

# Benbrook News

Established 1939 • A Publication of Suburban Newspapers, Inc.

84th Year, No. 10 • 7820 Wyatt Drive, White Settlement, Texas 76108 • www.suburban-newspapers.com • March 7, 2024

Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt

# Lions Club 57th Annual Chili Supper Fundraiser

The 57th Annual Lions Club Chili Supper Fundraiser was held recently at the Benbrook United Methodist Church.

Lions Club International is the world's largest service club organization with more than 1.3 million members in approximately 45,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas around the world.

Their mission is to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions clubs.

Originally founded in 1952, they continue to serve the needs of the Benbrook Community for over 70 years.

Participants lined up for all-you-can-eat chili with all the condiments, along with hot dogs, drinks and an abundance of desserts.

Prizes, a 50/50 raffle, and silent and live auctions were enjoyed by everyone who came out to support this successful event.

(photos continued on page 3)



Benbrook Lions Club members are: (front, 1-r) President Renee Franklin, Danna Addison, Yvonne Fedeyka-Kirby, Lori Grant, Caleb McFadden; (back) Brian Hayden, Raymond Switlik, Dave Stonecipher, Chris Thuemmel, Phyllis Hawkins, Lonnie Goins and Gary Addison (not pictured: Jennifer Stoorza, Crissy Thuemmel and Kyra Kay.)



This year's recipient of the Heart of a Lion Award went to the Benbrook Library. This organization is a driving force behind many initiatives in our community and they continue to serve Benbrook in numerous exciting ways. Pictured are: (l-r) Renee Franklin, Erica Richardson, Miranda Bauer, Carol Hafer, Tammi Cauthen, Christina Watson, and (back) Gary Addison.



Scout Troop 95 set up and disassembled tables and chairs, sold drinks, cleared trash and presented the Colors followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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# Western Hills and Benbrook MHS Spring Sports Underway

exactly the way he wants it.

"We are playing some tough teams," Holcomb said. "But it is paying off with us. improving in many areas as a result of the but eventually lost in overtime. competition."

(P/SS/3B) has had several strong outings on day. the mound, solid in the field, and has been steady at the plate; Jayson Aden (P/3B) has tention as the season draws to a close. been a staple of our defense while consistently finding barrels at the plate; Julian







With baseball season upon us, Western Moreno (C) made the move from the out-Hills coach James Holcomb said his team is field to catcher this year because we had a Dunbar by a score of 9-0 on Friday to recompeting well in preparation for what student move, but has embraced the chal- main unbeaten in district competition. promises to be a challenging district season. lenge, been a warrior, and has become a Holcomb said the non-district schedule vocal leader of our defense; and Trey Martrick for the Lady Cats, and Campbell Cox has been challenging for his team, which is tinez (P/MIF) has been solid on the mound and Grace Klaemer scored two goals each and up the middle when not pitching."

Western Hills had their bye on Friday, "Some of the Cougars stronger returning and Benbrook followed up their Tuesday players this season include Andrew Zabala victory with a 5-2 win over Dunbar on Fri-

Both teams are well within playoff con-



On the girl's side, Benbrook defeated

Lily Chavez finished the game with a hat for Benbrook in the game.

Shyanne Morris and Sydney Chavez On the pitch, the Cougars played Ben-scored a goal a piece for Benbrook, and We're learning a lot about our team while brook to a 2-2 tie last Tuesday in regulation, Lexie Garcia had two assists in the game for the Lady Cats.





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Publisher: Boyden Underwood, publisher@suburban-newspapers.com Editor: Emily Moxley, suburbannews@sbcglobal.net Classifieds: Vee Horn, classifieds@suburban-newspapers.com

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# Around the Town (continued from page 1)



Renee Franklin presents Kyra Kay with the Outstanding Youth Scholarship Award with a \$2,000 check. She joined the **Stoorza** worked the Registration Table. Lions Club in 2022 as a junior at Western Hills High School, and has continued her service into her senior year.



Edith Hodges and Bonnie Fisher examine several Silent Auction items.



A huge crowd from the community came out to support the annual fundraiser.



Jennifer Thuemmel and Crissy



Member Gary Addison presided over the pated at this occasion for over 50 years. event.



meal at the function.



4Paws offered an array of various delicious desserts! Pictured are: (1-r) Yvonne Kirby, Lynda Monaco, Rick Hunter and Shannon McKinzie.



