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# White Settlement Bomber News

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*Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt*

## *VFW Post 5617 Hosts Benefit for Guide Dogs of America (GDA)*

The International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) along with the Wasted Money Cornhole founder Travis Crews, co-hosted a Cornhole tournament benefiting GDA on June 29 at VFW Post 5617.

GDA and IAMAW have collaborated for over 70 years to make events like this one possible.

GDA breed, raise and train guide dogs costing \$60,000 per year for individuals who are blind/visually impaired, and service dogs for veterans and children with autism.

GDA places facility dogs with professionals in hospitals, schools and courtrooms. The highly skilled canines become trusted companions that increase an individual's confidence, mobility and independence.

All programs and services, including transportation, personalized training, room/board and postgraduate support are provided at no cost to the recipient.

Located in Los Angeles, GDA serves a diverse range of individuals in the United States and Canada. Their mission is to transform lives through partnerships with service dogs.

The VFW Post 5617 kitchen crew prepared a delicious meal of pulled pork and chicken tacos, rice, beans, nachos and Zappa Toscana soup.

The event was a huge success and enjoyed by everyone who participated.



**Winnie the Pooh** is a service dog who is now training to be a therapy dog as well.



Wasted Money Cornhole founder, **Travis Crews**, came all the way from Arkansas to organize the tournament.



Post member **Ralph Bradley**, Post Commander **Dean Borries**, **Janie Albin** (Winnie the Pooh's owner), Quartermaster **Tim Hotchkin** and Organizer/Post Trustee **Chubb McCrory** with **Winnie the Pooh**.  
(photos continued on page 5)

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From the Sports Desk with John English

# Brewer Bear Athlete Spotlight: Brandon Gonzalez



Brandon Gonzalez made an immediate impact for the Brewer golf program this past season, and assistant coach Billy Ferguson said things should only get better from here.

Gonzalez finished 10 shots back from qualifying for the regional tournament at district in just his freshman year and had several strong results throughout the season.

“We were very happy with Brandon joining our golf program at BHS this past year,” Ferguson said. “He came in as a freshman and showed great skill and set a great example in practice. He had several great results in his first year as a bear golfer. He placed second in two tournaments to start the spring at Canyon West and Lake Arlington. His score was 79 at Lake Arlington and he faced some tough 5A and 6A golfers.”

Ferguson said the objectives for Gonzale-

lez as he enters his sophomore year are three-fold.

“Our goals for Brandon are to grow stronger and work on his game on the putting green,” Ferguson said. “He was only 14 years old this past season, so his game will continue to get better as he grows. Also, to see his leadership continue to challenge his teammates to get better. He has not missed a summer workout this summer so far, so we know the will and want is there for him.”

Gonzalez, 15, said overall, the 2023-24 campaign was a mixed bag for him.

“I was happy with the season I had in my freshman year,” Gonzalez said. “But on the other hand, a bit disappointed about it because I was close to making it to regionals.”

The incoming sophomore said his goals for this school year mainly revolve around advancing past district.

“My objectives for this coming season are to stay consistent like always and win more tournaments,” Gonzalez said. “I want to help my teammates get better so we can win district for our coaches and school and go to regionals as a team. If not, I want to be able to qualify for regionals individually.”

Gonzalez said his fondest memory from

last season was having fun with his coaches and teammates and the tournament he won after finishing in second place two times in a row, but added that there have been some growing pains.

“My biggest challenge as a golfer is to stay consistent every day by doing what I need to do and get good rest and sleep and also stretching every single day to avoid muscle cramps or pain,” Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said his focus during the summer is to work on perfecting his game and improving his strength.

“My plans to work on this off-season is to keep practicing to not make any mistakes during games or tournaments and going to the gym to get stronger,” Gonzalez said.

Ferguson said he has a couple of expectations for Gonzalez for next season.

“To become more confident in his game and to learn how to finish well,” Ferguson said. “Overall, it is such a joy to see the progress he has and will continue to make.”

