



**Brazos water pipeline-** Courtesy Graphic A pipeline moves water from Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir to Lake Georgetown, and the flow of water south could increase over the next several years to keep up with water demands.

## More water to go south

By David Stone  
The Belton Journal

A whopping 20 billion gallons of water every year could be piped from Stillhouse Hollow Lake to Lake Georgetown in the next few years and up to 9.8 billion gallons could be moved each year from Lake Belton to Stillhouse by 2032 to help meet drought-related needs in Austin's booming northern suburbs.

"As populations in the Georgetown and Round Rock areas grow, there won't be enough water for Brazos River Authority customers served by Lake Georgetown," said Brad Brunett, BRA's regional manager for Stillhouse and Lake Belton.

"Lake Georgetown is very small — Stillhouse is about 6 times larger than Georgetown and Lake Belton is about 14 times

larger," he said. "During dry times, there simply is not enough water in Lake Georgetown to meet the needs."

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Georgetown is the fastest growing city in America and its population of 96,312 is expected to double in less than seven years.

The Brazos River Authority has been pumping water from Stillhouse to Lake Georgetown for years, but the potential amount of water being moved will soon increase, Brunett said.

"We first started pumping in 2006, and we added multiple pumps in 2011," he said. "We have four pumps capable of pumping 42 million gallons a day. We are replacing those with 4 higher capacity pumps

See **WATER**,  
Page A2

## Belton Chamber recognizes community impact at annual awards banquet



BELTON JOURNAL/DANIEL MOCTEZUMA

**ABOVE LEFT:** Danny Dossman receives the Beltonian Award in recognition of his longtime volunteer service **ABOVE RIGHT:** Frank Minosky is recognized for his contributions to the community and receives the Legendary Impact Award at the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet.

By Daniel Moctezuma  
The Belton Journal

The Belton Area Chamber of Commerce hosted its Annual Awards Banquet on Thursday, January 23, where community members, busi-

ness owners, and local leaders were recognized for their hard work and contributions to the city's growth.

As guests arrived and the event got underway, the Belton High School Silver Strings, di-

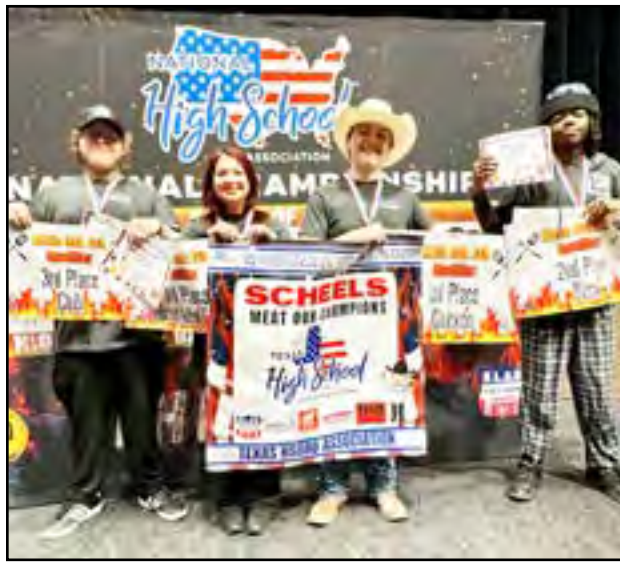
rected by Jenna Burchell, played in the background.

The year's theme for this banquet was "Better Together", which focused on working as a team to support growth and service.

"We were thrilled to honor some of our most valued servant leaders in our community at our awards banquet," said Randy Pittenger, Cham-

See **BANQUET**,  
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## Belton High School's Tiger Smokehouse Teams sizzle to State



Courtesy photos

Belton High School's Tiger Smokehouse barbecue teams come away with awards and qualified for the state competition coming up this spring.

Special to the Journal

Both of Belton High School's Tiger Smokehouse barbecue teams, Tiger Smokehouse Black and Tiger Smokehouse Red, earned state qualification at the Texas HSBQ League Qualifier competition on Saturday, January 11, 2025, at Klein Oak High School in Houston.

Hosted by the National High School BBQ Association, the event saw both teams compete in five categories and achieve outstanding results. The teams are guided by culinary

teacher and BBQ sponsor Kathy Firkins.

The Black Team earned first place in Chicken Lollipops, grilled by Hayden, and second place in Ribeye Steak, also grilled by Hayden. They also placed third in Grilled Cheese with Peach Chutney Bacon, grilled by Jasmine; third in Chili, grilled by Leo; and third in Ribs, grilled by Jio.

The Red Team achieved first place in Grilled Cheese with

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## Council OKs new downtown mural, facade grants

By David Stone  
The Belton Journal

A mural grant application submitted by Bison Creek Real Estate was approved by the Belton City Council during Tuesday night's meeting.

The application is for a 31-foot by 16-foot mural of a native American Chief riding a buffalo, and it will be placed on the rear wall of the building in the alley

behind Main Street. Two other murals are already located in the alley.

"The mural is being painted by Laced & Found, a company that has painted a great number of murals throughout Central Texas," said Victor Olvera, owner of Bison Creek. "The mural depicts early history in this area — many native Americans and a lot of bison lived in what is now Bell County."

Olvera said the mural featuring the chief and buffalo in a desert area also includes the words "We Will Be Known Forever by the Tracks We Leave."

Laced & Found, owned by Jay Rivera, painted murals at Be.You.Tiful Hair Salon & Sunless Tanning and at the Public Library in Belton, and at several locations in Temple, including a wall outside Treno's Pizzeria & Taproom.

"Jay and I have had a long connection," Olvera said. "I used to own a gym in Round Rock and he did several murals for me."

Bison Creek Real Estate is located at 106 N Main in the Belton Downtown Historic District.

Belton city staff had reviewed Olvera's application prior to the Council's vote and had determined that the proposal

See **COUNCIL**,  
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## Section of Round Hall Road closed temporarily for repairs

Special to the Journal

A section of Round Hall Road located between Pecan School Road and Sybert School Road has been closed as of Monday, January 27, for repairs.

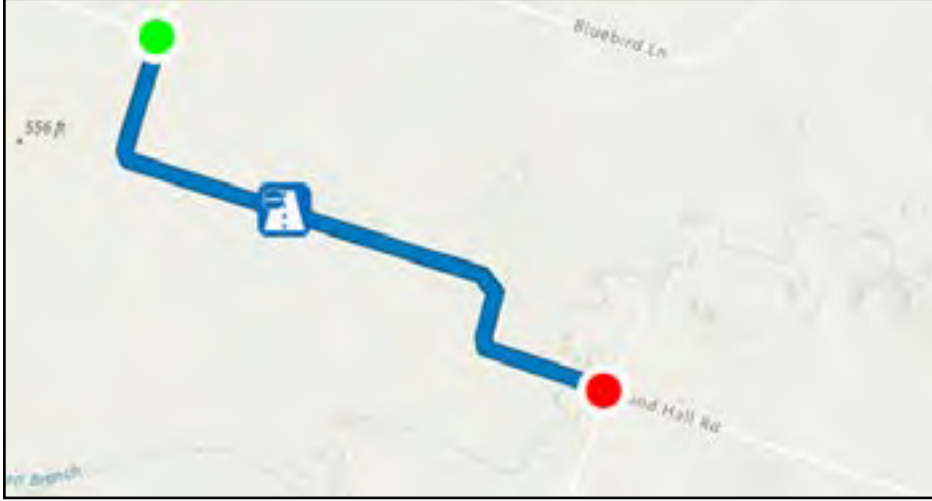
"This work is necessary both to ensure the safety of Bell County drivers and the last durability of the road," Road & Bridge

Director Matthew Eary said.

The work is expected to be complete by Friday, February 21.

The planned repairs include replacing metal culverts at a water crossing with a larger concrete ones.

This work was planned after Road & Bridge crews noticed that the existing culverts appeared to be deteriorating.



Courtesy photo

A section of Round Hall Road is closed for repairs until February 21.

## Hillary Hickland new face in Texas legislature

By Michelle Rodriguez  
The Belton Journal

Hillary Hickland (R) was sworn into office on Tues., Jan. 14, 2025 after defeating incumbent Hugh Shine (R) in the March 2024 Primary Election then Jennifer Lee (D) in the Nov. 2024 Uniform Election for Texas House of Representatives for District 55.

"When I was sworn into office, I felt resolved. It's been such a long process. I thought I would be really emotional and I wasn't. When I finally was sworn in, I felt that I'm supposed to be here. I belong here representing my community. I'm honored for this and understand that it is a responsibility that I take very seriously," said Hickland.

Hickland likes Texas history. What makes Texas unique is how it



BELTON JOURNAL/Michelle Rodriguez  
State Representative Hillary Hickland stands in front of an antique map of Texas hanging in her Belton office.

started as a Republic. She can trace her ancestry back to pioneers who were here before the Republic of Texas was established. She goes back nine generations.

"We are there to represent the specific needs of our district and there's a lot of common ground across the state, but there's also things

that make each district unique. In our district, we are blessed with many service men and women. That's one of the things that I love about Bell County. We recognize that this is such a wonderful place for families to live, to work, and

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## Water - From Page A1

that can move 56 million gallons per day. There will still be one pipeline, but we will be able to move more water."

"We are currently in the pump design phase, and it will be two or three years before they are operational," he said. Once complete, they will have the capacity to transfer about 61,000-acre-feet — 19.88 billion gallons — from Stillhouse to Georgetown annually.

The amount of water actually transferred is related directly to ongoing drought conditions.

"The pumps don't run constantly," Brunett said. "It all depends on the weather and how much natural runoff goes into Lake Georgetown. In 2016, the pumps didn't run at all. But, in 2022, they ran most of the year."

The projected Belhouse pipeline connecting Lake Belton to Stillhouse will be approximately six to seven miles long and up to four feet in diameter.

"We've looked at several possible routes for the Belhouse pipeline, as well as intake and outtake areas on the lakes," he added. "There's a lot to consider — we are looking at the most cost effective route, the least disruptive route, and the route with least environmental impact."

"We are just getting started on engineering design," Brunett said. "We will be able to pump water from Lake Belton to Stillhouse by 2032. It will take at least two years

to get easements for the pipeline and to complete the design. Once permitting is in place, construction will take at least a couple of years."

The Belhouse Drought Preparedness Project "will improve water supply reliability, allowing the reservoirs to be operated as a system, improving drought preparedness," he said.

While the Brazos River Authority has deemed the pipeline solution that moves water from Lake Belton to Stillhouse, then to Lake Georgetown, as the best option for getting water to where it is needed, BRA has considered other options.

"We are always looking for new water supply sources," he said. "We have considered new reservoirs in the Little River watershed and in Milam County, but those were met with a lot of opposition from local residents so those options are no longer in our water plan."

According to Brunett, Lake Belton serves many water districts and municipalities. One of the largest customers is Belton-based 439 Water Supply, which provides water to Killeen, Harker Heights, Copperas Cove and parts of Fort Cavazos. The lake also provides water to Bluebonnet Water Supply, Coryell Water Supply, Fort Gates, Gatesville, The Grove Water Supply and others.

Stillhouse provides water to Central Texas Water Supply and the small water companies it supplies, Jarrell-Schwertner Water Supply, Kempner, Lampasas and Salado.

Bell County Judge David Blackburn said BRA contracts in place give water customers in the Georgetown area rights to water from Stillhouse.

"It is my understanding that current contracts afford the customers to our south the rights to the water," Blackburn said. "It is also my understanding that no current system water rights holder will be impacted by a pipeline connecting Lake Belton and Stillhouse."

"But, with growth and development occurring in Bell County, I think it would be wise for Bell County water purveyors to explore strategies that will better ensure that our water needs in the future are met," Blackburn added. "Aquifer Storage & Recovery is but one example of a strategy that should continue to be explored in order to better ensure that the water needs of Bell County are met in the years to come."

Brunett said safeguarding water in Central Texas must start with conservation — and there is evidence that this is occurring.

## BBQ - From Page A1

Three-Cheese Onion, grilled by Ayla, and first place in Chili, grilled by Sophia. They also secured second place in ribs, grilled by Cameron, and third place in ribeye steak, grilled by Ricardo.

