

Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt

VFW Post 5617 Hosts Dinner Honoring USS Westchester County Attendees



Pictured are: Nolan Nelson, Will Duffy, Paul Maier, Bill Kaupas, Terry Morris, Jim Johnson, Jim Yeager and John Sloan.

The USS Westchester County, LST 1167 met in Fort Worth on Friday, June 7 in remembrance of lost shipmates and the ship's unique history in the Vietnam War. In the early morning hours of Nov. 1, 1968, the USS Westchester County or "Wesco" suffered the highest loss of life of any Navy vessel in the entire war.

The Wesco was assigned to the Mekong Delta Army/Navy Mobile Riverine Force in December 1967. The ship's main mission was to land troops and cargo directly onto a beach, however, by 1968 the Wesco served as a support ship for the Riverine Force and soldiers of the 9th Infantry Division's 3rd Battalion, 34th Artillery.

On Nov. 1, 1968, onboard the deck of the Wesco, were five fully fueled Army helicopters and directly below on the tank deck, 350 tons of explosives and ammunition were stored. At 0322 hours, limpet mines attached to the hull of the ship by Viet Cong swimmer/sappers, exploded with devastating results. Fortunately, the quick actions of the officers and crew prevented a major catastrophe. The resulting explosion never ignited the ammunition on the tank deck or the fully fueled helicopters. (continued on page 3)

Benbrook Council Action by John English

June 6 Meeting Review

The Benbrook City Council meeting held on June 6 was conducted as scheduled. Mayor Jason Ward called the meeting to order.

A local girl scout troupe that was present introduced themselves. 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 previous meeting held on May 16 were then approved unanimously.

The first item of the evening was a motion to approve an Inter-local Agreement with Fort Worth Transportation Authority to provide transportation for residents aged 65 or older and residents with disabilities. According to the meeting agenda, the City of Benbrook contracts with the Fort Worth Transportation Authority (Trinity Metro) to provide transit service to Benbrook residents. The program provides transit service to residents aged 65 or older and residents with disabilities at a subsidized fare of \$2.50 per one-way trip. The City's cost to participate in the program is \$7,529, for which funds are budgeted annually. Qualified residents may use the transit service for a variety of purposes, including medical appointments, shopping, recreation, (continued on page 2)

From Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County

Volunteers Urgently Needed to Deliver Meals

Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County has an urgent need for meal-delivery volunteers. With the summer months upon us and the increase in the number of clients along several routes, many could be left without a volunteer to deliver their noontime meals.

"Volunteers are the backbone of what we do," said Carla Jutson, President & CEO. "Not only do they deliver nutritious meals and friendly smiles, but they also provide daily safety checks."

Volunteering takes about one hour, one day a week, Monday through Friday, between 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. We have many open routes throughout Tarrant County, especially in underserved neighborhoods.

For more information or to sign up to volunteer in Tarrant County, please visit mealsonwheels.org/volunteer or call 817-258-6428.



Obituary



Casey Nathaniel Johnson

Casey Nathaniel Patton Johnson, a beloved son, husband, father, and dedicated soldier, passed away on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at the age of 36 in Clarksville, TN.

A funeral service honoring Casey was held on Friday, April 5, 2024, at the Neal-Tarpley-Parchman Funeral Home officiated by Allen Little. Service included a beautiful tribute to Casey's life, with friends and family coming together to share stories and memories. Following the service, Casey was laid to rest with full military honors in Kentucky Veteran Cemetery West.

Born on June 5, 1987, in Weatherford, TX. He spent his early years in White Settlement and was a Brewer High School graduate in the Class of 2006.

After a 16-year career SGT Casey Johnson retired from the US Army. Casey demonstrated unwavering commitment and courage. He fearlessly embarked on multiple deployments, including missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Persian Gulf where he displayed his selflessness and dedication. For his sacrifices and valor, Casey was awarded the esteemed Purple Heart along with numerous service medals and accommodations as a testament to his bravery and resilience.

Casey is survived by his devoted wife, Kim, and their four sons: David, Conner, Aiden, and Bentley. He is also survived by his mother, Nancy Bolin, and his siblings: Taylor (Ashley) Lynn, Alicia (Allen) Little, Lola (Kyle) Lucas, Brandi (Eddie Saucedo) Johnston, and Emily (Ryan) Hamrick.

