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# White Settlement Bomber News

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*From the White Settlement Historical Museum*  
**Special WSHM Exhibit  
Premieres Feb. 21!**

The White Settlement Historical Museum (WSHM) will open a special exhibit, “*Life at Liberator Village: A Homefront Story in White Settlement*,” to the general public at noon Feb. 21.

The exhibit tells the story of Liberator Village, a wartime housing community built by the federal government during World War II to support workers at the nearby bomber plant in west Tarrant County. Thousands of men and women came to the area to build the B-24 Liberator, one of the most significant aircraft of the war. To accommodate the influx, officials constructed an entire community next to the plant for workers and their families.

Through personal stories, artifacts, historic photographs and original film footage, the exhibit recreates daily life in Liberator Village. Visitors can view interviews with former residents, B-24 production and flight footage, and images documenting changes in the surrounding landscape.

Items on display include a pilot or navigator cap, a B-24 compass, along with reproductions of architectural diagrams. A remembrance map will allow guests to mark where their families lived. A tablet-based B-24 flight simulator will be available at announced times. Children can participate in hands-on activities, including activity sheets and a photo station.

The exhibit runs through May 30 in the Jimmie Weaver Special Exhibit Room at the museum, 8320 Hanon Drive. Regular hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Additional hours are scheduled for March 1, 5, 15 and 19.

Admission is free.

*From Bomber News Staff Writers*  
**Four-Day Weekend for  
White Settlement ISD  
Students & Staff**

White Settlement ISD students and staff can take a break from their alarm clocks for a four-day weekend, Feb. 13–16.

Classes will resume at regular start times Tuesday, Feb. 17.

*From Bomber News Staff Writers*  
**Brewer Middle School Band  
to Host Instrument Fair for  
Fifth-Graders Feb. 21**

Brewer Middle School will host a Band Instrument Fair on Saturday, Feb. 21, giving fifth-grade students the opportunity to explore band instruments before enrolling in sixth-grade band.

The event is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Brewer Middle School cafeteria. The fair is open to all fifth-graders who are interested in joining the band when they enter sixth grade.

During the Instrument Fair, students will have the chance to try out a variety of band instruments and learn more about the options available to them. The event is designed to help students make informed decisions about which instrument they may want to play as part of the Brewer Middle School band program.

Parents and students are encouraged to sign up for a time slot in advance. Signing up ahead of time helps organizers manage attendance throughout the day.

Additional information about the event is available by contacting Marissa Davis at [marissa.davis@wsisd.net](mailto:marissa.davis@wsisd.net).

The Brewer Middle School band program offers students an opportunity to develop musical skills, discipline and teamwork while participating in school performances and events. The Instrument Fair serves as an introduction for incoming students considering joining the program.

*From the Sports Desk with John English*  
**Brewer Rallies Past Azle 47-43  
as Postseason Nears**

The Brewer boy’s basketball team avenged an earlier district loss on Friday night with a 47-43 victory over Azle.

Coach Jason Porostovsky said it was a hard-fought win for the Bears.

“We came out ready to play, leading and controlling the game really from the start to the finish,” Porostovsky said. “We were never able to get great separation, but we always felt in control.”

Cobi Watkins had 12 points and including *(continued on page 3)*

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Mistakes in stories or ads must be reported by Friday at 4 p.m. following Thursday's edition for corrections. Advertising payments are due by 10 a.m. Monday.

# Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

three 3-point shots, Braelon Orr had 12 points and Braylen Brown had 10 points to lead the way for Brewer.

Porostovsky said he likes how his team is playing as the post-season draws near.

“We are in the process of improving each game,” Porostovsky said. “These kids have a desire to be great. It’s a fun bunch to coach because they are responsive and willing to do what it takes to win. We are playing our best basketball of the year and that has always been our goal. Process over results.”

On the girl’s side, Brewer wrapped up the regular season with a 57-50 victory over Azle, and coach Dena Atzenhoffer said her team played well throughout.

“We were proud to end our season on a high note last night,” Atzenhoffer said. “Our kids battled until the very end, and every single one of them played their hearts out and competed together as a team. It was truly refreshing to see the growth they’ve made throughout the season.”