Each team works with a mentor to develop unique flavor profiles and perfect their techniques for each category, which include ribeye steak, ribs, chicken lollipops (showcasing knife skills and flavor), grilled cheese, and chili. The Black Team is mentored by BHS Construction Careers Instructor Michael Carrillo and volunteer Pitmaster John Hernandez, while the Red Team is mentored by volunteer Justin Firkins.

Team captains Cameron and Hayden shared their

excitement about qualifying for Nationals in their first year as a team, despite the challenges of a sponsor transition midway through the season. They attributed their success to hard work and dedication and are determined to continue improving ahead of the state competition.

The team, composed of ninth through twelfth graders, also reflected on some of the unique challenges of BBQ competitions. In a memorable incident during practice, a team member accidentally set trash on fire while emptying an ash bucket, resulting in a quick lesson on using a fire extinguisher. Despite setbacks, the teams stay focused and are eager to build on

their accomplishments.

While they are enjoying the journey, it is expensive, and the teams are accepting sponsors to help fund or donate meat, seasonings, charcoal, and BBQ sauces that are used in both practices and competitions. Donations can be sent to BHS with a memo for the BBQ team. Donors over \$1,000 will have their name or logo on the team banner at state and national competitions.

Their journey demonstrates their talent, resilience and teamwork as they prepare to take on the state competition. The state event, the SCHEELS High School BBQ National Championship, will take place at Burnet High School on May 2-3, 2025.

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# OBITUARIES

## Orlando

**Ralph Robert Orlando**  
 January 23, 1947 —  
 January 17, 2025

Ralph Robert Orlando was born on January 23, 1947 to his mother, Louvella Maxine Nutter, in the Pennsylvania country. He grew up in New York, the oldest of six boys, where he recounts that he and his next oldest brother, Omar, were thick as thieves, often taking each other's punishments and always having each other's backs. His love for dogs has been a constant in his life, even from a young boy where his mother sometimes found him sleeping outdoors with the family pets. At 19 he became a combat marine and fought alongside his comrades from 1966-1969 in many deadly encounters. He often said that he did not think he would make it out of Vietnam, but by his fortitude and God's will, he was a recipient of a purple heart and multiple air medals with valor. His missions, experiences, and achievements would take many pages to list, so, to say it succinctly, he was truly a real-life hero.

Returning home, he attended the University of Utah, receiving a bachelor's degree in wildlife science while hunting, fishing, and trapping the land there. He later became a United States Border Patrol Agent before joining Temple Fire & Rescue in 1980, specializing in cave and cavern rescue. He consistently held himself to high standards, spending hours studying and working to add different certifications to his skillset. He was a Master Firefighter, Arson Investigator, Fire Service Instructor, and a licensed Paramedic and Peace Officer. While the marine corps was his first and forever brotherhood, the men of the fire department became his combat brothers, and he took his job of protecting and fighting by their side with utmost gravity and loyalty. After retirement in 2006 he served as Assistant Fire Chief for Morgan's Point as well as a reserve officer for the police department. Ralph served faithfully and with integrity for over 40 years, saving many lives, delivering over 20 babies, teaching many classes, providing counsel and consultation to many, and expecting nothing less than the best performance out of himself and all those who served with and under him.

A strong work ethic was extremely important to him, and if he was not on the job, he was building fence, doing rock work, or clearing brush around his home and property. He also excelled in martial arts, obtaining a 3rd degree black belt. His only down time was spent hunting deer and turkey in San Saba—something he truly enjoyed. He shared wonderful memories of times spent around the deer lease campfire with his buddies, having drinks and telling stories. In his last years, Ralph lived alone with his beloved dog, Marlin, and later his "best friend," his blue-heeler, Cowboy. Ralph is preceded in death by his mother and survived by his son, Jason Orlando, daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Lance Walch, granddaughters, Autry Orlando, Kelsey Ashcraft, Logan Orlando, and Maggie Walch, and grandson, Sam Walch, as well as his five brothers. His much-repeated marine corp motto, "Semper Paratus," reminded others to be "always faithful," and in his last weeks he would write down and often say, "believe in the Father." He was always a warrior here in heart and mind and strength, and now he has gained the ultimate victory.

Arrangements are entrusted to Crotty Funeral Home & Cremation Services of Belton.

*Romans 8:37*  
 "In all things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels or demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

## Dague

**Margie Fay Dague**  
 January 10, 1933 —  
 January 17, 2025

Private services for Margie Fay Dague, 92, of Belton will be held at a later date.

Mrs. Dague died January 17, 2025 in a Temple hospital.

Mrs. Dague was born January 10, 1933 in Eastland County, Texas, the daughter of Tom Monroe Bennett and Lela Modelle (Payne) Bennett. She married Charles Dague Feb 29, 1956 in Abilene. She worked for 20 years for Scott and White and another 20 years in Home Health. She enjoyed playing bingo.

She was preceded in death by her husband, and three sons, Ronnie Modrall, Charles Dague and Randy Dague.

Survivors include one son Larry Modrall; one daughter Milessa Hammon, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

## Clark

**Carolyn Clark**  
 May 17, 1947 —  
 January 20, 2025

Funeral services for Carolyn (Shearin) Clark, 77, of Temple, were held at 10 a.m. Saturday, January 25, 2025, at Dossman Funeral Home Chapel. Burial followed at Rest Haven Cemetery.

Mrs. Clark died Monday, January 20, 2025, in a Temple hospital.

Mrs. Clark was born May 17, 1947, in Temple, the daughter of John Booker Shearin and Betty (House) Shearin. She married Gary Clark, June 25, 1965 in Temple at Heights Baptist Church.

Mrs. Clark was a receptionist for Dr. Bruce Thompson for many years. She retired in 1998. She attended Vista Community Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and siblings, John Wayne Shearin, Renee Bowery and Charlotte Shearin.

Survivors include her husband of 60 years, Gary Clark, one son Dwayne Clark and one daughter Mandy Clark, one brother Michael Shearin; three grandchildren, Camryn Clark, Peyton Walker and Caden Clark; and one great-grandchild, Lorelei.

Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association, diabetes.org.

## Slater

**Sharon (Sherry) Dianne Slater**  
 March 12, 1954 —  
 January 19, 2025

Sharon (Sherry) Dianne Slater went home to be with our Lord on January 19th, 2025. She passed away peacefully with her family by her side. She was 70 years old.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m., on Saturday, February 1st, 2025, at Dossman Funeral Home in Belton, Texas.

Sherry was born on March 12th, 1954, in Lubbock, Texas to Ocia and Audrey Whitmire Pond.

Sherry married Michael (Mike) Slater on January 29, 1977, in Lubbock, Texas. They had two children, Bethany was born in April of 1980, and Brandon was born in July of 1982. Mike and Sherry moved their young family to Fort Worth in 1985 and joined Wedgwood Baptist Church. They were together until his death on January 2nd, 2004.

Sherry was a wonderful mother to her children and wife to her husband. She worked as a secretary for Jackie Carden Elementary from 1993 – 2003 before moving to Aledo ISD in 2003. During her time at Aledo, she worked as a secretary in the Special Education department, a Certification Specialist in Human Resources, and served as the Transportation Secretary before she retired in 2021.

Sherry loved spending time with her family, watching movies, reading, and playing cards. She was super competitive during card games and taught her children everything she knew. Her favorite thing, besides her grandchildren, was quilting. She was involved in a quilting ministry at Wedgwood and was very close with the ladies in that group. Over the years she likely designed and created dozens of baby quilts that were donated to Pregnancy Lifeline in Fort Worth. She made her family and close friends quilts as well as making her children t-shirt quilts from Mike's old t-shirts after he passed away.

Sherry was a very giving person and went out of her way to help others in need. She loved her family well and spent a life well lived. She missed Mike so much after his passing and is finally reunited with him.

Sherry is survived by her daughter Bethany & husband Joshua Miller of Temple, Texas, son Brandon Slater of Fort Worth, Texas, brother Whitt Patrick Pond and his wife Thanh of Boston, Massachusetts, and grandsons Cameron & Michael Chapman.

Sherry is preceded in death by her parents and her husband.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to the Alzheimer's Association in memory of Sherry.

## Strickland

**Chong Ok Strickland**  
 December 5, 1949 —  
 January 20, 2025

Chong Ok Strickland, 75, a gentle and good-natured soul who carried the world on her shoulders, passed away unexpectedly of natural causes on January 20, 2025. Born on December 5, 1949, in South Korea, Chong was the embodiment of kindness, resilience, and love. She touched the lives of everyone who knew her with her unwavering care and quiet strength.

Chong is survived by her loving husband, Skipper R.R. Strickland II; her devoted daughter, Donna Strickland; her protective son, Bobby R.R. Strickland III; her cherished grandson, Garrett Locklin, and her caring granddaughter, Jessica Locklin; her loyal sister, Mi Kim Jones, and her husband Daniel Jones; as well as her doting and loving niece, Michelle Jones. She will also be deeply missed by her extended family and many friends.

Chong's life was a testament to selflessness and compassion. Her mother passed away when she was young, and

See **OBITS**,  
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## Council - From Page A1

meets requirements for murals in the downtown Belton area.

Rivera's work is estimated at \$15,000, and Olvera requested the maximum grant amount of \$7,500, plus an additional \$2,500 to maintain the mural for five years.

The Bison Creek mural application is the first to be considered by the city of Belton.

In other action at Tuesday's meeting, a proclamation declaring February as Black History Month in Belton was presented and signed by Mayor David Leigh and approved by Council.

The proclamation "acknowledges the profound impact that black Americans have had on the growth and development of this nation, and their role in shaping the cultural, social, economic and political fabric of the Belton community."

The proclamation was presented to Pastor Patrick Russell of Mount Zion United Methodist Church.

Council authorized the submission of several grant applications to the Texas Criminal Justice Division for items that would benefit the Belton Police Department. These include grants that would fund license plate readers, a tactical Micro-Robot system for Belton's Special Weapons & Tactics team, and police drones designed to help locate and apprehend criminals or suspects.

Mayor Leigh said the license plate readers are integrated so if a suspect crosses through Belton, the readers can identify them as someone who is wanted in another area.

A grant application for a program to provide money for victim assistance also was approved. The grant would be in the amount of \$22,700 if received.

Council approved appointments to several board and commissions: Brandon Skaggs was appointed to the Planning & Zoning Commission; Kayla Potts and Jim Deeken were added to the

Parks Board; Council member Stephanie O'Banion was named to the Hill Country Transit District Board; and Ralph Masters is now on the Building & Standards Commission.

Several zoning changes were made during the Council meeting.

Facade Improvement Grant applications for exterior renovations to a building at 206 E Central — between Penelope and North East Street — in the Downtown Belton Commercial Historic District.

A similar grant application was OK'd for exterior renovations to structures located at 120 N Penelope, also in the Historic District, and at 122 N Penelope.

Facade grants are available on a 50/50 matching basis. Council's action earlier this month increased the cap from \$10,000 per facade facing a public street to \$25,000 for a primary facade and \$10,000 for each secondary facade with a maximum of \$45,000.

A public hearing to rezone a business at 2144 N Main to create Longhorn Liquor was postponed until the Feb. 25 Council meeting at the request of the business owner.

According to Paul Romer, director of communications for Belton, voters passed a new law last year allowing liquor stores inside the city limits. Three businesses were rezoned earlier this month for this reason.

State law requires package stores to be at least 300 feet from schools, hospitals and churches. The 2024 election loosened restrictions in Belton and allowed businesses such as breweries or liquor stores to open.

Council also conducted a public hearing and agreed to annex 1.764 acres located in the Young Williams Survey. The land is part of a larger tract located west of Interstate 35 and north of Salado Center Drive. The plan was presented Tuesday night by Planning Director Bob



Courtesy Graphic

An artist's rendering of the mural that will be painted on the rear outside wall of Bison Creek Real Estate. Belton City Council officially approved the mural at Tuesday's meeting

van Til.

The property is part of a boundary adjustment agreement with Salado that was approved on Dec. 10. The agreement identified three parcels of land that were exchanged between the cities of Belton and Salado, and it identified this parcel that would be annexed into Belton.

The public hearing was part of the annexation process, van Til said.

A public hearing was also held to rezone 9.71 acres at 1930 George Wilson Road from agriculture to commercial to allow an outdoor flea market that was damaged during last spring's wind storms. Council approved the rezoning.

