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Benbrook News

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From the City of Benbrook

Benbrook's 32nd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Fireworks Show Saturday!

The City of Benbrook is proud to bring back the highly anticipated 32nd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Fireworks Show! Join us at Dutch Branch Park, located at 1899 Winscott Rd. on Saturday, Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. This event is free to the public.

Participants can watch Santa and Mrs. Claus ride in on the Fire-truck, take pictures in an old-time sleigh, and enjoy hot cocoa during the lighting of the tree and the fireworks show!

For more information, contact 817-249-6091.

From the Sports Desk with John English

WHHS Cougar Boys Defeat Trimble Tech

The Western Hills boy's basketball team started the Thanksgiving break on a high note, earning a 53-40 victory over Trimble Tech last Tuesday.

Coach Blake Dunson said his team played especially well in one facet of the game.

"I was very happy with our defense throughout the game," Dunson said. "Trimble Tech has some good athletes and is headed in the right direction under Coach Lopez. It was a great win for us going into Thanksgiving."

Juniors Stefon Holman and Jaylen James lead the Cougars in scoring with 12 points each, and senior John Lewark also added 9 points in the game.

Western Hills will compete in the Venus Tournament this weekend, and Dunson said it will be a good opportunity for his team.

"We're excited about the opportunity to compete in the Venus tournament," Dunson said. "It will showcase some high-quality teams. We have Fort Worth Country Day in our opening match up so we will have to be ready to play. I expect us to face good competition and grow as a team this next week."

The Lady Cougars lost by a score of 65-27 to Springtown last Tuesday night to move to 2-4 on the regular season.

Western Hills will compete in the Venus Tournament this weekend.

Over at Benbrook, the Bobcats came up a bit short against Joshua last Tuesday and coach Blake Mendez said his team struggled to get anything going.

"We didn't have our best effort (continued on page 3)

From the Benbrook Public Library

Holly Jolly Holiday Dec. 9

The Benbrook Public Library will host its 9th Annual Holly Jolly Holiday celebration Saturday, Dec. 9, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This holiday celebration is free for the entire family. It features a harpist, a reindeer photo opportunity, the Uptown Carolers performing holiday songs, balloon making, a special appearance by Mrs. Claus, and a holiday elf show.

Arts and crafts, laser engraved ornaments, hot chocolate, and other refreshments will be available throughout the day.

All ages are invited to attend and celebrate the holiday season.

Holiday Gift Wrapping

For those who need time and space to do holiday gift wrapping away from prying eyes, the Library is offering the space to wrap! Saturday, Dec. 16, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Wednesday, Dec. 20, from 4 to 7:30 p.m., the Library will provide wrapping paper, tape, scissors, and ribbon to help make your presents sparkle.

The Library provides the space; you do the wrapping!

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Legal Notice

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer retailer on Premise Permit by Keith Armand DBA Louisiana Seafood and Fish Market LLC to be located at 1505 E. Berry, Fort Worth, Tarrant, Texas
Owner Keith Armand

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS

WHITE SETTLEMENT ISD'S

State Financial Accountability Rating

White Settlement ISD will hold a public meeting at 5:30 p.m., December 13, 2023 at the Administration Building located at 8224 White Settlement Rd, Fort Worth, Texas 76108.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss White Settlement ISD's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

Legal Notice

BWA Seeks Advisory Committee Applicants

The Board of Directors of the Benbrook Water Authority is accepting applications from citizens interested in serving on the Authority's Capital Improvements Advisory Committee. Applicants must be registered voters in the City of Benbrook, and must have resided in the City for one (1) year before the date of appointment (January 1, 2024). The Advisory Committee performs several functions including reviewing the capital improvements plan and filing written comments, and advising the Board of the need to update or revise the land use assumptions, capital improvements plan, and impact fee. Interested citizens can pick up an application at the Authority's office located at 1121 Mercedes St., Benbrook or download a form at www.benbrookwater.com and return it to the BWA office. Residents involved in real estate, development, or building industries are encouraged to apply. Applications must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 8, 2023.



