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Benbrook News

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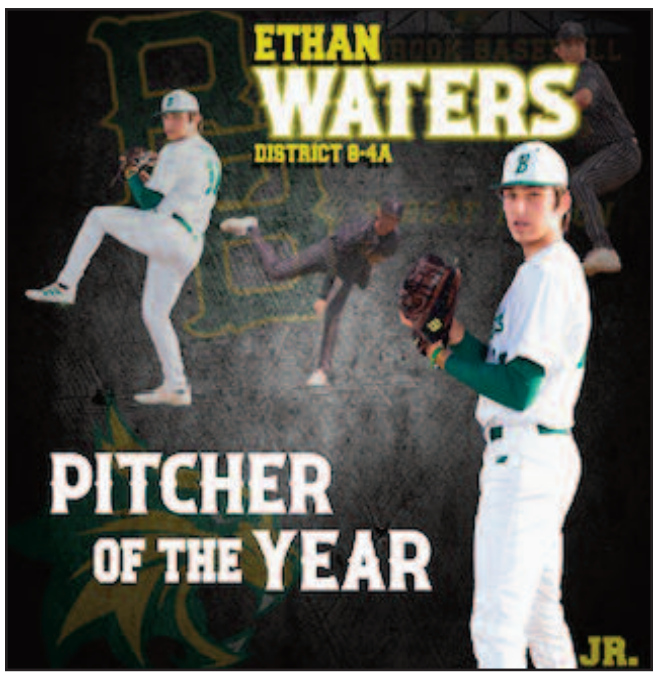
From the Sports Desk with John English

Player Feature: Benbrook MHS Baseball's Pitcher, Ethan Waters



The Benbrook baseball team has the district's best starting pitcher heading into next season, and coach Justin Chavez said hopes are high.

Ethan Waters was 8-2 on the year in 2022, was selected as the District 8-4A Pitcher of the Year and wrapped up the season with a 0.582 ERA in district.

Chavez said that Waters has exactly what a coach looks for in a student athlete.

"He has a work ethic to get better every single day he steps onto the field, classroom, or weight room," Chavez said.

The Benbrook coach said he has a few things he wants Waters to focus on during the off-season.

"He has to work on his leadership skills in terms of guiding the underclassmen on the team," Chavez said. "We will be really talented next year, but really young. The future is bright and next year we expect to win early and often and get back to multiple round wins in the playoffs. I know we always want the underclass to play for the seniors so we can be the best team possible and Ethan will make sure we put our best foot forward to accomplish those goals."

Waters, 17, thought the season as a whole was a success, but said it was a bitter ending, losing in the bi-district round of the playoffs.

"I was left unsatisfied in the end as regular season success did not translate to the playoffs," Waters said. "That's two years in a row that my best hasn't been good enough, and it has been my driving factor going into this off-season."

The incoming senior said at this point, he likes his teams' chances next year.

"I'm excited for the 2023 season," Waters said. "The team will be very young next year. We will only have four returners from last year's team and only two will be upperclassman. With that said, my role on the team will shift to being more of a leader then in the years prior. With youth also brings a high ceiling, however, and what we lack in experience will be made up with in talent."

The Benbrook pitcher said that in spite of the success he has enjoyed in high school baseball, there have also been some struggles.

"My career up until the 2022 season was an unfortunate mess," Waters said. "My freshman year (2020) was cut short due to the pandemic. My sophomore season was cut short due to me straining my UCL ligament in my elbow and resulting in me being out for two months of the season. I was lucky enough to rehab and get strong enough to come back and be ready for playoffs where we lost to (continued on page 7)

Benbrook Council Action

June 16 Meeting Wrap Up *by John English*

The Benbrook city council meeting on June 16 was conducted as scheduled. Mayor Jason Ward called the meeting to order. An invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ward allowed an opportunity for citizen comments on any agenda item for up to three minutes, but there were one.

Minutes for the meeting held on June 2 were then approved unanimously.

The first item of the evening was a citizen presentation from local girl scout Ava Missel, who discussed a self-guided leadership program to help get Benbrook youth interested in the community.

The Girl Scouts Gold Project would be targeted toward middle and high school aged students.

"Most students do not realize that they have the ability to participate and create a future in this community," Missel said. "I plan to create a self-guided leadership program that gives students the opportunity to explore and engage in what local leadership looks like."

Through this program, students would have the opportunity to attend local city council, board and commission meetings, chamber of commerce and Lion's Club meetings.