Council approved a final plat for the Wells Edition, a large 4.63 acre tract on Smoke Signal Lane near Lake Belton that the owner wants to subdivide into six half-acre lots. Property on Sagebrush

Drive near Belton Middle School also was approved for subdivision. Council members approved an amendment to the city's Fee Schedule and adding fees for the use of electric vehicle chargers provided by the city. In fall 2024, the city completed the installation of the first of two electric vehicle charging stations, the first in the City Hall parking lot in downtown Belton.

Since the City Hall station is in place, Council established a rate for charging a vehicle. Now that the fees of twenty-cents per kilowatt hour are set, the charging station will be activated. A rate of \$1 per kilowatt hour was proposed but city staff found this amount to be significantly higher than charging stations at Buc-ee's and other travel centers.

The second EV charging station will be at the Public Library.

## Obits - From Page A3

she selflessly left school to care for her much younger sister, a responsibility that set the tone for a lifetime of putting others first. As an Army wife, Chong raised two children while relocating across the world, creating a loving home wherever life took her.

Chong found immense joy in tending to her year-round garden, growing fresh vegetables and spices that she lovingly used in her cooking. Her culinary talents were well-known, and her egg rolls and kimchi were family favorites, often shared and savored by friends, neighbors, and anyone fortunate enough to enjoy her meals. Her home was a place of warmth and hospitality, where friends frequently gathered to share stories, play games, and enjoy one another's company. Through the love she poured into her food and the welcoming atmosphere she created, she built memories that will be cherished forever.

Her family will forever hold dear her wisdom, gentle guidance, and the countless memories she created with them. She had a special bond with her grandson, Garrett, who brought her immense joy. Chong's legacy of kindness, devotion, and her love of family will live on in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know her.

A memorial service to honor her life will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at 2:00 PM at Dossman Funeral Home in Belton, Texas.

The family is requesting in lieu of flowers that donations be made to Crossing Borders at <https://www.crossingbordersnk.org/about-crossing-borders>.

## Westbrook

Barbara Jean Margaret Westbrook

January 18, 1932 –  
January 24, 2025

Barbara Jean Margaret Westbrook, a beloved mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully on January 24, 2025, in Belton, Texas. Born on January 18, 1932, in Akron, Ohio, Barbara lived a life rich in love, adventure, and family.

Barbara graduated from Topeka High School and began her career at Sears & Roebuck. However, her true calling came when she met and married her soldier, Fred Westbrook, at the age of 24. Together they navigated the challenges of military life, living in places such as Ohio, Kansas, California, Germany, and finally Texas. During their time in Germany, Barbara took advantage of the opportunity to travel across Europe, creating lasting memories that she cherished throughout her life. After Fred's retirement from Fort Hood, they made their home in Belton, where her heart remained ever devoted to her family.

Barbara dedicated herself to keeping house and raising her children with love and nurturing care. Her family was her pride and joy, and her proudest accomplishments were the children she reared: Linda Jean Johnson and her husband Gary of El Campo, Texas; Susan Marie Allen and her husband John of Belton; Cheri Ann Loew and her husband Brian of Temple; and Dan William Westbrook and his wife Jennifer of Salado. Each child

carries a piece of her spirit with them, and her memory will forever be woven into the fabric of their lives.

Known for her incredible homemade desserts, Barbara ensured that the warmth of sweet treats always filled her home, bringing comfort and joy to all who visited. Family vacations were a treasured tradition, as she instilled in her children a love for exploration and adventure, hoping they would experience everything that brought her happiness throughout her own life.

In addition to her family duties, Barbara had a variety of interests and hobbies. She enjoyed sewing, knitting, and baking, often seeking out antiques at estate sales or hunting for the best sales in town. Unafraid of adventure, she embraced opportunities to explore new places, never desiring to learn to drive herself but instead thoroughly relishing the journeys taken with others. Her home was also a testament to her and Fred's shared passion — their collection of clocks, lovingly maintained by Fred, who gained the affectionate title "Clockman Fred."

Barbara was preceded in death by her cherished husband, Ret. Command Sergeant Major Fred Westbrook, whose absence leaves a profound void in her family's hearts.

She leaves behind a legacy of love and commitment, deeply felt by her children, her grandchildren, her four great-grandchildren, and many cherished family members and friends. To know Barbara was to understand the meaning of kindness, warmth, and unconditional love; her spirit will continue to resonate in the lives she touched throughout her remarkable journey.

The family of Barbara Jean Westbrook would like to express their gratitude for Scott and White Hospice and especially to her private nurse, Mary Manwell for her compassionate care of Barbara.

Arrangements are entrusted to Crotty Funeral Home & Cremation Services of Belton.

## Compean Jr.

Feliciano Compean Jr.  
March 15, 1980 –  
January 22, 2025

Funeral services for Feliciano Compean Jr., affectionately known to his loved ones as "Chanio," left this world unexpectedly on January 22, 2025, in Belton, Texas. Born on March 15, 1980, in Cameron, Texas, Feliciano grew up with a spirit that was deeply rooted in family and friendship.

Chanio's visitation was held from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. on Monday, January 27, 2025 at Agape Christian Center in Belton. His funeral services were held at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at Agape Christian Center in Belton followed by his graveside service at Resthaven Cemetery located on Shanklin Rd. in Belton.

A proud graduate of Belton High School, he dedicated many years of his life to his passion for mechanics, working at Mufflers and More in Belton. Those who had the pleasure of knowing Chanio understood that working on cars, particularly Low rider cars, was not just a hobby for him; it was an expression of his creativity and craftsmanship. The joy he found in fixing and customizing vehicles was only matched by his love and devotion to his family.

Feliciano's caring nature and infectious enthusiasm for life made him a fantastic friend to many. He touched countless hearts with his unwavering support and kindness, always willing to lend a hand or share a laugh. His legacy will undoubtedly live on through the cherished memories he created with those around him.

At the center of Feliciano's world were his beloved children and grandchildren, whom he regarded as his proudest accomplishments. He is survived by his significant other, Crystal Trujillo, and his sons, Feliciano Compean III and Felipe Compean, both of Belton. His daughters, Tina Renee Compean of Temple, and Isabel Maria Compean of Belton, along with six adoring grandchildren, carry forward the love and light he brought into their lives.

Feliciano is also survived by his parents, Feliciano Compean Sr. and Maria Isabel Escalera, who reside in Belton, and his brothers—Gabriel Compean Sr. of Moody, Martin Compean of Cameron, Miguel Compean of Belton, and Armando Compean of Belton. The bond they shared will forever remain a testament to the strong family values that Feliciano held dear.

In this time of grief, we remember a man whose heart was as big as his passion for life. Feliciano Compean Jr. will be dearly missed, but his spirit will continue to resonate through the echo of laughter, the warmth of family gatherings, and the memories that will forever live in our hearts.

In lieu of flowers memorial may be made on his obituary page at [www.crottyfh.com](http://www.crottyfh.com) towards expenses needed for his funeral services.

Arrangements are entrusted to Crotty Funeral Home & Cremation Services of Belton.



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## Hickland - From Page A2

to raise a family,” said Hickland.

Hickland took the opportunity and started advocating for things that were affecting her kids with school. She has four children, two boys and two girls.

“I became involved with PTA. I went to school board meetings and met with administration. Then, as problems would arise, I would want to step in. I wanted to be an influence and to bring about solutions. One thing led to another and I thought, ‘Well, I see a need and I can help with the support of my community.’ Nobody advocates, loves, and fights like a mom. I think the House benefits from having a mom representing,” Hickland said.

Hickland is active in the community and church. At the Crisis Pregnancy Center, she was a mentor, and helped connect pregnant women with resources. She attended Baylor University and Boston University. She taught English in Mexico and is bilingual with Spanish as her second language. “Our homeschooled education will be a major issue for this session. The governor will call an emergency session for education which means we get to address it with legislation and come together and focus on it. That will be a good thing because it’s been contentious and some sides are very passionate about it. So, to address that and get it behind us, I think, will be

helpful. What we are hoping for is, what’s called an education savings account that would provide funding that follows the students much like a health savings account,” said Hickland.

“There have been talks about an education savings account for students for 30 years. We are trying to pass options that are available to families because not all children are the same.

“It’s not one size fits all. Anyone that’s a mom with more than one child recognize that each kid is different. What we have to focus on is what is the best education for the child and who gets to decide. Does the government get to decide or does the parent get to decide?”

The average funding from the state per student in public schools is over \$15,000 per student per year. The bill that was proposed last session would allow for around \$10,000 per student so there would be a fund of \$10,000 where parents can direct those funds to verified vendors like an HSA for medical needs. That money never goes into anybody’s pocket or bank account, but parents get to use it for their children’s education.

“This would help with private school tuition. It would be used for expenses like uniforms, but also for homeschool curriculum materials. We have a variation

of ESAs right now with public schools in relation to special education. If your child is in a Texas public school right now, and they need a service at the public school, there is already an ESA. More of those children have access to the services they need. It already exists; we just want to expand it to not just special education but all families,” said Hickland. public schools is over \$15,000 per student per year. The bill that was proposed last session would allow for around \$10,000 per student so there would be a fund of \$10,000 where parents can direct those funds to verified vendors like an HSA for medical needs. That money never goes into anybody’s pocket or bank account, but parents get to use it for their children’s education.

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# EDITORIAL

## Random Thinks

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

Is there some obscure law that states that furniture assembly instructions can’t make sense? I mean, some are not even clear as to what you should be doing. Others are illustrations that resemble hieroglyphics from some undiscovered culture. Couple that with crude tools, or should I just say singular “tool” and poor quality fasteners, and it is a wonder that anyone ever succeeds in putting those flimsy desks together anyway. You might think that since these are marketed in the USA that someone from here might take a look at the directions and make a few helpful hints. I think they just send a letter to China asking for the only person in the area that has seen an English word to attempt to write a manual on how to put together the whatever-it-is and ship it sealed in a box to the states,

as fast as possible.

Do you ever get to the bottom of a pill bottle, the pain pill type that you always take two of, and find only one pill left? Did they cheat me and not give me enough pills? Did I miss taking the second pill one day? Did I get lucky and get an extra pill? If so what do I do with the extra one since I always have to take two at a time? So many questions! For some of us that are very strict with their routines this is a serious issue and needs to be answered. We can’t have pill companies just throwing pills around haphazardly.

How do you know if you run across an albino polar bear?

Have you ever noticed that a tube of bad tasting toothpaste seems to last a very long time? I hate to throw away something that

I paid for but after a few days of using the foul tasting toothpaste I am ready to take the loss.

Speaking of, can toothpaste manufacturers be more clear in how they label the flavors? We have truth in labeling laws, how come those don’t apply to toothpaste taste? It says “cool mint”, no, it is not cool, it is pepper mint, and pepper is not cool. Fresh mint, oh yeah, it is fresh because you spit it out and start with something else. In case you haven’t followed my flavor rants in the past, I do not like peppermint, hence my tirades on toothpaste flavors. I will brush my teeth longer with kerosene flavored toothpaste.

I see signs stating the height of an upcoming bridge on the highways. I thought we had load height restrictions for trucks. Per-

haps we need to put a big metal pipe across the highway about a half of an inch lower than the next bridge, that should take the math out of the guesswork on determining if your truck will clear that opening. It would also be interesting for the tired drivers following the trucks; BOOM, “Hey, that guy ain’t gonna get under that there bridge...”

Have you ever seen the television ads for pet food? They show a nice looking whole chicken. Heck I have bought a chicken for me to eat that didn’t look that good. Do you really think they are buying premium poultry and grinding it up for your kitty or puppy? “Yo boss, this is a really good looking chicken, does it go to the grocery store or throw it in the pot for cat food?”

I drive by a pasture with a lot of cattle grazing and I

see one cow all by herself over in a corner away from the rest of the herd. I wonder if she has found some really good grass and keeping it a secret or if for some reason she is an outcast from the other cows? I mean they tend to hang out with each other, being herd animals and all, so why is this one cow away from the others?

Back to pet food for a moment. The question has been asked before, why don’t we have mouse flavored cat food, but why don’t they make a roadkill dog food variety, you know, “rancid armadillo jerky”, “possum tail supreme”, “flat squirrel delight”, “striped ‘coon medley”, “didn’t-make-it deer

delicacy”, or “slow buzzard buffalo wing”?