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Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

against Joshua,” Mendez said. “We started slow and were never able to go on that run that we needed. Joshua was consistent and shot the ball well, and we didn’t.”

Mendez said there was a high point in the game for the Bobcats, however, “We have a senior, Jaeden Powell, that didn’t get to finish last year with us due to injury,” Mendez said. “Joshua was his first game back and it was great seeing him on the court again.”

Benbrook competes in the Abilene tournament this weekend, and Mendez said it’s a competition his team looks forward to every season.

“The Abilene tournament is our annual overnight trip and it’s always a highlight of the year,” Mendez said. “We look forward to playing teams we don’t normally see, but we also use it as a team-building trip. We will visit the ACU campus while we’re there and hopefully come home with a few wins.”

On the girl’s side, Benbrook lost to Southwest by a score of 44-25, but coach Leta Lofton said it is important for the Lady Cats to play teams like Southwest.

“Playing against a 5 A team will prepare us for our more athletic District opponents,” Lofton said. “However, too many missed free throws will get you beat versus any team. With too many missed free throws, layups, and fouls, it cost us a loss versus Southwest.”

Lofton said she did have a strong effort in the game from freshman forward Grace Klaerner, who finished with 14 points.

Benbrook City Hall will be closed Dec. 22 and 25, for the Christmas Holiday, and closed Jan. 1, 2024, for the New Year.



From the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Public Meeting Dec. 5 for Proposed New Municipal Solid Waste Facility

BAP Kennor Landfill, LLC has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for proposed Registration No. 40335 to construct and operate a Type V municipal solid waste recycling facility. The proposed facility, BAP Kennor C&D Recycling Facility, will be located at 3411 Silver Creek Road, Fort Worth 76108, in Tarrant County.

The applicant is requesting authorization to store and recycle construction and demolition waste materials. The following link to an electronic map of the site or facility’s general location is provided as a public courtesy and is not part of the application or notice: <https://arcg.is/Ou5a11>. For exact location, refer to application.

A public meeting will be held Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. at Brewer High School Auditorium, located at 1025 W. Loop 820 North, Fort Worth, Texas 76108.

The meeting will consist of two parts, an Informal Discussion Period and a Formal Comment Period. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing under the Administrative Procedure Act. During the Informal Discussion Period, the public will be encouraged to ask questions of the applicant and TCEQ staff concerning the permit application.

The comments and questions submitted orally during the Informal Discussion Period will not be considered before a decision is reached on the permit application and no formal response will be made. Responses will be provided orally during the Informal Discussion Period. During the Formal Discussion Period on the permit application, members of the public may state their formal comments orally into the official record.

A written response to all formal comments will be prepared by the Executive Director.

All formal comments will be considered before a decision is reached on the permit application.

A copy of the written response will be sent to each person who submits a formal comment or who requested to be on the mailing list for this permit application and provides a mailing address.

From Carter BloodCare

Friends of the Benbrook Library Community Blood Drive Dec. 8

The Friends of the Benbrook Library will host a Carter BloodCare community blood drive on Friday, Dec. 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Carter BloodCare Bus in the parking lot of Library located at 1065 Mercedes Street in Benbrook.

Those wishing to donate are requested to select a time slot when you [sign up online](#).

For more information, email friends@benbrooklibrary.org.

Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

American Military Officer, James Walker Fannin, Jr.



Some men live only a short life, but one moment can be remembered for generations. James Fannin was a planter, businessman, soldier, and family man. He was only 32 when he died during the Texas Revolution. Fannin's death would be a rallying cry across Texas, but his early life was one far from the concerns of the Texas frontier and the politics of Mexico.

James Walker Fannin, Jr., was born on New Year's Day in 1804 in rural Georgia. He came from a noted family that included veterans of the American Revolution, and later, the War of 1812. His cousin, Samuel F. B. Morse, would later invent the telegraph. Fannin's father was a physician and a planter, but the circumstances of his birth created a scandal. His parents were not married. As a result, he was soon adopted by his grandfather, James Walker, and raised on his plantation at the other end of the state.