Missel was thanked by several council members for her initiative on this project.

Next up was a presentation by the mayor and members of the city council to appoint an alternate to the regional transportation council.

Council member Laura Mackey recommended Renee Franklin, and member Keith Tiner seconded (continued on page 7)

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From Tarrant Area Food Bank

Tarrant Area Food Bank Holds Mega Mobile Markets Wednesdays

Food insecurity is still an issue that many families in the Tarrant area are facing. As inflation rises and thus the cost of food, fuel and housing increase, TAFB continues the need in the number of families who relied on food bank services for the first time. TAFB continues to step up and assist by providing access to nutritious food to families in need to ensure a healthy, hunger-free summer for kids and families.

The Tarrant Area Food Bank's (TAFB's) Mega Mobile Market will continue to distribute nutritious meals at Herman Clark Stadium from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday evenings through the end of the month. Families can expect to receive a variety of nutritious food that is kid friendly, though the specific contents what each family receives depends on TAFB's product availability.

TAFB is also facing a critical shortage of volunteers to assist at their Distribution Center sorting and packing boxes for events like our Mega Mobiles, as well as volunteers at the events themselves. Without the necessary amount of volunteers, the food bank cannot continue to hold these events. It is critical that the community step up and sign up to volunteer. Sign up to volunteer at **tafb.galaxydigital.com.**

Herman Clark Stadium is located at 5201 CA Roberson Blvd, Fort Worth, TX 76119.

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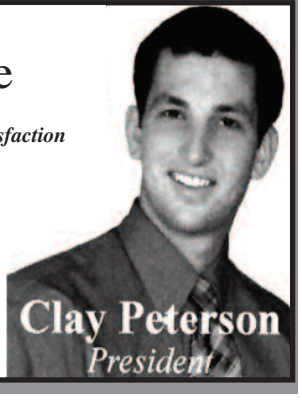
Clay Peterson
President

From Stevenson Oaks

New Senior Living Community to hold Showcase Event

Stevenson Oaks, located at 6521 Stevenson Oaks Drive in Fort Worth, will open the doors to their brand new senior living community for a showcase event on Thursday, July 7 from 2 to 4 p.m.

The newly constructed retirement community invites the public to come tour the state-of-the-art facilities and enjoy light refreshments. They will offer independent living, assisted living and memory support for residents. The Methodist Retirement Communities apartments look to honor and serve older adults.

Situated in a quiet but convenient Fort Worth corner, Stevenson Oaks offers all the charms of living in the suburbs but all of the excitement and ease of living near a big city.

With several optimal floor plans, those seeking independent living can choose which best suits their needs and wants. While the independent living units are immediately available for prospective residents, Stevenson Oaks is currently accepting deposits for the assisted living and memory care apartments to open this fall.

Come on out on July 7 to see for yourself all the wonderful opportunities that await. Call 817-405-2120 or visit **MRCStevensonOaks.org/events** to RSVP to the Showcase today!

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From Stardom Entertainment

Johnny & June Tribute Show Coming Soon to River Oaks Event Center

Stardom Entertainment presents *Ultimate Johnny & June Tribute* on Saturday, July 2 at the River Oaks Event Center, located at 5300 Blackstone Drive.

Cliff Wright, a self-taught musician, pays tribute to Johnny Cash in this show. He began his musical journey at 8 years old, learning the guitar. Cliff is the recipient of many Elvis and Johnny Cash Tribute recognition and awards, not to leave out his 5-year tenure as Cash.

Kasey Hutchinson pays tribute to June Carter Cash with her feisty yet elegant presence, adding to the low baritone singing and shotgun-style playing of Cliff Wright. The retro sound of the 1950s' iconic three-piece band includes ETA Radney Pennington playing the lead guitar.

Stardom Entertainment's *Ultimate Johnny & June Tribute* captures the love, laughter, and musical talents of Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash. Tickets are **available online** or by visiting the **Stardom Entertainment's webpage**.

For more information or tickets, call 817-251-1316.

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Texas History Minute

American Journalist and Politician, Rienzi Johnston *by Dr. Ken Bridges*

Rienzi Johnston was the powerful editor of *The Houston Post*, one of the state's most influential newspapers. Though mostly forgotten today, he was at one time one of the most widely read men in the state, and his words could make or break political careers. He led a life that brought him from a modest background in Georgia, and ran away as a child to fight in the Civil War to becoming editor of one of the most influential newspapers in Texas. Along the way, he also embarked on one of the most unusual careers in the United States Senate.