Speaking of pets. I want to start a business that deals only in kittens and puppies. You know the cute stuff. They are so adorable that you don’t mind how annoying they can be with their animal-like habits. When they grow out of that cute stage, I come and replace them with a newer version. I just need to find an outlet for the older annoying pets that I collect. Maybe I have a giant petting zoo with nothing but cats and dogs. I guess I can be a test farm for new pet food flavors.

# Plant Probation

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

Like a lot of well-intentioned people this time of year, my thoughts turn to gardening. Maybe this will be the year I’ll actually grow some produce at home.

If you think about it, we’re only a few truckloads away from food supply disaster. What would we do if the trucks quit delivering the things we buy on a regular basis?

We’ve all shopped the grocery store shelves when just one truck is delayed. Okay, not trying to scare anyone, but it’s a little unsettling to think of the what if—if trucks quit delivering for whatever reason. Maybe it’s the fiction writer in me.

Which is why it’s nice to know where your food comes from and the importance of knowing where you could buy it locally.

So with thoughts of summer coming, of high gas prices again driving up grocery prices, I’m starting to think about planting container gardens. Again.

For several years, I started gardens with the best of in-

tentions. I know how to water. I know how to put plant food on plants. It’s not rocket science, like they say. Yet somehow by May or June, whatever I’ve planted is dead. I’m lucky to get a solitary tomato.

I’ve taken excellent care of the cactus and rosebushes in our front yard and they’re still alive, so that must count for something.

My shed has stacks of large planters, some empty, some still full of barren soil from a failed attempt at growing. I don’t start out with grand aspirations, just tomatoes, squash, peppers, lettuce, and some herbs.

I have a friend who’s a champion of green, clean living and promotes local food growers. She also keeps beehives, another thing I’d like to try. I told her I was a flop at gardening.

Of course, she had to ask, bless her heart, what I was doing wrong. “Are you trying to grow something that’s not suitable for your area?”


I explained to her that spring last but a few weeks in Texas, and then the weather

goes from warm, to semi-hot, to bake-cookies-in-your-car hot, to wondering-what-outskirts-ring-of-hell-you-accidentally-stepped-into hot (with other inner rings reserved for southwest Asia, other friends have told me).

Last week I stepped into the shed and looked at a few of the pots. Dare I try again?

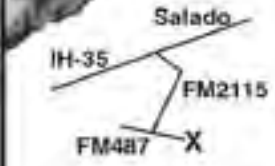
When do you realize a well-intentioned and good activity is a futile effort on your part? I guess I’ll have to find out. This year, it’ll be plant probation for me. I keep telling myself; I can do this. I can keep plants alive. Then if Doomsday hits, at least I can make a salad for my family. Maybe.

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**A6**  
Thursday,  
January 30, 2025

# LIFESTYLES

THE BELTON JOURNAL

## Belton's hot-dog queen also assists elderly with chores

By David Stone  
The Belton Journal

Jennifer Martin does more than make a mean hot dog. She also is a friend and companion to Belton's senior citizen population by assisting with shopping, housekeeping and much more.

Martin, the owner of Belton-based High 5 Hot Dogs since 2019, launched a new business this past summer.

Olive Branch Errand Services serves as a personal assistant to those who need a hand buying groceries and getting things done around the house.

Yes, she still serves up mouth-watering Chicago dogs on a regular basis, and she plans on continuing in her role as organizer of the Fourth of July Hot Dog Eating Contest, but her new job has already

been a similar success.

Olive Branch blends companionship, errands and friendship, and she has a growing number of clients who need and appreciate her help.

"At Olive Branch Errand Service, we understand that the safety and well-being of the elderly go far beyond casual conversations or running errands," Martin said this week. "I saw a need with the elderly in our community, and I thought I would extend an olive branch."

Martin said she was contacted by a high school classmate who needed help caring for her mother. The service spread by word of mouth and others sought her assistance.

"The needs vary," she said. "I help with cooking healthy meals, caring for pets, watering plants, playing games, baking,



Courtesy photo

Jennifer Martin, the owner of Belton-based High 5 Hot Dogs, launched a new business this past summer. Olive Branch Errand Service helps senior citizens with their personal shopping and other needs.

painting nails, but above all I make sure they are safe."

"It goes beyond casual conversation and running errands," Martin

added. "We go shopping —some have groceries delivered, and I take some to stores such as Walmart or H-E-B. We also read and share books."

"One critical concern is ensuring that seniors are equipped to contact someone in case of an emergency," she added. "Many elderly individuals may

struggle with remembering important phone numbers or navigating new phone technology, leaving them vulnerable during urgent situations."

"Beyond providing companionship, we ensure that seniors have emergency contact numbers easily accessible and that they are familiar with their phones," Martin said.

"Whether it's teaching them how to make a call on a new device, or establishing a clear line of communication with neighbors or loved ones, Olive Branch is committed to their safety and peace of mind. We care because it's not just about being present —It's about empowering seniors to stay connected and safe at all times."

Olive Branch Errand Service can be reached at olivebrancherrands@yahoo.com.

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## Akeiah Cipolla named principal of South Belton Middle School

Special to the Journal

Akeiah Cipolla has been appointed as the principal of South Belton Middle School.

With close to 13 years of experience in education, Cipolla brings a wealth of expertise to her new role. She began her career as an English Language Arts coach and teacher before transitioning into administrative positions.

Since December 2024, Cipolla has been serving as the interim principal, and prior to that, she held the role



Akeiah Cipolla

of assistant principal at the campus since May 2020.

"Akeiah Cipolla has demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication to

the success of South Belton Middle School," said Ben Smith, Belton ISD Executive Director of Campus Leadership for Secondary Campuses. "Her experience, vision, and commitment to fostering a positive learning environment make her the ideal choice to lead the campus into the future."

Cipolla holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and Culture from Ellis University in Chicago, Illinois, and a Master of Arts in Educational Administration from San Angelo State University.

## Potts files for city council seat

Special to the Journal

On the first day of the candidate filing period, Luke Potts announced his candidacy and officially filed to run for the Belton City Council seat vacated by retiring Councilmember Wayne Carpenter (Seat 6).

Potts issued the following statement: "As someone who has lived in Belton my entire life, I've been blessed to grow up in and contribute to this amazing community. My children are the eighth generation of the Potts family to live in Belton. I've always enjoyed diving into opportunities to make an impact here. It's a place I deeply care about, and I'm ready to step up and serve in a new way.

"With my experience as an entrepreneur, problem-solver, and advocate for growth, I want to focus on keeping Belton thriving while preserving the heart and values that make it special. Whether it's fostering responsible development, improving infrastructure, or addressing community concerns, I am ready to work hard for all of us.

"I look forward to connecting with Belton city residents in the coming weeks to hear your thoughts and share my vision. Together, we can build on the legacy of this incredible town and create an even brighter future for the generations to come.

"There are huge shoes to fill with Wayne Carpenter stepping down from City Council, so I hope I can at least match the amount of heart and soul he gave to serving our town."

Luke has been deeply involved in the Belton community for decades. Some of his recent local business endeavors have included starting the Woodhouse Spa at Nolan Creek, partnering in developing the MK&T Depot & the Katy in historic



Courtesy Photo

Luke Potts, pictured with his family, has filed to run for Belton City Council.

downtown Belton, and operating a local snow cone business.

Luke currently serves on the city Planning and Zoning Commission. His experience in development and entrepreneurship, city planning and zoning, and his active role in various community groups gives him valuable knowledge and perspective that he looks forward to utilizing on the City Council. The 2025 General Election is scheduled for Saturday, May 3, 2025.

Luke graduated from Belton High School in 1998. He graduated from Texas A&M University and currently works for Cedar Crest Hospital as a Business Development/Strategist. He served as the Chair of Military Relations for the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce. Was President of the Harker Heights Chamber of Commerce while working for Seton Medical Center in Harker Heights. He was named Citizen of the Year in 2019 by the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce.

"I love Belton. When I hear the word, Belton, it makes me think about family and friends. We have great character and charm here," said Luke.

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## Lunch & Learn Event celebrates 175 years of Bell County history

Special to the Journal

On Wednesday, January 22, the Bell County Historical Commission and Bell County Museum hosted a special Lunch & Learn event at the Salado Museum. The free event celebrated the 175th anniversary of Bell County.

This was the third Lunch & Learn event organized by the Historical Commission and Bell County Museum.

It featured presentations

from both museum director Coleman Hampton and Historical Commission Chair, Daniel Elder.

"It's our third Lunch & Learn, and each one gets bigger," Elder said. "This is our largest one, our best turnout."

The lectures looked back not just on the last 175 years but also at the thousands of years that preceded the county's creation.

"This place has a lot of history, dating all the way back 20,000 years," said Hampton.

Both organizations agree that

there is plenty more history to explore.

"There are over 250 historic markers within this county, identifying subjects, activities, places, landmarks," Elder said. "Each one of them is a story of its own."

Other events celebrating the county's 175th anniversary are currently being planned.

"This is the kickoff, the first day," Hampton said. "It's really exciting to kick off the anniversary."



Courtesy photo

Bell County Museum Director Coleman Hampton speaks at a recent lunch and learn.



Courtesy photo

The Red Cross is assisting four individuals that were displaced in an early morning apartment fire in Belton.

## January 16 fire displaces four

Special to the Journal

Four Belton residents are displaced following a fire last Thursday morning in the 300 block of West Avenue A. Belton firefighters received an emergency call at about 4:03 a.m. on Thursday, January 23, notifying them

of a kitchen fire in an apartment unit. They responded and quickly extinguished the fire. No injuries were reported, but one apartment unit received heavy fire damage. The Red Cross has been notified about the displaced individuals.

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## Must-have items for your next game watch party

The popularity of professional and college sports is undeniable. Various metrics, from ticket sales to data on how much is spent on team apparel, underscore that popularity. But there may be no greater measuring stick than television viewership, which tends to rise as the games grow more meaningful. In fact, the National Football League reported that international viewership of the Super Bowl totaled 62.5 million people in 2024. When added to the estimated 123.4 million domestic viewers who tuned in to watch the league's championship game, it's evident that watching the big game is a big deal.

Game watches have become a go-to way for fans to get together and take in the big game. The best game watches feature an assortment of variables that combine to make the viewing experience comfortable and engaging.

• **Seating:** Guests will need a comfortable place to sit during the game. Make sure the primary viewing space has enough seating to accommodate everyone on the guest list. If necessary, rearrange furniture so the most comfortable seats, including couches and upholstered armchairs, are positioned so guests can see the television without having to crane their necks or sit awkwardly. Some padded folding chairs can then be brought in to provide additional seating.

• **Multiple viewing areas:** If lots of young children will be coming, consider creating a separate viewing space for youngsters, such as a playroom, basement or another living space that can accommodate the younger fans. In addition, consider setting up an outdoor viewing space if the weather allows. A fire pit and some comfortable outdoor furniture situated around an outdoor television or projector screen can accommodate guests who want to watch the game under an open sky.

• **Snacks:** It's not uncommon to order in for a game watch, and pizza and chicken wings are popular items to serve during the big game. But it's equally important to provide fellow fans with plenty of snacking options. Chips and dip, homemade nachos with salsa, pretzels, and snacks for children should be part of the game day offerings. But don't discount nutritious snacks, either. A vegetable tray with hummus can be offered to guests who want to enjoy the big game without indulging in less nutritious fare.

• **Drinks:** Viewers who watch football regularly can be forgiven if they assume beer is an integral component of the game day viewing experience. While it's common to provide some adult beverages for guests at the game watch, hosts must recognize that local laws may consider it their responsibility to ensure guests are not over-served. So while it's alright to provide alcoholic beverages to guests, it's important that nonalcoholic alternatives, including water, soda and juice, be made available as well.

• **Tech:** Of course, the viewing experience will be that much more enjoyable for hosts and guests with the latest technology. A new television with fast response times and a wide viewing angle can ensure the competitors on the field are viewed as clearly as possible and visible from all angles in the rooms where the game will be shown. Hosts who plan to set up outdoor viewing areas should take every step to reduce glare, particularly if the television outside is not designed for outdoor viewing. In addition to the television, new sound systems can make the game watch that much more impressive.

Before inviting guests over for the big game, hosts can consider these variables to ensure the viewing experience is one fans won't soon forget.

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# Belton ISD recognized as a CTE District of Distinction by CTAT

Special to the Journal

Belton ISD was recognized as a CTE District of Distinction by the Career and Technical Association of Texas (CTAT).

