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Backyard Party features music, fireworks



Courtesy Photo

Randall King performs recently at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville. He will be onstage in Belton for the annual 4th of July Backyard Party at Schoepf's on Friday.

By David Stone

The Belton Journal

The final event of the Belton Fourth of July celebration likely will be one of the best.

The annual Backyard Party concert and fireworks exhibition will be at Schoepf's BBQ's outdoor stage. The concert will feature popular honky-tonk star Randall King along with Jared Johnson and Wolf Mahler, but the big star of the night likely will be the fireworks

The doors open at 6 p.m. and the music will begin at 7. Seating is limited and only available by reservation. Tables are available for purchase, guaranteeing seating

General admission is \$20 and tables for six start at \$400. Tickets can be purchased at https://ontourtix.com/event-detail/randall-king-w-jared-johnson-1743525637895 Sponsoring a table helps pay for bands and fireworks.

"It's going to be a great show," said Ronnie Schoepf, owner of the restaurant. "Bell County's own Jared Johnson will open the show, along with drummer Eric Raines. Eric has performed with several bands here at

"Fireworks should get started at dark, and we'll have about a 30-minute show," he added.

The Backyard Party will be in the outdoor area behind the restaurant, and no lawn chairs or outside food or drinks will be allowed. There will be a clear-bag policy — do not bring purses or backpacks, Schoepf said.

"There will be food and a full bar," he said. The event is being co-sponsored by the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce and others.

"The Chamber has a lot of sponsors, and we have a sponsor that helps with fireworks cost."

Randall King is a crowd favorite, and he has never wavered in his honky-tonk allegiance — in fact, he's worn it like a badge of honor, growing with pride into a leading voice for today's traditional country.

Amassing over 300 million streams with singles like "You In A Honky Tonk", "Hey Cowgir" and "Mirror, Mirror," he's kept the twang alive in country's mainstream.

Schooled on icons like Keith Whitley, George Strait, Alan Jackson and John Anderson, but inspired by modern masters like Dierks Bentley and Gary Allan, King first built an independent, grassroots following on the strength of his electrifying live shows.

He has since gone on to headline all across the US, the UK and Europe, and he continues to play nearly 150 shows a year.

The following day, Saturday, July 5, Schoepf's will continue to celebrate with Pecos & The Rooftops performing on the Backyard stage. General admission tickets are \$15 and they are available at https://ontourtix. com/events/pecos-and-the-roof-tops-1744380384172.

Pecos & The Rooftops are a popular rock band that tours nationwide and throughout Texas.



Photo Courtesy of Mitch Wallis and Ally Groover Wolf Mahler will perform a small set of his songs, including the newly released "TN in TX" at the July 4th Schoepf's BBQ Backyard Party and Fireworks Show featuring Randall King with Jared Johnson.

Wolf Mahler to perform new release "TN in TX" at July 4th Fireworks Show

By Susan Kolodziejczyk The Belton Journal

It's been quite a journey for Belton's Wolf Mahler, transitioning from athletics to music. A former All-American athlete and Olympic hopeful in the decathlon, Mahler has recently released his first streamed single, "TN in TX," which has quickly climbed to the #1 spot on Spotify's Fresh Finds section, maintaining that position just four days after its release on June 20th. He was signed by Sea Gayle Music Publishing Company about a year and a half ago and is currently thriving in his music career. Although he resides in Nashville, he will be returning home to perform between sets at Schoepf's BBQ backyard on July 4th, alongside artists Randall King and Jared Johnson.

"I was born in Fairview, TN, just outside Nashville,

See WOLF, Page A2

Community holds dedication for Mount Zion United Methodist Church



Courtesy Photo

City Manager Steve Listi shares remarks at the dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting for Mount Zion United Methodist Church.

By Kaylee Dusang The Belton Journal

The Belton community recently celebrated the completed restoration of one of the few surviving early African American churches in Texas.

On Friday, local officials and members of the community held a dedication ceremony at the historic Mount Zion United Methodist Church following a more than \$500,000 restoration project, according to a press release by the City of Belton.

City Manager Sam Listi said that the church has served as a place of worship and community gatherings for generations.

"It reflects the legacy and heritage of

the African American community in Belton," he said.

Originally built in 1893, the church resides in its original location along the western banks of Nolan Creek, which is now the Nolan Creek Hike and Bike Trail. The church also stands close to the former T.B. Harris School for African American students - now the Harris Community Center - that was restored in 2005.

The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1990.

Following remarks from representatives of Preservation Texas and the project

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Independence Day celebrations kick off with downtown street party

By Harvey Jackson Oss The Belton Journal

day, June 28.

Downtown Belton celebrated their annual Independence Day kickoff Street Party the evening of Satur-

The event was hosted by the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce with the aid of numerous sponsors, including Vista Real Estate, Cory Herring Homes, CGI, Extraco Banks, H-E-B, KWTX News 10, Scores Pizza & Wings, Summer Fun, West Temple

Orthodontics, Edward Jones, First Community Title, ASCO Equipment, Bold Republic Brewing Company, Hole in the Wall, Redbox+ of Central Texas, and Schoepf's BBQ.

Chamber of Commerce President Randy Pittenger kicked off the event at 5:30 p.m. Music began an hour later when Dallas based Grupo Pression took the stage. Specializing in Tejano music, they played genre favorites such as Baila Esta Cumbia

> See DANCE, Page A3



Belton Journal/Harvey Jackson Oss

Crowds fill downtown Belton last Saturday evening for the street party which kicked off the 4th of July festivities.

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Belton 4th of July PRCA Rodeo Family Night Stick Horse Stampede

Special to the Journal

The PRCA Rodeo is always a highlight of the weeklong Belton 4th of July Celebration festivities, filled with wonderful traditions as well as new experiences. This is the 101st year for Belton to host a 4th of July Rodeo, making it one of our community's most cherished annual traditions. The Rodeo will be Thursday-Saturday, July 3-5 at the indoor, air-conditioned Cadence Bank Center (formerly known as Bell County Expo).

In addition to the always popular Mutton Bustin' event, this year another special event for kids will return to make the Belton Rodeo even more fun and memorable for families.

Saturday, July 5 is Family Night at the Rodeo with children ages 12 and under getting in free with a paid adult general admission. To make Family Night at the Rodeo even better, the KPA Engineers Stick Horse Stampede will provide an opportunity for children ages 4 and up to run around on the arena floor prior to the start of the rodeo.

"We are excited about bringing back this fun opportunity for our kids to get in the dirt at the Belton 4th of July Rodeo, and we know that the photo opps will be especially awesome," stated Randy Pittenger, Belton Area Chamber President/ CEO. "The Belton Rodeo is always a great family experience, and one of our goals is to make this year's rodeo even more affordable and enjoyable for families with young children."

No special registration is required for the Family Night Stick Horse Stampede, but all children wishing to participate will need to arrive by 6:15 p.m. on Saturday, July 5. Children are encouraged to bring their favorite stick horse to ride, or a few will be available to borrow at the rodeo.

The three-day PRCA Rodeo at the Cadence Bank Center serves as a key part of the weeklong 4th of July Celebration in Belton that included a Downtown Belton Street Party on the Courthouse Square, Carnival in Liberty Park, Patriotic Program and Parade, Festival on Nolan Creek in Liberty Park, and Backyard Party at Schoepf's Concert and Fireworks.

Rodeo tickets are available at the Cadence Bank Center ticket office or online. For information about the Belton 4th of July Celebration events, visit the website at www.beltonchamber.com, call 254-939-3551, or email info@beltonchamber.com.



Saturday night's Stick Horse Stampede at the annual 4th of July Rodeo will offer the chance for youngsters age 4 and up to gallop their way around the

Zion - From Page A1

team, the Belton Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon-cutting at the entrance of the church. Attendees had the opportunity for self-guided tours of the church's restored interior along with a viewing of before-and-after photos of the restoration work.

The ceremony also included members of the church's congregation. Listi expressed appreciation to the church members for their cooperation throughout the nearly five-year restoration process. He also acknowledged past congregation members such as journalist and pastor Roscoe Harrison and Connie Demerson, a former Belton ISD board member and advocate for the Harris School rehabilitation.

Listi also recognized the project's architect, Carter Design Group and contractor, RM Rodriguez, for the church's transformation.

Per the release, a vision for the church's restoration began in 2018. In 2020, the city began to seek state and federal grants to restore the church's exterior and interior. This includes the masonry, siding, windows, roof, bell tower, flooring, ceilings, painting, and air conditioning.

Funding for the \$573,889 project came from the following sources:

Preservation Texas Grant (2022): \$77,500

National Trust for Historic Preservation Grant (2023): \$100,000

Mount Zion United Methodist Church: \$25,000

City of Belton Federal ARPA Funds (2022): \$371,389

The city served as both grant applicant and project manager for the project.

\mathbf{Wolf} - From Page A1

and moved to Belton, TX when my parents relocated back to their hometown when I was 10 years old," shared Wolf Mahler.

Growing up in Nashville, Wolf's parents-Michael and Angela Mahler, who were part of the group Wild Horses—had a record deal with Sony Music. Wolf spent his early years homeschooled on a tour bus, often watching his mom and dad pursue their music career from the sidelines at Wildhorse Saloon, where his parents were the house band. However, when they eventually lost their record deal, the family returned to their roots in Texas, where Wolf focused on honing his athletic skills in track and field during high school.

"I was homeschooled until I joined public schools in middle school. I played football and track alongside Belton's now NFL star, Durham Smythe. It was a great experience," Mahler recalled. "I was a decent wide receiver until I got injured, and then track became my passion. I met my wife, Ashtin, on the track field, and she is one of the inspirations behind my new song, 'TN in TX."

During high school, Wolf dedicated himself to athletics, winning four Junior Olympic titles by his senior year. He then received a track and field scholarship at The University of Texas at Austin, where he earned five All-American titles, qualified for the Olympic Trials, and gained world-class coaching credentials at the World Championships. "After high school, I received a track scholarship from the University of Texas, and that's where I met my wife, Ashtin. She was running track at Texas A&M at the time, but thankfully, I helped convince

her to come to UT," Mahler explained. While in high school, Mahler also had a band called 'One for All,' which played at local events, but his focus remained largely on track. "Although I have been writing music for many years, even during my college athletic career, I couldn't promote or sell any of my songs due to NIL rules. So, after my collegiate years, I began openly writing and playing music again, although my aspirations were still in track and field. Ashtin and I were actively training in decathlon and heptathlon events in California for

the 2020 Olympics," Mahler noted.

"When COVID disrupted our 2020 Olympic dreams and I faced another round of debilitating injuries, I began to reflect on my original dreams-writing music and producing songs that held personal significance for me and could resonate with others," added Mahler.

Leaving his athletic career behind, Wolf returned to Nashville to pursue his passion for songwriting. He started attending NSAI's Pitch to Publisher events, where he caught the attention of Sea Gayle Music's JD Groover. "After my track career ended, we moved back to Nashville so I could chase one of my first loves: music. That was two and a half years ago. In this short time, I have played many shows and participated in amateur competitions that have led me to today. I've been signed by Sea Gayle Music and my first official songwriting release shot to #1 on Spotify's Fresh Finds in just under four days, and it's still number one," Mahler reflected.

"I am incredibly thankful to Sea Gayle for the opportunity to write songs professionally. It's an honor to be part of a company with such a successful history and to learn from their talented writers and creative team," Wolf expressed.

Mahler is rapidly becoming one of the fastest-growing artists at Sea Gayle Music. His first recording exceeded 35,000 streams within just four days. The day of his release, "TN in TX," coincided with his time supporting his wife, Ashtin, during a heptathlon event in Spain.

He is amazed at his swift rise to success. "It all happened so fast, and I still can't believe everything that's occurred," Mahler said.

When asked about returning home for the special July 4th celebration and performing a small set, Mahler remarked, "It's going to be great to be home and personally thank everyone for their support, especially with my latest release. I've been blown away by all the encouragement I've received. It means so much to me. Getting to sing my new release in front of a hometown crowd is exciting." "TN in TX" is a love letter to both Tennessee and Texas, capturing the essence of his unique journey.

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TUARIES



Livingston Virginia Makin Livingston March 22, 1939 - June 27, 2025

Virginia (Ginny) Makin Livingston, age 86, died peacefully on June 27, 2025 while surrounded by her family at Baylor Scott & White Hospital, Temple, TX. She was born to Virginia (Rock) and James E. Makin on March 22, 1939 in Pittsburgh, PA. In 1958 she graduated from Plum Borough High School and started dating the love of her life and her husband of 63 years, Robert E. Livingston. She wed Robert on March 23, 1962, while he was completing his college education at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, VA. In her career she worked as a medical transcriptionist, certified nursing aide, and assistant activities director at the King's Daughters Hospital and Western Hills nursing facility. In her retirement she pursued her favorite pastimes of baking and crafting.

Virginia was a devoted member of the First Presbyterian Church of Belton and served her community with charity, truth, and loving kindness as a 47-year member of Order of the Eastern Star. She was initiated on November 15, 1978 in Erie, PA. She proudly served in the Belton Chapter #589 where she was Worthy Matron in 1995-96 and 2010-11.

Virginia is survived by her husband Robert, four children; Robert J. (Krista) Livingston (Bellingham, WA), Roger J. (Pati) Livingston (Norfolk, VA), Richard J.(Lorelei) Livingston (Belton, TX) and Robin J. (Johnnie) Schilling (Belton, TX); and nine grandchildren; Nina Rubio Wright (Everett, WA), Christopher Livingston (Seattle, WA), Jessica Temte (Temple, TX), Nathaniel Livingston (Puyallup, WA), Lincoln Livingston (Norfolk, VA), Geoffrey Livingston (Minneapolis, MN), Amber Livingston (Norfolk, VA), Makin

Schilling (Austin, TX), and Jamison Schilling (Austin, TX); and one great-grandchild, Claire; her sisters Sally Effting (Allentown, PA) and Marilyn Zavada (Pittsburgh, PA), and brother James E. Makin (Pittsburgh, PA). She is preceded in death by her parents and sister, Shirley Makin.

