



City of Benbrook ★ A Texas Star City

# Benbrook News

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*From the Sports Desk with John English*

## Basketball: Season Ends for Lady Cats; Bobcat Boys Capture Final Playoff Spot

The season came to an end for the BMHS girl's basketball team last week in the bi-district round of the playoffs against Kennedale.

Coach Leta Lofton said she was proud of her players' efforts from start to finish.

"We played each minute to the best of our abilities and gave every effort in competition," Lofton said. "We were unsuccessful in our attempts, but fought extremely hard against a very tall, athletic, and talented Kennedale team."

Lofton said she had standout performances from Xaihannah Madison, Zoey Smothermon, Sharon M'Pinda and Raeven Anderson in the game.

Benbrook finished third in district competition this season, and Lofton said, while she has been hit hard by graduation, she is feeling good about 2024.

"With the multiple injuries we had with our team, things we're looking doubtful for us to capture third place in our district and once again solidify a spot in the playoffs," Lofton said. "But with commitment and perseverance, our team fought on through adversity and did what had to be done. Bobcat pride was displayed the entire time. We will be losing five seniors, but the remaining team members are looking forward to once again venturing into the playoffs and advancing at least three steps higher than we have been before."

On the boy's side, BMHS defeated Carter-Riverside in a play-in game to capture the fourth and final playoff spot last week, and coach Blake Mendez said his team really stepped up.

"We came in to this game knowing what was on the line," Mendez said. "It's been on our mind since we lost to them in OT at their place. We didn't play well in that

(continued on page 3)

*Benbrook Council Action*

## Feb. 16 Meeting Review

*by John English*

The Benbrook city council meeting on Feb. 16 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.

Minutes from the meeting held on Jan. 19 were then approved unanimously.

The first item of the evening was a proposal to Adopt an ordinance amending Title 17 – Zoning of the Benbrook Municipal Code by amending the following: Chapters 17.20 – Districts, District Boundaries and District Uses; 17.28 – "SD" Suburban District; 17.32 – "RE" Residential Estate District; 17.36 – "A" One-Family District; 17.40 – "B" One-Family District; 17.44 – "BR" One-Family Reduced District; 17.48 – "CR" Multiple-Family Restricted District; 17.52 – "C" Multiple-Family District; 17.54 – "D" Multiple-Family District; 17.78 – "NAS" Overlay District; 17.79 – Benbrook Boulevard Corridor Overlay District; 17.84 – Supplementary District Regulations; 17.88 – Parking and Vehicular Circulation Regulations; 17.96 – Fence Regulations; 17.98 – Landscape and Buffer Requirements; and 17.100 – Non Conforming Uses.

Assistant City Manager Jim Hinderaker said the proposal was important for a couple of reasons.

"The purpose of this text amendment really is to correct some typographical errors, some code figure elements that conflict with the actual text of the Benbrook municipal code and also to correct some erroneous code references to other code sections within the Benbrook Municipal Code," Hinderaker said. "It's also to ensure that the Benbrook Municipal code is within keeping of state statute."

Council member Renee Franklin asked a question about day care and whether a person would have to live in a residence to use it as a day care facility, and Hinderaker con-

(continued on page 4)

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**Stephen Eric Christian**

Stephen Eric Christian, Jr., 50, departed this life on Jan. 7, 2023.

Stephen was born on Sept. 2, 1972 at Carswell Air Force Base Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas. He grew up in White Settlement and attended school through 10th grade at Brewer High School. He resided in Albuquerque, New Mexico most of his adult life and was living there at the time of his death.

He was preceded in death by his father, Stephen Eric Christian and his mother, Angela Mae Perry Christian Thomas.

A private family gathering to celebrate Stephen's life was held on Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023.



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# Sports

(continued from page 1)

game, and made it a point to be more aggressive offensively and not settle this time around. Our offense looked sharp and our defense made it tough for them to score. It was an all around good game exactly when we needed it.”

Mendez said he had a few strong efforts in the game.

“Carlton Boyer and Jayden Hall's defense helped us keep them from scoring,” Mendez said. “Those two always step up on the defensive side. Corbin Dilday ended with 18 points, and Anthony Landrum had 16 points.”

On the pitch, the Western Hills boys soccer team defeated Eastern Hills by a score of 4-1 last Friday, and coach Matt Collins said he was proud of the way his team stayed focused.

“Eastern Hills was tough,” Collins said. “They got up 1-0 on us and then tried to defend that lead. We had to be patient until we found ways to score. We got one, then put in three more. It was a good victory for us.”

Collins said he had three players who stood out in the win over the Highlanders.

