



Benbrook News

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From the Sports Desk with John English

High School Baseball: Benbrook Bobcats Head to Playoffs for Seventh Consecutive Year

The Benbrook Bobcat baseball team clinched another district championship last week with a two-game sweep of Diamond Hill-Jarvis in a series which would ultimately determine the district title.

The Bobcats won by scores of 6-0 and 4-1 last week and coach Justin Chavez said he had a number of players step up in the series.

“I can’t say enough about our pitching,” Chavez said. “Sebastian (Chevy) Martinez had 16 strike outs on Tuesday night allow-

ing only two hits. G. Martinez led the game off with a home run to left center to set the tone for the night. Kade Cross and Jaeden Powell each had big RBI hits. In game two, Fabian Ortega had a big hit to grab the lead 2-0. We got into a little bit of a bases-loaded jam in the fourth, but Jax Stockton was able to get us out of (continued on page 2)

Around the Town with Denise Honeycutt

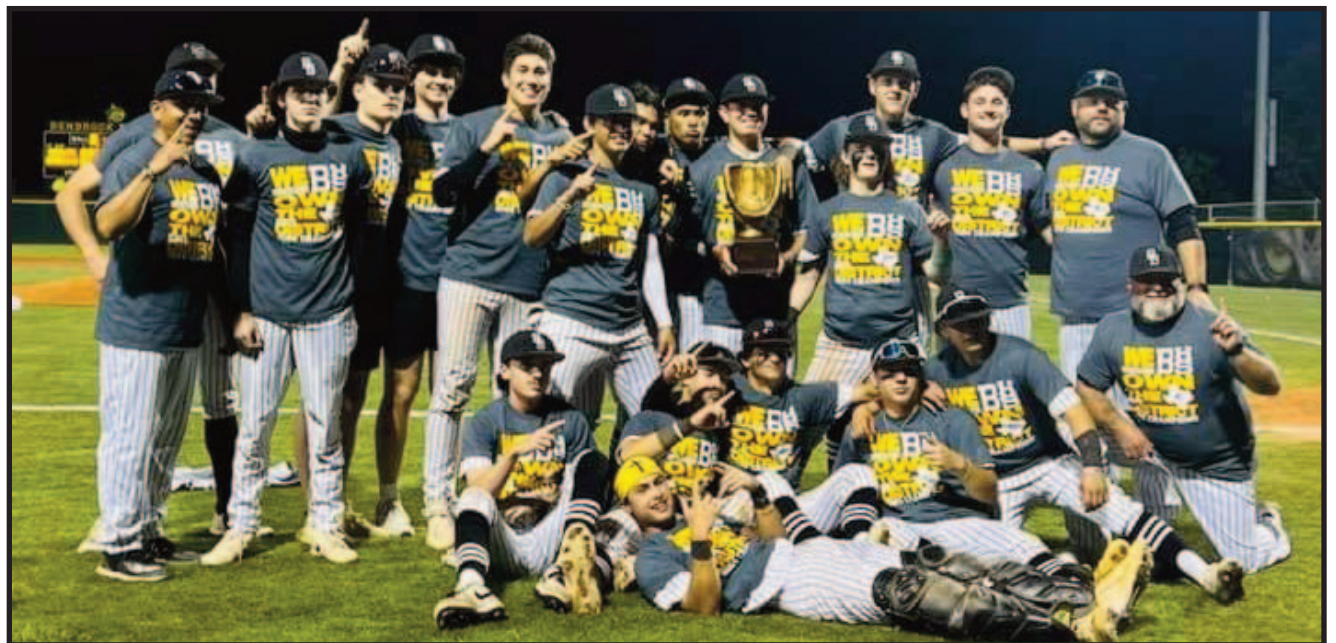
Army Reserves Celebrate 116th Birthday



Pictured are: (l-r) Community Services Liason **Christine Willeesen**, Commander **Lora McGee**, Exchange Manager **Tonita Bechert**, Executive Board Member **Nancy Wyatt** and **Kevin Curtis**, Ret. CSM Army.

The Army Reserves birthday celebration was held on Tuesday, April 23 at the NASJRB. American Legion Post 297 Auxiliary Unit hosted an event at the Base Exchange.

On this day in 1908, Congress created the Medial Reserve Corps., the official predecessor of the Army Reserve. Following WWI, (continued on page 5)



From the City of Benbrook

Benbrook Police and Fire Departments to Host Prescription Drug Take Back Saturday

The Benbrook Police and Fire Departments, working with the Drug Enforcement Administration, are hosting a National Take-Back Initiative to collect unused or expired over-the counter prescription medications for proper disposal.

