



Benbrook News

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From the Sports Desk with John English

Player Feature: Western Hills Soccer Keeper - Jorge Urbina

Jorge Urbina's moment is coming in 2023.

The Western Hills soccer player will start for the Cougars in goal this coming season, and coach Matt Collins said he already has the respect of his teammates.

“Jorge brings unquestioned leadership,” Collins said. “On and off the field, Jorge is a complete leader. Last year was a year of learning for Jorge. He backed up a strong player. But I do not anticipate any let up in play. Jorge is a great keeper.”

Urbina, 17, said that overall, he is satisfied with what his team was able to accomplish in 2022 by earning a post-season berth.

“We played well throughout, but I do think the conclusion to the playoffs game is something I was hoping would happen,” Urbina said. “I'm satisfied with the season outcome is probably how I would put it in words, but I know that we can aim high and get farther.”

Urbina said is optimistic about 2023.

(continued on page 2)

From Grace Baptist Church

GBC Back to School Bash Registration Deadline July 16

Students who are eligible for free and/or reduced meals can get free school supplies, hair cuts, food and community and health resources at the Grace Baptist Church Back to School Bash to be held on July 30. Families must [register online](#) by July 16. For more information, email info@gbcfortworth.com or call 817-246-6646. Grace Baptist Church is located at 1501 Jim Wright Freeway in Fort Worth.

From Carter BloodCare

Blood Drive at Benbrook Library July 15

Area residents are invited to support neighbors in need by donating blood at the Carter BloodCare drive hosted by Friends of the Benbrook Library on Friday, July 15 from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Those interested may visit the [sign up link](#) to choose a time slot. The Benbrook Library is located at 1065 Mercedes St. in Benbrook.

From Fort Worth ISD

FWISD's Student- Designed, Community-Built Playground All Set at Western Hills Elementary School



More than 100 volunteers from the Fort Worth Independent School District, Western Hills Elementary School, and Challenge of Tarrant County gathered to construct a student-designed playground to ensure students have a safe, inclusive place to play. This is part of a nationwide effort by KABOOM! to end playspace inequity – the reality that places to play are not available to every child, especially in communities of color. This project will provide a state-of-the-art playground to more than 656 students – as well as their families and community members – each year.

Community members led the creation of the playground, from design to installation. In April, (continued on page 4)

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Player Feature (continued from page 1)

“Next season is looking solid,” Urbina said. “We have so many returning players, which will only make for great communication on and off the field. Each and every player is individually great, and we play even better as a team. With a bit of fine tuning and possibly moving things around, I have a great feeling about the team.”

The Western Hills senior said the main objective as a team is to make it to the playoffs and have a deep run into the post-season next season.

“This team is important to me,” Urbina said. “So my main goal is to benefit the team in any way I possibly can in order to push for the playoffs. A small goal that I would, of course, like to complete at the end of the season is to have six clean sheet games.”

Urbina said he has faced some challenges and that his playing career has had its share of ups and downs.

“Balancing school, sports, and life in general gets tough at some point,” Urbina said. “My JV years, I didn’t really fit into any certain positions either. But that experimentation of playing all sorts of positions helped me figure out at what place I find myself most comfortable and at peace. Yes, being a goalie can apply all sorts of pressure to one’s head, but to me it’s almost a like a wake up call. Anything off the field becomes blurry and the only thing I see then is the ball and my team.”

Urbina, whose favorite hobby is drawing, said to have a successful season in 2023, Western Hills will need to rely on intangibles it already possesses.

“It takes many things to live up to expectations, and building off of those requires strong will and heart, two things Western Hills has loads of,” Urbina said.

“Pure determination to succeed on and off the field will benefit us in unthinkable ways.”

Collins said he has a few goals for Urbina moving forward.

“Jorge has been working hard to improve fitness, and gaining experience in the goal,” Collins said. “He is a hard worker. I have high expectations for him.”

