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Benbrook News

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From the Waverly Park Garden Club

WPGC Members Clean Up Castle Park



Pictured are: Waverly Park Garden Club members, (l-r) **Johanne Timpson, Ellen Sowers, Carol Stewart** and **Veronica Wingen**.

Members of Waverly Park Garden Club recently cleaned up litter in Castle Park playground and the surrounding walking track and duck pond area behind the Benbrook YMCA at Dutch Branch Park.

The club, most of whose members reside in Benbrook, regularly participates in the “My Benbrook Mile” cleanup as well as the annual Benbrook Trash Bash as part of their commitment to community service.

Club members also weeded the YMCA entrance garden, picking up leaves, trimming the native and drought-tolerant plants and removing spent daffodil foliage.

From the City of Benbrook

Touch-A-Truck Monday, May 22



The City of Benbrook's Touch-A-Truck Event is back! Please join us for this family-friendly event Monday, May 22 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. It will be in the parking lot of Dutch Branch Park. The first 400 attendees will get free hamburgers.

There will be Fire Engines, Garbage Trucks, Police Cars, and more! For more information call Jared DeVries at 817-249-6008.

From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers

Benbrook City Council Meeting Tonight

The Benbrook City Council meets the first and third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. (with a pre-meeting work session at 7 p.m.) in the City Hall Council Chambers, located at 911 Winscott Road in Benbrook, 76126.

The May 18 agenda is available to view [here](#).

From the Sports Desk with John English

Post Season Comes to an End for Bobcat Baseball Boys

The season came to an end for the Benbrook baseball team last weekend after losing to Van Alstyne in the area round of the playoffs two games to one.

The Bobcats took the first game of the series by a score of 7-3 on Friday night, but came up short in games two and three on Saturday.

Coach Justin Chavez said his guys left it all on the field and he could not be more proud of his team.

“We won 7-3 behind a great performance from Ethan Waters,” Chavez said. “We had big hits from Santiago Cruz, Ethan Smith, and Sebastian Martinez. We were feeling good about the series going into Saturday. Hudson Stockton pitched lights out only giving up 1 run in 7 innings, but we lost game two 3-0. We struggled to execute at the plate and on the bases.

“We had some key outs on the bases and we have to lay down bunts when called upon.”

(continued on page 2)

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Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

Those two things didn't go our way and runs are precious in the postseason. You have to score when you have the opportunity. Game three started out with very little energy, we scored first, and it felt like we were down in the game. Sebastian Martinez pitched really well, but Van Alstyne broke open a 2-2 tie

in the 5th and went on to win 5-2."

Benbrook defeated Hillsboro in the bi-district round last week, and regardless of the outcome of the area round series, Chavez said his team should be proud of what they accomplished.

"This season was a success no matter what," Chavez said. "As young as we were, we battled through every game. But I think our youth finally caught up to us in the very last game. The future is bright. We lost two seniors, but return 12 underclassmen, and these guys will be back with bigger expectations next year, and they will be ready for the challenge."

In track and field, Western Hills sprinter Aaron Martin competed in the state meet this past weekend.

Martin finished sixth with a time of 10:69 in the 100 meters event.

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From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers Memorial Day Ceremony

The annual Benbrook Memorial Day observance will take place at the Benbrook Cemetery located at 812 Mercedes Street at 8 a.m. on Monday, May 29.

The ceremony will be led by American Legion Post 297, supported by VFW Post 10429 and Boy Scout Troop 519.

A formal flag folding demonstration, a Flag salute and the playing of taps will highlight the program.



Complementary flags are provided for placement at every veteran's gravesite by the attending public. Coffee and doughnuts are donated by local businesses.

The public is invited to show their respect for the brave men and women who gave their all so that they can live in a free nation.

The American Legion auxiliary and Sons of the Legion will host a reception to honor the nation's fallen patriots at the Paul Mansir American Legion Post located at 8201 Old Benbrook Road following the ceremony.