“Yeshua Mu-hindo was able to be patient and kept playing hard until he had a chance to set up two goals,” Collins said. “Hector Palomares did a great job organizing our attack. Alexis Bautista did a good job defending all night.”

Over at Benbrook, the Lady Cats defeated Dunbar on Friday, and coach Luz Castillo said her team “kicked it” to cancer with their 4th annual Relay for Life Cancer Awareness match.

“Their reason to win was so much bigger as they dedicated their game to cancer survivors, past and present warriors, and their families,” Castillo said. “They honored the following teachers: David Koenig, Hennon Gilbert, Sabrina Fantroy-Stevens and Sherri Contreras.”

Castillo said she had a number of contributors to the win.

“The team played with so much enthusiasm, they were victorious and triumphed with a 13-0 win,” Castillo said. “The team had a standout performance from freshman forward Sydney Chavez who had four goals, two assisted by Shyanne Morris and one assisted by Campbell Cox. Sophomore Kaitlyn Kim scored three goals. Campbell Cox had two goals, one assisted by Morris, and Morris scored a goal assisted by Miranda Berry. Freshman Carley Couch scored two goals as well as sophomore Brooke Moreno. The team played with a lot of heart.”

*From Fort Worth ISD*

## Remaining Dates for FWISD Saturday Learning Quest

Saturday Learning Quest (SLQ) is targeted, accelerated learning that gets results. Every SLQ is a day of rigorous, active instruction in literacy and math designed around engaging themes. Young learners also enjoy enrichment classes in art and music, physical activities, and more. Free transportation is available, and students receive breakfast and lunch each Saturday.

You’ll want to add the seven remaining spring semester SLQ dates to your calendar: Saturday, Feb. 25, Saturday, March 4, Saturday, April 1, Saturday, April 22 and Saturday, May 6.

For more information, including times and locations, visit [www.fwisd.org/SLQ](http://www.fwisd.org/SLQ).



# City Council Action (continued from page 1)

firmed that with the text amendment that would be the case. A public hearing followed, but there were no comments.

The city council then adopted the zoning ordinance texts as amended unanimously.

Next up was a proposal to adopt an ordinance amending Section 10.40.010.A of Chapter 10.40 of Title 10-Vehicles and Traffic of the Benbrook Municipal code by establishing a no parking, standing or stopping zone any time on a portion of Bellaire Drive.

Hinderaker said that there is limited sight visibility for Northbound motorists at the stop sign on Crosslands Road and the intersection of Bellaire Drive.

Staff proposed the establishment of a no parking, standing or stopping zone at any time on the South side of Bellaire Drive between Crosslands Road and Fox Trail. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Next up was a motion to consider awarding the Westpark Drive and Timbercreek Road Reclaim contract to Texas Bit. The motion was approved unanimously in the amount of \$1,240,928.

Next was a proposal to consider awarding a Milling contract to TexOp Construction, LP.

The proposal was approved unanimously in the amount of \$80,170.

Informal citizen comments were then allowed, and resident Heather Garcia approached the podium and informed the council that she and her husband were a part of the Benbrook Youth Baseball/Softball Association and that their number one concerns were the fields and safety of their children.

“There are rocks along the baselines and rocks in the infields and outfields,” Garcia said. “And the second part is drainage. The fields don't drain. There's mud and there's the opportunity for children to slip and fall.”

Garcia said that last year there was so much mud in front of the dugouts that parents had to lay down towels so that kids could get in and out, and said she was reaching out to see if something could be done.

Next up resident Terry Roach said he was there in “large part because of a shameful action of you threatening me with arrest for exercising my rights. I may be annoying you. You may not like me as a person, but this is absolutely shameful.”

Roach then stated that he had not received a response to four formal complaints he had issued.

Next, resident Lydia Hudson, Roach's wife, came to the podium and said that public service was important work and that is why she found it troubling when she looked at police reports and found lies in them.

“For instance, there was no construction site when my husband was detained while picking up trash,” Hudson said. “I know, because I was there and I even called the construction company to find out that construction had indeed ceased by the time he was detained.”

Hudson said she was a teacher and as such could never ignore a citizen or a parent's or student's questions and that as public servants people deserve to have their questions answered. Hudson then requested that city council release the body cam footage of the incident where Roach was detained.

Time was then allowed for council member and staff comments, and Franklin said that there is a Love Your Heart senior health fair from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Benbrook YMCA on Feb. 23 and then on March 4 there will be a Chili Supper and fundraiser sponsored by the Benbrook Lions Club.

The meeting was then adjourned.