Atzenhoffer said she had a standout performance in the game.

“Clara Williams showed tremendous toughness and leadership,” Atzenhoffer said. “She has been battling a pretty severe sprained ankle but was determined to finish the season alongside her teammates. She played all but three to four minutes of the game, even though her ankle is still bruised and swollen. That speaks volumes

about her character. She’s a tough competitor and a great leader for our program, and we’re excited to have her back for another year.”

On the mat, the Brewer wrestling team brought five athletes to the Region I-5A wrestling tournament this past weekend, and earned two top-eight finishes.

The Bears experienced a couple of medical issues that prevented two athletes from competing.

“That left us with Kamarie Johnson who ended up 2-2 in the tournament and finished in top eight,” coach Sonny Feexico said. “Landon Gentry went 2-3 and finished in sixth place...I am proud of the way our kids persevered and battled this season.”

Feexico said he believes the future is bright for the Brewer wrestling program.

“Wrestling is a grueling sport and it takes a special kind of person to finish a season and be able to advance through the postseason,” Feexico said. “I am definitely looking forward to next season. We have some great kids coming back and I am looking forward to some young wrestlers that will start with us next year.”


On the pitch, the Brewer boy’s soccer team came up just short against Saginaw on Friday, but coach Ben Buentello said there was a major bright spot.

“We finally found some production in the attack, scoring our highest goal total of district play so far,” Buentello said. “But defensively we made some very big mistakes, including giving up two penalty kicks. The second penalty kick that we conceded ended up being the game winning goal for them with less than a minute left. Myles Pearce finished the game with two goals and an assist, while Ignacio Silva had a goal and an assist in the game.

Josh Muco scored a goal for the Bears and Angel Cardona had an assist.

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**Small businesses contribute to the unique identities of communities.**

From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers

# Early Garden Cleanup Could Harm Pollinators



Each February, a stretch of warm weather often tempts North Texans into early garden cleanup. After weeks of cold, temperatures in the mid-50s can feel like spring, prompting homeowners to rake leaves, cut back dead plants and tidy garden beds.

Horticulture and conservation experts caution that this early cleanup can unintentionally harm pollinators and other beneficial wildlife that are still dormant.

Many insects and small animals spend winter sheltered in leaf litter, hollow plant stems and soil. Removing these materials too early can destroy habitat just weeks before they naturally emerge.

## What's Overwintering in the Garden

Several beneficial species rely on undisturbed gardens during late winter:

- Native bees: While many native bees nest underground, others overwinter in hollow plant stems or cavities. Cutting stems too early can eliminate nesting sites before bees become active.
- Butterflies and moths: Many species overwinter as chrysalises attached to dried stems, tucked under loose bark or hidden in leaf litter. These can resemble dead leaves or small bumps on plants.
- Beneficial insects: Predatory insects such as lacewings, hoverflies and parasitic wasps often overwinter as eggs or adults in dried vegetation and leaf debris. These insects help control aphids and other garden pests.
- Amphibians: Toads and other small wildlife may burrow several inches into loose soil and mulch, remaining inactive until temperatures warm consistently.

## When Is It Safe to Clean Up?

Rather than relying on occasional warm days, experts recommend waiting until temperatures are consistently warmer before beginning major garden cleanup.

A widely used guideline is to delay cutting back plants and clearing garden beds until nighttime temperatures remain above 50 degrees for at least a full week. This signals that many insects have emerged from dormancy.

In Tarrant County, which falls primarily in USDA Hardiness Zone 8a, with some southern and eastern areas classified as Zone 8b, late freezes are common through March and sometimes into early April. As a result, large-scale garden cleanup is usually safest from late April to mid-May, depending on weather patterns.

Brief warm spells in February or March do not indicate that gardens are ready or that overwintering insects have awakened.