This prestigious award highlights districts that demonstrate leadership, innovation, and a commitment to student success through high-quality Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.

Superintendent Dr. Malinda Golden shared, "This recognition reflects the dedication of our educators, staff, and students. In Belton ISD, we are committed to providing future-focused CTE programs that prepare students for suc-

cess in today's workforce."

Director of PK-12 Career Readiness Denise Ayres added, "This honor highlights our excellence in CTE and opens new opportunities to collaborate with industry leaders, furthering our mission to prepare students for a rapidly evolving economy."

Belton ISD's CTE programs thrive through innovation, workforce partnerships, and a commitment to student achievement, providing real-world experiences, specialized career pathways, and industry certifications for students.

This distinction celebrates Belton ISD as a model of excellence in CTE statewide.



Courtesy photo

Belton ISD students learn trade skills as part of the district's Career and Technical Education program.

## Banquet - From Page A1



BELTON JOURNAL/DANIEL MOCTEZUMA

**ABOVE LEFT:** Emilio Perales receives the Citizen of the Year Award. **ABOVE MIDDLE:** Representatives from Level 3 Coworking and Event Center accept the Business of the Year Award. **FAR RIGHT:** Karen Wheeler is honored as the Ambassador of the Year honor at the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet.

ber President and CEO. "This annual tradition of honoring and thanking those who step up and go the extra mile is important for our community."

The evening also reflected on major events of 2024, including the recovery efforts following the May 22 storm. City staff, local businesses, and volunteers were acknowledged for stepping up to help their neighbors rebuild.

Danny Dossman received the 2024 Beltonian Award for his years of volunteer work in the city. In addition to his career as a businessman, Dossman has been involved in several projects,

including leading efforts for the Patriot Way Brick Walk.

The 2024 Citizen of the Year Award went to Emilio Perales, a co-owner of Vista Real Estate and an Army veteran. Perales was recognized for his hands-on involvement in Chamber activities and dedication to local service.

Karen Wheeler, a Relationship Banker with Extraco Banks, was honored as the 2024 Ambassador of the Year. Wheeler has been a long-standing member of the Chamber's Ambassador program and has been a strong supporter of the Leadership Belton initiative.

The Rising Star Award was presented to Krista Snyder for her leadership in business and efforts to create new mentorship opportunities for young professionals in Belton.

For his dedication to veterans and the Chamber's Military Relations Committee, Frank Minsky received the Legendary Impact Award for his long-standing service and advocacy for those who served in the military.

Three local businesses—Level 3 Coworking and Event Center, KPA Engineers, and Emerson Construction—were honored as the 2024 Businesses of

the Year for their influence on the city's economic growth. The banquet itself was held in a building constructed by Emerson, showing the company's lasting impact on the community.

The Chamber recognized Crossroads Church and KWTX Channel 10 as Community Partners for their involvement in local events, including the annual 4th of July Parade and Festival.

For more information, visit the Chamber's website at [www.beltonchamber.com](http://www.beltonchamber.com) or reach out via email at [info@beltonchamber.com](mailto:info@beltonchamber.com).

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## Lake sweeps the field at annual Andrew Billings Invitational

By Clay Whittington  
The Belton Journal

Lake Belton traveled to the Waco University High School on Saturday for the annual Andrew Billings Invitational, and the Broncos and Lady Broncos swept the field.

With four lifters emerging with gold medals, Lake Belton won the boys and girls team titles.

The Broncos were paced by Christian Morales and Cooper Arnold, who won the 114-pound and 132 weight classes, respectively. Morales had a 435 squat, 230 bench press and 415 deadlift to amass a total of

1,080, while Arnold was first with a total of 1,020 (375-260-385).

Additionally, four more Broncos — Travellis Harrison (2nd, 198, 430-255-500-1,185), Freddie Westbrook (2nd, 242, 480-285-440-1,205), Leonel Castillo (3rd, 132, 315-200-315-830) and Hunter Loraus (3rd, 308, 480-285-435-1,200) — landed on the medal stand.

Accounting for the remainder of the team's 35 points were Jax Holliman (4th, 165, 400-255-415-1,070), Evan Lozzatt (4th, 275, 455-355-455-1,265) and Dylan Boyer (5th, 181, 345-240-405-990).

Waco Midway (2nd, 29), Waco

(3rd, 29) and Killeen Chaparral (4th, 21) followed in the final standings.

In the girls division, the Lady Broncos (1st, 45) beat out Copperas Cove (2nd, 43), Belton (3rd, 25) and Temple (4th, 22).

Pacing the Lady Broncos were winners Catalina Esquivel (97, 140-95-175-410) and Scarlett Cotham (114, 235-145-275-655) and runners-up Macie Solis (105, 210-115-235-560), Moriah Rydberg (114, 240-125-225), Tatum Vaughn (148, 300-145-280-725), Aleyna Castor (181, 305-155-315-775) and Jaya

See VPL,  
Page B3

## Planz defies odds to continue swimming career

By Clay Whittington  
The Belton Journal

Liana Alyse Planz, a 2022 graduate of Belton High School, is no stranger to breaking records and overcoming challenges.

Known for her prowess in the pool, Liana left her mark with school and club records in the 100-yard butterfly, 200 butterfly, 100 freestyle and 200 freestyle.

Just weeks before embarking on her collegiate swimming career at Queens University of Charlotte, however, her life took a devastating turn.

On July 14, 2022, Planz was involved in a head-on collision that nearly ended her life. Air-lifted to the nearest emergency room, she suffered catastrophic injuries: a broken femur, broken

back, shattered wrist, dual collapsed lungs, a pseudoaneurysm and a scalped head.

Despite the heroic efforts of veterans Rebecca Ryan and Rose Oliver and Salado firefighters, who combined to help save Planz's life in the crash's immediate aftermath, doctors and loved ones were uncertain if she would fully recover, let alone swim.

The severity of her injuries forced Planz to postpone her plans to join the NCAA Division I swim team at Queens University, but her coaches and teammates, including her home Belton team, kept her in their hearts and held a spot for her.

During her recovery, Planz enrolled at Temple Community Col-

See PLANZ,  
Page B3

## Lake Belton boys' basketball endures a rough week

By Tony Adams  
The Belton Journal

The Lake Belton Broncos took on the Belton Tigers, as they looked to improve their standing in District 16-5A.

With the game being moved back a day due to inclement weather on Jan. 21 closing schools, the teams had to wait until the following Wednesday to play.

Belton's 11-point swing in the second quarter helped prove the difference, as the Broncos fell to the Tigers, 73-59.

The teams were tied at 16-16 at the end of the first quarter. However, in the second quarter, the Tigers outscored Lake 25-14, and led at the half, 41-30.

Both teams scored 16 points in the third stanza and went into the fourth quarter with the Tigers holding a 57-46 lead.

Mikey Lockett scored 20 points and hauled in 10 rebounds, and Kendrick Jones, Jr. added 16 points to lead the Broncos.

Ty Johnson scored 24 points, and Jay'dn Loggins added 18.

On Friday, the Broncos took on the Ellison Eagles in Killeen.

Ellison, always a tough district opponent, displayed it again as they dominated the Broncos in a 94-48 win.

On Tuesday, the Broncos hosted the Waco High Lions.

Lake Belton battled, but it was the Lions that came away with a 69-60 win.

The loss put a dent in their playoff hopes in the second leg in their District 16-5A schedule. The Broncos are 14-15 overall, are at 1-5 and in fifth place with four games left in district play.

"It will be a tough road ahead, but we have to take one game at a time," Lake Belton head coach Zane Johnston said. "We continue to battle learn with each game."

Lake Belton hosts Chaparral on Friday, travels to Waco to take on University on Tuesday, will play at Belton on Feb. 7, and ends the regular season at home against Ellison on Feb. 11.

## Belton ISD swimmers have strong showing in district meets

By Aries Ramos  
The Belton Journal

Belton ISD's swim teams showcased all they have been working toward this year at their district meets.

Lake Belton, Belton, and Belton New Tech left everything they had in the water as they battled at their district meets.

Lake Belton High School delivered a historic performance at the District 22-5A meet, capturing the boys' and girls' team titles. The boys scored an impressive 206 points, while the girls scored 174.

"Our focus was on staying positive, sticking to our plan, and preparing for Regionals," said head coach Natalie Hazlewood. "I'm incredibly proud of the hard work the athletes have put in this season."

Junior David Stewart headlined the meet, winning the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 50.19. Senior Christine Kim earned victories in the 100-yard freestyle (54.98) and placed second in the 50-yard freestyle (25.01). Freshman Kieran Scott also shined, taking the top spot in the boys' 50-yard freestyle with a time of 24.78.

Lake Belton's relay teams dominated the competition, winning the boys' and girls' 400-yard freestyle and 200-yard freestyle relays. Their collective effort ensured that nearly every swimmer contributed to the

team's success, and 24 out of 25 swimmers qualified for Regionals.

Belton High School made a strong showing at the District 22-5A meet, finishing second in the boys' and girls' divisions. The girls' team accumulated 136 points, while the boys earned 104 points, securing their place as one of the top teams in the district.

Senior Lili Nelson led the charge for Belton, capturing the girls' 200-yard freestyle title with a time of 2:01.92 and earning second place in the 500-yard freestyle (5:26.73).

On the boys' side, senior Addison Richardson earned second place in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 4:59.45, adding crucial points to the team's tally.

Belton's relay teams also made an impact. The girls' 200-yard freestyle relay team took first place with a time of 1:49.12, while the boys' 400-yard freestyle relay team placed second.

At the District 13-4A meet, Belton New Tech High School delivered an impressive performance, finishing second in the girls' team standings and fourth in the boys' division. Head coach Brett Ringgold lauded the team's growth and adaptability: "We doubled the number of relays advancing to Regionals, and individual performances improved dramatically."

Freshman Miller Epperson stole

the show with a victory in the girls' 500-yard freestyle, finishing with a time of 6:18.67.

Classmate Niylah Nett also made waves, placing third in the 100-yard butterfly (1:08.69) and 200-yard individual medley (2:32.28).

"Niylah has set four team records as a freshman," Ringgold said. "Her influence on our team's culture and attitude has been exceptional."

Sophomore teammates Jayden Stilley and Zayne Williford delivered solid performances in the boys' division, with Stilley finishing second in the 100-yard backstroke (1:05.09) and Williford placing fourth in the 500-yard freestyle (5:31.80).

With the district championships in the rearview mirror, all three Belton ISD teams are now focused on Regionals, aiming to send swimmers to the State Championships.

"The district meet sets the tone for the rest of the season," said Ringgold. "We've focused on performing under pressure, and I'm excited to see how our swimmers rise to the occasion."

Belton ISD has firmly established itself as a powerhouse in Central Texas swimming. Each high school's contribution to the district's success speaks to its talent, and with Regionals on the horizon, the district is poised to make an even bigger splash.

## Wrestlers face pivotal week ahead of district meet

By Aries Ramos  
The Belton Journal

The Lake Belton Broncos and Belton Tigers wrestling teams are gearing up for one of the most pivotal weeks of their seasons as the district tournaments loom.

With months of training, competitions, and fine-tuning behind them, both squads are ready to leave their mark on the mat in their first seasons.

For the Lake Belton Broncos, district week is what they have been building toward all season. Their junior varsity squad kicks off the action on Monday at Belton High School, with

weigh-ins at 8 a.m. and matches beginning at 9 a.m.

Varsity will then take center stage on Wednesday at Burleson High School. The top four finishers in each weight class will secure spots at the upcoming regional tournament in Addison. A fifth-place finish will earn a wrestler an alternate place.

Even those who take early losses can fight for a regional berth with a wrestle-back system. The Broncos want to establish themselves as a force within the district, emphasizing strong fundamentals.

The Belton Tigers are heading into district competition with momentum

and confidence.

Head coach George Clark believes his team has what it takes to compete for a top-three team finish.


"Our team has been working hard lately, and we're just trying to put the polish on our final product with district coming up," Clark said. "The kids have bought in and are working their tails off."

Belton's boys' team recently tied for fourth at a strong tournament showing, and the girls' team had multiple wrestlers in contention for bronze medals.

See WRESTLING,  
Page B3



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**Sports Briefs**

**By Clay Whittington**  
*The Belton Journal*

Players for the annual Fellowship of Christian Athletes Super CenTex Victory Bowl will be announced at a press conference Sunday, and a number of Belton ISD athletes are expected to be on the list.

