

From Staff Reporter Denise Honeycutt

VFW Post 10429 Hosts Sixth Annual Chili Cook Off

VFW Post 10429 recently hosted their Sixth Annual Chili Cook-Off at the facility. This sanctioned event brought contestants from all over Texas to compete in categories consisting of salsa, beans, chicken, ribs, pork butt, brisket and of course, chili!

This years winner will compete at the annual Chili Cook-Off in Terlingua later this year.

A silent auction was held with items donated by local businesses in the community and as well as several individuals. A 50/50 raffle, live entertainment and amazing food was enjoyed by all.



Chili winners are: (l-r) Third Place - **Brian McCurrey**; Second Place - **Danny Minton** and First Place - **Pat Clark**.



Grand Champion Award at the occasion went to VFW State of Texas Commander **Lynn Toomer** and his wife **Karen**, pictured with Commander **Eddie Terry**.



Chicken winners: (l-r) Third Place - **Walter Green**, Second Place - **Chris Moss** and First Place - **Lynn Toomer**.



Brisket category winners are: (l-r) Third Place - **Lynn Toomer**, Second Place - **Shawn Terry** and First Place - **Chris Moss**.



Moss Meatz was awarded Reserve Grand Champion. Pictured are **Chris** and **Josh Moss**.



Pictured left: The Judges (l-r) **John Haberer**, **John Stepp**, **Bear Jimerson**, **Don Kallmeyer**, **Derrick Mitchell**, **Zak Davis** and **Jan Davis** sample winners' dishes!

(more photos on page 3)

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White Settlement ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.



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Chili Cook Off (continued from page 1, photos continued on page 8)

Obituary



Kitchen crew serving lunch (l-r) **Lauren Leahey, Stephanie Sights, Beth Columbo and Judy Grantland.**



Paul Sights prepares pulled pork for lunch plates.



Pictured left: **Geoff Crew** carves up sausage for the event.



Sylvia Louise Aycock

Sylvia Louise Aycock, 85, passed from this life on Wednesday, March 8, 2023. \

A funeral service was held Monday, March 13, 2023, at Capstone Church, 4823 W. Loop 820 S., Benbrook, Texas, officiated by Pastor Parkey Cobern, with burial at Laurel Land Memorial Park, 7100 Crowley Rd, Fort Worth, Texas 76134.

Sylvia was born July 6, 1937, in Greensboro, Alabama to Claude Elmer Myrick and Rosie Lee (Johns) Myrick.

She was a member of Capstone Church in Benbrook, Texas. Sylvia lived her life with love and kindness, giving herself to her family and close friends. Sylvia was a dedicated homemaker and enjoyed the company of her dogs, Lady and Buster.

Sylvia was preceded in death by two husbands, Kenneth Taylor and Roy Aycock; grandson, Kenny Wilcoxon; parents, Claude and Rosie Myrick; and siblings, Claude Myrick, Jr., Wilma Gist, Lowell Myrick, and Jimmy Myrick.

Sylvia is survived by: her daughters, Donna Taylor and Kathy Aycock (John); step daughter, Suzanne Campbell (Jack); grandchildren, Holleh Vansant (Tim), Shion Neyestanki, Joe Wilcoxon, Jimmy Wilcoxon (Shelly), Michael Wilcoxon (Victoria), Stephanie Methe (Jimmy), Amber Wilcoxon, and John-John Aycock; great grandchildren, Selah, Evie, Auburn, Cash, River, Bella, Jackson, Colbey, Natalie, and Lynly; and sister, Shirley Midkiff (Cleveland).



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Soccer: Bobcats and Cougars Headed to Playoffs; Lady Cats Emerge Victorious in Big Cat Match Up

The Benbrook boy's soccer team clinched a playoff berth last week following a shoot out loss to Eastern Hills, and in spite of coming up just short, coach Jared Spoon said it turned out all right.

"The team played great and it was hard-fought until the very last second," Spoon said. "It ended 1-1 and went to PKs where Eastern Hills managed to edge one over on us. However, since our record for district was slightly better, we kept our spot in and are now headed to playoffs."

Spoon said he had one stand out player in particular against the Highlanders in Julian Cummerow, "with his clutch, tying goal late in the second half."