Virginia's family would like to thank her medical providers and acknowledge the exemplary and compassionate care she received from the nurses, therapists, chaplains, staff and physicians at the Ascension Medical Group, Temple Rehab Hospital, and Baylor Scott & White Hospital.

The family will receive visitors from 6:00 till 8:00 p.m., Friday evening, July 11, 2025 at Dossman Funeral Home, 2525 North Main Street, Belton, TX. A funeral service will be held Saturday, July 12, 2025, at the First Presbyterian Church of Belton at 10:00 a.m. with The Reverend Kathy Vineyard, H.R. officiating. Interment will follow at the North Belton Cemetery, 1500 N. Main St. Belton, Texas.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Order of the Eastern Star, Belton Chapter #589 Treasurer, PO Box 553, Salado, TX 76571, or the First Presbyterian Church of Belton, 2500 Church St, Belton, TX 76513 to further her legacy of kindness and community service.

Dance - From Page A1

by Selena and La Chona by Los Tucanes de Tijuana.

Pittenger commented on the significance of the party.

"It's really important for our community to come together, to celebrate, to be together." The non-ticketed event was intentionally free of profanity and agesensitive content in order to foster a child-friendly

environment — "It's going to be a good opportunity for families."

In addition to the live music, activities included cornhole, a photo booth, face painting, a children's entertainer, and tents for businesses such as Extraco. Voter registration was available to attendees. Possibly the largest draw for the few thousand present

were the numerous vendors and food trucks. One such business, Scotti's Italian Ice, was present and in operation by mother, Ann and daughter Mikayla. The veteran-owned establishment, located near The Gin, brings New Jersey style Italian ice with natural ingredients to Belton consumers. Mikayla noted the importance of events like

the street party to their venture - "It means more exposure to the Belton community since we're such a new business. We're really happy to get our name out there."

The street party included a new event, the Little Miss & Little Mister Belton 4th of July contest. Two boys and two girls from ages three to seven and eight to ten years were chosen as winners of the contest and awarded with spots in the upcoming parade on Friday.

Closing out the night was a performance by the local Leon River Band. The band showcased their town pride by loudly proclaiming that "Belton is the 4th of July capital of the world."











First Presbyterian Church 2500 Church Street Belton, TX 76513 Worship Service at 11am fpcbelton@gmail.com www.fpcbelton.org

All Are Welcome in Person or on Zoom! Rev. Kathy Vineyard, Pastor



Courtesy Photo The Betty Martin Chapter of the NSDAR has received a National First Place Award from the Public Relations & Media Committee for outstanding publicity of a commemorative/community event. The Betty Martin Chapter hosted a 120th Anniversary Event at the Temple Railroad Museum and crossed promoted a number of DAR activities using multiple media channels, including a Facebook event page, collaboration with the Temple Chamber of Commerce, print, email invitations, and news releases. Betty Martin NSDAR are pictured at the event.





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Q&A WITH DR. MALINDA GOLDEN



As Belton ISD looks ahead to a new school year, Superintendent Dr. Malinda Golden is focused on what matters most-supporting students, empowering staff, and building a

community where everyone can thrive. With graduation season in the rearview and exciting new initiatives on the horizon, Dr. Golden shares her reflections, a message to the Class of 2025, and how the district is preparing students to be ready for what's next—both in school and beyond.

Q: Are there any new programs or initiatives launching this fall that you're particularly excited about?

A: Absolutely! One of the most exciting developments is the adoption of our Key Progress Measures by the Board—this will guide much of our work moving forward. We're also deepening our partnerships across the district, which strengthens educational experiences for our students.

I'm thrilled about growing our Journey of a Graduate competencies, especially around critical thinking and expanding our leadership definition work—focusing on building culture, empowering people and pursuing excellence. That includes growing teacher leaders, aspiring principals and campus leaders across Belton ISD.

We're also pursuing the Teacher Incentive Allotment to provide increased funding opportunities for teachers. Another huge highlight is the districtwide launch of Hope Squad, a peer-to-peer suicide prevention program inspired by our Superintendent Student Advisory Council.

And in Career & Technical Education, we're expanding with new aeronautics courses at Belton New Tech @Waskow. These programs include engineering, flight and mechanical components offering students a dynamic path into high-demand fields.

Q: With graduation season just behind us, what message would you share with the Class of 2025 and those coming up behind them?

A: I'm incredibly proud of the Class of 2025. They've excelled academically and in extracurriculars, and I truly believe we're launching them into the world career-ready—whether that means college, the workforce, or continuing to build on industry certifications.

I hope they carry their legacy of service forward and continue giving back to their communities. For students coming up behind them, I encourage you to meetand even exceed—the legacy left by this remarkable class. From course selections to skill development, everything you're doing now is preparing you to be future-ready. I'm excited to see what you accomplish next.

Q: How is Belton ISD ensuring students are future-ready-both academically and socially—as they move through each grade level?

A: Preparing students for life is at the heart of what we do. That means focusing on academic achievement and growth in our Journey of a Graduate competencies. We're constantly reflecting on outcomes, refining programs, and asking how we can better serve our students.

This includes measuring both academic progress and growth in skills like collaboration, communication adaptability-traits students will need long after graduation. I've experienced this myself. Even after earning my doctorate, I continued learning through certifications in project management and facilitation. I hope our students understand that graduation is just the beginning of a lifelong journey of learning and growing.



LAKEWOOD ELEMENTARY CELEBRATES 38 YEARS OF OLD GLORY DAY

Since 1987, Old Glory Day has been a cherished tradition at Lakewood Elementary. Celebrated this year on May 9, 2025, the event brought together students, staff, families and the community to honor military service and celebrate the values of patriotism and unity. With a special focus on recognizing active duty, retired and veteran military families, Old Glory Day continues to stand as a heartfelt tribute to those who have given so much in service to our nation.



BELTON ISD CELEBRATES 2025 WALL OF HONOR INDUCTEES

Belton ISD recognized four exceptional athletes-Mallory Bankhead, TJ Johnson, Trap Johnson and John Roach—during the 2025 Belton High School Wall of Honor Induction Ceremony held on Saturday, May 17, 2025.

Established in 1909, the Wall of Honor tradition has spanned 25 years and now includes a total of 152 inductees. This year's honorees exemplify the values of dedication, leadership and excellence that define Belton athletics.

A special meet and greet welcomed past and present inductees, offering a moment to celebrate their achievements and the enduring legacy of Tiger athletics in the Big Red Community.





NEWS AND UPDATES

GET READY FOR THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL - AUGUST 12, 2025!

Now's the time to make sure your student is registered and ready for the new school year in Belton ISD. Whether you're enrolling a new student or completing returning student verification, everything can be done online at www.bisd.net/ enrollment. Current families can log in to Skyward Family Access to add new students. Need help? Your campus administrators are happy to assist!

HONORING THE TOP 10 GRADUATES ACROSS BELTON ISD

Belton ISD is proud to recognize the top 10 graduates from Belton High School, Lake Belton High School and Belton New Tech @Waskow. These students have demonstratedexceptional dedication, resilience and academic excellence throughout their high school journeys. As they prepare for the next chapter, we celebrate their hard work, honor their achievements, and look forward to the incredible impact they'll make beyond graduation.

BELTON ISD CELEBRATES THE CLASS OF 2025

the Cadence Bank Center. This year's graduates included 602 students from Lake Belton High School, 403 from Belton High School and 65 from Belton New Tech @Waskow.

Each ceremony spotlighted student accomplishments and campus traditions, with special recognition given to valedictorians and salutatorians, from Belton High School and Chinonso Ogwudu and Tran Le from Belton New Tech @Waskow.

In the days leading up to graduation, seniors took part in several memorable traditions, including Back to Elementary Day—an emotional walk through their former elementary campuses that brought their educational journey full

Belton ISD honored 1,070 graduates in respectively: Bryce Fournier and Megan circle. Seniors were also celebrated with the Class of 2025 during commencement Bansal from Lake Belton High School, campus walks, breakfasts and recognition ceremonies held on May 22, 2025, at Julie He and John Zachary Moehlenbrock ceremonies highlighting academic honors and scholarship awards.

> Collectively, the Class of 2025 was awarded an impressive \$1.5 million in scholarship funds-reflecting the dedication, talent and hard work of this year's graduates. They leave behind a legacy of excellence, school spirit, and determination-and step forward prepared to lead, serve and make a lasting impact.











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BELTON ISD HONORS THE 2025 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Belton ISD is proud to recognize 23 outstanding educators as the 2025 Teachers of the Year. Chosen for their dedication, innovation and impact in the classroom, these teachers represent the heart of education in the Big Red Community. From this exceptional group, two were selected to represent the district in the Region 12 competition: Marie Angelica "Angie" Guzman, a fifth-grade dual-language teacher at Southwest Elementary, was named Elementary Teacher of the Year and J'nata

"Jay" Walker, a business teacher at Lake Belton High School, was named Secondary Teacher of the Year.

These educators have been recognized as Belton ISD's 2025 Teachers of the Year:







Belton Early Childhood - Ericka

Flemming

James L. Burrell – Camille Hicks

Charter Oak - Ryley Cox

Chisholm Trail – Elizabeth Seeger

High Point – Rebecca Hannon

Hubbard Branch – Courtney Crossley

Lakewood – Michelle Francis

Leon Heights – Lindsey Bennett Joe M. Pirtle – Greta Jones

Southwest - Angie Guzman

Sparta - Cara Patranella

Alice J. Tarver – Ashley Henderson Belton Middle – Corinna Capraun

Lake Belton Middle - Melvin Craig

North Belton Middle - Ann Reese

South Belton Middle - Melissa Huckfeldt Belton New Tech @Waskow - Tab Lloyd

Belton High - Justin Truitt

Lake Belton High - Jay Walker

Special Programs (Pirtle) - Jaime Lindsey

Coach (BHS) - Caleb Newcomer Fine Arts (LBHS) – Jacob Guerrero

CTE (LBHS) - Allison Hall

Congratulations to all 23 honorees for the lasting difference they make each and every day.





JUNE 2025



BELTON ISD BOND 2022 UPDATE

CREATIVITY ON STAGE

BELTON HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE STUDENTS HOLD FIRST PERFORMANCES IN NEW SPACE MADE POSSIBLE BY 2022 BOND

In May of 2022 and at the end of their freshman year, Belton ISD voters approved a \$173.8 million bond package that would transform the future of Belton High School's theatre program. Three years later, the program's senior directors led their final performances in the school's new black box performance space, the first of many students who will leave their mark on the new stage.

"The students were excited to use the updated lights for their actors. The audience was also excited, and many agreed the space is much more comfortable," said Belton High School theatre teacher Melissa Stuhff. "Not only is the performance space larger and our technology more modern, but the backstage area is large and we are able to be more creative on stage."

The 2022 Bond included projects to address aging facilities and provide students more equitable learning experiences throughout the district. At Belton High School, construction crews built a new

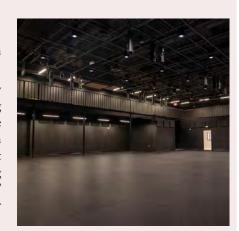
band hall with ensemble and breakout spaces, paving the way for the former band hall to be converted into a new black box theatre. As the older of Belton ISD's two comprehensive high schools, BHS did not previously have a formal black box, which allows for more interactive performances.

In addition to the performance space, the BHS theatre department also received a second classroom, an area for costume and prop storage, a dressing and makeup room, and a costume shop.

"The addition of the second classroom, costume shop and costume storage is going to be program changing for our students," said Stuhff. "Our students design and make a large portion of our costumes. This shop not only gives them plenty of workspace, but also allows space for a costume construction class."

As part of the 2022 Bond, Lake Belton Middle School also received fine arts enhancements, including a new band hall and dedicated orchestra space, which opened in August of 2024.

"Belton ISD exists for each and every student, and the district's outstanding fine arts programs play a significant role in ensuring that there is a home for each student. We are thankful for the support of our Big Red Community for making these projects a reality for our students," said Keith Zuehlke, Belton ISD Director of Fine Arts.





OTHER 2022 BOND HIGHLIGHTS

The \$173.8 million bond package approved by voters in May of 2022 addressed growth, safety and aging facilities throughout the district. As of June 2025, most major projects are complete.



TWO NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

James L. Burrell Elementary Opened January 2024

Hubbard Branch Elementary Opened August 2024





SECURITY UPGRADES

Security vestibules at 16 campuses Completed September 2024

Shatter-resistant film Completed August 2023



NEW BELTON ISD AG FACILITY

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Thursday, July 3, 2025 THE BELTON JOURNAL

Belton's 4th of July parade is a tradition for seven generations of a Belton family

By Michelle Rodriguez
The Belton Journal

Brenda Culp and her family have watched the July 4th parade in the same spot for seven generations.

"My sister-in-law, Brenda Culp, has had many generations that have gone to the fourth of July parade for over 50 years. Her grandfather was Elmer King. He has a street named after him," said Elnora Dragoo.

Elmer King Road runs in an east-west direction and intersects with the southbound service road of I-35 between Elm Grove Road and FM 1123.

Elmer King passed away, but his son Elmer King, Jr.'s daughter, Brenda Culp, and her brother, her children, her grandchildren, and her great grandchildren still attend the parade every 4th of July.

"I remember my great-grandpa, James Nathan King, at the parade when I was young. He was the first generation I actually remember being there with us, the second generation of the family," said Brenda.

Elmer Richard King and Jessie Reana King were Brenda Culp's grandparents. Her mother was Louise Brentley and she has two brothers. The fourth generation includes Brenda Jo Culp and her two brothers, Clayton Brentley, Jr. and Ray Dayton Brentley.

"The fifth generation of the family is my daughter and two sons, Deanna Adams, William Culp, Jr., and Dallas Williams," said Brenda.