The event will be held at Waco's Highland Baptist Church Life Center, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Consisting of multiple all-star games for graduating seniors, the Victory Bowl brings together athletes from 100 high schools across a dozen Central Texas counties.

This will be the 17th year the football game has been in

existence, while the volleyball match will be played for a 12th year. The baseball and softball games are entering their ninth seasons and the basketball games are turning four years old.

Along with the games, athletes spend several days in Waco for practices, fellowship, community service and other fun team-building activities.

The basketball games begin the three days of competition and will be held at Fairfield High School on May 29 with baseball and softball games occurring the following evening at Belton's Mary Hardin-Baylor. On May 31, the football game will be played at Waco ISD Stadium, and the volleyball match caps off the event that afternoon at Waco

University High School.

**SOCCER**

Belton and Lake Belton kick off their District 16-5A schedules on Friday.

Looking to earn a seventh consecutive league championship, the Lady Tigers open by hosting Killeen Ellison, while the Tigers travel to play the Eagles.

Lake Belton will play Killeen Chaparral with the boys playing at home and the girls going on the road.

All four matches are set to begin at 7:15 p.m.

None of the teams will play on Tuesday with their schedules resuming Feb. 7 against one another. Lake Belton will be the host of the girls match, and the

boys will play at Belton.

**GOLF**

Belton senior Chase Aggers finished third individually at the Lampasas Spring Invitational on Monday, shooting a 75 at Hancock Park Golf Club.

A total of 120 players competed at the event.

The Tigers begin their spring schedule in full on Feb. 28, when they travel for the Waco ISD Spring Invitational.

**BELTON ISD TRACK & FIELD**

The Belton ISD schedules for the upcoming season were recently released, and their opening meets are rapidly approaching.

Lake Belton opens at the

Killeen ISD Relays on Feb. 7 before traveling to the College Station A&M Consolidated Tiger Relays the following week.

Lake Belton will also take part in the annual Big Red Relays hosted by Belton on March 1, and it conducts the Bronco Relays at home March 20.

The District 16-5A meet will be April 2-3 at Belton High School with the area meet taking place at Lake Belton on April 10. The regional meet and state meet are scheduled for April 18 and May 2, respectively.

The Tigers and Lady Tigers open their schedule Feb. 14 at the China Spring Relays and competes at Copperas Cove on Feb. 22 before hosting the Big Red Relays.

**Lake Belton girls shutout Hillsboro, score 12 of their own**

**By Arias Ramos**  
*Belton Journal*

The Lake Belton Broncos girls' soccer team delivered an incredible performance in their most recent game, dismantling the Hillsboro Eagles with a 12-0 victory that showcased their offensive firepower, precise passing, and relentless pressure in the box.

The Broncos wasted no time asserting their dominance, jumping out to a 6-0 lead in the first half. With sharp movement off the ball and pinpoint lead passes, Lake Belton consistently broke through the Hillsboro defense, creating a flurry of scoring opportunities.

As the half progressed, the Broncos found another gear, scoring three goals in a stunning three-minute span just before the halftime whistle. The offensive surge sent the team into the break with a 9-0 advantage.

Despite their overwhelming lead, the Broncos maintained their focus and intensity in the second half. Head coach Jamie Tibbetts kept the team grounded by shifting their focus to possessive play and fine-tuning details.

"At the half, I gave them different things to work on rather than just scoring. Possessive goals and reminding them of the little things we need to do to

improve will help us further into the district and in the postseason."

The Broncos scored three more goals in the second half, bringing their total to 12. They continued to dominate possession and control the tempo. Their ability to move fluidly off the ball and deliver accurate lead passes into the attacking third was a standout factor in their success.

After the game, Coach Tibbetts] praised the team's effort and execution. "This week in practice, we worked on speeding up the game and improving our movement off the ball," the coach said. "I thought they did a great job of that

tonight."

The Broncos' ability to consistently find their targets with lead passes was a key difference in the match.

"Getting yourself into the attacking third and setting up chances is

so important," the coach explained. "We did that well tonight and also had a lot of numbers in the box ready to finish."

With the dominant win over Hillsboro, the Lake Belton Broncos continue to build confidence

and refine their play as they move closer to district competition. If they maintain their ability to combine crisp passing with relentless pressure in the box, the Broncos look poised for a successful postseason run.

**Lake Belton girls' basketball enters stretch run in third place**

**By Tony Adams**  
*The Belton Journal*

The Lake Belton girls' basketball team had a rare three-game district set this past week.

The King twins combined for 16 points and seven steals, and Natalie Maldonado added 13 points as the Broncos outlasted the Belton Tigers to start the second half of District 16-5A play, 47-30.

The game was delayed to Wednesday because of inclement weather that closed Belton ISD on Jan. 21.

The Broncos led 17-5 after the first quarter and had a 29-11 lead at the half.

Belton made some ad-

justments at the half but could not cut into the deficit.

On Friday, Lake Belton traveled to Ellison to take on the Eagles.

Ellison's stout defense overcame a tough first quarter, as they kept the Broncos offense in the corral in a 39-31 win over Lake.

The Broncos outscored the Eagles in the first quarter, 13-12. However, the Eagles turned up the defense and took a 19-18 lead into the third quarter.

Lake scored ten points in the third quarter, but only mustered three points in the final quarter as Ellison took home the win.

Alexa King logged 11

points, and Natalie Maldonado added ten.

On Tuesday, the Broncos traveled to Lions Gymnasium to take on Waco High.

The Broncos battled it out with homestanding Lions, but Waco upended Lake late, 57-53. The loss dropped the Broncos to 5-3 in District 16-5A play, with a tough road test against Chaparral on Friday and regular-season ending contest against Waco University at Bronco Gymnasium.

"It was tough loss, but we have to keep working," Lake Belton head coach Tiffany Barnes said.



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**Planz** - From Page B1

lege and slowly began rebuilding her strength. After three months of healing, she returned to the Roy and Jean Potts Belton Swim Center, starting with floating exercises.

From floating to treading water and eventually swimming again, Planz defied the odds.

Within six months of her accident, she competed at the sectional meet in February 2023. Though she didn't achieve her pre-accident times, she proved her resilience and determination by finishing strong.

In the fall of 2023, only a year after the accident, Queens University welcomed Planz with open arms. She resumed her Division I swimming career determined to push through the lingering pain and setbacks.

Representing her grandfather's homeland of American Samoa, Planz competed at the World Championships in Budapest, earning an American Samoa record in the

100 butterfly and 100 freestyle.

Her journey inspired many, including American Samoa officials Erika Radewagen and Congresswoman Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen, who supported her endeavors.

Now, Planz has her sights set on the future.

She is preparing to compete in the 2025 World Championships in Singapore and the Pacific Games in Palau. Her next ultimate journey is representing American Samoa at



the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles.

Planz's story is one of courage, perseverance and gratitude. She credits her family, friends, coaches and supporters for believing in her when the road seemed insurmountable.

From surviving a near-fatal accident to achieving international swimming success, Planz embodies the spirit of a true champion—one stroke at a time

**VPL** - From Page B1

Lisenbe (220, 365-225-325-915).

Abigail Rydberg (3rd, 148, 250-170-295-715), Emma Schulz (4th, 105, 195-130-220-545) and Jazzell Jenkins (5th, 220, 225-140-245-610) rounded out Lake Belton's score, while teammate Isalei Simpson (6th, 242+, 270-145-265-680) just missed out on scoring points.

The Lady Tigers' total was constructed by Anahi Perez (1st, 198, 275-160-250-685), Melissa Farmer (1st, 242, 300-175-325-800), Katelyn Bailey (2nd, 97, 135-75-160-370), Gabriela Magana Avila (3rd, 181, 280-150-280-710),

Briley Campbell (4th, 114, 205-110-230-545) and Byonka Donaldson (5th, 242+, 295-165-305-765).

Rachel Truitt (165, 240-125-215-580) was sixth for Belton.

The Tigers were seventh with 17 points thanks to Daniel Ariana (1st, 123, 410-250-420-1,080), Logan Rick's (1st, 165, 500-285-485-1,270) and Thomas Morten (3rd, 181, 430-285-400-1,115).

Also in the 181 weight class, Jaden Lopez-Rodriguez (330-230-375-935) was sixth.

The performance comes just days after the Lady Broncos (3rd, 24)

and Lady Tigers (4th, 22) placed consecutively at the Cameron Yoe Invitational.

For the Lady Broncos, Avery Park (1st, 198, 285-140-285-710) collected the team's only gold medal, while Julie He (1st, 123, 220-135-260-615) and Kennedy Weston (1st, 181, 255-160-280-695) were winners for Belton.

Troy won the team title with 72 points, and Thrall (28) was a distant second.

Troy (1st, 56) also easily won the boys team championship, beating out Cameron Yoe (2nd, 37), Thrall (3rd, 20) and Little River Academy (4th, 17).

Behind Corbin Whit-

man (1st, 123, 275-170-265-710), the Tigers were fifth with 15 points.

Lake Belton was seventh (11) as Damian Wildes won the 308 weight class with a 255-190-325-770 total.

Belton anreturns to action Feb. 6, when the Tigers and Lady Tigers travel to Copperas Cove,



**FISHING REPORT**



**FAIR.** Water stained; 45 degrees; 2.49 feet below pool. The cold snap cooled Lake Belton down even further from 51 degrees to the mid 40s. Fish are still using the same locations as before the cold, but the fish are now moving more slowly, chasing shorter distances, and require a change in tactics and more importantly, a change in expectations. Catch rates will fall as the water temperature falls. Those whites and hybrids on bottom features are best targeted with a white Bladed Hazy Eye Slab in 3/4-ounce. Drop the lure to bottom and then slowly lift it upwards 4-6 feet while observing on 2D or forward facing sonar for a follow, or snap-jig with it. To catch fish seen on side-imaging, cast a 1/2 ounce jighead with white curl-tail grub and work it back with a sawtooth retrieve. Those whites and hybrids which are suspended and roaming after shad are best targeted using a deadstick tactic with a 1 1/2 ounce or heavier jighead and 2-3.5 inch soft plastic fluke-style bodies oriented horizontally. Again 2D or forward facing sonar will help anglers position the bait just inches above these fish. Fish will rise and strike once; a solid, instant hookset is a must. Rods with extra fast tips will help with all of these tactics. Birds will continue to be helpful in finding both kinds of white bass and hybrid. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service. Catfish are fair. Blue catfish can be found along river ledges in 10 to 20 ft of water. Trolling at slower speeds with fresh cut shad has worked best.

**FAIR.** Water stained; 45 degrees; 2.72 feet below pool. The cold snap cooled Lake Belton down even further from 51 degrees to the mid 40s. Fish are still using the same locations as before the cold, but the fish are now moving more slowly, chasing shorter distances, and require a change in tactics and more importantly, a change in expectations. Catch rates will fall as the water temperature falls. Those whites and hybrids on bottom features are best targeted with a white Bladed Hazy Eye Slab in 3/4-ounce. Drop the lure to bottom and then slowly lift it upwards 4-6 feet while observing on 2D or forward facing sonar for a follow, or snap-jig with it. To catch fish seen on side-imaging, cast a 1/2 ounce jighead with white curl-tail grub and work it back with a sawtooth retrieve. Those whites and hybrids which are suspended and roaming after shad are best targeted using a deadstick tactic with a 1 1/2 ounce or heavier jighead and 2-3 inch soft plastic fluke-style bodies oriented horizontally. Again 2D or forward facing sonar will help anglers position the bait just inches above these fish. Fish will rise and strike once; a solid, instant hookset is a must. Rods with extra fast tips will help with all of these tactics. Birds will continue to be helpful in finding both kinds of white bass and hybrid. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service.

**Wrestling** - From Page B1

Standouts include Izzy Avila, who captured first place at 215 pounds and improved to 25-5 on the season, and Gabriela Magana, who placed third and now holds an 11-7 record.

Clark highlighted his team's dominance in the neutral position, crediting their focus on standing technique and conditioning.

"We have worked hard at dominating the stand-up, and our kids have done a great job," he said. "Now, we must keep improving our conditioning and playing a top game."

As a first-year program, the Tigers have already accomplished several milestones.

Jacob U'ren set a team record for the fastest pin at nine seconds, while Avila now holds the program's single-season wins record with 25. With an entire girls' roster and some young talent stepping into varsity roles on the boys' side, the team's lineup is evolving at just the right time.

