

Heritage Park improvements continue



Courtesy Photo
Heritage Park has been given some nice improvements, such as a remote lighting system and expanded disk golf courses.

By David Tuma
The Belton Journal

The City of Belton recently made some improvements to Heritage Park. LED lights were installed along the new soccer field/multi-purpose fields. These lights can be turned on remotely when needed. Musco Systems monitors the light poles and lets the Parks Department know if there are issues.

“I have turned on the lights from Colorado,” said James Grant, Director of Parks and Recreation. In the fall, being able to turn the lights on

remotely when needed is an asset. These four light poles cost \$250,000 to serve the recreation needs of Belton.

Disk golf has evolved in Heritage Park. The course has expanded to three 18-hole courses with beginner, intermediate, and pro-level courses. Volunteers mow the fairways of each course. Jim Deeken is the volunteer in charge of coordinating the mowing.

They also used turf to cover the tee boxes and areas around each golf course hole. The goal is to one day have concrete tee boxes. The pro-level golf course in Belton will host

a tournament in October of this year.

Some possible improvements to Heritage Park are expanding playground equipment, and additional baseball backstops. The ponds fill up when it rains but quickly dry out in the summer. The ability to pump water into the ponds is a possible future addition from the Leon River. The City of Belton will possibly apply for another Texas Parks and Wildlife Grant for additional improvements.

It takes two full days to move the three courses. Deeken helps with the mowing and keeps track of traffic on the disc golf courses.



Courtesy photo
West Temple Orthodontics has opened its doors, rebuilt after the May 2024 tornado that struck the area.

West Temple Orthodontics relocates to its new, rebuilt facility

By David Tuma
The Belton Journal

West Temple Orthodontics has relocated to its rebuilt facility after the tornado that struck West Temple along Adams Avenue in 2024.

The new building at 207 Westfield Blvd. in West Temple is a marvel.

The front entrance is open with high ceilings and lots of space to wander. There is a pinball machine with hundreds of different digital versions available. The coffee pot and fresh cookies are locally generated.

Limestone rock on the outside and timbers on the inside ceiling with a bright vibrant look. The restrooms are up front with plenty of seating. There is a meeting room with an outside deck. There are multiple small offices throughout the facility to handle the different aspects of their operation.

There are private meeting rooms available for patients to review their treatment options. For employees, there is a large breakroom. There is also a Pac-Man machine further inside the building. Upstairs is for storage and IT.

In total, the new facility is 5,200 square feet. The destroyed building was 5,000 square feet.

“We are very thankful no one was seriously injured during the storm. Just very thankful we have a new building design that Dr. Cali wanted. This building is comfortable and more functional. The City of Temple was easy to work with. Any time we called for inspectors, they got here right away. ‘Wow’ is the most common response we hear when customers come inside. The design is a transitional modern aspect,” said Lucas Cali.

BISD trustees call for November bond election

By Harvey Jackson Oss
The Belton Journal

The Belton ISD Board of Trustees held a special meeting the afternoon of Thursday, August 14 to discuss adding a call for a bond election to be placed on the November ballot.

Proposition A provides \$92.9 million for general needs, Proposition B provides \$43.7 million for high school stadium, Proposition C provides \$6 million for technology devices, and Proposition D provides \$19.2 million for a swim center.

Board President Manuel Alcozer opened the meeting at 5:01 p.m. by inviting community members to speak.

The first to speak was Dan Stall, a resident of Belton for over 20 years. Stall expressed



BELTON JOURNAL/Harvey Jackson Oss
BISD Trustees meet to vote on including four bond issues on the November ballot.

his support for B, which seeks to improve the fields at Belton and Lake Belton High Schools.

“These fields are cornerstones of our communities,” said Stall. Stall spoke on the field’s outdated lighting, poor turf, and non-accessible seating,

and said that Lake Belton athletes suffer unequal treatment while using Tiger Field.

A second community member, Mark Shepard, took the stand after Stall in support of the four measures. Shepard addressed tax increase concerns,

noting that under Texas law residents aged 65 and up are not subject to tax increases to fund schools. Median homeowners under 65 would experience an annual property tax increase of under \$6. Shepard argued that the last bond issue in 2022 had

missed important problem areas that the new bond could rectify.

Superintendent Malinda Golden then spoke on the background of the bond proposals.

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Former UMHB First Lady (1991-2009), Vicky Bawcom passes away on August 13

By Susan Kolodziejczyk
The Belton Journal

Shortly after Mrs. Bawcom passed, UMHB posted this message on their social media.

Our UMHB family is deeply saddened by the loss of Vicky

Sue Bawcom, Honorary Alumna and former first lady of the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. For nearly two decades, Vicky worked alongside Jerry, making students feel known, valued, and loved. Her approachable spirit and genuine interest in people left

a mark on the UMHB community that still lingers today. In 2012, the Bawcom Student Union was named in honor of Vicky and Jerry—a lasting tribute to their years of dedication, generosity, and love for the university and its people.

A memorial service

was held at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 19, at the First Baptist Church in Belton.

The Belton Journal staff sends its sincere condolences to the Bawcom and UMHB families.

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City awards force-main contract

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Bell Contractors of Belton was awarded a construction contract for work on force main water pipes under Nolan Creek.

Six bids were made on the project, and Bell Contractors had the low bid of \$922,916.71. According to Scott Hodde, director of public works, Belton City staff and Kasberg, Patrick & Associates Engineering Firm evaluated the bids and determined that Bell Contractors has the capacity and experience to fulfill the requirements of the contract.

The force main project is being funded through the certificates of obligations issued earlier this year. Construction time is estimated at six months.

“Belton’s main lift station utilizes two 14-inch force mains to convey all wastewater flows from the lift station to the Temple-Belton Wastewater Treatment Plant,” Hodde said in a report to Council. “In November 2021, a failure occurred in one of the mains, resulting in a wastewater overflow that discharged into Nolan Creek.”

“The overflow was promptly reported and managed in accordance with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality protocols,” he added.

Hodde said city staff worked with the Brazos River Authority to isolate the damaged main and reroute flow through

the second line.

“Both force mains are located just beneath the creek’s water level and were originally protected by concrete aprons,” Hodde said. “Over time, the combined impact of water flow and debris led to significant deterioration of the apron, leaving the force mains exposed and vulnerable.”

Hodde said that a standard repair would have been insufficient and the City knew that operating with only one force main posed a risk during high-flow events. To address the issue, the City proceeded with a slip-lining solution that meant installing a new pipe within the damaged main and reconnecting it on both ends outside the creek. This allowed for continuous operation and minimized environmental risks.

This temporary solution has held up well and provided Belton with the time needed to secure funding for a long-term fix. The upcoming rehabilitation project will replace both existing 14-inch force mains with new 18-inch mains beneath the creek.

These new mains will be installed using directional boring, allowing the pipe to be placed significantly deeper below the creek bed to protect against future damage from water and debris. The new mains will tie into the existing 14-inch lines on either side of the creek, allowing for the lines to be upgraded on each receiving end in the future.

Belton ISD board approves balanced budget

Special to the Journal

The Belton Independent School District Board of Trustees approved the 2025-2026 operational budget and tax rate during its regular meeting on August 18, 2025.

The action ensures a balanced budget while maintaining the district’s total tax rate.

The 2025-2026 budget, supported by state funding and local tax revenue, focuses on compensation increases for staff and program enhancements across the district. Key investments include a new tiered service model in special education, expanded Career and Technical Education opportunities and targeted interventions in early literacy and math.

“HB2 provided substantial salary increases for teachers as well as new allotments to support specific programs and expenses,” said Superintendent Dr. Malinda Golden. “We prepared a balanced budget that maximizes these funds to address current priorities and set the stage for future plans.”

Along with adopting the budget, trustees approved a disaster penny resolution. This state-authorized mechanism allows school districts to temporarily increase the Maintenance & Operations (M&O) tax rate in the year following a declared disaster. For Belton ISD, this measure will help offset costs from the May 2024 tornado.

“This resolution will yield approximately \$2 million for Belton ISD, which can be ap-

plied retroactively to repairs and maintenance already completed,” said Chief Financial Officer Melissa Laferty. The district received its final storm damage evaluation in late spring and has been exploring this option since the June 2025 board workshop.

With disaster pennies applied, the proposed M&O tax rate is \$0.7869. The Interest & Sinking (I&S) rate, used for debt service, will decrease by \$0.0317 to \$0.3625. Together, the total proposed tax rate remains unchanged at \$1.1494 per \$100 of property valuation.

Dr. Golden emphasized the district’s track record of sound financial management.

“We have demonstrated a consistent commitment to being good stewards of taxpayer resources by lowering the total tax rate by 28% since 2017,” Golden said. “During this time, we have also passed two bonds and opened five new campuses while maintaining an M&O rate below the state’s maximum for more than a decade. The proposed budget and tax rate will continue moving our schools forward while upholding our responsibility to the Belton ISD community.”

Belton ISD has earned state, national and international recognition for fiscal transparency and financial reporting excellence for five consecutive years. Golden noted that the district will continue this standard while maximizing resources for both present needs and long-term planning.

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TRIBUTES from family and friends

The Bawcom’s always treated my family with respect. I remember going to their open house on the UMHB campus at Christmas with Anna a few times. Jerry was the first person I played golf with when I moved to Belton.

David Tuma

My days at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor we shaped largely by the dedication and love of Mrs. Bawcom. Her warmth and kindness was evident to all, and she served as a bright ambassador of UMHB as First Lady. I remember how kind and welcoming she was during Welcome Week as new students were settling in on campus with our futures ahead of us. She invited new students and parents into the President’s Home on campus for reception and was the perfect hostess, ensuring that her special peanut butter balls were always on the menu. She will be truly missed. Dr. Bawcom and Amy, My prayers are with you both as you grieve the loss of your beloved wife and mother, respectively. Take comfort in our God for we know Heaven will be a wonderful reunion!

**Mary Anne Thornton,
UMHB Student 2004-2008**

I will always remember you, regardless of whether I was at UMHB or when you and Dr. Bawcom were here in Connecticut, and you came back to my home for a visit and had homemade pie, which my mother had baked. Thank you for being you and being so kind and caring, and not only to me and your family but to the UMHB family, whom you love. You were always in my prayers and I thought of you all the time. Thank you for caring.

Cindy “Connecticut” Latham

Vicki was a bright and shining light in the life of UMHB. She hosted so many receptions in the president’s home. She shared her home with students and parents. She shared her home at Christmas with the whole community. Oh my, oh my - she and Dr. Bawcom could decorate the most beautiful Christmas trees and table settings for every room of the house. She always took such good care of the past president Dr. Parker and his widow and brought them to every UMHB special occasion. Her love of Christ and His people was so evident. We will miss Vicki. Dr. Bawcom and Amy, our prayers are with you.

