

Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt

Pig Roast at VFW Post 10429



At the roast were: (l-r) State of Texas Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) **Norm Macey**; incoming State of Texas Commander **Lynn Toomer**; District 1 Chaplain **Darrell Hartley**, and Commander VFW Post 10429 **Paul Sights**.



Pig Roasters were (kneeling) **Danny Young**, (l-r) **Larry McCool**, **Bruce Dennis** and **John Bolser**.

(story on page 5)

From the Benbrook Public Library

Benbrook Public Library Introduces New Director

The Benbrook Library Board of Trustees is excited to announce that as of March 18, 2022 **Erica Richardson** is the new Library Director for the Benbrook Public Library. She has served the past four months as Interim Library Director.

Steve Clegg, the former director who has been out on medical leave, was influential in growing the library into the thriving community space that it is now. His work during his 10 years at Benbrook Public Library was vital to its current success, and we deeply appreciate his dedication



(continued on page 2)

Benbrook Council Action by John English

March 17 Meeting Wrap Up

The Benbrook city council meeting on March 17 was conducted in person.

Mayor Pro-Tem Larry Marshall called the meeting to order. An invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes from the council meeting held on March 3 were then approved.

The first item of the evening was a proclamation on child abuse prevention month from Marshall and the presentation of a plaque to Cheryl Richardson

(continued on page 5)

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Library Director (continued from page 1)

to serving the community.

Erica has worked at Benbrook Public Library for seven years, first as a librarian focusing on outreach and community engagement, and then as Assistant Director beginning in October of 2020. She received her Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Texas Tech University in 2004 and a Masters of Library Science from the University of North Texas in 2006. She has worked at UT Dallas, DFW Airport, and Grapevine Public Library in her professional librarian career. She is heavily involved in the Texas Library Association and has completed their elite leadership program to become a TALL Texan in 2018.

As a life-long reader and a lover of books, she has always known she has wanted to be a librarian. “I have spent my whole life with my nose stuck in a book, it's still my favorite place to be! What is so fantastic about libraries now, they aren't just a place for readers or to store books. They are community centers, meeting places, technology centers and a place for curiosity. Benbrook Library was built by

the community, for the community, and as we move forward to build a new library it is very important to keep that same sense of community. Libraries are for everyone!”

Erica currently resides in Benbrook with her wonderful husband, Hollis, her three ridiculous teenagers, and her three crazy corgis.

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Benbrook Quilt Club-Project Linus Resumes Monthly Meetings; Volunteers Needed

The Benbrook Quilt Club will hold its first meeting, after almost two years of cancelling meetings due to safety concerns about Covid, on Saturday, March 26 from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at First Baptist Church of Benbrook, located at 1015 McKinley Street.

Normal monthly meetings will continue on the last Saturday of every month at this same time and location. Volunteers have been busy sewing for the club at their homes while unable to gather together. We are really excited to be able to come together again to enjoy great fellowship as we work together to make quilts for Project Linus. Face masks are not required but are suggested for anyone with underlying health concerns.

The members of this group are Tarrant County Chapter Project Linus blanketeers creating handmade quilts and blankets that provide love, warmth, and comfort for local children who have suffered trauma, tragedy or illness. Sadly, the need for these blankets increases each month. They desperately need volunteers with portable sewing machines to help assemble the quilts.

Regardless of your experience, there is a place for you. High school students can receive community service credits for participating. Donations of material or money to purchase material are greatly appreciated.

Sewing machines and sergers are also accepted and are sold to purchase material and batting needed to make the quilts and blankets given to sick children, to nursing homes, and to veterans.

Come join the fun and enjoy fellowship with the Quilt Club volunteers while making a difference in our community and being a blessing to others.

For more information about the mission of Project Linus, visit www.projectlinus.org. For more information on this group and meetings, call Virginia Biela at 817-244-1263.

From the Project Linus Blanketeers

Cowtown Gourd Patch to Meet April 2

The Cowtown Gourd Patch meets the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Benbrook Lion's Club, located at 238 San Angelo Ave.

Each meeting is a different technique to learn on gourds. No experience is required, just a desire to have fun and meet new people.

