



City of Benbrook ★ A Texas Star City

# Benbrook News

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*From the Sports Desk with John English*

## Cougars and Bobcats Soccer Teams Claim Wins

The Benbrook boy's soccer team defeated Eastern Hills by a score of 3-0 on Friday, and coach Jared Spoon said his team played efficiently.

"The team performed as we needed against Eastern Hills who, historically has given us problems plenty of times in the past," Spoon said. "We did a great job of playing our strengths and possessing the midfield long enough to find an opening to break through and score."

Standout performances were from senior Kaden Robinson, "who proudly scored 2 goals in the second half, which is what he told me he was going to do, aided by an assist from senior Giovanie Jimenez and a second assist from sophomore Cesar Silva," Spoon said.

Benbrook is in it's bye this tomorrow, and Spoon said there are two objectives.

"This week will be our second bye, and we use it as a chance to recuperate and reflect," Spoon said. "We will meet for food and film and discuss our highlights and how we can best prepare for the playoffs, as that is our aim this year as it is every year."

Over at Western Hills, a cluster of goals lifted the Cougars boys soccer team against the Young Men's Leadership Academy, and coach Matt Collins said it was a closer game than the 5-0 result revealed.

"The YMLA game was tough," Collins said. "The first half was very close. They defended hard and we struggled against them. The second half started faster than I could imagine. We scored 4 goals in 3 minutes. I've never seen that before."

Collins said he had a couple of strong efforts.

"Angel Salazar was clearly our best attacking player," Collins said. "In the first half, he was our only good attacker. Omar Banda got his first district start and played great defensively."

Western Hills will play Carter-Riverside tomorrow night, and Collins said he expects another tough game.

"Carter Riverside has been good forever," Collins said. "We have to play them at their home field. It will be difficult to win up there. They are a serious threat to us." (continued on page 5)

*Benbrook Council Action by John English*

## Feb. 15 Meeting Review

The Benbrook City Council meeting held on Feb. 15 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 none.

The minutes from the previous meeting held on Feb. 1 were then approved unanimously.

The first item of the evening was to approve the finance report for the period ending on Jan. 31.

For the General Fund, revenues for the month of January were \$6,332,713 and year-to-date revenues totaled \$16,166,233. Expenditures for the month of January totaled \$2,367,573 and year-to-date expenditures totaled \$7,270,558.

For the Economic Development Corporation, revenues for the month of January were \$232,407 and year-to-date revenues totaled \$954,389. Expenditures for the month of January totaled \$43,734 and year-to-date expenditures totaled \$139,232.

The City of Benbrook had \$43,090,290 worth of investments, while the EDC had a total of \$8,467,789 worth of investments.

The finance report was accepted unanimously.

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

Time was then allowed for council member and staff comments, and Renee Franklin reminded residents that Friday, March 1 the American Legion Post 297 will have their monthly fish fry, that Saturday, March 2 the Benbrook Lion's Club will have their annual chili supper and auction and the VFW Post 10429 will host it's monthly steak night, and that on Sunday March 3, the artisan market will start back up.

The meeting was then adjourned.

### Teddy Bear Picnic

**Friday, February 23**  
**10:30 - 11:30 am**

Grab your teddy bear or favorite stuffed animal and join us for an indoor picnic!

We'll have snacks and games all centered around the theme of teddy bears.





## A portrait of an elderly man with short, white hair, looking directly at the camera. He is wearing a bright blue collared shirt. The background is a dark wood-paneled wall. The lighting is somewhat soft, highlighting his facial features.

He is survived by daughter, Debra Bowman (John); sons, Richard Louis Peart Jr. (Veronica), Rodger Peart (Sandy); grandchildren, John Bowman (Melissa), Vanessa Peart, Daniel Peart (Nikki), Wesley Peart (Tiffany), Richard Louis Peart III “Trey” (Kara), and Merritt James Peart; great-grandchildren, Savannah Davis, Kyler and Jaxon Bowman, Paxton, Harrison, Quade Richard, Charlie, and Hudson Peart; brother, Charles Peart (Susan); and numerous nieces and nephews.