George and Cindy Louterback

Every moment with Vicky is a favorite memory, but we had the most fun on our trips together. Mark and I traveled to Branson, New York, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Greece and the Greek Islands, and a New England/Maine cruise with them; Vicky and I laughed most of the time. We saw humor in everything and everyone. The fact that our husbands didn’t laugh made it all funnier for us. She was smart, interesting, generous and kind. She dressed beautifully every time she went anywhere. She nominated me for membership in the Woman’s Wednesday Club then immediately moved to San Marcos. She was so sweet to our granddaughters, and we will all miss her very much.

Betty A

I always admired Vicky Bawcom’s grace and the sweet aura that always seemed to surround her. Anytime I was around her, she was smiling or laughing. It was almost infectious. My favorite memory of her was her Open House event at Christmas. I found it to be one of the most beautiful displays, and she was so kind and generous to invite everyone to the event. It was beautiful, just like her. Much love to Jerry and Amy.

Susan Kolodziejczyk

Dr. Bawcom and Miss Bawcom, I am so saddened about your loss. I pray you are filled with overwhelming peace and beautiful memories. Mrs. Bawcom loved all of us like her own, and she was a great, classy lady. We loved the Longhorns candy she would gift us for helping with Christmas Open House. My favorite memory of her was her telling Katie and I about buying Dr. B some purple Vans to wear the first football season.

Kelly Jean Keel

I remember when a few days after Tate was born, a beautiful meaningful handwritten note was sent to us. To us, it meant you are loved, you are seen, you are family. It came at a time that really mattered. Love you and what you both poured into UMHB. You made us your kids for a few 4 short years, but don’t ever think it goes unseen. Love you dearly.

Ashley Burkley Tyndall

*Such a very special lady!
The definition of grace!*

Seleese Schraeder Thompson

She was a wonderful First Lady who made students feel seen and loved. Together you made a team that exemplified the love of Christ. Prayers for the family and all who will miss her presence. Until we meet again.

Rebeca E. Carpenter

Mrs Bawcom was a wonderful First Lady! Dr Bawcom and Mrs Bawcom were perfect for UMHB! Love them both! Prayers to the family.

Scott Matthews

Mrs. Bawcom was present for all of us students and that was the absolute best gift she could give us, a family away from our families. She was just as beautiful on the inside as she was on the outside.

Lauren Jones Smith

My heart goes out to the UMHB family during this difficult time. The Bawcom family have been instrumental in the development of UMHB for many, many years. Condolences to all.

Robin Morgan

I always enjoyed seeing the Christmas decorations/trees in the main house. Such a kind and thoughtful person. She will be missed. Prayers to the Bawcom family for comfort and peace.

DaSean N Stephanie Durham

Dr. Jerry is am so sorry to hear this news. Y’all made lots of great memories together. You and Amy or in our prayers. God blessed us all with knowing this beautiful lady. Vickie was a great 1st Lady and a great support of our communities.

Ken Higdon

Dr. Bawcom ...you have my deepest condolences. My favorite memory was that one time you requested for me to drive y’all to the DFW area in the middle of the week to your hotel and I got to thoroughly visit with y’all and y’all got to hear my story of how I came to UMHB. It was such a memorable bonding moment and I will always cherish in my heart. Thank you for being MY president and sharing Mrs. Bawcom with us all.

Henry Morin



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OBITUARIES



Bawcom

Vicky Sue Bawcom
May 6, 1945 – August 13, 2025

Vicky Bawcom passed on to her final reward in heaven on August 13, 2025, at the age of 80. A memorial service will be held at First Baptist Church in Belton, Texas on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 2:00pm.

Vicky was born in Lubbock, Texas on May 6, 1945, to parents George Culby and Bonnie Marie Messick Keene. Vicky was married to her college sweetheart Jerry Bawcom on December 18, 1965. The Bawcoms have one daughter, Amy Marie, born in 1970.

Vicky became a Christian at age eleven. Jesus was always first in her life. Vicky often played piano at the churches where the family attended. She and her family enjoyed many years of serving the Lord together.

Vicky was an honor graduate at Levelland High School in 1963. She was a twirler in the band, was a member of student government, was basketball Queen, voted Best All-Around Girl and Most Outstanding Girl and served in a number of clubs. Vicky graduated from Texas Tech University in 1967; she walked together with Jerry to receive her diploma. At Tech Vicky was a featured twirler in the Goin' Band from Raiderland, Band Sweetheart, a member of Gamma Phi Beta Sorority, a member of Tau Beta Sigma music sorority, and Tech Homecoming Queen in 1965.

Vicky taught 4th grade for two years in Lubbock; she also taught in the after-school migrant workers program. After moving to Fort Worth, she was an active substitute teacher.

Vicky served many years as Province Collegiate Director for Gamma Phi Beta national office to colleges in Texas and Louisiana. She was a member of City Panhellenic in both Lubbock and Fort Worth where she also served as president. Vicky served as an advisor to Entre Ami Sorority at Texas Wesleyan University.

In Fort Worth Vicky was active at Polytechnic Baptist Church and later at East Meadows Baptist Church in teaching college-aged students and various children's programs. She served as Co-Chair of the Baptist Young Women along with Women's Missionary Union. While at First Baptist Church Belton, Vicky taught a women's bible study along with her dear friend Patsy Davis.

While in Fort Worth Vicky served on the board for Shakespeare in the Park and was a member of the Symphony League. She was a member of the board for the Fort Worth YWCA. Vicky was a longtime member of Junior Woman's Club and City Federation of Woman's Clubs in Fort Worth. She served as president of Junior Woman's Club, was president of Kaleidoscope Club and was a Vice-President of the City Federation of Woman's

Club board. Vicky was director of Junior Woman's Club. She served as president of the Faculty Women's Club at Texas Wesleyan University, where Jerry was president for several years. While in Belton Vicky was a member of Woman's Wednesday Club. She was also a member of Bluebonnet Club in Temple and a member of the City Federation of Woman's Clubs of Temple, serving as a longtime member of the executive board and also as president. In Georgetown, she was a member of the Seeds of Strength Women's Giving Circle.

Vicky is remembered by many students and alumni as First Lady at Texas Wesleyan University and at the University of Mary-Hardin Baylor. Students, alumni and friends recall fondly the open houses at the president's home, especially at Christmas. To many students she is fondly remembered as their "mom" at college.

Vicky was quick to laugh and excelled at putting others at ease. She loved her faith, her family, and her friends.

Vicky is preceded in death by her mother and father, a sister, Betty Jorene Keene Neel, and a nephew, William Arthur Neel, Jr. She is survived by her husband Jerry and daughter Amy of Georgetown, nephew Russell Keene Neel of Marshall, TX., sister-in-law Connie Bawcom of Houston, TX., niece Jessica Bawcom In-off and husband Darron of Houston, TX., niece Courtney Bawcom Garrett and husband John of Houston, TX., niece Brittany Bawcom Gaskill and husband David of Oklahoma, nephew Clint Bawcom and wife Taylor of Houston, TX., and many beloved aunts and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the Jerry and Vicky Bawcom Presidential Endowed Scholarship at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Belton, TX. advance.umhb.edu

Give by check:
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Valentino

Jim Deringo Valentino
December 30, 1951 – August 6, 2025

Jim Deringo Valentino, formerly James Edward Jacobs, affectionately known as "Take'em," was born on December 30, 1951, in Houston, Texas, and he departed this life went to be with the lord on Wednesday, August 6, 2025, in Temple, Texas. Jim's journey through life was marked by a jovial spirit, a love for family, and a passion for making unforgettable memories.

He played as a quarterback football player where he graduated from Jefferson Davis High School and received his scholarship to further his education. Graduated from Texas Southern University where he earned an Associate's degree in Physical Therapy. His dedication to learning was matched only by his commitment to service; he enlisted in the U.S. Army as a cook and later re-enlisted into the Marine Corps as a marine security guard and served with President Nixon at the West Coast White House in San Clemente, California, upholding a proud legacy of service to his country.

Jim was known for his

humorous and blunt personality, always offering practical advice and sharing a good laugh. He had a love for music, enjoying both singing and listening to old-school R&B and jazz at full volume, turning any gathering into a festive occasion. His culinary skills were cherished by those around him, particularly his intricate pasta and fish recipes, along with his love of carrot cake. He loved sharing home-cooked meals and exploring new recipes, finding joy in every dish he crafted for his loved ones.

He leaves behind two daughters, Tamara Jacobs and Crystal Valentino, who were his pride and joy. He often spoke fondly of them and rejoiced in his role as a father. Jim is also survived by three brothers, Michael Jacobs Sr., Tommy Jacobs Sr., and Jerry Wayne Jacobs; as well as two sisters, Emma Jacobs and Dorothy Thomas.

Jim was preceded in death by his beloved parents, Henry Jacobs Sr. and Dorothy Mae (White) Jacobs, alongside two brothers, Henry Jacobs Jr. and Joseph Jacobs Sr., and two sisters, Beatrice White Alexander and Doris Jacobs Ellis. His presence will be sorely missed, leaving behind a legacy of love and laughter.

Visitation will be held at Young's Daughters Funeral Home & Bereavement Center in Temple, Texas, on Friday, August 29, 2025, from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m., followed by a funeral service at 11 a.m. The burial will take place at Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen, Texas, beginning at 2 p.m.

As we remember Jim Deringo Valentino, let us honor a life well-lived, filled with camaraderie, heartfelt connections, and the unwavering love for family that he instilled in all who knew him.

In lieu of flowers please consider making a memorial donation to the VFW Post 1820 attn: Disaster Fund to assist veterans in their time of need.

Arrangements are under the direction of Sabrina Young at Young's Daughters Funeral Home & Bereavement Center in Temple, Texas.

Driska

Michael Emil Driska
October 20, 1959 – August 10, 2025

Michael Emil Driska, born on October 20, 1959, in Temple, Texas, passed away at his home on Sunday, August 10, 2025. He is remembered as a beloved figure in his community and by his family for his exuberant spirit, passion for life, and dedication to those he loved.

Michael dedicated many years of his life to a commendable career. After graduating from Temple High School, he began working at Scott and White Hospital, where he served as a cook for two decades. Following this, he transitioned to Pactiv/Reynolds, where he worked as a laborer in the packaging and shipping department until his retirement. His work ethic and commitment to excellence served as an inspiration to those around him.

Michael was known for his love of family time, which was paramount to his happiness. He possessed a profound enthusiasm for motorsports, particularly enjoying stock car races, local monster

truck events, and car shows. His passion extended to tractor pull parades. Michael had a special fondness for his Pontiac Firebird and embraced the lifestyle of a Jeep owner, reflecting his spirited personality. He was also an avid sports fan, particularly cheering for the Kansas City Chiefs, and delighted in collecting baseball caps and sporting fashionable attire.

