



City of Benbrook ★ A Texas Star City

Benbrook News

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From the Sports Desk with John English

BMHS Wrestler Headed to State; WHHS Boys and BMHS Basketball Boys and Girls Playoff Bound



Jessy Coons is headed back to state for the Benbrook girls wrestling team, following a regional tournament in which the 110-pounder finished fourth in her division.

Coach Wade Cribbs said it was a good showing for the Bobcats, and he has high hopes for Coons at the state tournament.

"Jessy has been before," Cribbs said. "We're hoping to get some wins and getting on the podium."

Cribbs said that Calliope Haefner, Camden Williams, and Cameron Mcguire "all had big wins," at the tournament as well.

Carlos Aguinaga of Western Hills got fifth in his weight class at region and earned a spot as a state alternate.

The state meet will run tomorrow and Saturday in Houston.

On the court, both BMHS and WHHS boys teams are playoff bound, with Western Hills sitting at 24-6 heading into their regular season finale this past Tuesday night with Eastern Hills.

Coach Justin Bryson said that, reflecting on the season as a whole, there is a lot to be happy about.

"We had a good regular season, but we still need one more win," Bryson said on Sunday. "This season we have won the most games since I have been here. We also won two tournaments this season, and are currently in second place in district. Overall, we have had a good season, but we hope it's not over yet."

If the playoffs started today, Western Hills would play Krum in the opening round of the playoffs.

Over at Benbrook, the Bobcats clinched

a playoff berth on Friday night with a victory over Diamond Hill-Jarvis.

Coach Blake Mendez said his team played really well against Diamond Hill in a game that was critical to the Bobcats playoff chances.

"We did a great job controlling the pace and running our offense without turning the ball over," Mendez said. "It was a great team win."

With the season finale this past Tuesday, Mendez said the team is excited to be heading back to the playoffs, but added that just getting there is not enough.

"We want to compete," Mendez said. "I'm always going to find something I think we can do (continued on page 2)"

From the City of Benbrook

City Council Meeting Tonight

The Benbrook City Council meets the first and third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. (with a pre-meeting work session at 7 p.m.) in the City Hall Council Chambers, located at 911 Winscott Road in Benbrook, 76126.

The Feb. 17 agenda is available to view [here](#).

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On This Day in History... Feb. 17

• 1801 – 1800 United States presidential election: An tie in the Electoral College between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr is resolved when Jefferson is elected President of the United States and Burr, Vice President by the United States House of Representatives.

• 1863 – A group of citizens of Geneva found an International Committee for Relief to the Wounded, which later became known as the International Committee of the Red Cross.

• 1867 – The first ship passes through the Suez Canal.

• 1944 – World War II: The Battle of Eniwetok begins. The battle ends in an American victory on Feb. 22.

• 1959 – Project Vanguard: Vanguard 2: The first weather satellite is launched to

measure cloud-cover distribution.

• 1965 – Project Ranger: The Ranger 8 probe launches on its mission to photograph the Mare Tranquillitatis region of the Moon in preparation for the manned Apollo missions. Mare Tranquillitatis or the "Sea of Tranquility" would become the site chosen for the Apollo 11 lunar landing.

• 1996 – In Philadelphia, world champion Garry Kasparov beats the Deep Blue supercomputer in a chess match.

Wrestling,
Basketball

(continued from page 1)

better. Going into the playoffs, you want to be playing at your best. I don't think we're at that point yet, but only because we don't want to be satisfied. We're going to prepare like we want to win.”

On the girl's side, Benbrook clinched a playoff berth and faced off with Decatur in the opening round on Monday night after the paper had gone to press.

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From Fort Worth ISD

Community Input Needed on FWISD's Safe Return to Learning Plan

The Fort Worth ISD seeks to hear from stakeholders on the **Safe Return to Learning and Continuity of Services Plan**, designed to provide structure and resources for the FWISD community following the COVID-19 District closure and the subsequent return to 100 percent in-person instruction.

The brief **survey** is now open to District stakeholders and available through Friday, Feb. 18. Survey responses are anonymous, and **questions are available for review** prior to taking the survey.

In the fall, Fort Worth ISD received more than \$261 million in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER III) to address learning recovery and the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are designated for one-time or short-term spending over the next four summers and three full fiscal years.

In addition to a plan for the use of ESSER III funds, the District was required to create the Safe Return to Learning and Continuity of Services Plan. This plan must be reviewed and revised as needed every six months with input from District stakeholders.

Stakeholders can also provide feedback about the plan by visiting the FWISD **Let's Talk** online platform or during public comment at the Tuesday, Feb. 22 Regular Board Meeting.