Both teams know that district week is where seasons are defined. The Tigers and Broncos recently played a head-to-head dual, but now all eyes are on the larger goal: punching as many tickets to Regionals as possible.

Belton's game plan is simple.

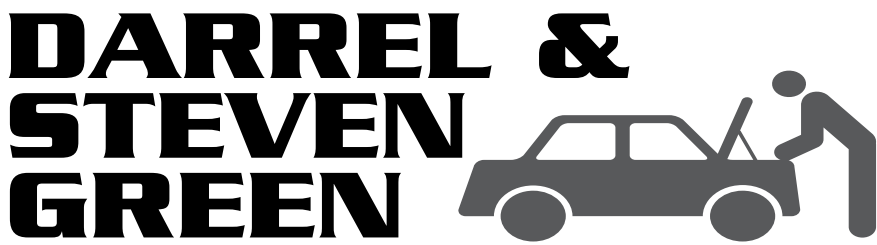
"Don't be outworked

and keep moving constantly," Clark emphasized. Focusing on conditioning and refining their top wrestling position, the Tigers believe they are primed for a strong showing.

The Broncos, meanwhile, are embracing their

opportunity to cement themselves as a rising program in Central Texas. They want to make a statement at Burseson with a young and motivated roster and prove they belong among the district's elite.

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**Put your tax refund to work**

Scot Hrbacek, CFP® Financial Advisor

It's that time of year when tax refunds are going out. If you get a refund this year, how can you make the best use of it?

The answer depends somewhat on the size of your refund. Last year, the average refund was \$3,050, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

But regardless of how big your refund is, look for the ways it can help your financial situation.

For starters, you could use your refund to help fund your IRA. You still have until April 15, 2025, to contribute to your IRA for the 2024 tax year, but if you've

already put in the full amount, you can start on 2025 contributions. If you have children or grandchildren, you could use some of your refund to help fund a tax-advantaged 529 education savings plan.

Another possibility is to use the refund to pay down some of your debts. You could try to pay off the smallest debts as soon as possible or, alternatively, tackle the debts that carry the highest interest rates.

It's not often that you receive a financial windfall like a tax refund — so think carefully about how you can maximize its benefits.

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

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## EMPLOYMENT

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CAUSE NO. 24CPB00602

## LEGALS

### IN THE ESTATE OF JOSEPH CHARLES ALSOP JR. DECEASED IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 1 BELL COUNTY, TEXAS

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of Joseph Charles Alsop Jr, Deceased, were issued on September 30th, 2024 in Cause No. 24CPB00602 in the County Court At Law of Bell County, Texas, to: April Alsop, Independent Administrator.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 27th day of January, 2025

Respectfully Submitted:

Lane Heginbotham, HARRIS LAW OFFICE,  
425 North Eighth Street, Killeen, Texas 76541,  
Phone (254) 526-0108, Fax (254) 526-7141,  
Lane Heginbotham, State Bar No.: 24000323,  
E-mail: lane@centexlawyers.net  
01.30

## LEGALS

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

To: Any Unknown Father and All Whom It May Concern, Respondents, in the hereinafter-styled and -numbered cause: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. The Amended Petition of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Petitioner, was filed in the 146th Judicial District Court of Bell County, Texas, on November 22, 2024, against Chloe Hill and Unknown Father, Respondent(s), numbered 24DFAM349902, and entitled "In the Interest of CAYSEN DAVIS, minor child." The suit requests to terminate the parent-child relationships and/or to appoint a managing conservator of the child. The date and place of birth of the child who is the subject of the suit is: CAYSEN DAVIS, DOB: December 15, 2018, Place of birth: Texas

The court has authority in this suit to render an order in the child's interest that will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption.

The name and address of the attorney for plaintiff is Susan Parker, Bell County Attorney's Office, P.O. Box 1127, Belton, TX 76513

Issued and given under my hand and seal of the Court at Belton, Texas, this the 24th day of January 2025

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

By: C. Rodriguez, Deputy.  
01.30

### THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CASE NUMBER 24CPB00791

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS

LYNDA FENN, Applicant, on January 23, 2025, filed a first amended application for independent administration and letters of administration and application to determine heirship in a proceeding styled: MELBA RUTH IMPSON, Deceased, and bearing the number 24CPB00791 in the County Court of Bell County, Texas.

The court will hear the aforesaid Application after the expiration of ten days, exclusive of the day of publication, from the date this citation is published which will be January 30, 2025, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

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

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

The name and address of the attorney for appli-

## LEGALS

cant is:

DAN CORBIN, CORBIN STAPLER & CLAPPER PC, 603 N 8TH, KILLEEN TX 76541

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

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

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

By: Sophia Nieto Deputy  
01.30

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

To: Eduardo Gonzales, any Unknown Father and All Whom It May Concern, Respondents, in the hereinafter-styled and -numbered cause:

You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. The Original Petition of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Petitioner, was filed in the 146th Judicial District Court of Bell County, Texas, on June 12, 2024, against Deagi Goolsby and Eduardo Gonzales, Respondent(s), numbered 24DFAM346818, and entitled "In the Interest of LAELYNN SMITH, minor child." The suit requests to terminate the parent-child relationships and/or to appoint a managing conservator of the child. The date and place of birth of the child who is the subject of the suit is:

LAELYNN SMITH, DOB: May 22, 2019,  
Place of birth: Unknown

The court has authority in this suit to render an order in the child's interest that will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption.

The name and address of the attorney for plaintiff is Jennine Cintron, Bell County Attorney's Office, P.O. Box 1127, Belton, TX 76513

Issued and given under my hand and seal of the Court at Belton, Texas, this the 24th day of January 2025

Joanna Staton, District Clerk of Bell County, Texas, 1201 Huey Road, P.O. Box 909, Belton, TX 76513 By: C. Rodriguez, Deputy  
01.30

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of BENJAMIN LUND, Deceased, were issued on January 15, 2025, in Cause No. 24CPB00546, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: BETH LUND.

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: DANIEL A. CORBIN Attorney at Law,  
603 North 8th Street, Killeen, TX 76541  
DATED the 23rd day of Jan 2025.

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## GIVE US A CALL!

**SALADO** - Discover elegance and comfort in this meticulously crafted 3389 sqft custom-built home. With 4 bedrooms and 3 baths, the spacious interior offers a seamless flow between its open-concept living spaces. Modern amenities and luxurious finishes grace every corner, while the serene backyard oasis provides a perfect retreat. This residence harmoniously combines architectural sophistication with contemporary living, promising a lifestyle of refined beauty.

**ACREAGE** From the Starry Nights to the City Lights this one-of-a-kind Texas Ranch is under 30 minutes to Waco & 1.5 hrs to Austin! Approx 29 acres with views over Leon River/Lake Belton! 3,000+ square ft custom home you must see to appreciate. Enjoy the fabulous chef's kitchen and large family room both with panoramic views. Take family game night to a whole new level with wet bar and full bath with separate entrance for possible future pool. Huge covered back porch to see the magnificent Texas night sky and enjoy cool nights by the custom fireplace. Everything is bigger and better in Texas and it is clear to see why when you see this amazing ranch!

**NEW CONSTRUCTION!** Beautiful rock and brick home situated on 1/2 acre in the newly developed Deer Grove subdivision in Belton ISD. The open floor plan features 3 bedrooms and 2 bath, a pop-up ceiling in the family room as well as a corner fireplace as a focal point. Large open kitchen with beautiful cabinets and granite! A formal dining and breakfast area plus office. A generous master suite with large walk in closet as well as nice sized secondary bedrooms. Large covered porch, perfect for relaxing or entertaining with your friends and family. As if that is not enough - the home has been pre-wired for a home generator.

**SALADO** -- \*\*Sellers are offering a 2-year home warranty to include pool and septic coverage!\*\* Beautiful custom home with pool to cool off in the Texas summer heat and an oversized backyard to enjoy! This home is located in Salado ISD - features a split floorplan with 4 bedrooms (2 secondary are oversized), 3 bath, formal dining and eat-in breakfast area with luxury vinyl flooring throughout. The kitchen is open to the breakfast and living areas making it great for entertaining. Oversized, insulated garage. All interior walls insulated for sound and exterior walls are fully insulated making this very energy efficient! Great location with easy access to I-35, Belton, Temple, and Austin.

**BELTON ISD** - Charming home with a nice front porch, 2 bedrooms, one bath and lots of storage. Living area could be used as a meeting room. Lot features a beautiful mature tree in the front yard, fully fenced yard, and several out buildings. Excellent location with many possibilities! Adjacent properties are also listed for sale and could make this an amazing commercial property

**THE ESCARPMENT** is a legendary neighborhood, and the perfect setting for this gorgeous residence. Just minutes from Stillhouse Hollow Lake, this gated home sits on over an acre and includes a sparkling pool, garden area and a 30x40 building that is insulated. Enjoy the abundance of windows throughout the home and especially in the breakfast area while watching nature. A gourmet island kitchen is a chef's dream with an abundance of countertop space with attached breakfast area. The master suite is an exceptional space with room to make a sitting area and you can enjoy the sunroom just off the suite. The property has beautiful shaded areas, native Texas plants and fruit trees to enjoy throughout the year. As a bonus enjoy the wildlife that passes by in the extended yard outside the fence.

Exceptional property featuring a 3800+ sqft home sitting on 84 fully fenced AG exempt acres with stock tank and views for miles!

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LEGALS

CORBIN, STAPLER & CLAPPER, PC, 603 North 8th Street, Killen, TX 76541, Tel: (254) 526-4523 ,Fax: (254) 526-6711
By: Ashley Clapper
DANIEL A. CORBIN, State Bar No. 04814300 ,JAMES BERRY STAPLER, State Bar No. 24013557,
ASHLEY CLAPPER ,State Bar No. 24076317, Legal@CorbinLegalTeam.com Attorney for BETH LUND
01.30

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF ARMANDO CAVAZOS, III

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of ARMANDO CAVAZOS, III were issued on January 22, 2025, in Cause No. 24CPB00456, in the County Court of Bell County, Texas to DORINA ARAMANDA.

Claims may be presented in care of the Executrix of the Estate addressed as follows:

DORINA ARAMANDA Estate of ARMANDO CAVAZOS, III 13625 Sunshine Rd., Holland, Texas 76324

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED this 22 day of JANUARY 2025.

ESTATE OF ARMANDO CAVAZOS, III, DECEASED

By: PAT MCGOWAN Attorney for the Executrix
01.30

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CASE NUMBER 25CPB00035

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS
CHERRY LAGUERTA BURCH, Applicant, on January 21, 2025, filed an application for independent administration and letters of administration and application to determine heirship in a proceeding styled: TRAVIS WILLIAM BURCH,

LEGALS

Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00035 in the County Court of Bell County, Texas.

The court will hear the aforesaid Application after the expiration of ten days, exclusive of the day of publication, from the date this citation is published which will be January 30, 2025, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

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

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

The name and address of the attorney for applicant is:

MARY LINDLEY-WILEY, 100 W CENTEX EXPWY STE 302, HARKER HEIGHTS TX 76548

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

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on January 21, 2025.

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

By: Sophia Nieto Deputy
01.30

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Margarie Mae Niekamp, Deceased, were issued on January 13, 2025, in Case No. 24CPB00801, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 in Bell County, Texas, to: Janie Lorraine Coakley
The address of the Independent Executor is in

LEGALS

Bell County, Texas: Janie Lorraine Coakley, c/o William T. Wilson, P. O. Box 427 Temple, TX 76503

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 24th day of January, 2025.

Respectfully submitted, WILLIAM T. WILSON ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW, LTD. P. O. Box 427, Temple, Texas 76503-0427, (254) 771-5885 Telephone, (254) 771-5887, Facsimile ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE, WILLIAM T. WILSON, State Bar No. 21734000
01.30

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MAURICE LLOYD ROMEO, DECEASED IN THE COUNTY COURT OF BELL COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MAURICE LLOYD ROMEO, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Maurice Lloyd Romeo, deceased, were issued on the 22nd day of January, 2025 in Cause No. 24CPB00418, pending in the County Court of Bell County, Texas to VALARIE ROMEO. The claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate addressed as follows: VALARIE ROMEO, Independent Administrator

c/o Smith & Bratcher, P.C. .P.O. Box 21473, Waco, Texas 76702-1473

All persons having claims against the estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED this 23rd day of January, 2025.