In his personal life, Michael was characterized by his independence and warmth. He was a friendly neighbor, often described as a social butterfly who cherished friendships within his apartment community. Michael's lively interactions and engaging conversations will be missed by beloved siblings who visited.

He is survived by his two brothers, Robert (Naomi) Smith and Charles (Susan) Tallman; and three sisters, Carrie Tucker and husband Garey, Rose Wiley, and Doris Lane. Several nieces, nephews, and cousins, all of whom will deeply miss his presence. Michael's legacy will be especially felt in the hearts of his family, who valued his strong character and steadfast spirit.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Albin Emil Driska and Carrie Jean (Zaleski) Driska, who laid the foundation for his remarkable life.

A funeral service was held on Monday, August 18, 2025, at 11 a.m. at Young's Daughters Funeral Home & Bereavement Center located at 4235 E. U.S. Hwy. 190, Temple, TX. Following the service, he was laid to rest at Dyess Grove Cemetery at 12:30 p.m.

Michael Emil Driska's life was one of joy, independence, and love. He will be cherished in memory, forever

a part of the lives he enriched. Arrangements are under the direction of Sabrina Young at Young's Daughters Funeral Home and Bereavement Center in Temple, Texas.

Dana

John Gordon Dana
January 26, 1948 – August 12, 2025

John Gordon Dana, affectionately known as "Jot," was born on January 26, 1948, in Overton, Texas. He graduated from Austin High School in 1968 and furthered his education at Austin Community College, where he earned his associate degree. In 1974, he enlisted in the Army and devoted himself to serving as a 63C20 Track

Vehicle Mechanic until his honorable discharge in 1980. During his military service, Jot was stationed at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, and garnered several honors, including the National Defense Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Sharpshooter Qualifications Badge for the M-16 rifle.

John's interests were diverse yet deeply fulfilling. He held a lifelong passion for model airplanes, a hobby that began in his youth and continued throughout his life. He often found joy in reminiscing about the past, reflecting on memories that included his time in Germany during his military service, where he collected various books.

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Did you Know...

Belton was first known as the town of Nolanville. In 1851, Nolanville was incorporated and the town name was changed to Belton. Fact from Texas State Historical Association.

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A4
Thursday,
August 21, 2025

LIFESTYLES

THE BELTON JOURNAL

Grace Gallery features art by the artists of Bell Fine Arts



BELTON JOURNAL/Michelle Rodriguez
Sheryl Buchanan shows off her art piece, Deer in the Snow, at Grace Gallery. They have an exhibit featuring art by the artists of Bell Fine Arts.

By Michelle Rodriguez
The Belton Journal

Grace Gallery located at 108 W. Central Avenue opened a new exhibit this past Thursday. The artists are from Bell Fine Arts. Grace Gallery is open Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and by appointment.

The artists of Bell Fine Arts are Reta Bielik, Sheryl Buchanan, Karen Cringle, Marjorie Curl, Sheron Driessner, Alice Flores, Jo Glass, Joan Hoffman, Pamela Kanaby, Terry Kittel, Harper Lee, Debbie Pope, Corliss Verrett, and Albert Waite.

Glass has a piece called Lady with Blue Birds. Holmes has a piece called Low Country Cabin. Waite has a piece called River Lilies. Pamela Kanaby has an untitled piece with gold circles and a dark background.

“We paint, crochet, and we are putting together a cookbook. We also so-

cialize and craft,” said Buchanan. Her pieces Deer in the Snow, Watercolor Deer, and Cabin by the Lake among others are at Grace Gallery.

“My fifth grade teacher told my mother that I was talented and that she wanted to give me lessons, and I took art classes in her home. Her name was Mrs. Commando,” said Buchanan. “I use pencil, charcoal, acrylic, and pastels. I did clay work in college. I did ink and all different mediums.”

Driessner is also on the Grace Gallery advisory board. She has a piece that is of the old Temple Post Office.

“Temple was having a contest during National Historic Preservation week in April. It was called the Annual Temple Community Treasures Visual Arts Contest. You have to put your name in a hat in February. They picked 20 paintings,” said Driessner.

“I like landscape and

seascape. Also, if anyone wants a pet portrait, I can do that for them. Oil is my medium,” said Verrett.

“I’m a retired registered nurse and enjoy retirement by painting for fun,” said Teresa Kittel.

Artist Karen Cringle is a fourth generation Texan. Her husband, David, encouraged her to paint after retiring from teaching. She enjoys the creativity and support of the Bell Fine Arts community.

Bell Fine Arts periodically has classes. They did paintings on rocks and made jelly plates recently.

Bell Fine Arts is located at 306 E. 5th Avenue. They have membership paint days on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The play mahjonn on Mondays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. They have a potluck every second Wednesday at 11:30 a.m.

If anyone wants to join they will need to fill out a membership form and pay a fee of \$50 per year.

MPR’s Summer Reading program winds down

By Michelle Rodriguez
The Belton Journal

The City of MPR’s Mary Ruth Brigg’s Library has an annual children’s summer reading program. This year ran from July 19 to Aug 9 from 10 a.m. to noon.

There were volunteers to read to the children followed by an activity, and a snack.

“The children’s summer reading program has been held for over 20 years, and I’ve been doing it for 12 years. It’s going well this year! We received many responses from parents that the children look forward to coming again every week,” said chairperson for the library committee, Pamela Robinson.

The theme for the four weeks is ‘Amazing Scientist’ geared towards preschoolers to fifth graders. The first week’s theme was on weather, and Meteorologist Conley Isom was there to talk to the children.

“He is very knowledgeable and captivated the children.

He held experiments and talked to them about weather safety like where to go when there is a storm,” said Robinson. They were served snow cones from Kona Ice.

For the second week, David Farhie from Prize City Gem and Memorial talked to the children about different types of rocks and passed around rocks and fossils.

“I gave the children geodes, and they went outside and broke them with tiny hammers. They were thrilled when they got them open and there were crystals inside,” said Robinson. The children were also served ice cream sundaes.

The third week, they had a group from Bell County Master Gardeners come to the library.

“The children and parents both loved them. They had plastic pots to decorate with stickers and planted iris pieces. They showed them how to put the soil in the pot, put the plant in, what part to put in, and how to water it,” said Robinson. The children were served “dirt cups” which contained pudding, crushed Oreos, and gummy worms.

For the last week on August 9, a forensic teacher from Temple High School named Krystal Battreall talked to them about forensics. The children had snow cones from Kona Ice again.

“On the last day, all the children received a backpack. Four children received more things like school supplies in their backpack for reading the most minutes in their age group. They received a log to keep track of their minutes, and they turned in their log.”

There were more children signed up this year than in the past, 43 children signed up from 23 families.

“We know families travel for the summer and can’t come every week. They can check out any book they want. I bought new books on weather, rocks, gardening, and forensics geared toward children,” said Robinson.

See **MPR**,
Page A7

BISD - From Page A1

A \$160 million bond was passed in 2017, as well as the aforementioned \$168.8 million bond in 2022. 30 percent of BISD’s total 2.5 million square feet facility space has been acquired in the time since the first bond in 2017. Golden explained that the current proposal had gone through a rigorous process including multiple surveys.

Trustees gave their final opinions on the bond proposals. Jeff Norwood spoke in support of the measures, stating that “good communities have good schools.” He thanked the advisory

committee for their work in creating the bond plan. Rucker Preston spoke about the importance of parent input in the planning process.

Chris Flor elaborated on the stadium bond, stating “this is not an investment in football... this is an investment in the pride and respect of two communities.”

He explained how giving Lake Belton a functional stadium would allow Bronco athletes to truly experience home field pride.

Erin Bass continued on the topic of BHS and LBHS sharing Tiger

Field, stating “the inefficiencies and the inequalities... it’s real.”

Riley Beck briefly gave a dissenting opinion on the bonds. He mentioned that hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent on building new facilities just recently. Beck commented on the natatorium and technology bonds, calling them “a great opportunity for voters to vote on.” Beck noted that he holds a different opinion from the community speakers on the stadiums bond, citing concerns about the unrealistic goal of equality between the two high

schools.

Alcozer gave his opinion on the bonds, stating that the small tax increase would be “a lot of bang for the buck.” He elaborated that he believes it is up to the community to make the decision, stating “I don’t think that I could vote against something like this.”

Alcozer moved for a vote on including the four propositions on the November election ballot. Bass seconded the vote, and the proposal passed 6-1, Beck being the only “No”. The meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

TxDOT: End summer with friends, not cellmates

Special to the Journal

Law Enforcement is Increasing Patrols Across Texas to Stop Drunk Drivers, From Aug. 15- Sept. 1.

Whether it’s coming home from the pool or a BBQ, summer fun can end quickly with just one bad decision. Every 23 minutes there’s a crash in Texas involving a driver under the influence of alcohol. That’s

more than 60 crashes a day in our state and adds up to a lifetime of pain for families who lost loved ones.

As the Labor Day holiday approaches, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is asking Texans not to drink and drive and to always choose a sober ride. Law enforce-

See **TxDOT**,
Page A7

Obits - From Page A3

Jot was also an admirer of classic cars and machines and was known for his definitive knowledge and opinions when it came to automobiles. His introverted nature often found solace in photography, and he co-authored a book with his father focused on the architecture of Parkersburg, West Virginia—a personal project that showcased both his talents and family history, which he retained with remarkable clarity.

Throughout his life, John maintained a close connection to his family. He is survived by his sister, Anne Lyons, and her husband, Michael Lyons. He is preceded in death by his parents, Edward Byrington Dana and Virginia (Roberts) Dana Gilman.

It is with a heavy heart

that we announce John’s passing on Tuesday, August 12, 2025, in a local nursing home in Temple. After facing the challenges posed by strokes that affected his well-being, he departed this life peacefully, leaving behind cherished memories for those who knew him. John Gordon Dana’s legacy will remain in the hearts of family and friends who fondly remember his intelligence, creativity, and dedication to his passions.

A special thank you Harbor Hospice, David Domelsmith and Cornerstone Gardens for their compassionate care.

Arrangements are under the direction of Sabrina Young at Young’s Daughters Funeral Home & Bereavement Center in Temple, TX



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Local

Activities & Events

Newcomers Club Activities

09/01: Bookworms, Chat n Canasta
09/02: Footloose Singles
09/03: Monthly Luncheon, Popcorn
Bridge
09/04: 42 Dominoes
09/09: Couples Night Out, Singing
Bluebonnets
09/11: 42 Dominoes, Mexican Train
Dominoes
09/12: TGIF Lunch

**"To join or for more information, please call:
Mary Pringle (760)265-5035 or email at: pringlem@msn.com.
Visit the website: www.bellcountynewcomers.com."**

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:

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.

