



City of Benbrook ★ A Texas Star City

Benbrook News

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From the Sports Desk with John English

BMHS Bobcats and WHHS Cougars Boys and Girls Teams Prepare for a Busy Basketball Season

With basketball season just getting underway, the teams of Benbrook are gearing up for what looks to be another promising season on the courts.

The Benbrook boys finished 5-7 in district play last season and tied for fourth place, defeating Carter-Riverside in a play-in game to qualify for the post-season.

Coach Blake Mendez said he is excited about what he has seen from his team early on.

"We have a great mix of veteran players and young guys," Mendez said. "We expect success and have a bright future."

Returning starters for Benbrook include Corbin Dilday, Jayden Hall, and Kade Cross and also keep an eye on Brennan Barton this season.

Mendez said he does believe that Benbrook will compete for a playoff spot again.

"We have guys that have experienced success over the last few years here at Benbrook and they know the bar has been raised," Mendez said. "We have multi-sport athletes that are learning how to be winners and now they expect our basketball program to do the same. We have a tough district, and we planned our pre-district schedule to get us ready."

Over at Western Hills, the Cougars went 4-8 in district competition last season and finished in sixth place in the district standings. Coach Blake Dunson said he believes his team will get things back on track in 2023-24.

"We have had a really good fall offseason and I believe we are poised for a great season ahead," Dunson said.

Returning starters include Stephun Williams, John Lewark, and Malik El-Amin and another player to watch is Xavier McIntyre.

Dunson said he is optimistic about the Cougars chances this season.

"I believe we have the pieces to contend for a playoff spot in 9-4A," Dunson said. "I like the experience we return from last year's squad, and I think some new additions will make major contributions this upcoming season. It's early and anything can happen, but I like where we are currently heading into 2023-24."

On the girls side, Benbrook is coming off of a 7-5 season in district in 2022-23, and coach Leta Lofton said she is hoping her team

can pick up where it left off.

"We have some young players that will combine with our experienced players to make for a successful season," Lofton said.

Key players for the Lady Cats this coming season include Xai-hannah Madison, Sharon Mpinda, Grace Klaerner, and Samantha Lindsey.

Lofton said her team should be in the playoff hunt at the end of the season.

"Our goal is to win the games we are supposed to win and hopefully pull off some surprises against a few of the top teams," Lofton said. "Sharon Mpinda has already been academically accepted to Houston Christian University. We hope to also be accepted as a new addition to their basketball team."

Over at Western Hills, the Lady Cougars finished 3-22 last season and first-year coach Monica Gardner said so far, she has been impressed by she has seen.

"This is definitely a building year with a new coaching staff, but shaping up well," Gardner said. "The new coaching staff is really excited about the possibilities of the new season. The girls have done a good job buying into the new expectations and working extremely hard daily."

Players to watch this season include AnJell Smith, Joann Taylor and Braylah Brooks.

Gardner said she does believe her team can contend for a playoff spot this season.

"We definitely have the pieces to make a strong push for the playoffs," Gardner said. "It will just be a matter of putting them together. Our number one goal is to be better today than we were the day before. That is in line with our theme for the year—I 'changing the culture building a legacy."

In football, Benbrook lost to Wichita Falls Hirschi by a score of 38-10, and Western Hills lost to Stephenville by a score of 47-12 in the bi-district round.

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From White Settlement ISD

Brewer Honeycomb Holiday Market Saturday

The Brewer High School Honeycomb Drill Team will host a Holiday Market on Saturday, Nov. 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Brewer High School cafeteria, located at 1025 W. Loop 820 in Fort Worth, 76108. Admission fee is one canned food item.

They will have over 130 vendors for all of your holiday shopping needs. Santa and the Grinch will also be there from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for holiday photos. There will also be a silent auction from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

From Benbrook Public Library

Ninth Annual Holly Jolly Dec. 9

You are cordially invited to our ninth annual Holly Jolly celebration on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Join us for a day of joy and cheer! Experience a variety of winter entertainment, sip hot cocoa, connect with your community, and create memories with your family.