Participants must adhere to all Fort Worth ISD **Guidelines for Public Comment**. The Feb. 22 board agenda will include a presentation with survey results and an update on the use of ESSER III funds and the Safe Return to Learning and Continuity of Services Plan.

For questions about the survey, please email AskEval@fwisd.org.



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Carolyn Gilmore is a Tarrant County native, veteran police officer, and lifelong conservative who has devoted her life to making our community a better place to live, work, and raise a family. As Chief of the Sansom Park Police Department, and a 23-year veteran of the Fort Worth Police, Carolyn has earned a reputation as a tough-but-fair officer focused on protecting families from violent criminals.

Carolyn served as the Chair of Fort Worth Cops for Kids and started the Student Advisory Committee at Joy James Elementary, where she encouraged children, and their families, to work with police and find ways to positively impact their community.

Carolyn lives in Fort Worth with her husband, Raymond, a retired Fort Worth Police officer. The Gilmore's are members of Grace Baptist Church.

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- ★ Increase Transparency and Accountability
- ★ Strengthen Neighborhoods

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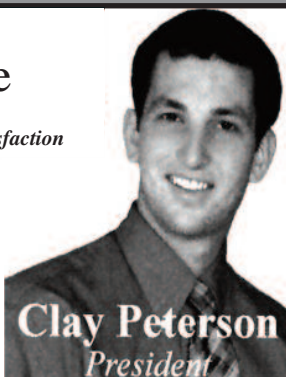
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From Tarrant County Clerk's Office

Free Rides for Primary Election Early Voting, Election Day

Throughout early voting and on Tuesday, March 1, Tarrant County voters will once again be able to catch free rides to the polls on Trinity Metro, Arlington's Via and other transit services.

Riders can show their voter registration card or current Texas ID and ride for free during early voting now through Feb. 25 and on Election Day, March 1.

The Tarrant County Commissioners Court approved a partnership with transportation services in Tarrant County to pay for customer trips to voting locations, with an amount not to exceed \$30,000.

This program is a continuation of the Election Transportation Program that was offered in November 2019, March 2020, November 2020 and November 2021.

"It is crucial that people get out to vote in the primary election, and access to transportation should not be a barrier to getting to polling locations," said Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley. "We are pleased to be able to once again offer free rides, including accessible services for the elderly and mobility-impaired, through this partnership."

The transit services included in the pro-

gram are Trinity Metro's **bus routes**, **ZIP-ZONE on-demand rideshare services**, **ACCESS paratransit**, plus **Tarrant County Transportation Services (TCTS)**, **Northeast Transportation Services (NETS)**, and Arlington's **Via** and **Handitran**.

To use **Trinity Metro ZIPZONE**, download the ZIPZONE app and book your ride. Free ZIPZONE rides will be offered to or from any identified voter center location within a zone. For questions about ZIPZONE or bus routes to your polling place, call Trinity Metro at 817-215-8600.

To use Via's on-demand service in Arlington, riders simply download Via's app and enter the address of a Vote Center within Via's service area or call 817-784-7382 to schedule a ride by phone. USE the promo code ARNVOTE22S.

Those who qualify and want to ride to vote on ACCESS, TCTS, NETS or Handitran should call the provider at least 48 hours ahead of the trip to schedule their free ride to any of the voting locations.

"We appreciate this partnership with the Tarrant County Commissioners Court to provide rides for voters," said Trinity Metro President/CEO Paul J Ballard. "Voting is an essential right, and we are happy to help riders travel to the polls."

Tarrant County has multiple **locations for early voting** and a list of **locations for Election Day**.

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Benbrook Quilt Club - Project Linus Volunteers Needed

The Benbrook Quilt Club meets the last Saturday of each month from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at First Baptist Church of Benbrook, located at 1015 McKinley Street. This next meeting will be held on March 26.

The members of this group are Tarrant County Chapter Project Linus blanketeers creating handmade quilts and blankets that provide love, warmth, and comfort for local children who have suffered trauma, tragedy, or illness.

Sadly, the need for these blankets increases each month. They desperately need volunteers with portable sewing machines to help assemble the quilts.

Regardless of your experience, there is a place for you. High school students can receive community service credits for participating. Donations of material or money to purchase material are greatly appreciated.

Come join the fun and enjoy fellowship with the Quilt Club volunteers while making a difference in our community and being a blessing to others.

For more information about the mission of Project Linus, visit www.projectlinus.org.

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From Fort Worth ISD

Fort Worth ISD Announces Graduation Schedule for Spring 2022

Venues for this spring’s graduation ceremonies include the Wilkerson-Greines Activity Center, Dickies Arena, and the Boulevard Heights Outdoor Facility and will take place May 31 through June 4, 2022.

