

From the Sports Desk with John English

Soccer: BMHS Lady Bobcats are District Champions!



The Benbrook HS Lady Bobcats defeated Eastern Hills to round out the regular season and claim another district championship.

Coach Luz Castillo said it was a great overall performance in the victory.

“The team gave it their all in their last district game of the season,” Castillo said. “There were many standout performances in the game, both sophomore Sydney Chavez and senior Campbell Cox scored a hat trick in the game.”

Campbell Cox also broke the school record for most goals and assists, racking up a total of 83 goals and 56 assists thus far.

The Lady Cats had two goals scored by junior Kaitlyn Kim.

“Kim also assisted a goal to freshman Lily Chavez and sophomore Randee Slater and scored a goal from an assist from Sydney Chavez,” Castillo said. “The team really moved well up the field to score the 10 goals. Our defensive line did not allow a goal in leaving the final score at 10-0.”

Castillo said she could not have asked more from her team during the regular season.

“Overall, I am extremely proud of our district season,” Castillo said. “For the fourth year in a row the Benbrook Ladycats have won undefeated district champs. This young team works hard and is ready to see how we'll we will succeed in the playoffs.”

(continued on page 3)

(continued on page 3)

Benbrook Council Action by John English

March 21 Meeting Wrap Up

The Benbrook City Council meeting held on March 21 was conducted as scheduled.

Mayor Jason Ward called the meeting to order. An invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The minutes from the previous meeting held on March 7 were then approved unanimously.

The first item of the evening was to accept the finance report ending on Feb. 29.

For the General Fund, revenues totaled \$3,172,134 for the month of February, and \$19,226,006 year-to-date.

Expenditures totaled \$1,467,569 for the month of February and \$8,774,596 year-to-date.

For the Economic Development Corporation, revenues for the month of February

totalled \$172,718 and year-to-date revenues were \$1,110,434.

Expenditures for the month of February totalled \$37,349 and year-to-date expenditures were \$176,580.

The investments for the City of Benbrook totalled \$45,660,141 and for the EDC totalled \$8,506,660.

The finance report was accepted unanimously.

Next up was a proposal to accept the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) ending on Sept. 30, 2023.

The report was audited by the City of Benbrook's independent auditor, Brooks-Watson & Co and received an unmodified or “clean” audit opinion.

The General Fund ending fund balance is \$21,716,403 and expenditures were \$1,623,131 less than budget.

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From the Project Linus Blanketeers

First Monday Quilt Club: Project Linus Volunteers Needed

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. Ladies may bring brunch or snack items to share with the group. Their next meeting is on Monday, April 1.

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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 and Sosana Rivera Respondent. ALIAS SUMMONS

FROM THE STATE OF ARIZONA TO: Sosana Rivera

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4. You can get a copy of the court papers filed in this case from the Petitioner at the address at the top of this paper or from the Clerk of the Superior Court.
5. Requests for reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities must be made to the office of the judge or commissioner assigned to the case, at least five (5) days before your scheduled court date.


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Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

The Western Hills boys soccer team went into their season finale with the Young Men's Leadership Academy needing a victory to clinch a playoff berth.

The Cougars delivered, and in the words of coach Matt Collins "We scored early and did not look back."

Collins said Alberto Delgadillo and Landon Whittaker played well in defense and in the goal respectively.

"They have been strong all year," Collins said.

"Our regular season was up and down, but mostly up," Collins said. "We are graduating 13 seniors. It is sad to see them go, but they have been 4 for 4 in making the playoffs and have had nothing but success on the field. They have much to be proud of, for sure."

Over at Benbrook, the Bobcats defeated Eastern Hills last week and qualified for the post-season as well.

On the diamond, the Cougars lost both games to Diamond Hill-Jarvis last week, but coach James Holcomb said he is seeing some good signs from his team, "We did some good things and competed well at times, but just made too many fundamental errors, and gave up too many free passes," Holcomb said.

Trey Martinez pitched 4 1/3 innings, striking out 3 in game one, to keep the Cougars in the game.

"He also went 2-4 with a walk at the plate," Holcomb said. "Jayson Aden went 2-4 in the series."

Western Hills will play a series with Dunbar next week, and Holcomb said he expects his team to have its hands full.

"It's going to be a competitive series," Holcomb said. "Mario has things going in the right direction over there, and we will need to play well, but I'm confident we will find our flow again."

Over at Benbrook, the Bobcats defeated Carter-Riverside 16-0 last Tuesday.

