



City of Benbrook ★ A Texas Star City

Benbrook News

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From the Sports Desk with John English

Bobcat and Cougar Basketball Boys Fall in Bi-District Round

The season came to an end for the Western Hills boy's basketball team last week with a 51-45 loss to Alvarado in the bi-district round of the playoffs, but not without a fight to the final buzzer.

Coach Blake Dunson his team competed until the very end.

"It's always difficult losing a close game, especially in a playoff situation," Dunson said. "But I was very proud of my team. They executed the game plan we had put in place and it gave us a chance of winning. Alvarado made some good plays down the stretch, and we fell just short of a bi-district championship."

Malik El-Amin led both teams in scoring with 19 points and "made some outstanding plays to keep us in the game."

Dunson said he is very pleased with how the season unfolded.

"I'm so proud of our team this year," Dunson said. "They battled through a lot of adversity to get to the playoffs and almost pulled out a win. They grew and improved on and off the court as the year went on, and I'm so grateful I got the opportunity to coach this group."

Over at Benbrook, the Bobcats came up short in the bi-district round as well, and coach Blake Mendez said his team struggled to get things going.

"We got off to a slow start and against a team that plays as fast and aggressive as Kennedale, you really can't afford to do that," Mendez said. "Down 15 at half, we were able to cut it to single digits late in the third quarter, but couldn't close the gap in

the fourth."

Mendez said that "Jayden Hall, Corbin Dilday, and Brennan Barton have carried us all year and this game as no different. They all ended with double digit scoring nights." Mendez said his team met expectations for the season given the challenges it faced.

"We knew we were going to be young this year so the goal was to get these kids some experience and get into the playoffs," Mendez said. "As the season progressed, we thought we really had a shot at a gold ball, but the flu hit us at the wrong time and we never really recovered. We accomplished our goal, but we know we could have done more. We have a lot of returners next year and some strong kids moving up from JV so the future is bright."

On the pitch, the Western Hills boys came up a little short against Carter-Riverside on Friday, but there were extenuating circumstances.

"We didn't win, but I was proud of the boys," Collins said. "We were shorthanded and undermanned. The guys who were there played as hard as they could. We just fell short."

With the first half of district competition under it's belt, Collins said his feeling about his team's position is somewhat mixed.

"We are in a rut at the moment," Collins said. "But if we pull together, we are in a good spot for the playoffs."

Over at Benbrook, the Bobcats tied Carter-Riverside 1-1 last Tuesday and was in it's bye on (continued on page 2)

From the City of Benbrook

Electronic Waste/Document Shredding Event March 9

The City of Benbrook is hosting a free Electronic Waste/Document Shredding event at the Dutch Branch Park parking lot on Saturday, March 9 from 8 a.m. to noon.

Innovative Electronics will be on-site to collect E-Waste. There will be attendants available to help unload items.

As a rule of thumb, if it can be plugged in, it can be recycled. The following is a list of common items that citizens can bring for recycling: televisions (any size), radios, telephones (No CRT), personal desktop computers (Innovative Electronics destroys the hard drive), laptops, monitors, printers, fax machines, copiers, microwave ovens, dishwashers, washers, dryers, refrigerators, gaming systems (Xbox, PlayStations, etc.), vacuum cleaners, VCRs and smoke detectors.

Document Shredding

Sierra Shred will provide a shredding truck and will shred documents on-site. Please limit documents to a reasonable household amount (no large quantities of business documents).

Please do not place plastic materials such as credit cards or compact discs with documents to be shredded.

For more information, please call Jared DeVries at 817-249-6008, or visit the City of Benbrook website.

Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

Friday.

On the girl's side, Benbrook defeated Carter-Riverside by a score of 5-0 last Tuesday, and coach Luz Castillo said it was a good effort from her team.

“The game against Carter-Riverside went in our favor,” Castillo said. “It was a great team performance. We finished the game 5-0. We had a shutout from our defensive line and keepers Arianna Labue and Avery Bates.”

Castillo said she had a couple of players really step up in the game.

“We had a standout performance from our senior striker Campbell Cox with two goals, as well as Sydney Chavez and Lexie Garcia who each had a goal and an assist,” Castillo said. “The team is really starting to hit their stride as we are past our halfway mark in district play. We are healthy and performing really well as we look to continue a winning streak.”

Benbrook was in it's bye on Friday, and Castillo said her team made the most of it.