## Smarter Spring Gardening

Gardeners don't have to abandon tidying altogether. Experts recommend:

- Leaving leaf litter and dried stems in less visible areas until late spring.
- Cleaning high-traffic or front-yard spaces gradually rather than all at once.
- Cutting back stems to leave several inches of material instead of removing them completely, which can still provide habitat.
- Allowing gardens to wake up naturally helps protect pollinators, supports beneficial insects and leads to healthier plants later in the season.

Letting gardens rest a little longer may not look tidy at first, but it plays a key role in supporting the ecosystems that keep North Texas landscapes thriving.

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From Suburban Newspapers Staff Writers

# How Valentine's Day Became a Celebration of Love



Valentine's Day, celebrated annually on Feb. 14, is widely associated with romantic cards, flowers and candy. Its origins, however, trace back centuries and combine elements of ancient Roman tradition, early Christian history and medieval literature.

The holiday is named for St. Valentine, though historical records indicate there may have been more than one Christian martyr with that name. According to Catholic tradition, Valentine was a priest, or possibly a bishop, who lived in Rome during the third century under the reign of Emperor Claudius II.

One of the most enduring legends holds that Claudius II banned marriages for young men, believing unmarried soldiers fought better in battle. Valentine is said to have defied the order by secretly performing Christian marriages. When discovered, he was imprisoned and later executed around A.D. 269. His feast day was established by the Catholic Church to honor his martyrdom.

Another account suggests Valentine was killed for helping persecuted Christians escape Roman prisons. Some legends also claim that while imprisoned, Valentine healed the blind daughter of his jailer and left her a farewell note signed "from your Valentine," a phrase often cited as the origin of modern Valentine messages.

While these stories are difficult to verify historically, Valentine's association with love and devotion persisted. In A.D. 496, Pope Gelasius I officially declared Feb. 14 as St. Valentine's Day, replacing earlier pagan festivals held around the same time.

One such festival was Lupercalia, a Roman celebration observed in mid-February that involved fertility rites and matchmaking rituals. As Christianity spread, many pagan traditions were absorbed or reinterpreted within the Christian calendar, and Valentine's Day gradually took on a more symbolic meaning centered on love.

The romantic connection to Valentine's Day strengthened during the Middle Ages. English poet Geoffrey Chaucer is often credited with linking the holiday to romance in his 14th-century poem "Parliament of Fowls," which describes birds choosing their mates on St. Valentine's Day. This literary association helped cement the idea of Feb. 14 as a day for courtship.

By the 18th century, exchanging handwritten notes and tokens of affection had become common in England. The practice spread to the American colonies, and by the 19th century, mass-produced Valentine's Day cards made the tradition more accessible to the public.

Today, Valentine's Day is celebrated in many countries and has expanded beyond romantic relationships to include expressions of affection among friends, family members and classmates.

While its modern customs have evolved, the holiday's roots remain grounded in centuries-old traditions that blend history, legend and cultural change.

Though the true details of St. Valentine's life may never be fully known, his name continues to be linked to acts of love, sacrifice and devotion, themes that still define Valentine's Day more than 1,700 years later.

*From the White Settlement Public Library*

## *Teen DIY Program Offers Monthly Hands-On Creativity*

Creative teens in grades 7–12 are invited to take part in Teen DIY, a monthly hands-on program at the White Settlement Public Library designed to give participants the chance to create fun, practical projects while exploring their artistic side.

Each Teen DIY session features a different activity. Past projects have included home décor items, fidget toys and other do-it-yourself creations.

The next session is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 23, at 4:30 p.m. Teens will learn how to carve their own eraser stamps during the workshop.

Registration is not required to attend, but organizers encourage participants to [sign up in advance](#). Registration helps staff prepare materials and allows teens to receive reminder notifications about the event.

Teen DIY is open to students in grades 7–12 and is held monthly.

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# Free Collectible Evaluations Offered in Benbrook Feb. 17–21

Residents looking to learn the value of coins, jewelry and collectibles will have an opportunity later this month when Premier Gold, Silver & Coin hosts a free evaluation event in Benbrook.

The event will be held Tuesday through Saturday, Feb. 17–21, at the Hyatt Place, 5900 Cityview Blvd. in Fort Worth. No appointment is required, and all evaluations will be conducted in person by company experts to ensure accurate and fair assessments.