### *Gonzalez' Favorites*

Favorite Athlete: Lionel Messi

Favorite Sports Team: Texas Rangers

Favorite Food: chicken parmigiana

Favorite TV Show: *Family Guy*

Last Book Read: “*I Survived*”

**Come Eat!**


## **FISH FRY**

**Benbrook VFW Post 10429**  
**SATURDAY, JULY 20**  
**serving from 530 - 730pm or until Sold Out!**

Dinner includes: 3 pieces of fried fish, 2 hush puppies, french fries, choice of 2 sides (macaroni & cheese, coleslaw or hominy) and dessert!


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From the American Red Cross

## Blood and Platelet Donors Critically Needed in July

This July, the American Red Cross continues to stress that blood and platelet donors are critically needed right now to support life-saving transfusions this summer. Donors of all blood types are in demand, especially those with type O blood and donors giving platelets.

Every donation counts in the mission to keep blood products stocked for patients, including those facing life-threatening situations. More than a quarter of all blood products each year are used in critical care and emergency room cases, highlighting the importance of generous blood and platelet donors. Be a force for good. Book a time to give blood or platelets by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

How to donate blood: simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org), call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](https://www.redcrossblood.org/RapidPass) or use the Blood Donor App.

### Tarrant County Donation Dates and Locations

- Friday, July 12: 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., Azle Lions Club, 412 Commerce Street, Azle, TX 76020
- Friday, July 12: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., American Red Cross, 6000 Western Pl, Ste 100, Fort Worth, TX 76107
- Friday, July 12: 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., Amon G. Carter, Jr. Downtown YMCA, 512 Lamar Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102
- Tuesday, July 16: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Bass Pro Shop Grapevine, 2501 Bass Pro Drive, Grapevine, TX 76051
- Wednesday, July 17: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Invited - Walnut Creek Country Club, 1151 Country Club Dr, Mansfield, TX 76063
- Wednesday, July 17: 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., The Parks Mall Donor Coach, 3811 S Cooper St, Arlington, TX 76015
- Wednesday, July 17: 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott Arlington South, 711 Highlander Blvd, Arlington, TX 76015
- Thursday, July 18: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., USMD Burleson Clinic, 12608 South Fwy, Burleson, TX 76028
- Friday, July 19: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., George W. Hawkes Library Arlington, 100 S Center St, Arlington, TX 76010

- Friday, July 19: 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., Loews Arlington Hotel, 888 Nolan Ryan Expy, Arlington, TX 76011
- Friday, July 19: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Baylor Scott & White Medical Center, 1650 West College Street, Grapevine, TX 76051
- Friday, July 19: 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., Central Market, 1425 E Southlake Blvd, Southlake TX 76092
- Saturday, July 20: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saginaw United Methodist Church, 209 S Blue Bonnet St, Saginaw, TX 76179
- Thursday, July 25: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., YMCA Northpark Donor Coach, 9100 N Beach St, Fort Worth, TX 76244
- Thursday, July 25: 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., Hulen Mall, 4800 South Hulen Street, Fort Worth, TX 76132
- Thursday, July 25: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Medical City North Hills, 4375 Booth Calloway Rd, Suite 202, North Richland Hills, TX 76180
- Friday, July 26: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., American Red Cross, 6000 Western Pl, Ste 100, Fort Worth, TX 76107
- Friday, July 26: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Lowe's of Keller, 600 North Tarrant Parkway, Keller, TX 76248
- Saturday, July 27: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 3921 Turner Warnell Road, Arlington, TX 76001
- Tuesday, July 30: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Lowe's, 201 N. Kimball Ave, Southlake, TX 76092
- Tuesday, July 30: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Medical Office Building at Alliance, 3025 N. Tarrant Parkway, Fort Worth, TX 76177

From the City of White Settlement

## White Settlement Public

### Library Summer Show Friday!

Join us each Friday at 1 p.m. from June 14 to Aug. 2 for thrilling performances that will ignite your imagination and leave you spellbound.

Step into a world of wonder as we bring you a variety of shows, including mesmerizing magicians, thrilling adventure performances, an enchanting puppet show, and even captivating live animal shows!