Master Gardeners Aug 21

Fall Vegetable Gardening: The Journey from Seeds to Harvest!
Bell County Master Gardener Dave Slaughter will help us guide us on the journey of starting seeds in the sweltering August heat (100+ degrees!) to the crucial steps needed to protect your harvest as the temperatures drop below 35 degrees in December. Whether you're a gardening pro or just starting out, this session is perfect for anyone looking to maximize their fall garden's potential. Let's share tips, experiences, and strategies to ensure a bountiful harvest despite the seasonal challenges! See you there! August 21., 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.. at AgriLife Extension Grounds Learning Center, Belton, 1605 N. Main St., Belton. Class Limit: 50 participants. Register at RSVP BCMGA1998@gmail.com to secure your spot!

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry - Sept 5

Skip the work and the cleanup and come out to enjoy a fish dinner in support of our seminarians and wheelchair fundraisers. Dine-in or take-out. Friday, September 5, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Christ the King Family Life Center 250 E 24th Ave, Belton.

Soggy Doggy Day - Sept 6

Pups help end the Splash Pad Season in Belton. Right after Harris Community Park's Splash Pad closes to humans for the season, we fence it off and let dogs in! This year's Soggy Doggy Day will be Saturday, September 6, 2025. For more information contact Belton Parks & Recreation at 254-933-5860.

Stronger Together Gala - Sept 11

Mark your calendars, shine your boots, and get ready for a night to remember! The first-ever Stronger Together Gala is coming to the Frank W. Mayborn Civic & Convention Center in Temple on Thursday, September 11, 2025 — and you're invited to eat, drink, dance, and make a difference. And while you're two-stepping the night away, you'll also be helping raise money to support mental health awareness and resources right here in our community. Your ticket, table, or auction donation will help benefit two extraordinary organizations dedicated to mental and behavioral health: the Intrepid Spirit Center at Fort Hood and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Central Texas — Temple Chapter. For tickets, tables, and donation info, visit www.StrongerTogetherGala.org.

Firehouse Chili & Salsa Copetition - Sept 20

Mark your Calendar: On Saturday, September 20th, we have scheduled our annual Firehouse Chili and Salsa Competition, at Kleypas Park, by the Swimming Pool, in Morgan's Point Resort on Morgan's Point Boulevard. The event is one of our annual fundraisers; and we're focusing this year's funds to purchase accessories for the new Brush Truck - FIONA. Questions contact kastagne@att.net. Cook Team, Sponsor-Supporter, Vendor, Auction Contributor forms can be found at: morganpointresorttx.com/civicalert

Movies in the Park - Sept 20

The Parks & Recreation Department hosts the Movie in the Park series each year. Movies and activities are free and open to the public. Encanto will be shown at Harris Community Park, 312 N. Alexander, Belton. For more information contact Belton Parks & Recreation at 254-933-5860.

Family Camp Out - Oct 24 - 26

Roll up your sleeping bags and hit the trail for a campout at Heritage Park. Activities include fishing, kayaking, and s'mores. This year we are offering an extended weekend of fun, Saturday-Sunday, October 24-26, 2025. Stay tuned for registration information from Belton Parks & Recreation.

Bell Area Parkinson's Support group (BAPS-North) meets at CTCOG, 2180 N. Main St, Belton on the 2nd and 4th Fridays from 2:30-4:00 PM every month. All are welcome, and there is no membership cost. The Bell Area Parkinson's Support group (BAPS-West) meets at St. Andrews United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 206 W Fowler Ave, Killeen on the 1st and 3rd Fridays from 2:30-4:00 PM every month. For more information contact Gayle Shull at GayleInBelton@gmail.com or (254) 718-4197.

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

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will meet both on TUESDAY, July 8th and July 22nd 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 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 visit the 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 katshookandneedle@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 info@beltonchamber.com.

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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Anchor of Hope Fellowship 5700 F.M. 439 ~ 254.721.6514	Holy Temple of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith 519 S. Pearl St. ~ 254.613.4591	Eighth Street Baptist Church 215 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. ~ 254.773.2598
Belton Christian Church 9425 W FM ~ 436 254.939.1172	Hope Community Church 507 Mitchell St. ~ 254.933.8222	First Baptist Church Temple 8015 West Adams Ave. ~ 254.773.6866
Belton Church of Christ 3003 N. Main ~ 254.939.1816	Hope Tabernacle 202 E. 1st Ave. ~ 254.933.8222	First Methodist Church Temple, GMC 102 N. 2nd Temple. TX ~ 254.773.7992
Belton Church of God in Christ 1122 W. 2nd Ave. ~ 254.939.1697	Iglesia de Cristo 3303 N. Main ~ 254.939.6910	First Presbyterian Church Temple 12 West French ~ 254.773.3407
Belton First Assembly of God 500 S. IH-35 ~ 254.933.2803	Keys Valley Baptist Church 4393 W. US Hwy. 190 ~ 254.939.1650	Foundation Church 10751 W. Adams ~ 254.780.9673
Belton Lighthouse 1001 NE Loop 121 ~ 254.654.7278	Lakeview Baptist Church 7717 N Hwy. 317 ~ 254.780.1884	Grace Baptist Church 740 Jayline Drive ~ 254.773.1401
Belton Nazarene Church 1701 Sparta Rd ~ 254.939.3404	Liberty Church 302 E. Central Ave. ~ 254.933.7107	Grace Comm. Primitive Baptist Church 3111 N. 3rd St ~ 254.774.8192
Bethel A.M.E. Church 401 S. Davis St. ~ 254.939.6090	Liberty in Christ Church 2520 N. Main ~ 254.939.3337	Grace Presbyterian Church 2401 S 57th ~ 254.773.2134
Central Texas Cathedral Worship Center 700 S. Main Street ~ 254.831.3064	Miller Heights Baptist Church 1400 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.1835	Harvest Church 2501 General Bruce Dr. ~ 254.780.3566
Christ Bible Baptist Church 1590 Jack Rabbit Rd ~ 254.939.9247	Ministerios Vida 2020 S. IH-35 ~ 254.624.8015	Immanuel Lutheran Church 2109 W. Ave H ~ 254.773.3898
Christ the King Catholic Church 310 E. 24th Ave. ~ 254.939.0806	Mt. Zion United Methodist Church 218 Alexander St. ~ 254.939.5621	Leon Valley Church of Christ 4404 Twin City Blvd. ~ 254.939.0682
Christian Tabernacle Church Apostolic UPC 1010 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.3464	New Life Fellowship 706 E. 4th. ~ 254.939.8011	New Hope Church of God 2005 W. Ave D., Suite D. ~ 254.742.2181
Cornerstone Community Church 5081 Dog Ridge Rd ~ 254.721.8250	Nolan Valley Baptist Church 13206 W. FM 93~ 254.721.5998	Oak Park United Methodist Church 5505 South 31st St. ~ 254.773.3021
Crossroads Church 500 South I-35 ~ 254.939.2122	Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ 117 N. Birdwell St. ~ 254.939.0822	St. Francis Episcopal Church & School 5001 Hickory ~ 254.733.4255
Dominion Life Chapel 105 Green Briar St. ~ 254.563.0472	Redeemer Reformed Baptist Church 2378 FM 1670 ~ 818.519.9855	St. Luke's Catholic Church 2807 Oakdale Dr. ~ 254.773.1561
Elm Grove Baptist Church 6388 Elm Grove Rd. ~ 254.933.8127	Tapestry Community Church of Belton 1215 S. Wall St. ~ 254.986.2333	St. Mary's Catholic Church 1018 S 7th St. ~254.773.4541
Family Gospel Church 2210 Holland Rd. ~ 254.721.0707	Temple Vision de lo Alto 4357 Orchard Hill ~ 254.563.1231	Taylor's Valley Baptist Church 2497 W. FM 93 ~ 254.939.0503
Fellowship Baptist Church 2025 Morgan's Point Rd ~ 254.780.2388	Trinity Full Gospel 810 East 2nd Ave. ~ 254.939.7673	Temple Bible Church 3205 Oakview Drive ~ 254.778.3233
First Baptist Church Belton 506 N. Main St. ~ 254.933.3391	Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bell County 1726 Morgan's Point Rd. ~ 254.778.8034	Temple First Church of the Nazarene 5000 S. 31st ~ 254.773.3744
First Mexican Baptist Church 703 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.6900	~ TEMPLE ~	
First Presbyterian Church of Belton 2500 Church Street ~ 254.939.2115	Chalice Church - Disciples of Christ 300 N 5th St ~ (254) 773-9061	Unity Church of Temple 318 N. 2nd ~ 254.770.0070
First United Methodist Church 205 E. 3rd Ave. ~ 254.939.5703	Christ Episcopal Church and School 300 N. Main St. ~ 254.773.1657	Vineyard Christian Fellowship 7425 W Adams Ave. ~ 254.778.2802
Free Pentecostal Church of Jesus 1111 Cacti Lane ~ 254.933.8201	Christian Life Church 4343 West FM 93 ~ 254.939.2626	Vista Community Church 7051 Stonehollow Dr. ~ 254.774.7992
		Wildwood Baptist Church 5195 Cedar Creek Rd. ~ 254.773.3177

The Incision May Be Small, But the Grace Was Big



John C. Perry

I recently had surgery on my right hand at the Baylor Scott & White Orthopedic and Spine Hospital in Arlington. I chose this location because they offer Endoscopic surgery, unlike BS&W Hospital in Temple. Years ago, I had my left hand repaired in the old-fashioned way in Temple, with a 2- to 3-inch incision across my palm. This time? Less than an inch. Far less pain. Far faster recovery.

Some quick observations: the Arlington hospital was a model of efficiency. In pre-op, a nurse or tech would finish a task, like starting an IV, then seamlessly pass the baton to the next person for something else, like an EKG. It ran like clockwork. The communication was just as smooth: a week out, they began texting me personalized links with step-by-step

instructions on what to do, when to arrive, and what to expect.

Another bright spot was the support I received. Facebook may get a bad rap (often deserved), but in this case, it was a godsend. I posted asking for prayers and was overwhelmed by the response. I was humbled and encouraged by the sheer volume, posts, texts, emails, and phone calls. I bet I had 250 well-wishers. I didn't even know I knew that many people! It truly lifted my spirits and warmed my heart.

Here's a moment I'll remember, checking in just before 6:00 a.m., Sandra stood beside me. As the receptionist verified my info, including my cell number, Sandra chimed in, "Let me give you, my number." The receptionist looked at her sweetly and said, "Hon, right now this is all about John!" I laughed and told her she'd made my day. For once, it really was all about me! She and I had a good laugh. Sandra? Not so much.

The surgery went perfectly. I remember nothing after the oxygen mask went on. It brought back an old, buried memory, the last time I was put under was when I was about four or five, getting my tonsils out. I was petrified and begged for my mother. The nurses assured me that if I let

them place the mask over my nose and mouth, they'd go get her. I agreed, of course, they didn't, and I drifted off fast. I don't remember much afterward, but my mother swore I was furious with her and refused to speak to her, blaming her for her absence during surgery.