In 1818, he enrolled at the University of Georgia. The next year, however, he earned an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point and enrolled as a cadet. Only 15, he was wild and unfocused, even with military discipline. His grades were poor, and his temper was sharp. At the beginning of his third year, he challenged a fellow cadet to a duel. This deeply upset his instructors, and he resigned from West Point.

He returned to Georgia, went into busi-

ness for himself, and married a young woman named Minerva Fort. Within a few years, his life had completely turned around. By 1828, he moved to Columbus, Georgia, where he was now focused, successful, and a respected member of the community. He joined the Georgia state militia, served as a Grand Master for the local Masonic lodge, and was a leader in the local temperance society. His wife eventually gave birth to two daughters. His business thrived. He attempted to become a local judge, but his dueling scandal at West Point ended that bid.

In 1834, Fannin moved his family to Velasco, then a prosperous port city in Brazoria County at the mouth of the Brazos River. He bought a plantation and became a slave trader. Though illegal across the rest of Mexico, Fannin's business was in high demand among the Texas colonists. He arrived in Velasco at a time when tensions were high amid the bitter memories of a vicious battle between residents of Velasco and the Mexican Army two years before in which a dozen men died over a Mexican garrison nearby. Relations between the colonists and Mexico were disintegrating rapidly, and Fannin was soon swept up in the excitement.

Fannin became part of a rising chorus of voices calling for Texas independence by early 1835. In Mexico City, one government after another came to power and collapsed, with each regime unable to contain the rising resentment across the country. Mexico tried to tighten its grip on the Texas colonists, with their rage only rising in response as Mexico's ideas of law and order clashed with Texas ideals and ambitions. Uprising and rebellions would soon erupt across southern and central Mexico, with Texas following suit.

In Texas, a group of citizens formed the Committee of Safety and Correspondence, echoing the American Revolution, and contacted Fannin in August to use his influence in the cause. Fannin called for the Consultation, a meeting to be held later that year to discuss the possibility of independence. Fannin also contacted old friends and powerful allies in Georgia and from his days at

West Point to solicit funds for a possible fight against Mexico. A militia was formed in Velasco, the Brazos Guards, with Fannin appointed as captain.

Mexico made its first move in October at the Battle of Gonzales. The army attempted to repossess a cannon on loan to the community used for defense against Native American tribes. Word had spread of the arrival of the army, and Fannin's Brazos Guards had arrived to rally the people and to intercept the arriving force. Gunfire erupted on October 2, making Gonzales the first battle of the Texas Revolution. Mexican forces were repelled for the time being, but Fannin realized it was only the beginning.

James Walker Fannin, Jr., had arrived in Texas only in 1834. The 30-year-old planter brought his wife and two daughters with him. A fight with Mexico was brewing, and Fannin jumped in with both feet. In the first battle of the Texas Revolution in October 1835, Fannin led his Brazos Guards from Velasco against Mexican forces at the Battle of Gonzales. In spite of this initial success, the fortunes of Texas in battle would soon change dramatically. The tides of war and fortune would cost Fannin everything.

As Texas began moving toward independence, a provisional government was established in November. Former Tennessee governor Sam Houston, now a Texas resident and also an advocate for independence, was named commander in chief of the army. Houston offered the position of judge advocate to Fannin, but Fannin wanted a field command instead. Houston named him colonel.

By January 1836, Fannin was planning on taking a group of volunteers to seize Matamoros on the south side of the Rio Grande. By February, Mexican forces under Gen. Jose de Urrea had taken the city, forcing Fannin to prepare for the defense of Goliad instead, a position southeast of San Antonio. Mexican forces were flooding into Texas. Houston and Fannin initially considered sending forces to relieve the defenders at the Alamo in San Antonio, but Houston instead

Texas History Minute (continued from page 4)

ordered the Alamo abandoned. The Alamo defenders stayed and were wiped out by March 6. Fannin had sent forces to Refugio, but he received orders from Houston on March 14 to assume a position near Victoria.