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# Business Magnate, Pilot, Engineer and Film Producer - Howard Hughes by Dr. Ken Bridges

**Howard Hughes** was a man who once commanded the world's attention, sometimes for all the wrong reasons. His story is one of wealth, power, fame, and the dangers of obsession.

Howard Robard Hughes, Jr., was born in Houston on Christmas Eve, 1905. His father, Howard R. Hughes, Sr., was a wealthy inventor and businessman. The younger Hughes likewise was fascinated by science and machinery.

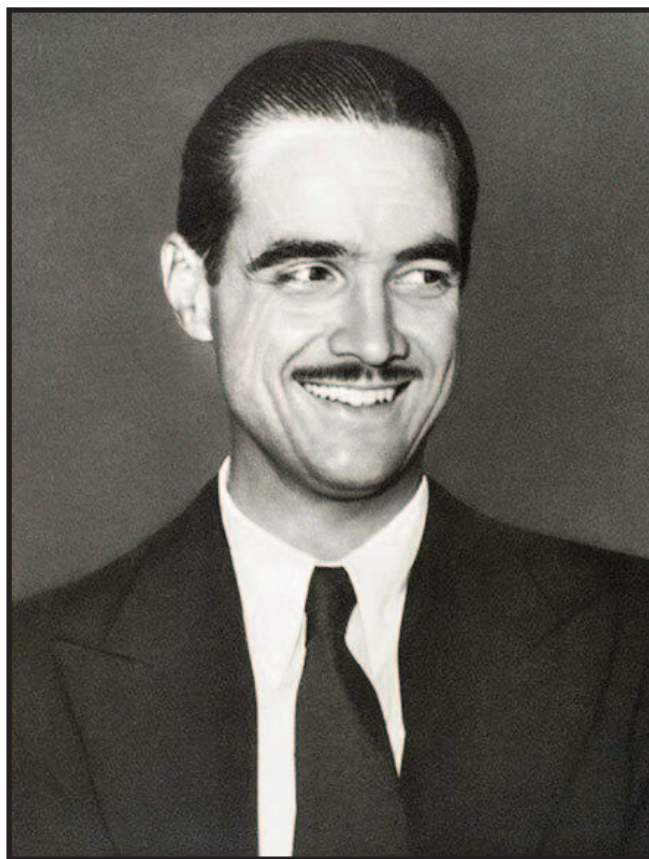
By 1917, he was one of only a handful of licensed ham radio operators in Southeast Texas. He later built the first motorcycle in Houston by himself. In spite of his privileged upbringing, he faced two heart-breaking tragedies in rapid succession: his mother died in 1922, followed by his father's death in 1924.

After inheriting his father's fortune and the Hughes Tool Company, he proved very skilled at running the family business and wanted to expand. Fascinated by movies, he headed west to become a movie producer. In 1927, he began production of *Hell's Angels*, an action film taking place in World War I which included recreations of aerial dog-fights with dozens of aircraft. He learned to fly while he directed the movie, which at \$3.8 million (\$64.9 million in 2023 dollars) was the most expensive ever made up to that time.

In 1932, he founded Hughes Aircraft. Hughes himself set a speed record of 352 MPH in 1935 in his H-1 aircraft. He followed this up in 1938 with a record round-the-world flight of 91 hours. In 1939, he bought TWA Airlines for \$7 million (more than \$149 million in 2023 dollars). He continued to develop a variety of new airplanes. In World War II, Hughes Aircraft built several different types of planes for the military, many of whom Hughes himself helped design.

Though generous to friends and employees and globally famous, he became known for his obsessive attention to the smallest detail. With his aircraft designs, perfection was a necessity, often insisting on redesigns that delayed completion of projects for months. While this drive helped him become successful in movies and aviation, it steadily unraveled his personal life. For example, he would only drink orange juice he saw freshly squeezed himself or arranged peas by size. Relationships with his many girlfriends broke down quickly. In 1947, he suffered a mental breakdown, locking himself inside his personal movie theater for four months before coming out.

In 1953, he established the Howard Hughes Medical Institute



through profits from Hughes Aircraft. It would continue long after his death and eventually become the largest private research institution in the nation, spending hundreds of millions of dollars each year to research all areas of health care and medical sciences, especially genetics and cancer research.

He spent many years fighting federal regulators over his ownership of TWA and Hughes Aircraft. The federal government forced him to sell the airline in 1966 for nearly \$550 million (or \$5.1 billion in 2023 dollars). He spent the last decade of his life living in a series of hotels, having his aides run his companies by telephone and memo and avoiding any kind of public appearance. Wild rumors about his condition circulated. When he died in 1976, the once dashing figure was unrecognizable, reduced to 90 pounds with long, wiry hair and an unkempt beard.