Coach Justin Chavez said he is pleased with how the non-district schedule went for his team.

"Non-district has prepared us for the next part of the season which is district," Chavez said. "We have a lot of Saturday games built in during district to get us ready for Diamond Hill and eventually the playoffs."

In softball, Western Hills lost a barn-burner to Carter-Riverside by a score of 28-17 last week.

Coach Austin Valdez said his team played well in one aspect of the game.

"Offensively, we performed well," Valdez said. "But it was a tough loss. It's a small step back, but I know what kind of team we are and we will bounce back."

Austin said catcher Eva Almendarez had a strong effort in the game.

"She has been a workhorse behind the plate for us and a leader on the team," Valdez said.

Council Action (continued from page 1)

The Net position, which is assets over liabilities, is \$77,948,452 at the end of the 2022-23 fiscal year, had a net increase of \$2,059,068 compared to fiscal year 2021-22.

The report was accepted unanimously.

Time was then allowed for informal citizen comments.

One of the two residents who live along Trail Ridge Drive who approached the podium last week to request extra patrolling along the street at morning and afternoon rush hours thanked the city council for car counters that were placed along the road.

She then presented a visual diagram of her street showing where stop signs and a signal are currently located, along with a lot with high weeds that make it difficult to see the road at one point.

Time was then allowed for council member and staff comments, and Renee Franklin reminded residents that the city offices will be closed on Good Friday, and that the Benbrook YMCA will be having a Bunny Trail Event that day from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m..

Dr. Larry Marshall then reminded residents of an event on April 13 and 14 called Wings Over Cowtown. *(see Wings Over Cowtown event information on page 4)*

The meeting was then adjourned.

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From Fort Worth ISD

Five FWISD Schools Awarded Wellness Innovation Grants



Pictured: Western Hills High School is awarded \$5,000 Wellness Innovation Grant.

Student groups from five Fort Worth ISD schools will soon implement their proposals to improve campus well-being as winners of the 2024 Wellness Innovation Grants. Now in its fifth year, the Wellness Innovation Grant program is sponsored by Texas Health Resources and underwritten by the Fort Worth-based R4 Foundation.

The five Fort Worth schools were among six schools chosen from 17 entries to advance to the finals. During the finals, student teams presented their proposals in person to a team of judges representing Texas Health, R4 Foundation, and other community and school leaders. Students impressed judges with their insights and imaginations, said Matt Dufrene, Texas Health vice president. “It’s inspiring to watch these presentations and listen to the creative plans students have to improve well-being on their campuses,” Dufrene said. “This competition gives them an opportunity to make a lasting impact on their schools.”

This year’s contest provided four \$5,000 grants and two \$2,500 grants to improve well-being on area campuses. Winning FWISD schools included:

\$5,000 awards

South Hills High School: Refurbishment and enhancement of the school courtyard was the focus of these students’ proposal as a space to support mental health and meet new friends. Various low-maintenance flowers will be added, enabling students to relax and bond with nature during lunch or free periods. Decorative items will be incorporated to further beautify the area and support school spirit and culture. Students will purchase cornhole games and outdoor furniture.

Western Hills High School: A system of mobile, hydration, heat safety, and first-aid stations known as RAWR (Re-

sponse Aiding Wellness Recovery) Carts will enable students and others using school grounds to better address health concerns and emergency situations. Those capabilities will allow students to more fully and safely participate in a variety of activities.

William James Middle School: Students plan to enlarge an existing outdoor garden and develop an indoor garden. Gardening helps children learn to grow healthy foods and discover the role plants play in providing food and habitat for insects, birds, and other animals. With the new indoor area, students will be better equipped to enjoy gardening, regardless of the weather or time of year. Student ambassadors will also include learning about vocations and workforce development in horticulture and landscaping areas.

\$2,500 awards

Oaklawn Elementary: Outdoor recess helps students become more physically active. An existing soccer field will be updated with goal nets and supplies. A volleyball court will be added, along with equipment for oversized checkers, cornhole, Connect 4, ring toss, and other games.

Rufino Mendoza Elementary: Students plan to implement Project STRONG (Support, Teamwork, Responsible, Open-minded, Neighborly, Greatness), a comprehensive wellness initiative designed to foster physical, mental, and emotional health. Specific elements include affirmative indoor decorations and messages, improved recess equipment, and water bottles for each student to promote school spirit and wellness.