Fannin delayed, hoping to hear news of his force at Refugio. Five days later, he learned they had been captured. Only now did he begin his retreat. Fannin was quietly criticized by his troops. Though he had spent a brief time at West Point as a cadet and his short period in the Georgia militia, he had difficulty winning the confidence of his men. He delayed while his position worsened. And it soon rose to beyond his worst fears.

While he delayed, Urrea’s forces had managed to catch up to Fannin. At Coleto, on March 19, Fannin and his 450 men were surrounded by more than a thousand troops under Urrea. Fannin ordered a defensive square, but tall grass impaired their vision and they came under cannon fire and the force of Urrea’s cavalry. The Texans put up a furious defense, repelling three bayonet charges. Fannin’s casualties were growing – ten men were killed and 67 wounded. By daybreak the next morning, Fannin offered terms of surrender to Urrea, which included help for the wounded and fair treatment for the men.

Urrea initially agreed, but his superior, Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, had other plans. The prisoners, now being taken to nearby Goliad, were to be shown no mercy. Though Urrea pled for clemency, Santa Anna ignored him. On March 27, Palm Sunday, Col. Jose de la Portilla began carrying out Santa Anna’s orders to execute all prisoners.

Men who could not walk were shot were they laid. Others were marched out a few at a time and shot in a nearby field. Fannin was made to witness each death. They tortured him with the sound of executions. A gunshot, a shriek, and then silence. Over and over again. Fannin was executed last. Nearly 420 men were slaughtered.

Fannin would never see the results of the war. In the weeks after his death, his loss became a rallying cry for Texas troops. “Remember Goliad!” was shouted in the same breath as “Remember the Alamo!” At the Battle of San Jacinto in April, the battle cry led Texas to a surprise victory over Mexican troops, securing the independence of Texas.

In the years after his death, Fannin was honored across the state. Fannin County was named for him in 1837. His home state of Georgia named created its own Fannin County in 1854 on the Tennessee state line in his honor. Across Texas, numerous streets and schools have been named for him, including schools in Dallas, Grand Prairie, Amarillo, and Midland. The small community of Fannin, not far from Victoria, is named for him and has a memorial to him. The Goliad battlefield was made a state park and memorial in 1939.

From the Project Linus Blanketeers

First Monday Quilt Club - Project Linus Christmas Party

The First Monday Quilt Club meets on the first Monday of each month at Bethany Christian Church, located at 1500 Meadow Park Drive in White Settlement from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Their next meeting is on Monday, Dec. 4, when they will have a Christmas Party. Volunteers are asked to bring one unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots Christmas program, brunch, snacks or Christmas goodies to share during the party, and a wrapped (inexpensive or white elephant) gift for a Chinese gift exchange.

Project Linus is a non-profit service organization, and the members of this group are Tarrant County Chapter Project Linus volunteers who create handmade quilts and blankets that provide love, warmth, and comfort for local children who have suffered trauma, tragedy, or illness.

Volunteers also make coverlets for veterans, nursing home residents, and the homeless. Unfortunately, the need for these blankets increases each month. They desperately need volunteers with portable sewing machines to help assemble the quilts.

No experience is needed - there is a place for you. Anyone can help if you can follow instructions, sew, tie a knot, crochet a blanket, or tell a good joke. Volunteers have lots of fun and develop fantastic friendships.

High school students can receive community service credits for participating. Materials (fabric, batting, thread, and yarn) are provided. Donations of fabric, yarn, thread, sewing machines, sergers, or money to purchase materials are greatly appreciated.

For more information about the mission of Project Linus, visit www.projectlinus.org. For more information about the First Monday Quilt Club, call Virginia Biela at 817-244-1263.