Chili Chefs (l-r) David Petersen, Brooklyn Sloan and Phillip Petersen con-Auctioneer and Benbrook Council sists of three generations who have partici-



Eric Ward, Jim Wilson and Benbrook Kathy and Mike Cole enjoyed their Mayor Jason Ward participated at the event.

From LVTRise

# Western Hills High School Alumni Non-Profit Merges with **LVTRise Community Center**



Western Hills 2023 graduates Daniel Msenga, Emmanuel Nshimiyimana, Wilondja Ebula and Yeshua Muhindo are congratulated by Cougar Pride Alliance Co-Founder **Patty Pressley**. The young men are all the first generation in their families to attend college, and are currently playing collegiate soccer at Howard Payne University.

Credit: LVTRise



LVTRise Executive Director Paige Charbonnet congratulates 2023 Western Hills seniors on being recognized by the city of Fort Worth for their academic and athletic efforts. Pictured with Charbonnet are Keyone Butler, Aaron Martin and RJ Moilan.

Credit: LVTRise

LVTRise and Western Hills High School's Cougar Pride Alliance LVTRise – Rising have merged to streamline services and support for students at Western Hills High School and their families. LVTRise has acquired the sevenyear-old Cougar Corner program which will continue to operate on the Western Hills campus.

"For years we have worked together with Cougar Pride Alliance to provide services and support for students, teachers and parents," commented LVTRise Executive Director Paige Charbonnet. "The goal of this merger is to streamline those services, while enhancing existing partnerships and collaboration that LVTRise brings to the table."

LVTRise collaborates with service partners to improve the Las Vegas Trail neighborhood's crime rate, education performance, health and wellness, and housing stability in long-term, meaningful ways. The vision of LVTRise is to transform the lives of the residents living in the Las Vegas Trail community by providing resources and services dedicated to the neighborhood's revitalization and sustainability.

"We are thankful for our alumni and the surrounding community who have done so much for the Western Hills students over the years. To ensure we can provide the ongoing support for these deserving students, we felt it was time to merge with LVT Rise," said Patty Pressley, co-founder of Cougar Pride Alliance and 1982 graduate of Western Hills High School. "We will continue to work together to help the students in our pyramid, including offering grants and other support, all under the LVTRise umbrella. It has been, and will continue to be, a labor of love."

Alumni and other supporters of Cougar Corner can designate their gifts through LVTRise to assure those funds are earmarked for direct support of Western Hills High School pyramid.

LVT began as a mobile community center providing social services and access to resources for area residents after a series of Town Hall meetings uncovered significant deficiencies and a lack of resources in this part of the community. In 2018, the Las Vegas Trail Revitalization Project became the registered nonprofit currently known as LVTRise,

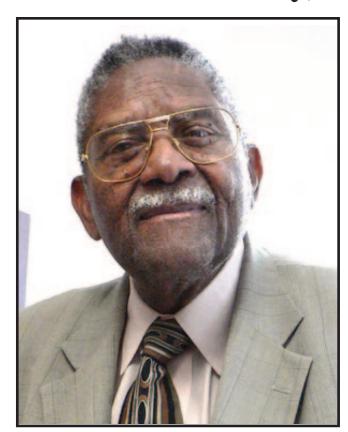
In spring of 2019, Rise Community Center opened to the public providing a permanent home for the organization. In January 2021, the city of Fort Worth opened a branch of the public library system in the community center furthering the resources available.

In May 2022, the Fort Worth City Council approved a land lease agreement that paved the way for a Las Vegas Trail Child Development Campus to become a reality for the high need community. Child Care Associates is building and will operate the new facility that is being built adjacent to the existing Rise Community Center. In late 2023, JPS Health System and Cook Children's announced a joint medical center to be located at the corner of Calmont Avenue and Cherry Lane in the heart of the Las Vegas Trail neighborhood.

Since its inception, LVTRise has dedicated its work to collaborating with community partners, empowering community members through training and case management and impacting the Las Vegas Trail community addressing education, improved quality housing and reducing neighborhood crime.

For more information, visit www.LVTRise.org.

# Ameican Attorney, L. Clifford Davis



The law was long used against L. Clifford Davis and his family. But Davis used the law to change the country and become one of the most respected legal minds in the country.