Hours for the event are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Items of interest include U.S. paper currency printed before 1934, graded coins and commemoratives, gold coins, scrap gold, sterling flatware and tea sets, and gold, silver and platinum jewelry. The company will also evaluate broken or unwanted jewelry,

watches, running or broken, sports memorabilia, pop culture collectibles, comics, guitars and amplifiers, war memorabilia, pocket knives, Zippo lighters and vintage toys.

A wide range of U.S. coins will be accepted for evaluation, including Morgan dollars, Walking Liberty half dollars, Franklin half dollars, Kennedy half dollars, Mercury dimes, Washington quarters, Buffalo nickels, Liberty nickels, Wheat pennies, Barber coins and pre-1964 Roosevelt dimes, according to event materials. Pricing information is not provided by phone or online, and all items must be evaluated in person.

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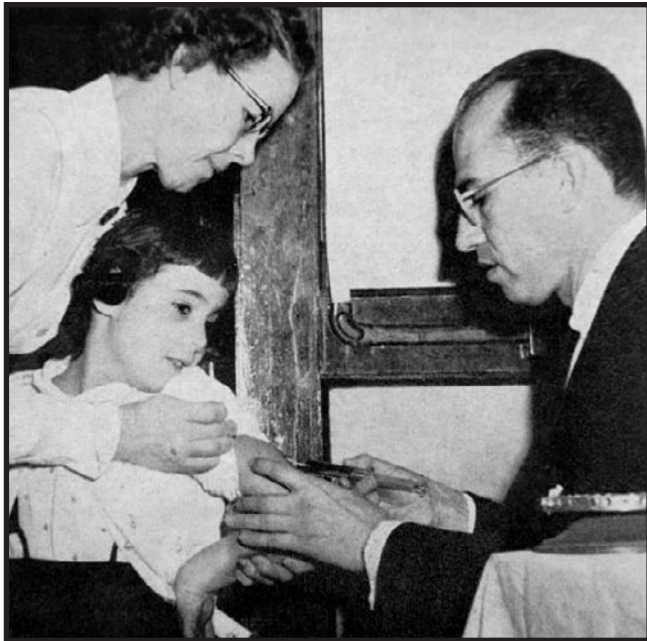
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Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

## Dr. Jonas Salk and the Vaccine that Changed Modern Medicine



“There’s no such thing as failure; there’s just giving up too soon,” once said Dr. Jonas Salk.

In the early 20th century, polio devastated many communities around the world, including Texas, prompting closures and quarantines connected to outbreaks, gripping communities in terror. A determined team of scientists led by Salk ended this nightmare for the nation and the world with the development of a polio vaccine.

Salk was born in New York City in October 1914. His father, the son of Jewish immigrants, was a garment worker. His mother was a Russian immigrant. He had two younger brothers, one of whom became a veterinarian and the other became a psychologist. The future physician was extremely bright and extremely curious about the world as a youth and was enrolled in an academically gifted high school program at age 13.

Friends and colleagues described him as a perfectionist in his studies and his research with a disciplined focus on his work. He was a voracious reader, but he was almost always described as warm, optimistic, devoutly moral, and compassionate.

Upon graduation from high school at age 15, Salk entered City College of New York. He briefly considered a career as a lawyer, but his mother convinced him to go into a career in medicine instead. With this career change in mind, he earned a bachelors degree in chemistry at age 19 in 1933. Salk

then enrolled at New York University’s school of medicine. Money caused a lot of problems with his studies initially, forcing him to work a series of jobs ranging from camp counselor to lab technician while his parents borrowed money to help him continue his studies. He worked as a teacher and researcher for a year. Eventually, he was able to get a series of scholarships to help him afford to complete his education. Salk graduated from medical school in 1939.

He accepted a position at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine in 1947. In the meantime, polio, a viral infection that caused death or paralysis, continued to haunt the world. An outbreak in the Texas Panhandle infected more than 1,200 in 1943. A Houston outbreak infected 313 in 1948.