The annual Wellness Innovation Grant program aligns with Texas Health’s ongoing work with area schools. Other efforts include walking school bus programs, support for learning gardens, literacy, movement activities, and campus wellness.

From the City of White Settlement

Parking Passes Required for Wings Over Cowtown

The Blue Angels are returning to the area as part of the Wings Over Cowtown air show at NAS JRB Fort Worth on April 13 and 14. This will be the first air show hosted at the base since 2016.

There will be military and civilian aircraft displays, novelty, food, beverage booths, a kids zone with games and activities and the Blue Angels will be the grand finale.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information and parking passes to access the base, visit www.navywmwrfortworth.com/event/airshow.

Texas History Minute by Dr. Ken Bridges

Insurance Pioneer and Airline Founder, Tom Braniff

It started with an insurance salesman and one small airplane. From there, it became an aviation empire and one of the most noted names in Texas aviation. From Braniff Airline's humble beginnings, Tom Braniff's story became one of many colorful tales of Texas pilots and businessmen and the quest to conquer the skies.

Thomas Elmer Braniff was born in Salina, Kansas, in December 1883 into a farming family. His father, John Braniff, soon moved into the insurance business and moved the family to Kansas City in the 1890s. The Braniffs were devoted Catholics. The younger Braniff worked a series of jobs while he completed school, including working in a meat-packing plant and working for the Kansas City Star. In 1900, the family moved to Oklahoma City where John Braniff began working for a new insurance agency. The younger Braniff soon wanted to branch out and soon started his own insurance agency west of Oklahoma City at the age of 17. However, his firm went bankrupt when a tornado wiped out a nearby community where Braniff had sold tornado insurance and was unable to pay the claims. He soon returned to Oklahoma City and started a new firm with a partner. The new firm struggled in its early years, but by 1917, he was able to buy out his partner. He expanded into Braniff Investments shortly afterward and soon had one of the most successful insurance agencies in the region.

By the 1920s, Braniff was looking to the future. In 1923, he built the T. E. Braniff Building in Oklahoma City, a 10-story building that was the first skyscraper in Oklahoma. He also became fascinated with aviation, and his younger brother Paul already had a license and his own airplane. In 1927, Braniff and a group of investors bought a used airplane and began the Oklahoma Aero Club, beginning a flight school, air taxi service, and selling aircraft parts. In 1928, bought out his partners and started an airline, with his brother Paul as president and the main pilot and himself as vice-president, calling it Paul R. Braniff, Inc. It served a single route between Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

The next year, the first Braniff Airlines was sold, but in 1930, the two started again, with Braniff Airways serving routes from Oklahoma City to either Tulsa or Wichita Falls. In 1935, he expanded deeper into Texas by buying Long and Harmon Airlines, a small airline based in Dallas that also had routes to Amarillo, Brownsville, and Galveston. More importantly, this smaller airline also had a lucrative air mail contract, guaranteeing paid service to these different cities. In 1936, Braniff bought Bowen Airlines, a small company operating out of Fort Worth.

In spite of his growing success, he met with tragedy. In 1938, his son died in an airplane crash. He continued to move forward nevertheless. By the late 1930s, the airline was now based in Dallas, offering up to eight flights per day out of Dallas Love Field, contributing to the airport's growing success. Most maintenance operations were also conducted in Dallas by this point.

When World War II started, the Braniff brothers stepped up. Paul Braniff, now in his 40s, would serve as a pilot during World War II, while his brother, too old for the military at this point, controlled the airline and his other business interests at home. Tom Braniff donated all of the airline's DC-2 aircraft to the military, which were older but still reliable aircraft, as the airline switched to the DC-3. Braniff also arranged to share their Love Field facilities with the military for maintenance and training of pilots and mechanics.

After World War II, Braniff began routes throughout Central Amer-

ica and the Caribbean. They also expanded steadily across the Midwest. In 1952, he bought Mid-Continent Airlines. By this point, the airline dream that had started with one used plane now had a fleet of 75 aircraft, 400 pilots, and 4,000 employees. By the mid-1950s, it was the tenth largest airline in the country. However, Thomas Braniff died tragically in a private plane crash near Shreveport in 1954 at the age of 70. His brother Paul died a few months later from cancer.

The airline he founded continued for several more years and was a staple in Dallas aviation. By 1955, the company's payroll reached \$22 million (more than \$240 million in modern dollars), and the airline built a new terminal at Love Field in 1958. The number of passengers and the miles flown by passengers increased steadily into the mid-1960s. The company went through a series of buyouts in the 1960s but remained profitable well into the 1970s. In 1978, when the federal government deregulated airline routes, Braniff executives attempted to take advantage of it by buying a series of new aircraft and starting new routes. However, the new routes were not as profitable, and the company started losing money rapidly.