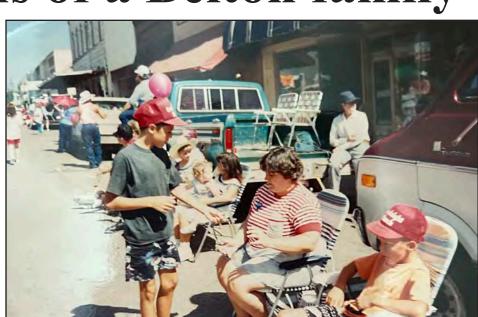
Brenda's grandsons are Logan Culp, Payton

Culp, Dallas Ray Culp, William Culp, Jr., Nathan Handsome, and twins Jasmine and Jenna. Culp's great-granddaughters are Hailey and Riley.

"My brother and his family bring tents for us for shade. We will be there waving red, white, and blue flags," said Brenda Culp, who was in the Belton Marching 100 herself.

"We are excited to go, especially my youngest son Dallas. He's six years old. It's a tradition, and we stick with tradition, so the kids have something to continue with their family when we're gone," said Chelsea Culp, Brenda's daughter-in-law.

"The parade now is in downtown. They used to block the street, and we would go across to go to the carnival. My grandaddy loaded us up and told



Courtesy Photo

Brenda Culp and seven generations of her family have attended and watched the July 4th parade from the same spot. In this 1990 or 1991 photo, Brenda Culp wears a red and white striped shirt sitting in the lawn chair and William Culp Jr. sits beside her in the red cap.

have watched the July 4th

us we were going. One year we rode in the cotton trailer," said Brenda Culp.

r we rode in the cotton parade is on Main Street by Cochran, Blair, & Potts
Their spot where they where the bank used to be.

"We go early because we want to put our chairs on Main Street," said Brenda

Local detective teaches community how to recognize common scams



Belton Journal/ Kaylee Dusang

Belton Journal/ Kaylee
Detective Kim Hamilton teaches First Texas Bank visitors about common scams and fraud cases.

By Kaylee Dusang
The Belton Journal

With the rise of digital technology and AI, scams have become even harder to spot.

On Tuesday, June 24, bank representatives and a Belton Police Department Detective held a fraud training class at First Texas Bank to educate the community on how to spot common scams and avoid becoming victims of fraud.

"Validate to make sure that they are a real person. If you feel like it's too good to be true, it probably is," BPD Detective Kim Hamilton said. "Always have somebody that you can call and ask questions to, such as your local police department. If it's a financial question, it could be your

bank."

Scams can target any age group, from young to elderly. The scammer's goal is to gain access to the victim's personal information and persuade them to send a form of payment that is difficult to track, such as through wire transfers or gift cards.

Hamilton shares seven

common types of scams

that people report:

Tech support scams – scammers call or send an email posing as a representative from a tech company. They often send messages with a link to try to gain access to your computer or

Government imposter scams – scammers pose as someone from the Social Security Administration, IRS, or an insurance com-

pany. They look for victims to confirm personal information like a social security

Internet scams – scammers target people through online platforms like Facebook or dating websites. They create fake profiles or pose as trusted sources to persuade victims to click on a link or send them money.

Grandparent scams – scammers impersonate a grandchild or family member. They invent elaborate stories such as claiming that there was an emergency to persuade the victim to send money

Sweepstake scams – scammers claim that the victim has won a large prize or the lottery. They often ask victims to pay or provide account information to claim the winnings.

Investment scams – scammers impersonate a financial advisor who asks to discuss an investment opportunity with the promise of big returns if the victim sends them funds.

Bitcoin scam – scammers will impersonate law enforcement or use online platforms to trick the victim into placing money in Bitcoin.

For those confronted

by a potential scammer, Hamilton recommends calling a trusted third party to verify the message like their bank or local law enforce-

"Sometimes we're easily blinded by somebody telling us or asking us stuff to do stuff," she said. "We don't really realize that it's a scam until somebody else, a third party, comes in and says that it's definitely not real."

First Texas Bank also offers a form with a list of questions that helps the customer determine if they have received a fraudulent request.

"As a local community bank, we feel it's important to provide that third party service," said Jordan Samfield, Senior Vice President and loan officer at First Texas Bank. "If someone has a question about a financial concern, especially customers, they can come to us and get some verification."

First Texas Bank offers the free fraud training class annually at their Belton location. The bank holds other classes for customers throughout the year, including quarterly financial literacy training and a yearly shred event in October.

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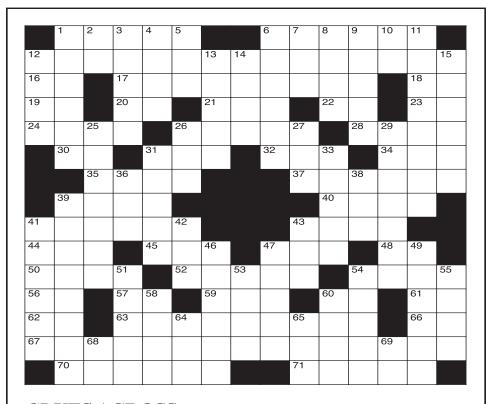
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Notes
- 6. Long-haired dog breed
- 12. ESPN's nickname
- 16. Spanish be
- 17. Disadvantage
- 18. Of I
- 19. Actor Pacino
- 20. On your way: ___ route
- 21. Fifth note of a major scale
- 22. Companies need it 23. News agency
- 24. Faces of an organization
- 26. Ponds 28. Samoa's capital
- 30. Partner to "Pa"
- 31. Adult male 32. Cool!
- 34. Used of a number or amount not specified
- 35. No No No
- 37. Hosts film festival
- 39. British place to house convicts

- 40. Made of fermented honey and water
- 41. Chief
- 43. College army
- 44. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
- 45. Consume
- 47. One point north of due east
- 48. For instance 50. Brews
- 52. Alaskan river
- 54. Not soft
- 56. Atomic #22
- 57. "The Golden State"
- 59. "The world's most famous arena"
- 60. Larry and Curly's pal
- 61. One billion gigabytes 62. Conducts inspections
- 63. Malaria mosquitoes
- 66. Unit to measure width 67. Features
- 70. Affairs
- 71. Letter of Semitic abjads

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Follower of Islam
- 2. Trauma center 3. French young women
- 4. Norse god 5. U.S. commercial flyer (abbr.)
- 6. Merchant
- 7. Peyton's younger brother Jungle planet in
- 9. Tree-dwelling animal of C. and S. America
- 10. "Pollack" actor Harris
- 11. Stuck around
- 12. Put on
- 13. Influential Norwegian playwright
- 14. Christian ___, designer 15. Fulfills a debt
- 25. Style
- 26. More (Spanish)
- 27. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 29. Remedy

- 31. Disturbance
- 33. "The Martian" actor Matt
- 36. Express delight
- 38. Brooklyn hoopster
- 39. 1900 lamp
- 41. Motionless
- 42. One's mother (Brit.)
- (abbr.)
- 46. Compels to act
- 47. Gardening tool 49. Ancient country
- 51. Frightening 53. Wimbledon champion Arthur
- 54. Popular plant
- 55. Database management system 58. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 60. Where soldiers eat
- 64. Tenth month (abbr.) 65. Illuminated
- 68. Atomic #18
- 69. Adults need one to travel

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Answers: A. current B. laps C. stroke D. breath





Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 1 = R)

23 **12** 17 A. Clue: Movement of water

21 25 16 B. 9

16 17 1 18

Clue: Swimming length

Clue: Method of swimming

D. 15 1 11 25

Clue: Air flow into lungs



R

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Prepare pets for Fourth of July festivities

Many people are eager for Independence Day celebrations in early summer. There is much to be excited about, as festivities often begin in the afternoon with barbecues and pool parties, and commence late at night after fireworks shows that light up the night sky. Still, not everyone enjoys the extra noise and busy nature of July 4th parties, particularly furry members of the family.

Animal control services often report an increase in lost animals between July 4th and July 6th. That's because the excitement of the holiday puts pets out of their comfort zones.

While pet owners need not cancel their July 4th plans, they should take heed of the many ways to keep their pets safe during the festivities.

Update identification

Be sure prior to any July 4th events that pets are wearing collars with current identification information. If an address or phone number has changed since the last time you updated microchip records, be sure to check the account is current.

Be careful with alcoholic drinks

Party hosts typically serve beer, wine and cocktails. Alcoholic beverages have the potential to poison pets, says the ASPCA. Animals can become very intoxicated, severely depressed or go into comas if they drink alcohol. Keep spirited drinks well out of reach.

Check with the vet

Many pets are prone to anxiety from loud noises, such as thunderstorms and fireworks, and lots of commotion — something that occurs in spades come July 4th. Some veterinarians recommend a small course of anti-anxiety medication or a sedative to help pets cope with

Create a quiet space

Allow pets to ride out the day in their comfortable, quiet and cozy retreats. If necessary, create a space in an interior room. Cover the pet crate with a blanket and offer favorite toys or bedding to create a soothing environ-

Place notes on doors and gates

While it's best to keep pets in a locked room away from the fray, some pets like to socialize with guests and are not bothered by noises. However, alert guests with notes posted on doors and fence gates to check to make sure pets are not trying to escape behind them. All doors should be closed firmly when entering or exiting.

Pick up debris

Firework debris can rain down on properties even if you were not shooting off the fireworks. Curious pets may pick it up or eat it, which runs the risk of an upset stomach or even an intestinal blockage. Check your yard before letting pets out to play.

Keep an eye on the grill

Pets can be opportunists, and those burgers and chicken drumsticks smell delicious to pets. Pets that get too close to the grill can become injured. And if pets eat leftovers, they may end up with digestive distress or even be poisoned by foods that are toxic to cats and dogs.

Pets need to be protected during summertime parties like Independence Day cele-







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Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

Have you noticed that almost everything you buy these days has an expiration date on it? I am sure that even potting soil has such a date. Now granted some things need a date, in case they go bad. Other things, not so much. Milk for example is one that you know is either good or bad. You don't need a date to tell you that your sweet milk now is sour and has chunks of semi-hard dairy something-or-other in it. Fruit is another. Leave an apple out for a few days too long, it gets all shriveled up and there is a cloud of fruit flies hovering over the apple that resembles cumulonimbus. Bananas have a built-in date code. They are bright green in the store, and when you get home and put them on the counter they are yellow. The next morning when you go to slice one up for

your cereal, they are black and

squishy. I have often wondered what a real fresh banana from a tree would taste like.

Now most prescription drugs come with a date to toss them, but don't flush them down the toilet. I would assume you would take the drugs as the doctor ordered them to be taken and not retained to self prescribe them again next year. Do aspirin expire? I am not sure. I do remember when I was young that regular everyday aspirin could be purchased in most gas stations or roadside restaurants in small metal containers for travel. Depending on how many rowdy kids were in the car on the trip, would be the gauge for how many of these aspirin you might need. I was the only kid on most of our road trips, so my father probably only took two, then he tossed those in the glove box. A few years later he might

need an aspirin or three and order me to dig out that little tin container again. Given the unknown time they spent in the original gas station, the months or years in the glove box of our hot car, I wonder if they had any medicinal value. It could be the placebo effect, because my father always seemed to feel relieved after taking those.

Speaking of medicines, there were certainly some that I wish had been discarded from the medicine cabinet at home when I was young. As a young kid I spent time outside, add to that mix a bicycle and a couple of friends, I was always scraping a knee or elbow, as were the other kids. We were told that we could get an infection and possibly lose a limb, so we needed to get our scrapes cleaned up. This meant using something like Bactine only with some acidic chemical that burned. However given the nature of our scrapes, most anything burned, including tap water. We didn't get a blister on our thumb from playing a video game, we usually jumped a ramp on our bike, then hit the pavement sliding along and knocking the skin from a fairly good sized spot on an arm or leg. It hurt and you wanted to cry, but you didn't because you weren't a sissy, and besides the other kids didn't cry either. I guess we were all too proud to let loose. The first aid treatment at the nearest house involved chemicals that may have been sitting idle for several years, then covered up with a Band Aid brand strip that was held on with industrial strength adhesive. A couple of days later, even after a bath or two, the bandage pulled yet another layer of skin off, all around your initial injury. By

this time it was usually a dark red, semi hard covering, which meant we didn't have the dreaded infection and probably saved the arm or leg, this time. I won't even get into the topic of Mercurochrome, no one really knew what it was, but every household had a bottle.

I need to draw this column to a close. My current jug of milk expires at midnight tonight and I want to go and see what happens. I have never seen milk expire, it may be exciting. If it is really thrilling then I will have a topic for next week's column. Can someone with buttermilk check their fridge and see if that carton of buttermilk has an expiration date, and if so explain why? Check here next week for milk curdling stories, if not then perhaps whatever excitement I had cutting my grass this weekend.

Live Like an Ostrich

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

I know I write for a newspaper, but I prefer my news consumption to be of the ostrich variety: head in the sand, happily focused on my own little world, ignoring the dangers and difficulties around me. Except, that's not exactly true, either. I do read the headlines. I pay attention to the important stuff. I've just made a conscious decision not to obsess over things I can't control. And lately, there's a lot going on in the world that I can't control.

Did you know ostriches don't actually bury their heads in the sand? That's a myth. They dig nests in the sand and lay their eggs there. And they use their beaks to gently turn the eggs, which gives the impression they're hiding. In reality, they're taking care of business.

With that in mind, I'm proud to compare myself to the ostrich. It's important to stay informed. I will always do what I can—small as

it may be—to make the world a better place for everyone. That does not involve losing my mind and sacrificing sleep over what's going on in Washington D.C. or Israel or Iran. I've come up with a

list of what to do instead.
Pray. James 5:16
tells us the prayers of the
righteous are powerful
and effective. When we
live to please God, He
listens to us. Our prayers
make a difference.

Love. It took me years (decades) of searching for my purpose in life before realizing it's actually pretty simple. Our purpose is to love. It's fun to use our unique gifts and abilities to show that love. The purpose for each of us, however, is the same. We're here to love.

Do good things. This supports number 2 on this list. Ephesians 2:10 says we were created to do good works that God prepared in advance for us. If you're wondering how you can live out your purpose of loving

others, this is the answer. Donate your time and money. Bake a cake for a shut-in. Mow your neighbor's lawn. Hold the door for someone. Send an encouraging card or letter.