It's funny how those early experiences echo through our lives. This time, post-op, the anesthesiology assistant chuckled and said he usually tries to guess how long it'll take to put someone under. He thought I'd last a while, but joked that I went out so fast, he didn't even get the chance to tell me to count backwards from ten.

No real pain after surgery, just some soreness and minor swelling. A far cry from the painful aftermath of the surgery on my left hand. A friend texted me a comforting verse the night before: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you..." (Isaiah 43:2). That reminder carried me through. The prayers and well-wishes truly meant everything to me, but the greatest comfort is knowing that God is always by my side!

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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EDITORIAL

Random Thinks

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

It is time to release a few of the random thoughts trapped in my head, this week seemed like a good time. I guess I could write about the unusual rains we have had all summer. Instead, I will use all my journalism skill to lay out a few oddities, much like Ripley did.

Have you ever read on a package of some sort of cleaner and it states that it “kills 99.9% of germs”? That sounds all good and fine, until you read a prescription pill that contains 0.1% of the actual medication and the rest is filler. If the small percentage of medicine works in your body, what about that 0.1% of germs that the cleaner leaves behind? And naturally those will be the strongest of the germs, so even more dangerous! I try to go double or even triple, increasing my odds against the germs, heck, I am not taking any chances.

Scientists believe that a goldfish has a memory of just a couple of seconds.

Scientists believe that a goldfish has a memory of just a couple of seconds.

Memories are a strange thing, which part of your brain holds certain types of memories probably has a lot to do with how you retain things. I can remember an embarrassing moment from the 5th grade, but head to the store and not remember the primary item I went for, so I have to make a note. I found a perfect grocery app for food, but for out of the ordinary items I have to use the note option on my phone, which is good, if I remember to make the note.

Have you ever noticed that cartoonists have a common and favorite gag, the desert island, or deserted island. They get a lot of mileage from a small round island

and a single palm tree, often fitting multiple people on the island itself. I am amazed that all the cartoon jokes have not been used up, but often they come up with new jokes and sometimes they are funny. Although I guess that Gilligan had a good run, a few years of the same thing.

I had a disgusting thing happen recently, and I apologize if you are eating breakfast while reading this account. I was driving in the recent, and welcome, rains, wipers going and nowhere to pull off the road. When a rather large-bodied insect (genus and species available on request) flew up and got caught under my windshield wiper, about half way. So for the rest of my drive I watched this carcass go back and forth across my field of view. I am sure that the initial impact probably dispatched the poor creature, however his remains fouled my

view for a while.

What is the big deal about “organic” eggs? I mean if you think of where they come from, what small difference does it make what the silly chicken ate?

And of all the birds we domesticated for egg production why did we pick the chicken? Certainly the turkey egg is better and larger. Or if you were on a low cholesterol diet you could stoop to mockingbird eggs.

Thinking about evolution, the normal type not the type where we evolve from pond scum. I mean somewhere along the line a bird ended up in Africa with no trees, so it grew larger with strong legs to run. Now the irony is that we have never seen a bunny rabbit that could fly. Doesn’t seem fair does it?

Something in the old western movies and TV shows, after weeks out riding the trails and

drinking bad coffee and pond water, the first thing that the cowboys want is a tiny glass of whiskey? Well not me, I would be asking for a gallon of clean water.

Why do birds have feet and legs? I mean if I could fly, walking would be a thing of the past for me. What if a bird didn’t have good depth perception and kept missing the power lines when he came in for a landing. Would all the other birds laugh at him?

Speaking of laughing, what if there was a hyena that had self esteem issues, would he think all the other hyenas in the pack were always laughing at him?

Do you know someone that uses the phrase; “strangest thing I have ever seen”? Do they really see a new “strangest” thing every day? I have seen a few strange things, it is rare that I see something that tops that.

The Egg Hunt

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

I know it’s not Easter. And even if it were, it’s been decades since I went on a bonafide egg hunt. I’m usually the one hiding the eggs, not finding them. But that all changed a few weeks ago when Rick and I were on vacation.

We drove for two days, stopping off in Lubbock, to end up at a small town in New Mexico. The remote cabin we rented was right on the Pecos River, and it was glorious! But I’m getting ahead of myself. Rick (the organized one and therefore the planner for all our trips) had made sure we’d drive through the town before reaching our destination. We’d stop for groceries, then go off the grid for a week.

Little did we know, there was no grocery store in this town.

There was a Dollar General. They sell eggs and milk, right? We’d grab enough for breakfast basics and drive to a bigger town tomorrow. We’d been in the car for two days straight. We were ready to relax.

Dollar General let us down. Their refrigeration section was out of commission, so... no eggs. Or milk. But there

was a gas station across the street.

They had milk, but no eggs. But there were two more gas stations in town. Surely one of them had eggs. Surely.

We tried the next gas station. No eggs. But on the way there, we spotted a Family Dollar. They carry eggs, don’t they? We pulled in the parking lot and practically ran into the store, straight to the back where the refrigerated section is. (Have you noticed all Family Dollar stores have the same layout? Makes it easy to find stuffY’all. They had ice cream. And technically, some ice cream contains eggs... but they did not have eggs in a carton. This was turning into the most frustrating egg hunt I’ve ever been on.

With little hope, we pulled into the final gas station. “They’re not going to have any,” Rick said. “But we might as well go in. I need to use the men’s room.”

He took care of his business while I looked around. There, in the corner, like a beacon on a hill, was a tiny refrigerated section with *four whole cartons* of eggs. I’m certain I heard angels singing. (Or it might have been Randy Travis playing

on the old-school radio behind the counter.) I paid *dearly* for a dozen eggs, and was happy to do it.

Rick’s eyes lit up when he saw me holding the goods. We still needed more groceries, but at least we had breakfast.


It was tempting to give up after the first three tries. We were exhausted. We were ready to see the inside of our cabin and explore the surrounding area. But we persisted, and it paid off in the form of 12 perfectly formed, perfectly expensive eggs.

In a similar way, we sometimes have to hunt for God. His presence is all around us, but it’s not always obvious—like when natural disasters take innocent lives, or war kills unsuspecting civilians. Even then, He is right there... and He will make His presence felt to those who look diligently for Him.

Some days I see God everywhere. Other days are dark, and it seems like He’s disappeared. But my decades of friendship with the Almighty have taught me that He’s always near to those who seek Him. Sometimes we just have to look a little harder. The effort of the hunt

is always worth the reward of His presence, His peace, and His love.

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:13



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TxDOT - From Page A4

ment will be watching for Texas drivers who make the wrong choice and drive drunk instead of calling a ride, taking public transit, or designating a sober driver. Texans know that it’s never just about following the law — it’s about saving lives.

“As Texans, we care about our neighbors and families, and that doesn’t stop when we get behind the wheel,” said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. “Even when you are celebrating Labor Day, it’s important to do so responsibly and choose a sober ride so we can all get

home safely.”

Drunk driving has far-reaching risks and consequences, but you can always find a sober ride. That’s the message TxDOT hopes to spread with its “Drive Sober. No Regrets” Labor Day campaign and partnership with Texas law enforcement agencies.

In Texas in 2024: During the summer, 273 people were killed and 596 were seriously injured in DUI-alcohol related crashes. (June 1 - Aug. 31, 2024)

Over Labor Day weekend alone, there were 327 DUI-alcohol related traffic crashes, resulting in 10

fatalities and 36 serious injuries. (Friday, Aug. 30, 6 p.m. to Monday, Sept. 2, 11:59 p.m.)

24 percent of the total traffic deaths during the Labor Day time period in Texas were DUI-alcohol related.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is conducting a national increased enforcement period Aug. 15 - Sept. 1 to stop drunk drivers. Local Texas law enforcement will mirror the same enforcement period and boost efforts to identify motorists suspected of driving while intoxicated.

MPR - From Page A4

The library was automated a few years ago. All books have bar codes on them. They use a scanner to scan the book and their library card, but if they don’t have their card to scan, they can type their library card number in.

Each family can fill out a form to get a library card at the library or online. After the form is turned in, it takes a week to a week and a half to get the library card made. They can pick it up from the

library.

“We are in dire need of more space. The friends of the Mary Ruth Brigg’s Library which I am Treasurer for, are raising funds to get a new library. On October 4, we are hosting an October Fest,” said Robinson.

Octoberfest will be a community get together and the first fundraiser for the library. They are serving German food, having a jam session with groups of musicians

competing against each other, dancing, and vendor booths. It will be at John Ansay Park in the City of MPR from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. There’s no charge for admission; however, they will be selling food, beer, and items available to purchase from vendors.

For more information visit the city of MPR’s library’s website at <https://www.morganspointre-sorttx.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1154>.

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COJO championship event returns to Belton



Courtesy Photo

A competitor ropes cattle at last year's COJO Championship Event in Belton. This year's event will take place Oct. 7-12
Special to the Journal

Platinum-selling recording artist Cody Johnson is proud to announce the return of The COJO Championship Event, taking place October 7–12 in Belton, at the Cadence Bank Center Arena.

The multi-day event will once again bring together top-tier rodeo competition, music, and the community, all in the heart of Texas, where Cody and his wife Brandi's love story began.

This year's event will also include new events, offering more opportunities for fans, families, and competitors alike. More information can be found at cojoteamroping.com.

"Team roping has always been a huge part of my

life, it's my refuge from the stage and the spotlight," Johnson said. "When I'm on horseback with a rope in hand, I'm not the guy on tour or in the studio, I'm just a cowboy, and that's who I've always been at heart."

In a video shared on social media, Cody revealed several exciting additions to this year's event, including a dedicated All Ladies Day featuring Breakaway Roping and Ladies Team Roping, followed by an entire day of Youth Junior Team Roping.

He also announced that both the Breakaway Roping and the COJO Open are now officially recognized as American Contender Series Events.

These new additions honor Cody's commitment to honoring the sport's legacy while continuing to grow its future.

On Friday, October 10th, the Champs for Charity Cowboy Auction & Dinner will take place, once again benefitting the Texas FFA.

This year's charity auction and dinner will feature a more laid-back atmosphere with guests encouraged to don their favorite western attire.

To top it all off, Cody himself is set to take the stage for a special acoustic performance.

Presented by Cody Johnson and produced by Ullman Peterson Events, the COJO Championship Event is a celebration of the values that define Western American lifestyle: grit, passion, and giving back. In keeping with that spirit, Cody and his wife Brandi are continuing their partnership with the Texas Future Farmers of America, an organization close to their hearts, as it was through the Texas FFA that they first met.