Over at Western Hills, the Cougars wrapped up the season with an 11-0 win over YMLA, and coach Matt Collins said his team was on point.

"YMLA plays hard every match we play them," Collins said. "They are great guys and we have lots of respect for them. We played well and took control early."

Western Hills is the No. 2 seed out of district 7-4A and Collins said he is pleased with how the regular season unfolded.

"I am happy with our placement," Collins said. "Diamond Hill is a top three team in the state, if not the best team. Benbrook got us on a night where we didn't play well enough to win. Outside that, we won all our games. So yes, I'm pretty happy."

On the girls side, Benbrook defeated Western Hills by a score of

7-0 on Friday, and coach Luz Castillo said it was a nice way to finish out the season.

"The battle of 377 is always a great competitive match," Castillo said. "The team played their last district game with the intention to end district undefeated, and they came up on top with another win."

Striker Sydney Chavez had five goals and an assist, and Campbell Cox had two goals and two assist. "Our defense did a phenomenal job keeping a clean sheet," Castillo said.

Benbrook is the district champion and Castillo said she could not have asked for a better season.

"I am so proud of our talented team as they secured the first place seed in district," Castillo said. "We came out undefeated and with a shutout in 9 out of the 10 district matches. We are very excited and look forward to playoffs."

Benbrook will open the playoffs with Castleberry at 6 p.m. on March 24 at Farrington Field.

On the diamond, the Western Hills softball team defeated Diamond Hill-Jarvis by a score of 11-6 on Friday and coach Austin Valdez said it was a pretty good all-around performance from his team.

"I was proud of the way we came out and competed," Valdez said. "It took us a little bit to get our bats going, but once we did, we were rolling. It was a big win for us, and I can't stop saying how proud of our girls I am."

Valdez said he had a few players with strong efforts in the game.

"Senior Lauren Beckham pitched the whole game and had 14 strike outs," Valdez said. "Another senior, Areli Nunez, had an inside-the-park home run. Senior Priscilla Rivers had 3 RBI's. Junior Alyana Cortez went 3-3. Sophomores Eva Almendarez and Leslie Bustamante hit .500, both getting 1 RBI."

Valdez said that he feels the non-district schedule served its purpose for the Lady Cougars.

"I think it helped a lot," Valdez said. "We have been tested several times, and it shows how resilient this team is. Going against the level of competition we have has really prepared us for district."

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Former President of Mexico, Antonio López de Santa Anna

by *Dr. Ken Bridges*

He was one of the last presidents of Mexico to rule over Texas and is always portrayed as one of the great villains of Texas History. Santa Anna is an overwhelming presence in the history of early Mexico, shaping much of the direction of the country in that time period, and Texas by extension. His role in the history of Mexico is much more complicated. He was president of Mexico on 11 different occasions until being overthrown, he was a constant foe of Texas and the United States, he was responsible for events from chewing gum to the disaster at the Alamo. Santa Anna's impact on history cannot be denied.

Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna was born in eastern Mexico in 1794, one of seven children. His father was a respected and modestly successful lawyer under Spanish colonial rule. However, his father was often frustrated by the Spanish crown granting political appointments to ambitious Spaniards close to the royal family rather than those colonists born in Mexico. He tried to push his son into a career as a businessman, but his mother managed to get him appointed as an officer in the Spanish army at the age of 16.

By 1810, Mexico and most of Latin America was in chaos following Napoleon's occupation of Spain. That year, Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla sparked a rebellion of the lower classes in Mexico, calling for racial equality for Mexico's many different minority groups and for land reform. Santa Anna fought against the rebels. In 1813, he made his first venture into Texas by defeating the Gutierrez-Magee Expedition, an ill-fated attempt by a ragtag private army to take over the area. Serving under Gen. Jose Joaquin de Arredondo, Santa Anna learned his techniques for regaining control in the midst of rebellion – mass executions.

Santa Anna was part of the brutal suppression of the uprising, mercilessly slaughtering 300 rebels in San Antonio and leaving the bodies hanging in the trees. By 1815, the rebellion throughout Mexico had been largely suppressed. When a coup in Spain overthrew the absolute monarchy in favor of a constitutional government in 1820, aristocrats in Mexico rebelled, fearing for the future of their elite status. Gen. Augustin de Iturbide led the revolt, and seeing the political winds changing, Santa Anna joined forces with Iturbide. By 1821, Iturbide was proclaimed emperor of Mexico; and Santa Anna was rewarded by being given command of Veracruz, Mexico's most important port city.