The event will take place Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Benbrook Fire Station, located at 528 Mercedes St.

This event is free and open to the public. Please note that intra-venous solutions, injectables, and syringes will not be accepted due to potential hazards posed by blood-borne pathogens.

For questions, contact the Benbrook Police Department at 817-249-2752 or the Benbrook Fire Department at 817-249-1727.

Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

it with two ground balls. Ethan Tucker had a big bunt for a base hit to extend our lead to 4-1.”

The regular season is at an end, and Chavez said he likes how his team is positioned.

“This team is playing with a lot of confidence and riding a 15-game winning streak,” Chavez said. “They tied the school record of 23 wins in the regular season, won our fifth straight district championship, and we are headed to the playoffs for the seventh straight year in a row. We still have some warm up games before the playoffs, but we will play a very good Alvarado team that is coached very well. We are #20 in state and flying under the radar.”

On the girl's side, the Benbrook softball team had a warm up game his week after clinching a district championship as well, and coach Emilie Blair said her team competed well.

“We came out to play Tolar to get a look at good pitching and to remember that we can still compete with good teams,” Blair said. “We did just that. The final was 4-0, Tolar. Tolar is a great hitting team. We had one error on defense, other than that we

were lights out. Keneddy Kaiser, senior shortstop, played exceptionally well. Her range last night was incredible.”

With the playoffs underway, Blair said she could not be happier with how the regular season unfolded.

“I am very satisfied with how the girls competed in district play,” Blair said. “We had a goal to run rule every team, and we did just that. We got mentally better at the plate by being disciplined and looked for pitches we wanted to hit.”

Benbrook will face a familiar foe in the bi-district round, and Blair said her team is hoping to return a favor from last season.

“We will end up facing Alvarado for our first round of playoffs,” Blair said. “They beat us last year in the first round. We played them this season and beat them 10-0. If we come out and perform like we can, it should go our way. Looking forward to this playoff ride with these girls.”

Over at Western Hills, the Lady Cougars lost by a score of 14-2 to Dunbar on Friday night to wrap up the regular season.

The Cougars softball team has also qualified for the playoffs.

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
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April 18 Meeting Review

The Benbrook City Council meeting held on April 18 was conducted as scheduled. Mayor Jason Ward called the meeting to order. An invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ward invited a few scouts in attendance to introduce themselves.

Time was then allowed for citizen comments on any agenda item, but there were none.

The minutes from the previous meeting held on April 4 were then approved unanimously.

The first item of the evening was a motion to approve the finance report for the period ending on March 31. For the General Fund, revenues for the month of March were \$1,885,611 and year-to-date revenues were \$21,278,794. Expenditures for the month of March were \$1,522,893 while year-to-date expenditures were \$10,523,906. For the Economic Development Corporation, revenues for the month of March were \$201,797, while year-to-date revenues were \$1,312,323. Expenditures for the month of March were \$28,272, while expenditures year-to-date were \$204,852. The finance report was approved unanimously.

Next was a motion to accept the quarterly financial report for the period ending on March 31. Investments for the City of Benbrook totaled \$45,160,559 and for the EDC, investments totaled \$8,822,254. The investment report was approved unanimously.

Next up was a motion to approve an interlocal agreement to reconstruct a portion of Chapin Road. On Dec. 15, 2022, the city council approved an interlocal agreement confirming the City's participation and cost share commitment to reconstruct Timber Creek Road and West Park Drive. At the City's request, Tarrant County has authorized the transfer of the City's unused Bond Program funds (\$225,00) to the City's Chapin Road Reconstruction Project, previously approved by the City Council on Dec. 21, 2023 as part of the City's annual street overlay program. The project is estimated to cost \$410,000. The project was approved unanimously.

Next was informal citizen comments, and resident Madeline Mercado encouraged Benbrook residents to participate in a national day of prayer on May. 2.

Time was then allowed for council member and staff comments, but there were none.

The city council members then recessed into executive session. When the council returned, member Keith Tiner recommended that the city council approve the EDC's purchase of two parcels of land located at 9445 Benbrook Blvd and 9353 Benbrook Blvd in the amount of \$3,157,000 and amend the EDC's FY 2023-24 budget accordingly. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was then adjourned.