“Our bye-week was used to focus our intention to advance further into playoffs than we have before,” Castillo said. “We trained hard in the weight room and incorporated more strength and conditioning in practices. While we trained hard, we also made room for some fun and spent Friday evening with team bonding.”

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From the Project Linus Blanketeers

First Monday Quilt Club - Project Linus: Come Join the Fun

Come join the fun and enjoy great fellowship at our monthly meeting with the Quilt Club volunteers while you make a difference in our community and bless others by making quilts for Project Linus.

The First Monday Quilt Club meets on the first Monday of each month at Bethany Christian Church, located at 1500 Meadow Park Drive in White Settlement from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Instead of a potluck lunch, ladies are asked to bring brunch or snack items. Their next meeting is on Monday, March 4.

Project Linus is a non-profit service organization, and the members of this group are Tarrant County Chapter Project Linus volunteers who create handmade quilts and blankets that provide love, warmth, and comfort for local children who have suffered trauma, tragedy, or illness.

Volunteers also make coverlets for veterans, nursing home residents, and the homeless. Unfortunately, the need for these blankets increases each month. They desperately need volunteers with portable sewing machines to help assemble the quilts.

No experience is needed - there is a place for you. Anyone can help if you can follow instructions, sew, tie a knot, crochet a blanket, or tell a good joke. Volunteers have lots of fun and develop fantastic friendships.

High school students can receive community service credits for participating. Materials (fabric, batting, thread, and yarn) are provided. Donations of fabric, yarn, thread, sewing machines, sergers, or money to purchase materials are greatly appreciated.

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

For more information about the First Monday Quilt Club, call Virginia Biela at 817-244-1263.

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Texans to go to the Polls for Primary Elections March 5

Texas has uniform Election Days in November and May of each year, offering voters the chance to make their voices heard in local, state, and federal elections, including local and statewide ballot propositions that impact the everyday lives of Texas communities.

Voting in Texas is county-based, meaning that on any given Election Day, there are really 254 separate elections occurring at the same time. This decentralized system allows choices for county governments, while simultaneously ensuring that every county operates under the same election laws as set forth in the Texas Election Code.

Early Voting

Early voting for the March 5 Primary Election runs from Tuesday, Feb. 20 to Friday, March 1. You do not have to meet any special qualifications to vote early in person – if you are registered and qualified to vote on Election Day, you can also cast a ballot during the early voting period. This enables Texas voters to cast their ballot in the days and weeks before an election to make the voting process more convenient and accessible.

Vote Early in Person

Generally, early voting in person begins the 17th day before Election Day (if that's a weekend, early voting starts on Monday) and ends the 4th day before Election Day. Vote at a location in your political subdivision that's close to where you live or work. All other voting rules and procedures apply – e.g., eligibility and polling hours. *(NOTE: Early voting for some special elections and for elections held in May starts the 12th day before Election Day and ends on the 4th day before Election Day.)*

To learn more about requirements for voting by mail, visit the [Voting by Mail](#) website.

Curbside Voting

If a voter is physically unable to enter the polling place, he or she may ask that an election officer bring a ballot to the entrance of the polling place or to a car parked at the curbside. After the voter marks the ballot, they will give it to the election officer, who will put it in the ballot box. Or, at the voter's request, a companion may hand the voter a ballot and deposit it for him or her.

If you plan to go alone to vote curbside, it is wise to call ahead so election officials will expect you. Generally speaking, you may vote curbside during the early voting period or on Election Day.

For more information on voting options for Texans with disabilities, visit the [Voters with Disabilities](#) section.

Assistance at the Polls

If you need assistance at the polls, tell the election official if you are a voter who needs help to vote. You do not have to provide proof of your disability. For guidance on which voters are eligible to receive assistance at the polling place, please see Section 208 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) which provides for voters who need assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write.

Voters may be assisted by:

- Any person the voter chooses who is not an election worker;

- Two election workers on Election Day; or
- One election worker during early voting.

Voters MAY NOT be assisted by:

- Their employer;
- An agent of their employer; or
- An officer or agent of their union.

The person assisting the voter must read him or her the entire ballot, unless the voter asks to have only parts of the ballot read. The person assisting the voter must take an oath that he or she will not try to influence the voter's vote and will mark the ballot as the voter directs. If the voter chooses to be assisted by polling place officials, poll watchers and election inspectors may observe the voting process, but if the voter asks to be assisted by a person the voter chooses, no one else may watch him or her vote.