For more information contact Nancy at 254-834-3573.

From the Sports Desk with John English

BMHS Boys Baseball on Winning Streak; Cougar Boys Soccer to Compete in Bi-District Game

The Benbrook baseball team went 2-0 this past week with victories over Alvarado and North Dallas, and coach Justin Chavez said both game were solid efforts from his team.

“We played okay,” Chavez said. “The expectations we have for our program are very high and right now we are still trying to figure something out. It’s always good to win, and we are happy about going 2-0 this past week, 10-5 over Alvarado and 10-6 over North Dallas. We have to clean it up on defense or the mistakes we are making will cost us when it counts.”

Chavez said he did have a couple of standout performances over the week.

“I can’t say enough about Cooper Kirkpatrick,” Chavez said. “He is a sophomore that had six RBIs this week and six hits as well. He has put a lot of time and hard work to become a better baseball player and it is showing on the field. As far as pitching, Ethan Waters and Paul Harper got the wins over the week and both of them competed very well ones the mound.”

District play started this week, and Chavez said he feels that the non-district schedule did a good job of preparing his team for district competition.

“Non district is the toughest part of our schedule,” Chavez said. “We have some tough games coming up to prepare us for the playoffs. As far as district, we will approach those games like we do every game, with a focused mindset to get the job done and hopefully go 1-0 every night out.”

On the pitch, the Western Hills boys soccer team will play their bi-district round game with Life Waxahachie this evening and coach Matt Collins said he expects his team to have their hands full.

“Life Waxahachie will be a very tough opponent,” Collins said. “Any team that makes it into the playoffs is there because they have earned the right. We will try and have a good game plan against them.”

The Cougars play at Life Waxahachie tonight at 7:30 p.m.

The Benbrook soccer girls are also playoff bound and entered the post-season as the No. 4 team in the Region I standings.

The girls playoff tournament also starts this evening and Benbrook's first opponent is also Life Waxahachie.

On the diamond, the Benbrook girls came up a little short last week against Maypearl, losing by a score of 5-2.

This followed a big victory in their district opener against Dunbar, defeating the Lady Wildcats by a score of 18-0.

Pig Roast (continued from page 1)

A pig roast was held recently at the Post with several participants attending.

The occasion was in honor of State of Texas Sr. Vice Commander Lynn Toomer, who will be the new 2022-2023 State Of Texas Commander for his Homecoming Oct. 6 through Oct. 8, 2022.

A 50/50 drawing and raffles were available for purchase. The menu included, of course, a roasted pig with all the trimmings; and entertainment was provided by Taylor Bonham Band.

Lynn Toomer's time in war included Kuwait, Iraq and Somalia. Toomer has received the Bronze Star, Combat Action Ribbon, Southwest Asia Expeditor Medal and numerous other distinguished awards.

State of Texas VFW Commander Norm Macey also made an appearance. The crowd enjoyed fun, fellowship and great music!



Judy and Quartermaster **Jerry Grantland** (pictured left) participated in the event.

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Rhonda McCullogh and Taylor Bonham provided the music.



Several individuals enjoyed the event.

City Council Action (continued from page 1)

of the Alliance for Children.

“Be it resolved that Mayor Jason Ward, Mayor of the city of Benbrook, Texas, has hereby proclaimed the month of April 2022, as child abuse prevention month in the city of Benbrook, Texas,” Marshall said. “And urges all citizens to work together to help reduce child abuse and neglect significantly in years to come.”

Richardson then thanked the city council and all law enforcement officers in Benbrook for the support.

The next item of the evening was to accept the finance reporting for the period ending on Feb. 28.

For the general fund in the month of February, revenues were \$2,931,524 and expenditures were \$1,123,334, while year to date revenues were \$15,961,932 and year to date expenditures were \$6,660,314.

For the Economic Development Corporation, revenues for February were \$140,799 and expenditures were \$39,389, while year to date revenues were \$805,558 and expenditures were \$183,243.

For investments, the City of Benbrook had \$52,730,747 invested and the EDC had \$5,781,926.

The finance report was accepted unanimously.