Let us honor Casey's memory as a courageous soldier, a loving husband, father, and son, who brought laughter and joy to all. Though he may no longer be with us, his spirit will continue to shine brightly through the memories he created and the love he shared. Casey's legacy will forever inspire us all to live our lives with bravery, dedication, and a commitment to bringing joy to others.

Council Action (continued from page 1)

school or work, excluding weekends and holidays. Benbrook residents are guaranteed rides on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and on the remaining days, rides are available subject to priority requests from other cities on a first-come basis. If a Trinity Metro van is not available, ridership can be offered through other programs at full cost. Of the 10 participating cities, Benbrook is the only city with guaranteed rides twice per week. The terms and conditions of service and the annual administrative fee of \$7,529 are identical to the previous year's contract. The agreement was approved unanimously.

The next agenda item was informal citizen comments, and resident Tammy Curry approached the podium and informed the council that she was the leader of the girl scout troupe that was present.

Curry brought four cadets, and said they have been working hard to earn their Silver Award Badge, which consists of 50 work hours.

The girls chose to build a duck house for a duck pond and are hoping to place it at Dutch Branch pond. They have already built one, and have two more in the works.

Next, each of the four girl scouts approached the podium and took turns speaking about their duck house and made their arguments for why the houses should be

placed at the pond at Dutch Branch Park, after which they receive an ovation from the city council. Ward asked that one of the girls leave a phone number so that the parks department can follow up with them.

Resident Dan Sully then approached the podium and requested that the encumbered funds be included in the finance reports, it would be "greatly helpful." The Benbrook man also suggested that the fire department have the best possible training for electrical fires resulting from electrical cars, because they difficult to extinguish. He also said a public good by to Father Kenneth Bolin, who is leaving St. Thomas Becket Catholic church for a church in Orlando.

Time was then allowed for council member and staff comments, and member Renee Franklin reminded residents of several events, including an E-waste and shred event on June 15, and then asked residents to keep track of the events the Benbrook Public Library has going on and asked that residents support the local library.

The meeting was then adjourned.

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Around the Town (continued from page 1)



In no particular order, VFW Post 5617 Vietnam Veterans **Ralph Bradley, Mike Dorow, Gerald Reyelts, Ernest Godsey, Pete Alcalá Raymond Arenas and Charles Mills** with Wesco honorees and White Settlement Mayor **Faron Young** and his wife, **Tina** (far right).

A total of 25 men were killed in action from the explosion. Within days, the Wesco was beached and a coffer dam was built to allow for repairs.

By Nov. 14, the Wesco embarked on a 2500 mile voyage to Yokosuka, Japan and permanent repair.

By 10 March 1969, the ship was once more headed into harm's way for duty off the coast of Vietnam. A true testament to a resilient and courageous crew.

At the Memorial Service for the Wesco's fallen at Ton San Nhut Air Force Base, the following tribute echoes across the ages:

*Not for fame or rewards,
Not for place or rank,
Not lured by ambition or goaded by necessity,
But in simple obedience as they understood it.
Those men suffered all, dared all and died.
Lest we forget.....Lest we forget.*

For us the living, let us always remember the crew of the Wesco, and their place in history.

A Memorial was set at the National Vietnam Memorial Museum in Weatherford.



Pictured (l-r) are: **Nolan Nelson**, Lt. JG Engineer '69-'71 from Oregon, **Will Duffy** whose brother Keith Duffy was killed in action came from New York, **Paul Maier** Lt. JG Supply Officer '68-'70 from Virginia, Surgeon **Gerald Reyelts**, **Bill Kaupas** PO 2 Signalman '70-'72 from Florida and **Terry Morris** EM2 Electrician '67-'69 from Washington.



Pictured (l-r) are: **Robin Norcutt**, E4 Score Keeper, '69-'73 from Arizona, Sr. Vice Commander **Dean Borries**, **Sue Kaupas** and **Jim Johnson** 3rd Class Boats Mate from Edinburg, TX.