Rienzi Melville Johnston was born in eastern Georgia in 1849 or 1850, but the records are not clear, and birth certificates were unheard of at the time. He was the oldest of four children, and his father was a printer. Johnston's family had deep roots in Georgia, including a great-grandfather who had fought in the American Revolution. He learned about printing at his father's side and became involved in the newspaper business from his earliest years.

When the Civil War erupted, he was still a child. At the age of 12 in 1862, he ran away from home and tried to enlist in the Confederate Army. Though officially the Confederacy would only take men over the age of 18, Civil War historians note that thousands of troops on both sides were underage. Realizing his young age, the army made him a drummer instead of putting him in the infantry or sending him home. He served for a year, was discharged, and then re-enlisted in 1864 for the remainder of the war. At the age of 14, he was already on his second tour of duty.

After his return to civilian life, he resumed his newspaper work. In 1870, Johnston moved to the busy port city of Savannah and became the city editor for the *Savannah Morning News*. In 1878, Johnston moved to Texas and secured a position as editor of the small *Crockett Patron*. His skills were in demand, and he moved to Corsicana the next year to serve as editor of the *Corsicana Observer*. He soon branched out and started his own paper, the *Independent*. In 1880, he moved to Austin, where he secured a position with the *Austin Statesman*.

Meanwhile in Houston, a group of investors were attempting to revive the short-lived *Houston Post*. Johnston had already established a great reputation among Texas journalists, and he was hired as editor when it restarted in 1885. The Post soon became one of the most important papers in the state, mostly because of Johnston's writing and management of his newsroom. Johnston's editorials were routinely run in papers across the nation and quoted by politicians and businessmen. He often wrote impassioned defenses of the freedom of speech and freedom of the press as well as opinions of current events. In 1898, Texas Democrats offered to nominate him for lieutenant governor, but he declined.

In September 1912, Sen. Joe Bailey of Gainesville, wounded by accusations of corruption, announced his resignation from the Senate, effective Jan. 3, 1913. Gov. Oscar Colquitt appointed Johnston to fill out the remainder of the term, even though it would be only a few weeks. Johnston accepted and headed to Washington. There was very little activity in the Senate, and Johnston's term was largely uneventful.

His service ended on Jan. 29, replaced by the newly-elected Morris Sheppard of Texarkana, a popular congressman who would serve 28 years in the U.S. Senate.

Johnston's 25 days in the Senate was almost the shortest tenure of any Senator up to that time, certainly of any Texan. However, on Jan. 3, Sen. Jeff Davis of Arkansas died suddenly. Not to be outdone (or underdone), John Heiskell was appointed by the Arkansas governor to fill the position on Jan. 6. Heiskell, an influential newspaper editor like Johnston, also ended his service on Jan. 29, giving him 23 days in the Senate. Both men, however, far exceeded the ultimate record-holder on the shortest term: the 87-year-old Sen. Rebecca Latimer Felton of Georgia who served only one day in November 1922, becoming the first woman to serve in the Senate and the oldest person ever appointed to the position.

Johnston was not content to exit politics entirely. In 1916, he was elected to the Texas State Senate, representing Harris County. He was elected as president pro tempore of the Senate in 1918, the highest-ranking member of the legislative body, second only to the lieutenant governor. He fully retired from *The Houston Post* in 1919, and in 1920, Gov. William P. Hobby appointed him to serve as head of the Texas Prison Commission. He continued to serve until his death in February 1926.

Decades later, the Houston Museum of Fine Arts named one of its buildings after him. *The Houston Post*, however, fell victim to the fierce competition of the *Houston Chronicle* and closed in 1995.

Mary Isham Keith Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution Awards Scholarships

Mary Isham Keith Chapter DAR awarded book scholarships at its annual award luncheon held at Ridglea Country Club in May.

Award winners were **Selina Humphrey**, history major at Texas Wesleyan University (top), and **Bailey Alexander**, nursing student at Texas Christian University (bottom).

In presenting the scholarships, Chapter Regent **Diana Lussier** said, "Our DAR Chapter is proud to continue its long tradition of awarding book scholarships to qualified students to assist them in reaching their goals."

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Benbrook Council Action (continued from page 1)

the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

The next item was a presentation by the planning and zoning commission to adopt an ordinance rezoning .27 acres of land that's legally described as Lot 4, Block 2 Benbrook Estates Addition from "B" One-Family District to "CR" Multiple-Family Restricted District at 207 San Angelo Avenue, located south of the intersection of SW Loop 820 and San Angelo Avenue.

