

From Texas Comptroller's Office State Sales Tax Holiday Aug. 11 - 13

The Comptroller encourages all taxpayers to support Texas businesses while saving money on tax-free purchases of most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks (sold for less than \$100) during the annual Tax-Free weekend.

Qualifying items can be purchased tax free from a Texas store or from an online or catalog seller doing business in Texas. In most cases, you do not need to give the seller an exemption certificate to buy qualifying items tax free.

This year's sales tax holiday begins Friday, Aug. 11, and goes through midnight Sunday, Aug. 13.

The sales tax exemption applies only to qualifying items you buy during the sales tax holiday. Items you buy before or after the sales tax holiday do not qualify for exemption, and there is no tax refund available.

Additional Charges Affect the Sales Price

Delivery, shipping, handling and transportation charges by the seller are part of the item's sales price.

Since clothing, backpacks and school supplies have to be less than \$100 to qualify, you have to look at the item's total sales price to determine if you can buy it tax free.

For example, you buy a pair of jeans for \$95 with a \$10 delivery charge for a total price of \$105. Because the jeans' total price is more than \$100, tax is due on the entire \$105 price.

If a delivery charge is billed per item, and an invoice has both exempt and taxable items, only the qualifying exempt item's delivery charge is exempt.

If the delivery charge is a flat rate per

package, and the amount charged is the same regardless of how many items are included in the package, the total charge can be attributed to any one of the items in the package.

Sales Tax Holiday Refund Requests

If you pay sales tax on qualifying items during the sales tax holiday, you can ask the seller for a refund of the tax paid. The seller can either grant the refund or provide their customer with Form 00-985, Assignment to Right to Refund (PDF), which allows the purchaser to file the refund claim directly with the Comptroller's office.

Qualifying Items

Click Here to view the list of clothing, footwear and other qualifying items.

Click Here to view the list of school supplies.

From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers 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 July 20 agenda is available to view **here**.

From Benbrook Public Library Get Your Digital Library Card Today!

Are you a Benbrook or 76126 zip code resident looking for immediate access to digital resources? Get a 30-day digital card today!

In order to get your physical library card, which will grant you the ability to check out physical materials and validate your account for three years, visit us in person before the 30 days expire.

You will need to bring your photo ID and a piece of mail with your current address on it.

Benbrook Residents & 76126

In order to sign up for a resident card, patrons must present a valid state-issued ID with a Benbrook address or zip code in 76126 on it and a piece of recent, first-class mail with the same address.

The checkout limit for a resident card is 50 items, including 10 DVDs (20 per family), three Great Courses, two video games, two kits, two BOB books, one backpack and one eReader, wifi hotspot, Roku streaming stick or laptop computer.

With this card, patrons will have access to all of our materials in the library as well as all of our electronic materials, including eBooks, eAudiobooks, and more.

To find a list of all our great online services, please check our digital resources page.

Residents are also able to request up to 10 items via interlibrary loan at any given time.

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Suburban Newspapers, Inc. From the Sports Desk with John English **Student Athlete Spotlight: Benbrook Bobcat Robert Heick**

Robert Heick started out playing boy's them on," Heick said. "I think my fondest the court," Hamlett-Williams said. singles last season before transitioning to memory would be when I switched to mixed mixed doubles.

was a good fit for the incoming junior because he became more aggressive, and was able to "dominate on the court, winning more points with his partner."

ior brings a lot to the table and she is looking forward to what he can accomplish in 2023-24.

"Robert is a leader on the team," Hamlett Williams said. "He leads warmups, information to athletes from the coach."

Heick said he was pleased with how things unfolded this past season and agrees that the move from singles to mixed doubles has made a big difference.

"I was happy with the progress I made as a singles player, but feel that I was able to grow and contribute more to our team as a mixed double player," Heick said.

Heading into last season, Heick said he had two goals, both of which were fairly well achieved.

"My goal was to make it to regionals and to help as many of my teammates get there as well," Heick said. "The majority of our team qualified and fought hard. My partner and I managed to advance to the second round which is what I had hoped to accomplish."

Heick, 16, who is also a member of the National Honor Society, CAR, Scouts, and his church youth group has already established his objectives on the court for next vear.

"In our fall season, I hope to continue improving my consistency and other areas of weakness so that I can be a stronger competitor in the spring season," Heick said.