From the Sports Desk with John English

Benbrook Bobcat Athlete Spotlight: Campbell Cox



her to meet her goal of breaking Benbrook's school record for most goals and assists...Campbell, along side seniors Vivian Carpenter and Sophia Tucker, have been on the team since their freshman year and helped the team advance to win district, bi-district, and the area championship four consecutive years in a row, as well as advance to the regional quarter-finals."

Not surprising, Cox, will be playing at the next level.

"Campbell is being granted a four-year academic and athletic scholarship to Harding University," Castillo said. "Harding is a great fit for Campbell where she will continue to play soccer at a collegiate level and meet her career aspirations. She has met some of her teammates and shows genuine enthusiasm for the University."

Cox, 18, said when she was looking at colleges, Harding stood out because of the atmosphere.

"One of the most important reasons I chose Harding was because of the connection I made with the coach and the team," Cox said. "As soon as I stepped on campus, I knew it was home."

Cox said she was very happy with the way the season ended, with the team advancing to the third round of the playoffs for the fourth time in a row and winning another district championship.

"Coming into my senior season, I had personal goal of breaking the school record for goals and assists at Benbrook, which I accomplished late into the season," Cox said. "As a team, I had the goal of not just making playoffs, but making it to the third round again if not further. We accomplished this in a nail-biter against China Spring, in which we won 3-2 and I had a goal and an assist."

The outgoing senior is looking forward to playing college soccer.

"Transitioning from high school to the collegiate level is going to be difficult," Cox said. "But I am ready for it! I look forward to competing in every game and getting familiar with my new team."

The Benbrook forward's favorite memories from this season were going to CiCi's Pizza before the Lake Worth scrimmage and assisting Lexi Garcia in the second round of playoffs to win the game, and said there is a lot she will

miss when she heads off to college.

"I'm going to miss all my support from my teachers, my friends, my coaches my teammates, and most importantly my family cheering from the stands at every single game," Cox said.

Castillo said, "As she graduates and becomes a young adult, I hope she continues to stay disciplined and committed to cooperate with her team to work together toward a common goal," Castillo said. "I hope she continues to be a resilient leader and persevere both on and off the field. Lastly, I hope she continues to build friendships and camaraderie, which are the bonds and memories that last beyond high school."

Cox's Favorites

Favorite Athlete: Sophia Smith

Favorite Sports Team: USWNT

Favorite Food: Pasta

Favorite Movie: *McFarland USA*

Favorite TV Show: *Friends*

Favorite Musical Group or Performer:
Taylor Swift



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO REVIEW
WHITE SETTLEMENT ISD'S

Annual Federal Program Funding Sources:

Elementary and Secondary Schools Act

Individual with Disabilities Education Act

Perkins V: Strengthening Career and Technical
Education for the 21st Century

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency
Relief (ESSER)

White Settlement ISD will hold a public meeting at 5:30pm, June 17, 2024 at the Administration Building located at 8224 White Settlement Rd., White Settlement, Texas 76108.

The purpose of the meeting is to review and allow public comment regarding the plan for spending these federal funds.

Campbell Cox left an indelible imprint on the girl's soccer program at Benbrook High School.

The recent graduate finished with a total of 88 goals and 59 assists during her four-year tenure on the Lady Cats varsity squad, and coach Luz Castillo said she could not have asked more from her star forward.

"At the start of the season, Campbell had very clear goals to meet," Castillo said. "Her ambition, dedication, leadership, and drive led

From Mental Health First Aid

Free Mental Health First Aid Training Session June 26

According to Mental Health America, 17 percent of adults in Texas, or 3.6 million people, are experiencing mental illness. Texas Health Resources is hoping to create a stronger community support system for individuals in crisis by offering free Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training. The virtual one-day course teaches participants the risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns. Led by experienced trainers, the program features interactive videos, breakout sessions and other activities, with discussions on depression and mood disorders; anxiety disorders; trauma; psychosis; and substance use disorders.

The next MHFA training session will take place on June 26, with [monthly offerings](#) through the end of the year. Some online prework is required for registration, and participants who finish the course can earn Mental Health First Aider certification.

The MHFA program is based on a five-step action plan known as ALGEE: ASSESS for risk of suicide or harm; LISTEN nonjudgmentally; GIVE reassurance and information; ENCOURAGE appropriate professional help; ENCOURAGE self-help and other support strategies.