Control of Hughes Aircraft was transferred to the medical institute as a source of funding until it was sold to General Motors in 1985 for \$5.2 billion (or \$14.7 billion in 2023 dollars). TWA did not survive, ultimately declaring bankruptcy and closing in 2001.

After his death, many books and movies about him appeared. Texas native Tommy Lee Jones portrayed Hughes in a 1977 TV movie called *The Amazing Howard Hughes*, while Jason Robards starred as Hughes in an off-beat story about one of his alleged wills making a Nevada gas station attendant a multi-millionaire in *Melvin and Howard* (1980). Leonardo DiCaprio starred in the 2004 film, *The Aviator*, which captured the early life and early mental breakdowns of Hughes.

Authors and filmmakers alike tried to unravel the complicated life of a man who had every creature comfort he ever wanted but spent so many years haunted by inner turmoil. The ultimate answers to those questions died with Hughes.

In the end, no matter how much Howard Hughes tried to ignore the world, the world could not ignore him.





From Alzheimer's Foundation of America

# High School Seniors Impacted by Alzheimer's Encouraged to Apply for AFA's Teens for Alzheimer's Awareness Scholarship By March 1

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) is offering scholarships of up to \$5,000 to college-bound high school seniors affected by Alzheimer's disease or other dementia-related illnesses as part of its annual Teens for Alzheimer's Awareness Scholarship.

Entries can be submitted at [www.alzfdn.org/scholarship](http://www.alzfdn.org/scholarship) and must be received by Wednesday, March 1 at 5 p.m. (Eastern time)

Eligible teens are invited to apply for the scholarship by submitting an essay (1,500 words maximum) or submitting a video, no more than four minutes long, describing how Alzheimer's disease has impacted their lives and what they have learned about themselves, their family and/or their community through their experience with Alzheimer's.

Examples of ways that Alzheimer's impacted a student's life can include:

- Having a loved one with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia-related illness
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- Raising Alzheimer's awareness in their school or community
- Conducting Alzheimer's research

The program is open to current high school seniors living in the United States who will be attending a U.S. college or university this Fall. Students already attending college are not eligible to participate.

The top prize awarded is a \$5,000 scholarship. Additional prizes are awarded for runners up and honorable mentions. Last year, AFA awarded \$90,000 in scholarships to 117 high school students.

AFA has been able to provide these scholarship funds with the generous support of charitable donors. Individuals wishing to support this and other programs and services for families affected by Alzheimer's disease can do so by visiting [www.alzfdn.org/donate](http://www.alzfdn.org/donate) or calling AFA at 866-232-8484.

## About Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA)

*The Alzheimer's Foundation of America is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide support, services and education to individuals, families and caregivers affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias nationwide and to fund research for better treatment and a cure. Its services include a National Toll-Free Helpline (866-232-8484) staffed by licensed social workers, the National Memory Screening Program, educational conferences and materials, and "AFA Partners in Care" dementia care training for healthcare professionals. For more information about AFA, call 866-232-8484, visit [www.alzfdn.org](http://www.alzfdn.org), follow us on Twitter or connect with us on Facebook, Instagram or LinkedIn.*

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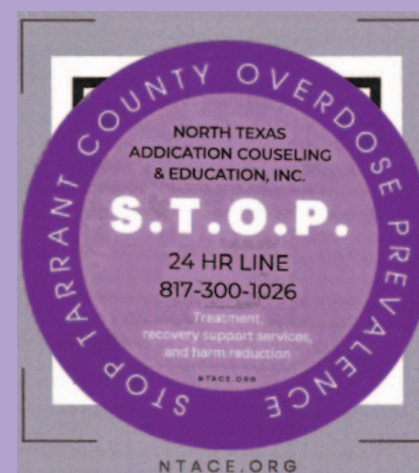
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## Three Day Weekend Forecast



### Friday, Feb. 24:

**AM** - A 30% chance of showers. Cloudy; high near 55. NE wind 10-15mph, with gusts as high as 20mph.  
**PM** - A 30% chance of showers. Cloudy; low around 47. N/NE wind 5-10mph.



### Saturday, Feb. 25:

**AM** - A 20% chance of showers. Cloudy; high near 67. NE wind 5-10mph becoming S/SE in the afternoon.  
**PM** - Mostly cloudy; low around 58.



### Sunday, Feb. 26:

**AM** - A 30% chance of showers. Cloudy; high near 77.  
**PM** - A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy; low around 54.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)