Be content. According to 1 Timothy 6:6, godliness with contentment brings great wealth. This may or may not refer to our bank accounts. I think it means that if we stop worrying about all the stuff we don't have and simply thank God for all we do have, we'll realize we're all a lot richer than we think

than we think.

Live quietly. 1 Thessalonians 4:11 encourages us to "make it your ambition to lead a quiet life. You should mind your own business and work with your hands." Instead of freaking out about what the rest of the world is doing, I try to mind my business and pray (see #1 on this list).

I'm sure other things could be added, but this is a good starting point. In order to make a difference, I need to make my world smaller, make my love more intense, and trust God with the things outside my realm of influence. So today, I'll take care of my family, love the people in my

path, and carry on a constant conversation with God in my head, asking Him to do all the things I can't.

And that feels pretty significant.

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another,"

Romans 13:8.







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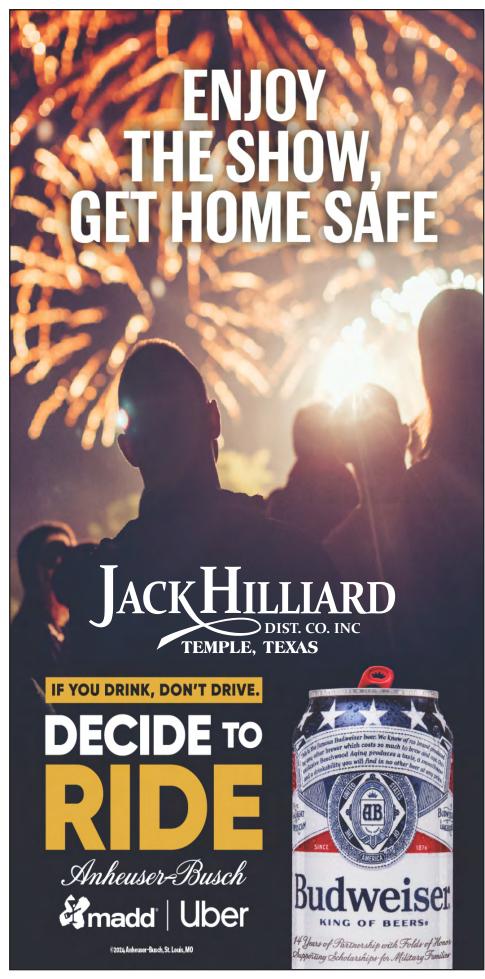


Did you know?

July 4th is a day when Americans celebrate their independence, but it's also a day to commemorate two men who played vital roles in procuring that independence. Both John Adams, the second President of the United States, and his successor Thomas Jefferson passed away on July 4, 1826. The two men had an interesting relationship that became increasingly complex as the nation they helped to found developed. According to History.com, Adams and Jefferson were confidentes in the 1780s. But as time wore on, each man developed a different view of what the United States gov-

ernment should be, creating a rift in their relationship that was only widened by the 1800 presidential election. The men ran against each other in that election, which is still considered one of the more contentious elections in American history. Jefferson ultimately claimed victory, a result so unnerving to Adams that he left Washington, D.C. prior to Jefferson's inauguration. The two men would ultimately reconcile, exchanging more than 150 letters before dying within hours of one another on Independence Day in 1826.









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Tryouts for the Lady Tigers volleyball team begin August 1

By Clay Whittington

The Belton Journal

Tryouts are rapidly approaching for the upcoming volleyball seasons.

University Interscholastic League rules allow teams to begin issuing equipment and conducting workouts on Aug. 1, and the Lady Tigers will use the date to begin their tryout process.

Incoming ninth-graders will be evaluated from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., and participants should arrive to check-in between 6:30 a.m. and 6:55 a.m.

Sophomores, juniors and seniors will follow from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Later in the day, all grade levels will return for a second two-hour session, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Then, all participants will return for a second day of

workouts Aug. 2 with sessions running from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Athletes should arrive at least 15 minutes before each session and should wear running or volleyball shoes, knee

pads, a T-shirt in school colors if possible, spandex and running shorts. They should also bring water. Additionally, all participants must have a current physical on file with the school and all necessary paper-

work submitted. The Lady Tigers will be hosting a player/parent meeting in advance of tryouts on July 31 at 5:30 p.m. inside Belton's gymnasium. Players and parents should both at-

For more information, contact Lady Tigers head coach Haleigh Johnson at Haleigh.Johnson@BISD.net.

Lake Belton will also be conducting tryouts around the same time, but specific information has not been released.

UIL rules permit scrimmages to begin Aug. 8, and the first day for regular-season matches is Aug. 11.

Former Tiger, Kegan Sherwood joins Ole Miss in the fall

The 6-foot, 2-inch freshman is listed as a safety on the Rebels' roster, but he excelled at Belton for his versatility on both sides of the ball.

As a senior for the Tigers, Sherwood was named the Texas High School Coaches Association Class 5A All-State Utility Player of the Year.

He finished the season ranked second on the team in

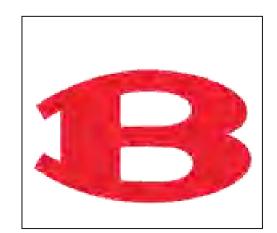
tackles with 81 to go along with a pair of interceptions and a fumble recovery for a touchdown, and he added 142 yards and four touchdowns rushing on offense. Additionally, Sherwood amassed 285 yards on kick re-

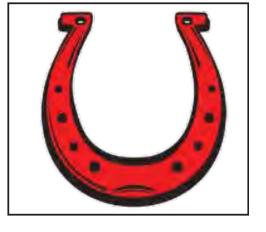
turns, blocked four field goals or extra points and blocked two punts. He was also named 10-5A, Division II All-District Utility

Player of the Year after helping Belton reach the playoffs for the fourth consecutive season.

Ole Miss posted an overall record of 10-3 last season, including a 52-20 victory versus Duke in the Gator Bowl.

The Rebels open their season Aug. 30 against visiting Georgia State.















Belton's 16-5A District Champions Cross Country team is preparing for another hopeful season

By: Aries Ramos

The Belton Journal

The Belton Tigers Cross Country program is back in motion this summer as athletes from all sports, including cross country, participate in the school-wide summer workout sessions.

With early-morning workouts scheduled throughout June and July, runners are laying the groundwork for what they hope will be another standout fall season.

Last year was one to remember for the Tigers and Lady Tigers. The Varsity Girls team made headlines by capturing the 16-5A District Championship, finishing with a dominant 40 points.

Leading the charge once again was senior Olivia Brillhart, who capped off a remarkable four-year run by qualifying for the UIL 5A State Championship meet for the fourth consecutive year. She placed 26th overall out of 148 runners with a time of 19:10, a fitting end to a stellar high school career.

On the boys' side, the Varsity team earned District Runner-Up honors and also advanced to the Region II

meet at Lynn Creek Park, hosted by the University of Texas at Arlington.

Their consistency throughout the season helped them earn postseason recognition and valuable experience for returning runners.

The junior varsity squads also made an impact, with the JV Girls claiming a first-place finish at district and the JV Boys earning fourth overall.

Across all levels, Belton's distance runners showcased growth, grit, and determination.

As summer workouts ramp up, the cross country team is taking full advantage of the high school training block from 7 to 9 a.m., part of Belton's summer strength and conditioning program for all athletes.

The focus for returners now shifts to building endurance, staying injury-free, and preparing mentally for another competitive season in the always-tough 5A classifi-

With a mix of returning talent and promising underclassmen, the Tigers and Lady Tigers are looking to carry last year's momentum into the 2025 season.

BISD Sports camps will continue to run through the month of July for most grade levels

By Clay Whittington

The Belton Journal

In approximately a month, students will be on the verge of returning to school and preparing to embark on the next step in their education.

For now, however, there is still plenty of fun to be had.

Belton and Lake Belton each have several summer camps remaining before students resume classes, starting with the Lady Broncos volleyball camp on Monday, July 7.

Like all other camps, attendees will be offered instruction from the team's varsity head coach and their staff through the use of games, drills and competitions along with providing both individual and group atten-

The three-day Lake Belton volleyball camp is open to all third

through sixth graders, but the schedule will be broken into two sessions. Third and fourth graders will attend from noon to 2:30 p.m. each day, while fifth and sixth graders follow from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Additionally, a second volleyball camp will be offered by the Lady Broncos to seventh, eighth and ninth graders starting July 14. Seventh graders will attend from noon to 2:30 p.m. with the remaining grade following from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

On July 15, Belton is offering a wrestling camp for any third through ninth graders, and it runs from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. each day.

The Lady Tigers soccer camp is also broken into segments. Second through sixth graders will attend in the mornings (8-11 a.m.) starting July 21, while seventh, eighth and ninth graders attend in the evenings (5-8

The final three summer camps will be offered in late July.

Belton will have a cheerleading camp for kindergarteners through sixth graders from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. starting July 23, prior to the final two camps beginning July 28 at Lake Bel-

The Lady Broncos softball camp takes place between 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. and is open to third through ninth graders.

The Broncos football camp runs at the same time and will be available to any kindergartener through ninth grader, but it will be split into sections based on age and ability.

The cost for each camp is \$60 per participant, and tickets can be purchased at BeltonTigers.com or Lake-BeltonAthletics.com.





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Lake Belton Broncos take a necessary summer break before gearing up again in August

By Clay Whittington

The Belton Journal

Brian Cope finds time to get away. He must be very selective about it, though.

In a little more than a month, football teams across the state will return to the field in order to begin practicing for the upcoming season.

For most athletes, however, there are still plenty of opportunities to enjoy activities away from the game, but the Broncos' head coach is not as fortunate.

"There are times when to (relax)," Cope said. "My wife and I always take a trip right after graduation, because all the facilities get shut down for a week. So, we just have to plan stuff like that accordingly.

"It is important to recharge in this business, but



Should you trust a 'finfluencer'?

Scot Hrbacek, CFP® Financial Advisor

In the age of social media, it's easy to find advice on just about everything — including how to manage your money.

Content creators known as "fin-fluencers" short for "financial influencers" — use platforms like TikTok, YouTube and Instagram. Some may have formal training or credentials. Many do

When you hear financial advice on social media, here are some warning signs:

Unrealistic "get-rich" promises: Claims like, "Turn \$500 into \$50,000 in a year," are unrealistic

and may indicate a scam. Pressure to act fast: Important financial decisions shouldn't be rushed.

Flashy displays of wealth. Images of luxury cars, watches or cash can be more about generating views, or making a profit, than offering sound advice.

Fin-fluencers can make financial topics more engaging. Younger investors or older investors with substantial savings sometimes like these platforms because they're easily accessible. But all investors should do their homework Take the time to verify, research and, when in doubt, seek advice from a professional.

centraltexas.sitmeanssit.com

This Article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor

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once we get back on July 7, I've already started working, and I'm ready to go. It is full throttle from there."

While the University Interscholastic League's rules prevent Class 5A teams like Lake Belton, which conducted spring training, from practicing until Aug. 11, the players are preparing.

In addition to spending several weeks integrating back into game mood during the spring, athletes have taken part in regular strength and conditioning sessions since classes have ended.

Athletes convene at the school's weight room to take part in approximately two hours of lifting and working on sport-specific skills.

Currently, there is a break in the program after almost a month of running, allowing for athletes to enjoy the holiday before resuming and completing the

The departure is deserved, according to Cope, after 527 middle and high school students showed up for the first day of strength and conditioning, also known as Elite Camp.

'We just had three outstanding weeks of Elite Camp," he said. "We've had the best turnout that we've ever had. So, I'm just really proud of the kids, their parents and this community for making sure they understand the importance of working out during the summer.

"We just want to make sure everyone also has that time to be away, because while the UIL is giving us a lot of extra hours to work with them, we have to make sure not to burn them out before August rolls around."

Furthermore, football players have also spent part of their spring and summer participating in 7-on-7

leagues and tournaments or lineman challenges.

At the annual state lineman challenge, the Broncos placed fourth in their division after excelling in strength and agility competitions, including the bench press, dumbbell stack, obstacle course and tire flip. Lake Belton won three events.

Undoubtedly, all the spring and summer activities are beneficial, but there is an ultimate purpose.

The Broncos have advanced to the playoffs in each of the past three seasons, but they have yet to advance beyond the opening round.

This year, Lake Belton intends to celebrate its first bi-district championship and perhaps hoist the program's inaugural district title along the way.

The trek toward the lofty goals begins Aug. 29, when the Broncos travel to College Station A&M Consolidated for their season opener.

Once again, the team will have only three games to prepare for the seven-game District 8-5A, Division I schedule, which begins Sept. 11 against visiting Killeen.

Regardless of how the season unfolds, though, Cope feels the current months are critical to any potential success.

"If we are going to be elite," he said, "we have to be able to work out in the summer, and we have to be able to communicate where we are in the process. It is still continuing, but we've already had an unbelievable

"I'm really proud of this senior class, and we just want to make sure we continue this all the way into the fall."

Council votes against purchase of new water truck

By David Stone The Belton Journal

Belton City Council delayed the purchase of a new 2,000-gallon water truck to serve as a highly visible blocker during highway accidents and a mobile water supply for the Belton Fire Department.

A vote to purchase the truck failed by a 1-5 margin. Those opposing the purchase of the new truck said they would like to get quotes on used trucks.

In a report to Council, Fire Chief Jon Fontenot said his department responds to a high volume of traffic accidents, and many calls are on high-speed roadways such as Interstates 14 and 35.

To improve first-responder safety, the department has researched vehicles that could aid in firefighting but also serve as a blocker truck during dangerous situations on highways. The truck under consideration would be covered in lights to make it highly visible to traffic.

Fontenot said a lack of space at Central Fire Station limits what can be housed there. The proposed Freightliner water truck meets those space constraints.

He also said Belton's highways and rural areas require dependable mobile water resources for effective fire suppression.

"Many parts of our jurisdiction do not have suf-

ficient hydrant coverage," Fontenot added in a report to City Council. "A 2,000-gallon water truck significantly enhances our water-supply capabilities during structure fires, grass fires and highway operations."

Multiple quotes for the project were evaluated and while other models may be less expensive upfront, they either lacked essential features, were not immediately available, or did not match the city's service and maintenance capabilities.