Located next door to the Library at the Recreation Center Gymnasium, our Summer Shows promise fun for the whole family. Don't miss out on the excitement and wonder as "*Adventure Begins at Your Library!*"

Summer Show Schedule:

- July 12 - Wildlife on the Move
- July 19 - David Slick, Juggler
- July 26 - Pirate Adventure
- Aug. 2 - Creature Teacher

From White Settlement ISD

## Application Deadline July 13 for Grace Baptist Back to School Bash

Eligible families can register now through July 13 for free backpacks through Grace Baptist Back to School Bash.

WSISD families who qualify for free and/or reduced meals may apply for a free backpack through the Grace Baptist Church Back to School Bash.

Families may [apply now](#) through July 13.

From White Settlement Public Library

## Teen Summer Club at the Library

Calling all teens entering seventh through 12th grade!

The Teen Summer Club meets Tuesdays at 1 p.m. through July 30 at the library, located at 8215 White Settlement Road.

Don't miss out on the fun!

Upcoming Teen Summer Club themes are:

- July 16 - Sewing Plushies
- July 23 - Bottle Messages
- July 30 - Pizza Party and Games

From the City of White Settlement

## Cool Off at the Raymond Park Splash Pad

Kids and families can come splash around from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. everyday. The water features will run until Sunday, Sept. 22.

Don't forget to get the fun started - just give the button on the pole a push and you'll have four minutes of fresh water fun to enjoy!

### Legal Notice

The White Settlement Independent School District (WSISD) is accepting proposals for Professional/Consulting Services for Special Education. The Request for Proposal – 2425-01 can be accessed and submitted online at <https://wsisdebid.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>. A paper copy of the bid can be obtained on the WSISD website, [www.wsisd.com](http://www.wsisd.com), by visiting the Purchasing section of the Business Services page. If assistance is needed, please contact Nancy Escobar at [nancy.escobar@wsisd.net](mailto:nancy.escobar@wsisd.net). The deadline for questions is August 1, 2024, at 2:00 pm and proposals are due by August 8, 2024, at 2:00 pm. It is preferred that proposals be submitted online at <https://wsisdebid.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>. If a hard copy proposal will be submitted, it should be addressed to White Settlement ISD, Attn: Nancy Escobar, 8224 White Settlement Road, White Settlement, TX 76108. Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

White Settlement ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.



## Water 2X a Week or Less

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This weekend you can program your sprinkler system to water only twice a week, even in the summer. (Any more is wasted!) And switch out some of those thirsty landscape plants for beautiful native plants. Have a water-saving weekend!

Visit us online to find more water-saving projects.



New Episodes at [Water is Awesome.com](http://Water is Awesome.com)

# Around the Town (continued from page 1)



The VFW Post 5617 kitchen crew: (l-r) **Cindy Cormier**, **Tara Boswell** and **Debbie Davis**.



Pictured are: (l-r) IMAW District Vice President **Anna Ritchey**, Post Sr. Vice Commander **Dean Borries** and Organizer/Post Trustee **Chubb McCrory**.



First place winners were: (sitting) **Cindy Cormier**; (back, l-r) **Daniel Hailey**, Organizer/Post Trustee **Chubb McCrory** and **Scoter Hailey**.



Second place winners were: (l-r) **Hank Mahoney** (a student at Benbrook Middle High School) and **Francisco Aguirre**.



Third place winners were: (l-r) **Guy Reeves** and **Marty Ferguson**.

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Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

## The First French King to Claim Texas - Louis XIV



Texas has been a land under control of many different flags in its long history. From the early Native American tribes to the European colonial powers to the United States, each era has left an impact on the state. One of those figures to claim Texas was Louis XIV, king of France. He was the first French king to claim Texas, an important moment in Texas History, and would greatly influence all of Europe.

The future Louis XIV was born in 1638 at the royal palace of his father, King Louis XIII, and his mother, Queen Anne. Born into ostentatious luxury and unlimited power, he wanted for nothing. In 1643, his father died after a prolonged illness. As the oldest surviving male heir, he became king while only four years old.

Since he was so young, a regency was declared by his father's ministers. At such a young age, he could not begin to understand even the most basic functions of the government. Cardinal Jules Mazarin, who had been chief minister to Louis XIII and a senior official in the Roman Catholic Church, would retain his position and make decisions in the young king's name. In spite of his church position, Mazarin was a veteran European politician and diplomat, known for his skills and his cunning far more than his faith. Louis XIV's widowed mother doted on him.