Braniff Airlines ultimately went bankrupt by 1982, a victim of increased competition, fuel prices, and a botched expansion attempt that left it deep in debt. New buyers attempted to resurrect the airline in 1984, mostly with staff from the old Braniff, but this effort failed by 1989. A second attempt to revive the airline started in 1991 but failed the next year. Braniff Airways Foundation, a charity started by the airline, still works to promote the history of aviation.

From the City of Benbrook

Mark Your Calendars for Touch-a-Truck May 21

The City of Benbrook invites you to explore a variety of service trucks and other vehicles and meet the people who protect and serve the Benbrook community, Tuesday, May 21, from 6 to 8 p.m.

This event is great fun for kids of all ages! An Ambulance, Patrol Car, Tractor, Ladder Truck, Fire Engine, and Animal Control Truck will be on display. Vendors will also be onsite where attendees can purchase food.

For more information, call 817-249-6008.

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Help Keep Kids Safe From Lithium Coin Batteries

About 7,000 children in the United States visit emergency rooms for battery-related injuries each year, according to the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System. Lithium coin batteries, those small, disc-shaped batteries about the size of a nickel, are particularly dangerous. The exact right size to get lodged in a child's throat if accidentally swallowed, they can turn deadly, burning a hole in an esophagus in as little as two hours. And, they're everywhere – in key fobs, key finders, flameless candles, remote controls, thermometers and many common home devices.

Despite parents' thirst for knowledge on how to keep their children safe, the potential dangers of lithium coin batteries are not widely discussed. It's no surprise then that 55 percent of parents with children ages 6 and under don't realize that lithium coin batteries are more dangerous than button batteries – in fact 45% think there is no difference. That's according to a 2023 Duracell survey conducted by Wakefield Research. This is why the brand is reminding parents that when it comes to lithium coin batteries, #BitterIsBetter.

As part of the #BitterIsBetter campaign, Duracell is sharing these simple tips to help keep you and your family safe:

- One in four parents with kids aged 6 and under don't know how many devices in their homes require lithium coin batteries to operate. Do a survey of your devices, and move those that contain lithium coin batteries away from and out-of-reach of children. Examples of common devices include flameless LED tealight candles, key fobs and thermometers.

- Get down to your child's eye level to see what they see. Look for loose lithium coin batteries in couch cushions, on low tables and shelves or any other areas that a child can reach.

- Inspect devices and secure lithium

coin battery compartments by tightening the screws or securing them with tape for an extra layer of protection.

- Keep all new lithium coin batteries in a secure compartment, up high and out of children's reach. Remove expired batteries from devices, and place them away safely out of reach of children until you can recycle them properly.

- Power your devices with batteries that have child safety features. When it comes to lithium coin batteries, Duracell is the only brand on the market to offer a non-toxic bitter coating that helps discourage children from accidentally swallowing them. Look for the "Bitter Taste" icon on the packaging. The batteries also come in child-secure packaging, which is nearly impossible to open without scissors, making sure little hands, and mouths, cannot access them.

- Keep a watchful eye. Toddlers and young children are curious by nature so close supervision is key.

- If you suspect that your child has ingested a lithium coin battery, act fast. Take them immediately to an emergency room. If you aren't able to drive, call 911 for help.

- Team up with friends and family to spread this information.

For more resources and tips, visit Duracell.com/BitterIsBetter and follow @Duracell on social media.

A battery-related accident can happen in an instant. By being vigilant and by choosing products wisely, you can help keep your family safe.



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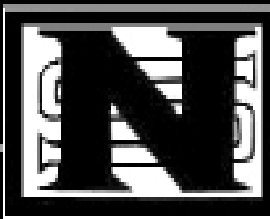
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Weekend Forecast



Friday, March 29:

AM - Partly sunny, with a high near 75. Windy, with a south wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to 25 to 30 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

PM - Mostly cloudy, with a low around 60. Windy, with a south wind 25 to 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph.



Saturday, March 30:

AM - Partly sunny, with a high near 81. Breezy, with a south southwest wind 15 to 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

PM - Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. South wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.



Sunday, March 31:

AM - Mostly cloudy, with a high near 82. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

PM - Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66.

Extended Forecast [Click Here](#)