Last year's inaugural event saw the COJO Team Ropings award an impressive \$845,000 in payouts, along with an additional half a million dollars in physical prizes. These included everything from Bill Fick Ford trucks and Bloomer Trailers to custom guitars, Gist buckles, Cactus saddles, Smarty trainers, Turtlebox speakers, Resistol hat packs and hats, Cactus Gear horse blankets, Blue Otter sunglasses, Henry Big Boy .44 Magnum rifles, and Clint Orms money clips.

In addition to the competition, last year's Champs for Charity Cowboy Auction & Dinner made a significant impact off the arena floor with two impactful donations: \$100,000 for the Texas FFA and \$700,000 for the Different Day Foundation. The contribution to the Texas FFA directly benefited youth agricultural education, leadership programs across the state and helped fund scholarships, chapter resources, and leadership development initiatives. Meanwhile, the donation to the Different Day Foundation, a charity founded by Cody and his wife Brandi, supported the foundation's initiatives to provide housing, trauma therapy, healthcare and empowering employment to survivors of sex trafficking.

First called session ends, second begins



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By Richard Lee
Special to the Journal

After failing to meet a quorum on Friday, the House gaveled the first called session of the 89th Legislature sine die, followed shortly by the Senate.

At noon, both chambers returned for the second called session, which will feature an agenda virtually identical to the

first called session. That includes a controversial redistricting map, the measure over which Texas House Democrats broke quorum, effectively killing the first special session. That bill would create five new Republican performing congressional districts in Texas and sparked a national debate over mid-decade redistricting.

The Senate moved

through the new agenda with speed, sending bills already passed by the Senate in the previous session quickly through the committee process. That includes a three-bill flood relief package that would set new safety requirements for summer camps that lie in flood prone areas, installation of flood warning systems, and the more than \$200 million in state money

to pay for it and other flood relief efforts.

The THC ban bill is back, unchanged from last session, that would bar the presence of any amount of any form of the psychoactive chemical in hemp-derived consumables, but would still permit products containing CBG and CBD. That's the bill vetoed in June by Governor Greg Abbott and the issue that led to his call for a first special session.

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick noted that Abbott seems to be calling for legalization of some products containing THC, far less restrictive than the total bans passed by both houses of the legislature in the regular session and the Senate in the first special session. Though the governor sets the agenda, said Patrick, legislators write the laws.

"It is well established that the governor may set the topics for a special session, however he may not limit the specific language of any proposed legislation. That is up to the Legislature," he said. Patrick has been adamant all year that any law regulating hemp in Texas must include a total ban on THC.

Also advanced were bills to require individuals to use sex-segregated facilities that match the sex on their birth certificate, phasing out STAAR end-of-course exams in favor of a three-test regimen administered at the beginning, in

the middle, and at the end of the year, and a bill that would create a private cause of action against anyone who distributes, manufactures, or otherwise provides medical abortion pills to women in Texas.


Other bills would ban the use of public funds for private lobbyists, allow victims of human trafficking more latitude to argue that crimes they committed were compelled through duress, and protect certain background information outside of a law enforcement officer's personnel file from public disclosure.

While the rest of the first called session agenda passed through committee on Friday, a hearing for the new congressional map in the Senate was scheduled for Sunday at 4 p.m. That map, and all other bills on the agenda, could be considered by the full Senate when it reconvenes on Monday at 5 p.m.

After the Senate finishes the full agenda, it will await action in the House.

Speaker Dustin Burrows told House members Friday he intends to complete passage of the special session agenda quickly.


"I have been told, and I expect, we will re-establish quorum on Monday," the Speaker told members from the House rostrum. "My goal will be to have this body accomplish this and adjourn sine die before the Labor Day weekend."



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Belton to host cross country meet

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

For most teams in Texas, including Lake Belton, the cross country season began last week. Now, the Tigers and Lady Tigers are set to kickoff their campaigns on their home course.

After choosing to remain idle for the

opening events, Belton opens its schedule Friday at the annual Belton Invitational, where New Tech will also be in attendance.

The event will be held at Belton Lake & Outdoor Recreation Area, beginning at 7:30 a.m. with the Class 5A-6A girls race. The Class 5A-6A boys, Class 1A-4A girls and Class 1A-4A boys races will follow.

In case of extreme heat on race day, how-

ever, the two boys races and two girls races could be combined but still scored separately.

All races will be three miles in length except for the Class 1A-4A girls, which is two miles long.

The Lady Broncos are not participating but will be entering their next event with momentum after delivering an impressive outing in their debut.

Temple's Lions Park played host to last week's Temple Invitational, and the Lady Broncos immediately captured a glimpse of their future as freshman Keira Dzenowski collected the bronze medal, completing the three-mile trek in 20 minutes, 0.9 seconds.

See **RUNNIERS**,
Page B2



Lake Belton has sights set on Copperas Cove

By Tony Adams
The Belton Journal

The Lake Belton Broncos football team will take its first test of the 2025 campaign Thursday evening, as they will take on Copperas Cove on Thursday.

The freshmen teams will take the field at 4:30 pm. The junior varsity teams will play at 5:30 pm. The varsity squads will wrap the scrimmage session with a 6:30 pm contest.

Lake Belton has had a solid opening to their 2025 fall season to date.

"We are very proud of how hard they have been working," Lake Belton head coach Brian Cope said. "They had a great summer, and it has paid off. We will always work extra on the blocking and tackling part but from the scheme part the retention on both sides has been outstanding."

Asked what units or players have stood out in camp so far, Cope pointed out some familiar standouts, several from the 2024 edition of the Broncos.

"I am proud of the running backs so far on offense," Cope said. "Zyien Dupree, AJ Alexander, and Braxtan Cope all have done a good job. On defense, our defensive line is getting after it. We have had some players step up too, but it has been fun to watch Evan Lazott and Caleb Chandler."

The Bulldawgs will be the Broncos' first test of the

season, with going on the road to Copperas Cove.

"This will be Coach (Rodney) Southern's first year there and know they have always done a great job on defense wherever he is at," Cope said. "They are a 4-2-5 front, so our line will have to work together to get to the second level. They have talented defensive line and secondary kids. So that will be a big test for us."

Cope stated that while the Broncos' defense will have a task on their plate against the Cove offense, Lake Belton will have a higher worry.

"This week, we must worry about us," Cope said. "They have a good running back and some outstanding receivers. So, we must be able to wrap up on tackling and make them snap it one more play. They are looking forward to the challenge."

Bulldawg Stadium is always an interesting venue to play in and with scattered thunderstorms in the forecast anything can happen. With new head coach Rodney Southern in town, the Bulldawgs will have an interesting stamp of Southern's on it, being a disciple of Jack Welch's.

"Between coaching at A&M Consolidated and Belton, I have some great memories of Bulldawg Stadium and have the utmost respect for Coach Southern," Cope said. "They will be well-coached and discipline so that is exactly what you are looking for when you scrimmage a quality opponent. It will be a good test."

LBHS Volleyball takes fourth in Gold Bracket in Duncanville

By Tony Adams
The Belton Journal

The Lake Belton Broncos volleyball team, fresh off their sweep of Harker Heights, hit the road for a major test at the Duncanville Tournament this past weekend.

On Friday, the Broncos faced District 21-6A Fort Bend Clements to start the tournament.

The Broncos were sound systematically and cruised to a two-game win over the Rangers.

Scores of the match were 25-13 and 25-17.

Lake's next pool matchup was against the District 7-6A Irving MacArthur Cardinals.

The Broncos continued to move the ball with ease around the offensive side and leveled charges around the opposite side as they allowed just 15 total points in a sweep of the Cardinals.

Scores of the match were 25-8 and 25-7.

With Pool 7's top seed on the line, the Broncos took on the District 6-5A Coppell Cowgirls.

In the Broncos' toughest match of the season, Lake played Coppell tough through all three games.

The Cowgirls took two of three games to notch top seed in Pool 7.

Scores of the match were 15-25, 25-22, and 25-21.

Kaitlyn Hutchins notched kills and Haylee Kasner collected an ace to give the Broncos an early lead. Madi Bingham set up a series of kills by Hutchins, Abbi Jones, Morgan Kukulski, Ava Wood and Madi Jackman. Solid service by Hutchins, Kruz Smith, and Keileigh Krueger throughout the match kept the Broncos in the game.

Having clinched the second seed in Pool 7, the Broncos took on the District 10-6A Longview Lobos in the opening round of Gold Bracket play.

Lake endured three grueling games, which included an extended game two, to down Longview 2-1.

Scores of the match were 23-25, 32-30, and 25-21.

The momentum went back and forth at a phrenetic pace. The first two games had margins that did not exceed four points.

See **VOLLEYBALL**,
Page B2

Lady Tigers volleyball enter tournament season

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The Lady Tigers travel to their second tournament of the season today, and they will be taking momentum with them.

After suffering through a shaky start to their showing at last weekend's LGE Tournament in Leander, Belton rallied to win twice before suffering another setback in the event's finale.

Tuesday, however, the Lady Tigers traveled to Bryan Rudder and swept the opposition, propelling them into the three-day Huntsville tourna-

ment.

A total of 14 teams will take part in the event with Belton (4-4) opening as part of Pool 4. The Lady Tigers play Madisonville at 2 p.m. followed by contests against Livingston and Bryan at 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. respectively.

The pools are reshuffled prior to play resuming on Friday, when Belton leaps into Pool 1, competing against the host Lady Hornets (9 a.m.), Caldwell (noon) and Temple (1 p.m.).

Based on the results, teams will be distributed into brackets to determine a champion.

Last year, the Lady Tigers emerged from the tournament with a 4-5 showing and subsequently fell to Killeen Harker Heights in a five-set battle before finding their rhythm. Belton won nine of its next 10 matches and did not ease up, returning to the playoffs, where it advanced to the Class 5A, Division II area round.

Following their early hiccup at Leander, the Lady Tigers hope they have rediscovered a similar trajectory.

Prior to losing three consecutive matches at the LGE Tournament, Belton swept

Round Rock McNeil, but despite the outcome, the Lady Tigers were forced to overcome adversity.

Belton opened the season on point, taking the opening set 25-15, but after holding set point in the second set, it could not finish. The Lady Mavericks rallied to tie the score 24-24, but the Lady Tigers recovered to post a pair of points and go ahead 2-0 with a 26-24 win.

Like in the first set, Belton easily emerged from the third set by 10 points, 25-15, to take the victory.

The Lady Tigers had 30

kills and 21 digs in the match.

Their most recent match was not as close Belton beat the Lady Rangers 25-21, 25-15, 25-11, bringing their record back to .500.

Regardless of how this weekend's schedule unfolds, the Lady Tigers will continue to be tested, playing at Harker Heights on Tuesday before traveling to Little River Academy on Aug. 28 for another three-day tournament.