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WSISD Texas Academic Performance Report Hearing

The annual Texas Academic Performance Report Hearing will be held on Monday, March 25 at 7 p.m. at the regularly scheduled White Settlement ISD School Board meeting in the WSISD Administration Building, 8224 White Settlement Road in Fort Worth.

On This Day - Feb. 22

- 1371 – Robert II becomes King of Scotland, beginning the Stuart dynasty.
- 1819 – By the Adams-Onís Treaty, Spain sells Florida to the United States for five million U.S. dollars.
- 1848 – The French Revolution of 1848, which would lead to the establishment of the French Second Republic, begins.
- 1862 – American Civil War: Jefferson Davis is officially inaugurated for a six-year term as the President of the Confederate States of America in Richmond, Virginia. He was previously inaugurated as a provisional president on February 18, 1861.
- 1889 – President Grover Cleveland signs a bill admitting North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Washington as U.S. states.
- 1909 – The sixteen battleships of the Great White Fleet, led by USS Connecticut, return to the United States after a voyage around the world.

Benbrook Lions Club 57th Annual Chili Supper Fundraiser Live and Silent Auction



Saturday, March 2, 2024, at 5:30 pm

Benbrook United Methodist Church

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All the chili you can eat! Adults \$6 Children \$3

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Obituary



Donald Wesley Grannan

Chief Master Sergeant Donald Wesley Grannan, US Air Force (Ret), a devoted patriot, loving husband, and pillar of his community, passed away peacefully at home with his family at his side, on Feb. 16, 2024, in Benbrook, Texas. He was 93 years old.

Born in Princeton, Indiana, in 1930, Don dedicated 30 years of his life to the United States Air Force, with deployments around the world through the Korean and Vietnam Wars and the Cold War. His unwavering commitment to duty and honor earned him the respect of his peers and the admiration of those he led. After retiring from the Air Force, he continued his service in the defense industry, where he eventually retired from Lockheed-Martin. Don loved his country and proudly waved the flag and honored those who served alongside him. For more than 70 years, he was an active member of the American Legion Post 297 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10429, where his patriotism was a testament to his deep-rooted belief in the American principles of freedom and justice.

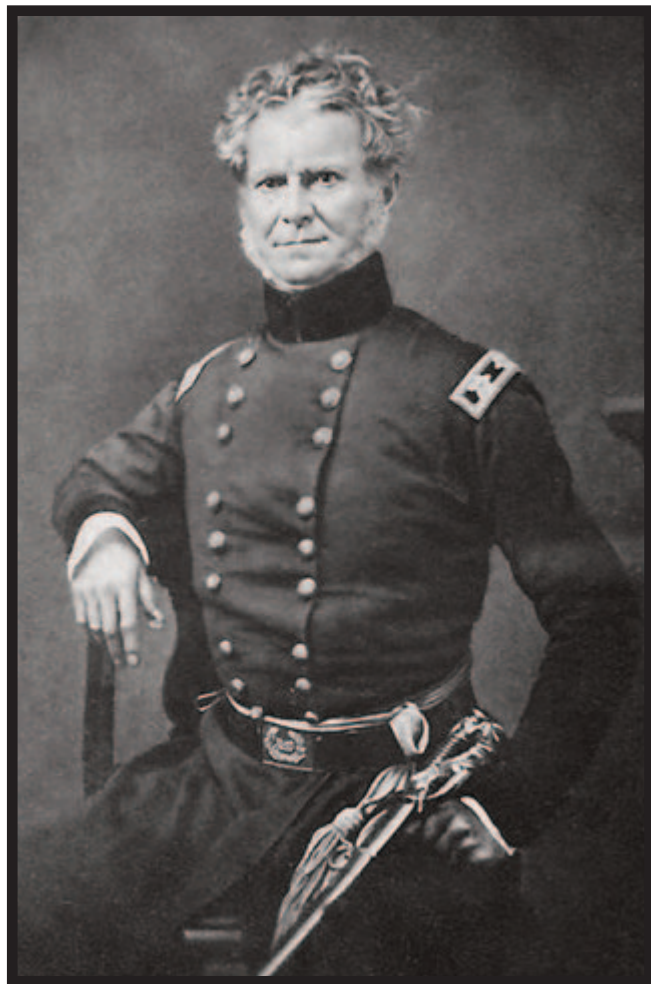
Don was a member of St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Fort Worth, where he found solace and strength in his faith which guided him throughout his life. His love for God was evident in his actions, kindness, and compassion toward others. He was a longtime member of the General Worth Assembly of the Knights of Columbus, where his leadership as a past Faithful Navigator exemplified his dedication to faith, community, and service.