The cost of the truck would be \$153,354 plus out \$30,000 in equipment. Fontenot said the new truck would not require the employment of additional

Also Tuesday, Council conducted a work session on the Fiscal 2026 budget. Discussion included the following funds:

Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund

TIRZ Fund

Information Technology Fund **Building Maintenance Fund**

Belton Economic Development Corporation Fund Mike Rodgers, Belton's director of finance, said in a report to Council that as work continues on the upcoming annual budget, city staff will present revenues and expenditures anticipated for the funds. The budget must be filed at least 30 days prior to adoption. The

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Council fills Planning & Zoning Commission vacancies

By David Stone

The Belton Journal

Belton City Council filled two vacancies on the Belton Planning & Zoning Commission during Tuesday's meeting.

Council selected Brett Baggerly and Damon Gottschalk to the commission. Baggerly replaced David Jarratt, who did not seek reappointment for personal reasons. Gottschalk will fill Luke Potts unexpired term that ends May 28, 2026. Potts resigned after he was elected to City Council earlier this year.

Also Tuesday, Council approved a final plat for Saddle Creek Phase IV, which includes 7.59 acres at the intersection of West Avenue D and Sagebrush Drive.

According to Belton Senior Planner Tina Moore, the final plat would develop residential lots across two blocks. A designated drainage tract will be owned and maintained by the city. Also, an 8-inch water line and a 6-inch wastewater line will be extended from the previous phase of Saddle Creek to the new lots.

Following a public hearing, Council approved a zoning change from Commercial to Two-Family for about a third of an acre located at 395 W Ave J.

The property owner intends to build a duplex on the property. The area was zoned as Commercial Highway in 2002 because of its proximity to Interstates 14 and 25. Despite the zoning change, the neighborhood has remained predominantly residential, mostly single-family homes built before the 2002 rezoning.

Council held a public hearing, then approved a zoning appeal on 1.65 acres located at 121 Lake Road. The land was originally zoned for a restaurant, but now will be main on the property.

home to a BrakePlus automotive care business. BrakePlus specializes in minor auto repair.

City Council members also approved a zon-



About 1.26 acres, located at 1918 Auction Barn Road, was rezoned from agriculture to single family. Jeff Lackmeyer of UBET Investments recently purchased the property with the intent of subdividing a portion of the land for an office showroom. A residential home will re-

tion of convenience store on 0.36 acres located at 1309 W Second Ave. The parcel of land is currently vacant.

the

con-

struc-

Oscar Luquin plans construct the store consolidating this 45-foot-wide strip of land with the adjacent property to the west, which is already zoned as retail. A future subdivision plat is expected to combine the properties.

Council rezoned four areas to the Neighborhood Zone as defined the

Imagine Belton Plan. According to Bob van Til,

Belton's director of development services, the areas going into the "entirely residential" Neighborhood Zone include:

Area 1 - South of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, north of East Eighth and East Seventh avenues, and east of East Street.

Area 2 - East and west of Neil Street, west of IH 35, and south of East Sixth Av-

Area 3 - East and west of S. Pearl Street, between W. Avenue C and W. Avenue I.

Area 4 - South of Nolan Creek, west of Alexander Street, north of West Third Avenue and Greenway Street, and west of Sparks Street.

The Imagine Belton Plan was adopted in mid-2022. One of the key recommendations in the Plan was to create the Imagine Belton Standards that would implement and guide the development and redevelopment of the Plan area.

The Imagine Belton Standards are designed to implement the vision of the Imagine Belton Plan. The Imagine Belton Plan articulated a new paradigm for the Imagine Belton Area. This paradigm shifts the development objectives from the traditional suburban, low rise, low density, largely inefficient use of land to a more urban, higher density, higher profile, and less inefficient use of

Neighborhood Zone is one of five new zones created by the Imagine Belton Standards. It is used to preserve and promote housing types, such as a mix of single-family and two-family

Secretary of State selects ballot order for constitutional amendment election

Special to the Journal

Texas Secretary of State Jane Nelson drew the ballot order for the 17 proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution.

Texans will vote on these amendments as a part of the November 4 Election.

"Texas lawmakers have proposed 17 amendments to the state constitution, and now Texans will have the opportunity to weigh in on each amendment," said Secretary Nelson. "This is an opportunity to make your voice heard about the governing document of our state."

In order to be placed on the ballot, a proposed amendment must be a joint resolution approved by at least two-thirds of the Texas House and Senate.

Below is the ballot order as drawn.

Proposition 1 (SJR 59) "The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the permanent technical institution infrastructure fund and the available workforce education fund to support the capital needs of educational programs offered by the Texas State Technical College System."

"The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of a tax on the realized or unrealized capital gains of an individual, family, estate, or trust."

"The constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail under certain circumstances to persons accused of certain offenses punishable as a felony."

Proposition 4 (HJR 7) "The constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of the revenue derived from state sales and use taxes to the Texas water fund and to provide for the allocation and use of that revenue.

Proposition 5 (HJR 99) "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation tangible personal property consisting of animal feed held by the owner of the property for sale at retail."

Proposition 6 (HJR 4) "The constitutional amendment prohibiting the legislature from enacting a law imposing an occupation tax on certain entities that enter into transactions conveying securities or imposing a tax on certain securities transac-

Proposition 7 (HJR 133) "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the ment to prohibit the legislature from imposing death taxes applicable to a decedent's property or the transfer of an estate, inheritance, legacy, succession, or gift."

Proposition 9 (HJR 1) "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation a portion of the market value of tangible personal property a person owns that is held or used for

the production of income." Proposition 10 (SJR "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of the appraised value of an improvement to a residence homestead that is completely destroyed by a fire."

Proposition 11 (SJR 85) "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district of the market value of the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled."

Proposition 12 (SJR 27) "The constitutional amendment regarding the membership of the State Commisduct."

Proposition 13 (SJR 2) "The constitutional amendment to increase the amount of the exemption of residence homesteads from ad valorem taxation by a school district from \$100,000 to \$140,000."

Proposition 14 (SJR 3) "The constitutional amendment providing for the establishment of the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, establishing the Dementia Prevention and Research Fund to provide money for research on and prevention and treatment of dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and related disorders in this state, and transferring to that fund \$3 billion from state general revenue."

Proposition 15 (SJR 34) "The constitutional amendment affirming that parents are the primary decision makers for their children."

Proposition 16 (SJR 37)

"The constitutional amendment clarifying that a voter must be a United States citizen."

Proposition 17 (HJR 34) "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the amount of the market value of real property located in a county that borders the United Mexican States that arises from the installation or construction on the property of border security infrastructure and related improvements."

The last day to register for the November 4 Election is October 6. Early voting in person will be October 20-31. You can find information about the amendments and voting in Texas at www.VoteTexas.gov.

TO ALL INTERESTED **PERSONS AND PARTIES:**

Asphalt Inc., LLC, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for: Issuance of Permit 180235

This application would authorize modification of the Belton Asphalt Plant located at 2350 Taylor Valley Road, Belton, Bell County, Texas, 76513. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.



EDITORIAL

FISHINGREPORT Belton Lake: Stillhouse

FAIR. Water stained; 83 degrees; 3.58 feet below pool. Belton has climbed another 4.58 feet since last week after recent rain and releases from Lake Proctor. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is now releasing water at a rate of 1,100 CFS. Fishing for white bass has gotten tougher now that young-of-the-year shad are in abundance, and the water is stratifying as the thermocline develops. I observed that most of my success is coming in the first few hours of light in the morning and again in the last hour of light on either side of sunset. Covering ground by downrigging with a 3-armed umbrella rig equipped with #13 Pet Spoons and keeping a close eye on depth so as to keep the balls about 3' up off bottom was the key to finding scattered fish. The MAL Heavy with silver blade and chartreuse tail continued to produce well this week after locating fish by downrigging. It shows up remarkably well on forward-facing sonar and 2-D sonar. Drop it either to the bottom if fish are on bottom, or below the level of suspended fish, and crank it up at a steady cadence at least two cranks above the fish showing highest in the water column. If a chase occurs, keep cranking at that same steady cadence until the fish either catches it, or turns away. When a strike occurs, keep right on cranking without a hard hookset. The likelihood of topwater action increases as the water warms, and at least some light action is taking place on all but the windiest mornings and evenings. Be on the lookout for herons feeding repetitively over open water, then go in stealthily for a look so as not to spook the fish and push them off the surface. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service. Catfish are fair. Anglers should expect slower activity while catfish are spawning. Shallow water around timber with fresh shad or prepared bait can produce smaller blue catfish under 10 pounds. Flatheads catfish are fair on live bluegill around river mouths and log piles. Report by Brian Worley, B&S Catfishing.

GOOD. Water stained; 84 degrees; 1.30 feet below pool. Stillhouse rose another 0.78 feet since last week. The water is warming rapidly and the fish are suspending more and more each day. The two drivers for this are stratification of the water by temperature which will eventually lead to the creation of the thermocline by mid-June, and the increasing presence of young-of-the-year shad making their way into open water. When fish are suspended use 2-D sonar as the three-dimensional cone makes use of extends the echo signature of the fish into long arches which are larger and much more easily seen on a screen then the shorter "rice grain" signatures seen on side-imaging and down-imaging. Use a MAL Heavy with silver blade and chartreuse tail when the fish are aggressive, and downrigging with Pet Spoons is my backup plan when the fish are not aggressive. The MAL shows up remarkably well on forward-facing sonar and 2-D sonar. Drop it either to the bottom if fish are on bottom, or below the level of suspended fish, and crank it up at a steady cadence at least two cranks above the fish showing highest in the water column. If a chase occurs, keep cranking at that same steady cadence until the fish either catches it, or turns away. When a strike occurs, keep right on cranking without a hard hookset. On the downriggers, run balls just 1-2 feet above the shallowest fish showing on 2-D sonar. Mornings are best from 7:20-10:15 a.m. Topwater action on "schoolie" largemouth increased this past week but is far from peaking. Small shad imitating baits, preferably soft baits, cast quickly and accurately to a fresh "boil" will be much more likely to draw a strike. Minnow-shaped baits excel for this application. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service. Bass are schooling up on the main lake so be ready with some walking baits and other topwaters to catch quite a few that way. Otherwise flip and drag around any standing trees or look for piles of grass around. You usually cannot go wrong with a creature bait, fluke or worm dragging the grass in most places. Report by Bryan Cotter, Texas Hawgs.

Out of the many, one

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

is another Here birthday for our country, another chance for us to gather with family and friends, eat, have a day off (some of us) and maybe watch some fireworks. We drag out quotes from our Founding Fathers (FF) and play patriotic, inspirational music to commemorate the official signing of the Declaration of Independence, our country's "birthday."

Like most new babies, the FF probably were like most new parents: What in the world do we do with her now? How do we help her grow? How do we "do" things better than the places we came from? What does liberty and freedom mean?

Such as the right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

I note that we have the right to pursue happiness. Doesn't mean it is a guarantee. We make our own happiness. That's another column for an-

Many of the FF had opinions about that as they kept telling the British, "Um, you have no business governing us anymore." Tea was a big thing back then and nobody wanted to pay the additional tea tax. The FF had an issue with the fact that none of the colonists had a voice about that taxation. This was just one of the issue the FF had with Great Britain's rule. Hence, the Boston tea party. Those rabblerousers! (Side note I was just in Boston and no, their tea is not as good as Texas sweet tea.)

Back to the FF. They objected and claimed their independence over and over throughout the next years in words and eventually in battle until the British conceded.

To this very day, we still have people who have plenty of opinions on government. (Some we call keyboard warriors. Others, we call politicians.) Today's variety have nothing on the early politicians back then. We love to romanticize those who fought for independence, but they were just "regular" people like today. Just like ours today.

They were a varied group of farmers, businessmen, plantation owners, merchants. They fought with each other, carried on like party boys sometimes, and some of their escapades would have made great headlines. I wonder how some of their political careers would have fared in this age of social me-

It's said that Ben Franklin, for example, enjoyed walking around in the buff at home while creating his inventions. Thomas Jefferson had slaves and died broke. He and Alexander Hamilton couldn't stand each other. Jefferson and John Adams (who both died on July 4, 1826) also had a major falling out that lasted for years.

Once the Constitution had been framed and voted on, not everyone got what they wanted. fect heroes.

Alexander Hamilton wanted a lifetime term limit for the President. James Madison wanted to give the federal government the power to veto any state legislation. A number of the signers of the Declaration of Independence didn't want to ratify the Constitution.

Some of these things we aren't taught in school. I like to think that hopefully we've been taught one of the most important things about them.

These people learned how to compromise, at least to the extent that they could work together and get business done. They realized not everyone would get what they wanted and learned to make concessions.

E. pluribus Unum out of the many, one began on Independence Day, but it was and still is a work in progress. Maybe our powers that be now can take a few cues from these imper-

USA 101: Maine Coon Cats

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

org/wiki/Maine_Coon

All-American breed of fe- large size, coupled with countering a new person or Maine Coons can also be line that's named for one their thick, shaggy coat animal, it's rare for them quite clumsy, and so you of the nation's fifty states. and typically grey color- to remain that way. In- need to make sure they https://en.wikipedia. ation, is by some sources stead, once a Maine Coon reputed to have led people recognizes someone as a This giant among cats to mistake them for some companion, they'll usually - yes, adult males can be type of raccoon, hence start to warm up to them paws.

smarter as well.

Yes folks, there's an the state of Maine. Their quite aloof when first en- out. Keep in mind that moving for five minutes.

to a Maine Another thing that be surprised if they get survive. Your little housea bit finicky about food, hold fluffball still has that daily routine, and so being an indoor kitty it'll to know what "best" *love* to play, whether veterinarian. means; yes, not only are it's with the humans in with, or even motorized However, when it toys if they haven't figness. While they can be sure that play time wins you can keep up.

don't hurt themselves with their misadventures.