Heick enjoys reading in his spare time and plays saxophone in the school band, and said reflecting on this season as a whole, a few things stand out as especially enjovable.

"I really enjoy hanging out with my teammates during tournaments and cheering

doubles. I have always loved tennis but Coach Marie Hamlett-Williams said it playing singles was incredibly stressful for some reason, and I put way too much pressure on myself to win.

"Playing mixed doubles allowed me to remember why I enjoyed playing and al-Hamlett-Williams said the incoming jun- lowed me to be more supportive of my teammates."

> Hamlett-Williams said she has a few things she would like to see Heick work on this off season.

"Robert should continue helping other helps new teammates with drills, and sends new athletes, initiating outside practices and exercising his leadership skills on and off



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Heick's Favorites Favorite Athlete: Roger Federer Favorite Sports team: Texas Rangers Favorite Food: tortellini Favorite Movie: Better off Dead Favorite TV Show: Avatar the Last Airbender Book Currently Reading or Last Book Read: "Ready Player One" Favorite Musical Group or Performer: The Beatles

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Suburban Newspapers, Inc. From StatePoint **Everything You Need to Know About Student Loans**

More American families are borrowing **Exhaust All Options** for college. At the same time, merit aid and the use of personal income and savings is first exhaust other sources of financial aid. falling.

That's according to an annual College Ave Student Loans survey of college students at four-year universities, conducted with Barnes & Noble College Insights. The survey also found college affordability is top-of-mind for the majority of students (57 percent). Despite financial concerns, 81 percent of students report that a college degree is crucial for their future.

"The mix of methods that families use to pay for college has shifted, however one thing remains consistent: students and families value the investment in higher education," says Angela Colatriano, chief marketing officer of College Ave.

To borrow smart for college this fall, consider these tips and insights:







Complete and submit the Free Application ibility to match your needs. For example, for Federal Student Aid to be considered for grants, scholarships, work-study programs and 15-year repayment options, along with and federal student loans. If your selected the choice of deferring payments until after school is one of the 400 institutions that requires the CSS profile, submit that too to away. No matter what option you select, unqualify for institutional aid. Finally, search for private scholarships offered by comeasy one to apply for is the College Ave about \$1,000 monthly scholarship sweepstakes.

If you do need to borrow, turn to federal which generally offer the lowest rates and depend on credit scores, and offer longer deferments and forbearances, incomedriven repayment plans and student loan finances after you graduate. forgiveness.

Private Student Loans

Federal student loans have annual and aggregate loan limits. If you find yourself needing to borrow parent or private loans to cover remaining costs, consider these factors:

• Costs: Compare costs of different loans by looking at the actual interest rate you'll be charged, not the lowest advertised rate. Understand the difference between variable and fixed interest rates, and be aware of any fees and available discounts, such as those offered for using autopay.

• Cosigners: A creditworthy cosigner doesn't just increase the odds of loan approval, even if the student can qualify on their own, cosigning may yield a lower interest rate, reducing the overall cost of the loan.

• Total Debt: Borrow only what you need. With private loans, you can usually borrow up to the total cost of attendance. However, borrowing less than the maximum can help you save over time. A simple rule of thumb you can use to determine how much student loan debt you can afford: If total student loan debt at graduation, including federal and private loans, is less than the

student's annual starting salary, you can Before turning to private student loans, likely repay the loans in 10 years or less.

> • Repayment: Look for repayment flex-College Ave Student Loans offers 5, 8, 10 graduation or beginning payments right derstand the terms.

For more resources, including an online panies and non-profit organizations. One student loan calculator, and to learn more paying for college, visit CollegeAve.com.

Private loans for college can play an imstudent loans in the student's name first, portant role in financing your education. By researching your financial aid options, apcome with additional benefits. They don't plying for scholarships and comparing private student loan options, you can minimize college costs, so you can better manage your



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Suburban Newspapers, Inc. From Tarrant County Back to School Roundup: Registration Required

Pre-registration is going on now through Friday, Aug. 4 for Tarrant County's Back to School Round Up.

To qualify and register for free school supplies, families must **register online**, show proof they live in Tarrant County and meet the 2022 Federal Poverty Guidelines. Listed below are ways to show proof of qualification.

Families will receive an email confirmation that they will present the day of the event to gain admission into the event.

The person who pre-registers is not required to attend Roundup. In fact, the email confirmation can be sent with any person to pick up the school supplies.