Between 1823 and 1862, the average term of a Mexican president was nine months. Resignations, coups, and mysterious deaths became a fact of life in Mexican politics, with Santa Anna increasingly at the center of the chaos. Santa Anna participated in the rebellion against Iturbide that led to the creation of a republic in 1823. In 1827 as Mexico conducted an election, Santa Anna and a number of other generals declared they would ignore the results and launched an attack on the government. With Santa Anna's help, a new president was installed by the military.

Santa Anna led Mexican troops against Spain's attempt to reclaim Mexico in 1829. He repelled the Spanish invasion at the Battle of Tampico. For the ambitious officer rising through the ranks, the results were everything he wanted. His popularity soared, and he christened himself "The Napoleon of the West."

After the vice-president seized the presidency for himself in 1830,

he arrested his predecessor and placed him on trial. After the former president's execution in 1831, protests erupted across Mexico. Seeing the opportunity, Santa Anna gathered his forces and launched a rebellion against the new government. Crushed under the weight of Santa Anna's attacks, Bustamante agreed to step down while the different factions agreed to new elections. Santa Anna was elected president overwhelmingly in 1833.

As president, Santa Anna was at the height of Mexico's political power. But he soon became bored with the position. After a month in office, he stepped down in favor of Vice-President Valentin Farias and returned to his estate in Veracruz. Farias continued to take orders from Santa Anna and pursued a number of reforms while tackling an immense national debt. After these reforms began angering conservatives, Santa Anna returned to Mexico City to reclaim the presidency, forcing Farias to resign. This process would continue three more times between the summer of 1833 and January 1835. As a result, instability and factionalism arose again and the government's control over the country weakened.

In 1834, Santa Anna dissolved Congress. He abolished the 1824 constitution and arbitrarily imposed a new constitution in January 1835 to restore order before stepping down from the presidency once again. Instead of order, revolution erupted across Mexico as the people demanded their rights be restored. Protests erupted across the country. Several states declared themselves in rebellion. Yucatan declared its independence and several northern states declared their independence as the Republic of the Rio Grande. Santa Anna retook command of the army and brutally crushed these rebellions across the country.

Texas settlers, mostly Americans, had grown tired of the abuses by Mexico and began their own rebellion, the Texas Revolution. Once Santa Anna restored order in Mexico, he rode north to Texas with his forces to suppress the rebels. This would lead to the bloody massacres at the Alamo and at Goliad in early 1836, moments that would leave an indelible mark on Texas History.

In 1836, Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, the president and general who dominated the political scene in Mexico, rose into Texas with his army, with destruction on his mind. He was determined to put down the uprising of the Texas colonists. He had spent months campaigning across Mexico to put down other rebellions, stepping down from the presidency to do it. Nevertheless, he was at the height of his power in Mexico; and for his opponents, including Texas, he was at the height of his cruelty.

When he reached San Antonio, he found he found the small outpost on the edge of the town defiantly standing their ground. The Alamo was once part of a Spanish mission complex. Determined to eradicate any opposition, Santa Anna settled in for a siege on Feb. 23. The Texans put up a furious resistance though they were outnumbered perhaps as much as 10:1. Santa Anna watched his own casualties increase. Col. William B. Travis sent word out, asking for reinforcements, but none were coming. On March 6, he ordered a final assault, signaling to the Texans there would be no quarter. More than 180 Texans died defending the Alamo, but Santa Anna had three times as many casualties.

Three weeks later, Santa Anna re-

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Texas History Minute (continued from page 5)

peated his depredations. More than 400 Texas troops, led by Col. James Fannin, had surrendered at Goliad. On March 27, Santa Anna ordered their execution. Each man was to die for defying him. The general had overseen these tactics since he was a young officer; but even in the years before the Geneva Convention and the fair treatment of prisoners, the Goliad Massacre was still condemned an atrocity.