<div><div>bwa</div><div>BENBROOK WATER AUTHORITY</div></div>		TABLE 1 2024 Budget	
Operating Revenues		Water Impact Fee Fund	
Description	2024 Budget	Description	2024 Budget
Charges for Service	\$ 14,213,100	Operating Revenue	
Tap Connections	\$ 50,000	Water Impact Fees	\$ 350,000
Development Inspections	\$ 30,000	Total Operating Revenue	\$ 350,000
Interest Income	\$ 75,000	Operating Expenditures	
Sale of Fixed Assets	\$ 35,300	Transfers to Operations	\$ 369,002
Transfers In	\$ 369,002	Total Expenditures	\$ 369,002
Other	\$ 773,000	Impact Fee Net Total	\$ (19,002)
Totals	\$ 15,545,402	Wastewater Impact Fee Fund	
Operating Expenses		Description	2024 Budget
Description	2024 Budget	Operating Revenue	
^[1] Administrative	\$ 307,300	Wastewater Impact Fees	\$ 110,000
Supplies/Equipment	\$ 935,240	Total Operating Revenue	\$ 110,000
Capital Outlay	\$ 118,500	Operating Expenditures	
Contracted Services	\$ 855,974	Total Expenditures	\$ -
Personnel	\$ 5,235,916	Impact Fee Net Total	\$ 110,000
^[2] Professional Services	\$ 645,900	Capital Projects Fund	
Purchased Services-Resale	\$ 3,342,419	Description	2024 Budget
Repair/Maintenance	\$ 510,968	Operating Revenue	
Utilities	\$ 419,524	Interest Income	\$ 350,000
Operating Transfers Out	\$ 3,232,108	Total Operating Revenue	\$ 350,000
Totals	\$ 15,603,851	Operating Expenditures	
Debt Service Fund		Capital Outlay	\$ 8,129,515
Description	2024 Budget	Total Expenditures	\$ 8,129,515
Operating Revenue		Capital Projects Net Total	\$ (7,779,515)
Interest Income	\$ 20,000	Equipment Replacement Fund	
Other		Description	2024 Budget
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 20,000	Operating Revenue	
Debt Service		Contributions	\$ 75,000
Bond Principal	\$ 1,930,000	Total Operating Revenue	\$ 75,000
Bond Interest & Fees	\$ 1,117,108	Operating Expenditures	
Other	\$ 5,000	Capital Outlay	\$ -
Refunding Bond Escrow		Other	
Total Debt Service	\$ 3,052,108	Total Expenditures	\$ -
Other Financing		Capital Projects Net Total	\$ 75,000
Operating Transfers In	\$ 3,047,108		
Operating Transfers Out			
Proceeds - Sale of Bonds			
Premium on Bond Issuance			
Total Other Financing	\$ 3,047,108		
Debt Service Net Total	\$ 15,000		

^[1] Includes \$7,000 for Required Legal Notices identified in accordance with Texas Local Govt. Code Sec. 140.0045 (1)

^[2] Includes subcategories of General Professional Services, Engineering Services, Legal Services and Legislative/Regulatory Services identified in accordance with Texas Local Govt. Code Sec. 140.0045 (2).



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Benbrook Water Authority Holds Groundbreaking Ceremony

The Benbrook Water Authority (BWA) recently held a groundbreaking ceremony for a new replacement tank that will be constructed on the existing property.

This project has been contemplated by BWA to one degree or another for more than 16 years, and began taking real steps to plan, design and build the new tank seven years ago.

The additional water storage capacity that this project will provide is essential to the future of Benbrook and will help to ensure that the BWA is able to continue to provide excellent water service to the community.

The last time BWA built a new elevated tank was 25 years ago in Southwest Benbrook. The same contractors will be building the new one as well.



Pictured are: (l-r) BWA General Manager **David Smith**, Contractor **Dustin Ritchie**, BWA Board President **Karen Henderson** and BWA Board Director **David Clark**.



Pictured are: (l-r) BWA Environmental Specialist **Ben Brown** with BWA Maintenance Technicians **Chad Walker** and **James Avery**.



Pictured are: BWA Board Director **David Hafer**, Former BWA General Manager **David Wasson**, BWA Board Director/Secretary **Rick Whitehurst**, BWA Capital Project Manager **Brad Hill** and BWA Operations Division Manager **Willie Sutton**.



BWA General Manager **David Smith** breaks ground at the event.



Pictured are: City Council Place 2 member **Renee Franklin** and Benbrook Mayor **Jason Ward**.

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Last President of the Republic of Texas, Anson Jones

Texas is one of four states to once have been an independent nation. Though only a short period in its long history, it has become a source of curiosity and pride for many. The last man to serve as president for the Republic of Texas was Dr. Anson Jones. While he guided Texas to statehood, his life was one of successes and failures.

Jones was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, in January 1798. His education was sporadic, but he possessed a great intelligence and a strong sense of curiosity. As a teenager, he lived in Seneca Falls, New York. He hoped to become a printer, but he soon decided to become a physician. He apprenticed under a local doctor and was soon licensed by the Medical Society of Oneida, New York. His practice, however, struggled and he ran up large debts. He moved to Philadelphia to open a new practice and began operating a school. However, his money problems grew worse and was arrested for non-payment of his debts in 1824. He fled for Venezuela and eventually returned to Philadelphia. He received a formal medical degree at Jefferson Medical College in 1827.