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Legal Notice

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS VIA ONE-STEP PROCESS CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT-RISK

Pursuant to the provisions of the Texas Government Code Chapter 2269, Subchapter F, it is the intention of White Settlement Independent School District to select a Construction Manager At-Risk (CMAR), via a one-step selection process request for proposal (RFP) for Liberty Elementary School and Other Miscellaneous Construction projects resulting from the May 2022 Bond Referendum. The RFP package is available for download at <https://www.wisd.com/apps/pages/purchasing/bid-information>. Questions regarding the RFP should be directed to Janette Owens, CPA, RTSBO Director of Bonds and Financial Transparency White Settlement Independent School District janowens@wsisd.net. Sealed responses marked, “CMAR Request for Proposals Liberty Elementary School and Other Miscellaneous Construction Projects May 2022 Bond. White Settlement Independent School District May 21, 2023” will be received until 2:00pm (Local Time), Wednesday, May 31, 2023. Sealed responses will be received at the Administration Building: 8224 White Settlement Road, White Settlement, Texas, 76108. Submittals received after that time will not be conserved for evaluation.

Legal Notice

The White Settlement Independent School District (WSISD) is accepting proposals for Professional/Consulting Services for Special Education. The Request for Proposal document RFP #2223-005 can be obtained on the WSISD website, www.wsisd.com and go to: Business Services/Purchasing/Bid Information/Current Offline Bid Opportunities. Please contact Nancy Escobar at nancy.escobar@wsisd.net for inquiries. The deadline for inquiries and questions is June 1, 2023 by 2:00 pm. Proposals are due by June 8, 2023 by 2:00 pm. Proposals must be sent to: White Settlement ISD, Attn: Nancy Escobar, 8224 White Settlement Road, White Settlement, TX 76108. Faxed or e-mailed proposals are not accepted. White Settlement ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2023

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Evening at the Library

Join us for our second annual open house and fundraiser! Stop by the library to learn about what we do for our community and ask all the questions you've always wanted to ask!

Get to know us, check out what we offer, and enjoy live music and small bites!

From Cook Children's & JPS Health Network

New Health Care Center Coming to Las Vegas Trail Neighborhood

Cook Children's Health Care System and JPS Health Network are joining forces to bring critical health care services to children and families in the Las Vegas Trail neighborhood. Leaders from both organizations recently announced construction plans for the Las Vegas Trail Neighborhood Health Center on 3.7 donated acres at the corner of Calmont Avenue and Cherry Lane in west Fort Worth. The center will provide pediatric and adult medical services, behavioral health services, and social services support such as food insecurity in the form of a food pantry, community education, and onsite job training for health care industry positions. With support from the City of Fort Worth, a Fort Worth Police Storefront will also be housed in the building to help foster police relations within the community.

The facility will break ground later this year and an expected opening slated for late 2025.

In the LVT area, there are more than 20,000 children aged 0-14 with a 7% growth in this population expected by 2025. Currently, Cook Children's Emergency Department and Urgent Care Clinics account for more than 4,000 annual visits from children in the 76116 and 76108 zip codes. Additionally, more than 7,000 members of Cook Children's Health Plan live in these zip codes. Las Vegas Trail Neighborhood Health Center will allow Cook Children's patients and Health Plan members to have a medical home for their health care needs that's close to their own home.

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Factors to Consider When Determining How Much Home You Can Afford



Figuring out how much home you can afford is one of the most important questions you'll need to answer before you begin house hunting. But as home prices and interest rates have increased in the past few years, you may be wondering how your buying power has changed.

To get a rough estimate of what you can afford, most lenders suggest you spend no more than 28% of your monthly income, before taxes are taken out, on your mortgage payment, which includes principal, interest, taxes and insurance. In addition to having a firm grip on your income and expenses, it's important to understand the role the following factors play in how much home you can afford:

Your Credit

Lenders look closely at your credit score when determining whether you qualify for a loan. Generally, the higher your credit score the more options will be available to you, including better loan terms and a lower interest rate. Because of the large role credit plays in the homebuying process, make sure you understand how your credit score is compiled, how to get a copy of your credit report and how to build strong credit.

Current Mortgage Rates

It's important to watch mortgage rates carefully, because when rates are lower you may be able to afford a larger mortgage. Although 26 million mortgage-ready potential homebuyers had the capacity to afford a \$400,000 mortgage at a 3 percent interest rate, the total falls by 3 to 4 million with each percentage point gain, according to Freddie Mac research. In short, a small increase in rates can make a home that was once affordable, unaffordable.

Bear in mind that similar borrowers may receive notably dif-

ferent rates based on the lender, so you may want to shop around to increase your buying power. In fact, you can potentially save \$600-\$1,200 annually by applying for mortgages from multiple lenders, according to Freddie Mac.