He is survived by his wife of more than 45 years, Laurel Kay Grannan (Hayes). Together, they raised a beautiful family, a legacy that lives on through his seven children; Sharon Marie Kuehner, Linda Kathleen Grannan, Donna June Grannan, Kyle Joseph Grannan, Kevin Wesley Grannan, Gary Owen Grannan, and Donald Richard Grannan; five stepchildren; Michael Roy Pritchard, Patrick Odell Pritchard, Timothy Wayne Pritchard, Terry Edward Pritchard, and Shawn William Pritchard; and 32 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren, and 9 great-great-grandchildren. Additionally, he was known as “Grandpa” to countless other friends and neighbors, too numerous to count; and was deeply loved by all who knew him. Don cherished his role as a husband, father, and grandfather. His family brought him immense joy and he relished every moment spent with them.

Friends, family, and community members are invited to pay their respects during the viewing at St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church, 1201 S Cherry Lane, White Settlement, TX, on Friday, Feb. 23, at 10 a.m., with funeral service at 11 a.m. Immediately following the service, Don will be laid to rest at Laurel Land Cemetery at 7100 Crowley Rd, Fort Worth, TX. A Celebration of Life will be held after the burial, at American Legion Post 297, 8201 Old Benbrook Road, Benbrook, TX.



# American Officer - General William Jenkins Worth



The City of Fort Worth, a beloved Texas city sometimes known as “Cowtown” or “Where the West Begins,” has a storied past that has helped shape the history of the state. However, the name behind the city was a legend in its own right. Gen. William Jenkins Worth was a distinguished officer and war hero who fought for the Texas and the nation.

Worth was born in the small community of Hudson, New York, in 1794. His parents were devout Quakers, and his father made a comfortable living as a merchant ship captain. When the War of 1812 erupted, the younger Worth enlisted in the army. Though Quakers are typically pacifists, Worth nevertheless decided for a life of adventure and service to the country in the army.

Worth earned a commission as a first lieutenant in March 1813 and was immediately assigned to serve as an aide to Gen. Winfield Scott. Scott became an important mentor and close friend as the two spent years together serving the nation. Worth fought in a number of fierce battles against the British as American forces pushed into

British territory in Canada. At the Battle of Lundy’s Lane in July 1814, he and Scott were both wounded in what was the bloodiest battle of the war. Worth’s leg injury almost proved fatal, and he never fully regained use of the leg.

However, Worth was still determined to serve in the army. So impressed with his bravery and determination, he was named Commandant of Cadets at the U. S. Military Academy at West Point in 1816 as a major. As commandant, Worth instilled the lessons of duty and honor into the aspiring young officers. He taught the importance of never excusing a dishonorable act in another officer and the necessity of integrity in all matters, to keep one’s word no matter what. His essays on honor are still required reading for West Point cadets.

In 1838, he was promoted to colonel and given command of an infantry regiment. He fought in the Second Seminole War in Florida as tribes and settlers clashed. He was promoted to brigadier general afterward.

After Texas was admitted in 1845, Mexico threatened war with the United States over its former possession. Worth was assigned to patrol the border with Gen. Zachary Taylor when war erupted in mid-1846. He negotiated the surrender of the Mexican city of Matamoros in September and pushed his forces steadily southward toward the capital. After another year of heavy fighting, Worth and his men swept aside the last defenses of Mexico City with the victory at Chapultepec. Worth himself was commended for his bravery in this battle. When Mexico City was captured, Worth personally replaced the Mexican flag with the American flag at the Capitol building.