Urbina's Favorites

- Favorite Athlete: Lionel Messi
- Favorite Sports Team: Chelsea FC
- Favorite Food: spaghetti
- Favorite Movie(s): the Jurassic Park franchise
- Favorite TV Show: *The Office*
- Favorite Subject: Science
- Last Book read: “*Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*”
- Favorite Performer: Kanye West

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From StatePoint

Affording a Down Payment May Be Easier Than You Think

If you're ready to buy your first home but are short on the down payment, you're not alone. Affording a down payment is the number one barrier to homeownership, and rising housing costs are presenting even bigger hurdles.

The August 2021 Freddie Mac Housing Price Index showed a 19.67% year-over-year increase in home values. At the same time, more than 35% of non-homeowners say they do not have enough money to put toward a down payment, according to NerdWallet. Among millennials, the figures are even more disheartening, with 63% having set aside no money for a down payment.

But there's good news. Down payment assistance programs, an often-overlooked resource, could be the missing piece of the financial puzzle to make your dream of homeownership a reality, and there are more than 2,500 such programs nationwide. According to Freddie Mac, here's how to take advantage of down payment assistance:

- Understand the different types of help. Down payment assistance can take many forms, including grants from federal agencies, employers, community organizations, state and local housing finance agencies, and state and local governments. There are also a number of down payment assistance loans available with attractive terms. For example, deferred payment second loans. These are secondary loans for which payments are not due until you sell, refinance or pay off the first mortgage loan. And for those looking to live in a rural area, USDA rural home loans are a favorable option, because they have no

down payment requirement.

Tax credits are another form of assistance. Certain states and local governments, including housing finance agencies, issue mortgage credit certificates that reduce the amount of federal income tax you pay. This makes more money available up-front for your down payment or closing costs.

- Determine your eligibility. Although eligibility requirements vary depending on the program, most down payment assistance programs have income eligibility requirements based on you as an individual borrower or your household. In addition, you usually must use the funds for your primary residence and be a first-time homebuyer.

- Get started. Identify available programs by checking out trusted resources, including HUD's directory of state programs and Down Payment Resource. Your housing counselor or lender can also help you determine which programs you're eligible for and work with the program's administrator to help you secure financial assistance.

- Get help. The homebuying journey is complex, so don't be afraid to seek expert help. Freddie Mac Borrower Help Centers and HUD-certified housing counselors can help you navigate the homebuying journey, make informed decisions along the way and ensure you're financially prepared for long-term, successful homeownership. In addition to being trained to provide budget and credit advice, housing counselors can also provide guidance on the different types of mortgage assistance programs that may be right for you. To learn more, visit myhome.freddie.com.

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From Tarrant County

Registration Deadline July 15 for Tarrant County Back to School Roundup

Pre-registration is going on now through Friday, July 15 for Tarrant County's Back to School Round Up.

Families must pre-register for the event on Friday, Aug. 5. 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 2022 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 be used for Proof of Tarrant County Residency

You may use any one of the following:

- May, June, or July 2022 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 2022
- Letter from landlord or apartment management company, on company letterhead, indicating proof of residency during May, June, or July 2022

Examples of what can be used for Proof of Income

Families applying for free school supplies must meet 2022 Federal Income HHS Poverty Guidelines. You may present any of the following:

- Paycheck stubs from May, June, or July 2022
- Letter dated in May, June, or July 2022 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

WH Elementary Playground

(continued from page 1)

students from Western Hills Elementary shared drawings, paintings, and 3D models of their dream playspaces with project organizers. These ideas were integrated into the new playground design, which was decided after the school community provided feedback.

The new playground, intended for Western Hills' second through fifth grade students, includes elements to promote play among students with disabilities and Too Small to Fail panels to promote conversation. Students wanted swings and more challenging equipment, and the new playground will have both. The school is also receiving an edible teaching garden, Texas native shrubs, and fruit trees this fall. Covered outdoor learning spaces will be installed after the playground is built, in response to feedback from the school community. The mission of Western Hills Elementary is to provide a positive and warm climate that is conducive to learning by incorporating strong teaching methodology and high expectations into all student learning opportunities. Its vision is to ignite in every student a passion for learning.

The project is a part of Challenge of Tarrant County's commitment to ensuring community health and wellness for all who call Tarrant County home.