Here's what you will need to register:

Families must show three documents along with their completed registration form to qualify for school supplies. A picture ID, proof of Tarrant County residency and proof they meet the 2023 Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Examples of what can be used for Picture ID:

- You may use any one of the following:
- Texas state driver's license
- Texas state identification card
- Military identification card

• Foreign consulate-issued identification (i.e. Matricula Consular)

• School, Employer work identification card

• Church ID card

Examples of what can used for Proof of Tarrant County Residency

You may use any one of the following:

• May, June, or July 2023 utility bill (electricity, water, phone or gas) showing applicant name and current address.

• Mail sent to applicant showing applicant name and current address, with a postmark from either May, June, July 2023

• Letter from landlord or apartment management company, on company letterhead, indicating proof of residency during May, June, or July 2023

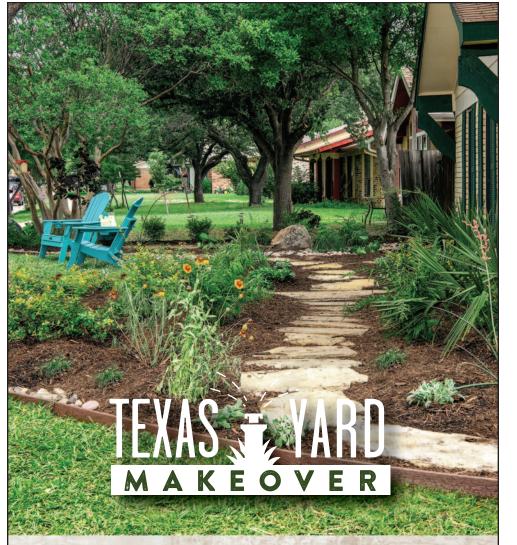
Examples of what can used for Proof of Income

Families applying for free school supplies must meet 2023 Federal Income HHS Poverty Guidelines. You may present any of the following:

• Paycheck stubs from May, June, or July 2023

• Letter dated in May, June, or July 2023 on agency or company letterhead from an employer, welfare office, caseworker, or Social Security Administration Office indicating annual income and signed by an agent of the company or agency. Letter must include contact phone number for verification

• Letter or card showing participation or enrollment in Medicaid, SNAP, unemployment, disability or school free lunch program



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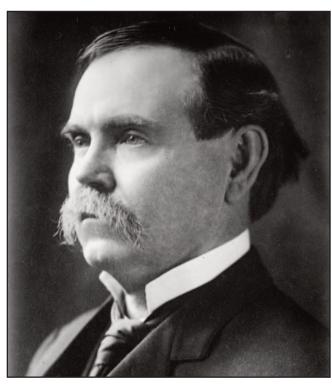
Suburban Newspapers, Inc. Texas History Minute Former Governor of Texas: Thomas Mitchell Campbell

by Dr. Ken Bridges

At the beginning of the twentieth century, Texas was moving ahead.

The spirit of reform was in the air as the people demanded accountability from business and government alike.

Gov. **Thomas M. Campbell**, who served from 1907-1911 dedicated himself to progress for the people.



Thomas Mitchell Campbell was born in Rusk is East Texas in 1856. His father was a farmer who had moved from Georgia. His father was a respected member of the community who served as Longview's first mayor in 1871 and later as a justice of the peace and Gregg County sheriff. As a young man, Campbell was also friends with James Stephen Hogg, another future Texas governor.

In 1873, Campbell enrolled at Trinity University with hopes of becoming a lawyer. However, he struggled with being able to afford his tuition and dropped out. He continued to study the law informally and was admitted to the state bar in 1878. That same year, he also married and started his own law office in Longview.

In 1889, he became the attorney for the troubled International-Great Northern Railroad. He guided the line through bankruptcy and later moved to Palestine to serve as its general manager. He resigned from the railroad in 1897 and moved into politics.

In 1906, at his old friend James S. Hogg's urging, Campbell ran for governor, his first run for any office. After a bitter campaign, Campbell won the Democratic Primary and the election.

Insurance reform became a special target for Campbell. The Robertson Act of 1907 regulated life insurance rates and mandated that out-of-state insurance companies operating in Texas had to invest a portion of their revenue in Texas itself.