Fort Worth ISD 2021-2022 Spring Graduation Schedule

Friday, June 3
Benbrook Middle High School
Dickies Arena, 4 p.m.

Saturday, June 4
Western Hills High School
Dickies Arena, 8 a.m.

Lockheed Martin Retirees to Meet

The Lockheed Martin Association of Retirees meets at noon, on the third Tuesday of each month, to renew acquaintances and enjoy interesting programs. Meetings are held in the IAM union auditorium located at 7711 Clifford Street in White Settlement.

For more information, visit lmarfw.com or contact Scott Sadler at jscottsadler@aol.com.

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TRWD Flyfest Returns to the Trinity River in Fort Worth March 12

TRWD Flyfest, an annual celebration of urban trout fishing, will be held on March 12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This family-friendly event, sponsored by the Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD), will take place in and along the Clear Fork of the Trinity in southwest Fort Worth. Admission is free.

To create an optimal experience for anglers, TRWD will stock the river with 1,800 lbs. of rainbow trout prior to the event just north of Bryant Irvin Road.

Whether you are an experienced angler or have never touched a fly rod, this fun-filled event will have something to hook the whole family. Two of the event's biggest attractions are the Orvis Big Trout Contest and the Coffee & Caddis Fly Tying Area. Anglers will compete in the contest to catch the biggest trout or the most fish in the time allotted. Patrons can also learn new tricks and methods from professional fly tiers. Open fishing for fly and bait fishing will also be available in designated areas.

The event will also feature live music from local band Chattahoochee Music and many children's activities, including a mini stocked tank for fishing and a rock climbing wall. Food trucks, wine and craft beer and many outdoor vendors will make it a fun day for everyone!

Parking will be available for \$5 at the River Park Trailhead, 3100 Bryant Irvin Road, on the day of the event. For a parking map and other important event information, visit www.trwdflyfest.com.

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Free Virtual Alzheimer's Educational Conference March 9

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) will host a free virtual Alzheimer's educational conference for Texas residents on Wednesday, March 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. CST as part of its 2022 national Educating America Tour. The conference, which is free and open to everyone, will allow participants to learn from, and ask questions of, health and caregiving experts.

To register, go to www.alzfdn.org/tour.

Sessions during the AFA virtual conference will include:

- **Alzheimer's Disease: In Search of a Cure** - George Perry, Ph.D., will provide an overview of Alzheimer's disease, an update on Alzheimer's research and clinical trials, and what we can expect on the horizon. Dr. Perry is a Professor of Biology and the Semmes Foundation Distinguished University Chair in Neurobiology at the University of Texas at San Antonio. He is also a member of AFA's Medical, Scientific and Memory Screening Advisory Board.

- **Navigating Challenging Behaviors Associated with Dementia** - Dr. Laura Novak, OTD, OTR, BCG, will teach caregivers how to identify the underlying causes of challenging behaviors associated with dementia. She will also guide them as to how to apply targeted strategies to their specific situations in order to address these care challenges. Dr. Novak is an Occupational Therapist specializing in gerontology. She is Assistant Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UT Health San Antonio).

- **Healing Trauma in Caregivers of Persons with Advanced Dementia** - Alzheimer's disease not only affects those living with the disease but it impacts the caregivers as well. They often experience trauma and caregiver burnout. Catherine C. Stansbury, LMSW, EMDR, PAC, will discuss trauma therapy for caregivers and how it assists the brain's natural healing

process. Catherine is an EMDR Trained Therapist, PAC Certified Independent Consultant, Certified Practitioner of The Myers & Briggs Foundation, and a Social Worker and Therapist in Austin.

There will also be a photo slideshow, presented by Carmen Davailus, a retired nurse practitioner; visual artist; and Founder/President of Doggies for Dementia Foundation. She inspires people through photography and storytelling and captures family memories and raises awareness for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

For more information or to register, go to www.alzfdn.org/tour. Those who cannot participate in the virtual conference or have immediate questions about Alzheimer's disease can connect with licensed social workers seven days a week through AFA's National Toll-Free Helpline by calling 866-232-8484 or web chatting at www.alzfdn.org by clicking the blue and white chat icon in the right-hand corner of the page. The web chat feature is available in more than 90 languages.

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, follow us on Twitter or connect with us on Facebook, Instagram or LinkedIn. AFA has earned Charity Navigator's top 4-star rating for seven consecutive years.