Your Down Payment

Typically, homebuyers need to make a down payment of at least 3 percent, and generally between 5 percent and 20 percent, of their home's purchase price to qualify for a mortgage. That means as home prices go up, so do down payment requirements. Talk to your lender about all the down payment options available and explore assistance programs.

Each year, many state, county and city governments provide financial assistance for people in their communities who are well-qualified and ready for homeownership. Requirements vary, but if you are eligible you could receive down payment assistance ranging from a few thousand dollars to larger amounts, depending on your needs, your qualifications and where the home is located. Additionally, many programs specifically benefit veterans, Native communities and workers employed in education, health care, law enforcement and firefighting. Your lender or housing counselor should be able to point you in the right direction of these programs.

Fees and Other Closing Costs

Don't forget that when you get a mortgage, you'll need to pay closing costs, which likely include an appraisal fee, credit report fee, tax services fee and more. These costs will generally run between 2 percent and 5 percent of your purchase price.

To crunch the numbers, start by using Freddie Mac's Homebuying Budget Calculator, then learn more about the homebuying process with Freddie Mac's CreditSmart. Visit creditsmart.freddie-mac.com to get started.

If you think you're ready for homeownership, you'll want to work closely with your lender to determine what you can comfortably afford. It's their job to cover all bases so that your final number is within your means and aligns with your financial goals.

Reservations may be made in person at 3 Parrots the day of the event.

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TRIVIA NIGHT

Wednesday, May 31
7:30 pm
3 Parrots Taco Shop

From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers

Balloons vs. Nature

Whether you are having a party or you are honoring a loved one, it is never a good idea to release balloons. They might say eco-friendly but could take up to seven years to biodegrade.

Mylar balloons are composed of synthetic nylon with metallic coating. They are not biodegradable and can cause power outages or fires when they get twisted with electrical lines. When you release them it might look majestic and you might wonder how far it will go but where it really ends up is terrible.

Balloons, usually bright with color, attract wildlife and marine life and get easily mistaken for foliage or food. Devouring balloons can cause them their life, not to mention being tangled up in the balloon string can cause suffocation. Helium which fills the balloons is a finite source and we cannot manufacture it. Helium is used for fiber optics, infant breathing ventilators, and MRI's.

The next time you want to use this party staple remember the fatal consequences for wildlife and marine life. If you have to have balloons, weigh them down, pop them and properly dispose of them.

2-1-1 Texas/United Way HELPLINE provides free and confidential information and referral services to those in need, 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.

2-1-1 Texas/United Way HELPLINE specialists have information about virtually every community resource you can imagine and can provide help in 150 languages. Referrals are based on the most comprehensive database of social services in the state.

You do not need to face your problems alone. HELPLINE specialists are always available to listen and to provide the information that will guide you through life's challenges.

Community resource information includes:

- Basic Needs
 - Senior Services
 - Veterans Services
 - Child Care
- Employment Services
 - Health Care
 - Legal Services
 - Disaster Resources

If you need help, dial 2-1-1 or 1-877-541-7905. Community resource information is also available online at www.211texas.org.

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www.211texas.org

From the City of Benbrook

Thunderstorm Season Supply Kit

Be sure to stay alert during storm season. Keep these items on hand in case of a weather emergency:

- Food and Water
- Battery Powered Weather Radio
- Flashlights and Batteries
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- First Aid Kit
- Pair of Shoes
- List of Emergency Contacts
- Whistle to Signal for Help



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Legal Notice

White Settlement ISD will be hosting a public meeting for all private non-profit schools

- 1) Located within the WSISD boundaries; or
- 2) That have students enrolled who reside within WSISD boundaries regardless of the location of the private school (Title I Services Only).

The meeting will provide information about possible proportionate share federal funding services available to private nonprofit schools for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year.

Private schools will have the opportunity to declare their interest to participate in receiving proportionate share federal funding services. Available services include special education (IDEA B), instructional assistance for students (Title I), professional development for teachers (Title II), assistance for English language learners (Title III), and assistance for a well-rounded education, safety and secure schools (Title IV). Public meeting information:

May 24, 2023

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

8224 White Settlement Rd.

White Settlement, TX 76108

All interested private schools may contact Ronda Wright at rwright@wsisd.net for more information prior to the meeting.

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Journalist, Teacher and Political Activist - Jovita Idar

by Dr. Ken Bridges

Sometimes one person in a community can have an impact that continues to be felt for years afterward. **Jovita Idar**, a woman armed only with a pen and passion for helping those in need, would have an impact felt across Texas in her lifetime. She would run several newspapers, found a school, and volunteer as a nurse in time of disaster.