That being said, havas large as 18 pounds (8.2 the name. Also frequently and can in time become a ing a Maine Coon isn't all as large as 18 pounds (8.2 kilograms) and can be well over 3 feet (nearly 1 meter) from tip of the pose to ter) from tip of the nose to dence rate of polydactyly, have a rather large cuddle drink more than other cats. tip of the tale - is gener- in which they have one or buddy curling up on top Their thick fur needs to be ally believed to hail from more extra toes on their of you whenever you stop brushed regularly or they risk developing hairballs Coon, and they'll tell you Maine Coons tend to have if they try to groom themthat they regard them- an excess of is energy. In selves. And the breed does selves as American royal- nature, this served them have associated health conty. Indeed, they make it a well as the cold climates ditions, such as hip dysplapoint to carry themselves they hailed from meant sia (a condition wherein with a regal air, and don't they had to actively hunt to the hip joints didn't form properly), kidney issues, their daily routine, your energy, but by virtue of daily routine, your energy, but by virtue of have to be mindful of their forth. They want the best, need some sort of outlet. overall health and make they expect the best, and That translates into play sure they receive regular they're smart enough time. Yes, Maine Coons checkups from a certified

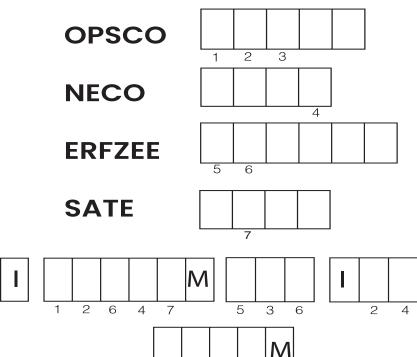
> Even with these issues, they larger than the aver- their lives, other animals however, Maine Coons can age cat, they're typically they're on good terms live for over 12 years if properly cared for and no comes to Maine Coons, ured out the gimmick yet. unforeseen factors emerge. something else is gener- If play time conflicts with That's 12 years of loving ally quite large as well: your planned activity, they companionship from your their capacity for kind- will find a way to make fluff baby. Just make sure





Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the words to reveal the sentence.



Answer: I scream for ice cream

Thursday, July 3, 2025





Local Activities & Events

CAC announces 2025 concert lineups

The Cultural Activities Center in Temple has announced lineups for its two premier music series, and visiting bands will include Los Lonely Boys, Asleep at the Wheel and the wildly popular Shinyribs. 2025 will usher in new music in both the Texas Music Series and the Central Texas Orchestral Society's Classical Music Series. Some old friends will be making return engagements in Temple, and many new performers also will be playing the CAC stage. For more information, please visit https://www. cacarts.org/events. Be on the lookout for the full 2025 Texas Music Series lineup in next weeks edition of the newspaper.

Here's a look at the 2025 Texas Music Series:

RUTHIE FOSTER JAZZ BAND — July 12

With five Grammy nominations to her name, Ruthie Foster stands as a testament to the power of authenticity and resilience in music. Her soulful melodies, heartfelt lyrics and an unwavering commitment to her art inspire audiences and fellow musicians as she continues to carve a path uniquely her own.

AN CLIBURN FINALIST CLAYTON STEPHENSON — Oct. 18

American pianist Clayton Stephenson's love for music is immediately apparent in his joyous charisma onstage, expressive power and natural ease at the instrument.

ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL - Nov. 8

Founded in 1970, Asleep at the Wheel has been part of the American roots music landscape for more than 50 years.

SHINYRIBS - Dec. 6

Shinyribs, a regular visitor to the CAC, defies genres as a melting pot of Texas blues, New Orleans funk, horn-driven Memphis soul, country twang, border music, big band swing and roots-rock. The 2025 CTOS Classic Music Series includes four big shows.

Belton's 4th of July Celebration and PRCA Rodeo - June 28 through July 5 Join us in celebrating patriotism, traditional family values, and small-town America at the Belton 4th of July Celebration! Music is an important part of our celebration with the Backyard Pnearty at Schoepf's Concert and Fireworks show being an annual favorite. Kicking off our weeklong celebration is the Downtown Street Party and Concert on June 28th! The Downtown Street Party is open to the public as a free non-ticketed event. Reserved VIP areas are available for sponsors. With an estimated 30,000+ people lining the streets, and a live televised broadcast reaching around the world, the 100-year tradition of the Belton 4th of July Celebration will include a 1 1/2 mile parade route running south on Main Street (FM317) from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor to the Bell County Courthouse, then east on Central Avenue, and north on Birdwell to the Belton Police Memorial. Following the parade, much of the crowd moves to the adjacent Liberty Park for the Festival on Nolan Creek with food and craft vendors, games, a petting zoo, static displays of military and first responder equipment, and live entertainment at the centrally located gazebo. Carnival rides and attractions fill Liberty Park located within a short walking distance on the Belton Hike and Bike Trail. The three-night PRCA Rodeo is held July 3-5 at the Cadence Bank Center, an indoor, air-conditioned facility with a capacity for 5,900 rodeo attendees. Cowboys from around the country descend on the only PRCA Rodeo in Texas during this holiday

weekend making it a must-see event. For more information visit beltonchamber.com.

Master Gardeners - July 8

Bell County Master Gardeners Association and Harker Heights Library & Activity Center are hosting Insects in the Home and Garden on July 8th, 6:00-7:30 PM at 400 Indian Trail, Harker Heights. Certified Master Gardener, Dave Slaughter will be presenting insects of the home and garden and a discussion of their characteristics and benefits or detriments. Photos of their life cycle and a conversation regarding tolerance vs. termination and methods of insect management. Class Limit: 50. To register for this class please see HarkerHeights.gov/Library.

Master Gardeners - July 10

The regular monthly Herb Study Group meeting will be held on Thursday, July 10 from 6-7:30 PM at the AgriLife Extension Grounds, Learning Center in Belton. This month's session will be a Round Table discussion or Oregano. As always, the group encourages sharing, so attendees are welcome to bring favorite herbs, bottles, or recipes to contribute to the creative fun. Class Limit 50. Please RSVP to BCMGAspeakers@gmail.com.

Summer Reading Program - July 19 & 26, Aug 2 & 9

Join the Mary Ruth Briggs Library Summer Reading Program this Summer as we celebrate "Amazing Science". We will have programs with speakers on Weather, Rocks and Minerals, Plant Propagation and Forensics. Games, crafts, storytime and free backpacks with school supplies! This program is for ages pre-K through 5th grade. You can sign up for free at the Morgan's Point Resort website: morganspointresorttx.com or paper applications available at MPR City Hall located at 8 Morgan's Point Blvd, Morgan's Point Resort Texas. The dates are 4 Saturdays: July 19th and 26th and August 2nd and 9th from 10:00 AM until noon. Location is at the Mary Ruth Briggs Library, 8 Morgan's Point Blvd in Morgan's Point Resort. We look forward to seeing you!

Master Gardeners - July 10

9:00 am to Noon, AgriLife Extension Grounds, Kitchen Classroom in Belton. Join us for a flavorful morning of hands-on learning as we explore the power of herbs in the kitchen! We will start with a presentation on the Herbs we will be cooking with. Learn to prepare easy and delicious dishes using the herbs from your Garden. This hands-on workshop is a great opportunity to learn simple ways to add fresh flavor to your meals while having fun in the kitchen. Hosted by Bell County Master Gardeners Association's Herb Study Interest Group. Limited to 25 participants. Please RSVP to BCM-GAspeakers@gmail.com. Pre-registration is required. All ingredients and supplies will be provided. Donations accepted. HEB Better Living is our Sponsor.

Marine Corp League will meet the third Tuesday of each mont at VFW 3859. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. and metting will begin at 7:00 p.m. 201 VFW Dr, Harker heights, Tx 76548. Email commandant@mcl1249tx.comfor more inforantion.

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will meet both on TUESDAY, July 8th and July 22rd at 6:30pm at the Temple VA Hospital. Use the entrance on the Valet parking side of the hospital and take the elevator to the 5th floor -Conference Room 5G31. Both care-givers, supporters and those suffering from mental illness are welcome to join us for mutual support and sharing of information . For more information, call 254-771-3638.

Aspen Hospice and Palliative Care Volunteers Needed Listed here are many ways you can help make a difference for our hospice patients. You can provide companionship, listen to music, read, reminisce, play games, cards, checkers, paint nails, apply makeup, curl hair or take them on walks. Please visit aspenhealthcare.net or call 512-856-5668 for more information.

Young's Daughters Funeral Home Dementia/Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group occurs weekly on Fridays from 6-7 p.m. This group allows your loved ones to join. Loved ones will be doing activities while the group of caregivers are joining together to better understand and learn tips and tricks for daily life. Young's Daughters Funeral and Bereavement Center is located at 4235 East Hwy 190 in Temple.

Bell County Historical Commission holds their meetings on the fourth Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the historical Bell County Court House, 101 E. Central Ave in Belton. Join us in our vision of preserving and promoting Bell County's rich historical heritage for current and future generations. We are dedicated to initiating and conducting programs that preserve and celebrate the county's historic cultural resources in alignment with state laws governing historical preservation in Texas. Our community resources consist of a research room, book repository, cemetery information, historical markers and monument records. Our services include information on historic preservation, educational programming, history community outreach and partnerships. We welcome you to come join other history minded folks and get involved by serving on one of our committees that consist of preservation, cemetery, markers and education. To volunteer or for more information please visit historicalcommission@bellcounty. texas.gov, call 254-933-5917 or go by their office located in the historic Bell County Courthouse, 101 E. Central Ave., RM 117.

Pistons on the Creek will meet every third Friday from 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Come down to Nolan Creek and show off your rides. From classic to modern, muscle, rat rod, exotic, all automotive enthusiasts are welcome. Support our awesome downtown businesses and restaurants surrounded by live music, food, drinks and a great atmosphere.

Bell Fine Arts Visitors welcome Wednesday's from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 306 E 5th Ave in Belton. Majong games are available every Monday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Come join the fun and meet new folks. For more information text Jeanne at 409-313-0611.

Local chapter of the Crochet Guild of America meets from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Lena Armstrong Public Library, 301 E. First St., in Belton. The group is open to anyone interested in crochet. All skill levels are welcome. For information email Betty Reichert at bettyreichert@yahoo.com or Kathy Bement at katshookand needle@gmail.com. Anyone interested in joining the local chapter of the Crochet Guild of America will also need to join the National Crochet Guild of America. Visit www. crochet.org for details.

Bell County Texas Democratic Women holds their monthly meeting on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Belton AgriLife Center, 1605 N Main in Belton. Join us to hear from local and state candidates and about important issues and events. This is open to the public.

Leadership Belton is an excellent source for learning leadership skills. This 10-month program focuses on three key elements: community awareness training, leadership training, and team building. Do you have someone ready to take the next step to become a leader? If so, Leadership Belton is here to make that difference. For more information on how to participate, contact the chamber at 254-939-3551 or e-mail at

Engage & Empower with BISD Belton ISD believes the learning experiences of our students are enhanced through the engagement of our community. We invite parents and community members to get involved in our schools. Register as a volunteer with our new volunteer and partnership system at the following link: https://beltonisd.ezcommunicator.net/edu/beltonisd/login_form.aspx?app=0.

Temple-Belton Ladies Lion Club Meeting Second and Fourth Monday of every month at 6:30 pm at the Belton V.F.W., 2311 S. Pearl St., Belton.

Community Information

TAKE ME HOME PROGRAM The Belton Police Department is adopting the Take Me Home Program, aimed at helping individuals who need special assistance to return safely home after getting lost. The program is a database with photos and personal information to help police officers find someone who is lost or wandered away from home. Take Me Home is designed for individuals who may need additional aid including those with Dementia, Autism or specific mental health needs. It's free to register someone and the data is kept confidential to first responders. You can sign up a loved one here: www.beltontexas.gov/takemehome. Read more about the program here: https://www.beltontexas.gov/news_detail_T11_R1166.php.

Dial 988 for Mental Health Emergencies To help those contemplating suicide, press option 1 for assistance with military/veteran population.

Text-to-911 for speech/ hearing impaired, those unable to call or speak due to home invasion, abduction or domestic violence or physically incapable. Providing location, city name and nature of the emergency in the first message is imperative. For further education on this service, don't hesitate to call 254-933-5500.

Citizens Helping in Police Service (CHIPS)

are extra eyes and ears while in areas where large groups may gather. Contact the Belton Police Dept. to join.

Belton Citizens Police Academy meets Thursday nights to enhance police and community partnerships. Apply online to be a part of this exciting program.

Slam the Scam Throughout the year, we give you the tools to recognize scams and stop scammers from stealing your money and personal information. Share the information with your loved ones & Slam the Scam! Visit ssa.gov/scam for tips.

Dementia/Alzheimers Support Group- Young's Daughters Funeral Home & Bereavement Center, 4235 E. US HWY 190 in Temple. Fridays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Join us for activities while caregivers discuss and help each other during this difficult time. Call Sabrina at 254-401-1302



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THE BELTON JOURNAL

EMPLOYMENT

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND

INTENT TO OBTAIN AIR PERMIT (NORI)
AIR QUALITY PERMIT NUMBER 180235
APPLICATION Asphalt Inc., LLC, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for: Issuance of Permit 180235
This application would authorize modification of the Belton Asphalt Plant located at 2350 Taylor Valley Road, Belton, Bell County, Texas, 76513.
AVISO DE IDIOMA ALTERNATIVO. El aviso de idioma alternativo en espanol está disponible

https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/news-ourcereview/airpermits-pendingpermit-apps. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?mark er=-97.43407,31.05234 & level=13. The facility will emit the following contaminants: carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, organic compounds, particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less and sulfur dioxide.

This application was submitted to the TCEQ on May 21, 2025. The application will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, the TCEQ Waco regional office, and the Lena Armstrong Public Library, 301 East 1st Street, Belton, Bell County, Texas, 76513 beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Waco regional office of the TCEQ. The application, including any updates, is available electronically at the following webpage: https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/airpermit-applications-notices

The executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application.

PUBLIC COMMENT. You may submit public comments to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application and the executive director will prepare a response to those comments.