Texas Railroad Commissioner, General Ernest O. Thompson

by Dr. Ken Bridges



Not everyone is destined to win all the races they race or the fights that they fight. And on some special select occasions, some of those daring souls are recognized for what they do achieve and the importance of the work to which they dedicate their lives. One of those figures is one-time Amarillo mayor **Ernest O. Thompson**. Thompson was denied his attempt to become governor decades ago, but his impact as a Railroad Commissioner still has a strong impact on modern Texas.

Thompson was born in Alvord, a small community in Wise County, in 1892. In 1902, the family moved to Amarillo, where his father ran a drug store. As a youth, he was considered bright and hard-working. And he always had an eye for opportunity, cleverly coming up with ways to find work or talk his way into a job.

He graduated from the University of Texas with a law degree in 1917. He joined the army in the midst of World War I, serving in the infantry.

In 1918, Thompson was cited for his innovative techniques with mass, coordinated machine gun fire and promoted to lieutenant colonel. He returned to Amarillo in 1919 to practice law. Thompson was one of the organizers of the American Legion, a group of veterans dedicated to helping veterans.

In 1928, he ran for mayor, pledging to cut utility rates and won easily. In 1932, Gov.

Ross Sterling appointed Thompson to the Texas Railroad Commission.

The role of the Railroad Commission steadily expanded from railroad hauling rates to regulating oil pipelines and oil and gas production by World War I. It expanded to other forms of energy and transportation in the 1920s.

The wild East Texas oil field was producing a fortune, but waste and reckless drilling threatened its long-term stability. Drilling too much too quickly for too long had ruined the production yield in oil fields in other parts of the country, even though the oil was still available. Overproduction had caused East Texas oil prices to drop 90 percent.

Thompson introduced a series of measures that limited production and oversaw safety measures, all designed in a way that protected the interests of smaller producers and still protected the interests of corporations. In a short time, prices stabilized, safety began to improve, and production remained sustainable.

In appreciation for his efforts, Gov. James V. Allred of Wichita Falls appointed Thompson colonel in the Texas National Guard in 1936. Though Thompson was not a producer himself, he was recognized globally as an expert on oil production.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt sent him as the American delegate to the World Petroleum Conference in France.

In 1938, he decided to run for governor. Thompson started the primary season as the prohibitive favorite to succeed Gov. Allred. Initially, his biggest opponent for the Democratic nomination was William McCraw, the state attorney general and a former Dallas prosecutor, and corporate attorney Tom Hunter of Wichita Falls. A slew of other candidates joined in, with most of the debate centered on the lingering effects of the Great Depression and calls for aid to schools and the poor and a state teacher's pension.

That spring, W. Lee "Pappy" O'Daniel, a popular Fort Worth based radio broadcaster whose noon broadcasts of popular country music and his homespun humor won him thousands of fans, jumped into the race. A

master showman, Pappy O'Daniel drew huge crowds to his campaign rallies with his wit and free concerts performed by his Light Crust Doughboys band. Few polls were conducted, but it was clear who had the advantage. Thompson held onto hopes that he could enter the usual runoff. But O'Daniel won the July primary with 51 percent of the vote, with Thompson finishing a distant second with only 21 percent. O'Daniel then went on to win the general election with an astounding 97 percent of the vote.

Thompson was still on the Railroad Commission but decided for a re-match against O'Daniel in 1940. The result was about the same, with O'Daniel winning 54 percent of the vote to 21.6 percent for the runner-up Thompson.

When World War II erupted, Thompson, now nearing 50, rejoined the army. As the Allies needed a steady supply of fuel as much as they needed troops in the field, Thompson was sent back home to his duties on the Railroad Commission to ensure a steady flow of oil and natural gas to the military. Texas was a key part of this effort.

Thompson was elected to three more terms on the Railroad Commission after the war. Gov. Allan Shivers appointed Thompson as general of the National Guard in 1952.

As the years advanced and his health started to decline, Thompson decided to retire. In January 1965, he formally stepped down from the commission. He built a steady list of honors for his work.

Amarillo had named a park in his honor, and Alvord placed a historical marker in the community.

And to further honor of his years of service, the State of Texas renamed the old Austin Daily Tribune Building after Thompson later in 1965. He died just 18 months later at age 74.

His 33 years on the Railroad Commission is still the longest in state history. The 11-story building named for him is today home to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

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Three Day Weekend Forecast



Friday, Feb. 18:

AM - Sunny; high near 56. North wind around 5mph becoming East in the afternoon.
PM - Clear; low around 33. E/SE wind around 5mph becoming S/SW after midnight.



Saturday, Feb. 19:

AM - Sunny; high near 66. S/SW wind 5-10mph.
PM - Clear; low around 41.



Sunday, Feb. 20:

AM - Sunny; high near 70.
PM - Mostly clear; ow around 53.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)