From the Benbrook Public Library

Evening at the Library May 10

The Benbrook Library will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary in style during the Evening at the Library event on Friday, May 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. In honor of serving the Benbrook community for 25 years, the Library will host a *Great Gatsby* themed party! This is a great opportunity for the community to get to know the staff and all the services the Library provides. Refreshments will be provided, and prizes will be awarded for the best costume.

From the Benbrook Public Library

Summer Reading at Benbrook Public Library

Registration for Benbrook Public Library's 2024 Summer Reading Club will begin Saturday, June 1. The Library offers reading programs for all ages, and there are multiple options for the whole family to participate in the Summer Reading Club.

Participants may play online or in person at the Library for a chance to win prizes. Players will also have opportunities to win gift cards from local businesses and library services as they play.

The Benbrook Public Library offers a multitude of summer programs that are sure to encourage family fun activities to keep you occupied through the heat of summer.

Visit benbrooklibrary.org for more information.

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From the City of Benbrook

CodeRED Emergency Notification System Reverse 911

As Benbrook moves into the spring storm season, residents are encouraged to register or update cell phone numbers with CodeRED. This emergency notification service allows the City to notify residents and businesses by telephone, cellular phone, and email regarding public health and safety emergency situations such as boil water alerts, evacuations, garbage and recycling updates, gas leaks, and severe weather alerts. The system can send messages to specific neighborhoods or the entire community, should the need arise. Residents can sign up for CodeRED by visiting www.benbrook-tx.gov and clicking on the communication link.

When registering for CodeRED, you must select the Emergency Notifications and all severe weather warnings to receive weather notifications, otherwise you will only receive general notifications.

Here are some basic questions and answers regarding the emergency notification service:

Does this mean that I will be called constantly? No. You will only receive calls for important City notifications or severe weather warnings.

What types of situations will CodeRED be used? If you register for general notifications and severe weather warnings, you will receive notifications for severe weather situations, substantial utility outages, evacuation notices, missing or lost persons, fires or floods, major roadway issues, significant criminal situations, chemical spills, and gas leaks.

Why do I need CodeRED when I have a TV to keep me informed? CodeRED provides an additional level of safety. If power goes out, you may not be able to depend upon TV. However, because telephone lines are self-powered and most people now have cell phones, we can continue to keep you informed through messages delivered by CodeRED.

How do I know if my phone number is included in the CodeRED service? You will need to register your phone numbers and email using the CodeRED link on the City's website at www.benbrook-tx.gov. You must keep your information updated with the service in order to receive the notifications.

How will I recognize a CodeRED message? A CodeRED message will have a caller ID with one of the following numbers: 866-419-5000 or Emergency Alert for Emergency Notifications, or 855-969-4636 or Community Alert for General Notifications, or 800-566-9780 or Weather Alert for CodeRED. We suggest you program these numbers in your cell phone as "new contacts" and use "CodeRED Emergency," "CodeRED Community," or "CodeRED Weather" as each of the contact names. If you need to replay the emergency notification message, simply dial this number and you will be able to hear the message again. A CodeRED message will usually begin, "This is the Benbrook Police Department or City of Benbrook with an emergency message."

What should I do if I receive a CodeRED message? Listen carefully to the entire message. It will be brief and will not be repeated. Follow the instructions given. You may be directed to a commercial

TV or radio station for further information. Do not hang up until you have heard the entire message, or you might miss vital information. Do not call 911 for further information unless directed to do so or if you need immediate aid from the Police, EMS, or Fire Department.

Will CodeRED leave me a message? Yes, CodeRED will leave a message on a machine or on voicemail. Part of the CodeRED solution is the patented ability to recognize answering devices and leave the message.

What happens if the line is busy? If the line is busy, CodeRED will try two more times to connect.

For additional questions, call 817-249-6098.

From the Project Linus Blanketeers

First Monday Quilt Club:

Project Linus Volunteers Needed

Come join the fun and fellowship with the Quilt Club volunteers while you make a difference in our community and bless others by making quilts for Project Linus.

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. Instead of a potluck lunch, ladies are asked to bring brunch or snack items. Their next meeting is on Monday, May 6.

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.

Around the Town

(continued from page 1)

under the National Guard, and an organized Reserve of 35 divisions which later became the Army Reserve. This provided a peacetime pool of trained Reserve Officers and enlisted men for use in war. When the United States entered WWII in December 1941, the number of Army Reserve Officers on active duty rose from less than 3,000 to more than 57,000.

This war signified the beginning of a new era in national security, and from that point the United States became the “world guardian “ and “arsenal of democracy,” a new mission in which the Army Reserve would play a major role.