Belton makes one more

See **BHS**,
Page B3

Tigers set to scrimmage Shoemaker in football

By: Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

The Belton Tigers officially kicked off practice on August 11, and there's plenty of buzz surrounding the program as they gear up for their first scrimmage of the season.

On the 21st at 7 p.m., Belton will take the field against Killeen Shoemaker for the first look at a team this season.

One of the most notable additions to practice this year is the Tigers' use of advanced speed tracking technology. The program has begun charting top speeds during drills, and the early numbers reveal speed and depth across the roster. Defensive back Graham Chambley and wide receiver Gavin Ross each clocked in at an impressive 20.3 mph, setting the standard for the team. Close

behind were Azian Wilkinson, Jacob Lewis, and Adam Gonzales, all breaking into the 19 mph range. Just a few days later, on August 16, Ross again showcased his elite burst, topping the charts with another 20.3 mph sprint.

The data doesn't just make for interesting leaderboards; it provides Belton's coaching staff with valuable insights into player performance. Wideouts like


Ross, Achilles Palomares, and Khy Griffin have flashed the kind of speed that can stretch defenses, while defensive backs Wilkinson and Chambley are proving they have the recovery speed needed to lock down opposing receivers. Meanwhile, linebackers like Lewis and Gonzales bring a rare blend of size

See **TIGERS**,
Page B3



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Sports Briefs

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

New Tech’s tennis team earned its first victory of the season recently, defeating Liberty Hill Legacy Ranch 19-0 on the road.

The Dragons doubles tandem of Leland Moore and Zaylen Kimball cruised to a victory, while the Lady Dragons duo of Samantha McKenzie and Annabel Ferniza easily won their match 6-1, 6-3.

Additionally, Carime Montez and Hope Boettger earned

a 6-1, 5-7, 10-4 win.

In singles competition, Gracin Catterton also won.

New Tech plays next at Killeen on Friday before resuming its District 25-4A schedule against visiting Cameron Yoe on Aug. 28, beginning a pattern of playing once a week to conclude league play.

BELTON ISD TENNIS

The Tigers and Lady Tigers continue their schedule Friday, when they host Temple. Then, on Tuesday, Belton trav-

els to Lampasas.

Both matches will begin at 4 p.m.

The squad follows with a trip to Copperas Cove on Aug. 29 for its final tune-up prior to beginning its District 16-5A schedule at Killeen Chaparral on Sept. 2.

Belton takes a quick departure from league play to host Pflugerville Weiss on Sept. 5 resuming district competition against visiting Lake Belton on Sept. 9.

The Broncos and Lady Broncos were set to play

Pflugerville Hendrickson on Tuesday, but inclement weather forced the teams to reschedule.

FUNDRAISER

The seventh-annual Rockin for Youth benefit for the Clements Boys and Girls Club, Belton Tiger Athletic Booster Club and Lake Belton High School Athletic Booster Club will be held Oct. 11 at 301 Thomas Arnold Road in Salado. The event will begin at 5 p.m.

General admission tickets


are \$25 at the door and \$20 if purchased in advance at [Out-HouseTickets.com](https://www.out-housetickets.com).

Kids ages 12 and under are free.

ATHLETIC PASSES

Belton ISD family passes are on sale for \$75 and can be purchased at the Belton High School field house or at the Belton ISD administration office.

The pass allows the owner and all immediate family members entry into any Belton ISD athletic event played at home, excluding football games.



Life insurance: Protecting what matters most

Scot Hrbacek, CFP® Financial Advisor

September is Life Insurance Awareness Month. Having adequate life insurance is about protecting your loved ones should something happen to you.

So, who needs life insurance? You’re a good candidate if you have a spouse or partner who depends on your income, or children or loved ones whom you support. It could also be a solution if you have outstanding debts like a mortgage, credit cards or auto loan, or if you simply don’t want to burden loved ones with your final expenses.

You can choose between two types: term and permanent. Term is affordable for most people. Permanent, such as whole or universal life, is usually more expensive because it provides a death benefit and premiums that build cash value.

Many people have group term life insurance through their employers. But it may not be enough. And it’s only good as long as you’re employed there.

Carefully consider all your options to ensure you have adequate coverage for your family.

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

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Volleyball - From Page B1

The Lobos were able to hold the lead late in the first game despite kills from Hutchins, Jones, and Kukulski that helped keep the Broncos from letting the game escape.

Continued stellar service by Hutchins, Kruz Smith, and Keileigh Krueger throughout the match kept the Broncos in the game.

The Broncos endured the second game with a high degree of grit and determination, having gone point-for-point with the athletic Lobos. Lake went beyond the 25-point mark, as the Broncos would take a one-point lead that was promptly answered by the Lobos. Lake took five one-point leads that were equaled before the Broncos scored the final two points for the thrilling 32-30 finish.

The Broncos opened a five-point lead in game three before winning the final match by six points.

Lake entered the Gold Bracket semifinal against District 3-6A North Crowley with an opportunity at a bracket championship on the line.

The Broncos erased a five-point deficit to take game one. But the Panthers’ consistent attack took steam out of Lake in games two and three as North Crowley won the match, 2-1.

Scores of the match were 23-25, 25-17, and 25-14. The Panthers went on to win the Gold Bracket with a 3-0 win over Socorro.

“It was a great weekend against high-level talent,” Lake Belton head coach Allison Waits said. “I was proud of the team, and it gave us a great deal of confidence in ourselves.”



win over Socorro.

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Runners - From Page B1

Pflugerville Hendrickson’s junior Morgan Nelsen emerged with the individual championship, posting a time of 18:06.5, while Round Rock Stony Point junior Sophia Lopez was second (19:39.4).

Dzenowski’s outing was complemented by sophomore teammate Lucy Loa and junior Sarah Gray, who placed 14th (21:26.1) and 18th (21:29.9), respectively.

Rounding out the Lady Broncos’ top five were juniors Madelyn Rivas (26th, 21:49.5) and Jenna Benedick (28th, 21:58.5).

Additionally, the sophomore trio of Alayna Fulton (33rd, 22:34.5), Claire Henn (34th, 22:35.5) and Elizabeth Sandlin (35th, 22:38.9) and seniors Clara Hill (37th, 22:44.4) and Isabela Romero (45th, 23:09.8) competed for Lake Belton, but their times did not count toward the team total.

Final team scores were not available due to technical difficulties.

In the boys division, Wyatt Potts, a junior, led the Broncos with a 20th-place time of 17:57.5.

Teammates following Potts across the finish line included junior Josiah Briggs (30th, 18:28.1), junior Joshua Clark (32nd, 18:29.2), junior Jack McCullagh (34th, 18:30.5), sophomore Cooper Schels (38th, 18:36.3), junior Austin Adams (52nd, 19:03.4), freshman Drew Houston (68th, 19:38.3), sophomore Efen Romero-Meza (73rd, 19:45.0) and senior Robert Thomas (94th, 20:42.0).

Temple senior Xavier Tools (1st, 16:02.2) and Killeen Harker Heights teammates Blake Zimmerman (2nd, 16:18.0) and Christion Meiners (3rd, 16:28.5) occupied the top three spots in the final standings.

Lake Belton returns to action Friday at the Cedar Park Vista Ridge Invitational. The event will be held at the high school, starting at 7 a.m.

Next week, all three Belton ISD programs will converge on the same course at the Temple Pro-Fit Invitational on Aug. 29.

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Tigers - From Page B1

and quickness to the heart of the defense.
Of course, no pre-view would be complete without highlighting the

most important position on the field, quarterback. Will Shepard is set to lead the Tigers' offense this season, and his de-

velopment will be key to Belton's success. With a talented group of receivers and playmakers surrounding him, Shepard

has the tools to engineer an exciting and balanced attack.
The Tigers' scrimmage against Shoemaker will be

the first test to see how practice speed translates into game situations. With speed on the outside, the Belton offense is p[poised to make

some big plays. The scrimmage is set to kick off at 7 pm on the 21st, and it has the entire Belton community on the edge of their seats.

BHS - From Page B1

detour, visiting Killeen on Sept. 2, before finally returning home to

face China Spring on Sept. 5 in its first contest back in more than

three weeks.
The Lady Tigers will play two more home

– Georgetown East View (Sept. 9) and West (Sept. 19) – and two more road

– Gatesville (Sept. 12) and Lorena (Sept. 16) – matches before starting

its District 16-5A schedule by welcoming Lake Belton on Sept. 23.



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EDITORIAL

One hot mess

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

Technology is amazing. Just think, if you have a loved one on the other side of the globe, all you have to do is open an app on your phone and you can video chat.

Years ago, it was the stuff on Star Trek and the Jetson's. I'm still waiting for the flying cars, though.

Internet places like Facebook have transformed society, as we know it.

Whether or not you're part of that crowd, you'll see its effects in your circles of friends. I have. For the longest time, my sister Cat refused to join, especially when as soon as my other sister signed up, an ex-boyfriend stalker found her and asked if she was related to Cat. I don't blame her for avoiding the mess that could have created.

But gradually, Cat heard of plans that fellow friends had made via Facebook and those plans didn't include her, by accident.

It didn't dawn on them that Cat would have liked an invite too. She eventually succumbed to the draw of Facebook but has her privacy as tight as it can be for such a public place.

The funny thing about the virtual world is we can share the highlights of our lives and paint a prettier picture than things really are.

Sometimes when we have bad days, it seems like everyone else in the world is standing on top of the world, while we're struggling to get out of the mud.

When you log onto an app to see what the rest of the world is up to, it can seem

worse.

Especially when people share travel photos.

Other people talk about their wonderful, perfectly normal families, bringing back visions of the Brady Bunch, when our family is a motley crew. Some talk about their new jobs and promotions, and we look at the rut we're in.

Another friend lost 15 pounds, and we'd like to reach through the computer and hurt her, because we can't get our own nagging 20 (or 30, or 40, or...) pounds off.

I have to admit: there are days when I feel like one hot mess. I jam my finger, spill cosmetics and things all over the bathroom floor, can't keep up with the laundry, one

more bill comes in the mail, I break a tooth, the dog tries to eat my breakfast, there's more month left than paycheck, you name it.

If I compare that to all my friends' exciting news, I could feel depressed.

Before you make a judgment, as I have, about where someone else is compared to you, stop.

There's no good in making comparisons.

It's been said that we should never compare our insides to someone else's outsides. We all have good days and bad.

Even the most polished among us has days where they're feeling like 80-grit sandpaper. And that's a relief, especially when we're feeling like one hot mess.

FISHING REPORT

Belton Lake

FAIR. Water stained; 81 degrees; 4.36 feet above pool. Catfish are fair. Anglers can find blue catfish around points and sand flats in 10-25 feet of water. Larger fresh cut baits have been effective for trophy size fish. Eater fish under 10 pounds can be caught slow drifting with small cut shad along sand flats. Channel catfish are good and can be caught on punch bait in 10-20 feet of water. Flatheads are excellent on live bait in shallow water around river mouths. Report by Brian Worley, B&S Catfishing.