“Mental Health First Aid training is not a substitute for professional assistance, but it does provide education and resources for the average citizen who may encounter someone in need and not know how to respond,” said Matt Dufrene, vice president of Texas Health. “We invite local individuals and organizations to take this training and help us build a healthier community.”

Texas Health brought MHFA training to North Texas in 2021 by investing in a train-the-trainer program. To date, more than 550 individuals have earned MHFA training in North Texas. The course is open to anyone interested in knowing how to identify, understand, and respond to a mental health crisis.

To register for the MHFA course, go to: <https://info.bluezones-project.com/mhfa>. Organizations interested in bringing MHFA training to their employees can contact CommunityHope@TexasHealth.org.

Legal Notice

The White Settlement Independent School District (WSISD) is accepting proposals for Educational Play Center. The Request for Proposal – 2324-18 can be accessed and submitted online at <https://wsisdebid.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>. A paper copy of the bid can be obtained on the WSISD website, www.wsisd.com, by visiting the Purchasing section of the Business Services page. If assistance is needed, please contact Heidi Monsees at hmonsees@wsisd.net. The deadline for questions is June 17, 2024, at 2:00 pm and proposals are due by June 20, 2024, at 2:00 pm. It is preferred that proposals be submitted online at <https://wsisdebid.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>. If a hard copy proposal will be submitted, it should be addressed to White Settlement ISD, Attn: Heidi Monsees, 8224 White Settlement Road, White Settlement, TX 76108. Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted. White Settlement ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

From the City of Benbrook

Free E-Waste and Shred Event Saturday

Bring your electronic waste and old documents to the free E-Waste and Shred event on Saturday, June 15 at Dutch Branch Park, from 8 a.m. to noon, or until the trucks are full. The event takes place in the back parking lot behind the Benbrook Community Center/YMCA, located at 1899 Winscott Rd.

Proof of Benbrook residency required (e.g., driver’s license or utility bill).

Acceptable items include:

- Televisions, Radios, Telephones (No CRT)
- Computer, Monitors, Printers (Innovative Electronics will destroy the hard drives.)
- Fax Machines/Copiers
- Microwave Ovens, Dishwashers, Washers, Dryers & Refrigerators
- Gaming Systems (Xbox, PlayStations, etc.)
- Vacuum Cleaners
- VCR Players
- Smoke Detectors

Sierra Shred will also be onsite to shred documents. Please limit documents to a reasonable household amount (no large quantities of business documents).

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Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

American Philosopher, Sidney Edward Mezes



The early 1900s was a formative time for education in Texas. Sidney Mezes, a one-time president of the University of Texas, rose to the forefront to serve as such a leader as well as a diplomat and a thinker. In the process, the son of a pioneer gold prospector in California became one of the most respected philosophers in the nation and a leader in Texas education.

Sidney Edward Mezes was born in September 1863 in Belmont, California, then a tiny village nestled between San Francisco and San Jose in the years after the Gold Rush. His parents were both immigrants, with his father having arrived from Spain and his mother from Italy. His father, Simon M. Mezes, was an attorney who arrived with the early wave of gold prospectors and other fortune-seekers.

His father had helped several Spanish families in the San Francisco area keep the claims on their lands as pressure from settlers and miners as well as various con artists sought to thrust them off their property. In the process, Mezes was able to buy some of this land and set it aside to form what became Redwood City, the county seat of San Mateo County in the 1850s, and for whom a city park is named. This helped provide a comfortable childhood for the future scholar, which included trips to Europe.

He graduated from what was then the University of California in 1884 (now the University of California at Berkeley) with a degree in engineering. After his father's death that year, Mezes took a different path and began studying philosophy. He enrolled at Harvard University in 1889, receiving a second bachelors degree in

1890 and a masters degree in philosophy in 1891.

While he was completing his doctorate through Harvard, he spent the 1892-93 school year teaching philosophy at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania. After finishing his Ph.D. in 1893, he spent a year teaching at the University of Chicago.

