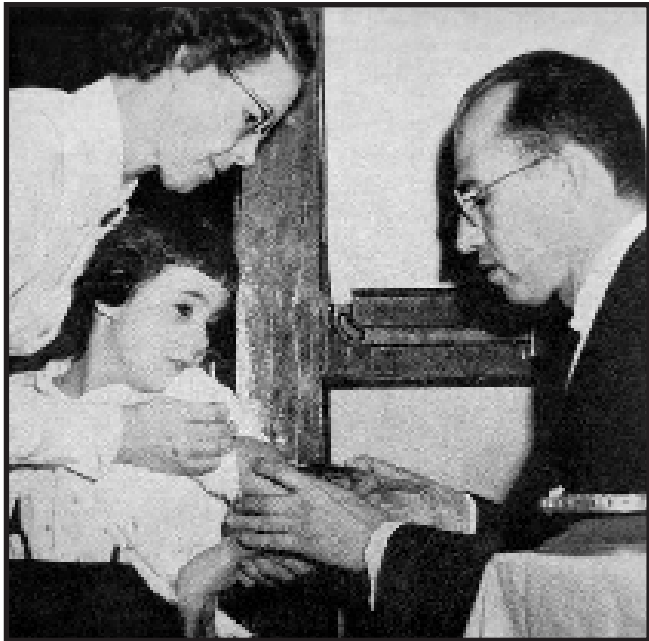
Princh also emphasizes document security. Files are only released for printing after payment is confirmed, and documents are not printed automatically upon upload. This helps protect sensitive information and ensures users remain in control of their materials.

Officials encourage residents to review posted instructions near the printer before use and to have their documents ready prior to uploading. Clear signage at the location outlines each step of the process, making the system accessible even for first-time users.

With its flexible options and user-friendly design, Princh provides Benbrook residents with a modern alternative to traditional public printing, offering convenience, efficiency and added security in one easy-to-use system.

Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

Dr. Jonas Salk and the Vaccine that Changed Modern Medicine



“There’s no such thing as failure; there’s just giving up too soon,” once said Dr. Jonas Salk.

In the early 20th century, polio devastated many communities around the world, including Texas, prompting closures and quarantines connected to outbreaks, gripping communities in terror. A determined team of scientists led by Salk ended this nightmare for the nation and the world with the development of a polio vaccine.

Salk was born in New York City in October 1914. His father, the son of Jewish immigrants, was a garment worker. His mother was a Russian immigrant. He had two younger brothers, one of whom became a veterinarian and the other became a psychologist. The future physician was extremely bright and extremely curious about the world as a youth and was enrolled in an academically gifted high school program at age 13.

Friends and colleagues described him as a perfectionist in his studies and his research with a disciplined focus on his work. He was a voracious reader, but he was almost always described as warm, optimistic, devoutly moral, and compassionate.

Upon graduation from high school at age 15, Salk entered City College of New York. He briefly considered a career as a lawyer, but his mother convinced him to go into a career in medicine instead. With this career change in mind, he earned a bachelors degree in chemistry at age 19 in 1933. Salk

then enrolled at New York University’s school of medicine. Money caused a lot of problems with his studies initially, forcing him to work a series of jobs ranging from camp counselor to lab technician while his parents borrowed money to help him continue his studies. He worked as a teacher and researcher for a year. Eventually, he was able to get a series of scholarships to help him afford to complete his education. Salk graduated from medical school in 1939.

He accepted a position at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine in 1947. In the meantime, polio, a viral infection that caused death or paralysis, continued to haunt the world. An outbreak in the Texas Panhandle infected more than 1,200 in 1943. A Houston outbreak infected 313 in 1948.

Rehabilitation centers were established in the state to help those partially paralyzed. Because it often struck children, it was sometimes called infantile paralysis. The disease struck thousands of people, including President Franklin D. Roosevelt in his younger years.

In 1948, officials with the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (later the March of Dimes) approached Salk to research the disease. After pulling together a team of researchers and finding further private grants to fund his research, Salk produced a vaccine derived from dead viruses by early 1952 and began testing. The initial results were promising.

That same year, the nation’s worst polio epidemic ever erupted, prompting the closures of public swimming pools and many other public facilities. More than 58,000 people were infected, resulting in 3,145 dead and more than 21,000 paralyzed. Salk and his team then used the vaccine on themselves and their families.

In 1954, based on this initial success, a nationwide test began, with more than 1.8 million volunteers, with the vaccine approved in 1955.

By 1961, a disease that once struck more than 20,000 annually was reduced to 161 cases. In the meantime, Salk became a

household name. He received numerous awards and honorary degrees and was routinely sought by reporters for his insights into medicine and science.

The value of the Salk vaccine in dollar terms has been estimated at nearly \$8 billion in today’s currency; but for Salk, the value in human terms was beyond measure.

He refused to patent the vaccine and made the research materials available to doctors around the globe. He gave up the money in order to save lives.

The cure, Salk said, belonged to the people of the world. Once questioned why he did not patent the vaccine, Salk replied, “Can you patent the Sun?”

He founded the Salk Institute in California in 1960 as a center for research into infectious diseases to develop vaccines and treatments. It has included several Nobel Prize winners among its ranks of researchers.

In the 1980s, prompted by the growing AIDS epidemic, he began working on an AIDS vaccine. While his efforts did not produce a workable vaccine, he was able to develop a number of promising immune system therapies.

“I have had dreams, and I have had nightmares; but I conquered my nightmares because of my dreams,” once said Salk. He died at age 80 in 1995.

The last case of polio occurred in the United States in 1979. The entire western hemisphere was declared free of polio by 1994. Because of aggressive vaccination efforts through medical organizations and private volunteers, including civic groups such as local Rotary Clubs, polio outbreaks have been eliminated in all but two nations, Pakistan and Afghanistan.



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Weekend Forecast



Friday, Feb. 13:
AM - Partly sunny, with a high near 78. South wind 5 to 10 mph.
PM - Showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 3am. Low around 60.
 S/SE wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%.



Saturday, Feb. 14:
AM - Showers and thunderstorms. High near 72. South wind 10-15 mph becoming west in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation 90%.
PM - A 40 percent chance of showers before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 51. West northwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.



Sunday, Feb. 15:
AM - Sunny, with a high near 68. North wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 46. North wind around 5 mph becoming south after midnight.

Extended Forecast [Click Here](#)