Time was allowed for informal citizen comments, but there were none.

Time was then allowed for council member and staff member comments, and council member Renee Franklin made a comment, but her microphone was not turned on and was thus inaudible.

The meeting was then adjourned.

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Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

Confederate General and U.S. Senator, Samuel B. Maxey

The Civil War era produced many interesting figures in Texas history. Among them was Samuel B. Maxey, a lawyer, Confederate general, and U. S. Senator.

Samuel Bell Maxey was born in 1825 in southern Kentucky. His father, Rice Maxey, was an attorney. He attended school faithfully, and in 1842, he was selected to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. His roommate was Stonewall Jackson and attended classes with Ulysses S. Grant. He struggled academically at West Point but graduated in 1846 as a second lieutenant.

As his class graduated, the United States was entering the war with Mexico. Maxey was assigned to an infantry unit in Monterey. He saw action in some of the fiercest battles of the Mexican War and was cited for his bravery and promoted to first lieutenant. As the war ended, Maxey was assigned to a police unit as the U. S. Army occupied Mexico City. Once the peace treaty with Mexico was signed, Maxey was reassigned to a post in Missouri. He resigned from the army in 1849 and returned to Kentucky.

He decided to follow in his father's footsteps and become an attorney. He studied law under his father, a common arrangement in a time when there were few law schools. He was admitted to the Kentucky bar in 1851 and joined his father's law practice. He married in 1853 and moved to Texas with his father and bride in 1857.

They settled in Lamar County, just south of Paris, where they established a thriving law practice. In 1858, he was elected district attorney for Lamar County. When the Civil War approached, he was elected to the secession convention in 1861 and supported Texas joining the Confederacy. He was elected to the state senate but declined the position in order to raise an infantry regiment for the South. His father served in the state senate instead. He organized the Ninth Infantry Regiment near Bonham as its colonel, enlisting more than a thousand men. However, he was soon reassigned. He was promoted to brigadier general in 1862 and participated in the Battle of Port Hudson in Louisiana in 1863.

He was reassigned later in 1863 to take military command of the Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma), where he worked with the tribes allied to the Confederacy against the Union government. He organized raids on Union incursions into the area, seizing supplies and preventing a possible Union invasion of Texas from the North.

In February 1865, Maxey was ordered to Houston to take command of a division stationed in the area. By the time he arrived, the war was nearly over. Confederate units were retreating in all directions, shortages of food and ammunition were everywhere, and the troops all saw the writing on the wall. Many of Maxey's troops decided the Confederacy was a lost cause and deserted. By the end of April, the Confederate government in Richmond had collapsed, Gen. Robert E. Lee and most other generals had surrendered, and Confederate President Jefferson Davis was on the run. He asked the remaining Confederate officials in Texas to resign, and he left his post in May. Upon his return to Paris, he surrendered to Union officers who had already made their way to the area.

After the end of the war, he enlisted the help of his old classmate Gen. Grant to apply for a pardon from the federal government, which was granted in 1867. He resumed his legal work and attempted a run for office. In 1872, he ran for Congress but lost the Democratic nomination. Gov. Edmund J. Davis, though a former Union general and a Republican, was impressed by Maxey and offered him a position as a

judge. Maxey declined, feeling his legal work had created too many conflicts of interest.

In 1874, a new Democratic legislature had taken control in Austin. As state legislators still chose United States Senators at this point, they selected Maxey for the Senate. His tenure in the Senate was somewhat lackluster but he managed several successes involving transportation and infrastructure. He served on the committee on post offices and post roads where he expanded post offices across Texas, speeding up commerce and communications across the frontier areas, gained aid for improving the state's harbors along the Gulf of Mexico, and gained federal support for expanding the railroad network across the state. He also helped establish a stagecoach route between Fort Worth and Yuma, Arizona. He was re-elected in 1880.

He attempted a third term in 1886. Instead, Congressman John H. Reagan of Palestine, an eight-term congressman and former Confederate postmaster general, was selected by the state legislature to replace Maxey. Maxey accepted the decision and quietly returned to Texas in 1887.