He was offered an adjunct teaching position at the University of Texas in 1894. In 1898, he took a look at ideas and perceptions of God with *The Conception of God*. He took on questions of spirituality and the existence of God. At the same time, he touched on ideas of time, memory, and reality. Mezes argued that God lives in an eternal state of the present, with all things happening in one everlasting moment and that time as mortal men understand it, is meaningless to God. "Time is no reality; things seem past and future, and, in a sense, non-existent to us, but in fact are just as genuinely real as the present is," Mezes wrote. "Every reality is eternally real, pastness and futurity are merely illusions."

He became a full-time professor in 1898. In 1901, he wrote an influential work on ethics, titled *Ethics, Descriptive and Explanatory*. He earned a promotion to Dean in 1902, serving as a philosophy professor simultaneously.

In 1908, Mezes was appointed President of the University. He was the fifth person to hold the position. He was widely respected for his work as a scholar and administrator. The college expanded steadily. He added a new library and a new Department of Economic Geology. Within five years, enrollment expanded 20 percent, from 2,500 students to 3,000.

In 1913, the newly-inaugurated President Woodrow Wilson asked him to become U.S. education commissioner, but he declined. Instead, Mezes decided to take a new position as the fourth president of the City College of New York.

He assumed his new post in 1914. He left the university on good terms, and the board of regents asked him his opinions on the direction of the university. He published this as *The Future of the University of Texas* in 1914, which helped form a blueprint for expansion.

The same spirit of innovation he brought to UT he brought to CCNY. Here, the college added schools of civil administration, business, education, and engineering, becoming a respected institution in New York.

At the request of Wilson, Mezes became the director of a committee of scholars informally called "The Inquiry" to investigate the causes of the war and to identify and evaluate possible solution to prevent a future war. These suggestions were later formulated into *Wilson's Fourteen Points*, which he outlined in a speech in January 1918. At the end of the war, Mezes served as a diplomat as part of the American delegation negotiating the Treaty of Versailles, the shape of the peace to come. He wrote a section from a 1921 series of recollections titled *What Really Happened at Paris*.

By the mid-1920s, Mezes began experiencing serious health problems. The situation became so bad that he retired as the CCNY president in 1927 at the age of 64, having seen enrollment quadruple from 5,200 to more than 20,000. He returned to California; and when his health permitted, he traveled to Europe and different parts of the U.S. The University of Texas honored him with the special title of president emeritus in 1929. He died at his home in Pasadena, California, in 1931.

The University remembered his many contributions and dedicated a new building in his memory in 1953. Mezes Hall today is a multi-use classroom building used by various departments and organizations on campus, including the Texas Politics Project, the Spanish Department, the Government Department, and the European Studies Department.

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ECE ROOFING LLC
 817-831-2600
 817-615-7164

LANDSCAPE/LAWNS
I MOW 4 YOU
 817-988-2249
corvetteron@hotmail.com

ALEX'S Lawn Care
 817-793-9096

SERVICES PROVIDED
AMERICAN LEGION Post 297
 817-249-2791
alpost297@sbcglobal.net

 Medicare Supplement Insurance
 Turning 65 Help & Under 65 Plans
 Marilyn-Kaye.com or 817-874-7569

CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING
 3290 Lackland Rd.
 Fort Worth, Tx 76116
Every Sunday worship at 9:30am

PAINTING
HAYWOOD Painting
 817-371-8597

REMODELING
ECE Construction LLC
 817-831-2600
 817-615-7164

PLUMBING
LONNIE BRAVO Plumbing
 817-715-6747
lonniebravo@sbcglobal.net
www.lonniebravoplumbingllc.com

PLUMBING BY RICHARD
 Texas Master# M15853, credit cards accepted.
 817-907-0472

Business Directory Listings - \$10 per month!
suburbannews@sbcglobal.net

Weekend Forecast



Friday, June 14:
AM - Sunny, with a high near 93. Calm wind becoming southeast around 5 mph in the afternoon.
PM - Clear, with a low around 71. Southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm after midnight.



Saturday, June 15:
AM - Sunny, with a high near 94. Light south wind becoming south southeast 5 to 10 mph in the morning.
PM - Clear, with a low around 74.



Sunday, June 16:
AM - Sunny, with a high near 95.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 75.

Extended Forecast [Click Here](#)