Both his mother and Cardinal Mazarin made sure he grew up with the idea of the "divine right of kings," a system of absolute

and unquestioned power of the king that meant he answered only to God for his actions since God gave him the throne. It was a system that would allow corruption to inevitably work its way into the system and would leave him and his successors completely disconnected from the needs of his subjects.

In 1651, at age 18, he was allowed to rule but continued to have Mazarin at his side. Civil unrest had marked much of his childhood, and he was determined to restore order. After the death of Mazarin in 1661, he immediately embarked on a series of financial reforms to curtail embezzlement within his government.

"I am the state!" he once bellowed, declaring that France was his and his alone. He often referred to himself as the "Sun King," styling himself as the source of all light and goodness and prosperity for his people. He stripped Protestants of their rights and their property, forcing many to flee and others to convert to Catholicism.

He became a great patron of the arts, and he commissioned dozens of works from some of the most famous artists of the seventeenth century. He founded the Royal Academy of Dance and the Academy of Opera, and along with his major building campaigns made France one of the most important centers of art in Europe for centuries afterward.

In the 1660s, he transformed his father's hunting lodge outside Paris into the palace of Versailles, moving his official residence to the grounds in 1682. Versailles became an overwhelming display of wealth, with each room riddled with gold, silver, crystal, and exquisite displays of art. It included running water and hundreds of acres of expertly manicured gardens. The palace could hold thousands of guests and dignitaries. It became a model for other royal palaces across Europe.

France steadily expanded its power under his reign. Warfare was common, and France fought wars with Spain, England, and Holland. The New World was in the midst of a scramble for power between the

European states. Under his father's reign, France had established colonies along the St. Lawrence River Valley of what is now Canada and the Great Lakes region.

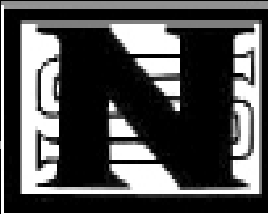
His influence spread even further with the efforts of French explorers Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet down the Mississippi River all the way to Arkansas in 1673. This claim was solidified with Robert Cavalier, Seuer de la Salle laying claim to all the Mississippi River and its tributaries in 1682. La Salle called the area Louisiana in honor of Louis XIV. The king's government gave its blessing for La Salle's plan to settle Louisiana. In 1685, La Salle and his party of colonists missed the mouth of the Mississippi River and went further west, landing on the coast of Matagorda Bay in Texas. Though Spain claimed the area, the Spanish were stretched thin and unable to enforce the claim. La Salle nevertheless established Fort St. Louis. The settlement proved to be a disaster and was wiped out by the neighboring Native American tribes by 1687.

While Louis XIV welcomed the enlarged realm, he gave little thought to the strategic importance of the Mississippi River Valley and the claims on Texas. He made no further attempts to settle the Texas coast. Though Spain contested the French claim, France continued to claim portions of the Red River Valley and East Texas until the Louisiana Territory was sold to the United States with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.

He died in 1715 at the age of 76. Of his six children with his wife, he had outlived all of them. He had outlived most of his grandchildren. He had more than a dozen children out of wedlock with numerous mistresses, none of whom could be in line to the throne. Instead, his successor would be his five-year-old great-grandson, King Louis XV.

France had established itself as a major center of European diplomacy, culture, and politics under Louis XIV. It had cemented its position as a major military power and greatly expanded its influence in the Americas.

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## Weekend Forecast



**Friday, July 12:**  
**AM** - Sunny, with a high near 98. Heat index values as high as 102. South wind 5 to 10 mph.  
**PM** - Mostly clear, with a low around 75. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.



**Saturday, July 13:**  
**AM** - Mostly sunny, with a high near 97. South wind 5 to 10 mph.  
**PM** - Partly cloudy, with a low around 77. South wind 5 to 10 mph.



**Sunday, July 14:**  
**AM** - Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 99. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.  
**PM** - Partly cloudy, with a low around 78. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

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