It is illegal for a person assisting the voter to:

- Try to influence the voter's vote;
- Mark the voter's ballot in a way other than the way they have asked; or
- Tell anyone how the voter voted.

Voters May Use Interpreters at the Polls

Voters who cannot speak English, or who communicate only with sign language, may use an interpreter to help them communicate with election officials, regardless of whether the election official(s) attending to the voter can speak the same language as the voter. The voter may select any person other than the voter's employer, an agent of the voter's employer, or an officer or agent of a labor union to which the voter belongs. If the voter cannot read the languages on the ballot, the interpreter may also act as an assistant for the voter, but they must follow the procedures for an assistant. (See assistance section above for more details.) If the voter is deaf and does not have a sign language interpreter who can accompany them to help communicate with the poll worker or read the ballot, the voter should contact his or her local election officials before the election and request assistance.

Election Day Voting Locations

On Election Day, if your county participates in the [Countywide Polling Place Program \(CWPP\)](#) – commonly referred to as 'Vote Centers' – you can vote at any location in your county of residence. If your county does not participate in the CWPP, you can only vote at the voting precinct assigned to you. Your residence is located in a specific "precinct" or area within the county where you will vote on Election Day. In some cases, precincts may be combined to accommodate joint local elections. *You can find your voting precinct location by using our search site "[My Voter Portal](#)," which will be populated with voting sites two days prior to Election Day. Election Day voting hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at all polling places statewide. For questions regarding polling places, always consult your [County Elections Office](#).

**Your voting precinct number (Pct. No.) is located next to your year of birth on your voter registration certificate.*

Soldier, Colonizer, and Entrepreneur - Ben Milam



Ben Milam was an average man who traveled the early frontier. But the course of events would place him in the middle of the fight for Texas independence and into legend. Milam's decisive actions made him one of the early heroes of the Texas Revolution.

Benjamin Rush Milam was born in 1788 in Frankfort, then just a tiny village on the Kentucky River in what was not yet Kentucky. His life was defined by the early frontier. He had very little formal education, as almost no schools were available.

As a young man, he was mostly interested in trade and bartering. Struck by wanderlust, he drifted from one adventure to the next. In 1812, he enlisted in the Kentucky militia and served honorably as a lieutenant in the War of 1812.

Milam made his first, brief foray into Texas in 1818. By the next year, he found himself in New Orleans, caught up in the excitement of a potential raid into Texas to seize it for the United States from Spain. In what became known as the Long Expedition, James Long made Milam a colonel and led his rag-tag army that crossed the Sabine River into Spanish Texas.

They quickly took Nacogdoches and declared Texas independent of Spain. When the Spanish Army arrived, the Long Expedition fell apart.

Milam and Long attempted to reorganize at Galveston in 1820, but the effort quickly faltered. Milam then went to Veracruz and on to

Mexico City. Instead of finding the cities defended by monarchists, he and his party found that the rebels had already taken the cities. He and the dozens of men with him were thrown in prison. An American diplomat later arranged their release.

He returned to Mexico in 1824 in the aftermath of yet another revolution, one that established Mexico as a republic. And with a new government came a new attitude. All was forgiven, and Milam was made a colonel the Mexican Army as well as a citizen. Times were good for Milam. He soon teamed up with a British immigrant, Gen. Arthur G. Wavell, and started a silver mine in Nuevo Leon, a northern Mexican state adjacent to Texas.

In 1825, they also gained empresario grants in Texas—land grants that allowed them to sell or lease lands in order to attract residents to what was still a lightly-populated region.

Events, however, soon turned sour for Milam. The Nuevo Leon mine started to falter, and he and Wavell soon leased out a mine to a British company. In the meantime, Mexican officials grew increasingly concerned about American designs on Texas in light of offers by the United States government to buy Texas and raids such as the Long Expedition.

In 1830, the Law of April 6 banned all immigration from the United States into Texas and expressly forbade the introduction of new slaves into the area even though Mexico had officially banned slavery the year before. This imperiled Milam's empresario contract.

Agustin Viesca became governor of Coahuila y Texas in 1835. Ben Milam believed he could work with him to secure new land titles for Texas settlers.

On his visit to the new governor, he found a willing audience in his attempt to secure legal protections for their lands. However, Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna had overthrown the elected government. His officials arrested Viesca and Milam both. Milam, however, was able to talk their way out of jail thanks to Viesca's political allies. Milam reached Texas in October and joined George Collinsworth's column as they marched to take Goliad on Oct. 10.