Participants delighted in the delicious cake, fun and fellowship that was enjoyed by those who came to the Base Exchange.



Community Services Liaison **Christine Willesen**, Army Reserve Special 4 **Manish Choudhry** and Commander **Lora McGee**.



Auxiliary Executive Board member **Nancy Wyatt** with **Shane Weller**, Ret. Army Major 04.

From the Waverly Park Garden Club

Waverly Park Garden Club Selects Yard of the Month for April

Waverly Park Garden Club awards Yard of the Month for April 2024 to Carolyn and Alex Morton of 3708 Chapin Court.

Driving the cul de sac near the Morton home, one immediately notices the stately Elm tree which serves as a focal point for the yard. Surrounded by colorful pink roses, beautiful geraniums and variegated vincas, the Mortons say this tree once draped over the sidewalk and served as a canopy for neighborhood children and passersby.

As the tree grew and needed pruning, the Mortons were uncertain about lobing off large sections which might change their lawn design, but an arborist convinced them doing so would produce longevity for the tree. The result has been clarity that has changed their view – they can see neighbors and areas in the neighborhood that have not been seen in years, and now neighbors can see their delightful lawn. In addition to the magnificent elm, throughout the flower beds in front of the house are an array of colorful potted as well as bedded plants

which include various types of ivy, primroses, daylilies, hyacinths, potato vines, snap dragons, various colors of dianthus, mums, and Gerber and African daisies.

Punctuating the playful landscape is a beautiful bird feeder which brings in many hummingbirds to enjoy the luscious gardens.

Carolyn Morton expresses an incredible passion and undeniable gift for gardening as shown in the detail of each plant beaming brightly in her yard.

Her husband, Alex, a beekeeper who graciously shares his honey with his neighbors, smiles with pride at the thought of others recognizing Carolyn's craft of lawn perfection.

When not tending her garden, Carolyn teaches autistic students at Western Hills Primary School, so it gives the club great pride to bestow this honor during Autistic Awareness month and recognize her for her work not only in the classroom but in her lawn as well.



American Singer-Songwriter, Janis Joplin

by Dr. Ken Bridges



Janis Joplin thrilled rock fans with her soulful music. As she burst onto the scene in the late 1960s, she was known for songs that were a unique mix of rock, folk, and blues. After her death in 1970, her fame and legend only grew.

She was born in January 1943 in Port Arthur. She was the eldest of three children born to Scott Joplin, a Texaco engineer, and his wife, Dorothy, a registrar at a local college. As a youth, she performed in her church choir at First Christian Church in Port Arthur. Her artistic talents were emerging. However, she was relentlessly and cruelly bullied by a number of people throughout her years in school. She was never able to get over the bitterness she felt from those years. She also started drinking.

She befriended a group of fellow outcasts where she became enamored with early blues artists such as Bessie Smith and Texas native Huttie "Lead Belly" Ledbetter. They traveled along the Gulf coast listening to a mix of bands.

After her graduation in 1960, she eventually made her way to the University of Texas as an art student by 1962, where she became part of the rising music and counterculture scene on campus. She became a well-known figure, famous for walking barefoot and carrying her autoharp wherever she went.

She began performing gigs around Austin where she met country singer Kenneth Threadgill after performing at his small club.

Threadgill gave her a lot of advice and encouragement on her career.

By early 1963, she decided to leave for San Francisco, hitchhiking across the country. She continued to perform at small venues while writing and recording music in her spare time. But she also began falling into heavy drug use by this time and was arrested for shoplifting. By 1965, her drug use became so bad that friends bought her a bus ticket back home to Port Arthur to recuperate.

Joplin enrolled at Lamar University in Beaumont and took classes in anthropology and social work, even briefly becoming engaged, but her first love was music and continued performing at small clubs.

Once her health was restored, she headed back to San Francisco on an invitation to join Big Brother and the Holding Company. She electrified audiences across California with her energetic performances, often inviting audiences to sing along. Her iconic performance at the Monterey Pops Festival in 1967 caught the attention of music fans and producers. The band's self-titled album that year was a hit.

The next album, "Cheap Thrills," released in 1968, hit number 1. She began touring with the band across the country. Her version of "Piece of My Heart" was released as a single and was a Top 20 hit. Along the way, she relapsed and started using drugs heavily, with her life began spiraling out of control. She split with her band and formed a new one, the Kozmic Blues Band by late 1968, but essentially it was a solo career.