Stillhouse

SLOW. Water stained; 84 degrees; 3.38 feet above full pool. The lake is flooded with 7.68 feet of water above full pool, dropping about a half-foot per day with a 2,500+ CFS release ongoing. USACE has only one boat ramp open inside the Union Grove Park at this time, so that park is more congested than usual on both weekdays and weekends, and will remain so until other ramps come online. Flooding has led to two significant changes in white bass fishing: the fish have moved shallower and are often in under 30 feet now; and the fish are once again using bottom, not suspending exclusively. The best bite is in the first 3 hours of the morning. Downrigging to find concentrations of fish using Pet Spoons on multi lure rigs like umbrella rigs is working well. Once the concentrations are found, locking in the vicinity and working vertically and horizontally with MAL Heavy Lures with a silver body and blade with chartreuse tail. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service. Bass are great in the shallows around the flooded vegetation and are destroying topwater baits such as frogs, etc. This will not last long, so get out there soon if you want some of that action. Otherwise, throwing worms and creature baits in deeper water around 20 feet in cuts and coves will get plenty of bites as well. Report by Bryan Cotter, Texas Hawgs

The nutritional value of seafood

Certain types of cuisine tend to inspire a little extra devotion, and seafood is one such food. Seafood is an umbrella term that refers to fish such as salmon and tuna as well as shellfish like shrimp, crab and oysters. That's a wide range of foods, which underscores the versatility of seafood.

Versatility is one notable attribute of seafood, and diners can keep that in mind as they plan nights out on the town. Another worthy quality of seafood is its nutritional value, which is perhaps more significant than even the most devoted fish and shellfish lovers recognize.

- Fish is low in saturated fat. The American Heart Association notes that fish is not high in saturated fats. In fact, the AHA recommends eating two servings of fish, particularly fatty fish like salmon, each week. Additional types of fatty fish include bluefin tuna, oysters, mussels, herring, mackerel, and anchovies.

- Certain types of fish and seafood can help lower triglyceride levels. Eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) are two types of fatty acids found in fish such as mackerel and salmon that are associated with heart health. The Cleveland Clinic notes that EPA and DHA help to lower triglyceride levels, which is beneficial for a variety of reasons. According to the Mayo Clinic, high triglycerides may contribute to a hardening of the arteries or a thickening of arterial walls, a condition known as arteriosclerosis. Arteriosclerosis is a known risk factor for stroke, heart attack and heart disease.

- Shellfish are high in protein and low in calories. WebMD reports that shellfish are a great source of lean protein. That's a notable benefit, as lean protein is easily digestible and vital for muscle growth and repair. Lean protein sources also can help people feel fuller for longer periods of time, potentially reducing the likelihood that people will overeat. WebMD notes that a single, three-ounce serving of clams contains 22 grams of protein, which is more than 40 percent of the daily recommended intake for people adhering to a 2,000 calorie diet. That same three-ounce serving also contains just 126 calories.

Many people mistakenly believe that dining out will compromise their diets. However, individuals who make wise choices when dining out can enjoy delicious foods without the guilt. Various dishes that fall under the umbrella of seafood provide a delicious and healthy option when diners want to hit the town without compromising their overall health.

Seasons Of Need

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

As I type this, the local congregations of my denomination are collecting for an annual clothing drive. Each of the various congregations collects new and gently used clothing, as well as things like toys and household goods, and then on a designated date what each congregation has collected will be pooled together. It will then be arranged inside the overflow area of the largest church building in the region. On a designated date, the public will be invited to come inside and take what they need, completely for free. If it's like last year, we'll even provide plastic bags that people can use to carry what they pick up.

My lead times are such that this column will likely not be out until after the event is held; my allergies have been spectacularly bad this year, and that's thrown my timing off.

This clothing drive is timed to the approximate

start of the school year here in Texas, give or take a few weeks, maximizing the chance that the greatest number of youth in need will go back to school with something better than what they had. However, we've also been collecting clothing for adults, especially the kinds of nice clothing that they can wear to work. Pro tip: never underestimate what sort of message a necktie can send.

Of course, we're not the only ones doing collecting. Back to school time also means various businesses, governmental agencies, and community groups seeking donations of school supplies so that students and teachers alike will start the school year off in a better way. I've even seen one major retailer offer what they say is a "back to school kit" that contains a rather eclectic, if not eccentric, selection of pens, pencils, and markers among other things, meant to make it

easier for everyone to stock up or donate. That's on top of the usual efforts to collect backpacks, lunch containers, and other needful items. And to be honest, there are probably other groups collecting clothing as well.

I figure about the time we're all settled into the school year we'll start seeing collection bins for food donation ahead of Thanksgiving, followed by collection bins for toys ahead of Christmas, coats ahead of the cold season here in Texas, and so forth.

The thing is, the need doesn't confine itself to just one part of the year. Volunteers, charitable donations, and public support are needed all across the calendar. Perhaps there's someone in your neighborhood whose physical limitations make it difficult for them to complete their own yardwork. Perhaps there's a local food pantry that could really use a few extra items. Perhaps

there's been an unfortunate disaster, and relief is needed with urgency. Regardless, help can and will be required even after the signs and collection bins go away for the year.

Your assistance doesn't have to be some grand gesture. In fact, it's quite understandable if your circumstances preclude you from rendering certain forms of assistance; for example, with my history of health issues it's iffy if I can donate blood. But even seemingly small acts, like a few minutes' time spent reading to people, can compound over time to make an incredible difference.

That all being said, September 11th is the National Day of Service. Please check your local news outlets to see if there are any planned events scheduled for that day, and if not then you can consider engaging in service activities of your own.



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LEGALS

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. c/o: DEVON S. LINZY Attorney at Law, PO Box 428, TEMPLE, TX 76503
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08.21

The collage features a variety of logos for local businesses and organizations. At the top left is a portrait of a woman with a Texas state flag background, with 'ESTABLISHED IN 1866' and 'BELTON JOURNAL' below it. To the right are logos for '15 BODY OF CHRIST Community Clinic INC.', 'Our Hospice House' (a heart with a house icon), 'BELL COUNTY TEXAS HUMAN RESOURCE', and 'home instead'. The second row includes 'Tanner Roofing' (with a Texas map outline), 'Cornerstone Gardens LLC Healthcare & Rehabilitation' (with a star), 'UnitedHealthcare', and 'Baylor Scott & White HEALTH'. The third row features 'Killeen MEMORIAL PARK & FUNERAL HOME', 'CareAge HomeCare', 'Area Agency on Aging of Central Texas' (a program of CTCOG), 'The Medicare Lady', and 'MARIPOSA APARTMENT HOMES'. The fourth row includes 'Gentle Transitions HOSPICE', 'Caring Senior Service' (Healthy. Happy. Home.), 'LITTLE ELM RESIDENTIAL CARE', 'ONCOR', 'Harper-Talasek FUNERAL HOMES', and 'Heritage FUNERAL HOME'. The bottom row contains 'KELLERWILLIAMS LONE STAR 135 GROUP', 'Caraday Healthcare', 'WOODLAND COTTAGES', 'Temple GARDEN of MEMORIES', 'Seniorific News', and 'Integrity REHAB + HOME HEALTH'. Other logos include 'AdventHealth', 'VisitingAngels', 'MORADA TEMPLE', 'Embrace HOSPICE & HOME HEALTH', and 'gentiva HOSPICE'.



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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND
INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT
RENEWAL
PERMIT NO. WQ0014647001

APPLICATION. Texas Department of Transportation, 6230 East Stassney Lane, Austin, Texas 78744, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0014647001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0139718) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 22,500 gallons per day with provisions to dispose of treated effluent via evaporation. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located at 17871 North Interstate Highway 35, near the city of Salado, in Bell County, Texas 76571. The discharge route is from the plant site to a natural drainage ditch, thence to an unnamed tributary of Salado Creek, thence to Salado Creek. TCEQ received this application on July 10, 2025. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Texas Department of Transportation Belton Area Engineer and Maintenance Facility, Front Entrance Reception Desk, 410 West Loop 121, Belton, in Bell County, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. The application, including any updates, and associated notices are available electronically at the following webpage: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.

<https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-97.559444,30.900833&level=18>

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. 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. Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if 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.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose. Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ 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 water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.

TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. All public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://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 this permit application or 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.

Further information may also be obtained from Texas Department of Transportation at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Md Borhan, Ph.D., Environmental Specialist, at 737-270-2822.

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Football tailgate fare can go beyond the standards

Tailgating outside a stadium might not be as exciting as the game action once fans arrive at their seats. But tailgating is a big part of the game day fun.

Tailgating is as much about food as it is fun, as it's great to share a few laughs around the grill with fellow fans. When grilling outside a stadium, pre-game prep work is best done at home. Such is the case with this recipe for "Grilled Chicken Kebabs with Grilled Corn on the Cob" from Lines+Angles. Traditional grilling fare like hamburgers and hot dogs may always have a place at a tailgate, but these chicken kebabs are perfect for those who want to try something unique the next time they host fellow fans outside the big game.

Grilled Chicken Kababs with Grilled Corn on the Cob

Makes 4 servings

- 2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 6 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 2 teaspoons curry powder
- 1 tablespoon honey
- Salt, to taste
- Freshly cracked pepper, to taste
- 2 yellow bell peppers, rinsed, trimmed and cut into pieces
- 4 onions, peeled and quartered
- 12 mushrooms, cleaned and thickly sliced

*Skewers; wooden or metal
Oil for grill grate*

Grilled Corn on the Cob

- 4 ears corn, husks and silk removed
 - 1 tablespoon olive oil
 - Salt, to taste
 - Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
1. Rinse the chicken under cold running water and pat

dry with paper towels. Using a sharp knife, cut chicken into bite-size pieces. Place the chicken in a large resealable plastic storage bag.

2. In a small bowl, combine the lemon juice, olive oil, curry powder, honey, salt and pepper, whisking to blend. Pour the marinade into the plastic storage bag with chicken and add peppers and onions. Seal bag securely; squeeze the bag several times to thoroughly coat the chicken and vegetables. Refrigerate for at least one hour.

3. When ready to cook, prepare grill for direct grilling. Preheat to high.

4. Thread chicken and vegetables on the skewers, dividing chicken and vegetables evenly. Brush the grill grate with oil. Place kebabs on hot grate and grill until cooked, 3 to 4 minutes on each side. When done, the chicken will be firm to the touch and turn white.

5. Transfer kebabs to serving dish and serve with grilled corn.

For Grilled Corn on the Cob:

Brush the prepared corn with olive oil and season to taste with salt and pepper. Watching carefully, grill for about 5 minutes, turning occasionally, until done.



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