Rehabilitation centers were established in the state to help those partially paralyzed. Because it often struck children, it was sometimes called infantile paralysis. The disease struck thousands of people, including President Franklin D. Roosevelt in his younger years.

In 1948, officials with the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (later the March of Dimes) approached Salk to research the disease. After pulling together a team of researchers and finding further private grants to fund his research, Salk produced a vaccine derived from dead viruses by early 1952 and began testing. The initial results were promising.

That same year, the nation’s worst polio epidemic ever erupted, prompting the closures of public swimming pools and many other public facilities. More than 58,000 people were infected, resulting in 3,145 dead and more than 21,000 paralyzed. Salk and his team then used the vaccine on themselves and their families.

In 1954, based on this initial success, a nationwide test began, with more than 1.8 million volunteers, with the vaccine approved in 1955.

By 1961, a disease that once struck more than 20,000 annually was reduced to 161 cases. In the meantime, Salk became a

household name. He received numerous awards and honorary degrees and was routinely sought by reporters for his insights into medicine and science.

The value of the Salk vaccine in dollar terms has been estimated at nearly \$8 billion in today’s currency; but for Salk, the value in human terms was beyond measure.

He refused to patent the vaccine and made the research materials available to doctors around the globe. He gave up the money in order to save lives.

The cure, Salk said, belonged to the people of the world. Once questioned why he did not patent the vaccine, Salk replied, “Can you patent the Sun?”

He founded the Salk Institute in California in 1960 as a center for research into infectious diseases to develop vaccines and treatments. It has included several Nobel Prize winners among its ranks of researchers.

In the 1980s, prompted by the growing AIDS epidemic, he began working on an AIDS vaccine. While his efforts did not produce a workable vaccine, he was able to develop a number of promising immune system therapies.

“I have had dreams, and I have had nightmares; but I conquered my nightmares because of my dreams,” once said Salk. He died at age 80 in 1995.

The last case of polio occurred in the United States in 1979. The entire western hemisphere was declared free of polio by 1994. Because of aggressive vaccination efforts through medical organizations and private volunteers, including civic groups such as local Rotary Clubs, polio outbreaks have been eliminated in all but two nations, Pakistan and Afghanistan.



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[peter@polinsky-insurance.com](mailto:peter@polinsky-insurance.com)

### LANDSCAPE/LAWNS

**I MOW 4 YOU**  
817-988-2249  
[corvetteron@hotmail.com](mailto:corvetteron@hotmail.com)  
.....  
**ALEX'S Lawn Care**  
817-793-9096

### PAINTING

**HAYWOOD Painting**  
817-371-8597

### PLUMBING

**LONNIE BRAVO Plumbing**  
817-715-6747  
[lonniebravo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lonniebravo@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.lonniebravoplumbingllc.com](http://www.lonniebravoplumbingllc.com)

### ROOFING

**ECE ROOFING LLC**  
817-831-2600

### SERVICES PROVIDED

**AMERICAN LEGION Post 297**  
817-249-2791  
[alpost297@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alpost297@sbcglobal.net)  
.....  
**CHRIST THE KING ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
3290 Lackland Rd.  
Fort Worth, Tx 76116 Sun. 9:30am

### TREE SERVICE

**CHAD GREEN Tree Service**  
817-246-5943 or 817-800-6059 (cell)

**Business Directory Listings - \$15 per month - 3 line max.!**  
**Contact [classifieds@suburban-newspapers.com](mailto:classifieds@suburban-newspapers.com)**

## Weekend Forecast



### Friday, Feb. 13:

**AM** - Partly sunny, with a high near 78. South wind 5 to 10 mph.  
**PM** - Showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 3am. Low around 60.  
S/SE wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%.



### Saturday, Feb. 14:

**AM** - Showers and thunderstorms. High near 72. South wind 10-15 mph becoming west in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation 90%.  
**PM** - A 40 percent chance of showers before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 51. West northwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.



### Sunday, Feb. 15:

**AM** - Sunny, with a high near 68. North wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.  
**PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 46. North wind around 5 mph becoming south after midnight.

**Extended Forecast [Click Here](#)**