She released "I Got Dem Kozmic Blues Again Mama" in 1969, which hit number 5 on the Billboard charts, her second straight platinum album. That summer, she performed at the famous Woodstock music festival in New York.

On Thanksgiving Day 1969, she performed at Madison Square Garden with the Rolling Stones and sang a duet with Tina Turner. She was so intoxicated that friends and other performers worried about her.

In February 1970, she traveled to Brazil and attempted to kick her addiction habit once again. But her sobriety was short-lived. Within a few weeks, she returned to the United States and quickly fell back into her

addiction. She formed a new band, eventually known as the Full Tilt Boogie Band, and went on tour, appearing with the Grateful Dead and blues guitarist Buddy Guy. She concluded the tour in August.

Shortly afterward, she returned to Port Arthur for the last time to attend her 10-year class reunion. Though her musical talents had earned her a lot of fame, her relationships with many of her former classmates were still strained; and she publicly berated the city and her classmates in a press conference.

She returned to Los Angeles and began recording an album with her band. They had spent several weeks recording tracks. Her behavior was erratic, and she wondered how much longer her newest band would perform with her. On Oct. 4, she was found dead from an overdose. She was only 27, part of a string of deaths of young artists from drug overdoses at that time, including Jim Morrison and Jimi Hendrix.

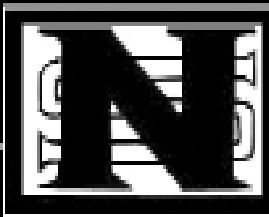
Though the album was still incomplete, Columbia Records decided to release the album in early 1971. "Pearl" was the biggest hit of Joplin's career. The album's title was her nickname among her friends. The album shot to the top of the charts and featured some of her most memorable songs. Her rendition of "Me and Bobby McGee," which was written by one-time boyfriend Kris Kristofferson was a number 1 single on the Billboard charts. The track, "Mercedes Benz" was also released as a popular single from the album. The song was a take on consumerism and was one of her last recordings, completed just days before her death.

In the years afterward, Columbia continued to release old recordings. "In Concert" was released in 1972 and peaked at number four. A greatest hits album was released in 1973 and was a Top 40 hit. Numerous books and documentaries were made about her, including tribute songs performed by friends and admirers. Many artists continue to perform cover versions of her hits.

In 1988, a statue of her was unveiled in Port Arthur. Her younger sister Laura wrote a loving biography of her in 1992.

She was honored posthumously with an induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1995.

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<p>COMPUTERS MICHAEL'S PC Repair 817-945-2667 michaelspcs@hotmail.com</p>	<p>IRRIGATION/SPRINKLERS TIGERT & DAUGHTERS 817-480-8465 irrigator4543@gmail.com</p>	<p>CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING 3290 Lackland Rd. Fort Worth, Tx 76116 <i>Every Sunday worship at 9:30am</i></p>	<p>ROOFING ECE ROOFING LLC 817-831-2600 817-615-7164 MCNOBLE ROOFING and SIDING 817-808-8249 or 817-566-5268 mcnoble-exteriors-llc.business.site</p>
<p>ELECTRIC E-CONN ELECTRIC (817) 831-2600 (817)-615-7164</p>	<p>TREE SERVICE CHAD GREEN Tree Service 817-246-5943 or 817-800-6059 (cell)</p>	<p>BENBROOK FLORAL 8533 Camp Bowie West Blvd. Fort Worth, TX 776116 817-249-0112</p>	<p>Business Directory Listings - \$10 per month! suburbannews@sbcglobal.net</p>
<p>REAL ESTATE TAMMY WRIGHT, BROKER Wright Realty Services DFW Cell: 682-472-9041 wrightrealtyservicesdfw@gmail.com</p>	<p>PLUMBING LONNIE BRAVO Plumbing 817-715-6747 lonniebravo@sbcglobal.net</p>		

Weekend Forecast



Friday, April 26:

AM - Showers and thunderstorms likely. Mostly sunny, with a high near 83. Breezy, with a south wind 20 to 25 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%.
PM - Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. Breezy, with a south wind 20 to 25 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph.



Saturday, April 27:

AM - A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 83. Breezy, with a south wind 20 to 25 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph.
PM - Showers and thunderstorms likely. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 68. Breezy, with a south wind around 25 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%.



Sunday, April 28:

AM - A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. South southwest wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.
PM - A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 1am. Partly cloudy, with a low around 65.

[Extended Forecast Click Here](#)