Davis was born in the small community of Wilton the southwest corner of Arkansas in 1925. He was the youngest of seven children born to Augustus and Dora Duckett Davis.

As he grew up, the Jim Crow system in place blocked his attempt at an education. At the time, Little River County had no high schools for African-Americans, and segregation prevented him from attending with whites.

He and his older brothers moved to Little Rock where he attended Dunbar High School. After graduation, he attended Little Rock's Philander Smith College, graduating in 1945 at age 20. Seeing the success of prominent local Little Rock attorneys, Davis decided to pursue a career in law. He applied for the University of Arkansas Law School, but he was prevented from attending because of segregation.

In 1946, he was accepted into law school at Howard University in Washington, DC.

In 1947, officials at the University of Arkansas Law School contacted him with a possibility of transferring to Fayetteville though under a segregated arrangement. Segregation, however, prevented him from having access to the same classes, materials, and professors as the other students, and therefore, an inferior law school experience. He instead continued at Howard University. The law school quietly desegregated the next year with the admission of Silas Hunt. Davis graduated from Howard in 1949.

specialized in civil rights law, and was one of only nine black lawyers in the state at the Bluff, Davis moved to Waco, Texas, in 1952 to teach at Paul Quinn College (the college moved to Dallas in 1990).

Anxious to be back in the courtroom, Davis passed the Texas bar exam in 1953 and moved to Fort Worth in 1954 to open of only two African-American lawyers in one of the biggest cities in the state. He quickly found himself in high demand.

Though the verdict in the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education brought a legal end to segregation, there were still many local districts that fought to schools separate for the races.

In 1956, he filed a federal lawsuit to desegregate schools in Mansfield, then a small farming community southeast of Fort Worth. In the case Jackson vs. Rawdon, Mansfield High School was ordered desegregated, but local residents refused to heed the ruling. Mobs gathered at the local school to prevent the three African-American children from attending that fall. Texas Gov. Allan Shivers ordered the Texas Rangers in to maintain order and prevent violence. The intimidation of the crowds prevented the students from being able to exercise their constitutional rights, and the schools remained technically segregated for some time to come.

In 1959, he again took on a desegregation challenge. He sued the Fort Worth Independent School District, one of the largest in Texas, over its racial practices. He won the case Flax vs. Potts, forcing Fort Worth schools to integrate.

He was active in community affairs, working with a variety of organizations on different causes. He was also one of the first African-American lawyers to join the Tarrant County Bar Association. Black lawyers found it necessary to come together for mutual aid and support and, with Davis, formed the Fort Worth Black Bar Association. In honor of his years of work, the or-Davis then returned to Arkansas. He ganization renamed itself as the L. Clifford Davis Legal Association.

In May 1983, he was appointed as a distime. Though a respected attorney in Pine trict judge for Criminal District Court No. 2 in Tarrant County. He was known for his fairness and discernment in pursuit of justice knowing that lives depended on his work, necessary qualities in any judge worth the title. In spite of this, he was defeated for re-election in 1988. Because of his own law firm. At the time, he was one his respect in the legal community, he continued to serve as a visiting judge for many more years, asked to serve as a judge in special cases. He continued to periodically serve as a visiting judge, presiding over special cases on a one-by-one basis, until he stepped down in 2004 at the age of 79.

> His years of dedication to the law and persistence in pursuit of freedom and personal honor had won him praise from allies and adversaries alike. A scholarship was named for him for graduating Fort Worth students, and the Fort Worth ISD named an elementary school for him.

> In May 2017, the University of Arkansas Law School awarded him an honorary degree at age 92 in appreciation for his years of work.

Sometimes, success speaks for itself.

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From the Internal Revenue Service

# Eligible Texas Taxpayers Can Now Use Free IRS Direct File

The IRS announced today that eligible Texas taxpayers can now use IRS Direct File, a new service that provides taxpayers with the choice to electronically file their federal tax return directly with the IRS for free.

Direct File is a mobile-friendly, interview-based service that will work as well on a mobile phone as it does on a laptop, tablet or desktop computer.

People in 12 states, including Texas, are eligible to participate in the 2024 Direct File pilot and will be limited to taxpayers with certain types of income, credits and deductions – taxpayers with relatively simple returns. This new service is available until the tax filing deadline of April 15, 2024.