After Goliad, Collinsworth's forces met with other armed Texans marching toward San Antonio. Gen. Martin Perfecto de Cos held the city for Santa Anna. Mexico had a large armed force occupying the city. It was now Dec. 4.

With the weather growing cold, many Texans considered holing up for the winter, building their forces, and preparing for an attack in the spring.

Milam recognized that point was the time to try to consolidate their gains and was determined to lead the charge himself. With the permission of his superiors, he made an impassioned plea and declared to the troops, "Who will go with old Ben Milam into San Antonio?" Three hundred men stepped forward and marched into the lion's den. They attacked at dawn the next morning.

After two days of fighting, Milam's forces were making progress. On the morning of Dec. 7, they were charging steadily forward for the third day. Milam stood at the fore of the battlefield, eyeing the positions of their attackers. A chance shot rang out. He was then struck in the head by the rifle fire and collapsed into the arms of his friends. He died at the scene at the age of 47 just as the Texas Revolution was heating up. Texas forces took the city two days later.

Milam was widely honored in the years after his death. In addition to streets, schools, and parks, a memorial site stands in San Antonio. Residents of the Sabine County community of Red Mound renamed their city after Milam in 1836.

The Texas Republic established Milam County in Central Texas in 1837 and is now boasts nearly 25,000 residents.

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Ronald McDonald House Charities

RMHCNTX Scholarship Applications Now Open to Local High School Seniors Through April 1

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater North Texas (RMHCNTX) announced the opening of applications for its Scholarship Program, which grants more than \$60,000 to 30 local high school seniors each year. Funded by North Texas McDonald's owner/operators and donations from the community, the annual scholarships recognize students for their outstanding academic achievements and community involvement.

Applications are open online at rmhcntx.org/scholarships and must be submitted by April 1, 2024. All students can apply regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender, disability, or national origin. To qualify for an RMHC Scholarship, students must:

- be a high school senior
- be younger than 21 years old
- be eligible to attend a two- or four- year college or university with a full course of study
- be a legal U.S. resident
- live in the geographic areas of the RMHC of Greater North Texas Chapter
- and submit a complete application and all required documentation by the deadline.

"This is always one of my favorite parts of the year, when we can support our local high school seniors on their path of education," said David Floyd, McDonald's of North Texas President and local owner/operator. "Every student deserves the opportunity to focus on their studies without the stress of their financial situation, and we hope the RMHCNTX scholarship fund will help local students achieve that."

Since the Scholarship Program was founded in 1988, more than \$2.5 million has been awarded to more than 1,500 North Texas high school seniors. For more information and to apply, visit rmhcntx.org/scholarships.

About McDonald's North Texas

McDonald's of North Texas is a co-operative of local business owners who own and operate more than 350 McDonald's restaurants in the Greater Dallas-Fort Worth area. McDonald's of North Texas restaurants employ more than 17,500 people in the Greater Dallas, Fort Worth and Tyler communities. Follow McDonald's North Texas on Instagram @McDonaldsNorthTexas and Facebook @NorthTexasOperatorsAssociation.

About RMHC of Greater North Texas

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater North Texas (RMHC of Greater North Texas), a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that creates, finds and supports programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children and their families. Our programs are grassroots-driven to enable us to offer help where children and families need it most – right in their own communities. RMHC of Greater North Texas is part of a global network

of Chapters making a positive impact on the lives of children and families in 65 countries and regions around the world.

From the Trinity Regional Water District

TRWD Flyfest in Fort Worth Saturday, March 9

TRWD Flyfest, an annual celebration of urban trout fishing, will be held on March 9 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the River Park Trailhead 3100 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth, TX 76109. 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. 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.

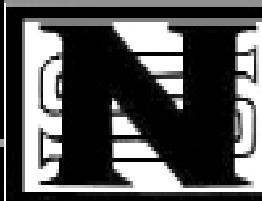
The event will also feature children's activities, including a mini stocked tank for fishing and a rock climbing wall. Food trucks, wine and craft beer and many outdoor vendors will make it a fun day for everyone!

Parking will be available for \$5 at the River Park Trailhead, 3100 Bryant Irvin Road, on the day of the event.

For other important event information, visit www.trwdflyfest.com.



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Weekend Forecast



Friday, March 1:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 74. South wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 55. South wind 10 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.



Saturday, March 2:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 83. South southwest wind around 15 mph, gusts as high as 20 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 58. South wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.



Sunday, March 3:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 83. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 59.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)