Texas forces led by Gen. Sam Houston were preparing for Santa Anna's march eastward. But Santa Anna's arrogance would be his downfall. At the Battle of San Jacinto, near modern-day Houston, on April 27, he allowed his troops to rest for the afternoon while Houston gathered his forces. In a surprise assault, Houston overpowered the Mexican army, forcing their surrender. Santa Anna, however, had escaped. Instead of standing with his men, he turned and ran. A Texas patrol found him some time later, disguised as a private. After his captured troops in their stockade gave him away under cries of "Presidente," the Texans realized who they had captured.

Santa Anna was brought before Houston, still in the private's uniform and totally humiliated. He agreed to recognize Texas independence and order the withdrawal of all Mexican troops in Texas. Mexico refused to recognize the treaty, and Santa Anna was sent to the United States.

After he was allowed to return in 1837, he found himself powerless. When France attempted to invade Mexico in 1838, the new government allowed him to take command of an army unit. Called the "Pastry War" after debts owed to French citizens, Santa Anna fought several battles with the French. During one fight, he was shot in the hand and the leg. The leg was amputated, and Santa Anna ordered it be buried with full military honors. In spite of a peace treaty that forced Mexico to pay off the French, Santa Anna was now seen as a hero again. Afterward, he led a coup against the government, leading Mexico again for four months before stepping down once again. Santa Anna was at the center of Mexico's political chaos in this period, and he still looked to another attack on Texas as revenge for his humiliation during the Texas Revolution.

The career of Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna brought him to the height of power in Mexican politics, serving as president on eleven different occasions though he preferred to be leading his armies in the field. His career had also brought him nearly into political oblivion. In spite of the many problems Mexico faced and the disaster of his surrender to Gen. Sam Houston at the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836 and his roles in many coups against elected governments, Mexico still reluctantly turned to him in times of crisis by the late 1830s and into the 1840s.

By 1841, he had clawed his way back into the presidency. He led a nation that was deeply divided and near bankruptcy. Instead of concentrating on Mexico, he turned his eyes toward Texas and revenge.

Santa Anna led a raid into Texas in 1842. By September, he reached San Antonio and captured the city. Texas troops attempted to retake the town, leading to the Battle of Salado Creek just on the outskirts. Mexican troops killed 36 Texas troops in what was called the Dawson Massacre. In spite of Mexico's numerical superiority, they suffered heavy casualties and retreated back into San Antonio. A few days later, Mexican troops headed south and returned to Mexico. It was the last time Santa Anna was in Texas. The incident convinced most Texans to

pursue annexation to the United States once again. Santa Anna left office a month later. He was president twice more before being overthrown in 1844 and forced into exile in Cuba.

When the U. S. and Mexico went to war in 1846, Santa Anna returned and led the army once again. At the Battle of Buena Vista in February 1847, Santa Anna led a much larger force against the U.S. but faced difficult resistance. The Americans weren't going to give in, but Santa Anna was gaining the advantage. Poised for victory after two days of fighting, Santa Anna suddenly left the battlefield in the dead of night. In his arrogance, he was more interested in the political drama in Mexico City as the government disintegrated. The retreat allowed American forces to advance rapidly southward. He installed himself as president again but stepped down weeks later to fight American forces approaching the capital. While Santa Anna delayed American forces, Mexico ultimately surrendered.

Mexico was forced to give up territory from California to Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. In yet another indignity to the self-proclaimed "Napoleon of the West," Illinois forces captured Santa Anna's amputated and buried leg from the 1838 Pastry War with France and took it back to the United States, sparking a diplomatic dispute that has lasted for decades.

By 1853, he was once again president. He ruled with the same heavy hand. Instead of due process or free speech, his opponents usually saw the army seizing their property. Seeing Mexico's treasury bankrupt again, he agreed to a land deal with the U.S. He agreed to sell portions of southern Arizona and southern New Mexico in what is now known as the Gadsden Purchase. After having lost nearly half their territory to the U. S., his opponents had finally had enough of Santa Anna. In what came to be called the Liberal Revolution, a coalition of generals, aristocrats, and high-ranking politicians forced Santa Anna from office in 1855. His successors embarked on an ambitious program of reforms to undo the harsh and dictatorial policies that had marked his presidency and restore civil liberties to the people.