"Direct File is an additional option for Texans to use to file their federal tax return," said IRS spokesperson Clay Sanford. "One of the first steps interested taxpayers should do is to check their eligibility, and there is an easy tool on IRS.gov to do that."

### **Customer Service**

Taxpayers participating in the pilot can get help from IRS employees staffing the Direct File customer support function with live chat access. IRS customer service representatives can provide technical support and provide basic clarification of tax law related to the tax scope of Direct File. Questions related to issues other than Direct File will be routed to other IRS customer support, as appropriate.

# **Taxpayer Eligibility**

Eligibility to participate in the Direct File pilot is limited to reporting only certain types of income and claiming limited credits and adjustments. It includes:

## **Income reporting**

- W-2 wage income
- Social Security and railroad retirement income
- Unemployment compensation
- Interest of \$1,500 or less

#### Creditsa

- Earned Income Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Credit for Other Dependents

#### **Deductions**

- Standard deduction
- Student loan interest
- Educator expenses

### **A New Electronic Filing Option**

Direct File does not replace existing filing options like tax professionals, IRS Free File, free return preparation sites, commercial software or authorized e-file providers.

a tax professional, a software product, Free File, free tax preparation services like Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) as well as a paper tax return or Direct nesses. File.

From the Better Business Bureau

# BBB Scam Tracker Risk Report

Better Business Bureau is a proud partner of the Federal Trade Commission's National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW), a time to help people understand their consumer rights and avoid frauds and scams. To commemorate NCPW, the Better Business Bureau released its 2023 Scam Tracker Risk Report.

According to the report, investment scams, including those involving cryptocurrency, are now the riskiest scam type. More than 80 percent of people targeted by this scam type reported losing money to BBB Scam Tracker. It also had the second-highest median dollar loss at \$3,800.

Investment scams take many forms, including pressure to purchase, trade, or store digital assets (cryptocurrency) with fraudulent exchanges.

Employment scam reports remained the second riskiest scam type in 2023. Reports increased 54.2% from the year before. Employment scams had a median dollar loss of \$1,995, significantly higher than the overall median dollar loss of \$100 reported for all scam types.

Online purchase (shopping) scams dropped from the riskiest scam type for the first time since 2019, landing at number three on the list.

This year, 41.9% of scams submitted to BBB Scam Tracker were online purchase scams, and 82.6% reported losing money. The median dollar lost for this scam dropped from \$100 in 2022 to \$71 in 2023.

Key findings of the report include:

- Scams perpetrated online continued to grow, making up 68.4% of all reports. More concerning, online scams were more likely to result in a reported monetary loss than in person or via phone.
- Overall reported susceptibility (the percentage of reports with a monetary loss) rose 27.8% from 2022 to 2023. Overall, the reported median dollar loss fell by 41.5%.
- For the second year in a row, people ages 18-24 reported the highest median dollar loss of all age groups (\$155).
- The percentage of people who reported engaging with a scammer via social media rose 63.8% from 2022 to 2023.
- Credit cards remained the most reported payment method with a monetary loss, followed by bank account debit and online payment systems. Reports of bank account debit with a monetary loss increased 66.4%.
- Employment scams were the No. 1 riskiest for ages 18-44. Investment/cryptocurrency scams were No. 1 riskiest for ages 45+.
- According to our survey research, people between the ages of 18 and 44 named anxiety/stress as the number one emotion they felt after being targeted by a scam. In contrast, people 45+ cited anger as the number one emotion.

# **About BBB**

This Better Business Bureau office was established in 1920, as the Taxpayers will continue to have choices, whether they want to use first BBB in Texas and provides its services free to the public. We now have offices located in Dallas, Lubbock and Wichita Falls which serve a combined 47 counties, 6 million consumers, and 135,000 busi-

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# Weekend Forecast



# Friday, March 8:

**AM** - A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before noon; high near 73. SW wind 5 to 15 mph becoming W/NW in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph. **PM** - Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42. N/NW wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.



# Saturday, March 9:

<u>AM</u> - Sunny, with a high near 58. N/NW wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. <u>PM</u> - Mostly clear, with a low around 37. N/NWwind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.



# Sunday, March 10:

<u>AM</u> - Sunny, with a high near 63. North wind around 5 mph becoming S/SE in the afternoon. <u>PM</u> - Partly cloudy, with a low around 42. South wind around 5 mph.

# **Extended Forecast Click Here**