After the end of the Mexican War, Worth was given command of the army’s Department of Texas in 1848. He realized that fighting between settlers and frontier tribes would continue and devised a system of protecting the Texas frontier. This plan materialized in a string of forts acting as a barrier between tribal lands and the farms and

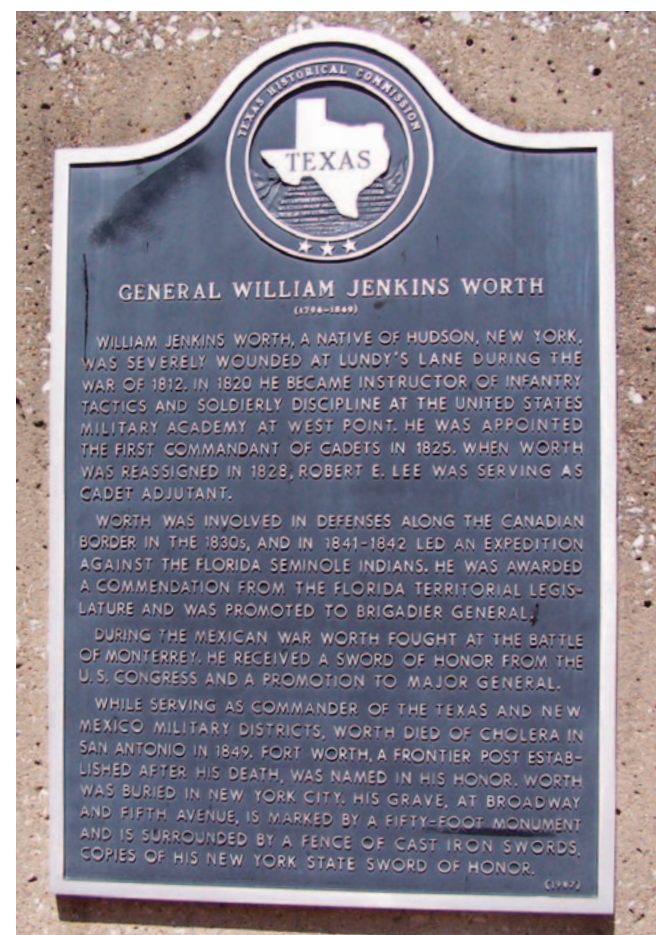
towns settlers of Central and North Texas. Though 10 forts were planned between Eagle Pass on the Rio Grande and the Trinity River, only seven were built, including Fort Graham, Fort Duncan, and Fort Lincoln.

In the spring of 1849, as Worth’s career continued to ascend, San Antonio was struck by a deadly cholera epidemic. Worth contracted the disease and died at the age of 55. Gen. William Harney then ordered that the last fort, near the Trinity River, be named in honor of Worth as Fort Worth. The City of Fort Worth would be incorporated in 1874.

Worth was later buried in a tomb at what is now Worth Square in New York City, where a street is also named for him. Several other cities and counties were later named for him. Lake Worth, a small Texas suburb nestled next to Fort Worth, is also named for the famed general and is a thriving community of around 5,000 residents.

Worth’s most famous namesake, Fort Worth, is now the fifth largest city in Texas with more than 920,000 residents.

Pictured below: Historical Marker located at 916 Main Street, Fort Worth, 76102





## **Sports Desk** (continued from page 1)

On the girl's side, Benbrook defeated Eastern Hills by a score of 7-0 on Friday night to improve to 6-0 in district competition.

On the court, the Western Hills boy's basketball team defeated the Young Men's Leadership Academy in it's season finale by a score of 53-34 on the road last week.

Jaylen James and Stephun Williams both finished the game with 12 points each, and Stefon Holman added 11 points for the Cougars.

Malik El-Amin scored 10 points in the game, while Corey Williams and Robert Jones had 4 points a piece for Western Hills.