According to the council agenda, in keeping with the City's Comprehensive Plan to establish medium density land uses (two-family attached) in the area, the applicant is requesting to rezone the aforementioned area.

Subject to approval, the applicant plans to raze the existing single-family dwelling and construct an attached two-family dwelling. Lot 4, Block 2 was platted as part of the Benbrook Estates Addition in 1946 and, according to the Tarrant County Appraisal District, the existing single-family home was built in 1940.

Since adoption of the comprehensive plan supporting medium density within the Benbrook Estates subdivision, City Council has approved 12 rezoning requests to the "CR" District with the intent of building two-family dwellings since 1995.

A Public Hearing followed, but there were no comments.

The council accepted the recommendation unanimously with one abstention.

Next up was a proposal from city staff to award the 47th year Community Development Block Grant Project to Blackrock Construction in the amount of $231,717 and allocate $59,100 from the Capital Projects Fund to cover the City's cost share for the installation of sidewalks along the north side of the 5600 and 5700 blocks of Bellaire Drive and the east side of the 300 block of Crosslands Road in Northeast Benbrook. Blackrock construction presented the lowest bid. The recommendation was accepted unanimously.

Time was then allowed for informal citizen comments, and resident Greg Clem spoke to express some concerns about the flood plain located at the south of the Trinity Estates.

Resident Terry Roach then approached the podium and discussed what he described as "police misconduct" regarding a previous encounter with police where he was detained and has since requested the body camera video of the interaction.

Following Roach's comments, Carolyn Rodriguez, who posts videos on a YouTube Channel called "CWF Carolina in Fort Worth," addressed the council in defense of Roach.

"Apparently what happened was that he was bullied and kind of, you know, had his rights violated during a stop," Rodriguez said. "Well, not during a stop. He's was actually picking up trash...and they stopped him and asked him if he was stealing, and he was like, 'no, I'm not stealing anything.' And they didn't believe him, and they put him down on the ground, handcuffed him, searched his car illegally. We don't know though, because you won't give us the body cam video."

Rodriguez then said that when she comes to Benbrook, City Manager Andy Wayman will not answer the door, he will not answer or respond to any of her phone calls or emails and accused him of a lack of transparency.

Time was then allowed for council member or staff comments, and Franklin recognized Vincent Hancock, an Olympic Gold Medal winner in Skeet shooting, won three gold medals at the Shooting World Cup last week in Azerbaijan.

Council member Mackey then wished all of the fathers a Happy Father's Day, and the meeting was adjourned.

Player Feature (continued from page 1)

argyle in the third round. These challenges have shown me how lucky I am to play the game of baseball and it has made me not take it for granted. It also has made me better as it showed me how much work it is to take care of your body with being an athlete."

The Benbrook senior said he thinks for the Bobcats to build on what they accomplished this past season, the team needs to focus more on the preparation for playoffs, as it did not feel to him the team was ready for the challenge in 2022.

"For us to have another long playoff run it will take having a short-term memory," Waters said. "We can't let mistakes build off each other and let them snowball. It will also take more work off the field than on it. I think we slacked off on doing our job off the field last year. This included lifting weights, running, and most importantly doing your job in the classroom. We have to be able to do the little things right and hold each other accountable and that starts as soon school starts in the fall."

Chavez said he will rely heavily on Waters next season to set the tone for the team.

"His leadership will be a part of how successful we are next year," Chavez said. "As Ethan goes, so does our team. He has to be ready for the leadership role, and I think he will. Goals for him next year are to be the MVP of the district and take us on a deep playoff run."

Waters' Favorites

Favorite Athlete: Bryce Harper
Favorite Sports Team: Texas Rangers
Favorite Food: breakfast food
Favorite Movie: *Star Wars Revenge of the Sith*
Favorite TV Show: *The Office*
Favorite Subject: English
Book Currently Reading: *"The Night Gardner"*
Favorite Musical Group or Performer: Morgan Wallen

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Three Day Weekend Forecast

Friday, June 24:

AM - Sunny and hot; high near 103. S/SW wind 10-15mph, with gusts as high as 20mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 79.

Saturday, June 25:

AM - Sunny and hot, with a high near 104.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 79.

Sunday, June 26:

AM - Sunny and hot, with a high near 102.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 76.

Extended Forecast Click Here