Jovita Idar was born in Laredo in September 1885, one of eight children. Her parents were active members of the community, and the importance of helping others became an important part of her upbringing. They emphasized helping those in need and speaking out against injustice and discrimination. Unlike many Hispanics in Laredo at the time, she and her siblings had access to education, and her parents emphasized all the children going to school.

By the time she turned 18 in 1903, she had earned a teaching certificate and began teaching at the segregated Hispanic schools in the Laredo area. She and her fellow teachers struggled with inadequate supplies such as paper and pencils and how there were never enough desks or chairs for them.

Her father, Nicasio Idar, began a Spanish-language newspaper in Laredo, *La Cronica* (The Chronicle), shortly after the eruption of the Mexican Revolution in 1910. She joined her father and two of her brothers in writing articles and editing the small paper. She became an outspoken proponent of the poor immigrant families living along the border. She called for equal rights for Hispanics and better educational opportunities. The paper also highlighted poetry and literature emerging in the Spanish-language community and the economic concerns of Hispanics across Texas and the Southwest. She also wrote a number of editorials calling for giving women the right to vote.

In part because of the efforts of the Idar Family, Hispanics in Laredo organized to improve their community. In 1911, the League of Mexican Women was formed and named Idar its first president and worked to provide free education for all the Hispanic children of Laredo, whose families were mostly from Mexico. The League also called for civil rights, labor rights, and an end to the lynchings of Mexican immigrants. They also collected food and clothing for the victims of the war. Idar would later be active in the “Primer Congreso Mexicanista” (First Mexican Congress), which worked with Hispanic groups in many communities to promote civil rights.

As the Mexican Revolution wore on and the bloodshed increased, more refugees streamed across the border from Mexico into Texas. Eventually, more than one million people would die



in the decade-long civil war.

In 1913, a fierce battle erupted in Nuevo Laredo, just across the border. Many civilians were killed and injured, with many more fleeing for safety in the United States. Idar and others went into Mexico to help with the wounded. Though she had no formal medical training, she volunteered as a nurse through the Mexican White Cross, an organization founded in Laredo to help the wounded and the refugees. She would continue to work with the organization periodically throughout the fighting.

In 1914, she began writing for *El Progreso* (The Progress). When President Woodrow Wilson ordered troops to the border and discussed possible intervention in the war, Idar wrote a scathing editorial in the Spanish-language journal opposing the move. When Texas Rangers got word of the editorial, they attempted to shut down the paper. Idar stood in the doorway to prevent their entry. Texas Rangers returned several days later when she was not present and destroyed the printing press, ending the run of *El Progreso*.

She returned to *La Cronica*. After her father died later in 1914, she continued to serve as editor in a time when few women could even get jobs working for newspapers. In 1916, Idar, started a new paper, *Evolution*. Her brother Edouardo, who had also worked with their father on *La Cronica*, helped with writing and editing. Idar continued her strident calls for women’s rights and civil rights for Hispanics. In the meantime, she married Batrolo Juarez in 1917. The paper would run for four years until it shut down in 1920.

Shortly afterward, Idar and her husband moved to San Antonio. She served as a translator at the local hospital and founded a free kindergarten for Hispanic children, continuing her passion for education.

In 1940, she began editing *El Heraldito Cristiano* (The Christian Herald), a Spanish-language newspaper run by the Methodist Church in South Texas.

Idar’s health declined in the 1940s after she contracted tuberculosis. She died at her home in San Antonio in June 1946 at age 60. Since her death, her work has been studied extensively by scholars and has been a part of the National Women’s History Museum.

In 2023, she will be included in the U.S. Mint’s American Women quarter series, on the reverse side of George Washington. She will join such figures as astronaut Sally Ride, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, and fellow Texan and African-American aviation pioneer Bessie Coleman.

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Three Day Weekend Forecast



Friday, May 19:

AM - A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny; high near 89. S wind 5-10mph.
PM - Showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy; low around 64. N wind 10-15mph, with gusts as high as 20mph. Chance of precipitation 60%.



Saturday, May 20:

AM - Partly sunny; high near 79. North wind around 15mph, with gusts as high as 20mph.
PM - Mostly cloudy; low around 62. N/NE wind 5-10mph.



Sunday, May 21:

AM - Mostly cloudy; high near 81. E/NE wind 5-10mph.
PM - A 20% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy; low around 64.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)