Upon his arrival in Paris, Maxey resumed his law practice. He would eventually bring on two nephews as partners. In 1892, he retired from the law firm. His health was declining, and he traveled to Eureka Springs, Arkansas, in 1895 for the recuperative warm springs, but he died there at age 70.

In 1942, the United States Army opened Camp Maxey near Paris as a training center, but closed it after World War II ended. Maxey's home is considered a state historical site.

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From StatePoint

How to Make Tax Season a Breeze



While filing taxes can be anxiety-provoking, there's no need to stress. The right digital tools, along with smart strategies can make tax season a breeze:

File Faster

There are many services to help you e-file your taxes, walking you through each step for a quick, painless way to get your tax return faster. In some cases, you may be able to file for free, or for just a small fee. More accurate than paper filing, e-filing through a service such as TurboTax or TaxAct can offer peace of mind for an audit-free tax season.

Watch for Scams

Scammers are known to use seasonal moments like filing taxes in the spring or insurance enrollment in the fall to prey on unsuspecting people, and these scams are on the rise. In fact, recent T-Mobile network data showed over a 116 percent increase in scam attempts from 2020 to 2021. Here's how to protect yourself:

Be suspicious of unexpected calls. The IRS will never demand immediate payment over the phone or threaten action from law enforcement. You have the right to dispute any charges with the IRS.

Don't answer unknown numbers. Even if the number on your phone looks legitimate, if you suspect it's a scam, let it go to voice-mail. If it sounds too good to be true, it might be a scam. If you need to return the call, don't call the number provided, instead, locate the customer service number online.

Beware of Facebook messages. Scammers can also contact you by email, text and social media. Know that the IRS will never contact you through these channels.

Get scam call protection. Today, most major wireless providers have tools to help customers prevent scam calls.

Use Your Tax Return Wisely

Whether you owe the government money or have a tax return coming your way, it's a good time of year to think about where you can make smart budgeting decisions and save.

With some smart planning and know-how, you can have a pain-free tax season and financially-savvy year.

From the Tarrant Area Food Bank

Tarrant Area Food Bank Partners with the City of Arlington to Kick Off Arrival of R.E.D. Bus Saturday



The Tarrant Area Food Bank (TAFB), in partnership with the City of Arlington, is unveiling the Resources and Education Delivered (R.E.D.) Bus, providing community resource assistance, nutrition education, and healthy food options to Arlington communities with high levels of food insecurity. The R.E.D. Bus will make its first official stop for a ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening of a new school pantry, The Mustang Market, at Nichols Junior High (parking lot) 2201 Ascension Blvd. Arlington, TX 76006 from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 26.

Tarrant Area Food Bank is launching this initiative to bring their services directly to those most in need in the city of Arlington. At the heart of this program is an ADA-compliant mobile service delivery unit, the R.E.D. Bus, a specially-built vehicle, which provides space for the display and distribution of grocery items and office space for TAFB staff to conduct SNAP enrollment and other community service referrals.

“As we continue to provide community support to relieve the effects of the pandemic, we are deepening our roots in Arlington by launching solutions that bring our services to the people in underserved communities where transportation may be lacking,” said Julie Butner, President and CEO of Tarrant Area Food Bank, “TAFB will provide emergency food boxes, nutrition education, as well as facilitate enrollment of eligible families into federal benefits programs such as SNAP and Medicaid with our R.E.D. Bus”.

The R.E.D. Bus will serve approximately 5,000 low-income residents and family members per month. TAFB will serve individuals of all ages and is working directly with the City of Arlington to identify specific community neighborhoods based on income and food insecurity data. The R.E.D. Bus will make multiple stops in a single day, connecting families to food, SNAP benefits and additional community resources to address housing, education, and employment.

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Three Day Weekend Forecast



Friday, March 25:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 77. West wind around 5mph becoming calm.

PM - Clear, with a low around 45. East southeast wind around 5mph.



Saturday, March 26:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 79. East wind 5-10mph, with gusts as high as 20mph.

PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 54. SE wind around 10mph, with gusts as high as 25mph.



Sunday, March 27:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 86.

PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 61.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)