Western Swing Bandleader, Bob Wills *by Dr. Ken Bridges*

Bob Wills was one of the earliest stars of country music in Texas just as radio became popular. Wills was one of the pioneers of western swing and inspired generations of country music artists.



James Robert Wills was born in the small community of Kosse, about 45 miles southeast of Waco, in 1905.

He was born into a family of cotton farmers and musicians. His father, John Tompkins Wills, was a popular local fiddle player and reportedly won several competitions.

In 1913, the family moved to the small community of Turkey in the panhandle, eventually buying a farm in the area. In spite of the musical education he received playing with his siblings, he grew bored as a teenager and left home at the age of 16, spending several years traveling by freight train. He returned home after a few years, but the music was waiting, and Wills began playing with a renewed energy.

He moved to Fort Worth in 1929 where he began playing music and performing in travelling vaudeville acts. As he traveled, he learned more about other musical styles and steadily incorporated their influences into his music, including influences from Bessie Smith, an early African-American blues legend as well as early country artists Jimmie Davis and Jimmie Rodgers.

Wills formed the Wills Fiddle Band in 1930, which became a hit on radio. With a new sponsorship, it was renamed the Light Crust Doughboys. Wills left the band in 1933 and formed the Texas Playboys the next year. By this time, Wills was among a group developing the “western swing” sound.

In 1940, he released perhaps his most popular song, “New San Antonio Rose.”

He started appearing in western movies, ultimately appearing in twenty altogether, in the 1940s. In 1942, at the age of 37, he enlisted in the army. However, he was quickly discharged. Nevertheless, he wrote and performed several popular patriotic songs to support the troops during World War II.

He developed problems in the 1940s because of his increased drinking, but he continued to tour. In 1968, he was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. His health continued to decline. In 1973, he had just started an album with country artist Merle Haggard when he suffered a massive stroke. Wills never recov-

ered and spent the next two years in a coma before his death on May 13, 1975.

Bob Wills influenced a very diverse group of musicians, including such legendary acts as blues artist Fats Domino, rock stars Jimi Hendrix and The Rolling Stones, and country artists such as Waylon Jennings as well as Haggard.

Wills’s 1936 hit “Right or Wrong” was re-recorded by George Strait in 1984. “Sugar Moon,” a number one single from 1947 was later recorded by Willie Nelson and K. D. Lang in the 1980s. In 1950, Wills released “Faded Love,” a song that he had written with his father and brother. The popular tune was later sung by Conway Twitty, Elvis Presley, and eventually, Willie Nelson. A multitude of artists perform other songs of his still to this day.

After Wills’s death, tributes poured in from around the country. He and the Texas Playboys were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1999 for their contributions to the beginnings of rock and roll. In 2011, the Texas House of Representatives passed a resolution honoring him by declaring western swing to be the official music of Texas.

Waylon Jennings perhaps spoke for millions of Wills’s fans when he sang in his 1975 tribute, “I don’t care who’s in Austin, Bob Wills is still the king.”

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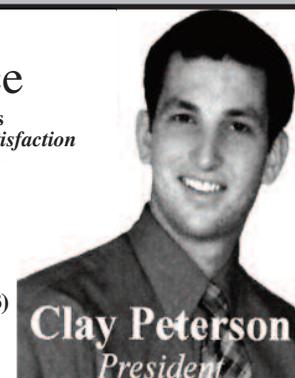
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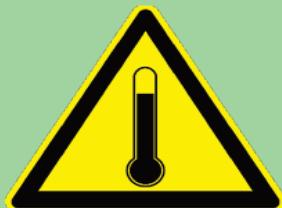
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Three Day Weekend Forecast



Friday, July 8:

AM - Sunny and hot; high near 105. S/SW wind 5-10mph, with gusts as high as 20mph.
PM - Mostly clear; low around 82. S/SE wind 5-10mph.



Saturday, July 9:

AM - Sunny and hot; high near 106. SW wind 5-10mph.
PM - Mostly clear; low around 82.



Sunday, July 10:

AM - Sunny and hot; high near 106.
PM - Mostly clear; low around 82.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)