PUBLIC MEETING. You may request a public meeting to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or ask questions about the application. A public meeting about the application will be held if requested by an interested person and the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing. After technical review of the application is com-

After technical review of the application is complete, the executive director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. If a draft Air Quality Permit is prepared, a Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision is required and it will then be published and mailed to those who made comments, submitted hearing requests or are on the mailing list for this application and will contain the final deadline for submitting public comments.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE **HEARING You may request a contested** case hearing if you are a person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, and daytime phone number; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing"; (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility; and (7) a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period. If the request

LEGALS

is made by a group or an association, one or more members who have standing to request a hearing must be identified by name and physical address. The interests the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns.

The deadline to submit a request for a contested case hearing is 30 days after newspaper notice is published. If a request is timely filed, the deadline for requesting a contested case hearing will be extended to 30 days after the mailing of the response to comments.

If a hearing request is timely filed, following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for contested case hearing to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material air quality concerns submitted during the comment period. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.

MAILING LIST. In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list to receive future public notices for this specific application by sending a written request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND

INFORMATION. All public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/ pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040. You can also view our website for public participation opportunities at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/participation. Further information may also be obtained from Asphalt Inc., LLC, 11675 Jollyville Road, Suite 150, Austin, Texas 78759-4108 or by calling Mrs. Melissa Fitts, Senior Vice President, Westward Environmental, Inc., at (830) 249-8284, Notice Issuance Date: June 10, 2025

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION - CIVIL CAUSE NO. 25DCV353777

To THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF MANUEL E. LOPEZ, Deceased Greetings:

07.03PD

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the original petition at or before 10 o'clock AM of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this Citation, the same being Monday, at or before 10 o'clock AM, before the Honorable 169th Judicial District Court, Bell County, Texas to be held at the Bell County District Courts Building in Belton, Texas. Said original petition was filed in said court on May 09, 2025

The file number of said suit being No. 25DCV353777. The names of the parties in said suit are:

Deceased FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION VS. THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF MANUEL E. LOPEZ,

The nature of said suit being substantially as follows, to wit:

This proceeding concerns the foreclosure of a lien on the following real property and improvements commonly known as 402 Canoe Dr., Harker Heights, TX 76548, and more particularly described as LOT TWO (2), BLOCK TWO (2), SKIPCHA MOUNTAIN ESTATES, PHASE EIGHTEEN, HARKER HEIGHTS, BELL COUNTY, TEXAS, AS PER PLAT OF RECORD IN CABINET D, SLIDE 5-B, PLAT RECORDS OF BELL COUNTY, TEXAS.

This was issued at the request of attorney:

LEGALS

PETER K. KNAPP MILLER GEORGE & SUGGS, 6080 TENNYSON PKWYSTE 100, Plano TX 75024.

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on Monday next following the expiration of forty-two days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office in Belton, Texas, on June 03, 2025.

Joanna Staton District Clerk Bell County, Texas 1201 Huey Road P.O. Box 909 Belton, Texas 76513

By: M. Cortez, Deputy Clerk 06.12,06.19, 06.26, 07.03



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THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION - CIVIL CAUSE NO. 25DCV353776

To THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF JAMES D. TUCK, Deceased

Greetings:

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the original petition at or before 10 o'clock AM of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this Citation, the same being Monday, at or before 10 o'clock AM, before the Honorable 169th Judicial District Court, Bell County, Texas to be held at the Bell County District Courts Building in Belton, Texas. Said original petition was filed in said court on May 09, 2025.

The file number of said suit being No. 25DCV353776. The names of the parties in said suit are:

CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC VS. STEPHANO TUCK, XAVIER TUCK, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF JAMES D. TUCK, Deceased

The nature of said suit being substantially as follows, to wit:

This proceeding concerns the foreclosure of a lien on the following real property and improvements commonly known as 4305 Hank Drive, Killeen, TX 76549, and more particularly described as LOT TWENTY-FOUR (24), IN BLOCK SEVEN (7), OF CONDER VALLEY PHASE FOUR, IN THE CITY OF KILLEEN, BELL COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OF RECORD IN CABINET C, SLIDE 368-B, C & D, PLAT RECORDS OF BELL COUNTY, TEXAS.

This was issued at the request of attorney: BRADLEY CONWAY MILLER GEORGE & SUGGS PLLC 6080 TENNYSON PKWY STE 100 Plano TX 75024.

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on Monday next following the expiration of forty-two days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office in Belton, Texas, on June 03, 2025.

Joanna Staton District Clerk Bell County, Texas 1201 Huey Road P.O. Box 909 Belton, Texas 76513 By: M Cortez Deputy Clerk 06.12,06.19,06.26,07.03

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION - CIVIL CAUSE NO. 25DCV353315

To THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF AMY M. SUMMERS, Deceased

Greetings:

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the original petition at or before 10 o'clock AM of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this Citation, the same being Monday, at or before 10 o'clock AM, before the Honorable 146th Judicial District Court, Bell County, Texas to be held at the Bell County District Courts Building in Belton, Texas. Said original petition was filed in said court on April 21, 2025.

The file number of said suit being No. 25DCV353315. The names of the parties in said suit are:

TH MSR HOLDINGS, LLC VS. DEBORAH RICHEY,SARGENT RICHEY,THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF AMY M. SUMMERS, Deceased

The nature of said suit being substantially as follows, to wit:

This proceeding concerns the foreclosure of a lien on the following real property and improvements commonly known as 3554 Centennial Dr., Belton, TX 76513, and more particularly described as Being Lot 6, of Centennial Subdivision, Section Two, an Addition to the City of Belton, Bell County, Texas, according to the Plat of record In Cabinet A, Slide 3-C, of the Plat Records of Bell County, Texas.

This was issued at the request of attorney: PETER K. KNAPP MILLER GEORGE & SUGGS 6080 TENNYSON PKWYSTE 100 PLANO TX 75024.

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on Monday next following the expiration of forty-

LEGALS

two days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said

Court at office in Belton, Texas, on June 03, 2025.

Joanna Staton District Clerk Bell County, Texas, 1201 Huey Road, P.O. Box 909, Belton, Texas 76513

By: M Cortez Deputy Clerk 06.12,06.19,06.26,07.03

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CASE NUMBER 25CPB00410

To: OTHER LIVING RELATIVES MARIA RODRIGUEZ, Applicant, on June 26, 2025, filed an application for appointment of permanent guardian of the person and confirmation of administrator of the community of estate in a proceeding styled:, INCAPACITATED, and bearing the number 25CPB00410 in the County Court of Bell County, Texas.

The court will hear the aforesaid Application after the expiration of ten days, exclusive of the day of publication, from the date this citation is published which will be July 03, 2025 in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it.

Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513

The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: MARY LINDLEY-WILEY, 100 W CENTEX EXPWY STE 302, HARKER HEIGHTS TX 76548

The officer serving this Citation shall, in compliance with the Law, serve it by publication once in a newspaper of the general circulation in this, the County in which the decedent last resided as required by Section 202.052 of the Texas Estate Code, for not less than ten days before the return day hereof, exclusive of the day of publication, and the date of publication said newspaper bears shall be the day of publication.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on June 27, 2025.

Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513

By: Anna M. Morse Deputy 07.03

CV 2 5 0 1 1 39 SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

Christopher McIntyre; Brian Le Fuel and Catrice Jacla as co-executors of the Pierre Henri LeFuel aka Peirre H. LeFuel aka Pierre LeFuel. Estate and all persons or entities claiming any equitable

right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the property described in the complaint aderse to plaintiff's title thereto named herein as

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): Veena Menda NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a

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nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifomia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. ¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte. ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es):

HUMBOLDT COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, 825 Fifth Street, Eureka, CA 95501 CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): CV 2 5 0 1 1 39

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Eric V. Kirk 176903 STOKES, HAMER, KIRK & FIRPO LLP 381 BAYSIDE ROAD, SUITE A (707) 822-1771 ARCATA, CALIFORNIA 95521 DATE: (Fecha) MAY 2 9 2025 Clerk, by (Secretario) MEARA HATTAN JENNIFER BH, DEPUTY 07.03,07.10,07.17,07.24

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION – CIVIL CAUSE NO. 25DCV353878

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF JOHN HOLLEY

Greetings You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the ORIGINAL PETITION at or before 10 o'clock AM of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this Citation, the same being Monday, at or before 10 o'clock AM, before the Honorable 169th Judicial District Court, Bell County, Texas to be held at the Bell County District Courts Building in Belton, Texas. Said ORIGINAL PETITION was filed in said court on May 16, 2025. The file number of said suit being No. 25DCV353878.

The names of the parties in said suit are: FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION VS. WANDA LOREA MCDUFFIE,RHONDA GAIL JOURDEN,THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF JOHN HOLLEY, DECEASED The nature of said suit being substantially as follows, to wit: This proceeding concerns the foreclosure of a lien on the following real property and improvements commonly known as 1907 Silver Spur, Belton, TX 76513, and more particularly described as LOT FIFTEEN A (15A), IN BLOCK ONE (1), IN REPLAT OF LOTS 10-16, BLOCK 1, DAWSON RANCH II, SECTION III, IN THE CITY OF BELTON, BELL COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OF

LEGALS

RECORD IN CABINET D, SLIDE 391-D, PLAT RECORDS OF BELL COUNTY, TEXAS. This was issued at the request of attorney: PETER K. KNAPP MILLER GEORGE & SUGGS 6080 TENNYSON PKWYSTE 100 PLANO TX 75024. NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on Monday next following the expiration of forty two days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org. Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office in Belton, Texas, on June 26, 2025. Joanna Staton District Clerk Bell County, Texas, 1201 Huey Road, P.O. Box 909, Belton, Texas 76513 By: M. Cortez Deputy Clerk 07.03,07.10,07.17,07.24

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CASE NUMBER 25CPB00313

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS

ROBERTO DUPERON, Applicant, on June 26, 2025, filed a first amended application for dependent administration and letters of administration and application to determine heirship in a proceeding styled: ANTHONY ISMAEL DUPERON LAHOZ, Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00313 in the County Court of Bell County,

The court will hear the aforesaid Application after the expiration of ten days, exclusive of the day of publication, from the date this citation is published which will be July 03, 2025, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest of answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it.

Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas

The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: DAN CORBIN, CORBIN STAPLER & CLAPPER PC, 603 N 8TH, KILLEEN TX 76541 The officer serving this Citation shall, in compliance with the Law, serve it by publication once in a newspaper of the general circulation in this, the County in which the decedent last resided as required by Section 202.052 of the Texas Estate Code, for not less than ten days before the return day hereof, exclusive of the day of publication, and the date of publication said newspaper bears shall be the day of publication.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on June 26, 2025.

Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513

By: Sophia Nieto Deputy 07.03

CAUSE NUMBER 25CPB00329

ESTATE OF BARBARA JOYCE SHROYER DECEASED IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 1 BELL COUNTY, TEXAS NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of Barbara Joyce

LEGALS

Shroyer, were issued on June 12th, 2025 in Cause No. 25CPB00329 in the County Court At Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: Sonja D. Havens, Independent Executrix.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 24th Day of June 2025 Respectfully Submitted:

Lane Heginbotham HARRIS LAW OFFICE, 425 North Eighth Street, Killeen, Texas 76541, Phone (254) 526-0108, Fax (254) 526-7141, Lane Heginbotham, State Bar No.: 24000323, lane@ centexlawyers.net 07.03

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Dependent Administration for the Estate of John Alfred Arman, Jr., Deceased, were issued on June 9, 2025, in Cause No. 24CPB00739, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1, Bell County, Texas, to: Joeannie Luna, Dependent Administrator.

All persons having claims against this Estate are hereby required to present them to the undersigned at the following address within the time prescribed by law: c/o Garza Legal Group, PLLC, 11300 N. Central Expressway, Suite 530, Dallas, Texas 75243

DATED this 30 day of June, 2025. GARZA LEGAL GROUP, PLLC, Joe Garza Attorney for the Estate, 11300 N. Central Expressway, Suite 530, Dallas, Texas 75243,

(214) 373-3300, Fax (469) 436-3892 07.03

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION **CASE NUMBER 24CPB00810**

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS

Arvita Hall, Applicant, on December 19, 2024, filed an Application to Determine Heirship and for Letters of Administration in a proceeding styled: ARVIE FAIRCHILD, JR, Deceased, and bearing the number 24CPB00810 in the County Court of Bell County, Texas.

The court will hear the aforesaid Application after the expiration of ten days, exclusive of the day of publication, from the date this citation is published which will be July 03, 2025, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it.

Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513.

The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: HEATHER TESSMER; 7550 IH-10 WEST, STE 1201, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78229

The officer serving this Citation shall, in compliance with the Law, serve it by publication once in a newspaper of the general circulation in this, the County in which the decedent last resided as required by Section 202.052 of the Texas Estate Code, for not less than ten days before the return day hereof, exclusive of the day of publication, and the date of publication said newspaper bears shall be the day of publication.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on June 25, 2025.

LEGALS

Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513

By Lillian Phillips Deputy 07.03

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CASE NUMBER 25CPB00405

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS

ROCHELLE JUANITA GONZALES, Applicant, on June 25, 2025, filed an Application for Independent Administration and Letters of Administration and Application to Determine Heirship in a proceeding styled: DELIA RENEE GONZALES, Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00405 in the County Court of Bell County,

The court will hear the aforesaid Application after the expiration of ten days, exclusive of the day of publication, from the date this citation is published which will be July 03, 2025 in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it.

Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas

The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: MARY LINDLEY-WILEY, 100 W CENTEX EXPWY STE 302, HARKER HEIGHTS TX 76548

The officer serving this Citation shall, in compliance with the Law, serve it by publication once in a newspaper of the general circulation in this, the County in which the decedent last resided as required by Section 202.052 of the Texas Estate Code, for not less than ten days before the return day hereof, exclusive of the day of publication, and the date of publication said newspaper bears shall be the day of publication.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on June 25, 2025.

Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX, 76513

By: Lillian Phillips Deputy 07.03

NOTICE OF STATUTORY LIEN FORECLOSURE SALE

2004 TRACKER PARTY BARGE, TX NUMBER 4177KD DATE OF SALE JULY 7, 2025 AT 8:00 A.M. AT 603 N. 8TH ST., KILLEEN, TX 76541. THE HIGHEST BID WILL BE ACCEPTED AND MUST BE PAID IN CASH. 07.03

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION-PARENT **AND CHILD**

To: Marcos Tovar-Coche, any Unknown Father and All Whom It May Concern, Respondents, in the hereinafter-styled and -numbered cause: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. The Original Petition of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Petitioner, was filed in the 146th Judicial District Court of Bell County, Texas, on March 18, 2025, against Priscilla Zuniga and Marcos Tovar-Coche,



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Respondent(s), numbered 25DFAM352505, and entitled "In the Interest of JULIAN TOVAR-ZUNIGA, minor child." The suit requests to terminate the parent-child relationships and/or to appoint a managing conservator of the child. The date and place of birth of the child who is the subject of the suit is: JULIAN TOVAR-ZUNIGA, DOB: February 13, 2024, Place of birth: Texas The court has authority in this suit to render an order in the child's interest that will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to **the** child's adoption.

The name and address of the attorney for plaintiff is Harold Hardy II, Bell County Attorney's Office, P.O. Box 1127, Belton, TX 76513 Issued and given under my hand and seal of the Court at Belton, Texas, this the 24th day of June, 2025

Joanna Staton, District Clerk of Bell County, Texas, 1201 Huey Road, P.O. Box 909, Belton, TX 76513

By: C. Rodriguez, Deputy 07.03

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CASE NUMBER 25CPB00395

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS

YASUKO MELROSE, Applicant, on June 23, 2025, filed an Application for Independent Administration and Letters of Administration and Application to Determine Heirship in a proceeding styled: JOSE HUGO ZAPATA, Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00395 in the County Court of Bell County, Texas.

The court will hear the aforesaid Application after the expiration of ten days, exclusive of the day of publication, from the date this citation is published which will be July 03, 2025 in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas. All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it.

Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513. The name and address of the attorney for applicant LEGALS

is: ASHLEY S CLAPPER , CORBIN, STAPLER & CLAPPER PC, 603 N 8TH ST, KILLEEN TX 76541

The officer serving this Citation shall, in compliance with the Law, serve it by publication once in a newspaper of the general circulation in this, the County in which the decedent last resided as required by Section 202.052 of the Texas Estate Code, for not less than ten days before the return day hereof, exclusive of the day of publication, and the date of publication said newspaper bears shall be the day of publication.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on June 24, 2025.

Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513

By: Lillian Phillips Deputy 07.03

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CASE NUMBER 25CPB00404

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS

RAFAEL VIRUET, JR, Applicant, on June 24, 2025, filed an Application to Determine Heirship and for Letters of Independent Administration - Intestate in a proceeding styled: ANGELINA VIRUET, Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00404 in the County Court of Bell County, Texas.

The court will hear the aforesaid Application after the expiration of ten days, exclusive of the day of publication, from the date this citation is published which will be July 03, 2025, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it. Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513.

The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: MARCUS BEAUDIN ,2109 S CLEAR CREEK RD, KILLEEN TX 76549

The officer serving this Citation shall, in compliance with the Law, serve it by publication once in a newspaper of the general circulation in this, the County in which the decedent last resided as required by Section 202.052 of the Texas Estate Code, for not less than ten days before the return day hereof,

LEGALS

exclusive of the day of publication, and the date of publication said newspaper bears shall be the day of publication.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on June 25, 2025.

Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas ,PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513

By: Lillian Phillips Deputy 07.03

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CASE NUMBER 25CPB00394

JACKEE L. BALES, Applicant, on June 23,

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS

2025, filed an Application to Determine Heirship and for Letters of Independent Administration in a proceeding styled: MARY ALICE BIDDLE, Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00394 in the County Court of Bell County, Texas. The court will hear the aforesaid Application after the expiration of ten days, exclusive of the day of publication, from the date this citation is published which will be July 03, 2025, in the County Court

which will be July 03, 2025, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas. All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it.

Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513. The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: JOHN ERIC STOEBNER ,2106 BIRD CREEK DRIVE, TEMPLE TX 76502

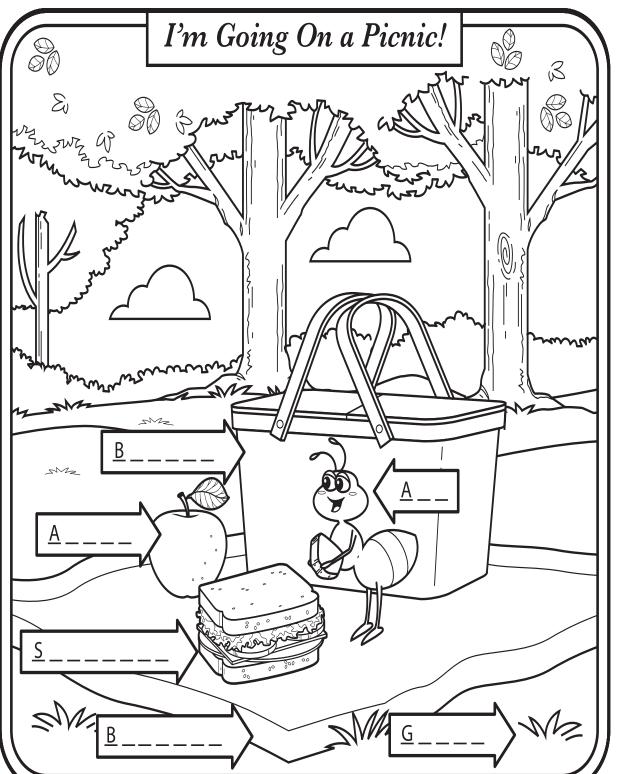
The officer serving this Citation shall, in compliance with the Law, serve it by publication once in a newspaper of the general circulation in this, the County in which the decedent last resided as required by Section 202.052 of the Texas Estate Code, for not less than ten days before the return day hereof, exclusive of the day of publication, and the date of publication said newspaper bears shall be the day of publication.

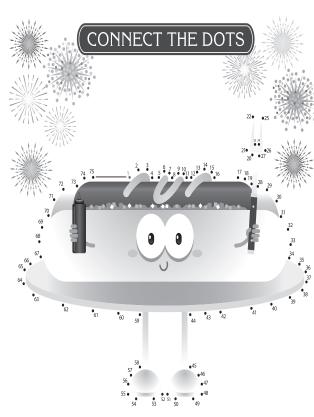
Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on June 24, 2025.

Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513

By: Lillian Phillips Deputy 07.03

HAPPYJULY 4TH







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Belton First Assembly of God 500 S. IH-35 ~ 254.933.2803

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Christ the King Catholic Church 310 E. 24th Ave. ~ 254.939.0806

Christian Tabernacle Church Apostolic UPC 1010 S. Wall St. $\sim 254.939.3464$

Cornerstone Community Church 5081 Dog Ridge Rd ~ 254.721.8250

Crossroads Church $500 \; South \; I\text{-}35 \sim 254.939.2122$

Dominion Life Chapel

105 Green Briar St. \sim 254.563.0472

Elm Grove Baptist Church 6388 Elm Grove Rd. ~ 254.933.8127

Family Gospel Church 2210 Holland Rd. ~ 254.721.0707

Fellowship Baptist Church

2025 Morgan's Point Rd \sim 254.780.2388

First Baptist Church Belton 506 N. Main St. ~ 254.933.3391 First Christian Church of Belton

 $306 E. Fifth Ave. \sim 254.654.5096$

First Mexican Baptist Church 703 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.6900

First Presbyterian Church of Belton 2500 Church Street ~ 254.939.2115

First United Methodist Church

205 E. 3rd Ave. ~ 254.939.5703

Free Pentecostal Church of Jesus 1111 Cacti Lane ~ 254.933.8201

Freedom Bible Fellowship $3087 \text{ W. Ave. D} \sim 254.933-3310$

Holy Temple of Our Lord Jesus Christ

of the Apostolic Faith 519 S. Pearl St. ~ 254.613.4591

Hope Community Church 507 Mitchell St. ~ 254.933.8222

Hope Tabernacle

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Lutheran Church 1215 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.0824

Keys Valley Baptist Church 4393 W. US Hwy. 190 ~ 254.939.1650

Lakeview Baptist Church 7717 N Hwy. $317 \sim 254.780.1884$

Liberty Church 302 E. Central Ave. ~ 254.933.7107

Liberty in Christ Church 2520 N. Main ~ 254.939.3337

Miller Heights Baptist Church

1400 S. Wall St. $\sim 254.939.1835$ Ministerios Vida

2020 S. IH-35 \sim 254.624.8015 Mt. Zion United Methodist Church 218 Alexander St. ~ 254.939.5621

New Life Fellowship $706 \text{ E. 4th.} \sim 254.939.8011$

Nolan Valley Baptist Church

13206 W. FM 93~ 254.721.5998

Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ 117 N. Birdwell St. ~ 254,939.0822

Redeemer Reformed Baptist Church 2378 FM 1670 ~ 818.519.9855

Temple Vision de lo Alto 4357 Orchard Hill ~ 254.563.1231

Trinity Full Gospel 810 East 2nd Ave. \sim 254.939.7673

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of

Bell County 1726 Morgan's Point Rd. $\sim 254.778.8034$

 $\sim TEMPLE \sim$

Christ Episcopal Church and School 300 N. Main St. ~ 254.773.1657

Christian Life Church 4343 West FM 93 ~ 254.939.2626 **Covenant Lutheran Church** 4202 Hickory Rd. ~ 254.733.7718

Eighth Street Baptist Church 215 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. ~

First Baptist Church Temple 8015 West Adams Ave. ~ 254.773.6866

First Christian Church of Temple 300 N 5th St ~ (254) 773-9061

First Methodist Church Temple, GMC

102 N. 2nd Temple. TX ~ 254.773.7992

First Presbyterian Church Temple 12 West French ~ 254.773.3407

Foundation Church

 $10751 \text{ W. Adams} \sim 254.780.9673$ **Grace Baptist Church**

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3111 N. 3rd St ~ 254.774.8192

Grace Presbyterian Church 2401 S 57th ~ 254.773.2134

Harvest Church 2501 General Bruce Dr. ~ 254,780,3566

Immanuel Lutheran Church 2109 W. Ave H ~ 254,773,3898

Leon Valley Church of Christ 4404 Twin City Blvd. ~ 254.939.0682

New Hope Church of God 2005 W. Ave D., Suite D. ~ 254.742.2181

Oak Park United Methodist Church

5505 South 31st St. ~ 254.773.302

St. Francis Episcopal Church & School 5001 Hickory ~ 254.733.4255

St. Luke's Catholic Church 2807 Oakdale Dr. ~ 254.773.1561

St. Mary's Catholic Church 1018 S 7th St. ~254.773.4541

Taylors Valley Baptist Church

2497 W. FM 93 ~ 254.939.0503 **Temple Bible Church**

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Temple First Church of the Nazarene $5000 \text{ S. } 31\text{st} \sim 254.773.3744$

Unity Church of Temple $318\ N.\ 2nd \sim 254.770.0070$

Vineyard Christian Fellowship 7425 W Adams Ave. ~ 254.778.2802

Vista Community Church 7051 Stonehollow Dr. ~ 254.774.7992

Wildwood Baptist Church 5195 Cedar Creek Rd. ~ 254.773.3177

Fireworks, Freedom, and Fond Memories



John C. Perry

Tomorrow marks the 249th birthday of the United States of America, a day when we come together not just to light fireworks, wave flags, or enjoy a cold drink in the summer heat, but to honor the bold, enduring spirit

of a nation founded on freedom. It was July 4, 1776, when the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence. Some might argue the real decision came two days earlier, when the vote to separate from Great Britain was passed. But it is the Fourth that is etched into our hearts, the day we declared to the world our right to self-govern, to be free.

In the past week I have heard people of a certain political persuasion say we should skip the celebra-

3815 Shallow Ford West

Temple, TX 76502

tion this year because they are not at Temple High School, we would happy with the direction the country host a pool party every year. Friends is going under our current president. I am certainly not jumping into that political quagmire, but I can assure you at least half of Americans were not very happy with the direction of the country in the previous administration. And if the truth is to be told; every generation has felt that tug of worry and frustration at some point. But the Fourth of July is not about politics, it's about something bigger.

We celebrate not because we are a perfect nation, but because we are free to strive for something better. We honor the courage of our Founding Fathers to boldly break away from the mother country, the countless sacrifices of generations who defended our freedoms, and the shared story that binds us, messy, miraculous, yet still unfolding.

Here in Central Texas, we have our own traditions, the parades in Temple and Belton, the rodeo, the God & Country concert, fireworks lighting up the summer sky. My family has always loved attending the parade in Belton, and back when my twin daughters were swimmers

would bring side dishes, the grill would be going, and the kids would laugh and splash long past sunset. There is something incredibly special about the sounds kids make when they are having a blast! Those were golden days for me, the kind that leave a lasting glow in your memory.

America can mean different things to different people. But for me, it means freedom, freedom to speak, to believe, to gather with loved ones under the fireworks and feel that familiar swell of pride when our flag flies and the national anthem plays. I still get goosebumps every time. And I sure hope that I am not alone in that.

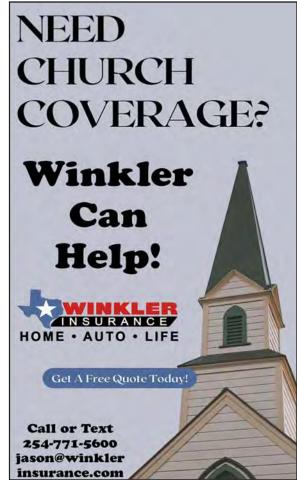
So tomorrow, put your politics aside. Hold your loved ones close. Wave your flags, raise a toast, and be proud, because we are blessed to live in this great country, and the Fourth of July is still something worth celebrating!

John C. Perry is the Lay Leader with New Life Methodist Church. They meet every Sunday at 9 a.m. (Bible Study) and 10 a.m. (Worship Service) in the Salado Middle School at 1169 Williams Rd.



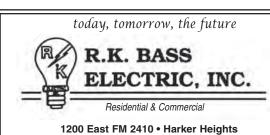


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