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RSV Prevention Options Can Help Protect Your Child This Season



Last fall, the United States saw an early and significant spike in cases of Respiratory Syncytial Virus, or RSV, which is the leading cause of hospitalizations in all infants. Now, there are options available to help prevent RSV in babies, including a preventive antibody and an RSV vaccination during pregnancy.

During the first season the new RSV immunizations are offered, they may be limited in availability in provider locations. Public health experts are prioritizing use of the monoclonal antibody in infants at highest risk.

To ensure parents and caregivers of infants and young children have all the facts they need to protect their children during peak RSV season, the American Lung Association is sharing the following insights:

- RSV is extremely common. RSV infects people of all ages, and nearly 100 percent of all children become infected by age two.
- RSV can be severe. Most people, including infants, develop only mild symptoms similar to that of a common cold, but for some, RSV can be severe and even life threatening. The leading cause of hospitalizations in all infants, up to 80,000 children younger than five are hospitalized due to RSV in the United States each year.
- Severity is unpredictable. Good overall health is not a safeguard against severe RSV. A study by the American Academy of Pediatrics found that 79 percent of children hospitalized with RSV were previously healthy.
- RSV season is now. RSV season typically begins in the fall and peaks in the winter.

Preventing Infection

RSV is easily spread from person to person through close contact through respiratory droplets from coughing and sneezing. It can also survive on hard surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs, for

many hours and can be spread by touching a surface with the virus on it and then touching your face or your baby's face.

If you have contact with an infant or young child, especially if they were born prematurely, are very young, have chronic lung or heart disease, a weakened immune system, or have neuromuscular disorders, you should take extra care to keep the infant healthy.

To help prevent severe RSV illness in infants, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends the RSV vaccination during weeks 32-36 of pregnancy in September through January, or the new monoclonal antibody. The preventive antibody is recommended for infants under 8 months old in their first RSV season and some young children between 8 and 19 months old at increased risk, such as children who have chronic lung disease as a result of being born prematurely. This one-dose immunization is a long-acting preventive antibody that provides an extra layer of defense to help babies fight RSV infections for five months.

Monoclonal antibodies are man-made proteins that mimic the immune system's naturally-produced antibodies to help fight off harmful viruses. This preventive antibody is not a vaccine, and not for children who are already sick with RSV.

If you are the parent or caregiver of a young child, you are also encouraged to:

- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Avoid kissing your child while you're sick.
- Talk with your healthcare provider about your baby's risk and options to prevent severe RSV illness.

For more RSV information, visit [Lung.org/RSV](https://www.lung.org/rsv).

RSV impacts millions of people in the United States annually. Fortunately, this RSV season, there are more ways you can help protect your infant.

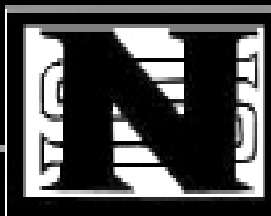
From the Benbrook Police Department

Household Watch Program

The Benbrook Police Department provides a House Watch program that enables residents to notify patrol personnel of short-term absences from their homes. Homeowners can complete a House Watch form with basic information regarding the duration of the stay, vehicles, pets, emergency contacts, etc. The information is passed on to officers who will periodically provide extra patrol during the designated time period.

The application can be downloaded from the City website, but it must be submitted in person to the Police Department at 1080 Mercedes St. For more information, call 817-249-1610.

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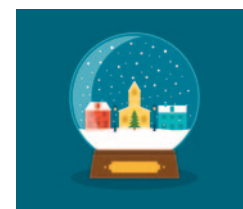
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Three Day Weekend Forecast



Friday, Dec. 1:

AM - Mostly sunny, with a high near 58. W/NW wind 5 to 10 mph becoming E/NE in the afternoon.
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 42. E wind around 5 mph becoming S/SW after midnight.



Saturday, Dec. 2:

AM - Mostly sunny, with a high near 67. SW wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 42. W wind 5 to 10 mph.



Sunday, Dec. 3:

AM - Sunny, with a high near 66. West southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
PM - Mostly clear, with a low around 41.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)