In 1909, he announced to the state that because of the state's new property assessment policies, Texas enjoyed a budget surplus of nearly \$900,000. The total appraised value of Texas properties topped \$1 billion for the first time. This also allowed school funding to rise by more than half to \$9.4 million and allowed schools to adopt calendars longer than a six-month school year and also increase per-student spending by a third.

Campbell called two special sessions that year to force the legislature to act on reform measures. Legislators fought and argued, with several having to be escorted out of the House of Represen-

tatives. Eventually, they passed measures forcing railroads to be held liable for employee injuries on the job and strengthened state antitrust laws. The legislature also strengthened alcohol regulations and organized a standard ballot for all local option wet-dry elections. After fierce debate, the state mandated that banks had to guarantee the safety of customer deposits, either using a state protection fund or a bond system. For the first time, Texas bank customers would not necessarily lose their savings if the bank were robbed or failed.

And for the first time, the legislature approved funding to bring electricity and modern plumbing into state-owned buildings. Many Texas communities already had electricity, but installation in government buildings lagged far behind. As a result of the bill, even the governor's mansion received electricity for the first time.

Several new regulatory agencies came into being under Campbell's leadership. The Department of Insurance and Banking was created to regulate the practices of those industries in the state. The Bureau of Labor Statistics was created to gather information on employment and wages. A new Texas State Board of Health was created in 1909 as well as the Texas State Library and Historical Commission to preserve state records and artifacts for future generations.

Campbell left office in 1911. He made one last attempt at elected office, losing a primary race for US Senate against incumbent Sen. Charles A. Culberson. Campbell spent his last years as a lawyer in Palestine and working behind the scenes in Democratic politics until his death in 1923.

From Texas Comptroller's Office Are You an Unclaimed Property Holder?

Unclaimed property can be any financial asset or safe deposit box contents that has been abandoned by the property owner for one or more years.

Examples of unclaimed property are: abandoned bank accounts, uncashed checks, overpayments, payroll and vendor checks, unredeemed gift cards, insurance proceeds, dividends and mineral interests.

How do I search for unclaimed property?

Business and individuals can search for their unclaimed property using the online tool located at ClaimItTexas.gov.

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- If you need help, dial 2-1-1 or 1-877-541-7905. Community resource information is also available online at www.211texas.org.

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From Tarrant County **Tarrant County Public Health Announces Back-to-School Immunization Events**

Tarrant County Public Health (TCPH) Back-to-School Immunization events will be offering all recommended immunizations starting July 31. The events will help ensure students receive their immunizations before the school year starts.

All attendees should bring vaccination records. The cost of the administration fee for children 0-18 years of age is \$8 per shot and for Adult Safety Net vaccines 19 years of age and older with no insurance is \$15 per shot. Only cash, check, CHIP, or Medicaid will be accepted. However, no one will be turned away for the inability to pay. Families with private insurance should contact their primary physician to obtain their immunizations.

The TCPH brick-and-mortar locations and weekly pop-up vaccine clinics will suspend vaccine services during the Back-to-School Immunization events, all vaccine clinics and services will resume vaccine operations Sept. 4.

- Back to School Round Up*
 - Aug. 4 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. 5301 Campus Dr. Fort Worth, TX 76107
- Ridgmar Mall Food Court Entrance August 14 - 19 and 21 - 26 M-F: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Saturday: 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. 1888 Green Oaks Blvd. Fort Worth, TX 76116

Additional information on the Back-to-School Immunization events can be found on our website or by calling the Tarrant County Public Health Call Center, 817-248-6299, Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

From City of Benbrook Vendors Wanted for 15th Annual Benbrook Heritage Fest

The City of Benbrook will host Heritage Fest on Saturday, Sept. 30 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Dutch Branch Park.

Vendors will be provided the opportunity to display and sell their products.

If you are interested in participating, contact Sydney Turner at sturner@benbrook-tx.gov before Sept. 2 to book your place - space is limited.



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Three Day Weekend Forecast



Friday, July 21:

<u>AM</u> - Sunny and hot, with a high near 101. S/SW wind around 10 mph becoming north in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 75. E/NE wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.



Saturday, July 22:

<u>AM</u> - Mostly sunny, with a high near 94. N/NE wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. <u>PM</u> - Mostly clear, with a low around 75. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.



Sunday, July 23:

<u>AM</u> - Sunny, with a high near 98. <u>PM</u> - Mostly clear, with a low around 76.

Extended Forecast Click Here