Respectfully submitted, SMITH & BRATCHER, P.C., P.O. Box 21473, Waco, Texas, 76702-1473 ,(254) 751-0044, (254) 751-0049 (FAX)

By: SAMUEL T. KINSLOW ,State Bar No. 11490300
01.30

Advertisement for Journey Home Rescue featuring photos of animals: Mack (dog), Handsome (dog), Wolfie (dog), Sid (dog), Turbo (dog), Wizard (cat), and Bruno (dog). Includes contact information: Shelter of the week Journey Home Rescue, Call now 254-721-4264 or visit RescueMagazine.org, and Rescue Magazine logo with Animal Hour details.

## Local Activities & Events

### Newcomers Club Activities

#### February

2/03: Chat 'n Canasta  
2/04: Footloose Singles; Singing Bluebonnets  
2/05: Monthly Luncheon; Popcorn Bridge  
2/08: Couples Night Out  
2/09: Bookworms  
2/10: Singing Bluebonnets  
2/14: TGIF  
2/15: Exploring Wines  
2/17: Snack Time MahJongg  
2/18: Bunco  
2/19: Popcorn Bridge  
2/20: Nonfiction Book Club; Meet & Greet Coffee  
2/21: Trail Blazers Walking Group  
2/22: Jimmy's Egg  
2/24: Well -Read Women; Monday Canasta  
2/25: Singing Bluebonnets  
2/26: Fun Lunch

#### March

3/03: Chat 'N' Canasta  
3/04: Footloose Singles

#### CAC announces 2025 concert lineups

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

#### MARCIA BALL PIANORAMA — Feb. 8

Grammy nominated keyboardist Marcia Ball assembles some of her favorite fellow piano players for a one-of-a-kind show she calls Pianorama.

#### LITTLE JOE HERNANDEZ Y LA FAMILIA — Feb. 22

Temple legend and five-time Grammy winner Little Joe Hernandez y La Familia is one of the most popular Tex-Mex bands in the industry.

Described as the King of Brown Sound, Little Joe helped pioneer Tejano music, a mix of traditional norteno music and country, blues and rock styles.

#### THE TEXAS TENORS — March 30

Emmy award-winning classical crossover, the trio was formed in 2009 by country singer JC Fisher, pop singer Marcus Collins and opera singer John Hagen.

They were a top four finalist in the fourth season of America's Got Talent, making them the highest-ranking vocal group in the show's history.

#### SHAWN COLVIN — May 16

In the 30 years since the release of her debut album, Colvin has won three Grammy Awards, released 13 albums, written a critically-acclaimed memoir, maintained a non-stop national and international touring schedule, appeared on countless TV and radio shows, had her songs featured in major movies, and created a remarkable canon of work.

#### RUTHIE FOSTER JAZZ BAND — July 12

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

#### AN CLIBURN FINALIST CLAYTON STEPHENSON — Oct. 18

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

#### ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL — Nov. 8

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

#### SHINYRIBS — Dec. 6

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

**Swedish Death Sip & Shop** presents their first fundraiser of 2025 on January 31 from 5-8 p.m. at Tirzah in Belton. Beautiful vintage jewelry, handbags and sunglasses. All proceeds will benefit Eldred's Nursery. For more information contact Berlin at 626-708-3498.

**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.

**On Friday, February 7, the Bell County Area Parkinson's Support Group (BAPS) West group** will meet at 2:30. Members and others interested in understanding more about Parkinson's Disease are welcome to attend at no cost. The meeting location is the Killeen Senior Center in Lions Club Park, 1700 E. Stan Schlueter Loop. Contact Gayle for more information at 254.718.4197 or [gayleinbelton@gmail.com](mailto:gayleinbelton@gmail.com).

**The Bell County Master Gardeners and the Temple Public Library Garden Club presents "Herbs 101"** on Saturday, February 8 at 2 p.m. at the Temple Public Library, 100 W. Adams, Temple. Certified Master Gardener, Tracy Brown will discuss how Central Texas has a unique climate that allows for a diverse range of herbs that have culinary and aromatic uses. She will provide a brief overview of some popular herbs you can grow in Central Texas. We would like to invite you to attend the "Herbal Bath Blends" demonstration immediately following the seminar. Must be registered to attend the demonstration. The class limit is 15. Please register for demonstration at [bit.ly/TPLAdultRegistration](http://bit.ly/TPLAdultRegistration). For any questions, please contact Norma Kramer, Temple Public Library, 254-298-5555

**The Bell County Master Gardeners and Troy Chamber of Commerce Lunch and Learn presents "Roses in the Landscape"**, Friday, February 14 from 12 to 1 P.M. at the Troy Community Center, 201 E. Main St., Troy. Certified Master Gardener's Carol Morissette and Jan Upchurch will discuss types of roses, when to plant, prune, how to propagate and perform maintenance. They will also discuss Rosette disease. The class limit is 50. Register at [KTBTroy@gmail.com](mailto:KTBTroy@gmail.com) or contact Gaby Warlick at 254-400-7345. Please bring your own lunch and drink of your choice.

**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](http://aspenhealthcare.net) or call 512-856-5668 for more information.

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

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

**Bell Fine Arts Visitors** welcome Wednesday's from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 306 E th Ave in Belton. Ma-jong 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](mailto:bettyreichert@yahoo.com) or Kathy Bement at [katshookandneedle@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:info@beltonchamber.com).

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

## 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.belontexas.gov/takemehome](http://www.belontexas.gov/takemehome). Read more about the program here: [https://www.belontexas.gov/news\\_detail\\_T11\\_R1166.php](https://www.belontexas.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](http://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

**Belton Christian Church**  
9425 W FM ~ 436 254.939.1172

**Belton Church of Christ**  
3003 N. Main ~ 254.939.1816

**Belton Church of God in Christ**  
1122 W. 2nd Ave. ~ 254.939.1697

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

**Belton Lighthouse**  
1001 NE Loop 121 ~ 254.654.7278

**Belton Nazarene Church**  
1701 Sparta Rd ~ 254.939.3404

**Bethel A.M.E. Church**  
401 S. Davis St. ~ 254.939.6090

**Central Texas Cathedral**  
**Worship Center**  
700 S. Main Street ~ 254.831.3064

**Christ Bible Baptist Church**  
1590 Jack Rabbit Rd ~ 254.939.9247

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

**Christian Tabernacle Apostolic UPC**  
1010 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.3464

**Cornerstone Community Church**  
5081 Dog Ridge Rd ~ 254.721.8250

**Crossroads Church**  
500 South I-35 ~ 254.939.2122

**Dominion Life Chapel**  
105 Green Briar St. ~ 254.563.0472

**Elm Grove Baptist Church**  
6388 Elm Grove Rd. ~ 254.933.8127

**Family Gospel Church**  
2210 Holland Rd. ~ 254.721.0707

**Fellowship Baptist Church**  
2025 Morgan's Point Rd ~  
254.780.2388

**First Baptist Church Belton**  
506 N. Main St. ~ 254.933.3391

**First Christian Church of Belton**  
306 E. 5th Fecbelton.com

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

**First Presbyterian Church of Belton**  
2500 Church Street ~ 254.939.2115

**First United Methodist Church**  
205 E. 3rd Ave. ~ 254.939.5703

**Free Pentecostal Church of Jesus**  
1111 Cacti Lane ~ 254.933.8201

**Freedom Bible Fellowship**  
308 W. Ave. D ~ 254.933.3310

**Holy Temple of Our Lord Jesus**  
**Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**  
519 S. Pearl St. ~ 254.613.4591

**Hope Community Church**  
507 Mitchell St. ~ 254.933.8222

**Hope Tabernacle**  
202 E. 1st Ave. ~ 254.933.8222

**Iglesia de Cristo**  
3303 N. Main ~ 254.939.6910

**Immanuel Prince of Peace**  
**Lutheran Church**  
1215 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.0824

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

**Lakeview Baptist Church**  
7717 N Hwy. 317 ~ 254.780.1884

**Liberty Church**  
302 E. Central Ave. ~ 254.933.7107

**Liberty in Christ Church**  
2520 N. Main ~ 254.939.3337

**Miller Heights Baptist Church**  
1400 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.1835

**Ministerios Vida**  
2020 S. IH-35 ~ 254.624.8015

**Mt. Zion United Methodist Church**  
218 Alexander St. ~ 254.939.5621

**New Life Fellowship**  
706 E. 4th. ~ 254.939.8011

**Nolan Valley Baptist Church**  
13206 W. FM 93 ~ 254.721.5998

**Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ**  
117 N. Birdwell St. ~ 254.939.0822

**Redeemer Reformed Baptist**  
505 E. Ave C. www.RRBC1689.com

**Temple Vision de lo Alto**  
4357 Orchard Hill ~ 254.563.1231

**Trinity Full Gospel**  
810 East 2nd Ave. ~ 254.939.7673

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**  
1726 Morgan's Point Rd. ~  
254.778.8034

**TEMPLE**

**1st Christian Church of Temple**  
300 N 5th St ~ (254) 773-9061

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

**Christian Life Church**  
4343 West FM 93 ~ 254.939.2626

**Covenant Lutheran Church**  
4202 Hickory Rd. ~ 254.733.7718

**First Baptist Church**  
8015 West Adams Ave. ~  
254.773.6866

**First Methodist Church GMC**  
102 N. 2nd Temple. TX  
~254.773.7992

**First Presbyterian Church Temple**  
12 West French ~ 254.773.3407

**Foundation Church**  
10701 W. Adams ~ 254.780.9673

**Grace Baptist Church**  
740 Jayline Drive ~ 254.773.1401

**Grace Comm. Primitive Baptist**  
3111 N. 3rd St ~ 254.774.8192

**Grace Presbyterian Church**  
2401 S 57th ~ 254.773.2134

**Harvest Church**  
2501 General Bruce Dr. ~  
254.780.3566

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
2109 W. Ave H ~ 254.773.3898

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

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

**St. Francis Episcopal & School**  
5001 Hickory ~ 254.733.4255

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

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

**Taylor's Valley Baptist Church**  
2497 W. FM 93 ~ 254.939.0503

**Temple Bible Church**  
3205 Oakview Drive ~ 254.778.3233

**First Church of the Nazarene**  
5000 S. 31st ~ 254.773.3744

**The Redeemed Christian Church of**  
**God Salvation Center**  
405 Van Dyke Drive, Suite 403A ~  
469-348-1475

**Unity Church of Temple**  
318 N. 2nd ~ 254.770.0070

**Vineyard Christian Fellowship**  
7425 W Adams Ave. ~ 254.778.2802

**Vista Community Church**  
7051 Stonehollow Dr. Sundays 8:30,  
10, 11:30 a.m., 5 p.m.  
www.thevista.tv ~ 254.774.7992

**Wildwood Baptist Church**  
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# BUSINESS SHOWCASE

## New independent stylist is excited to start her new venture

By **Michelle Rodriguez**  
*The Belton Journal*

Sweet Strands by Candy is located at Haute Seat Salon at 830 FM 2271 Highway in Belton. Abreu offers a variety of services including haircuts, perms, updos, and make up. Her specialties are vibrant, fun colors like pink and purple, as well as blonding, and creative styling. Appointments are available Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm, Fridays 2:30 pm to 8:00 pm, Saturdays 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. The salon is closed on Sundays.

"I began my education in 2013, and when I returned to the industry, it was important for me to show my two kids that it's never too late to pursue their passion and go back to school," shared Abreau. After completing her training, she was back behind the chair for two years. Abreu has been at the Haute Seat Salon since March of this year. Originally from Hillsboro, she lived in Temple for 20 years and has been in Belton for the last 10 years. "I made a lot of mistakes along the way, but those experiences have pushed me

to be independent. I love the entrepreneurial aspects of my work. I don't accept all walk-ins; my clients are special to me. If it's a service I don't specialize in, I don't want to risk it! I'll recommend another fellow stylist," explained Abreu. Abreu graduated from Central Texas Beauty College, and her mission is to have her clients leave looking and feeling their best. To book an appointment, call her at 254-721-7202. Her website is [sweetstrandsbycandy.glossygenius.com](http://sweetstrandsbycandy.glossygenius.com). She also does at-home services.

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SPECIALIST  
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TECHNOLOGY  
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.