Coach Blake Dunson said it feels like his team is getting hot at the right time.

"We picked up a big win over Benbrook last night to win the third seed out right," Dunson said on Saturday. "I like how we are playing at the moment and have a three-game win streak going into the playoff game versus Alvarado. We will be match up against a very good team, but I think we have the pieces to have a chance at winning."

Benbrook is also in the playoffs, and coach Blake Mendez said a close and hard-fought loss to Dunbar last week might have been just what the doctor ordered for his team heading in.

"We battled hard against Dunbar," Mendez said. "Their athleticism and size gave us some trouble at times and got us in a pretty big hole, but we were able to fight back and make it a single digit game in the fourth. In the end we just missed to many free throws and lost by 9."

Mendez said he had a couple of good performances in the game. "Brennan Barton was big time," Mendez said. "He ended with 23 points and hit some really tough shots to keep us in the game."

As the Bobcats prepare for the post-season, Mendez said he is feeling pretty confident.

"We had probably the best week and a half of practice we've had all year," Mendez said on Saturday. "The kids are shooting with confidence and flying around on defense. We have Kennedale first round and we're going to give them our best shot."

On the girl's side, the season came to an end for the Benbrook girls basketball team last week, as the Lady Cats lost in the bi-district round to Alvarado.

Benbrook finished third in the district 9-4A standings.

Over at Western Hills, the Lady Cougars lost to Godley in the bi-district round last week after finishing fourth in district 9-4A standings.

*From the Texas Department of Transportation*

## **TxDOT Scholarship Contest Application Deadline April 2**

Texas students who helped clean up and beautify their communities can now apply for a scholarship contest awarding a total of \$10,000.

The annual Don't mess with Texas® Scholarship Contest is now accepting applications for the 2024 school year.

All Texas high school seniors currently attending public, private or home school, and planning to attend an accredited college, university or trade school in the fall 2024 semester are eligible to apply.

Judges will select two winners based on applicants' proven results in leading projects or efforts focused on educating communities about the importance of keeping our state and roadways clean and litter-free.

Sponsored by Ozarka and iHeartMedia, the contest recognizes the creativity of high school seniors who are taking a leadership role in preventing litter in their communities.

"It's important that future generations feel empowered to create long-term, sustainable solutions to make their communities litter-free. Our state is counting on these leaders to keep Texas litter-free for decades to come," said Norma Rios, program coordinator for TxDOT's Don't mess with Texas campaign.

Past winners include 2023 winner Hayden with Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy in Greenville. Hayden developed the Trashy Tuesday campaign. At least twice a month students would gather after school on a Tuesday and clean litter around their campus. The project expanded to cleaning community parks as well.

Neddah with Brownsville Early College High School in Brownsville was another 2023 scholarship recipient. Neddah was a leader of the Environmental Club at her school. They conducted a litter survey, and then developed and implemented a litter management plan at her campus. They also created an on-campus recycling program and created a competition among the classrooms to see who can recycle the most.

Don't mess with Texas has been educating Texans about litter prevention since 1986. The program includes annual "Trash-Off" community outreach events and the Adopt-a-Highway volunteer program.

To apply for the Don't mess with Texas Scholarship Contest, visit [dontmesswithtexas.org](http://dontmesswithtexas.org).

Applications must be received via online submission by 5 p.m. (CDT) on April 2, 2024.

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From StatePoint Media

# Romance Scams on the Rise - Elderly are Particularly Vulnerable

They say, “you can’t buy love,” but scammers have figured out a way to exploit it for profit.

Romance scams are at an all-time high and, while victims cross all demographics, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) reports that elders are increasingly targeted. Why? Because they often have retirement savings at their disposal and may be more isolated and less tech savvy.

“Romance scammers often manipulate emotions to gain trust,” says Mark Kwapiszeski, head of enterprise fraud for PNC. “Those who fall victim end up putting feelings above logic. This can create embarrassment and, as a result, these crimes are less likely to be reported.”