His financial fortunes did not improve, so he left Philadelphia for New Orleans in 1832, hoping to become a merchant in the growing port city. However, his situation did not improve, and he grew increasingly frustrated. In 1833, friends persuaded him to move to Texas, and he settled in Brazoria. By the next year, he had a thriving medical practice and became increasingly involved in local politics. He also became involved with the local Masonic Lodge and Odd Fel-

low society.

The relationship between Texas settlers and Mexico became increasingly belligerent as the Mexican government became increasingly heavy-handed in its dealings with its critics. Jones began to openly call for Texas independence. In December 1835, after fighting had begun between settlers and the Mexican Army, a number of settlers met in Columbia for a meeting called the Consultation, to help decide the next move by settlers. Jones led a call for a convention to declare independence by the following spring, but he would not put his name in contention to be a delegate.

As warfare spread, Jones joined the fight. By the spring of 1836, he was serving in the Second Regiment as a judge advocate and a surgeon. He soon rose to become apothecary general of the army. After Texas won the war, he returned to Brazoria to resume his medical career. He was elected to the Texas Congress and pushed for legislation to encourage education and the creation of a national university. He pushed for medical regulations and opposed the creation of a state-run bank and railroad company.

President Sam Houston appointed him as Texas ambassador to the United States in 1838. Both men saw that the effort to annex Texas to the United States was faltering and agreed to withdraw the request for the time being. In the meantime, he attempted to work with Europe and the United States to improve trade. Houston could not run for re-election, and Mirabeau B. Lamar was elected president.

(continued on page 5)

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Texas History Minute (continued from page 4)

Lamar replaced Jones as ambassador, and Jones returned to Texas to serve in Congress once again. Jones became increasingly critical of Lamar's policies and spending. Lamar was extremely unpopular as his term ended in 1841. Houston announced he would run for president once again. Jones declined to run for vice-president. Voters returned Sam Houston to the presidency by a wide margin.

Houston was determined to make Texas part of the United States. He hoped to make Texas look too valuable economically and too important strategically for the United States to ignore, and Jones agreed. Houston appointed Jones as his secretary of state, and the two began negotiations with the United States for annexation once again. As progress began to be made on annexation, this put Jones on track to be Texas's president with the 1844 election.

In one of the most delicate moments in the history of Texas, Anson Jones stood at the center. When Sam Houston became president of the Texas Republic a second time in December 1841, he quickly named Jones as secretary of state. Looking at continuing skirmishes with Mexico and failing finances, Houston hoped to try annexation a second time. Jones, a physician by training, had to navigate the chaotic diplomatic waters.

The entire question of Texas's fate hinged on the increasingly tense debate over slavery in the United States. Slavery was still legal in Texas. Northern abolitionists were horrified at the prospect of admitting such a large slave territory into the Union, one that they feared would wreck the delicate political balance in the country. Talk of splitting Texas into smaller states, expanding the South's Senate influence even further, frightened abolitionist politicians. President Andrew Jackson favored annexation, but with his term in office ending in 1837 and Mexico threatening war with the United States over the issue, he decided not to pursue it. Jackson would not enter a fight he could not finish. His successor, President Martin Van Buren of New York, increasingly moved against slavery and saw interest in Texas annexation fading. President William Henry Harrison of Indiana never had time to weigh in on the Texas question in his one month in office in 1841. All this had left Texas alone in the wilderness.

By 1842, President John Tyler of Virginia began expressing interest in Texas again. Houston and Jones knew annexation was not assured. Both worked to maintain healthy trade relations with Europe, hoping that expanding them might make the U. S. more inclined to bring in Texas. On April 12, 1844, an annexation treaty was signed, but it faced ratification in the U. S. Senate. On June 8, it failed by a vote of 16-35. Tyler pursued a simple bill to admit Texas, which would require both houses of Congress. But 1844 meant presidential elections in the U. S. and in Texas. In the U. S., James K. Polk of Tennessee won a close contest where Texas annexation figured prominently.

In Texas, the 1844 presidential election pitted Jones against Vice-President Edward Burleson. Texans were heavily in favor of annexation. Burleson charged Jones with being against annexation because of his diplomatic overtures to Europe, a charge Jones denied. In the close contest, Jones prevailed by a margin of 7,037 to 5,668.

When Jones assumed office in December, he knew annexation was far from certain. Mexico still threatened Texas, Texas was near bank-

ruptcy, and trade with Europe faltered as negotiations with the U. S. continued. Jones said nothing about annexation in his inaugural address. Inflation had made the Texas currency all but worthless. Nevertheless, Jones pursued construction of a 75-foot lighthouse as well as a hospital on Galveston Island. He pushed a policy of peace with the Native American tribes, securing a peace treaty with the 11 major tribes of Texas by February.