Santa Anna bounced around the Caribbean for a while before ending up in New York. He tried his hand at business. He tried selling Mexican chicle, a natural gum used since ancient times, to use on buggy and carriage tires instead of rubber. Thomas Adams bought a large shipment, but it proved a poor substitute. Instead, Adams began selling chicle as chewing gum, introducing the popular treat to Americans in part because of Santa Anna.

France invaded Mexico in 1862 after a debt dispute and seized Mexico City, while President Benito Juarez launched a long insurgency to defend the country. By 1865, hoping to be the hero of the nation again, Santa Anna offered to return to Mexico to lead the army against its invaders. Seeing the pattern that had marked so much of Santa Anna's career, Juarez refused. In the meantime, Santa Anna tried to raise money for an army while in New York City, only to see these efforts falter. After Mexico repelled the French in 1867, Santa Anna continued to live in the United States.

In 1874, Santa Anna was offered amnesty and was allowed to return to Mexico. His return was met with little fanfare. Barely able to walk, deep in debt, and almost blind, he lived his remaining days quietly. He died in 1876 at age 82, with Mexico still unsure how to place him in its history.

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Chili Cook Off (continued from page 3)



Salsa winners: (l-r) Third Place - **Mike Soto**; Second Place - **Ashlyn Shepherd** and First Place - **Walter Green**.



Commander **Eddie Terry** presents First Place award for Beans to **Shawn Terry**.



Pork Butt winners: (l-r) Third Place - **Shawn Terry**, Second Place - **Lynn Toomer** and First Place - **Chris Moss**.



Commander **Eddie Terry** recognizes the winners of the Rib competition while **Patty Bravo**, Sr. Vice Commander look on. They are: (l-r) Third Place - **Walter Green**; Second Place - **Christian Baez** and First Place - **VFW State of Texas Commander Lynn Toomer**.

Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt

Benbrook Farmers Market



Samuel, Maddie and Judith Stanzel enjoy tasting samples from a vendor.



Sophia Gutierrez and her grandfather **Armando Gutierrez** brought **Bubbles and Daisy** to the event.

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Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

of property to satisfy a landlord's lien.

Sale to be held online at

www.selfstorageauction.com beginning March 16, 2023, at 8:00am and will conclude March 27, 2023 at 10:00a.m.

Cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. All sales to the highest bidder, subject to additional terms noted on website. Facility address: 8460 Boat Club Rd, Fort Worth, Texas 76179. Tenant Name: Jerry Storrs General Description of Property: Misc. household goods, bedroom set w/dressers, wall pictures, and misc. boxes

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

of property to satisfy a landlord's lien.

Sale to be held online at

www.selfstorageauction.com beginning March 16, 2023, at 8:00am and will conclude March 27, 2023 at 10:00a.m.

Cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. All sales to the highest bidder, subject to additional terms noted on website. Facility address: 8460 Boat Club Rd, Fort Worth, Texas 76179. Tenant Name: Linsey N. Schoenborn General Description of Property: Misc. VHS tapes, bedroom set, toy wagon, misc. household items, video game systems and games, clock, lighted Christmas tree and a Safe.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Sale to be held online at

www.selfstorageauction.com beginning March 16, 2023, at 8:00am and will conclude March 27, 2023, at 10:00a.m.

Cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. All sales to the highest bidder, subject to additional terms noted on website. Facility address: 8460 Boat Club Rd, Fort Worth, Texas 76179. Tenant Name: Brent Mitchell General Description of Property: Leather sofa and chair, mattress and bed frame, dresser, old desk, plywood and misc. boxes.

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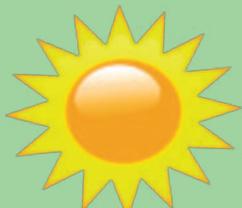
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Three Day Weekend Forecast



Friday, March 17:

AM - Partly sunny; high near 52. Breezy, with a N wind 20-25mph, with gusts as high as 40mph.
PM - Partly cloudy; low around 35. N wind 5-15mph, with gusts as high as 25mph.



Saturday, March 18:

AM - Mostly sunny; high near 56. N/NW wind 5-10mph.
PM - Mostly cloudy; low around 36. E/NE wind around 10mph.



Sunday, March 19:

AM - Mostly cloudy; high near 52.
PM - A 20% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy; low around 38.

Extended Forecast [Click Here](#)