Scammers will create convincing profiles on dating and social media apps, reaching out to their target feigning familiarity or attraction. Things move quickly, but there is always a reason they can’t meet on video or in person. They may claim to have a reason that requires them to be overseas or out of reach. They tell their target everything they want to hear, and the hook is set.

Suddenly, a crisis arises that they insist they need help financial help with to mitigate. Or maybe they need finances to set up a new

life together. They ask for the money, but would prefer it be sent in a form like cryptocurrency or gift card where there is little chance of the victim ever recovering it.

Such scams are highly effective. In 2022 alone, romance scams resulted in \$1.3 billion lost, more than double the money lost in the previous year, according to the FTC.

To add insult to injury, scammers may convince their target to send them revealing photos they will later use to extort them. They may even play the long game and build trust over time, then convince their target to invest with them, without the victim ever getting any return.

“A romance scammer can invest a long time in cultivating trust, which makes these scams particularly nefarious,” Kwapiszeski says.

To protect against potential romance scams, follow these tips:

- Before sending money or sharing financial information, consult a friend or family member. Simply talking to someone not involved in the situation is often enough to identify red flags.
- Trust your gut. If something seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- Beware of “love bombing,” when a person lavishes you with excessive flattery, affection and praise early in the relationship to manipulate your emotions.
- Be wary of strangers reaching out on social media.
- If you like someone, ask for a quick video chat. If they refuse or make up outlandish excuses, that’s a red flag.
- Stay alert to photos or biographical details that don’t match up with what someone’s told you.
- Use image and name-reverse searches to validate the identity of people you meet online.
- Never send intimate photos to strangers or invest without doing your due diligence.
- Confide in family and friends if you grow suspicious.

Elders have lost homes, emptied out retirement accounts and risked lifetime savings for a love interest that never truly existed. Once the shock abates and the money is gone, the shame sets in and some have even resorted to self-harm instead of admitting to being defrauded in this way. If a loved one falls victim to a romance scam, it’s important to respond with empathy.

If you believe you or someone you love has been a victim of fraud, PNC Bank’s web resources, as part of its Security and Privacy Center (pnc.com), can help. After taking immediate measures to protect yourself, block the scammer on all accounts, change your passwords, and report the incident to the FTC and FBI.

The best line of defense against romance scams is awareness. Understanding common tactics can help you stay protected.

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*From the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney’s Office*

## Citizen Prosecutor Academy Classes to Begin

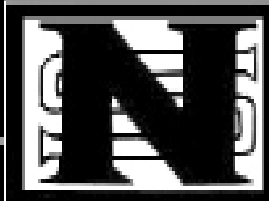
The Citizen Prosecutor Academy (CPA) is an 11-week program designed to give citizens an in-depth understanding of the criminal justice system in Tarrant County. We are now taking applications for our 2024 Spring Academy classes. The Spring Academy begins Thursday, March 7, and graduation will be Thursday, May 23. You can find applications [here](#).

With our Assistant Criminal District Attorneys and Investigators as instructors, participants review each step of the prosecutorial process to gain an insider’s perspective on how the system works. Classes are held on Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m. Graduation will be hosted upon completion of the Academy program.

The topics of the past academy classes have included: Adult Sexual Assault; The Civil Division; Conviction Integrity; Digital Forensic and Technical Services; Diversion Programs; Felony: An Overview; Gang Unit; Grand Jury; Intake; Intimate Partner Violence; Intoxication Manslaughter, DWI and No Refusal; Introduction to a Trial; Introduction to the Criminal Justice System/Criminal District Attorney’s Office; The Juvenile System; Mental Health & Protective Orders; Misdemeanor Crimes; Special Victims Unit; Victim Advocates and White Collar/Public Integrity Crimes.



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## Weekend Forecast



### Friday, Feb. 23:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 69. North wind around 10 mph.  
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 45. North northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west south-west after midnight.



### Saturday, Feb. 24:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 75. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.  
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 53. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.



### Sunday, Feb. 25:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 82. South southwest wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.  
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 58.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)