In January 1845, the U. S. House passed an annexation bill, one that passed the U. S. Senate by a one-vote margin a month later. Tyler signed the bill on March 1, just before he left office.

Mexico tried to derail annexation by offering a peace treaty and recognition of Texas which attracted little interest in Texas. Jones pushed the Texas Congress to support annexation and a state constitutional convention. Congress approved the measures in June. His vice-president, San Augustine lawyer Kenneth Anderson, died suddenly in July 1845 at age 39. The office would never again be filled.

Texas statehood was made official on December 28. On February 19, 1846, statehood was made official. In a solemn ceremony, Jones turned over his office to the state's first governor, J. Pinckney Henderson. He told the gathering, "The final act in this great drama is performed. The Republic of Texas is no more."

After his presidency, Jones co-founded the Texas Medical Society in 1853. He bought a large plantation near Washington-on-the-Brazos, which he named Barrington, after his home town. While his plantation remained prosperous, he grew increasingly frustrated and despondent that his political career had come to a halt. His attempts at a political comeback were repeatedly thwarted, and he sank into depression. The state legislature, increasingly frustrated with Houston's performance as a U. S. Senator, prepared to vote to replace him in January 1858. Jones hoped to secure the position but lost decisively. Despondent, Jones went to the site of the old Texas capitol in Houston and, on January 9, took his own life. He was 59.

In 1884, the state legislature named Jones County in his honor. Several schools across Texas have also been named for him. His homestead in Washington County has since become a state historic park and acts as a historic living farm for tourists. Jones is buried in Houston.

From the Fort Worth Decorative Painters

Fort Worth Decorative Painters to Meet Nov. 20

The Fort Worth Decorative Painters will hold their monthly meeting on Monday, Nov. 20 at 6 p.m., at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center, located at 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd in Fort Worth.

Dusti Dancer will instruct a painted snowman project.

For more information contact Suzane at 817-269-2821 or visit the website at www.fwdecorativepainters.com.

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2023 Tarrant County Veterans Day Parade

The Tarrant County Veterans Day Parade started from Panther Island, and marched down Forest Park Blvd. as hundred of spectators lined the street to pay gratitude to Veterans. Saluting TCU Warriors was this year’s theme and marks TCU’s 150th anniversary. In unison with the commemoration, the Tarrant County Veterans Council saluted the university’s military legacy, it’s Army and Air Force ROTC programs, while also honoring TCU alum and Medal of Honor recipient Major Horace S. Carswell, Jr., the Carswell Air Force Base namesake. Parade Marshall Ret. Col. Joseph Campbell made his appearance in an antique car; he is also the VFW District 21 Commander.

After a military fly-over of F-18 attack fighters from the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, the parade began the route.

Entrants included marching bands from several schools and cheerleaders, a military band from Oklahoma and up to 4,000 JROTC cadets, motorcycles, Corvettes, the 1st Calvary Mounted Division from Fort Cavazos and various horse units.

Tarrant County’s annual parade began more than 100 years ago

as an armistice procession through downtown in 1919 to honor those who fought in WWI. The event was a huge success and was enjoyed by everyone in attendance.



Western Hills High School Marching Band



Western Hills High School Air Force JROTC



Under the direction of MSgt. Watson is the Benbrook High School JROTC.



The Benbrook High School Marching Band.



American Legion Post 297: (l-r) Auxiliary Unit President Christy Barnicle, Unit Chaplain Bobbie Jackson, Penny Cloud, Molly Cloud, Reggie Thurman, Ret. U.S. Navy WWII Vet Ken Jones and U.S. Navy Laura Nunez. (continued on page 7)

Veterans Day Parade (continued from page 6)



The Tarrant County Young Marines



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A beautiful display of "Colors"



VFW Post 10429 Sr. Vice Commander Paul Sights, Tillie, Commander Troy Collum and driver, Community Relations Director Jamie Bengford.



The 1st Calvary Mounted Division Horse Detachment from Fort Cavazos.

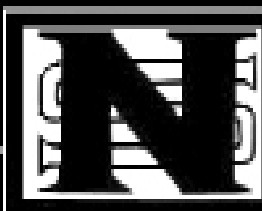


Parade Marshall Ret. Col. Joseph Campbell is VFW District 21 Commander.

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Three Day Weekend Forecast



Friday, Nov. 17:

AM - Partly sunny, with a high near 70. South wind 5 to 15 mph becoming north in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 48. North wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.



Saturday, Nov. 18:

AM - Mostly sunny, with a high near 66. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east in the afternoon.
PM - Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.



Sunday, Nov. 19:

AM - A slight chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 69. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.
PM - A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 55.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)